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## Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update March 11, 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. JINSA will release the Swords of Iron Update on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

### Analysis

- The Iran-backed Houthis launched at least 28 drones at vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden on March 9, the terrorist group's largest attack against ships. U.S. and partner nations' strikes in Yemen against Houthi targets have continuously failed to deter further Houthi attacks.
- President Biden's comments in a March 9 *MSNBC* interview that Prime Minister Netanyahu is "hurting Israel more than helping Israel" by alienating Israel in the eyes of the international community indicates growing tensions between the two leaders.
  - » Biden's emphasis in the interview that Netanyahu "must, he must, he must, pay more attention to the innocent lives being lost as a consequence of the actions taken" and his comment that an offensive into Rafah represents a "red line" for him further underscores the seemingly growing disconnect between the two leaders' visions of how the war will proceed.
- Hezbollah's relentless projectile attacks against Israel are likely to continue "until the terror group is deterred from doing so," which "largely requires convincing Hezbollah that the United States will back Israel in, and possibly even enter, a full-scale war should one become necessary to restore security for Israel's northern residents," as JINSA Policy Analyst Zac Schildcrout [argued](#) in a recent NatSec Brief.

### Last 48 Hours

#### *Attacks Against Israel*

- At least 15,000 rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired at Israel from all fronts combined during the war, according to JINSA data.

- On March 10, Israel Police and the Shin Bet security agency [said](#) 13 Arab-Israelis from Sakhnin in northern Israel are facing charges for plotting terror attacks with Hamas after they acquired weapons from members of the terror group in the West Bank.
- On March 10, Israel Police [said](#) in a statement in which they announced the arrest of 20 East Jerusalem residents for incitement and supporting terrorism, “from past experience, there are those who want to use the month of Ramadan to spread rumors and ‘fake news,’ while publishing a distorted version of reality on social networks.”

### Gaza

- There were no reports of projectile attacks from Gaza over the previous 72 hours.

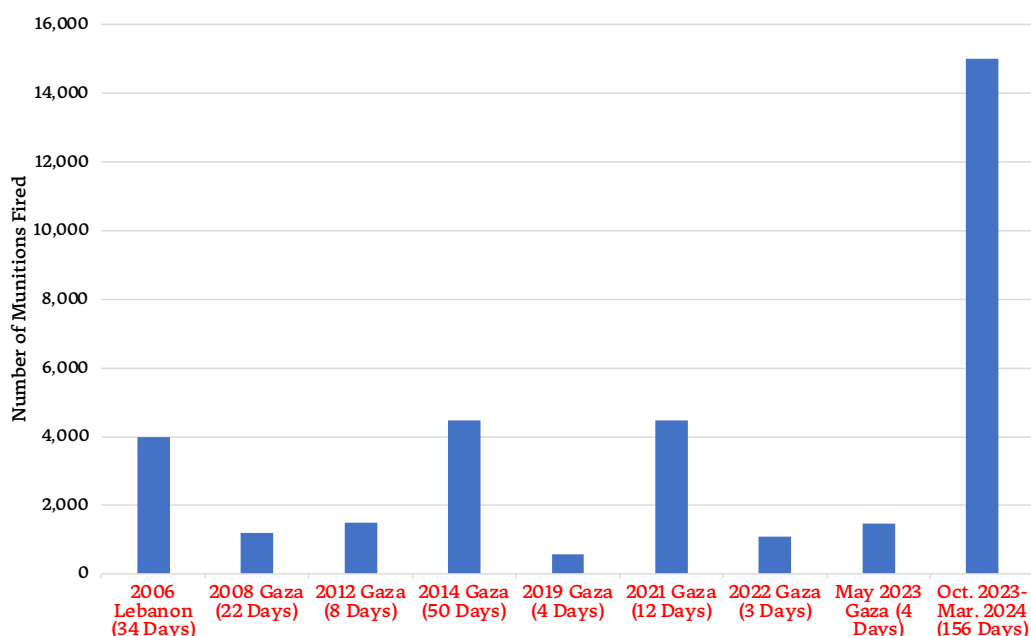
### Lebanon

- Sirens sounded in [Zivon, Dovev, Meron, Or Haganuz, Kfar Hoshen, Baram, Merom Hagalil Regional Council, Netua, Fassuta, Matat, Alkosh, Hurfeish, Kiryat Shmona, Manara, Margalioth, Misgav Am, Majdal Shams, Dishon, Malkia, Ramot Naftali](#), and the [northern Golan Heights area](#).
- Amid Hezbollah’s [claims](#) on March 11 that it launched four drones containing explosives toward an IDF base in the Golan Heights, the IDF said that “suspicious aerial targets” hit unpopulated areas. No damage or injuries were reported.
- The IDF [said](#) on March 10 that terrorists in Lebanon launched an anti-tank missile toward Malkia in northern Israel that impacted a military vehicle but did not inflict injuries. The IDF also said that Hezbollah fired a drone toward the Mount Hermon region that struck an unpopulated area.
- On March 10, the IDF [said](#) that terrorists in Lebanon [fired](#) at least 30 rockets toward Mount Hermon in northern Israel, triggering alarms in Majdal Shams. The IDF also said that Hezbollah took credit for another barrage of 10 rockets earlier that day targeting the Mount Dov area. Reportedly, neither attack inflicted any injuries.
- On March 10, the IDF [said](#) that terrorists in Lebanon targeted the Mount Meron area with 37 rockets launched in two separate volleys. The Iron Dome shot down seven rockets in total, and Hezbollah took credit for the barrages, claiming retaliation for reported civilian deaths inflicted by an IDF strike against Hezbollah in Khirbet Selm the previous night. Hezbollah said that the IDF strike killed three of its members.
- On March 9, Hezbollah [took credit](#) for striking an IDF base in the Yiftah area of northern Israel with a “Burkan” rocket, but the IDF said that the rocket hit an unpopulated area.
- On March 8, the IDF [said](#) that terrorists in Lebanon launched seven rockets toward the Upper Galilee region, two of which the Iron Dome intercepted. The other five struck unpopulated areas and inflicted no damage or injuries. The projectiles triggered sirens in Dishon, Malkia, and Ramot Naftali.

### West Bank

- The IDF [said](#) on March 8 that three soldiers were in moderate condition and four mildly injured following an IED explosion that day in the northern West Bank.
  - » Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) later [released](#) a video of the incident, in which gunmen opened fire at an IDF outpost near Homesh. The video showed an explosive device detonating as IDF troops searched the area for the gunmen.

## Projectiles Fired Against Israel During Major Conflicts



### IDF Operations

- According to [reports](#) from March 10, Israel’s Prime Minister Netanyahu is still deciding whether to sign a letter drafted by the war cabinet to present to the United States that affirms that Israel’s use of U.S. weapons comports with international law and that the country will not impede the entry of U.S.-origin humanitarian aid bound for Gaza.
  - » According to a White House memo from February 8, the White House has 45 days (until March 25) to notify Congress—as opposed to 180 days for countries not engaged in active war—that Israel has provided written guarantees that it is following these policies.

### Gaza

- *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on March 11, citing Hebrew-language reporting, that the IDF tried to assassinate the deputy head of Hamas’s military wing, Marwan Issa, in an airstrike in central Gaza between March 9 and 10 overnight. Hamas is reportedly investigating whether Issa was killed. He is the third-highest-ranking Hamas member in Gaza.
- According to a March 11 *CNN* [report](#) citing multiple Israeli officials, including both military and political officials, an Israeli offensive into Rafah is “not imminent.” However, the officials noted that an offensive during Ramadan “has not been ruled out.”
  - » The report alleges that though the requisite IDF force buildup could be “enacted in short order,” the Israeli cabinet has “not yet signed off on plans submitted by the Israel Defense Forces for an evacuation [of civilians] and incursion.”
  - » According to the report, the IDF has not yet “finalized plans for a civilian evacuation” of Rafah, and the sources alleged that a major civilian evacuation would likely take at least two weeks.

- On March 11, the IDF [said](#) the commander of the 99th Division, Brig. Gen. Barak Hiram, had been formally censured for the January 17 demolition of Israa University in Gaza, which was done without the proper approvals.
  - » In a statement, the IDF said, “the investigation revealed that the Hamas terror organization used the building and its surroundings for military activity against our forces, but the process of collapsing the building was done without the required approvals.”
- On March 11, the IDF [said](#) it had discovered Hamas tunnels in the Hamad Town residential complex in the southern Gazan city of Khan Younis and destroyed them in an airstrike. One of the tunnels led to an underground route where food and weapons were stored. Another contained weapons manufacturing equipment and concrete production machinery used by the terror group to build tunnels.
- Prime Minister Netanyahu said in a March 10 [interview](#) with *Politico* parent company Axel Springer that Israel has “destroyed three-quarters of Hamas’ fighting terrorism battalions. And we’re close to finishing the last part in warfare,” adding that further fighting would not “take more than two months.”
- On March 10, IDF airstrikes against a Hamas facility in the Hamad Town area of Khan Younis [killed](#) four Hamas operatives. The facility was used by terrorists who participated in the October 7 attack.
  - » Troops from the IDF’s Givati Brigade also seized caches of mortars, assault rifles, explosive devices, and ammunition during a raid of another Hamas facility in Hamad Town.
- On March 10, the IDF [said](#) that the Hamas operative who killed IDF soldier Maj. (res.) Amishar Ben David during a battle in southern Gaza on March 8 was killed in an airstrike in Khan Younis.
- The IDF Spokesperson's Unit [said](#) on March 10 that the IDF was investigating an incident in November in which IDF soldiers shot and killed an elderly unarmed man in the Gaza City neighborhood of Shati. The unit told *The Times of Israel* that during operations in a “complex area,” while conducting a search, a “shooting was carried out against an unarmed man who was suspected of being a terrorist and was moving towards the soldier who came to search the house.”
  - » On March 8, *Al Jazeera* leaked bodycam [footage](#) from IDF soldiers during the incident, in which a soldier said, “[a] terrorist, I took him down.”
    - Later in the video a soldier can be heard asking another, “what happened there?” to which another soldier responds, “we opened the door, he fluttered, came in my direction, and did like this [waves hands], I killed him.” Later in the footage the body of an elderly man can be seen.
    - The IDF said the leaked video was “edited.”
- The *BBC* [reported](#) on March 9 that according to satellite imagery, the IDF completed construction of a road that bisects the Gaza Strip from east to west which the IDF said helps it achieve an “operational foothold” to enable troop and equipment movements.
- On March 9, the IDF [struck](#) a large residential building in the southern Gazan city of Rafah which contained a Hamas military asset used to plan terrorist attacks against IDF troops and civilians in Israel. *The Times of Israel* reported, citing a military official, that the facility was used by Hamas’s emergency committee.

- » The IDF said it warned all civilians of the tower to evacuate prior to the strike, and that all residents successfully evacuated prior to the operation.
- The IDF [eliminated](#) dozens of terrorists during ground operations on March 8, including more than 20 Hamas operatives in Khan Younis and approximately 10 terror operatives in central Gaza. Troops operating in northern Gaza's Beit Hanoun area called in an airstrike on nearby terrorists, who were neutralized.
- According to [reports](#) from March 8, Israeli officials are considering providing certain Gazan civilians with weapons to enable protection of humanitarian aid convoys amid diminished public order in Gaza.

### **Lebanon**

- On March 11, the IDF [conducted](#) an airstrike against a Hezbollah compound in the southern Lebanese town of Jebbayn.
- On March 10, the IDF [said](#) that it targeted a group of Hezbollah operatives carrying anti-tank missiles in Chebaa in southern Lebanon.
- On March 10, the IDF [said](#) it launched strikes against a Hezbollah rocket launcher in Rachaya al-Foukhar used to fire rockets toward Mount Hermon in northern Israel that day. The IDF also targeted a rocket launcher in Kounine from which terrorists fired a barrage toward Mount Meron.
- On March 10, the IDF [said](#) it carried out several overnight strikes against Hezbollah targets, including infrastructure in Ayta ash-Shab, an anti-tank missile post in Maroun al-Ras, and a site where Hezbollah operatives were seen in Khirbet Selm. In the strike on Khirbet Selm, five members of a family, including three Hezbollah members, were killed.
- On March 9, the IDF [said](#) it [carried](#) out airstrikes on several Hezbollah targets, including buildings in Ayta ash-Shab, command centers in Majdal Zoun and Kafra, and additional infrastructure in Mhaibib.
- On March 9, the IDF [said](#) it fired artillery toward the site used to launch an earlier rocket attack against the Yiftah area of northern Israel and that it conducted airstrikes against Hezbollah targets overnight in Labbouneh and Ayta ash-Shab in southern Lebanon.
- On March 8, the IDF [said](#) it carried out airstrikes against Hezbollah assets in Marwahin, Labbouneh, and Ayta ash-Shab in Lebanon. Targets included a site in Ayta ash-Shab used to conduct an earlier rocket attack against northern Israel.

### **West Bank**

- Following the March 8 IED explosion in the West Bank that injured several IDF troops, the IDF [said](#) that day that it was searching for the suspects as well as suspects who launched gunfire at an IDF location near Homesh earlier.

### *Humanitarian Efforts*

- According to a March 11 [report](#) from Israel's *Kan* outlet, Morocco is planning to conduct a humanitarian aid drop into Gaza utilizing six transport aircraft from its air force. Morocco coordinated the logistics of the air drop with Israel, according to the report.
- During a March 10 [interview](#) with *Politico*'s parent company, Axel Springer, Prime Minister Netanyahu asserted that reports of impending famine in Gaza are inconsistent with "the information we have. And we monitor it closely."

- » Netanyahu added, “more importantly, it’s not our policy. Our policies are to put in as much humanitarian aid as we could.”
- » When asked why more aid is not entering Gaza by land, Netanyahu responded, “ Hamas is coming at gunpoint and stealing the food ... Humanitarian deaths and starvation is, for us, it’s a tragedy. For them, it’s a strategy. They think that this will help them place more pressure on Israel to stop the war, leave them in place so they can repeat the October 7 massacre.”
- » Referencing earlier [comments](#) from the White House, Netanyahu noted, “the White House said on October 19 if [Hamas steals aid] then the international community will have to stop the aid. It’s happened. In bundles. But nobody has asked to stop the aid, and we haven’t stopped it.”
- On March 10, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) it had conducted a humanitarian aid drop into northern Gaza, in tandem with Jordan’s air force, of “11,500 meal equivalents, as well as other food including rice, flour, pasta, and canned food.”
  - » According to the press release, Jordan provided the food and the United States provided the C-130 aircraft used in the air drop.
- On March 10, the U.S. Army’s *General Frank S. Besson* logistics support vessel [departed](#) Joint Base Langley-Eustis en route to the Eastern Mediterranean to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza by sea. The ship is “carrying the first equipment to establish a temporary pier to deliver vital humanitarian supplies,” according to a statement from CENTCOM.
- After reports of five Gazans being killed from airdrops of humanitarian aid, CENTCOM released a [statement](#) on March 9 that “contrary to some reports, this was not the result of US airdrops.”
- CENTCOM announced on March 9 that it [airdropped](#) “over 41,400 US meal equivalents and 23,000 bottles of water” into northern Gaza that day.
- On March 8, a U.S. Department of Defense spokesperson [told](#) journalists that “several weeks” will be necessary to operationalize the port that the United States plans to build in Gaza to enable quicker delivery of humanitarian aid. The spokesperson also said that the United States aspires to send Gaza 2 million meals per day and that the effort may involve 1,000 U.S. troops, but they will not be on the ground. President Biden [said](#) to reporters on March 8 that Israel will administer security at the port.
- CENTCOM [announced](#) on March 8 that it airdropped humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip in conjunction with the Jordanian Air Force. The airdrop marked the fourth such U.S. operation.
- Israel’s Foreign Ministry criticized the March 8 decisions by the governments of Canada and Sweden to resume aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), asserting in a [statement](#) that “the return to funding UNRWA will not change the fact that the organization is part of the problem and will not be part of the solution in the Gaza Strip.”
  - » That day, Sweden’s foreign development minister Johan Forssell said that Sweden would [resume funding](#) to UNRWA after having previously paused aid over Israel’s allegations regarding extensive UNRWA-Hamas ties.
    - Forssell announced that in light of the fact that the “humanitarian situation in Gaza is devastating and the needs are acute,” Sweden would send UNRWA roughly half of the \$38 million it had pledged for this year, with additional funds to be dispensed.

- » Also that day, Canada’s international aid minister Ahmed Hussen announced that the country will [resume funding](#) to UNRWA, after it had paused funding on January 26 amid allegations that UNRWA staff participated in the October 7 attacks.
  - Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had announced on March 7 that Canada would wait until the result of a UN probe into the allegations before making a decision. Hussen claimed that Canada had reviewed the probe’s interim results and would also review the final version.
- On March 8, World Central Kitchen, a U.S. charity founded by chef José Andrés, indicated that it was [loading](#) humanitarian aid for Gaza onto a boat in Larnaca, Cyprus, that could sail to Gaza within days.

### *Ceasefire and Hostage Negotiations*

- In a recorded message released on March 10, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh [claimed](#) that Israel was to blame for the collapse of ceasefire and hostage negotiations because it “evaded giving clear guarantees regarding the ceasefire, the withdrawal of its forces or the guarantees for the return of the displaced Gazans.”
- On March 9, Israel’s Mossad released a [statement](#) that “at this stage, Hamas is holding to its position as if it was uninterested in a deal and is striving to ignite the region during Ramadan at the expense of the Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip.”

### *Post-War Planning*

- On March 10, Mahmoud Habbash, a top adviser to Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas, [claimed](#) in an interview with the Saudi-owned *Al-Arabiya* network that the new PA technocratic government, which will reportedly be announced soon, will be under the control of Abbas and his Fatah party. Habbash argued that “Hamas must hand over the reins of power in Gaza to the Palestinian Authority.”
- During a speech on March 9, Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi [estimated](#) that the cost of rebuilding Gaza could exceed \$90 billion.

### *Casualties and Hostages*

- Over 1,200 people were [killed](#) in Israel, and 13,000 Israelis have been [injured](#) in the war.
  - » 589 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
    - 249 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
    - The IDF [announced](#) the death of Sgt. First Class (res.) Michael Gal, 29, from Jerusalem.
    - As of March 5, 1,453 IDF soldiers have been [injured](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far, including 303 who have been severely injured.
  - » 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, 31,112 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 72,760 have been injured during the war.
  - » On October 25, 2023, 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.”
  - » The IDF [said](#) on February 29 that it has killed approximately 13,000 Hamas operatives over the course of the war.
- According to the Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Ministry of Health, at least 420 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 4,600 have been wounded, in the West Bank.
- The IDF [claims](#) 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, [three](#) have been rescued by the IDF, [seven](#) have been [found](#) dead, three have been [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.
- Israel has said that terrorists in Gaza currently [hold](#) 134 hostages, and according to IDF spokesman Rear Adm Daniel Hagari, the IDF has [notified](#) the families of 31 of the 136 hostages that their loved ones died, including two who were 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.
- On March 8, Israel’s *Channel 12* news [reported](#), without citing any source, that several dozen families of the hostages still held by terror groups in Gaza received proof their loved ones were still alive.

### *Iranian Involvement and Response*

- On March 10, initial reports from British security firm Ambrey [indicated](#) a missile incident west of Yemen’s port of Hodeidah along the Red Sea.
- On March 9, between 4 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. local time, the Iran-backed Houthi terrorist group [launched](#) from Yemen its largest-ever drone attack against shipping. U.S. Navy vessels and aircraft along with multiple coalition navy ships and aircraft [shot down](#) at least 28 one-way attack drones over the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, according to a statement from CENTCOM.



- » On March 9, U.K. Defense Minister Grant Shapps [posted](#) on X, “last night, HMS *Richmond* used its Sea Ceptor missiles to shoot down two attack drones—successfully repelling yet another illegal attack by the Iranian-backed Houthis.”
- » On March 9, the Houthis [launched](#) at least four drones toward the Gulf of Aden at French warships, the Barbados-flagged *True Confidence*—which was being towed after the terrorist group had struck it on March 6—and other commercial vessels. A French warship and fighter jets later destroyed the drones.
- On March 8 at approximately 3:55 p.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) two anti-ship ballistic missiles from Yemen at the MV *Propel Fortune*, a Singapore-flagged, owned, and operated vessel, as it sailed in the Gulf of Aden. The missiles did not hit the ship, and there were no reported injuries or damage.

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

- On March 11, the United Nations Security Council is holding an [emergency session](#) to discuss the recent report by the UN’s envoy on sex crimes, which [found](#) “reasonable grounds to believe” Palestinian terrorists committed sexual violence on October 7 and against the hostages held in Gaza. The United States, the United Kingdom, and France had requested the session.
- Asked whether an IDF “invasion of Rafah” would represent a red line in a March 9 *MSNBC* [interview](#), President Biden responded, “it is a red line. But I’m never going to leave Israel. The defense of Israel is still critical, so there’s no red line [where] I’m gonna cut off all weapons so they don’t have the Iron Dome to protect them.”
  - » Biden added, “but, there’s red lines that if you cross—you cannot have 30,000 more Palestinians dead as a consequence of going after [Hamas]. There’s other ways, to deal, to get to, to deal with, the trauma caused by Hamas.”
  - » Biden further stated, after the “carpet bombing that took place” in World War II, “we changed the rules of the game, what constitutes the legitimate rules of war that should be abided by.”
  - » Asked about a March 7 hot-mic moment in which President Biden was recorded saying, “I told him [Prime Minister Netanyahu], and don’t repeat this, that ‘you and I are going to have a come to Jesus moment’,” Biden said, “it’s an expression used in the southern part of [Delaware] meaning a serious meeting. I’ve known [Netanyahu] for 50 years—he knew what I meant by it.”
  - » Discussing what “tough love” Biden would give Netanyahu, he responded that “he has a right to defend Israel, a right to continue to pursue Hamas, but he must, he must, he must, pay more attention to the innocent lives being lost as a consequence of the actions taken.”
  - » Biden further argued that “in my view, he’s hurting Israel more than helping Israel by making the rest of the world—it’s contrary to what Israel stands for. And I think it’s a big mistake.”
    - Prime Minister Netanyahu [responded](#) to the comments in a March 10 interview with *Politico*’s parent company, Axel Springer, in which he responded that the Israeli people “also support my position that says that we should resoundingly reject the attempt to ram down our throats a Palestinian state. That is something that they agree on.”

- » Biden continued, “I want to see a ceasefire, and I’m starting with a major, major exchange of prisoners for a six-week period. We’re going into Ramadan and it should be nothing happening. And we should build off that ceasefire.”
- » In response to a question about whether Biden traveling to Israel and addressing Israel’s parliament “is something you would do,” Biden responded, “yes.” Asked about further details, such as whether he would need Netanyahu or President Herzog’s invitation, Biden responded, “I’d rather not discuss it more.”
- During an [interview](#) with *CBS News* on March 9, Vice President Kamala Harris argued that “it is important to distinguish, or at least not conflate, the Israeli government with the Israeli people.”
  - » She also noted that “there are a lot of feelings rightly based on the horror of what has happened. October 7, 1200 people slaughtered, many young people who were just attending a concert, women were horribly, horribly abused and raped, rape being a tool of war, and then you look at what’s been happening with the humanitarian crisis in Gaza which again, the horrific images which were are seeing come out of there.”
  - » Harris stated that “the Israeli people are entitled to security as are the Palestinians in equal measure.”
- On March 8 at approximately 9:50 a.m. local time, the United States [struck](#) two Houthi truck-mounted anti-ship missiles in Yemen that were prepared to target ships.
- A *Wall Street Journal* [report](#) on March 9 indicated that Qatar is considering deporting Hamas officials if they do not agree to a hostage and ceasefire deal.
- On March 9, Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez [indicated](#) that he will urge Spain’s Congress to recognize a Palestinian state before his mandate ends in 2027.
- On March 9, Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [argued](#) in a speech in Istanbul that “Netanyahu and his administration, with their crimes against humanity in Gaza, are writing their names next to Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin, like today’s Nazis.”
  - » Erdogan further [stated](#) that “no one can make us qualify Hamas as a terrorist organization ... Turkey is a country that speaks openly with Hamas leaders and firmly backs them.”

### *Rising Antisemitism, Islamophobia, Protests, and Attacks*

- On March 10, more than 3,000 people [attended](#) a rally in New York’s Central Park to call for the release of the hostages still held by Hamas.
- On March 10, several celebrities at the Academy Awards [wore](#) “Artists for Ceasefire” pins, including Billie Eilish, Finneas, and Ramy Youssef. The pins were handed out by Artists4Ceasefire, a group of celebrities who signed an open letter urging the Biden Administration to call for “an immediate de-escalation and ceasefire in Gaza and Israel.”
- On March 9, tens of thousands of people [attended](#) the weekly anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian protest in London.
  - » London police [arrested](#) a counter-protester, Iranian activist Niyak Ghorbani, after he carried a sign reading “Hamas Is Terrorist.” In a video of his arrest, at least five police officers can be seen wrestling Ghorbani to the ground.
- On March 8, Peruvian police [arrested](#) two people they said were part of an Iranian plot to assassinate an Israeli businessman at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

forum in Peru later this year. One of the men arrested is Majid Azizi, a member of the IRGC's Quds Force, and the other is a Peruvian national.

- On March 8, the organizers of the International Women's Day March in Oslo, Norway, [prevented](#) demonstrators expressing support for the hostages held by Hamas from participating in the march, despite having given them prior approval to participate.
- On March 8, a pro-Palestinian protester [vandalized](#) a historic painting of Lord Arthur Balfour at Cambridge University, spray painting and slashing the painting with a knife.
- On March 8, American Jewish singer Matisyahu [announced](#) that his sold-out concert in Chicago was canceled "due to the threat of protests," saying, "while the true details surrounding this decision remain opaque ... I can assure you there have been no threats of violence received by our security team who have been vigilant in knowing what is happening in each city." This is the third time in the last month one of his concerts has been canceled due to anti-Israel protests.

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- Webinar: [Gaza Update 3/7](#), with IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, IDF MG (ret.) Amikam Norkin, and Jonathan Ruhe, March 7, 2024
- John Hannah, Elliott Abrams, and Lewis Libby, "[The Day After: A Plan for Gaza](#)," *Fox News*, March 7, 2024
- Zac Schildcrout, [Rocket Fire From Lebanon More Than Triples](#), March 7, 2024
- Yoni Tobin, [U.S. Officials Should Stop Using Hamas's Casualty Figures](#), March 6, 2024
- John Hannah and Michael Makovsky, "[Joe Biden's Plan for a Palestinian State Will Harm America and Israel](#)," *The National Interest*, March 6, 2024
- Rep. Cory Mills and Michael Makovsky, "[America Must Give Israel More Time To Defeat Hamas](#)," *19FortyFive*, March 4, 2024
- Ari Cicurel, [Monthly Iran Projectile Tracker: February 2024](#), March 1, 2024
- The Gaza Futures Task Force, [The Day After: A Plan for Gaza](#), February 29, 2024
- The Gaza Futures Task Force, [The Day After Action Plan](#), February 29, 2024