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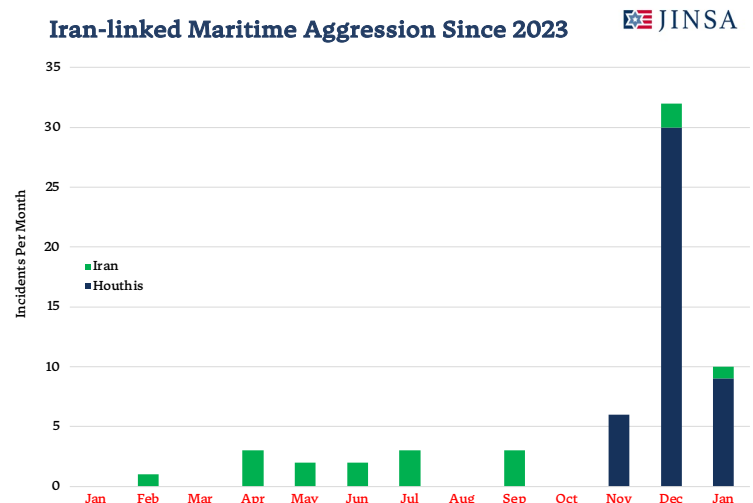
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Israel’s Operation Swords of Iron Update January 16, 2024

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

- Escalation by Iran and its proxies over the weekend, following American and British strikes on January 12 against the Houthi targets in Yemen, suggests those strikes neither degraded the group’s capabilities significantly enough to prevent it from conducting attacks—as U.S. officials had [claimed](#)—nor deterred Tehran from further aggression. Anti-ship ballistic missile attacks by the Houthis on commercial shipping in the Red Sea and ballistic missile attacks by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from Iranian territory into Iraq and Syria marked a significant escalation likely meant to exert counter-pressure on the United States and its partners and deter further U.S.-led strikes against Iran-backed groups.
 - » The additional strike that the United States conducted against a Houthi radar in Yemen on January 13 and the seizure on January 11 of weaponry bound for the Houthis indicated a willingness to further degrade the group’s capabilities. However, reporting [suggests](#) that the combined American and British strikes on January 12 only damaged or destroyed 20-30% of the Houthis’ offensive capabilities.
 - Instead of focusing solely on degrading the Houthis’ capabilities, military efforts should instead seek to deter the group by “conducting more frequent, deadlier, and damaging strikes against Houthi, Iranian regime, and other proxy operational leaders and command-and-control center targets that undermines their ability to exert power over territory in the Middle East,” as Ari Cicurel argued in a [JINSA NatSec Brief](#) after the American and British strikes on January 12.
 - » The Iran-backed Houthis have launched at least 45 attacks against ships in Middle Eastern waters since November 19.



Since January 12

Attacks Against Israel

- At least 13,000 rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been [fired](#) at Israel during the war.
 - » The IDF [announced](#) on January 14 that since the war began, approximately 9,000 projectiles have been launched into Israel from Gaza, 2,000 from Lebanon, and approximately 30 from Syria.
- On January 15, two terrorists [conducted](#) a terrorist attack in the city of Ra'anana in which the terrorists rammed into civilians with stolen vehicles and stabbed pedestrians. One person was killed in the attack and 17 were injured, including two in serious condition, nine in moderate condition, and six in light condition. The two suspects were apprehended nearby shortly after the attack.
 - » During the attack, one of the terrorists assaulted a woman driving a car, stole the woman's car, and rammed into several people, then stole another vehicle and rammed into another group of pedestrians, exited the vehicle, and stabbed three civilians. The other terrorist stabbed a motorist, stole her vehicle, and rammed into a group of civilians near a bus stop.
 - » The two perpetrators were from the West Bank town of Bani Naim, and had been reportedly illegally [working](#) at a car wash in Ra'anana's industrial zone. The two terrorists had previously been caught entering Israel illegally numerous times, according to the Shin Bet.
 - » According to Israeli [reports](#), one of the suspects told the Shin Bet that the two decided to carry out a terrorist attack "when the war in Gaza started," and that they "decided to carry out an attack and become martyrs ... Initially, we intended to stab Jews, but then we decided to run over as many Jews as possible."
- On January 12, Hamas [said](#) on the social media platform Telegram that "we consider [the U.S. and U.K. strikes against the Houthis] a crime and a blatant aggression against Yemeni sovereignty, and a threat to the security of the region."

Gaza

- Rockets [struck](#) Netivot, and sirens sounded in [Netiv HaAsara](#), [Sa'ad](#), [Zimrat](#), [Shuva](#), [Ashdod](#), [Yavne](#), and [Sderot](#).
- On January 16, IDF soldiers [opened fire](#) at approximately 20 armed people, suspected to be smugglers, who approached the Egyptian-Israeli border from Egypt overnight.
- On January 15, a barrage of more than 50 rockets was [fired](#) from Gaza at the southern Israeli city of Netivot, marking the largest such barrage from Gaza in several weeks. The city government said that rockets struck locations in the city, but that no injuries had been reported.
- On January 12, rocket sirens [sounded](#) in Ashdod and other communities in southern Israel after a 34-hour lull in rocket fire from Gaza.

Lebanon

- Rockets struck [Kfar Yuval](#), and sirens sounded in [Adamit](#), [Mattat](#), [Margalioth](#), [Zar'it](#), [Goren](#), [Misgav Am](#), [Malkia](#), [Yiftah](#), and [Shomera](#).

- On January 15, projectiles were [fired](#) toward Mattat, Margalioth, Adamit, and Zar'it in Israel, some of which Hezbollah claimed.
- The IDF [said](#) on January 15 that it fired interceptor missiles toward multiple “suspicious aerial targets,” likely drones, over Yaroun and Rmaych in southern Lebanon.
- On January 14, the IDF shot and killed four terrorists attempting to [infiltrate](#) into Israel from Lebanon near the Mount Dov area. Two IDF soldiers were moderately injured in the gunfight, and an additional three IDF soldiers were lightly injured.
- On January 14, one person was [killed](#) and another seriously injured in a Hezbollah anti-tank missile attack on the northern Israeli town of Kfar Yuval.
- On January 14, the IDF [said](#) that Hezbollah fired anti-tank missiles at the communities of Shomera and Zar'it and fired rockets at the Israeli towns of Goren and Misgav Am. Most of the projectiles fell in open areas, and no damage or injuries were reported.
- On January 14, Hezbollah [claimed](#) responsibility for missile attacks on the communities of Margalioth and Shomera and a sniper attack on Israeli “spy equipment” in the border town of Metula. No damage or injuries were reported.
- On January 12, Hezbollah [claimed](#) that it fired missiles toward IDF positions near Menara, Yiftah, Malkia, and Zar'it.

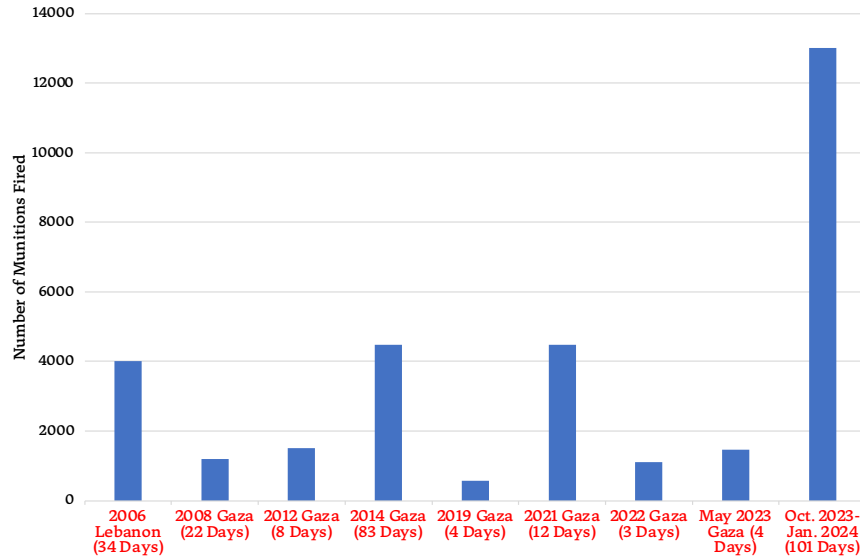
West Bank

- On January 16, *Israel National News* [reported](#) that the heads of Israeli towns in the Jordan Valley, Emek Hayarden, and the Emek Hama'ayanot regional councils, which line Israel's border with Jordan, warned that there has been nightly fire from Jordan towards Israel, with shots often reaching near their communities.
- On January 14, two Palestinians [threw](#) an explosive device at an IDF military base near the city of Ramallah. Troops from the IDF's 636th Combat Intelligence Collection unit, who were conducting patrols nearby, shot and killed the perpetrators. No soldiers were injured in the incident.
- On January 12, an IDF soldier [conducting](#) routine security patrols near the town of Adora was shot and injured by terrorists. IDF troops pursued the assailants and shot and killed three terrorists.
 - » The IDF soldier was shot in the leg in the attack, and he was taken to the hospital in moderate condition.

Red Sea

- On January 13, the Iran-backed Houthis [released](#) a video of Houthi terrorists simulating an attack on Israeli town, including hostage-taking.
 - » In the [video](#), Houthi terrorists destroyed American and Israeli flags, attacked simulated Israeli air and ground targets, shot a poster of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, taking two men in ultra-Orthodox attire hostage, and blowing up the mock village with explosives.
 - » The video [states](#) that the drills were part of a larger operation entitled “Preparing for the Battle of Assured Victory and Holy Jihad.”

Projectiles Fired Against Israel During Major Conflicts



IDF Operations

- According to data that the IDF [released](#) on January 14, 295,000 IDF reservists have been called up and have been on duty for an average of 61 days, and 45,000 are serving despite exemptions.
 - » 81% of the reservists are men, 19% are women, 115,000 are fathers, 3,000 are mothers, 50% of them are aged 20-29, 31% are aged 30-39, 13% are aged 40-49, 5% are aged 50-59, and 1% are aged 60-69.

Gaza

- On January 16, the IDF said troops from the 401st Armored Brigade [located](#) approximately 100 rocket launchers in the northern Gazan city of Beit Lahiya along with roughly 60 rockets ready to be launched. The troops also battled and killed dozens of Hamas operatives in the area.
- On January 16, the IDF's 5th Reserve Infantry Brigade [called in](#) an airstrike on a group of Hamas gunmen, killing nine of them. That same day, several Hamas operatives were killed by the IDF in the southern Gazan city of Khan Younis, and soldiers also eliminated Hamas observation equipment used to conduct attacks on IDF troops in Khan Younis.
- On January 15, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [said](#) that the "intensive phase" of IDF ground operations in northern Gaza had ended and that the intensive phase of operations in the south of the Gaza Strip near Khan Younis would also end soon.
 - » Gallant said that although troops would be continuing lower-intensity operations in the north to target Hamas facilities or locate operatives, high-intensity operations would be concluding in northern Gaza.
 - » Gallant said regarding operations in southern Gaza that "IDF troops are focused on the head of the snake, the Hamas leadership" and that "[Hamas's] Khan Younis Brigade is gradually disintegrating as a fighting force." Gallant also noted that the IDF had "cut off the roads that lead to Rafah above and below ground."

- » Gallant also stated that “political indecision may harm the progress of the military operation.”
- The IDF [said](#) on January 15 that it has started operations against Hamas in Nuseirat in central Gaza. It also said that 646th Reserve Paratroopers Brigade troops uncovered mortar production and rocket manufacturing facilities, as well as weapons stashed in a building that belongs to a humanitarian organization.
 - » The IDF added that it raided a school in the neighborhood in which it found a weapons depot and eight Hamas members, who were detained and taken to Israel.
 - » Previously, on January 13, the unit [located](#) and eliminated two Hamas rocket launching sites where imminent attacks were being prepared.
- On January 13, the IDF’s 7th Armored Brigade [killed](#) several Hamas operatives and destroyed a Hamas tunnel shaft and weapons depot in Khan Younis. The IDF’s Paratroopers Brigade also called in an airstrike in Khan Younis that day, killing two Hamas operatives who opened fire on IDF troops.
- On January 13, the IDF’s 401st Armored Brigade [eliminated](#) a number of Hamas rocket launching sites in the al-Atatra neighborhood of Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza.
- According to data that the IDF [released](#) on January 14:
 - » The IDF has killed more than 9,000 Hamas operatives and members of other terror groups in Gaza since October 7 and 1,000 in Israel on October 7, including two Hamas brigade commanders, 19 battalion commanders, and other senior officials, as well as more than 50 company commanders and similarly-ranked operatives;
 - » The IDF has struck approximately 30,000 targets in Gaza since October 7, including over 3,400 that Israel discovered during fighting;
 - » The IDF Military Intelligence Directorate’s Unit 504 has interrogated approximately 2,300 Palestinian suspects, some of whom were brought to Israel;
 - » The IDF has placed 79,000 phone calls and 15 million recorded calls, dropped 7.2 million leaflets, and sent 13.7 million texts to warn Palestinian civilians to evacuate areas that will be targeted in strikes; and
 - » The IDF has arrested over 2,650 wanted Palestinians, including over 1,300 Hamas affiliates, carried out 40 brigade-level raids, and demolished 14 homes of Palestinians accused of terrorism.

Lebanon

- On January 14, the IDF [announced](#) it had struck approximately 750 Hezbollah positions in Lebanon since the war began. The IDF said it has killed over 170 terrorists in Lebanon since the beginning of the war, most of whom were members of Hezbollah.
- On January 16, the IDF [said](#) that it struck Hezbollah sites in Wadi Saluki in Lebanon’s south in a large wave of airstrikes and artillery shelling.
 - » Targeted infrastructure included observation posts and military buildings, among other assets, according to the IDF. The IDF said that Hezbollah “makes extensive use of the [Wadi Saluki] area for terror purposes.”
- On January 16, the IDF [conducted](#) an overnight airstrike against a Hezbollah anti-tank guided missile launching post in the southern Lebanese town of Kafr Kila. Israeli special forces also conducted an overnight operation to eliminate an unspecified threat in the southern Lebanese town of Ayta ash-Shab.

- The IDF [said](#) on January 15 that it used a fighter jet to strike Hezbollah “operational infrastructure” in Maroun el-Ras in Lebanon.
- On January 15, the IDF [said](#) that it struck a Hezbollah cell that launched an anti-tank missile toward Malkia in Israel’s north and sites from which projectiles were launched toward Mattat, Margaliot, Adamiit, and Zar’it.
- On January 14, the IDF [conducted](#) airstrikes against Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon, including a command center, a military target, and other infrastructure, in response to earlier projectile attacks.
- On January 13, the IDF [said](#) it struck three terror cells in southern Lebanon that were preparing imminent projectile attacks against Israel, including an airstrike targeting two cells in the town of Marwahin and a special forces and artillery shelling operation which eliminated an anti-tank missile squad in the town of Yaroun.
- On January 12, the IDF [said](#) it used fighter jets to strike Hezbollah infrastructure in the Lebanese towns of Labbouneh, Ramyah, and Ayta ash-Shab following attacks against northern Israel.

West Bank

- On January 15, the Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Health Ministry [said](#) that a 22-year-old man named Hassan Ibrahim Abu Sebaa was killed during an IDF raid in Dura, near Hebron, in the West Bank. The raid was possibly connected to the January 15 terror attack in Ra’anana in Israel, whose suspected perpetrators were from the Hebron area, Israeli authorities said. 10 additional people were reported injured in the raid.
 - » Unverified videos posted on social media purported to show IDF operations during the raid. The IDF said that it was carrying out “proactive activity” when approximately 100 Palestinians began rioting, to which it responded with riot dispersal tactics and live fire after being attacked with cinder blocks and Molotov cocktails.

Humanitarian Efforts

- According to figures [released](#) by the IDF on January 14, 7,653 trucks containing 137,920 total tons of humanitarian aid have entered Gaza after Israeli inspections at the Nitzana and Kerem Shalom crossings during the war.
- On January 15, 227 [trucks](#) entered Gaza, with 111 going through Egypt’s Rafah crossing and 116 through Israel’s Kerem Shalom crossing, according to Israel’s Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT).
- On January 12, Israel reportedly agreed to expand the [transfer](#) of medications into Gaza as part of a Qatar-brokered deal that also includes the transfer of “life-saving” medications to the hostages.

Post-War Gaza Planning

- According to unsourced quotes in a January 16 [report](#) from Israel’s *Channel 13*, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant that “we face the erosion of our achievements up till now in the war because there is no strategy for the day after ... It is possible that we will have to go back into areas where we have already completed the fighting.” Halevi has reportedly repeated these warnings multiple times.

- On January 15, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [stated](#) that “Gaza will be ruled by Palestinians” after the war.
 - » Gallant said that “the future government in Gaza must grow from the Gaza Strip, Gaza will be ruled by Palestinians. The end of the military campaign must be anchored in a political act.”
 - » Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has [repeatedly](#) said he will not permit Gaza to be ruled by the Palestinian Authority, citing, among other things, the fact that “the Palestinian Authority senior leadership simply refuses to condemn the massacre and some of them even praise it openly.”
- On January 14, Ahmed Abu Zeid, the spokesperson for Egypt’s Foreign Ministry, said that his country would [retain](#) control over the Gaza border and blamed Israel for the limited humanitarian aid that has entered Gaza.
 - » His comments followed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s revelation that Israel was considering taking control of the Philadelphi Corridor, which runs for 14 kilometers (8.7 miles) along the Gaza-Egypt border.

Casualties and Hostages

- Over 1,200 people in Israel have been [killed](#), and at least 11,000 have been [injured](#) in the war.
 - » 524 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 190 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - IDF [announced](#) the deaths of Master Sgt. (res.) Dan Wajdenbaum, 24, from Yiftah; [Sgt. First Class \(res.\) Andu’alem Kabeda](#), 21, from Kiryat Gat; [Sgt. Maj. \(res.\) Noam Ashram](#), 37, from Kfar Saba; Sgt. First Class (res.) Nitzan Schessler, 21, from Hadera.
 - According to figures the IDF [released](#) on January 14, of the IDF soldiers killed in Gaza, 19 soldiers were killed by friendly fire and 36 by accidents during wartime, including car crashes and military-related events.
 - » 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, at least 24,100 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 60,834 have been injured during the war.
 - » On December 4, the 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, 344 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 4,212 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, [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 15, Hamas [released](#) videos of Israeli hostages Yossi Sharabi, 53, Itai Svirsky, 38, and Noa Argamani, 26, as part of its psychological warfare campaign. In initial videos, Sharabi and Svirsky were alive, but later videos released by Hamas [purported](#) to show their dead bodies.
 - » In the initial videos, the hostages [ask](#) for the Israeli government to end their offensive and secure the release of hostages.
 - » However, in one of Argamani’s videos, Argamani states that the other two hostages, Sharabi and Svirsky, were killed in Israeli airstrikes in Gaza. Hamas later [released](#) another video purporting to show the bodies of the two men.
 - The IDF subsequently informed the Sharabi and Svirsky families that it was concerned for the two men’s safety, based on new Israeli intelligence.
 - IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said in a statement, “Itai [Svirsky] was not shot by our forces. That is a Hamas lie. The building in which they were held was not a target and it was not attacked by our forces,” adding that “we don’t attack a place if we know there may be hostages inside.”

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On January 16, three armed drones were [shot down](#) above the Erbil airport in northern Iraq, which hosts U.S. personnel.

- On January 15, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) [launched](#) ballistic missiles that struck several locations in Iraq and Syria.
 - » The IRGC claimed without evidence that it was targeting Israel's "spy headquarters" in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq, killing at least four individuals, and "anti-Iran terror groups" in Syria.
 - » An unnamed U.S. State Department spokesperson claimed that the strikes did not damage the "U.S. Consulate Erbil or the New Consulate Compound under construction" and that "no American personnel were injured."
- On January 14, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi [condemned](#) the January 12 airstrikes that the United States and the United Kingdom conducted against Houthi targets across Yemen, saying the strikes "are rejected and condemned by the freedom-seeking nations of the world."
 - » According to Iran's state-run *IRNA* news agency, Raisi's comments came after he held a phone call with Yemen's Houthi Supreme Political Council, Mahdi al-Mashat.
 - » The report states that Mashat pledged that the Houthis would continue confronting Israel and supporting the people of Gaza.
- On January 14, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah [said](#) in a televised speech in Lebanon that all violence in the region is due to Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza,
 - » Nasrallah said that Hezbollah attacks aimed to "stop the aggression against Gaza" and that "the security of the Red Sea and calm on Lebanon's front, the situation in Iraq, and all developments in the region [are] tied to one thing: to stop the aggression against Gaza."
 - » Nasrallah stated, "you are trying to deal with the consequences and the results, go fix the reason" for the ongoing Iran-backed regional attacks.
 - » Nasrallah also said that unspecified envoys sent to Lebanon were attempting to "extinguish" the Lebanon front by warning that "Israel would launch a war on Lebanon" if Hezbollah attacks did not stop, likely referring to French and American diplomats that have met with Lebanese officials in recent weeks.
- Over the weekend, the Iran-backed Houthis escalated their attacks on commercial shipping vessels following U.S. and British strikes in Yemen on January 12.
 - » On January 16, British maritime security firm Ambrey [claimed](#) that a missile struck a Malta-flagged Greek-owned bulk carrier sailing north in the Red Sea, 76 nautical miles northwest of Yemen's port city of Saleef.
 - » On January 15 at approximately 4 p.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) an anti-ship ballistic missile that struck the MV *Gibraltar Eagle*, a U.S.-owned and operated and Marshall Islands-flagged container ship. No injuries or "significant damage" were reported.
 - » On January 15 at approximately 2 p.m. local time, the Houthis [fired](#) an anti-ship ballistic missile at commercial shipping lanes in the Red Sea. The missile failed mid-flight and landed in Yemen.
 - » On January 15, Houthi leader Ali al-Qahoum [said](#) to Iran's state-run news agency *IRNA*, "we tell the Americans that your actions against Yemen will be defeated and we will confront you with all of our power. After this aggression, Yemen will turn into the graveyard of the Americans and they will leave the region in humiliation."

- He also warned that the United States and its partners should expect “strategic blows and a more painful response,” and Yemen and its leaders are “fully prepared to enter a direct and all-out war with the Great Satan to defend Palestine.”

U.S. and International Response

- On January 15, President Biden [argued](#) that “it’s irrelevant whether [the Houthis are] designated” as terrorists after having said on January 12 that he [thought](#) the Houthis were terrorists.
 - » The Biden administration [decided](#) in November to review its decision in February 2021 to remove the Houthis from the Foreign Terrorist Organization list.
- According to [reporting](#) by *Axios*’s Barak Ravid, President Biden and U.S. officials are growing increasingly frustrated with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his rejection of U.S. requests related to the war in Gaza. The main issues are finding a resolution for Israel to release Palestinian Authority tax revenues it is withholding from the Palestinian Authority, U.S. concerns that Israel is not doing enough to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza, Netanyahu’s lack of preparations for post-war planning for Gaza, and fears that Israel will not move toward lower-intensity operations in Gaza by the end of January.
 - » One U.S. official reportedly said that “the situation sucks and we are stuck. The president’s patience is running out.”
 - » After speaking almost every other day during the first two months of the war, President Biden and Prime Minister Netanyahu have reportedly not spoken since a tense call on December 23.
- On January 13 at 3:45 a.m. local time, the USS *Carney* [launched](#) Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles against a Houthi radar site in Yemen.
 - » This “follow-on action” was intended to further degrade Houthi capabilities after American and British strikes on January 12 against 28 locations and 60 targets, according to U.S. Central Command.
 - » According to a [report](#) in *The New York Times* on January 13, the U.S. and British strikes destroyed 90% of the targets that were struck but only 20-30% of the Houthis’ offensive capabilities. Much of the Houthis’ weaponry is mobile and can be easily repositioned or hidden.
- On January 13, the U.S. Navy [warned](#) American-flagged vessels to avoid the Red Sea for 72 hours in the wake of the American and British strikes against the Houthis and the terrorist group’s pledges to enact revenge.
- On January 13, President Biden [told reporters](#) that the United States sent a private message to Iran about the Houthi attacks. President Biden stated that “we delivered it privately and we’re confident we’re well-prepared.”
- On January 12, the United States [sanctioned](#) a firm in Hong Kong and a firm in the United Arab Emirates for shipping commodities that supported a Houthi financial network.
- On January 12, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby [told MSNBC](#), “we’re not looking for conflict with Iran. We’re not looking to escalate and there’s no reason for it to escalate beyond what happened over the last few days.”
- On January 11, U.S. Navy forces “conducted a night-time seizure of a dhow conducting illegal transport of advanced lethal aid from Iran to resupply Houthi forces,” according to a

[statement](#) from U.S. Central Command. Among the items seized were “Iranian-made ballistic missile and cruise missiles components,” including “propulsion, guidance, and warheads for Houthi medium range ballistic missiles (MRBMs) and anti-ship cruise missiles (ASCMs), as well as air defense associated components” that were “employed by the Houthis to threaten and attack innocent mariners on international merchant ships transiting in the Red Sea.”

- » This was the first U.S. seizure of weapons bound for the Houthis since the terrorist group’s escalation of attacks on ships began in November 2023.
- » Two U.S. Navy SEALs who were previously reported missing were [involved](#) in the operation, and U.S. forces continue to look for them.
- On January 16, the European Union (EU) [added](#) Hamas leader Yahiya Sinwar to its terrorist list. The designation means that Sinwar’s assets in EU member states will be frozen and that no economic resources can be made available to him from EU member states.
- On January 16, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan [called](#) for a ceasefire in Gaza and said that Saudi Arabia would be interested in normalizing relations with Israel, but “that can only happen with a Palestinian state.” He argued, “what Israel is doing now is putting the prospects for regional peace and security at risk.”
- On January 12, German government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit [rejected](#) charges that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians and said that Germany would intervene as a third party in the International Court of Justice proceedings brought by South Africa against Israel.
 - » According to Hebestreit, Germany will use an article allowing countries to seek clarification on the use of a multilateral convention, which would enable Germany to present its own case to rebut South Africa’s claim that Israel has violated the 1949 Genocide Convention.
 - » Hebestreit said, “in light of German history and the crimes against humanity of the Shoah, the German government is particularly committed to the [UN] Genocide Convention,” but that “the German government decisively and expressly rejects the accusation of genocide brought against Israel before the International Court of Justice.”
- On January 12, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau released a [statement](#) supporting the International Court of Justice but rejecting the premise of South Africa’s case against Israel.
- According to reports from January 12, Russian spokesperson Dmitry Peskov [told](#) reporters that the U.S. and U.K. strikes against the Houthis were “illegitimate from the point of view of international law.”
 - » He added, “the countries that struck, they tried to put their actions on the basis of international law,” but “[the earlier UN resolution calling on the Houthis to cease attacks] was unsuccessful, because the adopted resolution does not provide any right to strike.”
 - » However, Peskov also called the Houthis’ attacks against commercial ships “extremely wrong” and noted that Russia “repeatedly called on the Houthis to abandon this practice.”
- On January 12, the IDF [criticized](#) the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) after OHCHR released a statement which called for a ceasefire, criticized Israel for alleged international humanitarian law violations, and neglected to mention hostages held in Gaza.

- » OHCHR said in its statement that it wanted to see an immediate ceasefire and increased humanitarian flows into Gaza and criticized Israel’s alleged “recurring failures to uphold the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law: distinction, proportionality, and precautions in carrying out attacks.”
- » Israel’s mission in Geneva, Switzerland, where OHCHR is based, said on X that OHCHR’s statement did not contain “one word demanding the release of the hostages held in Gaza” and noted, “a call for a ceasefire, without demanding the release of our hostages and the disarming of Hamas, is a call for terrorism to win.”

Rising Antisemitism, Islamophobia, Protests, and Attacks

- On January 14, London police [said](#) they arrested six anti-Israel protesters who had planned to disrupt the London Stock Exchange and were “ready to carry out a disruptive and damaging stunt.”
- On January 14, Israeli soccer player Sagiv Jehezkel, who plays for the Turkish club Antalyaspor, [displayed](#) a message of solidarity with the hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza while celebrating a goal.
 - » In response, Turkish prosecutors opened an investigation against Jehezkel on charges of “inciting people to hatred and hostility.”
 - » On January 15, the Israeli Foreign Ministry [announced](#) that Jehezkel would be returning to Israel that day after having been detained by Turkish authorities for the gesture of solidarity.
- On January 14, 100 days after Hamas’s October 7 massacre, which sparked the beginning of the war, and when the terror group took around 240 hostages, [rallies were held](#) in cities around the world in support of Israel.
 - » In London, several thousand people demonstrated in the city’s historic Trafalgar Square.
 - » In Berlin, several hundred people marched through the streets, holding signs in solidarity with the hostages.
 - » In Paris, a series of demonstrations was staged near the Eiffel Tower.
 - » In Chicago, around 200 people [gathered](#) for a pro-Israel rally, marking 100 days since Hamas took around 240 hostages on October 7.
- On January 14, several hundred pro-Palestinian protesters [demonstrated](#) outside the gates of the British Royal Air Force (RAF) Akrotiri base in Cyprus in response to the January 12 U.S-U.K. strikes against the Iran-backed the Houthis in Yemen.
- On January 13, tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators [held](#) a rally in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with other pro-Palestinian marches worldwide that day, including in London, Rome, Paris, Dublin, Johannesburg, and Kuala Lumpur. The march [turned violent](#) when protestors reached the White House.
 - » A number of protestors began shaking and attempting to scale the White House perimeter fence, and others threw water bottles, large sticks, and other objects at police officers.
 - » The White House evacuated all non-emergency personnel, including journalists, and the Secret Service increased its security presence.

- » Two people were [arrested](#) for allegedly assaulting an officer during the rally.
- On January 13, the families of the hostages [organized](#) 24 hours of events in Israel to mark 100 days since their loved ones had been taken captive by Hamas.
 - » In Tel Aviv, 120,000 people attended a demonstration in solidarity with the hostages.
- On January 13, London police [said](#) they arrested three people for supporting a terror organization after they handed out flyers praising Hamas and the October 7 massacre.
 - » An excerpt from the flier stated, “we communists join together with all progressive humanity in congratulating the Palestinian people and their chosen leadership on the audacious, daring and effective military action they are now taking against the last settler-colonial apartheid state, that monstrous proxy for Anglo-American imperialism, usurper of the Palestinian lands, rights and nationhood, zionist Israel.”
- On January 12, tens of thousands of Yemenis [attended](#) pro-Houthi rallies to hear Houthi leaders condemn the U.S. and British attacks.
- On January 12, South Africa’s national cricket team [removed](#) the captain of its Under-19 team, David Teeger, who is Jewish, ahead of the world championships.
 - » In a statement, Cricket South Africa (CSA) said, “we have been advised that protests related to the war in Gaza can be anticipated at the venues for the tournament. We have also been advised that they are likely to focus on ... David Teeger.” The organization added, “CSA has decided that David should be relieved of the captaincy for the tournament ... This is in the best interests of all the players, the SA U19 team, and David himself.”
- On January 12, Danish police [said](#) the terrorist plot it had foiled in December 2023 had links to Hamas.

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