



October 7 - Nov 30, 2023

**55 Day Update**



# About the Council for a Secure America

The cornerstones of American national security are: a strong military, a vibrant economy, enduring alliances, and American ingenuity. The Council for Secure America was founded on the premise that American energy independence, in all of its forms, is the underpinning for U.S. security.

For decades, American foreign policy was forced to make concessions to foreign nations who fueled its economy. In 2019, thanks to the innovation of American energy producers, the United States achieved energy independence. This accomplishment made America the leading energy producer in the world, fortifying its national security and buttressing geo-political stability in the Middle East.

Amongst America's many allies, the US-Israel partnership is a strategic, long-lasting and ongoing bilateral alliance. Energy independence has only strengthened it.

CSA educates key audiences on the importance of domestic energy production and technologies to American and Israeli mutual national security interests.

Moreover, American energy statecraft has reshuffled the geopolitical landscape and sowed the seeds of peace in the Middle East, enabling old adversaries to become allies. In 2020, the United States brokered the Abraham Accords—promoting unprecedented normalization and multilateral ties between its closest ally, Israel, and Arab States including the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Sudan, and the Kingdom of Morocco.

CSA champions the ideals of the Abraham Accords and their critical impact on geopolitical security and global trade. CSA is advancing these partnerships and is committed to bringing multi-faceted awareness to complex and evolving challenges.



[www.CouncilForSecureAmerica.org](http://www.CouncilForSecureAmerica.org)

# Recommendations for the US: Maintain, Enforce, Support

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## ■ **Maintain**

- American military force posture in the Middle East
- American energy independence

## ■ **Enforce**

- All existing sanctions against Iran

## ■ **Support**

- Israel's right to defend itself
- Efforts to release all hostages
- Humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza



# Report Prepared from a Variety of Media, Government, and Expert Sources and Are Hyperlinked Throughout

- ABC
- ADL
- Air & Space Forces Magazine
- Al Jazeera
- Al Mayadeen
- Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
- Al Monitor
- The America Times
- AP
- Arab World for Research & Development
- Axios
- BBC
- The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University
- The Brookings Institution
- Business Insider
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- CBS
- Center for American Progress
- Center for Strategic & International Studies
- Channel 12 Israel News
- CIA
- CNN
- Congressional Research Service
- Council on Foreign Relations
- The Economist
- Energy Council
- European Jewish Press
- Financial Times
- FOX News
- Foreign Policy Research Institute
- France 24
- GazaNow
- Haaretz
- HAMAS Ministry of Health
- The Guardian
- Institute for National Security Studies
- Israel Defense Forces
- Israel Hayom
- Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jerusalem Post
- The Jewish Chronicle
- KidnappedFromIsrael.com
- Los Angeles County District Attorney
- Levent Kemal
- Middle East Policy Council
- Middle East Research Institute
- NBC
- New Yorker
- The New York Post
- The New York Times
- NPR
- Oregon Public Broadcasting
- Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research
- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
- PBS
- Political Handbook of the World 2014
- Politico
- Reuters
- SKY News
- The Telegraph
- Times of Israel
- Trading Economics
- United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- USAID
- US Central Command
- US Department of Defense
- US Energy Information Administration
- US Navy
- US State Department
- US Treasury Department
- US White House
- USA TODAY
- United States Institute of Peace
- The Wall Street Journal
- The Washington Institute for Near East Policy
- The Washington Post
- TIME
- West Point Modern War Institute
- Yale School of Management
- Ynet News



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# Understanding Gaza & HAMAS

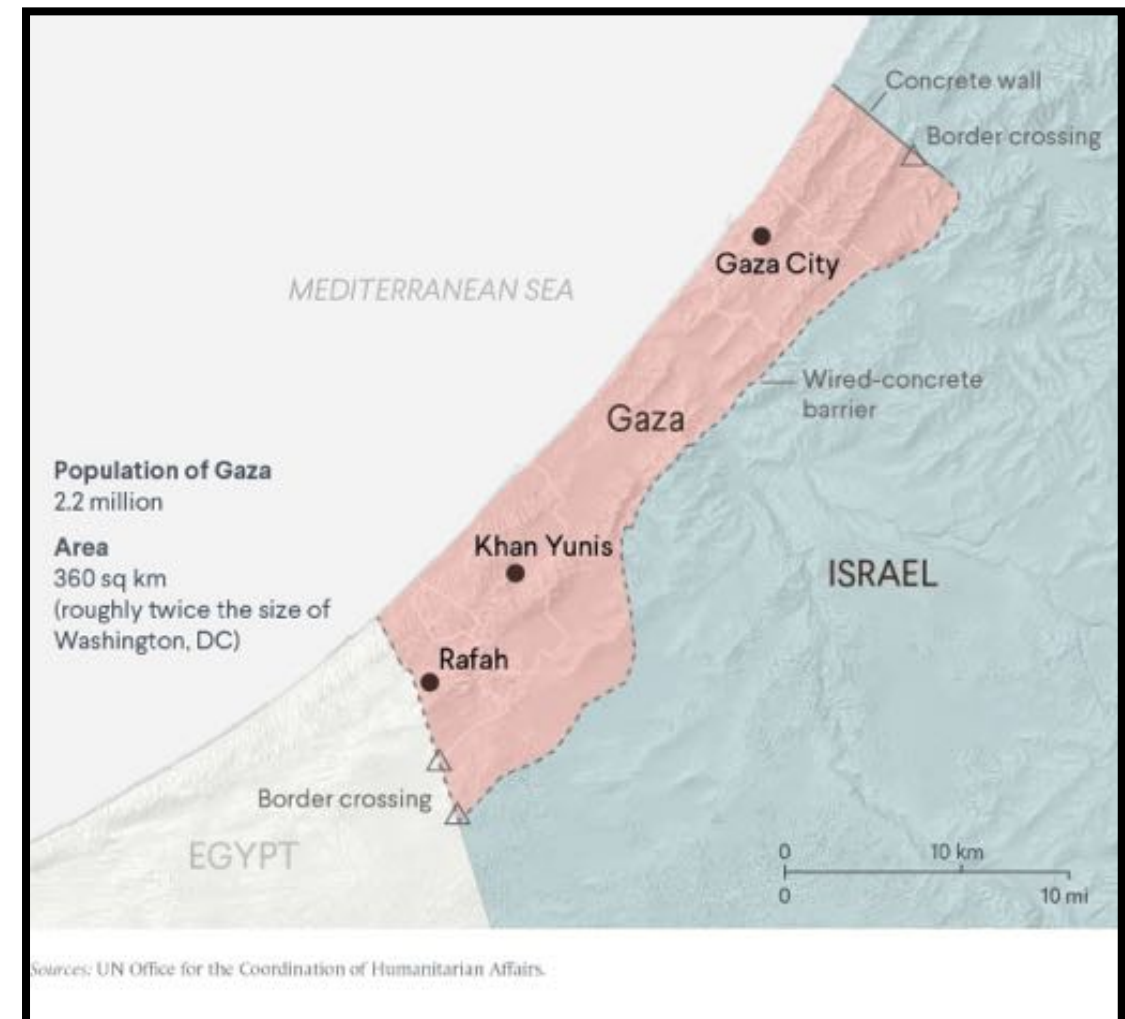




# Gaza, population 2.2M, is 25 miles long and 6 miles wide



**Gaza's borders:**  
West borders **Mediterranean Sea**  
East, North borders **Israel**  
South borders **Egypt**



# Historical Control of Gaza and Israel

- **Prior to 1500s:**

Egyptian Pharaohs, Babylonians, Philistines, Alexander the Great, Romans, Mongols, Crusaders and Napoleon

- **1500s-1917:**

Ottoman Empire

- **1917 - 1948:**

United Kingdom (referred to as British Mandate)

- **1948-1967:**

Egypt controls Gaza, the State of Israel established next to Gaza

- **1967-2005:**

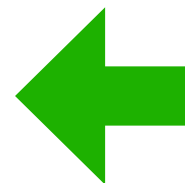
Israeli control over Gaza, although Israel withdrew from most of Gaza in 1994 as a result of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement (a treaty of the Oslo Accords)

- **2006-2007:**

Full Palestinian Authority control over Gaza after Israel withdraws from the entirety of Gaza

- **2007-2023:**

HAMAS rules Gaza, next to the State of Israel



***Generation HAMAS: if you're 21 years or younger in Gaza, you don't remember life before HAMAS***





# Gaza - Top Sources of Funding

## Palestinian Authority



~\$1.7 billion annually

## Qatar



~\$1.3 billion total 2012-2021

## UN Agencies



~\$4.5 billion total 2014-2020

# Jihad is Cornerstone of HAMAS' Founding Charter

## Death to Jews

**"The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them.** Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him."

(Article 7)

## Solution is Jihad, Not Peace

"[Peace] initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement... Those conferences are no more than a means to appoint the infidels as arbitrators in the lands of Islam... **There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad.** Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility."

(Article 13)



# HAMAS (Arabic acronym for *Islamic Resistance Movement*)

- Formed in 1987 during the first Palestinian Intifada as a rival to Arafat's secular FATAH party (now lead by PA President Mahmoud Abbas)
- **Sunni Islamist group, founded as an armed Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood**
- Hybrid terrorist organization and totalitarian government
- **Designated by the US, EU, UK, Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, and Paraguay as a terrorist organization because it prepares, plans, and commits acts of terror.**



# The Iranian Terror Connection



# Iran Supports Armed Islamic Groups Attacking Israel



**Islamic Republic of Iran**



**Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**



**Hezbollah**  
(Lebanon)



**HAMAS**  
(Gaza/West Bank)



**Palestinian Islamic Jihad**  
(Gaza/West Bank)



**Houthis**  
(Yemen)



**Statement Nov. 14 2023**

“Iranian support, primarily through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has enabled Hamas’s and PIJ’s terrorist activities, to include the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars in financial assistance and the furnishing of both weapons and operational training.”



# In HAMAS's words: Iran Funds HAMAS Military

Iran had significantly increased funding for Hamas' military wing in the past year from \$100 million annually to about \$350 million a year.



HAMAS Deputy Chairman Saleh Al Arouri, in an interview with Lebanese TV on 12/30/17:

**"Iran is the most [hostile] country in the world toward the Zionist entity. Iran is the only country that says that this entity is cancerous, and should be uprooted from the region. This is Iran's official position** and it is willing to provide real and public support to the Palestinian and other resistance movements fighting that entity...**nobody but Iran gives us any military support...** The Iranians provide aid to the Palestinian resistance... To the people who question Iran's confrontation with Israel, I say: Who supported the resistance in Lebanon until it drove out the Israeli entity? It was Iran. Who supports the resistance in Gaza and Palestine? Iran. It is Iran and Hizbullah that confront that entity along with us."



# Source of Iranian Terror Funding: Iranian Oil Revenues

## Yale School of Management analysis:

- **“Iranian oil is a small fraction of Middle East oil production**—only around 12.5%, nearly 4 times smaller than the largest producer, Saudi Arabia.” For context, the US produces approximately 21% of oil in the world, compared to Iran’s 4%.
- **“Oil sales are a critical choke point for Iran,** with oil exports representing up to 70% of Iranian government revenues by some estimates.”
- “Iran is riding high right now thanks to the fact Iran is on pace for near-record oil production this year, with production doubling from less than 2 million barrels per day in 2019 to 3.5 million barrels per day now. This represents **an over \$40 billion increase in revenues**”
- **Choking Iranian oil production would “reduce the funds Iran has available to fund its terrorist proxies.”**

**The Wall Street Journal: China is “by far the largest buyer of Iranian oil.”**



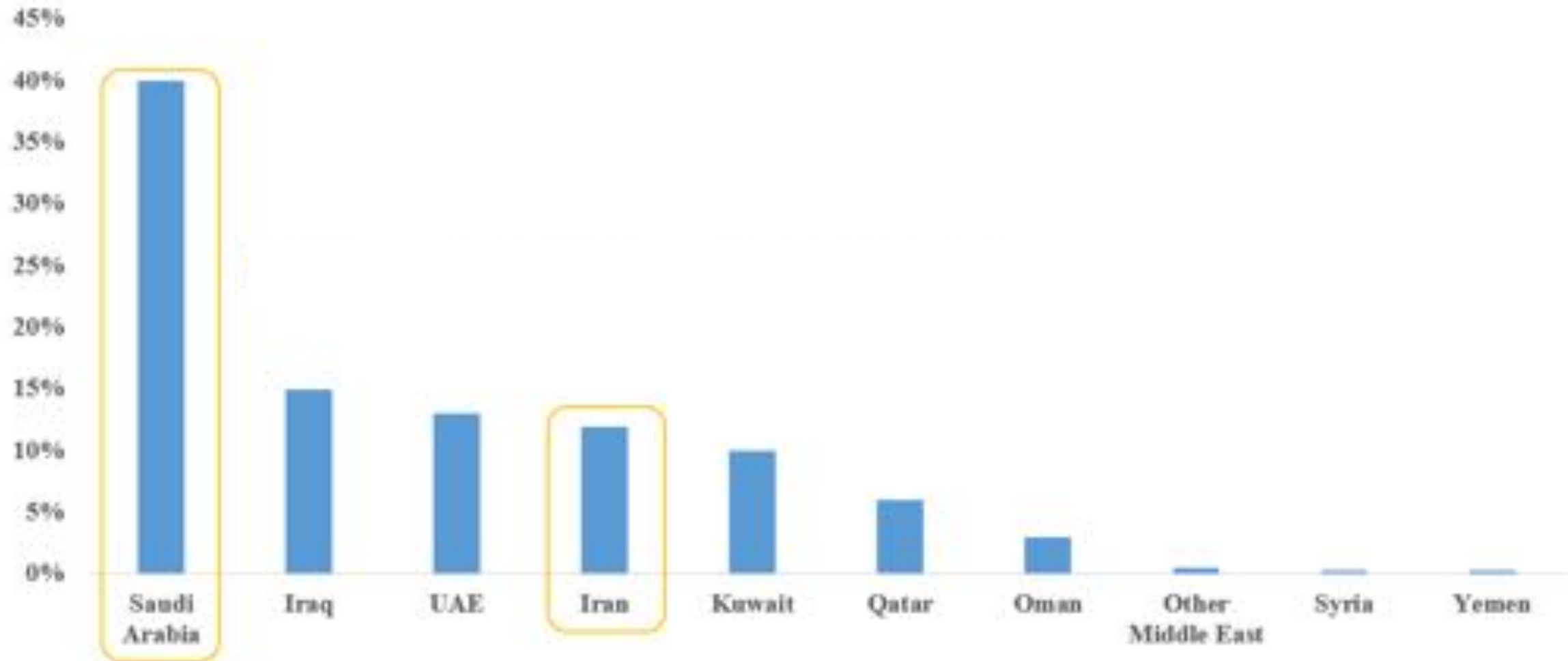
# Saudi Arabia Produces 4X More Oil than Iran



Yale SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT  
Chief Executive Leadership Institute

## Iranian Oil Easily Replaceable

Middle Eastern Oil Production By Country  
(shown as % of total Middle Eastern oil production)



# The IRGC-HAMAS Meeting on October 2, 2023

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

**"Iranian security officials helped plan HAMAS's Saturday surprise attack on Israel** and gave the green light for the assault at a meeting in Beirut last Monday [October 2, 2023], according to senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah... **Officers of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had worked with Hamas since August to devise the air, land and sea incursions"**



# What Led to October 7?



# Israel: Remembering Its History

- 75 years since Israel's Independence and the start of the alliance with the United States (1948)
- 56 years since Israel's Six Day War against Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon (1967)
- 50 years since Israel's Yom Kippur War against Egypt and Syria (1973)
- 44 years since Israel-Egypt peace treaty signed (1979)
- 36 years since the First Intifada (Palestinian uprising) against Israel (1987)
- 30 years since Oslo Accords agreement between Israel and the Palestinians (1993)
- 29 years since Israel-Jordan peace treaty signed (1994)
- 23 years since the Second Intifada (Palestinian uprising) of mass terrorism against Israel (2000)
- 18 years since Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza (2005)
- 3 years since the Abraham Accords establish relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Morocco, and Sudan (2020)
- 9 months since first internal Israeli protests against judicial reform (2023)



# 20 Years of Rocket Attacks Against Israel from Gaza

**Rocket attacks against Israeli civilians increases dramatically after Israel's withdrawal from Gaza**

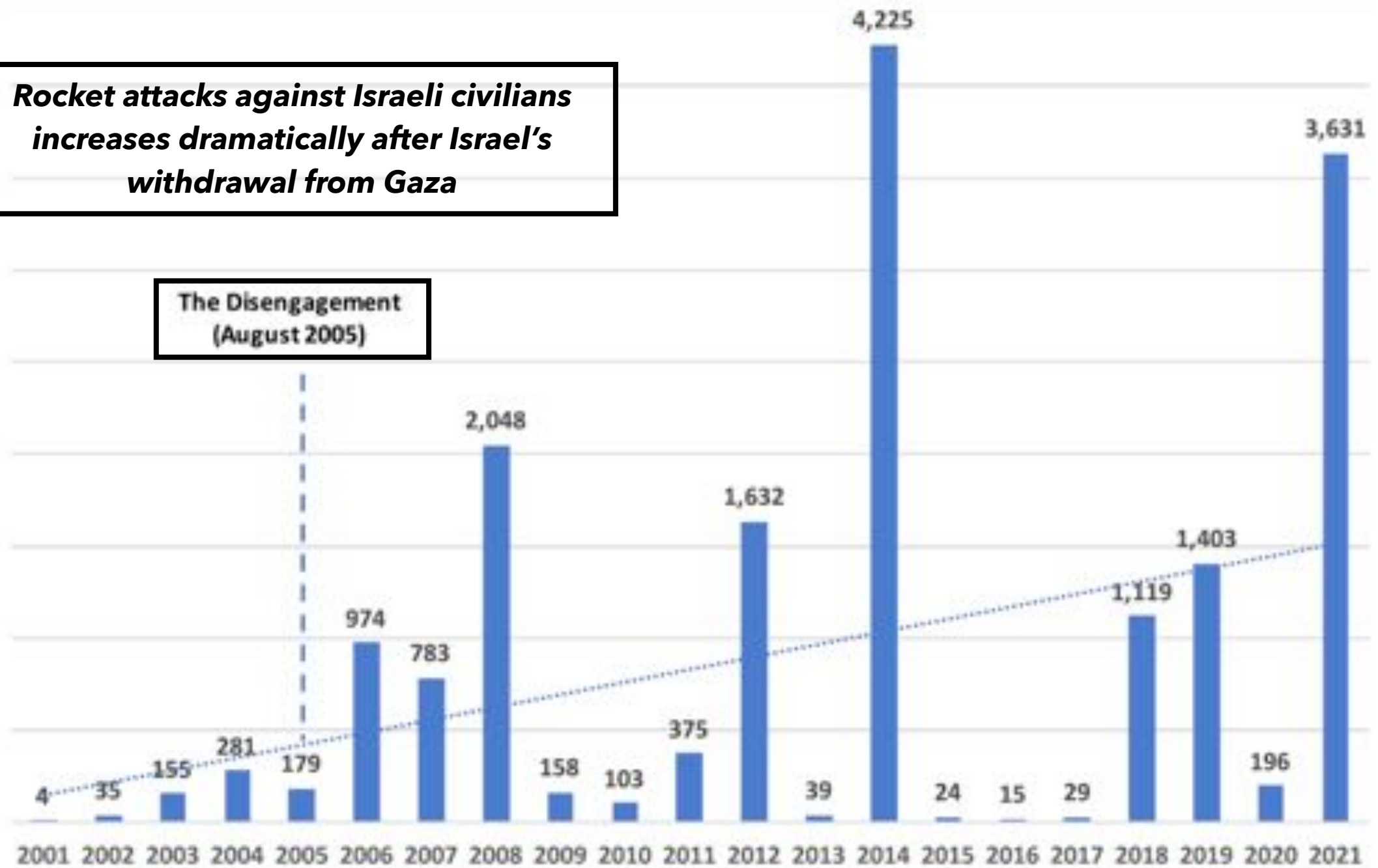


Figure 2. Number of rockets fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip by year.

Sources: Ben Sasson-Gordis (2016) and Meir Amit Terrorism and Information Center (2017–2022).





# Energy Statecraft Brings Israel Closer to Arab Countries, Strengthens American National Security

Foreign Policy Research Institute: "**Gas geoeconomics** has strengthened the already emerging **geopolitical alignment** between Greece, Cyprus, Israel, Egypt, and the Gulf States"

**Times of Israel:** "Natural gas from Israel's Leviathan, one of the world's largest deep-water gas discoveries, which contains an estimated 22 trillion cubic feet of gas, started to flow to the Israeli domestic market in December 2019. Currently, a maximum capacity of up to 1.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, or 12 billion cubic meters per year, is piped up from the Leviathan reservoir for the supply and sale of gas to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan."

Israeli Natural Gas Trade Association: **Israel ranks 3rd among OECD countries in natural gas reserves per capita** with twice as much as Canada and nearly three times as much as the United States.

September 2020: Under the **Abraham Accords**, Israel establishes relations with United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Months later the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Sudan join.



# While HAMAS Continues Armed Struggle Against Israel, Energy Statecraft Brings Israel Closer to Arab Countries

- **June 2022:** EU, Israel and Egypt sign deal to **increase gas exports from Israel and Egypt to Europe** to replace Russian energy imports during Ukraine-Russia War.
- **October 2022: Lebanon and Israel sign an agreement**, despite having no diplomatic relations. The maritime deal allows for both countries to benefit from an agreed maritime boundary, ensuring offshore natural gas exploration can continue for the benefit of both countries.
- **June 2023:** Israel begins formal cooperation with Egypt and the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank **to develop the Gaza Marine offshore gas field** estimated to hold more than 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas - enough to cover the gas needs of Gaza and also export gas.



# Sept. 2023: Emboldened Iran, Growing Arab Engagement with Israel

- **September 2023:** Nearing Saudi '**megadeal**' to join the Abraham Accords and establish diplomatic relations with Israel
- **September 2023:** US-Iran prisoner swap includes unfreezing of **\$6B for Iran**
- **September 2023:** India-Middle East-Europe Corridor announced, connecting India to Europe - linked by a railway line and existing ports through the **United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Israel**



# West Bank: Growing Security, Economic Challenges

**AP** March 2023: "With West Bank in turmoil, new Palestinian militants emerge"

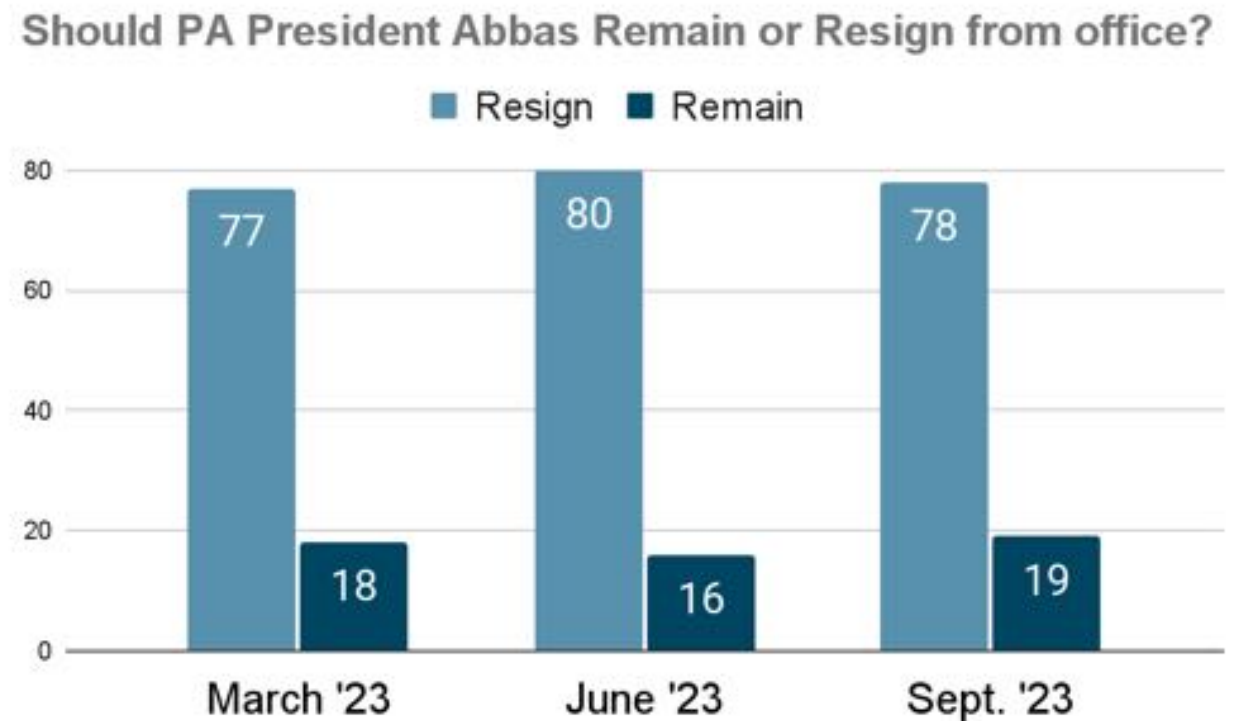
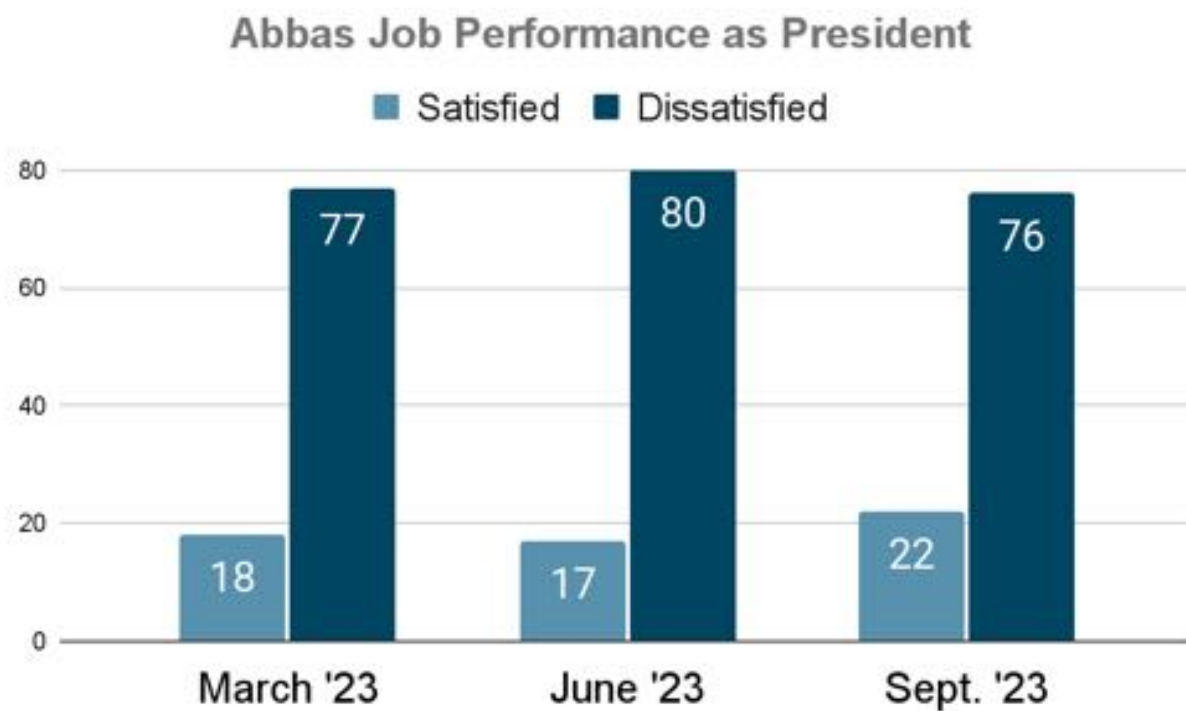
**"Palestinian [Authority security] forces now rarely venture into militant strongholds [in the West Bank]** like the Old City of Nablus and the Jenin refugee camp...With the popularity of the PA plummeting, experts say it cannot risk inflaming tensions by arresting widely admired fighters."

- PA's total debt to domestic banks: **\$2.5 billion (2022)**
- West Bank unemployment: **13% (2022)**

**July 2023:** Due to growing terrorism emanating from the West Bank and the lack of action from the PA security forces, Israel carried out its "**largest military operation in two decades**" in the West Bank



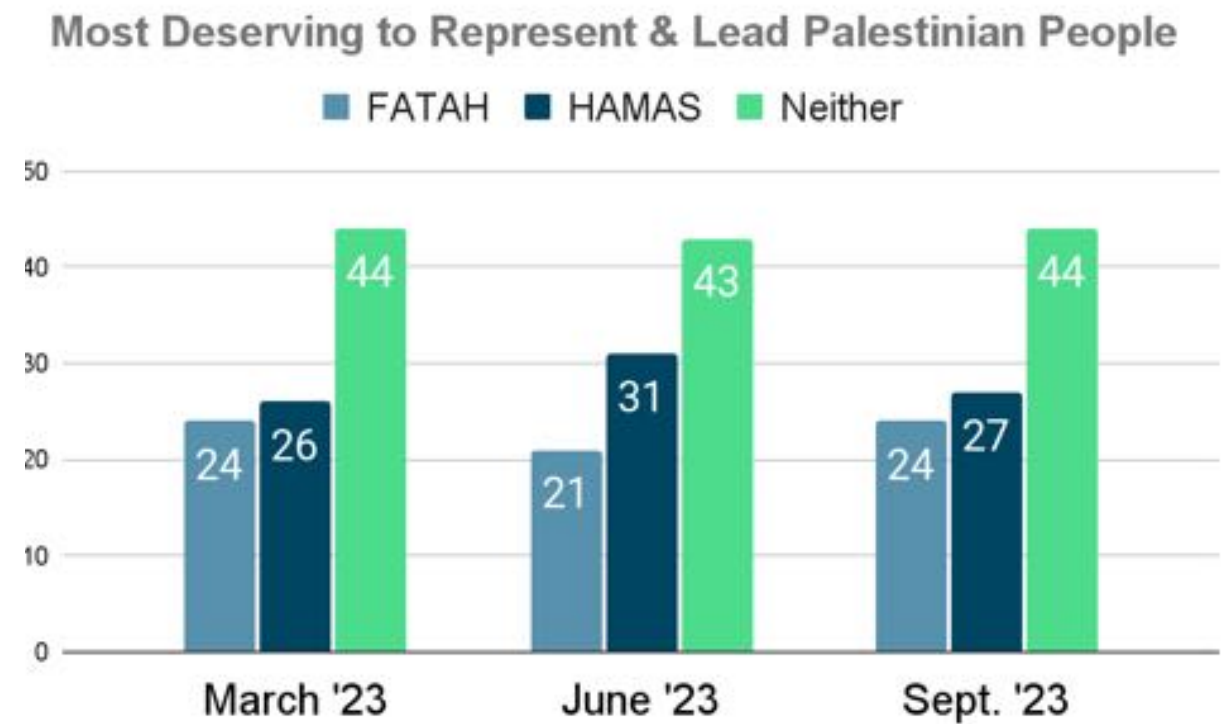
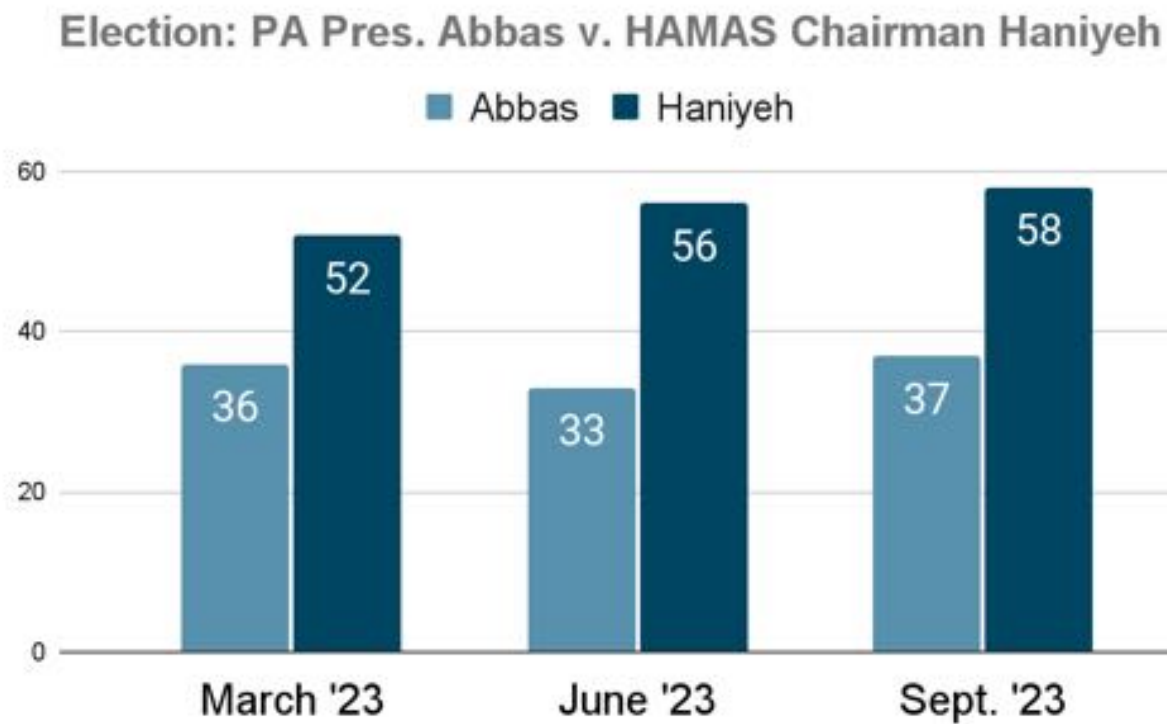
# ~80% of Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza Want PA President Abbas to Resign, Dissatisfied with His Performance



**Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research:** Polling conducted from March 8-11, June 7-11, and September 6-9 2023. Sample size 1,200 adults interviewed face-to-face in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%



# HAMAS Leader Ismail Haniyeh Would Win an Election Against PA President Abbas

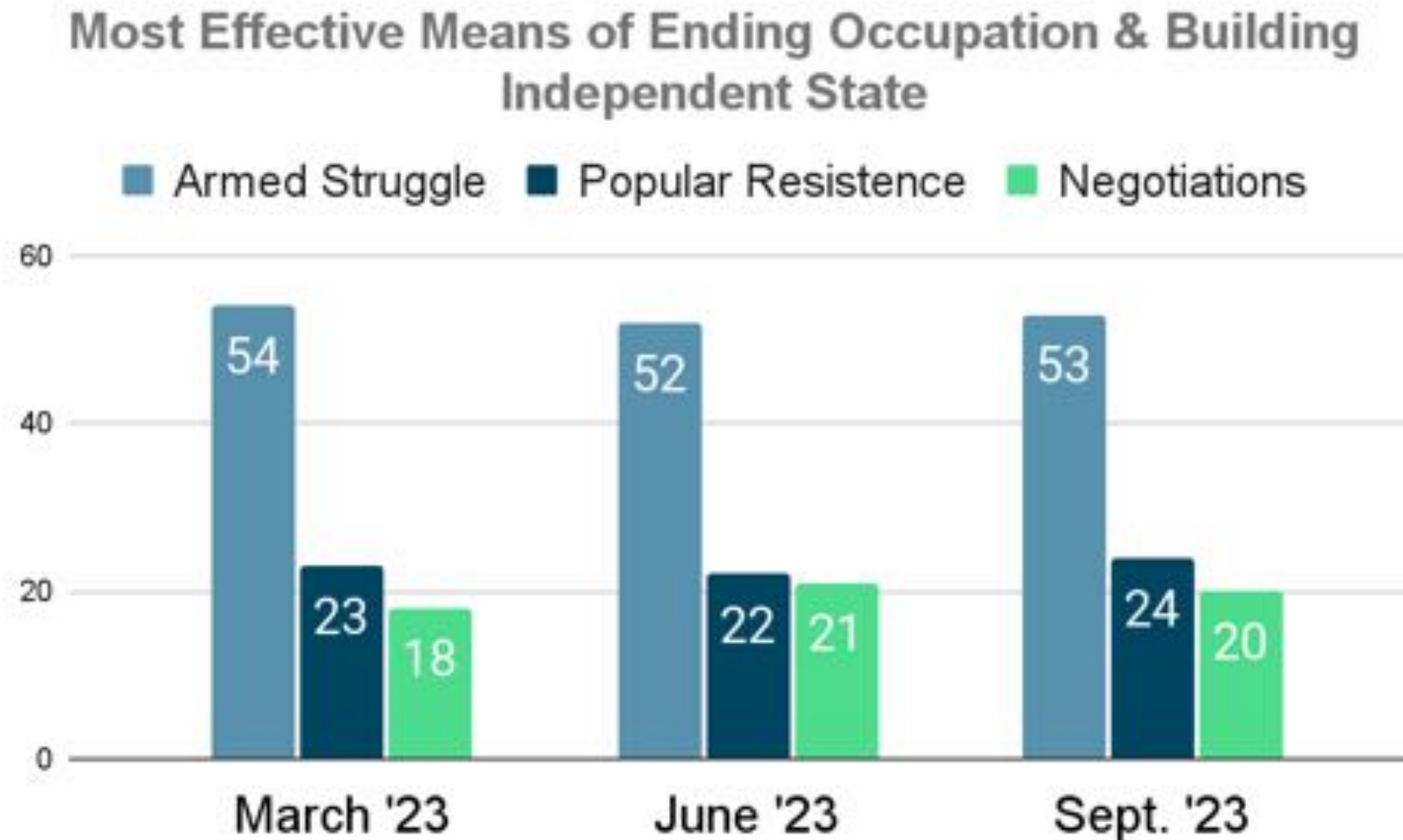


**Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research:** Polling conducted from March 8-11, June 7-11, and September 6-9 2023. Sample size 1,200 adults interviewed face-to-face in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%





# Violence Against Israel Seen as Effective by Palestinians



**Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research:** Polling conducted from March 8-11, June 7-11, and September 6-9 2023. Sample size 1,200 adults interviewed face-to-face in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%



# HAMAS Increasing Size of Forces & Weapons

## ■ Arsenal (smuggled and self-made):

- **18,000-20,000 rockets** (short and long range)
- 300 anti-tank missiles
- 100 anti-aircraft missiles
- Small number of surface-to-air missiles, RPG, mines
- Dozens of unmanned aerial vehicles and drones
- Machine guns, assault rifles, sniper rifles

## ■ Forces (2023):

- **30,000-40,000 fighters**
- including 3,000-5,000 Nukhba elite forces
- including ~400 naval commandos



# The Warning Signs: HAMAS Interview August 25, 2023

## HAMAS Deputy Chairman Saleh Al Arouri to Lebanese TV:



"A total war has become inevitable. We all consider it necessary. We want it. At the resistance axis, **the Palestinian people, and our nation, we want this total war.**

It is not [just] something we say in the media. We talk about it behind closed doors. We are meeting with all the parties that [will take part] in this total war, and we are discussing together the different scenarios and possibilities."

# The Warning Signs: IDF, Egyptian Intelligence

## POLITICO

**Our warnings on Hamas were ignored, Israel's women border troops say**

"Several soldiers in Israel's predominantly female border surveillance forces...are telling the media their **superiors did not heed warnings of unusual activity inside Gaza, such as Palestinian guerrillas training with explosives or rehearsing attacks on a replica tank and a mock observation post...**

The women's warnings, made over several months, did not correspond to the received wisdom that Hamas had been tamed... The activity was not just minor, and included Hamas sending up drones several times a day in the weeks leading up to the attack."



## THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

"Egyptian intelligence official said that **Jerusalem had ignored repeated warnings that the Gaza-based terror group was planning "something big"** – which included an apparent direct notice from Cairo's intelligence minister to the prime minister."



"We know that **Egypt has warned the Israelis three days prior that an event like this could happen,**" [House Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman Rep.] McCaul told reporters following a closed-door intelligence briefing on Wednesday for lawmakers about the Middle East crisis"

# The October 7 HAMAS Massacre





# How HAMAS Invades Israel in One Hour

Years of training and intelligence gathering (drone & human intelligence from Gazans working legally in Israel)

1. Fire over **3,000 rockets from Gaza** as cover, sending Israeli troops and civilians into shelters and effectively ending the existing ceasefire between Israel and Hamas
2. **Sever surveillance towers**, destroy unmanned weapon towers, neutralize IDF tanks along border with armed drones, bombs, guns and RPGs
3. **Breach fence in 30 places**, arrive by car, motorcycle, foot and paraglides
4. **~3,000 terrorists invade Israel** with extensive arms and vehicles, detailed maps and instructions, and GoPros





# The Unfathomable Massacre

## HAMAS terrorists...

- **Murdered** soldiers on IDF bases and purposefully hunted down **innocent civilians**
- **Burned** and destroyed homes, cars, and buildings
- **Seized** buildings to take hostages and entrench themselves
- **Took hostages** dead and alive back to Gaza,
- **Indiscriminately tyed up, tortured, murdered, beheaded, mutilated, burned alive, and raped innocent civilians of all ages**
- Took to Al Jazeera and Al-Aqsa TV to call for Palestinians in the West Bank to join the massacre

*Oct. 7 was the deadliest attack in Israel's history. More Jews died on Oct. 7 2023 than any day since the Holocaust.*



**y**net  
news.com

## **36 children murdered by Hamas in October 7 massacre, over 30 still held hostage**

The children were slaughtered in their homes, in their bedrooms; several of them were horrifically burned alive, while others were brutally murdered in the presence of their parents; these are their names and faces



# 30% of October 7 Deaths: Tribe of Nova Music Festival

- 4,000 person outdoor electronic music festival located ~3.5 miles from the Gaza border occurred weekend of October 7
- **HAMAS entered the area of the festival, killing 364 (including 17 Israeli police officers) and abducting 40 people**
- After interrogating captured terrorists and due to a lack of maps relating to the festival site found on terrorists killed or captured, Israeli police concluded that the terrorists did not know in advance about the party. HAMAS stumbled upon the site, murdering hundreds of innocent civilians.



# Israel's Failure (as per West Point's Modern War Institute)

## Dangerous cocktail of 4 ingredients:

- **Underestimating** HAMAS's capabilities
- **Misunderstanding** HAMAS's intentions
- HAMAS utilized **improved operational security**
- **Confirmation bias**



# Israel's Immediate Response

- **Active-duty IDF soldiers** stationed along the border fought HAMAS's infiltration and took heavy casualties.
- By 8am, **soldiers from Israel's combat units** (including many elite units) as well as reservists of all ages were heading south to fight back the terrorists without clear instructions.
- The IDF engaged in **intense urban warfare in Israeli territory** to retake IDF bases and Kibbutzim located along the Gaza border. Many soldiers were killed or injured.
- By Tuesday October 10, **terrorists who had infiltrated Israel on October 7 were killed or captured** (except 2 captured on November 6).

**History Made: An all-female IDF tank crew arrived to the Gaza border, killing dozens of HAMAS terrorists who had invaded Israel.**





# Civilian Heroes From All Parts of Israeli Society

**Arab-Israeli Ismail Alkrenawi and his family members evacuated over 30 people** from the Nova Music Festival site during the massacre.



Oz Davidian, a farmer in southern Israel, made ~20 trips to and from the Nova Music Festival **evacuating over 100 young people under fire.**



Off-duty soldier Staff Sgt. Aner Shapira, 22, attended the Nova Music Festival and hid, along with ~30 other young people, in a nearby shelter. HAMAS terrorists found them, fired guns at the shelter, and threw 8 grenades inside. **Shapira, standing at the entrance, threw the first 7 grenades back outside the shelter.** The 8th grenade killed him.



# Humanitarian Challenges Inflicted on Gaza by HAMAS

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On October 7, HAMAS terrorists **destroyed**:

- **9 of 10 power lines** from Israel to Gaza
- **1 of 3 water pipelines** from Israel to Gaza
- **Erez Crossing between Israel and Gaza**, normally used for Gazans to access medical treatment and employment in Israel



# Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 1

**Oct. 8 - Oct. 13**

*Retaking the Homefront*





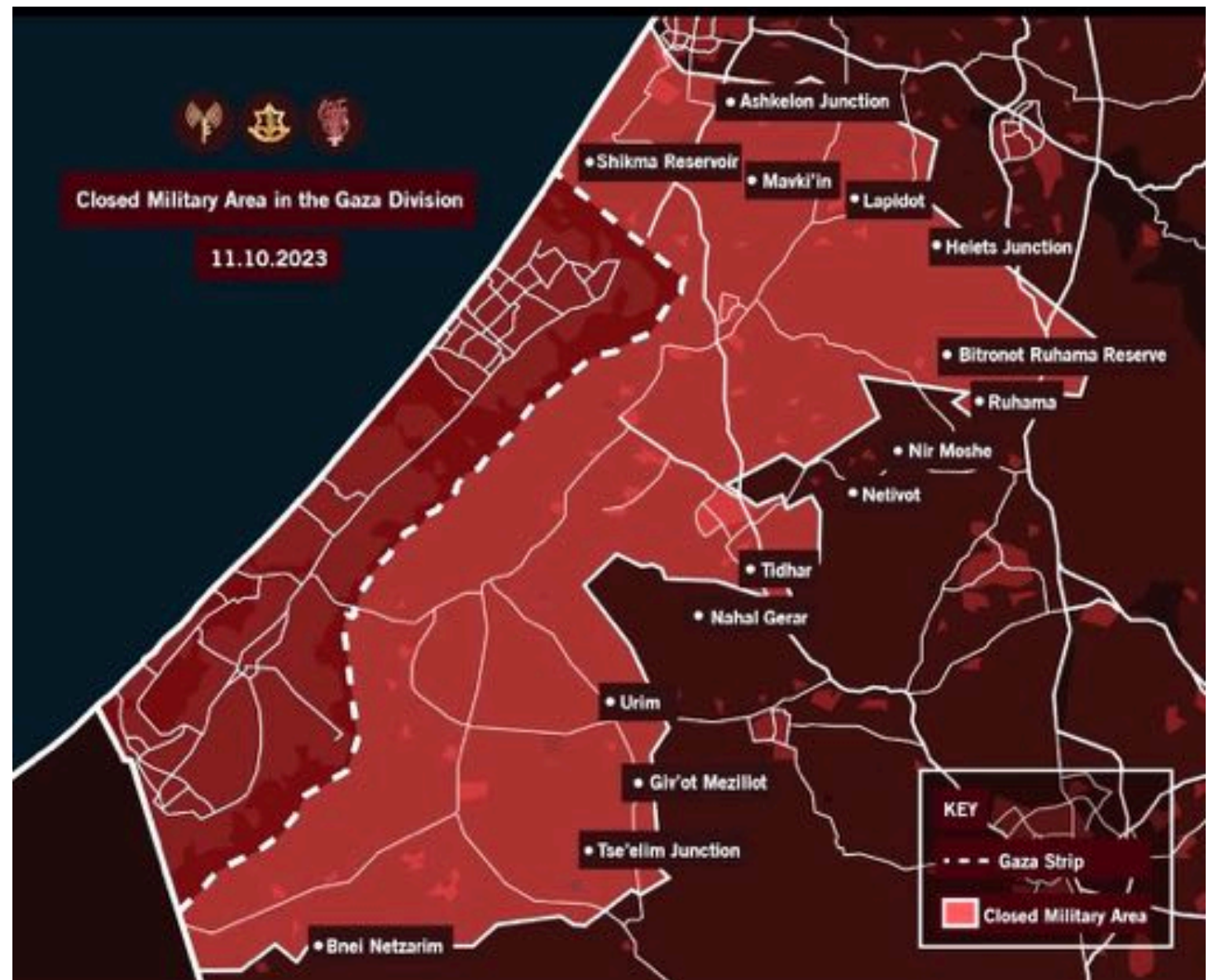
# Israel Mourns & Prepares for War

- The process of identifying bodies (which still continues) and burying the dead begins in Israel, with **dozens of funerals each day**.
- Israel's Minister of Defense announces on Tuesday October 10: "**We have gained control of the area and are now moving on to a full-scale response.**" The Israeli Air Force begins the largest bombardment of Gaza ever, despite the challenge of **HAMAS's use of civilians and civilian buildings as human shields.**
- At the same time, an historic **360,000 IDF reservists are enlisted to support the 170,000 strong standing army**
- The IDF creates a special unit to gather intelligence on the hostages, as negotiations led by Israel's Mossad begin.



# Evacuation of Israelis from Southern Israel Begins

- A **massive internal displacement of Israelis begins** with a forced evacuation of residents of Southern Israel.
- By November, the number of Israelis to have been forced to leave their homes would cover 64 villages and towns along the borders with Gaza and Lebanon, totaling **approximately 250,000 Israelis.**



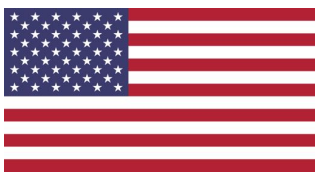
# Skirmishes Break Out on Israel's Northern Border

- In Lebanon, **Hezbollah has an estimated 150,000 rockets and missiles** in its arsenal, as well as **100,000 fighters** including many who gained experience in Syria fighting the Islamic State.
- Between October 8th and 13th, **over 2 dozen attacks on Israel from Lebanon**, including:
  - Multiple attempted infiltrations into Israel by armed Lebanese terrorists
  - Mortar shells, anti-tank missiles launched at Israel
  - IDF strikes terrorists and Hezbollah outposts along the border in response
- **Israeli and American leaders didn't explicitly mention Hezbollah publicly in Phase 1**
  - President Biden said on Tuesday October 10: "To any country, any organization, anyone thinking of taking advantage of the situation, I have one word: Don't."
  - He later repeated his general "Don't" response to CBS 60 Minutes on October 15.





# American Force Posture Seeks to Deter Hezbollah, Iran



## US Visits to Region

- Thursday Oct. 12: Secretary Blinken
- Friday Oct. 13: Secretary Austin

## Military Response

- Sunday Oct. 8: USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike group sent to Eastern Mediterranean (**world's largest aircraft carrier**)
- Tuesday Oct. 10: USS Ford Carrier Strike Group arrives to region

**US CENTCOM Commander Gen. Kurilla comments on arrival of USS Ford Carrier Strike Group to the region:**  
*"The arrival of these highly capable forces to the region is **a strong signal of deterrence** should any actor hostile to Israel consider trying to take advantage of this situation."*



# Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 2

**Oct. 14 - Oct. 27**

*Aerial Offensive &  
Targeted Ground Incursions*



# Israel is at War with HAMAS, Humanitarian Aid to Gaza Begins

- The Israeli Air Force’s massive aerial offensive continued against terror targets in Gaza, eliminating Hamas terrorists and bases, and clearing the way for ground forces’ eventual invasion by removing threats and creating optimal conditions. **IDF actions in Gaza increase pressure on hostage negotiations**
- Funerals continue as forensics personnel in Israel ID bodies from the October 7 massacre
- The Hostage and Missing Families Forum begins **public activity raising domestic and global awareness of the plight of the hostages** with the first hostage posters appearing around the world.
- October 21: **First convoy of 20 trucks with humanitarian aid enters Gaza**
- Later, this would reach **over 100 trucks daily**

**KIDNAPPED**

**Ariel**  
4-years-old  
Israeli

Kidnapped from his home by Hamas

On October 7th, nearly **200 innocent civilians** were abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip. Their whereabouts remain unknown.  
**More than 3,000 women, men, and children**, ranging in age from 3 months to 85 years old, were **wounded, murdered, beaten, raped**, and brutally separated from loved ones by Hamas.

Take a photo of this poster and share it

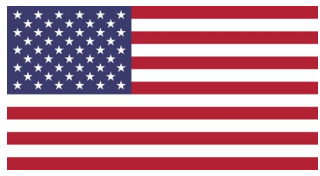
**Please help bring them home alive.**

#KidnappedFromIsrael

SCAN TO JOIN THE GLOBAL EFFORTS



# White House, US Military Continue to Arrive in Israel



## US Visits to Region

- Monday Oct. 16: General Kurilla
- Wednesday Oct. 18: President Biden & Secretary Blinken

## US Military Response

- Saturday Oct. 14: **Another Carrier Strike Group and US Air Force fighter jets ordered to the region**



Oct. 18

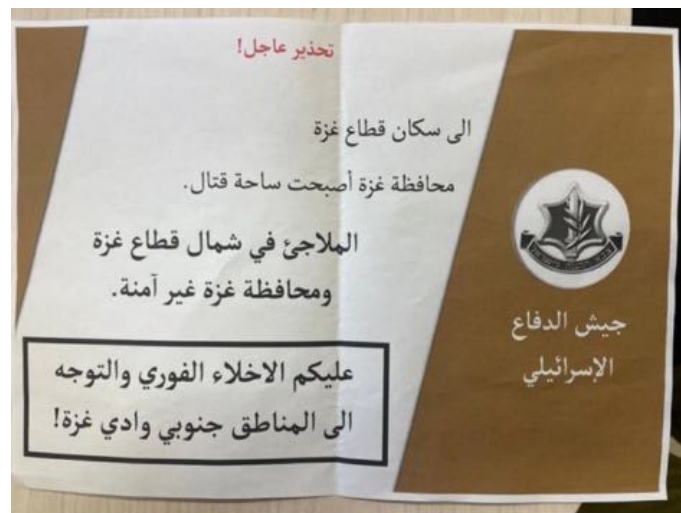
US Treasury announces **new sanctions on Hamas** operatives and financial facilitators.





# Israel Prepares for Ground Invasion

- **Targeted ground operations** by IDF elite forces occurred inside Gaza along border with Israel and from the sea **to support the hostage search and prepare Gazan terrain for ground invasion.**
- **Starting Oct. 18, IDF begins telling Northern Gaza residents to move south to safer areas.** HAMAS tries to prevent the departure of civilians because HAMAS uses civilians as human shields. By Nov 20, IDF made over 30,000 live phone calls, send over 10 M text messages and over 9 million recorded voice messages to people who answered their phones, distribute ~4M flyers



Evacuation flyer calling for residents to move south



Oct 24 flyer dropped over Gaza

"If your will is to live in peace and to have a better future for your children, do the humanitarian deed immediately and share verified and valuable information about hostages being held in your area. The Israeli military assures you that it will invest maximum effort in providing security for you and your home, and you will receive a financial reward. We guarantee you complete confidentiality.

**The Israel Defense Forces"**



# HAMAS's Use of Human Shields: Hiding Terrorist Forces & Weapons Behind Civilians and Inside Civilian Buildings

- **HAMAS hiding its terror infrastructure inside, under, or near mosques, schools, hospitals, homes, apartment buildings and other civilian buildings was an enormous challenge already before the war.**
- Unlike HAMAS, **Israel distinguishes between civilians and terrorists**, seeking to minimize civilian harm while HAMAS seeks to maximize civilian harm.
- The **HAMAS controlled Gaza Health Ministry** reported on October 27 that over 7,000 Palestinians had died since the start of the war. President Biden referred to data from the HAMAS Gaza Health Ministry, saying he had "no confidence in the numbers that the Palestinians are using." **President Biden later said "I have no notion that the Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed."**
- Further, the **published numbers do not differentiate between civilians killed and terrorists killed.**
- While there was a tragic loss of civilian life in Gaza, focus should be put on **HAMAS's use of human shields** as a major cause of the loss of civilian lives.



# Step By Step: HAMAS Caught Lying About Al Ahli Hospital

- **6:59PM, October 17:** an explosion occurs at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, HAMAS immediately blames Israel and announces that over 500 Gazans were killed and Al Jazeera quickly reports the accusation as fact.
- **The Media Reports HAMAS Lies:** headlines around the world blame Israel, including the New York Times' homepage with the headline: "Israeli Strike Kills Hundred" and another headline claiming "At Least 500 Dead."
- **The Region Responds:** Violent riots erupted throughout the Middle East. Arab leaders (including the King of Jordan, the President of Egypt, and the President of the Palestinian Authority) canceled a meeting with President Biden scheduled to take place in Jordan on October 18. Palestinian Authority President Abbas declared a 3 days of mourning. The UN Secretary General claims he was "horrified by the killing of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in a strike on a hospital."
- **October 18:** The IDF declassifies intelligence including intercepted phone call, radar imagery, and aerial surveillance proving that **the explosion was caused by terrorists in Gaza who fired a barrage of long-range rockets towards Israel** from a cemetery near the hospital and one of the barrage fell in the parking lot of the hospital, killing a few dozen people.
- **THE TRUTH:** governments of the US, UK, France and Canada publicly stated that their intelligence services confirmed Israel's account that the explosion was caused by a rocket fired from within Gaza by Palestinian Islamic Jihad. News outlets including the NYT, BBC, and Le Monde later published apologies and corrections. The Wall Street Journal, AP, Washington Post, CNN and Human Rights Watch conducted independent analyses and conclude that the explosion was caused by Palestinian Islamic Jihad rocket fire from within Gaza. The Wall Street Journal estimates that 50, not 500, people were killed.



# Israel-Lebanon Border Escalates, Concern for War

## ■ Oct. 13 - 27 attacks from Lebanon include:

- Mortar (some days with 20-30), UAV attacks, rockets, anti-tank missiles, and surface-to-air missile
- Multiple attempted infiltrations by terrorists into Israel
- IDF responded with fire at Hezbollah targets

## ■ Oct. 15, President Biden interview with Scott Pelley on 60 Minutes:

- Scott Pelley: "What is your message to Hezbollah and its backer, Iran?"
- President Biden: "Don't. Don't, don't, don't."
- Scott Pelley: "Don't come across the border? Don't escalate this war?"
- President Biden: "That's right."

## ■ Oct. 16, PM Netanyahu at speech in Israel's parliament:

- "We have a message for Iran and Hezbollah: Do not test us in the north."

## ■ Oct. 16 mandatory evacuation begins of 28 communities along Israel's northern border



# Houthi Rebels in Yemen Join the War

October 19: The USS Carney, an American Navy guided-missile destroyer, was operating in the northern Red Sea when **it intercepted three land attack cruise missiles and several drones fired by Houthi forces in Yemen.**



USS Carney firing intercepts on October 19



Translation of the Houthi slogan/flag:

God is the greatest  
Death to America  
Death to Israel  
Curse on the Jews  
Victory to Islam



# First 5 Hostages Released or Rescued

Friday October 20

Judith Raanan, 59, and her daughter, Natalie, 17



Monday October 23

Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, and Nurit Cooper, 79



Friday October 27

Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) forces rescue Pvt. Ori Megidish,



# Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 3

**Oct. 28 - Nov. 14**

*Ground Incursion to Control Northern Gaza*





# IDF Begins Ground Operations in Northern Gaza



- **Cut off Northern Gaza** from Southern Gaza
- **Cut off Gaza City** from the sea
- **Encircle Gaza City**
- Enter **HAMAS strongholds**
- **Go house-by-house to kill or capture HAMAS** personnel and collect stored weapons (slow operations due to landmines, boobytraps, hidden HAMAS terrorists, tunnel entrances)
- **~40,000 IDF soldiers inside Gaza** from at least 3 Divisions 36th, 162nd, 252nd
- **Continue to tell Gazan civilians to move South** to safer areas



# Gaza Evacuation Efforts Prove Successful

- By October 30th, **90% of Gazan residents of Northern Gaza moved south to safer areas** with access to humanitarian aid.
- Starting November 4th, the IDF created **special humanitarian corridors to allow safe passage** of residents from Northern to Southern Gaza who were still scared of HAMAS preventing their passage.



Nov. 8: IDF secures a humanitarian corridor for Gazan civilians to evacuate from Northern Gaza to Southern Gaza



Nov. 10: IDF secures a humanitarian corridor for Gazan civilians to evacuate from Northern Gaza to Southern Gaza



# Terrorists Killed & Captured, Hostage Remains Confirm Death

- The IDF has not published an estimate of HAMAS casualties in Gaza except to claim that **the majority of the Palestinian fatalities are combatants and not civilians.**
- Later, Israeli PM Netanyahu would confirm that **Israel killed “thousands of terrorists.”**
- The IDF did confirm that **over 300 terrorists were captured alive in Gaza** and brought into Israel for interrogation.
- In the West Bank, of the approximately 2,000 people arrested or killed by the IDF in counter-terrorist operations since October 7 to prevent terror attacks emanating from there, **more than 60% were Hamas personnel.**
- Oct. 31: **IDF announces the death of Shani Louk** after remains of her skull were found. She was a 23 year old German-Israeli girl who had attended the Nova Music Festival and was taken hostage into Gaza.





# Munitions Found and Cleared in Civilian Areas

Weapons found hidden under a child's bed in Gaza



Weapons lab found hidden in a mosque in Gaza



Weapons found hidden in a kindergarten in



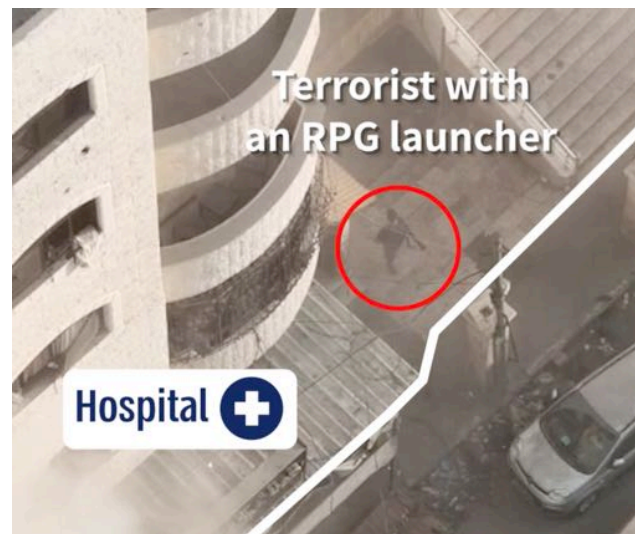
# HAMAS Uses Hospitals to Hide Terror Operations

HAMAS systematically uses hospitals in Gaza for terror operations, as has so for years.

- In 2014, the Washington Post referred to Shifa Hospital as “a de facto headquarters for Hamas leaders, who can be seen in the hallways and offices.”
- IDF uncovered weapons caches, underground tunnels, and evidence of hostages inside and around hospitals throughout Gaza. HAMAS also fired at IDF soldiers from inside the Qatari hospital and was caught carrying a RPG into Al Quds hospital.



Weapons found in Shifa Hospital



Terrorist with RPG enters Al Quds Hospital



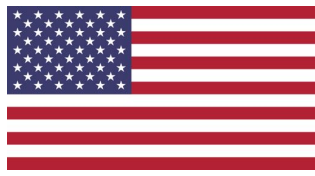
HAMAS fires from inside Qatari Hospital



Weapons found in Rantisi Children’s Hospital



# More American Forces Arrive to the Region



## US Visits to Region

- Friday Nov. 3: Secretary Blinken



Nuclear powered US submarine transits the Suez Canal in the Middle East



US MQ-9 Reaper surveillance drone

## Military Response

Nov. 3: US acknowledges **US Air Force is flying surveillance drones over Gaza** since October 7 to support hostage rescue efforts

Nov. 4: Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group arrived to the Middle East

Nov. 5: Ohio-class submarine arrived to the Middle East

All missiles and armed drones fired by Houthis in Yemen were intercepted by IDF anti-missile defenses, the US Navy or Saudi anti-missile defenses.

One ballistic missile was shot down by an Arrow-3 defensive missile, an exoatmospheric hypersonic anti-ballistic missile funded, developed and produced by a US-Israel partnership between the Israel Aerospace Industries and Boeing.



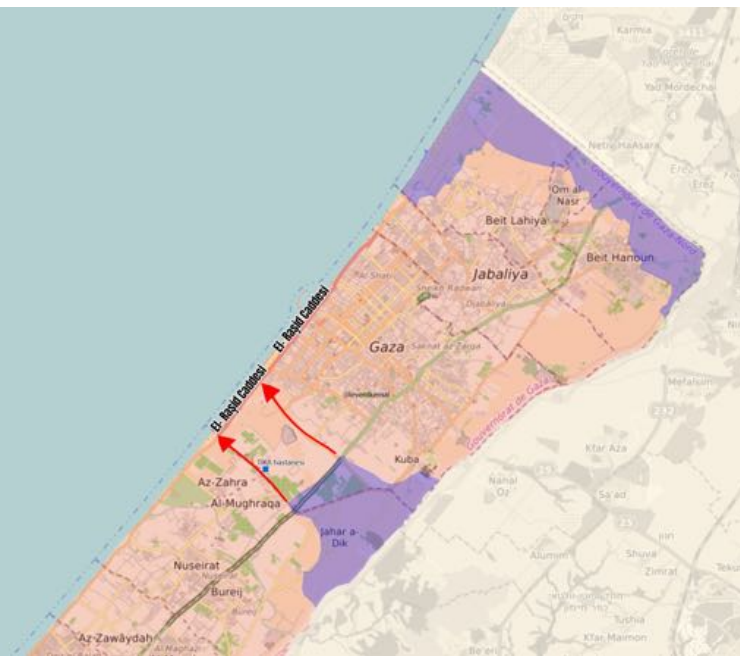


# American and Israeli Deterrence Keeps Iran & Lebanon From Fully Joining HAMAS War

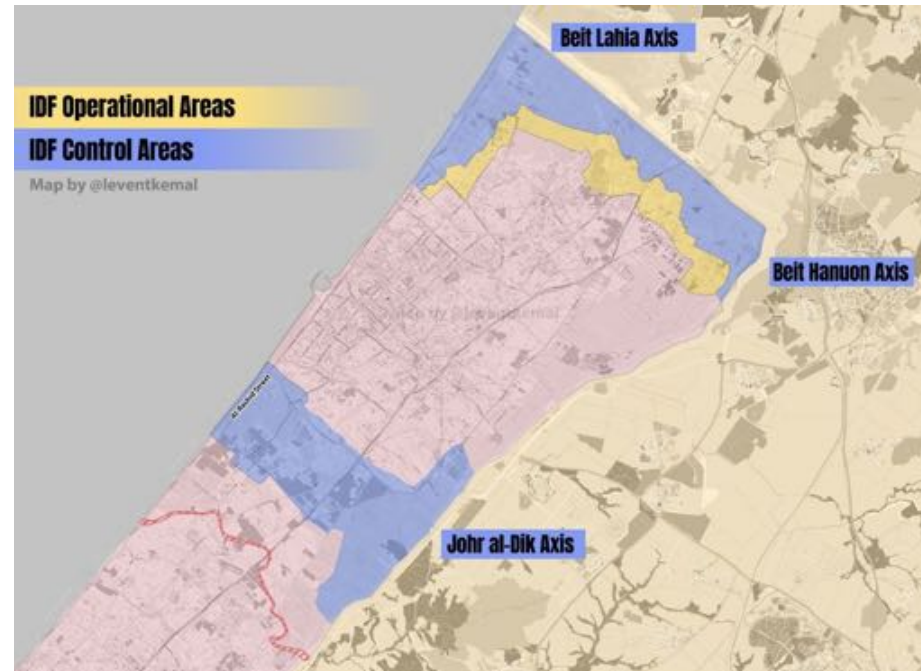
- In Lebanon, despite no calls by IDF to evacuate, **tens of thousands of Lebanese left Southern Lebanon** for northern parts of Lebanon, away from the border with Israel.
- There was **a gradual escalation in Hezbollah attacks from Lebanon on Israel** in the number of rockets and in the size of the munitions fired into Israel. Hezbollah also used exploding drones, surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles and continued infiltration attempts, injuring Israeli civilians and soldiers.
- **In part due to American and Israeli deterrence, the leaders of Hezbollah (Hassan Nasrallah) and Iran (Ali Khamenei) made excuses as to why they did not fully join the HAMAS war against Israel.** It is not clear if this represents their true intention or a tactic to evade Israeli defenses.
- The Chief of the General Staff, of the IDF LTG Herzi Halevi, said on November 5 during a meeting in the Northern Command: **"We are ready to strike in the north at any moment."**



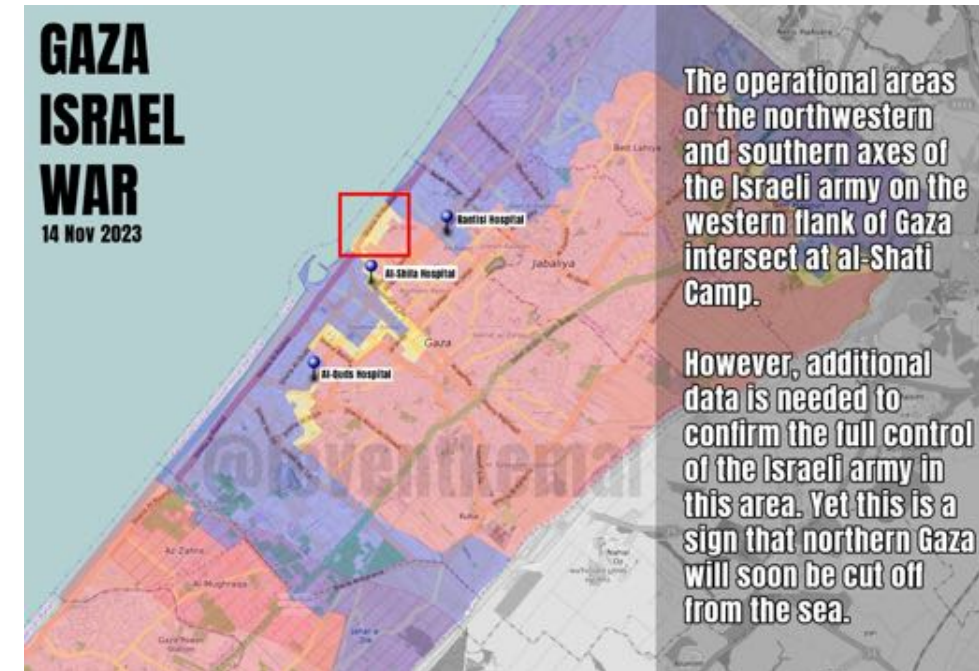
# IDF Forces Progress Through Northern Gaza



**October 31**



**November 2**



**November 14**

Images sourced from [@LeventKemal](https://twitter.com/LeventKemal)



# November 14: Northern Gaza Secured by the IDF

The **Israeli military seized broader security control of northern Gaza on Tuesday November 14**, including capturing the HAMAS parliament building and HAMAS's police headquarters - locations that carried high symbolic value. In a nationally televised news conference, Israeli Defense Minister Gallant said **HAMAS had "lost control" of northern Gaza** and that Israel made significant gains in Gaza City.



# Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 4

**Nov. 15 - Nov. 25**

*Focus Turns to Southern Gaza,  
Major Hostage Release & Pause*





# IDF Focus Moves to Southern Gaza

Nov. 16  
Financial Times:

“Israel is planning military operations in southern Gaza and has asked residents of some neighborhoods to evacuate their homes, according to leaflets dropped into the city of Khan Younis that signalled a potential widening of the Israeli invasion.”

Nov. 16  
IDF:

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gn. Herzi Halevi said the “IDF was close to dismantling Hamas’s military capabilities in the north of Gaza and after that, would expand to more and more regions in Gaza.”

Nov. 17  
IDF:

IDF Chief Spokesperson Read Adm. Daniel Hagari said that the IDF was “pushing forward against Hamas wherever it exists, including in the south of Gaza.”



Image source

# Massive Increase in Humanitarian Aid to Gaza

- By the 50th day of war, Israel had gone from allowing 0 to **over 100 trucks of humanitarian aid into Gaza every day**. As part of the hostage agreement, over 400 aid trucks entered Gaza on November 24 and 25 alone.
- Israel even allowed for fuel trucks to begin entering Gaza daily to support UN aid logistics and operate sewage facilities, even though **the UN confirmed that HAMAS had stolen fuel from a UN facility after October 7**.
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United Arab Emirates each built a field hospital in Southern Gaza, with a French floating hospital en route to the region.
- Hundreds of wounded Gazans left Gaza via Egypt for treatment in hospitals around the region.

All data sourced from the Israel Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories





# Continued Street-by-Street Action in Northern Gaza Uncovered Use of Civilian Locations to Hide Weapons, Forces



PIJ Missiles found adjacent to a courthouse and the Turkish hospital



PIJ Heavy rockets confiscated in northern Gaza



Grenades, guns found inside a school



Anti-tank missile found under a baby's crib

# Escalation Along Israel-Lebanon Border

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## Nov. 15 - 23 attacks from Lebanon include:

- Every day, mortar (some days with 35), armed drones, rockets, anti-tank missiles, or surface-to-air missiles were fired at Israel from inside Lebanon
- IDF responded with fire at Hezbollah targets inside Lebanon
- No reports of ground forces of Hezbollah or other terrorists attempting to infiltrate into Israel, an improvement over previous phases of the war





# Yemen: Ship & Hostages Seized

- **November 15:** USS Thomas Hudner, another destroyer, was sailing toward the Bab-el-Mandeb strait when the crew saw a drone, reported to have originated in Yemen. The ship shot down the drone.
- **Nov. 20: Yemen’s Houthi rebels hijack an Israeli-linked ship in the Red Sea and take 25 crew members hostage**, saying they hijacked the ship because of its Israeli connection. The Houthis descended onto the ship by rappelling from a helicopter.
- **Nov. 23: USS Thomas Hudner, shoots down more attack drones en route to Israel from the Houthis in Iran.**
- **Nov 25:** Israeli air force intercept armed drone heading towards Israel in the Red Sea

U.S. Central Command @CENTCOMArabic

في صباح يوم 23 نوفمبر/ تشرين الثاني (بتوقيت اليمن)، أسقطت المدمرة الصواريخ الموجهة [#USS\\_Thomas\\_Hudner](#) (دي دي جي 116) عدة طائرات هجومية بدون طيار أحادية الاتجاه أطلقت من المناطق التي يسيطر عليها [#الحوثيون](#) في [#اليمن](#). تم إسقاط الطائرات بدون طيار بينما كانت السفينة الحربية الأمريكية يو إس إس توماس هودنر في دورية في [#البحر\\_الأحمر](#). لم تتعرض السفينة وطاقمها لأي ضرر أو إصابة.

On the morning (Yemen time) of November 23, the [#USS\\_Thomas\\_Hudner](#) (DDG 116) shot down multiple one-way attack drones launched from [#Houthi](#) controlled areas in [#Yemen](#). The drones were shot down while the U.S. warship was on patrol in the [#Red\\_Sea](#). The ship and crew sustained no damage or injury



Screen shots from Houthi propaganda video of their hijacking the Galaxy Leader cargo ship in the Red Sea

# American Forces Come Under Attack in the Middle East From Iran-Backed Militias in Iraq and Syria



Nov. 30: Secretary Blinken visits region





# Hostage Bodies Recovered, Agreement on Pause in Fighting

- Nov. 16, Nov. 17: **IDF recovers dead bodies of 2 hostages** taken alive on October 7. They were found near the Shifa Hospital.
- Nov. 21: **announcement of hostage agreement brokered by the US, Egypt, and State of Qatar**, to include:
  1. Cessation of IDF operations inside Gaza for 4 days
  2. Entry of hundreds of trucks of humanitarian aid and fuel into Gaza
  3. Release of 50 women and children hostages in exchange for Israel's release of 150 convicted criminals and terrorists from Israeli prisons (released at a ratio of 3 to every 1 Israeli hostage)
  4. Option to extend cessation of IDF operations for an extra day for each 10 hostages released





# 7 Days of Hostage Agreement Brings 105 More Hostages Home

- Nov. 24: **pause in IDF actions in Gaza begins**, entrance of extensive humanitarian aid begins, **release of 13 Israeli, 10 Thai, and 1 Filipino hostage**; Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 25: **release of 17 hostages** (13 Israeli, 4 Thai) as Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 26 (day 51 of the war): **release of 17 hostages** (13 Israeli, 3 Thai, 1 Russian-Israeli), Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 27 (day 52 of the war): **release of 11 Israeli hostages**, Israel freed 33 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 28: (day 53 of the war): extension of agreement, **release of 12 hostages** (10 Israeli, 2 Thai), Israel freed 30 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 29 (day 54 of the war): extension of agreement, **release of 16 hostages** (10 Israeli, 2 Russian-Israeli, 4 Thai), Israel freed 30 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 30 (day 55 of the war): extension of agreement, **release of 8 Israeli hostages**



Israel-HAMAS War:  
*Moving Forward*



# 50 Days of War, By the Numbers

## **Gaza (as reported by HAMAS):**

Over 1M Gazans displaced, evacuated to Southern Gaza from Northern Gaza

HAMAS Ministry of Health reports 15,000 killed Gazans. *They do not differentiate between personnel of HAMAS and other terrorist organizations and civilians.*

## **HAMAS (as reported by IDF, Ch. 12 News):**

IDF destroyed HAMAS command and control centers under hospitals in Northern Gaza as well as symbols of HAMAS's control of Gaza such as their parliament building and their military HQ.

IDF soldiers destroyed 400 terror tunnel shafts in Gaza

**HAMAS top leadership still alive, but many HAMAS terrorists killed, including:**

- 4 members of HAMAS political leadership
- 1 (of 5) HAMAS Brigade Commander
- 10 (of 24) HAMAS Battalion Commanders
- 50 HAMAS Squad Commanders
- Thousands of HAMAS fighters - approximately 20-25% of their total force

## **IDF (Data from INSS):**

Over 395 IDF soldiers killed

Over 17,000 targets attacked by the IDF

## **Israel (Data from INSS):**

1,225 confirmed civilian casualties, including over 40 babies murdered, over 9,000 injured

Still identifying bodies from October 7 massacre

250,000+ Israelis displaced

Over 10,500 rockets fired into Israel (1,300+ rockets misfired and fell short into Gaza)

Over 300 attacks from Israel's Northern border

By 50th day, reduction of 80% of rocket and missile fire at Israel

Israel's border with Lebanon active but a lower level of warfare



# Will Iranian Oil Revenues Continue to Fund Terror?

**Ben Cahill, Senior Fellow at CSIS, wrote on October 11 2023:** “Between May and September of this year, Iran’s crude oil and condensate exports averaged some 1.4 million barrels per day (b/d), returning to levels not seen in at least four years. There is a widespread perception in the oil market that the United States has relaxed its sanctions enforcement on Iran as it negotiated over last month’s [release](#) of several political prisoners, among other issues. ”

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Daniel Yergin, Best-Selling Author and Vice Chairman of S&P Global, wrote on November 15 in the Wall Street Journal:** “After ticking up a few dollars, the price of Brent crude has been even or lower than on Oct. 6, the day before Hamas’s attack on Israel. There are three reasons for this: the shale revolution, market psychology and a transformation in the politics of oil.”

- The shale revolution rebalanced the market. The U.S., once the world’s largest oil importer, is now its largest producer. On a net basis, the U.S. is “energy independent.”
- “Oil prices these days vibrate primarily on economic news and prospects”
- “In contrast to the embargo years of the 1970s, the Gulf Arab countries are thoroughly integrated into the world economy. They are focused on job creation, economic development and investment. They have also been in various stages of dialogue or diplomatic relations with Israel, seeing that as helpful to their own economies, at least up to now.”



# After Oct. 7, Palestinians Support HAMAS, Continue Calls for Another October 7 Massacre

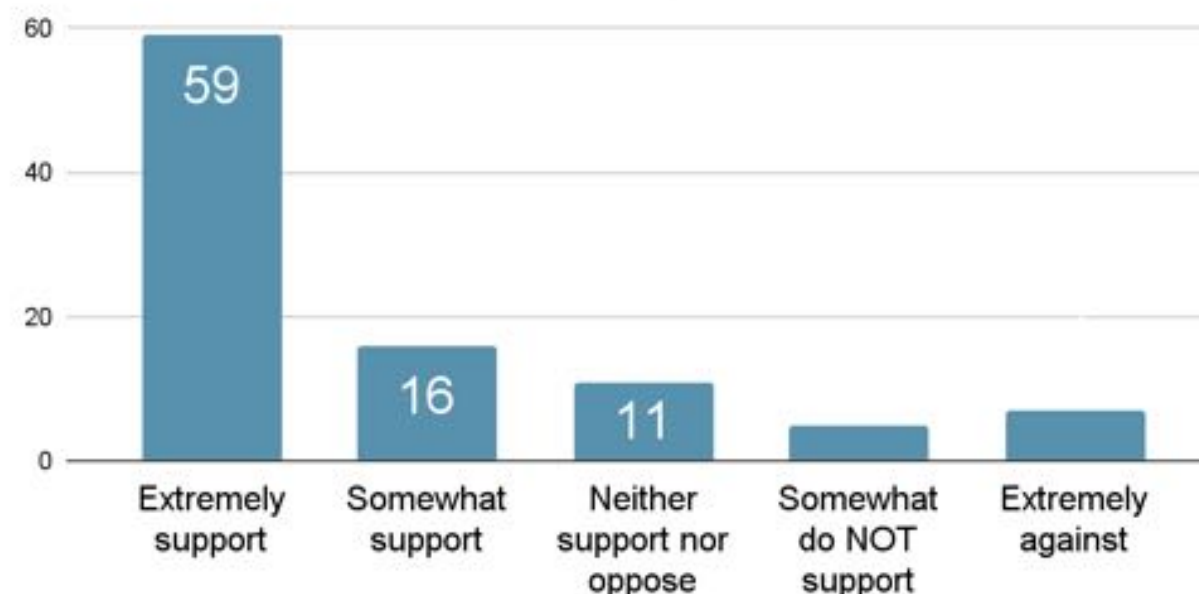
HAMAS leader Ghazi Hamad said in an October 24 interview on Lebanese TV that **HAMAS is will repeat the October 7 Massacre time and again** until Israel is annihilated.



## 75% of Palestinians support the October 7 Massacre

Arab World for Research & Development conducted Palestinian public opinion research in the West Bank and Gaza between October 31 and November 7 (the 4th week of war).

How much do you support the military operation carried out by the Palestinian resistance led by HAMAS on October 7th?



**50 days of war and Palestinian Authority officials still refuse to condemn the October 7 massacre.**





# Will Terror Come to the US?

- Israel's spy agency Mossad worked with Brazilian security services and other international agencies to foil an attack in Brazil planned by the Iran-backed terror group Hezbollah. Brazilian forces conducted arrests and search and seizure warrants.
- FBI Director Wray: "Here in the U.S., we cannot and do not discount the possibility that Hamas or other foreign terrorist organizations could exploit the conflict to call on their supporters to **conduct attacks on our own soil.**"
- According to a US intelligence bulletin, Al-Qaeda affiliates and Hezbollah are calling on supporters to target the U.S. and Israeli interests in response to the Israel-HAMAS war and President Biden's trip to the region.
- Customs and Border protection memo suggested that HAMAS or Hezbollah fighters could potentially enter the US via the southern border.



# Will Hate Violence Spread in the US?

- Oct 7 - Nov 20: the Anti-Defamation League tracked 832 anti-Jewish acts in the United States. **Although Jewish-Americans are 2.4% of the U.S. population, they are the targets of more than half of all reported religion-based hate crimes.**
- **69 year-old Jewish man was killed** during a clash between pro-Israel and anti-Israel protesters.
- **Palestinian-American boy aged 6 stabbed to death** in Chicago, suspected killer is the landlord, who is charged with murder and a hate crime.
- A bomb threat was made on a Jewish school in Toronto while a surge of antisemitism spread through Europe since October 7, including the stabbing of a woman in France and antisemitic incidents in France, Italy, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Greece, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Poland, and the Netherlands.

LA County's District Attorney:

**On October 25, 2023 at approximately 5:20 in the morning, Garcia attempted to enter the victim's home by kicking in the door while shouting antisemitic slurs and threatening to, "kill Jews!"**



# Will Abraham Accords Support Remain? It Has So Far

Alongside condemnations of Israel, condemnations of HAMAS by Abraham Accords leaders:

- United Arab Emirates on Oct 8: “The Ministry stressed that attacks by Hamas against Israeli towns and villages near the Gaza strip, including the firing of thousands of rockets at population centers, are a serious and grave escalation. **The Ministry is appalled by reports that Israeli civilians have been abducted** as hostages from their homes. ”
- United Arab Emirates Minister at UN Oct 24: “We reiterate that **the attacks launched by Hamas on October 7 are barbaric and heinous**. We demand that Hamas release hostages immediately and unconditionally to stop the bloodshed and spare all civilians from further suffering.”
- United Arab Emirates Oct. 30: “From the United Arab Emirates perspective, **the Abraham Accords are there to stay,**” said Dr Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Defense, Interior and Foreign Affairs Committee of the UAE Federal National Council
- Kingdom of Bahraini Nov. 17: Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and PM said: “**I condemn Hamas unequivocally**. I stand on the side of civilians and innocents, and not on the side of political posturing. **The 7 October attacks were barbaric and horrific.**”

Protests in support of the Palestinians in Arab states generally, and Abraham Accords countries specifically, were fewer and much smaller than pro-Palestinian protests in Europe and America.



# And Many More Questions Remain

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- Will the IDF continue its operations in Southern Gaza?
- Approximately 137 hostages remain in captivity in Gaza. What is the future of these hostages?
- Will the humanitarian situation in Gaza improve?
- Who will rule Gaza after HAMAS?
- What will Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen do?





October 7 - Nov 30, 2023  
**55 Day Update**

