



**December 4, 2023**

Join a special webinar with the Jewish Agency for Israel: Israel's Fight for Survival - A Discussion with Dr. Einat Wilf and Dan Elbaum on **Thursday, December 7 at 10 AM ET**. [Register here](#).

### **The Latest**

- As fighting continues, following the collapse of the ceasefire, three more soldiers have been killed, bringing the total number of IDF casualties since the ground offensive began to 76, (and to 401 since October 7). [See details](#) of all the fallen soldiers.

### **Israel Defense Forces Operations**

- The IDF is now striking targets across Gaza, including the city of Khan Younis in the south, as ground forces continue to operate in the Strip, following the end of the ceasefire. The military said that it has expanded its ground offensive into the southern half of Gaza, promising to carry out its campaign with the same intensity as it has used in the Strip's north.
- IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said the military was **expanding the ground offensive to "all areas of the Gaza Strip."** Watch this [footage](#), and [watch the IDF Spokesperson](#), speak about the IDF's operations against Hamas in Gaza and efforts to mitigate civilian harm.
- The **IDF also carried out strikes** against some 200 Hamas targets in Gaza overnight. Among other targets, the military destroyed Hamas infrastructure inside a school in north Gaza which terrorists used to attack troops. Inside the school complex, IDF soldiers found weapons, as well as two tunnel entrances, including one that was booby-trapped.
- The Israeli Navy also carried out strikes overnight, targeting Hamas observation posts and other infrastructure along Gaza's coast.
- Referring to the resumption of fighting, Israel's **Defense Minister Yoav Gallant** said, "Hamas will not determine what happens – only the IDF will. Hamas' morale is low. Eight weeks have passed since the start of the war – including 3 weeks of strikes, 4 weeks of maneuvering, and one week during which hostages returned home. The [military] achievements so far are great – thousands of terrorists have been eliminated, we have struck dozens of headquarters, hundreds of terabytes of information have been transferred to us, hundreds of terrorists have been

apprehended and are being interrogated in Israel, and much more... All this was achieved as a result of the IDF's determination and successful operations." (See [these](#) photos).

- Hamas says the Israeli military campaign has **killed more than 15,500** people, mostly civilians. The numbers have not been independently verified and are believed to include combatants as well as Palestinian civilians killed by errant rockets launched by terror groups.
- The IDF also announced yesterday that troops have discovered more than 800 **tunnel shafts** in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the ground offensive and that around 500 of them have already been destroyed. Watch [this](#) footage.

## Hostages

- As part of the hostage-release deal, a total of **105 hostages were released** (of whom 81 were Israelis) from Hamas captivity.
- In exchange for those let out, **Israel released** some 250 terrorists from prison and granted a seven-day ceasefire.
- It is believed that **136 hostages remain in Gaza** including 17 women and 2 children. The two children are the now famous red-headed boys of the Bibas family. Hamas claims they were killed in an Israeli bombing along with their mother, but this remains unconfirmed.
- Based on information from released hostages, at least four of those kidnapped have been confirmed to have died while in captivity. Over the weekend, the body of one hostage was recovered by IDF troops
- New details continue to emerge about the **harsh conditions** under which hostages were, and are, being kept. See [this](#) New York Times story based on information from released hostages.
- See these **stories**:
  - The parents of hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin [speak about](#) their ongoing agony.
  - [Survivors expose](#) Hamas horrors, and demand rescue of remaining hostages.
  - Released hostage Ofir Engel, 18, 'physically okay,' [says his father](#); emotionally, 'we'll see.'

## International Response

- A senior delegation of **US Administration officials** arrived in Israel today to discuss planning for post-war Gaza. The delegation is led by US Vice President Kamala Harris's national security adviser Phil Gordon, who was with her for meetings with Arab leaders on the subject in Dubai over the weekend. He will be joined by Ilan Goldenberg, Harris's Mideast adviser along with several others. The US delegation will meet with Israel's National Security Council chair Tzachi Hanegbi and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer along with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.
- In signs of **increasing US military involvement**, as well as a more significant threat from Yemen, an American destroyer shot down multiple drones today while assisting commercial ships in the Red Sea that were targeted by attacks "from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen," the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said. "Today, there were four attacks against three separate commercial vessels

operating in international waters in the southern Red Sea,” a CENTCOM statement read.

- **US National Security Council** spokesman John Kirby [said that](#) the existing Palestinian Authority lacks the credibility to govern Gaza once Israel’s military campaign to oust Hamas from the enclave is over.
- Israeli actress **Gal Gadot** has [strongly criticized](#) the international community for its silence over cases of sexual assault on October 7, and the continued holding of women hostages by the Hamas terror group in Gaza. “The world has failed the women of October 7th. We claim we stand against rape, violence against women. We will not let women be victimized and then silenced. We say we believe women, stand with women, speak out for women.”

### Stories Of Heartbreak, Heroism And Hope

- Watch these inspiring videos from Jewish Federations:
  - [Reena - foreign caretaker](#)
  - [Yael Beit Issie – Therapists working with children](#)
- [Read about](#) a Fund for the Victims of Terror recipient: On the morning of October 7, Oshri Tuito, 27, woke up early at his home in Sderot. He and his father, Eliyahu, enjoy fishing and would often go to Zikim beach together, but that day, Eliyahu felt too tired to join Oshri so Oshri took his fishing gear and drove to Zikim beach by himself, not knowing what was about to unfold.

### Further Reading

- Time Magazine: [Why the Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Was Destined to Fail](#)
- [Arab Israelis are split](#) on whether Israel's response to October 7 is justified
- Mosaic discussion: ["Ecstasy and Amnesia in the Gaza Strip."](#)
- ["The October 7 massacre brought feminist organizations and jihadist rapists into one bed."](#)
- Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), the highest-ranking Jewish public official in the US, published an [op-ed](#) in the New York Times this week in which he decried antisemitism. On Wednesday, he [spoke passionately](#) for 40 minutes on the Senate floor on the need to protect Jews against what he called the “Five-Alarm Fire” of surging anti-Jewish hatred.
- [Why is it so difficult for Israel to decipher Hamas?](#)

### Additional Resources

- **Resources:** Readers can access a Jewish Federations toolkit of resources [here](#), and can refer to the Community Mobilization Center [Resource Hub](#) for the latest talking points, tools, and other resources.
- See these newly produced resources by Jewish Federations that give insight into some areas of Federations’ emergency allocations:
  - [Pastoral Guidance](#)
  - [Bedouin Communities](#)
  - [Food Security](#)
  - [People with Disabilities](#)
- **Details:** See [this update](#) for full details about the home front and military operations. For information on the latest overall numbers from the conflict, [see here](#).

- **Webinar:** The Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI): Daily webinars sponsored by Jewish Federations and the Jewish Agency are offered. A rotating team of analysts of Israeli military affairs, the US-Israel relationship, Israel's political system, and the country's diverse society will speak every Sunday to Thursday from 11-11:30 am ET. No registration is required. [Join here](#).
- **Jewish Federations** have now raised a total of more than \$659 million system-wide and allocated close to \$200 million to a wide range of humanitarian organizations in Israel. See our impact stats [here](#).
- **Volunteering:** Read this [Jewish Federations update](#) on the latest volunteering opportunities in Israel right now.
- **Supporting Pastoral Guidance and Rabbinic Services.** Read [about the work](#) that Federations are supporting in this field through collective Israel emergency dollars.
- **Local Authorities:** Jewish Federations have produced a document answering questions about funding-impacted localities and municipalities in Israel. [See here](#).
- **Map:** [This site](#) shows a map of the October 7 massacre with a red dot for every person killed and a black dot for every person abducted by Hamas. Clicking on any dot will show the name and picture (if available) of the victim with age and last known location.
- Read the latest communication from the **Community Mobilization Center** [here](#).
- **Funders:** As many funders struggle to distinguish between the multitudes of organizations looking for important resources, the Jewish Funders Network has produced [this](#) thorough page of guidance.
- **Previous updates** can be found [here](#).

### Jewish Federations

Our Israel Office, having activated emergency protocols, is working closely with our partners on the ground, and is in close contact with the Government of Israel and the IDF. We will continue to update you as the situation develops.



[Click here to unsubscribe](#)