



Ari Cicurel
Assistant Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin
Policy Analyst

Zachary Schildcrout
Policy Analyst

Anna Schafel
Programs and Outreach Associate

Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update March 15, 2024

JINSA's [Israel at War](#) webpage is a dedicated resource for analysis, commentary, webinars, and media coverage about the 10/7 attacks and the ensuing Israel-Hamas conflict. JINSA will release the Swords of Iron Update on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

Analysis

- Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's (D-NY) [remarks](#) on March 14 calling for new Israeli elections indicated the growing divide between U.S. and Israeli leadership and could further inflame tensions between the two nations. As the leader of Senate Democrats, the speech will likely encourage further criticism of Prime Minister Netanyahu and Israel.
- During a JINSA [webinar](#) on March 14, IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, a JINSA Distinguished Fellow, noted that "almost 100,000 Israelis have been evacuated from the north and they cannot come back under the circumstances. If we do not find a solution to this problem, either by diplomatic agreement ... or that Hezbollah will change the way it is allocating its forces around the border, we will have to go to a big war that we don't want."
 - » IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, JINSA's Julian and Jenny Josephson Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs, claimed that "Israel is dealing with six different fronts, four of them immediately supported by Iran. Definitely Hamas, definitely Hezbollah, definitely the Houthis, and we didn't even mention the militias in Syria ... [so recent U.S. sanctions relief to Iran is] like feeding the beast ... It's a boost and injection to their nuclear project and their proxy project."
- During a JINSA [webinar](#) on March 13, Senator Ted Budd (R-NC) argued in reference to U.S. plans to create a pier in Gaza to provide humanitarian aid that there are "2 million people [in Gaza]. You need 6 million meals per day. I don't think one pier is going to be sufficient. The quickest way [to help people in Gaza] is to release the hostages and for [Hamas] to stand down."
 - » Regarding Qatar's regional role, Senator Budd said that Qatar is "trying to be Switzerland. They're trying to be neutral, but this isn't a situation of neutrality ... They're very kind. They're very generous hosts ... But we were very adamant [during our trip] ... when it comes specifically to Qatar, it's time to either fish or cut bait."

Last 48 Hours

Attacks Against Israel

- At least 15,000 rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired at Israel from all fronts combined during the war, according to JINSA data.
- On March 14, an assailant carried out a stabbing [attack](#) at a gas station at the Beit Kama junction in Israel, seriously [injuring](#) and mildly injuring a man in his 50s and a 65-year-old man, respectively. The attacker, 22-year-old Israeli citizen Fadi Abu Altayef, who was raised in the Gaza Strip and gained Israeli citizenship in 2019, was [neutralized](#).

Gaza

- Sirens [sounded](#) in Netiv HaAssara.
- On March 15, the IDF [said](#) that after reviewing an incident the previous night during which Palestinian civilians waited to receive aid from trucks at Gaza City's Kuwait Square, "Palestinian gunmen continued to shoot as the crowd of Gazans began looting the trucks," and "a review of our operational systems and IDF troops [on the ground] found that no tank shelling, airstrike or gunfire was carried out toward the Gazan crowd in the area of the aid convoy."
 - » The IDF added that while it "continues its humanitarian effort to supply food and humanitarian aid to the civilians of the Gaza Strip, Hamas terrorists continue to harm Gazan civilians who are seeking food. and Hamas is blaming Israel for it." Hamas had originally [said](#) that Israeli troops opened fire on the civilians waiting to receive aid.
- On March 14, the IDF [said](#) that the Israeli Navy fired warning shots toward two suspects wearing diving gear after the Navy saw them enter the Mediterranean Sea via northern Gaza. The shots compelled the individuals to retreat to land.

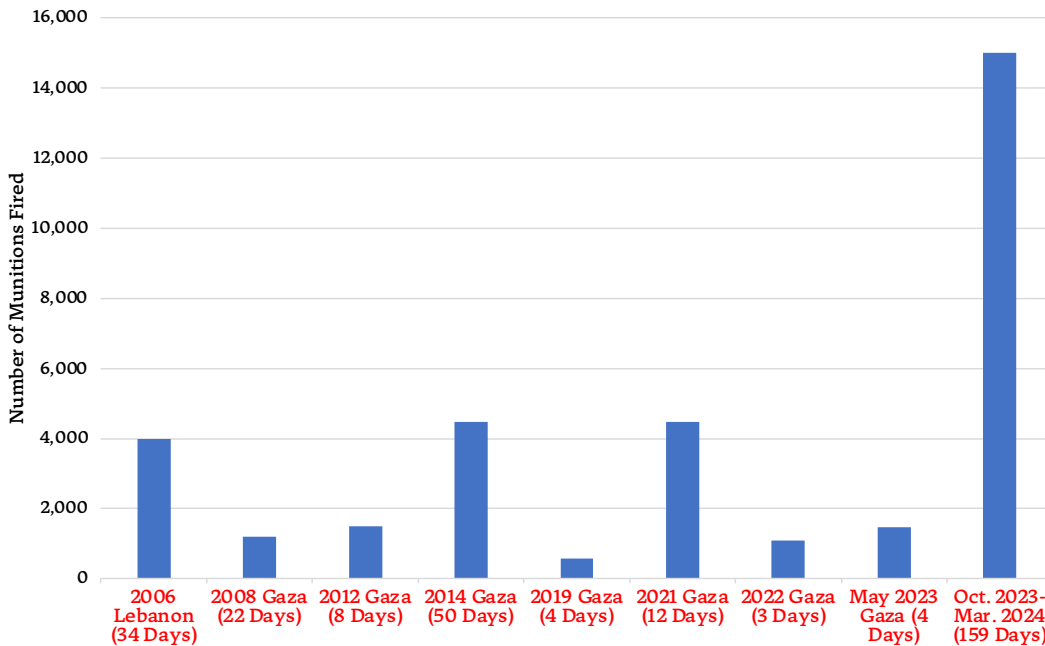
Lebanon

- Sirens sounded in [Kfar Blum](#), [Malkia](#), and [Margalioth](#).
- Reuters [reported](#) on March 15 that during a February meeting in Beirut between Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – Quds Force (IRGC-QF) leader, Esmail Qaani, and Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, the latter said that "this is our fight" and that he did not seek to embroil Iran in a war against Israel or the United States.
- On March 14, the IDF [said](#) that air defense systems intercepted "suspicious aerial targets" that crossed into Israel from Lebanon, triggering sirens in the northern Israeli town of Kfar Blum.
- On March 14, terrorists in Lebanon [fired](#) three projectiles toward the area near Malkia in Israel's north.

West Bank

- On March 15, security personnel for the Kfar Eldad community in Gush Etzion [spotted](#) and subsequently arrested and transferred to security forces two 18-year-old Palestinians who were carrying a large knife and a sword. The security personnel suspected that the two individuals planned to attack Jewish civilians in the community.
- On March 14, a terrorist attempted to [infiltrate](#) into the town of Adura in order to perpetrate an attack but was apprehended by security forces.

Projectiles Fired Against Israel During Major Conflicts



IDF Operations

Gaza

- On March 15, the IDF [detailed](#) its ongoing operations against Hamas in central, southern, and northern Gaza, noting that troops in Khan Younis have eliminated Hamas combatants via directing airstrikes, tank shelling, and sniper fire. Troops in central Gaza have eliminated approximately 10 Hamas combatants during the past day via tank fire and close-quarters combat, according to the IDF. In the north, the IDF said that it destroyed a site used to fire rockets toward Israel yesterday with airstrikes and artillery fire.
- On March 14, the IDF [said](#) that its Lochama Beterror (LOTAR) unit troops found a rocket launcher next to a school and rockets beneath a bed in a Hamas member's Khan Younis home, and the IDF published video of the discovery.
- On March 14, the IDF [said](#) that during the previous day, it launched an airstrike against a terror cell less than five minutes after its operatives fired a mortar toward Israel from central Gaza that did not reach Israel.
- On March 14, the IDF published a video of troops operating against four gunmen in the Qatari-funded Hamad Town residential complex in Khan Younis. The IDF troops used loitering munitions, in addition to gunfire, to eliminate two of the gunmen, and an airstrike killed the other two.
- On March 13, the IDF and Israel's Shin Bet security agency [said](#) that Israel killed Muhammad Abu Hasna in an airstrike in the southern Gazan city of Rafah, who worked to integrate "extensive activity of the various Hamas units [and] was in contact with the field operatives of Hamas and directed them."
- On March 13, the IDF [said](#) that during the past week and a half, the 98th Division has eliminated over 100 Hamas combatants in the Hamad Town residential complex in Khan

Younis, and the Maglan and Egoz units captured a Hamas Nukhba force commander there, along with numerous additional combatants.

Lebanon

- The IDF [said](#) on March 14 that following an interception of a “suspicious aerial target” from Lebanon, it launched strikes against Hezbollah targets in the southern Lebanese town of Kounine.
- On March 14, the IDF [said](#) that, following a projectile attack against Malkia in Israel’s north, the military launched airstrikes against Hezbollah facilities in Naqoura in Lebanon’s south and shelled targets near Hamoul in Lebanon to neutralize a threat.
- Reuters [reported](#) on March 13 that following an investigation, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said in a report that an Israeli tank operator killed Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah last year with 120 mm ammunition while firing at “clearly identifiable journalists.”
 - » The UNIFIL report also stated, “the firing at civilians, in this instance clearly identifiable journalists, constitutes a violation of UNSCR 1701 (2006) and international law.”
 - » IDF spokesperson Nir Dinar said that during the incident on October 13, the IDF fired artillery and tank rounds toward the source of an earlier Hezbollah attack against the IDF near Hanita in Israel’s north. Dinar said, “the IDF deplors any injury to uninvolved parties, and does not deliberately shoot at civilians, including journalists,” and “the IDF considers the freedom of the press to be of utmost importance while clarifying that being in a war zone is dangerous.”
- On March 14, the IDF [announced](#) that “per the assessment of the situation in the IDF, and in coordination with the other relevant bodies,” it canceled an event to memorialize the birth and death of Moses scheduled to take place on Mount Meron in northern Israel next week due to fear of projectile attacks from Hezbollah.

West Bank

- On March 14, IDF forces [arrested](#) 14 terror suspects and confiscated weapons in raids across the West Bank.
- On March 14, at a checkpoint in the West Bank, the IDF [apprehended](#) four terror suspects driving a vehicle containing an explosive device. The suspects were arrested.

Humanitarian Efforts

- AFP [reported](#) on March 15 that the first aid vessel arriving in Gaza via the new maritime aid corridor has nearly arrived and is visible from the coast of Gaza. The *Open Arms*, sent from Cyprus by a Spanish charity, is carrying roughly 200 tons of rice and flour.
- On March 15, Australia’s Foreign Minister Penny Wong [announced](#) that Australia would be resuming funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) after having paused funds due to Israel’s “serious allegations” that UNRWA staff members were involved in the October 7 terror attacks.
 - » Wong noted that Australia would be placing “stringent conditions” on its UNRWA funding, including “guarantees of staff neutrality, and confidence in supply chains.”
- During a virtual meeting on March 14 with Cypriot, British, Emirati, Qatari, EU, and UN leaders, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [noted](#) that the United States is coordinating

its plans to establish a maritime corridor in Gaza for delivering aid with Israel, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, and Canada.

- » Blinken said, “I want to emphasize it is a complement to, not a substitute for, other ways of getting humanitarian assistance into Gaza, and in particular overland routes remain the most critical way to get assistance in and then to people who need it.”
- » He added, “of course the Israelis have been not only allowing food in, they have been working to make sure that it gets in and gets to people who need it,” and, “we need to see ... flooding the zone when it comes to humanitarian assistance for Gaza.”
- During a press conference on March 14, U.S. National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [said](#) that although the United States is aware of reports that Israel plans to evacuate Palestinian civilians in Rafah northward to “humanitarian islands” in Gaza, Israel has not formally shown the Biden administration such plans. [Reports](#) from March 13 quoted Israeli officials outlining the plans.
 - » IDF spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said to reporters, “we need to make sure that 1.4 million people or at least a significant amount of the 1.4 million will move. Where? To humanitarian islands that we will create with the international community.” He noted that the designated areas would have temporary housing, food, water, and other aid for civilians.
- U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) on March 14 that it and the Jordanian Air Force carried out their 10th airdrop of humanitarian aid into Gaza.
- Egypt’s Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry [told](#) reporters on March 14 that he believes Israel should open additional border crossings with Gaza to get more aid in, stating, “Israel controls six other crossings that it should open.”
 - » Shoukry voiced displeasure at Israel’s aid vetting process, saying that “there is a long line of trucks waiting to enter, but are subject to the procedures of vetting that must be complied to so that the trucks can enter safely, that the drivers are not targeted, that they are received on the other side.”
 - » Shoukry added, “we have the capacity to increase the number of trucks, but the authorization has to come.”
- On March 14, stressing that aid airdrops and a maritime corridor cannot sufficiently replace aid shipments brought via trucks to Gaza, the European Union’s (EU) head of humanitarian aid and crisis management, Janez Lenarcic, [said](#) to journalists, “there is a risk of famine,” and “we already have a very strong and credible indication that there are pockets of famine already in the Gaza Strip.”
- On March 13, Cyprus’s Foreign Minister Constantinos Kombos [said](#) to reporters that a second ship containing humanitarian aid for Gaza “with bigger capacity” than the other already in transit will depart from Cyprus once the ship currently traveling to Gaza completes its mission. The World Central Kitchen (WCK) charity [said](#) that the ship will carry legumes, canned tuna, vegetables, rice, and flour, totaling 300 tons.

Ceasefire and Hostage Negotiations

- Reuters [reported](#) on March 15 that it reviewed a Hamas ceasefire proposal which would involve two stages and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza by a certain deadline.

- » According to the report, in the first stage of releases, Hamas would release all Israeli women, children, sick, and elderly hostages in exchange for the release of 100 Palestinian prisoners from Israel's prisons.
- » A deadline would subsequently be set for a permanent ceasefire and a full withdrawal of Israel's troops from Gaza, after which "all detainees from both sides would be released," per the report.

Post-War Planning

- On March 14, Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas [designated](#) Mohammed Mustafa, head of the Palestinian Investment Fund, the new PA prime minister in charge of constructing a new government. Barak Ravid of *Axios* reported that the new government Mustafa will create will be tasked with stabilizing "the [PA] in the West Bank and [preparing] a plan for how the PA can have a role in governing post-war Gaza."
- Citing unconfirmed reports from Arab media, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on March 14 that Hamas "executed" the head of the Doghmush clan in Gaza City and two others, accusing the leader of taking aid shipments and communicating with Israel.
 - » The clan subsequently released a [statement](#) asserting that every Hamas operative is a justifiable target, promising retribution, and warning Hamas against testing the clan's patience.

Casualties and Hostages

- Over 1,200 people were [killed](#) in Israel, and 13,000 Israelis have been [injured](#) in the war.
 - » 591 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 249 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - As of March 5, 1,453 IDF soldiers have been [injured](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far, including 303 who have been severely injured.
 - » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 34 [American nationals](#), 34 [Thai](#) nationals, 39 [French](#) nationals, 19 [Russian](#) nationals, 12 [British](#) nationals, 10 [Nepalese](#) nationals, 9 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 6 [Canadian](#) nationals, 4 [Philippines](#) nationals, 4 [Austrian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 4 [Chinese](#) nationals, 3 [Brazilian](#) nationals, 3 [Belarusian](#) nationals, 3 [Italian](#) nationals, 3 [Peruvian](#) nationals, a [Cambodian](#) national, a [Chilean](#) national, an [Irish](#) national, a [Spanish](#) national, an [Australian](#) national, an [Azeri](#) national, a [Honduran](#) national, a [Swiss](#) national, a [Tanzanian](#) national, and a [Turkish](#) national.
- According to unverified figures from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry, 31,341 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 73,134 have been injured during the war.
 - » On October 25, 2023, President Biden [cautioned](#) against trusting Gaza Health Ministry casualty figures, stating: "I have no notion that the Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed ... I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using."
 - » Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) on March 10 that Israel has killed approximately 13,000 Hamas operatives over the course of the war.

- According to the Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Ministry of Health, 433 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 4,700 have been wounded in the West Bank.
- The IDF [claims](#) that it has killed at least 1,500 infiltrators from Gaza since the start of the war.
- So far, [105](#) hostages in Gaza have been released, [three](#) have been rescued by the IDF, [seven](#) have been [found](#) dead, three have been [mistakenly](#) killed by the IDF, and one was [killed](#) during an IDF attempt to rescue him.
 - » 81 Israeli hostages have been released.
 - » 46 hostages with foreign nationalities—some also holding Israeli citizenship—have been released.
 - Thus far, 23 [Thai](#) nationals, 6 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 5 [German nationals](#), 3 [French](#) nationals, 4 [Russian nationals](#), 1 [Dutch](#) national, 1 [Filipino national](#), 1 [Mexican](#) national, 1 [Uruguayan](#) national, and 1 [American](#) national have been released.
 - Hamas has released [36 children](#) and still holds two as hostages.
- Israel has said that terrorists in Gaza currently [hold](#) 134 hostages and deceased hostage bodies.
 - » Israeli officials have confirmed the [deaths](#) of at least [34](#) of the 134 hostages captured on October 7, as well as two additional hostages who were abducted prior to October 7.
 - » Many of the hostages are foreign or dual nationals, including up to 5 [American](#) nationals, 6 [German](#) nationals, 13 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals.

Iranian Involvement and Response

- According to a March 15 [report](#) from Israel’s *Channel 12* citing a senior Israeli intelligence official, Iran has been using European ports, including in Belgium, Spain, and Italy, to send weapons shipments to Hezbollah.
 - » The report stated that after repeated IDF strikes on weapons shipments in northern Syria en route to Hezbollah from Iraq, Iran began transporting weapons to Hezbollah by sea from Europe, including bombs and missiles.
 - The shipments reportedly arrive at the Syrian port of Latakia and are then transported to Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon.
 - » The report further alleged that “Europe has huge ports and therefore Iran uses them as camouflage,” and that “it is possible to manipulate the large [European] ports where operations are done quickly, in contrast to small ports.”
- On March 15, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) and the British security firm Ambrey reported that a missile [struck](#) a merchant vessel 76 nautical miles west of Yemen’s Hodeidah. The ship sustained some damage and is continuing to its next port.
- Between 6:50 a.m. local time on March 14 and 12:40 a.m. on March 15, the Houthis [launched](#) two anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBMs) from Yemen toward the Gulf of Aden and two ASBMs towards the Red Sea. The missiles did not cause any reported injuries or damage.

- On March 14, Russian state news agency *RIA Novosti* [claimed](#) that the Houthis had tested a hypersonic missile and are planning to manufacture it for use against ships in nearby waters.
- On March 13, between 2:00 a.m. and 4:50 p.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) one anti-ship ballistic missile from Yemen into the Gulf of Aden. The missile did not hit any vessels, and there were no reported injuries or damage.

U.S. and International Response

- On March 15, Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [signed a letter](#) that the United States had requested in February indicating that Israel would commit to using U.S.-provided weapons in accordance with international law and would not interfere with U.S. humanitarian efforts in Gaza.
- The *Financial Times* [reported](#) on March 14 that the United States began secret discussions with Iran via Omani intermediaries in Oman in January to persuade the Iranian regime to restrain the Houthis’ regular attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea. Biden administration Middle East advisor Brett McGurk and Iran envoy Abram Paley led the delegation.
- On March 14, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) gave a [speech](#) from the Senate floor calling for Israeli elections, new Israeli and Palestinian leaders, and outlining the four major obstacles to peace between Israelis and Palestinians as: “ Hamas, and the Palestinians who support and tolerate their evil ways; radical right-wing Israelis in government and society; Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas; and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.”
 - » Schumer stated that he felt “very keenly my responsibility as Shomer Yisroel, a guardian of the People of Israel” and argued that Netanyahu is “no longer fit” to serve as the Israeli prime minister because “the Netanyahu coalition no longer fits the needs of Israel after October 7. The world has changed—radically—since then, and the Israeli people are being stifled right now by a governing vision that is stuck in the past.”
 - He further argued that Netanyahu has “lost his way, putting himself in coalition with far-right extremists like [Finance Minister] Bezalel Smotrich and [National Security Minister] Itamar Ben-Gvir.”
 - » Schumer claimed that “extremist Palestinians and extremist Israelis seek the same goal: from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, they aim to push the other from the land.”
 - » Schumer added, “as a democracy, Israel has the right to choose its own leaders, and we should let the chips fall where they may. But the important thing is that Israelis are given a choice. There needs to be a fresh debate about the future of Israel after October 7.”
 - He stated, “that is best accomplished by holding an election” because “nobody expects Prime Minister Netanyahu to do the things that must be done to break the cycle of violence, to preserve his credibility on the world stage, to work to a two-state solution.”
 - Schumer added, “[Netanyahu] has been too willing to tolerate the civilian toll in Gaza, which is pushing support for Israel worldwide to historic lows. Israel cannot survive if it becomes a pariah.”
 - » Schumer also called for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to step down.

- » Schumer [reportedly](#) told senior White House officials that he planned to make the speech, but the White House appeared to distance itself from Schumer’s comments, with U.S. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby [saying](#), “we’re going to stay focused on making sure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself.”
- » Israel’s Ambassador to the United States Michael Herzog [replied](#), “Israel is a sovereign democracy. It is unhelpful—all the more so as Israel is at war against the genocidal terror organization Hamas—to comment on the domestic political scene of a democratic ally. It is counterproductive to our common goals.”
- » Israel’s Minister without portfolio Benny Gantz [noted](#) that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is a “friend of Israel who helps us a lot, including recently, but he made a mistake in his speech ... Israel is a strong democracy, and only its citizens will determine its leadership and future. Any external intervention in the matter is incorrect and unacceptable.”
- » U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) told *Fox News* that he would consider introducing a [standalone aid package](#) for Israel because of Schumer’s comments.
- A Reuters [report](#) on March 14 indicated that the United States has finalized its UN Security Council Resolution supporting efforts for an immediate ceasefire and hostage deal and that the text “unequivocally supports international diplomatic efforts to establish an immediate and sustained ceasefire as part of a deal that releases the hostages, and that allows the basis for a more durable peace to alleviate humanitarian suffering.”
- The Reuters report stated it was not clear when the United States would submit the resolution for a vote.
- A [report](#) in *ABC News* on March 14 cited a senior Israeli official who claimed that the United States has begun slow-walking some aid to Israel, a claim that a senior U.S. official denied.
- On March 14, the United States [sanctioned](#) two Israeli outposts in the West Bank and three settlers who the U.S. State Department claimed were responsible for repeated attacks against Palestinians and preventing them from accessing their land.
- On March 14, the United States [struck](#) nine Houthi anti-ship missiles and two drones in Yemen that were prepared to target ships.
- On March 13, the United States [struck](#) four Houthi drones and one surface-to-air missile in Yemen that were prepared to target ships.
- A *Politico* [report](#) on March 13 indicated that senior U.S. officials have privately told their Israeli counterparts that the Biden administration would support Israel targeting high-value Hamas targets in and underneath Rafah if Israel avoids conducting a large-scale operation.
 - » The report claimed that Israel is still developing a plan for operations in Rafah and that U.S. officials signaled they “could support a plan more akin to counterterrorism operations than all-out war.”
- On March 13, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power [said](#) that during her visit last month to Israel, she urged Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to “improve compliance with international humanitarian law.”
- On March 13, U.S. Deputy Special Envoy for Iran Abram Paley [urged](#) Panama to stop allowing Iranian ships to fly its flag in order to evade U.S. sanctions. Panama leads the world in offering flags of convenience, which allow shipping companies to register their vessels to countries they have no link to, in exchange for a fee, in order to avoid oversight.

- The European Union’s (EU) head of humanitarian aid and crisis management, Janez Lenarcic, [stated](#) on March 14 that he has not, and is not aware of other senior EU officials who have, received evidence from Israel regarding UNRWA staffers’ ties to Hamas and involvement in the October 7 attacks.
 - » Lenarcic added that “even if those allegations, at the end of the day, prove to be true, that doesn’t mean that UNRWA is the perpetrator,” and that even if allegations are proven true, the agency is “irreplaceable,” implying that the involvement of UNRWA’s staffers in terrorism should not preclude aid from reaching it.
 - » Lenarcic further stated that any wrongdoing should be punished on the individual level, and that “UNRWA has reacted properly, immediately, effectively. It took several measures. There is an investigation. There is a review. We are satisfied so far with all this.”
 - » The European Commission is currently withholding some \$34.8 million as Israel’s allegations continue to be investigated by the United Nations.
- On March 10, South Africa’s Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor [said](#), “those who are South African and who are fighting alongside or in the Israeli Defense Forces. We are ready. When you come home, we’re going to arrest you.”

Rising Antisemitism, Islamophobia, Protests, and Attacks

- On March 14, 124 pro-Palestinian protesters were [arrested](#) at *The New York Times* headquarters in New York City after they stormed the building, chanting, “New York Times you can’t hide we charge you with genocide!” and “boycott, divest and unsubscribe.”
 - » The previous night, around 1:00 am, protesters [blocked](#) the driveway to *The New York Times* printing facility in Queens, which also prints other publications, building a pile of rubble with office equipment. Dozens of trucks were unable to pick up newspapers. No arrests were made.
- On March 14, after Israel’s Maccabi Haifa soccer team was eliminated from the UEFA Europa Conference League in Italy, fans of the opposing team [harassed](#) the Israeli players, yelling curses at them and waving Palestinian flags. Maccabi Haifa also alleged that the stadium’s security personnel harassed them and called them “terrorists.”
- On March 14, a Florida man, 21-year-old Deep Patel, was [sentenced](#) to six months in prison for leaving a threatening voicemail for the World Jewish Congress two weeks after Hamas’ October 7 attacks, saying, “if I had a chance I would kill every single one of you Israelis. Cause mass genocide of every single Israeli.”
- On March 13, the Associated Press [reported](#) that the congressionally mandated U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom cut short its fact-finding trip to Saudi Arabia after kingdom officials ordered Jewish Rabbi Abraham Cooper to remove his kippah in public.
- On March 13, a California rideshare app driver, 39-year-old Csaba John Csukás, was [arrested](#) and indicted for punching a passenger and refusing him service because he believed the passenger was Jewish or Israeli.
- Overnight on March 13, a Holocaust memorial in the Paris suburb of Drancy was [vandalized](#).

- On March 11, in Chicago, a group of pro-Palestinian protesters violently [assaulted](#) a man holding a small Israeli flag as he entered the screening of a documentary on Hamas' October 7 massacre at the Nova music festival. The man, in his 50s, said that "I did not say anything to anyone, as we walked up I did not look at anyone, I did not give anyone the finger, I simply walked up holding an Israeli flag. A group of them was swinging me around and threw me into a parked car. I was completely surrounded by maybe six or seven that started punching me in the head."

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Webinar: [Gaza Update 3/14](#), with IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, and Jonathan Ruhe, March 14, 2024
- Webinar: [Until They All Come Home: Congressional Efforts to Help Free U.S. Hostages in Gaza](#), with Senator Ted Budd (R-NC) and Michael Makovsky, March 13, 2024
- Yoni Tobin and Myles Behar, [Egypt-Gaza Tunnels Pose Threat to Israel's War Aims](#), March 12, 2024
- John Hannah, Elliott Abrams, and Lewis Libby, "[The Day After: A Plan for Gaza](#)," *Fox News*, March 7, 2024
- Zac Schildcrout, [Rocket Fire From Lebanon More Than Triples](#), March 7, 2024
- Yoni Tobin, [U.S. Officials Should Stop Using Hamas's Casualty Figures](#), March 6, 2024
- John Hannah and Michael Makovsky, "[Joe Biden's Plan for a Palestinian State Will Harm America and Israel](#)," *The National Interest*, March 6, 2024
- Rep. Cory Mills and Michael Makovsky, "[America Must Give Israel More Time To Defeat Hamas](#)," *19FortyFive*, March 4, 2024
- Ari Cicurel, [Monthly Iran Projectile Tracker: February 2024](#), March 1, 2024
- The Gaza Futures Task Force, [The Day After: A Plan for Gaza](#), February 29, 2024
- The Gaza Futures Task Force, [The Day After Action Plan](#), February 29, 2024