



BOOKLET  
SERIES

UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT

# 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> WAR

The Hamas Massacre

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*Jewish people being executed in their cars in Kibbutz Be'eri*

**1**

**On October 7, 2023, with support from Iran's regime,** Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza launched a war by brutally massacring over 1,200 people in Israel, including 364 at a music festival.

They tortured, raped, and murdered many of their victims and took 255 hostages from 42 different countries, including women, children, infants, and the elderly. Many of the terrorists laughed while committing their atrocities, proudly recording and posting them on social media. After reviewing the evidence, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said, "I know a lot about ISIS, and [the Hamas massacre] is worse than what I saw with ISIS."

**2**

**Since October 7, over 19,000 rockets and missiles have been fired into Israel, mostly by Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Iran's regime.**



The Houthis in Yemen, another Iran-backed terror group, have also fired missiles at southern Israel and attacked

*Bloodstained floor of a home in Kibbutz Be'eri where Jewish people were tortured and murdered*

container ships in the Red Sea, harming the global economy. These actions prompted a military response from a U.S.-led coalition to protect maritime navigation.

3

**The purpose of this violence is not to oppose any specific Israeli policy.**

Hamas leaders have promised to repeat the atrocities of October 7

over and over until Israel is destroyed. In the short term, Hamas wanted to prevent Israel from making peace with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, bolster its political power, and destabilize Israeli society.



***“Hamas has just one ‘no’ – no to the existence of Israel.”***

—Osama Hamdan, Senior Hamas Official, October 11, 2023

*The Hamas Charter calls for the elimination of Israel and the murder of Jews*







4

**Hamas is a terrorist group driven by Islamist extremism and genocidal racism against Jews.** Its goal is Israel's destruction, the murder and expulsion of over 7 million Israeli Jews and establishment of an Islamic state. Hamas promises to repeat the atrocities of October 7 until Israel is destroyed. It also threatens Jews and the rest of the world with violence and death.

5

**In 2005, Israel withdrew all soldiers and civilians from Gaza,** hoping this would help bring peace. In 2007, Hamas violently overthrew the Palestinian Authority (PA) and became Gaza's rulers. Terrorists have since fired over 40,000 rockets at Israeli civilians, sparking multiple wars. Both Israel *and* Egypt (which also borders Gaza) have maintained a blockade to prevent weapons smuggling. **Hamas has spent up to \$1 billion building an estimated 350-450 miles of tunnels in Gaza, often using Palestinian child labor.** Hamas uses these tunnels to keep hostages, hide terrorists, store weapons and other supplies, move around

Gaza undetected, smuggle goods and people in and out of the territory, and launch surprise attacks. There are over 20 tunnels along the Egypt-Gaza border aimed at evading Egypt's blockade, along with others going into Israel so Hamas can attack and kidnap Israelis (as they did on October 7).

6

Before the Hamas massacre, Israel delivered thousands of tons of aid to Gaza every week, but Palestinian civilians still suffered tremendous hardships under Hamas rule. Hamas could have ended the blockade by stopping all terrorism against Israeli civilians, accepting Israel's existence, and negotiating peace. *They chose endless war instead.*

7

**Hamas dragged Israel into a long and horrific war. Israel has a right and duty to defend its people against genocidal terrorism, and fulfill its stated goal of destroying the “military and governmental capabilities of Hamas.”** As of June 2024, the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza claims over 37,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 85,000 wounded, while the IDF estimates it has killed **15,000-17,000 terrorists. The real numbers are unclear, largely due to Hamas’ ongoing promotion of lies and misinformation.**

*The New York Times and many others repeated a lie from Hamas authorities, falsely accusing Israel of bombing Gaza’s Al-Ahli Hospital and killing 500 people. In fact, it was a terrorist rocket that fell short.*



*The destruction from a Palestinian Islamic Jihad rocket that fell short in the parking lot of Gaza’s Al-Ahli Hospital*



8

The October 7th War has been so devastating for civilians mainly because Hamas murders Israelis while ruthlessly putting innocent Palestinians directly in harm's way. Terrorists hide, store weapons, and fire rockets at Israel from civilian homes, schools, hospitals, and mosques across Gaza. Hamas has also instructed Palestinians to ignore Israeli warnings and blocked those trying to evacuate. **Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar reportedly called Palestinian civilians “necessary sacrifices.”**

9

**From the beginning of the war through June 2024, Israel coordinated deliveries of nearly 700,000 tons of humanitarian aid into Gaza, helped set up field hospitals, and assisted with medical evacuations.**

The IDF has also sent millions of warnings before striking terrorist targets so Palestinian civilians can get out of harm's way. To ensure accountability within the IDF, Israel's Military Advocate General (MAG) has launched approximately seventy

***“Despite the unique challenges Israel faces in its war against Hamas, it has implemented more measures to prevent civilian casualties than any other military in history.”***

—John Spencer, Chair of Urban Warfare Studies  
at West Point Military Academy

investigations “regarding incidents that raised suspicion of criminal offenses.”

**10**

**As of this writing, the October 7th War continues, with Israel fighting to free the hostages and remove genocidal Hamas terrorists from power. One hundred thirty-five hostages have been released or rescued, but 120 (including 43 bodies) remain in Gaza, facing horrific conditions. Israelis also remain displaced from northern and southern Israel. There may be another devastating war in the north, unless diplomacy results in Hezbollah ending its attacks against Israel and moving its forces away from the border. Behind all of this looms Iran’s regime, which directly attacked Israel in April, 2024 and is expanding its nuclear program.**

**The people of Israel are resilient and will overcome this dark period in their history. However, for the sake of Palestinians, Israelis, and humanity, the international community must pressure Hamas to release the hostages, surrender, and end this tragic war. More broadly, the world must unite to stop Iran’s regime and its proxies from causing more death and destruction across the Middle East.**

**More info available at:**

**[www.standwithus.com/situationroom](http://www.standwithus.com/situationroom)  
[www.standwithus.com/hamas](http://www.standwithus.com/hamas)**



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