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OIA-2023-4847

12 December 2023

[REDACTED]  
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Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 24 October 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*All advice, briefings, reports, memos, emails, and communications (including texts) received or sent by the Defence Force and/or Ministry of Defence, if any, regarding the Israel/Palestine conflict, between 24 September and 24 October 2023.*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) continually monitors events that may have an impact on New Zealand or New Zealand's interests. Over the period identified in your request, the emerging situation in Israel and Palestine was closely monitored and reported on in order to support NZDF personnel deployed in the Middle East region. Reports and briefings compiled from information provided by New Zealand's defence partners are withheld in full in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(b)(i) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the international relations of the Government of New Zealand and the entrusting of information provided on a basis of a confidence. Open source intelligence reports generated by the NZDF are provided at Enclosures 1 to 15. Where indicated, information is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA in order not to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

Given the significant amount of reporting and travel advisories concerning the Israel/Palestine conflict, there is a substantial amount of correspondence/communications within the scope of your request. As an example, for the time period you provided there are more than 5,000 email results containing the terms "Israel", "Palestine" and "Hamas". This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA. Much of the information that could be released from this correspondence/communication is similar to, or replicates, that which is provided in the enclosures.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**  
Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosures:**

1. 10 October Open Source Report
2. 11 October Open Source Report
3. 12 October Open Source Report
4. 13 October Open Source Report
5. 14 October Open Source Report
6. 15 October Open Source Report
7. 16 October Open Source Report
8. 17 October Open Source Report
9. 18 October Open Source Report
10. 19 October Open Source Report
11. 20 October Open Source Report
12. 21 October Open Source Report
13. 22 October Open Source Report
14. 23 October Open Source Report
15. 24 October Open Source Report



TE OPE KÁTUA O AOTEAROA  
**DEFENCE FORCE**

**New Zealand  
Defence Intelligence**



Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## **ISRAEL/PALESTINE: Open Source Report (OSR)**

**Context:** *This Open Source report (OSR) is derived from publically available information (PAI) and may contain initial observations, and should not be considered finished intelligence. Any questions concerning the contents of this OSR should be directed to the contact listed at the end of this document.*

s.6(a)



## GAZA

### **Israeli activity in Gaza**

On 07 Oct 23 <sup>s.6(b)(i)</sup> reported that Palestinian militants had launched a coordinated attack on Israel. Between 2,500 and 5,000 rockets were launched, hitting Sderot, Ashkelon, Rehovot, and Jerusalem.<sup>1</sup> On 07 Oct 23 Reuters reported approximately 1,000 Palestinian fighters crossing the border into Israel.<sup>2</sup>

On 07 Oct 23 <sup>s.6(b)(i)</sup> Reuters reported Palestinian fighters entering Zikim, Ashkelon, Sderot, Kfar Aza, Nahal Oz, Re'im, Ofakim, Kerem Shalom, and military bases. Palestinian fighters reportedly moved freely through Israeli townships shooting indiscriminately and conducting kidnappings of Israeli civilians and IDF personnel.<sup>34</sup>

On 08 Oct 23 a DI Watch comment stated that there were still reports of clashes between Hamas and IDF IVO the Gaza Strip and West Bank, with reporting that some militants remained in various locations close to the Gaza Strip and rockets attacks continued to occur.<sup>5</sup>

On 08 Oct 23, open source reporting indicated Israel had cut off electricity, fuel, and goods coming into Gaza from Israel. <sup>s.6(a)</sup>

On 09 Oct 23, Al Jazeera reported that the Israeli Defence Minister had announced a "total blockade" on Gaza, with Israeli authorities to cut electricity and block entry of food and fuel into the Gaza strip as part of "a complete siege".<sup>6</sup>

On 09 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported that a senior government source told the news agency the IDF will attack targets in Gaza with great force, even at cost of harming Israeli hostages who could be within the sites. The source clarifies that Israel will refrain from attacking targets that have known hostages with precise intelligence backing.<sup>7</sup>

On 09 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported that an Israeli official stated that "there is no negotiation" for the release of hostages. This statement was in response to multiple reports, including Hamas sources, in which Israel had been in touch for the release of hostages, with Qatar as a mediator.<sup>8</sup>

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1 <sup>s.6(b)(i)</sup>

2 [Reuters, Hamas deployed specialised units to attack Israel, 10 Oct 23](#)

3 [The Atlantic, kidnappings Israel Hamas photographs, 09 Oct 23](#)

4 <sup>s.6(b)(i)</sup>

5

6 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/9/israel-announces-total-blockade-on-gaza>

7 [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/israel-to-strike-hamas-in-gaza-even-at-cost-of-harming-israeli-hostages-senior-source/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/israel-to-strike-hamas-in-gaza-even-at-cost-of-harming-israeli-hostages-senior-source/)

8 [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/israeli-official-denies-report-of-qatar-mediated-negotiations-for-prisoner-swap/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/israeli-official-denies-report-of-qatar-mediated-negotiations-for-prisoner-swap/)

## **ISRAEL**

### **Statements from Israeli Prime Minister**

On 09 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported that Israeli PM, Benjamin Netanyahu, spoke with US President, Joe Biden, and stated that Israel will have no choice but to launch ground operation against Hamas in Gaza. PM Netanyahu also reportedly stated that Israel was worried about a second front opening up with Hezbollah.<sup>9</sup>

On 09 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported that during the end of the Israeli PM televised speech, he told Israeli citizens to not believe “fake news” and “propaganda traps”. This statement was in response reports stating that Egyptian Intelligence gave advanced warning to Israel on a possible attack on Israel days prior to the Hamas terror attacks.<sup>10</sup>

On 09 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported the Israeli PM has called for the Israeli opposition parties to join him to create a national unity government with no preconditions, referencing the same unity government which was established during the 1967 Six Day War.<sup>11</sup>

On 09 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported that the Israeli PM addressed the nation in a televised speech, stating that Israel is in a war to ensure its existence. The PM also stated that Hamas have committed atrocities “not seen since ISIS” and that “now the whole world knows. Hamas is ISIS”.<sup>12</sup>

### **IDF Statements**

On 09 Oct 23, Reuters reported that the IDF’s Chief Spokesman, Rear-Admiral Daniel Hagari, had stated that Israel has drafted 300,000 reservists in response to a multi-front Hamas attack from Gaza and is “going on the offensive”.<sup>13</sup>

On 09 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported that the IDF’s Chief Spokesman stated Israeli troops have regained control of all towns on the Gaza border. He also stated that currently there is no fighting in any of the towns but “it is possible that there are still terrorists in the area.” He further stated the army has evacuated 15 out of 24 towns on the border.<sup>14</sup>

### **Hamas Statements**

On 08 Oct 23 BBC reported that Hamas released a statement calling on ‘resistance fighters in the West Bank’. Hamas were quoted stating US aid to Israel is “Aggression against Palestinians”.<sup>15</sup>

## **LEBANON**

### **Hezbollah Strikes IDF Locations in Golan Heights**

On 7 Oct 23 open source reporting indicated approximately twenty Hezbollah personnel on motorcycles approached the Lebanon – Israel border fence IVO Metula. The reporting indicates they fired into the air, prompting IDF to respond by returning fire. Hezbollah then

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/report-netanyahu-told-biden-gaza-ground-op-inevitable/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/report-netanyahu-told-biden-gaza-ground-op-inevitable/)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/pm-no-warning-from-egypt-dont-spread-fake-news/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/pm-no-warning-from-egypt-dont-spread-fake-news/)

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/netanyahu-urges-opposition-to-join-unity-government-without-preconditions/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/netanyahu-urges-opposition-to-join-unity-government-without-preconditions/)

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/hamas-atrocities-reminiscent-of-isis-netanyahu-says/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/hamas-atrocities-reminiscent-of-isis-netanyahu-says/)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-drafts-300000-reservists-it-goes-offensive-2023-10-09/>

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-spokesperson-says-military-has-regained-control-of-all-gaza-border-towns-but-terrorists-may-remain/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-spokesperson-says-military-has-regained-control-of-all-gaza-border-towns-but-terrorists-may-remain/)

<sup>15</sup> [BBC, The latest situation in Israel and Gaza, 09 Oct 23](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-67444444)

reportedly withdrew. Following the incident, the IDF announced they had deployed more personnel to the border region.

On 8 Oct 23, Hezbollah claimed responsibility for targeting three IDF locations in the Shebaa Farms region of the Golan Heights (see Figure 1). The attack reportedly included use of rockets, mortars and artillery rounds. IDF responded by striking targets in the region with artillery and a UAV strike on a “Hezbollah terrorist structure” in the region.<sup>16</sup>

On 09 Oct 23 Hezbollah was reported as having fired a salvo of rockets into northern Israel in response to at least four of its members being killed by Israeli artillery strikes.<sup>17</sup>

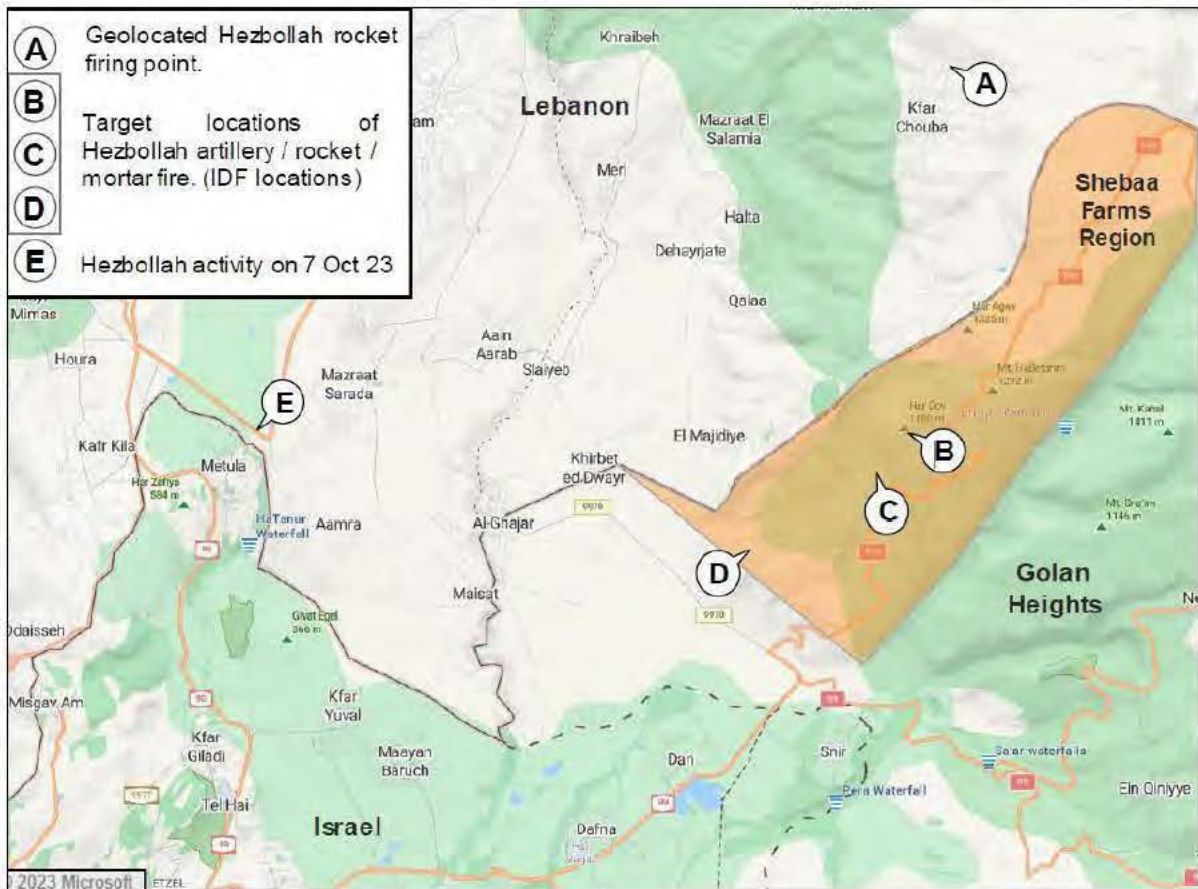


Figure 1. Locations of Hezbollah targets

### Hezbollah fires on Israel after four members killed in shelling

On 09 Oct 23 Al Jazeera reported that Israel had fired artillery into southern Lebanon in response to a cross-border raid from Lebanon into Israel. The raid was claimed by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). Two PIJ gunmen were reportedly killed in the Israeli strike. A Hezbollah official has denied any Hezbollah involvement in the cross-border raid.

s.6(a)

<sup>16</sup> s.6(b)(i)

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<sup>17</sup> [aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/9/Hezbollah-fires-on-israel-after-several-members-killed-in-shelling](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/9/Hezbollah-fires-on-israel-after-several-members-killed-in-shelling), 09 Oct

23

<sup>18</sup> [theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/08/Israel-hamas-gaza-palestine-territories](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/08/Israel-hamas-gaza-palestine-territories)

On 09 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported the IDF have been conducting strikes into Lebanon using combat helicopters after a number of gunmen infiltrated into northern Israel from Lebanon. The incursion reportedly happened in the Golan Heights sub district.<sup>19</sup>

#### **Social Media Reporting of Lebanese Hezbollah Force Build Up**

On 09 Oct 23, a post from Twitter user @mohammed\_askra stating “Leaders and members of the Lebanese Hezbollah militia entered a number of military sites northwest of Daraa, and other sites in the Quneitra Governorate close to the border with the occupied Golan.”<sup>20</sup> s.6(a)

On 10 Oct 23, a post Twitter user @nourabohsn stated “Hezbollah will transfer a large number of Qarqat al-Radwan to southern Syria, especially the areas near the Golan.”<sup>21</sup> s.6(a)

s.6(a)

### **REGIONAL REPORTING**

#### **US Sends Carrier Strike Group to Israel**

On 09 Oct 23 Business Insider reported that Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin had announced the deployment of USS Gerald Ford Carrier Strike Group. Austin was reported as stating that the United States government would also be providing the IDF with additional equipment and resources, including munitions. US Central Command (CENTCOM) stated that F-15, F-16, and A-10 fighter aircraft squadrons that are already in the area will be increased.<sup>22</sup>

#### **Mexico sending aircraft to evacuate 300 citizens in Israel**

(R) On 09 Oct 23 CNN reported that Mexico’s President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador had stated they would send two aircraft to carry out evacuations, due to commercial flight cancelations.<sup>23</sup>

#### **Countries Conduct Evacuation of Nationals From Israel**

On 09 Oct 23 VOA news reported the U.S. State Department has confirmed the deaths of nine U.S. citizens. Thailand’s government confirmed 12 Thai nationals have been killed and another 11 taken hostage by Hamas. Argentina confirmed four of its citizens were killed. Two British nationals have been confirmed dead, with “more than 10” feared dead or

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<sup>19</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-confirms-striking-lebanon/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-confirms-striking-lebanon/)

<sup>20</sup> twitter.com/mohammed\_askra/status/1711096694035599762, 09 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> twitter.com/nourabohsn/status/1711434876384092273, 10 Oct 23

<sup>22</sup> Businessinsider.com/us-moves-carrier-group-capable-of-firing-guided-missiles-to-israel-2023-10, 09 Oct 23

<sup>23</sup> Edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/Israel-hamas-gaza-attack-10-09-23/h\_51b86c64ad895eb431eee4805110572b, 10 Oct 23

missing. Due to regular flights in and out of Israel's main airports being cancelled, governments are evacuating nationals who wish to leave the country. Nations conducting or organising evacuations include<sup>24</sup>:

- a) Albania
- b) Brazil
- c) Cambodia
- d) Greece
- e) Hungary
- f) India
- g) North Macedonia
- h) Poland
- i) Thailand

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<sup>24</sup> [Voanews.com/a/countries-scramble-to-evacuate-citizens-from-israel-hamas-war-zone/7303329.html](https://www.voanews.com/a/countries-scramble-to-evacuate-citizens-from-israel-hamas-war-zone/7303329.html), 10 Oct 23



s.6(a)





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s.6(a)



## GAZA

### **Gaza Blockade**

On 11 Oct 23 Aljazeera reported that a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official stated "Israel refused a Palestinian request to allow food and medical supplies into Gaza". Secretary General of the Executive Committee of the PLO Hussein Al Sheikh was also quoted requesting for attacks to cease on the Gaza strip to allow for the delivery of foreign aid.<sup>1</sup>

### **Rafah Crossing**

On 10 Oct 23 <sup>s.6(b)(i)</sup> reported that IDF spokesperson LTCOL Richard Hecht advised Palestinians to use the Rafah border crossing to evacuate the Gaza Strip (*see map, point 1*).<sup>2</sup>

On 10 Oct 23 <sup>s.6(b)(i)</sup> reported that Israel threatened to bomb any truck carrying supplies from Egypt to the Gaza Strip. Following the strikes on the morning of 10 Oct 23, Egypt closed the Rafah border crossing into the Gaza Strip indefinitely. On 11 Oct 23 Jordanian King Abdullah II ordered urgent aid to be sent to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah Crossing in coordination with Egypt.<sup>3 4</sup>

On 11 Oct 23 Aljazeera reported three IDF airstrikes on the Rafah crossing occurring in a 24 hour period, with unknown casualties. The Rafah crossing is the only crossing to Egypt not controlled by Israel.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>s.6(a)</sup>

On 11 Oct 23 the Times of Israel reported the IDF claimed to strike an underground tunnel system utilised for smuggling weapons and equipment in the Rafah area. NFI.<sup>7</sup>

### **Civilian Casualties**

On 11 Oct 23 Aljazeera reported that White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has stated that 20 US citizens remain missing. Sullivan also stated an unspecified number of US hostages were taking by Hamas.<sup>8</sup>

On 11 Oct 23 Aljazeera reports Palestinian casualties as 900 killed and 4,500 injured in Gaza with 21 killed and 130 injured in West Bank. NFI.<sup>9</sup>

On 11 Oct 23 United Nation Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) announced that more than 137,000 people in the Gaza Strip have taken refuge in 83 of its schools within the region, with almost 200,000 Palestinians having to leave their homes. Over 500,000 people have stopped receiving aid as UNRWA had to close all 14 food distribution centres.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Aljazeera, PLO Official requesting aid to Gaza, 11 Oct 23](#)

<sup>2</sup> <sup>s.6(b)(i)</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [Reuters, Bombardments hit Gaza/Sinai border crossing, 10 Oct 23](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Aljazeera, IDF airstrike on Rafah Crossing, 11 Oct 23](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Aljazeera, IDF airstrike on Rafah Crossing, 11 Oct 23](#)

<sup>7</sup> [The Times of Israel, Egyptian trucks bringing fuel, food to Gaza, 11 Oct 23](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Aljazeera, 20 US citizens missing, 11 Oct 23](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Aljazeera, Palestinian death toll, 11 Oct 23](#)

<sup>10</sup> [MEM, 137,000 displaced Palestinians seek refuge, 09 Oct 23](#)

## ISRAEL

On 10 Oct 23, the Times of Israel reported that the Israeli Health Ministry and IDF Home Front Command had ordered the Rambam Healthcare Campus in Haifa (*see map, point 2*) to be prepared for the event of an outbreak of war in the north of Israel. Rambam is the designated care provider for most of the country's north and all soldiers and civilians injured in wartime in the region. The hospital houses the 'Sammy Ofer' Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, which has three levels and 2,000 bed capacity.<sup>11</sup>

### **Israeli activity within Gaza**

On 10 Oct 23, Israeli human rights group, B'Tselem reported on their Twitter account that they are accusing Israel of committing war crimes against Palestinians in their military response in Gaza. The group states that "a criminal policy of revenge is underway." The group claims that from a single bombardment on Gaza, entire families and hundreds of minors and women are killed and trapped under debris.<sup>12</sup>

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### **Israeli casualties**

On 10 Oct 23, Jewish News Syndicate reported that the Regional Director for the Middle East Red Cross, Fabrizio Carboni, stated that his group has not yet received access to treat the hostages captured by Hamas.<sup>13</sup>

On 10 Oct 23, Daily Mail UK reported on 'atrocities' committed by Hamas fighters in Kfar Aza kibbutz. The Daily Mail reported that IDF soldiers showed local reporters around massacred towns, showing deceased bodies of Israeli families and burned houses. IDF soldiers told local reporters that as many as 40 babies and small children are reported to have been killed. Soldiers also reported that some of the babies and small children killed had been decapitated. It was also reported by the soldiers that many of the murdered families were gunned down in their beds.<sup>14</sup>

### **IDF statements**

On 10 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported that in a press conference IDF spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari stated the elimination of senior Hamas officials is a top priority. This statement came after IDF strikes killed two Hamas officials.<sup>15</sup>

On 10 Oct 23, The Mirror reported the IAF claimed they had killed the Hamas Minister of Economy, Jawad Abu Shamala, in an airstrike overnight. An IAF spokesperson stated that Shamala's role included management of Hamas funds, including allocating funds for financing and directing terrorism inside and outside the Gaza Strip.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/haifa-hospital-told-to-prepare-in-case-of-war-on-northern-border/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/haifa-hospital-told-to-prepare-in-case-of-war-on-northern-border/)

<sup>12</sup> <https://twitter.com/btselem/status/1711755818696065036>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.jns.org/red-cross-says-it-has-no-access-to-captured-israeli-prisoners/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12615031/Hamas-terrorists-beheaded-babies-kibbutz-slaughter-IDF-soldiers-reveal-horrific-scenes-carnage-discovered-site-scores-people-massacred.html>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-spokesman-says-killing-senior-hamas-members-is-a-top-priority/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-spokesman-says-killing-senior-hamas-members-is-a-top-priority/)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.themirror.com/news/us-news/breaking-senior-hamas-official-jawad-136323>

On 10 Oct 23, the IDF reported on their official website that an IAF aircraft killed Zachariah Abu Ma'amar, who was a senior member of the Hamas political bureau and head of its office for internal relations. The IDF stated that Abu Ma'amar was a senior Hamas decision-maker and coordinator between terror groups in the Gaza Strip. IDF also stated that Abu Ma'amar was a known confidant to Yahya Sinwar, the Palestinian head of Hamas in Gaza and reportedly the second most powerful figure in Hamas.<sup>17</sup>

On 10 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported that the Israeli Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, stated that Israel is moving to a “full offense” against the Gaza Strip. He stated that “I have released all the restraints, we have [regained] control of the area, and we are moving to a full offense,” Gallant is also quoted saying that “They [Hamas] will regret this moment, Gaza will never return to what it was,” and “Whoever comes to decapitate, murder women, Holocaust survivors — we will eliminate him with all our might, and without compromise.”<sup>18</sup>

On 10 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported the IDF has released names of 32 more IDF soldiers killed during the conflict, mostly on the Gaza border. The total reported toll of IDF casualties is now 156.<sup>19</sup>

### **IDF and Hamas activity**

On 10 Oct 23, Times of Israel reported that the IDF were fighting Hamas fighters near the southern settlements of Sderot and Kibbutz Mefalsim, which are both close to the Gaza border. The reports are from Hebrew media which state that gunfire is heard in these areas. The Sderot municipality has ordered residents to remain locked in their homes until further notice. The IDF has stated that it believes some Hamas fighters remain in Israeli territory following the Saturday attack. **JIFC Comment:** The IDF has not yet released information on the event. **End Comment.**<sup>20</sup>

### **LEBANON**

#### **Continued Cross-Border Shelling Between Lebanon and Israel**

10 Oct 23 Al Jazeera reported that 15 rockets were launched from Lebanon into Israel, of which four were intercepted and 10 landed in open spaces (*see map, point 3*). The Israeli military was reported as stating “IDF soldiers are currently responding with artillery fire.” Reuters cited a source stating Palestinian factions had carried out the attack. This is the third day of cross border fire between Lebanese and Israeli territories.<sup>21</sup>

On 10 Oct 23 Al Jazeera reported that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had detected a rocket launch south of Tyre (*see map, point 4*). A UNIFIL spokesperson was reported as stating all UNIFIL units were sent to underground shelters in the area from where the rocket was launched.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/press-releases/idf-announcement-idf-strikes-head-of-hamas-internal-relations-office/>

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-spokesman-says-killing-senior-hamas-members-is-a-top-priority/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-spokesman-says-killing-senior-hamas-members-is-a-top-priority/)

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-names-another-32-soldiers-killed-taking-militarys-toll-to-156/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-names-another-32-soldiers-killed-taking-militarys-toll-to-156/)

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/troops-reportedly-clashing-with-terrorists-near-southern-communities/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/troops-reportedly-clashing-with-terrorists-near-southern-communities/)

<sup>21</sup> [Aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/10/rockets-fired-from-southern-lebanon-towards-israel-as-gaza-is-bombed](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/10/rockets-fired-from-southern-lebanon-towards-israel-as-gaza-is-bombed), 10 Oct 23

<sup>22</sup> [Aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/10/rockets-fired-from-southern-lebanon-towards-israel-as-gaza-is-bombed](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/10/rockets-fired-from-southern-lebanon-towards-israel-as-gaza-is-bombed), 10 Oct 23

On 10 Oct 23 the Times of Israel reported the IDF had released a second statement following the launch of 15 rockets from Lebanon, which stated that IDF tanks had shelled two Hezbollah observation posts (*see map, point 5*). The IDF was reported as stating that following the shelling, an anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) was launched from Lebanon at an armoured vehicle near the northern town of Avivim. The IDF was reported as striking a third Hezbollah observation posts in response to the ATGM attack. Hamas was reported as claiming responsibility for the rocket fire. Hezbollah was reported as claiming responsibility for the ATGM attack.<sup>23</sup>

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s.6(a)

### **Reported Use of White Phosphorus in Southern Lebanon**

On 10 Oct 23 Lebanese news site Al-Manar reported that a correspondent stated “the Zionist enemy fired internationally prohibited incendiary shells towards the Al-Mari Plain and the Shebaa Farms.”<sup>24</sup> (*See map, point 6*)

s.6(a)

### **REGIONAL ACTIVITY - SYRIA**

On 11 Oct 23 Reuters reported that Israeli troops had fired artillery and mortar shells towards Syria on 10 Oct 23, after an undisclosed number of shells were fired from Syria (*see map, point 7*). Reuters reported that a source in southern Syria stated that a Palestinian faction had fired three rockets towards Israel. The Israeli military reported the rockets landed in open areas in Israeli territory and no damage or casualties occurred.<sup>26</sup>

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s.6(a)

*Information cut-off date: 11 October 2023*

<sup>23</sup> Timesofisrael.com/15-rockets-anti-tank-missile-fired-from-lebanon-idf-shells-3-hezbollah-posts, 10 Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> Almanar.com.lb/11027678 10 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> HRW, Unlawful use of white phosphorus Gaza, 25 Mar 09

<sup>26</sup> Reuters.com/world/middle-east/Israel-fires-back-after-syrian-shells-land-israeli-territory-military-2023-10-10, 10 Oct 23

<sup>27</sup> theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/09/Israel-launches-strikes-in-syria-after-rocket-fire

s.6(a)





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Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. IDF shelling/airstrikes IVO GAZA CITY
- B. HAMAS target HAIFA, northern ISRAEL
- C. Firefight between IDF and Hamas reported West of JENIN Camp
- D. Protests by Israeli Ultranationalists in Tel Aviv over Hamas fighters receiving medical care
- E. IDF shell Lebanese towns of RMEISH and DHAYRA
- F. RAFAH checkpoint into EGYPT remains closed

Key Points:

- GAZA STRIP without power, humanitarian situation ALMOST CERTAIN to deteriorate rapidly
- RAFAH crossing remains closed, no refugee evacuation corridors opened out of GAZA
- Nine UN staff killed in GAZA due to IDF strikes, 18 UN buildings damaged from IDF strikes
- Over 260,000 displaced Palestinians in GAZA STRIP
- Minor firefights between Palestinians and IDF at checkpoints in the WEST BANK
- IDF shell Lebanese towns of RMEISH and DHAYRA in response to previous rocket attacks from Hezbollah



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## GAZA

### **Kinetic Activity**

12 OCT 23 Open source reporting indicates the following events:

- a. IDF Navy shells the beaches of Gaza City and Khan Yunis NFI.<sup>1 2</sup> (*see map, point A*)
- b. IDF airstrikes IVO An Nada Towers.<sup>3</sup>
- c. IDF airstrike the Al-Ashqar building IVO Al-Shifa tower.<sup>4</sup>
- d. IDF airstrikes IVO Tal Al-Zaatar.<sup>5</sup>
- e. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement announces the implementation of missile strike from Gaza against Tel Aviv, Ashdod, Ashkelon, and the urban centres surround the Gaza Strip.<sup>6</sup>
- f. Hamas targets Haifa, northern Israel with rockets.<sup>7</sup> Al-Qassam BDE bombard Haifa with an R160 missile.<sup>8</sup> (*see map, point B*)
- g. IDF airstrikes Khan Yunis city centre.<sup>9</sup>
- h. 9 UN staff have been killed in Gaza, 18 UN buildings have suffered significant structural damage from IDF strikes NFI.<sup>10</sup>

**Comment:** Information above is derived from single source reporting and has not been corroborated. **End Comment.**

### **Humanitarian Situation**

On 12 Oct 23, open source reporting states the Gaza Strip's only power plant located IVO Nuseirat Camp has run out of fuel due to the supply being cut by Israel, leaving Gaza without power. United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) seeks \$104 million USD IOT provide urgent food and medical aid to Palestinians due to the increase in Israeli shelling.<sup>11</sup>

**Assessment:** The humanitarian situation in Gaza is almost certain to deteriorate further due to a lack of power and supplies to hospitals and medical centres. Food, water and

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<sup>1</sup> [Twitter/X, User MahaGaza claims shelling, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Twitter/X, User AJABreaking claims shelling, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Twitter/X, User no\\_itsmyturn airstrike, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Twitter/X, User SafaPs airstrike, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Twitter/X, User aeinnews airstrike, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Twitter/X, User Skynewsarabia B, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Twitter/X, User JoesTruzman, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Twitter/X, User NewpressPs, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Twitter/X, User Shehabagency Airstrike Khan Yunis, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>1</sup> [Twitter/X, User beltrew, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>1</sup> [The Guardian, Israel-Hamas war live updates, 12 OCT 23](#)

medical supplies are almost certainly the highest needs of Palestinians in Gaza right now.

**End Assessment.**

### **Civilian Casualties**

On 12 Oct 23 open source reporting indicated IDF airstrikes have killed 1,055 – 1,100 people, wounded 5,184 – 5,339 others and displaced more than 338,000 within the Gaza Strip.<sup>12 13</sup>

### **WEST-BANK**

On 12 Oct 23 Israeli authorities placed the West-Bank under lockdown.<sup>14</sup>

### **Kinetic Activity**

As of 12 Oct 23 open source reporting indicates the following:

- a. Firefight between IDF and Hamas affiliates in the Salem Checkpoint. NFI.<sup>15</sup> (*see map, point C*)
- b. Palestinian small arms fire targets the Dotan Military Checkpoint IVO Ya'Bad, Jenin.<sup>16</sup>

Palestinian small arms fire targets the Huwwara Checkpoint south of Nablus.<sup>17</sup>

**Comment:** Information above is derived from single source reporting and has not been corroborated. **End Comment.**

### **ISRAEL**

On 12 Oct 23, open source reporting indicated the following events:

IDF reported a false alarm following reports that an aerial infiltration from Lebanon airspace entered northern Israeli airspace.

Protests by ultranationalist Israelis occurred at the Sheba medical centre near Tel Aviv, protests were reported to occur in response to anger over the centre treating injured Hamas fighters. Reports stated the fighters have been transported to a new location. The Israeli Health Minister ordered hospitals to increase security, stating that protesters could seek retribution against the Hamas fighters. (*see map, point D*)

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<sup>12</sup> [Twitter/X, User SkyNewsArabia, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>13</sup> [CNN, Gaza power plant shuts down, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Aljazeera, Palestinians in occupied West Bank are under Israeli lockdown, 12 OCT 23.](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Twitter/X, User Qudsn, violent armed fight, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Twitter/X, User Shehabagency, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Twitter/X, User NewpressPs, 12 OCT 23](#)

**Comment:** A Twitter video from Hagai Levine, an Israeli public health physician, allegedly showed ultranationalists protests occurring at the entrance of the hospital. **End Comment.**

The Israeli Health Minister, Moshe Arbel, issued a directive to the Israeli public health system to refuse treatment to captured Hamas fighters. Arbel stated the health system should focus on the treatment of IDF soldiers and the victims of the Hamas attacks.

Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the opposition leader, Benny Gantz, have agreed to form emergency unity government. The formation of a war cabinet has been agreed, comprising of Netanyahu, Gantz, and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

## **LEBANON**

On 12 Oct 23, open source reporting indicated the following events:

s.6(a)

The IDF shelled southern the Lebanese towns of Rmeish and Dhayra in response to rocket attacks from Hezbollah. Hezbollah stated the rocket attack was a response to the death of their members on 10 Oct 23 from Israeli shelling of Lebanese territory. (*see map, point E*)

Hezbollah released a statement regarding US involvement in the Israeli-Hamas conflict. Hezbollah stated the US is a full partner of Israeli aggression and the US holds full responsibility for the death of Palestinian civilians from the Israeli bombing of the Gaza strip.

## **REGIONAL REPORTING**

### **EGYPT**

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On 12 Oct 23 Egyptian security sources stated Egypt had discussed plans with the US and other parties to provide humanitarian aid through its border with Gaza but rejects setting up safe corridors for refugees fleeing the conflict. The Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt still remains closed.<sup>18</sup> (*see map, point F*)

### **JORDAN**

#### **Statement Released by Jordanian King**

12 Oct 23 Jordan's King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein state no peace was possible without the emergence of an independent Palestinian state. King Abdullah since the start of the conflict has urged Western and regional leaders to de-escalate the situation quickly.<sup>19</sup> King Abdullah and Iraq Prime Minister (PM) Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani in a conversation agreed that the coordination among the Arab nations was vital in supporting the Palestinians to achieve

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<sup>18</sup> [Reuters, Egypt discussing plans to provide aid to Gaza, 12 OCT 23](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Reuters, Jordan's kings say no stability without Palestinian State, 12 OCT 23](#)

their legitimate rights. Both side reiterated the need for collective action to prevent the conflict from escalating.<sup>20</sup>

**INTERNATIONAL REPORTING**

US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee head, Michael Mccault stated to reporters that Israel was warned by Egyptian Intelligence of potential violence days prior to the Hamas attack on Israel. An Egyptian Intelligence official stated to reporters that Egyptian Intelligence repeatedly warned Israel of “something big” being planned in Gaza. The official claimed that Israel played down the warning, instead focusing on the West Bank. Israeli PM Netanyahu has stated the reports are “absolutely false”.<sup>21</sup>

The French PM Elizabeth Borne has stated “several” French children were likely kidnapped during the Hamas attack. The French Government has stated 11 French citizens are confirmed dead, with 20 unaccounted for.<sup>22</sup>

s.6(a) [Redacted]

US National Security Council spokesman, John Kirby, stated that the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower will arrive in the Mediterranean as part of a pre-planned mission and the vessel will be an available asset for Israel if required. Kirby stated the US is concerned about the Hezbollah rocket attacks on Israel.<sup>23</sup>

s.6(a) [Redacted]

A number of countries have announced that they are evacuating their national citizens from Israel. These countries include: France, Australia, Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and United States.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> [Arabnews, King Abdullah calls regional leaders to discuss Israel-Hamas conflict, 12 OCT 23](#)

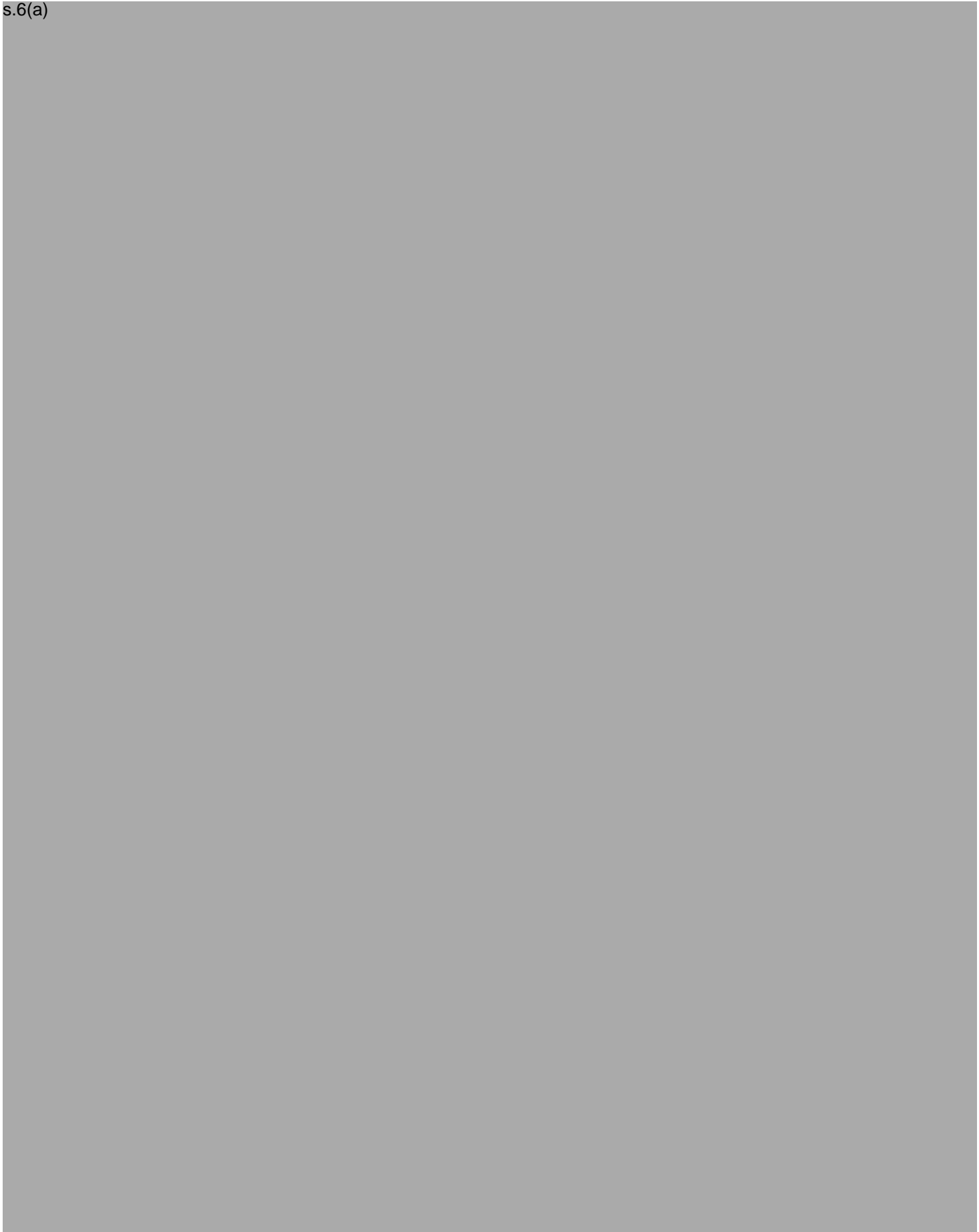
<sup>21</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67082047>

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/several-french-children-feared-kidnapped-by-hamas/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/several-french-children-feared-kidnapped-by-hamas/)

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/us-says-second-aircraft-carrier-around-if-israel-needs-it/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/us-says-second-aircraft-carrier-around-if-israel-needs-it/)

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/governments-repatriate-citizens-israel-2023-10-11/>

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Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## **ISRAEL/PALESTINE: Open Source Report (OSR)**

**Context:** *This Open Source Report (OSR) is derived from publically available information and may contain initial observations, and should not be considered finished intelligence. Any questions concerning the contents of this OSR should be directed to the contact listed at the end of this document.*

s.6(a)

Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. IDF airstrikes on Rafah checkpoint.
- B. Uncorroborated reporting of clashes between IDF and Palestinian militants in Jerusalem.
- C. IDF conducts airstrikes on Aleppo and Damascus airport.
- D. Hamas naval operator killed by airstrike in Gaza.
- E. Convoy of vehicles in support of Hamas dispersed by IDF.
- F. IDF reservists troops deployed to Israel-Lebanon border.

Key Points:

- Gaza remains under blockade, with no humanitarian corridors reported.
- 600 Gaza residents working in Israel detained, relocated to West Bank by IDF.
- Hamas releases statements calling for Palestinians to “rise up” against Israel.
- IDF reservists deployed to undisclosed towns on Israel-Lebanon border, conducting “defensive activities”.
- Major international airlines cease flights into Tel Aviv amid safety concerns.

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## **GAZA**

### **Kinetic activity update**

On 13 Oct 23 open source reporting indicates the south Rafah City, IVO Rafah Crossing, continues to be struck by IDF (*see map, point A*). Other areas that have been targeted by IDF are the following<sup>1</sup>:

- a. Khan Yunis
- b. Gaza City
- c. Nuseirat
- d. Deir El-Balah
- e. Al-Qarara
- f. Jabalia

### **Humanitarian Situation Update**

As of 13 Oct 23, open source reporting indicates more than 1,417 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip and approximately 6,200 have been injured.<sup>2</sup> A secondary report stated the death toll is more than 1,500.<sup>3</sup>

As of 13 Oct 23 ReliefWeb states that 521,000 Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been forcibly displaced from their homes. Approximately half of the IDP's have been reported seeking refuge in 92 schools operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees. The rest are reportedly seeking shelter in government schools, or in relatives or neighbours' homes.<sup>4</sup>

On 13 Oct 23 open source reports stated that Egypt will facilitate a humanitarian corridor to get aid into the Gaza Strip while still maintaining strict control of its borders. Supplies from Israel still remain cut off. It is currently unknown when Egypt intends for the humanitarian corridor to be opened.<sup>5</sup>

## **WEST-BANK**

On 13 Oct 23 open source reports stated that 31 Palestinians have been killed and more than 600 injured in West-bank. Other lines of reporting state the number of dead is at least 34.<sup>6 7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Liveuamaps, Israelpalestine, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Aljazeera, Israel-Hamas war live tracker, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Reuters, Hamas-calls-Friday-protest-east-jerusalem, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Relief web, Over half a million displaced in Gaza without humanitarian aid, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Nytimes, Egypt allows aid but no exit, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Reuters, Hamas-calls-Friday-protest-east-jerusalem, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Aljazeera, Israel-Hamas war live tracker, 13 OCT 23](#)

On 12 Oct 23 Hamas militants released statements calling on Palestinians to rise up on Friday, 13 Oct 23 in protest at Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip. The statements urged Palestinians to march to East Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque and clash with Israeli troops in the occupied West-Bank.<sup>8</sup>

On 13 Oct 23 open source reporting stated Israeli settlers killed a Palestinian man and his son in West-Bank during a funeral procession. The father and son were killed trying to remove two tyres on the road that were reportedly intended to serve as a road block.<sup>9</sup>

On 13 Oct 23 open source reporting stated Israeli security forces detained 600 Gaza residents working in Israel and relocated them to the West-bank.<sup>10</sup>

On 13 Oct 23 single source reporting on social media stated that Palestinian militants in the West-bank have fired rounds at Israeli Police and IDF. These incidents are reported to be occurring in and around Jerusalem (*see map, point B*).<sup>s.6(a)</sup>

## ISRAEL

### **IDF Activity**

On 12-13 Oct 23, open source reporting indicated the following events:

The IDF conducted airstrikes on the Damascus and Aleppo airports in Syria (*see map, point C*). The strikes were reported to have caused damage on the landing strips, rendering them unusable. Israel's ambassador to Germany, Ron Prosor, stated the strikes were intended to thwart weapon deliveries from Iran.<sup>12 13</sup>

Israeli media reported that IDF senior officials held phone discussions the night prior to the initial Hamas attack on 08 Oct 23, after receiving indications that "something" was being planned. The officials reportedly concluded the activity was Hamas drills being conducted in Gaza and that a response from the IDF was not necessary.<sup>14</sup>

The IDF has reportedly killed a senior Hamas naval operator, Muhammad Abu Shamla, via airstrikes on Gaza (*see map, point D*). The operator reportedly stored naval weapons in his residence in Gaza.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> [Reuters, Hamas-calls-Friday-protest-east-jerusalem, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Aljazeera, Israel-Hamas war live tracker, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Aljazeera, Israel detains and expels hundreds of Gaza Palestinian workers, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Liveuamaps, Israelpalestine, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231012-syria-s-two-main-airports-out-of-service-after-israel-strikes-state-media>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article247971026/Israelischer-Botschafter-Antisemitische-Hetze-muss-strafbar-sein-sagt-Ron-Prosor.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.haaretz.co.il/news/politics/2023-10-12/ty-article/.highlight/0000018b-2460-d010-a59f-bd6145f90000>

<sup>15</sup> <https://twitter.com/IAFsite/status/1712330452093051038>

s.6(a)

IDF Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi, has admitted the IDF's failure to prevent the Hamas attack on Israel in a public statement.<sup>16</sup>

### Civil Dissent in Israel

Open source reporting stated a convoy of 15 vehicles in support of Hamas were dispersed by police in the Arab-Israeli city of Umm al-Fahm (*see map, point E*).<sup>17</sup>

### Israeli Government Statements

The Israeli National Security Council and Foreign Ministry have warned Israelis around the world to stay "vigilant" after Hamas leadership call for an international "Day of Rage".<sup>18</sup>

Former Hamas leader, Khaled Meshaal, has called on Muslims and supporters around the world to "mobilise for jihad" and to "gather around the world" in a "Day of Rage".<sup>19</sup>

Israeli Energy Minister, Israel Katz, has stated that the electricity and water to Gaza will not be restored until Israeli hostages are returned.<sup>20</sup>

Israel's centrist opposition leader, Yair Lapid, refuses to join the national emergency government, citing issues of extremists, lack of authority structure, and the involvement of people who he states are at fault for Hamas attack.<sup>21</sup>

## REGIONAL REPORTING

### Lebanon

On 12-13 Oct 23, Open Source reporting indicated the following events:

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The IDF has reportedly deployed reservist troops to undisclosed towns on the Lebanon-Israel border for general reinforcement of soldiers stationed in northern Israel (*see map, point F*). The reservists are reported to be carrying out defensive tasks, such as "patrols and deployment of roadblocks".<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-chief-halevi-admits-military-failed-to-prevent-hamas-attack-vows-to-investigate/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-chief-halevi-admits-military-failed-to-prevent-hamas-attack-vows-to-investigate/)

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/as-day-of-rage-set-to-begin-police-disperse-hamas-backing-convoy-in-umm-al-fahm/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/as-day-of-rage-set-to-begin-police-disperse-hamas-backing-convoy-in-umm-al-fahm/)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.ipost.com/breaking-news/article-768019>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/former-hamas-chief-calls-protests-neighbours-join-war-against-israel-2023-10-11/>

<sup>20</sup> [https://twitter.com/Israel\\_katz/status/1712356130377113904#m](https://twitter.com/Israel_katz/status/1712356130377113904#m)

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/lapid-says-wont-join-problematic-emergency-government-but-hell-back-it-from-outside/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/lapid-says-wont-join-problematic-emergency-government-but-hell-back-it-from-outside/)

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-deploys-reservist-troops-to-towns-on-lebanon-border/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-deploys-reservist-troops-to-towns-on-lebanon-border/)

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## Jordan

On 13 Oct 23 UNRWA reported the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan announced it is donating US \$4.3 million to the UNRWA in response to the situation in the Gaza Strip.<sup>23</sup>

On 13 Oct 23 Jordan's King Abdullah and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called for steps to prevent a deterioration of the Gaza crisis, condemning what they called "Israel's collective punishment" of Palestinians.<sup>24</sup>

On 13 Oct 23 Turkish news reported Jordan had sent a plane with humanitarian aid, primarily medical supplies, for the Gaza Strip to Egypt. The aid was sent in coordination with Egypt.<sup>25</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

On 12-13 Oct 23, open source reporting indicated the following events:

The United Kingdom has stated it is sending surveillance aircraft and two Royal Navy vessels to the eastern Mediterranean IOT support Israel. Reports state the aircraft are to start patrols as of 14 Oct 23 to track threats to "regional stability". The UK has stated it will send "surveillance P8 aircraft, Marlin helicopters, and a company of marines."<sup>26</sup>

The French Minister of Interior, Gerald Darmainin, has stated that all pro-Palestinian demonstrations will be banned, as protests would threaten public order. The ban was in response to the pro-Palestine protests across France. The new bill has been faced with criticism and demonstrations, in which the French police responded to disperse the crowds.<sup>27</sup>

The Thai Prime Minister, Srettha Thavisin, has declared that 21 Thai nationals have been killed in the Israel-Hamas conflict.<sup>28</sup>

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On 12 Oct 23 Norwegian Air stated that the cancellation of a planned evacuation flight occurred due to insurers refusing to provide cover for their aircraft. Norwegian Air later released a second statement that a new flight had been scheduled on 13 Oct 23 from Eilat in Southern Israel, in cooperation with Norway's foreign ministry. Air France cancelled commercial flights but used a special relief flight chartered by French Foreign Ministry.

<sup>23</sup> [UNRWA, Jordan donates US \\$4.3 million, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Reuters, King warns against escalation in Gaza, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Anadolu Ajansi, Jordan sends first plane of aid, 13 OCT 23](#)

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67095846>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.thelocal.fr/20231012/france-bans-pro-palestinian-protests-interior-minister>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/Thavisin.Official/posts/pfbid02DMDWVtL2yLh83nPGf6nZxnZbgEBWycbxWdnTsjvxoQgrk1EUrmRszzcTp9UsoXjYI>

Germany's Lufthansa had stated it intends to continue planned evacuation flights on Thursday (12 Oct 23) and Friday (13 Oct 23) but has since ceased commercial flights to Israel.<sup>29</sup>

Israel's parliamentary finance committee approved a plan to provide a state guarantee of \$6 billion to cover insurance against war risks to Israeli airlines. Israeli insurance firms have policy terms indicating that in times of war, they are entitled to cancel insurance policies. The guarantee framework is stated as granting Israeli airlines with cover against war risks, IOT ensure continuity of air operations.<sup>30</sup> Other nation's airlines are stating they are in communication with their respective governments. Airline regulators in Israel, Europe and the United States have advised airlines to use "caution" when flying through Israeli airspace.<sup>31</sup>

As of 13 Oct 23 major airlines from America, Britain, Europe and Asia are reported to have cancelled flights into Israel.<sup>32 33</sup> Remaining flights out of Israel are limited and increasing in cost. Open source reporting indicates that foreign nationals stranded in Israel are utilising social media to request assistance from their governments.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-airlines-boost-flights-some-governments-join-rescue-effort-2023-10-11/>, 11 Oct 23

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/israel-provide-6-billion-war-insurance-cover-israeli-airlines-2023-10-12/>, 12 Oct 23

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/norwegian-air-shelves-israel-evacuation-flight-over-lack-insurance-2023-10-12/>, 12 Oct 23

<sup>32</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/International/hamas-attacks-israel-airlines-suspended-flights-travel-advisory/story?id=103817646>, 13 Oct 23

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/norwegian-air-shelves-israel-evacuation-flight-over-lack-insurance-2023-10-12/>, 12 Oct 23

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/10/11/airlift-israel-biden-transportation-00121065>, 12 Oct 23

s.6(a)





Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## **ISRAEL/PALESTINE: Open Source Report (OSR)**

**Context:** *This Open Source report (OSR) is derived from publically available information and may contain initial observations, and should not be considered finished intelligence. Any questions concerning the contents of this OSR should be directed to the contact listed at the end of this document.*

s.6(a)

Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. Northern Gaza targeted by IDF airstrikes
- B. Evacuations ordered for Gaza residents north of Wadi Gaza
- C. Escalation in outbreaks of violence between Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the West Bank
- D. Lebanese Hezbollah targets IDF military sites in northern Israel
- E. Reuters journalist killed, 6 others injured near Alma al-Shaab, Lebanon
- F. Israeli border town of Metula closed as a “military zone”

Key Points:

- Palestinians in northern Gaza ordered to evacuate within 24 hours to southern Gaza
- Increased reporting of violent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the West Bank
- Outbreaks of protests/demonstrations against Israel in surrounding nations, including Lebanon, Iran, Egypt and Jordan.

s.6(a)





## GAZA

### **Kinetic activity update**

Open source reporting indicates the following kinetic activity occurring OTP 13 - 14 Oct 23.

IDF focus redirected from the Rafah Crossing to Northern Gaza, targeting the following areas with airstrikes (*see map, point A*)<sup>1</sup>:

- a. Gaza City
- b. Jabalia
- c. Beit Lahiya

On 12 Oct 23, open source reporting quoted IDF Home Front Command MAJGEN Rafi Milo as stating that the slow rate of rocket fire over the previous two days indicates Hamas is preparing itself for a long war. Hamas has decreased the rate of fire to less than 400 rockets per day.<sup>2</sup> s.6(a)

s.6(a)

IDF intelligence released a report stating the terrorist organisations in the Gaza Strip are currently in possession of 10,000 rockets, with Hamas controlling approximately 6,000. Hamas is identified as controlling approx. 3,900 rockets with a range of up to 15km – 20km, 1,600 with a range of up to 45km, and less than 100 that can fire up to 200km.<sup>4</sup>

### **Humanitarian Situation Update**

Open source reporting indicates the following changes in the humanitarian situation OTP 13 – 14 Oct 23:

The Palestinian death toll in the Gaza Strip is reported to have reached 1,799 with 60% being woman and children. A further 6,388 Palestinians have reportedly been wounded.<sup>5</sup>

On 13 Oct 23 he IDF conducted a leaflet drop into Gaza warning 1.1 million Palestinian residents living north of Wadi Gaza (see Figure 1) to evacuate south within 24hrs (*see map, point B*). The UN described this order as dangerous and “impossible without devastating

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<sup>1</sup> (U) <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/10/12/IDF-Hamas-slowed-down-rate-of-rocket-fire-in-preparation-for-long-war> 14 Oct 23

<sup>2</sup> (U) <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/10/12/IDF-Hamas-slowed-down-rate-of-rocket-fire-in-preparation-for-long-war> 12 OCT 23

<sup>3</sup> (U) <https://www.csis.org/analysis/whats-next-hamas-and-israel>, 10 Oct 23

<sup>4</sup> (U) <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/hamas/special-report-the-deadly-rocket-arsenal-of-hamas/>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>5</sup> (U) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/13/when-a-family-dies-under-israels-bombs-part-of-gazas-history-disappears#:~:text=The%20death%20toll%20in%20Gaza,in%20ruins%20and%20blackened%20rubble.> 14 Oct 23

humanitarian consequences” to carry out. Gaza is one of the most densely populated areas in the world with 2.0 million residents in a 365 square km area (5479 people per km<sup>2</sup>).<sup>6</sup>

Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDP’s states that “Forcible population transfers constitute a crime against humanity and a blatant violation of international humanitarian law”.<sup>7 s.6(a)</sup>

Palestinians living in Gaza Strip north reportedly evacuated in cars, motorcycles, trucks and by foot moving south NFI.<sup>9 s.6(a)</sup>



Figure 1. Area of Gaza ordered to evacuate.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/13/middleeast/israel-gaza-hamas-war-friday-intl-hnk/index.html>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>7</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/13/middleeast/israel-gaza-hamas-war-friday-intl-hnk/index.html>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>8</sup> [CNBC, Israel-Hamas live updates](#), 14 OCT 23

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/mattresses-strapped-to-cars-gazans-start-fleeing-after-israel-ultimatum-4478144>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>10</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/13/middleeast/israel-gaza-hamas-war-friday-intl-hnk/index.html>, 14 Oct 23

IDF has reportedly accused Hamas of hiding behind the people of Gaza and instructing civilians to ignore Israel's warnings to evacuate south. IDF spokesman Daniel Hagari stated this is an example of how Hamas "Does not care about the safety of the people in Gaza".<sup>11 12</sup>

Israeli Minister of Communications stated that all internet services in the Gaza Strip will cease starting 15 Oct 23.<sup>13</sup> **JIFC comment:** Due to the blockade of Gaza, the cessation of internet services and loss of power, it is likely open source reporting from within Gaza will be significantly reduced. **End comment.**

## WEST-BANK

Open source reporting activity in West-bank OTP 13 – 14 Oct:

At least 14 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in West Bank amid protests against the continuing Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip (*see map, point C*).<sup>14 15</sup>

s.6(a)

s.6(a)

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<sup>11</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/13/middleeast/israel-gaza-hamas-war-friday-intl-hnk/index.html>, 14

Oct 23

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-warns-civilians-to-leave-northern-gaza-as-ground-invasion-looms/>, 14

Oct 23

<sup>13</sup> <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/israel-cut-internet-gaza-gives-204935003.html#:~:text=Meanwhile%2C%20Israel's%20Minister%20of%20Communications,in%20the%20Israel%20DHamas%20war,>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/13/several-palestinians-killed-by-israeli-forces-in-occupied-west-bank>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/13/violence-erupts-across-occupied-east-jerusalem-amid-israel-gaza-evacuation-order>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>16</sup> <https://israelpalestine.liveuamap.com/en/2023/12-october-violent-israeli-raids-on-residential-areas-west>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/13/violence-erupts-across-occupied-east-jerusalem-amid-israel-gaza-evacuation-order>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-66620250>, 28 Aug 23

<sup>19</sup> <https://israelpalestine.liveuamap.com/en/2023/12-october-violent-israeli-raids-on-residential-areas-west>, 14 Oct 23

The Palestinian death toll in West Bank has increased to 51, with more than 600 injured.<sup>20</sup>  
21

## ISRAEL

### **IDF Activity**

On 13-14 Oct 23, open source reporting indicated the following events:

The Human Rights Watch organisation has accused Israel of using white phosphorus munitions in strikes on Gaza and Lebanon (see Figure 2). Human Rights Watch claimed to have verified videos of use of White Phosphorus munitions over the Gaza City port and Al-Mari plains and Shebaa farms in Lebanon. According to the organisation, 155mm white phosphorus artillery was used.<sup>22</sup>

s.6(a)



**Figure 2.** Footage from Palestinian TV showing the claimed use of white phosphorus munitions above Gaza City port.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/13/several-palestinians-killed-by-israeli-forces-in-occupied-west-bank>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/jordans-king-says-no-stability-region-without-palestinian-state-2023-10-11/>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/12/israel-white-phosphorus-used-gaza-lebanon>, 12 Oct 23

<sup>23</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White\\_phosphorus\\_munitions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_phosphorus_munitions), 14 Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4442988.stm>, 16 Nov 05

In the last 24 hours, the IDF released reports on official IDF twitter accounts which stated they have conducted localised raids into the Gaza strip. The IDF stated infantry and armoured units were sent in to cleanse the area of “terrorists” and weapons, as well as locate missing/captured Israelis.<sup>25 26</sup>

### Israeli Government Statements

The Israeli National Security Council has issued travel warnings for Jordan and Sinai, stating that Israelis should avoid non-essential travel to these areas.<sup>27</sup>

s.6(a)

In a televised remark, Israeli PM, Benjamin Netanyahu, has vowed to eradicate Hamas and stated that the counteroffensive in Gaza is “just the beginning”.<sup>28</sup>

### REGIONAL REPORTING

#### Lebanon

On 13-14 Oct 23, open source reporting indicated the following events:

#### Hezbollah - IDF activity

Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for attacks on four IDF soldiers in retaliation for IDF strikes on Lebanese territory. Hezbollah stated they attacked the IDF military sites of: Al-Abad, Miskvam, Ramia, and Jal Al-Alam (*see map, point D*).<sup>29</sup>

s.6(a)

The IDF has carried out drone strikes against Hezbollah sites in retaliation to Hezbollah strikes on IDF sites. The drone attack is also in retaliation to an explosive damaging part of the Israel-Lebanon border wall near Hanita earlier that day.<sup>30 31</sup>

The IDF has intercepted an unknown target crossing from Lebanon into Israel above Miskvam. The target was intercepted by the IAF Aerial Defence Array.<sup>32 33</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> <https://twitter.com/IDF/status/1712892932636725291#m>

<sup>26</sup> <https://twitter.com/IDFSpokesperson/status/1712861220896752070#m>

<sup>27</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/israel-urges-citizens-to-avoid-non-essential-travel-to-jordan-or-sinai/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/israel-urges-citizens-to-avoid-non-essential-travel-to-jordan-or-sinai/)

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2023/oct/13/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-news-gaza-palestine-evacuations-military>

<sup>29</sup> [https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-hamas-war-10-13-23/h\\_a541463610f0318a441c22ffd874b425](https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-hamas-war-10-13-23/h_a541463610f0318a441c22ffd874b425)

<sup>30</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-drone-striking-hezbollah-sites-in-lebanon-after-terror-group-fired-at-israel/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-drone-striking-hezbollah-sites-in-lebanon-after-terror-group-fired-at-israel/)

<sup>31</sup> <https://twitter.com/IDF/status/1712872276633239984#m>

<sup>32</sup> <https://twitter.com/IAFsite/status/1712861925824999910#m>

<sup>33</sup> <https://twitter.com/IAFsite/status/1712864354423472541#m>

A group of journalists working in Lebanon were struck by artillery fire. The strike killed one journalist and injured six other journalists. The journalists were conducting a live broadcast near the Israel-Lebanon border at the time of the strike. Al Jazeera and AP news agencies, who had journalists injured in the strike, have attributed the artillery strike to Israel. The incident was reported to take place near the town Alma al-Shaab, Lebanon (*see map, point E*). The IDF confirmed firing artillery into Lebanon, but did not respond to questions regarding journalists being hit.<sup>34 35 36 37</sup>

s.6(a)

The IDF has declared areas in the border town of Metula a “closed military zone” (*see map, point F*). These are the sections near the Lebanon border fence. Residents of the town have been recommended to leave over the last few days. Currently there is no reporting to indicate any residents have left the town.<sup>38</sup>

### Hezbollah statements

s.6(a)

During a rally in Beirut, Hezbollah Deputy Chief, Naim Qassim, stated that Hezbollah will search for any military craft sent to the Mediterranean Sea that have the intention of deterring Hezbollah. Qassim stated “Your battleships do not interest us, nor do your statements frighten us,” likely in response to US authorities. The rally in Beirut included thousands of Hezbollah supporters chanting for the support of Gaza and “Death to Israel”.<sup>39</sup>

In the same rally, the Hezbollah Deputy Chief was quoted speaking to the rally participants, stating: “We, as Hezbollah, are contributing to the confrontation and will (continue) to contribute to it within our vision and plan,” and “We are fully prepared, and when the time comes for action, we will take it.”<sup>40</sup>

### Iran

In Iran, demonstrators gathered in Tehran in support for Palestine and Hezbollah. The demonstrators held banners reading “Down with America” and “Down with Israel”. In other cities in Iran, demonstrators burned American and Israeli flags.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.thedailybeast.com/reuters-journalist-issam-abdallah-killed-3-wounded-in-strike-on-israel-lebanon-border>

<sup>35</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/israel-lebanon-shelling-border-journalist-killed-87fef20431c31b29ac56e51e14a22000>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/13/israeli-strike-in-southern-lebanon-kills-journalist-wounds-several>

<sup>37</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/13/business/reuters-journalist-killed-lebanon/index.html>

<sup>38</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/areas-in-metula-declared-closed-military-zone/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/areas-in-metula-declared-closed-military-zone/)

<sup>39</sup> <https://english.ahram.org.eg/News/510183.aspx>

<sup>40</sup> <https://english.ahram.org.eg/News/510174.aspx>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231013-thousands-protest-across-middle-east-in-support-of-palestinians>

The United States and Qatar have reportedly agreed to deny the transfer of \$6 billion (USD) to Iran, which was part of a deal with Iran for the release of five American prisoners. The Deputy Treasury secretary, Wally Adeyemo, was reported as stating to House Democrats on 12 Oct 23 that Iran would no longer have access to the funds.<sup>42</sup>

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, stated the Israeli war-crimes against the Palestinian people will receive a response from the “rest of the Axis and that Israel will be held responsible for the consequences.” Amir-Abdollahian was quoted during his arrival in Beirut, as stating: "Some western officials have questioned if there is an intention to open a new front against the Zionist entity. Of course, in light of the continuation of these circumstances that are war crimes,"<sup>43</sup>

### **Regional reporting**

In Egypt, hundreds of protesters gathered in solidarity for Gaza outside the Al-Azhar mosque.

In Jordan, over 20,000 gathered near the Grand Hussein Mosque in Amman in support for Palestine after call for protest by the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood.

In Bahrain, hundreds of worshippers chanted "Death to Israel!" and "Death to America!" before the Friday prayers at the Diraz mosque. Worshippers then joined a protest march, with some waving Palestinian flags, and others stamping on Israeli and US emblems on the ground.

In Algiers, the capital of Algeria, an estimated 1,000 people gathered in the streets to show solidarity with Palestine.<sup>44</sup>

In Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, over 10,000 people gathered in Tahrir square in support of Palestine and in protest of US and Israel. A Shiite cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, who called for the protests stated that "May this demonstration ... terrify the great evil, America, which supports Zionist terrorism against our loved ones in Palestine,"

In the Houthi-occupied city of Sanaa in Yemen, demonstrators crowded the streets waving Yemeni and Palestinian flags.

After prayers in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, worshippers stepped on American and Israeli flags as protest.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/12/world/middleeast/us-qatar-iran-prisoner-deal.html>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-crimes-against-palestinians-receive-response-axis-2023-10-12/>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231013-thousands-protest-across-middle-east-in-support-of-palestinians>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/a/tens-of-thousands-protest-after-muslim-prayers-across-mideast-over-israeli-airstrikes-on-gaza/7309304.html>

## **INTERNATIONAL REPORTING**

On 13-14 Oct 23, open source reporting indicated the following events:

The first US state-organised, charter flight was reported as having left Israel and landed in Athens. More than 400 Americans were reported to have signed up for the first flight. Additional flights are reportedly scheduled to occur until at least 19 Oct 23.<sup>46</sup>

The Türkiye Foreign Ministry has released a statement urging Turkish citizens in Lebanon to remain cautious and to keep away from regions south of the Litani River.<sup>47</sup>

### **Jordan**

Open source reporting indicates the following changes in the humanitarian situation OTP 13 – 14 Oct 23

Jordanian riot police on Friday forcibly dispersed hundreds of Pro-Palestinian protesters trying to reach a border with the West-bank as thousands of anti-Israel demonstrations cross the country. Several thousand protesters near downtown Amman chanted in support of Hamas and demanded the government shutdown the Israeli embassy and abolish the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.<sup>48</sup>

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that he “Rejects the forced displacement” of Palestinians from Gaza, following Israel’s order for all of the Gaza’s civilians to move south.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/first-us-charter-flight-out-israel-lands-athens-official-says-2023-10-13/> 13 Oct 23

<sup>47</sup> [https://twitter.com/TC\\_Disisleri/status/1712695580420354156#m](https://twitter.com/TC_Disisleri/status/1712695580420354156#m) 13 Oct 23

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/jordan-disperses-pro-palestinian-protesters-heading-border-with-west-bank-2023-10-13/>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/jordans-king-says-no-stability-region-without-palestinian-state-2023-10-11/>, 14 Oct 23



s.6(a)





Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)

**Context:** *This Open Source report (OSR) is derived from publically available information and may contain initial observations, and should not be considered finished intelligence. Any questions concerning the contents of this OSR should be directed to the contact listed at the end of this document.*

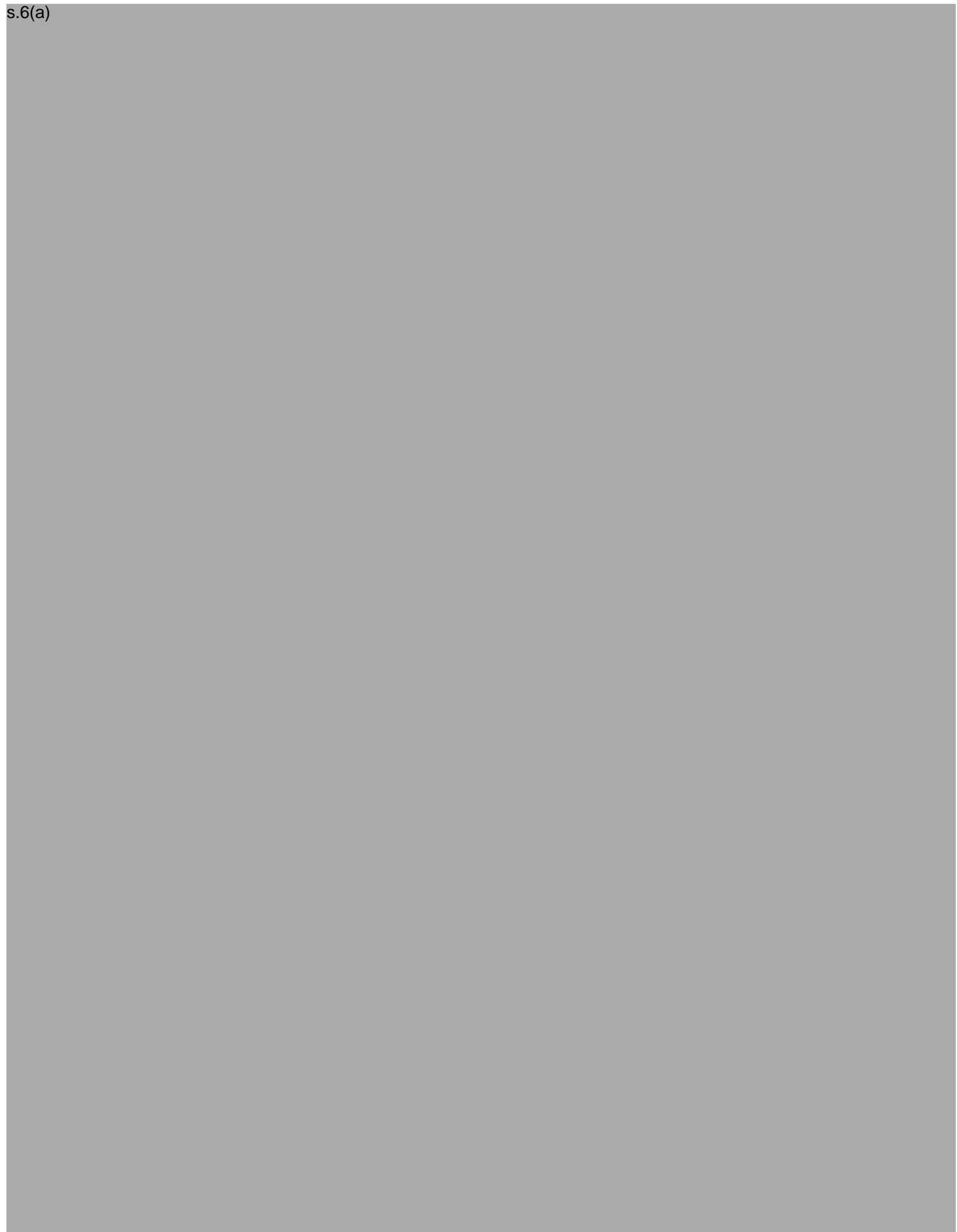
s.6(a)

Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. IDF airstrikes reported focusing on Gaza City and Jabalia
- B. Rockets fired from Gaza towards Israeli town of Ashdod
- C. IDF reported shooting at Palestinian civilian vehicles
- D. Protests in Tel Aviv against PM Netanyahu
- E. Interception of unidentified aerial objects over Haifa and Shafaram
- F. Mortar bombs launched into open areas around Mt Dov
- G. Aleppo airport damaged, rendered unusable by IDF airstrike

Key Points:

- Evacuation order for Palestinians in Gaza has expired.
- Israel accused of targeting medical workers, hospitals and ambulances in Gaza.
- Conditions deteriorating at Shifa Hospital, Gaza, doctors fear outbreak of infectious diseases due to overcrowding.



## GAZA

### **Kinetic activity update**

Open source reporting indicates the following kinetic activity OTP 14 - 15 Oct 23:

IDF airstrikes in Gaza north continue which kill 320 Palestinians who were part of the convoy fleeing south with reported targeting of health workers.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

Single sources reporting indicate IDF airstrikes in the following areas:

- a) Majority of IDF airstrikes occurring in Gaza City and Jabalia (*see map, point A*)<sup>4 5 6 7 8 9</sup>
- b) Nuseirat<sup>10</sup>
- c) Deir al-Balah<sup>11 12</sup>
- d) South of Khan Yunis<sup>13</sup>

s.6(a)

Rocket launches continue from Gaza with two explosions heard in Ashdod (*see map, point B*). The rockets were reported by open source to have been intercepted by the Iron Dome. Sources stated the situation has been similar in Ashkelon, an urban area close to the Israel-Gaza border.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/13/israel-hamas-live-dozens-killed-while-fleeing-to-southern-gaza>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wsi.com/video/airstrike-hits-convoy-of-gaza-civilians-fleeing-south/3F735CB9-1162-4304-A1B0-FF4232A38AD7.html>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/newsfeed/2023/10/14/ambulances-hit-during-israeli-air-attack-in-gazavideo-shows-the-moment-a-co>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>4</sup> [https://t.me/ignis\\_fatum/4067](https://t.me/ignis_fatum/4067), 15 Oct 23

<sup>5</sup> <https://twitter.com/newpressps/status/1713222746245660851?s=46>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>6</sup> [https://twitter.com/alarabiya\\_brk/status/1713097927747391716?s=46](https://twitter.com/alarabiya_brk/status/1713097927747391716?s=46), 15 Oct 23

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/manniefabian/status/1713217403742470299?s=46>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>8</sup> <https://twitter.com/ytirawi/status/1713288382707589206>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>9</sup> <https://twitter.com/SafaPs/status/1713190635346198809>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/PalinfoAr/status/1713123572325941752>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/RamAbdu/status/1713190858869104999>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/13/israel-hamas-live-dozens-killed-while-fleeing-to-southern-gaza>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>13</sup> <https://twitter.com/SafaPs/status/1713171532627821048>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/13/israel-hamas-live-dozens-killed-while-fleeing-to-southern-gaza>, 15 Oct 23

## Humanitarian situation update

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 14 - 15 OCT 23:

The current reported death toll from IDF airstrikes in Gaza is reported at 2,215 with 8,714 wounded.<sup>15</sup>

The exact number of IDP's in Gaza is not confirmed. The last confirmed figure was over 423,378.<sup>16</sup>

Doctors Without Borders (DWB) AKA Médecins Sans Frontières, issued a plea to the Israeli authorities urging them to "show humanity" as 24hr evacuation notice reached its deadline. DWB called for the establishment of secure zones in the north and periodic cease-fires. DWB demanded access to drinking water for Gaza's population, as water supplies are limited in southern Gaza.<sup>17 18</sup>

Palestinian Health Minister Dr. Mai Al-Kaila blamed Israel for killing 28 health care workers, damaging 15 medical centres, and rendering 23 ambulances unserviceable. Al-Kaila issued a statement urging all international human right organisations to provide urgent protection for hospitals, treatments centres, ambulances, health personnel, and the wounded/sick who are exposed to daily bombings.<sup>19</sup>

Al-Kaila also accused the IDF of using white phosphorus on Al-Durrah Children's Hospital. The hospital was evacuated prior to Israel's order to evacuate south.<sup>20</sup>

Medical staff at Al-Awda hospital reportedly refused to leave after Israel gave its evacuation orders. The Al-Awda hospital has declared itself a location for Palestinians seeking shelter.<sup>21</sup>

Gaza programme manager for Medical Aid for Palestinians claims ambulances in Gaza are being target by IDF airstrikes. NFI.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/13/israel-amas-live-dozens-killed-while-fleeing-to-southern-gaza#:~:text=At%20least%20%2C215%20Palestinians%20have,with%20more%20than%20%2C400%20wounded,> 15 Oct 23

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.dci-palestine.org/724-palestinian-children-killed-in-gaza-as-israel-targets-civilians#:~:text=The%20exact%20number%20of%20internally,escalates%20with%20intensifying%20Israeli%20attacks.,> 15 Oct 23

<sup>17</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-amas-war-10-14-23/index.html>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/13/israel-amas-live-dozens-killed-while-fleeing-to-southern-gaza>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>19</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-amas-war-10-14-23/index.html>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>20</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-amas-war-10-14-23/index.html>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/13/israel-amas-live-dozens-killed-while-fleeing-to-southern-gaza>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/13/israel-amas-live-dozens-killed-while-fleeing-to-southern-gaza>, 15 Oct 23

The European Commission has stated it will increase the current monetary support for humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip by €50 million, to a total of €75 million.<sup>23</sup>

Conditions at Shifa Hospital, the largest medical complex in Gaza City, are reportedly deteriorating. Palestinian doctors warn of impending infectious disease outbreak due to overcrowding. The source states that doctors at the hospital can no longer operate beyond life-saving surgeries.<sup>24 25</sup>

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry stated that IDF airstrikes on the Rafah Crossing has rendered the road unserviceable.<sup>26</sup>

## **WEST-BANK**

Open source reporting activity in West-bank OTP 14 – 15 Oct:

The UN states that the past week has been the deadliest in the West-bank since 2005 with 55 dead, 1,100 injured (see Figure 1) <sup>27 28 29 30 31 32</sup>

Israeli soldiers were reported to have fired on a civilian vehicle as it passed the Jewish settlement of Gishuri (*see map, point C*). Israeli soldiers were reported to have shot at four other civilian cars in the same area.<sup>33</sup>

Israeli settlers were reported to have fired at a Palestinian family travelling in a car. One passenger, an adult female, was reported to have been killed.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2023/oct/14/israel-amas-war-live-un-says-tens-of-thousands-have-fled-south-in-gaza-israel-strikes-hezbollah-target-in-lebanon-says-idf?filterKeyEvents=false&page=with:block-652ab2bd8f081db0948413c6#block-652ab2bd8f081db0948413c6>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/14/supplies-exhausted-doctors-exhausted-in-gaza-catastrophe-looms-large>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/10/14/photos-displaced-palestinians-staying-the-shifa-hospital-grounds>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>26</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-amas-war-10-14-23/index.html>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS/MAPS/movajdladpa/>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>28</sup> <https://acleddata.com/2023/10/13/fact-sheet-israel-and-palestine-conflict/>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.dci-palestine.org/724-palestinian-children-killed-in-gaza-as-israel-targets-civilians#:~:text=The%20exact%20number%20of%20internally,escalates%20with%20intensifying%20Israeli%20attacks,>, 15 Oct 23

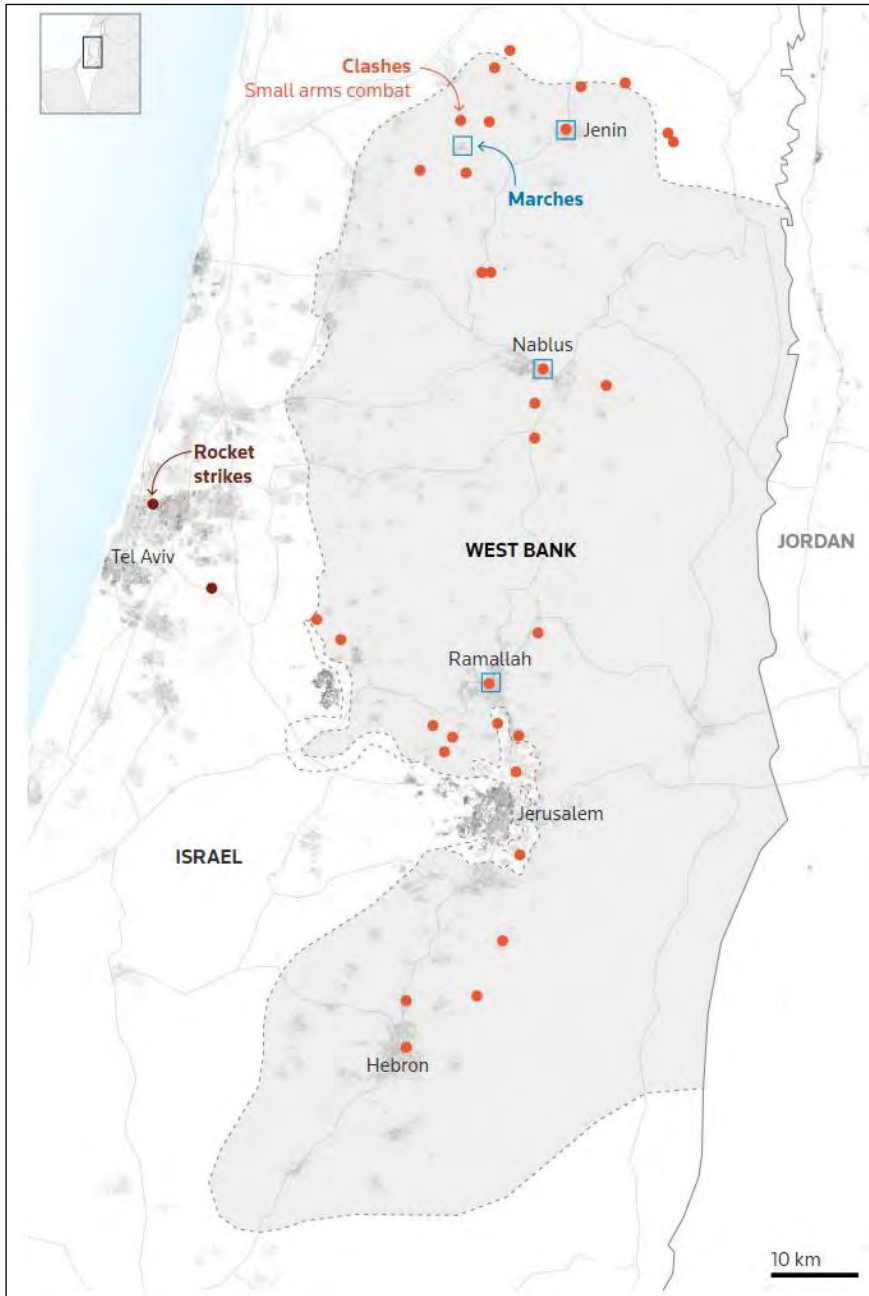
<sup>30</sup> [https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-amas-war-10-14-23/h\\_c21a2c76b616b744cafea429f172044c#:~:text=53%20Palestinians%20killed%20in%20occupied%20West%20Bank%20since%20Saturday&text=Settlers%2C%20according%20to%20international%20law,%2C%20and%20harassment%20%E2%80%93%20against%20Palestinians,](https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-amas-war-10-14-23/h_c21a2c76b616b744cafea429f172044c#:~:text=53%20Palestinians%20killed%20in%20occupied%20West%20Bank%20since%20Saturday&text=Settlers%2C%20according%20to%20international%20law,%2C%20and%20harassment%20%E2%80%93%20against%20Palestinians,), 15 Oct 23

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/live-updates-whats-happening-on-day-8-of-the-israel-amas-war>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/14/757>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/14/757>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/14/757>, 15 Oct 23



**Figure 1.** West Bank clashes occurring OTP 08 Oct 23 – 14 Oct 23.

## ISRAEL

### **IDF Activity**

Open source reporting indicates the following IDF activity OTP 14 – 15 Oct 23:

Open source reports over the past three days have indicated the IDF have been preparing for a ground invasion into Gaza. The IDF have increased their logistical effort and reportedly completed mobilisation of reservists. The IDF is reportedly planning for air, sea, and land offensives.<sup>35</sup>

Three senior Israeli military officers have reportedly told media the IDF is preparing to invade the Gaza Strip in the coming days with over 10,000 soldiers ordered to capture Gaza city and destroy Hamas leadership. The assault is reported to be Israel's biggest ground operation since the invasion of Lebanon in 2006. A Hamas officer has told media that they plan to ambush Israeli forces via hidden tunnels across northern Gaza.<sup>36</sup>

The Israeli Defence Ministry has authorised the donation of thousands of items of protective equipment to IDF soldiers. This came after complaints from mobilised reservists regarding the lack of proper equipment. Complaints have also been reported by members of the regular force regarding the state of their equipment. The donations include ceramic vests, helmets, knee pads, goggles, and other equipment.<sup>37</sup>

The IDF stated they are investigating the incident of a Reuter's journalist killed in Lebanon during an airstrike. Other journalists present at the scene have stated the strike came from Israel. Lebanese state media reported that Lebanon is submitting a formal complaint to the UN regarding "Israel's deliberate killing" of the Reuters journalist, who was a Lebanese national.<sup>38</sup>

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The IDF has reported that a reservist soldier was killed by friendly fire in West bank. The IDF stated that IDF troops had opened fire on a car which they believed an armed Palestinian was driving, when a second group of IDF arrived at the scene and were struck by the IDF gunfire.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>35</sup> <https://nitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1713224987631395010#m> 15 Oct 23

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/14/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-invasion.html> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>37</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/defense-ministry-authorizes-transfer-of-thousands-of-donated-items-to-idf/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-ministry-authorizes-transfer-of-thousands-of-donated-items-to-idf/) 15 Oct 23

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-military-examining-death-reuters-journalist-lebanon-2023-10-14/> 15 Oct 23

<sup>39</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-says-soldier-killed-in-apparent-friendly-fire-incident-in-west-bank/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-says-soldier-killed-in-apparent-friendly-fire-incident-in-west-bank/) 15 Oct 23



## Civil Dissent in Israel

Anger and protest against Israeli PM, Benjamin Netanyahu has mounted at the ‘hostage solidarity rally’ in Tel Aviv, with the crowd chanting and calling for the resignation and jailing of the Prime Minister. Protestors claimed the PM had abandoned the hostages and southern occupied settlements (*see map, point D*).<sup>40</sup>

### REGIONAL REPORTING

#### Lebanon

Open source reporting of activity in Lebanon OTP 14 – 15 Oct:

On 14 Oct 23, IDF air defence reported the interception of two unidentified objects over Haifa, and one unidentified object near Shafaram (*see map, point E*). The IDF then struck a Hezbollah target in Lebanon in response to the infiltration by the unknown objects.<sup>41 42 43</sup>

On 14 Oct 23, IDF surveillance reported they had detected a terrorist cell infiltrating Israel from Lebanon. The IDF stated that a UAV struck the cell and eliminated an unreported number of insurgents.<sup>44</sup>

On 15 Oct 23, approximately 30 mortar bombs were reportedly detected launching from Lebanese territory into the Mount Dov area of Israel (*see map, point F*). The IDF responded to the launches with aircraft, artillery, and tanks attacking both the source of the launches and a number of Hezbollah military infrastructure in Lebanon. During the response, an anti-tank missile was fired at IDF forces.<sup>45 46 47</sup>

Two Lebanese civilians were killed by Israeli shelling on the southern Lebanese village of Shebaa. The Mayor of the village, Mohammad Harb, stated that the husband and wife were killed in their home. AFP correspondents stated that heavy shelling has been reported in that area.<sup>48</sup>

#### Syria

Open source reporting of activity in Syria OTP 14 – 15 Oct:

The IDF released reports confirming that rockets were launched at northern Israel from Syrian territory. The IDF stated that two launches were detected from Syria and fell into an

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<sup>40</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/at-hostage-solidarity-rally-anger-mounts-at-netanyahu/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/at-hostage-solidarity-rally-anger-mounts-at-netanyahu/) 15 Oct. 23

<sup>41</sup> <https://nitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1712954775346589961#m> 14 Oct. 23

<sup>42</sup> <https://nitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1712960048924697002#m> 14 Oct. 23

<sup>43</sup> <https://nitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1712983329207709801#m> 14 Oct. 23

<sup>44</sup> <https://nitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1713071177852125367#m> 14 Oct. 23

<sup>45</sup> <https://nitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1713172294053306550#m> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>46</sup> <https://nitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1713191157507690971#m> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>47</sup> <https://nitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1713249339823292676#m> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>48</sup> <https://nitter.net/AFP/status/1713220488804114617#m> 15 Oct. 23

open area. The IDF stated they are responding with artillery fire to the source of the launches.<sup>49 50</sup>

The Syrian Ministry of Defence announced that Israel carried out an airstrike on the Aleppo airport, damaging parts of the airport and rendering it out of service (*see map, point G*).<sup>51</sup>

## **EGYPT**

Open source reporting activity in Egypt OTP 14 – 15 Oct:

Egypt, Israel and the US have agreed to allow foreigners in Gaza to pass through the Rafah border crossing into Egypt, according to a senior State Department official.<sup>52</sup>

Negotiations between Egypt and Israel to open the Rafah Crossing to allow approximately 600 dual Palestinian-American citizens through. It is currently unconfirmed whether or not they were able to evacuate. It was reported that Egypt's side opened while the Gaza side did not.<sup>53</sup>

World Health Organisation (WHO) medical supplies to support Gaza have landed in Egypt close to the Rafah Crossing, according to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The supplies have yet to be deployed as the organisation waits on humanitarian access through the crossing.<sup>54</sup>

## **JORDAN**

15 Oct 23 open source reported that Jordan stated that any move by Israel to impose a new displacement of Palestinians would push the region in to the "abyss" of a wider regional conflict. Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi state that Israel's push to move the entire population to leave their homes was a "Red Line" that Arabs would confront.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> <https://twitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1713267774040981574#m> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>50</sup> <https://twitter.net/IDFSpokesperson/status/1713278178322469315#m> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>51</sup>(U)<https://www.facebook.com/mod.gov.sy/posts/pfbid04wNqHVkEu2K7EDGatEhHWgsjZU6vkepkVGg977noPKJaZZdJvBq3SJFnGrJJcZf2l> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>52</sup> (U) <https://abcnews.go.com/International/live-updates/israel-gaza-hamas/agreement-reached-to-allow-foreigners-to-leave-gaza-103977694?id=103804516#:~:text=Agreement%20reached%20to%20allow%20foreigners%20to%20leave%20Gaza&text=Egypt%2C%20Israel%20and%20the%20United,a%20senior%20State%20Department%20official.,> 15 Oct 23

<sup>53</sup> (U) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/14/israel-hamas-war-live-us-moves-second-aircraft-carrier-to-mediterranean>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>54</sup> (U) [https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-hamas-war-10-14-23/h\\_c21a2c76b616b744cafea429f172044c#:~:text=53%20Palestinians%20killed%20in%20occupied%20West%20Bank%20since%20Saturday&text=Settlers%2C%20according%20to%20international%20law,%2C%20and%20harassment%20%E2%80%93%20against%20Palestinians.,](https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-hamas-war-10-14-23/h_c21a2c76b616b744cafea429f172044c#:~:text=53%20Palestinians%20killed%20in%20occupied%20West%20Bank%20since%20Saturday&text=Settlers%2C%20according%20to%20international%20law,%2C%20and%20harassment%20%E2%80%93%20against%20Palestinians.,) 15 Oct 23

<sup>55</sup> (U) <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/jordan-says-palestinian-displacement-pushes-region-abyss-wider-conflict-2023-10-14/>, 15 Oct 23

## IRAN

The Iranian foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, has warned Israel stating that the war may expand to other parts of the Middle East if Hezbollah enters the conflict, stating that it “will cause a huge earthquake in the Zionist entity”.<sup>56</sup>

The Iranian foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, reportedly spoke with the UN Middle East Envoy, Tor Wennesland, in Beirut. The Iranian FM told the envoy that Iran doesn’t want the conflict to turn regional, but stressed that Iran has its “red lines”, and that if Israel were to follow through with its ground offensive into Gaza, then Iran will have to respond. The UN Envoy later called the Israeli national security advisor, Tzachi Hanegbi, and relayed the message.<sup>57</sup>

**JIFC comment:** Tor Wennesland’s office has confirmed that the meeting took place. The Israeli PM’s office declined to comment and Iran MFA has yet to respond to inquiries on the meeting. **End comment.**

## INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

Open source reporting indicates the following changes in the humanitarian situation OTP 14 – 15 Oct 23:

The US –embassy to Israel has urged US citizens in Israel to take advantage of charter flights “while they’re available” as commercial availability of aircraft remains limited. The US Government has also authorised the departure of family members of US personnel, and non-emergency personnel from Mission Israel.<sup>58</sup>

The US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III, has announced that the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group has been ordered to begin traversing to the Mediterranean to join the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group in order to deter hostile actions against Israel. The Eisenhower strike group includes the USS Philippine Sea cruiser, USS Gravely and USS Mason destroyers, and Carrier Air Wing 3.<sup>59</sup>

The Türkish Government has announced that 30 Türkish citizens have been evacuated out of Israel. The Türkish Foreign Minister, Hakan Fidan, has stated that there is an estimate of 300 dual Israel-Türkiye citizens currently in Gaza.<sup>60</sup>

The German Ministry of Defence announced that two A400M German Air Force planes are being sent to Israel carrying materials. The Air Force planes will then fly German citizens

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<sup>56</sup> <https://english.elpais.com/international/2023-10-14/irans-foreign-minister-warns-israel-from-beirut-it-could-suffer-a-huge-earthquake.html> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/14/iran-warning-israel-hezbollah-hamas-war-gaza> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>58</sup> <https://il.usembassy.gov/security-alert-9/> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3557560/statement-from-secretary-of-defense-loyd-j-austin-iii-on-deployment-of-uss-eis/> 15 Oct. 23

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkiye-rejects-condemns-attacks-targeting-civilians-in-palestine/3020006> 15 Oct. 23

from Israel to Germany's Wunstorf air base. The planes are expected to land in Germany on Sunday (GMT).<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/two-german-flights-take-materials-israel-bring-citizens-back-2023-10-14/> 15 Oct 23

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Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)

**Context:** *This Open Source report (OSR) is derived from publically available information and may contain initial observations, and should not be considered finished intelligence. Any questions concerning the contents of this OSR should be directed to the contact listed at the end of this document.*

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Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. IDF airstrikes continue in Gaza
- B. Rockets target Tel Aviv
- C. Rafah border crossing remains closed

Key Points:

- Water runs out at UN shelters, Israel claims to have restarted water distribution.
- IDF ground operation delayed due to weather conditions.
- Iran warns against escalation.
- UNIFIL HQ compound accidentally hit by rocket fire.

s.6(a)



## Gaza

### **Kinetic activity update**

Open source reporting indicates the following kinetic activity OTP 15 - 16 Oct 23:

IDF airstrikes continue targeting Gaza, with reporting indicating airstrikes have occurred in the following areas:

- a) Tal al-Hawa<sup>1</sup>
- b) North of Gaza<sup>2</sup>
- c) Rafah<sup>3</sup>

### **Humanitarian Situation**

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 15 - 16 Oct 23:

The current reported death toll from IDF airstrikes in Gaza is reported at 2670 killed and 9600 wounded.<sup>4</sup>

Palestinians have been advised to continue evacuating from northern Gaza.<sup>5</sup> On 15 Oct 23, former Israeli Dep. Foreign Minister stated people in Gaza should take shelter in Sinai, Egypt, where "tent cities" could be established.<sup>6</sup>

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UN shelters across Gaza have reportedly run out of water, however reporting indicates an agreement between Biden and Netanyahu has been reached and Israel will turn the water back on in southern Gaza.<sup>7 8 9</sup>

Although Israel has claimed to have turned the water back on, aid workers in Gaza have yet to see evidence of this.<sup>10</sup> s.6(a)

<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/palinfoar/status/1713663980240085502?s=46>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/newspressps/status/1713669180644356404?s=46>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/ajabreaking/status/1713601620116713806>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>4</sup>

<https://www.facebook.com/MOHGaza1994/posts/pfbid0o4BwJ1JCWEVQZmSXcB5zuU8btfEcaYXmbPvkM3bEC3AnP1qeiY9Lqi52GNJKsgoCl>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>5</sup> <https://Aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/14/Israel-hamas-war-live-us-moves-second-aircraft-carrier-to-mediterranean> 15 Oct 23

<sup>6</sup> <https://alazeera.com/news/2023/10/15/palestinians-in-gaza-can-go-to-tent-cities-former-israeli-minister>, 15 OCT 23

<sup>7</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/Israel-gaza-civilians-humanitarian-crisis-shortages-fuel-water-937b474fa16970f36ac44615e9797fbc>, 15 OCT 23

<sup>8</sup> <https://france24.com/en/middle-east/20231014-live-israel-prepares-ground-assault-on-gaza-as-palestinians-flee> 1633 15 OCT 23

<sup>9</sup> [https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news-hamas-war-10-15-23/h\\_fa425cd7347fdb78b49ea2c309e29929](https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news-hamas-war-10-15-23/h_fa425cd7347fdb78b49ea2c309e29929), 15 Oct 23

<sup>10</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/Israel-gaza-civilians-humanitarian-crisis-shortages-fuel-water-937b474fa16970f36ac44615e9797fbc>, 15 OCT 23



Single source reporting indicates that the only form of communication in Gaza is via SMS and data transmission is slow due to latency issues.<sup>11</sup>

## WEST-BANK

NSTR

## ISRAEL

### **IDF Activity**

The IDF ground offensive initially scheduled to begin on 15 Oct 23 has reportedly been delayed as weather conditions will make it difficult for Israeli pilots and drone operators to provide ground forces with air cover.<sup>12</sup>

On 15 Oct 23, the IDF claimed an airstrike has killed Billal al-Qedra, the CO of Hamas' Khan Younis commando battalion.<sup>13</sup>

The IDF have reported that Muataz Eid, the commander of Hamas' Southern Gaza district national security has been killed by airstrikes.<sup>14 15</sup>

The Lebanese Hezbollah flag has been hoisted at the IDF base located in Rahab on the Israel-Lebanon border, NFI.<sup>16</sup>

### **IDF Activity**

Iron dome intercepted rockets targeting Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion airport, NFI.<sup>17 18</sup>

## REGIONAL REPORTING

### **Events in Lebanon**

UN peacekeeping force UNIFIL has reported that their headquarters compound in southern Lebanon has been hit by a rocket during the Israel-Lebanon border conflicts. No casualties were reported and they are unsure which side the missile was fired from.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/muhammadsmiry/status/1713524587235782796>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>12</sup> <https://nytimes.com/2023/10/14/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-invasion.html> 14 Oct 23

<sup>13</sup> <https://timesofisrael.com/idf-kills-hamas-commander-who-lead-deadly-border-attacks-as-rocket-fire-on-south-resumes/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://twitter.com/joerruzman/status/1713636246025855303?s=46>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>15</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1713636402263463250>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>16</sup> [https://nitter.net/Megatron\\_ron/status/1713476572118667327#m](https://nitter.net/Megatron_ron/status/1713476572118667327#m), 15 Oct 23

<sup>17</sup> <https://nitter.net/sentdefender/status/1713584774575534550#m>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> [https://twitter.com/Alhadath\\_Brk/status/1713589729495568710](https://twitter.com/Alhadath_Brk/status/1713589729495568710), 15 Oct 23

<sup>19</sup> <https://reuters.com/world/middle-east/one-killed-3-wounded-cross-border-hezbollah-attack-northern-israel-2023-10-15/>, 15 Oct 23

## Events in Egypt

As of 16 Oct 23, the Rafah Border crossing remains closed. American citizens cannot cross the border, however have been told to remain close-by. As of 16 0900Z Oct 23, there have been some reports of Palestinians being able to cross the border.<sup>20 21 22</sup>

Single source reporting indicates that Egypt has started to fortify the Rafah border with concrete slabs.<sup>23</sup>

## **INTERNATIONAL REPORTING**

The US have organised a passenger ferry IOT evacuate American Citizens to Cyprus. The vessel is departing from Haifa port on the morning of 16 Oct 23. The US embassy in Israel have stated the evacuation is not free, and personnel boarding the vessel will have to repay the US Government.<sup>24</sup>

Iran has issued Israel a warning about regional escalations if they continue to attack and invade the Gaza Strip. The Iranian Foreign Minister Hossien Amir-Abdollahian told Al Jazeera the following on 15 Oct 23: "If the measures aimed at immediately stopping the Israeli attacks that are killing children in the Gaza Strip do not end in a deadlock, it is highly probable that many other fronts will be opened. This option is not ruled out and this is becoming increasingly more probable."<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> <https://nytimes.com/2023/10/14/world/middleeast/gaza-egypt-border-crossing-israel.html>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> <https://reuters.com/world/middle-east/egypts-president-sisi-talks-get-aid-gaza-presidency-says-2023-10-15/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/15/rafah-border-crossing-could-egypt-open-it-to-fleeing-palestinians>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>23</sup> <https://twitter.com/osinttechnical/status/1713107080712782170>, 14 Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> <https://hareetz.com/israel-news/2023-10-15/ty-article/u-s-organises-emergency-ship-for-americans-wanting-to-leave-israel000001b-3285-dff1-a5eb-fefd8f920000>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> <https://aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/15/iran-warns-israel-of-regional-escalation-if-gaza-round-offensive-launched>, 15 Oct 23

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Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)

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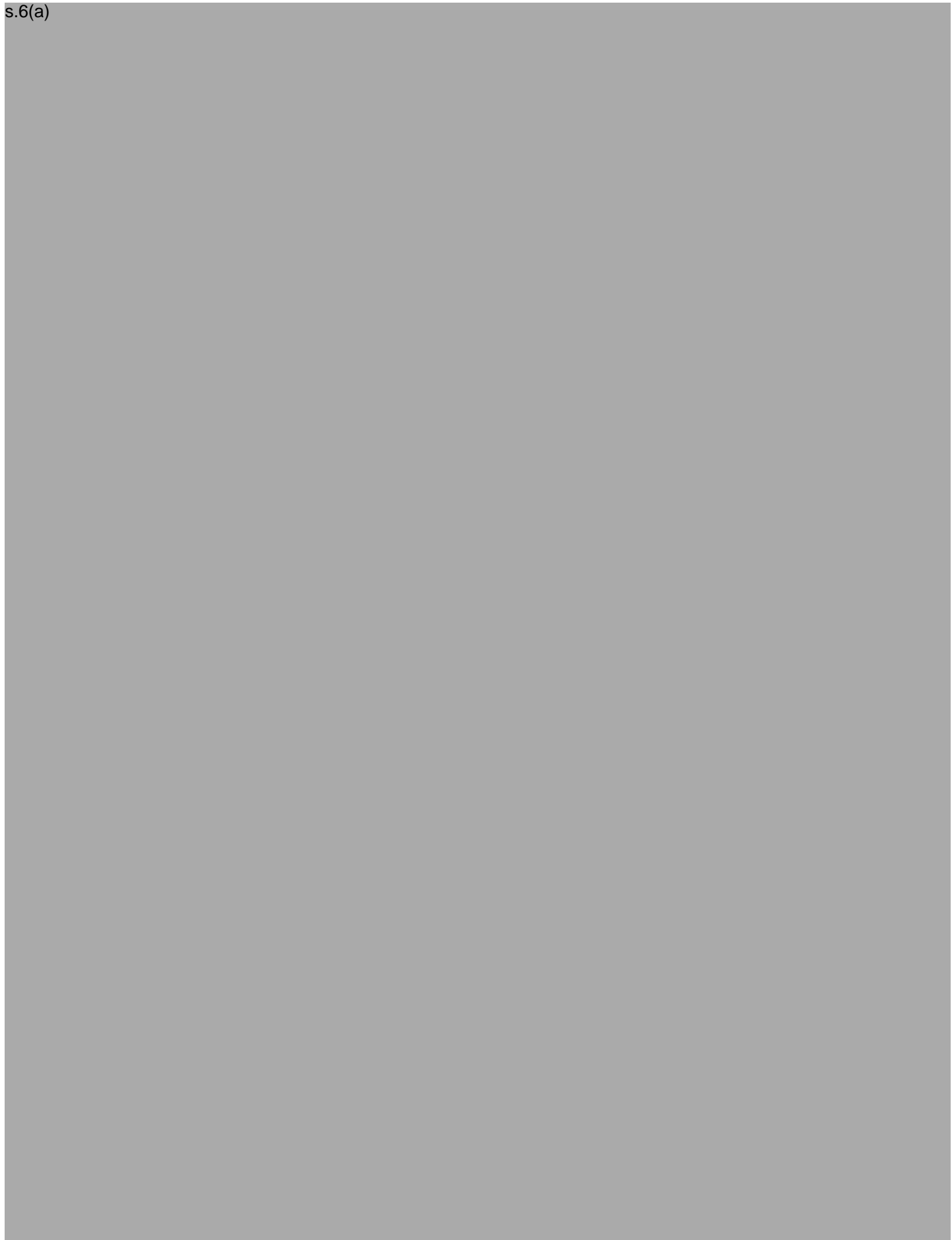
Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. IDF airstrikes hit Rafah border crossing.
- B. IRGC and Iranian backed proxy groups begin relocating IVO Damascus.
- C. UN stages aid deliveries in El-Arish, Egypt.

Key Points:

- Evacuation of northern Gaza continues; resources becoming scarce in southern Gaza.
- IDF continue to amass forces IVO Gaza, begin evacuating civilians on the Israel-Lebanon border
- Iran states Israel can expect “pre-emptive” action to occur.

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## Gaza

### Kinetic activity update

(U) IDF airstrikes continue targeting Gaza. Reporting indicates airstrikes on 16 Oct 23 targeted the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing preventing the border from opening (See Map point A).<sup>1</sup>

### Humanitarian Situation

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 16 - 17 Oct 23:

The current reported death toll from IDF airstrikes in Gaza is reported at approximately 2808 killed and 10,859 wounded.<sup>2</sup>

After the evacuation of northern Gaza (see Figure 1), the population of Khan Younis has more than doubled from 400,000 to over 1 million.<sup>3,4</sup> Resources are reportedly scarce, with water the highest need. Doctors in Khan Younis have stated that hospital patients receive 300ml of water a day whilst refugees receive none.<sup>5</sup>



Figure 1. Evacuation areas in Gaza.

The regional head of United Nations' World Health Organization states that the Gaza Strip only has "24 hours of water, electricity and fuel left", and intensive care units are on the brink of collapse due to overcrowding, and a lack of food and water.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67124768> 17 Oct 23

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67116403> 16 Oct 23

<sup>4</sup> <https://ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-9>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67116403>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231016-24-hours-for-aid-to-enter-gaza-before-catastrophe-who> 16 Oct 23

## **WEST-BANK**

The IDF have conducted raids within the West-Bank areas of East Jerusalem, Nablus, Bethlehem, Hebron and the Aqabat Jabe camp in Jericho.<sup>7</sup> The raids have reportedly included the arrest of 70 Palestinians.<sup>8</sup>

## **ISRAEL**

IDF military spokesperson, Daniel Hagari, has indicated that the IDF has raised the number of people held captive by Hamas to 199.<sup>9</sup>

Hamas has continued to target Tel Aviv with rocket attacks, NFI.<sup>10</sup>

### **IDF Activity**

The IDF has continued to amass equipment and personnel on the Israel-Gaza border IVO Ashkelon.<sup>11</sup>

The IDF announced on 16 Oct 23, they are planning to evacuate civilians living within 2km of the Israel-Lebanon border.<sup>12</sup>

According to a 14 Oct 23 statement, the IDF have used the Sa'ar 6 class corvette in combat for the first time. Footage released with the announcement, shows two of the four Sa'ar 6 corvettes conducting strikes on a Hamas weapons factory in Gaza.<sup>13,14</sup>

IDF have announced that they successfully eliminated Hamas' Head of General Intelligence in an airstrike in Khan Younis. Video footage of the airstrike was provided with the announcement. The target's name was not specified.<sup>15</sup>

## **REGIONAL REPORTING**

### **Events in Lebanon**

The IDF have stated that a major factor in delaying the ground invasion of the Gaza Strip was a potential northern front opening at the Israel-Lebanon border. They have since begun moving units north in preparation of a Lebanese Hezbollah attack.<sup>16</sup>

### **Events in Syria**

According to a Syrian government adviser, the IRGC and Iranian backed proxy groups have begun to move units from eastern Syria towards the Israel-Syria border, in an area IVO Damascus (See Map point B). The adviser stated that some redeployed units were "missile experts" and that this movement and Iran's intentions are largely defensive.<sup>17,18</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEUH2bLm-Rw> 16 Oct 23

<sup>8</sup> <https://twitter.com/palinfoar/status/1713814965612695814?s=46>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/16/at-least-199-people-being-held-captive-by-hamas-israel-says>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>10</sup> <https://nitter.net/sentdefender/status/1713989171252216078#m>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/16/israeli-forces-tanks-amass-at-border-with-gaza> 16 Oct 23

<sup>12</sup> <https://timesofisrael.com/idf-to-evacuate-civilians-from-28-communities-along-lebanese-border-amid-attacks/>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>13</sup> <https://naval-technology.com/news/israeli-navys-saar-6-corvettes-used-to-strike-gaza-ground-targets/> 16 Oct 23

<sup>14</sup> <https://nitter.net/i/status/1713903231829422262>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>15</sup> <https://jpost.com/arab-israel-conflict/article-768682> 16 Oct 23

<sup>16</sup> <https://jpost.com/israel-news/defence-news/article-768684>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>17</sup> <https://nitter.net/Deltaone/status/1713591193865539972>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> <https://nitter.net/sentdefender/status/1713588100553683109> 15 Oct 23

## Events in Jordan

Jordan's Foreign Minister/Dep. Prime Minister Ayman Safadi has stated that refusing humanitarian aid into Gaza is "unacceptable" and that denying access to food is "collective punishment". Safadi also stated that moving Palestinians into Egypt is not an option and Palestinians should be able to stay in Gaza.<sup>19</sup>

## Events in Egypt

Open source reporting indicates hundreds of supply trucks are waiting IVO El-Arish to enter Gaza through the Rafah border crossing.<sup>20</sup>

The UN has also been prepositioning aid at El-Arish airport including 78m<sup>3</sup> of essential medical supplies, which is reportedly enough for 300,000 people (See Map point c).<sup>21,22</sup>

The Rafah Border was due to open on 16 Oct 23, however remains closed as of 17 Oct 23.<sup>23,24</sup>

## Events in Iran

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, released a statement regarding the Axis of Resistance, and how Israel can expect pre-emptive measures from them. "Leaders of the Resistance will not allow the Zionist regime to take any action in Gaza... All options are open and we cannot be indifferent to the war crimes committed against the people of Gaza... The resistance front is capable of waging prolonged war with the enemy (Israel)... In the coming hours we can expect a pre-emptive action by the resistance".<sup>25</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

During an interview, US President Joe Biden likened the Hamas attack to both 9/11 and the Holocaust. He has said that Israel "need to go after Hamas" and that "Israel will do everything in their power" to stop Hamas.<sup>26</sup>

The FBI has stated there has been an increase in violent threats against both Muslims and Jewish personnel in the US following the Israel-Hamas conflict.<sup>27</sup>

Two people have been killed during an ISIS-inspired terror attack in Brussels, Belgium. The gunman announced his allegiance to ISIS and his need to "avenge Muslims". The search for the suspect is still ongoing.<sup>28,29</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> [www.jordantimes.com/news/local/israels-blocking-humanitarian-aid-gaza-collective-punishment-says-safadi](http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/israels-blocking-humanitarian-aid-gaza-collective-punishment-says-safadi), 16 Oct 23

<sup>20</sup> [https://twitter.com/alarabiya\\_brk/status/1713785309031174221?s=46](https://twitter.com/alarabiya_brk/status/1713785309031174221?s=46) 16 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/16/un-begins-shipping-aid-for-gaza-to-egypt-amid-uncertainty> 16 Oct 23

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.miragenews.com/inside-gaza-aid-convoy-un-explainer-1104522/>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/egypt-us-israel-agree-ceasefire-southern-gaza-opening-rafah-crossing-0600-gmt-2023-10-16/> 16

Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67124768>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> <https://reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-preemptive-action-by-resistance-front-expected-coming-hours-2023-10-16/>, 16 Oct

23

<sup>26</sup> <https://cbsnews.com/news/president-joe-biden-2023-60-minutes-transcript/>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>27</sup> <https://nytimes.com/2023/10/15/world/middleeast/threats-jewish-muslim-americans-israel-attack.html>, 15 Oct 23

<sup>28</sup> <https://nitter.net/sentdefender/status/171399810321552234#m>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>29</sup> <https://politico.eu/article/shooter-kills-two-people-in-central-brussels/>, 16 Oct 23



s.6(a)





Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## **ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)**

**Context:** *This Open Source report (OSR) is derived from publically available information and may contain initial observations, and should not be considered finished intelligence. Any questions concerning the contents of this OSR should be directed to the contact listed at the end of this document.*

s.6(a)

Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. Al-Ahli Hospital is attacked; The Palestinian Authority blames Israel, Israel blames the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.
- B. Protests against Israel and Palestinian President Abbas occur in Ramallah, West Bank.
- C. Egypt orders aid trucks to move to Rafah border crossing.

Key Points:

- Israeli ground operation still delayed, IDF state the visit of US President Joe Biden will not affect it.
- Protests against the Al-Ahli Hospital attack occur in several countries, including IVO the US Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.
- Jordan states no Palestinian refugees will be allowed to enter Jordan or Egypt.
- The Rafah border crossing remains closed.

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## Gaza

### **Kinetic activity update**

IDF airstrikes continue throughout Gaza. At least 28 killed and 50 injured in IDF strikes targeting three residential buildings in Khan Younis.<sup>1</sup>

As of 17 Oct 23, approximately 300-500 people were killed by an attack on the Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital in Gaza (*See map point A*). The Palestinian Health Authority state the attack was an IDF airstrike, however the IDF have stated the explosion was a failed rocket launch conducted by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), who have denied responsibility.<sup>2</sup>

### **Humanitarian Situation**

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 17 - 18 Oct 23:

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is continuing to decline as aid is still not being permitted to cross the border from Egypt. Gaza hospitals have been reported to still have power, but are on the verge of losing electricity. Life-saving equipment such as ventilators and incubators will not be able to run without power, putting thousands of wounded at risk.<sup>3,4</sup>

The current reported death toll from IDF airstrikes in Gaza is reported at approximately 3000 killed and 12,500 wounded.<sup>5</sup>

### **WEST BANK**

The current reported casualty figures in the West Bank are reported as approximately 61 killed and 1250 wounded.<sup>6</sup>

Mass protests are occurring in Ramallah, West-Bank (*See map point B*), primarily in response to the attack on the Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital in Gaza. Palestinians are also protesting against the Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas, due to perceived inaction with the Gaza conflict, chanting "The people want the fall of the President". Palestinian protestors have reportedly been seen throwing stones and burning tires during clashes and in an effort to contain the protests, Palestinian authorities have also reportedly fired tear gas and stun grenades.<sup>7,8,9,10</sup>

### **ISRAEL**

#### **IDF Activity**

The IDF spokesperson states that the visit of the US President, Joe Biden, will not complicate or delay the planned ground invasion of Gaza.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://twitter.com/Alaqsavoice\\_Brk/status/1714112142712914105](https://twitter.com/Alaqsavoice_Brk/status/1714112142712914105), 17 Oct 23

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/least-500-victims-israeli-air-strike-hospital-gaza-health-ministry-2023-10-17/>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/trucks-carrying-aid-gaza-strip-arrive-rafah-crossing-witness-2023-10-17/>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>4</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-gaza-hamas-war-781b3c63af4ae6e51c313a68f314e66d>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/hundreds-protest-in-ramallah-against-pa-president-abbas/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/hundreds-protest-in-ramallah-against-pa-president-abbas/), 18 Oct 23

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231017-west-bank-gripped-by-fear-anger-as-gaza-war-rages>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>9</sup> [https://twitter.com/Jerusalem\\_Post/status/1714364313752756489?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet](https://twitter.com/Jerusalem_Post/status/1714364313752756489?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet)

18 Oct 23

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/hundreds-protest-in-ramallah-against-pa-president-abbas/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/hundreds-protest-in-ramallah-against-pa-president-abbas/), 18 Oct 23

<sup>11</sup> [https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-hamas-war-10-17-23/h\\_9bd3301a3c1027fbf4dc7b555816c841#:~:text=Israel%20Defense%20Forces%20international%20spokesperson military%20aim%2C%22%20Conricus%20said,](https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-news-hamas-war-10-17-23/h_9bd3301a3c1027fbf4dc7b555816c841#:~:text=Israel%20Defense%20Forces%20international%20spokesperson military%20aim%2C%22%20Conricus%20said,)

17 Oct 23

The IDF stated they will investigate the Al-Ahli Hospital attack, IDF intelligence then claimed that the PIJ were responsible for Gaza hospital bombing.<sup>12</sup>

## **REGIONAL REPORTING**

### **Events in Lebanon**

Hundreds of Lebanese protestors, some waving Palestinian flags gathered outside the US and French embassies in Beirut. In response, tear gas and water cannons have been fired at protestors outside the US Embassy.<sup>13</sup>

Open source reporting indicates the following kinetic activity events OTP 17 - 18 Oct:

- a) On 17 Oct 23, four insurgents, who were reportedly planning to plant a bomb, attempted to infiltrate the Israel-Lebanon border. IDF surveillance detected the attempted infiltration and the insurgents were killed.<sup>14</sup>
- b) On 17 Oct 23, shooting was detected from the Lebanese border targeting the Israeli town of Metula. In response, IDF tanks attacked the area where the fires originated. The Ziv Medical Centre in Israel reported that three people were admitted with injuries from an anti-tank guided missile launched from Lebanon in to Metula.<sup>15 16</sup>
- c) On 18 Oct 23, an IDF post near Margaloit on the Lebanese border received anti-tank and small-arms fire. The IDF responded with artillery fire.<sup>17</sup>
- d) On 18 Oct 23, two anti-tank missiles were fired near the Israeli settlement Kibutz Yiftah and IDF posts near the Lebanon border received small arms fire. The IDF responded with tank and artillery fire at Hezbollah positions. Anti-tank fire was also detected at the Israeli settlement of Zerait on the Lebanese border.<sup>18 19</sup>
- e) On 18 Oct 23, an unmanned aircraft approached Israeli airspace from Lebanon. The aircraft was intercepted by Israeli air force. The aircraft did not appear to penetrate Israeli airspace.<sup>20,21</sup>
- f) (U) On 18 Oct 23, IDF aircraft attacked Hezbollah infrastructure and observation posts in response to Hezbollah attacks.<sup>22</sup>NFI.

### **Events in Syria**

On 16 Oct 23, an Iranian cargo plane allegedly linked to the IRGC, landed at Khmeimim Airbase, a Syrian airbase currently operated by Russia. It is unknown what cargo the plane

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<sup>12</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714364835385823262#m> 18 Oct 23

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanons-hezbollah-denounces-gaza-hospital-strike-protests-beirut-2023-10-17/>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>14</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714155398503026814#m> 17 Oct 23

<sup>15</sup> <https://twitter.com/IDFSpokesperson/status/1714196150943727907#m>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/at-least-3-injured-in-anti-tank-guided-missile-attack-launched-from-lebanon/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/at-least-3-injured-in-anti-tank-guided-missile-attack-launched-from-lebanon/) 17 Oct 23

<sup>17</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714227660686029166#m>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714247711363313888#m> 18 Oct 23

<sup>19</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714262009624051832#m> 18 Oct 23

<sup>20</sup> <https://twitter.com/IDFSpokesperson/status/1714293910758170874#m>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> <https://twitter.com/IDFSpokesperson/status/1714339066269913180#m>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>22</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714377536958816375#m>, 18 Oct 23

was carrying, however, the airliner, Mahan Air, is sanctioned by the US for the transfer of fighters, weapons, and equipment for the IRGC Quds, Hezbollah, and Syria.<sup>23</sup>

The National Resistance Centre of Ukraine has reported that ex-instructors from Wagner PMC, who were in Belarus, are now involved with training militants in Syria. They state that Hezbollah militants are being trained in Syrian bases, with the Wagner instructors giving them lessons learned fighting in Ukraine.<sup>24</sup>

### Events in Jordan

After a meeting with German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, the King of Jordan, Abdullah II, states the Middle East is “on the brink of falling into the abyss” if conflict were to spread further, and all effort should be made to ensure this does not occur.<sup>25</sup> In another statement, Abdullah II has stated that there will be no Palestinian refugees admitted into Egypt or Jordan, stating that the humanitarian situation must be dealt with inside Gaza and West Bank.<sup>26</sup>

Jordan’s foreign minister has pulled out of a planned summit with US President Joe Biden stating “There is no use in talking now about anything except stopping the war”.<sup>27</sup>

### Events in Egypt

Reporting indicates that trucks carrying humanitarian aid positioned in El-Arish have been ordered to move to the Rafah border crossing (*See map point C*) but will remain at the border due to the lack of agreement in place to deliver aid with Israel. Unverified reporting also indicates the Rafah border crossing will be opening in the evening of 17 Oct 23, local time.<sup>28,29,30</sup>

Egypt is reportedly still negotiating with Israel on the deployment of humanitarian assistance and fuel to Gaza, according to senior Egyptian officials. Israeli officials reportedly insist on searching all aid deliveries to ensure that such aid doesn’t benefit Hamas.<sup>31</sup>

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### Events in Iran

Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has accused Israel of carrying out a genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. The Supreme Leader has stated that Israeli officials should face trial for the crimes taking place in Gaza. The Supreme leader also stated that “If the crimes of the Zionist regime continue, Muslims and resistance forces will become impatient, and no one can stop them” and “Regarding the situation in Gaza, we all have a

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.memri.org/itfm/syrian-organization-iranian-cargo-plane-linked-irgc-has-landed-russias-khmeimim-air-base-syria>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> <https://sprotv.mod.gov.ua/en/wagner-terrorists-are-sent-to-syria-to-share-their-experience/>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordanian-king-warns-mideast-on-brink-of-abyss-refuses-refuge-for-fleeing-gazans/>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/king-abdullah-gaza-no-refugees-jordan-no-refugees-egypt-2023-10-17/>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67119233>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/trucks-carrying-aid-gaza-strip-arrive-rafah-crossing-witness-2023-10-17/>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/AmeenSafa1/status/171415978078341166116>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>30</sup> <https://twitter.com/skynewsarabia/status/1714148400583909403>, 17 Oct 23

<sup>31</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/egypt-says-it-is-still-negotiation-with-israel-over-entry-of-aid-to-gaza/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/egypt-says-it-is-still-negotiation-with-israel-over-entry-of-aid-to-gaza/), 18 Oct 23

responsibility to react; we must react,” he says, calling for the bombardment of Gaza to stop immediately.<sup>32</sup>

### **INTERNATIONAL REPORTING**

The head of US CENTCOM has made a visit to Israel to meet with IDF officials. The Head of CENTCOM, Gen. Michael Kurilla, is stated to meet with IDF Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi, and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to gain an understanding of Israeli defence requirements and outline US support efforts to avoid expansion of the conflict.<sup>33</sup>

The US 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit is reportedly headed to the waters off the coast of Israel and the Pentagon is preparing US troops for a potential deployment to Israel.<sup>34</sup>

Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Turkey, and Bahrain have all blamed Israel for the strike on the Al-Ahli hospital, with the countries condemning Israel for the attack, despite Israeli officials claiming that the PIJ is at fault.<sup>35 36 37</sup>

Protests are also taking place in Jordan, Turkey, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen in response to the strike on the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/17/irans-khamenei-warns-israel-that-bombardment-of-gaza-could-bring-response>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>33</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/centcom-chief-arrives-in-israel-to-meet-with-halevi-gallant-and-other-officials/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/centcom-chief-arrives-in-israel-to-meet-with-halevi-gallant-and-other-officials/), 17 Oct 23

<sup>34</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/16/politics/us-marines-pentagon-israel/index.html>, 16 Oct 23

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/egypt-blames-israel-for-blast-at-gaza-city-hospital/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/egypt-blames-israel-for-blast-at-gaza-city-hospital/), 18 Oct 23

<sup>36</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/jordans-abdullah-joins-those-blaming-israel-for-deadly-gaza-blast/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/jordans-abdullah-joins-those-blaming-israel-for-deadly-gaza-blast/), 18 Oct 23

<sup>37</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/saudi-arabia-bahrain-also-blame-israel-for-hospital-strike-despite-idf-denial/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/saudi-arabia-bahrain-also-blame-israel-for-hospital-strike-despite-idf-denial/), 18 Oct 23

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/16/israel-amas-war-live-iran-warns-resistance-front-may-attack>, 18 Oct 23

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Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)

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Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. Rafah border crossing to open imminently.
- B. IDF strike on Syrian military position in southern Syria IVO Quneitra.

Key Points:

- IDF announces the creation of a humanitarian zone in southern Gaza.
- IDF provide intelligence demonstrating PIJ is responsible for the hospital attack.
- Protests against Israel continue in Lebanon and West Bank. Protestors attempt to storm the Israeli Embassy in Jordan.
- UN office in Lebanon attacked.
- Iranian officials call for Middle Eastern countries to cut ties with Israel.

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## **GAZA**

### **Kinetic activity update**

IDF airstrikes continue throughout Gaza.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> At least 35 people have reportedly been killed in Israeli airstrikes on multiple residences in northern Gaza over the reporting period.<sup>5</sup>

### **Humanitarian Situation**

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 18 - 19 Oct 23:

The current reported casualty figures in Gaza are reported as approximately 3478 killed and over 12,000 wounded.<sup>6</sup>

The humanitarian crisis continues to worsen in Gaza with no aid or supplies being allowed in from Egypt. The United Nations has stated there is an “unprecedented catastrophe” unfolding in Gaza with continual air strikes from the IDF. Since the conflict began, up to one million people have been displaced from their homes, and supplies such as food, water and medicine are running very low.<sup>7</sup>

The IDF has announced the creation of a humanitarian zone in southern Gaza, where international aid will be provided. The area is stated to be in the Al-Mawasi area, close to Khan Younis. The IDF has also warned Palestinians still in northern Gaza should evacuate south as they will soon heavily target the area.<sup>8</sup>

## **WEST BANK**

The current reported casualty figures in the West Bank are reported as approximately 62 killed and 1300 wounded.<sup>9</sup>

Three Palestinians have been killed and 80 injured as a result of Israel’s response to protests in the West Bank following the reported hospital strike in Gaza.<sup>10</sup>

Protests in the West Bank were reported as being countered by Palestinian Police, however, Palestinian leadership will now stop security coordination with Israeli forces.<sup>11</sup>

Israeli forces have killed four Palestinians in a number of clashes in the West Bank.<sup>12,13</sup>

## **ISRAEL**

### **IDF Activity**

The IDF spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, stated that Israeli radar had detected rocket fire at the same time as the hospital blast, and intercepted communications from Gaza between insurgent groups indicating that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad fired the rockets.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJABreaking/status/1714730575242592578>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>2</sup> [https://twitter.com/SkyNewsArabia\\_B/status/1714653233887486164](https://twitter.com/SkyNewsArabia_B/status/1714653233887486164), 19 Oct 23

<sup>3</sup> [https://twitter.com/no\\_itsmyturn/status/1714703218834350217](https://twitter.com/no_itsmyturn/status/1714703218834350217), 19 Oct 23

<sup>4</sup> [https://twitter.com/AlArabiya\\_Brk/status/1714721643841433969](https://twitter.com/AlArabiya_Brk/status/1714721643841433969), 19 Oct 23

<sup>5</sup> <https://twitter.com/hassaneslayeh/status/1714465678575448357>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>7</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/International/humanitarian-crisis-gaza-unprecedented-catastrophe/story?id=104083768>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>8</sup> <https://twitter.com/cogatonline/status/1714497441091682646>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/17/israel-hamas-war-live-anger-after-israeli-strike-kills-500-in-hospital>, 19 Oct

23

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/alhurra/status/1714702059910377809>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>12</sup> <https://twitter.com/ytirawi/status/1714738188919411115>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/17/israel-hamas-war-live-anger-after-israeli-strike-kills-500-in-hospital>, 19 Oct

23

He states that the IDF determined there were no air, ground, or naval attacks at the time of the blast. The spokesperson also shared aerial footage of the blast, stating it was inconsistent with Israeli weaponry.<sup>14</sup>

### **Israeli Government Statements**

After a tour of the northern regions of Israel, the State Comptroller has stated there are serious deficiencies in the preparedness of northern communities in the event of war with Hezbollah. The State Comptroller said that the two main issues are the lack of adequate bomb shelters and the severe strain on volunteer civilian security teams.<sup>15</sup>

The Office of the Israeli PM has announced that after talks with the US President, Israel's war cabinet has decided the following: Israel will not stop humanitarian supplies from reaching Gaza from Egypt as long as it is only food, water, and medicine for civilians in Southern Gaza. Israel demands that the International Red Cross be able to visit the hostages and will work to mobilise international support for the demand. Israel will not allow any humanitarian aid from Israeli territory to be delivered to Gaza until the hostages are returned.<sup>16</sup>

The Israeli Health Ministry called for volunteers who have valid gun licenses to serve as security guards for hospitals and healthcare facilities.<sup>17</sup>

While speaking to Israel's Army Radio, Israeli Foreign Minister, Eli Cohen, has stated that Hamas will be eliminated from Gaza, and the territory of Gaza will also decrease.<sup>18,19</sup>

### **Civil Dissent**

Police in Haifa has dispersed a pro-Palestine rally that was not authorised and violated public order. The protests came after the Haifa police announced that pro-Palestinian demonstrations were not allowed, and after far-right groups said they would intervene to halt said protests. The police made six arrests of the protestors, with one being wounded. There were also reports of a dispersed protest in the Arab-Israeli city of Taybeh.<sup>20</sup>

## **REGIONAL REPORTING**

### **Events in Lebanon**

Hezbollah calls for "day of unprecedented anger" against Israel and US President Biden's visit to country on 18 Oct 23.<sup>21</sup>

On 18 Oct 23, Lebanese protesters rallied around and broke into the UN office in Beirut. The office was reportedly also set on fire.<sup>22,23</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> (U) [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-military-intercepted-communications-indicating-islamic-jihad-fired-hospital-rocket/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-military-intercepted-communications-indicating-islamic-jihad-fired-hospital-rocket/), 18 Oct 23

<sup>15</sup> (U) [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/northern-bomb-shelters-in-sorry-state-says-state-comptroller/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/northern-bomb-shelters-in-sorry-state-says-state-comptroller/), 18 Oct 23

<sup>16</sup> (U) [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/cabinet-bars-humanitarian-aid-from-entering-gaza-from-israel-until-hamas-releases-hostages/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/cabinet-bars-humanitarian-aid-from-entering-gaza-from-israel-until-hamas-releases-hostages/), 19 Oct 23

<sup>17</sup> (U) [https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/publications/Call\\_for\\_bids/k-k-firearms-license](https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/publications/Call_for_bids/k-k-firearms-license), 18 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> (U) <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/10/18/israel-decrease-gaza-strip-territory-eliminate-hamas/>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>19</sup> (U) <https://twitter.net/GLZRadio/status/1714575523605545299#m>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>20</sup> (U) [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/six-arrested-in-haifa-in-unauthorized-pro-palestinian-protest/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/six-arrested-in-haifa-in-unauthorized-pro-palestinian-protest/), 19 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> (U) [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/37277](https://t.me/C_Military1/37277), 18 Oct 23

<sup>22</sup> (U) [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/lebanese-protesters-break-into-un-building-in-beirut/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/lebanese-protesters-break-into-un-building-in-beirut/), 18 Oct 23

<sup>23</sup> (U) <https://twitter.com/QudsNen/status/1714385907107733903/>, 18 Oct 23

On 19 Oct 23, protests continued in Beirut, with hundreds of protestors gathering outside the US embassy for Lebanon. Police attempted to disperse the protests with tear gas. Reports indicate the protestors were seen waving Palestinian as well as Iranian flags.<sup>24</sup>

Open source reporting indicates the following kinetic activity events OTP 18 - 19 Oct:

- a) Anti-tank fire was detected from Lebanon targeting IDF forces in the Shetula area and the border fence, with IDF responding with artillery fire at the source. Later on small arms fire was fired at IDF posts on the border, with IDF forces returning fire.<sup>25,26</sup>
- b) Anti-tank fire was detected in the Dvornit area of the Lebanese border. IDF forces responded with artillery fire at the source. Later a number of anti-tank missiles was detected towards the Manara and the Rosh Hankara area of the Lebanese border. The IDF responded with returning fire and targeting of Hezbollah infrastructure.<sup>27,28</sup>
- c) IDF forces destroyed two Hezbollah positions in Lebanon, where attempted launch of anti-tank missiles were detected. IDF forces also attacked a position where Hezbollah anti-tank missiles were launched at the Metula area. Gunfire was detected in the area of Mount Dov, with IDF forces returning fire.<sup>29</sup>

### Events in Syria

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights stated that the IDF struck a Syrian military position in southern Syria IVO Quneitra. Unverified sources claimed that the airstrikes could be heard from the Golan Heights. Official Syrian media has yet to confirm the strike.<sup>30</sup>

### Events in Jordan

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that the Quartet Summit will not be held until efforts to end the occupation of Palestinian territory and efforts to achieve peace has been guaranteed.<sup>31</sup>

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Protestors in Amman have attempted to storm the Israeli embassy for the second time in 24 hours. Jordanian security forces are attempting to disperse the protestors. Israel reportedly evacuated the embassy days ago.<sup>32,33</sup>

### Events in Egypt

Thousands of protestors have gathered across Egypt in solidarity with Gaza. The Egyptian president has also stated that if he called for protests in support of Palestine, "you would see millions".<sup>34</sup>

<sup>24</sup> <https://twitter.com/mayadeenlebanon/status/1714634489505128906>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> <https://nitter.net/idfonline/status/1714431937639514207#m>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>26</sup> <https://nitter.net/idfonline/status/1714623215484428693#m>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>27</sup> <https://nitter.net/idfonline/status/1714628505202204868#m>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>28</sup> <https://nitter.net/idfonline/status/1714639617658429504#m>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>29</sup> <https://nitter.net/idfonline/status/1714649600882098504#m>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.newarab.com/news/israel-strikes-syrian-govt-position-south-ngo>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>31</sup> <https://nitter.net/ForeignMinistry/status/1714587127751618939#m>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>32</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/protesters-attempt-to-storm-israeli-embassy-in-amman-for-second-time-in-24-hours/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/protesters-attempt-to-storm-israeli-embassy-in-amman-for-second-time-in-24-hours/), 18 Oct 23

<sup>33</sup> <https://twitter.com/GlobeEyeNews/status/1714615820159258798>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>34</sup> <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/10/18/Thousands-protest-across-Egypt-in-solidarity-with-Gaza>, 19 Oct 23

The Rafah border is reportedly still closed with humanitarian aid piling up in Egypt.<sup>35,36</sup> The Israeli government states it will not prevent aid from entering Gaza from Egypt “as long as it’s only food, water and medicine for the civilian population” and that Israel will not provide aid themselves unless Israeli hostages are returned.<sup>37</sup>

During the US President’s trip back from Israel, Joe Biden told reporters that he and the Egyptian president have agreed to open the Rafah Crossing between Egypt and Gaza, allowing up to 20 trucks of humanitarian aid to travel through.<sup>38</sup> The Rafah border crossing will likely open on 20 Oct 23, local time. Initially, 20 trucks a day will be allowed to cross, with the number eventually increasing to approximately 100 trucks a day.<sup>39</sup>

### **Events in Iran**

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, has called for Islamic countries to cut off diplomatic ties with Israel, and to expel Israeli ambassadors from their country. The Foreign Minister also states that the export of oil to Israel from any Islamic or Muslim state should be stopped immediately.<sup>40</sup>

### **INTERNATIONAL REPORTING**

The Biden administration has stated that the US may use military force if Hezbollah joins the Israel-Hamas conflict.<sup>41</sup>

The Saudi Embassy in Lebanon said it was closely following developments in south Lebanon, “calling on all citizens to adhere to the travel ban and to leave Lebanese territory immediately for those who are currently in Lebanon.”<sup>42</sup>

The United States has changed the travel alert for Lebanon to ‘Alert Level 4: Do Not Travel.’ This comes after the increase in Hezbollah attacks on Israel, the Israeli attacks on Gaza, and mass protests against Israel in Lebanon and other countries. The US department of state has authorised the voluntary departure of family members of US government personnel from the US embassy in Beirut. The US has encourages US citizens not to travel to Lebanon, and those already there to make appropriate arrangements to leave.<sup>43</sup>

The US has vetoed a UNSC resolution which would have called for humanitarian pauses in the Israel-Palestine conflict to allow humanitarian aid access to Gaza. The US Ambassador to the UN states the reason for the veto is that "We are on the ground doing the hard work of diplomacy... We believe we need to let that diplomacy play out."<sup>44</sup>

Times of Israel reports that government official sources have told them that the US have been privately urging Israel not to launch a military campaign against Hezbollah, attempting to keep the current conflict from escalating. The official states that the US has cautioned Israel to be careful in its military responses to Hezbollah attacks, explaining that an IDF

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<sup>35</sup> <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/18/gaza-humanitarian-aid-entry-israel-netanyahu-biden>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/18/world/middleeast/gaza-aid-rafah-border-crossing.html>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/18/israel-says-it-wont-block-humanitarian-aid-entering-gaza-from-egypt> 18 Oct 23

<sup>38</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/biden-says-sissi-agreed-to-reopen-rafah-in-order-to-allow-in-20-trucks-of-aid/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/biden-says-sissi-agreed-to-reopen-rafah-in-order-to-allow-in-20-trucks-of-aid/) 19 Oct 23

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/17/israel-hamas-war-live-anger-after-israeli-strike-kills-500-in-hospital> 19 Oct

23

<sup>40</sup> <https://english.ahram.org.eg/News/510504.aspx>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>41</sup> [https://www.axios.com/2023/10/17/israel-news-us-military-hezbollah-attacks?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=editorial](https://www.axios.com/2023/10/17/israel-news-us-military-hezbollah-attacks?utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=editorial), 17

Oct 23

<sup>42</sup> <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/10/18/Saudi-Arabia-calls-on-citizens-to-immediately-leave-Lebanon>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>43</sup> <https://lb.usembassy.gov/message-for-u-s-citizens-october-18-2023/>, 18 Oct 23

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-vetoes-un-security-council-action-israel-gaza-2023-10-18/>, 19 Oct 23

mistake in Lebanon could spark a much larger war, however, if Hezbollah initiates a war against Israel, the US military will join the IDF in fighting the terror group.<sup>45</sup>

The White House National Security Council has made an assessment that Israel was not responsible for the explosion at the al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza.<sup>46</sup> Initial evidence of the hospital explosion is “inconsistent with an airstrike” and “far more consistent with a small projectile falling”, however it does not rule out other forms of attack such as air-burst munitions.<sup>47,48</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/us-privately-pushing-israel-not-to-initiate-war-with-hezbollah-officials/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/us-privately-pushing-israel-not-to-initiate-war-with-hezbollah-officials/) 19 Oct 23

<sup>46</sup> [https://twitter.com/NSC\\_Spox/status/1714654402118832440?s=20](https://twitter.com/NSC_Spox/status/1714654402118832440?s=20), 19 Oct 23

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67141589>, 19 Oct 23

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/17/israel-hamas-war-live-anger-after-israeli-strike-kills-500-in-hospital> 19 Oct 23

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Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## **ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)**

**Context:** *This Open Source Report (OSR) is derived from publically available information and may contain initial observations, and should not be considered finished intelligence. Any questions concerning the contents of this OSR should be directed to the contact listed at the end of this document.*

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Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. Humanitarian aid Convoy and Rafah checkpoint repairs.
- B. Israeli Minister of Defence visits troops on Israel-Gaza border.
- C. West-Bank protests continue.
- D. IDF and LH skirmishes continue at the Israel-Lebanon border.

Key Points:

- Rafah border crossing under repair to enable entry of Humanitarian aid convoy.
- Israeli Minister of Defence tells troops “they will be in Gaza soon”.
- North Korean weapons likely used by Palestinians.
- US Destroyer intercepts Houthi missiles likely intended for Israel.

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## GAZA

### **Kinetic activity update**

IDF airstrikes continue throughout Northern Gaza,<sup>1 2 3 4</sup> with single source reports of airstrikes in the following areas:

- a. Khan Yunis<sup>5 6 7</sup>
- b. Deir al-Balah<sup>8</sup>
- c. Nuseirat<sup>9 10</sup>

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### **Humanitarian Situation**

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 19 - 20 Oct 23:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has stated that five trucks of medical supplies are ready at the Rafah border, along with a convoy of 20 other trucks from various organisations (*See map, point A*). Other reports indicate more than 100 trucks have been queuing over the past several days on the Egyptian side of the border awaiting the green light to transit into Gaza.<sup>11</sup> Equipment has reportedly been sent to repair the road on the Rafah Crossing to allow the initial aid convoy to cross the border.<sup>12</sup>

Over 500,000 Palestinians are reportedly staying in emergency shelters.<sup>13</sup>

Approximately 4,079 Palestinians are recorded dead (*1,413 Children 34.6%, 806 Women 19.8%, 1,860 Men 45.6%*), and more than 15,000 Palestinians have been injured.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJABreaking/status/1715015297013285169>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>2</sup> [https://twitter.com/SkyNewsArabia\\_B/status/1715007355849433460](https://twitter.com/SkyNewsArabia_B/status/1715007355849433460), 20 Oct 23

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/asharqnewsbrk/status/1714935245294723209>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>4</sup> <https://x.com/seraisat/status/1715043249881034832?s=46>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>5</sup> [https://twitter.com/AlArabiya\\_Brk/status/1714965161897824257](https://twitter.com/AlArabiya_Brk/status/1714965161897824257), 20 Oct 23

<sup>6</sup> [https://twitter.com/AlArabiya\\_Brk/status/1714968996095615261](https://twitter.com/AlArabiya_Brk/status/1714968996095615261), 20 Oct 23

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/RamAbdu/status/1715005852619251717>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>8</sup> <https://twitter.com/HalabTodayTV/status/1715078166849430000>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>9</sup> [https://t.me/ignis\\_fatum/4677](https://t.me/ignis_fatum/4677), 20 Oct 23

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/AlainBRK/status/1715005577355829299>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/19/who-says-aid-ready-to-go-into-gaza-as-israeli-bombardment-continues>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>12</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142532>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>13</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142532>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>14</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israel-destroys-quarter-northern-gaza-strip-palestinian-death-toll-exceeds-4000-enar#:text=According%20to%20documentation%20by%20Euro,them%20being%20children%20and%20women,2023>, 20 Oct 23

Approximately 20% of the houses in Northern Gaza have been deemed no longer fit for habitation. The town of Beit Hanoun is worst affected with approximately 60% of its buildings destroyed or severely damaged.<sup>15</sup>

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres makes an appeal for a Humanitarian cease fire between Hamas and Israel. However, Israel will not let humanitarian aid through its own borders until Hamas release the Israeli hostages.<sup>16</sup>

Gaza's Health ministry have stated that five hospitals are out of service and an additional 14 health facilities have closed due to lack of resources.<sup>17</sup>

## **ISRAEL**

### **IDF Activity**

Open source reporting indicates the following changes in the IDF activity OTP 19 – 20 Oct 23:

The IDF logistics department and the MOD have been procuring ceramic body armour plates, with tens of thousands already dispatched to troops in the field. Over 9,000 ceramic vests have been issued to end units. The General Staff Supply Centre Commander, Brigadier General Shagiv Sharvit, has stated that every soldier who needs a ceramic vest will get one, and that a ceramic vest assembly line was created, with thousands of vests being received daily.<sup>18</sup>

Since the beginning of the conflict, the IDF has reportedly created an intelligence system/formation to locate Israeli hostages in Gaza. The formation was stated to consist of intelligence, technology, and security personnel, with hundreds of these being reservists and volunteers, including personnel from the Israeli tech industry.<sup>19</sup>

During a visit to troops at the Gaza-Israel border (*see map, point B*), the Israeli Minister of Defence, Yoav Gallant, told troops that "You see Gaza now from a distance, you will soon see it from inside" indicating that the ground offensive is nearing.<sup>20</sup>

## **WEST-BANK**

Open source reporting regarding the West-Bank OTP 19 - 20 Oct 23:

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<sup>15</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israel-destroys-quarter-northern-gaza-strip-palestinian-death-toll-exceeds-4000-enar#:~:text=According%20to%20documentation%20by%20Euro,them%20being%20children%20and%20women,> 20 Oct 23

<sup>16</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/israel-hamas-war-gaza-news-10-19-23/index.html>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/10/19/gaza-hospitals-israel-war/>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714959886910439703#m> 20 Oct 23

<sup>19</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715045505661587903#m> 20 Oct 23

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-reports-deal-with-egypt-restart-aid-gaza-protests-rock-middle-east-2023-10-18/> 19 Oct. 23

Israeli Security Forces (ISF) reportedly conducted raids on the Nur Al Shams refugee camp in Tulkarem killing nine raising the death toll to approximately 75 Palestinians since 07 Oct 23. ISF have arrested approximately 850 Palestinians in West Bank and Jerusalem over the last two weeks.<sup>21 22</sup>

ISF reportedly arrest over 80 wanted suspects in West-bank, including 63 Hamas members. Hamas spokesperson Hassan Yousef was reportedly among the detained.

Palestinians in the Jerusalem, West Bank, have protested for the second day following the Gaza Hospital Blast (*see map, point C*).<sup>23 24</sup>

## **REGIONAL REPORTING**

### **Lebanon**

Open source reporting indicates the following changes in the humanitarian situation OTP 19 – 20 Oct 23:

UNIFIL forces aided Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) who requested assistance for seven individuals who were stuck near the ‘blue line’, close to the grave of Sheikh Abbad, during a period of fire (*see map, point D*). After the UNIFIL contacted the IDF to cease their fire, the LAF were able to evacuate the individuals from the area, with one of the individuals reportedly killed.<sup>25</sup>

### **Hezbollah – IDF activity**

On 19 Oct 23, the IDF attacked Hezbollah military targets near the Lebanese border, including an observation post which has previously fired on the Israeli settlement, Rosh Hankara.<sup>26 27</sup>

On 20 Oct 23, near the Western Galilee, six rocket launches from Lebanese territory to Israeli territory were detected, with five of the rockets falling in open areas and one being intercepted by air defence. Anti-tank fire was reported at Dvornit and small arms fire in the Zerait area near the Lebanese border. IDF forces responded with artillery fire at the points of origin.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/19/several-palestinians-killed-by-israeli-forces-in-the-occupied-west-bank>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/five-palestinians-killed-west-bank-clashes-with-israeli-forces-ministry-2023-10-19/>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/a/west-bank-palestinians-protest-for-second-day-after-gaza-hospital-blast-7316809.html>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018911916/demonstrations-in-west-bank-after-gaza-hospital-attack>, 20 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> [https://twitter.com/UNIFIL\\_/status/1715093575107535113#m](https://twitter.com/UNIFIL_/status/1715093575107535113#m) 20 Oct 23

<sup>26</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714814146623992171#m> 19 Oct. 23

<sup>27</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714927346384253297#m> 19 Oct. 23

<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714997682035380530#m> 20 Oct. 23

On 20 Oct 23, alerts in the Western galilee detected 20 launches from Lebanese territory to Israeli territory. In response to the launches, the IDF attacked Hezbollah infrastructure, including observation and alert positions. An IAF combat helicopter also attacked a squad of insurgents who had intended to launch anti-tank missiles at Israel.<sup>29 30</sup>

## Syria

On 19 Oct 23, a US military base in Syria, was attacked by drones. One drone was shot down, but the other drone impacted reportedly causing minor injuries. The drone attack occurred at the al-Tanf garrison in south-eastern Syria, which is located at a juncture which is reportedly often used by Iranian-backed militants to ferry weapons to Hezbollah. It was also reported that a drone attack took place at a Conoco gas field in eastern Syria, which also houses US troops.<sup>31</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

Open source reporting indicates the following changes in the humanitarian situation OTP 19 – 20 Oct 23:

The US Navy Destroyer, USS Carney, intercepted 3 land attack missiles while transiting the Red Sea. The destroyer was reported to have also destroyed several drones on the same day. The Pentagon has confirmed that the missiles and drones were launched by Houthi forces in Yemen. The Pentagon has yet to be able to confirm the trajectory and target of the missiles, but stated they were “potentially toward targets in Israel.”<sup>32</sup>

Two US military bases in Iraq were attacked by three drones. The attacks occurred at the al Asad airbase in western Iraq, and another base in northern Iraq. US air defence intercepted all three drones, destroying two, but only managing to damage the third drone, causing injuries at the western base. The Islamic Resistance in Iraq have claimed responsibility for the attacks, stating it will herald more operations against the American occupation.<sup>33</sup>

North Korean arms experts in South Korea have claimed that the weapons seized by the IDF from the Hamas attack on Israel included North Korean made weapons. The weapon was stated to be an F-7 RPG launcher. Another expert stated the F-7 has been observed to be used in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and the Gaza strip in the past, with the expert claiming that North Korea has long supported Palestinian militant groups. The F-7 was said to have been identified in images by its distinctive red strip across its warhead, and other notable distinctive features. Other experts have claimed to have identified Hamas using North

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<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1714997682035380530#m> 20 Oct. 23

<sup>30</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715109611886235795#m> 20 Oct. 23

<sup>31</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/us-military-base-syria-drone-attacks-0909cb5b2717963dfd6c4e93522c5ae8>  
20 Oct. 23 20 Oct 23

<sup>32</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/19/politics/us-navy-intercept-missiles-yemen/index.html>  
20 Oct 23

<sup>33</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/iraq-militias-iran-us-base-attack-drone-hamas-israel-war-80f6739c3ab34662afba316285914e39> 19 Oct 23

Korean Bulsae guided anti-tank missiles in propaganda videos and Hamas using North Korean Type 58 Self-loading AK assault rifle variant during the October 7 attacks.<sup>34</sup>

US officials have told reporters that the US plans to send two Iron Dome missile defence systems back to Israel, which the US had previously purchased from Israel. The source stated that the defence systems would be leased to Israel and could arrive within days.<sup>35</sup>

The US travel agency and department of State has released a worldwide caution alert to US citizens around the world , with warnings that potential terrorist attacks, demonstrations or violent actions against US citizens and interests could occur. This comes after many protests across the Middle East have occurred against Israel and the US.<sup>36</sup>

The UK Government has released a travel warning for Lebanon, advising UK citizens to avoid all travel to Lebanon, and encouraging those in Lebanon to leave the country using commercial airlines.<sup>37</sup>

The German Foreign Ministry has called for all German nationals to leave Lebanon and the West bank, encouraging German citizens in those countries to register with ELEFAND (Electronic System for Germans Abroad), in order to track those in Lebanon and West Bank.<sup>38 39</sup>

The Australian government has updated the Lebanon travel guide and now advises Australian citizens not to travel to Lebanon. They have also urged Australians in Lebanon to leave the country due to security concerns.<sup>40 41</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-hamas-north-korea-weapons-703e33663ea299f920d0d14039adfb8> 20 Oct 23

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-send-two-iron-dome-systems-back-israel-sources-2023-10-19/> 20 Oct 23

<sup>36</sup> <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/worldwide-caution.html> 20 Oct 23

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/lebanon> 19 Oct 23

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/service/laender/libanon-node/libanonsicherheit/204048> 20 Oct 23

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/service/laender/israel-node/israelsicherheit/203814> 20 Oct 23

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/do-not-travel-to-lebanon-amid-unrest-australian-government-advises/cy4p7k9c5> 19 Oct 23

<sup>41</sup> <https://twitter.com/Smartraveller/status/1714841081249202635> 19 Oct 23

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Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## **ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)**

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Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. Aid could cross border in the next few days.
- B. Israel have announced an evacuation for the residents of Kiryat Shmona.
- C. HQ of Likud party in Tel Aviv defaced with fake blood.
- D. IDF soldier wounded by insurgent.
- E. Convoy of vehicles in support of Hamas dispersed by IDF.

Key Points:

- Israel announces evacuation plan for Kiryat Shmona, IVO Lebanon border.
- Israeli Minister of Defence announces 3 phase plan / objectives for Gaza .
- Conflict on Israel – Lebanon border continues.
- Drones and rockets have attacked two more US bases in Iraq.
- Hamas have released two American hostages, a mother and daughter.

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## GAZA

### **Kinetic activity update**

IDF airstrikes continue throughout Northern Gaza,<sup>1 2 3 4</sup> Single source reporting indicates airstrikes occurred in the following areas OTP 20 - 21 Oct 23

- a. Deir al-Balah<sup>5 6</sup>
- b. Khan Yunis<sup>7 8 9</sup>
- c. Nuseirat<sup>10 11</sup>

### **Humanitarian Situation**

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 20 - 21 Oct 23:

Two more aid workers from the United Nation Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees have been killed bringing the total to 16 since 07 Oct 23. Other lines of reporting indicate that the number is likely to be higher as a further 10 UNRWA staff have been injured and approximately 33 UNRWA facilities have suffered damage from IDF airstrikes.<sup>12</sup>

United States Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, states that humanitarian aid to Gaza through the Rafah Crossing has been a priority for the Biden administration in its regional diplomacy.<sup>13</sup>

Nebal Farsakh, spokesperson for Palestine Red Crescent Society states that the Al-Quds hospital located in southwest Gaza City has approximately 500 patients, many of whom are in the intensive care unit (ICU). Most patients in the ICU are children. This statement follows the Israeli order on 14 Oct 23 to evacuate the hospital. World Health Organisation (WHO) have announced that evacuation orders for hospitals are impossible to implement as they constitute a death penalty for all patients.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/gnnanow/status/1715148111377563973?s=46>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>2</sup> [https://twitter.com/ignis\\_fatum/status/1715270465051033701](https://twitter.com/ignis_fatum/status/1715270465051033701), 21 Oct 23

<sup>3</sup> [https://twitter.com/no\\_itsmyturn/status/1715267001646493859](https://twitter.com/no_itsmyturn/status/1715267001646493859), 21 Oct 23

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/GNNANOW/status/1715371900300354001>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>5</sup> <https://x.com/paldf/status/1715201568465699100?s=46>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>6</sup> [https://twitter.com/no\\_itsmyturn/status/1715270995605393883](https://twitter.com/no_itsmyturn/status/1715270995605393883), 21 Oct 23

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/SafaPs/status/1715161408122323102>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/ignis\\_fatum/4781](https://t.me/ignis_fatum/4781), 21 Oct 23

<sup>9</sup> [https://x.com/alarabiya\\_brk/status/1715167961391022314?s=46](https://x.com/alarabiya_brk/status/1715167961391022314?s=46), 21 Oct 23

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/paldf/status/1715340489203822854>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/GNNANOW/status/1715349023152865524>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>12</sup> <https://news.sky.com/story/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-gaza-latest-sky-news-blog-12978800>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/19/israel-hamas-war-live-condemnation-after-israeli-strike-on-gaza-church>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/19/israel-hamas-war-live-condemnation-after-israeli-strike-on-gaza-church>, 21 Oct 23

Doctors without Borders (Medecins San Frontieres, MSF) reports that thousands of wounded people in north Gaza “are in serious danger of dying in the next few hours because it’s becoming impossible to get medical attention. Hospitals and medical centres are under duress as hospital workers operate with restricted access to electricity and water under the Israeli airstrikes”.<sup>15</sup>

UN statements indicate that trucks with humanitarian aid for Gaza should arrive within the next day or say as the repairs of the Rafah Crossing continue (*see map, point A*).<sup>16 17</sup>

4,137 Palestinians have reportedly been killed in Gaza since Israel began bombardments. Amongst those, 16 people died after the bombing near the Greek Orthodox church of Saint Porphyrius on 20 Oct 23.<sup>18</sup>

### **Hamis**

Hamis fighters who were involved in the 7 Oct 23 attack were allegedly under the influence of Captagon. Hebrew media claimed that pills were recovered from the pockets of dead fighters in Israeli territory. Captagon has historically been used by ISIS fighters to suppress fear before terrorist operations. It has been reported that Lebanon and Syria have been producing and distributing the drugs. Captagon is a synthetic amphetamine-type stimulant which is popular within the Arabian Peninsula and Gaza. The drug produces a sense of calmness and indifference, and it keeps the user highly alert for extended periods and suppresses their appetite.<sup>19</sup>

### **WEST-BANK**

83 Palestinians have reportedly been killed in West-bank since 07 Oct 23.<sup>20</sup>

### **SRAEL**

#### **DF Activity**

The Israeli Ministry of Defence and National Emergency Authority have announced an evacuation plan for the residents of Kiryat Shmona (*see map, Point B*) to state-funded guest-houses in other regions. Kiryat Shmona is an Israeli border city in northeast Israel.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/19/israel-hamas-war-live-condemnation-after-israeli-strike-on-gaza-church>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/19/israel-hamas-war-live-condemnation-after-israeli-strike-on-gaza-church>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/israel-hamas-war-biden/card/repair-work-starts-at-rafah-border-crossing-lGL9r39fEqu3l3n7vXAf>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/gaza-war-death-toll-rises-to-4137-hamas-health-ministry/articleshow/104592652.cms>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/health-and-wellness/article-769250> 20 Oct 23

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/palestinian-death-toll-from-israeli-fire-in-west-bank-rises-to-83/3027696>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715228110386352510#m> 20 Oct 23

The Defence Minister of Israel, Yoav Gallant, has announced Israel's war plans and objectives for Gaza. He announces that the plan includes three phases; the first phase is a military campaign with air strikes and a ground invasion with the purpose of eliminating operatives and damaging infrastructure to eliminate and destroy Hamas, the second phase is lower intensity fighting to eliminate pockets of resistance, the third phase includes the creation of a new security regime in Gaza. This phase would include the removal of Israel's responsibility for day-to-day life in Gaza, and the creation of a new security reality for the citizens of Israel and the residents of the area surrounding Gaza.<sup>22</sup>

The IDF denies claims that Israel called for an evacuation of the Al-Quds Hospital and five schools in preparation for a potential attack. The Palestinian Red Crescent had launched an appeal, stating the IDF had demanded the evacuation of the hospitals and schools. An IDF Spokesperson reiterated that the IDF has only been calling for the evacuation of northern Gaza, and that the IDF doesn't attack hospitals.<sup>23</sup>

The Defence Minister of Israel arrived at an IDF assembly area near the Border with Gaza to closely monitor the readiness of IDF forces for the expansion of the campaign. The Minister spoke with commanders and soldiers from various units.<sup>24</sup>

### **Civil Dissent in Israel**

The headquarters of the Likud party, the political party of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was defaced and vandalised with fake blood. Pictures of hostages were displayed near the entrance of the building and pictures of the Prime Minister with bloody handprints were also displayed (*see map, point C*). The act was described as blaming the PM for the 7 Oct 23 Hamas attack.<sup>25</sup>

### **Israeli Government Statements**

Lawmakers from the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee leaked quotes from a governmental meeting to the press. They claim that the Defence Minister of Israel stated that the government agreed to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza due to American pressure and reliance on the Americans, stating "The Americans insisted and we are not in a place where we can refuse them. We rely on them for planes and military equipment. What are we supposed to do? Tell them no?"<sup>26</sup>

The Office for the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, released a statement in response to Hebrew media suggesting that Israel may let the Palestinian Authority govern

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<sup>22</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/gallant-says-after-hamas-vanquished-israel-will-seek-new-security-regime-in-gaza/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/gallant-says-after-hamas-vanquished-israel-will-seek-new-security-regime-in-gaza/) 21 Oct 23

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/israel-urges-evacuation-of-gaza-hospital-five-schools-aid-groups/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/israel-urges-evacuation-of-gaza-hospital-five-schools-aid-groups/) 21 Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/gallant-visits-troops-on-gaza-border-to-monitor-their-readiness-for-expansion-of-military-campaign/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/gallant-visits-troops-on-gaza-border-to-monitor-their-readiness-for-expansion-of-military-campaign/) 21 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/tel-aviv-hq-of-netanyahus-party-defaced-with-fake-blood-and-photos-of-gaza-hostages/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/tel-aviv-hq-of-netanyahus-party-defaced-with-fake-blood-and-photos-of-gaza-hostages/) 21 Oct 23

<sup>26</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/gallant-we-cant-say-no-to-the-us-on-humanitarian-aid-given-how-much-they-do-for-us/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/gallant-we-cant-say-no-to-the-us-on-humanitarian-aid-given-how-much-they-do-for-us/) 21 Oct 23

Gaza after Israel's war plans. The statement reads, "Prime Minister Netanyahu defined the goal: the elimination of Hamas. All talk of decisions to hand over the Gaza Strip to the Palestinian Authority or any other party is a lie."<sup>27</sup>

## **REGIONAL REPORTING**

### **Lebanon**

#### **Hezbollah – IDF activity**

On 20 Oct 23, reporting indicated an IDF UAV killed an insurgent in Lebanese territory, and the IDF attacked a number of Hezbollah infrastructure in response to previous Hezbollah attacks.<sup>28</sup>

On 20 Oct 23, reporting indicated an insurgent shot at IDF forces in Margaloit, a border region with Lebanon (*see map, point D*). Hours later, the IDF located and killed the insurgent. One IDF soldier was injured by the insurgent.<sup>29 30 31</sup>

On 21 Oct 23, three Hezbollah soldiers were reportedly identified near the border fence in Lebanon, with an IDF aircraft attacking the soldiers. IDF snipers also reportedly attacked armed men working near the Lebanon border.<sup>32</sup>

On 21 Oct 23, 20 launches were reportedly detected from Lebanese territory to Israeli territory. Several anti-tank missiles were also fired at multiple IDF posts near the Lebanese border and small arms fire targeting an IDF observation post. IDF forces responded with artillery fire at the sources.<sup>33 34 35</sup>

On 21 Oct 23, two launches from Lebanese territory to Israeli territory were detected near Metula (*see map, point E*). The IDF also reportedly attacked an anti-tank squad in Lebanon.<sup>36</sup>

On 21 Oct 23, the IDF intercepted an aerial target that was traveling into Israeli airspace from Lebanese territory.<sup>37</sup> NFI.

### **Jordan**

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<sup>27</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/netanyahu-the-goal-is-to-eliminate-hamas-talk-of-handing-gaza-to-pa-a-lie/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/netanyahu-the-goal-is-to-eliminate-hamas-talk-of-handing-gaza-to-pa-a-lie/) 21 Oct 23

<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715247918209175878#m> 20 Oct 23

<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/171530122222033345#m> 20 Oct 23

<sup>30</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715308961664995329#m> 20 Oct 23

<sup>31</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715408947962634572#m> 21 Oct 23

<sup>32</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715321612470276432#m> 21 Oct 23

<sup>33</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715361454696656966#m> 21 Oct 23

<sup>34</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715372737777041484#m> 21 Oct 23

<sup>35</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715418096066789835#m> 21 Oct 23

<sup>36</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715401878811336754#m> 21 Oct 23

<sup>37</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715444167612993570#m> 21 Oct 23

Jordan's Foreign Minister, Ayman Safadi, speaks during a news conference with German Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerбок, stating that the country feared the worst was yet to come in the Israel-Hamas war, with no signs of success in efforts to de-escalate tensions.<sup>38</sup>

Approximately 800 supporters of Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) an Iranian-backed Iraqi paramilitary group gathered at Iraq's main border crossing with Jordan to express solidarity with Gaza and call for an end to the blockade. Despite a heavy security presence, the protesters set up tents and staged a sit-in demanding that Israel allow aid into Gaza.<sup>39</sup>

## **Egypt**

Tens of thousands of protesters rally across Egypt in support of Gaza. Large crowds have been observed in Cairo's Tahrir Square.<sup>40 41</sup>

## **INTERNATIONAL REPORTING**

The Russian Foreign Ministry has strongly recommended for Russian Citizens to refrain from traveling to the Middle East region, mainly Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestinian territories. The ministry states that about 6,000 Russian citizens have arrived back in Russia from Israel since October 9.<sup>42</sup>

Drones and rockets have attacked two more US bases in Iraq. Rockets and drones targeted the Ain al-Asad air base, which hosts coalition forces, with multiple blasts heard within the base. Additionally, rockets hit a US base near the Baghdad international airport, with a US official stating two rockets were launched, with one being intercepted and the other hitting an empty storage facility. Iraqi militants, who took responsibility for the prior attacks, have warned the US against supporting Israel.<sup>43</sup>

Hamas have released two American hostages, a mother and daughter. The two hostages were handed over to the IDF at the Gaza border and were then given to the Red Cross. The release was the result of Hamas and Qatari negotiations, with Qatar being able to secure their release on the basis of humanitarian reasons. Qatar confirmed their involvement and stated they will continue dialogue between Israel and Hamas in hope to secure the release of all hostages.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/jordans-foreign-minister-says-we-fear-worst-gaza-war-2023-10-19/>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iraqis-stage-sit-in-iraq-jordan-border-calling-end-gaza-blockade-2023-10-20/>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>40</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/thousands-rally-for-palestinians-in-gaza-in-tahrir-square-and-across-egypt/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/thousands-rally-for-palestinians-in-gaza-in-tahrir-square-and-across-egypt/), 21 Oct 23

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.africanews.com/2023/10/20/mass-protests-in-egypt-in-solidarity-with-gaza/>, 21 Oct 23

<sup>42</sup> <https://interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/95694/> 21 Oct 23

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/rockets-drones-hit-iraqi-base-housing-us-forces-security-sources-2023-10-19/> 20 Oct 23

<sup>44</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/20/middleeast/hamas-us-hostages-released-intl/index.html> 21 Oct 23

s.6(a)



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<sup>45</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/what-do-we-now-about-amas-hostages-2023-10-19/>



s.6(a)





Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)

**Context:** *This Open Source report (OSR) is derived from publically available information and may contain initial observations, and should not be considered finished intelligence. Any questions concerning the contents of this OSR should be directed to the contact listed at the end of this document.*

s.6(a)

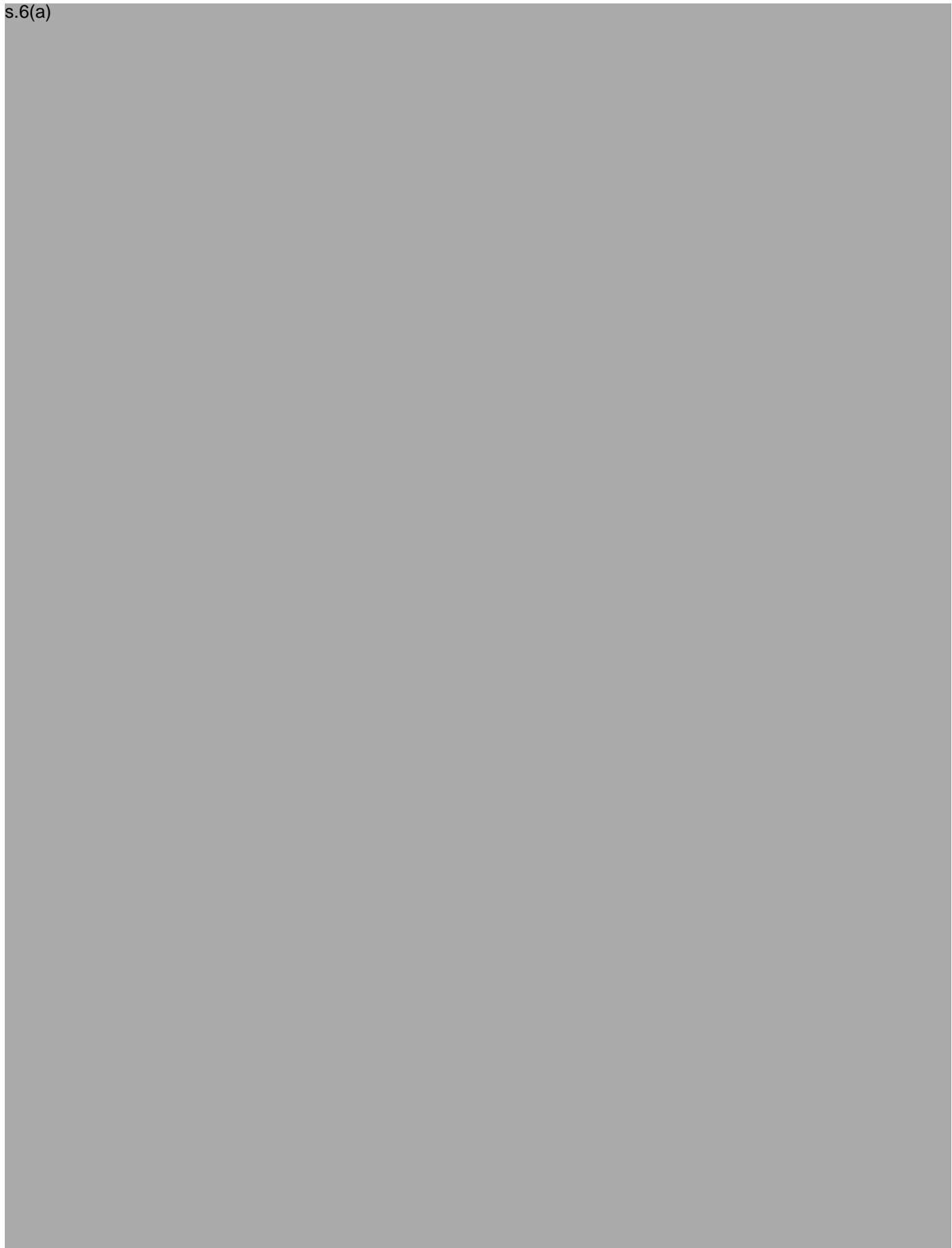
Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. Leaflet drop in Gaza City.
- B. Humanitarian aid trucks entered Gaza via Rafah Border Crossing.
- C. Joint IDF / Shin Beit operation at the Al-Ansari Mosque.

Key Points:

- IDF spokesperson announces planned increase on strikes against GAZA.
- 20 humanitarian aid trucks delivered supplies to Southern Gaza.
- Hamas claimed that it offered to release two Israeli hostages for humanitarian reasons.
- The IDF and Shin Bet conducted a joint operation on an underground terror compound located beneath the Al-Ansari Mosque.
- Conflict on the Israel – Lebanon border continues.
- The Cairo Peace Summit ended without leaders and foreign ministers agreeing on a joint statement.
- Commander of the IRGC Quds Force arrived in in Syria to supervise pro-Iranian militia on the Israel – Syria border.
- Approx. 100,000 people marched in a London protest in support of Palestine.

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## GAZA

### **Kinetic Activity Update**

IDF airstrikes continued, primarily targeting Nuseirat Refugee Camp and a Central Gaza market.<sup>1 2 3</sup> Single source reporting indicates airstrikes also occurred in the following areas OTP 21 – 22 Oct 23:

- a. Deir al-Balah <sup>4</sup>
- b. IVO Nasser Hospital, Khan Yunis <sup>5</sup>
- c. Gaza City <sup>6</sup>

An al-Qassam Brigades commander was killed in an IDF airstrike in central Gaza.<sup>7</sup>

An IDF spokesperson stated the military planned to increase strikes on Gaza. “We will deepen our attacks to minimise the dangers to our forces in the next stages of the war. We are going to increase the attacks from today.”<sup>8</sup>

A leaflet drop in Gaza City (*See map, point A*) on 21 Oct 23 by IDF aircraft was reported to have stated that those who didn’t evacuate would be deemed as cooperating with terrorist groups.<sup>9</sup> A subsequent IDF announcement claimed this as a mistranslation, stating “To clarify, the IDF has no intention of considering those who have yet to evacuate as a member of a terrorist group”.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/20/israel-gaza-war-live-hamas-releases-two-american-captives-from-gaza> 21 Oct 23 1840 GMT

<sup>2</sup>

[https://twitter.com/AlertChannel/status/1715791027770921082?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet](https://twitter.com/AlertChannel/status/1715791027770921082?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet)

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJABreaking/status/1715792686156857805>

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/PalinfoAr/status/1715846300548104458>

<sup>5</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJABreaking/status/1715805527005913453>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/20/israel-gaza-war-live-hamas-releases-two-american-captives-from-gaza> 21 Oct 1529 GMT

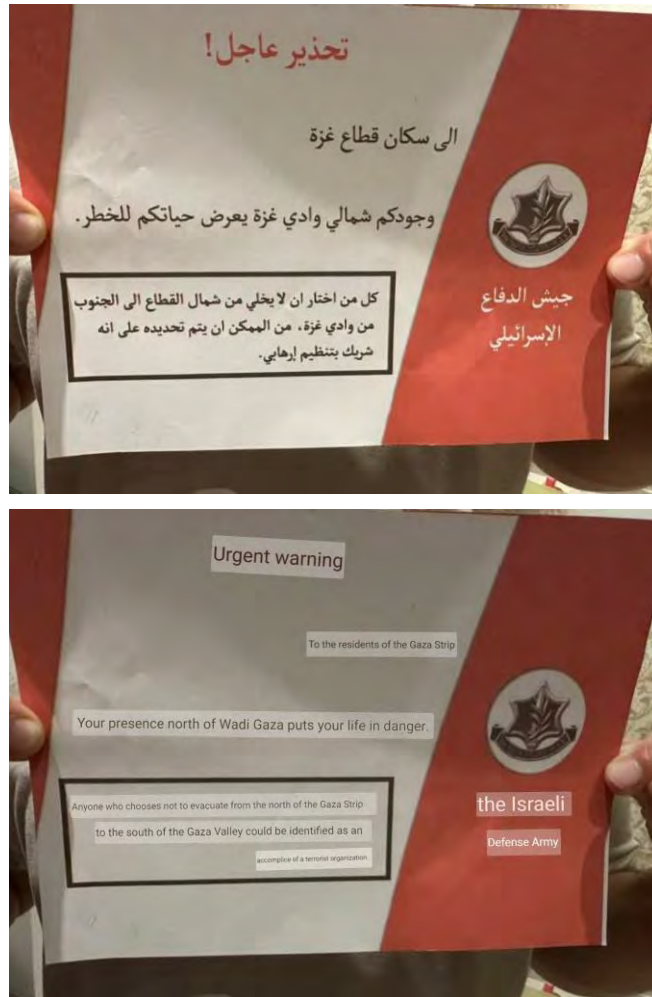
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/20/israel-gaza-war-live-hamas-releases-two-american-captives-from-gaza> 21 Oct 23 1531 GMT

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/20/israel-gaza-war-live-hamas-releases-two-american-captives-from-gaza> 21 Oct 23 1813 GMT

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/20/israel-gaza-war-live-hamas-releases-two-american-captives-from-gaza> 21 Oct 1529 GMT

<sup>10</sup>

[https://twitter.com/IDF/status/1715819239221641617?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet](https://twitter.com/IDF/status/1715819239221641617?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet) 22 Oct 23



**Figure 1.** IDF Leaflet and Translation

### Humanitarian Situation

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 21 – 22 Oct 23:

35 United Nation Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) facilities have been reported hit by attacks in Gaza since the conflict began on 7 Oct 23.<sup>11</sup>

The majority of Gaza’s sewage pumping stations and all of its wastewater treatment facilities are no longer running. Desalination plants and water pumps are also not working. People have resorting to drinking from contaminated farm wells, aquifers, and seawater. Agencies have warned that the collapse of water and sanitation services will spark bouts of cholera and other infectious diseases.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/20/israel-gaza-war-live-hamas-releases-two-american-captives-from-gaza> 21 Oct 23 1642 GMT

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/21/gazas-next-big-threat-cholera-infectious-diseases-amid-total-blockade> 21 Oct 23

In Gaza, 69 attacks have been reported on health facilities, 24 attacks on ambulances and more than 37 medical staff have been killed since 07 Oct 23. Seven hospitals are also non-operational.<sup>13</sup>

The Rafah Border Crossing between Gaza and Egypt was open one way to allow 20 humanitarian aid trucks to enter Southern Gaza (*See map, point B*). The trucks delivered medicine, medical supplies and a limited amount of canned food goods. Israel reiterated that no fuel would be allowed in the aid convoys although it is required for generators being used to operate hospitals and water pumps.<sup>14</sup>

An additional 20 to 30 trucks are planning to deliver aid through the Rafah Crossing tomorrow, with negotiations ongoing between the UN and Israel.<sup>15</sup>

Hamas claimed that it offered to release two Israeli hostages for humanitarian reasons but this offer was refused by Israel. Israel has referred to this statement as “false propaganda”.<sup>16</sup>

## **WEST BANK**

The IDF announced that an explosion at the Al-Ansari Mosque, within the Jenin Refugee Camp (*See map, point C*), was the result of a joint operation and airstrikes between the IDF and Shin Bet on an underground terror compound located beneath the mosque. It was reported that the compound was being used by both Hamas and the PIJ to prepare an imminent terror attack.<sup>17 18</sup>

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society stated 41 Palestinians had been injured on Saturday (21 Oct 23) in the West Bank. At least 1782 Palestinians have been wounded in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since 07 Oct 23.<sup>19</sup>

## **ISRAEL**

An Israeli-American citizen was killed on 21 Oct 23 during an anti-tank missile attack on the Israel-Lebanon border.<sup>20</sup>

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant visited IDF troops of the 91<sup>st</sup> territorial division at Biranit Camp, on the Southern Lebanon border. He stated Lebanese Hezbollah would be

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/20/israel-gaza-war-live-hamas-releases-two-american-captives-from-gaza> 21 Oct 23 1610 GMT

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/21/rafah-border-crossing-between-gaza-egypt-opens-for-aid-trucks> 21 Oct 23

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67165505> 22 Oct 23 1021 GMT+13

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/21/hamas-says-israel-refused-to-recieve-2-hostages-israel-calls-it-propaganda> 21 Oct 23

<sup>17</sup> <https://nitter.net/sentdefender/status/1715883019058233547#m> 22 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1715880632486682937> 22 Oct 23

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/20/israel-gaza-war-live-hamas-releases-two-american-captives-from-gaza> 21 Oct 23 1812 GMT

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-announces-death-of-reserve-soldier-in-missile-attack-along-lebanon-border/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-announces-death-of-reserve-soldier-in-missile-attack-along-lebanon-border/) 21 Oct 23

paying “a heavy price” for the missile, rocket and shooting attacks against northern Israeli military sites and towns conducted in recent days.<sup>21</sup>

## **REGIONAL REPORTING**

### **Lebanon**

#### **Hezbollah – IDF Activity**

Conflict along the Israel-Lebanon border continues to increase as Lebanese Hezbollah continue to attempt to weaken IDF forces. Concerns about Lebanese Hezbollah opening a new front with a large scale attack also continue to grow. Hamas has stated that Hezbollah will join the fighting if the IDF commences a ground offensive in Gaza.<sup>22</sup>

Israel conducted airstrikes against targets in Southern Lebanon and Hezbollah fired rockets and missiles towards Israel. Hezbollah reported that six of its fighters were killed in these attacks, the highest daily toll since violence escalated on 07 Oct 23.<sup>23</sup>

### **Egypt**

A number of world leaders gathered at the Cairo Peace Summit to discuss ways to “de-escalate” the Israel-Hamas war amid growing fears of a wider Middle East conflict. Arab leaders condemned the Israeli bombardment of Gaza while European leaders advocated for the protection of civilians. Israel and senior US officials did not attend the Summit and the meeting ended without leaders and foreign ministers agreeing on a joint statement.<sup>24 25</sup>

At the Cairo Peace Summit Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi stated that he rejects the forced displacement of Palestinians into the Sinai Peninsula.<sup>26 27</sup>

### **Jordan**

King Abdullah II of Jordan stated at the Cairo Peace Summit “The message the Arab world is hearing is loud and clear... Palestinian lives matter less than Israeli ones. Our lives matter less than other lives. The application of international law is options, and human rights have boundaries – they stop at borders, they stop at races and they stop at religions.”<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/on-northern-border-gallant-says-hezbollah-paying-heavy-price-for-attacks-on-israel/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/on-northern-border-gallant-says-hezbollah-paying-heavy-price-for-attacks-on-israel/) 21 Oct 23

<sup>22</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/hezbollah-hamas-gaza-israel-border-tensions-109cefe8b05ac6bd9abac9da0d2f53a3> 22 Oct 23

<sup>23</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/hezbollah-hamas-gaza-israel-border-tensions-109cefe8b05ac6bd9abac9da0d2f53a3> 22 Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/cairo-peace-summit-grapples-with-gaza-war-risks-region-rise-2023-10-21/> 22 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/21/world-leaders-attend-cairo-peace-summit-to-de-escalate-israel-hamas-war> 21 Oct 23

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67181514> 21 Oct 23

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/21/world/middleeast/peace-summit-gaza-egypt.html> 21 Oct 23

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/21/world/middleeast/peace-summit-gaza-egypt.html> 21 Oct 23

King Abdullah II has also stated at the Cairo Peace Summit “The relentless bombing campaign underway in Gaza as we speak, is cruel and unconscionable on every level. It is collective punishment of a besieged and helpless people. It is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. It is a war crime.”<sup>29</sup>

### **Iraq**

(U) The Islamic Resistance in Iraq has claimed responsibility for two drone attacks against the Ain al-Assad Air Base, which is used by US forces. The Islamic Resistance released a letter claiming direct hits on the base.<sup>30</sup>

### **Syria**

(U) The Commander of the IRGC Quds Force, Brigadier General Ismail Qa’ani has arrived in in Syria to supervise pro-Iranian militias which are on high alert along the Israel-Syria border.<sup>31</sup>

## **INTERNATIONAL REPORTING**

Police have estimated at 100,000 people marched in a protest in support of Palestine, to denounce Israel’s bombing of Gaza and to call for an immediate ceasefire. The protesters chanted “free Palestine” as they moved through London before massing at 10 Downing St.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/International/live-updates/israel-gaza-live-updates/?id=104049894> 21 Oct 23  
1715 GMT

<sup>30</sup> <https://english.almayadeen.net/news/politics/iraqi-resistance-targets-us-occupation-forces-in-ain-al-assa>  
22 Oct 23

<sup>31</sup> <https://nitter.net/sentdefender/status/1715846055546232863#m> 22 Oct 23

<sup>32</sup> <https://aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/21/londons-march-for-palestine-sees-100-000-calling-for-a-ceasefire>  
21 Oct 23



s.6(a)





Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)

**Context:** *This Open Source report (OSR) is derived from publically available information and may contain initial observations, and should not be considered finished intelligence. Any questions concerning the contents of this OSR should be directed to the contact listed at the end of this document.*

s.6(a)

Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. IDF airstrike on Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp.
- B. Second aid convoy entered Gaza.
- C. Palestinian killed by IDF gunfire.
- D. IDF raids IVO Ramallah.
- E. Hamas rocket attacks.
- F. IDF strikes against Hezbollah.
- G. Hezbollah missile attacks against Israel.
- H. IDF air raid on Aitaroun.
- I. Rockets fired towards Sheebaa Farms.
- J. IDF tank hit Egyptian position.

Key Points:

- An IDF raid into Gaza was intended to locate hostages.
- A second humanitarian aid convoy delivered supplies through the Rafah Crossing.
- Conflict on Israel - Lebanon border continues.
- Shell fragments from an IDF tank accidentally hit an Egyptian position near the Gaza border, injuring seven personnel.
- Israeli missiles struck Damascus and Aleppo international airports.
- Protests/demonstrations in London, Toronto, Paris and Barcelona.

s.6(a)



## **GAZA**

### **Kinetic Activity Update**

IDF airstrikes continued throughout Gaza.<sup>1 2 3</sup> Single source reporting indicates airstrikes occurred in the following areas OTP 22 – 23 Oct 23:

- a. Al-Mughraqa<sup>4</sup>
- b. Rafah<sup>5</sup>
- c. Deir al-Balah<sup>6</sup>
- d. Al-Nasr<sup>7</sup>

Thirty people were reported killed and an additional 27 injured in an IDF airstrike on Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp (*See Map, point A*). The reported victims were predominantly women and children.<sup>8</sup>

(U) The IDF confirmed one soldier was killed and three injured by a Hamas anti-tank missile during a raid into Gaza on 22 Oct 23. The IDF stated the raid was intended to locate hostages in the Khan Younis area of Gaza. Al-Qassam Brigades announced that they had pushed IDF forces back into Israel with regard to this incident.<sup>9 10</sup>

### **Humanitarian Situation**

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 22 – 23 Oct 23:

On 22 Oct 23 a second humanitarian aid convoy entered Gaza through the Rafah Border Crossing (*See Map, point B*). Between 14 and 17 trucks (reporting varies), predominantly transporting medical aid supplies were permitted to cross. There continues to be no fuel delivered via aid convoys.<sup>11 12</sup>

The United Nations has stated that 120 new-born babies are at risk if fuel runs out at hospitals in Gaza. A UNICEF spokesperson has also expressed extreme concern due to new-

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/22/israeli-air-raids-kill-at-least-55-in-gaza-overnight-hamas-says> 22 Oct 23

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/22/1207857213/israel-intensifies-bombing-in-the-gaza-strip-with-further-strikes-in-the-west-ba> 22 Oct 23

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67185260> 22 Oct 23 2136 GMT+13

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJABreaking/status/1716145161242136785> 23 Oct 23

<sup>5</sup> [https://twitter.com/AlArabiya\\_Brk/status/1716096985529270639](https://twitter.com/AlArabiya_Brk/status/1716096985529270639) 23 Oct 23

<sup>6</sup> <https://twitter.com/safaps/status/1715995698737418258?s=46> 22 Oct 23

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/serajsat/status/1715984254016926202?s=46> 22 Oct 23

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/22/israeli-air-attacks-kill-30-in-gazas-jabalia-refugee-camp-civil-defence> 22 Oct 23

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/22/israeli-soldier-killed-during-ground-raid-in-gaza-israels-army-says> 22 Oct 23

<sup>10</sup> [https://twitter.com/academic\\_la/status/1716150426289209705](https://twitter.com/academic_la/status/1716150426289209705) 22 Oct 23

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/22/second-aid-convoy-enters-gaza-as-israel-steps-up-bombardments> 22 Oct 23

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67185260> 23 Oct 23 0914 GMT+13

borns being in incubators, some of which have mechanical ventilation that cannot run without power.<sup>13 14</sup>

Hospitals in Gaza are running out of shrouds and storage capabilities for bodies.<sup>15</sup> Many hospitals only have power for critical care departments.<sup>16 17</sup>

## **WEST BANK**

Single source reporting stated one Palestinian was killed in Nablus district by IDF gunfire (*See Map, point C*).<sup>18</sup>

At least 50 Palestinians were arrested in the West Bank on 22 Oct 23 during IDF raids in and around the city of Ramallah (*See Map, point D*).<sup>19</sup>

## **ISRAEL**

Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, met with IDF soldiers attached to the 89<sup>th</sup> Commando Brigade near the Israel-Lebanon border on 22 Oct 23 and delivered the following speech:<sup>20</sup>

“What you are doing here and what I just heard from your Commanders, is an extremely important mission. You are killing the Hezbollah men who are trying to attack our frontline. I cannot tell you right now if Hezbollah will decide to fully join the war, but if Hezbollah decides to enter the war, it will long for the Second Lebanon war. They will be making the mistake of their life. We will cripple him with a force they cannot even imagine, and the meaning for them and for the State of Lebanon is devastating. But we are prepared for any scenario. You are prepared for any Scenario.”

The IDF announced on Sunday that another 14 communities near the Israel-Lebanon border will be evacuated. The communities being added to the evacuation list were listed as: Snir, Dan, Beit Hillel, She’ar Yashuv, Hagoshrim, Liman, Matzuva, Eylon, Goren, Gornot, HaGalil, Even Menachem, Sasa, Tziv’on and Ramot Naftali.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/22/over-100-incubator-babies-at-risk-due-to-israels-fuel-cuts-to-gaza-un> 22 Oct 23

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67186181> 22 Oct 23

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67185260> 23 Oct 23 0239 GMT+13

<sup>16</sup> <https://apnews.com/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-10-21-23> 23 Oct 23 0904 GMT +13

<sup>17</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/palestinian-health-care-doctor-israel-bombing-gaza-siege-hospital-63d00d907f5469c81f49c0201801c997> 22 Oct 23

<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/SkyNewsArabia/status/1716136251521163706> 22 Oct 23

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/22/world/middleeast/israel-west-bank-air-strike-mosque.html> 22 Oct 23

<sup>20</sup> <https://nitter.net/sentdefender/status/1716083180136997128#m> 22 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-evacuate-14-more-communities-on-lebanon-border-amid-hezbollah-attacks/> 23 Oct 23

Hamas rocket attacks were reported IVO the Southern Israel towns of Beersheba and Netivot and the IDF Military Base Hatzetim (*See Map, point E*).<sup>22 23 24 25</sup>

## **REGIONAL REPORTING**

### **Lebanon**

#### **Hezbollah – IDF Activity**

The IDF announced that pre-emptive strikes had been conducted against seven Hezbollah squads throughout Southern Lebanon and IVO Mount Dov and Mattat (*See Map, point F*) who were planning attacks on Israeli towns and positions.<sup>26 27</sup>

Hezbollah launched an anti-tank guided missile towards IDF surveillance equipment at a military post IVO the northern towns of Manara and Margaliot. The IDF reported no damage and responded with artillery fire and a drone strike.<sup>28</sup>

An unspecified number of mortars were launched from Lebanon into the Northern Israel town Yiftah, and Hezbollah conducted a missile attack IVO Bar'am (*See Map, point G*). No injuries were reported.<sup>29</sup>

The IDF struck a Hezbollah position following an anti-aircraft missile launch at an Israeli drone. The missile was intercepted by air defence.<sup>30</sup>

Lebanese state news reported an IDF air raid on the Southern Lebanese town of Aitaroun (*See Map, point H*).<sup>31</sup>

Hezbollah announced that 12 of its fighters had been killed over the past 24 hours bringing the total death toll to 25.<sup>32</sup>

Single source reporting indicated rockets were fired from Southern Lebanon towards Shebaa Farms (*See Map, point I*).<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <https://twitter.com/AsharqNewsBrk/status/1716135460504813583> 23 Oct 23

<sup>23</sup> [https://twitter.com/AlArabiya\\_Brk/status/1716092761013625155](https://twitter.com/AlArabiya_Brk/status/1716092761013625155) 23 Oct 23

<sup>24</sup> <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1716092489772269669> 23 Oct 23

<sup>25</sup> [https://twitter.com/AJA\\_Egypt/status/1716128500774531182](https://twitter.com/AJA_Egypt/status/1716128500774531182) 23 Oct 23

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-evacuate-14-more-communities-on-lebanon-border-amid-hezbollah-attacks/> 22 Oct 23

<sup>27</sup> <https://nitter.net/idfonline/status/17161866676387529154#m> 23 Oct 23

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-evacuate-14-more-communities-on-lebanon-border-amid-hezbollah-attacks/> 22 Oct 23

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-evacuate-14-more-communities-on-lebanon-border-amid-hezbollah-attacks/> 22 Oct 23

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-evacuate-14-more-communities-on-lebanon-border-amid-hezbollah-attacks/> 22 Oct 23

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/21/israel-gaza-war-hamas-and-israel-spar-over-hostage-release> 22 Oct 23 2210 GMT

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/21/israel-gaza-war-hamas-and-israel-spar-over-hostage-release> 22 Oct 23 2046 GMT

<sup>33</sup> <https://twitter.com/alhurra/status/1715999066604130564?s=46> 22 Oct 23

## Egypt

Shell fragments from an IDF tank accidentally hit an Egyptian position near the Gaza border on 22 Oct 23, injuring seven personnel (*See Map, point J*). The IDF issued a formal statement stating “The incident is being investigated and the details are under review. The IDF expresses sorrow regarding the incident.” An Egyptian military spokesperson confirmed the incident occurred but provided no further details.<sup>34</sup>

## Syria

Israeli missiles struck Damascus and Aleppo international airports rendering their runways unserviceable. The Syrian Ministry of Transport stated flights were being diverted to Latakia.<sup>35 36</sup>

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## INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

### Protests/Demonstrations

Toronto - Thousands of protestors marched in support of Palestine on 21 Oct 23. The march started outside the US consulate building. Protestors were chanting “free Palestine”, waving Palestinian flags and calling for a ceasefire.<sup>37</sup>

Barcelona – A reported 70,000 protestors marched in a demonstration of support to Palestine on 21 Oct 23. They demanded an immediate ceasefire and for a humanitarian aid corridor to open to allow food and medicine into Gaza.<sup>38</sup>

Paris – A reported 15,000 marched in support of Gaza on 22 Oct 23. The protesters chanted “Gaza, Paris is with you” and called for a ceasefire.<sup>39</sup>

London - A pro-Israel protest took place on 22 Oct 23 calling for the release of Israeli hostages.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/22/at-least-seven-injured-as-israeli-tank-accidentally-hits-egyptian-border> 22 Oct 23

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-evacuate-14-more-communities-on-lebanon-border-amid-hezbollah-attacks/> 22 Oct 23

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/22/syria-says-israel-hit-damascus-aleppo-airports-again-amid-gaza-bombing> 22 Oct 23

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.cp24.com/news/thousands-march-in-pro-palestinian-rally-in-downtown-toronto-1.6611627> 21 Oct 23

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.catalannews.com/society-science/item/palestine-genocide-demonstration-barcelona-21-october-2023> 21 Oct 23

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-gather-paris-first-authorized-pro-palestinian-demo-since-oct-7-hamas-2023-10-22/> 22 Oct 23

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-67188755> 23 Oct 23

## Other Reporting

The French President, Emmanuel Macron, and Dutch Prime Minister, Mark Rutte are scheduled to visit Israel Oct 23-24 and meet with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.<sup>41</sup>

A prominent Jewish leader was found dead at her home in Detroit on 21 Oct 23 due to multiple stab wounds. An investigation into the attack is ongoing.<sup>42</sup>

Leaders of the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Canada issued a joint statement reiterating their support for Israel and its right to defend itself against terrorism but “called for adherence to international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians”. OSR stated “The leaders committed to continue close diplomatic coordination, including with key partners in the region, to prevent the conflict from spreading, preserve stability in the Middle East, and work toward a political solution and durable peace.”<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/netanyahu-says-french-dutch-leaders-visit-israel-this-week-2023-10-22/>  
22 Oct 23

<sup>42</sup> <https://stuff.co.nz/world/us-canada/300994285/prominent-jewish-leader-found-stabbed-to-death-in-detroit> 22 Oct 23

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2023/oct/22/israel-hamas-war-live-gaza-strikes-to-identify-israeli-military-says-west-bank-mosque-hit#top-of-blog> 23 Oct 23 0047 GMT



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Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand: Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre

## ISRAEL/HAMAS: Open Source Report (OSR)

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s.6(a)

Refer to the below map for locations of the following events:

- A. IDF airstrike on al-Shati refugee camp.
- B. Second humanitarian aid convoy enters Gaza via Rafah border.
- C. Small arms fire between IDF and Palestinians in Jalazoun Camp, north of Ramallah.
- D. Al-Qassam brigade fighters engage with Israeli Armoured Forces near Khan Yunis.
- E. Israeli AD intercept up to three UAS IVO Acre, Israel.
- F. Single source reporting of multiple ATGM and rocket attacks IVO Kiryat Shmona .

Key Points:

- Critically low supplies of food, water, medicine, and fuel in Gaza.
- Two hostages released by Hamas.
- 64 Palestinians detained by IDF in the West Bank on 23 Oct 23.
- Israeli soldier killed following IDF raids into Gaza.
- Iranian Foreign Minister states Palestinian groups acting without Iranian direction.

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## **GAZA**

### **Kinetic Activity Update**

Open source reporting indicates the following kinetic activity OTP 23 – 24 Oct 23:

IDF airstrikes continued throughout Gaza.<sup>1 2</sup> Single source reporting indicates airstrikes occurred in the following areas:

- a. IVO Al-Quds Hospital, Gaza City<sup>3</sup>
- b. Sheikh Radwan, Gaza City<sup>4</sup>
- c. El Geneina, Rafah<sup>5</sup>
- d. Beit Lahia<sup>6</sup>
- e. Al-Sabra<sup>7</sup>

In addition, dozens of Palestinians have been reported killed in an IDF airstrike on al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza (*see map, point A*).<sup>8</sup> This refugee camp is considered one of the most densely populated areas in the world with approximately 90,000 Palestinian refugees registered within a 0.52 square kilometre area.<sup>9</sup>

### **Humanitarian Situation**

Open source reporting regarding the humanitarian situation OTP 23 – 24 Oct 23:

54 humanitarian aid trucks have entered Gaza since the Rafah border opened in a limited capacity on 21 Oct 23 (*see map, point B*).<sup>10 11</sup> Humanitarian aid has included food, water and medical supplies, but no fuel.<sup>12 13</sup> These supplies are at critically low levels in Gaza, with the water supplied by humanitarian aid trucks constituting only 1% of what is required for Gaza's

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-amas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 OCT 23 1322 GMT

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67185260/page/2> 24 OCT 23 0153 GMT +13

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/PalestineRCS/status/1716465897471164455> 24 OCT 23 (Translated)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-amas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 OCT 23 1226 GMT

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-amas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 OCT 23 1220 GMT

<sup>6</sup> <https://twitter.com/PalinfoAr/status/1716538370195681283> 24 OCT 23 (Translated)

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/GNNANOW/status/1716519366601138203> 24 OCT 23 (Translated)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-amas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 OCT 23 2130 GMT

<sup>9</sup> <https://unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip/beach-camp> JUL 23

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJEnglish/status/1716497978116931862> 24 OCT 23

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-amas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 OCT 23 1640 GMT

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-amas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 OCT 23 1623 GMT

<sup>13</sup> <https://twitter.com/PalestineRCS/status/1716462982585078144> 24 OCT 23

population per day.<sup>14</sup> Lack of fuel supply has resulted in some hospitals experiencing power outages.<sup>15 16</sup>

The International Committee of the Red Cross announced that two more hostages were released by Hamas out of Gaza on 24 Oct 23.<sup>17 18</sup> The al-Qassam Brigades announced the release, stating it was based on humanitarian and health grounds.<sup>19</sup>

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) released a post stating that 35 of their workers have been killed since the conflict began on 7 Oct 23.<sup>20</sup>

Infectious diseases and illness are reported to have begun spreading in Gaza with reported cases of chickenpox, scabies and diarrhoea.<sup>21</sup>

## **WEST BANK**

Open source reporting on activity in West-bank OTP 23 – 24 Oct 23:

Raids have continued to take place in West Bank with the IDF detaining 64 people on 23 Oct 23, 37 of whom were reported to be members of Hamas.<sup>22</sup>

Single source reporting stated that two Palestinians have been killed and four injured by Israeli small arms in Jalazoun Camp, north of Ramallah (*see map, point C*).<sup>23</sup>

On 24 Oct 23 Hamas announced that one of its senior members, Omar Daraghmeh, has died in Megiddo Prison after being detained from his home in West Bank on 09 Oct 23. The Palestinian Prisoners' Society and the Commission of Detainees' Affairs stated that Daraghmeh saw his lawyer earlier that day in good health, and that Israel is responsible for his death.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67185260/page/2> 24 Oct 23 0550 GMT +13

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-hamas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 Oct 23 2310 GMT

<sup>16</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJArabic/status/1716582809647616412> 24 Oct 23 (Translated)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-hamas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 Oct 23 1915 GMT

<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/ICRC/status/1716534758396555362> 24 Oct 23

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67185260> 24 Oct 23 0757 GMT +13

<sup>20</sup> <https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/1716512867300639066> 24 Oct 23

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-hamas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 Oct 23 1411 GMT

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-67185260/page/3> 23 Oct 23 2316 GMT +13

<sup>23</sup> <https://twitter.com/skynewsarabia/status/1716340950010593782?s=46> 23 Oct 23 (Translated)

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-hamas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing> 23 Oct 23 2031 GMT

## ISRAEL

### Israel-Hamas

Open source reporting on Israel OTP 23 Oct 23 – 24 Oct 23:

Unidentified sources have reported a possible deal is being made for the release of approximately 50 hostages with dual citizenship over the short-term. The deal is reportedly being mediated by Qatar, with officials from the ICRC to receive the group. NFI.<sup>25</sup>

The al-Qassam brigade stated that its fighters had engaged Israeli armoured forces east of Khan Yunis (*see map, point D*), allegedly destroying two bulldozers and a tank, forcing the Israeli forces to withdraw. Hamas stated they also targeted Israeli military posts in southern Israel. s.6(a)

IDF spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari stated the Israeli army have launched raids overnight in Gaza with armoured and infantry forces, resulting in the death of an Israeli soldier. Hamas claimed that its fighters had destroyed Israeli “military equipment during the skirmishes” although Hagari did not acknowledge this. NFI.<sup>27</sup>

Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis for his support for Israel. Netanyahu also stated that “It’s a battle against civilisation. It’s civilisation against barbarism. We’re on the side of civilisation. We have to unite, all together, against Hamas which is ISIS”.<sup>28</sup>

Israeli Minister of defence Yoav Gallant toured the Ashdod naval base and conducted an assessment on naval operations. Reportedly he told members of the Israeli Navy to “keep preparing for our operation, it will come soon”. Gallant further stated “We are preparing thoroughly for the next step – a multilateral operation in the air, ground, and sea”.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2023/oct/23/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-airstrikes-gaza-aid-rafah-border-crossing-egypt-white-house-joe-biden-latest-news>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-mounts-limited-gaza-ground-raids-puts-hostage-number-222-2023-10-23/>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-mounts-limited-gaza-ground-raids-puts-hostage-number-222-2023-10-23/>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2023/oct/23/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-airstrikes-gaza-aid-rafah-border-crossing-egypt-white-house-joe-biden-latest-news>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-hamas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing>, 24 Oct 23

## **REGIONAL REPORTING**

Open source reporting in the region OTP 23 Oct 23 – 24 Oct 23:

### **Lebanon**

The UN's International Organisation for Migration (IOM) stated that 19,646 people have been displaced in southern Lebanon since the beginning of the war.<sup>30</sup>

Israeli air defence reportedly intercepted approximately between two to three UAS IVO Acre, Israel (*see map, point E*).<sup>31 32</sup>

Singles source reporting has stated there have been multiple ATGM and rocket attacks IVO west Kiryat Shmona (*see map, point F*) along Israel-Lebanon border. Zero casualties have been reported.<sup>33 34 35 36 37</sup>

### **EGYPT**

NSTR

### **JORDAN**

Single source reporting stated that Jordan's King Abdullah II spoke with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding ways to stop the "deteriorating situation" in Gaza. The discussion reportedly highlighted the need to protect civilians and hospitals.<sup>38</sup>

### **IRAN**

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian stated that Palestinian groups within Gaza are acting without direction from Iran. Amir-Abdollahian stated he had a phone conversation with the leader of Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in which both stated that they are "in it for the long-Haul".<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2023/oct/23/israel-amas-war-live-updates-airstrikes-gaza-aid-rafah-border-crossing-egypt-white-house-joe-biden-latest-news>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>31</sup> <https://twitter.com/TheBelaaz/status/1716440907266785693>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>32</sup> [https://twitter.com/ignis\\_fatum/status/1716432548975219016](https://twitter.com/ignis_fatum/status/1716432548975219016), 24 Oct 23

<sup>33</sup> <https://twitter.com/LocalFocus1/status/1716428792841773332>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>34</sup> <https://twitter.com/Artanis04/status/1716452653050253505>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>35</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJABreaking/status/1716457803760459914>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>36</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJABreaking/status/1716459439606165526>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>37</sup> <https://twitter.com/AJABreaking/status/1716513939125567770>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>38</sup>

[https://twitter.com/RHCJO/status/1716433774060142699?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Cwgr%5Etweet](https://twitter.com/RHCJO/status/1716433774060142699?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Cwgr%5Etweet) 24 OCT 23

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-amas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing>, 24 Oct 23

## INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

Open source reporting on the international space OTP 23 Oct 23 – 24 Oct 23:

### **United Kingdom (UK)**

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke with the respective leaders of the US, Canada, France, Germany and Italy, reiterating their support for Israel and its right to defend itself against terrorism. PM Sunak called for adherence to international humanitarian law.<sup>40 41</sup>

PM Sunak released a statement regarding the explosion at Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital in Gaza on 17 Oct 23, he stated the “British government judges that the explosion was likely caused by a missile or part of one, was launched from within Gaza towards Israel.”<sup>42 s.6(a)</sup>

### **United States (US)**

White House spokesperson John Kirby accused Iran of actively facilitating attacks on US forces in Iraq, Syria and an undisclosed location since the war in Gaza began. Kirby further stated that “Iran continues to support Hamas and Hezbollah” and “We know Iran’s goal is to maintain some level of deniability”.<sup>44</sup>

In a public statement, US President Joe Biden, stated that captives held by Hamas should be released before a ceasefire in Gaza can be discussed.<sup>45</sup>

The United Nations Security Council will hold a debate on Tuesday (Zulu time) on the situation in the Middle East. French Foreign Affairs Minister Catherine Colonna stated that “There (New York) she will reaffirm France’s desire to mobilise the Council on the basis of shared principles”.<sup>46</sup>

The US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin spoke with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani. The Pentagon stated that Austin welcomed al-Sudani’s commitment to

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<sup>40</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-following-pm-call-with-leaders-of-us-canada-france-germany-and-italy-22-october-2023>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2023/oct/23/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-airstrikes-gaza-aid-rafah-border-crossing-egypt-white-house-joe-biden-latest-news>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk-pm-sunak-al-ahli-hospital-blast-likely-caused-by-missile-gaza-2023-10-23/>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>43</sup> (R) JIFC, OSR, ISRAEL HAMAS CONFLICT, 20231018

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-hamas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-hamas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing>, 24 Oct 23

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-hamas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing>, 24 Oct 23



protect US forces who are in Iraq. Austin reiterated the importance of protecting US and Global Coalition forces.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/22/israel-hamas-war-gazas-al-quds-hospital-faces-threat-of-israeli-bombing>, 24 Oct 23

s.6(a)

