

Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update November 14, 2023

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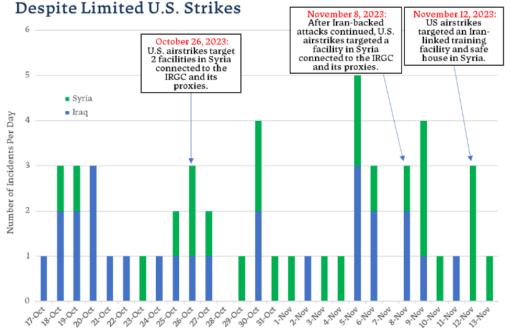
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On October 7, Hamas launched an unprovoked and unprecedented multi-pronged attack on Israel by land, air, and sea. JINSA has launched a webpage dedicated to its commentary, webinars, and media coverage about <u>Israel at War</u>. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

Analysis

- Despite a third round of U.S. airstrikes on November 12 on two Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) facilities in Syria, which killed several Iran-linked fighters, Iran and its proxies remain undeterred, as evidenced by continued projectile attacks directly after those strikes.
 - » As JINSA's Ari Cicurel noted in a November 13 <u>NatSec Brief</u>, Iran-backed groups conducted four drone or rocket attacks on November 12-13 on U.S. troops and personnel after the November 12 airstrikes, signaling that "rounds of infrequent and limited U.S. strikes against Iran-backed groups have not deterred them or the regime in Tehran."
 - » Instead, Cicurel argues, U.S. policy must focus on targeting "the fighters, not only the facilities, involved in attacks on Americans and hold Iran directly responsible for attacks by its proxies, and further buttress the recent deployments of U.S. military assets to the region by deploying additional Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers that can help protect U.S. troops and partners from Iran-backed attacks."
 - » Iran-backed projectile attacks have <u>caused</u> fifty-six U.S. personnel injuries since October 17.



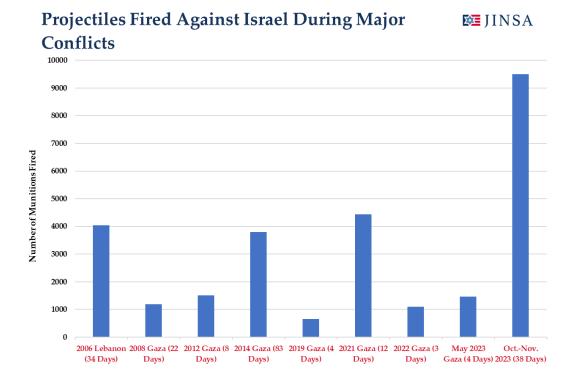


Last 24 Hours

Attacks Against Israel

- Roughly 9,500 rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired from Gaza during the war.
 - » Rockets struck <u>Ashkelon</u>, and sirens sounded in <u>Tel Aviv</u>, <u>Ashkelon</u>, Sderot, Ibim, Nir Am, <u>Sha'ar Hanegev</u>, and <u>Sdot Negev</u>, as well as other locations in central and southern Israel.
 - » Two rockets <u>exploded</u> near a building in Ashkelon, causing serious structural damage. Two people were lightly injured and another two people were treated with shock.
- Several rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired from Lebanon in the last 24 hours.
 - » Sirens <u>sounded</u> in Safed, Haifa Bay, Acre, Arab al-Aramshe, Gornot Hagalil, Even Menachem, Zar'it, Shomera, as well as other locations in Northern Israel.
 - » On November 14, two IDF soldiers from the 299th Battalion were <u>injured</u> by a Hezbollah anti-tank guided missile attack near the Netu'a area along the Lebanese-Israeli border, including one in serious condition and one in moderate condition.
 - » On November 14, terrorists <u>launched</u> anti-tank missiles and mortars at the towns of Mattat and Shomera and at IDF positions near the villages of Arab al-Aramshe, Margaliot, and Yiftah, along the Lebanese-Israeli border.
 - » On November 14, terrorists <u>fired</u> several rockets at an IDF position along the Lebanese-Israeli border near the Israeli town of Malika. One rocket was intercepted by the Iron Dome system, while the rest landed in open areas, causing no reported injuries or damage.

- » On November 13, terrorists <u>launched</u> an anti-tank missile from southern Lebanon towards the area of Netu'a in northern Israel.
- » On November 13, terrorists <u>launched</u> mortars into Israel from southern Lebanon, which fell in open areas, in two separate incidents. No further details were available and no casualties or damage were reported.
- On November 14, the IDF said that sirens <u>sounded</u> in Eilat due to an air defense missile being fired at an "aerial target." The IDF said the target did not infiltrate into Israeli airspace. No further details were reported.



IDF Operations

- The IDF stated that it launched strikes on roughly 200 targets in Gaza in the last 24 hours.
 - » On November 14, the IDF stated that its <u>strikes</u> in Gaza targeted terrorist operatives, weapon production sites, anti-tank missile launch positions, and Hamas command centers.
 - The IDF Navy said on November 14 that it struck a Hamas training camp and weapons depot along the coast of Gaza.
 - The IDF said on November 14 that its ground troops found a Hamas tunnel shaft inside a mosque.
 - » On November 14, an IDF spokesperson <u>confirmed</u> that the IDF had reached the gates of Shifa Hospital, where Hamas runs four underground complexes and one of its primary command and control centers.
 - Israeli officials said that they established a humanitarian corridor for civilians to leave the hospital and had communicated instructions regarding use of the corridor to the hospital staff.

- The IDF announced on November 14 that it is coordinating transfer of incubators from an Israeli hospital to the Shifa Hospital.
- On November 14, the IDF's elite 7th Armored Brigade and Golani Brigade captured several Hamas buildings in the Gaza City neighborhoods of Rimal and Sheikh Ijlin.
 - These buildings included a building known as the "governor's house," which houses Hamas's military wing and police offices, Hamas's intelligence division offices, and other sites where the October 7 attack was planned.
 - The IDF captured an unspecified Gazan university's engineering faculty building, which was used to produce and develop weapons.
 - The IDF also captured a Hamas compound with a training base, command center, interrogation rooms, and detention cells.
- On November 13, the IDF's elite Golani Brigade was photographed inside Gaza's parliament building.
- Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said on November 13 that "there is no force of Hamas capable of stopping the IDF. The IDF is advancing to every point. The Hamas organization has lost control of Gaza. Terrorists are fleeing south. Civilians are looting Hamas bases. They have no confidence in the government."
 - He also said that IDF advancements are going as planned and that the army is carrying out its tasks "accurately" and "lethally."
 - Gallant said further that the IDF has "intensified" operations to dismantle Hamas's tunnels and that "we work according to tasks. We don't have a stopwatch. We have goals. We will achieve our goals."
- A November 13 report indicated that the Israeli Air Force's elite helicopter-borne search and rescue Unit 669 has undertaken over sixty medical evacuations from the Gaza Strip since the start of Israel's ground offensive and 200 other operations since October 7.
 - Commander of the 123rd Squadron, a group of Black Hawk helicopter pilots for Unit 669, Lt. Col. "Ayin" said, "from the beginning of the ground operation, the rescue helicopter squadron has evacuated dozens of wounded in complex terrain conditions, under fire, and in extreme situations."
 - He also said that "the rescue helicopter array works in close cooperation with Unit 669 and ground forces, which results in life-saving rescues," and "the goal is safe and quick rescues, as well as arriving at a medical center as quickly as possible."
- On November 13, Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen posted on X, "as far as we're concerned, there is no [diplomatic] countdown — we won't stop fighting until we eliminate Hamas and return all of the hostages," clarifying remarks he made earlier in the day.
 - Foreign Minister Cohen had stated earlier on November 13, while speaking with reporters, that there was a "diplomatic window" of roughly two to three weeks before international pressure on Israel to cease its operations seriously increased.
- The IDF said on November 13 that it killed several high-ranking Hamas members in airstrikes in Gaza, including:
 - Yakub Asher, commander of Hamas's anti-tank guided missile array in the Khan Younis Brigade, who "took part in leading and directing offenses against IDF forces";

- Hamis Dababash, longtime Hamas member and former head of its intelligence division, who was involved in a deadly attack against the Gaza-based Israeli settlement Atzmona in 2002 that killed five Israelis;
- Tahsin Maslam, head of Hamas's combat support company for the group's special operations in Beit Lahia;
- Jihad Azam, a Hamas intelligence officer in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood, and;
- Munir Harb, the Rafah Brigade's head of information.
- The IDF revealed a number of details on November 13 about the successful operations against Hamas, including that it has killed hundreds of Hamas operatives from two Hamas battalions alone.
 - The IDF stated that prior to the war, Hamas had some 30,000 fighters operating in five regional brigades, twenty-four battalions and some 140 companies, with each brigade operating its own anti-tank missile array, sniper and engineering teams, air defenses, and a rocket firing array.
 - The IDF reported that it has killed over 200 Hamas operatives in the Shati Camp Battalion as well as the battalion's deputy commander and several company commanders.
 - The IDF added that it has killed the entire senior command of the Daraj-Tuffah Battalion as well as the battalion commander, his deputy, and roughly 260 operatives in the battalion.
- The IDF conducted raids overnight in the West Bank city of Tulkarem, during which six Palestinians were killed, according to the Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Ministry of Health.
- The IDF stated that it launched strikes on several targets in Lebanon in the last 24 hours.
 - On November 14, the IDF said its fighter jets struck a number of Hezbollah targets across southern Lebanon and that one of its tanks shelled an anti-tank missile cell along the Lebanese-Israeli border that was preparing to launch an attack.
 - On November 13, the IDF struck a Hezbollah launch site in southern Lebanon and separately shelled an anti-tank missile cell operating near the Lebanese-Israeli border.
 - On November 13, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi vowed during an assessment at the Safed-based Northern Command, "we are preparing strongly with action plans for the north. Our mission is to bring security. The security situation will not remain such that the residents of the north do not feel safe to return to their homes."
 - He also approved plans of action for operations in the north.
 - On November 13, Al Jazeera said that its photographer Issam Mawasi was lightly wounded in an Israeli strike while inspecting damage with a group of roughly one dozen journalists near the Lebanese town of Yarun. The strike also reportedly damaged a broadcast vehicle.
 - The broadcaster's Lebanon bureau chief, Mazen Ibrahim, alleged that "Israeli occupation forces don't hesitate to directly target journalists."
- The IDF reported on November 13 that Hamas's command and control center was uncovered under Rantisi Hospital, a children's hospital. Israeli military officials believe that the hostages were likely held under the hospital.

- » IDF spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari claimed the IDF found various weapons underneath the hospital, including "suicide vests, grenades, AK-47 assault rifles, explosive devices, RPGs, and other weapons."
- » Hagari also stated that the IDF found evidence that Hamas returned to Rantisi Hospital after the early morning attack on Israel on October 7.
- The Knesset passed a law on November 13 amending Israel's existing Counterterrorism Law to enable Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to declare non-Israeli individuals as terrorist operatives.
 - Previously, the Israeli government could only designate non-Israeli citizens as terrorists if an international entity first made the designation.
 - The new law also broadens the definition of "terror operatives" to financiers of terrorist groups, not just formal members.
- On November 13, the IDF <u>urged</u> civilians in villages in northern Israel along the Lebanese border to "enter protected areas until further notice."
- On November 13, Israel Police stated that it foiled a planned terror attack targeting the area of Tel Aviv's Savidor train station after police arrested two teenage Palestinians from the Israeli village of Umm al-Fahm.
 - » According to the Israeli Police, the two fourteen-year-old boys were carrying knives and planned to stab IDF soldiers near the train station.

Casualties and Hostages

- Around 1,200 people in Israel have been killed, and another 6,900 have been injured in the war.
 - 366 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, at least 11,200 people have been killed in Gaza, and at least 28,000 have been injured during the war.
 - On October 25, President Biden <u>cautioned</u> 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, 190 people have been killed, and an additional 2,700 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.

- » On November 14, the IDF confirmed the death of 19-year-old Israeli soldier Noa Marciano, who had been killed while held hostage by Hamas.
- 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.
- An Israeli civilian who was injured in a November 12 anti-tank missile attack along the Lebanese-Israeli border died on November 13.
- The Washington Post reported on November 14, citing a senior Israeli official, that Israel and Hamas are close to reaching a deal for a hostage swap.
 - The official said that "the general outline of the deal is understood" and would include Hamas releasing between 70 and 100 women and children in exchange for the release of roughly 120 Palestinian women and youths from Israeli prisons and a five-day ceasefire.
 - Previously, Hamas spokesperson Abu Ubaida released a statement on November 14 on the social media app Telegram that Hamas offered a deal to release seventy women and children hostages if Israel was willing to release 200 Palestinian children and seventyfive women from Israeli prisons and agree to a five-day truce.
 - The five-day truce would also entail not only a complete ceasefire but aid and humanitarian relief to flow to all areas of Gaza, according to the Hamas spokesperson, who accused Israel of "procrastinating and evading" the deal.

Iranian Involvement and Response

- Iran-backed groups conducted four attacks on U.S. troops and personnel in Iraq and Syria, including:
 - Multiple rockets at the U.S. Mission Support Site Euphrates on November 12;
 - » A one-way attack drone on the U.S. Green Village facility near the al-Omar oil field on November 12:
 - » A one-way attack drone on the U.S. facility at Shadadi on November 12;
 - Multiple drones against the U.S.-led coalition Rumalyn Landing Zone base on November
- On November 13, Iranian media outlets quoted the head of the IRGC Aerospace Force, Amir Ali Hajizadeh, as saying, "it is probable that the extent of clashes will grow even bigger. The future is unclear, though Iran is prepared for all conditions."
 - » Hajizadeh also stated that "the war has expanded" already, "with Lebanon being embroiled in it."
 - » Asked about U.S. deterrence efforts against Iran, Hajizadeh said, "the U.S. is not threatening Iran... Iran is not in a position where anybody would seek to threaten it, as we are currently at the peak of our military strength."

- Israeli-Russian national Elizabeth Tsurkov, whom the Iran-backed terrorist group Kataib Hezbollah kidnapped in Iraq earlier this year, appeared in a video aired by Iraq's Al Rabiaa network in which she "admits" she was a Western spy.
 - Tsurkov spoke directly to the families of Israelis being held hostage in Gaza, stating that if they want to see their family members again, the war must stop.
 - Tsurkov said. "I ask the families of the hostages in Gaza to constantly make efforts to stop the war on Gaza, for the sake of your sons and daughters. This war that is being stupidly run by Netanyahu through his wife, Sara, and his son, Yair, will lead to the hostages being killed. If you want your sons and daughters to return alive, the war must stop."

U.S. and International Response

- President Joe Biden stated on November 13 in response to a reporter's question, "on the hospitals in Gaza-have you expressed any specific concerns to Israel on that?" that "I have not been reluctant in expressing my concern about what's been going on. It is my hope and expectation there will be less intrusive action relative to the hospital. We're in contact with the Israelis ... the hospital must be protected."
- On November 13, ABC News reported, citing two senior U.S. administration officials, that the United States has intelligence supporting Israel's assessment that Hamas is using the Shifa Hospital in Gaza as a command and control center, which is operating underneath the hospital.
- During a November 13 press briefing, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller addressed Hamas's use of human shields, saying, "We would love to see Hamas vacate the hospitals that it's using command posts immediately. We would love to see all the people that are calling for Israel to take steps to protect hospitals call for Hamas to vacate the hospitals, and stop using civilians as human shields."
 - He also said, "we would love to see Hamas take some of the fuel reserves it's sitting on and use that to supply hospitals in northern Gaza. We would love to see Hamas have taken [sic] the fuel that Israel offered it yesterday - that they declined - for use at al-Shifa Hospital."
- On November 13, U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said the Biden administration is working "around the clock" to secure the release of every hostage that Hamas is holding in Gaza.
- Axios reported on November 13 that it had obtained at least one of the reportedly multiple dissent memos circulating in the State Department over U.S. policy towards the war.
- The memo reportedly was signed by 100 State Department and USAID employees and urges U.S. officials to demand a ceasefire.
 - The memo, which was reportedly transmitted to the State Department's policy office on November 3, said that President Biden was guilty of spreading "misinformation."
 - Excerpts from the memo included that "members of the White House and (the National Security Council) displayed a clear disregard for the lives of Palestinians, a documented unwillingness to de-escalate, and, even prior to October 7, a reckless lack of strategic foresight" and that the United States "doubled down on our unwavering military assistance to the (Israeli government) without clear or actionable redlines."
- On November 14, the U.S. State Department designated Akram al-Ajouri, the Deputy Secretary General of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and leader of PIJ's militant wing al-

Quds Brigade as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. On the same day, the U.S. Treasury Department also designated eight individuals and two entities that provided support to or acted on behalf of Hamas or PIJ, including al-Ajouri and:

- Nasser Abu Sharif, PIJ representative to Iran;
- Jamil Yusuf Ahmad Aliyan, PIJ political operative who "distributed Iranian provided funds to PIJ personnel";
- Nabil Chouman, Khaled Chouman, and Reda Ali Khamis, money exchangers that helped funnel funds from Iran to Hamas:
- Nabil Chouman & Co. Chouman's money exchange organization that was responsible for "transferring tens of millions of dollars" to Hamas from Iran;
- Mahmoud Zahhar, senior member of Hamas;
- Muad Ibrahim Muhammed Rashid al-Atili, Hamas operative; and
- The Muhjat Al-Quds Foundation, an Iran-funded organization that provides financial support to the families of PIJ terrorists.
- European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell announced on X on November 13 that he is planning to travel to Israel, the Palestinian territories, Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia this week.
 - Borrell posted that "we need a political horizon looking towards the two state solution. This can only be achieved through dialogue."
- Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati said on November 13 that Lebanon has a contingency plan in case it is drawn into the war, though it does not seek to enter into the war.
- On November 13, French President Emmanuel Macron gathered with religious leaders in France to address the rise in antisemitism and Islamophobia. He urged the religious leaders to educate France's younger populations on promoting peace and unity in the midst of the ongoing war in the Middle East.
 - This event occurred after Macron criticized Israel's targeting of the Gaza Strip during an interview with the BBC. In the interview, he 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," Macron also called on Israel to implement a ceasefire.
 - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded to Macron's comments by saying, "it's Hamas preventing the evacuation of civilians, not Israel, Israel tells them to leave."
 - A November 12 report from *The Times of Israel* quoted a French diplomatic source as saying that "President Macron never implied, and does not think, that Israeli forces are deliberately targeting civilians. He has been consistently qualifying Hamas's use of hostages or civilian population as 'unacceptable blackmail."
 - » Over 100,000 people gathered in Paris on November 12 to protest the rise in antisemitism.
- After an alleged Israeli strike on November 13 on the Gaza-based headquarters of the Qatari Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza, both Qatar and Saudi Arabia condemned the strike, as did Jordan and Oman.
 - The Saudi foreign ministry stated that the strike was "an extension of a series of Israeli violations of international laws and norms."
 - » Qatar's foreign ministry released a statement calling the strike "a blatant violation of international law and an extension of the occupation's approach to targeting" civilians.

- Jordan and Oman issued similar statements, according to media reports.
- » Israel has not commented on the alleged strike, which has not been reported in any major media outlets.
- On November 13, 559 foreign passport holders exited Gaza into Egypt through the Rafah crossing, the sole passageway between Gaza and Egypt, according to a border official.
- According to a November 13 report from The Times of Israel, which cited a senior Israeli official, Israel supports the White House's inclusion of humanitarian aid for Gaza in the \$106 billion national security package that the White House has requested.
 - » Israel's support for the aid would require certain conditions to be met, including Israel being involved in coordinating aid efforts and funding going towards rehabilitating Gaza after the war.

Rising Antisemitism and Protests

- On November 14, almost 200 anti-Israel protesters clashed with police outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines.
- On November 13, more than 100 people were arrested at an anti-Israel protest in downtown Chicago, Illinois, after protesters entered the Ogilvie Transportation Center and refused to leave.
 - Former Chicago Teachers Union President Jesse Sharkey was among those arrested.
- On November 12, a Jewish school in Montreal, Canada, was targeted by gunfire for the second time in less than a week. No one was injured.
- On November 12, around 10,000 anti-Israel protesters took to the streets of Austin, Texas.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Ari Cicurel, <u>Iran-backed Escalation Against U.S. Forces Persists Despite 3rd Round of U.S.</u> Strikes, November 13, 2023
- Sander Gerber and Ezra Gontownik, "The Palestinian Authority cannot govern Gaza," Jerusalem Post. November 13, 2023
- Ari Cicurel, Iranian Regime Continues Escalation, Despite Limited U.S. Strikes, November 9, 2023
- Webinar: Gaza Update, with JINSA President and CEO Michael Makovsky, JINSA Distinguished Fellow IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and JINSA Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Avish, November 9, 2023
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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
- Zac Schildcrout, Houthi Attacks Highlight Need for Developing Regional Integrated Air Defenses, November 3, 2023