



Operation Cast Lead

IDF OPERATION IN THE GAZA STRIP

DAILY UPDATE – DAY 15
JANUARY 11TH, 2009

THE MILITARY-STRATEGIC INFORMATION SECTION

Distributed
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Operation Cast Lead



Main Objectives:

- ❖ To bring about conditions for the creation of a better security situation in southern Israel—namely, the long-term cessation of rocket and mortar fire and all terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip.
- ❖ To advance the achievements of the aerial campaign by taking control of the launch areas, continuing to attack Hamas targets, and preventing the continued strengthening of Hamas.



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Ground Maneuver

- ❖ **Ground forces are deployed according to plan in the Southern Gaza Strip and prepared for further combat.**
- ❖ **The IDF continues to weaken Hamas and has taken hundreds of Hamas prisoners.**
- ❖ **IDF forces from the Givati and Paratroop brigades uncovered weapons stores in tunnels, which were destroyed.**
- ❖ **The IDF has mobilized additional reserve troops and remains prepared for any eventuality.**



January 8, 2009
Paratrooper Brigade forces during an operation in the Gaza Strip
Credit: Doron Keren, IDF Spokesperson.



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IAF Attacks

- ❖ The IAF has carried out over 1,500 attacks against Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the operation.
- ❖ On January 10th, The IAF attacked 60 targets throughout Gaza including:
 - ❖ Houses of activists
 - ❖ Tunnels
 - ❖ Rocket launching facilities
 - ❖ Weaponry manufacture and storage facilities
 - ❖ A number of gunmen



The Israeli Home Front

- ❖ **Rocket Attacks from the Gaza Strip**
 - ❖ **3 Grad**
 - ❖ **7 Qassams,**
 - ❖ **12 Mortars**
- ❖ **Following the rocket attacks 3 civilians were lightly injured, 17 shock victims and 11 Soldiers were lightly injured.**
- ❖ **Attacks from the Gaza Strip hit the cities of Ashkelon, Sderot, Nahal Oz Kibbutz and a number of communities.**
- ❖ **Since Dec. 27th, 3 Israeli civilians were killed and approximately 223 were wounded (including 7 severely wounded).**
- ❖ **A total of 617 rocket and Mortars have fallen in Israel since the beginning of the operation.**



The Humanitarian Efforts

Israel continues to make great efforts in the humanitarian field, as much as possible during times of combat, in order to facilitate the civilian population in the Gaza Strip at this difficult time. These efforts include the establishment of a Joint Humanitarian Coordination Center, humanitarian recesses, evacuations of injured Palestinian civilians for medical treatment and evacuations of foreign citizens from the Gaza Strip.





Central Themes

- ❖ **Israel is continuing its operation according to plan, while exploring the diplomatic channel.**
- ❖ **The IDF invests great efforts in order to improve the access of international aid agencies and the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, as much as possible during times of combat.**
- ❖ **The Hamas' military wing has suffered a severe setback – the rockets' production infrastructure has been gravely damaged; the launching capabilities have been damaged and hundreds of operatives have been killed. Hamas capability to govern Gaza has also undergone a setback.**
- ❖ **The IDF is continuing its operation and preparing for broadening its activities, should there be a directive by the political echelon to do so.**
- ❖ **Israel operates in accordance with the international law, and does its utmost in order to avoid injuring uninvolved civilians, even in a reality in which Hamas uses them as hostages. This is in direct contrast to the Hamas, which has no obligation to stand by any humanitarian standards.**



Central Themes (cont'd)

UN Security Resolution 1860

- ❖ **Hamas continues to bombard rockets on Israel, even after UN Resolution 1860 was passed. This illustrates, yet again, that in spite of the many achievements accomplished thus far, it is necessary to continue operating until attaining the required security conditions that will ensure safety and quiet on both sides of the border. Israel should not be expected to immediately cease fire, when at the very same time rockets continue to be fired at its civilians.**
- ❖ **Israel continues to demand a cessation of Hamas' military buildup, which is mainly based on weapons and aid smuggled through tunnels under the Philadelphi Route. Israel stands behind its declarations that this remains a critical element in resolving the conflict in the Gaza Strip and creating stable long term security.**
- ❖ **Resolution 1860 asserts the International Community's understanding of Israel's position on this matter. Furthermore, it voices the International Community's understanding of the grave threat, caused by the strengthening of Hamas, to Israel and to regional stability. Hamas serves as an extension of the radical axis, aspiring to undermine stability throughout the Middle East and prevent any diplomatic solution with the moderate factors in the region.**
- ❖ **The Resolution fails to provide a practical solution to crucial issues relating to the creation of security conditions, which will enable the return of safety and quiet to the area. These solutions include effective mechanisms which will prevent the strengthening of Hamas and assure the requirement of Hamas to fulfill the three conditions.**