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

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

- JINSA Distinguished Fellow LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.) argued on April 10 in [The Cipher Brief](#) that “the extent to which the world seems to ignore the impact of Hamas’ illicit tactics on such tragedies [the strike that accidentally killed seven World Central Kitchen aid workers] is both perplexing and disappointing. It is no secret that the enemies the IDF confronts in Gaza constantly seek to complicate IDF attack decisions by failing to distinguish themselves from the civilian population and by using civilians to shield military assets.”
- On April 9, *Univision* aired an [interview](#) with President Biden in which he argued “for the Israelis to just call for a ceasefire, allow for the next six, eight weeks, total access to all food and medicine going into the country,” a seeming reversal of his administration’s policy to pursue a ceasefire and hostage deal that both Israel and Hamas agree upon.
 - » However, the interview was taped on April 3, two days after an Israeli strike killed seven World Central Kitchen aid workers in Gaza and a day before Biden had a phone call with Prime Minister Netanyahu in which the president reportedly threatened to alter U.S. support for Israel if it did not change its approach in Gaza.
 - » Hours before the interview aired and afterward, administration officials denied that there has been a change in U.S. policy, with U.S. National Security Advisor [Jake Sullivan](#) and Secretary of State [Antony Blinken](#) blaming Hamas for the lack of a deal.
 - » On April 10, a day after Biden’s interview, [reports](#) indicated that Hamas had rejected the U.S. ceasefire proposal, reportedly because it did not mention ending the war, which would enable Hamas’s political and military survival in Gaza.
- On April 8, Senators Joni Ernst and Jacky Rosen and Representative Claudia Tenney offered remarks as part of a JINSA [webinar](#) about the six-month anniversary of the October 7 attack.
 - » Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) [expressed](#) that “October 7 will forever be seared in our lives. Countless individuals taken hostage by Hamas. Innocent men, women, children, and

elderly. We must remember, and we must get them back. This war must end with victory for Israel.”

- » Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV) [noted](#) that “we must not rest until all remaining hostages are free and reunited with their families. History has shown what happens when the world abandons the Jewish people. And it’s up to us to make sure it never happens again.”
- » Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY) [acknowledged](#) that “we remember the 1,200 Israelis slaughtered at the hands of Iran-backed Hamas terrorists ... Now more than ever, it is vital that we reaffirm our support for Israel, our most important ally in the fight against terrorism in the Middle East.”
- On April 8, one day after the six-month anniversary of the October 7 attack, JINSA hosted a [webinar](#) to discuss the current situation and outlook for Israel, Gaza, the U.S.-Israel relationship, and the Middle East more broadly.
 - » IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, a JINSA distinguished fellow, indicated that “I didn’t think [six months ago] about the duration of the war because I didn’t know what war it would be. I didn’t know if Hezbollah would intervene ... We didn’t take into account the fact that we have to fight parallel under the ground and on the ground ... I didn’t think about the influence of the hostages on the war itself and how it would slow the IDF ... I didn’t understand the character of the new war ... [an American expert told me] that this war will be taught at schools in the future because it’s the first time that an army has to fight under the ground and on the ground.”
 - » IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, JINSA’s Julian and Jenny Josephson Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs, argued that “the strategic goal set by the political echelon [six months ago] ... it was basically to dismantle Hamas’s capabilities ... I will say that 20 out of 24 battalions were dismantled ... when it comes to the military leadership of Hamas, it seems like we still have a long way to go.”
 - » IDF MG (ret.) Amikam Norkin, a JINSA distinguished fellow, noted that “we saw in the American news that ... the Iranians might attack Israel with cruise missiles and drones from many fronts. It’s a very high challenge for the Israeli military ... they should focus on the defense plans from the air and from the ground. But this is the right time for regional cooperation, for cooperation [from] the American forces in the Middle East who can support Israel with layers of defense capabilities, like the AWACS, for example.”
 - » John Hannah, JINSA’s Randi and Charles Wax Senior Fellow, argued, “on the one hand, I really thought this would be a different kind of war and a longer war, and I didn’t think it would take this long ... if you had told me then that the American support for Israel to continue the fight would have lasted well into 2024, I may have bet against it ... so on the one hand, I’m pleasantly surprised ... I give the Biden administration a lot of credit, a lot of credit for what it’s done militarily to support Israel ... and yet obviously, it looks like we’re about to see the limits of that.”

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.

- Israel's *Israel Hayom* outlet [reported](#) on April 9 that a group of hackers infiltrated Defense Ministry computers and stole sensitive information, later publishing numerous documents purportedly owned by the ministry online to sell.
- On April 9, Israel's *Makor Rishon* outlet [reported](#), citing government figures, that over 100 suspects were arrested throughout the month of Ramadan for charges related to terrorism, including incitement. Of these approximately 100 suspects, roughly 60 were arrested on the Temple Mount.
 - » According to the report, the figures represent an approximately 80 percent decrease from last year's Ramadan arrest figures.

Gaza

- On April 8, Israel released video from its interrogation of Tariq Salami Otha Abu Shlouf, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) spokesperson, who "revealed details of the operational method used by the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip to manipulate the Arabic and international media, with a focus on creating false narratives and lies about what is happening in the Gaza Strip," Israel's *Arutz Sheva* outlet [reported](#).
 - » Regarding the October explosion at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza caused by a misfired PIJ rocket but originally blamed on Israel, he said, "to erase this story, the movement (Islamic Jihad) made some moves, it made up a story that the rocket belonged to the occupation (Israel) and that the target was the [hospital] building."
 - » He also said that terrorist groups in Gaza use "all of the hospitals," "because there is internet there 24 hours, there is electricity 24 hours."

Lebanon

- Sirens [sounded](#) in Betzet, Rosh Hanikra, Shlomi, [Kiryat Shmona](#), and other close-by towns.
- On April 10, one rocket [fired](#) from Lebanon at Kiryat Shmona was intercepted by the Iron Dome air defense system.
- On April 8, the IDF [said](#) that terrorists in Lebanon fired a salvo of 15 rockets toward the Hanita region in northern Israel, all of which struck unpopulated areas and caused no reported damage or injuries.
- On April 8, the IDF said that the Iron Dome [intercepted](#) a "suspicious aerial target," likely a drone, over Metula that was fired from Lebanon. Shortly before, terrorists in Lebanon fired numerous rockets toward the Western Galilee and Mount Dov areas, according to the IDF.

Syria

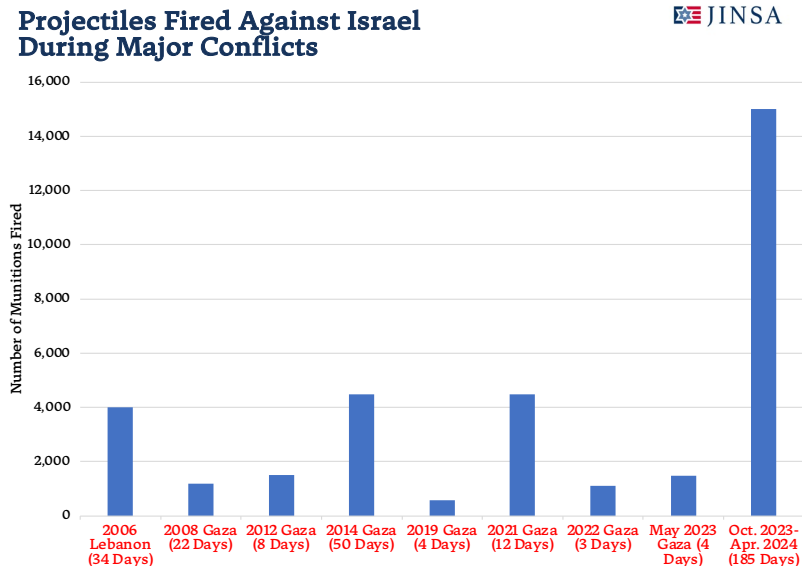
- Sirens sounded in [Yonatan](#).
- On April 8, the IDF [said](#) that the rocket launched from Syria toward the Golan Heights that triggered sirens in Yonatan struck an unpopulated area, inflicting no injuries.

West Bank

- *The New York Times* [reported](#) on April 9 that Iran is "employing intelligence operatives, militants and criminal gangs [throughout the Middle East] to deliver weapons to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, according to officials from the United States, Israel and Iran."
 - » The report also said, "the goal, as described by three Iranian officials, is to foment unrest against Israel by flooding the enclave with as many weapons as it can."

Red Sea

- Sirens sounded in [Eilat](#).
- On April 8, Israel’s ship-mounted version of the Iron Dome, the C-Dome, [intercepted](#) a drone that entered Israeli airspace near Eilat, marking the first operational use of the system.
 - » That day, video footage [showed](#) two interceptor missiles detonating above Eilat.



IDF Operations

- According to an April 9 [report](#) from Israel’s *Maariv* outlet, if Iran were to attack Israeli targets in response to the April 1 strike that killed several senior Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) officials in Syria, Israel would strike Iran directly.
 - » The report cites an anonymous Western security official as saying that Israel has been preparing in recent days to strike targets inside Iran in the event of such a scenario, including secret Israeli Air Force drills simulating strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities and other targets.

Gaza

- Sirens [sounded](#) in Kfar Aza.
- On April 10, Minister without portfolio Benny Gantz [claimed](#), “fighting against Hamas will take time. Boys who are now in middle school will still fight in the Gaza Strip, like in Judea and Samaria and against Lebanon.” However, he added, “from a military point of view— Hamas is defeated. Its fighters are eliminated or in hiding” and its capabilities have been “crippled.”
 - » Gantz argued, “victory will come step by step” and that Israel “will not stop. We will enter Rafah. We will return to Khan Younis. And we will operate in Gaza. Wherever there are terrorist targets—the IDF will be there.”
- *i24 News* [reported](#) on April 10 that IDF sources told Israel’s *Walla* outlet that “due to shortages in manpower as well as legal obstacles, the planned 1-kilometer no man’s land [on the Gaza side of the Israel-Gaza border] may only be 500 meters wide in some areas.”

- On April 10, the IDF [said](#) that Nahal Brigade troops continue to fight Hamas in the east-west Netzarim corridor in central Gaza that the IDF continues to control, killing numerous gunmen during the past day. The IDF also said that it conducted several airstrikes against terror targets throughout Gaza during the past day.
- On April 9, Israel's *Walla* outlet [reported](#), citing an Israeli military official, that Israel's plan for evacuating civilians from Rafah will involve four phases and is partially aimed at boosting Israel's international legitimacy.
 - » According to the report, the first phase will involve flooding the Gaza Strip with large quantities of humanitarian aid at a "dramatically expanded" level.
 - » The second phase reportedly will involve the establishment of tent villages in central Gaza, which will be facilitated in part by international aid organizations that will first receive training to assist with the task.
 - Palestinians sheltering in Rafah will reportedly be convinced to voluntarily move to said camps, and the report notes that Palestinians will not be moved out of Rafah by force.
 - According to the report, Palestinians will not be permitted during this phase or the subsequent two phases to return to northern Gaza.
 - *The Times of Israel* and *Al Arabiya* both separately [reported](#) that day that Israel had [issued](#) tenders for 40,000 tents as part of its Rafah evacuation plan. According to *Al Arabiya*, Israel is seeking tents with the capacity to hold up to 12 people.
 - » The third phase of the evacuation will reportedly consist of the establishment of electrical, gas, and water infrastructure, though it was unclear where these would be established and by whom.
 - » In the final phase, medical facilities such as hospitals and aid clinics would be established, though the report did not specify where and by whom. According to the official, Israel's defense establishment believes that enacting this four-step plan will improve Israel's global standing.
- *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on April 9 that the IDF confirmed that the goal of the 98th Division's withdrawal from Khan Younis is "to prepare for additional operations, including an expected offensive in Rafah." In addition, the IDF said that it will facilitate a higher quantity of aid shipments to Gaza to bolster its legitimacy to combat Hamas.
 - » The IDF also said that it is ready to deal with obstacles that arise as part of a hostage deal. *The Times of Israel* said this means that "the IDF believes it will have no issue in resuming fighting in the event of a lengthy truce, and it will be able to work around Palestinians potentially returning to northern Gaza as part of a hostage deal with the terror group, which has reportedly been one of Hamas's demands."
- On April 9, the IDF [said](#) that a recent airstrike in Khan Younis killed a terrorist who participated in Hamas's October 7 massacre.
- *i24 News* [reported](#) on April 8 that according to Israel's *Kan* outlet, "no [Israeli] action [in Rafah] is planned until talks with American counterparts are concluded," and "the prospective operation in Rafah is intricately tied to the resolution of a hostage agreement."
- Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) in a recorded statement on April 8 that "there is a date" for an IDF ground operation in Rafah, he was updated on hostage negotiations taking place in Cairo, and "we are working to achieve our goals all the time."

The goals, according to the prime minister, are “primarily releasing all our hostages and achieving total victory over Hamas.”

- » However, later [reports](#) indicated that Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said to U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin over the phone on April 9 that no date for an operation in Rafah has been established. U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told journalists, “if [Israel] has a date [it] hasn’t shared it with us” and said that “[Netanyahu] makes public statements [but] also talks to us in private about aspects of operations and their thinking with Rafah in some considerable detail.”
- » Similarly, U.S. State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller [said](#) on April 8 that Israel has not informed the Biden administration of a planned date for an operation in Rafah, [as did](#) U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on April 9.
- On April 8, Palestinian media [reported](#) that an Israeli airstrike on the Hamas interior ministry building in central Gaza’s Maghazi camp killed five people, including the mayor of Maghazi.
 - » The IDF [confirmed](#) that Hatem al-Ghamri, the head of Hamas’s so-called emergency committee and an operative in its military wing, was killed in the airstrike.

Lebanon

- Announcing on April 9 that it concluded a substantial drill in northern Israel with the 146th Reserve Division, Navy, Air Force, and police and rescue personnel, the IDF [said](#) that the exercise was geared toward “increasing readiness and strengthening cooperation between the forces.”
- On April 9, the IDF said that it [struck and destroyed](#) the remains of its Elbit Hermes 900 UAV that was shot down by Hezbollah with a surface-to-air missile on April 6.
- On April 8, Israel’s *Walla* outlet [reported](#) that Hezbollah’s military infrastructure in southern Lebanon within a roughly six-mile range of the Israeli border has been largely eliminated.
 - » The report, which cites IDF officials, alleges that Israel has destroyed “most” of the infrastructure—including weapons depots, launching posts, and observation posts—used by Hezbollah’s elite Radwan forces in the area near the border.
 - » According to the report, Hezbollah is increasingly facing difficulty conducting operations near the border and is also facing growing domestic criticism from Lebanese civilians for its terrorist activity.
- On April 8, the IDF [said](#) that it used fighter jets to target a Hezbollah location in Khiam in southern Lebanon.
- On April 8, the IDF said it [struck](#) Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon, including rocket launchers and other infrastructure in the town of Kfarchouba and a building in the town of Odaisseh where Hezbollah operatives had gathered.
- On April 8, the IDF said its fighter jets [conducted](#) an airstrike against a Hezbollah site in Khiam where a Hezbollah operative was spotted.

Syria

- On April 9, the IDF [said](#) it carried out a strike against a Syrian Army position in southern Syria which was being used by Lebanon’s Hezbollah.
 - » The IDF released a statement that said, “the IDF holds the Syrian regime accountable for all activities which take place within its territory and will not allow for any attempted actions which could lead to the entrenchment of Hezbollah on the Syrian front.”

- Overnight on April 9, the IDF [said](#) it targeted sites belonging to the Syrian Army in Mhajjah, in response to rocket fire on the Golan Heights. The IDF said it shelled the rocket launch site and another Syrian Army post with artillery.
- On April 8, the IDF [said](#) that it fired artillery toward the site from which a rocket was launched toward Yonatan in the Golan Heights.

West Bank

- The IDF [announced](#) that nine wanted individuals were arrested during a nighttime operation in the West Bank on April 9.
 - » In Kalandiya, IDF soldiers arrested three wanted individuals and seized two rifles and three handguns. In Tulkarm, soldiers arrested an additional six wanted individuals and interrogated more suspects. Forces also confiscated combat equipment in Idna and terror funds in Hebron.

Humanitarian Efforts

- On According to Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories ([COGAT](#)), from the beginning of the war to April 8, there have been 407,400 tons of humanitarian aid that entered Gaza on 21,638 trucks.
- On April 9, Israel's COGAT agency [announced](#) that 468 trucks were inspected and entered the Gaza Strip, a single-day record for aid trucks. The prior record had been [set](#) the previous day, in which 419 trucks entered Gaza.
 - » A total of over 1,200 aid trucks entered Gaza since April 6, according to COGAT.
 - » According to the United Nations, roughly 500 aid trucks were [entering](#) Gaza daily prior to the start of the war.
- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) [alleged](#) in an April 9 report that "there has been no significant change in the volume of humanitarian supplies entering Gaza or improved access to the north [of Gaza]."
- According to an April 9 report from Israel's *Channel 12* outlet, Hamas continues to [seize](#) control of aid trucks entering Gaza. The report claimed that many trucks do not reach Gaza's civilians at all and are instead taken over by Hamas by force.
- On April 9, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) that it had airdropped "over 50,600 U.S. meal equivalents" into northern Gaza that day.
- On April 8, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller outlined a number of steps that Israel has agreed to implement to [increase](#) the flow of aid into Gaza.
 - » Miller stated that Israel has agreed to open a new border crossing in northern Gaza, use Israel's port in Ashdod as a port of entry for aid, improve streamlining of aid traveling from Jordan to Gaza via Israel, and enhance deconfliction mechanisms to better ensure the safety of aid workers in Gaza.
 - » Miller added, "while we welcome these initial steps, it's crucial to recognize that much more needs to be done ... [these steps] must be just the starting point for a sustained Israeli commitment to ensure that the people of Gaza have their basic needs met."
 - » Noting that 304 aid trucks entered Gaza on April 7, then a single-day record, Miller said that the figure "represents a significant improvement, but it is important not just that we see the daily number continue to grow, but that it be sustained over time. Our hope is that by later this week, 350 trucks will enter Gaza each day."

- On April 8, CENTCOM [announced](#) that it airdropped “more than 6,000 pounds of Jordanian food supplies” into northern Gaza that day.
 - » According to CENTCOM, the United States has airdropped approximately 742 tons of humanitarian assistance into Gaza since the war began.

Ceasefire and Hostage Negotiations

- On April 10, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that Hamas rejected a U.S. ceasefire proposal because it did not mention ending the war.
- On April 10, Lebanon’s *Al Akhbar* outlet [reported](#), citing sources involved in negotiations, that Hamas was willing to consider a hostage release deal in which IDF troops would gradually withdraw from Gaza and Hamas would release hostages in three stages, including some prior to a full IDF withdrawal.
 - » Under the reported proposal, the three stages would each be 42 days long and be accompanied by major influxes of aid.
 - » In the first phase, IDF troops would move away from Gaza’s coastal road and permit civilians to return to northern Gaza, during which Hamas would release all civilian women, children, sick, and elderly hostages. Each hostage would be released in exchange for 30 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons.
 - Hamas would reportedly also release, as part of the first phase, female soldiers, each in exchange for 50 Palestinian prisoners.
 - » The second phase would involve Israel then agreeing to a permanent ceasefire and a full troop withdrawal from Gaza. In this phase, Hamas would release all male hostages in Hamas captivity in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israel.
 - » The third phase would then involve Hamas releasing hostage bodies in exchange for Israel lifting restrictions on goods entering Gaza and a comprehensive reconstruction of Gaza.
- On April 9, Israel’s *Channel 12* reported, citing senior Hamas sources, that Hamas is [seeking](#) a number of substantive changes to the most recent proposal.
 - » According to the report, Hamas’s primary objection to the proposal is Israel’s insistence on the installation of IDF military posts 500 meters from Gaza’s two main north-south roads in order to inspect Palestinians returning north.
 - » Hamas is also reportedly seeking the release of a greater figure than the 900 Palestinians that Israel reportedly proposed be released from Israeli prisons in a prospective swap. In such a deal, Hamas reportedly would release 40 hostages held in captivity in Gaza.
 - » The report also cited the Hamas official as saying that Hamas now holds fewer than 70 hostages in captivity.
- Citing *Al Jazeera*’s correspondence with unnamed sources, *i24 News* [reported](#) on April 8 that the latest hostage deal terms proposed in Cairo involve several steps:
 - » Israel would facilitate resettlement of displaced Palestinians to northern Gaza while 500 aid trucks enter Gaza daily and Israel releases 900 Palestinian prisoners, 100 of whom have life sentences. Terrorists in Gaza would free 40 hostages. Next, Gazan terrorists would release every hostage.

- When asked about President Biden’s failure to achieve a ceasefire and hostage release deal during a White House press conference on April 9, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan [responded](#) that “it says more about the fact that you have a party, Hamas, [that] is holding innocent people that it took hostage six months ago.”
 - » He explained, “there could be a ceasefire in place today that would extend for several weeks to be built upon longer if Hamas would be prepared to release some of those people, so let’s train the attention where it belongs, which is the world should say at this moment that ‘Hamas, it’s time. Let’s go. Let’s get that ceasefire.’”
 - » Sullivan added, “I believe Israel is ready and Hamas should step up to the table and be prepared to do so as well.”
 - » Sullivan also [praised](#) Israel’s withdrawal from southern Gaza and indicated that it “create[d] a greater opening for the movement of humanitarian goods around Gaza at a critical moment when there is a real humanitarian crisis there.”
 - He noted that “we welcome the opportunity to move more trucks in and around Gaza so that innocent civilians can get the food, water, medicine and other essentials that they need.”
- On April 9, Secretary of State Antony Blinken [explained](#) that there is a “very serious” offer for a ceasefire and hostage deal that “should be accepted.” Blinken added, “Hamas could [end all of this] immediately and get a ceasefire that would benefit people throughout Gaza as well as of course get the hostages homes. I think the fact that it continues to not say ‘yes’ is a reflection of what it really thinks about the people of Gaza, which is not much at all.”
 - » Blinken stated that Hamas “has an opportunity now to agree to the proposal on a ceasefire and hostages. The ball is in Hamas’s court. The world is watching to see what it does.”
 - » He further [argued](#) that “so much of the understandable passion, outrage, [and] anger directed at Israel for the plight of Palestinian civilians in Gaza, some of that might also be reserved and directed for Hamas. It remains astounding to me that the world is almost deafeningly silent when it comes to Hamas.”
 - Blinken added, “we would not be where we are had [Hamas] not chosen to engage in one of the most horrific acts of brutality and terrorism on October 7 and had they then, having done that, not refused these many, many months to get out of the way of civilians, to stop hiding behind them, to put down their arms, to release hostages, to surrender. Where is the outrage there?”
- On April 8, Qatar’s *Al-Araby Al-Jadeed* outlet [reported](#), citing Egyptian sources, that the latest proposal on the table would involve the release of 40 hostages held by Hamas and the return of some displaced Palestinian civilians to northern Gaza. Reportedly, the proposal does not include a commitment to a permanent ceasefire.
 - » White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [stated](#) on April 8 that hostage deal negotiators are currently awaiting a response from Hamas to the latest proposal.
 - » That day, a number of media outlets offered [conflicting reports](#) regarding the status of Hamas’s response to the proposal.
 - Reuters reported, citing a Hamas official, that Hamas was still reviewing the proposal, but Reuters later reported, citing a second Hamas official, that the group had rejected the proposal.

- AFP subsequently reported, citing a third Hamas official, that the group was still reviewing the proposal.

Casualties and Hostages

- Over 1,200 people were [killed](#) in Israel, and 13,000 Israelis have been [injured](#) in the war.
 - » 604 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 260 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - As of April 6, more than 1,550 IDF soldiers have been [injured](#) during ground combat in Gaza, including 317 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 33,360 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 75,900 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 459 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 4,750 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, [eight](#) 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 [35](#) 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.
 - » According to an April 8 [report](#) citing Israel's *Channel 12*, Hamas has told hostage deal mediators that it does not have 40 hostages still alive in the "humanitarian category," meaning women, children, and sick or elderly hostages.

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On April 10, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [stated](#) that "when they [Israel] attack the consulate, it is as if they have attacked our soil." He added, "the evil regime made a mistake and must be punished, and shall be punished."
- On April 9, Director General of Israel's National Cyber Directorate Gaby Portnoy [indicated](#) that "the [cyber] attack intensity is higher than ever before with Iranian and Hezbollah groups cooperating to attack Israel in every sector."
 - » Portnoy revealed that Iranian proxy hackers have attacked Israeli targets from Tehran under the guise of a tech company. The civilian hackers, who are affiliated with Iran's Intelligence Ministry and Lebanese Cedar, a Hezbollah-linked group, were responsible for the cyberattack against the Ziv Medical Center in Safed in November.
 - » During the first three months after the October 7 attack, Israel faced 2.5 times more cyber attacks than during previous years, with a total of 3,380 incidents, according to Israel's National Cyber Directorate's 2023 annual report. Over that period, it categorized roughly 800 cyber attacks as having "significant potential for damage."
- On April 9, Iran's IRGC Navy Commander Alireza Tangsiri [told](#) pro-Hezbollah Lebanese outlet *Al-Mayadeen* that "we can close the Hormuz Strait, but are not doing so. However, if the enemy comes to disrupt us, we will review our policy."
 - » He added, "we know that the Zionists were not brought to the UAE for economic purposes, but rather for security and military work. This is a threat to us and should not happen."
- On April 9, at approximately 3:00 a.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) an anti-ship ballistic missile from Yemen over the Gulf of Aden that was likely targeting the MV *Yorktown*, a U.S.-flagged, U.S.-owned vessel that was being escorted by the USS *Laboon* and USS *Mason*. The *Mason* later shot down the missile.
- On April 8, *CNN* [reported](#) that U.S. intelligence has assessed that Iran is unlikely to directly retaliate against Israel for an April 1 strike in Syria that killed several senior IRGC officials, but may use proxies to strike Israel in a large-scale attack.
 - » According to the report, which cited sources familiar with relevant U.S. intelligence findings, "Iran is wary of a dramatic escalation in the fighting" and "does not want to give the United States or its allies an excuse to attack Iran directly."
 - » The report alleged that Iran and its proxy militia groups also do not want to attack U.S. troops in the region due to Iran's desire to avoid eliciting a strong U.S. response against it.

- » However, the report also notes that U.S. intelligence “assesses that Iran has urged several of its proxy militia groups to simultaneously launch a large-scale attack against Israel, using drones and missiles.”
- On April 8, the Houthis [launched](#) one drone from Yemen over the Red Sea. The United States later neutralized the drone.
- On April 7, at approximately 8:00 a.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) an anti-ship ballistic missile from Yemen toward the Gulf of Aden near where a coalition ship was escorting the MV *Hope Island*, a Marshall Islands-flagged, U.K.-owned, and Italian-operated cargo ship.

U.S. and International Response

- On April 9, a group of Republican senators led by Senators Ted Budd (R-NC), Rick Scott (R-FL), and Joni Ernst (R-IA) introduced [legislation](#) to downgrade Qatar’s status as a major non-NATO ally if it does not pressure Hamas to release the hostages, stop providing aid to the terrorist group, and expel its members from Qatar.
- On April 9, Representatives Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Brad Schneider (D-IL), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Jim Baird (R-IN), Kathy Manning (D-NC), Norma Torres (D-CA), Rudy Yakym (R-IN), Jake Auchincloss (D-MA), and Dan Goldman (D-NY) went to the [House floor](#) to mark the six-month anniversary of the October 7 attack and spotlight the hostages still held by terrorists in Gaza.
 - » Several family members of U.S. hostages attended, and Representative Hoyer offered remarks.
- On April 9, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin [testified](#) before the Senate that Israel has made “changes in behavior” following President Biden’s conversation with Prime Minister Netanyahu after an Israeli airstrike errantly killed several aid workers last week. Secretary Austin stated that the “conversation did have a positive effect.”
- On April 9, Secretary Austin [testified](#) that the United States does not “have evidence of that” when asked if Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. Austin also stated that Hamas’s October 7 attack did not constitute genocide, but was a “war crime.”
- Secretary Blinken released a [statement](#) marking Eid al-Fitr on April 9 that said, “as families and communities come together, we know they do so at a time when many Muslim communities worldwide are suffering. Our thoughts turn to the plight of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, civilians in Syria, women suffering under the Taliban in Afghanistan, Uyghurs in the People’s Republic of China, Rohingya in Burma and Bangladesh, and far too many others.”
- On April 9, Congressmen Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), Rep. David Kustoff (R-TN), Rep. Michael McFaul (R-TX), and Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) [introduced](#) legislation to impose U.S. sanctions on the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC), the third-largest terror group in Gaza.
 - » According to a joint press release, PRC participated in the October 7 attack, as well as orchestrated a 2003 terrorist attack that killed three Americans.
- On April 9, CENTCOM [announced](#) that on April 4, the U.S. government transferred to Ukraine large quantities of weaponry and ammunition previously seized from an Iranian weapons transfer to the Iran-backed Houthis.
 - » The munitions were originally seized in four interdiction operations while being transferred from the IRGC to the Houthis in Yemen.

- » According to CENTCOM, the seized munitions included 5,000 AK-47 firearms, as well as machine guns, sniper rifles, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), and over 500,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition.
- On April 8, *Univision* aired an interview with President Biden during which he [explained](#), “what I’m calling for is for the Israelis to just call for a ceasefire, allow for the next six, eight weeks, total access to all food and medicine going into the country.”
 - » Biden added, “I’ve spoken with everyone from the Saudis to the Jordanians to the Egyptians. They’re prepared to move in ... They’re prepared to move this food in. And I think there’s no excuse to not provide for the medical and the food needs of those people. It should be done now.”
 - » The interview was taped on April 3, two days after an Israeli strike killed seven World Central Kitchen aid workers in Gaza and a day before Biden had a phone call with Prime Minister Netanyahu in which the president reportedly threatened to alter U.S. support for Israel if it did not change its approach in Gaza.
 - » Hours before the interview aired, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Secretary of State Antony Blinken released the statements detailed above insisting that it was Hamas, not Israel, who was holding up a ceasefire.
 - » After the interview aired, a senior White House official [claimed](#), “there is no change in our position. The president was reiterating our longstanding position: we are calling for an immediate ceasefire that would last for at least six weeks as part of a hostage deal.” The official added, “his quote [to Univision] makes that clear. This is in line with what he said at the State of the Union, and that we’ve repeatedly said.”
- On April 9, Vice President Kamala Harris [met](#) with the families of American hostages being held in Gaza to update them on the status of the ceasefire and hostage release negotiations.
- On April 9, State Department Spokesperson Mathew Miller indicated that the United States was still working to [determine](#) if the facility where seven IRGC officials were killed in an airstrike in Damascus, Syria was an Iranian consulate.
- On April 8, Secretary Austin held a phone call with Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. According to a U.S. [readout](#), the two discussed “the urgent need to dramatically increase humanitarian assistance delivery to Gaza” and the IDF investigation into the strike that killed several aid workers.
 - » The readout also stated that Gallant “provided details about the IDF’s withdrawal from portions of Gaza and the future of Israel’s campaign against Hamas” and that Austin “affirmed unwavering U.S. support for Israel’s defense in light of threats posed by Iran and its proxy network.”
- On April 8, after being asked whether the United States is investigating Israel for its wartime conduct, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller [announced](#) that the State Department has several “ongoing assessments” into Israel’s conduct in Gaza.
 - » Miller added that the State Department has “not yet reached [a] conclusion” regarding whether Israel is in violation of international humanitarian law.
- On April 8, between approximately 12:15 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. local time, the United States [struck](#) a Houthi air defense system with two missiles prepared to launch and a ground control station in Yemen.

- On April 8, Israeli Opposition Leader Yair Lapid [met](#) in Washington, D.C. with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC).
- On April 10, Ireland’s Foreign Minister Micheal Martin [stated](#), “be in no doubt, recognition of a Palestinian state will happen,” and delaying recognition “is not credible or tenable any longer.” He indicated that recognition would happen “in the next couple of weeks.”
- On April 10, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed [claimed](#), “for me, of great concern is that we have lost our moral compass on Gaza, as a humanity, as the international community ... We need to do something about that fast—we’re late.” She added, “there are thousands of children that continue to lose their lives, that live amputated. There are hundreds that we are waiting to come home, hostages.”
- On April 9, Germany’s representative [told](#) the International Court of Justice that “our history is the reason why Israel’s security has been at the core of Germany foreign policy.”
- On April 9, the UN Security Council indicated that the body would [decide](#) later this month on the Palestinian bid for full UN membership.
- On April 9, France’s Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne told journalists that France has not ruled out [imposing sanctions](#) against Israel as a means of pressuring it into increasing the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza.
- On April 9, Australia’s Foreign Minister Penny Wong stated that the Australian government is considering [recognizing](#) a Palestinian state as a means of “building momentum towards a two-state solution.”
- On April 9, a spokesperson for Israel’s Foreign Ministry [criticized](#) Norway for a [statement](#) it released on April 7 which referred to a “complete breakdown in compliance with the rules of [international] humanitarian law” and accused Israel of doing “far too little” to “distinguish between civilians and combatants.”
 - » The spokesperson, Lior Haiat, posted on X, “even six months after the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, Norway - the only country among the like-minded countries that still maintains relations with the Hamas terrorist organization - continues its disproportionate and biased position that favors Hamas.”
- On April 9, Turkey’s Trade Ministry [stated](#) that the country will impose restrictions on exports for 54 different categories of products to Israel until there is a ceasefire in Gaza.
 - » In response, multiple U.S. senators [called for](#) some form of retaliatory action against Turkey.
 - Senator Pete Ricketts (R-NE) said that the United States “should consider putting sanctions on Turkey, in response.”
 - Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) stated that imposing U.S. trade restrictions on Turkey would be “appropriate,” and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) said that the United States should consider an “economic or military” response to hostile actions against U.S. allies.
- On April 8, Jordan’s King Abdullah, France’s President Emmanuel Macron, and Egypt’s President Abdel Fatah El-Sissi co-authored an op-ed that was released in [The Washington Post](#), France’s [Le Monde](#), and Egypt’s [Al-Ahram](#) outlets, which called for a ceasefire but did not condition it on the release of the hostages or mention the military defeat of Hamas. The op-ed did call separately for the immediate release of the hostages. The op-ed also called for the UN Security Council to push for a two-state solution.

- On April 8, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres [posted](#) on X that “an information war has added to the trauma of the war in Gaza—obscuring facts and shifting blame. Denying international journalists entry into Gaza is allowing disinformation and false narratives to flourish.”

Rising Antisemitism, Protests, and Attacks

- On April 9, the Center for Information and Documentation on Israel (CIDI) [said](#) it documented a record 379 antisemitic incidents in the Netherlands in 2023, the majority of which took place after Hamas’s October 7 massacre.
 - » This represents a 245 percent increase from 2022, which had been the previous all-time high.
- On April 9, a concert hall in Brooklyn, New York, the Brooklyn Monarch, [canceled](#) an Israeli band’s upcoming show, saying their name was too “politically charged.” The band’s name, HaYehudim or I.U.D.M., translates to “The Jews.”
- On April 9, The European Broadcasting Union, the organizer of the Eurovision Song Contest, [issued](#) a statement condemning the “online abuse, hate speech, or harassment” targeting artists over Israel’s inclusion in the event.
- On April 8, London police [arrested](#) 11 people at a pro-Palestinian protest after they vandalized the UK’s Labor Party headquarters with red paint during a protest calling on the party to impose an arms embargo on Israel.
- On April 8, dozens of antisemitic flyers, many of which were placed in bags with what was suspected to be rat poison, were [distributed](#) in Chicago’s Lincoln Park area. Chicago Police said that 84 Ziploc bags had been recovered from doorways and on top of vehicles.
- On April 7, the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) [reported](#) that anti-Israel protesters in Dearborn, Michigan, chanted “Death to America” and “Death to Israel” at an al-Quds Day rally on April 5.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.), “[This Is What Happens When the Basic Rules of War Are Ignored](#),” *The Cipher Brief*, April 10, 2024
- Webinar: [Six Months Since 10/7](#), with Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY), IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, IDF MG (ret.) Amikam Norkin, John Hannah, and Blaise Misztal, April 8, 2024
- IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, “[Iran’s Ring of Fire](#),” Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, April 8, 2024
- Webinar: [Gaza War Update 4/4](#), with Michael Makovsky, IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and IDF MG (ret.) Amikam Norkin, April 4, 2024
- Ari Cicurel, [Monthly Iran Projectile Tracker: March 2024](#), April 4, 2024
- Jonathan Ruhe and Yoni Tobin, [Syria Strike Sends Clear Message to Iran](#), April 4, 2024
- Michael Makovsky and Blaise Misztal, “[After Biden’s Afghanistan fiasco, why should Israel take his advice?](#)” *The Hill*, April 3, 2024