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Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update January 10, 2024

JINSA's [Israel at War](#) webpage is a dedicated resource for analysis, commentary, webinars, and media coverage about the 10/7 attacks and the ensuing Israel-Hamas conflict. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

Analysis

- On January 9, the Iran-backed Houthis [conducted](#) one of their largest-ever attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea, launching 18 attack drones, two cruise missiles, and a ballistic missile at areas in the Red Sea through which dozens of commercial vessels were transiting at the time. Though a combined effort of F-18/A fighter jets deployed from the USS *Eisenhower*, an additional three U.S. warships deployed as part of the USS *Eisenhower* Carrier Strike Group, and a British warship in the area intercepted every projectile, the attacks demonstrate that the United States and its partners have not deterred the Houthis. The Houthis have not been deterred despite the December 18 [announcement](#) of the formation of a U.S.-led multinational maritime task force to protect commercial vessels in the Red Sea, Operation Prosperity Guardian.
 - » The successful interception of all the projectiles underscores the importance of continued U.S. naval vessel deployment to the region to protect one of the world's most vital waterways for global commerce. The USS *Eisenhower* Carrier Strike Group that intercepted some of the projectiles was deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean in October and [deployed](#) to the Red Sea just four days ago.
 - However, a perpetually defensive posture towards the Houthis will likely fail to impede further Houthi attacks. This reaffirms the importance of “a clear US willingness to launch consistent, forceful strikes in Yemen that target the Houthi fighters and Iranian assets there to hold the Iranian regime directly accountable for the aggression it enables,” as VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.), VADM John W. Miller, USN (ret.), and JINSA Assistant Director of Foreign Policy Ari Cicurel recently [argued](#).
- The Biden administration has not yet redesignated the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) after having delisted the terrorist group in February 2021 and despite saying on November 21, 2023 that it was “[exploring](#)” a re-designation.
 - » As JINSA Policy Analyst Yoni Tobin noted in a recent [NatSec Brief](#), “re-designating the Houthis would be an important display of U.S. resolve against Iran, the Houthis’ primary benefactor, and demonstrate greater U.S. willingness to target Iran’s interconnected web of regional proxies on multiple fronts.”

Last 24 Hours

Attacks Against Israel

- At least 13,000 rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been [fired](#) at Israel during the war.

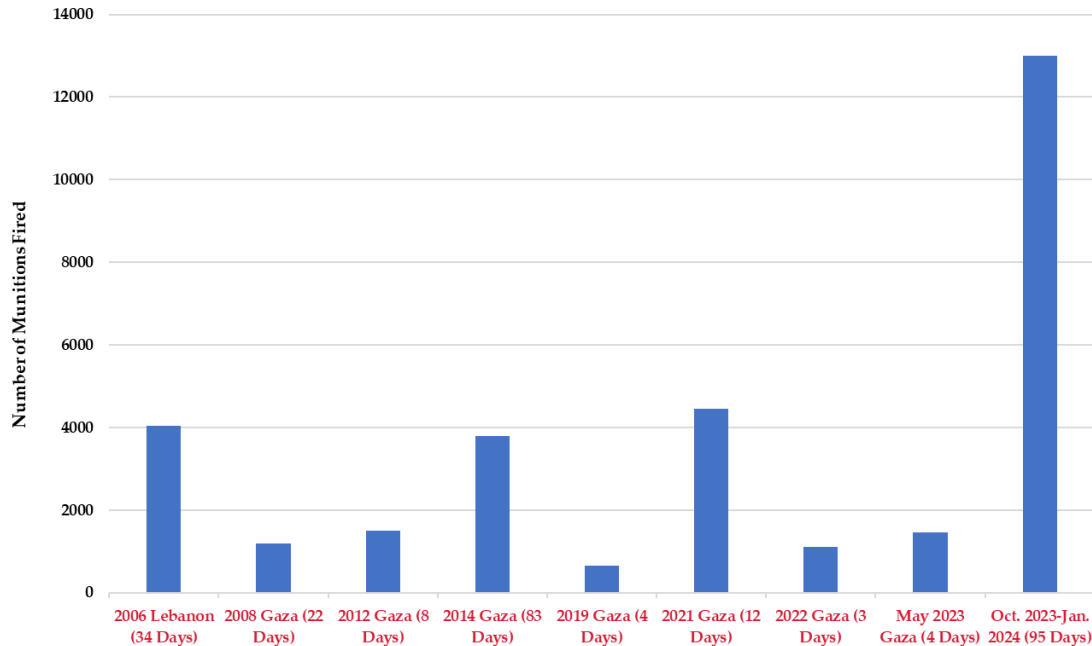
Gaza

- On January 9, a barrage of five rockets was [fired](#) from Gaza at the southern Israeli town of Sderot. All five rockets were either intercepted or landed in open areas, and no injuries were reported.
- According to a January 10 [report](#) from Israel's *Channel 12*, Hamas began planning for the October 7 attacks back in 2014. Seventy members of Hamas's elite Nukhba unit were reportedly selected to initiate the attack by targeting previously identified "weak points" along the Israel-Gaza border with explosives in order to infiltrate into Israel.
 - » The report states that aside from the 70 terrorists handpicked for the attack, only five senior Hamas officials—Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar, Sinwar's brother Muhammad, the head of the organization's military wing Muhammad Deif, and senior officials Rochi Moshtaha and Ayman Nofa—were aware of the plan.
 - » According to the report, the terrorists received orders to conduct the attacks just three days before October 7. The report states that on the morning of October 7 "at midnight [the leaders] gave the order to prepare."
 - » Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and his deputy Saleh al-Arouri, who was killed in Beirut on January 2, were reportedly only informed of the plan's existence shortly before October 7. The report states that the leaders of the organization, inside and outside the Gaza Strip, were told to go offline and keep a low profile.
- According to an investigative report released on January 9 by the organization UN Watch, many United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employees [praised](#) Hamas's October 7 massacre. In social media posts, teachers who work for the organization shared a photo suicide bomb vest wired with explosives, with the caption, "wait, sons of Judaism."

Lebanon

- On January 9, sirens [sounded](#) across northern Israel, and there were at least 10 hostile aerial intrusions from Lebanon.

Projectiles Fired Against Israel During Major Conflicts



IDF Operations

Gaza

- On January 10, the IDF [continued](#) its operations against Hamas in central and southern Gaza, carrying out airstrikes against approximately 150 targets and eliminating a number of Hamas operatives.
 - » Troops from the IDF's Golani Brigade eliminated several Hamas operatives and uncovered 15 terror tunnel shafts in the central Gazan area of Maghazi.
 - » The IDF's 198th Division killed dozens of Hamas operatives in the southern Gazan city of Khan Younis, and troops from the IDF's Kiryati Brigade called in an airstrike on a Hamas operative preparing to plant an improvised explosive device on a road used by IDF troops in Khan Younis.
- On January 9, the IDF's 101st Battalion [engaged](#) Hamas fighters in a gunfight inside a complex in Khan Younis. During the gunfight, the unit called in a number of airstrikes, killing Hamas operatives. Seven IDF soldiers were injured during the operation.
- The IDF's Givati Brigade [raided](#) the Islamic University of Gaza's Khan Younis branch on January 9 based on intelligence that Hamas was operating from the university.
 - » Troops located Kalashnikov rifles, ammunition, Hamas flags, and safes containing large sums of money on the university campus. Soldiers also found approximately 100 mortar shells, grenades, and intelligence materials at a weapons depot next to the university campus.
- The IDF [released](#) details on January 9 about the explosion in central Gaza on January 8 that killed six IDF combat engineers.
 - » According to the IDF's initial probe, combat engineers had prepared a Hamas tunnel for demolition by rigging it with explosives.

- » However, around 30 minutes before the detonation, an IDF tank fired a shell at a nearby building after seeing a threat in the building, activating the detonating cord and causing the explosion.
- In response to a question by an *NBC News* journalist about whether Israel had evidence to substantiate its claim that two journalists killed in a recent IDF airstrike were with a terrorist target, IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari [said](#) on January 10 that the incident is under investigation, and “every journalist that dies, it’s unfortunate.”
 - » He added, “we understand they were putting a drone, using a drone. And using a drone in a war zone, it’s a problem. It looks like the terrorists.”
- Lebanon’s *Al Akhbar* [reported](#) on January 10 that Israeli special forces and intelligence officials are currently operating in Egypt, Libya, and Sudan, in order to prevent Hamas smuggling hostages out of Gaza into Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula and then into either Libya or Sudan.
 - » According to the report, Israel is concerned that Hamas will try to smuggle hostages out of Gaza into Egypt, and then through Libya or Sudan en route to Lebanon and Iran.
 - » The report also stated that Israel has asked Egyptian authorities to monitor the Egyptian side of the border to ensure hostages are not smuggled out of Gaza via tunnels. Egypt reportedly agreed to inspect any areas of concern for Israel, and Egyptian authorities reportedly told Israel that it has not seen any signs of Hamas activity in Egypt.

Lebanon

- On January 10, the IDF [said](#) it carried out airstrikes on Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon overnight and this morning.
 - » This morning, IDF airstrikes targeted a Hezbollah site in Naqoura, which had been used to fire projectiles at Israel.
 - » Overnight IDF [airstrikes](#) on Hezbollah’s headquarters in Kfarchouba in southern Lebanon killed a field commander of Hezbollah’s elite Radwan force, Naber al-Qadri.
- On January 9, the IDF [conducted](#) airstrikes and artillery shelling against several Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon, including terrorist infrastructure near the towns of Kafr Kila and Yaroun.
- On January 9, terrorists [launched](#) several missiles and rockets from southern Lebanon at northern Israel, including other aerial threats, likely drones. The IDF said that one of the aerial targets was downed by air defenses, and “all the events are now over.”
- On January 9, Hezbollah [confirmed](#) that senior Hezbollah commander Ali Hussein Barji was killed earlier in the day in an Israeli airstrike. Barji was the 158th Hezbollah member whose death the group confirmed since the war began.

Syria

- According to [reports](#) from January 9, citing the Syrian defense ministry, an attack on a military bus in Palmyra killed eight soldiers and one civilian and wounded 13 others. It was not immediately clear who carried out the attack.

West Bank

- Overnight on January 9, Israeli security forces – the IDF, the Shin Bet, and Israel Border Police – [arrested](#) 13 wanted individuals in Tulkarm and Nablus in the West Bank, including a Hamas operative in the group’s al-Kotla al-Islamiyah student cell. The forces also destroyed several improvised explosive devices (IED) and requested aerial support.

- » An Israeli statement said, “during the operation, an IDF aircraft attacked a terrorist squad that fired at the forces.”

Post-War Gaza Planning

- Reuters [reported](#) on January 9, citing three Egyptian officials, that Egypt rejected an Israeli proposal for Israel to maintain security monitoring in the narrow buffer zone, known as the Philadelphi Corridor, along the roughly eight-mile-long Egyptian-Gaza border.
 - » According to the report, Egypt is not interested in post-war planning until a ceasefire has been reached.
 - » The report stated that Israeli officials requested that Egypt install advanced monitoring equipment that would be jointly monitored by both countries, and that Israel did not request control of the buffer zone.
 - » The report further stated that, though Egypt has rejected the request, it has fortified physical barriers on its side of the border.

Casualties and Hostages

- Over 1,200 people in Israel have been [killed](#), and at least 11,000 have been [injured](#) in the war.
 - » 520 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - At least 189 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - The IDF [announced](#) the death of Sergeant-Major (res.) Elkana Neulander, 24, from Efrat.
 - » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 33 [American](#) nationals, 34 [Thai](#) nationals, 39 [French](#) nationals, 19 [Russian](#) nationals, 12 [British](#) nationals, 10 [Nepalese](#) nationals, 9 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 6 [Canadian](#) nationals, 4 [Philippines](#) nationals, 4 [Austrian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 4 [Chinese](#) nationals, 3 [Brazilian](#) nationals, 3 [Belarusian](#) nationals, 3 [Italian](#) nationals, 3 [Peruvian](#) nationals, a [Cambodian](#) national, a [Chilean](#) national, an [Irish](#) national, a [Spanish](#) national, an [Australian](#) national, an [Azeri](#) national, a [Honduran](#) national, a [Swiss](#) national, a [Tanzanian](#) national, and a [Turkish](#) national.
- According to unverified figures from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry, 23,357 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 59,410 have been injured during the war.
 - » On December 4, Associated Press and AFP [reported](#), citing an IDF official, that roughly 15,000 Palestinians have died since the war began and that roughly 5,000 of those killed were terrorists.
 - » 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, roughly 341 people have been [killed](#), and at least 3,400 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.

- So far, [105](#) hostages in Gaza have been released, [one](#) has been rescued by the IDF, and [seven](#) [have](#) been [found](#) dead, one was [mistakenly](#) killed by the IDF, and one was [killed](#) during an IDF attempt to rescue him.
 - » 81 Israeli hostages have been released.
 - » 46 hostages with foreign nationalities—some also holding Israeli citizenship—have been released.
 - Thus far, 23 [Thai](#) nationals, 6 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 5 [German nationals](#), 3 [French](#) nationals, 4 [Russian nationals](#), 1 [Dutch](#) national, 1 [Filipino national](#), 1 [Mexican](#) national, 1 [Uruguayan](#) national, and 1 [American](#) national have been released.
 - Hamas has released [36 children](#) and still holds two as hostages.
- Terrorists in Gaza currently [hold](#) 136 hostages, according to Israeli government spokesperson Eylon Levy, a figure that includes the dead bodies of 25 hostages and four abducted prior to October 7.
 - » Many of the hostages are foreign or dual nationals, including up to 8 [American](#) nationals, 6 [German](#) nationals, 13 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals.
 - » According to IDF spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the 136 hostages [include](#) two Israeli civilians and the bodies of two IDF soldiers held in Gaza since 2014 and 2015.
- On January 9, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed al Ansari [said](#) that Qatar is attempting, through discussion with others, to mediate a new hostage deal that would result in the release of Israeli hostages that Hamas holds in Gaza. Meanwhile, Egyptian intelligence officials said that an Israeli delegation arrived in Cairo.
 - » Al Ansari said that the ideas exchanged would achieve a “cessation of the fighting, prevention of it expanding and agreeing on a hostage exchange.”
 - » He added, “our priority now is to stop the war, bring humanitarian aid into Gaza and prevent expansion of the conflict.”
 - » [Axios reported](#) on January 6 that Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and other Qatari officials told the family members of six U.S. and Israeli hostages in Doha that the killing of senior Hamas official Saleh al-Arouri in Beirut on January 2 in an alleged Israeli airstrike has made efforts to secure a new deal much more difficult.
 - A senior Qatari official told [Axios](#) that “it is more difficult to talk to Hamas after what happened in Beirut.”
- On January 9, during his visit to Israel, Secretary Blinken [met](#) with families of dual U.S.-Israeli citizens held hostage by Hamas and expressed optimism for another deal to release hostages. He encouraged the families to continue raising awareness of their relatives’ plight.
 - » On January 9, Blinken [wrote](#) on X, “today I met with the families of individuals detained by Hamas, and I assured them that we remain intensely focused on getting their loved ones home. We will continue to do everything we can to ensure the release of every hostage.”

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On January 9, at around 9 pm local time, the Houthis [launched](#) a major projectile attack towards international shipping lanes in the southern Red Sea, through which dozens of commercial vessels were transiting at the time.

- » The Houthis launched a total of 18 one-way attack drones, two anti-ship cruise missiles, and an anti-ship ballistic missile. All projectiles were intercepted in a combined effort by the United States and the United Kingdom.
- » The attack marked the 26th Houthi attack on vessels in the Red Sea since November 19, according to U.S. Central Command.

U.S. and International Response

- On January 9, the Houthis launched a total of 18 one-way attack drones, two anti-ship cruise missiles, and an anti-ship ballistic missile towards international shipping lanes in the southern Red Sea, through which dozens of commercial vessels were transiting at the time. All the projectiles were [intercepted](#) in a combined effort by F/A-18s from the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, three U.S. warships—the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, the USS *Gravelly*, the USS *Laboon*, and the USS *Mason*—and a British warship, the HMS *Diamond*. No injuries or damage were reported.
 - » On January 10, Germany [condemned](#) the latest Houthi attacks on shipping vessels in the Red Sea. A German foreign ministry spokesperson noted that the attacks “show that the Houthis are clearly focusing on escalation against international merchant shipping and the ships of our partners and allies in the region.”
 - » In response to the attacks, Italian defense minister Guido Crosetto [said](#), “it is a huge problem. It is a consequence of other (war) outbreaks. I would not like to open a third front of war at this time,” referring to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza.
- On January 9, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with a number of senior Israeli officials in Tel Aviv, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Isaac Herzog, Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and Minister without portfolio Benny Gantz.
 - » Blinken’s meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu reportedly was tense, and the Prime Minister’s office [did not release](#) a readout or any details regarding the meeting, a highly unusual move.
 - Israel’s *Channel 12* [reported](#) that the meeting was “tense” and that Netanyahu would not be appearing with Blinken at a scheduled press conference after the conversation. The report stated U.S. and Israeli officials are increasingly diverging on their views regarding the war and that U.S. officials are increasingly becoming frustrated.
 - According to a U.S. press release, Blinken [stressed](#) to Netanyahu “the importance of avoiding further civilian harm and protecting civilian infrastructure in Gaza,” the first known time that the United States has publicly called for Israel to protect infrastructure as well as civilians.
 - The press release also [stated](#) that Blinken “welcomed the appointment of Sigrid Kaag as the UN’s Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza” and “reiterated the need to ensure lasting, sustainable peace for Israel and the region, including by the realization of a Palestinian state.”
 - » At a press conference in Tel Aviv on January 9, Blinken [said](#) that the U.S. imperatives include bringing the remaining hostages home, “addressing the humanitarian crisis,” “strengthening of protections for civilians in Gaza,” and “preventing the conflict from spreading.”
 - Blinken [stated](#) that the United States wants “this war to end as soon as possible,” but that “this could end tomorrow if Hamas makes those decisions.” Blinken also said

- that “ Hamas could have ended this on October 8 by not hiding behind civilians, by putting down its weapons, by surrendering, by releasing the hostages.”
- Blinken [criticized](#) the International Court of Justice (ICJ)’s proceedings accusing Israel of genocide at the press conference, stating the charge is “meritless” and “particularly galling” since “ Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis and their supporter Iran continue to openly call for the annihilation of Israel and the mass murder of Jews.”
 - Blinken also said the regional leaders he has met with support a “lasting solution that ends the longrunning cycle of violence,” but only a solution “that includes a pathway to a Palestinian state.” Blinken added, “these goals are attainable, but only if they are pursued together. This crisis has clarified that you can’t have one without the other, and you can’t achieve either goal without an integrated, regional approach.”
 - Blinken acknowledged that Hamas “fires from schools and hospitals” but stated that “the daily toll on Gazans, particularly on children, is far too high,” and noted that Israel has made progress on getting aid into Gaza, but “90% of Gaza’s population continues to face acute food insecurity.”
 - Blinken announced that Israel has agreed to a United Nations “assessment mission” tasked with determining how to “allow displaced Palestinians to return safely to homes in the north.” Regarding displaced Palestinians, Blinken said, “Palestinian civilians must be able to return home as soon as conditions allow,” adding that they must “not be pressed to leave Gaza.”
 - Speaking about the Lebanese border, Blinken said that the U.S. goal is a diplomatic solution that brings about a stable and secure Lebanese-Israeli border and avoids escalation.
 - Blinken stated that he is meeting with Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas on January 10 and that he will discuss with Abbas ways the PA can “reform itself, to improve its governance.”
 - » During Blinken’s [meeting](#) with President Isaac Herzog, the two discussed Blinken’s visit with other regional leaders—including Turkey’s President Erdogan—as well as the ICJ proceedings, hostage negotiations, and post-war Gaza planning.
 - » Blinken [stated](#) to Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz, “I know of your own efforts, over many years, to build much greater connectivity and integration in the Middle East, and I think there are actually real opportunities there. But we have to get through this very challenging moment and ensure that October 7 can never happen again and work to build a much different and much better future.”
 - » While [meeting](#) with Defense Minister Gallant, Blinken “urged Israel to take all possible measures to avoid civilian harm, protect civilian infrastructure, and effectively deconflict Israeli operations to ensure the distribution of humanitarian assistance” in Gaza and “stressed the importance of preventing the conflict from spreading, including by avoiding escalation in Lebanon or the West Bank,” according to a U.S. press release.
 - On January 10, Secretary of State Blinken and PA President Mahmoud Abbas met at the PA headquarters in Ramallah in the West Bank.
 - » According to unnamed sources, the [meeting](#) between Secretary Blinken and President Abbas was “tense” and involved “arguments.” Abbas reportedly asked, “if you do not have the ability to release [frozen PA] funds, how will you have the ability to put pressure on Israel and achieve peace and a Palestinian state?,” after which Blinken reportedly asked Abbas to make reforms in the PA.

- » Abbas also [told](#) Blinken that Gaza is a key piece to Palestinian statehood and cannot be excluded, according to a statement published by the Palestinian news outlet *Wafa*. Abbas also called for “convening an international peace conference to end the Israeli occupation of the land of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, which achieves peace and security for all.”
- » U.S. State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller [said](#) on January 10 that Blinken told Abbas that the United States supports “tangible steps” toward a Palestinian state “with both living in peace and security.” Blinken also discussed “increased volatility” in the West Bank and “underscored the United States’ position that all Palestinian tax revenues collected by Israel should be consistently conveyed to the Palestinian Authority in accordance with prior agreements.”
- On January 10, the State Department [announced](#) that Secretary of State Blinken would be traveling to Bahrain, a previously unannounced visit, to meet with Bahrain’s King Hamad to discuss the war.
- Saudi Ambassador to the United Kingdom Prince Khalid bin Bandar [told](#) the *BBC* on January 9 that Saudi Arabia still seeks a normalization deal with Israel, saying “[A deal] was close [before October 7], there is no question. For us, the final end point definitely included nothing less than an independent state of Palestine. So, while we still - going forward after 7 October - believe in normalisation, it does not come at the cost of the Palestinian people.”
 - » The ambassador said that Saudi Arabia was “close” to reaching a deal for negotiation before October 7, and he added, “we were close to normalisation, therefore close to a Palestinian state. One doesn’t come without the other. The sequencing, how it is managed, that is what was being discussed.”
- On January 9, Israel’s *i24 News* [reported](#) that ahead of German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock’s visit to Lebanon, as well as U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein’s visit to the country this week, Lebanese media speculated the terms of possible diplomatic agreements to avoid a wider war between Israel and Hezbollah.
 - » Lebanon’s *Al-Akhbar* reported, “Hochstein will precede his visit with a meeting with the [Lebanese] Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Elias Bou Saab in one of the European capitals,” and “telephone communication between them exists, and they met some time ago in Dubai.”
 - » The outlet’s report also said that some conditions necessary to cool tensions across the Israel-Lebanon border may have been satisfied ahead of Baerbock’s and Hochstein’s visits. It also speculated that an agreement might recognize some Lebanese territorial demands in exchange for a Hezbollah withdrawal from an Israel-Lebanon land boundary buffer zone.
- On January 9, British Foreign Minister David Cameron [said](#) during an exchange in parliament that he is “worried” Israel is in violation of international law due to its conduct in the Gaza Strip. Cameron stated, “am I worried that Israel has taken action that might be in breach of international law, because this particular premises has been bombed or whatever? Yes, of course I’m worried about that.”
- According to [reports](#) from January 9, the *BBC* apologized on January 5 for a December 24 report addressing Hamas claims that Israel is “carrying out summary executions in the Gaza Strip.”
 - » The outlet’s statement said, “although the accusations were attributed and our story contained a response from the Israeli military saying they were unaware of the incident and that Hamas was a terrorist organisation that did not value truth, we had not made

sufficient effort to seek corroborating evidence to justify reporting the Hamas claim. We apologise for this mistake.”

- On January 9, Jordanian state-run media [reported](#) that Jordan’s King Abdullah will hold a summit with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al Sissi and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on January 10 to discuss the war.
- Addressing recent tensions in the Red Sea due to the Houthis’ attacks on commercial shipping, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed al Ansari [said](#) on January 9, “there is no direct communication with the Houthi rebels but stopping the war in Gaza would also stop the regional conflict.”
- The United Nations Security Council is set to [vote](#) on January 10 on a resolution proposed by the United States condemning and demanding a halt to the Houthis’ repeated attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea.
 - » The draft says that the attacks interrupt global trade, “undermine navigational rights and freedoms as well as regional peace and security,” and demands the release of the Galaxy Leader and its crew – a ship that the Houthis hijacked on November 19.
 - » It also condemns arms dealings with the Houthis but does not name Iran. It “urges caution and restraint to avoid further escalation of the situation in the Red Sea and the broader region” and “encourages enhanced diplomatic efforts by all parties to that end, including continued support for dialogue and Yemen’s peace process under the UN auspices.”
- According to reports from January 9, U.S. deputy ambassador to the UN Robert Wood [said](#) that the United States wants to achieve a “pause” in the war between Israel and Hamas, but that it is “striking” that those demanding a ceasefire have barely made demands of Hamas. Wood added that last month’s Security Council resolution demanding a ceasefire was “disconnected from the situation on the ground.”
 - » Israeli UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan said a ceasefire would constitute “a victory for Hamas” and enable Hamas “to continue the reign of terror in Gaza.”
 - » PA Ambassador Riyad Mansour said that Palestinians are “being slaughtered” and that “the horrors need to end, and the only way to end them is a ceasefire.” He added, “the whole world is calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire” and argued that Israel is “destroying everything to make Gaza livable.” He also said, “the Palestinian people are here to stay.”
- According to January 8 [reports](#), a December 1–December 20 Gallup poll found that 38 percent of respondents approve of the amount of support the United States is giving Israel, 36 percent believe it is too much, and 24 percent think it is inadequate – Gallup’s highest such figure ever recorded.
 - » 31 percent, 33 percent, and 33 percent of respondents think that the Palestinians are receiving too much, adequate, and too little support from the United States, respectively.

Rising Antisemitism, Protests, and Attacks

- According to a January 10 report [released](#) by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), there were 3,283 antisemitic incidents in the United States between October 7 and January 7.
 - » This represents a 360% increase from the same period last year.
- On January 10, hundreds of Palestinians [protested](#) against U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s visit to PA headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah, holding signs saying,

“Blinken you are not welcome here,” and, according to *The Times of Israel*, a sign with red triangles under his name “like those used in Hamas propaganda videos about attacks on IDF soldiers.”

- On January 10, Canadian police [arrested](#) a man who followed four Jews leaving their synagogue, making antisemitic comments and spitting on the group, in the Toronto suburb of Vaughan on January 6.
- On January 9, the House Committee on Education [sent](#) a letter to Harvard University as part of its ongoing investigation into alleged antisemitism at the university.
 - » The letter gives the school two weeks to “produce documentation related to Jewish students and antisemitism, including internal emails and text messages between board members, proof of disciplinary actions for harassment of Jewish students, and information on all foreign donations and funding, namely from Qatari sources,” according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Jonathan Ruhe and Yoni Tobin, [Iran Accelerates into the Nuclear Gray Zone](#), January 10, 2024
- Webinar: [Hamas, Iran, and the Future of Jihadism Post-10/7](#), with Dr. Jacob Olidort, Dr. Aaron Zelin, and Dr. Cole Bunzel, January 8, 2024
- Morgan Lorraine Viña and Yoni Tobin, [Actions by the United Nations Undermine Israel's Right to Self-Defense](#), January 5, 2024
- VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.) and Jacob Olidort, “[Bahrain: Bold Partner for Middle East Peace](#),” *RealClearDefense*, January 5, 2024
- Gen Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., USMC (ret.), “[Lesson of the Strike That Killed Soleimani](#),” *The Wall Street Journal*, January 4, 2024
- Sander Gerber and Robert Wexler, “[To solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: First confront Iran](#),” *The Hill*, January 4, 2024
- Webinar: [Gaza War Update](#) with IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror and Ari Cicurel, January 4, 2024