



Ari Cicurel
Assistant Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin
Policy Analyst

Zachary Schildcrout
Policy Analyst

Anna SchafTEL
Programs and Outreach Associate

Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update November 7, 2023

On October 7, Hamas launched an unprovoked and unprecedented multi-pronged attack on Israel by land, air, and sea. JINSA has launched a webpage dedicated to its commentary, webinars, and media coverage about [Israel at War](#). An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below, which JINSA will regularly produce.

Analysis

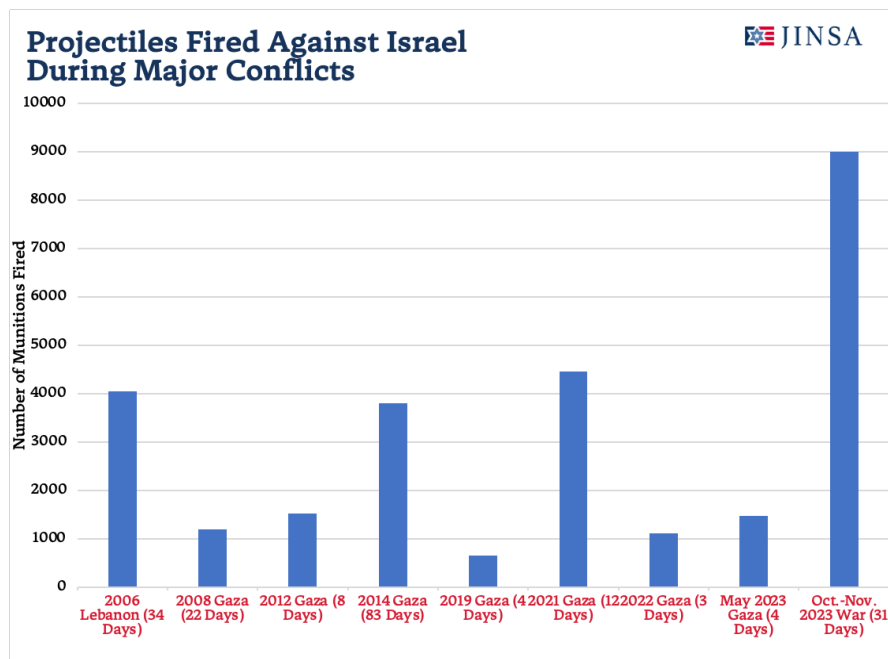
- The United States plans to transfer [\\$320 million of precision bombs](#) to Israel, which will enhance its ability to strike terrorist sites with as few civilian casualties as possible.
 - » Hamas and Hezbollah place their weapons caches, launchers, and command-and-control networks in and below civilian locations such as hospitals, residential buildings, and schools in order to dissuade Israel from launching strikes, abuse the laws of armed conflict (LOAC) to claim Israel has committed war crimes, and create disinformation about Israeli operations in order to build international pressure that drives Israel to terminate its operations prematurely.
- The IDF's reported push toward al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, which Israel [says](#) sits atop Hamas's headquarters and a vast tunnel network, may signal a future escalation of Israeli operations to target Hamas's leadership and neutralize the tunnel network in Gaza.
 - » Israeli operations against terrorist targets at or near the hospital may further lead to erroneous charges of Israeli war crimes and Hamas attempts to leverage Israeli operations into disinformation meant to precipitate further international pressure on Israel.
- The [escalation](#) of at least thirty-eight attacks by Iran-backed groups against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria since October 17, with at least ten such incidents occurring since November 2, indicates that the Iranian regime and its proxies remain undeterred, despite U.S. airstrikes against two Iran-linked locations overnight on October 26.

Last 24 Hours

Attacks Against Israel

- At least [9,000](#) rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired from Gaza during the war.

- » Hamas claimed responsibility for several long-range rockets [fired](#) from Gaza toward central Israel that landed in the Mediterranean Sea. Sirens [sounded](#) in Amioz, [Ashdod](#), Ashkelon, Mefalsim, Mivtahim, Moshav Shtula, Nir Oz, Nirim, Ohad, Talmei Eliyahu, Sde Nitzan, Tzohar, Yesha, as well as other locations in southern Israel.
- » On November 6, the IDF [said](#) that it discovered rocket launchers and more than fifty rockets inside a mosque and in a compound used by the Palestinian Scout Association in Gaza.
- On November 7, Israel [observed](#) a national day of mourning one month after the October 7 attack with one minute of silence at 11 am.
- Terrorists fired barrages of rockets and gunfire from Lebanon in the last 24 hours.
 - » On November 7, the IDF announced that it [intercepted](#) a “suspicious aerial target” on the Lebanese-Israeli border.
 - » On November 7, an IDF post near the town of Arab al-Aramshe along the Lebanese-Israeli border [sustained gunfire](#).
 - » Sirens [sounded](#) in Nahariya, Acre, and other towns in the Western Galilee and around Krayot, Malkia, Avivim, and Dishon.
 - The IDF later [clarified](#) that a recent siren in the upper Galilee was a false alarm.
 - » The IDF [said](#) on November 6 that a barrage of thirty rockets was fired from Lebanon toward northern Israel. Hamas took credit for launching sixteen of the projectiles.
- On November 7, Israeli Police shot and wounded a Palestinian woman who was draped in a [Hamas flag](#) and carrying a knife after she approached a checkpoint and disobeyed orders to comply with security forces.
- On November 7, Israeli soldiers [thwarted](#) a stabbing attack in the West Bank settlement of Ofra. Surveillance video showed a masked man with a knife attempting to enter the settlement, who fled after soldiers opened fire.
- On November 6, Israeli Border Police officer Sgt. Elisheva Rose Ida Lubin [died](#) after an assailant stabbed her in Jerusalem that morning.



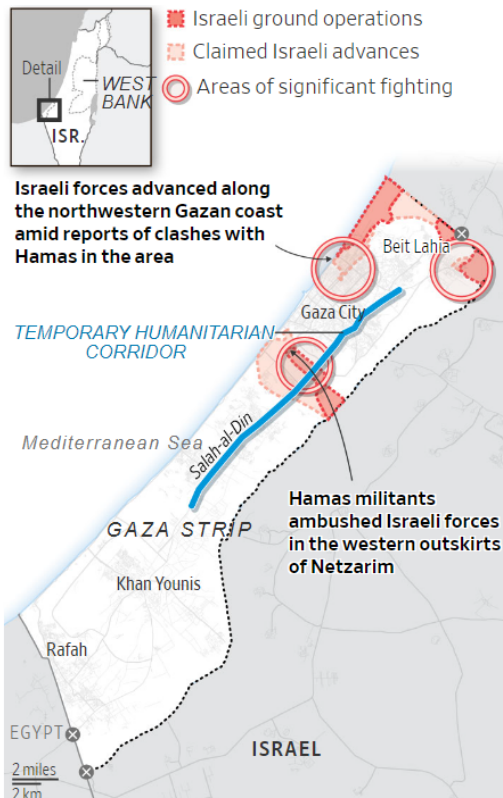
IDF Operations

- IDF forces [targeted](#) command-and-control nodes and hideouts on the outskirts of Gaza City and struck key targets in the city over the last 24 hours.
 - » On November 6, head of the IDF Southern Command, Major General Yaron Finkelman, [conducted](#) an assessment of Hamas tunnels in the Gaza Strip with ground forces and head of the Combat Engineering Corps, Brigadier General Ido Mizrahi, among others.
 - » IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari [said](#) on November 6 that the IDF is “deepening the pressure on Gaza City,” and the IDF killed several Hamas field commanders overnight. He also noted that the IDF is destroying every Hamas tunnel that they find.
 - » *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on November 6 that the IDF is approaching al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, below which is reportedly Hamas’s headquarters.
- In the last 24 hours, the IDF launched several strikes against terrorist cells in Lebanon that were responsible for attacking Israel.
 - » On November 7, the IDF [attacked](#) a terrorist cell in southern Lebanon that attempted to fire an anti-tank missile into Israel, and the military separately struck a Hezbollah post to neutralize an unspecified threat.
 - » On November 6, the IDF [said](#) that its fighter jets struck Hezbollah “technological assets,” a weapons storage facility, rockets, and additional targets.
 - » The IDF [fired](#) artillery toward the source of the barrage of thirty rockets from Lebanon on November 6.
- On November 6, Israeli Police and the Shin Bet, Israel’s internal security agency, [conducted](#) a raid on a terrorist cell in the West Bank city of Tulkarem.
 - » According to a joint statement from the two agencies, four terrorists were killed in the raid.
 - » The statement added that the cell, which operated “under the guidance and funding” of Hamas, was plotting terrorist attacks on behalf of Hamas and had already perpetrated dozens of shooting attacks targeting Israelis.
 - » Israeli media [reported](#) that the raid killed a commander of Hamas’s al-Qassam brigades and a commander of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.
- Overnight, Israel [arrested](#) twenty-eight terrorist suspects in the West Bank, including eleven members of Hamas.
- A Palestinian man was reportedly killed in [clashes](#) with Israeli forces and two others were injured.
- On November 6, in an interview with *ABC News*, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) that Israel would not accept a ceasefire until all hostages are released and that Israel would have overall responsibility for security in Gaza for an indefinite amount of time.
 - » On the prospects of a ceasefire, Netanyahu [said](#), “well, there’ll be no ceasefire, general ceasefire, in Gaza without the release of our hostages. As far as tactical little pauses, an hour here, an hour there. We’ve had them before, I suppose, we’ll check the circumstances in order to enable goods, humanitarian goods to come in, or our hostages, individual hostages to leave. But I don’t think there’s going to be a general ceasefire. I think it will hamper the war effort. It’ll hamper our effort to get our hostages

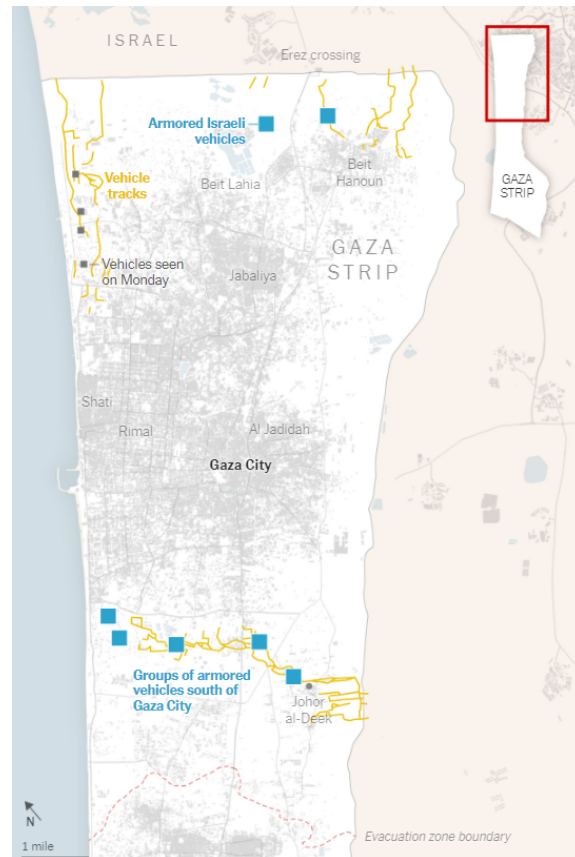
out because the only thing that works on these criminals in Hamas is the military pressure that we're exerting."

- » Netanyahu said that if hostages were released, "there will be a ceasefire for that purpose."
- » Netanyahu added, "I think Israel will, for an indefinite period, have the overall security responsibility because we've seen what happens when we don't have it. When we don't have that security responsibility, what we have is the eruption of Hamas terror on a scale that we couldn't imagine."

Israeli military in Gaza



Source: [Wall Street Journal](#)



Source: [The New York Times](#)

Casualties and Hostages

- At least 1,400 people in Israel have been killed and another 6,900 have been [injured](#) in the war.
 - » 348 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 30 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, 24 [Thai](#) nationals, 21 [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 [Chilean](#) 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 [10,022](#) people have been killed in Gaza and [25,408](#) 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, 159 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 2,250 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’s latest press release, the families of 240 individuals have been notified that their loved ones were [taken hostage](#).
- Foreign nationals also remain missing, including at least 11 [American](#) nationals, 9 [French](#) nationals, 15 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 9 [Ukrainian](#) nationals, 8 [Russian](#) nationals, 3 [Canadian](#) nationals, 3 [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 8 [German](#) nationals, 20 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, [3 Romanian](#), 2 [Italian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals have been taken hostage.

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On November 6, Pentagon spokesperson Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder [announced](#) at a press conference a significant recent uptick in rocket and drone attacks launched by Iran-backed militias against U.S. troops and personnel in the region.
 - » Brig. Gen. Ryder stated that there had been a total of thirty-eight such attacks since October 17, including twenty in Iraq and eighteen in Syria.
 - » Approximately forty-five U.S. personnel have been [injured](#) in the attacks, and one contractor died after suffering a heart attack due to an attempted projectile attack on a U.S. base in Iraq.
 - » At Ryder’s previous press conference on November 2, he stated that only twenty-eight attacks had [taken place](#), meaning an additional ten attacks have occurred since November 2.
- On November 5, Iranian state media [reported](#) that Hamas’s leader, Ismail Haniyeh, had traveled to Iran to meet with Ayatollah Khamenei.
 - » Iran state television network, The Islamic Republic News Agency, stated that Haniyeh “briefed Khamenei on the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza, as well as the developments in the West Bank.”
 - » The television report also stated that Ayatollah Khamenei “strongly condemned the crimes committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza, as well as the developments in the West Bank.”
- Saudi Arabia will [host](#) a summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Riyadh on November 12 that Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will attend, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on November 6.

- » The visit will be the first by an Iranian head of state to Saudi Arabia since 2012.
- » The OIC is a body of fifty-seven countries, of which forty-eight are Muslim-majority countries, including both Iran and Saudi Arabia.
- The U.K.-based Syrian NGO Syrian Observatory for Human Rights [reported](#) on November 6 that senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Hezbollah leaders met in the eastern Syrian city of al-Bukamal to discuss supporting Iran-backed militias and Hamas.
- Hezbollah released a statement on November 7 [stating](#) that sixty-one of its fighters have been killed thus far in the war, including three in IDF airstrikes on November 7.

U.S. and International Response

- U.S. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby [told](#) reporters on November 6 that President Biden and Prime Minister Netanyahu discussed a “humanitarian pause” during a phone call.
 - » Kirby said further, “we consider ourselves at the beginning of this conversation, not at the end of it, so you can expect that we’re going to continue to advocate for temporary localized pauses,” but not a permanent ceasefire.
- *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) on November 6 that the Biden administration sent a notification to leaders in Congress on October 31 that the administration plans to transfer \$320 million worth of the precision-guided munition Spice Family Gliding Bomb Assemblies to Israel.
- U.S. Central Intelligence Agency chief William Burns arrived in Israel on November 5 and will [meet](#) this week with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and Mossad chief David Barnea. Burns will also travel to Qatar, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates during his trip.
- Newly confirmed U.S. Ambassador to Israel Jack Lew [arrived](#) in Jerusalem on November 7 and met with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen.
 - » According to an Israeli foreign ministry readout, the two discussed the war, Iran’s support for terrorism, and ways to preserve and build on the Abraham Accords.
- U.S. State Department spokesperson Vedant Patel [said](#) during a November 7 briefing that Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu’s willingness to entertain the proposal from a radio interviewer of [dropping](#) “some kind [of] nuclear bomb on all of Gaza” was “wholly unacceptable.”
 - » Patel added, “we continue to believe that it is important for all sides of this conflict to refrain from hateful rhetoric that is going to further incite tensions.”
- *Politico* [reported](#) on November 6 that it obtained a copy of a State Department dissent memo authored by two mid-level staffers with Middle East experience. The dissent memo is reportedly one of several being circulated within the State Department.
 - » The dissent memo, which has an unknown number of signatories, calls on the United States to both support a ceasefire and voice criticisms of Israeli policy publicly to a greater degree.
 - » The dissent memo reportedly states that the State Department “must publicly criticize Israel’s violations of international norms such as failure to limit offensive operations to legitimate military targets. When Israel supports settler violence and illegal land seizures

or employs excessive use of force against Palestinians, we must communicate publicly that this goes against our American values so that Israel does not act with impunity.”

- Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune [asked](#) the International Criminal Court (ICC) to bring charges against Israel while delivering a speech on November 7.
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also [threatened](#) to bring charges against Israel at the ICC while speaking with reporters over the weekend.
 - » Erdogan told reporters, “we would support initiatives that would bring Israel’s human rights violations and war crimes to the International Criminal Court. Our relevant authorities, especially our Foreign Ministry, will carry out this work.”
- Ninety-two aid trucks [entered Gaza](#) on November 6 through the Rafah crossing, the sole passageway between Egypt and Gaza, per an *ABC News* report that cited a border crossing official. According to Israel’s Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), only seventy trucks containing humanitarian aid from international donors [entered](#) Gaza through Egypt’s Rafah crossing on November 6.
 - » At least 570 aid trucks have entered Gaza since the conflict began, according to *ABC News*.
- 329 foreign passport-holders [left](#) Gaza on November 6 through the Rafah crossing after the crossing was closed all weekend, according to *ABC News*, citing a border crossing official.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [told](#) a group of foreign ambassadors in Tel Aviv on November 6 that “our victory is your victory,” and “if the Middle East falls to the axis of terror, Europe will be next.”
 - » He argued that Israel is fighting barbarism “led by a broader axis of terror” whose chief enabler is Iran and “Hezbollah, Hamas, Houthis and their other minions. They seek to bring the Middle East and the world back to a dark age. They seek to torpedo, to derail any progress toward peace.”
 - » Netanyahu added that Israel will offer Gaza “a real future, a future of promise and hope” after Hamas’s reign.
- On November 6, Osama Hamdan, leader of Hamas’s Lebanon operations, said at a news conference that Hamas will [not accept](#) a puppet government in the Gaza Strip and is determined to remain in power in Gaza.
 - » Hamdan stated that “to those who think that Hamas will disappear, Hamas will remain entrenched in the conscience of our people, and no force on earth can annihilate or marginalize it.”
 - » Hamdan added, “our people will not allow the United States to impose its plans to create an administration that suits it and that suits the occupation (Israel), and our people will not accept a new Vichy government.”
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres [stressed](#) that the Gaza Strip is becoming a “graveyard for children” and argued that “the unfolding catastrophe makes the need for a humanitarian ceasefire more urgent with every passing hour.” He said further, “the nightmare in Gaza is more than a humanitarian crisis. It is a crisis of humanity.”
- On November 6, six ambulances reportedly [carried](#) wounded Palestinians to Egypt for examinations preceding transfer to hospitals.
- Jordan’s Prime Minister Bisher Khasawneh [warned](#) on November 6 that his country would consider Israeli attempts to displace Palestinians from the West Bank or Gaza “a declaration

of war.” He added, “there will be no displacement, no new Nakba, God willing, no resettlement, and no alternative homeland.”

- South Africa has formally [recalled](#) all its diplomats from Israel in response to Israeli operations in the Gaza Strip, the South African government said in a statement on November 6.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk [landed](#) in Cairo, Egypt, on November 7, kicking off a five-day visit to the Middle East to discuss the war.
 - » Turk’s visit to Cairo will be followed by a visit on November 8 to the Rafah crossing on the Egyptian-Israeli border, followed by a trip to Amman, Jordan, on November 9.
 - » Turk’s office stated the visit comes “amid Israel’s escalation in Gaza” and that “human rights violations are at the root of this escalation and human rights play a central role in finding a way out of this vortex of pain.”
- During a November 6 meeting with European rabbis, Pope Francis [offered](#) prayers “above all else, to everything that has happened in the last few weeks” and lamented that “yet again violence and war have erupted in that Land blessed by the Most High, which seems continually assailed by the vileness of hatred and the deadly clash of weapons.”
 - » He also said, “the spread of antisemitic demonstrations, which I strongly condemn, is also of great concern.”
- On November 6, Paul Kessler, 69, a Jewish man in Los Angeles, [died](#) from his wounds the day after an altercation with pro-Palestinian protestors. According to local police, “Kessler fell backwards and struck his head on the ground,” and the case is being investigated as a homicide. In its statement, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles noted that Kessler was struck in the head with a megaphone held by a pro-Palestinian protestor.
- On November 6, roughly 100 protestors [gathered](#) on Liberty Island in New York and displayed signs that said “Ceasefire” and “Palestinians should be free.”
- On November 6, roughly 300 pro-Palestinian protestors [blocked](#) the entrance to the Port of Tacoma in Washington state to prevent cargo from being loaded onto the MV Cape Orlando, a U.S. military supply vessel, believing the cargo to be aid destined for Israel.
- On November 5, protestors waving Palestinian flags [defaced](#) White House gates with red paint, likely to symbolize blood, and attempted to climb the fence. Protestors also shouted obscenities and carried a threatening image that depicted the word “Wanted” above a picture of President Biden and Vice President Harris.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Yoni Tobin, “[U.S. Aid to Gaza Almost Certain to End Up in Hamas Hands](#),” November 6, 2023
- Thomas Trask and Jacob Olidort, “[The Case for Upgrading Israel’s ‘Major Non-NATO Ally’ Status](#),” RealClearDefense, November 6, 2023
- Webinar: [Not Ataturk’s Republic: Erdogan’s Response to Hamas and Israel](#) with JINSA’s VP for Policy Blaise Misztal, Counselor at JINSA’s Gemunder Center for Defense and Strategy Ambassador Eric Edelman, and member of the JINSA Eastern Mediterranean Policy Project Alan Makovsky, November 3, 2023

- Jacob Olidort, “[In Speech, Nasrallah Explains Hezbollah’s Role in War with Israel](#),” November 3, 2023
- Zac Schildcrout, “[Houthi Attacks Highlight Need for Developing Regional Integrated Air Defenses](#),” November 3, 2023
- Jonathan Ruhe, “[Deterrence Through Strength](#),” The Dispatch, November 2, 2023
- Webinar: [Gaza Update](#) with JINSA President and CEO Dr. Michael Makovsky, JINSA Distinguished Fellow IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and JINSA Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, November 2, 2023
- Matt Kenney, “[Emergency Supplemental Funding for Israel – The Current State of Play](#),” November 1, 2023
- Dr. Michael Makovsky, [Appearance](#) on Live Now Fox, November 1, 2023