

FAQ

What happened and how did Hamas terrorists infiltrate Israel?



On October 7th, over 1000 Hamas terrorists infiltrated into Israel on motorbikes, in 4x4s, on foot and with motorised paragliders while thousands of rockets were fired from Gaza into Israel. After entering Israel, the terrorists went into towns, police stations and IDF bases, murdering and kidnapping hundreds of civilians and soldiers, including children, infants and vulnerable adults. After a few hours, Israeli forces began entering the area in an attempt to rescue civilians and to fight back the terrorists who had infiltrated. Simultaneously, the IDF began launching airstrikes in Gaza. The IDF have now cleared the towns infiltrated by the terrorists. Bodies and scenes of destruction are still being discovered. It is thought a number of Hamas terrorists may still be hiding within Israel.

FAQ

How is Israel responding to the attack?



A few hours after the assault began, the Israeli Air Force began conducting airstrikes along the Gazan border and in Gaza itself to try and stop the continuing infiltration of terrorists into Israel. Final efforts are being completed to ensure that all the terrorists who infiltrated Israel have been cleared from the areas near the border. In the days since the war began, clashes along the border have become isolated, with only a few cases of encounters with terrorists in Israeli territory reported.

The Israeli Air Force has also continued airstrikes in Gaza against Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and other factions in a general effort to disable these movements for the foreseeable future. The IDF appears to be preparing for a ground offensive, calling on residents of the Gaza Strip to evacuate Gaza City and other parts of northern Gaza to southern Gaza.

IDF Spokesperson Daniel Hagari said on Saturday night that the IDF was preparing to conduct “very broad strikes” in Gaza City in “the near future.”

Last week, Israel cut off water, electricity, and fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip, vowing not to restart the supplies until the estimated 200 hostages being held there have been freed. However, it renewed the water supply to southern Gaza on Sunday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that a ground operation in Gaza is all but inevitable, President Biden has also voiced support. Last Monday, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel is moving to a “full offence” against the Gaza Strip.

National Security Council head Tzachi Hanegbi and other Israeli officials have said that the country’s war goal is to “destroy” Hamas and remove them from military and political control over the Gaza Strip.

FAQ

Are Palestinians in northern Gaza able to evacuate?



On Friday, the IDF issued warnings to residents of northern Gaza, instructing them to evacuate to southern Gaza ahead of planned IDF operations in Gaza City and the northern Strip. The IDF also designated a number of roads civilians could use as evacuation routes.

After the IDF issued the warning, Hamas officials in Gaza instructed civilians to ignore the directive, calling it “false propaganda and psychological warfare.” Despite Hamas’ statements, hundreds of thousands have fled northern Gaza since the warning was issued, with Israeli media estimating that at least 500,000 people had evacuated as of the 14th October.

Alongside statements urging civilians not to evacuate, the IDF says Hamas also set up roadblocks on evacuation routes in order to block civilians from leaving. The IDF published footage which they say shows the roadblocks being set up and the traffic caused by them.

Additionally, analysts have raised questions about a video shared by Palestinian media on Saturday, which purportedly shows an Israeli airstrike on one of the evacuation routes. Upon examination, these analysts noted that the explosion appeared to come from a van on the ground and not a strike from above, as there was no projectile visible at any point in the footage.

IDF spokespeople have stressed in recent days that the IDF has not targeted evacuation routes and that Hamas may have attempted to attack the evacuation routes in order to cause civilian casualties and prevent civilians from evacuating.

The IDF also published a phone call between an IDF intelligence officer and a Palestinian from Gaza, during which the Palestinian said that Hamas was preventing people from evacuating. The caller added that Hamas was taking the ID cards and car keys of those trying to evacuate.

FAQ

Has Hezbollah joined the war?



On the 15th October, one Israeli was killed and at least four others were seriously injured in a number of anti-tank missile attacks conducted by Hezbollah terrorists along the Lebanese-Israeli border. Additionally, Hezbollah terrorists fired at IDF cameras and technical monitoring equipment set up along the border.

During the week of 15th – 19th October, rocket sirens were set off repeatedly over Kiryat Shmona, Northern Israel and nearby areas. The IDF reported on Thursday that a drone was spotted infiltrating from Lebanon into Southern Israel and was shot down. The Lebanese Al-Mayadeen TV network reported that the drone was launched by Hezbollah terrorists.

On Wednesday, an IDF soldier was killed after Hezbollah terrorists fired an anti-tank missile at an IDF army position. There have also been exchanges of fire between the IDF and Hezbollah on the northern Lebanon Israel border.

On Tuesday, a number of terrorists belonging to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group infiltrated into Israel, clashing with IDF soldiers and killing an IDF deputy commander and two other IDF soldiers. Later in the day, Hezbollah terrorists fired a number of projectiles toward Israel, saying this was in response to the deaths of three of its members.

Last Sunday, Hezbollah terrorists launched three missiles toward IDF sites in northern Israel. Later in the day, an additional exchange of fire occurred.

Hezbollah has threatened to become more involved in the conflict, with Arabic media reports indicating that Hezbollah might intensify its involvement if the IDF launches a ground operation in Gaza.

FAQ

What happens next?



The IDF is currently calling up troops and bringing equipment to both the southern (Lebanon Israel) and northern (Gaza Israel) borders in Israel, Analysts believe that Israel will conduct a ground incursion into Gaza in order to destroy Hamas' capabilities. Israeli security forces are preparing for further attacks by Hezbollah terrorists on the northern front and the possibility the war could spread to further fronts. Hezbollah has reportedly threatened to join the war if a ground invasion is launched, with concerns that additional Iranian proxies could join the assault as well. The terrorist movement has already fired at Israel in relation to the ongoing conflict. The U.S. has reportedly warned that if Hezbollah gets involved, the U.S. military may get involved as well. This war is still young and it is still unclear exactly how things will progress. What is clear is that Israel, the U.S., and groups throughout the region are preparing for the very real possibility that this war will not stay contained to Israel and Gaza. Israeli officials have said they intend to destroy the military capabilities of Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a goal which would appear to require a ground invasion to be realistic. How exactly such an offensive will be carried out and how far it will go will only become apparent with time.



FAQ

What happened at the Supernova music festival?



In the early minutes of the Hamas assault on southern Israel, thousands of young people were at the Supernova music festival near Re'im, east of the central Gaza Strip in the South of Israel.

Video from the scene seemingly showed Hamas paragliders visible in the distance around the time that rockets began to be fired from Gaza overhead.

As the young people began to try escaping from the area, Hamas terrorists arrived in the area and opened fire, killing many at the scene. Accounts from the massacre indicate that the terrorists surrounded the area and blocked roads, shooting anyone they saw. Additional photos from the area show burned-out vehicles, some of which were seemingly hit by RPGs. In at least one other instance, civilians who were hiding in a shelter were cornered and shot at before one of the terrorists threw a grenade into the shelter, killing all inside. Footage from the scene showed that those who tried to escape were shot in the back as they ran.

At least some of the participants in the festival were seen being dragged away toward Gaza by Hamas terrorists in a brutal fashion. It is unclear if they are still alive. Over 260 bodies were recovered from the site of the festival.



FAQ

Is Israel going to rescue hostages in Gaza?



Israeli officials have said they are committed to bringing the hostages home, but how this will be done remains unclear.

This isn't the first time Israel has had to deal with soldiers and civilians being held captive, including in Gaza.

In 2006, IDF soldier Gilad Shalit was captured by Hamas. Hamas held Shalit in Gaza for the next five years until Israel and Hamas reached a prisoner exchange deal. In the agreement, Hamas handed back Shalit to Israel in exchange for the release of 1,027 Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Since 2014, two Israeli civilians and the bodies of two IDF soldiers have been held captive by Hamas in Gaza. Efforts by mediators and the families of the captives to reach a prisoner swap agreement have failed in the 9 years since.

FAQ

How many Israelis and Palestinians have been killed?



The official death count in Israel surpassed 1,400. That number is expected to rise as emergency and rescue services are still working to evacuate bodies from locations near the border. An additional 3,000 people are injured and at least 203 people have been abducted and taken hostage in Gaza. Israel's airstrikes on Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip in response have killed 2,329 people and wounded 9,042 others, according to Hamas Terrorists. Israeli forces also killed 1,500 Hamas terrorists who infiltrated into Israeli territory since October 7.

FAQ

Where is there still active fighting?



As of the week commencing 15th of October, active fighting had been mostly reduced to isolated areas near the borders, with a few cases of attempted infiltrations reported. There has been a small amount of combat on the Gazan border, South Israel and some incidents on the Lebanon border, North Israel. The IDF said it was creating a “wall of tanks and aircraft” along the border in order to prevent further infiltrations.

FAQ

Are any other countries helping Israel?



Yes. The U.S. has sent the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier to the eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel if needed and the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier is headed to the Mediterranean as well. The U.S. has already begun delivering military equipment to Israel. Also on Tuesday, the U.S., Germany, the U.K., France, and Italy issued a joint statement pledging “to ensure Israel is able to defend itself.”

U.S. defense officials have also said they intend to provide further military aid to Israel and to help with planning hostage rescue efforts. Germany has also offered military support, and the U.K. said it would provide diplomatic, intelligence or security support to Israel if requested.

FAQ

What is Hamas?



Recognized as a terrorist organization by the majority of the world including the U.K., Canada, the U.S. and the European Union, Hamas is a fundamentalist Islamic resistance movement that aims to destroy Israel and its people in order to create an independent Islamic state.

The terror group was behind a wave of devastating suicide bombings and other activities in the 1990s and 2000s. More recently, Hamas terrorists have launched thousands of rockets at Israel, dug attack tunnels in order to infiltrate Israeli communities, and inspired countless lone-wolf attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians.

Hamas terrorists took control of the Gaza Strip soon after Israel withdrew from the area in 2005, conducting a bloody coup to oust Fatah officials in 2006. Today, it governs over 2 million Palestinians with a fundamentalist form of religious doctrine.

In its continual attack on Israel, Hamas terrorists have committed unspeakable atrocities against civilians, killing babies, women, children and families, many in barbaric ways, and raping and abusing women.

The group has long celebrated anyone who commits a suicidal act in order to harm Jews as a “shahid” or a martyr. The group rewards each shahid’s death, showering their families with monetary funds and status.

FAQ

What is Hezbollah?



Hezbollah terrorists have been launching anti-tank guided missiles at an Israel on the northern border. Rockets have also been launched from Lebanon at Israel since the beginning of the war.

Formed in 1982, Hezbollah is a terrorist organization based in Lebanon with ties to Iran and Syria. The group's primary objective, as voiced by its leader Hassan Nasrallah, is to eradicate Israel, which he referred to as a "cancerous tumour."

Hezbollah has orchestrated several devastating attacks against Jews worldwide, including a bus bombing targeting Israeli tourists in Bulgaria and a strike on a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires, claiming 85 lives.

Supported by Iran with more than \$700 million per year, Hezbollah's first manifesto, released in 1985, called for the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Lebanon and stated:

"Our struggle will end only when this entity [the state of Israel] is obliterated."

Despite its terrorist activities, Hezbollah has attempted to rebrand itself as a political party, offering social services to its constituents including infrastructure, healthcare, and education, earning substantial support from Lebanon's Shiite community.

The U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Arab League, Israel and many other countries consider Hezbollah to be a terrorist organization.

FAQ

What towns were affected by the Hamas terrorists assault?



The Hamas terrorists assault on the 7th October hit over 20 towns and cities in the periphery around the Gaza border and beyond, including Sderot and Ofakim, both of which have populations of about 30,000 people.

Most of the impacted communities were kibbutzim or other types of small agricultural towns, with Sderot and Ofakim being the only large cities to be heavily infiltrated by terrorists on the ground. Many of these communities were founded around the time the state of Israel was established.

Kibbutz Be'eri, one of the towns hit worst by Hamas' massacre, was founded in 1946. Kfar Aza, where some of the worst atrocities were reported, was founded in 1951.

Since the establishment of the state of Israel, the area has suffered often from terrorism and rocket fire. Despite the hardships of living there, many residents have said they love the area and feel deeply connected to it.

FAQ

How can I support Israelis amid the terror attacks?



There are many organizations working hard to support Israel, ensuring that people have the equipment they need and assisting victims of terrorism and those impacted by the war. Donating money to victims of terror is the most valuable thing we can do at this time.

Reaching out to people you know in Israel with messages of support and understanding can make them feel less isolated during this time.

Educating yourself about the conflict and what is happening using reliable sources rather than social media will allow you to advocate for Israel and defend her actions.

FAQ

What is Palestinian Islamic Jihad?



The Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group claimed responsibility for striking several Israeli areas near the Lebanese border this week. PIJ was formed in 1981 as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood. The terrorist movement is active in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria and is tightly linked to Iran. Like Hamas and Hezbollah, the PIJ's stated aim is the destruction of the State of Israel. The terrorist movement has conducted many terrorist attacks, including suicide bombings, in Israel.

FAQ

If I have family or friends in Israel who I can't get in contact with, how can I find information about them?



Israel Police have set up a Family Center for Locating Missing Persons in collaboration with the Home Front Command and the Welfare Ministry. The centre is open 24/7 at HaNegev 4, Airport City, Lod, in the Lahav 433 building and can only be contacted by calling Israel Police's 105 hotline.

Family members arriving at the centre are asked to bring identification details, an item from which DNA can be extracted, and a photo of the missing person.

Most foreign nationals with relatives missing have resorted to using social media and getting help from local communities in an effort to find their loved ones. If one of the options listed above is inaccessible, a post asking for information on Instagram and Facebook may be the best option.

FAQ

If I'm in Israel, what should I do?



Rocket fire from both the Gaza Strip and Lebanon is continuing. If you're in Israel, make sure to stay updated on Home Front Command guidelines and to download a red alert app such as the Home Front Command's app on your phone.

Depending on where you are in the country, you have a different amount of time to get to a shelter. The Home Front Command's app will tell you how much time you have in your location. Walk in an orderly fashion to the nearest shelter as many injuries during wartime are caused by panicking and running on the way to a shelter.

After entering a shelter, stay inside for at least 10 minutes after the sirens stop. If there is no shelter, find a stairwell or interior room without windows to shelter in.

If you're outside during a siren and cannot reach a shelter or building in time, lie on the ground and cover your head with your hands. If you are in a vehicle, stop on the side of the road, get out, and either find shelter or move away from your vehicle and lie on the ground.

The latest Home Front Command guidelines can be found [here](#).

For foreign nationals wishing to leave the country, many airlines have suspended flights to and from Israel. Some countries are conducting rescue flights and El Al is still flying as well. Foreign nationals should contact the relevant embassy if they are looking for a way to exit the country.