

MEMMO

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Gaza Terrorists Continue Attacks, Call for More Violence

Hamis and other terrorist groups in Gaza continue to carry out attacks against Israel and prepare for future violence. Despite the violence and threats, Israel remains committed to reducing hostilities and facilitating the transfer of humanitarian aid into Gaza. The United States and the international community should work with Israel—which reserves the right to defend its citizens from continuing attacks—to prevent Hamas from smuggling arms into Gaza and threatening Israeli civilians.

Despite Israel's commitment to end hostilities, Hamas and other Palestinian groups continue to threaten Israel and carry out attacks.

- Since Israel ended its defensive operations in Gaza, terrorists in Gaza have fired nearly 30 rockets and mortars into Israel.
- On Jan. 27, six days after all Israeli soldiers withdrew from Gaza, a roadside explosive placed by Palestinians near the Gaza border killed one Israeli soldier and injured three others.
- Hamas has openly displayed its efforts to rebuild smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border targeted by Israel during its recent operations. Reports indicate an expansive effort is underway to get arms flowing back into the Gaza Strip from Egypt through the tunnels.
- Hamas also continues efforts to expand its capabilities. *The Jerusalem Report* reported that Hamas conducted a military assessment of its weapons capabilities by firing a rocket into the Mediterranean and measuring its distance.
- In a Beirut rally on Jan. 25, Hamas Lebanese representative Osama Hamdan declared that Hamas will continue its violence, saying, "It is our right to have weapons, and we shall continue to enter arms into Gaza and the West Bank. Let no one think that we shall surrender."
- In a statement released by Islamic Jihad, the terrorist group reemphasized its commitment to fighting Israel, saying, "The resistance will continue its battle as long as occupation forces are on the land of Gaza and as long as the siege and the blockade continue."
- Popular Resistance Committees spokesman Abu Youssef recommitted his organizations to the destruction of Israel and to rearming, saying, "A unilateral cease-fire is nothing to do with us ... and we will continue to bear arms."



Palestinians are rebuilding tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border that are used to smuggle weapons into Gaza.

Israel remains committed to ensuring the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza while taking steps to defend its citizens.

- The government of Israel and the IDF are actively taking steps to help alleviate the suffering of Palestinian civilians in Gaza.
- Israel has worked closely with the UN and other humanitarian organizations to speed the delivery of goods into Gaza, including implementing unilateral cease-fires during the fighting to allow aid to move.
- Since Israel's operations ended on Jan. 18, Israel has dramatically increased the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza at an average of more than 150 trucks a day. This represents a five-fold increase from December and a six-fold increase from November.
- Since Jan. 18, more than nearly 70,000 tons of food and medicine entered Gaza, while more than 5,000,000 liters of fuel have been transferred into Gaza to support the Gaza power plant, hospital generators and humanitarian aid vehicles.
- Israel has consistently allowed Palestinians in need of medical care to come to Israel or transit to Jordan. During the war, at least three dozen Gazans were permitted entry to Israel for medical care, while Israel allowed teams of foreign physicians to enter Gaza.
- While Israel continues to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza, it needs to take precautions in the face of the continuing violence.
- Israel has been forced to close the Gaza border crossings to all goods except humanitarian aid because Hamas has repeatedly attacked the very crossings used to transfer aid to Gaza. Last year, several Israelis were killed and more than a dozen wounded in Palestinian attacks on the crossings.

The United States and international community must work with Israel to ensure that Hamas does not rearm.

- In the aftermath of the conflict, the United States and several European powers agreed to step up efforts to interdict and stop Iranian gun-running destined for terrorists in Gaza.
- The United States and Israel signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pledging joint efforts to stem the flow of weapons to Hamas and terrorists in Gaza. The agreement recognizes that Hamas' acquisition and use of arms against Israel were "the direct causes of recent hostilities."
- The agreement states that a durable and sustainable cessation of hostilities depends on denying weapons to terrorist groups and countering Iran's destructive activities.
- The agreement also strongly underscores American support for the security of the Jewish state and the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship to America's national security.
- Israel has stated that it will work with the PA, Arab states and the international community to ensure that rebuilding in Gaza helps empower those seeking peace, and not Hamas and its allies who call for Israel's destruction.
- If the Hamas attacks continue, Israel reserves the right to take further action in Gaza to protect its citizens, the prime obligation of any government.