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Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update November 6, 2023

On October 7, Hamas launched an unprovoked and unprecedented multi-pronged attack on Israel by land, air, and sea. JINSA has launched a webpage dedicated to its commentary, webinars, and media coverage about [Israel at War](#). On November 3, JINSA hosted a [webinar](#) with Vice President for Policy Blaise Misztal, Counselor at JINSA's Gemunder Center for Defense and Strategy Ambassador Eric Edelman, and JINSA Eastern Mediterranean Policy Project Member Alan Makovsky to discuss Turkey's response to the Hamas attacks and ensuing war. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below, which JINSA will regularly produce.

Analysis

- On November 3, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah delivered remarks for the first time since the October 7 attacks. In the speech, Nasrallah generally struck a note of restraint while denouncing the United States and Israel. Notably, he not only charged the United States with chief responsibility for the war and labeled Israel a U.S. “[tool](#),” but he denied that the U.S. show of force in the region deters Hezbollah’s actions.
 - » Read JINSA’s analysis of Nasrallah’s speech [here](#).
- Hezbollah’s November 5 projectile [attack](#) on the Israeli city of Kiryat Shmona, using at least twelve Grad rockets, and another November 5 [attack](#) claimed by Hezbollah in which an anti-tank guided missile strike killed an Israeli civilian near the town of Yiftah, both represent increasingly dangerous escalations on the northern front.
 - » Hezbollah’s claim that it fired Grad rockets toward Kiryat Shmona – the first time it has claimed the use of these rockets, which have a slightly [greater](#) range than other projectiles Hezbollah has used in the war, since the conflict began – suggests that the terror group is attempting to slowly escalate its attacks against Israel.
 - » Hezbollah likely is continuing to probe both Israel’s air defenses and its response to projectile attacks from Lebanon, including lethal attacks such as the Yiftah missile strike. The terror group is also attempting to deter Israeli airstrikes into southern Lebanon such as the November 5 airstrike that reportedly [preceded](#) Hezbollah’s strikes.
- Attempting to deter further belligerence on the northern front from Iran and its proxies, the U.S. has bolstered its military presence in the Middle East, including by [deploying](#) an Ohio-class guided missile submarine to the region on November 5 and announcing the [deployment](#) of an additional 300 U.S. troops to the region on October 31.
 - » Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) will also [introduce](#) a bipartisan resolution this week that calls on the United States to use “military force”

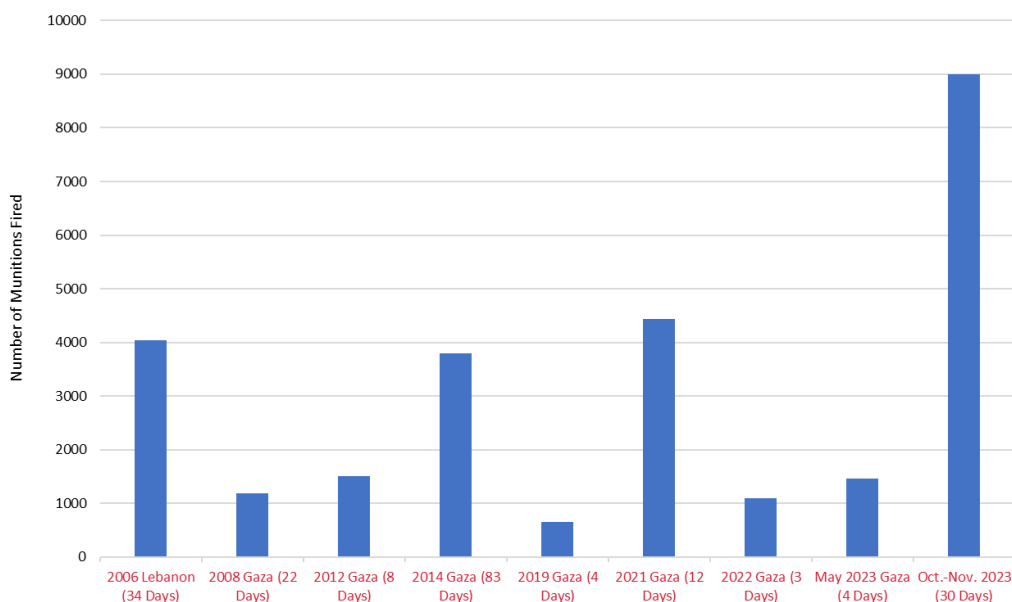
against Iran if Hezbollah attacks Israel or if an American is killed by proxy attacks on U.S. troops and personnel in Iraq and Syria.

- » Hezbollah's projectile attack over the weekend that [killed](#) an Israeli civilian and a foiled drone [attack](#), almost certainly launched by Iranian-backed militias, on U.S. troops and personnel in Syria on November 5 – the thirty-second such attack since October 17 – indicate that deterrence against Iran and its proxies continues to erode.
- During JINSA's November 3 [webinar](#), member of JINSA's Eastern Mediterranean Policy Project Alan Makovsky [argued](#) that “[Turkish President Recep Tayyip] Erdogan has succeeded to a great extent in Turkey in making Hamas the [center] of the Palestinian issue.”
 - » Makovsky also [argued](#) that “If [Erdogan is] not a card-carrying member of the Muslim Brotherhood, he's a card-carrying fellow traveler.”
 - » Counselor at JINSA's Gemunder Center for Defense and Strategy Ambassador Eric Edelman [explained](#) that Erdogan “fancies himself as leader of a counterrevolution [to Ataturk]...think of the great revolutions of the 20th century...Lenin, Mao, Castro...Ataturk's revolution was in many ways as significant as those... Erdogan sees himself as superseding Ataturk.”

Last 48 Hours

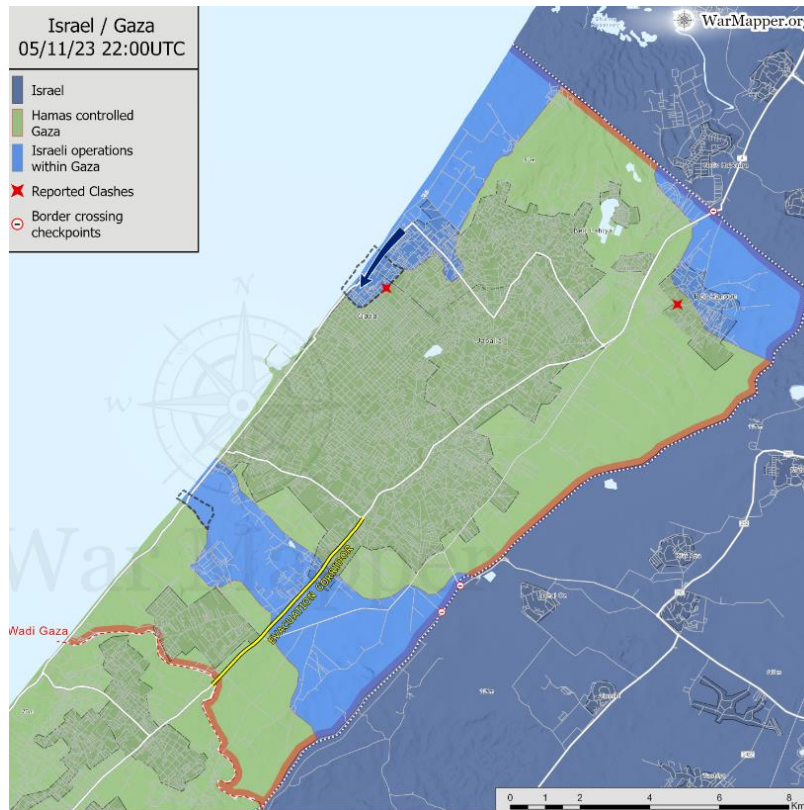
Attacks Against Israel

- At least [9,000](#) rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired from Gaza during the war.
 - » There were [at least 500](#) rockets targeting Israel in the last 72 hours.
 - » Rockets [struck](#) Kiryat Shmona and Sderot, and sirens sounded in Ein Hashlosa, Re'im, Netiv Ha'asara, Yad Mordechai, Erez, Nahal Oz, Kfar Aza, Nir Am, Kiryat Shmona, Be'er Sheva, Netivot, Ganei Hadar, Na'an, Ramot Meir, Beit Oved, Mishmar Hashivah, Beit Dagan, Rehovot, Ramle, Lod, Be'er Ya'akov, Ahiezer, Zeitan, Rishon Lezion, Holon, Bat Yam, Nes Ziona, Netzer Sereni, Bat Hadar, Beit Shikma, Gabim, Sderot, Ibim, Mefalsim, the Sapir College, Sa'ad, Dorot, Havat Shikmim, and Arava, as well as other locations in southern and central Israel.
 - Twelve rockets [struck](#) Kiryat Shmona on November 5, for which Hezbollah [claimed](#) credit. The group claimed that it used Grad rockets in the attack.
 - » On November 4, the IDF's Arrow air defense system [intercepted](#) a rocket fired from Gaza into southern Israel.
- A number of rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired from Lebanon in the last 72 hours.
 - » On November 5, an Israeli civilian was [killed](#) in the northern town of Yiftah by an anti-tank missile fired from southern Lebanon.
 - Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the attack.
 - » On November 5, the IDF Aerial Defense Array [intercepted](#) a drone traveling towards Israel from Lebanon.
 - » On November 5, projectiles were [launched](#) from southern Lebanon toward the northern Israeli towns of Avivim and Malkia.



IDF Operations

- The IDF stated on November 6 that it [launched](#) strikes on over 450 targets in Gaza in the last 24 hours.
 - » The IDF continued to expand its operations in Gaza, and announced on November 6 that it had [struck](#) numerous Hamas operatives, military compounds, observation posts, and anti-tank missile launching posts.
 - » The IDF also [seized](#) a Hamas military compound, including observation posts, training facilities, and underground terror tunnels.
 - » The IDF announced that it killed:
 - [Jamal Mussa](#), head of special security operations for Hamas, and
 - [Wael Asfeh](#), commander of Hamas’s Deir al Balah battalion.
- IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari [announced](#) on November 5 that the IDF had fully encircled Gaza City and split Gaza into two, and he added that the IDF’s Golani Brigade reconnaissance unit had reached the Gaza coastline.
 - » Hagari stated, “today there is north Gaza and south Gaza.”
- The IDF [announced](#) on November 6 that it had reopened an evacuation route for Gazan civilians to move south of Wadi Gaza.
- The IDF stated that it launched strikes on targets in Lebanon in the last 72 hours.
 - » On November 5, the IDF [launched](#) artillery fire into Lebanon in response to projectile launches from southern Lebanon.
 - » On November 5, the IDF [struck](#) a vehicle in southern Lebanon, killing four people.
- The IDF spokesperson’s office [stated](#) on November 5 that the Israeli army had arrested thirty-six wanted Palestinians in raids across the West Bank, including eighteen suspected members of Hamas, and had killed an Islamic State operative during the raids.



Source: War Mapper ([@War Mapper](#))

Casualties and Hostages

- Over 1,400 people in Israel have been [killed](#) and another 4,629 have been injured in the war.
 - » 348 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 30 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza.
 - One IDF soldier was [killed](#) in the past 24 hours during ground combat in Gaza.
 - » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 32 [American](#) nationals, 30 [Thai](#) nationals, 40 [French](#) nationals, 17 [British](#) nationals, 10 [Nepalese](#) nationals, 7 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 16 [Russian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, 4 [Chinese](#) nationals, 3 [Brazilian](#) nationals, 3 [Belarusian](#) nationals, 3 [Chilean](#) nationals, 3 [Philippines](#) nationals, 2 [Ukrainian](#) nationals, 2 [Peruvian](#) nationals, 5 [Canadian](#) nationals, a [Cambodian](#) national, a [Colombian](#) national, an [Irish](#) national, an [Italian](#) national, a [Spanish](#) national, a [Swiss](#) national, a [Turkish](#) national, and an [Austrian](#) national.
- According to unverified figures from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry, 9,770 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza and 24,808 have been injured during the war.
 - » On October 25, President Biden [cautioned](#) against trusting Gaza Health Ministry casualty figures, stating: “I have no notion that the Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed ... I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using.”

- According to the Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Ministry of Health, 153 people have been [killed](#) and an additional approximately 2,200 have been [wounded](#) in the West Bank.
- The IDF [claims](#) that it has killed at least 1,500 infiltrators from Gaza since the start of the war.
- According to the IDF's latest press release, the families of [241](#) individuals have been notified that their loved ones were taken hostage.
- Foreign nationals also remain missing, including at least 11 [American](#) nationals, 9 [French](#) nationals, 15 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 9 [Ukrainian](#) nationals, 8 [Russian](#) nationals, 3 [Canadian](#) nationals, 3 [Philippines](#) nationals, 2 [Austrian](#) nationals, 3 [Italian](#) nationals, 2 [Paraguayan](#) nationals, 5 [Peruvian](#) nationals, 2 [Sri Lankan](#) nationals, 2 [Tanzanian](#) nationals, a [Chilean](#) national, an [Azeri](#) national, and a [Nepalese](#) national.
 - » At least 8 [German](#) nationals, 20 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals have been taken hostage.

Iranian Involvement and Response

- [CNN reported](#) on November 6 that the head of the Israel National Cyber Directorate Gaby Portnoy is concerned about an uptick in Iranian cyberattacks against Israeli infrastructure. "They [Iran] know that they can act there more freely [in cyberspace] than in the physical space," he said, adding that "we are prepared for that as much as we can."
- On November 5, a U.S. official told the *Associated Press* that U.S. forces had shot down a one-way attack drone [targeting](#) U.S. troops and personnel at a base in Syria. The official stated that the drone attack had many similarities to other recent attacks on U.S. troops and personnel and almost certainly was perpetrated by Iranian-backed militias.
 - » The attack marks the thirty-second such attack on U.S. troops and personnel in the region since October 17, including seventeen attacks in Iraq and fifteen in Syria.
- On November 5, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency [quoted](#) Iranian Minister of Defense Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani: "Our advice to the Americans is to immediately stop the war in Gaza and implement a ceasefire, otherwise they will be hit hard."

U.S. and International Response

- On November 6, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to Turkey and [met](#) with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan to discuss developments in the war, including humanitarian aid and prospects for a ceasefire.
- On November 5, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [met](#) with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank. The State Department office of the spokesperson's [readout](#) of the meeting said that "the Secretary reaffirmed the United States' commitment to the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and resumption of essential services in Gaza and made clear that Palestinians must not be forcibly displaced."
 - » The readout also said that the two leaders discussed stability in the West Bank, stopping violence against Palestinians by extremist Israelis and holding perpetrators accountable, and U.S. commitment toward an eventual Palestinian state.
- On November 5, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [traveled](#) to Baghdad, Iraq, and met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani to discuss security threats to U.S. facilities in Iraq.

- On November 5, Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) [announced](#) on *CNN* that they would be introducing a bipartisan resolution stating that if Hezbollah opens up a second front with Israel by attacking it from Lebanon “in a substantial way,” or if an American is killed by an Iranian proxy in Iraq or Syria, the United States would use military force against Iran.
 - » Senator Graham [stated](#) that the resolution would convey that “if the war expands, if Hezbollah opens up a second front against Israel in a substantial way to overwhelm the Iron Dome, then we should hit the Islamic Republic of Iran.”
 - » Senator Graham [added](#) that “the resolution puts Iran on notice that all this military force in the region will be coming after you if you expand this war by activating Hezbollah or killing an American through your proxies in Syria and Iraq. They need to hear that.”
- On November 5, U.S. Central Command [announced](#) that it was deploying an Ohio-class guided missile submarine to the Middle East.
 - » The submarine, which is [equipped](#) with up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, was photographed traveling through the Suez Canal on November 5.
- On November 5, hundreds of pro-Palestinian supporters attempted to [storm](#) Incirlik Air Base in Adana, Turkey, which houses the U.S. Air Force’s 39th Air Base Wing.
 - » The protestors were dispersed with tear gas and water cannons.
 - » Roughly one thousand protesters also [gathered](#) at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara on November 5. The protests were reportedly organized to coincide with Secretary Blinken’s visit to Turkey that day.
- Jordanian state news [announced](#) on November 5 that “a royal air force plane dropped urgent medical aid using parachutes to the Jordanian field hospital in Gaza whose supplies were about to run out due to the delay of delivering aid through Rafah crossing [with Egypt],” according to a Jordanian military source.
- Antisemitic incidents and attacks continue worldwide.
 - » On November 4, a woman was [stabbed](#) twice in her home in Lyon, France; the attacker graffitied a swastika on her front door.
 - » On November 4, a woman in Indiana [drove her car](#) into what she wrongly thought was a Jewish center; the building was actually used by the Black Hebrew Israelites, which is designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Webinar: Thomas Trask, Jacob Olidort, “[The Case for Upgrading Israel’s ‘Major Non-NATO Ally’ Status](#),” *RealClearDefense*, November 6, 2023
- Webinar: [Not Ataturk’s Republic: Erdogan’s Response to Hamas and Israel](#) with JINSA’s VP for Policy Blaise Misztal, Counselor at JINSA’s Gemunder Center for Defense and Strategy Ambassador Eric Edelman, and member of the JINSA Eastern Mediterranean Policy Project Alan Makovsky
- Jacob Olidort, “[In Speech, Nasrallah Explains Hezbollah’s Role in War with Israel](#),” November 3, 2023
- Zac Schildcrout, “[Houthi Attacks Highlight Need for Developing Regional Integrated Air Defenses](#),” November 3, 2021
- Jonathan Ruhe, “[Deterrence Through Strength](#),” *The Dispatch*, November 2, 2023

- Webinar: [Gaza Update](#) with JINSA President and CEO Dr. Michael Makovsky, JINSA Distinguished Fellow IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and JINSA Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, November 2, 2023
- Matt Kenney, “[Emergency Supplemental Funding for Israel – The Current State of Play](#),” November 1, 2023
- Dr. Michael Makovsky, [Appearance](#) on *Live Now Fox*, November 1, 2023