



Ari Cicurel  
Assistant Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin  
Policy Analyst

Zachary Schildcrout  
Policy Analyst

Anna Schafel  
Programs and Outreach Associate

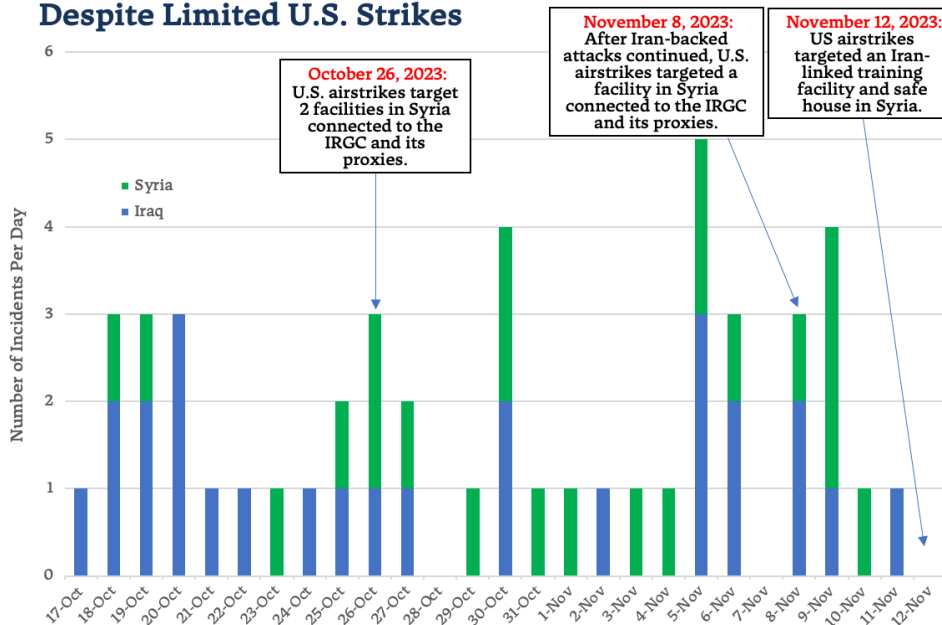
## Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update November 13, 2023

On October 7, Hamas launched an unprovoked and unprecedented multi-pronged attack on Israel by land, air, and sea. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

### Analysis

- Multiple U.S. airstrikes against two Iran-linked sites—a training facility and a safe house—that early reports indicate killed six or seven individuals could signal that the Biden administration is more willing to target the personnel responsible for attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria, not just their infrastructure.
  - » The decision to conduct the U.S. strikes despite a decrease in Iran-backed attacks against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria over the weekend may also further reinforce a deterrent message against the Iranian regime and its proxies.

#### Iran-backed Attacks Against U.S. Personnel Since the Start of the Israel-Hamas War Continued Despite Limited U.S. Strikes

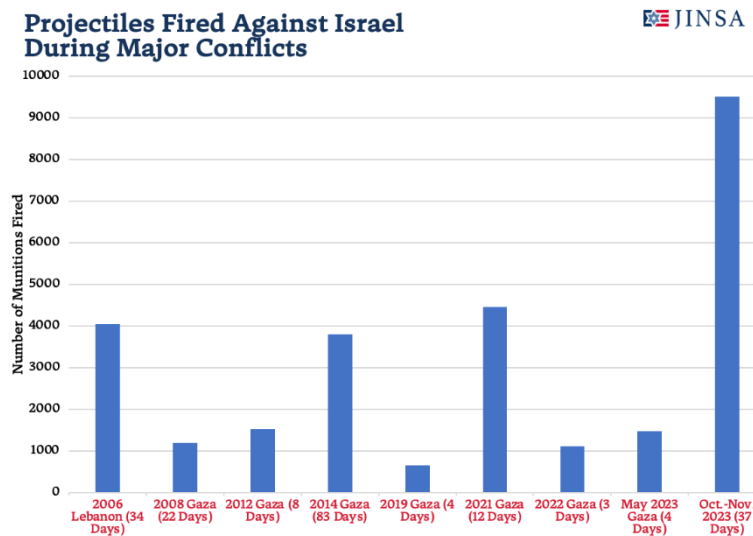


# Last 72 Hours

## Attacks Against Israel

- A *Washington Post* [report](#) published on November 12 indicated that Hamas prepared for even deeper attacks into Israel than those it conducted on October 7, with some terrorists carrying enough food, ammunition, and equipment for several days.
  - » According to the report, a Hamas assault team carried a map that indicated plans to reach as far as the West Bank.
  - » The article also detailed how Hamas conducted above- and below-ground military exercises and gained intelligence from day laborers that Israel allowed to enter its territory on work permits.
- Roughly [9,500](#) rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired from Gaza during the war.
  - » Sirens sounded in [Beersheba](#), [Holit](#), [Nahal Oz](#), [Kfar Aza](#), [Sa'ad](#), and [Kissufim](#), as well as other locations in southern Israel.
  - » On November 10, the IDF [announced](#) that an explosion that took place at the Shifa hospital was caused by an errant missile launched by a Palestinian terrorist group. The hospital's director and Hamas both stated that thirteen people were killed in the explosion, which Hamas blamed on Israel.
- Terrorists in Lebanon launched numerous anti-tank, missile, and drone attacks against Israel over the last 72 hours.
  - » Sirens [sounded](#) in a number of northern Israeli towns between November 11-13, [including](#) the city of Kiryat Shemona and the towns of Avdon, Manot, Neveh Ziv, [Safed](#), [Acre](#), and [Gornot HaGalil](#). These [included](#) a drone intrusion on November 13 that sounded [alarms](#) in Alma, Avivim, Baram, Dalton, Jish, Kerem Ben Zimra, Rehaniya, Yir'on, and the Ramat Dalton Industrial Zone.
  - » On November 13, the IDF [identified](#) an armed terror cell in Lebanon preparing to carry out an attack near the Biranit army base. IDF soldiers struck the cell.
  - » On November 13, an anti-tank missile was [fired](#) from Lebanon toward Netu'a, a community in northern Israel.
  - » On November 13, terrorists in Lebanon [fired](#) eighteen mortars towards the northern village of Arab al-Aramshe.
  - » The IDF [announced](#) on November 12 that approximately fifteen rockets were fired from Lebanon into northern Israel, including four which were intercepted by the Iron Dome air defense system and eleven which landed in open areas, causing no injuries or damage.
  - » The IDF [announced](#) on November 12 that seven soldiers were lightly injured in a mortar attack launched from southern Lebanon on the Manara area of northern Israel.
  - » On November 12, Hezbollah [claimed](#) responsibility for a missile attack that [injured](#) several employees of the Israel Electric Corporation, including one critically and an unspecified number wounded seriously near the town of Dovev close to the Lebanese-Israeli border.
    - The company said that the employees were working to repair a power line damaged in a previous projectile attack.
  - » On November 11, the IDF [announced](#) that an "aerial target" – likely a drone – was intercepted over the northern Israeli town of Cabri.

- » On November 11, the IDF said that mortars were [fired](#) from Lebanon at IDF posts and troops along the Lebanese-Israeli border, with no casualties or damage reported.
- » On November 11, the IDF stated that a rocket attack had been [launched](#) from Lebanon at the area of Margaliot in northern Israel. No further details were reported.
- The IDF announced on November 11 that two rockets were [fired](#) from Syria and landed in open areas, causing no injuries or damage.
  - » Sirens [sounded](#) in the Golan Heights communities of Avnei Eitan and Nov on November 11 during the projectile attack from Syria.
- The IDF Home Front Command [announced](#) that it has seen a steep drop in the number of rocket attacks and infiltration attempts from Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria in recent weeks. According to its data:
  - » From October 7 and 14, there were 3,523 alerts, with the majority being rocket attacks;
  - » From October 15-21, there were 818 alerts;
  - » From October 22-28, there were 808 alerts;
  - » From October 29-November 4, there were 582 alerts; and
  - » From November 5-12, there were 455 alerts.



### *IDF Operations*

- The IDF has continued its ground and air operations in northern Gaza as its forces advance toward the Hamas headquarters located under Shifa Hospital.
  - » On November 13, the IDF [killed](#) terrorists who fired light arms and RPGs from the al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City at Israel's 188th Armored Brigade.
  - » The IDF released [video](#) on November 13 of its underwater unit, YALTAM, recovering weapons that Hamas left behind on the seabed from the October 7 attacks.
  - » The IDF [announced](#) on November 12 that troops from its Harel Reserve Brigade had captured the al-Karameh area between Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya in the northern Gaza Strip. The unit also destroyed Hamas infrastructure, including long-range rocket launchers, anti-tank missile launch posts, observation posts, and terror tunnels.

- » The IDF announced on November 12 that it was successfully [employing](#) new tactics in Gaza including employing small teams from the Military Intelligence Directorate that has enabled improved intelligence-sharing to troops.
  - The IDF cited an example in which an intelligence team attached to the Golani Brigade notified the troops that Hamas operatives were operating nearby, enabling the brigade to direct artillery fire at the target and kill seven Hamas operatives in under ten minutes.
- » Israeli President Isaac Herzog [revealed](#) on November 12 that an annotated Arabic-language copy of Adolf Hitler’s *Mein Kampf* was found in a residential building being used as a base by terrorists in northern Gaza.
  - President Herzog said that the book contained handwritten notes on sections and extensive markings. Herzog added, “after the massacre and atrocities committed by Hamas terrorists on October 7 — the day on which the largest number of Jews were murdered since the Holocaust — this is another revelation that testifies to the sources of inspiration of the terrorist organization Hamas, and proves once again that all its actions have the same goal as the Nazis — the destruction of Jews.”
- » The IDF announced on November 11 that it killed approximately twenty terrorists in the Gaza Strip, many of whom were Hamas terrorists, including:
  - Ahmed Siam, commander of Hamas’s Nasser-Radwan company, who the IDF [stated](#) “held hostage approximately 1,000 Gazan residents at Rantisi Hospital” ;
  - Abdullah Abu Saif;
  - Ramzi Awak;
  - Mohammad Halabi; and
  - Muhammad Awdallah, [commander](#) of the Gaza City Brigade’s anti-tank missile system.
- » The IDF [announced](#) on November 11 that it was expanding the time window of its near-daily humanitarian pauses.
  - IDF Arabic-language spokesperson Lt. Col. Avichay Adraee announced on X on November 11 that the Salah a-Din humanitarian corridor from northern Gaza to southern Gaza would be open for seven hours that day, from 9 am to 4 pm. The corridor has previously been open typically for four to six hours.
  - Lt. Col. Adraee also stated the IDF would make “tactical pauses in military activities” from 10 am to 2 pm on November 11 in the Jabaliya refugee camp so residents could access the humanitarian corridor, though it was unclear if this practice would continue.
- » The IDF also continued to prioritize humanitarian efforts for Gazan residents in other ways as it continues its combat operations deep inside the Gaza Strip.
  - The IDF stated on November 12 that it had [attempted](#) to supply 300 liters of fuel to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City for “urgent medical purposes” by leaving cans outside the hospital, but “the IDF received evidence that Hamas officials prevented the hospital from receiving the fuel.”
  - The IDF released audiotapes on November 12 of a senior official in the Israeli Ministry of Defense’s Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) [instructing](#) staff from three hospitals, including the Nasr, Rantisi, and Shifa hospitals, how best to safely evacuate to southern Gaza.

- The IDF stated that it launched strikes on targets in Lebanon in the last 72 hours.
  - » On November 12, IDF fighter jets and drones [struck](#) Hezbollah targets, including a weapons depot and a command center, in southern Lebanon in response to earlier mortar, missile, and rocket attacks on Israel.
  - » On November 11, the IDF [targeted](#) a Hezbollah cell, [using](#) both artillery and airstrikes, that had fired anti-tank missiles at Israel earlier in the day and had destroyed Hezbollah military infrastructure and positions in Lebanon.
  - » On November 11, the IDF [shelled](#) a Hezbollah anti-tank guided missile squad in southern Lebanon that was preparing to carry out an attack on the Israeli town of Arab al-Aramshe.
  - » On November 11, the IDF [struck](#) a rocket launcher in southern Lebanon in response to an earlier projectile attack on the Israeli area of Margalioth.
  - » On November 11, the IDF [carried out](#) a strike on a target from which surface-to-air missiles had been fired at IDF drones.
    - Lebanese media outlets reported that an IDF drone struck a truck near the Lebanese village of al-Zahrani, roughly twenty-five miles from the Israeli border.
    - Army Radio reported that the two strikes were the same incident.
  - » On November 10, the IDF [struck](#) a number of Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon in response to earlier drone and missile attacks.
    - These sites included intelligence infrastructure and a weapons depot, according to the IDF.
- The IDF also conducted strikes in Syria against the launch sites of earlier attacks from Syria in the last 24 hours.
  - » On November 12, the IDF [conducted](#) air strikes against unspecified terrorist targets in Syria in response to previous rocket fire that targeted the Golan Heights.
  - » On November 11, the IDF [launched](#) artillery shelling towards the sources of earlier rocket fire from Syria.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and cabinet minister Benny Gantz [held](#) a press conference on November 11.
  - » Netanyahu said, “we are doing everything to be worthy of [fallen soldiers] sacrifice and their heroism,” and “we will not stop before the completion of the mission.”
  - » He also warned Hezbollah, “it will be the mistake of your lives” if the terror group intervenes in the Israel-Hamas war.
  - » The prime minister described hostage rescue as “a central aim of the war” and insisted that “there will be no ceasefire without the return of our hostages.”
  - » Addressing potential deals to secure the release of hostages, Netanyahu said, “when we have something concrete to say we will tell the families, and bring it to the government. Until then, silence is golden.”
  - » He urged regional Arab leaders to “take a stand against Hamas” because the group has brought bloodshed, disaster, and poverty to Gaza.
  - » Addressing Iran, Netanyahu argued that its regional terrorist activities endanger “the whole world and the whole Arab world” and that “everybody in the free world has a moral obligation to support Israel” against Hamas.

- » He urged world leaders, “don’t cave to the pressure” against support for Israel because “our war is your war,” and he insisted that “no international pressure, no false allegations about IDF soldiers and our state” will hamper Israeli self-defense.
- » Netanyahu pledged that Israel will “stand firm against the world if necessary” and will stay in Gaza “as long as necessary” to impede terrorist attacks targeting Israel.
- » He said that “the day after” means “only after the destruction of Hamas. Hamas will be demilitarized; there will be no further threat from the Gaza Strip on Israel, and to ensure that, for all long as necessary, IDF will control Gaza security to prevent terror from there.”
- » Netanyahu argued that “wherever Israel doesn’t maintain security control, terror returns and establishes itself and hits us,” including in the West Bank.
- » He insisted that “if we want peace, we have to destroy Hamas. If we want security, we have to destroy Hamas. If we want to ensure the future of the State of Israel, we have to destroy Hamas. That’s what Israel must do. And that is what Israel will do.”
- » During the press conference, Netanyahu [indicated](#) that Israel will oppose the return of Gaza to the Palestinian Authority after the war, contradicting U.S. policy and resulting in the United States requesting a clarification.
- » Netanyahu stated that immediately after the war, Israel will retain “overall security control, including the capacity to go in whenever we want to eliminate terrorists who may pop up again.”
- » War cabinet minister Benny Gantz [stated](#) that regional leaders must recognize that “it is Hamas that brought ruin upon the residents of Gaza.”
  - Gantz stated that, referencing the Arab League summit held over the weekend in Riyadh, Israel rejects moralizing from Syrian leader Bashar Assad, who Gantz called “the slaughterer of his own people,” or from Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, “the hangman from Iran.”
- After reports that the United States had [asked](#) for clarification of the prime minister’s remarks, as they appeared to contradict U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s November 8 [statement](#) that Gaza must be governed by the Palestinian Authority, Netanyahu [doubled down](#) on his remarks on November 12.
  - » Netanyahu told *NBC News* that “as far as the civilian management of Gaza, we have to see the following two things: Gaza has to be demilitarized and Gaza has to be de-radicalized. And I think so far, we haven’t seen any Palestinian force, including the Palestinian Authority, that has been able to do it,” adding, “it’s too early to say” who will govern the Gaza Strip.
- According to a November 11 report from Israel’s *Channel 12*, which did not cite sources, the IDF is [planning](#) to be fighting in Gaza for at least a year and is expecting to fight in areas it has never operated before.
  - » The report stated that the IDF is “preparing for a period of a year of fighting ... in different areas ... different methods, but a year of fighting to get to the fourth stage of this war: The entry of a new government in Gaza that is not Hamas and is not backed by the Iranians.”
- While touring northern Israel on November 11, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [said](#) that Hezbollah “is close to making a grave mistake,” which would cause great harm to Lebanon and its citizens.

- » Gallant stated that “Hezbollah is dragging Lebanon into a war that may happen, and it is making mistakes.”
- » Gallant added, referencing scenes of Gazan residents traveling south along the humanitarian corridor, that “I am saying here to the citizens of Lebanon, I already see the citizens in Gaza walking with white flags along the coast and moving south” and that “if [Hezbollah] makes mistakes of this kind, the ones who will pay the price are first of all the citizens of Lebanon. What we are doing in Gaza we know how to do in Beirut.”

### *Casualties and Hostages*

- Around 1,200 people in Israel have been [killed](#) and another 6,900 have been injured in the war.
  - » Israel [revised](#) its death toll from the October 7 attack down from 1,400, which Israeli Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lior Haiat described as an “initial estimate” but did not elaborate on the change.
  - » [363](#) Israeli soldiers have been killed.
    - Forty-six IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
  - » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 32 [American](#) nationals, 34 [Thai](#) nationals, 21 [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 [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, 11,078 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 27,490 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, 185 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 2,500 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 240 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, 23 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, 3 [Romanian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals have been taken hostage.
- Officials from the United Nations and Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry said on November 13 that many people have [fled](#) the Shifa Hospital.

- » Roughly 650 patients, 500 healthcare workers, and 2,500 displaced people remain at the Shifa hospital compound, according to Mohammed Zaqout, Hamas's director of hospitals in Gaza. This marks a noticeable drop compared to the approximately 1,500 patients, the same number of medical workers, and 15,000 displaced people who Gaza health officials said were at Shifa over the weekend.
- The IDF [announced](#) on November 10 that four soldiers were seriously wounded in an anti-tank missile attack launched from Lebanon on an army post near the northern Israeli town of Menara.
- The IDF [announced](#) on November 10 that two soldiers were injured, including one moderately and one seriously, in a drone attack along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

### *Iranian Involvement and Response*

- During a November 11 speech, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah [argued](#) that “pressure [on Israel] needs to be expanded,” and “time is necessary for the movements of the ‘resistance.’”
  - » Nasrallah [boasted](#) that the war has inflicted “tens of billions of dollars of losses” on the Israeli economy “in spite of the 14 billion of [sic] dollars of military aid provided by the US.”
  - » He also [said](#), “Iran is the power we need to thank for supporting Islamic ‘resistance’ movements in the region” because it has “supported us financially, materially, diplomatically and militarily.”
  - » He insisted, “we need to praise the late Qassem Suleimani [former commander of the expeditionary Quds Force in the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps], who did not spare military nor financial support for all of our movements, despite the threats.”
  - » He mocked the United States, arguing that even though it blames Iran for the actions of Iraqi “resistance” forces and Hezbollah, “the Islamic Republic of Iran does not decide in place of the ‘resistance’ movements, but it supports them.”
  - » Nasrallah bragged further that “last week saw an improvement in operations, both [quantitatively] and qualitatively. For instance, we deployed the Bourkane missile carrying a payload between 300 kilograms and 500 kilograms. Imagine half a ton of explosives falling on the enemy’s head.”
  - » He said, “we also improved in terms of depth of reach, deploying drones and Katyusha rockets” and that “there are other operations that we have not revealed, such as surveillance drones into occupied Palestine, especially over Haifa.” Some drones supposedly “return with images, others do not, but they exhaust the Iron Dome and Patriot missiles of the enemy.”
  - » Addressing anti-Israel demonstrations around the world, Nasrallah [said](#), “we see thousands of people in Washington, New York, London and Paris protesting against Israel,” and he noted that some Western leaders now support a ceasefire, though they initially did not in the wake of Hamas’s October 7 attack. He argued that “the only voice that stands out is the U.S. and its ‘follower’ the U.K.” and called for international pressure on the United States.
  - » Nasrallah said further, “the Arab and Islamic summit brings together 57 Arab and Islamic states. Palestinians and other people of the region have their eyes on this summit.” He said that although these countries will eschew sending troops to target Israel’s blockade of Gaza, they should pressure the United States to stop Israeli operations and deliver aid and medical treatment “even while Gaza continues to fight.”



- » He praised “support by various fronts, especially the West Bank” for supporting Hamas and described the Houthis’ decision to launch projectiles toward Israel as “brave.” He also said that while attacks targeting U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria are meant to end “U.S. occupation” in those countries, “the immediate goal is to achieve a halt to the [Israeli] attack on Gaza.”
  - He urged the Biden administration, “If you want to put an end to attacks on this secondary front [in Iraq and Syria], you must impose an end to the [Israeli] attack on Gaza.”
- While speaking at the Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation emergency summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi [said](#) on November 11 that the only solution to the conflict is a Palestinian state “from the river to the sea,” indicating a desire for the destruction of Israel.
  - » Raisi, who was photographed [wearing](#) a Palestinian keffiyeh scarf upon landing in Saudi Arabia, also strongly criticized Israel’s combat operations, adding, “we want to take a historic and decisive decision regarding what is happening in the Palestinian territories. Killing civilians and bombing hospitals are manifestations of Israeli crimes in Gaza. Today, everyone must decide which side they stand on.”

### *U.S. and International Response*

- On November 12, the United States conducted strikes against two Iran-linked facilities in Syria—its third round of attacks since an escalation of attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria that began on October 17.
  - » According to a [statement](#) from U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, the targets were “a training facility and a safe house near the cities of Abu Kamal and Mayadin, respectively.”
  - » A senior U.S. defense official [told](#) Jennifer Griffin of *Fox News* that six to seven Iranian proxy fighters were killed during the strikes, and there were two hours of secondary explosions at one of the locations, indicating the destruction of a large amount of weaponry.
  - » Since the U.S. strikes against Iran-linked targets on November 8, there was an initial escalation of four attacks by Iran-backed groups on November 9 against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria but only two attacks from November 10-11 and no attacks on November 12.
- U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said during an [interview](#) with *CBS’s Face the Nation* on November 12 that “the United States does not want to see firefights in hospitals where innocent people, patients receiving medical care, are caught in the crossfire. And we’ve had active consultations with the Israel Defense Forces on this.” He added that the IDF is striving to ensure the safety of civilians “while they also try to figure out a way to try to deal with the fact that Hamas is operating in a way that is outside the bounds of any civilized concept of how you would think about using a hospital, using human shields ... It’s an active conversation, but the bottom line is that we do not want to see firefights in hospitals.”
- On November 12, a [bipartisan delegation](#) of U.S. members of Congress met in Israel with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
  - » Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Michael McCaul (R-TX) led the delegation, which also included U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS), Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND), Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Rep. John James (R-MI), Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D-FL), Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY), Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA), and Rep. Max Miller (R-OH).

- On November 12, the World Health Organization (WHO) [said](#) that the Shifa hospital in Gaza, underneath which, according to Israel, is Hamas’s headquarters, is “not functioning as a hospital anymore.”
  - » On X, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged a ceasefire and said, “the situation [at the hospital] is dire and perilous,” and “the number of patient fatalities has increased significantly.”
  - » Hamas claimed without evidence that five premature babies and seven critically ill patients died amid the fighting and fuel shortages.
  - » Gaza’s deputy health minister, Youssef Abu Rish, said, “we fear the toll will rise further by morning.”
  - » Director of the hospital Mohammad Abu Salmiya insisted that it was a lie that Hamas refused Israel’s offer of 300 liters of fuel to the hospital and that such a quantity would only supply generators for a quarter of an hour.
- On November 13, 27 European Union nations jointly [condemned](#) Hamas’s use of hospitals and civilians as human shields. EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borell also called “for maximum restraint and targeting in order to avoid human casualties.”
- On November 12, Israeli media [reported](#), citing an Israeli diplomatic source, that the French government planned to send a ship this week to operate as a floating hospital for wounded Gazans.
  - » The ship reportedly will dock off the coast of Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula and contains approximately seventy beds.
- On November 12, Israel’s Kan broadcasting network [aired](#) footage of Hamas officials preventing residents who tried to access a food truck sent in an aid convoy into Gaza, and beating up residents attempting to access the truck.
- On November 12, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz [argued](#) during a debate, “I don’t think the calls for an immediate ceasefire or long pause — which would amount to the same thing — are right” because “that would mean ultimately that Israel leaves Hamas the possibility of recovering and obtaining new missiles.”
- On November 12, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie [traveled](#) to Israel, the first Republican Party presidential candidate to visit since the war began.
  - » While touring Kibbutz Kfar Aza, which Hamas ravaged on October 7, Christie said, “we can’t ask Israel to stand down if they believe there is still a legitimate violent threat against them and their people. And I think there is no question that there is. And so they must continue to fight until they have degraded that capability to a point where they can say to their people, come back and live here safely and securely. Until that comes, I don’t think calls for a ceasefire make any sense.”
    - He added, “in the future, we need to stand absolutely shoulder to shoulder with Israel, no daylight.”
- On November 12, Jordan announced that it [dropped](#) humanitarian aid into Gaza from aircraft for the second time since the war began.
- On November 12, Israel’s Defense Ministry signed a NIS 1.3 billion (\$3.4 million) [agreement](#) to sell to Finland the David’s Sling mid-range air defense system, which is produced by the Israeli Defense firm Rafael.
- U.S. National Security Council Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa Brett McGurk will reportedly [visit](#) Israel on November 14 before heading to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain.

- On November 11, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [spoke](#) by phone with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to discuss the war.
  - » According to a Pentagon readout, Secretary Austin “reaffirmed Israel’s right to self-defense and reiterated the importance of both protecting civilians and delivering humanitarian relief” and “emphasized the need to contain the conflict to Gaza and avoid regional escalation.”
- On November 11, French President Emmanuel Macron [told](#) *BBC News* that there is “no justification” for Israeli’s bombing of “babies, these ladies, these old people” and reiterated his call for a ceasefire.
  - » Macron stated, “De facto – today, civilians are bombed – de facto. These babies, these ladies, these old people are bombed and killed. So there is no reason for that and no legitimacy. So we do urge Israel to stop.”
  - » Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that Macron’s remarks [ignored](#) that “while Israel is doing everything to refrain from harming civilians and calling on them to leave areas of fighting, Hamas-ISIS is doing everything to prevent them from leaving for safe areas and is using them as human shields.”
  - » According to an Israeli readout, President Macron [called](#) Israeli President Isaac Herzog on November 12 to clarify that he “does not and did not intend to accuse Israel of intentionally harming innocent civilians in the campaign against the terrorist organization Hamas” and “emphasized that he unequivocally supports Israel’s right and duty to self-defense, and expressed his support for Israel’s war against Hamas.”
- November 11 reports [noted](#) that Arab leaders and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi were in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, for a summit to discuss the Israel-Hamas war. Leaders from the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) comprised the attendees.
  - » Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman [met](#) one-on-one with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi at the summit, their first meeting since the restoration of bilateral ties in March, and Crown Prince bin Salman also met one-on-one with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.
  - » Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Hossam Zaki said that the group’s goal is to outline “how the Arabs will move on the international scene to stop the aggression, support Palestine and its people, condemn the Israeli occupation, and hold it accountable for its crimes.” The terror group Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) expressed doubt that the summit will be effective.
  - » The summit’s final resolution [stated](#) that the leaders “condemn the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and the war crimes as well as the barbaric, inhumane and brutal massacres being committed by the colonial occupation government against the strip and the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank, including East Al-Quds. We demand ceasing this aggression immediately.”
  - » The resolution also called on the UN Security Council resolution to undertake a binding ruling that would call for an immediate ceasefire, called for the International Criminal Court to investigate Israel for “war crimes and crimes against humanity” and called for a weapons embargo to Israel.
- On November 10, while speaking to a summit of African leaders, Saudi Arabia’s leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, strongly [criticized](#) Israeli combat operations in his first public remarks about the war.

- » Crown Prince bin Salman said, “we condemn the military aggression witnessed in the Gaza Strip, the targeting of civilians, and the continued violations of international humanitarian law by the Israeli occupation forces. We stress the necessity of stopping this war and forced displacement and creating conditions for the return of stability and achieving peace.”
- » On November 11, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan later [argued](#) during a press conference that “we are watching and observing the double standards and we are reassessing, based on this, the credibility of international systems. If there is no commitment binding everyone to these foundations, it is difficult to speak of these foundations as unifying foundations,” meaning that Israel is ostensibly not being held to account for its actions.
- On November 10, UAE Ambassador to the UN Lana Nusseibeh sharply criticized Israel’s combat operations at a United Nations Security Council meeting, [stating](#), “attacks by Israel in pursuit of its security are disproportionate, they are cruel, and they are inhumane, and we condemn them. Also, they will not bring Israel security. So many lives are being lost without even achieving this aim.”
- On November 10, the U.S. Office for Palestinian Affairs [posted](#) a condemnation of Israel’s demolition of a thirteen-year-old Palestinian’s family home, leading Israel to respond that the Palestinian teenager had stabbed and killed an Israeli civilian.
  - » The diplomatic office [posted](#) on X on November 9 that “Israel has demolished the home of a Palestinian family in response to the actions of their 13-year-old child. An entire family should not lose their home because of the actions of one individual.”
  - » Israel’s embassy in the United States [responded](#) on X on November 10 that “Context is helpful: the ‘13-year-old’ is a terrorist who murdered an Israeli citizen by stabbing him to death.”

### *Rising Antisemitism and Protests*

- On November 13, a Jewish cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio, was [vandalized](#) with swastika graffiti.
- On November 12, activists [protested](#) U.S. aid to Israel, as well as environmental abuses and corporate profits, at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders’ conference, a global trade conference in San Francisco, California.
- On November 12, tens of thousands [marched](#) against antisemitism in Paris in a rally led by the heads of the lower and upper houses of the French parliament and two former presidents.
- On November 11, London police [estimated](#) that 300,000 pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel protestors took to the streets in the “National March for Palestine.”
- On November 10, anti-Israel protesters in New York [burned](#) an Israeli flag and splattered red paint on the entrance of the *New York Times* building, accusing the newspaper of having a bias towards Israel in its reporting.
  - » Hundreds of the protesters [surrounded](#) Grand Central Station, forcing its temporary closure.
- On November 10, Columbia University [announced](#) it was suspending two pro-Palestinian groups, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP), through the end of the fall semester. They will be banned from hosting events or receiving university funding.

- » Columbia's senior executive vice president, Gerald Rosberg, said, "This decision was made after the two groups repeatedly violated university policies related to holding campus events, culminating in an unauthorized event Thursday afternoon that proceeded despite warnings and included threatening rhetoric and intimidation."
- On November 10, two students at Ohio State University were [assaulted](#) in an apparent antisemitic attack. According to a public safety notice from the university, "the suspects yelled a derogatory term and assaulted two students while asking if they were Jewish."
- » On November 9, the university's Hillel chapter was [vandalized](#).

## Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

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- Michael Makovsky, "[Biden's Iran policy needs to match post-10/7 realities](#)," *The Hill*, November 7, 2023
- Webinar: [Hezbollah's Escalation Dilemma](#), with John Hannah, JINSA's Randi & Charles Wax Senior Fellow; Hanin Ghaddar, Friedmann Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; IDF Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) Sarit Zehavi, founder and president of Alma; and Orna Mizrahi, senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), November 7, 2023
- Yoni Tobin, [U.S. Aid to Gaza Almost Certain to End Up in Hamas Hands](#), November 6, 2023
- Thomas Trask and 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, November 3, 2023
- Jacob Olidort, [In Speech, Nasrallah Explains Hezbollah's Role in War with Israel](#), November 3, 2023
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