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Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update November 27, 2023

JINSA's [Israel at War](#) webpage is a dedicated resource for analysis, commentary, webinars, and media coverage about the 10/7 attacks and the ensuing Israel-Hamas conflict. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below. This update covers the period between November 22 and 27.

Analysis

- Despite several delays and hiccups, a deal that the United States helped negotiate for the release of 50 hostages held in Gaza in return for a four-day pause in operations, the release of 150 Palestinian prisoners held in Israel, and an increase in humanitarian aid deliveries has been broadly implemented.
 - » While several terrorist organizations not formally bound by the deal, including Lebanese Hezbollah and Iranian-backed Iraqi militia, appear to also have paused their attacks on Israel, others have not. Notably, both the Houthis in Yemen and possibly Iran itself have increased their maritime aggression since the deal went into effect.
 - » Yet, an important part of the deal has not yet been implemented: Hamas has not allowed the International Red Cross to visit the remaining almost 200 hostages held in Gaza.
 - » Nevertheless, both sides appear interested in potentially extending the deal which would otherwise [expire](#) on November 28. The terms of the deal allow for it to be extended each day that Hamas releases 10 hostages and Israel 30 Palestinian prisoners.

Developments Since 11/22

Humanitarian Efforts

- On November 24, Israel and Hamas [implemented](#) a four-day ceasefire that was negotiated by the United States, Qatar, and Egypt, although it was originally scheduled to begin the previous day. The deal included Hamas releasing 50 Israeli women and children hostages, Israel releasing 150 prisoners, largely women and teenagers, and the delivery of fuel and humanitarian aid to Gaza. U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan [specified](#) that, per the deal, the International Red Cross is required to visit the hostages. However, the organization has yet to do so.
 - » The ceasefire was scheduled to go into effect on November 23 at 10:00 am local time but was delayed a full day.

- » During the first round of releases on November 24, Hamas released 24 hostages—13 Israeli and 11 foreigners—and Israel released 39 prisoners. Hamas also released 10 Thai hostages and one Filipino hostage separately from the ceasefire negotiation.
 - Hamas [released](#) Channa Katzir, 77; Margalit Mozes, 77; Yafa Ader, 85; Hannah Perry, 79; Adina Moshe, 72; Danielle Aloni, 44, and her daughter, Emilia Aloni, 9; Ruthi Monder, 78, her daughter, Keren Monder, 54, and Keren’s son Ohad Monder, 9; Aviv Asher, 2; Raz Asher, 5; and Doron Katz-Asher, 34.
 - The 10 [Thai](#) foreign nationals that Hamas released were Natthawaree Moonkan, Santi Boonthom, Boonthom Phankhong, Mongkhon Phajuaboon, Withoon Phumee, Wichai Kalapat, Bancha Kongmanee, Buddee Saengboon, Uthai Thunsri, and Uthai Sangnuan. The [Filipino national](#) that Hamas released was Gelienor Pacheco.
- » In line with Israel’s commitment to permit 200 trucks carrying aid to enter Gaza for each day of the temporary fighting pause, Israel’s military liaison to the Palestinians [said](#) that 200 trucks entered the territory on November 24.
 - Israel’s Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) said, “the humanitarian aid trucks contained food, water, shelter equipment and medical supplies only.”
 - The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that UNRWA received 137 of the trucks to distribute the material, and that 129,000 liters of fuel and four trucks of gas entered Gaza on November 24.
 - According to OCHA, the aid benefited hundreds of thousands of people. It said, “the UN welcomes the release of 24 hostages held in Gaza since October 7 and renews its call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.”
- » During the second round of releases on November 25, Hamas announced that it would [delay](#) the release of the second batch of hostages, alleging Israeli violations of the ceasefire terms. After the discrepancies were resolved, Hamas released 13 Israeli hostages, including five women and eight children, while Israel released 39 prisoners.
 - Hamas [released](#) Shoshan Haran, 67, her daughter Adi Shoham, 38, Adi’s children Yahel, 3, and Naveh, 8; Shiri Weiss, 53, and her daughter, Noga Weiss 18; Maya Regev, 21; Hila Rotem, 12; siblings Noam Or, 17, and Alma Or, 13; Sharon Avigdori, 52, her daughter, Noam Avigdori, 12; and Emily Hand, 9.
 - Israel accused Hamas of violating the ceasefire terms by releasing Hila Rotem [without](#) her mother Raya Rotem, 54. Israeli officials claimed that this was an issue during the delay in the hostage and prisoner transfer earlier that day. A statement [released](#) on Hila’s behalf said that her mother was with her throughout her captivity until they were separated two days before her release.
- » During the third round of releases on November 26, Hamas released 14 Israelis, including nine children, and three Thai nationals.
 - Hamas [released](#) Israeli-American Avigail Idan, 9, whose parents were killed on October 7; Hagar Brodutch, 40, and her children Ofri, 10, Yuval, 9, and Oriya, 4; Chen Almog Goldstein, 48, and Agam, 17, Gal, 11 and Tal, 9; Elma Avraham, 84; Aviva Siegel, 64; sisters Ela, 8 and Dafna, 15, Elyakim; and Roni Krivoi, 25.
 - For the first time, one of the prisoners that Israel [released](#) was a Gazan, Alaa Fathi Abdulhadi Abu Sunima, a resident of Rafah who was arrested for illegally entering Israel in June 2022.

- Hamas [released](#) a video of the release, which shows Hamas gunmen bringing the hostages to a square in Gaza City, followed by the arrival of an International Red Cross vehicle.
- » The fourth round of hostage and prisoner releases on November 27 was [delayed](#), with one of the main issues being that Hamas proposed a list of hostages it plans to release that would separate children from their mothers who would remain in captivity.
- » Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) at a press conference on November 22 that the deal was the result of dual diplomatic and military pressures and thanked U.S. President Joe Biden for his involvement, including pressuring Qatar to improve the terms of the deal.
 - Netanyahu also stated that the truce will dictate future deals for Israeli hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, including citizens Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed, as well as the bodies of fallen IDF soldiers Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul, which are currently held by Hamas.
- » President Biden [spoke](#) with Qatari leader Sheikh Al Thani on November 25 to discuss “hurdles to implementation of the deal and mechanisms for resolving those hurdles as soon as possible” and “agreed to remain in close contact to ensure the deal is fully implemented according to its term.”
 - According to Israeli officials, the [hurdles](#) in question were Hamas demands that all Israeli female hostages under 50 be characterized as soldiers, rather than just the five women soldiers on active duty being held hostage.
 - President Biden had previously [spoken](#) with Prime Minister Netanyahu, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on November 22 to finalize the hostage deal.
- On November 26, Israel alleged that Hamas [blocked](#) the transfer of humanitarian aid to the northern part of Gaza by setting up a checkpoint on a road along which a humanitarian convoy was traveling.
- According to a November 27 Reuters [report](#) citing three Egyptian officials, Egyptian, Qatari, and U.S. mediators are close to finalizing a truce extension. Israel is seeking a day-by-day extension, while Hamas is seeking a four-day extension, according to the report.
 - » On November 26, Hamas [said](#) that it wants to extend the temporary ceasefire beyond four days to secure the release of more Palestinian prisoners.
 - » Any deal that involves the release of more than 300 Palestinian prisoners over 10 days requires a new cabinet vote.
- During a November 23 *Sky News* interview, host Kay Burley [asked](#) Israeli government spokesperson Eylon Levy whether Israel thinks “that Palestinian lives are not valued as highly as Israeli lives” because Israel released more prisoners than Hamas did hostages during the swap.
 - » Levy was taken aback by the premise and retorted, “that is an astonishing accusation. If we could release one prisoner for every one hostage, we would obviously do that,” and “we’re operating in horrific circumstances. We’re not choosing to release these prisoners who have blood on their hands. We are talking about people who have been convicted of stabbing and shooting attacks.”
 - » He continued, “notice the question of proportionality doesn’t interest Palestinian supporters when they’re able to get more of their prisoners out. But really, it is outrageous to suggest that the fact that we are willing to release prisoners who are convicted of terrorism offenses, more of them than we are getting our own innocent

children back, somehow suggests that we don't care about Palestinian lives? Really, that's a disgusting accusation."

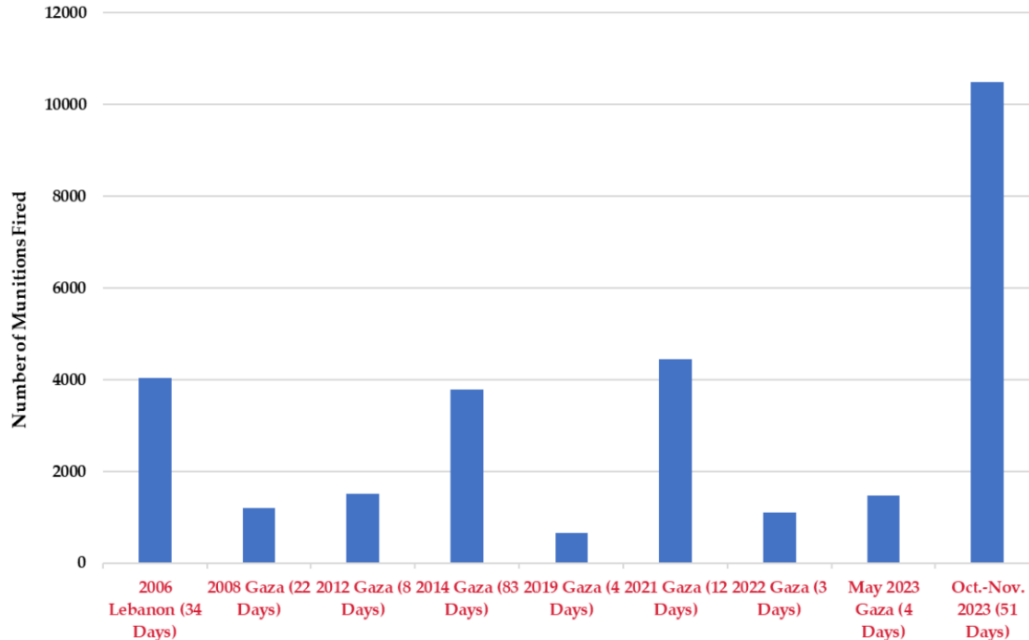
- According to November 23 [reports](#), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said that almost 1,037,000 Palestinians are sheltering in 156 UNRWA facilities in Gaza and 108 of its personnel have been killed during the war.
 - » On November 22, UNRWA Secretary General Philippe Lazzarini warned during a press conference that as winter sets in, Palestinian suffering will worsen, and Gaza is close to an outbreak of waterborne disease.
- On November 23, IDF spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari [said](#) that Hamas will attempt "psychological terror" against Israel throughout the ceasefire, and "these will be complex days, nothing is final until it actually happens. And even amid the process, there may be changes at any moment."

Attacks Against Israel

- At least [10,500](#) rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired from Gaza during the war.
 - » There has not been rocket fire from Gaza since the night of November 24.
 - » Between November 22 and 24, sirens [sounded](#) in Shlomi, Nir Oz, Mitvach Nir Am, Kissufim, Ashkelon, Kerem Shalom, Kfar Aza, and Saad.
- Dozens of rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles were fired from Lebanon on November 22 and 23, although Hezbollah appears to be abiding by the ceasefire since its implementation on November 24, despite not being a formal party to the deal.
 - » On November 23, Hezbollah [claimed](#) it [fired](#) 48 rockets at an IDF base near Safed in northern Israel. The barrage caused damage but no reported injuries.
 - The IDF [noted](#) that over 20 of the rockets landed in Lebanese territory, causing property damage in the Lebanese villages of Ain Ebel, Rmeish, and Yaroun.
 - » On November 23, a Hezbollah cell [fired](#) an anti-tank missile from southern Lebanon towards an IDF base in Biranit, along the Lebanese-Israeli border.
 - » On November 22, terrorists [fired](#) a surface-to-air missile at an IDF drone over southern Lebanon, which was intercepted by Israeli air defenses.
 - » November 22 [reports](#) claimed, citing a Hezbollah source, that the terror group would abide by the four-day Israel-Hamas ceasefire despite its lack of involvement in the negotiations.
- The Iran-backed Houthis are not observing the deal and have launched several attacks against Israel.
 - » On November 26, the Houthis were likely responsible for [seizing](#) the Liberian-flagged and Israel-linked tanker *Central Park* in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Yemen. The U.S. Navy [freed](#) the ship on November 27 and captured the attackers as they attempted to flee. During the rescue operation, two ballistic missiles were [fired](#) towards the scene of the incident from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen. No injuries or damage were [reported](#).
 - U.S. Central Command [said](#) in a statement that the *USS Mason* approached the seized ship after receiving a distress call and demanded the release of the vessel, upon which five armed individuals attempted to flee via small boat but were captured by the U.S. Navy.

- Two ballistic missiles were then [launched](#) at the ship from Houthi-controlled territories in Yemen, landing roughly ten miles from the two ships, according to the U.S. Central Command statement.
- The *Central Park* is [owned](#) by Clumvez Shipping, which is operated by Israeli businessman Daniel Guy Ofer. The ship reportedly was carrying large quantities of phosphoric acid at the time of its seizure.
- » The IDF said on November 25 that one of its fighter jets [intercepted](#) a drone, likely fired by the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen, over the Red Sea near Israel's southernmost city of Eilat. The IDF said the drone was not intercepted over Israeli airspace.
- » The IDF [said](#) on November 22 that it used a fighter jet to intercept a cruise missile, likely fired by the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen, over the Red Sea near Eilat.
- » The U.S. Central Command [announced](#) on November 22 that the *USS Thomas Hudner* warship had shot down "multiple one-way attack drones launched from Houthi controlled areas in Yemen" over the Red Sea, causing no damage or injuries.
- On November 24, a Malta-flagged and Israel-linked container ship, the *CMA CGM Symi*, was [attacked](#) by an Iran-linked drone in the Indian Ocean, causing damage but no reported injuries.
 - » The Associated Press reported, citing a senior U.S. defense official, that the ship, which is owned by a Singaporean-based company controlled by Israeli billionaire Idan Ofer, was attacked by an Iranian Shahed-136 drone.
 - According to the U.S. defense official, the United States suspects that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is responsible for the attack.
- On November 26, senior Fatah official Jibril Rajoub [justified](#) Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel and praised Hamas, telling journalists that the October 7 attack was conducted "in the context of the defensive war our people are waging," and was a response to Israel's aggression on all the Palestinian lands.
 - » Rajoub reportedly stated that Hamas plays an "important" role in the Palestinian "political and social fabric and of our struggle."

Projectiles Fired Against Israel During Major Conflicts



IDF Operations

- The IDF carried out operations in Gaza prior to the ceasefire taking effect on November 24.
 - » On November 24, just prior to the ceasefire taking effect at 7:00 am local time, the IDF [destroyed](#) a Hamas tunnel under Shifa Hospital in Gaza City and destroyed other tunnel entrances nearby, and struck other Hamas targets.
 - » On November 23, the IDF [announced](#) it had struck over 300 sites in the past day, including command centers, tunnels, weapons depots, weapon manufacturing sites, and anti-tank missile launch positions.
 - The IDF [struck](#) a Hamas cell and also eliminated a group of Hamas operatives as it was approaching IDF soldiers.
 - The IDF [found](#) six Hamas tunnel shafts in Jabaliya, including one inside a mosque, and found rocket launchers next to mosques and residential buildings.
 - The IDF also [destroyed](#) a Hamas tunnel shaft in Beit Hanoun, and uncovered tunnel shafts in a mosque and a home.
 - » On November 23, an IDF airstrike [killed](#) the commander of Hamas’s navy in Khan Younis, Amar Abu Jalalah. The strike also killed another unnamed member of Hamas’s navy.
 - » On November 23, troops from the IDF’s 401st Brigade made significant discoveries while [conducting](#) operations on the outskirts of Jabaliya, including:
 - [Finding](#) four “significant tunnels” belonging to Hamas, each of which connects to a large electricity network and one of which connects to a senior Hamas operative’s house;
 - [Uncovering](#) Hamas documents and battle plans in a senior Hamas operative’s house, which were given to intelligence units; and

- [Locating](#) weapons caches, including long-range rockets. A number of the weapons were found stored underneath beds and closets in children’s bedrooms.
- » The 401st Brigade’s unit commander, Col. Benny Aharon, [stated](#) on November 23 that the unit “[has] reached the heart of Hamas’s deployment.”
- » On November 23, Israel [ordered](#) the evacuation of the Indonesian Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, according to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry. The IDF [alleged](#) on November 5 that the hospital is located above a Hamas tunnel network and that rocket launching posts are located next to the premises.
- » On November 23, Israeli media sources [reported](#) that the IDF arrested a Shifa Hospital doctor, Dr. Mohammad Abu Salmiya, while he was evacuating towards southern Gaza. AFP [reported](#) on November 23, citing another Shifa Hospital director, that several other medical personnel working at the hospital were also arrested.
- » On November 22, the IDF [released](#) additional information about the Hamas tunnel network below Shifa Hospital, noting that a tunnel, including “war rooms” and hideouts, runs under Shifa’s “Qatari building.”
 - The IDF said that it found last week an air-conditioned room, a hideout, toilets, and a kitchen past a blast door at the end of 55 meters (180 feet) of a tunnel.
 - The military also said that it found an additional two tunnel shafts near the hospital and that “the findings unequivocally display Hamas’ deliberate method of operating underneath hospitals. The terrorist organization also exploits the hospital buildings, using them to store weapons in, and as terrorist headquarters.”
- » The IDF [said](#) on November 22 that the Paratroopers Brigade raided the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood in Gaza City and captured a Hamas outpost and offices of Hamas’s intelligence division, seizing “intelligence materials, technical [equipment] and significant information about Hamas’s underground infrastructure” before subsequently destroying the offices.
 - The IDF killed several terrorists during the raid and located a drone manufacturing workshop, mortars, and additional weapons.
- » The IDF [said](#) on November 22 that its Givati Infantry Brigade captured Hamas’s northern Gaza Brigade’s headquarters in the Sheikh Za’id neighborhood and found tunnels shafts, a miniature IDF armored personnel carrier and mock Gaza border barrier, and a rocket production and launch site.
 - According to the IDF, the Sheikh Za’id neighborhood is home to several senior Hamas officials and Hamas compounds, including some used by the Nukhba forces.
- » On November 26, Hamas [confirmed](#) on social media that senior Hamas commander Ahmed Ghandour, head of Hamas’s northern Gaza brigade, had been killed, along with other top leaders including Aymen Siam, head of Hamas’s rocket firing array, Raafat Salman, and Wael Rajab. The IDF had previously announced the Hamas operatives’ deaths.
- On November 24, the Associated Press [reported](#) that the IDF fatally shot two Palestinians and wounded 11 others who attempted to travel from southern Gaza to northern Gaza after they disregarded IDF orders to stay put. The IDF has not commented on the report.
- The IDF stated that it launched strikes on several targets in Lebanon since November 22.
 - » On November 24, the IDF [conducted](#) airstrikes against a number of Hezbollah sites, including rocket launching posts, in southern Lebanon.

- » On November 23, the IDF [struck](#) a series of Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon, including rocket launchers, military infrastructure, and a Hezbollah cell that had fired an anti-tank missile at an IDF base in Biranit.
- » On November 23, the IDF [carried out](#) a drone strike and artillery shelling against an anti-tank missile squad in southern Lebanon.
- » On November 22, the IDF used fighter jets to [strike](#) Hezbollah sites, and the military used tanks and aircraft to strike a Hezbollah cell responsible for an earlier attack near the northern Israeli city Hanita and a structure used for an attack on Israeli troops near Mattat.
 - The IDF also fired artillery toward the source of rocket fire targeting northern Israel.
- » On November 22, the IDF [launched](#) airstrikes against a missile launching post and a weapons depot in southern Lebanon in response to an earlier incident in which terrorists launched a surface-to-air missile towards an IDF drone over southern Lebanon.
- » On November 22, the IDF [conducted](#) another set of airstrikes on Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon in response to earlier projectile attacks.
 - According to AFP, the son of prominent Lebanese lawmaker Mohamed Raad, a member of Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc, was [killed](#) along with several other Hezbollah members in the strikes.
- On November 26, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [said](#) that the IDF has killed over 100 Hezbollah members and destroyed dozens of Hezbollah observation posts, weapon depots, and other sites since the war began.
- Syria's Sham FM radio [reported](#) on November 26 that Israel struck Damascus International Airport and other sites near Damascus.
 - » According to the U.K.-based NGO Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Israel [killed](#) two Hezbollah operatives in the strikes, which targeted Hezbollah facilities outside of Damascus.
- The IDF has conducted operations in the West Bank since November 22.
 - » On November 24, the IDF [demolished](#) the West Bank home of Kamel Abu Bakr, a terrorist responsible for the killing of an Israeli police officer in an August terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.
 - » On November 24, the IDF [conducted](#) a raid on the Aqbar Jabr refugee camp near Jericho in the West Bank. During the raid, the IDF killed Mohammed Hinnawi, a Palestinian Islamic Jihad operative who "recruited a military squad and carried out several shooting attacks against IDF forces in recent months," according to the IDF.
- On November 26, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu [entered](#) the Gaza Strip for the first time since the war began to meet with IDF troops.
 - » Netanyahu told troops, "we are making every effort to return our hostages, and eventually we will return them all." Netanyahu also stated, "we have three goals for this war: eliminating Hamas, returning all our hostages, and ensuring that Gaza does not become a threat to the State of Israel again. We will continue until the end, until victory. Nothing will stop us, and we are convinced that we have the power, the strength, the will and the determination to achieve all the war's goals, and we will."
 - » Netanyahu was joined by his Chief of Staff Tzachi Braverman, National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi, Netanyahu's Military Secretary Maj. Gen. Avi Gil, and Deputy IDF Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Amir Baram.

- On November 23, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [said](#) that following the “short” ceasefire with Hamas, the IDF will resume operations “with intensity.”
 - » Gallant added, “here will be a continuation, because we need to complete the victory and create the impetus for the next groups of hostages, who will only come back as a result of pressure.” Gallant also stated, “there will be many operations in which Shayetet 13 [an elite IDF Navy commando unit] will have something to do, until there is no military threat from the Gaza Strip, and we will have freedom of action to do what we want at any given moment.”
- On November 22, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and Minister without portfolio Benny Gantz held a press conference.
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu [said](#) in response to a reporter’s question about Hamas leaders Khaled Meshaal and Ismail Haniyeh saying Hamas will rule Gaza after the war that he has “instructed the Mossad to act against the heads of Hamas wherever they are,” and that any ceasefire does not apply to Hamas chiefs abroad.
 - » Netanyahu [stated](#) in response to questions about the hostage swap that Israel faced the question, “how could we pass up the possibility to bring home tens of children, mothers and women?” and added that Israel will re-arrest released Palestinian prisoners if they commit acts of terrorism.
 - » Gallant [stated](#) that upon his insistence, the Israeli security cabinet added an additional clause to its approval of the hostage deal, namely that Israel will resume its mission of eradicating Hamas once the truce concludes.
 - » Gallant [said](#) of Hamas leaders abroad that “they are living on borrowed time” and that “the struggle is worldwide: From gunmen in the field to those who are enjoying luxury jets while their emissaries are acting against women and children, they are destined to die.”
 - » Gallant [said](#) that he hopes Israelis living more than 4 kilometers (approx. 2.5 miles) from Israel’s border with northern Gaza will be able to return by the end of December, as “the danger [in that area] is passing, given the IDF’s operations.”
 - » Gantz [remarked](#) that both Hezbollah and Iran should be concerned about potential IDF actions, stating, “we know how to [act toward those attacking] us, as well as those who are sending them,” and that “what’s happening now in northern Gaza can also happen in southern Lebanon and Beirut.”

Casualties and Hostages

- Over 1,200 people in Israel have been [killed](#), and another 6,900 have been [injured](#) in the war.
 - » 392 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - At least 77 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 32 [American](#) nationals, 34 [Thai](#) nationals, 39 [French](#) nationals, 17 [British](#) nationals, 10 [Nepalese](#) nationals, 7 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 16 [Russian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, 4 [Chinese](#) nationals, 3 [Brazilian](#) nationals, 3 [Belarusian](#) nationals, 3 [Philippines](#) nationals, 2 [Ukrainian](#) nationals, 2 [Peruvian](#) nationals, 5 [Canadian](#) nationals, a [Cambodian](#) national, a [Colombian](#) national, an [Irish](#) national, an [Italian](#) national, a [Spanish](#) national, a [Swiss](#) national, a [Turkish](#) national, and an [Austrian](#) national.

- According to unverified figures from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry, at least 14,854 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and approximately 36,000 have been [injured](#) during the war.
 - » On October 25, 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.”
- According to the Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Ministry of Health, 237 people have been [killed](#) and an additional 2,950 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.
- According to the IDF, terrorists in Gaza currently [hold](#) roughly 195 individuals as hostages.
 - » So far, [62](#) hostages in Gaza have been released, [one](#) has been rescued by the IDF, and [four](#) have been [found](#) dead.
 - » The IDF [announced](#) on November 22 that the body of 25-year-old Shani Gabay of Yokne’am, who had been missing since the October 7 attack, had been located and identified in Israel near the site of the Supernova festival.
- Foreign nationals also remain missing, including at least 9 [French](#) nationals, 15 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 9 [Ukrainian](#) nationals, 8 [Russian](#) nationals, 3 [Canadian](#) nationals, 2 [Philippines](#) nationals, 2 [Austrian](#) nationals, 3 [Italian](#) nationals, 2 [Paraguayan](#) nationals, 5 [Peruvian](#) nationals, 2 [Sri Lankan](#) nationals, 2 [Tanzanian](#) nationals, a [Chilean](#) national, an [Azeri](#) national, and a [Nepalese](#) national.
 - » At least 10 [American](#) nationals, 8 [German](#) nationals, 13 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, 3 [Romanian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals have been taken hostage.

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On November 27, Turkey and Iran agreed to strengthen ties and collaborate on bringing an end to the war and establishing a Palestinian state.
 - » Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi [spoke](#) by phone with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on November 27 to discuss strengthening ties and to emphasize the importance of the two countries taking a unified stance against Israel’s “atrocities and brutality” and “unlawful attacks,” according to a Turkish readout.
 - » Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian also [spoke](#) by phone with Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan about the need to mobilize Islamic countries’ support and the importance of undertaking strong measures to ensure the creation of a Palestinian state.
- On November 26, Iran-backed Iraqi Hezbollah Brigades, a separate group from Lebanese Hezbollah, [joined](#) the truce between Hamas and Israel. The group said it would halt attacks against Israel until the end of the truce period, and announced a “reduction in the pace of escalation” of attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria.
- On November 22, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian [arrived](#) in Lebanon for meetings with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, as well as Ziad al-Nakhleh, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and other PIJ and Hamas officials.
 - » Amir-Abdollahian [told](#) local press, “If this ceasefire starts tomorrow, if it does not continue... the conditions in the region will not remain the same as before the ceasefire and the scope of the war will expand.”

U.S. and International Response

- On November 24, while [speaking](#) with reporters in Massachusetts, President Biden thanked the leaders of Israel, Egypt, and Qatar and said that the hostage releases to that point were “only a start” but that “the chances are real” of the truce being extended further, noting negotiations have “so far gone well.”
 - » President Biden [stated](#) in response to a reporter’s question that he has pushed Prime Minister Netanyahu “to focus on trying to reduce the number of casualties while he is attempting to eliminate Hamas, which is the legitimate objective. That’s a difficult task, and I don’t know how long it will take.”
 - » Biden [added](#), “my expectation and hope is that as we move forward, the rest of the Arab world in the region is also putting pressure on all sides to slow this down to bring this to an end as quickly as we can.”
 - » President Biden [added](#) that he does not trust Hamas, saying, “I only trust Hamas to respond to pressure.”
- On November 26, President Biden [spoke](#) by phone with family members of four-year-old Israeli-American Avigail Idan, whom Hamas released that day. President Biden [stated](#) later that day, “so many Americans are praying” Idan will be alright and that “what she endured is unthinkable.”
 - » An administration official [said](#) to reporters that “the story of Avigail in many ways was a microcosm of the horror Hamas unleashed on October 7.”
 - » The administration official also [said](#), “we are thrilled that Avigail is now home and back in the loving arms of her extended family. She will receive the care and attention she needs through the Israelis and we are also ready to provide all appropriate support.”
- U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan [clarified](#) on November 26 that “President Biden acknowledged the idea [of conditioning aid to Israel], but he went on to say that his approach, which was high-level private diplomacy, has actually generated results,” including the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza, the exit of thousands of foreign nationals from Gaza, and hostage releases.
- During a November 26 interview with *NBC*, Sullivan [stated](#) that the United States only supports Israel expanding its operations to southern Gaza if “civilians have been accounted for, have the opportunity to be in safety, have access to humanitarian assistance and to be out of the way of any military operation that is conducted.”
- On November 27, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg [called](#) for an extension of the temporary truce, telling journalists, “I call for an extension of the pause. This would allow for much needed relief to the people of Gaza and the release of more hostages.”
- On November 27, entrepreneur Elon Musk [visited](#) Israel and met with Prime Minister Netanyahu, Israeli President Isaac Herzog, and Minister without portfolio Benny Gantz.
 - » During the visit, Israeli communications minister Shlomo Karhi [announced](#) that Musk’s Starlink satellite internet company had reached a deal that would ensure that the Israeli government would approve the operation of any Starlink units in Israel and the Gaza Strip.
- On November 23, U.K. Foreign Secretary David Cameron [visited](#) Kibbutz Be’eri, telling Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, “I wanted to come here myself to see the horrific nature of the attacks that you suffered on October 7 — and they are absolutely horrific.”

- During a November 22 United Nations (UN) Security Council session addressing the plight of women in the war between Israel and Hamas, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield [said](#), “it has been less than two months since Hamas carried out its barbaric terrorist attack against Israel, but many members of this council seem to have forgotten or attempted to erase the horrors of that day. And many still cannot bring themselves to unequivocally condemn Hamas’s acts of terror.”
 - » She also said, “the children who were executed in front of their parents. The families who were burned alive. The young people who were gunned down with glee. We have also seen horrifying footage that points to Hamas’ rape and sexual assault of innocent civilians. Where is the universal condemnation? And where is the outrage?”
 - » She said to the Council that “this moment is a test of our capacity to empathize with the suffering of all. We must continue to hold space in our hearts for the victims of the October 7th attack. For those in Israel whose homes are targets of Hamas’ rockets. For the hostages in Gaza who were pried from their families.”
 - » She expressed compassion for Palestinians suffering amid the war: “We must also – we must also – have the same compassion for the innocent Palestinian civilians, who have been killed and injured during this conflict. The innocent civilians, mostly children, under the rubble, and for the people in Gaza who are in dire need of humanitarian assistance – water, food, shelter, and other essentials. For the young girls who are no longer able to attend school, and the elderly who have fallen ill from a lack of adequate nutrition, and for those with disabilities who are unable to move.”
- On November 22, the Biden administration’s envoy for the humanitarian situation in Gaza, David Satterfield, [said](#) that Palestinians who fled southward in Gaza after the IDF told them to do so “must be allowed to return to homes in the north as soon as possible.”
- On November 22, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby [indicated](#) that the U.S. believes the Israel-Hamas War will continue after the truce expires, stating, “the fight is not over. The war is not over. The threat that Hamas poses is still real and still viable to the Israeli people.”
 - » Kirby added that the U.S. will “continue to make sure that we’re giving [Israel] the tools, the capabilities, the weapons systems that they need to continue to go after Hamas.”
- On November 25, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar [posted](#) on X, “this is a day of enormous joy and relief for [Israeli-Irish hostage] Emily Hand and her family. An innocent child who was lost has now been found and returned, and we breathe a massive sigh of relief. Our prayers have been answered.”
 - » Israeli government spokesperson Eylon Levy said in response, “This is how you describe a little girl who went missing during a stroll in a forest, then gets discovered by a friendly hiker. Not a girl brutally abducted by death squads that brutally massacred her neighbors. But this explains the extent of Ireland’s contribution: prayers.”

Rising Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Protests

- On November 26, close to 60,000 people [marched](#) against antisemitism in London, England, including former British prime minister Boris Johnson.
- On November 26, pro-Palestinian protestors [blocked](#) traffic at New York City’s Manhattan Bridge during one of the United States’ busiest travel days of the year.
- On November 25, three Palestinian college students in Burlington, Vermont, [were](#) shot in a suspected hate crime. Two of the students were in stable condition, while the third had “much more serious injuries,” according to Burlington police.

- Israeli media outlets [reported](#) on November 23 that at least 11 schools in the West Bank celebrated Hamas's October 7 attacks, according to a report from the Israel-based watchdog organization Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education, including eight schools run by the Palestinian Authority.
 - » The report [included](#) a video from a United Nations-run school displaying an administrator saying "God give victory to the *jihad* warriors" in front of a number of students, and another school which [closed](#) on October 18 "out of respect for the pure blood of our martyrs," according to the school's social media account.
 - The school's social media post also [referred](#) to Israel as "the cowardly Nazi Occupation" and stated, "God punish the Jews and those who support them."
- On November 23, pro-Palestinian protestors [set off](#) smoke bombs, spilled red paint, and chanted expletives outside AIPAC president Michael Tuchin's home in Los Angeles, California.
- On November 23, Israeli citizen Elazar Leibowitz was [indicted](#) on one count of racially motivated assault by the State Attorney's Office for allegedly punching an Arab man while yelling racial epithets at him in the Israeli city of Hadera on October 23.
- On November 22, at least 85 Jewish graves were [damaged](#) and several Star of David emblems were stolen in an act of antisemitic vandalism in Charleroi, Belgium.
- On November 20, hundreds of students at a Queens, New York, high school [stormed](#) the hallways and rioted after learning that a Jewish teacher had attended a pro-Israel rally. The teacher hid in a locked classroom, and students attempted to push their way in until police arrived and escorted her from the building.

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