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Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update May 22, 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 conflict between Israel, the Iranian regime, and the regime's proxies. 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

- Reports indicate Israel has updated its plans for operations in Rafah based on the urging of U.S. officials. While U.S. officials argued that these changes improved Israel's position in ceasefire and hostage negotiations, these recent talks have not yielded results, and any undue pressure on Israel to limit its operations could prevent it from achieving its objectives of dismantling Hamas's military infrastructure and securing the return of the hostages.
- During a JINSA [webinar](#) on May 20, COL Marc Warren, USA (ret.), a JINSA Distinguished Fellow, argued that the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor's request for arrest warrants for Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant "is emblematic of a larger move that's going on throughout the world ... ironically, to constrain those military forces of the very countries that are committed to adherence to the law of armed conflict."
 - » LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.), a JINSA Distinguished Fellow, explained, "the Israeli attorney general and judicial system have prosecuted and convicted prior prime ministers. So the suggestion that Israel is incapable of investigating and imposing accountability ... it's just not credible."

Last 48 Hours

Attacks Against Israel

- On May 20 and 21, Israeli leaders addressed International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Karim Khan's decision to seek arrest warrants for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.
 - » On May 20, Israel's President Isaac Herzog [said](#) on X, "taken in bad faith, this one-sided move represents a unilateral political step that emboldens terrorists around the world and violates all the basic rules of the court according to the principle of complementarity and other legal norms."

- He also said, “we will not forget who started this war, and who raped, butchered, burned, brutalized, and kidnapped innocent citizens and families,” and added that he expects “all leaders in the free world to condemn outright this step and firmly reject it.”
- » In a statement on May 20, Israel’s Minister without portfolio Benny Gantz [said](#), “the State of Israel is waging one of the just wars fought in modern history following a reprehensible massacre perpetrated by terrorist Hamas on the 7th of October,” and “Israel fights with one of the strictest moral codes in history, while complying with international law and boasting a robust independent judiciary – drawing parallels between the leaders of a democratic country determined to defend itself from despicable terror to leaders of a bloodthirsty terror organization is a deep distortion of justice and blatant moral bankruptcy.”
 - He added, “the prosecutor’s position to apply for arrest warrants is in itself a crime of historic proportions to be remembered for generations.”
- » On May 21, Opposition Leader Yair Lapid [said](#), “in The Hague they will not prosecute a prime minister who is in the middle of a historic peace process [with Saudi Arabia]. This will solve the Hague [problem] for us and the [issue of] the day-after in Gaza, and it will help us mobilize the Saudis to apply pressure regarding the issue of the hostages.”
- » On May 20, Netanyahu [said](#) in a statement, “with whatchutzpah do you dare compare the monsters of Hamas to the soldiers of the IDF, the most moral army in the world?” and “with what audacity do you compare between the Hamas that murdered, burned, butchered, raped, and kidnapped our brothers and sisters, and the IDF soldiers who are fighting a just war that is unparalleled, with a morality that is unmatched?” He referred to the comparison as “the new antisemitism.”
- » Netanyahu [said](#) to ABC on May 21, “this is absurd, it is beyond outrageous,” and “we are supplying now nearly half of the water of Gaza, we supplied only 7 percent before the war.” He added, “we have supplied over half a million tons of food and medicine with 20,000 trucks.”
 - He argued, “[Khan] is out to demonize Israel. He’s doing a hit job and creating a false symmetry between the democratically elected leaders of Israel and the terror chieftains,” and “he’s also pouring gasoline on the fires of antisemitism that are spreading around the world. He is attacking the one and only Jewish state and trying to handcuff us.”
 - He insisted, “he is creating false symmetry and false facts and doing a grave injustice to the international court,” and “I’m not concerned at all about our status. I think the prosecutor should be concerned about his status because he is really turning the ICC into a pariah institution. People are just not going to take it seriously.”
 - He went on, “they see it as a politicized thing. I hope the judges don’t confirm what he says, because they will make them into a kangaroo court.”
- » Netanyahu also [said](#) to MSNBC on May 21, “the whole thing of a deliberate starvation policy is ridiculous. It’s put forward by a guy who doesn’t check his facts. He’s receiving it from the [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] and other anti-Israeli agencies and from Palestinian sources.”
- Addressing Khan’s attempt to obtain arrest warrants for Hamas leaders Ismail Haniyeh and Mohammed Deif, Hamas [said](#) in a statement on May 20, “the Hamas movement strongly condemns the attempts of the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to equate the

victim with the executioner by issuing arrest warrants against a number of Palestinian resistance leaders.”

Gaza

- On May 21, the IDF [said](#) that terrorists in Gaza fired two rockets toward Ashkelon, one of which the Iron Dome intercepted. The other rocket fell in Gaza. No injuries or damage were reported.

Lebanon

- Sirens sounded in [Misgav Am](#) and [Malkia](#).
- On May 21, terrorists in southern Lebanon [fired](#) rockets into northern Israel, causing no injuries.
- On May 20, the IDF [said](#) that a soldier was mildly wounded after terrorists in Lebanon fired rockets toward the Biranit army base. The IDF also said that numerous additional projectile attacks were carried out in northern Israel that day.

Syria

- Sirens [sounded](#) in the Golan Heights area.
- On May 21, the IDF [said](#) that fighter pilots intercepted a “suspicious aerial target” fired from the direction of Syria. In another incident, fighter jet pilots and the Israeli Navy intercepted two objects flying toward Israel from the “eastern direction.”

IDF Operations

- On May 20, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that because “Israeli officials were expecting to host ICC officials starting this evening for a preliminary visit to plan an official visit by Karim Khan,” “Israel was taken totally by surprise by Khan’s announcement earlier today that he intends to seek arrest warrants for” Netanyahu and Gallant.
- On May 21, the Associated Press (AP) and *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that Israel seized “a camera and broadcasting equipment belonging to the Associated Press in southern Israel, accusing the news organization of violating a new media law by providing images to Al Jazeera.” The same day, Israel’s Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi [announced](#) that the equipment will be returned.
 - » Israel’s Communications Ministry said of the initial decision, “in accordance with the government decision and the instruction of the communications minister, the [Ministry] will continue to take whatever enforcement action is required to limit broadcasts that harm the security of the state.”
 - » Lauren Easton, vice president of corporate communications for the AP, said that the outlet “decries in the strongest terms the actions of the Israeli government to shut down our longstanding live feed showing a view into Gaza and seize AP equipment,” and “the shutdown was not based on the content of the feed but rather an abusive use by the Israeli government of the country’s new foreign broadcaster law. We urge the Israeli authorities to return our equipment and enable us to reinstate our live feed immediately so we can continue to provide this important visual journalism to thousands of media outlets around the world.”
 - » In response to the seizure, Israel’s Opposition Leader Yair Lapid [said](#), “the confiscation of the equipment of AP, the largest news agency in the world, by [Communications

Minister] Shlomo Karhi's men, is an act of madness. This is not Al Jazeera, this is an American media outlet that has won 53 Pulitzer Prizes.”

- Lapid added, “this government behaves as if it has decided to make sure, at any cost, that Israel will be ostracized all over the world.”
- In response, Karhi said on X that those who work for him are “dedicated professionals,” and he said, “by the way, even if you decide to become a freelancer for a terrorist channel that endangers our fighters and broadcast the locations of our forces to them with your camera, I will make sure that the Communications Ministry inspectors reach you. Shame.”

Gaza

- According to [reporting](#) from May 22, U.S. intelligence assessments suggest that 30-35% of Hamas's combatants have been killed since the beginning of the war, and that approximately 65% of Hamas's tunnel network is still functional.
 - » The United States also reportedly believes that Hamas has mobilized thousands of new members, but it is unclear whether the recruits are fighters.
- On May 22, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit [said](#) that the Israeli Air Force killed Ahmed Yasser Alkara in Khan Younis, “a significant anti-tank missile operative who carried out attacks on IDF troops during the war.” The strike also killed Hamas Nukhba force operative Saib Raed Abu Riba and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) operative Ans Muhammad Abu Ragila. The IDF said that it only carried out the strike once a child in the vicinity had left.
- On May 22, the IDF [said](#) that members of Hamas's anti-tank unit and Nukhba force operative gathered in a school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which the military targeted with an airstrike. The IDF said that the operation was “carefully planned and carried out using precise munitions” to avoid “harm to uninvolved [civilians] as much as possible.”
- On May 21, the IDF [said](#) that the Israeli Air Force launched strikes against over 70 targets in Gaza during the past day.
- On May 20, *The Washington Post's* David Ignatius [wrote](#), citing conversations with officials, that Israel has halted a plan to send two divisions into Rafah and instead will engage in more limited operations, which the United States is not expected to oppose. This decision comes in the wake of extensive U.S.-Israel disagreement, and U.S. pressure, over the purported intensity and scope of impending IDF operations in Rafah.
- On May 20, Israel's *Walla* outlet [reported](#) the IDF anticipates intense fighting in the Gaza Strip that will continue through October, and potentially longer.
- On May 20, Israel's *Walla* outlet [reported](#) that the IDF has stationed its forces along roughly two-thirds of the Egypt-Gaza border and that the IDF continues to search for cross-border smuggling tunnels along the border.

Lebanon

- On May 21, the IDF [said](#) that it killed Hezbollah commander Qassem Saqlawi in a drone strike near Tyre the previous day. According to the IDF, he was in charge of the rocket and missile unit in Hezbollah's coastal division. The IDF also said that day that it used fighter jets to target a rocket launcher in Ramyeh in southern Lebanon.

- On May 21, the IDF [conducted airstrikes](#) against Hezbollah targets in four different areas of southern Lebanon, including a Hezbollah cell in Odaisseh, a rocket launcher in Halta, and terror facilities in Ayta ash-Shab, Maroun al-Ras, and Yaroun.
- On May 21, the IDF [carried out](#) artillery shelling against rocket launching positions in southern Lebanon that were used to attack Israel that day.
- On May 20, the IDF [said](#) that it used fighter jets to destroy the rocket launcher used that day to attack the Biranit army base, as well as other targets in southern Lebanon. According to Hezbollah, IDF strikes killed five members of the terror group that day.

Syria

- On May 20, Israel's *Maariv* outlet [reported](#) that Israel killed a member of Hezbollah's elite Radwan forces in an airstrike in the al-Qusayr region of western Syria. According to [local reports](#), at least six people were killed and five were wounded in the strike.
 - » According to *Ma'ariv*, the Radwan forces are working to [reposition](#) themselves in Syria as part of a new Hezbollah strategy to attack Israel through Syria, rather than exclusively from Lebanon.

West Bank

- On May 22, Israel's *i24 News* outlet [reported](#) that Israeli security personnel are continuing an operation in Jenin that began on May 17 with an airstrike against PIJ's Jenin battalion headquarters.
 - » Israel's *Maariv* outlet [reported](#) that 30 terrorists have been neutralized thus far during the operation, including five who have been killed.
- On May 21, the Palestinian Authority's (PA) health ministry [reported](#) that seven people were killed and nine people were wounded, including three seriously, in an IDF raid in the city of Jenin. The IDF announced that it neutralized several gunmen in the area during the raid.

Humanitarian Efforts

- According to Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories ([COGAT](#)), from the beginning of the war to May 20, 572,300 tons of humanitarian aid have entered Gaza on 29,746 trucks.
- On May 22, an unnamed senior Biden administration official [stated](#) that "what should be going into Kerem Shalom is the UN assistance, which is now in Egypt. Egypt is holding that back until the Rafah crossing situation settles out." The official added, "we do not believe that aid should be held back for any reason whatsoever. Kerem Shalom is open. The Israelis have it open. And that aid should be going through Kerem Shalom."
- On May 22, Reuters [reported](#) that the United Nations "has planned new routes within the Gaza Strip to transport aid from a US-built floating pier after crowds of desperate Palestinians intercepted 11 trucks, causing a halt to deliveries that continued for a third day on Tuesday."
- On May 21, the United Nations [announced](#) that it has suspended food distribution in the southern Gazan city of Rafah due to lack of security and supplies. Abeer Etefa, a spokesperson for the UN's World Food Program, stated that "humanitarian operations in Gaza are near collapse."
 - » The United Nations claimed that no aid trucks have entered Gaza in the previous days from the U.S.-built pier off the coast.

- On May 20, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#), “the Israeli military estimates that some 950,000 Palestinians have evacuated the Rafah area in the southern Gaza Strip, as troops operate in the eastern part of the city,” and according to information the outlet’s reporters have seen, “some 300,000 to 400,000 civilians remain in Rafah, mostly in the coastal area and some parts in the center of the city.”
- On May 20, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) that “to date, over 569 metric tons of humanitarian assistance has been delivered across the temporary pier to Gaza for further distribution by humanitarian partners,” including the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, European Union, and others.
 - » Pentagon Deputy Press Secretary Maj Gen Pat Ryder later [clarified](#), however, that the shipments have not yet been distributed to civilians. When asked whether any of the aid has been distributed, Ryder said, “I don’t believe so,” and “we fully appreciate and recognize that land routes are the optimal way to get aid.”
 - » He added, “it’s also important to remember that this is a combat zone and that it is a complex operation.”
- On May 20, COGAT announced that 402 aid trucks [entered](#) Gaza that day, including from Israel’s Kerem Shalom and Erez Crossings. COGAT also claimed that aid was also delivered via the temporary pier built by the U.S. military.

Ceasefire and Hostage Negotiations

- On May 22, an unnamed senior Biden administration official [told](#) reporters that the limited operations Israel has been conducting in Rafah present “some opportunities for getting the hostage deal back on track” and that Israel’s decision to accept some U.S. recommendations regarding its operations in Rafah has helped improve its standing in the negotiations.
- On May 22, *CNN* [reported](#) that Ahmed Abdel Khalek, the senior deputy to Egypt’s intelligence chief Abbas Kamel, changed the terms of a ceasefire and hostage deal presented to Hamas after Israel had agreed to it. According to sources who spoke with *CNN*, Abdel Khalek detailed different deals to the Israelis and Hamas and that he inserted additional Hamas demands into the original framework in order to secure Hamas’s acceptance, without telling the Israelis or other mediators.
- On May 21, Qatar’s foreign ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari [said](#), “[negotiations are] close to a stalemate.”

Post-War Planning

- On May 20, *The Washington Post*’s David Ignatius [wrote](#), citing officials, that Israeli defense officials “have agreed on a strategy for ‘the day after’ that will include a Palestinian security force drawn in part from the Palestinian Authority’s administrative payroll in Gaza.”
 - » According to Ignatius, “this Palestinian force will be overseen by a governing council of Palestinian notables, backed by moderate Arab states such as Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.”
 - » Ignatius also asserted that “some Israeli officials — but not Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — accept that this governing entity would have ties with the PA in Ramallah.”

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On May 22, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem [attended](#) the funeral of Iran's former President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran.
 - » That day, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamanei [met](#) in Iran with Haniyeh.
- Following Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi's death in a helicopter crash on May 19, Iran's state-run *IRNA* news [said](#) on May 21 that new presidential elections will take place on June 28.

U.S. Response

- On May 22, an unnamed Biden administration official [told](#) reporters that "it's fair to say that the Israelis have updated their plans [for operations in Rafah]. They've incorporated many of the concerns that we have expressed."
- On May 22, U.S. National Security Council Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa Brett McGurk [told](#) reporters that a backchannel to Iran involving Oman is "a useful forum because without being able to have some exchange, the risk of miscalculation, misunderstanding can be quite high."
 - » He explained, "it's a forum for us to make very clear some of the consequences of various courses of action of Iranian behavior and policies. We've done it a number of times through this forum quite effectively, managing escalations, particularly since October 7," the official said, adding that the United States uses the channel to raise its concerns regarding Tehran's regional proxies and its nuclear weapons program.
- On May 21, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [testified](#) before the Senate that the ICC chief prosecutor's request for arrest warrants to be issued for Israeli leaders is "profoundly wrong-headed." Blinken also testified that the Biden administration is willing to work with Congress to craft a response to the ICC prosecutor's decision.
- On May 21, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators, including Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Richard Blumenthal (D-CA), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), John Fetterman (D-PA), Jim Risch (R-ID), Katie Britt (R-AL), and John Thune (R-SD), [issued](#) a joint statement condemning the ICC's chief prosecutor request for arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials.
 - » The senators pledged to "work in a bipartisan manner to strenuously object to the ICC's actions against our ally, Israel, and take appropriate steps to help Israel and protect American personnel from future ICC action."
- On May 21, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre [said](#) that Israel seizing camera and broadcasting equipment from the Associated Press was "concerning and we want to look into it."
- During [remarks](#) at the White House celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month, President Biden stated, "we stand with Israel to take out Sinwar and the rest of the butchers of Hamas. We want Hamas defeated. We'll work with Israel to make that happen."
 - » He added, "we reject the ICC's application for arrest warrants against Israeli leaders. Whatever these warrants may imply, there is no equivalence between Israel and Hamas. And it's clear Israel wants [to] do all it can to ensure civilian protection. But let me be clear. Contrary to allegations against Israel made by the International Court of Justice, what's happening is not genocide. We reject that."

- » Biden also argued, “there’s no place in any campus in America, any place in America for antisemitism, for hate speech that threatens violence of any kind against Jews or anyone else.”
- On May 20, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen C.Q. Brown [said](#) of Israel’s strategy against Hamas, “not only do you have to actually go in and clear out whatever adversary you are up against, you have to go in, hold the territory and then you’ve got to stabilize it,” and “Hamas is not just an organization, it’s an ideology,” therefore “you have to think about the overall piece to provide security not only for Israel, but in the region.”
- On May 20, U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan [met](#) in Ramallah with Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Secretary General Hussein Al Sheikh and PA Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa, where they “discussed the crisis in Gaza and efforts to end the fighting through a hostage deal and to increase the flow of humanitarian assistance. They also discussed the new PA government’s reform agenda and the importance of the international community providing financial support to enable this new government to succeed,” according to a White House readout.
- On May 20, State Department Spokesperson Mathew Miller [stated](#) that the ICC prosecutor’s decision to seek arrest warrants for Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant “will embolden Hamas and embolden the leadership of Hamas who have been the principal obstacle to achieving a ceasefire agreement.”
 - » Miller added that “the United States has been clear since well before the current conflict that the ICC has no jurisdiction over this matter.”

International Response

- On May 22, Ireland, Norway, and Spain [announced](#) they would recognize a Palestinian state beginning May 28.
 - » Norway’s Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store [stated](#), “there cannot be peace in the Middle East if there is no recognition” of a Palestinian state, and Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez [said](#) that “Spain will be accompanied by other European countries. The more there are of us, the sooner we will achieve a ceasefire. We are not going to give up.”
 - » In response, Israel [recalled](#) its ambassadors to the three countries. Israel’s Foreign Minister Israel Katz [stated](#) that the decision “send[s] a message to the Palestinians and the entire world — terror pays,” adding that the countries are “giving a prize to Hamas and Iran.”
- On May 21, the office of ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan [told](#) Israel’s *Channel 12* outlet that he requested arrest warrants for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant because “despite significant efforts by the prosecutor’s office, he did not receive information from Israel that proves genuine legal processes are taking place to check or investigate the stated crimes.”
- On May 21, the Dutch parliament [passed](#) a non-binding motion, by a single vote, stating that chanting “from the river to the sea” is incitement to violence.
- On May 20, *The Washington Post*’s David Ignatius [wrote](#), citing conversations with officials, that Saudi Arabia has agreed to a “‘near final’ draft of a security agreement with the United States that would include normalization of relations with Israel.”
 - » According to Ignatius, “as part of this deal, the kingdom expected agreement on a ‘credible pathway’ toward a two-state solution.”

- On May 20, numerous world leaders responded to ICC prosecutor Karim Khan’s announcement that he had requested arrest warrants for Prime Minister Netanyahu, Defense Minister Gallant, and Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Mohammad Deif, and Ismail Haniyeh.
 - » France’s Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne [stated](#), “these simultaneous requests for arrest warrants should not create an equivalence between Hamas and Israel.”
 - France’s Foreign Ministry also [released](#) a statement that “France supports the International Criminal Court, its independence and the fight against impunity in all situations.” The statement also indicated, “as far as Israel is concerned, it will be up to the court’s pre-trial chamber to decide whether to issue these warrants, after examining the evidence put forward by the prosecutor.”
 - » Poland’s Prime Minister Donald Tusk [argued](#), “an attempt to show that the prime minister of Israel and the leaders of a terrorist organization are the same, and the involvement of international institutions in this, is unacceptable.”
 - » Italy’s Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani [argued](#), “it is completely unacceptable that Hamas and Israel are put on the same level.” He warned, “be careful not to legitimize anti-Israeli positions that can fuel antisemitic phenomena.”
 - » China’s foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin [stated](#) that “it is hoped that the ICC will uphold its objective and impartial position and exercise its powers in accordance with the law.” He argued that there should be an end to the “collective punishment of the Palestinian people.”
 - » A spokesperson for the German government [stated](#) that “the accusations of the chief prosecutor are serious and must be substantiated.”
 - A spokesperson for the German Foreign Ministry [argued](#), “the simultaneous application for arrest warrants against the Hamas leaders on the one hand and the two Israeli officials on the other has given the false impression of equivalence.”
- On May 20, the panel of experts advising ICC prosecutor Karim Khan released a [report](#) and published an [op-ed](#) in *The Financial Times* arguing that the ICC has jurisdiction and that the standard to apply for arrest warrants had been met.
 - » The panel of experts included Lord Justice Fulford, Judge Theodor Meron CMG, Amal Clooney, Danny Friedman KC, Baroness Helena Kennedy LT KC, and Elizabeth Wilmshurst CMG KC.

Rising Antisemitism, Protests, and Attacks

- During his congressional testimony on May 21, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was [interrupted](#) by protesters who shouted that he is a “war criminal.”
- On May 21, the Associated Press [reported](#), “police [broke] up a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Michigan, less than a week after demonstrators showed up at the home of a school official and placed fake body bags on her lawn.”
- On May 21, the Associated Press [reported](#) that “graduate students at the University of California, Santa Cruz have walked off their jobs called a strike” on a rolling basis “to protest the arrests and forcible ejection by police of union members who participated in demonstrations calling for an end to the war in Gaza.”

- On May 21, The New School in New York [stated](#) that it had reached a deal with anti-Israel protesters to dismantle their encampment in exchange for an investment board holding a vote on the university divesting “from industries implicated in military and police violence in Gaza and the West Bank, and all global militarized conflict such as companies or subsidiaries involved in weapons manufacturing, military supplies and equipment, military communication, and public surveillance technology,” according to a statement from the school.

Since the War Began

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.

Casualties and Hostage Figures

- Over 1,200 people were [killed](#) in Israel, and 13,000 Israelis have been [injured](#) in the war.
 - » 631 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 282 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - As of May 22, 1,776 IDF soldiers have been [injured](#) during ground combat in Gaza, including at least 353 who have been severely injured.
 - On May 22, an IDF reservist was seriously [injured](#) during combat in northern Gaza and taken to a hospital for treatment.
 - » 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, 35,647 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 79,852 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.”
 - » Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) as of March 10 that Israel has killed approximately 13,000 Hamas operatives over the course of the war.
- According to the PA-run Palestinian Ministry of Health, at least 510 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 5,000 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, [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](#) 133 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.
 - » On May 20, the IDF [indicated](#) that the bodies of the four hostages it found last week were recovered in a hidden tunnel in Jabaliya, and the area outside of the tunnel was guarded by Hamas. The four deceased hostages were Ron Benjamin, Itzhak Gelerenter, Amit Buskila, and Shani Louk.
 - » 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.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Jonathan Ruhe and Yoni Tobin, [ICC Prosecutor Requests Arrest Warrants for Israeli Leaders](#), May 21, 2024
- Webinar: [Responding to Legal Challenges to IDF Operations in Gaza](#), with COL Marc Warren, USA (ret.), LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.), and Jonathan Ruhe, May 20, 2024
- Webinar: [Gaza Update 5/16](#), with IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, and Ari Cicurel, May 16, 2024
- LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.) and Emanuela-Chiara Gillard, “[The War Crime Of Starvation – The Irony Of Grasping At Low Hanging Fruit](#),” *Articles of War*, May 15, 2024
- Jacob Olidort, [Possible Terrorist Ties to U.S. Campus Protests](#), May 15, 2024
- “[Open Letter from Retired U.S. Military Leaders in Support of Israel](#),” Originally Released on May 10, 2024, Updated and Published in *The New York Times* on May 15, 2024