

Suggested Answers to Tough Questions from JFNA

Are Palestinian civilians being targeted by Israel?

- Israel was attacked by one of the most barbaric, immoral, inhuman organizations that the world has ever known - one that vows to wipe the entire country off the face of the earth. Hamas is a group that purposely targets civilians with documented plans to commit horrific atrocities. These plans were implemented and included beheadings, burning people alive, killing dozens of babies, raping women, taking Holocaust survivors and others as captives. This evil organization was elected by the people of Gaza.
- Nonetheless, Israel is a humane, law-abiding country, and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reflect those values. Despite the terrible crimes committed, and the unprecedented threats against the Jewish state, Israel is NOT targeting civilians, and is even warning Palestinians before it strikes Hamas' terror and military targets; losing the element of surprise as the price it must pay for keeping Gazan non-combatants out of harm's way.
- Israel has repeatedly warned Gaza's civilian population to evacuate certain areas to avoid being caught in the violence. Cynically, disturbingly, and once again demonstrating their complete disregard for human life and civilian populations, Hamas has ordered residents not to leave and to stay in place, despite the warnings that Israel has given, potentially condemning some of their own people to die. And now, evidence has emerged of Hamas blocking the safe corridors created by Israel, forcing their own civilian population to remain in the fighting zone and become human shields and propaganda pawns.

Why is Israel cutting off electricity and other supplies to Gaza?

- Hamas, elected by the people of Gaza, is the authority in charge of the Strip, and responsible for the well-being of its citizens. In the past, the regime has diverted large quantities of provisions and aid for military and terror purposes, while its wealthy leadership has squandered urgent resources for themselves.
- For example, we have seen again and again that emergency supplies of much-needed diesel fuel (used to power generators for hospitals, among other purposes) has been redirected to Hamas' rocket program and other military uses. It should also be noted that in regular times, Israel only supplies 10% of Gaza's water and 50% of its electricity (a further 25% comes from solar power, and the rest from Egypt and other sources).

Why did Israel order Gazans to evacuate the Northern Gaza Strip?

- This war was not inevitable. Hamas—an internationally armed, financed, and trained terrorist organization whose stated purpose is the destruction of Israel—started this war. Israel is taking the necessary steps to keep all its residents safe, no matter their identity.

- Hamas, whose stated purpose is the destruction of Israel and murder of Jews, targeted men, women, children, babies and the elderly in the worst massacre in the history of Israel.
- Hamas gave no warning to Israel or Israelis before launching its surprise attack.
- Hamas has militarized cities and neighborhoods and Gaza, using schools, hospitals and mosques as storehouses for ammunition aimed at destroying Israel.
- Hamas places the citizens of Gaza directly in harm's way, committing war crimes against both Israelis and Palestinians, sometimes killing Palestinians from misfires or rockets that fall short.
- Israel, a sovereign nation, has a moral right and obligation to defend itself and protect its citizens from this terrorist entity.
- Israel does not target civilians. The IDF warns Gazans in advance of attacks so that citizens can flee.
- Despite the IDF's calls, Hamas has ordered Palestinians to remain in their homes.
- The only way to prevent this destruction is for Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza to put down their weapons and accept Israel's right to exist.
- Israel has stated that its siege of Gaza will continue until Hamas releases the more than 220 hostages it is holding captive. Hamas alone is making the decision to retain the hostages, thus prolonging the siege.

Who was responsible for the blast outside a Gaza hospital?

- The IDF provided [video evidence](#) of the scene of the attack indicating that crater impacts which result from Israeli Air Force strikes are not visible anywhere within the hospital campus. The IDF also released [recordings](#) intercepted from Hamas operatives as they realize the true source of the attack, as well as [photo evidence](#).
- Upon landing in Tel Aviv, President Biden [addressed the terrible incident](#) and said that "the other team" is responsible for the attack and not Israel.
- Failed rocket launches from Gaza have been the cause of many Palestinian casualties in past rounds of the conflict, with the IDF stating that in the current war as many as [450 rockets](#) have already fallen within Gaza. Terrorism from Gaza does not only harm Israelis, but also Palestinian lives.

What is the latest situation with the hostages?

- Here is [video footage](#) of testimonials from three family members of the hostages who visited Houston on November 15. We encourage you to listen to their stories.

- Hamas is currently holding 239 individuals that it abducted on October 7th hostage.
- Families of Israelis kidnapped by Hamas on October 7th [came to New York](#) this week to speak to the United Nations about the plight of their loved ones and to keep the hostage crisis at the forefront of the world's attention. Rachel Goldberg, the mother of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, [spoke](#) about her 23-year old son who was critically wounded in the attack at the Supernova Music Festival when Hamas terrorists fired on him, before taking him hostage, calling this "a global humanitarian tragedy."
- Hundreds of people [stood for blocks along First Avenue](#) in support of the hostage families. They also rallied at a Manhattan synagogue.
- One of the four hostages, an 85-year-old grandmother named Yocheved Lifschitz, who was released by Hamas, [told the media](#) in harrowing detail about her ordeal. She was thrown sideways across a motorcycle and abducted. In Gaza, she was beaten by sticks and humiliated before being marched for kilometers in an underground "spider web" of tunnels.
- [Documents](#) recovered from Hamas terrorists included instructions to "kill as many individuals as possible, and capture hostages until receiving further instructions."
- President Biden has [called for the release of the hostages](#) in advance of any cease fire talks. The U.S., Israel, Egypt, Qatar, and Hamas are [in intensive talks](#) to free the hostages. The US recognized Qatar's assistance in negotiating with Hamas to release the hostages.

Is a ceasefire good for Israel?

- Israel did not choose this war. Hamas—an internationally armed, financed, and trained terrorist organization whose stated purpose is the destruction of Israel—started this war. Israel, a sovereign nation, has a moral right and obligation to defend itself and protect its citizens from this terrorist entity. Israel is taking the necessary steps to keep all its residents safe, no matter their identity.
- Hamas, whose stated purpose is the destruction of Israel and murder of Jews, targeted men, women, children, babies and the elderly in the worst massacre in the history of Israel. The war against Hamas is one of the free world against the forces of evil and barbarism. It is a war of self-defense and self-preservation against an enemy that [tortured, mutilated, and decapitated](#) its victims of all ages.
- The IDF [released](#) harrowing, unedited bodycam footage that shows terrorists slaughtering, torturing and decapitating innocent Israelis (warning: graphic footage). Hamas terrorists also kidnapped over 230 innocent civilians, including small children, the elderly and individuals with disabilities, in defiance of international law.
- The depravity of Hamas' attack made this war inevitable.
- "Calls for a ceasefire are calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas, to surrender to terrorism, to surrender to barbarism. That will not happen," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

[declared](#).

- [According](#) to State Department spokesman Matthew Miller, “any ceasefire would give Hamas the ability to rest, to refit, and to get ready to continue launching terrorist attacks against Israel.”
- When discussing the call for a ceasefire, Hillary Clinton [said](#), “People who are [calling for a ceasefire](#) now, don’t understand Hamas... It would be such a gift to Hamas because they would spend whatever time [that] there was a ceasefire in effect rebuilding their armaments... to be able to fend off an eventual assault by the Israelis.

Why is Israel fighting in the Shifa Hospital?

- The [IDF has made it clear](#) that the war is not against the Palestinian civilian population but is about two sole goals, eliminating Hamas and returning the hostages.
- Shifa hospital is a key target in Israel’s operations to dismantle the terrorist organization and end Hamas’ oppressive rule over Gaza.
- [According to the IDF](#), special forces carried out a “precise and targeted operation against Hamas in a defined area in the Shifa hospital,” based on operational necessity and intelligence of the hospital’s usage as a [headquarters](#) for Hamas activities.
- On November 15th, the IDF released initial [footage](#) of some of the Hamas rifles, ammunition, bullet-proof vests and booklets with instructions on how to attacks Israelis that were hidden within the hospital in closets and behind MRI machines, [calling](#) the findings just “the tip of the iceberg.”
- The IDF also [revealed](#) that it found laptops in the hospital with photos and videos of hostages taken after they were kidnapped to Gaza.
- As troops were operating inside the hospital, the IDF also delivered [medical supplies](#) and baby equipment - including incubators - that were brought into Gaza in Israeli tanks and Armored Personnel Carriers. The IDF brought in medical teams and Arabic-speaking soldiers to ensure that the supplies reach the patients who are still being treated in the hospital.
- The Pentagon [acknowledged](#) that, “Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad uses some hospitals in the Gaza Strip, including the al-Shifa hospital, as a way to conceal and support their military operations and hold hostages.”
- The IDF [opened](#) a safe passage on the eastern side of the hospital to evacuate civilians.
- The IDF is continuing to [urge](#) residents of northern Gaza to move southward towards safety, taking advantage of what it called “a tactical pause of military operation for humanitarian purposes.”
- Using hospitals as a base for terrorist operations is not a new tactic. The Al Salem hospital in Mosul was [used](#) by ISIS as a base for its attacks and was [bombed](#) by American troops.