

January 20, 2009

Dear Friends,

At 2:00AM Sunday January 18, 2009, Israel declared that it would unilaterally withhold fire, giving a chance for a cease-fire, culminating 22 days of Operation Cast Lead and intense fighting in the Gaza Strip.

The IDF accomplished its mission. Hamas was delivered a heavy blow and conditions were created that enable a significantly improved security situation in southern Israel. The determination of IDF troops and Israeli society left a deep impression on Israel's adversaries in the region.

This newsletter summarizes the operational statistics and takes a close look at some of the obstacles which IDF soldiers encountered on the ground in the Gaza Strip. From the tunnels designed for kidnapping soldiers to an elaborately booby-trapped zoo, the findings portray what the IDF is up against when facing the Hamas terror organization.

The citizens of Israel and the IDF were encouraged by the support shown by many friends abroad. We believe that the operation has brought about a safer future for the people residing in towns, cities and kibbutzim in southern Israel.

Sincerely,  
The IDF Spokesperson Unit





**Hamas rocket attacks on Israel:** 820 (640 Grad and Qassam rockets, 180 mortars shells)

**Terror operatives arrested:** 194

**Israel Navy strikes:** 115

**Israel Air Force strikes:** 2680

**Truckloads of humanitarian aid delivered:** 1500

**Palestinian casualties (unofficial):** 467 prior to and 755 during the ground operation

**Israel Defense Force casualties:** 10 killed, 11 severely wounded, 16 moderately wounded, and 290 lightly wounded

25 senior Hamas terrorists' houses (some included arsenals) targeted.

Among the senior Hamas' members targeted were:

**Mohammad Sanuar** - Commander of the Hamas Khan Yunis Unit

**Nizar Ryan** - One of Hamas' most highly ranked leaders and a great advocator of suicide bombing attacks

**Sa'id Siam** - Served as the Hamas Secretary of Internal Affairs, a member of the Hamas State Bureau and was in charge of various internal security systems including the police, the operation units and the naval forces

**Salah Abu Shrah**- Head of Hamas Internal Affairs

Operation Cast Lead significantly reduced Hamas's capabilities, but numbers don't tell the whole story.

Below are photos of what IDF soldiers uncovered during the operation that show the true nature of Hamas's tactics and how they responded to the IDF operation.

# What We Found: Explosives Found in Mosques and Homes



Weapons found in a Mosque



Anti-aircraft cannon found in a Mosque



Weapons found in a Mosque



Booby-trapped dummy dressed as Hamas Operative



Mechanism connecting booby-trapped dummy to explosive charge



Explosive charge connected to mechanism of Hamas dummy

These weapons, including an anti-aircraft cannon, were found in a mosque in Zeitoun in Northern Gaza (Jan. 13).

Hamas hoped that IDF soldiers, operating at night, would engage a dummy Hamas fighter only to be killed or seriously injured in the subsequent explosion. The Hamas intended to seize the wounded or dead IDF soldiers and abscond with them through the tunnel behind the dummy.



Weapons Cache



Weapons Cache



Weapons



Weapons



Weapons Cache

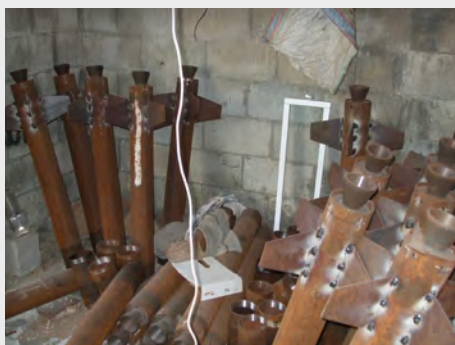


Weapons

# What We Found: Tunnels and Rockets



Rockets



Rockets



Rockets



Tunnel for kidnapping soldiers



Tunnel for kidnapping soldiers



Tunnel for terror attack

A Hamas tunnel designed to kidnap Israeli soldiers, one of dozens discovered by IDF troops. Hamas intended to lure an IDF soldier to the camouflaged tunnel, drag him in and abduct him

Paratrooper Brigade forces uncovered a smuggling tunnel 270 meters (yards) from the border with Israel in the northern Gaza Strip. Hamas dug this tunnel near the border security fence in order to infiltrate Israel and carry out a terror attack



Rocket launcher



Rocket launcher timing device

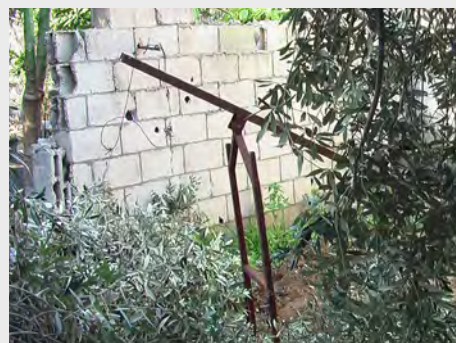
Booby-trapped school



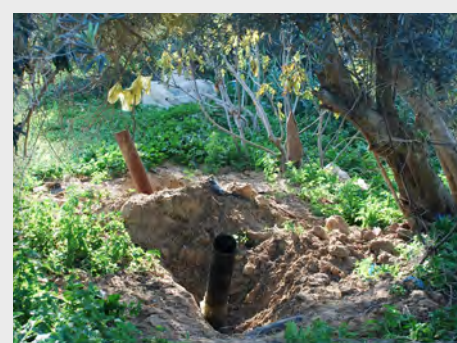
[Click to watch the movie](#)



Rocket launcher



Rocket launcher



Rocket launcher

