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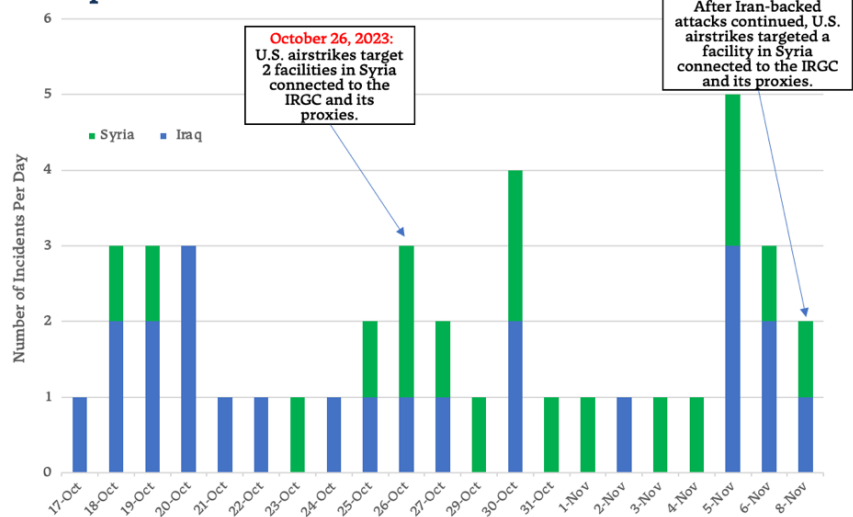
Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update November 9, 2023

On October 7, Hamas launched an unprovoked and unprecedented multi-pronged attack on Israel by land, air, and sea. Yesterday, JINSA hosted a [webinar](#) about the rise of antisemitism since the start of the war with JINSA President and CEO Michael Makovsky and Chairman of The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy and Former Deputy Prime Minister of Israel Natan Sharansky. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

Analysis

- The Yemen-based Iran-backed Houthis' [destruction](#) of a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone that was flying in international airspace on November 8 provides further evidence that the Iranian regime and its proxies remain undeterred from striking U.S. personnel and assets.
- Later on November 8, two U.S. F-15 aircraft launched [strikes](#) against facilities connected to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and affiliated groups. While the damage remains to be seen, past similar strikes that targeted infrastructure – not personnel – have not deterred the daily attacks that Iran-backed terrorists have launched against U.S. personnel since October 17.
 - » Iran-backed groups launched 19 attacks during the 10-day period between October 17–the date of its first attacks on U.S. personnel since March—and the first U.S. response on October 26. In the 13 days after those U.S. airstrikes, there were another 22 attacks against U.S. forces.
- A November 8 [report](#) from the media watchdog HonestReporting highlighting that several freelance journalists employed by prominent Western media outlets accompanied and documented the

Iran-backed Attacks Against U.S. Personnel Since the Start of the Israel-Hamas War Continued Despite Limited U.S. Strikes 



October 7 attacks underscores that Hamas exploits press coverage as part of its information warfare campaign, and Western media do not apply the same level of scrutiny to information emanating from Gaza as they do to that provided by Israel's military.

Last 24 Hours

Attacks Against Israel

- At least [9,000](#) rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired at Israel during the war.
 - » [Sirens](#) sounded in Ashdod, Nitzan, Beit Ezra, Shtulim, Sde Uziyahu, Gan Yavne, Gan Hadarom, Re'im, Ein Hashlosha, Nahal Oz, and Kissufim, as well as other locations in southern Israel.
- Terrorists in Lebanon continued to fire anti-tank missiles and also launched a drone at northern Israel over the last 24 hours.
 - » On November 9, terrorists [fired](#) on an Israeli drone near Har Dov along the Lebanese-Israeli border.
 - » On November 8, terrorists [launched](#) an anti-tank missile from Lebanon at IDF positions near the Israeli area of Dovev, injuring two IDF soldiers. One of the soldiers was injured lightly and the other moderately.
 - » On November 8, the IDF [announced](#) that two projectiles had been launched towards the areas of Shtula and Yiftah in northern Israel. No casualties or damage were reported.
- On November 9, two Israelis were shot and [wounded](#) while driving near the West Bank settlement of Itamar, one moderately and one seriously.
- On November 9, Israeli media [reported](#) that explosions were heard in the southern Israeli city of Eilat and that police were closing off several roads in the city.

IDF Operations

- The IDF continued to expand its operations into Gaza City to neutralize terrorist operatives, infrastructure, and tunnels over the last 24 hours.
 - » On November 9, the IDF [announced](#) that it killed Ibrahim Abu-Maghsib, head of Hamas's Central Camps Brigade Anti-Tank Missile Unit, in an airstrike.
 - » On November 9, IDF troops [captured](#) a key stronghold, called Outpost 17, in west Jabaliya after a ten-hour battle with Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad gunmen above ground and in tunnels.
 - » The IDF [said](#) on November 9 that it opened a southward evacuation corridor for Gazan citizens for the fifth consecutive day.
 - » IDF spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said on November 9 that approximately 50,000 Gazan civilians had [traveled](#) from northern Gaza to southern Gaza using the humanitarian corridor Israel opened up for several hours on November 8 along the main thoroughfare of Salah al-Din Road.
 - » The IDF [announced](#) on October 8 that the entire 252 Division is operating in Gaza, marking the first time since the 1982 Lebanon War that an entire IDF reserve division is operating in enemy territory.

- The IDF said that the 252 Division captured the Beit Hanoun area in northern Gaza and has neutralized hundreds of Hamas operatives, compounds, launch positions, and tunnels.
 - » On November 9, IDF troops found a Hamas [drone manufacturing plant](#) inside a residential building that was next to a child’s bedroom and a school in Gaza City’s Sheikh Radwan.
 - » The IDF announced on November 9 that it has [destroyed](#) approximately 130 tunnel shafts in the Gaza Strip since it began its operations in Gaza.
 - » Israeli media sources reported that the IDF is [closing in](#) on al-Shifa Hospital, underneath which is Hamas’s main command center.
- The IDF launched strikes against terrorist cells in Lebanon that had targeted Israel over the last 24 hours.
 - » The IDF [announced](#) on November 8 that IDF fighter aircraft struck Hezbollah infrastructure in Lebanon in response to earlier projectile launches, including anti-tank missile launching sites, military structures, operational posts, and technological assets.
 - » The IDF also [announced](#) on November 8 that it struck a terrorist cell in Lebanon near the area of Biranit along the Lebanese-Israeli border.
- According to Israeli media sources, the Syrian military [claimed](#) on November 9 that Israel struck targets in southern Syria.
 - » The U.K.-based NGO Syrian Observatory for Human Rights [said](#) on November 9 that Israel had killed three members of Hezbollah in airstrikes and also targeted an air defense battalion, a radar installation, and the town of Aqraba, where a military airport is located.
- On November 8, the Israeli Prime Minister’s office [announced](#) that Mossad was involved in thwarting an alleged plot orchestrated by Hezbollah and the Iranian regime to attack Jewish targets in Brazil.
 - » Brazilian police announced on November 8 that they had arrested two people in the city of Sao Paulo in connection with the attack but declined to speak about connections to Hezbollah or Iran.
 - » The Mossad released a statement on November 8 [stating](#) that “Brazilian security services, together with the Mossad and its partners in the Israeli security community, alongside additional international security and enforcement agencies, have foiled a terrorist attack in Brazil, which had been planned by the Hizbollah terrorist organization, directed and financed by the Iranian regime ... The Mossad thanks the Brazilian security services for the arrest of a terrorist cell that was operated by Hezbollah in order to carry out an attack on Israeli and Jewish targets in Brazil.”
- On November 9, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [told](#) the directors general of government ministries, local officials, and the head of the IDF Home Front Command that Israel is “in a prolonged war, and the issue of the civilian economy is a main factor in the management of the war. We need to resolve things quickly, even if not perfectly.”
 - » He added that the IDF ground operation “suppresses a significant part of the threat to the home front. The rocket fire by Hamas these days is mainly intended to disturb the routine of life ... We need to make sure that the citizens are given security and the ability to have an uninterrupted daily routine.”

Casualties and Hostages

- Over 1,400 people in Israel have been [killed](#) and another 5,400 have been injured in the war.
 - » [352](#) Israeli soldiers have been killed.
 - Thirty-nine 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, 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 [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, 10,328 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza and nearly 26,000 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, [at least 173](#) people have been killed and an additional 2,397 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, 23 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, 3 [Romanian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals have been taken hostage.
- *Agence-France Presse* [reported](#) on November 9 that Qatar is mediating negotiations between Israel and Hamas for the release of between ten and fifteen hostages in exchange for a one to two day humanitarian pause in Gaza.
 - » *The Financial Times* [reported](#) that Mossad chief David Barnea and CIA chief William Burns were in Qatar on November 9 as part of the negotiations. The report stated that Hamas demanded a five-day humanitarian pause and fuel and aid deliveries, while Israel has pushed for only hours-long tactical pauses.
 - » Israeli media outlets [reported](#) that Hamas representatives corroborated the report, claiming that talks are underway for the release of twelve hostages, including six American hostages.

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On November 8, an armed drone almost certainly launched by Iran-backed militias [targeted](#) al-Harir airbase in Iraq, where U.S. troops and personnel are stationed. Earlier on November 8, sirens sounded at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. No casualties or damage were reported.
 - » A group called the “Islamic Resistance in Iraq” claimed responsibility for the attack.
- Multiple rockets, which Iran-backed groups also likely fired, reportedly [targeted](#) U.S. personnel in al-Shaddadi, Syria.
- On November 8, the Iran-backed Houthis [shot down](#) a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone while it was in international airspace.
- Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) [said](#) during a House Judiciary Committee hearing on November 8 that Iran is behind the rise in global antisemitism.
 - » Issa noted that Iran helps fund antisemitism on U.S. college campuses and is “virtually the sole funder of attempts to destabilize Israel,” and he argued, “we need to fully fund investigations into the funding that goes to antisemitism.”

U.S. and International Response

- On November 8, the U.S. military used two F-15s to conduct a “self-defense strike” on a weapons storage facility used by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and affiliated groups, according to a [statement](#) from U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, in response to the series of attacks against U.S. personnel in recent weeks.
- On November 8, Senate Democrats [blocked](#) the standalone \$14.3 billion Israel aid package that passed the House last week.
- On November 8, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that during a meeting between Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and CIA Director William Burns, President el-Sisi rejected a U.S. proposal for Egypt to govern Gaza in an interim period until the Palestinian Authority could take over after Hamas’s defeat.
- During a Republican Party presidential debate on November 8, candidates outlined their positions on the Israel-Gaza war, Iran, and antisemitism.
 - » Florida Governor Ron DeSantis [exclaimed](#) that if he were president, he would urge Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to “finish the job once and for all with these butchers” and added, “they’re terrorists, they’re massacring innocent people. I’m sick of hearing other people blame Israel just for defending itself.”
 - » DeSantis also [claimed](#) that as president, “if you are here on a student visa as a foreign national and you’re making common cause with Hamas, I’m canceling your visa and I’m sending you home ... No questions asked.”
 - » Noting her experience tackling these issues as the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley [argued](#) that the United States should “support Israel with whatever they need, whenever they need it ... The last thing we need to do is to tell Israel what to do,” she said. “The only thing we should be doing is supporting them and eliminating Hamas.”
 - » Haley also [argued](#) when asked about antisemitic incidents on college campuses that “if the KKK were doing this, college presidents would be up in arms. This is no different ... You should treat it exactly the same. Antisemitism is just as awful as racism.”

- » Asked what he would say to reassure Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) called for direct U.S. strikes against Iran and [claimed](#), “if you want to make a difference, you cannot just continue to have strikes in Syria on warehouses ... You actually have to cut off the head of the snake, and the head of the snake is Iran and not simply the proxies.”
- » Scott further [expressed](#) that “any campus that allows more antisemitism and hate, who allow students to encourage terrorism, mass murder and genocide, you should lose your federal funding today. Period.”
- » Businessman Vivek Ramaswamy [said](#) that he would tell Netanyahu “to smoke those terrorists on his southern border. And then I’d tell him as president of the United States, I’ll be smoking the terrorists on our southern border.”
- » Former Governor of New Jersey Chris Christie [affirmed](#) his support for strong U.S. backing of Israel, saying, “America is here no matter what it is you need at any time to preserve the state of Israel.”
- On November 8, media watchdog HonestReporting published a report [showing](#) that freelance journalists working for the AP, Reuters, *CNN*, and *New York Times* had infiltrated Israel along with Hamas terrorists during the October 7 attack.
 - » According to the report, *CNN* freelance journalist Hassan Eslaiha broadcast images of the attack while freelance photographers documented kidnappings, an attack on an Israeli tank, and the murder of an IDF soldier.
 - The report included an undated photograph of Eslaiha smiling while being embraced by senior Hamas leader and October 7 attack planner Yahya Sinwar.
 - » Israeli Minister for Communications Dr. Shlomo Karhi [announced](#) that he had contacted the AP, Reuters, *CNN*, and *New York Times* in response to the report. Karhi wrote to the agencies that “the gravity of the situation demands a swift and thorough response. It is now a time for individuals, journalists, institutions, unions, and organizations around the world to make a clear choice. We must decide whether we stand on the side of life and good or on the side of depraved terrorism, inhumanity, and evil.”
 - » *CNN* [told](#) Israeli media sources that it had severed ties with Eslaiha.
 - » AP spokesperson Nicole Meyer [said](#) in response to the report that “AP had no advance knowledge of the October 7 attack. AP’s role is to capture news and images from events happening worldwide, at any point, even if they are terrible and involve victims. AP uses photos from freelancers all over, including Gaza.”
 - » *Reuters* [responded](#) to the report with a statement that “we are aware of a report by HonestReporting and accusations made against two freelance photographers who contributed to *Reuters* coverage of the October attack. Reuters categorically denies that it had prior knowledge of the attack or that we embedded journalists with Hamas on October 7. Reuters acquired photographs from two Gaza-based freelance photographers who were at the border on the morning of October 7, with whom it did not have a prior relationship.”
- On November 9, representatives from approximately eighty countries around the world, as well as representatives from the Palestinian Authority and international NGOs, [met](#) in Paris, France, to discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Israel was not invited to attend.
- On November 9, French President Emmanuel Macron [called](#) for a humanitarian truce in Gaza and stated that countries should work towards a ceasefire.

- » Macron said at a press conference that “the situation is serious and getting worse every day. Right now, it is the protection of civilians that we must work on. For this, we need a very rapid humanitarian truce and we must work for a ceasefire.”
- Antisemitic incidents and attacks have continued worldwide.
 - » On November 8, a Jewish man in Sydney, Australia, was [violently assaulted](#) by a group of men who threatened, “I will murder you” and called him a “pro-Jew dog” after he removed posters of a pro-Palestinian rally that already occurred.
 - » Marking the 85th anniversary of the Nazis’ Kristallnacht pogrom against Jews, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz [said](#) he was “ashamed and outraged” at a wave of antisemitic incidents in Germany. The synagogue in which Scholz was speaking was attacked with Molotov cocktails during the surge of antisemitism since the war began.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Webinar: [Hamas’s Assault and the Antisemitic Aftermath](#), with Michael Makovsky, JINSA President and CEO, and Natan Sharansky, Chairman of The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy and Former Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, November 8, 2023
- Michael Makovsky, “[Biden’s Iran policy needs to match post-10/7 realities](#),” *The Hill*, November 7, 2023
- Webinar: [Hezbollah’s Escalation Dilemma](#), with John Hannah, JINSA’s Randi & Charles Wax Senior Fellow; Hanin Ghaddar, Friedmann Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; IDF Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) Sarit Zehavi, founder and president of Alma; and Orna Mizrahi, senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), November 7, 2023
- 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
- Michael Makovsky, [Appearance](#) on Live Now Fox, November 1, 2023