

## **IAC Fact Sheet About Recent Developments in Israel - Operation Guardian of the Walls**

**In the past few days (since May 10, 2021), Hamas terrorists have launched over 1,050+ rockets from populated centers in the Gaza Strip indiscriminately on Israeli civilians in both southern and central Israel. Here are some important facts about the recent attacks:**

### **HAMAS ROCKET ATTACKS**

- Over 1,050+ rockets have been fired at Israel in the last 48 hours. Millions of people live in the radius of Hamas's bombs (about 1 rocket every 3 minutes, many fired consecutively).
- At least 7 Israelis have been killed throughout the past week, 3 of them being in the last 2 days, including a 35 year-old man, a 7-year old girl, elderly Jewish citizens like Leah Yom Tov, caregiver Soumya Santhosh, an Israeli-Arab 16 year-old Nadine Awad and her father, Israeli-Arab staff sergeant Omar Tabib, and more.
- Over 90 people have been injured in the attacks. Rockets have landed in Israeli playgrounds, had direct lethal hits on occupied buses, vehicles, homes, apartment buildings, doctor's offices, and more.
- Most rockets have targeted southern and central Israel, however, at least one barrage of rockets targeted Jerusalem, including one hit on an Arab home in the neighborhood of Abu Ghosh.
- On Tuesday May 11, 3 people, including a 12-year-old child, were injured by rocket attacks in the city of Ashkelon.
  - In Ashkelon, 25% of residents don't have easy access to a bomb shelter.
- In many parts of Israel, civilians have between 15-30 seconds to get into a bomb shelter.
- The Israel Defense Forces report that the Iron Dome missile defense system has successfully intercepted around 85-90% of Hamas rockets. However, the consequences are devastating for those that do not.
- The IDF has thwarted various missile attacks from Hamas by targeting over 130 terrorist locations in the Gaza Strip.
- The IDF has also taken down a Hamas UAV drone, 2 attack tunnels, rocket firing sites, a Hamas military intel facility, weapons manufacturing and storage sites, and key leaders of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in terror operations and intelligence.
- A machine gunman of Hamas invaded Israel from Gaza and began recording his drive-by shooting at an Israeli gas station in the south. It is anticipated that other terrorists have penetrated Israel's border and done the same.

## IMPACT ON GAZA

- An estimated 200 out of 1,050 rockets fired by Hamas failed to reach Israel and hit Gazan civilians, such as the murdered eight Palestinians of the Atallah Almasri residence, including six children, and injuring 18 more, whom ten are children - east of Beit Hanoun City.
- These Palestinian casualties from failed Hamas rockets are often falsely attributed to Israeli retaliatory airstrikes by Hamas's Health Ministry. (The previous example was reported by Hamas as occurring at 6:10pm, however the Israeli Air Force did not strike until hours later with the Hamas ultimatum targeting Tel Aviv).
- Video footage of Israeli airstrikes from Palestinians in Gaza are made possible because the IDF warns civilians with messages precisely where they will strike (where Hamas is firing/storing rockets). On the contrary, Israeli civilians have no idea where rockets will land, only that they have to find a bomb shelter with alerts.
- Aside from anti-tank missiles and high-grade missiles recently fired at Israel, ordinary rockets cost around \$400, meaning that at least \$400,000 dollars have been spent in terrorizing Jewish and Arab civilians by Hamas, instead of providing vaccines for Palestinian Gazan, rebuilding infrastructure, and other services.
- **Hamas rockets are fired with the sole purpose of terrorizing Israeli civilians, mobilizing political support and violence from Palestinian people, and drawing in Israeli retaliation to appeal to the Muslim world and international community for more aid to expand their militant capabilities and enrich their corrupt leadership.**

## RIOTS IN ISRAEL

- Various Hamas-inspired riots have taken place in Israeli-Arab villages and mixed cities, such as Lod and Akko (Acre), where Israeli-Arab and Jewish coexistence had usually been the norm.
  - Three synagogues have been burned down by Israeli-Arab rioters in the city of Lod.
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## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS PRIOR (BACKGROUND):

### TikTok Incitement & Protests/Riots

- In late April/early May, various TikTok videos went viral of Palestinians posting recorded assaults on ultra-Orthodox Jews in eastern Jerusalem, such as on streets and in public transportation (supported and promoted by the Palestinian Authority government).
- In response, around 200 far-right Israeli organizers protested and lashed back with anti-Arab chants in Jerusalem. Palestinians organized similarly and tensions escalated with various attacks.
- Some Palestinians later celebrated the Meron tragedy that killed 45 during Lag Ba'Omer in Israel's north, heightening tensions.
- Factions in Gaza, associating with Hamas or otherwise sent incendiary kites into Israel (a repeat of 2018), burning hundreds of acres of Israeli lands.

### Palestinian Elections

- After 15 years of not having any legislative elections, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas opened the potential opportunity with consideration.
- After targeting various opposing rivals from his party (Fatah) and having alleged disputes with Israel over being able to have polling places in eastern Jerusalem (due to its annexed status with Israel), Abbas canceled the elections. Although Israel ultimately offered a number of polling accommodations in eastern Jerusalem, Abbas leveraged this excuse to fan popular tension with Israel.
- Rival party and terror organization, Hamas, had taken the spotlight in protests against Abbas's decision to cancel the elections and Israel's falsely-accused exclusion of eastern Jerusalem from participating.
- *This is also amid lies from the PA government that Israel had refused to vaccinate Palestinians, despite Israel taking initiative multiple times to offer covid testing and vaccine sites (rejected by the PA) and vaccinating over 100,000 Palestinian workers.*

### Sheikh Jarrah (Shimon Ha'Tzadik)

- Simultaneous to these events, the mostly Arab-inhabited town of Sheikh Jarrah in eastern Jerusalem had undergone a legal dispute brought to public attention in Israeli courts.
  - Sheikh Jarrah (also the Jewish pilgrimage site - Shimon Ha'Tzadik) was previously a Jewish town purchased over 120 years ago by Yemenite Jews from the Ottomans. However, in the 1948 War of Israel's independence Jordan expelled its Jewish owners and resettled it (alongside the UN) with Palestinian refugee families.
  - Since Israel's re-unification of Jerusalem in the victory of 1967, there have been private legal attempts to restore its prior ownership while allowing Arab residents

to remain and pay rent. Since the legal recognition of the situation by the tenants in the 1980's, there has been political refusal to pay rent, as it would recognize Jewish claims to Jerusalem. Now, amid protests and refusal to compromise, there have been (delayed) efforts to evict these families.

### Ramadan & Yom Yerushalayim

- During this current Muslim observance of the month of Ramadan (and Yom Yerushalayim), Palestinian riots have dominated Jerusalem neighborhoods as well as the Al-Aqsa mosque, often targeting Jewish civilians that have nearly been lynched and then rushed to safety, in moving vehicles and streets. A number of Jewish civilians and IDF members have been killed or injured as a result.
- In tandem, various marches during Yom Yerushalayim were canceled or re-routed to avoid clashes.
  - Despite Palestinian extremist claims that Israel is again instigating violence at Al-Aqsa during Ramadan by using defensive riot dispersal techniques, Palestinians had stored piles of stones to throw in the holy mosque and desecrated it with violence, also igniting the site in the mosque and on the Temple Mount with firecrackers.
  - Final notes: Tens of thousands of Palestinians have partaken in these violent riots on the Temple Mount, concerning Israelis that it would lead to another intifada (terror uprising). There have been recordings of both crowds of young men and young women chanting “Bomb Tel Aviv”, praising Hamas with flags and chants and encouraging them to attack Israeli civilians.