



## War in Israel: Update on Current Situation

April 11, 2024

**Past updates** can be found [here](#).

[Join FBI Director Christopher Wray](#) for a webinar, "Passover Without Fear: Preparedness & Security Considerations in Today's World" on **Wednesday, April 17 from 2-3:30 pm ET**. Hosted by the Secure Community Network (SCN) and co-sponsored by Jewish Federations of North America, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the program will present a pre-Passover briefing on the threat environment and will furnish best practices to keep this Passover season safe, secure, and welcoming. To register click [here](#).

### Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Activities

- Earlier today, the IDF launched a targeted operation against Hamas in the central Gaza Strip, on the outskirts of Nuseirat, an area where ground troops have not yet operated during the ground war. The air force carried out strikes against dozens of Hamas targets, including tunnel infrastructure, following intelligence indicating "the presence of terror infrastructure and many terrorists in the area."
- Yesterday, **three of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's adult sons** [were killed in an air strike](#) in Gaza. All three were senior Hamas operatives. Qatar-based Haniyeh said that the attack would not deter Hamas.

## Hostages

- Israel is **still waiting for an official Hamas response** to a proposal for a hostage deal and truce put forward by the US, together with Egyptian and Qatari mediators. Israel had previously accepted the agreement. US President Joe Biden [said](#) "It's now up to Hamas. They need to move on the proposal that has been made so we get these hostages home where they belong."
- Meanwhile, Israel chief negotiator, Mossad chief David Barnea [said](#) that freeing all 133 captives and bodies in a single truce agreement would be impossible, and **at best 40 people could be freed at this stage.**

## Humanitarian Aid

- Israel has [reiterated its promise](#) to "**flood Gaza with aid.**" It will open a new land crossing into the Strip designed mainly to facilitate deliveries from overseas and from neighboring Jordan.
- Israel has already been facilitating a **large number of aid trucks** entering Gaza. Over the past week, the number of trucks entering the Strip has broken records on an almost daily basis, with a [new average](#) of over 400 trucks bringing in supplies each day (and over 500 today).
- Meanwhile, the US is working to have a maritime corridor up and running in the coming weeks, which will be able to bring in additional assistance. The new route will allow over 500 trucks daily of commercial and humanitarian help. Read: [The American Pier in Gaza: An Opening to US-Israeli Cooperation in Gaza](#)
- [Beyond Humanitarian Aid: A Plan for Gazan Civilians Is a Strategic Necessity for Israel](#)

## Rockets

- In the **north**, Hezbollah continues to fire at Israeli targets, triggering significant Israeli retaliations.
- The number of **Hamas** rocket attacks on Israel remains negligible on most days, due to Hamas' significantly diminished capabilities.
- In the **Red Sea**, the US, the UK, and Israel continue to defend against attacks by the Iran-backed Houthi

rebels in Yemen. The US military also continues to strike at pro-Iranian targets in Syria and Iraq. Yesterday, the US military said that its forces had successfully engaged three unmanned aerial vehicles launched from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen over the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. There were no injuries or damage reported by US, coalition, or commercial ships. US forces also destroyed eight UAVs in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen later on April 10.

## International Response

- **US Secretary of State Antony Blinken**, in a call with Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant yesterday, made clear that the United States will stand with Israel against any threats by Iran. According to media reports, the US will assist in defending Israel if it is attacked by Iran or by one of its proxies. Earlier, President Joe Biden pledged that US support for Israeli security is "ironclad." Media reports have indicated that if an Iranian attack involves missiles and drones, American forces could help in downing them and that the US hasn't ruled out launching a joint response with Israel if the Jewish state is attacked – directly or indirectly – by Iran.
- In addition, Minister Gallant and Foreign Minister Israel Katz both warned that if Iran launched an attack from its soil then **Israel would strike back inside Iran**.
- The recent **elimination of a senior Iranian general in Syria** is said to challenge Iran's ability to stay out of the war. Read more [here](#).
- Over the last six months, Hamas has waged an [information war](#) as part of its strategy to defeat the Jewish State. **Misinformation** has played a significant role in the Israel-Hamas War by manipulating the Western World to stand with Hamas. Read more [here](#).

## Stories of Heartbreak, Heroism, and Hope

- Watch [this Jewish Federations' video](#) of Ofer Baram, who dedicated his life to helping victims through The Jewish Agency for Israel's Fund for Victims of Terror.

Ofer now finds himself as a recipient of that same aid after his son Aviv died defending their kibbutz on October 7th. Financial aid for this program is supported by Jewish Federations and has showed the lifesaving strength of our community.

- **Read the [story](#)** of 47-year-old Elad Katzir, described as a man of the soil and a person of principles who lived his values as a farmer and social activist. A proud Zionist, Elad was the prime caretaker of his parents on Kibbutz Nahal Oz. On October 7, Elad and his parents were taking refuge in their shelter when terrorists infiltrated their home, killing Elad's father and taking Elad and his mother Hanna captive. Hanna was released in the earlier hostage deal. Over the weekend, the IDF recovered Elad's body from Gaza, bringing him home for proper burial. The IDF estimates that terrorists murdered Elad in January. His sister eulogized him, saying, "You had the biggest heart of anybody around you."



## Further Reading

[The Houthis' Asymmetrical Maritime Warfare](#)

Wall Street Journal [op-ed](#) on why Israel's defeat of Hamas is vital to ensuring the future of Western democracy.

[What Would "Total Victory" Mean in Gaza?](#)

## Jewish Federations Resources

**Jewish Federations** have collectively raised just shy of \$800 million and allocated more than \$400 million for humanitarian needs and economic support in Israel since October 7. For an updated list of allocations, click [here](#). Read this [JTA Jewish Federations story](#): “The man allocating \$800M in post-Oct. 7 donations to Israel on where the money goes.”

**Jewish Federations' Backgrounders:**

[At-Risk Youth](#)

[LGBTQ Community](#)

[Young Children](#)

[Volunteers](#)

[Women](#)

[Pastoral Guidance](#)

[Bedouin Communities](#)

[Food Security](#)

[People with Disabilities](#)

As part of the [Second Line initiative](#), Jewish Federations are partnering with the Israel Ministry of Health, the Israel Trauma Coalition, and Birthright Israel to recruit qualified volunteers to provide both in-person and remote support to both affected populations and local mental health professionals in Israel. To apply, click [here](#). For more information, contact [Hannah Miller](#).

**Resources:** Readers can see links to resources, background, research and other information on the current war [here](#); can access a Jewish Federations toolkit [here](#), and can refer to the Community Mobilization Center [Resource Hub](#) for the latest talking points and tools.

**Details:** For information on the latest overall numbers from the conflict, see [here](#).

**Volunteering:** Read [this](#) updated Jewish Federations' overview on the latest volunteering opportunities in Israel right now.

Read the latest communication from the **Community Mobilization Center** [here](#).

*For more information, please contact: Jewish Federations of North America's Dani Wassner [dani.wassner@jewishfederations.org](mailto:dani.wassner@jewishfederations.org). Subscribe to this twice-weekly update [here](#).*



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