

Pre-Shabbat Brief Update on the Ongoing Violence in Israel

May 14, 2021

Overnight: Rocket fire continues unabated. Two more Israelis killed. Massive Israeli attack on Hamas Tunnels.

Here are the main updates from the last day:

Rocket Fire

- More than 2,000 rockets have been fired into Israel from Gaza since attacks by Hamas and other terrorist groups began at 6:00pm on Monday night. Around one third of these fell short, landing in Gaza, often causing damage and injury.
- In a new development, three 3 projectiles (thought to be large “Grad” rockets) were fired from Lebanon towards Israel last night, presumably by the terror group Hezbollah. The rockets were shot from south of the Lebanese city of Tyre, and fell into the sea, directly across from the Israeli city Nahariya and did not cause any damage.
- In addition to massive rocket barrages from Gaza against the country’s south, rockets were once again launched at Tel Aviv, Modi’in, Ben Gurion Airport, Eilat’s Ramon Airport, and other locations around the country.
- Both Ramon and Ben Gurion Airports remain open and operational. For now, all incoming flights are landing in Eilat.
- See [here](#) for an incredible photo of rockets being launched from Gaza as the Iron Dome interceptors attempt to defend Israeli cities.
- An 87-year old Israeli woman was killed while running to her shelter during a siren in Ashdod overnight, and a 50 year old woman from Rishon LeTzion injured on Tuesday succumbed to her wounds, dying in hospital today. In Ashkelon, a 50-year old man was critically injured by rocket fire. In total, nine Israeli have been killed by rocket fire since Monday.
- In addition, Magen David Adom ambulance crews report having treated over 500 people injured by the violence. Nearly 400 people were hurt as a result of rocket fire while 160 more were injured during clashes and riots.
- During the rocket attacks last night, one house in Ramle, in the center of the country, was hit, causing damage but no injuries, and other rockets caused a fire in a field in the same city.
- Israel’s President Reuven Rivlin visited Ashkelon yesterday and joined the family of five-year-old Ido Avigal z”l who was killed in a rocket attack the day before. The family are currently sitting by the hospital bed of Ido’s mother, Shani, who was gravely injured in the attack. Assaf, Ido’s father, told the president of his concern for his wife, his broken heart at the loss of their son and the terrible pain. The president hugged Assaf and asked him to be strong “at this impossible time” and promised to be with him in any way needed. “I am here today on my own, as it were, but believe me that the support of the whole people is with you and the thoughts of us all are with you and the pain of your wonderful family. The loss of Ido is inconceivable, dealing with it along

with the unconscionable worry for the rest of the family is so difficult. If only we could make it easier for you.” Six-year-old Noah, Ido’s cousin, is also in the ICU at the hospital after being severely injured.

- Israel’s Iron Dome Rocket defense system continues to intercept some 90% of projectiles aimed at populated areas. Speaking of the system last night, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu commented, “Achieving 100% is impossible but they are getting pretty close to it and we all appreciate this twice over: defensively and offensively. The defensive actions of Iron Dome batteries give us space to mount attacks.... We are continuing to strike Hamas while defending our citizens. It will take time but with great decisiveness, both defensively and offensively, we will achieve our goal – to restore quiet to the State of Israel.”

Israeli Response

- In the largest attack since fighting began, around midnight last night, some 160 aircraft conducted a simultaneous massive attack, dropping 450 missiles on a network of terror tunnels dug by Hamas under Gaza City. According to the IDF, the operation, which lasted 45 minutes, is a severe blow to Hamas’ ability to operate in the city.
- During the aerial bombings, Israeli tanks, artillery cannons and infantry troops on the Gaza border fired barrages at Hamas targets that had emerged during the assault to attack Israeli positions. The IDF stressed that its ground forces remained on Israel’s side of the border. In total, some 500 artillery shells and 50 tank shells, were fired by Israel during the exchange.
- See footage of the multi-pronged attacks on the tunnels [here](#).
- Ongoing and relentless other strikes by the IDF against Hamas and other terror groups are said to be taking their toll in Gaza. According to the IDF Spokesperson, “The organization (Hamas) is losing everything.”
- Palestinian sources say that 115 Palestinians have been killed since fighting began, with more than 600 injured.
- The military has called up an additional 7,000 reserve soldiers, including artillery troops, Iron Dome operators, doctors, paramedics, air force personnel, intelligence officers, and other combat units. Leave has also been cancelled for all combat troops.
- In addition, the IDF has said it will call a further 9,000 troops, as speculation mounts that Israel may be considering a ground offensive into Gaza.

Rioting in Israel

- Rioting has continued with widespread rioting, violence, arson and more.
 - Overnight, one Jewish man was shot by Arab protestors in Lod.
 - An IDF soldier was severely beaten by rioters in Jaffa and is currently hospitalized in serious condition following surgery.
 - Another Jewish man was stabbed near a mosque in Lod while on his way to a synagogue on Thursday morning.
 - Also in Lod, a synagogue was set on fire by Arab mobs.
- Israel’s President Reuven Rivlin, citing deep concerns over the ongoing rioting, met yesterday with the mayors of a number of Arab and Jewish towns. The President told the council heads, “Condemn these events outright. Do not allow them to happen. We are better than this. Our home is on fire, and we don’t have another one. We are determined to maintain the security of our citizens, and that determination must direct us in dealing with the violence that is raging on the streets of Israel. This is home to us all, and we all bear the right and the duty to protect it. To

defend it from all those who seek our harm beyond our borders, and to defend it from criminals fomenting disorder at home.”

- The President added, “The violent disturbances we saw yesterday are a genuine threat to Israeli sovereignty. We must not allow it – even through silence – but must speak out clearly to commit to the rule of law in Israel, and to our shared existence. We must not allow extremists to set the tone. We must not allow violence to triumph. We are the moderate majority, Jews and Arabs, who want to continue to live here together.”

Update from the Israel Trauma Coalition

- The 5 resilience centers in the Gaza Envelope and a newly opened center in Ashkelon report the following figures reflecting new efforts underway in addition to ongoing work with regular clients:
 - ✓ Telephone inquiries 366
 - ✓ Group Interventions 135
 - ✓ Victims of anxiety treated in the field 343
 - ✓ Interventions with emergency teams 87
- In metropolitan areas and parts of the south lacking resilience centers including: Yoav Regional Council, Netivot, Kiryat Gat, Beer Sheva a 400% increase in the number of calls to hotlines has been reported. 49% of the calls to the line were from the south, 21% from Tel Aviv and the center, 16% from Jerusalem and the surrounding area.
- ITC is supporting efforts to address the crisis in the mixed Arab and Jewish communities of Haifa, Lod and Acre. The work focuses on assisting the Welfare, Education and Supervision Divisions - all of which have mixed Jewish and Arab teams trying to deal with ongoing burnout, damage to personal and professional confidence and loss of faith.

As always, Jewish Federations, through JFNA’s Israel Office, is keeping a constant watch on developments on the ground and is in close touch with authorities, and our partners on the ground.

For more information, please contact JFNA’s [Dani Wassner](#), Director of Israeli Government Relations.

Sources: Office of the Prime Minister, IDF Spokesperson, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Government Press Office, N12 Israel News, The Times of Israel, Galei Tzahal Radio, The Jerusalem Post, Ynet, i24 News, Alma.