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## Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update March 25, 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 United Nations Security Council [passed](#) a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire during Ramadan and the release of all hostages. The United States [did not veto](#) the resolution, according to reporting from Axios's Barak Ravid, because it links the two issues; however, Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu [canceled](#) a planned Israeli delegation to Washington after warning that he would do so if the United States allowed a resolution to pass that failed to condition a ceasefire on the release of the hostages. The resolution's passage and the cancellation of the Israeli delegation to Washington underscores the widening rift between U.S. and Israeli leaders.
  - » Yet, Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant is already in Washington, where he is scheduled to [meet](#) with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, CIA chief William Burns, and other senior Biden administration officials. Those meetings could enable U.S. and Israeli officials to discuss their disagreements over the UNSC resolution.
- Israel significantly degraded the capacity of Palestinian terrorists in Gaza through its operation at the Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, neutralizing at least 170 fighters and capturing at least 500 Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) members. The operation also underscores that Hamas and PIJ will seek to retake areas in Gaza that Israel had previously cleared and the necessity of Israel operating within terrorist strongholds throughout Gaza repeatedly to prevent another buildup of terrorist infrastructure.
  - » A [report](#) from Lebanon's *Al Akhbar* citing a Hamas official as saying that the operation forced Hamas to "reshape its ranks" and that nobody should underestimate "the importance of the figures who were arrested or executed," further underscores the significance of the Shifa operation.

# Last 72 Hours

## Attacks Against Israel

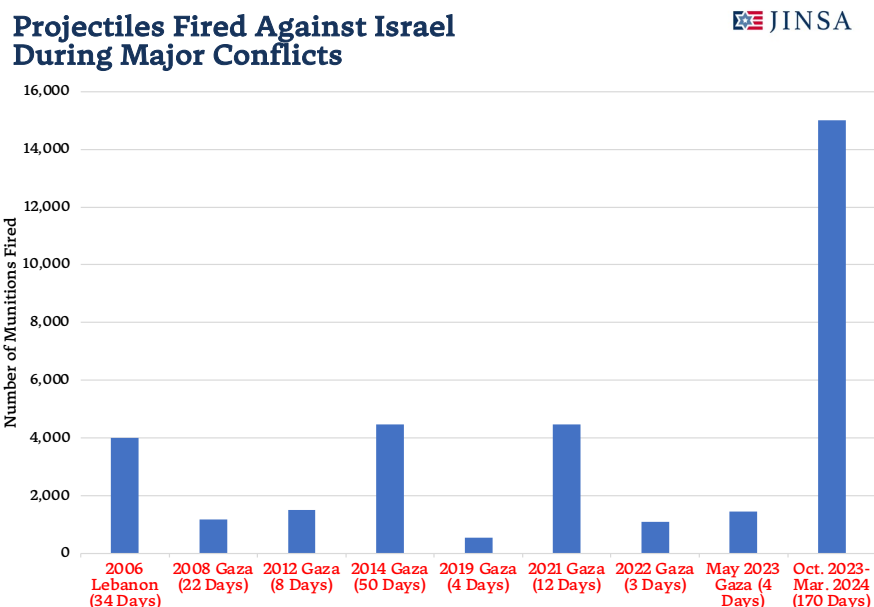
- At least 15,000 rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired at Israel from all fronts combined during the war, according to JINSA data.

### Gaza

- Sirens sounded in [Nir Oz](#) and [Ashdod](#).
- On March 25, Hamas [claimed](#) responsibility for a barrage of eight rockets fired at Ashdod. Two of the rockets were intercepted, while the rest apparently struck open areas, according to the IDF. The rocket attack was the first to [target](#) Ashdod in more than two months. No injuries or damage were immediately reported.

### Lebanon

- Sirens [sounded](#) in [Netua](#), Shamir, Sdeh Nechemia, Amir, Neot Mordechai, Lehavot HaBashan, Kfar Szold, Kfar Blum, Gonen, Snir, Shear Yeshuv, Dan, Ghajar, HaGoshrim, Dafna, [Kiryat Shmona](#), Tel Hai, Misgav Am, Margaliot, Ma'ayan Baruch, Manara, Metula, Kfar Yuval, Kfar Giladi, and Beit Hillel.
- On March 25, Hezbollah [launched](#) approximately 15 rockets from southern Lebanon toward IDF positions near the northern town of Menara. All the rockets landed in open areas, causing no injuries.
- On March 24, terrorists in Lebanon [launched](#) several anti-tank missiles toward the Galilee Panhandle in northern Israel, causing no injuries.
- The morning of March 24, Hezbollah [took credit](#) for a barrage of 60 Katyusha rockets fired earlier that night into northern Israel, claiming it targeted an IDF base in Yoav and barracks in Kaila after Israel's "bombing of a place in the [northern Lebanese] city of Baalbek."
- On March 23, Hezbollah [claimed](#) to have targeted an Iron Dome battery near Kfar Blum with two one-way attack drones. Local authorities said the impacts caused a fire where the drones impacted in two locations near the community, but the IDF said no damage or injuries were caused in the attack.



## Gaza

- On March 25, a Hamas official told Lebanon's *Al Akhbar* outlet that Hamas was significantly [impacted](#) by Israel's operations at Shifa Hospital and had to "reshape its ranks" due to the operation.
  - » The official stated, "nobody should underestimate the size of the infiltration carried out by the enemy army at Al-Shifa Hospital, nor underestimate the importance of the figures who were arrested or executed."
  - » The official added that Hamas "dealt with the current situation and was able to reshape its ranks, given the possibility that the enemy would obtain new information as a result of the investigation of the detainees."
- On March 24, the IDF [said](#) that 480 of the approximately 800 suspects detained at Shifa Hospital were Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) members. On March 25, the IDF [announced](#) that the figure had risen to 500.
  - » On March 25, IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari [noted](#) in a video statement that "170 terrorists were neutralized in or around the Shifa Hospital compound while firing at our forces. The IDF apprehended hundreds of terror suspects with confirmed ties to Hamas or [Palestinian] Islamic Jihad, making this one of the most successful operations since the start of the war." He added, "a large number of these terrorists were involved in planning and executing the brutal massacre of October 7."
    - Hagari further stated that "Hamas is firing from inside the Shifa Emergency Room and Maternity Ward and throwing explosive devices from the Shifa Burn Ward. Terrorists hiding around the hospital fired mortars at our forces, causing extensive damage to the hospital buildings."
- Major General Yaron Finkelman, head of the IDF Southern Command, [said](#) to troops at Shifa Hospital on March 23 that the raid in the facility will conclude "only when the last of the terrorists are in our hands, dead or alive" and that "the action here at Shifa is significant. A bold, cunning, most impressive operation so far."
- On March 25, the IDF [said](#) that Israeli forces killed numerous terrorists in central Gaza and that during the past day, Israel's Air Force struck approximately 50 targets throughout Gaza, in addition to further strikes with attack helicopters and drones that eliminated about 10 gunmen.
- On March 24, the IDF [detailed](#) its ongoing operations in northern, central, and southern Gaza, involving airstrikes to support ground troops, sniper fire to neutralize Hamas gunmen, and raids to dismantle a drone manufacturing facility.
- The IDF and Shin Bet internal security agency [announced](#) on March 24 that the IDF began a new operation the prior night to continue "dismantling the terror infrastructure and eliminating terrorists" in Khan Younis's Al-Amal neighborhood. The 98th Division is leading the operation.
  - » On March 25, the IDF [said](#) that it killed approximately 20 gunmen in the neighborhood and that it and the Shin Bet interrogated dozens of suspects amid facilitating the evacuation of hundreds of civilians from the combat area.
- Citing Israel's Channel 12, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on March 24 that due to the overflow of Israel's prisons, at least 100 suspects detained in Gaza are being held at

interrogation facilities. *Channel 12* noted that although the Israel Prison Service can handle 14,500 prisoners, the current demand is just under 22,000.

- On March 24, the IDF [provided](#) an update on its ongoing operation in al-Qarara, in the southern Gaza Strip, saying IDF troops had located and destroyed Hamas weapons caches, killed numerous Hamas gunmen, and “neutralized the threat adjacent to the [border] fence.” The IDF said that a Hamas weapons depot with a tunnel shaft beneath it was targeted in a helicopter strike.
- In a March 22 video statement, Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) that he told U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during their meeting “that I deeply appreciate the fact that for more than five months, we have stood together in the war against Hamas,” and “I told him that we recognize the need to evacuate the civilian population for the war zone and of course to take care of humanitarian needs, and we are working on that.”
  - » Netanyahu added, “but I also told him that we don’t have a way to defeat Hamas without going into Rafah and eliminating the remaining battalions there. And I told him that I hope that we will do it with America’s support, but if we need, we will do it alone.”
- Citing Israel’s *Channel 12*, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on March 22 that because of personnel shortages amid conflicts in Gaza and with terrorists in Lebanon, thousands of IDF soldiers have been instructed to serve four months longer than originally planned.
- *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on March 22 that “the IDF [said it] is probing leaked drone footage aired by *Al Jazeera* this week showing recent Israeli strikes on a group of seemingly unarmed Palestinian men in the Khan Younis area.”
  - » The IDF Spokesperson’s Unit told the outlet that the video emerged from an “active combat zone in Khan Younis, which had been significantly evacuated of the civilian population, and in which the troops experienced many encounters with terrorists who fought and moved [around] in civilian clothing, and disguised weapons in buildings and property that are believed to be civilian.”
  - » The IDF also said that the video was shared with the military’s General Staff Fact-Finding Assessment Mechanism for review.

## Lebanon

- On March 25, the IDF [conducted](#) an airstrike against a Hezbollah facility in the southern Lebanese town of Mays al-Jabal, killing a number of Hezbollah operatives.
- AFP reported on March 24, citing local officials, that the IDF [conducted](#) an airstrike against a Hezbollah facility in the central Lebanese city of Baalbek. Five missiles were reportedly used in the strike, which wounded three people, according to reports.
- On March 24, the IDF [said](#) that fighter jets struck a building used by Hezbollah in Ayta ash-Shab and infrastructure in Odaisseh and that it shelled the source of missile fire that had targeted the Shtula and Ramim Ridge area.
- On March 24, the IDF said it [conducted](#) airstrikes against a Hezbollah observation post in Mays al-Jabal and a Hezbollah facility in Blida.
- On March 24, AFP [reported](#) that the IDF conducted an airstrike against a vehicle in the town of Sariwi, Lebanon, near the Lebanese-Syrian border. According to the report, a Syrian national was killed in the strike.
- On March 23, the IDF said it [struck](#) buildings used by Hezbollah in Kafr Kila, Maqoura, Ayta ash-Shab, and an observation post in Khiam.

- On March 22, the IDF [said](#) that it launched strikes against a Hezbollah facility in the southern Lebanese town of Ayta ash-Shab, shelled the site of a projectile attack against the northern Israeli town of Metula that day, and intercepted a “suspicious aerial target” that crossed into Israel from Lebanon.
- The IDF [said](#) on March 22 that it targeted Hezbollah buildings in Khiam, Ayta ash-Shab, and Taybeh in southern Lebanon.
- On March 22, Lebanon’s Foreign Ministry [said](#) it planned to file an urgent complaint with the United Nations Security Council over what it called Israel’s violation of its sovereignty by disrupting its navigation systems. The IDF has reportedly been blocking some GPS systems amid the ongoing war in Gaza and its clashes with Lebanon’s Hezbollah, although Lebanon did not provide specific details regarding how Israel has disrupted its navigation systems.

### West Bank

- On March 25, according to local Palestinian media sources, the IDF [conducted](#) overnight raids throughout the West Bank. According to reports, firefights broke out near Jenin, causing no injuries.

### Humanitarian Efforts

- On March 24, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) head Philippe Lazzarini [announced](#) that Israel has notified the UN that it will “no longer approve UNRWA food convoys to the north [of Gaza.]”
- On March 24, *The Times of Israel* reported, citing an Israeli official, that Prime Minister Netanyahu will likely soon appoint a senior Israeli official to [oversee](#) Gaza aid issues.
- United States Central Command (CENTCOM) announced on March 24 that, in a joint operation with Jordan, it airdropped “13,080 meal equivalents, including rice, flour, milk, pasta and canned foods,” into northern Gaza. The airdrop involved U.S. Air Force C-130 aircraft and Jordanian-provided food.
- On March 23, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres traveled to the Rafah crossing on the Egyptian-Gaza border and [told](#) reporters that aid delays are “more than tragic” and a “moral outrage.” Guterres called for “an ironclad commitment by Israel for total, unfettered access for humanitarian goods throughout Gaza.”
  - » During Guterres’s [visit](#), Mohamed Shousha, Egypt’s Sinai regional governor, told him that roughly 7,000 trucks were waiting in North Sinai to deliver aid into Gaza but that Israel’s inspection procedures had slowed relief efforts.
- Secretary Blinken [said](#) to journalists at Ben Gurion Airport before departing Israel on March 22 that “one hundred percent of the population of Gaza is acutely food insecure. One hundred percent is in need of humanitarian assistance.” He added, “there have been some positive steps taken in recent days to improve the situation, but it’s not enough. We talked about what needs to happen to get much more assistance to many more people more effectively.”
- Reuters [reported](#) on March 22 that according to the State Department, “in a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, [Secretary Blinken] emphasized the need to protect civilians in Gaza and sustain humanitarian aid through both land and sea routes.”

### *Ceasefire and Hostage Negotiations*

- A [report](#) by Israel's *Channel 12* on March 24 indicated that Israel sent a detailed document to Hamas with its positions for all three phases of a deal that would include the release of all hostages in exchange for a larger number of Palestinian prisoners than Israel had been previously willing to release.
  - » While the framework for a deal in February that was negotiated in Paris had included the release of 400 Palestinian security prisoners in exchange for 40 women, children, sick and elderly hostages during the first phase of a 6-week ceasefire, Israel is now reportedly prepared to release "almost double that number," according to *Channel 12*, including 100 people convicted of murder. Other Israeli media outlets [reported](#) that Israel is willing to release 700 to 800 security prisoners in return for the 40 hostages.
- On March 22, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that according to an anonymous Israeli official, "there has been no real progress" in hostage negotiations with Hamas, but "the Americans are dressing it up as progress." The official also said, "the pressure to move forward is coming from them [the Americans]."
- *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on March 22 that according to Israel's *Channel 12*, during a "dramatic" meeting, members of the Israeli war cabinet and Israeli defense officials pushed Netanyahu to endow the hostage negotiation team in Doha, Qatar with a wider mandate. Ronen Bar, head of the Shin Bet security agency, reportedly said he would not travel to Qatar for further negotiations unless he was allowed to exhibit more flexibility in the discussions.

### *Casualties and Hostages*

- Over 1,200 people were [killed](#) in Israel, and 13,000 Israelis have been [injured](#) in the war.
  - » 596 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
    - 252 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
    - The IDF [announced](#) the death of Sgt. First Class Lior Raviv, 21, from Rishon Lezion.
    - On March 22, Sgt. First Class Ilay David Garfinkel, 21, from Sitria, a member of the Commando Brigade's Duvdevan unit, was [killed](#) in a sniper attack near the West Bank settlement of Dolev.
    - As of March 15, 1,480 IDF soldiers have been [injured](#) during ground combat in Gaza, including 310 who have been severely injured.
  - » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 34 [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 32,333 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 74,694 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.”

- » On March 21, Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) [said](#) that during a virtual meeting that day with Senate Republicans, Israel’s Prime Minister Netanyahu assessed that the number of people killed in Gaza was approximately 28,000.
- » Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) on March 10 that Israel 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 450 people have been [killed](#), and at least 4,700 have been wounded in the West Bank.
- The IDF [claims](#) that it has killed at least 1,500 infiltrators from Gaza since the start of the war.
- 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 deceased hostage bodies.
  - » Israeli officials have confirmed the [deaths](#) of at least [34](#) of the 134 hostages captured on October 7, as well as two additional hostages who were abducted prior to October 7.
  - » Many of the hostages are foreign or dual nationals, including up to 5 [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 22, after Secretary Blinken met with the families of dual U.S.-Israeli citizens held hostage in Gaza, the Hostage and Missing Families Forum [said](#), “we extend our sincere gratitude to Secretary Blinken and the Biden administration for their continuing support and assistance.”
  - » The Forum’s statement also said, “we urgently call on all parties to apply maximum pressure to secure a deal for the prompt and safe release of our loved ones. Each passing day is an eternity of torment for our families. We implore the international community to leave no stone unturned.”

### *Iranian Involvement and Response*

- On March 23, between 6:50 and 9:50 a.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) six drones from Yemen over the southern Red Sea. U.S. forces, including the USS *Carney*, engaged the drones. Five then crashed into the Red Sea, and one flew inland to Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

- On March 23, from 2:50 to 4:30 a.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) four anti-ship ballistic missiles from Yemen over the Red Sea near the MV *Huang Pu*, a Panamanian-flagged, Chinese-owned, Chinese-operated oil tanker. The attack caused limited damage to the ship and a fire that was extinguished within 30 minutes.
- On March 22, between approximately 4:22 a.m. and 11:10 p.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) four anti-ship ballistic missiles from Yemen toward the Red Sea. There were no reported injuries or damage.

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

- On March 25, Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [arrived](#) in Washington to [meet](#) with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, CIA chief William Burns, and other senior Biden administration officials.
  - » According to a [statement](#) from Gallant, his visit will “focus on preserving Israel’s qualitative edge and ways to achieve the common goal, victory over Hamas and the return of the hostages. The trip will focus on Israel’s ability to acquire air platforms and weaponry, but no less importantly, on Israel-U.S. relations and the goals to maintain Israel’s security, first in Gaza, then in Lebanon.”
  - » Gallant added, “we will also deal with the way we return the residents of the north to their homes, whether through a military operation or an agreement. I want to thank, from the bottom of my heart, the American government, and my friend Lloyd Austin, for the invitation to come to the U.S. at a crucial time to maintain the special and important relationship between the two countries.”
- *The Washington Post* [reported](#) on March 25, citing an Israeli official, that an Israeli delegation including Israel’s Minister for Strategic Affairs and former JINSA Distinguished Fellow Ron Dermer and Tzachi Hanegbi, head of Israel’s National Security Council, is set to arrive in Washington that day.
  - » The delegation is arriving at the request of the Biden administration, which seeks to discuss “U.S. concerns about Israel’s current Rafah planning” with the delegation and “lay out an alternative approach.”
- When asked during a March 24 [interview](#) with *ABC News*’s “This Week” about whether Israel would face consequences for launching a large ground operation in Rafah, Vice President Kamala Harris responded that “we’re going to take it one step at a time,” and “I am ruling out nothing.”
  - » She added, “we have been clear in multiple conversations and in every way that any major military operation in Rafah would be a huge mistake ... I have studied the maps. There’s nowhere for those folks to go. We’re looking at about a million and a half people in Rafah who are there because they were told to go there ... so we’ve been very clear that it would be a mistake to move into Rafah with any type of military operation.”
- On March 23, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) gave a [speech](#) on the floor of the House of Representatives in which she alleged that “if you want to know what an unfolding genocide looks like, open your eyes. It looks like the forced famine of 1.1 million innocents. It looks like thousands of children eating grass as their bodies consume themselves, while trucks of food are slowed and halted just miles away. It looks like good and decent people who do nothing. Or too little. Too late.”



- *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on March 22, citing Israel's *Walla* outlet, that Secretary Blinken told Prime Minister Netanyahu and his cabinet during a meeting that Israel's lack of a "day after" plan for Gaza risks embroiling Israel in Gaza for years and jeopardizes Israeli security and international standing. Blinken reportedly urged, "you don't understand this," and, "when you do, it might be too late."
- Immediately before leaving Israel on March 22, Secretary Blinken [said](#) to journalists at Ben Gurion Airport that an operation in Rafah "is not the way to" defeat Hamas and ensure Israeli security.
  - » He argued, "it risks killing more civilians. It risks wreaking greater havoc with the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It risks further isolating Israel around the world and jeopardizing its long-term security and standing." Blinken added, "it really requires an integrated humanitarian, military and political plan."
  - » In response to Secretary Blinken's comments that a Rafah offensive would risk "further isolating Israel," Senator John Fetterman (D-PA) [posted](#) on X, "hard disagree. Israel shouldn't face isolation when Hamas terrorists are still present and hiding behind civilians. Hamas owns this humanitarian catastrophe and must surrender, release the hostages NOW, or be eliminated."
- On March 22, between approximately 4:22 a.m. and 11:10 p.m. local time, the United States [struck](#) four Houthi drones in Yemen. CENTCOM also targeted three Houthi underground storage facilities in Yemen.
- On March 22, sixteen Senate Democrats and independent Senator Bernie Sanders released a [statement](#) claiming that Israel is violating the Biden administration's policy that recipients of U.S. weapons cannot impede U.S. humanitarian efforts. Violating the policy could result in the United States cutting off arms transfers to Israel.
  - » Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Peter Welch (D-VT), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Tom Carper (D-DE), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Ed Markey (D-MA), Tina Smith (D-MN), Laphonza Butler (D-CA), Jon Ossoff (D-GA), and Chris Murphy (D-CT) signed the statement.
- On March 25, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) [voted](#) to pass a resolution that "demands an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan respected by all parties leading to a permanent sustainable ceasefire, and also demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages." The resolution was put forward by the 10 elected UNSC members, with Russia, China, and the 22-nation Arab Group at the United Nations backing it. The United States abstained from the vote, and all other 14 UNSC countries voted in favor of it.
  - » On March 25, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [canceled](#) the delegation led by Israel's National Security Council head Tzachi Hanegbi and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer to visit the United States. He had [warned](#) earlier that day that he would cancel the trip if the United States did not veto any resolution calling for a ceasefire without conditioning it on the release of the hostages.
  - » On March 22, eleven UNSC members [voted](#) for a U.S.-proposed resolution, but three nations voted against it, including Russia and China, who have veto power as permanent members. Algeria also voted against the resolution, and Guyana abstained.
- On March 24, France's President Emmanuel Macron [warned](#) Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a phone call that any forced transfer of people from Rafah would be "a

war crime.” Macron also strongly condemned Israel’s decision on March 22 to appropriate 800 hectares of land in the West Bank for new settlements.

- On March 22, Macron [said](#) at the conclusion of an EU summit in Brussels, “following the Russian and Chinese veto [of a UN Security Council ceasefire resolution] a few minutes ago, we are going to resume work on the basis of the French draft resolution in the Security Council and work with our American, European and Arab partners to reach an agreement.”
  - » He added, “what is important to note is that the US has changed its position and has indicated its desire to now very clearly defend a ceasefire, which is a good thing for us and for the progress of our draft.”
- Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez [said](#) on March 22 that his country, Ireland, Malta, and Slovenia will begin a process to eventually recognize a Palestinian state, which would likely occur before the end of the four-year legislature.
  - » A joint statement issued by Ireland about the matter said, “we are agreed that the only way to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region is through implementation of a two-state solution, with Israeli and Palestinian States living side-by-side, in peace and security.”
- On March 22, shipping company Maersk [said](#) in a statement, “we continue with our own assessment that the current situation does not allow us to make a similar decision [as other companies to resume voyages through the Red Sea].”
  - » The statement also said, “we still believe that sailing via the Cape of Good Hope and around Africa is the most reasonable solution at the moment and the one that currently allows the best supply chain stability.”

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

- On March 24, anti-Israel protesters [clashed](#) with riot police in Amman, Jordan, outside of the Embassy of Israel. Several protesters were detained. Protesters were filmed chanting, “no Zionist embassy on Jordanian land,” and “we want to go [to] the borders and kill and kidnap Zionist soldiers. Revenge ... revenge ... Oh Hamas, bomb Tel Aviv.”
- On March 22, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) [announced](#) that due to the “current security situation,” a soccer match between Israel and Bosnia-Herzegovina originally scheduled for the week of March 24 has been canceled.
- On March 21, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO) [wrote](#) to the leaders of Cornell University, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Pennsylvania citing incidents of antisemitism at the universities and requesting answers about the schools’ efforts to combat antisemitism. The letter suggested that the universities are at risk of losing their tax-exempt status.

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