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Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update May 28, 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 Tuesday and Friday this week. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

Analysis

- On May 28, Reuters [reported](#) that Israeli tanks reached the center of Rafah, Hamas's last stronghold in Gaza. Israeli operations there are vital to Israel's objectives of destroying Hamas's military infrastructure and recovering the hostages.
 - » A rocket barrage on May 26 fired from Rafah toward Tel Aviv and central Israel underscored the importance of removing Hamas's military capacity in Rafah and throughout Gaza in order to restore Israel's security.
- Following an IDF [strike](#) in Rafah on May 27 that killed two senior Hamas leaders and dozens of civilians, which Prime Minister Netanyahu stated was a "tragic mishap," the IDF has announced an investigation into the incident, demonstrating its commitment to accountability, unlike Hamas. Israeli officials indicated that the IDF took numerous precautions before the strike "to reduce the chance of harming uninvolved [civilians], including aerial surveillance, the use of precision munitions, and additional intelligence information."
- On May 24, four ICJ judges, including two who voted for an order for Israel to "immediately halt" its operations in Rafah, [indicated](#) that the court's ruling did not require Israel to halt all operations in Rafah and was limited to ordering the suspension of operations that "could bring about physical destruction in whole or in part" of the Palestinian population in Rafah. The order has caused confusion about what actions the court expects Israel to take.

Since May 24

Attacks Against Israel

- On May 25, *The Times of Israel* [said](#), "a Hamas terror cell planned to carry out terror attacks on the Israeli embassy in Berlin and a US military base in Germany, the *Welt am Sonntag* German newspaper reports." The suspect was reportedly in contact with Hamas operatives based in Lebanon.

Gaza

- Rockets struck [Sa'ad](#) and [Herzliya](#), and sirens [sounded](#) in Herzliya, Kfar Shmaryahu, Ramat Hasharon, Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva, and other nearby towns, as well as [Sa'ad and Nahal Oz](#).
- On May 27, Hamas [said](#) in a statement, “in light of the horrific Zionist massacre this evening committed by the criminal occupation army against the tents of the displaced ... we call on the masses of our people in the West Bank, Jerusalem, the occupied territories and abroad to rise up and march angrily against the ongoing Zionist massacre against our people in the sector.”
- On May 27, terrorists in Gaza [fired](#) a rocket toward southern Israeli towns near Gaza, which impacted an open area, according to the IDF. There were no injuries or damage.
- On May 26, eight rockets were [launched](#) from Rafah targeting central Israel, several of which were intercepted by Israeli air defense. Hamas [took credit](#) for the attack.
 - » A home in Herzliya was [damaged](#) in the attack.
 - » On May 26, a video circulating on social media [showed](#) a crater from the rocket attack, which appeared to have hit an open area near buildings in Kfar Saba.
- On May 26, reports indicated that rockets fired by terrorists in Gaza [damaged](#) a vehicle in Sa'ad in southern Israel but caused no injuries.

Lebanon

- Rockets struck [Avivim](#) and [Dovev](#), and sirens [sounded](#) in Kiryat Shmona, Tel Hai, and Misgav Am.
- On May 28, the IDF [said](#) three anti-tank missiles were fired from Lebanon toward Shtula. No injuries were reported.
- On May 27, suspected drone alerts [sounded](#) in Beit Hillel, Kfar Yuval, and Metula.
- On May 27, a barrage of at least 35 rockets [were](#) launched from Lebanon towards the Mount Meron area. The IDF said the rockets struck open areas and that there were no reported injuries, but the rockets sparked at least one fire near Safsufa.
- On May 27, Hezbollah [launched](#) two one-way attack drones toward northern Israel. The IDF said both drones crossed into Israeli air space and that one drone was downed by air defenses, and the other struck an area in Western Galilee. The IDF is investigating why it failed to intercept the second drone.
- On May 27, Hezbollah [launched](#) an anti-tank guided missile towards Metula, which damaged one home.
- On May 27, at least one rocket launched from Lebanon [impacted](#) in Kiryat Shmona.
- On May 26, Hezbollah [fired](#) a barrage of more than 10 rockets targeting the Western Galilee. In Kiryat Shmona, a man in his 40s was lightly injured in the attack.
- On May 26, terrorists in Lebanon [fired](#) an anti-tank guided missile toward Avivim in northern Israel, impacting a home. A male occupant of the home was rescued.
- On May 25, Israel's *Channel 12 News* [reported](#) that around 10 rockets were fired from southern Lebanon towards the Western Galilee, and another two rockets were fired at Misgav Am. No injuries were reported in the attacks.
- Overnight on May 25, the IDF [said](#) a barrage of 20 rockets was fired from Lebanon towards northern Israel, several of which struck Manara and Dovev. No injuries were reported in the

attacks. The IDF said a “suspicious aerial target” was also intercepted by air defense over Dishon.

- On May 24, terrorists in Lebanon [fired](#) anti-tank guided missiles toward Dovev in northern Israel, inflicting damage.

Iraq

- On May 24, Iran-backed militia in Iraq [launched](#) three drones at Israel. The IDF stated that it intercepted all three drones outside of Israeli airspace. The Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed to have targeted Eilat and Haifa.

West Bank

- On May 26, the IDF [said](#) that it shot and killed a Palestinian suspect who “tried to carry out a stabbing attack” against soldiers near the Beit Einun junction. The attacker did not inflict any injuries.

IDF Operations

- On May 27, Egypt’s military [wrote](#) on X, “the Egyptian Armed Forces are conducting an investigation through the competent authorities regarding a shooting incident in the border area in Rafah, which led to the martyrdom of one of the personnel.” Subsequent [reports](#) indicated that Israeli and Egyptian soldiers exchanged fire.
- According to [reports](#) from May 26, amid an investigation by Israel’s Military Police, an IDF reservist who posted a video of his call for mutiny to social media was dismissed from reserve duty.

Gaza

- On May 28, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that “the [IDF’s] Bislamach Brigade — the School for Infantry Corps Professions and Squad Commanders during war time — [joined] the 162nd Division’s other brigades that have been operating in Rafah since earlier this month.”
- On May 28, Reuters [reported](#) that Israeli tanks advanced to the center of Rafah for the first time since Israel began its offensive there three weeks ago.
- On May 27, Reuters and *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that “Israel is investigating allegations of abuse and torture of Palestinian security detainees at the Sde Teiman military base in the Negev desert, the IDF’s top prosecutor says.”
- On May 27, an Israeli [airstrike](#) killed high-ranking Hamas operatives Yassin Rabia and Khaled Najjar in Rafah. Dozens of Palestinian civilians were also reportedly killed.
 - » Gaza’s Hamas-run health ministry said that the strike [killed](#) approximately 45 people. Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer Yerushalmi, Israel’s head military lawyer, [said](#) the situation is “very grave,” and “the details of the incident are still under an investigation, which we are committed to conducting to the fullest extent.” She added, “the IDF regrets any harm to noncombatants during the war.”
 - » The IDF [said](#) that the strike was informed by “intelligence information on the presence of the terrorists in the area” and that the military took “many steps to reduce the chance of harming uninvolved [civilians], including aerial surveillance, the use of precision munitions, and additional intelligence information.” The IDF said further that “based on [these steps] it was estimated that no harm was expected to uninvolved civilians.”

- According to the IDF, the attack utilized warheads “reduced in size” and was conducted outside the al-Mawasi safe area.
- » Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) on May 27, “despite our efforts not to hurt [civilians], there was a tragic mishap. We are investigating the incident,” and “for us it’s a tragedy, for Hamas it’s a strategy.”
- » According to subsequent [reports](#) that day, Israel believes that shrapnel from the airstrike ignited a fuel tank approximately 100 meters away, causing nearby tents in which civilians were sheltering to catch fire. The United States reportedly could not verify Israel’s account.
- On May 27, Israeli media reported that Member of Knesset Gadi Eisenkot, an observer on Israel’s war cabinet, [told](#) the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that Israel should “reach the end of the fighting in Rafah and at the same time, move forward with hostage deal, in which we will cease fighting for as long as it takes.” He argued, “just as we stopped for a truce last time, we can suspend the fighting and return to it for as long as it takes to achieve the goals of the war.”
- On May 27, the IDF [said](#) that it used drones and fighter jets to strike over 75 terrorist targets in Gaza during the past day.
- On May 26, Israel’s minister without portfolio Benny Gantz [said](#), “the rockets shot from Rafah today prove that the IDF must operate in every place Hamas still operates from, and as such, the IDF will continue to operate wherever necessary,” and “the world must know: Those who still hold our hostages captive, shoot at our cities and continue to propagate terror are responsible for the situation.”
 - » He also said, “terrorist Hamas are war criminals, and we intend on making them pay for their crimes—whether sooner or later.”
- On May 26, the IDF [said](#) it used fighter jets to destroy a rocket launcher in Rafah that was used to fire a barrage of eight long-range projectiles at central Israel earlier in the day. The IDF said the rocket launch site was located near two mosques.
- On May 26, the IDF [said](#) it discovered a weapons depot inside a school in Jabaliya, which contained dozens of rocket launchers, missile parts, and other weapons.
 - » The IDF said, “This is further proof of the Hamas terror organization’s cynical use of civilian infrastructure for terror purposes, while using the civilian population as a human shield.”
- On May 26, the IDF [said](#) that it destroyed Hamas’s general security headquarters in Jabaliya and raided a Palestinian Islamic Jihad commander’s home, among other operational advancements in the neighborhood.
- On May 25, Israel’s national security adviser to Prime Minister Netanyahu, Tzachi Hanegbi, [said](#) to Israeli media that “what they are asking us [at the International Court of Justice], is not to commit genocide in Rafah. We did not commit genocide and we will not commit genocide,” and “according to international law, we have the right to defend ourselves and the evidence is that the court is not preventing us from continuing to defend ourselves.”
 - » An unnamed Israeli official also argued, “the order in regard to the Rafah operation is not a general order,” and “we have never, and we will not, conduct any military action in Rafah or elsewhere which may inflict any conditions of life to bring about the destruction of the civilian population in Gaza, not in whole and not in part.”

- » The court’s president, Nawaf Salam, had said, “the state of Israel shall ... immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.”
- On May 25, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that “Israeli troops operating in northern Gaza’s Jabaliya killed dozens of gunmen in close-quarters combat and by calling in airstrikes over the past day, the military says.”
- On May 24, Israel’s National Security Council and Foreign Ministry [said](#) in a joint statement addressing South Africa’s charge that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, “following the horrific attack against the citizens of Israel on October 7th, 2023, Israel embarked upon a defensive and just war to eliminate Hamas and to secure the release of our hostages. Israel is acting based on its right to defend its territory and its citizens, consistent with its moral values and in compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law.”
 - » The statement also said, “Israel has not and will not conduct military actions in the Rafah area which may inflict on the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part,” and “Israel will continue its efforts to enable humanitarian assistance and will act, in full compliance with the law, to reduce as much as possible harm caused to the civilian population in Gaza.”
 - » It added, “Israel will continue to enable the Rafah crossing to remain open for the entry of humanitarian assistance from the Egyptian side of the border, and will prevent terror groups from controlling the passage.”
- On May 24, the IDF [said](#) that it killed the deputy commander of Hamas’s national security force, Diaan al-Din al-Sharafa, in an airstrike the previous day.

Lebanon

- On May 28, Israeli aircraft [struck](#) a Hezbollah arms stockpile in Mays al-Jabal and buildings used by a terrorist group in Aita al-Shaab and Khiam.
- On May 27, the IDF [said](#) that it used fighter jets to target launchers that Hezbollah used to fire projectiles toward the Mount Meron region that day.
- On May 27, the IDF [said](#) that it targeted a terrorist near a rocket launching site in Aynata, killing him. The IDF also said that it used fighter jets to strike a Hezbollah building in Aitaroun.
- On May 27, [reports](#) in Lebanese media said that an Israeli drone strike killed someone driving a motorbike near Bint Jbeil and wounded others. The IDF did not immediately address the incident.
- On May 27, the IDF [said](#) that it launched strikes against Hezbollah cells in Yaroun and near Houla in southern Lebanon. The IDF also said that it struck Hezbollah assets in Mays al-Jabal, Khiam, and Houla overnight.
- On May 26, the IDF [said](#) that it targeted a Hezbollah operative in Naqoura with a drone strike and that it struck two additional operatives of the terror group in Ayta ash-Shab.
- On May 26, the IDF [said](#) that it used fighter jets to target Hezbollah assets in Khiam and Ayta ash-Shab and that it used artillery to target additional Hezbollah infrastructure in southern Lebanon.
- On May 25, the IDF [launched](#) an airstrike against several Hezbollah fighters in Aitaroun, Lebanon.

- On May 25, the IDF [struck](#) Hezbollah buildings in the southern Lebanon towns of Odaisseh, Yaroun, and Marwahin.
- On May 25, the IDF [fired](#) artillery against threats in areas near Matmoura, Hamoul, Rachaya Al Foukhar, and as-Sawana.
- On May 24, IDF fighter jets [struck](#) a building in southern Lebanon's Maroun al-Ras, Lebanon after Hezbollah fighters were spotted there.
- On May 24, the IDF [struck](#) a building that Hezbollah used in Mays al-Jabal, Lebanon.

Syria

- On May 25, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights [reported](#) that “an Israeli drone fired two missiles at a Hezbollah car and truck near the town of Qusayr in Homs province, as they were on their way to Al-Dabaa military airport, killing at least two Hezbollah fighters and wounding others.”

West Bank

- On May 28, Israeli forces [arrested](#) three Palestinians during a raid in the Jalazoun camp near Ramallah.

Humanitarian Efforts

- According to Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories ([COGAT](#)), from the beginning of the war to May 22, there have been 590,920 tons of humanitarian aid that entered Gaza on 30,511 trucks.
- On May 28, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) [indicated](#) that roughly one million Palestinians have fled Rafah in the past three weeks.
- On May 25, U.S. Central Command released a [statement](#) indicating that “four U.S. Army vessels supporting the maritime humanitarian aid mission in Gaza were affected by heavy sea states. The vessels broke free from their moorings and two vessels are now anchored on the beach near the pier. The third and fourth vessels are beached on the coast of Israel near Ashkelon. Efforts to recover the vessels are under way with assistance from the Israeli Navy. The IDF is supporting the recovery efforts near the pier. No U.S. personnel will enter Gaza. No injuries have been reported and the pier remains fully functional.”
- On May 25, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani [stated](#) that his country would provide \$38 million (35 million euro) of aid to Gaza, including resuming its funding for UNRWA. Tajani indicated that Italy would provide \$5.4 million (five million euros) to UNRWA and the remainder of the aid package would go to its “Food for Gaza” program.
- On May 25, Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi [agreed](#) during a phone call with President Biden to temporarily send aid into Gaza via Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing until a permanent mechanism is established to reopen the Rafah crossing.
- On May 22, the United States [deployed](#) a counter rocket, artillery, and mortar (C-RAM) and a mobile-low, slow, small-unmanned aircraft integrated defeat system (M-LIDS) to protect the temporary pier delivering aid to Gaza.

Ceasefire and Hostage Negotiations

- On May 26, Israel's *Channel 12* reported that IDF Maj. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Alon, a member of Israel's ceasefire and hostage negotiation team, [told](#) IDF officials that “we are desperate.

With this government formation, there will be no deal.” He explained, “the deal I’m pushing for would provide for the return of all the hostages, while Hamas insists that it must provide for an end to the war.” Alon indicated that he told the prime minister that “it will be possible to return to fighting at any given moment.”

- » Following the publication of the report, Alon stated that “the things that were said were taken out of context.”

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On May 28, British security firm Ambrey [reported](#) that a commercial vessel sailing off of the coast of Yemen has taken on water and is tilting to one side after the Houthis targeted it with three missiles.
- On May 27, Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani [stated](#) that the death of Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi would not change Tehran’s level of support for “the oppressed people of Palestine and resistance groups [pursuing] the unalienable rights of the Palestinians to the liberation of their land and standing against the usurping Zionist regime,” a reference to Israel.
- On May 27, at approximately 4 a.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) one drone from Yemen over the Red Sea. U.S. forces destroyed the drone.
- On May 26, at approximately 10 a.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) one drone from Yemen over the Red Sea. U.S. forces destroyed the drone.
- On May 25, at approximately 3:50 a.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) two anti-ship ballistic missiles from Yemen toward the Red Sea. There were no reported injuries or damage.

U.S. Response

- On May 27, in response to the Israeli strike that reportedly killed two senior Hamas members and dozens of civilians in Rafah, a U.S. National Security Council spokesperson [told](#) reporters that “Israel has a right to go after Hamas, and we understand this strike killed two senior Hamas terrorists who are responsible for attacks against Israeli civilians.” the spokesperson added, “but as we’ve been clear, Israel must take every precaution possible to protect civilians.
- On May 25, in response to the International Court of Justice ruling that Israel must halt operations in Rafah that would risk the destruction of civilians there, a U.S. National Security spokesperson [stated](#) only that “we’ve been clear and consistent on our position on Rafah,” without providing further explanation.
- On May 24, at approximately 8:10 p.m. local time, U.S. forces [struck](#) one Houthi land attack cruise missile in Yemen that posed a threat to ships in nearby waters.

International Response

- On May 28, the United Nations Security Council [convened](#) an emergency session to discuss the Israeli strike that reportedly killed two senior Hamas members as well as dozens of civilians in Rafah.

- On May 28, Spanish government spokeswoman Pilar Alegria [stated](#) that the Spanish cabinet adopted a measure to recognize a Palestinian state.
- On May 28, Jewish groups in South Africa criticized South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa for [stating](#) during a speech, "Palestine will be free from the river to the sea."
- On May 27, United Nations' Middle East envoy Tor Wennesland [stated](#) that he is "deeply troubled" by the Israeli strike that killed two senior Hamas members and dozens of civilians in Rafah. He released a statement that "call[s] upon the Israeli authorities to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into this incident, hold those responsible for any wrongdoing to account, and take immediate steps to better protect civilians"
- On May 27, Israel's Foreign Ministry responded to Spain's plans to recognize a Palestinian state by [barring](#) the Spanish consulate in Jerusalem from serving Palestinians in the West Bank beginning on June 1. The order does not apply to Spanish citizens in the West Bank.
- During an [interview](#) with *The Sunday Times* that was released on May 25, International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Karim Khan argued, "I am not saying that Israel with its democracy and its supreme court is akin to Hamas, of course not. I couldn't be clearer, Israel has every right to protect its population and to get the hostages back. But nobody has a license to commit war crimes or crimes against humanity. The means define us."
- On May 26, Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide [provided](#) Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa with diplomatic papers that recognize a Palestinian state.
- On May 25, a U.K. foreign ministry spokesperson [stated](#), "the reason there isn't a pause in the fighting is because Hamas turned down a very generous hostage deal from Israel. The intervention of these courts—including the ICJ today—will strengthen the view of Hamas that they can hold on to hostages and stay in Gaza."
- On May 24, four ICJ judges [argued](#) that the court's order does not require Israel to halt all of its operations in Rafah and instead only halt operations that "could bring about physical destruction in whole or in part" of the Palestinian population in Rafah.
 - » According to Former Israeli Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak, Israel's ad-hoc judge sitting on the ICJ tribunal who voted against the ICJ order, "Israel is not prevented from carrying out its military operation in the Rafah Governorate as long as it fulfills its obligations under the Genocide Convention." As a result, Barak argued, "the measure is a qualified one, which preserves Israel's right to prevent and repel threats and attacks by Hamas, defend itself and its citizens, and free the hostages."
 - German judge Georg Nolte and Romanian judge Bogdan Aurescu, who voted in favor of the ICJ order, endorsed Barak's interpretation.
 - » ICJ Vice President Julia Sebutinde from Uganda, who voted against the ICJ order, argued, "this measure does not entirely prohibit the Israeli military from operating in Rafah. Instead, it only operates to partially restrict Israel's offensive in Rafah to the extent it implicates rights under the Genocide Convention."
 - » In contrast, South Africa's ad-hoc judge sitting on the ICJ tribunal, Dire Tladi, argued that the ruling in "explicit terms, ordered the State of Israel to halt its offensive in Rafah."

Rising Antisemitism, Protests, and Attacks

- On May 27, an organization called Gaza Group issued a widely shared [statement](#) that called on people to “escalate protests to an open intifada in every capital and city in order to deprive the world of its heavy slumber that comes at the expense of the bodies and remains of those that survive; disrupt all facets of daily life until our people can breathe freely without the taint of the Israeli, American, and European war machine.”
- On May 27, tens of thousands of anti-Israel protesters [demonstrated](#) in Paris, France and Madrid, Spain in response to Israel’s strike in Rafah that killed two senior Hamas members and dozens of civilians.
- On May 26, police in London, England, [said](#) they were attempting to identify a man seen wearing a Manchester United soccer shirt with the word “Hamas” and a large 7 emblazoned on the back, which is apparently in reference to the terror group’s October 7 terror attacks.
- On May 25, multiple shots were [fired](#) at a Jewish elementary school, the Bais Chaya Mushka school for girls, in Toronto, Canada. Police said they were searching for multiple suspects in connection with the shooting, which did not cause any injuries but did damage the school’s building.
- On May 25, a campus safety officer at the College of Staten Island, which is part of the public City University of New York (CUNY) system, was [suspended](#) after he told anti-Israel protesters that he supported killing all of the anti-Israel protesters.
- On May 24, a 62-year-old man, Kevin Dunlow, from Huntington Beach, California, was [arrested](#) for making threats against several North Carolina synagogues, a rabbi, law enforcement, and elected officials, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. On May 7, Dunlow allegedly contacted a rabbi and told him, “Jews didn’t deserve to live. Jews didn’t deserve to be on this earth. I’m going to kill the Jews. I’m coming to the Temple to kill all the Jews and the children.” He also allegedly made bomb threats against the Wake County Sheriff’s Office.
- On May 24, U.S. Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism Deborah Lipstadt [hosted](#) a symposium to combat online antisemitism. Those taking part included leaders from Google, Meta, Microsoft, TikTok, and X; government officials from the United States, Canada, Israel, and Germany; and NGOs, including the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League, World Jewish Congress, Center for Countering Digital Hate, Cyberwell, and Decoding Antisemitism.
- On May 23, police in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, [arrested](#) 33-year-old William Murray for allegedly vandalizing the Shaare Torah Synagogue in Squirrel Hill and being in possession of explosive materials.
- On May 22, police in New York City said they were [seeking information](#) about a group of vandals who targeted an Israeli cuisine café, Zizi, which has been repeatedly vandalized in recent months. On May 6, the four vandals drew a swastika and placed stickers that said “the river, the sea, no Zionist scum in NYC” on the exterior of the cafe.

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.
 - » 636 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 282 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - The IDF announced the deaths of Staff Sgt. [Sahar Sudaiei](#), 20, from Tel Aviv; Staff Sgt. [Betzael Zvi Kovach](#), 20, from Jerusalem.
 - As of May 28, 1,810 IDF soldiers have been [injured](#) during ground combat in Gaza, including at least 359 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 36,096 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 81,136 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 Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Ministry of Health, as of May 22, 517 people have been [killed](#), and at least 5,000 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, [eleven](#) 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 [39](#) of the 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.

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- Webinar: [Gaza Update 5/23](#), with IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, IDF MG (ret.) Amikam Norkin, and Michael Makovsky, May 23, 2024
- Webinar: [Iran After Raisi](#), with Ray Takeyh, Gabriel Noronha, and Jonathan Ruhe, May 22, 2024
- 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
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- 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