



Ari Cicurel
Assistant Director of Foreign Policy

Zachary Schildcrout
Policy Analyst

Anna Schafel
Senior Programs and Outreach Associate

Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update May 31, 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 next week on Tuesday. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

Analysis

- On May 30, JINSA's Gaza Assessment Task Force comprised of retired senior U.S. generals, admirals, and military legal experts released a [report](#), *The October 7 War: Observations, October 2023 – May 2024*, which found that “the IDF has carried out its mission to eliminate the Hamas threat with operational and tactical excellence and in overall compliance with the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC).”
 - » The report indicated, “Hamas, on the other hand, has intentionally and systemically violated those same laws by dragging civilians into the fight, using them to shield their personnel and assets in an attempt to compel the IDF to inflict civilian casualties so as to trigger opposition to Israel by the United States, European countries, the United Nations, and international courts as well as in public opinion.”
 - » The report authors argued, “yet, the IDF's operational effectiveness has been jeopardized by the lack of a clear, announced strategy for a post-Hamas future for Gaza,” and while “the IDF has fulfilled its legal obligations to provide humanitarian access and assistance to Gazan civilians ... we acknowledge the strategic legitimacy of Israel's campaign has been compromised by the perception of indifference to the humanitarian suffering in Gaza.”
- As Gen Charles “Chuck” Wald, USAF (ret.), a JINSA Distinguished Fellow, explained during a [webinar](#) with several of the JINSA Task Force members who authored *The October 7 War* report, “the intent of the [task force] was to ... primarily enlighten U.S. national security policymakers as we go forward.”
 - » Lt Gen Thomas “Tom” Trask, USAF (ret.) detailed, “the environment [in Gaza] is also very different than what it was 20 years ago ... it is now the most difficult, dense urban combat environment that you can imagine. It has been built by Hamas over the last 20 years into a complete fortress ... Hamas basically took 20 years to build fighting positions and to build this huge underground infrastructure.”
 - » LtGen David Beydler, USMC (ret.), noted, “I think the one thing that was most telling on our trip in February was the density of the tunnels in Gaza, the complexity of the tunnels

in Gaza—two levels, one tactical, one strategic ... 300 miles of tunnels in Gaza. That was the thing that was most pronounced in all the discussions that we had at the military and tactical level.”

- » LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.), a JINSA Distinguished Fellow, argued, “the distortion of both what the law requires, but I think, more importantly, how the law actually functions ... has been one of the real negative consequences of this campaign, and one that U.S. forces and NATO forces better be cognizant of because ... [their future wars are] going to be high-intensity fights against capable enemies that know how to manipulate facts and information.”
- During a JINSA [webinar](#) on May 29, IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, a JINSA Distinguished Fellow, argued, “it’s very important to see that the population [in Rafah] believed the IDF. They moved to the safe havens which had been designated by the IDF based on the experience that they had when we moved 1 million Palestinians from the north part of Gaza ... Hamas tried to block them ... [but the population] learned during the first months of the war that the IDF keeps its promise and doesn’t strike in the designated areas.”
- » IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, JINSA’s Julian and Jenny Josephson Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs, explained, “when we are talking about Rafah and the refugee camps surrounding Rafah, we are talking about a very densely populated area ... the IDF prepared itself, as it did ... in Gaza City and in the northern part, encourage the population to evacuate itself ... the IDF prepared humanitarian designated areas for them ... and only when they were ready to absorb them, the IDF started to encourage them to move.”

Since May 28

Attacks Against Israel

Gaza

- Sirens sounded in [Nirim and Mefalsim](#).
- According to Israel’s *Army Radio*, terrorists in Khan Younis [fired](#) a projectile toward Israel on May 30.
- On May 28, the IDF said that three IDF soldiers—Staff Sgt. Amir Galilove, Staff Sgt. Uri Bar Or, and Staff Sgt. Ido Appel—were [killed](#) in Rafah by booby traps rigged in a building.

Lebanon

- Sirens sounded in [Shlomi, Betzet, Kfar Giladi, Matat, Margalioth, Shlomi](#), and [towns](#) in the Galilee Panhandle and [Golan Heights](#).
- On May 31, the IDF [said](#) that terrorists in Lebanon fired two drones rigged with explosives toward the northern Golan Heights region, which struck the area after triggering sirens. That day, the IDF also said that a projectile from Lebanon struck near Metula. Neither attack inflicted injuries.
- On May 30, Hezbollah [took credit](#) for an attack close to Matat in northern Israel.
- On May 30, Israel [intercepted](#) a “suspicious target” fired from Lebanon toward Israel.
- On May 30, the IDF [said](#) that it intercepted a “suspicious aerial target” with the Iron Dome. The projectile was fired from Lebanon and triggered sirens in Margalioth.

- On May 29, the IDF [said](#) that Israel’s Iron Dome system intercepted two drones that terrorists in Lebanon fired toward Israel. Israel also shot down another likely drone from Lebanon near Rosh Hanikra.

Iraq

- On May 30, the IDF [said](#) that it intercepted a cruise missile “launched from the east,” likely Iraq.

West Bank

- On May 29, Israeli medical personnel and the IDF [said](#) that a terrorist wounded two people near Nablus by ramming them with his car. Reports from May 30 [indicated](#) that the two wounded individuals were IDF troops who later died from their injuries.

IDF Operations

- On May 30, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that “Israeli air defenses mistakenly shot down an IDF drone over the northern border community of Shlomi” that day, triggering sirens in the town. The IDF said it is examining the accident.
- On May 30, *The Times of Israel* and Reuters [reported](#) that “the ongoing war [against Hamas] is slated to cost Israel NIS 253 billion (\$67 billion) in defense outlays, expenditures for civilian needs and lost tax income in the years 2023 to 2025, Israel’s central bank governor Amir Yaron estimates.”
 - » Yaron said, “a prosperous economy requires security, and security requires a prosperous economy. Therefore, the war should not bring with it a blank check for permanent defense expenditures, and proper balances have to be found.”
- On May 28, Israel’s Department for Internal Police Investigations [announced](#) charges against seven officers including abuse of a helpless person, aggravated assault, obstruction of investigative proceedings, and abuse of official power in connection with a 2023 incident during which officers abused Arwah Sheikh Ali, a Palestinian from East Jerusalem.
- On May 28, *The Guardian* [reported](#) that an investigation by the news outlet “and the Israeli-based magazines *+972* and *Local Call* can reveal how Israel has run an almost decade-long secret ‘war’ against the [International Criminal Court],” including the use of “intelligence agencies to surveil, hack, pressure, smear and allegedly threaten senior ICC staff in an effort to derail the court’s inquiries.”
 - » The outlet also [said](#) in a separate report that day that former Mossad chief Yossi Cohen “allegedly threatened a chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court [Fatou Bensouda] in a series of secret meetings in which he tried to pressure her into abandoning a war crimes investigation.”
 - » A spokesperson for Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said of the allegations, “the questions forwarded to us are replete with many false and unfounded allegations meant to hurt the state of Israel,” and an IDF spokesperson said, “the IDF did not and does not conduct surveillance or other intelligence operations against the ICC.”
- On May 28, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that “IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi has appointed an ‘advisory committee’ to examine the conditions of Palestinian prisoners detained amid the war in the Gaza Strip, following allegations of torture and mistreatment.”

Gaza

- On May 31, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that “IDF officers have described the fighting in Jabaliya as some of the most intense amid the war.” The IDF said that the 98th Division finished an almost three-week-long campaign there against terrorist operatives and infrastructure.
- On May 30, the IDF [said](#) that it conducted more than 50 airstrikes against terrorist targets in Gaza during the prior day, and operations are continuing in Jabaliya in northern Gaza, central Gaza, and Rafah in southern Gaza.
- On May 30, the IDF [said](#) it demolished a Hamas tunnel network in Jabaliya from which the bodies of seven hostages were recovered earlier in May and said there was no possibility of any more hostages being held in the area.
- On May 30, the IDF [said](#) that the booby-trapped tunnel shaft in which three soldiers were killed earlier this week in Rafah was located inside of a medical clinic. The medical clinic was adjacent to an UNRWA school from which anti-tank missiles were fired at IDF troops. The IDF said troops located a cache of weapons and additional tunnel shafts inside the school complex, including inside classrooms.
- On May 30, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that according to a recent Pew poll, when “asked who should govern Gaza after the war, 50% of Jewish respondents said Israel; 15 percent said they didn’t know; 10 percent said the Palestinian Authority, but without its President Mahmoud Abbas; eight percent said people who live in Gaza should decide; seven percent said other, five percent said the PA with Abbas; four percent said the United Nations; and zero percent said Hamas.”
 - » In addition, “among Arab Israeli respondents, 37% said people who live there should decide, 18% said the PA without Abbas, 16% said they didn’t know, 11% said the PA with Abbas, nine percent said Hamas, 5% said the United Nations, 3% said Israel and 2% said other.”
 - » The survey also showed that “among all Israeli respondents, 40% said Israel, 16% said they didn’t know, 14% said people who live there should decide, 12% said the PA without Abbas, 6% said the PA with Abbas, 6% said other, 4% said the UN and 2% said Hamas.”
- On May 29, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi [said](#) in Rafah, “we are here for several reasons. Firstly, this is the last [Hamas] Brigade left with full capabilities, so we want to dismantle the Rafah Brigade.”
- On May 29, the IDF [said](#) it recently demolished a significant Hamas tunnel near the Rafah Border Crossing, about 100 meters from the border with Egypt. The IDF said the tunnel network, about a mile long, was used by Hamas to attack troops operating in the area and that IDF troops found weapons, including anti-tank missiles, guns, and explosive devices within.
- On May 29, the IDF [said](#) that it has secured “operational control” of the length of the Gaza-Egypt border, also called the Philadelphi Corridor, which it assesses impedes Hamas’s ability to smuggle weapons into the Strip.
 - » National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi [said](#) the IDF “is now in control of 75% of the Philadelphi Route and I believe it will be in control of it all with time. Together with the Egyptians, we must ensure weapon smuggling is prevented” from Egypt into Gaza.

- On May 29, the IDF [said](#) troops in Jabaliya have located and demolished several tunnel shafts, dozens of rocket launchers, and a weapons cache adjacent to a mosque.
- On May 28, the IDF [said](#) that its recent strike against two high-ranking Hamas operatives in Rafah that killed 45 people (according to the Hamas-run health ministry) was conducted without intent to harm civilians and utilized two precise, small munitions with 17-kilogram warheads.
 - » The IDF also said that it launched the strike more than a kilometer away from the al-Mawasi safe zone, but the strike inadvertently started a fire in an area in which Palestinians were sheltering. The IDF believes that ammunition or weapons stored in the area ignited, causing the fire.
 - » Both *CNN* and *The New York Times* later [reported](#) that the munitions Israel used were U.S.-made GBU-39 bombs, which U.S. officials have reportedly urged Israel to use to mitigate civilian casualties.

Lebanon

- On May 31, the IDF [said](#) that it responded to an earlier projectile attack against the Metula region by firing artillery toward the attack's source.
- Overnight on May 31, the IDF [said](#) it used fighter jets to strike four buildings used by Hezbollah in Aitaroun and Markaba.
- On May 30, the IDF [said](#) it used fighter jets to strike two buildings used by Hezbollah in Houla and Maroun al-Ras.
- On May 29, the IDF [said](#) that it used fighter jets to target Hezbollah assets in Naqoura and other areas.
- On May 29, the IDF [said](#) it used fighter jets to strike a Hezbollah position in Khiam, and also shelled areas near Hamoul, Kafr Kila, and Naqoura with artillery.

Syria

- On May 29, Syria's state-run *SANA* news agency [said](#) an Israeli airstrike in Baniyas killed a girl and wounded 10 other civilians.
 - » Also on May 29, *SANA* [reported](#) that Syrian air defenses were engaging "enemy targets" over Homs but did not provide additional details.

West Bank

- On May 30, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that according to Palestinian media, there was "an exchange of fire between Israel Defense Force troops and Palestinian gunmen in Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank," and "according to reports, the IDF is operating close to a local hospital."
 - » The Palestinian Authority's health ministry said that the fighting wounded six people, and the IDF did not address the allegations.

Humanitarian Efforts

- According to Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories ([COGAT](#)), from the beginning of the war to May 24, there have been 599,295 tons of humanitarian aid that entered Gaza on 30,906 trucks.

- On May 30, Israel [lifted](#) a ban on the sale of food to Gaza from Israel and the West Bank, allowing the purchases for the first time since the war began.
- According to [reports](#) from May 30, both Israel and Egypt decided to reopen the Rafah crossing for aid deliveries, the first such decision since the IDF established operational control of the border on the Gazan side.
- Reuters [reported](#) on May 30 that “humanitarian aid for Gaza is continuing to depart Cyprus by sea and will be held in floating storage off the coast of the enclave until a US-built military pier is repaired,” citing Konstantinos Letymbiotis, a Cypriot government spokesperson.
- On May 29, Reuters [reported](#) that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) President Kate Forbes stated, “we desperately need a political solution that will allow us to have a ceasefire to get aid in” to Gaza. She added, “we’re ready to make a difference. We have to have access, and to have access there has to [be] a ceasefire.”
- On May 29, Israel’s Land Authority [notified](#) an United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that it had to evacuate its East Jerusalem premises within 30 days and owes Israel \$7,326,711.19 (27,125,280 shekels) for operating on land without approval for seven years.

Ceasefire and Hostage Negotiations

- On May 30, Israel’s *Channel 12* outlet reported that Prime Minister Netanyahu’s National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi told families of several of the hostages that Israel would [not accept](#) a deal to end the war in exchange for Hamas freeing all of the hostages. Hanegbi did indicate that he thought Israel could achieve “the first stage of the deal, the humanitarian phase... within a few short months. It won’t take many months and not years.”
- On May 29, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [told](#) reporters, “there is a fresh proposal that’s being worked ... I can tell you that the Israelis are fully supportive of this fresh proposal ... and as before have been willing to [negotiate] in good faith.”

Post-War Planning

- On May 29, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [stated](#), “in the absence of a plan for the day after, there won’t be a day after” and that Israel must adopt a plan “as quickly as possible.”
 - » He added that “a plan ... that can actually help ensure the enduring defeat of Hamas—which is a shared objective and should be everyone’s objective—is imperative.”
 - » Blinken argued, “after Israel has had real success in helping to destroy Hamas’s capacity to repeat October 7 ... it has to ask [whether] ... further incremental gains against Hamas—gains that may not be durable ... absent a [day after] plan ... stacks up against some of the unintended, but horrific consequences of military action in a place where the people you are going after [are] so closely embedded with civilians.”

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On May 30, the Mossad indicated that Iran was [responsible](#) for a [series](#) of attacks against Israeli embassies in Europe since October 7, including a hand grenade that was found in the Israeli embassy in Stockholm, Sweden.
- On May 29, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [posted](#) on X his support for anti-Israel protesters on university campuses.
- On May 29, Iran's semi-official *Tasnim* state news outlet [reported](#) that "Iran's sea-launched ballistic missile, named Ghadr, now has been made available to Yemen's fighters."

U.S. Response

- On May 30, between approximately 3:15 and 5 p.m. local time, the United States [struck](#) eight Houthi drones over Yemen and the Red Sea.
 - » During this period, U.S. and U.K. forces struck 13 Houthi targets in Yemen that U.S. Central Command said posed a threat to ships in nearby waters.
- On May 30, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [told](#) reporters, "when [Israel] briefed us on their plans for Rafah, it did include moving along that corridor and out of the city proper to put pressure on Hamas in the city."
- On May 29, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [stated](#) that the United States would continue to review an Algeria-proposed UN Security Council draft resolution to halt Israel's operations in Rafah but that the Biden administration "believe[s] it is imbalanced, and it fails to note a very simple fact, and this is the same thing we have objected to in previous resolutions."
 - » He added, "it does not note that Hamas is to blame for this conflict and that the fighting in Rafah could end tomorrow if Mr. Sinwar did the right thing and agreed to this deal to get a ceasefire and a release of the hostages."
 - » On May 29, Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Robert Wood [told](#) the UN Security Council that "the continued pattern of significant civilian harm resulting from incidents like Sunday's air strikes undermines Israel's strategic goals in Gaza."
- On May 29, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller [explained](#), "the way that we saw [IDF operations] take place in Khan Younis and Gaza City—at this point, we have not seen a military operation on the scale of those previous operations." He noted, "if you just look at the number of brigades that were in Gaza City and Khan Younis—so far this is a different type of military operation [in Rafah], but it's something that we are watching very closely."
 - » Miller added, "we continue to support their ability to go after legitimate Hamas terrorists ... and that of course includes using American-provided weapons, but we expect them to do so in a way that minimizes civilian harm."
- On May 28, Vice President Kamala Harris [argued](#) that "the word tragic doesn't even begin to describe" the Israeli strike on May 27 that killed two senior Hamas members and dozens of civilians.
- On May 28, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [indicated](#) that "we also don't believe the ICC has jurisdiction [in this case], so we don't support these arrest warrants. However, we don't believe that sanctioning the ICC is the answer."

- » During an interview on Sirius radio's *The Morgan Ortogus Show* that leaked before airing to *Politico*, Prime Minister Netanyahu [criticized](#) the U.S. refusal to sanction the International Criminal Court (ICC) despite claiming there was bipartisan consensus to support the measure.

International Response

- On May 29, France's President Emmanuel Macron [encouraged](#) Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to "implement necessary reforms" during a phone call, offering the "prospect of recognition of the state of Palestine," according to Macron's office.
- On May 29, Brazil [recalled](#) its ambassador to Israel for consultations, with no set date for his return to Israel or plans to appoint a replacement.
- On May 29, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [claimed](#), "the American state, this blood is on your hands also. You are responsible for this genocide at least as much as Israel. Oh, the heads of state and government of Europe, you are also a party to Israel's genocide, this barbarism, this vampire-like act of Israel, because you remained silent."
- On May 28, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry released a [statement](#) that it condemns Israel's "continuous genocidal massacres" by striking "the tents of defenseless Palestinian refugees in Rafah" and that it holds Israel responsible for "what is happening in Rafah and all across the occupied Palestinian territories."
- On May 28, Denmark's parliament [rejected](#) a bill to recognize a Palestinian state.
- On May 28, Spain, Ireland, and Norway formally [recognized](#) a Palestinian state.

Rising Antisemitism, Protests, and Attacks

- On May 30, police in Detroit, Michigan, [removed](#) the anti-Israel encampment at Wayne State University two days after the school [suspended](#) all in-person classes and events due to "public safety concerns" related to the encampment.
- Overnight on May 29, a gunman [fired](#) a shot at a Jewish school, Yeshiva Ketana, in Montreal, Canada. No one was inside the school at the time of the shooting.
- On May 29, a man [attempted](#) to ram Jewish students with his car on a sidewalk near a yeshiva in Brooklyn, New York, according to the New York City Police Department (NYPD). The NYPD said the suspect, Asghar Ali, 58, reportedly shouted antisemitic statements before the attempted attack.
- On May 29, unionized academic researchers, graduate teaching assistants, and postdoctoral scholars at UCLA, UC Davis, and UC Santa Cruz went on [strike](#). The academic workers said they were protesting the universities' handling of anti-Israel protests and encampments and demanding amnesty for university students and employees who were arrested or face discipline for their involvement.
 - » According to *The Times of Israel*, the strike is the first union-backed protest in solidarity with the anti-Israel protests and encampments on U.S. campuses.
- On May 29, U.K. police [arrested](#) 40 protesters who refused to leave an anti-Israel rally and three police officers were injured attempting to disperse the crowd.
- On May 28, the head of France's National Assembly [suspended](#) a session of the country's lower house of parliament after a member of parliament, Sebatsien Delogu, a member of the

hard-left Les Insoumis (LFI) party, waved a Palestinian flag while the junior French trade minister, Franck Riester, was answering a question about the situation in Gaza.

- On May 28, roughly 200 anti-Israel protesters [clashed](#) with police outside of the Israeli embassy in Mexico, with approximately 30 protesters attempting to break down a barrier preventing them from reaching the Israeli mission.

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.
 - » 644 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 293 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - The IDF announced the deaths of Staff Sgt. [Amir Galilove](#), 20, from Shimshit; Staff Sgt. [Uri Bar Or](#), 21, from Midreshet Ben-Gurion; Staff Sgt. [Ido Appel](#), 21, from Tzofar; Sgt. First Class (res.) [Adar Gavriel](#), 24, from Caesarea; Sgt. [Yehonatan Elias](#), 20, from Jerusalem; Staff Sgt. [Eliya Hilel](#), 20, from Tel Zion; Staff Sgt. [Diego Shvisha Harsaj](#), 20, from Tel Aviv; and Staff Sgt. [Yedidya Azugi](#), 21.
 - As of May 31, 1,848 IDF soldiers have been injured during ground combat in Gaza, including at least 369 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 36,224 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 81,777 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, 502 people have been [killed](#), and at least 5,100 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.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Webinar: [Report Rollout: Strategy, Tactics, and Law in the Gaza War](#), with Gen Charles “Chuck” Wald, USAF (ret.), LtGen David Beydler, USMC (ret.), Lt Gen Thomas “Tom” Trask, USAF (ret.), LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.), and Blaise Misztal, May 30, 2024
- Gaza Assessment Task Force, [The October 7 War: Observations, October 2023 – May 2024](#), May 30, 2024
- Gen Philip M. Breedlove, USAF (ret.) and [VADM John M. Bird, USN \(ret.\)](#), “[The Strategic Imperative of U.S.-Israel Cooperation](#),” *RealClearDefense*, May 30, 2024
- Michael Makovsky, “[Israel’s Strategic Failure](#),” *Tablet Magazine*, May 29, 2024
- Webinar: [Gaza War Update 5/29/24](#), with IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, and Michael Makovsky, May 29, 2024
- Gen Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., USMC (ret.), “[I Carried Out The Strike That Killed Soleimani. America Doesn’t Understand the Lesson of His Death](#),” *The Atlantic*, May 24, 2024