Overview

1. **Operation Protective Edge**, which began on the evening of July 7, 2014, has entered its second day. According to statements from senior Israeli figures, it seems that the objective of the operation is to restore calm, defend the citizens of the State of Israel, and strike Hamas and the other terrorist organizations operating in the Gaza Strip. That is to be done by preventing and disrupting attacks from the Gaza Strip, putting a stop to the rocket fire and restoring calm. Israel also seeks to stabilize the situation in Judea and Samaria (where relative calm has been maintained) by making a clear distinction between Judea and Samaria on the one hand and the Gaza Strip on the other.

2. Hamas has not yet openly set binding conditions for ending the current escalation it initiated. Its senior figures have made the following demands: the end of Israeli attacks on targets in the Gaza Strip, the release of the terrorists freed in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal redetained in Judea and Samaria in Operation Brothers' Keeper, and putting an end to administrative detentions. Their objective is to deter Israel and improve Hamas' political status with an eye to the morning after. In addition, the Egyptian government was
asked to open the Rafah crossing immediately to ease the difficult humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.

3. During the past 24 hours the **IDF attacked 270 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip from the air and sea** (approximately 160 on the night of July 8, 2014). Since the beginning of the operation **440 targets have been attacked**, most of them from the air. The targets include terrorist operatives, rocket launchers and the terrorist infrastructure.

4. The terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, **led by Hamas**, continue firing **massive barrages of rockets and mortar shells into Israeli territory**. During the past 24 hours the rocket fire was extended to the center of Israel, Jerusalem and the coastal plain (rocket remains were found in Hadera, 43 kilometers, or about 27 miles, north of Tel Aviv). **So far more than 240 rockets have been identified in Israeli territory, about 15 of them rockets with ranges of more than 45 kilometers**, or about 28 miles. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted approximately 30 rockets, most of which targeted Israel’s main cities. **Hamas also tried to infiltrate into Israel to launch terrorist attacks**. The most prominent attack prevented by the IDF came from the sea **in the area of Kibbutz Zikim**, about 2.5 kilometers (or about a mile and a half) north of the Gaza Strip.

5. **Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu issued the following statement:**

"In recent days, Hamas terrorists have fired hundreds of rockets at Israel's civilians. No other country lives under such a threat, and no country would accept such a threat. Israel will not tolerate the firing of rockets on our cities and towns. We have therefore significantly expanded our operations against Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in Gaza. This comes after our repeated efforts to restore calm were met with increased Hamas rocket fire. Israel is not eager for war, but the security of our citizens is our primary consideration. Israel targets Hamas terrorists and not innocent civilians. By contrast, Hamas targets Israeli civilians while hiding behind Palestinian civilians. Hamas, therefore, bears full responsibility for any harm that comes to Israeli and Palestinian civilians alike"¹ (Israeli Prime Minister's website, July 8, 2014).

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¹ [http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Spokesman/Pages/spokebib080714.aspx](http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Spokesman/Pages/spokebib080714.aspx)
6. On the second day of Operation Protective Edge Israel continued its strikes on terrorist targets throughout the Gaza Strip. **During the past 24 hours 270 targets were struck.** Since the beginning of the operation, 240 air strikes were carried out. Among the targets struck during the past 24 hours were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 9, 2014):

1) **118 hidden rocket launchers**, among them launchers for medium- and long-range rockets.

2) **Buildings housing the ministry of internal security** and the national security services.\(^2\)

3) **Terrorist operatives**, among them *Hafez Hamed*, senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) operative, who was responsible for rocket fire targeting the southern Israeli town of Sderot during the past days; and *Muhammad Shaaban*, a commander in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' naval commandos.

4) **Houses of terrorist operatives** which served as command and control bases for the organizations to which they belonged.

\(^2\) The security services in the Gaza Strip, which are subordinate to the ministry of the interior, join forces with Hamas military-terrorist wing in times of crisis. Many of the services' operatives are also operatives in Hamas' military-terrorist wing. For the double identities of the services' operatives, see the December 16, 2012 "Members of Hamas' Internal Security Services Who Were Also Operatives in Hamas' Military-Terrorist Wing and Were Killed in Operation Pillar of Defense." Since Operation Pillar of Defense other examples have been found of terrorist operatives with double identities.
5) **Houses of military-terrorist operatives** who were involved in anti-Israeli terrorism.

6) **Weapons storehouses.**

7) **Hamas naval bases**, attacked by the Israeli navy.

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The IDF attacks in the Gaza Strip. Left: The house of a terrorist operative in Rafah after an IAF strike (Facebook page of the Gazan ministry of the interior, July 9, 2014). Right: Attack on tunnels along the Gaza Strip-Egypt border in Rafah (Facebook page of the Gazan ministry of the interior, July 9, 2014).

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Click [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlQ4fNEXbrk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlQ4fNEXbrk) for the video.

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7. According to reports in the Palestinian media and from the ministry of health in the Gaza Strip, as of the morning of July 9, 2014, **24 Palestinians had been killed in Israel's attacks and more than 100 wounded.** Iyad al-Bazam, spokesman for the ministry of the
interior, demanded that the Egyptian authorities open the Rafah crossing immediately to ease the humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip in view of what he called "Israel's continuing aggression" (Anballwatan.com, July 9, 2014).³

Rocket Fire

8. During the past 24 hours there was an increase in rocket and mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory. It extended from the western Negev in southern Israel to Hadera in the north, a significant increase in range. On July 8, 2014, 220 rocket hits were identified in Israeli territory, 15 of them long-range rockets (with ranges of more than 45 kilometers). The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted about 30 rockets. Most of them targeted the towns and villages in the western Negev. Some of them targeted Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Rishon Letzion, Rehovot, Nes Tziona and Ashdod. Rocket fragments were found in the coastal city of Hadera, north of Tel Aviv, the most northern target reached by rockets from the Gaza Strip. So far there have been no casualties, but property damage has been reported.

9. According to IDF sources after an examination of the fragments of the long-range rockets, some of them were manufactured locally by Hamas and some of them were standard. The rocket whose fragments were found in Hadera belonged to an M302

³ Despite the escalation, the Kerem Shalom crossing was open on July 8, 2014, for the entrance of 159 trucks carrying merchandise and 221 tons of fuel (Cogat.idf.il, July 9, 2014).
M-302s were a type of rocket found aboard the Klos-C, a ship sent from Iran to the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip. The M-302 is a surface-to-surface rocket made in Syria whose advanced models have a range of 200 kilometers (or about 124 miles). The rocket was first developed in the 1990s. Since then it has been upgraded a number of times and now appears in two versions, both of which were used by Hezbollah during the Second Lebanon War to attack Haifa and Afula:

1) The **M-302A** – The basic model, with a range of between 90 and 100 kilometers (or about 56 and 112 miles) carrying a warhead of about 170 kilograms (or about 374 pounds) of explosives.

2) The **M-302-B** – This model has a range of about 100 kilometers and carries a warhead with about 175 kilograms (or about 386 pounds) of explosives.

10. At this point the ITIC does not have information regarding which model Hamas has or how many of them it has.

11. According to the Palestinian media, Hamas' military-terrorist wing claimed responsibility for most of the rocket fire. It reported that for the first time Hamas had fired a locally-produced rocket called the R160 at Haifa. According to the statement, the rocket was named for Abd Aziz Rantisi, former Hamas leader. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades

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4 For further information see the date bulletin see the March 5, 2014, bulletin "Israeli Navy Foils Iranian Attempt to Smuggle Advanced Weapons, Especially Long-Range Rockets, to the Gaza Strip (Initial report based on information from the IDF Spokesman).
also claimed responsibility for launching M75 rockets (first used by Hamas in Operation Pillar of Defense) to attack Tel Aviv and Jerusalem (Qassam.ps, July 8, 2014).

12. The Jerusalem Brigades, the PIJ's military-terrorist wing, also claimed responsibility for rocket fire targeting Tel Aviv. It issued a statement claiming it had fired 60 rockets on the morning of July 8, 2014. A spokesman for the organization warned that they would escalate their response if Israel extended its military activities against the Gaza Strip. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and other local terrorist organizations publicly claimed responsibility for rocket and mortar shell fire, especially in the area around the Gaza Strip.
Terrorist Attacks from the Gaza Strip

Prevention of a Terrorist Attack from the Sea

13. In the early evening of July 8, 2014, Israeli navy surveillance identified suspicious movement. A squad of armed terrorist operatives was located attempting to infiltrate into Israel from the sea in the area of Kibbutz Zikim, about 2.5 kilometers north of the Gaza Strip. An IDF force was sent to the location. The squad operatives, who arrived with the intention of carrying out an attack, were met by the force, which opened fire. Some of the terrorist operatives were killed. One IDF soldier incurred minor wounds and was treated at the scene (IDF Spokesman, July 8, 2014). (Qassam.ps, July 8, 2014).

\[^5\text{Buraq}:\text{“lightning” or the name of the flying steed that, according to Muslim belief, carried Muhammad from Al-Aqsa mosque to the sky.}\]
14. Hamas' military-terrorist wing said in a statement that a commando force of its military wing had raided an Israeli naval base on the Ashqelon shore. According to the (completely false) statement, the commander of the force reported that the attack had been carried out according to plan and that the IDF had suffered heavy losses. Apparently, Hamas had intended to combine the rocket fire with a showcase attack along the shore north of the Gaza Strip to create the image of "victory."

**Tunnel Blown Up in the Kerem Shalom Region**

15. Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operatives claimed responsibility for blowing up a tunnel near Kerem Shalom (Qassam.ps, July 8, 2014). Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum, interviewed by Al-Jazeera, called the attacks important activities which were an expression of "the victory of the resistance" (Al-Jazeera, July 8, 2014).

**Statements from Hamas**

16. Hamas and PIJ spokesmen continued threatening harsh reprisals after the IDF attacks, especially those on the houses of senior operatives of its military-terrorist wing (referred to as "crossing the red line"). Ismail Haniya, former head of the de-facto Hamas administration, called for an emergency meeting of the Palestinian organizations' temporary leadership to formulate a united Palestinian position. He also called for increased cooperation among the Palestinians to deal with what he referred to as "the sensitive
stage." Ismail Haniya stressed Hamas' adherence to the internal Palestinian reconciliation more than ever, in view of what he called "Israeli aggression" (Safa.ps, July 8, 2014).

17. **Abu Obeida**, spokesman for Hamas' military-terrorist wing, held a press conference where he called the current situation "a new chapter in the campaign against Israel. He said Israel would not know stability or peace until it had carried out a number of steps. Among them, he said, was **the release of the prisoners who had been detained in Operation Brothers' Keeper** (Qassam.ps, July 8, 2014). In ITIC assessment he meant the prisoners who were freed in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal and redetained, and possibly senior Hamas activists detained in Judea and Samaria during the operation.

18. Hamas spokesman **Sami Abu Zuhri** said that the "resistance" [i.e., the terrorist organizations] **would extend its response against Israel** because Hamas was currently defending itself. He said an IDF ground incursion into the Gaza Strip would be an opportunity to abduct soldiers (Elbadil.com, July 9, 2014). He condemned the attack on the house in Khan Yunis where six civilians were killed, and said that because of it **all Israelis had become legal targets for attack** (Zamnpress.com, July 8, 2014).

19. **Musa Abu Marzouq**, a member of the Hamas political bureau, said that escalation was not a Hamas policy, but that the movement could not ignore "the crimes committed by the enemy." He said it was Israel that had violated the lull, detained those who had been released [in the Gilad Shalit deal] in Judea and Samaria, used administrative detentions and did not honor its commitments (Alqudsnews.net, July 8, 2014).

20. Hamas spokesman **Fawzi Barhoum** said that Israel had begun the aggression and had to pay the price set by the Palestinian people (Facebook page of Fawzi Barhoum, July 9, 2014). He said the Palestinian people would use all the means at their disposal to deal with Israel's aggression. He added that so far Palestinian responses had been limited and restrained, but in light of Israel's increased aggression Hamas would employ the best of its capabilities (Alquds.com, July 8, 2014). In another interview, he said that Hamas regarded the IDF's deployment near the Gaza Strip as a great opportunity, and that it wanted Israel to enter the Gaza Strip so that it could abduct soldiers (Al-Jazeera, July 8, 2014).
The Palestinian Authority (PA)

21. **Mahmoud Abbas** demanded that Israel immediately stop its escalation and aggression against the Gaza Strip. He appealed to the international community to intervene immediately to end what he called "dangerous escalation," which was liable to drag the entire region into destruction and instability. He also noted the importance of preserving the lull which had been achieved, for the sake of the Palestinian people and its property, and defending innocents. He said the PA was in contact with a number of Arab and international elements with the objective of ending the escalation (Al-ayyam.com, July 8, 2014). Not once did Mahmoud Abbas mention the massive rocket fire into Israel from the Gaza Strip, which caused the escalation.

22. "Presidential" spokesman **Nabil Abu Rudeina** condemned Israel's decision to extend what he called "the scope of its aggression" against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria. He claimed that Israel's decision was a comprehensive declaration of war against the Palestinian people whose consequences would be borne by the Israeli government. He said the Palestinians had the right to defend themselves against aggression using any legitimate means in their possession (Wafa.ps, July 8, 2014). Nabil Abu Rudeina also did not mention the massive rocket fire into Israel from the Gaza Strip.

23. **Saeb Erekat**, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, acting on instructions from Mahmoud Abbas, said the Palestinians were holding intensive contacts with the United States, the EU and the UN. He said it was not a war against Hamas and the Gaza Strip as Israel claimed, but against the entire Palestinian people (Alquuds.com, July 8, 2014).
Egypt

24. **Badr Abdel A'aty**, spokesman for the Egyptian foreign ministry, denounced the Israeli attacks and called on Israel to contain the situation. He said it was important for Israel to open a channel of direct communications with the PA. He said Egypt was in contact with all the relevant regional and international elements to stop the so-called Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip. He added that Israel was responsible for ensuring the lives of Palestinian civilians.

The United States

25. **Josh Earnest**, principal deputy press secretary of the White House, said "We strongly condemn the continuing rocket fire inside of Israel and the deliberate targeting of civilians by terrorist organizations in Gaza...No country can accept rocket fire aimed at civilians and we support Israel's right to defend itself against these vicious attacks." He also urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to keep a diplomatic channel open with Palestinians to resolve the crisis (AFP.com, July 8, 2014).

Britain

26. **William Hague**, the British foreign secretary, said he was "deeply concerned by the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and southern Israel. I condemn the firing of rockets into Israel by Gaza-based militants. The UK calls on Hamas and other militant groups to

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http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/07/08/palestinians-israel-usa-idINL2N0PJ1DG20140708
stop these attacks. The people of Israel have the right to live without constant fear for their security; the people of Gaza also have the right to live in peace.” 7 (Website of the British Foreign Office, July 8, 2014).

Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 2
(As of 1200 hours, July 10, 2014)

Overview

1. Operation Protective Edge has been ongoing since the evening of July 7, 2014. During the past 24 hours the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets throughout the Gaza Strip from the air and sea. Since the beginning of the operation 785 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip have been hit, mainly from the air. Among the targets were terrorist operatives, rocket launchers, weapons storehouses, military-terrorist compounds and terrorist tunnels. Hundreds of tons of explosives have been destroyed (IDF Spokesman, July 10, 2014).

2. The terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, led by Hamas, continue firing massive barrages of rockets and mortar shells into Israeli territory. On July 9, 2014, approximately 150 rocket hits were identified.¹ During the past 24 hours the Palestinian

¹ Note: In ITIC assessment, the number of launches from the Gaza Strip is about 20% greater than the number of identified hits, due to unsuccessful launchings and/or rockets which misfired and fell inside the Gaza Strip.
terrorist organizations have fired rockets with longer ranges and a new targets: on the afternoon of July 9, 2014, rockets were identified in an open area in the coastal plain south of Haifa, the furthest location from the Gaza Strip ever hit (the previous day a rocket landed in Hadera). In the afternoon rockets were launched at the central Negev towns of Yeruham and Dimona\(^2\) for the first time; they were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system. The Iron Dome continued intercepting rockets, most of which targeted Israel's principal cities. There were no casualties so far; damage to property was reported.

3. In a message to the international community, **Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu** said that no country on earth would remain passive in the face of hundreds of rockets fired on its cities and Israel was no exception. He said that no country in the world would agree to suffer relentless missile attacks and infiltration attempts by sea and via tunnels, and that Israel had therefore expanded its operations against Hamas and the other terrorist groups in Gaza. He added that Hamas was perpetrating a double war crime by deliberately trying to attack Israeli civilians while using the civilian population in Gaza as human shields. While Israel would do everything in its power to protect its citizens, Hamas, in contrast, deliberately put Palestinian civilians into harm’s way by embedding its terrorists in hospitals, schools, mosques and apartment buildings throughout the Gaza Strip (Israeli prime minister's website, July 9, 2014).

4. **Hamas** claimed responsibility for most of the rockets fired, including those fired at the coastal plain south of Haifa, Dimona, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. In his first public appearance since the beginning of the operation, **Khaled Mashaal**, head of Hamas' political bureau, claimed that Hamas had not initiated the escalation and did not want it. He claimed that Hamas was acting in response to Israel's policies in Judea and Samaria and towards Israeli Arabs. He called on the Israeli leadership to change its approach to the Palestinians, and threatened a strong response to the Israeli attack.

**IDF Activity**

5. On the third day of Operation Protective Edge attacks on terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip continued. **During the past 24 hours the IDF struck 322 terrorist targets** (for a total of 785 since the beginning of the operation). Among the targets were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 10, 2014):

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\(^2\) About 75 kilometers, or about 47 miles, from the Gaza Strip.
1) Weapons storehouses, including one storehouse located inside a mosque.
2) Five sites for the manufacture of weapons.
3) Five military facilities.
4) 58 tunnels.
5) Two surveillance facilities.
6) 217 hidden rocket launchers.

6. In addition, attacks were carried out against 46 senior operatives of Hamas and other terrorist organizations. Among those killed was the senior Hamas commander of the organization's forces in the northern Gaza Strip. In response to the attempted terrorist attack in the area of Zikim (north of the Gaza Strip), during the past 24 hours the Israeli navy attacked from the sea more than ten times. Damage was done to vessels belonging to Hamas' naval force, weapons warehouses, surveillance posts, training facilities, etc. (IDF Spokesman, July 10, 2014).
7. The IDF Spokesman said in a statement that Hamas had been in distress during the past weeks. He said Hamas’ rocket fire was not effective and the rockets it launched to harm the Israeli population had been intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system, and that IAF’s immediate response had been to attack the rocket launchers. He added that the IDF’s attacks were focused and "surgical," and that the IDF took every possible precaution. That was done at a time, he said, when Hamas had taken its civilians, including women and children, as hostages and used them as human shields for its terrorist operatives (IDF Spokesman, July 9, 2014).

**Palestinian Casualties and the Use of Civilians as Human Shields**

8. The Palestinian media and ministry of health reported that since the beginning of the operation 50 people had been killed and more than 400 wounded (Website of the Palestinian ministry of health, June 10, 2014). So far the ITIC has not been able to determine how many of those killed were terrorist operatives and how many were uninvolved.

9. The ministry of the interior in the Gaza Strip issued a statement calling on to reject the IDF’s calls to evacuate their houses [before attacks]. The calls, claimed the ministry, were meant "to frighten the population, sow terror and weaken the home front" (Facebook page of the Gaza ministry of the interior, July 10, 2014). Behind the statement was Hamas’ desire...
to use Gazan civilians as human shields for its terrorist operatives whose houses were
attacked.\(^3\)

Notice from the Gazan ministry of the interior to the civilians of the Gaza Strip, telling them to reject the
IDF’s call for evacuating their houses (Facebook page of the Gaza ministry of the interior, July 10, 2014)

### Rocket Fire

10. During the past 24 hours rocket and mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip into Israeli
territory continued. Rockets with longer ranges were fired, including rockets targeting Haifa
in the north, but which fell in the northern coastal plain south of Haifa. On July 9, 2014,
**about 150 rockets hits were identified in Israel.** Some of them fell in the region of the
northern coastal plain and Caesarea. For the first time, rockets targeted Yeruham and
Dimona in the central Negev; they were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense
system. The Iron Dome intercepted dozens of additional rockets; there were no casualties,
but damage to property was reported.

11. The Palestinian media reported that **Hamas’ military-terrorist wing claimed responsibility for most of the rocket fire** (including the long-range rockets targeting Haifa and Dimona). Hamas military-terrorist wing said in a statement that its operatives had
launched M75 rockets into Israel and Tel Aviv and an R160 rocket at Haifa.

12. The Jerusalem Brigades, the military-terrorist wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad
(PIJ), also claimed responsibility for rocket fire (including long-range rocket fire). The

\(^3\) The use of Gazan civilians as human shields by Hamas in Operation Protective Edge will be detailed in a
separate bulletin which will be posted on Sunday, July 13, 2014.
military-terrorist wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Resistance Committees all claimed responsibility for rocket fire. Several local terrorist networks publicly claimed responsibility, mostly for rocket fire targeting the towns around the Gaza Strip.

Left to right: A rocket intercepted over the southern coastal city of Ashqelon (Tazpit.org.il, July 9, 2014); a rocket hit in the south (Sderot Media Center); a fire caused by a rocket hit (Facebook page of the Israel Police Force, July 9, 2014).

Attacks by Terrorist Squads Infiltrating from the Gaza Strip

Attack by Terrorist Squad from the Sea Prevented

13. On the evening of July 9, 2014, two armed frogmen were seen near the shoreline north of the Gaza Strip. They were going towards Israel. An IDF force that identified the suspects took action of keep them from progressing (IDF Spokesman, July 9, 2014). The previous day, July 8, 2014, the IDF also prevented an attack by squad of armed terrorist operatives who had entered Israeli territory from the sea in the region of Kibbutz Zikim, north of the Gaza Strip.
The Situation at the Crossings

14. Throughout Operation Protective Edge, despite the massive rocket and mortar shell fire, the Kerem Shalom crossing has remained open, although its activities are limited. Through the crossing, food, medical supplies and fuel enter the Gaza Strip. The Rafah crossing, on the other hand, remains closed. Hamas has appealed to Egypt to open the crossing. **Maher Abu Sabha**, director of the general administration of crossings and borders, said that despite the appeal, it is not known when Egypt will open the crossing. He said the Palestinian team working on the Gazan side was prepared to open it under all conditions (Gazan ministry of the interior website, July 9, 2014).
Statements from Hamas

15. Senior Hamas figures have stressed their movement’s achievements in the current campaign and threaten to intensify their responses. They also continue to state their conditions for a renewal of the lull, especially the stopping of Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, the release of the prisoners freed in the Gilad Shalit deal and redetained recently in Judea and Samaria during Operation Brothers' Keeper, and the cessations of administrative detentions.

16. Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas’ political bureau, in his first appearance since the beginning of the operation, gave a prerecorded speech from Qatar. He claimed that Hamas had not initiated the escalation in the Gaza Strip and did not want it. He added that Hamas was taking action in response to Israel's policies in Judea and Samaria and toward Israeli Arabs, who were being pushed to the wall. He called on the Israeli leadership to change its approach to the Palestinians and threatened a stronger response to the Israeli attack. He called on the Palestinian Authority (PA) and its security services to support the Gaza Strip and called for a new intifada against Israel in Judea and Samaria. He also called on the West to exert pressure on Israel to stop what he called its "aggression" against the Gaza Strip (Al-Aqsa TV, July 9, 2014).

17. Osama Hamdan, responsible for Hamas’ international relations, said that the operation in Gaza was an attempt to whitewash "Israel's intelligence failure" regarding the abduction
of the three youths in Gush Etzion. He said defensively that Hamas was aware of the value of Palestinian blood, but that the struggle for freedom demanded the Palestinians pay "a certain price." He said that time after time during the first 48 hours of the fighting Hamas's military wing had surprised Israel, which had not expected naval attacks or the rocket fire targeting Haifa. He said the principle of "quiet in return for quiet" the Israelis were trying to force on Hamas was unacceptable, because Hamas refused to stop its rocket fire without demanding that Israel stop the [so-called Israeli] occupation (Al-Aqsa, July 9, 2014).

### Arab and Western Reactions

#### The Palestinian Authority

18. **Mahmoud Abbas** spoke with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi about what he called "Israel's dangerous escalation" against the Gaza Strip. El-Sisi said that Egypt would continue its efforts to achieve a cease fire as quickly as possible (Al-ayyam.com, July 9, 2014). **Saeb Erekat**, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said that Egypt was making all possible efforts to stop the "Israeli aggression" and restore quiet. He said Mahmoud Abbas was in continuous contact with Egypt, as well as with the **American secretary of state and the UN Secretary General** (Al-Arabiya TV, July 9, 2014).

19. In a televised speech **Mahmoud Abbas** called for the Palestinians to show "solidarity, patience and adherence to unity because victory is near." He said the PA would appeal to all the international organizations and institutions to stop Israel's "aggression." He also said that the government would fulfill, insofar as it could, the Gazans' humanitarian needs. The time had come, he said, for the international community, especially the International Quartet and the Security Council, to take responsibility and provided international protection for the Palestinian people (Al-ayyam.com, July 9, 2014).

20. **The Palestinian government** held an emergency meeting in Ramallah, headed by **Rami Hamdallah**. It issued a statement condemning Israel's attacks on "the civilians in the Gaza Strip" and called on the UN Secretary General to appoint an international committee to investigate. The government stressed that it would put all its resources to acquiring emergency humanitarian and medical aid for the Gaza Strip (Wafa.ps, July 9, 2014). **Note:** As in all previous statements issued by senior PA figures, no mention was made of Hamas or its rocket fire into Israeli territory.
Egypt

21. **Ihab Badawi**, Egyptian presidential spokesman said that Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi had received a telephone call from the PA chairman, and said that Egypt had intensive contacts with both sides. He said Egypt was working to make Israel responsible for protecting the Palestinian civilians because Israel was the "occupying power" according to the Geneva Convention and international law (Youm7.com, July 9, 2014).

The United States

22. State department spokesperson **Jen Psaki** said that "...we strongly condemn the continuing rocket fire into Israel and the deliberate targeting of civilians by terrorist organizations in Gaza. No country can accept rocket fire aimed at civilians, and we certainly support Israel’s right to defend itself against these attacks.... The Secretary [of State John Kerry] spoke with Prime Minister Netanyahu Friday and again on Sunday... We certainly expect President Abbas to do everything in his power to prevent rocket attacks and to condemn violence"4 (Website of the American state department, July 8, 2014).

The European Union

23. **A spokesman for the EU Council** condemned the indiscriminate rocket fire from the Gaza Strip into Israel by what he referred to as "militant groups." He also condemned the growing number of casualties, including children in the Gaza Strip, caused by Israeli fire. He called on both sides to do their utmost to reach an immediate cease fire and fully respect "the laws of war." He added that Israel should only attack legitimate military targets, and with the utmost care (Website of the EU Council, July 8, 2014).

24. **The German minister of foreign affairs** said that the rocket fire from the Gaza Strip into Israel was a threat and regional escalation, and that Israel had the right to defend its citizens from rocket fire. He said he hoped the sides would agree to prevent a military

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4 http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2014/07/228878.htm
confrontation that could become uncontrollable (Website of the German ministry of foreign affairs, July 8, 2014).
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 3
(As of 1200 hours, July 13, 2014)

Overview of the Situation
Updated to the Sixth Day of Operation Protective Edge
1. The situation as it stands on the sixth day of Operation Protective Edge, in ITIC assessment:

   1) The State of Israel – Israel was dragged into Operation Protective Edge by intensive rocket barrages launched into its populated areas from the Gaza Strip during Operation Brothers' Keeper. So far, Israel has succeeded in hit the terrorist infrastructures of Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip with intensive air strikes (with support with attacks from the sea and land). Israel has also succeeded in significantly limiting harm done to its civilian population, thanks to the effectiveness of its Iron Dome aerial defense system and the appropriate conduct of the home front during rocket attacks. In addition, Israel has prevented Hamas from carrying out showcase attacks. However, Israel is experiencing difficulty in preventing the continuation of intense rocket fire from the Gaza Strip (even though its scope has diminished a bit) and in preventing the disruption of the daily lives of most of its citizens. Therefore, a ground incursion is still considered a possible alternative, as has been repeatedly stated by senior
Israeli political and military figures, although so far Israel is reluctant to use the option because of the high price involved.

2) **Hamas** – Hamas is responsible for the deterioration on the ground during Operation Brothers' Keeper, acting from a position of strategic weakness (loss of support from the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, hostility of the Egyptian regime, difficulties caused to its relations with Iran and the radical camp, financial difficulties in the Gaza Strip). So far Hamas has no significant military achievements to present to the Gazans ("victory pictures" such as massive Israeli casualties, destruction of strategic facilities, "successful" terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip). Hamas has also not managed to gain sweeping support from the Arab-Muslim world and is isolated in the international arena. However, Hamas has managed to demonstrate its ability to disrupt the lives of most of Israel's citizens for a relatively long period, and to put new areas into the range of its rockets (the outskirts of Haifa in the north, for example). Hamas' military-terrorist capabilities took severe hits but Hamas manages to continue its on-going rocket attacks on Israeli territory and to preserve the survival of its senior operatives, in the face of Israel's intensive military attacks.

3) **The battle for hearts and minds** – At this point Israel (still) enjoys the understanding of the international community, especially the United States, and there is support for its right to defend itself and the lives of its citizens. So far criticism of Israel is low-key, but is liable to increase if Israel launches a land incursion into the Gaza Strip or in view of exceptional civilian casualties. Hamas, on the other hand, is isolated in the international and Arab arenas, where it so far has not managed to enlist significant support. In such circumstances its propaganda is aimed primarily at the Gazans and less at other audiences (including psychological warfare aimed at the Israeli population). Hamas continues its efforts, so far unsuccessful, to create so-called "victory pictures." However, in view of the lack of successes, most of its spokesmen rely on belligerent slogans and declarations of false "victories." As in previous operations, Hamas plans to make the most of the civilian deaths once a ceasefire has been achieved, and to use them as a means of attacking Israeli in the international arena (through the human rights organizations and the international networks operating to delegitimize Israel, which operated against Israel after Operation Cast Lead). Hamas continues its blatant, deliberate use of civilians and the civilian infrastructure as human shields for its terrorist operatives and military infrastructure, which might increase the number of civilian casualties.
4) **The situation in Judea and Samaria and the place of the Palestinian Authority (PA)** – Israel’s security activities were intense during Operation Brothers’ Keeper and later lessened, but did not end, after the bodies were found of the three Israeli youths who were abducted and murdered. Residents of Judea and Samaria demonstrate solidarity with the Gaza Strip, but the level of rioting and violence is so far relatively low (Israeli Arabs have also stopped rioting). Despite the existence of the national consensus government, it is clear that Mahmoud Abbas has no genuine influence over the conduct and decision-making processes of Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, Hamas may have to give the PA a certain role in a future arrangement, when one is made (for example, having it act as a mediator with the international community; facilitating in opening the Rafah crossing by deploying PA security services and integrating the PA in its operation; and having the PA help in arranging for the salaries of the tens of thousands of employees of the former de-facto Hamas administration).

2. The international community has voiced calls and proposed initiatives for a ceasefire with the same conditions as those that ended Operation Pillar of Defense.  

Israel and Hamas have not yet expressed public readiness to stop the fighting but in ITIC assessment, statements made by senior figures on both sides make it possible to discern their basic ideas regarding a future agreement. **Israel**, in ITIC assessment, seeks to restore its deterrent capability, to stop rockets from being launched into its territory, and to ensure a ceasefire of long duration, acting from a position of strength after Operation Protective Edge. So far, from statements made by senior Hamas figures, it **seeks to broaden the understandings achieved in Operation Pillar of Defense by adding new components relevant to Israel, Egypt and the PA** (for example, the release of prisoners freed in the Gilad Shalit deal and Hamas activists who were detained during Operation Brothers’ Keeper; arrangements for paying the salaries of tens of thousands of employees of the former de-facto Hamas administration; the opening of the Rafah crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip; ensuring for the continued routine opening of the Kerem Shalom crossing, which continued its operations throughout Operation Pillar of Defense).

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1 The understandings regarding the cease fire for Operation Pillar of Defense were achieved under Egyptian aegis and with American intervention, and they went into effect on November 21, 2012. It was agreed that the sides, (i.e., Israel and Hamas) would stop attacking one another and that within 24 hours deliberations would begin about broader agreements. The broader agreement dealt with arranging the passage of people and merchandise in and out of the Gaza Strip, and remove the limitations on the movement of Palestinians in regions near the Gaza Strip’s border with Israel.
IDF Activity

Attacks on Terrorist Targets in the Gaza Strip

3. During the past few days the IDF has continued attacking terrorist targets throughout the Gaza Strip. During the past three days hundreds of targets were hit, among them rocket launchers, military-terrorist camps and posts, senior terrorist figures, tunnels used for terrorist purposes, etc. Since the beginning of the operation there have been 1,320 strikes. The following attacks were carried out between July 10 and 12, 2014 (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014, and Israeli media sources):

1) **July 12, 2014** – 200 terrorist targets were attacked. Among them were 53 hidden rocket launchers, the houses of nine senior terrorist operatives that were used as command and control centers, 11 sites for the manufacture of weapons and 40 tunnels. In the evening Israeli navy missile ships attacked a region from which rockets had been launched targeting the greater Tel Aviv area. On the night of July 11, 2014, the IDF attacked ten terrorist operatives, six of whom had been involved in firing rockets into Israeli territory. The IDF also attacked the Al-Farouq Mosque in the Nuseirat refugee camp, where rockets and other weapons were stored.

2) **July 11, 2014** – During a 24-hour period there were more than 200 strikes. Among the targets were terrorist operatives, especially those who were involved in firing rockets into Israel. About 30 terrorist tunnels were attacked, as were approximately 40 hidden rocket launchers, the houses of terrorist operatives and approximately ten sites for the manufacture of weapons. During the morning the IDF attacked caches of weapons stored in a school building in the central Gaza Strip, which also had a terrorist tunnel.

3) **July 10, 2014** – During a 24-hour period the IDF attacked more than 200 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip. Among the targets were long-range rocket launchers, Hamas governmental facilities used for terrorist activities, tunnels used for attack purposes and for smuggling, pipelines for smuggling fuel, military compounds and training camps, communications networks, Hamas’ aerial defense system and hidden rocket launchers.
4. On the night of July 12, 2014, an IDF special force raided a rocket-launching region from which a large number of long-range rockets had been fired at the center of the country. During the raid the force was shot at and returned fire. The target was damaged. During the exchange of fire four IDF soldiers sustained minor wounds (IDF Spokesman, July 13, 2014).
5. The IDF distributed leaflets to the civilian population in the northern Gaza Strip warning them of attacks the IDF would carry out against terrorist targets. Residents of Beit Lahia were instructed to vacate their houses by noon on July 13, 2014, to keep their families safe (IDF Spokesman, July 12, 2014). Many local residents left the region. The leaflet read as follows:

"Residents of Beit Lahia,
The IDF intends to attack terrorist infrastructures and terrorist operatives from the air in the region east of Al-Atatra and Al-Salatin street, and to the north and west of the Jabaliya refugee camp
Israel attacks and will attack any region from which rockets are fired into its territory
Civilians must vacate their houses by 12:00 noon on 13/7/2014 and go to the south via the town of Jabaliya through Al-Fallujah street
The IDF activity will be temporary and short
Anyone who does not obey IDF instructions will endanger himself and the lives of his family
Be careful and be safe"

6. Following the distribution of the leaflets, Iyad al-Bazam, spokesman for the ministry of the interior in the Gaza Strip, called on the residents not to pay attention to the IDF's threats, whether in leaflets or telephone calls. They indicated, he said, "the enemy's failure and frustration," and not to leave their houses (Website of the Gazan ministry of the interior, July 13, 2014).
Residents of the northern Gaza Strip respond to the IDF calls, vacate their houses and seek shelter in a UNRWA school in the Al-Shati refugee camp Gaza City (Paltoday.ps, July 13, 2014).

**Statements from Senior Israeli Political and Military Figures**

7. On July 11, 2014, **Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu** said "The pace of attacks in this operation is double that of Operation Pillar of Defense and the military strikes will continue until we can be certain that the quiet has returned to Israeli citizens. I would like to make it clear that no terrorist target in the Gaza Strip is immune but it must be pointed out that Hamas’s leaders, commanders and activists are hiding behind the residents of Gaza and they are responsible for any injury to them...We develop defensive systems against missiles in order to protect our civilians and they use their civilians to protect their missiles. And this is the entire difference... We will continue to strongly hit all those who try to attack us and we will continue to take determined and prudent action to protect our home front, the citizens of the State of Israel”

8. According to the **IDF Spokesman**, Hamas is showing signs of stress. The situation on the ground indicates that very great damage has been done in the Gaza Strip and there are many questions the Gazans will have to ask Hamas. He said the IDF would continue to attack with every means at its disposal and at the same time preparations were being made for a ground incursion, which would start at a time decided on by the political leadership (IDF Spokesman, July 12, 2014). **General Yoav Mordechai, Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories**, said that the IDF was acting exclusively according to international law and making every effort to be precise.

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2 [http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Events/Pages/eventstate110714.aspx](http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Events/Pages/eventstate110714.aspx)
and ensure there were no civilians at its targets. However, he said, Hamas was using its civilians as human shields (IDF Spokesman, July 12, 2014).

### Palestinian Casualties

9. The Palestinian media and ministry of health reported that since the beginning of the operation, **164 people had been killed** and more than 1,000 wounded (Website of the ministry of health, July 13, 2014). So far the ITIC cannot determine how many of those killed and wounded were terrorist operatives and how many were uninvolved civilians.

### Rocket Fire

10. During the past few days there has been massive, continuous rocket and mortar shell fire targeting Israel, **although it has lessened somewhat during the past two days**. So far, during the operation **725 rocket hits have been identified in Israeli territory**. A number of civilians have been wounded, including a man who was critically wounded by a rocket in Ashdod, and extensive damage to property has been reported. One woman died while running to a shelter, apparently from a heart attack.

11. In the early evening of **July 12, 2014**, a barrage of rockets was fired at Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh, Hebron, the Dead Sea and other locations. One rocket hit Hebron and caused extensive damage to several houses. In the evening Hamas’ military-terrorist wing announced it planned to fire a barrage of rockets at Tel Aviv at 2100 hours (Al-Aqsa TV, July 12, 2014). The threat was carried out. The rockets were successfully intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system.
Left: The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepts a rocket. Center and right: Rocket hits (Tazpit.org.il, July 10, 2014).

12. On the morning of July 11, 2014, a heavy barrage of rockets was fired at Israel's south. One of the rockets hit a fuel tanker parked at a gas station in Ashdod. The tanker caught fire and the fire spread to the gas station. One man was trapped in his car and was critically wounded. Five people sustained minor injuries. Earlier in the day sirens were heard in Haifa and Hadera. Residents reported hearing explosions. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted one rocket. A number of buildings in Beersheba were damaged by rocket fire.

Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge

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The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include mortar shell fire or rocket launches that failed.
13. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge the Iron Dome has intercepted more than 145 rockets targeting Israeli population centers. On July 11, 2014, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) received another Iron Dome system, for a total of eight. The last is an improved version that will provide greater coverage and protection. The battery, which was made operative in a rapid process, is the second received by the IAF since the beginning of the operation (IDF Spokesman, July 13, 2014).

14. According to reports in the Palestinian media, **Hamas claimed responsibility for most of the rocket fire** (including firing long-range rockets and the rockets from Lebanon). **Abu Obeida**, spokesman for the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military-terrorist wing, said in an announcement that Hamas still considered the battle "limited" and was using only a small fraction of its capabilities (Al-Aqsa TV, July 10, 2014).

15. In addition to Hamas, **the Jerusalem Brigades, the military-terrorist wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad** (PIJ) claimed responsibility for rocket fire (including long-range rocket fire), as did the military-terrorist wings of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Resistance Committees. Several local terrorist networks publicly claimed responsibility for rocket fire, especially at the areas close to the Gaza Strip.
Anti-Tank Missile Fired at IDF Jeep

16. On July 11, 2014, an anti-tank missile was fired at an IDF jeep near the Gaza Strip border. Two soldiers sustained minor wounds. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said that blowing up the jeep was a precedent for [Israel's] future ground action, and added that the Gaza Strip would turn into "a graveyard for IDF soldiers" (Samanews.com, July 11, 2014).

17. Ahmed Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC, said that Syria had provided Hamas with its Kornet anti-tank missiles. He also said that Iran had delivered weapons to Hamas via Sudan and the Sinai Peninsula (Al-Mayadeen, July 10, 2014).

Activity in Other Sectors

Rocket Fire from Lebanon Targets the North of Israel

18. While rockets and mortar shells fell in Israel's south, there were two attempts to fire rockets from Lebanese territory. In the assessment of IDF sources, pro-Palestinian elements in Lebanon were behind the rocket fire:

1) In the early morning hours of July 11, 2014, a rocket was fired into Israeli territory from Lebanon. It exploded near the northern community of Metulla. There were no casualties. The IDF responded with artillery fire at the elements responsible for the rocket launch. Lebanese army headquarters said in an announcement that "an anonymous source" had fired three rockets from the region of Marjayoun (in the eastern sector of south Lebanon). Lebanese army forces that searched the area found the position from which the rockets had been fired. They also found documents and maps with coordinates and targets (Al-Akhbar and Al-Nashra, July 11, 2014). A UNIFIL force, in coordination with the Lebanese army, increased its forces on the ground as well as its patrols, in order to prevent other incidents. The UNIFIL commander said that firing rockets into Israel from Lebanon was a serious violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 (UN Website, July 11, 2014).
Rockets ready for firing, found by the Lebanese army (Al-Manar, July 12, 2014).

2) On **July 12, 2014**, at around 2200 hours, sirens were sounded in the western Galilee. A 122mm rocket landed in a population center and two others landed near other population centers. The IDF responded with artillery fire at the source of the rocket fire in Lebanon. Hamas' military-terrorist wing claimed responsibility for the rocket fire, and said in an announcement that it had been carried out by its Martyr Muhammad Abu Khdeir unit in Lebanon (Qassam.ps, July 12, 2014).

**Note:** At this stage the credibility of the announcement is doubtful.
Rocket Fire from the Sinai Peninsula

19. On July 11, 2014, the Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, a Salafist-jihadi organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda and operating in Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, uploaded a video to YouTube in which it claimed responsibility for firing rockets from the Sinai Peninsula into Israel. According to the announcement, the organization fired five 107mm rockets at the community of Bnei Netzarim near the Egyptian and southern Gaza Strip borders, to "support the residents of the Gaza Strip" (YouTube, July 11, 2014).

20. At the same time, a source in Egyptian security in the northern Sinai Peninsula reported that on July 10, 2014, Egyptian security forces had seized a truck near the Egypt-Gaza Strip border carrying 20 Grad rockets. The Egyptian security forces confronted the operatives, who were planning to use a tunnel in Rafah to smuggle the rockets into the Gaza Strip (Maannews.net, July 11, 2014).

Attack in Samaria Prevented

21. In Judea and Samaria there were local confrontations between Palestinians and the Israeli security forces in a number of locations (Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, Ramallah, etc.). It seems that there has been only relatively limited activity in Judea and Samaria supporting the Gaza Strip.

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4 A community established in 2008 by families from the settlement of Netzarim, which was evacuated from the Gaza Strip.
22. On July 10, 2014, the Israeli security forces detained a vehicle at the trans-Samaria crossing. The vehicle had a Palestinian license plate and was carrying two passengers. The security forces at the crossing, who were suspicious of the passengers, conducted a comprehensive examination of the vehicle, finding a bag resting on the floor of the car. The bag held an IED made of a gas balloon and electrical wiring. Police demolitions experts called to the site closed the crossing to traffic and neutralized the IED, which in all probability might have been used for a terrorist attack in Israel.

23. The Palestinian media published a large number of pictures of Palestinians celebrating the rockets attacks in Israel, especially in the big cities. For example a picture was published of Palestinians from Hebron watching the greater Tel Aviv area for the barrage of rockets "promised" by Hamas' military-terrorist wing (Facebook page of Gaza al-A'an, July 13, 2014).

Left: Palestinians in Budrus (near Ramallah) celebrating the rocket attack on the greater Tel Aviv area (Facebook page of the Hamas forum, July 12, 2014). Right: Residents of Hebron watch the rocket fire attacking Tel Aviv (Paltimes.net, July 13, 2014).
The Crossings

24. Throughout Operation Protective Edge, the Kerem Shalom crossing has remained open for the delivery of equipment and supplies to the Gaza Strip. General Yoav Mordechai, Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories, said that every day food, milk, fuel and medicines entered the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom crossing. He said that every day the terrorist organizations attacked the crossing through which Israel allowed trucks carrying supplies to enter the Gaza Strip (IDF Spokesman, July 12, 2014).

25. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said that the Rafah crossing was open for the transfer of the wounded to hospitals in Egypt and that 500 tons of food and medicines, a gift from the people of Egypt to the Palestinian people, had been delivered (Youm7.com, July 12, 2014). On July 10, 2014, the Rafah crossing opened and a number of patients were taken from the Gaza Strip for treatment in Egypt. After one day of operation the Egyptians decided to close the crossing (Safa.ps and Maannews.net, July 11, 2014). Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said that opening the Rafah crossing was a good step but insufficient because it had to be open normally so that Gazans could enter and leave and that aid could be delivered to the Gaza Strip (Al-Aqsa TV, July 10, 2014).

Statements from Hamas and PA Figures

Statements from Senior Hamas Figures

26. Ismail Haniya, deputy chairman of Hamas’ political bureau, issued a press release stating that Israel’s aggression against the Gaza Strip would not achieve its goals and the Palestinian people would be victorious. He called on Israel to stop what he referred to as its "war crimes" against the Palestinians. He said Israel was the aggressor and had to cease (Safa.ps, July 11, 2014).

27. Sami Abu Zuhri, Hamas spokesman, said there were no talks about a lull and the only contacts were exchanges of information. He called on the UN Security Council to take responsibility for what was happening in the Gaza Strip, where "war crimes" and violations of international law were being committed (Al-Aqsa TV, July 10, 2014).

28. Fawzi Barhoum, Hamas spokesman, said that a "war equation" existed and it meant "a rocket in exchange for a rocket and aggression in exchange for aggression." He said as long as Hamas had the strength they would continue to fight,
and that "all possibilities were open." He added that if Israel wanted to protect its civilians from Hamas’ rockets it would have to put an Iron Dome on "every last house in Tel Aviv." He said that Hamas' "bank of targets" included "the ministry of defense, Ben-Gurion international airport, and the reactor in Dimona" (Al-Aqsa TV, July 11, 2014). He called on the residents of Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria, as well as Israeli Arabs, to take to the streets to reinforce the "resistance fighters." He claimed that the rockets of the "resistance" [i.e., the terrorist organizations] could distinguish between areas where Jews lived and those where Israeli Arabs lived. He added that Hamas' military wing was going to add "new elements" that Israel was not familiar with (Samanews.com, July 11, 2014).

29. Izzat al-Rishq, a member of Hamas' political bureau, said that Hamas would only accept a cease fire on its own terms. He said that Netanyahu could start a war but he couldn't finish it (Palestine-info.info, July 12, 2014). Ghazi Hamed, senior Hamas figure, detailed the steps Israel would have to take to restore the lull. He said all the detainees in Judea and Samaria had to be released, including those released in the Gilad Shalit deal, and all the understandings of 2012 had to be implemented, the crossings had to be opened, the fishing zone had to be expanded and Gazans living close to the border had to be allowed to return to their houses (Voice of Palestine Radio, July 10, 2014).

30. PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas blamed Israel for the escalation. He said the Israeli government had escalated deliberately because it did not want the two-state solution. He said the balance of power was in Israel's favor despite the rocket fire. He added that those mainly wounded in the fighting were Gazans and that was why it was important to end Israel's "aggression" (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 11, 2014). Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri criticized Mahmoud Abbas, saying he "had no respect for the blood of the shaheeds." He added that Mahmoud Abbas' remarks had harmed the Palestinian people and the "resistance." He said that Hamas would enforce its conditions and would not heed "weak positions" (Paltimes.net, date, 2014).
Attempts to End the Fighting

The UN Security Council

31. The UN Security Council "called for de-escalation of the situation, restoration of calm, and reinstitution of the November 2012 ceasefire...The Security Council members further called for respect for international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians" (UN Security Council website, July 12, 2014).

Egypt

32. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi consulted with Tony Blair, the International Quartet's envoy to the Middle East. A spokesman for the Egyptian president said that el-Sisi warned of a military escalation and innocent civilian casualties. Bader Abd al-A'aty, spokesman for the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs, said that Egypt was working with international agencies to end the escalation in the Gaza Strip and to reach an agreement that would bind both sides (Youm7.com, July 12, 2014).

33. According to a formal announcement from the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs, Egypt was maintaining increased, ongoing contacts with all the relevant factors, including the Palestinian leadership, the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian organizations. It was also in contact with the Arab and Islamic states and UN Security Council. The announcement appealed to the international community to shoulder the responsibility to renew the lull agreement of 2012 and end "Israeli aggression against Palestinian civilians" (Shorouknews.com, July 12, 2014).

July 14, 2014

Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 4
(As of 1200 hours, July 14, 2014)

Overview of the Situation

Updated to the Seventh Day of Operation Protective Edge

1. The past 24 hours of Operation Protective Edge followed the pattern of the previous days: the IDF continued its intensive attacks on terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip, while Hamas and the other terrorist organizations continued firing massive barrages of rockets and mortar shells into Israel (including targeting central Israel and Haifa in the north). Currently there is also sporadic rocket fire from Lebanon as well as mortar shell fire from the Syrian border with the northern Golan Heights. Appeals for a ceasefire have not significantly advanced.
2. During the past 24 hours the IDF has continued attacking terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip. **So far a total of 1,472 terrorist targets have been attacked.** Among them were 632 rocket launchers, 130 military-terrorist camps and posts, 97 senior terrorist operatives and more than 220 terrorist tunnels. Two examples of attacks are the following (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014):

1) **On the afternoon of July 13, 2014,** Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked two rocket launchers used to fire rockets at the southern cities of Ashdod and Beersheba. A rocket launcher in the northern Gaza Strip was also attacked.

2) **Around noon on July 13, 2014,** the IDF attacked the terrorist facility of a senior Hamas operative responsible for rocket fire from the region of the Jabaliya refugee camp. The operational facility of the commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's (PIJ) Beit Lahia rocket unit was also attacked.

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The results of an attack on the "Ansar compound" in western Gaza City, which housed Hamas security service headquarters (Paltimes.net, July 13, 2014).

3. The Palestinian media and ministry of health report that 171 Gazans have been killed since the beginning of the operation, and more than 1,100 have been wounded. According to ITIC (initial) information, the distribution of those killed is as follows:

1) **57 terrorist operatives:**
a) 29 Hamas operatives  
b) 22 PIJ operatives  
c) Six operatives from other terrorist organizations  

2) **76 non-involved Palestinians**  
3) **38 Palestinians** whose identity still cannot be ascertained.  

4. **Mufeed Al-Hassayna**, Palestinian minister of public works and housing, provided the following data: 292 buildings have been completely destroyed, 283 buildings are not fit for human habitation, and 10,000 buildings have been partially damaged. In addition, he said, there is damage to charity institutions, governmental institutions and the infrastructure (Al-ayyam.com, July 13, 2014).

**Harm Done to Palestinian Police**

5. **Ayman al-Batiniji**, spokesman for the Palestinian police department, held a press conference in front of the Al-Shifaa' hospital. He said that marking policemen and police headquarters as targets for attack was a crime and a violation of international law, and claimed Israel was responsible for the harm done to them (Website of the ministry of the interior in the Gaza Strip, July 13, 2014). **Note:** In Operation Pillar of Defense and on other occasions it was proved that in emergency situations the security services in the Gaza Strip, which are subordinate to the ministry of the interior, function as part of Hamas' military-terrorist wing. Many security service operatives are concurrently operatives in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades.¹  

**IDF Appeals to Local Gazan Population to Leave Operational Areas**

6. Following the IDF’s distribution of leaflets instructing the residents of the northern Gaza Strip to leave the area, thousands of Palestinians went to the UNRWA schools in Gaza City. The director of the schools said that UNRWA had opened eight schools to house residents

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¹ For further information about the double identities of operatives in the security services, see the December 16, 2012 bulletin “Members of Hamas' Internal Security Services Who Were Also Operatives in Hamas' Military-Terrorist Wing and Were Killed in Operation Pillar of Defense.” Since the end of Operation Pillar of Defense additional examples have been found about the double identities of security service operatives.
of the northern Gaza Strip. He added that more schools would be opened if necessary (Maannews.net, July 13, 2014).

7. After the IDF had distributed the leaflets, **Hamas military-terrorist wing issued a notice warning the residents not to leave their houses.** According to the notice, leaving would make the resident himself responsible. The ministry of the interior said that Israel's written and telephone announcements asking Palestinians to leave were meant "to confuse and frighten the public." According to the notice, the ministry of the interior was responsible for sending notices and instructions to the populace and did so through the media. Compliance with appeals of the [Israeli] "occupation" helped it to carry out its plots, weaken the [Palestinian] home front and destroy the houses and property of those who had left. The ministry also called on those who had vacated their houses to return to them immediately and act in accordance with instructions from the ministry (Website of the ministry of the interior in the Gaza Strip, July 13, 2014). And in fact, a large percentage of the public complied with the ministry's instructions and remained in their houses despite the IDF attacks on terrorist targets in their neighborhoods.

[The notice distributed by Hamas' military-terrorist wing: "[This notice is sent to you] out of concern for your welfare. Stay in your house throughout the escalation and do not leave it. Vacating the house makes you fully responsible [for the consequences]. Signed, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, July 9, 2014" (Facebook page of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, July 13, 2014).]

8. The IDF Spokesman said that the Gazans were asked to leave an area from which an increasing number of rockets were being fired into Israel. Therefore, the IDF had decided to make it the focus of massive attacks, and asked the local residents to leave so that uninvolved civilians would not be harmed (IDF Spokesman, July 13, 2014).
International Activists Declare Themselves Human Shields

9. Basman al-Ashi, director of the Al-Wafaa’ Hospital in eastern Gaza City, reported that eight foreign activists from the United States, Venezuela, France, Britain, Sweden and Spain had volunteered themselves human shields. He said they were protecting the hospital so that it could continue to provide its services (Aa.com.tr, July 12, 2014).

Rocket Fire

10. During the past week massive, unabated rocket fire has continued to attack Israel from the Gaza Strip, although it has lessened to a certain extent during the past few days. So far, during Operation Protective Edge 830 rocket hits have been identified in Israeli territory. On July 13, 2014, a 16 year-old boy was critically wounded by rocket fire in Ashqelon. According to the IDF Spokesman, approximately 36% of the rocket launches have originated in the northern Gaza Strip. Of the long-range rockets launched into Israel, approximately 30% have come from the northern Gaza Strip, 10% from Beit Lahia (IDF Spokesman, July 13, 2014).

11. During the past 24 hours approximately 100 rocket hits were identified in Israeli territory. The main events were the following:
1) On the afternoon of **July 13, 2014**, a 16 year-old boy was critically wounded by a direct rocket hit in the southern coastal city of Ashqelon. The boy who was running for cover did not have time to reach shelter and was hit by shrapnel. Five other civilians sustained minor injuries.

2) On the afternoon of **July 13, 2014**, a heavy barrage of rocket fire was fired into Israeli territory. One fell in an open area in the northern city of Haifa. Rockets were also fired at the greater Tel Aviv area and were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system. There were no casualties and no damage was reported. Hamas' military-terrorist wing claimed that two of the rockets were the so-called "J80s," allegedly provided with technology that did not permit the Iron Dome aerial defense system to identify them (Qassam.ps, July 13, 2014).

3) A rocket launched from the Gaza Strip on the evening of July 13, 2014, hit a high-voltage power line that provided electricity to 70,000 Palestinians in the Khan Yunis and Deir al-Balah regions in the Gaza Strip. The residents were left without electricity.
Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge

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</table>

Claiming Responsibility for Rocket Fire

12. During the past 24 hours the Palestinian media did not issue many claims of responsibility for rocket fire. However, Hamas' military-terrorist wing continues claiming responsibility for most of the attacks (Qassam.ps, July 13, 2014). It also claimed to have prevented an activity of Israel's naval commando in the region of Al-Sudaniya. According to the claim, that was made possible by intelligence the allowed Hamas to ambush the Israeli force (Qassam.ps, July 13, 2014).

13. In addition, the PIJ's military-terrorist wing, the Jerusalem Brigades, claimed responsibility for rocket fire (including long-range rocket fire). The military-terrorist wing of the PFLP, the DFLP and the Popular Resistance Committees all claimed responsibility for rocket fire. Local networks claimed responsibility for firing at populated areas around the Gaza Strip.

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2 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include mortar shell fire or rocket launches that failed.
Interception of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

14. On the morning of July 14, 2014, a UAV was identified as having penetrated Israeli airspace from the Gaza Strip. It was intercepted by a Patriot surface-to-air missile near Ashdod (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014).

Notice issued by Hamas’ military-terrorist wing claiming responsibility for a number of UAVs used for “special missions” (Qassam.ps, July 14, 2014).

Activity on Other Fronts

Rocket fire from Lebanon, Syria and the Sinai Peninsula

Lebanon

15. On the night of July 13, 2014, a number of rocket hits were identified in the western Galilee; the rockets were launched from Israel’s northern border with Lebanon. There were no casualties and no damage was reported. The IDF responded with artillery fire targeting the source of the rocket fire. Stern communiqués were transmitted to Lebanon via the UNIFIL force (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014).

16. It was the third time since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge that rockets were fired from south Lebanon. The IDF Spokesman said the rocket fire from Lebanon had not come as a surprise and that the IDF was prepared for action in the Gaza Strip and could act in other sectors as well.
17. So far the identity of the groups launching the rockets is unknown. **Jihad Tahe**, a senior Hamas operative in Lebanon, denied that Hamas’ military-terrorist wing had been responsible for the rocket fire, because, he said, Hamas respected Lebanese sovereignty (Lebanese News Agency, July 18, 2014).

**Syrian Border**

18. On the evening of **July 13, 2014**, mortar shells were fired from the Syrian-northern Golan Heights border. The IDF responded with artillery fire targeting army posts. There were no casualties (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014).

**The Sinai Peninsula**

19. The Egyptians reported that their security forces had found **two rockets in an agricultural area near Rafah**, mounted on launchers and ready for firing into Israel. **Note**: On July 11, 2014, the Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, a Salafist-jihadi organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda and operating in Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, claimed responsibility for rocket fire targeting the community of Bnei Netzarim (Youm7.com and Shorouknews.com, July 13, 2014).

**The Crossings**

**The Kerem Shalom Crossing**

20. Despite the continuous rocket fire from the Gaza Strip and the IAF attacks, the Kerem Shalom crossing, operating under heavy military security, remains open for the delivery of merchandise into the Gaza Strip. Every day food, equipment and fuel enter the Gaza Strip (Cogat.idf.il, July 14, 2014).

**The Rafah Crossing**

21. Egypt announced it would open the Rafah crossing for three days to accommodate pilgrims who wanted to leave or return to the Gaza Strip after having been delayed on the Egyptian side. Four wounded Palestinians entered Egypt for medical treatment (Paltoday.tv and Maannews.net, July 13, 2014). The Egyptians also permitted a delegation from the UAE to enter the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing. The delegation was headed by the
minister of endowments, and it came to the Gaza Strip to express solidarity with the Gazans and verify their humanitarian needs (Maannews.net, July 13, 2014).

A delegation from the UAE enters the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing, bringing medical supplies (Paltimes.net, July 13, 2014).

22. **Bader Abd al-A’aty**, spokesman for the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs, attacked Hamas for criticism voiced by its senior member of Egypt following the opening of the Rafah crossing. He said Egypt was the only country that consistently supported the Palestinian people and that from the legal point of view, the Gaza Strip was under Israeli occupation (Almasryalyoum.com, July 13, 2014).

**Statements from Hamas**

23. Senior Hamas figures continue to accuse Israel of "aggression," and to pose conditions for a future agreement:

1) **Musa Abu Marzouq**, a member of Hamas' political bureau, wrote on his Facebook page that even if there were a lull, *Operation Protective Edge* would *not be the Hamas' last campaign*. He claimed that by "bombing people" Israel sought to make Hamas wave white flags. He added that Israel was killing fathers and slaughtering sons and cutting off the limbs of women, destroying houses and uprooting trees, and all that "because of a rocket [sic] that fell in its territory" (Facebook page of Musa Abu Marzouq, July 13, 2014).
2) Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas' political bureau, in a telephone conversation with the president of Tunisia, claimed that Israel was the aggressor. He said that in view of the escalation, pressure had to be exerted on Netanyahu and his government to lift the siege of the Gaza Strip and stop "the violations of the enemy army" in the Gaza Strip (Qna.org.qa, July 13, 2014).

3) Sami Abu Zuhri, Hamas spokesman, called the functioning of the so-called "Palestinian resistance" [i.e., the terrorist organizations] "heroic" with regard to the rocket attacks on Tel Aviv. He claimed Israel was trying to compensate for its weakness by harming civilians and carrying out crimes meant to break the will of "the Palestinian resistance." He claimed that "the Palestinians live on the ground and most of the Israelis live in bomb shelters under the ground." He further claimed that Hamas' equation had changed and that today they wanted Israel to pay a price for the crimes it had committed (Al-Aqsa TV, July 13, 2014).

4) Izzat al-Rishq, a member of Hamas' political bureau, said that Hamas had told every relevant factor that Netanyahu was the aggressor and he had to stop. He said that only Hamas would dictate the terms of a ceasefire agreement. He claimed that the time had not yet come to discuss the conditions of a ceasefire because Hamas was in no hurry to agree to one (Al-Arabiya TV, July 13, 2014).
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 5
(As of 1200 hours, July 15, 2014)

Overview

1. In the shadow of continuing rocket fire into Israel from the Gaza Strip, Egypt announced its initiative for a ceasefire. It was supposed to begin on July 15, 2014, at 0900 hours (0600 GMT). On the morning of July 15 Israel unilaterally decided to adopt the Egyptian initiative and halt IDF fire. However, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) rejected it, and continued and increased their rocket fire. They began with the population centers surrounding the Gaza Strip and then launched rockets deep into Israel, targeting Ashqelon, Ashdod, Rishon Letzion, Zichron Yaakov and Yokneam (21 kilometers, or 13 miles, southeast of Haifa).

Egyptian Call for a Ceasefire Rejected by Hamas

The Egyptian Initiative

2. On the evening of July 14, 2014, the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs announced that Egypt was proposing an initiative for a ceasefire that would begin on July 15, 2014, at 0900 hours (Youm7.com, July 14, 2014), with the following conditions:
1) Israel would halt all of its actions against the Gaza Strip from the air, sea and land.

2) All the Palestinian organizations in the Gaza Strip would stop their actions against Israel from the air, sea and under ground (i.e., the tunnels), with an emphasis on halting the rocket fire and the attacks on civilians.

3) The Gaza Strip crossings would be opened and the passage of people and merchandise would be facilitated.

4) Within 48 hours, high-level Israeli and Palestinian delegations would go to Cairo to discuss ways of establish the ceasefire. Discussions with the sides would be held separately, based on the understandings reached at the end of Operation Pillar of Defense.

5) Both sides would pledge not to take any action that might have a negative influence on implementing the understandings reached.

6) Egypt would monitor the implementation of the understandings.

Israel's Response

3. On the morning of July 15, 2014, after a meeting of the Political-Security Cabinet, Israel announced it would adopt and comply with the Egyptian initiative and halt its fire at 0900 hours (0600 GMT). It also announced that it pledged not to attack the Gaza Strip after the stated time. Cabinet ministers Naftali Bennett and Avigdor Lieberman opposed the decision. As a result, the IDF halted its attacks on terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas and PIJ Response

4. Hamas rejected the Egyptian initiative. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military-terrorist wing, issued a statement saying that no official representative had approached it regarding the terms of a lull. However, should such an initiative be presented to Hamas, it would be rejected without further consideration. It was, claimed the statement, an initiative of "enforced surrender," and as far as Hamas was concerned, "it wasn't worth the paper it was written on." The campaign with Israel, said the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, would continue and become more aggressive and intense (Qassam.ps, July 15, 2014).
5. In the wake of the Egyptian initiative and the Israeli cabinet's decision, Hamas and PIJ spokesmen said the following:

1) **Osama Hamdan**, in charge of public relations for Hamas, said that the Israeli decision [i.e., the acceptance of the ceasefire] was empty and of no interest to Hamas. He said that no initiative had been presented to Hamas and that Hamas objected to all forms of "extortion and surrender to conditions that contradict the rights and demands of the resistance [i.e., the terrorist organizations]" (Alresala.net, July 15, 2014).

2) Hamas spokesman **Sami Abu Zuhri** said that Hamas had no knowledge at all about the Egyptian initiative. He said he had learned of it through the media and that Hamas had no commitment to implement it. He said Israel's unilateral ceasefire did not bind Hamas and in any case it was meaningless (Al-Jazeera, July 15, 2014).

3) **Abu Ahmed**, spokesman for the PIJ's Jerusalem Brigades, said that Israel was lying when it said it would adopt the Egyptian initiative. He also said that the orders on the ground remained the same, that is, to continue the [military] campaign (Qudsradio.ps, July 15, 2014).

**Continuing Rocket Fire and the Israeli Prime Minister's Announcement**

6. **In effect, the rocket fire continued and increased.** Approximately two hours after the ceasefire was supposed to begin, at around 1100 hours, the population centers around the Gaza Strip were attacked. Later the rocket fire was extended to Ashqelon, Ashdod, Rishon Letzion, Yavne, Zichron Yaakov and Yokneam (southeast of Haifa). The rockets caused damage to property in Ashdod and the western Negev. Several people were treated for shock.

7. In the wake of the continuing rocket and mortar shell attacks, and Hamas and the PIJ's rejection of the ceasefire, **Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu told a press conference** that if Hamas did not adopt the ceasefire initiative Israel would have international legitimacy to extend its activities to restore quiet. He said the IDF would intensify its attacks (Ynetnews.co.il, July 15, 2014).
Attacks on Terrorist Targets in the Gaza Strip

8. During the past 24 hours the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets throughout the Gaza Strip. **More than 1,500 terrorist targets have been attacked** since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge, among them more than 700 rocket launchers, 130 military-terrorist camps and posts, about 100 senior terrorist operatives and approximately 220 terrorist tunnels (IDF Spokesman, July 15, 2014).

9. On **July 14, 2014**, the day before the announcement of the Egyptian initiative for a ceasefire, the attacks on terrorist targets continued. During the day more than 100 were attacked, among them:

1) **Six rocket launchers** from which rockets were fired targeting Sderot in the western Negev. An area from which a rocket was fired at Kissufim (northwestern Negev) was also attacked.

2) **33 concealed rocket launchers**.

3) **Eight weapons caches**.

4) **The houses of four commanders** which served as command and control centers.

5) **Seven terrorist tunnels**.

6) **Nine terrorist operatives** responsible for rocket and mortar shell fire attacks on Israeli territory.

7) **Sites for launching medium-range rockets**, attacked by the Israeli navy.
The Gazan Population

10. The Palestinian media and ministry of health reported that 193 Gazans had been killed since the beginning of the operation, and 1,385 had been wounded. UNRWA reported that 17,000 residents of the northern Gaza Strip had left their houses and were currently housed in UNRWA schools in Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip (UNRWA.org, July 14, 2014).

1. According to (initial) ITIC information, the distribution of those killed is as follows:

   1) **72 terrorist operatives:**

      A. **35 Hamas operatives** (most of them from its military-terrorist wing)

      B. **27 PIJ operatives**

      C. **Ten operatives** from other terrorist organizations

   2) **80 non-involved Palestinians**

   3) **41 Palestinians** whose identity still cannot be ascertained.

11. A UN report on the humanitarian situation noted thousands of Palestinians who had been forced from their houses, power outages and lack of medicines (Unocha.org, July 14, 2014). Correspondents reporting on the situation in the Gaza Strip have
reported a lack of basic food commodities and drinking water, and a steep increase in prices (Middleeasteye.net, July 11, 2014).

The Israeli and Palestinian Authority (PA) Populations

12. During Operation Protective Edge **28 Israeli civilians and 17 soldiers have been wounded**. Serious property damage has been reported. The Israeli tax authority reported that so far 662 claims for damages resulting directly from rocket hits have been filed with the property tax department. They include damages done to structures, vehicles and agricultural fields. So far, t number of claims is significantly smaller than those lodged during Operation Pillar of Defense, when 4,000 claims were lodged during the eight days of the operation.

Damage done to a car in Sderot by rocket fire (Photo by Noga Binodiz for Tazpit.org.il, July 14, 2014).

13. Since the rocket fire from the Gaza Strip also threatens the residents of Judea and Samaria, the heads of the Israeli administration for coordination and liaison with the civilian authority met with the PA figures to provide them with guidelines in the event of rocket fire in their direction from the Gaza Strip. They were also given the phone numbers of the Israeli Home Front command, which operates a number in Arabic with information about civil defense (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014).
14. During the past 24 hours massive barrages of rocket and mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory have continued. During Operation Protective Edge approximately 940 rocket hits have been identified. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted more than 145 of those targeting population centers throughout the country.

15. During the past 24 hours approximately 110 rocket hits have been identified in Israeli territory. About 15 of them were intercepted by the Iron Dome. The main attacks were the following:

1) At about 1800 hours on July 14, 2014, a rocket was launched at Beersheba. Two sisters, aged 11 and 13, from a Bedouin village near Beersheba were injured, one of them critically.

2) At noon on July 13, 2014, there was a direct rocket hit on a house in Ashdod. An eight year-old boy sustained minor injuries. The house was heavily damaged.

3) On July 14, 2014, a rocket that hit the western Negev caused minor injuries to an IDF soldier.
Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge

Claims of Responsibility for Rocket Fire

16. Hamas’ military-terrorist wing claimed responsibility for many rocket launchings during the day, especially for medium-range rockets (Qassam.ps, July 13, 2014). The PIJ’s military-terrorist wing also claimed responsibility for rocket launchings, as did the military-terrorist wings of the PFLP, the DFLP and the Popular Resistance Committees. Local networks claimed responsibility for firing at populated areas around the Gaza Strip.

Anti-Tank Missiles Fired at IDF Soldiers

17. On the afternoon of July 14 an anti-tank missile was fired at an IDF force in the northern Gaza Strip. The tank's Trophy (literally, in Hebrew, "windbreaker") active protection system successfully intercepted the missile. There were no casualties and no damage was reported (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014). Hamas' military-terrorist wing formally claimed responsibility for attacking the tank (Qassam.ps, July 14, 2014).

1 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include mortar shell fire or rocket launches that failed.
Interception of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

18. On the morning of July 14, 2014, a UAV was identified as having penetrated Israeli air space from the Gaza Strip. It was intercepted by a Patriot surface-to-air missile near Ashdod (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014).

19. Despite the interception of the UAV, Hamas represents its launch as an achievement, issuing false statements to boast about its aerial capabilities:

1) Hamas spokesman Musheir al-Masri said that launching UAVs into Israeli territory was an "addition of excellency" and "a strategic turning point," a new deterrent factor that Hamas had promised Israel [it would use] (Paltoday.ps, July 14, 2014).

2) Hamas' military-terrorist wing said in a formal statement that there had been three sorties of UAVs into Israeli territory and that one of them had flown near buildings in Tel Aviv's Kirya, which houses the ministry of defense and military command. According to the statement, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades have three types of UAVs: one for gathering intelligence, one for attacks dropping projectiles and one for Kamikaze-type "crash and burn" attacks (Qassam.ps, July 14, 2014).
Activity on Other Fronts

Rocket Fire from Lebanon, Syria and the Sinai Peninsula

20. Along with the fighting in the Gaza Strip, sporadic rocket fire into Israel continues along its northern and southern fronts.

Lebanon

21. Late in the evening on July 14 a rocket hit was identified in the western Galilee. There were no casualties and no damage was reported. The IDF responded by shelling the source of the rocket fire. Israel sent stern communiqués to Lebanon through UNIFIL (IDF Spokesman, July 15, 2014). The Lebanese media reported that unknown operatives had fired two rockets at Israel from the region south of Tyre. They also reported that one of them had exploded in Lebanese territory. Lebanese army forces searched the area of the rocket launch and along with UNIFIL forces, they are trying to locate the shooters (Nna-leb.gov.lb and Al-Manar, July 14, 2014).

The Syrian Border

22. On July 14, 2014, at 1800 hours, a rocket was fired from Syria into Israeli territory. It fell in an open area. There were no casualties and no damage was reported.

The Sinai Peninsula

23. On July 15, 2014, at 0130 hours rockets were fired from the Sinai Peninsula at Eilat, Israel’s southernmost city. Two rockets hit the city, one in the parking lot of a hotel. Another hit elsewhere in the city. The PIJ’s military-terrorist wing publicly claimed responsibility for the rocket fire (Paltoday.ps, July 15, 2014). It is unclear whether their operatives actually fired the rockets or not.
One of the rocket hits in Eilat (Facebook page of the Israel Police Force, July 15, 2014).

Regional Distribution of Rocket Fire into Israel

- Egypt: 2
- Syria: 1
- Lebanon: 8
- Gaza Strip: 940
The Crossings

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

24. Despite the unabated rocket fire and the IAF's attacks, the Kerem Shalom crossing continues functioning as an important lifeline for supplies entering the Gaza Strip. Every day food, medical equipment and fuel are delivered through it (Cogat.idf.il, July 14, 2014).

The Rafah Crossing

25. Egypt announced that the Rafah crossing would be open to wounded Palestinians seeking medical care in Egypt and Egyptian nationals who wanted to leave the Gaza Strip. It was also reported that on July 13, 2014, another consignment of humanitarian aid from the Egyptian security forces for the Palestinian people was delivered through the crossing. The aid included medical equipment and food (Almasryalyoum.com, July 14, 2014).

Delivering emergency aid from Egypt to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing (Paltimes.net, July 15, 2014).
Statements

Hamas

26. In a recorded speech, Ismail Haniya, deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, directed remarks to Hamas' military-terrorist wing. He said that in the recent fighting they had proved that they had not wasted their time during the lull in the fighting after Operation Pillar of Defense. He said they were currently writing one of stories of the glory of the Palestinian people. He said it was Israel, not they, that had started a war whose objective was to kill children and entire families (Al-Aqsa TV, July 14, 2014).

27. Senior Hamas figure Musheir al-Masri said that despite the fact that Israel had stared the war, it would not decide how it would end. He said that Hamas did not deny Egypt's efforts, but Egypt had to help the Palestinian people and not act as a broker. He said that no broker should bother to contact Hamas before Israel agreed to its conditions (Paltoday.ps, July 14, 2014).

The PA

28. Mahmoud Abbas sent a formal communiqué from the PA leadership to the UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon asking for international protection for the Palestinian people. Giving the communiqué to UN envoy Robert Serry, Mahmoud Abbas said that Israel's aggression against the Gaza Strip continued (Al-ayyam.com, July 14, 2014). Fatah's Central Committee held a meeting headed by Mahmoud Abbas, who presented the international and regional efforts being made to stop what he referred to as "the slaughter" of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip (Al-ayyam.com, July 14, 2014).
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 6  
(As of 1200 hours, July 16, 2014)

Overview

1. The ceasefire proposed by Egypt and accepted by Israel was rejected by Hamas. During July 15, 2014, rocket and mortar shell fire attacking Israel increased (125 rocket hits on July 15). One Israeli civilian died after being hit by mortar shell shrapnel. In response the IDF resumed attacking terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip from the air. The Israeli prime minister declared Israel had no choice but to intensify the campaign until a significant blow to Hamas had restored quiet to Israeli civilians.

Hamas Rejects the Ceasefire

2. The ceasefire proposed by Egypt and agreed to by the Israeli Security Cabinet began on July 15, 2014, at 0900 hours (0600 hours GMT). It was strongly rejected by Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip. Approximately two hours after the ceasefire was supposed to begin Hamas and the other terrorist organizations began firing massive...
barrages of rocket and mortar shells into Israeli territory. After several hours of unabated rocket fire the IDF resumed attacking terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip.

3. As to the terrorist organizations' rejection of the ceasefire, Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said that Hamas had chosen to continue its campaign and would pay the price for its decision. He said that when there was no ceasefire, Israel's response was fire. He said Israel would fight on the operational front, the diplomatic front, and the home front. Israel would fight on all three with due consideration, he said, to provide the State of Israel and the IDF with the greatest freedom of action. He said Hamas left Israel no choice but to expand and intensify its campaign until it achieved its goal of restoring quiet to the citizens of Israel by dealing a significant blow to the terrorist organizations (Prime minister's website, July 15, 2014).

4. American Secretary of State John Kerry said "I cannot condemn strongly enough the actions of Hamas in so brazenly firing rockets in multiple numbers in the face of a goodwill effort to operate a cease-fire," and said that "Israel has right to defend itself." He accused Hamas of "purposefully trying to play politics in order to gain greater followers…and use the innocent lives of civilians" as human shields¹ (Website of the State Department, July 15, 2014).

**Israeli Civilian Killed**

5. At around noon on July 15, 2014, an Israeli civilian was killed by a mortar shell hit near the Erez crossing. **Note: In addition to the intensive rockets barrages fired in Operation Protective Edge, there has been massive mortar shell fire at Israeli targets close to the Gaza Strip.**

6. The victim was Dror Hanin, 37, married and father of three, who went to the Erez crossing to bring food for the IDF soldiers stationed there. He was critically wounded by fragments of a mortar shell and died on the way to the hospital. He was the first Israeli killed as a direct result of Operation Protective Edge (an elderly woman apparently died of a heart attack while running to a shelter).

¹ http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/07/229275.htm
Dror Hanin (Spokesman for the Judea and Samaria fire and rescue services)

**IDF Activities**

**Attacks on Terrorist Targets in the Gaza Strip**

7. The IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. More than 1,750 terrorist targets have been attacked since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge, among them 768 rocket launchers, 427 terrorist headquarters, approximately 210 terrorist tunnels, 66 locations for the manufacture of weapons and many additional terrorist targets (IDF Spokesman, July 16, 2014).

8. In response to the continual, increasing rocket and mortar shell fire attacking Israel from the Gaza Strip, and after the Security Cabinet had announced its acceptance of the ceasefire, on the afternoon of July 15, 2014, the IDF resumed its air attacks on terrorist targets. During the past 24 hours more than 100 terrorist targets were attacked, among them the following (IDF Spokesman, July 16, 2014):

   1) On the night of **July 15, 2014**, the IDF attacked 39 terrorist targets, among them four targeted attacks on terrorist operatives and attacks on the operational facilities used as bases for terrorist activity, and also related to senior Hamas operatives.

   2) On the afternoon of **July 15, 2014**, the IDF attacked approximately 30 terrorist targets, among them concealed rocket launchers, terrorist tunnels, a weapons cache, focal points of terrorist activities and the operational facility of a senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist operative, and a terrorist operative who was in the final stages of preparing to launch rockets into Israeli territory.
3) The Israeli navy attacked terrorist targets along the Gaza Strip shore.

Left: The house of senior Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operative Marwan Issa in the Al-Bureij refugee camp (central Gaza Strip) after it was attacked by the IDF (Paltimes.net, July 16, 2014). Right: The house of senior Hamas figure Mahmoud al-Zahar after it was attacked on the night of July 15, 2014 (YouTube, July 16, 2014).

The Gazan Population

9. The Palestinian media and ministry of health reported that 197 Gazans had been killed since the beginning of the operation, and 1,485 had been wounded.

10. During the night of July 15, 2014, the IDF dropped flyers for the residents of Sajaïya and Zeitoun on the eastern outskirts of Gaza City, and for the residents of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. The residents were asked to vacate their houses for their own safety and to move to the central region of Gaza City by the morning of July 16, 2014, and not to return until further notice. That was because the IDF was planning a significant airstrike against terrorist targets in the area (IDF Spokesman, July 16, 2014). According to the Palestinian media, as of the morning of July 16, 2014, the request was not generally heeded and many people stayed in their houses.

11. A spokesman for Hamas' ministry of the interior said that Israel had failed to exert pressure on the Gazan population with its flyers demanding they vacate their houses. He
said that the ministry would continue performing its functions although, he claimed, 35 of its buildings had been destroyed (Radio Sawt al-Aqsa, July 15, 2014).

Left: A spokesman for Hamas’ ministry of the interior repeats his call to Gazan residents not to heed the IDF’s telephone announcements about the immediate evacuation of their houses. He said the phone calls were psychological warfare against the Gazan population (Facebook page of the Gazan ministry of the interior, July 15, 2014). Right: The IDF’s flyer instructing the residents of Sajaiya and Zeitoun, east of Gaza City, to vacate their houses and move to the central part of the city (Facebook page of Gaza al-A'an, July 16, 2014).

12. The UNRWA representative in the Gaza Strip said at a briefing about the situation in the Gaza Strip UNRWA needed one million dollars immediately and that it was working, along with the UN’s World Food Programme, to provide food for the Palestinians in UNRWA shelters in the Gaza Strip. He said he was afraid that an Israeli ground operation would displace an additional 50,000 people who would seek shelter, but the agency, he said, could only cope with 35,000 people (UNRWA website, July 15, 2014).
13. Despite the proposed Egyptian ceasefire, massive rocket and mortar shell barrages continue to be fired into Israeli territory. So far **1,065 rocket hits have been identified**. The Iron Dome aerial defense system has intercepted 176 rockets targeting population centers throughout the country.
14. During the past 24 hours, after the Egyptian announcement of a ceasefire, rocket and mortar shell fire into Israeli territory intensified, and 125 rocket hits were identified. The main events were the following:

1) On **July 15, 2014**, approximately two hours after Israel announced its ceasefire had gone into effect, a barrage of rockets was fired from the Gaza Strip targeting Ashqelon, Ashdod, Sderot, Kiryat Malachi and other southern population centers. One rocket fell close to a house in Ashdod and damaged it. At least eight of the rockets were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system.

2) About one hour later the range of the rockets was increased and sirens were heard on the outskirts of Haifa, in Yokneam, Zichron Yaakov, and Daliat al-Carmel on the Mt. Carmel ridge.

3) At **1900 hours on July 15, 2014**, a barrage of rockets was fired at the greater Tel Aviv area and the coastal plain. A school for children with special needs in Rishon Letzion was hit.

**Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge**

![Bar chart showing daily distribution of rocket fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge. The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include mortar shell fire or rocket launches that failed.](chart)

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2 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include mortar shell fire or rocket launches that failed.
Claims of Responsibility for Rocket Fire

15. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the PIJ continued to claim responsibility for most of the rocket and mortar shell fire during the past 24 hours. Responsibility was also claimed by the military-terrorist wings of the PFLP, the DFLP and the Popular Resistance Committees. Local networks claimed responsibility for firing at populated areas around the Gaza Strip.

16. **Ziyad Nakhaleh**, deputy secretary general of the PIJ, said that for the first time a joint operation had been carried out by the military wings of his organization and Hamas. He said it was an important step forward and had involved the launching of long-range rockets to Tel Aviv. He said he hoped that more joint operations would be carried out (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 15, 2014).

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Hamas’ military-terrorist wing issues statistics claimed for 901 rockets fired into Israeli territory since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge. Left to right, there were 6 R160s, 29 Sajil55s, 12 J80s, 62 M75s, 2 Fajr-5s, and 790 Qassams, Grads and Katyushas (Qassam.ps, July 14, 2014).

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Activity on Other Fronts

Rocket Fire from Lebanon

17. In the wake of the rocket fire from Lebanon (eight rockets have been fired since the beginning of the operation), the Lebanese army and security services, in conjunction with UNIFIL forces and residents on the villages in south Lebanon, have deployed to prevent more rockets from being fired. Among the steps taken was preventing non-residents from entering south Lebanon (Almarkazia.com, July 14, 2014).
The Crossings – Update

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

18. Despite the unabated rocket fire and the IAF’s attacks, the Kerem Shalom crossing continues functioning as an important lifeline for supplies entering the Gaza Strip. Every day food, medical equipment and fuel are delivered through it (Cogat.idf.il, July 14, 2014).

The Erez Crossing

19. During Operation Protective Edge the Erez crossing has been open to allow foreign nationals to leave the Gaza Strip (despite the mortar shell fire targeting the crossing that killed an Israeli civilian). On July 15, 2014, apparently because of the death of the Israeli, the Hamas ministry of the interior announced that the crossing would resume activity on the afternoon of July 16, 2014. According to the announcement, all the international agencies had to provide their employees working at the crossing with the necessary protection (Website of the Hamas ministry of the interior, July 15, 2014).
Aid for the Gazan Population

20. Several countries announced their intention to send aid to the Gaza Strip:

1) The king of Bahrain issued urgent instructions providing humanitarian aid to be sent to the Palestinian people to ease their suffering and appointed the royal charity organization to deal with the issue (Bna.bh, July 15, 2014).

2) Mohamed Mortagi, who represents Turkey’s TIKA (Turkey’s Coordination and Cooperation Agency) in the Palestinian Authority (PA), said that on orders from the Turkish prime minister, the agency had begun distributing food and other humanitarian aid to the Gazans (Aa.com.tr, July 15, 2014).

3) Following a telephone conversation with Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas’ political bureau, the head of the Malaysian government said he would send humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip (Bernama.com, July 15, 2014).

Attack on the Convoy of the National Consensus Government’s Minister of Health


22. The minister of health arrived on the instructions of PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas and PA Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, to monitor the activity of the health system in the Gaza Strip first hand. The PA strongly condemned the attack on him (Alhayat-j.com, July 16, 2014).
Statements

Hamas

23. Interviewed in Cairo, Musa Abu Marzouq, a member of Hamas’ political bureau, said that Hamas was still holding consultations regarding the Egyptian initiative for a ceasefire. He said the lull agreement from 2012 [following Operation Pillar of Defense] was insufficient because the [so-called Israeli] “siege” on the Gaza Strip had to be lifted so that there would not be a war every two years (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 15, 2014).

24. In a different interview in Cairo, Musa Abu Marzouq said that equation of “quiet in return for quiet” was out of the question and that the conditions under which the Gazans had lived for the past seven years could not continue (Al-Arabia Al-Hadath, July 15, 2014).

25. Osama Hamdan, responsible for Hamas’ international relations, said that all the talk about the initiative [i.e., the Egyptian ceasefire] was a mistake, because it was not based on understandings between the involved parties. He said the initiative could not be discussed only via the media (Al-Jazeera, July 15, 2014).

Hamas in the Gaza Strip

26. Senior Hamas figure Musheir al-Masri said that Hamas had rejected the Egyptian initiative in its entirety because the Egyptians had not communicated with Hamas regarding
it. He called the initiative a "free service" for Israel that rescued the Israeli prime minister, who could not cope with the capabilities of the "resistance" [i.e., the terrorist organizations] to strike the Israeli home front. He said the new lull agreement had to involve conditions and commitments resulting from them (Aa.com.tr, July 15, 2014). In another interview he said that the Egyptian initiative would be fruitless, because it was "only words for the media" (Felesteen.ps, July 15, 2014).

27. Hamas spokesman **Fawzi Barhoum** said that Israel's aggression in the Gaza Strip had not stopped for a minute and that all the talk about a lull was a lie. He said the initiative meant "turning its back on the resistance and coordinating with the Israeli enemy," and it was an attempt to disarm the "resistance." He said Hamas would continue striking deep inside Israel with every weapon the "resistance" had until Israel complied with its demands (Sawt al-Aqsa, July 15, 2014).

The PIJ

28. **Ziyad Nakhaleh**, PIJ deputy secretary general, said that they had already stated their position that the initiative did not approach the lowest level of the Palestinian peoples' demands. He added that they demanded the [so-called Israeli] siege be entirely lifted. He said they objected to the initiative but welcomed its development and the open dialogue with Egypt (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 15, 2014).
The PA

29. Before Hamas rejected the ceasefire, Mahmoud Abbas said in a formal announcement that he welcomed the Egyptian initiative and valued the efforts the Egyptians made to defend the Palestinian people. He called on "all the sides" to commit to the initiative, which would be a step towards a political effort to end the [so-called Israeli] occupation and establish an independent Palestinian state (Wafa.ps, July 15, 2014).

Exception Palestinian Statement

30. Ibrahim Kharisha, Palestinian representative to the UN Human Rights Council, said that there was international pressure for a ceasefire that would stop "Israeli aggression" as well as the rocket fire into Israel. He said every rocket launched at Israel was "a crime against humanity" whether it caused damage or not, because the rockets were deliberately aimed at civilian targets. What Israel was doing in the Gaza Strip, he said, was also "a crime against humanity." He added that when Israel had instructed the Gazans to vacate their houses before an attack, if there were casualties it was not murder but rather an error and that the attacks had been carried out according to law. However, the warnings [given by Israel], he said, were the opposite of the rockets fired from the Gaza Strip, which were not accompanied by warnings (Awda TV, July 13, 2014).

Hamas' Propaganda Machine Seeks to Establish "an Image of Victory"

31. Hamas' propaganda machine focuses on glorifying its military attack capabilities and the "surprises" it prepared for the [Israeli] enemy. Hamas spokesman Musheir al-Masri claimed Hamas had shown Israel that it could attack on land, from the air and from the sea, and that its fighters could penetrate deep into Israeli territory.

32. The most recent example of a "surprise," according to Hamas claims, was the dispatch of the UAV into Israeli airspace.³ Hamas released a video showing a UAV of the type in its possession. The video was aired scores of times on its TV channel, while

³ On the morning of July 14, 2014, a UAV dispatched from the Gaza Strip was identified in Israeli air space. It was intercepted by a Patriot surface-to-air missile near Ashdod (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014).
presenters and commentators extolled the importance of the new "surprise." The Hamas media connected the "surprise" to previous "surprises" Hamas had prepared for Israel, among them rocket fire targeting Haifa, the infiltration of a naval commando unit at Zikim, and the launching of an anti-tank missile (a Kornet, according to Hamas claims) at an IDF jeep.

33. However, the Hamas media **neglect to mention** that Hamas' attempts to create "surprises" and rack up military achievements have consistently failed, and that the **IDF had thwarted a series of attempted attacks by sea, land and air**. In ITIC assessment, Hamas' boasting about its military capabilities is part of a **media strategy to create an "image of victory,"** as it did in previous rounds of escalation with Israel. **For Hamas the "image of victory" is a vital component for the end of the current escalation, both within the internal Palestinian-Arab arena and as a means of creating a deterrent against Israel in the future.**

**Pictures of Hamas "Achievements and Surprises" for Establishing the "Image of Victory"**

Left: Hamas boasts of firing an R160 at Haifa (Qassam.ps, July 16, 2014). Right: A notice in Hebrew reading "All [your] cities are close to Gaza," boasting of Hamas' ability to attack most of Israel's territory with its rockets (Qassam.ps, July 16, 2014)
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 7  
(As of 1200 hours, July 17, 2014)

Overview

1. On July 16, 2014, the UN asked for a "humanitarian pause [in the fighting]" to allow the Gazan population to purchase necessities and repair the infrastructure. Israel and Hamas agreed. The pause began on July 17 at 1000 hours and ended at 1500 hours. It was violated after two hours by mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip into the western Negev. At 1459 hours heavy rocket fire attacks into Israel recommenced. In addition, on the morning of July 17, a showcase attack in the western Negev was prevented. (Note: In view of the ongoing rocket fire and ground attacks, and Hamas' rejection of the ceasefire, on the night of July 17 the IDF began a ground incursion into the Gaza Strip.)

2. Futile contacts have begun in Cairo for an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire with the participation of Mahmoud Abbas (the Palestinian Authority), Musa Abu Marzouq (Hamas) and Ziyad al-Nakhaleh (the Palestinian Islamic Jihad). The Israeli media
reported an Israel delegation that included Yoram Cohen, head of the Israel Security Agency (ISA), paid a short visit to Cairo and returned to Israel.

3. Statements from senior Israeli and Hamas figures indicate that both sides oppose the limited understandings of the ceasefire that ended Operation Pillar of Defense. Israel wants an agreement that will ensure a long-term ceasefire based on a severe blow to the infrastructures of Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, which will improve Israel's deterrence. Hamas wants to wrest societal and economic achievements from Israel and make political capital from the agreement that will relieve the political-strategic straits it finds itself in and help it secure its control of the Gaza Strip. (For example, it wants the permanent opening of the Rafah crossing, the revoking of limitations on the crossings with Israel, arrangements for paying the salaries of its tens out thousands of employees, economic help to rebuild the Gaza Strip, and the release of the Hamas operatives and terrorist operatives freed in the Gilad Shalit deal redetained in Operation Brothers' Keeper.)

Infiltration into Israeli Territory via Terrorist Tunnel Prevented

4. Before dawn on July 17, a few hours before the humanitarian pause in the fighting was supposed to go into effect, IDF forces prevented a Hamas attack by operatives using a tunnel. At around 0430 hours a terrorist squad of 13 operatives attempted to enter Israeli territory via a tunnel from the Gaza Strip. They were identified by IDF surveillance near the Sufa crossing (southern Gaza Strip) as they entered Israeli territory. IDF forces sent to the site attacked the terrorist operatives and the tunnel shaft, identifying a number of hits. There were no casualties among the IDF forces. Weapons left by the terrorists were found near the tunnel opening (IDF Spokesman and Ynetnews.co.il, July 17, 2014). Thus the IDF again prevented Hamas from carrying out a showcase attack in Israeli territory to create an "image of victory."

5. Hamas' military-terrorist wing claimed responsibility for the attempted attack near the Sufa crossing (Qassam.ps, July 17, 2014).
The Humanitarian Pause in the Fighting

6. On the evening of July 16, 2014, after the UN had made repeated requests (including from Robert Serry, the UN envoy to the Middle East), Israel decided to authorize a **five-hour humanitarian pause in the fighting**. It was in effect on July 17, 2014, between 1000 hours and 1500 hours, to allow the Gazan population to purchase necessities and repair damages to the infrastructure (IDF Spokesman, July 17, 2014).
7. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said in a statement that Hamas would comply with the UN request and stop fighting for five hours (Facebook page of Sami Abu Zuhri, July 16, 2014).

8. On the morning of July 17, 2014, before the pause went into effect, Israel was attacked with a heavy barrage of rockets. The locations attacked were the greater Tel Aviv area, the entire coastal plain, Beersheba, Ashqelon, Ashdod and the populated areas around the Gaza Strip. Several civilians sustained minor injuries, primarily from running to shelters. Five civilians were treated for shock. One rocket hit high tension wires and there were power outages in several Israeli communities around the Gaza Strip. Israel was also attacked with rocket fire during the humanitarian pause. At 1200 hours, two hours after it went into effect, sirens were sounded in the western Negev. Three rocket hits were identified in open areas. There were no casualties and no damage was reported. Heavy rocket and mortar shell fire was renewed as soon as the pause ended.

### IDF Activity

#### Attacks on Terrorist Targets in the Gaza Strip

9. The IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. More than 1,800 terrorist targets have been attacked since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge. They include more than 700 concealed rocket launchers, 300 military camps and posts, approximately 220 terrorist tunnels, and about 100 senior terrorist operatives (IDF Spokesman, July 17, 2014).

10. During the past 24 hours more than 100 terrorist targets have been attacked, including the following:

1) On the evening of **July 16, 2014**, Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked operatives who were preparing to fire or in the process of firing rockets into Israeli territory.

2) On the afternoon of **July 16, 2014**, during an attack on a target near the shore from which terrorist activity was launched, four children were killed. The IDF
is investigating the circumstances. Hamas is trying to use the deaths to win the support of world public opinion by representing them as "slaughter" and "the murder of the children of the Gaza Strip."

3) On the evening of July 16, 2014, Hamas buildings were attacked, including Hamas' national security service headquarters and the house of senior Hamas figure Khalil al-Haya.

Left: Hamas' national security headquarters after the attack (Facebook page of the Hamas ministry of the interior, July 16, 2014). Right: The house of senior Hamas figure Khalil al-Haya (YouTube, July 16, 2014)

The Gazan Population

11. According to ITIC information, **243 Gazans have been killed** since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, July 17), and more than **1,700** have been wounded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution (not final) of those killed is as follows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) <strong>93 terrorist operatives:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) <strong>48 Hamas operatives</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) <strong>33 PIJ operatives</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) <strong>12 operatives</strong> from other terrorist organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) <strong>95 non-involved Palestinians</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) <strong>55 Palestinians</strong> whose identity is not yet known</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support for the Gazan Population

13. The Hamas ministry of the interior and national security announced it had opened a **joint situation room for all its security services**, which would operate around the clock. They would deal with requests for help from Gazans and provide a hotline for emergencies (Website of the ministry of the interior, July 16, 2014). In ITIC assessment, opening the situation room is a Hamas attempt to respond to the distress of the Gazan population.
14. The UAE's Red Crescent Society announced it had completed preparations for sending equipment for a field hospital to Ismailia, Egypt, from where it would be transferred to the Gaza Strip. According to the hospital director there were operating rooms, and intensive care, surgical and burn units. A staff of more than 50 will accompany the hospital (Alresala.net, July 16, 2014).

15. Since the beginning of the operation approximately 1,185 rockets have fallen Israeli territory. The Iron Dome aerial defense system has intercepted more than 176 rockets targeting population centers throughout the country. In addition, according to the IDF Spokesman, about 100 rockets misfired and fell inside the Gaza Strip (IDF Spokesman, July 16, 2014).
During the past 24 hours heavy rocket and mortar shell fire into Israeli territory continued, and 120 rocket hits were identified. The main events were the following:

1) In the late evening a barrage of seven rockets was fired at Ashdod. **One of the rockets hit the roof of a school.** There were no casualties but the building was damaged. A short time earlier, a barrage of six rockets was fired at Ashqelon.

2) In the evening the Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted three rockets targeting Kiryat Gat (north of Beersheba).

3) In the morning a barrage of rockets was fired at the center of the country. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted four of them. A house in Tel Aviv was hit.
Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge

17. The military-terrorist wing of Hamas continued claiming responsibility for most of the rocket and mortar shell fire during the past 24 hours, including the attacks on Tel Aviv. Responsibility was also claimed by the military-terrorist wings of the PIJ, the PFLP, the DFLP and the Popular Resistance Committees. Local networks claimed responsibility for firing at populated areas around the Gaza Strip.

1 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire or rocket launches that failed.
18. **Mahmoud Nizal**, a member of Hamas' political bureau, criticized the statement made by **Ibrahim Kharisha** at the UN about the rocket fire from Gaza Strip attacking Israeli civilians (Sawt al-Aqsa, July 16, 2014). Kharisha, the Palestinian representative to the UN Council of Human Rights, said that every rocket fired into Israel from the Gaza Strip was "a crime against humanity" (Odeh TV, July 13, 2014).

### Activity on Other Fronts

#### Rocket Fire from Lebanon

19. The Lebanese security forces continue to deal with rockets fired from Lebanese territory into Israel. According to the Lebanese media, Lebanese military intelligence detained two men suspected of firing the rockets from the region of the Lebanese coast. According to reports, interrogation established that the two were Palestinians from the Al-Rashidiya refugee camp, and **operatives of a Palestinian Islamic organization**. Lebanese army searches revealed additional rockets mounted on vehicles (Assafir.com, July 16, 2014).
Regional Distribution of Rocket Fire into Israel

The Crossings – Update

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

20. Despite the unabated rocket fire and the IAF’s attacks, the Kerem Shalom crossing remains open and continues functioning. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 605 trucks have entered the Gaza Strip through the crossing, carrying food, medicines and medical equipment (as of the morning of July 16, 2014). In addition, 2.4 million liters of fuel for Gaza’s power station were delivered, as well as 1.2 million liters of diesel fuel, 304,000 liters of gasoline, and 915 tons of cooking gas. More than 20 repairs were made to water, electrical and communications facilities (Cogat.idf.il, July 16, 2014).

The Erez Crossing

21. During the operation so far, more than 1,000 individuals have entered Israel through the Erez crossing, more than 500 of them residents of the Gaza Strip with dual citizenship. On July 12, 2014, the crossing opened for medical evacuation although it is usually closed on Saturdays. On July 15, 2014, following the killing of an Israeli civilian, Hamas closed access to the crossing for five hours and delayed the exit of patients leaving for medical treatment (Cogat.idf.il, July 16, 2014).
Contacts in Cairo for a Ceasefire

22. **Contacts have begun in Egypt for an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire, so far without result.** On July 15, 2014, Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Egypt to discuss the situation and the possibility of a ceasefire. While in Egypt he met with Musa Abu Marzouq, deputy head of Hamas' political bureau. They discussed ways of supporting a lull and the Egyptian initiative. He also met with Nabil al-Arabi, the secretary general of the Arab League (Wafa.ps, July 16, 2014). According to reports, Ziyad al-Nakhaleh, the PIJ's deputy secretary general, arrived in Cairo after having received a formal invitation to discuss the proposal for a lull agreement (Paltoday.ps, July 16, 2014).

23. The Israeli media reported that an Israeli delegation paid a short visit to Cairo for contacts leading to a ceasefire. The delegation was made up of ISA head Yoram Cohen, Yitzhak Molcho, Netanyahu's representative to the talks, and Amos Gilad, head of the political-military affairs bureau in the ministry of defense.
24. According to a "source reputedly close to Hamas," Hamas is supposed to present a document detailing its concept of a lull, whose conditions include the following (Aa.com.tr, July 16, 2014):

1) Opening all the Gaza Strip crossings, including the Rafah crossing, 24 hours a day.

2) The establishment of a naval passage to the Gaza Strip.

3) Release of the terrorist operatives freed in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal who were redetained by Israel in Operation Brothers' Keeper.
Overview

1. On the night of July 17, 2014, at the end of the tenth day of Operation Protective Edge, and after the Egyptian initiative for a ceasefire agreement accepted by Israel had been rejected by Hamas, the IDF began a new stage of Operation Protective Edge. The ground incursion has focused on finding and destroying the extensive network of terrorist tunnels leading from the Gaza Strip into Israel. So far, 34 tunnel shafts and five tunnels have been found which extended from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory (IDF spokesman's website, 1300 hours, July 20, 2014). The tunnels, which were constructed over a period of years, were built for the purpose of infiltrating terrorist operatives into Israel to kill and abduct IDF soldiers and Israeli civilians in Israeli territory (especially in civilian population centers and military installations near the Gaza Strip).
2. Even after Hamas rejected the Egyptian initiative, contacts, in which Egypt plays a central role, continue in an effort to reach a ceasefire. Holding a press conference with his French counterpart, the Egyptian minister of defense said the Egyptian initiative was the only one there was and that it had the support of the Arab League, the international community and UN Security Council. Even Musa Abu Marzouq, deputy chairman of Hamas' political bureau, publicly stated that Egypt was most capable of playing the role of mediator. However Musa Abu Marzouq and the other Hamas spokesmen still reject the Egyptian initiative and adhere to Hamas' original demands (primarily the opening of the Rafah and other crossings and the release of the Hamas terrorist operatives detained by Israel during Operation Brothers' Keeper).

The Situation on the Ground

IDF Activity

3. In view of the continuing rocket fire and the attempts to infiltrate Israeli territory through the tunnels, the political leadership decided to begin a ground operation in the Gaza Strip. At 2200 hours on July 17, 2014, the IDF began a ground incursion, focusing on destroying the terrorist infrastructures, especially the tunnel system. According to IDF Spokesman Mordechai Almoz, Hamas planned to use the tunnels to carry out mass-killing attacks in Israeli population centers or IDF camps, and/or to abduct Israeli civilians and soldiers from Israeli territory into the Gaza Strip (IDF Spokesman, July 19, 2014).
4. By the morning of July 20, **IDF forces had exposed 34 terrorist tunnel shafts and five tunnels leading from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory**. So far, several dozen terrorist operatives have been killed and 13 have been detained and transferred to Israel for interrogation. To prevent the civilian population from being harmed, the IDF sent text and voice messages and distributed flyers throughout the Gaza Strip calling on civilians to leave the combat areas. However, the terrorist organizations exploited the situation to use vacated houses for their activities (IDF Spokesman, July 18, 2014).

5. The main activities carried out on the ground in and near the Gaza Strip were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 20, 2014):

1) **July 20, 2014**

a) During the night **IDF forces destroyed two tunnels** planned to be used against Israeli civilians. There was heavy fighting with armed Palestinian terrorist operatives. An IDF tank and APC were ambushed and attacked.

b) After heavy fighting in the neighborhood of Sajaiya, with reports of many Palestinian casualties, Israel agreed to Hamas’ request, transmitted by the Red Cross, to a humanitarian pause of two hours. However, Hamas violated the pause a short time after it went into effect. The IDF announced it was setting up a field hospital at the Erez crossing to treat wounded Palestinians. **(Note: During the heavy battles in Sajaiya 13 IDF soldiers and dozens of terrorist operatives were killed. In addition, dozens of uninvolved civilians, who, under Hamas)**
pressure, did not vacate the area, were killed. Additional information will be provided in Update 9).

2) **July 19, 2014**

a) During the afternoon the IDF prevented a killing attack/abduction near the security fence in the central Gaza Strip. The target was apparently one of the Israeli communities nearby. A number of terrorist operatives infiltrated through a tunnel and attacked an IDF force with machine guns and anti-tank missiles. The soldiers returned fire and forced the terrorist operatives back into the Gaza Strip.

   *Weapons left behind by the terrorists (IDF Spokesman, July 19, 2014).*

b) During the afternoon a **terrorist operative riding a motorbike tried to carry out a suicide bombing attack in the midst of an IDF force.** He was shot and killed.

c) During the afternoon two terrorist operatives fired an anti-tank missile and light arms at an IDF force in the southern Gaza Strip. They were killed in the exchange of fire.

d) During the evening an IDF force came upon a terrorist operative who had exited a tunnel shaft and opened fire. He was shot and killed.

3) **July 18, 2014**

a) During the afternoon an attack was prevented in the central Gaza Strip. A terrorist operative with five grenades in his possession asked for medical help from the forces on the ground. When they agreed he tried to attack them with the grenades.

b) During the evening IDF forces located the shafts of 13 tunnels used for the passage of weapons and terrorist operatives. During the activity terrorists opened fire on the soldiers.

c) Close to midnight there was a firefight between an IDF force and a terrorist operative who was hiding in a house in Beit Lahia. Several soldiers were wounded. The terrorist operative was killed.
6. Hamas continues issuing false announcements boasting of its "victories" and minimizing the achievements of Israel's military activity. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas military-terrorist wing, issued an announcement claiming Israel had lied about exposing and gaining control of tunnels in order to show itself as "heroic" and rehabilitate the IDF's reputation. According to the announcement, all Israel found were underground passages dug under a training camp near the border and they were only used for training purposes (Qassam.ps, July 18, 2014).

**IDF Losses**

7. Five IDF soldiers have been killed in Operation Protective Edge:

1) **Sergeant Eitan Barak**, 20 from Herzliya. Killed during combat in the northern Gaza Strip.

2) **Major Amotz Greenberg**, 45, from Hod Hasharon. Officer in the reserve forces. Killed in a clash with terrorist operatives who infiltrated into Israel territory.

3) **Sergeant Adar Branso**, 21, from Nahariya, killed in a clash with terrorist operatives who infiltrated into Israel territory.

4) **Second Lieutenant Bar Rahav**, 21, from Ramat Yishai. Soldier in the engineering corps. Killed in the Gaza Strip on the night of July 19 by an anti-tank missile that hit the vehicle he was in.

5) **First Sergeant Bnaya Rubel**, 20 from Holon. Served in the infantry. Killed on the night of July 19 in a clash with terrorist operatives.
8. Eleven IDF Spokesman soldiers were wounded, two critically. (Note: In the meantime, scores of IDF soldiers have been wounded. Additional information will be provided in Update 9.)

IDF Activity

Attacks on Terrorist Targets in the Gaza Strip Continue

9. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. More than 2,570 terrorist targets have been attacked since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge (IDF Spokesman, July 17, 2014).

10. During the past 24 hours more than 450 terrorist targets have been attacked, including the following (IDF Spokesman, July 20, 2014):

   1) The facilities of the Hamas leadership and administration.
   2) The facilities of the rocket and mortar shell launching systems.
   3) Weapons caches.
   4) Tunnels.
   5) Houses of senior terrorist figures that served as command and control facilities.

The house of Fathi Hamad, former Palestinian minister of the interior, attacked by the IDF (Facebook page of Ghaza al-A'an, July 18, 2014).
11. UNRWA said in a statement that during a routine inspection its employees found 20 rockets hidden in one of its schools in the Gaza Strip. According to the statement, UNRWA strongly condemned those responsible for hiding weapons in one of the agency's schools, calling it a violation of international law. The statement added that it was the first time a school had been put to that purpose (UNRWA website, July 17, 2014). Hamas and the other terrorist organizations routinely use educational institutions in the Gaza Strip for military purposes.¹

The Gazan Population

12. According to ITIC information, 402 Gazans have been killed since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, July 20), and more than 2,700 have been wounded.

13. Distribution (not final) of those killed is as follows:

1) 130 terrorist operatives:
   a) 63 Hamas operatives
   b) 48 PIJ operatives
   c) 19 operatives from other terrorist organizations

2) 2) 138 non-involved Palestinians

3) 3) 134 Palestinians whose identity is not yet known

14. Many families have vacated the combat areas. UNRWA reported that 50,000 Palestinians were being housed in 44 of its schools. UNRWA sources said they were concerned the number of people seeking shelter would grow as the operation progressed, and that they would run out of supplies (UNRWA website, July 19, 2014). A spokesman for the Gaza electric company said that 80% of the Gaza Strip was without electricity (Palestinian TV, July 18, 2014).

¹ For further information see the July 20, 2014 bulletin "Hamas and other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip use schools for military-terrorist purposes: The case of rockets found hidden in an UNRWA school during Operation Protective Edge."
Support for the Gazan Population

15. The Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation sent a humanitarian convoy to the Gaza Strip. Nasser Judeh, the Jordanian foreign minister, said at a ceremony dispatching the convoy that the King of Jordan wanted to provide a solution for the Palestinians in Gaza and save them from Israel's "cruel, barbaric aggression."

Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory

16. Since the beginning of the operation approximately 1,545 rockets have fallen Israeli territory. Intense rocket fire continued even after the beginning of the ground operation. Some of the rocket fire targeted IDF forces in the Gaza Strip and in Israeli territory. One man was killed. Heavy damage to property was reported:

1) On July 17, 2014, 130 rocket hits were located, after almost no rockets had been launched during the morning humanitarian pause.

2) On July 18, 2014, 100 rocket hits were located. After a relative pause in the morning, at noon rocket fire was resumed. In the afternoon two heavy barrages were fired at the greater Tel Aviv and coastal plain areas. Barrages also targeted Ashdod.

3) On July 19, 2014, 130 rocket hits were located. One fell in a Bedouin village near Dimona, killing Ouda al-Wadj, 32; his wife sustained minor injuries and his daughter
was critically wounded. During the day sirens were sounded in Kiryat Malachi, Gedera, the Ashdod region and throughout the western Negev.

4) On July 20, 2014, rocket fire into Israel continued, including Beersheba and the greater Tel Aviv area.

**Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge**

![Graph showing daily distribution of rocket fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge.](image)

**Claims of Responsibility for Rocket Fire**

17. In recent days as well the military-terrorist wing of Hamas continued claiming responsibility for most of the rocket and mortar shell fire attacking Israel. Responsibility was also claimed by the military-terrorist wings of the PIJ, the PFLP, the DFLP and the Popular Resistance Committees. Local networks claimed responsibility for firing at populated areas around the Gaza Strip.

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2 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire or rocket launches that failed.
Activity on Other Fronts

Rocket Fire from Lebanon

18. The Lebanese media reported that Lebanese security forces continued to deal with rocket fire into Israel from Lebanon. The Lebanese army continues deploying more soldiers in the region of Tyre, especially in the villages from which rocket launchers were fired and in the Al-Rashidiya refugee camp (south of Tyre). The army has erected road block in the area and examines those entering and leaving the refugee camp. **Lebanese army headquarters released the names of two Palestinians who were involved in firing rockets** (Nna-leb.gov.lb, July 16, 2014).

19. **Jihad Tahe**, a member of Hamas' political leadership in Lebanon, said that Hamas respected Lebanese sovereignty and its international commitments, especially UN Security Council Resolution 1701. He said that the Lebanese southern front was in the hands of the Lebanese government and not Palestinians. As to the detention of a suspect, he said it was "an individual matter" and "did not reflect the position of the [Hamas] movement" (Assafir.com, July 17, 2014).
The Crossings – Update

The Rafah Shalom Crossing

20. **Hamas continues criticizing Egypt for not opening the Rafah crossing.** The ministry of the interior in Gaza asked the Egyptian authorities to keep the Rafah crossing continually open to answer the needs of the Gazans, in light of "Israeli aggression," and to stop using it as a means of "exerting pressure against and blackmailing the Palestinian people." **Iyad al-Bazam**, spokesman for the Hamas ministry of the interior, held a press conference where he claimed that the partial opening of the Rafah crossing did not provide for even a small part of the Palestinians' humanitarian needs. He claimed only Egyptians or foreigners had been allowed to use the crossing. He also claimed that the Egyptians had prevented three aid convoys from entering the Gaza Strip (Maannews.net, July 19, 2014).

Hamas' Propaganda Campaign

21. **With the beginning of the IDF's ground operation Hamas spokesmen stressed Hamas' military power as opposed to the IDF's.** Its websites posted videos and announcements boasting of the might of the terrorist organizations' military-terrorist wings:

1) In a recorded speech, **Abu Obeida**, Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades spokesman, appealed to the Gazans not to fear the force of "the Zionist war machine." He claimed [Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin] Netanyahu and [Defense Minister Moshe] Yaalon would suffer the defeat of their army, which would return from the Gaza Strip "with its tail between its legs." Hamas, he said, had made preparations for a long campaign and the enemy had seen only a small part of the results [of it preparations] (Al-Aqsa TV, July 18, 2014).

2) **Hussam Badran**, Hamas' external relations spokesman, claimed the "resistance" [i.e., the terrorist organizations] was prepared for ground combat, and that the extent and nature of the surprises it had prepared for the conflict would shock the enemy. He claimed the ground combat would not change the equation [between Israel and Hamas] but would give Hamas a better opportunity to strike IDF soldiers (Facebook page of Hussam Badran, July 17, 2014).

3) Hamas spokesman **Fawzi Barhoum** claimed Israel had taken a dangerous step and had not learned its lesson in Operation Cast Lead. He said that Israel had taken a
"foolish step" in starting the war in the Gaza Strip and that Hamas would exact the price (Al-Jazeera, July 17, 2014).

4) Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri claimed that the threat of war did not frighten Hamas or the Palestinian people, and that Israel was playing with fire. He threatened that Israel would pay the price for every crime it committed during the ground operation (Al-Aqsa TV, July 17, 2014).

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Threats against the IDF in Hebrew in Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades videos (Qassam.ps, July 17-20, 2014).

Left: "The one who sent you to Gaza is not sure you will return."
Right: "Anti-tank missile system [is] waiting."

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Judea and Samaria

22. Demonstrations in support of the Gaza Strip continue throughout Judea and Samaria. They have been held in a relatively limited number of locations and without exceptional events. With the beginning of the ground operation Hamas called for mass support marches (Alresala.net, July 18, 2014). At a demonstration organized by Hamas in Ramallah demonstrators called on Mahmoud Abbas to join the "resistance" and for the bombing and destruction of Tel Aviv (Felesteen.ps, July 18, 2014).

23. On Friday, July 18, 2014, after the Friday prayer on the Temple Mount, masked rioters threw rocks and fireworks at police forces. When there was a significant increase in the number of rocks thrown, a task force entered the Temple Mount and repulsed the rioters. Twelve suspects were detained for disturbing public order.
Left: Clashes with the Israeli security forces near the Ofer jail (Paltoday.tv and Wafa.ps, July 18, 2014). Right: Police forces enter the Temple Mount (Facebook page of the Israel Police Force, July 18, 2014).
July 21, 2014

Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 9
(As of 1200 hours, July 12, 2014)

Overview

1. The current focus of the ground operation is Shejaiya, a densely-populated neighborhood in the eastern part of Gaza City. The clashes between the IDF and operatives of Hamas and the other terrorist organizations have been extremely fierce since the beginning of the ground operation, resulting in 13 Israeli deaths (since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 18 Israeli soldiers have been killed). Squads of terrorists who deployed in Shejaiya used familiar tactics of urban warfare, firing anti-tank rockets and detonating IEDs.

2. During the fighting the local population sustained many casualties (the ITIC does not yet know the exact number), a function of Hamas’ deliberate policy of using civilians as human shields. In ITIC assessment, Hamas regards the ground combat in Shejaiya as an achievement because of the losses inflicted on the IDF, and because of the opportunity to exploit civilian casualties for propaganda and political purposes.
3. However, Hamas has still not succeeded in translating what it views as its achievement in Shejaiya into Egyptian support for its preconditions for a ceasefire (central to which is the opening of the Rafah crossing). It also has not succeeded in causing the international community to exert pressure on Israel, which is considered as defending itself from ongoing rocket fire and the attempts made by terrorist squads to infiltrate into Israeli territory though the tunnels (So far the IDF has exposed 36 tunnel shafts in the Gaza Strip, some of them of tunnels dug into Israeli territory to carry out mass-killing attacks and/or abductions.

**Terrorist Squads Infiltrate into Israeli Territory**

4. Hamas’ efforts to infiltrate terrorist squads into Israel continue. On the morning of July 21, 2014, **IDF forces prevented an estimated 20 terrorist operatives from infiltrating into Israel through a tunnel from the northern Gaza Strip near Sderot**. They exited the tunnel near Kibbutz Nir Am. Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked the first squad of terrorist operatives. The second squad fired an anti-tank rocket at an IDF vehicle. Local residents were asked to remain inside their homes. Ten terrorist operatives were killed in exchanges of fire with IDF forces (IDF Spokesman, July 21, 2014).

The Ground Operation

IDF Activity

5. During the past 24 hours the IDF’s ground operation in the Gaza Strip continued. Since it began, according to the IDF Spokesman, as of the morning of July 21, 2014, more than 110 terrorist operatives had been killed, and 22 had been detained and interrogated.

The Fighting in Shejaiya

6. The ground fighting focuses on Shejaiya, a neighborhood in the eastern part of the Gaza City, an operational and logistic center for Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). During Operation Protective Edge approximately 150 rockets have been fired into Israel from Shejaiya. IDF forces met with strong resistance from Hamas and PIJ operatives in the fighting there. In the battles that developed the terrorist operatives fired an anti-tank rocket at the IDF forces and detonated IEDs. The IDF carried out extensive, pinpoint attacks from the air and with artillery. Thirteen IDF soldiers were killed in Shejaiya.

Before the battles began, the IDF called on the local Shejaiya population to vacate the area. However, many residents, following instructions and under pressure from Hamas, refused to leave and were trapped in the combat area. According to various estimates, about 60 Palestinians (including women and children) were killed in the battles between the IDF and the terrorist forces and several hundred were wounded. Some of the Palestinians included in the list of those killed were terrorist operatives who fought the IDF. So far the ITIC does not have information about the exact number of Palestinians killed or their identity.

7. General Benny Gantz, the IDF Chief of Staff, said the local residents in Shejaiya knew they were victims of Hamas’ military deployment in the combat areas. He expressed regret that civilians were harmed. He said that throughout the operation the IDF had tried to distance civilians from the combat areas. He added the IDF had a moral duty to keep civilians from being harmed, insofar as was possible, and that it was important for them to vacate combat areas. However, he stressed that the IDF did not intend to give up its determination to carry out its mission (IDF Spokesman, July 20, 2014).
8. A field commander of an IDF force fighting in Shejaiya, interviewed by Yedioth Aharonoth correspondent Nahum Barnea, said that apparently the largest concentration of tunnels was in the Shejaiya area. The tunnels, he said, were located in a densely-populated residential area where buildings were five and six stories high. He said Hamas had threatened some of the local residents with weapons to keep them from vacating their houses (Ynetnews.co.il, July 21, 2014).

9. Following an appeal from the Red Cross, the IDF agreed to a humanitarian pause for the medical evacuation of the wounded from Shejaiya on July 20, 2014, between 1330 and 1530 hours. Israel's political leadership authorized the establishment of a field hospital at the Erez crossing to treat wounded Palestinian civilians. Despite the declaration of a pause in the fighting, armed Palestinians shot at the medical staff.
Residents of Shejaiya flee from their houses (Paltoday.tv, July 20, 2014).

10. Initially Hamas sources represented the fighting in Shejaiya as an impressive military achievement and issued information about attacks on IDF armed vehicles and the deaths of soldiers. However, as the clashes continued and the number of Palestinian casualties and the dimensions of the destruction of property were revealed, the Palestinian media began showing gory pictures of dead Palestinians, describing the fighting as "slaughter" and a "disaster." Hamas' objective is to make propaganda capital out of dead civilians for Palestinian, Arab and international public opinion.

11. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri falsely blamed Israel, claiming that Hamas had asked for a two-hour humanitarian ceasefire but that Israel had refused. He threatened the "resistance" would continue causing the [so-called Israeli] occupation heavy damages and would not allow [the Zionist] forces to walk on [Gazan] land (Safa.ps, July 20, 2014). Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said that today Hamas was not speaking with the media and cameras, but with rifles, rockets, artillery and fighters below ground, above ground and everywhere (Al-Aqsa TV, July 20, 2014). The PIJ said in a statement that the "crime" of Shejaiya was a Zionist attempt to preserve its self respect after the painful blows the resistance had dealt its army (Paltoday.ps, July 20, 2014).

12. Mahmoud Abbas called on the international community to intervene immediately and force a ceasefire. He declared three days of mourning. Nabil Abu Rudeina, the "presidential" spokesman, condemned the "slaughter" and demanded the Israeli government stop its aggression against the Gaza Strip (Wafa.ps, July 20, 2014).
Activities to Expose and Dismantle Tunnels

13. **So far the IDF has exposed 36 terrorist tunnel shafts in the Gaza Strip. On July 20, 2014, an IDF force blew up six tunnels and their shafts**, as follows (IDF Spokesman, July 20, 2014):

1) A terrorist tunnel in the northern Gaza Strip which had five shafts, all in Gazan territory. Inside were barrels of explosives and communications cables.

2) A terrorist tunnel in the northern Gaza Strip which had four shafts in Gazan territory and one in Israeli territory near an Israeli population center.

3) A terrorist tunnel in the central Gaza Strip which had eight shafts.

4) A terrorist tunnel in the central Gaza Strip which had two shafts, one in Gazan territory and one in Israeli territory.

5) A terrorist tunnel in the southern Gaza Strip which had one shaft.

6) A terrorist tunnel 1.2 kilometers, or ¾ of a mile long, which had four shafts, among them one that was blocked and one in Israeli territory. When the tunnel was blown up a secondary explosion was identified. One of the shafts was exposed inside a house near the tunnel's route.

Other Military Activity

14. **The following ground activities were carried out by the IDF in and near the Gaza Strip** (IDF Spokesman, July 20, 2014):
1) In a joint action with the Israel Security Agency (ISA) the IDF attacked the terrorist operative responsible for Hamas' surveillance.

2) An IDF force identified two terrorist operatives who exited a tunnel shaft exposed in the southern Gaza Strip. The force shot at the terrorists.

![Some of the weapons found during IDF activities in the Gaza Strip](IDF Spokesman, July 20, 2014)

**IDF Losses**

15. **Eighteen IDF soldiers have been killed in Operation Protective Edge. Thirteen IDF soldiers were killed in action** in the area of Shejaiya on the night of July 20, all of them from the Golani Brigade (IDF Spokesman, July 21, 2014):

1) Major Tzafrir Bar-Or, 32, from Holon. Officer in the Golani Brigade.

2) Captain Tzvi Kaplan, 28, from Qdumim. Officer in the Golani Brigade.

3) Sergeant Gilad Yaakovi, 21, from Kiryat Ono. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade.

4) Staff Sergeant Oz Mandelovitz, 21, from Avtalion. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade.

5) Staff Sergeant Nissim Sean Carmeli, 21, from Ra'anana. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade.

6) Staff Sergeant Moshe Malako, 21, from Jerusalem. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade.
16. Several scores of soldiers were wounded, some of them critically. They were evacuated to hospitals in the center of the country.

IDF Activity

Attacks on Terrorist Targets in the Gaza Strip Continue

17. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, more than 2,603 terrorist targets have been attacked in the Gaza Strip. Since the ground operation began, 1,032 terrorist targets have been attacked from the air (IDF Spokesman, July 21, 2014)

18. During the past 24 hours more than 450 terrorist targets have been attacked in the Gaza Strip, among them the following (IDF Spokesman, July 20, 2014):

1) Targets whose destruction would support the ground operation of the IDF forces.
2) Systems for firing rockets and mortar shells.
3) Houses that served as command and control facilities.
4) Underground rocket launchers.

The Gazan Population

19. According to ITIC information, **536 Gazans have been killed** since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, July 21).

20. Distribution (not final, as of 1200 hours, July 21, 2014) of those killed is as follows:

1) **164 terrorist operatives**:
   a) 89 Hamas operatives
   b) 51 PIJ operatives
   c) **24 operatives** from other terrorist organizations

2) **194 non-involved Palestinians**

3) **178 Palestinians** whose identity is not yet known
21. The IDF ground operation has led to a rise in the number of civilians vacating their houses and moving to UNRWA shelters. An UNRWA representative reported that there were 75,000 Palestinians in its shelter and that the agency needed help to provide for their needs.

22. **Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory**

Since the beginning of the operation approximately 1,655 rockets have fallen in Israeli territory. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted about 360 of them. Even after the ground operation began, Israel continued to be attacked with intense rocket and mortar shell fire. Since the beginning of the ground operation more than 350 rocket hits have been identified in Israeli territory.

23. There has been a slight decrease in rocket fire targeting the center of Israel, partially because the terrorist organizations are making a significant effort to fire at concentrations of IDF forces in the Gaza Strip and western Negev. On July 20, 2014, 110 rocket hits were identified in Israeli territory (a decrease of approximately 20 rockets compared with the previous day). Most of the fire targeted the population centers around the Gaza Strip, and only one barrage was fired at the center of Israel.

24. The main events were the following:

1) On the morning of July 20, 2014, a barrage of rockets targeted Beersheba. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted three rockets. Three other rockets fell in open areas. Rockets were fired at Ashqelon, and a hit was reported between two buildings. There were no casualties.

2) On the morning of July 20, 2014, sirens were heard on the coastal plain, including Ra'anana, Ramat Hasharon, Hod Hasharon and Rishpon. The Iron Dome intercepted some of the rockets. Rocket fragments fell in north Tel Aviv. There were no casualties; damage to a vehicle was reported.

3) On the afternoon of July 20, 2014, during the humanitarian pause in the fighting requested by Hamas, a number of rockets were fired at Israel.

4) Late in the morning of July 21, 2014, rocket fire targeting Ashdod, Ashqelon, Tel Aviv and the coastal plain was resumed. The Iron Dome intercepted two rockets targeting the greater Tel Aviv area and five in the skies over Ashdod. One rocket fell
near a house in Ashdod. There were no casualties but the building was damaged (Israel Police Force, July 21, 2014).

5) Early in the morning of July 21, 2014, a rocket hit a house in Sderot while four sisters, one of them an infant, were in the house’s protected room. There were no casualties; extensive damage to the house was reported.

Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge

1 The graph shows rocket hits in Israeli territory and does not include the massive mortar shell fire targeting the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
The PIJ's YouTube channel posted a video showing the launching of a Buraq-70 rocket at Tel Aviv on July 19, 2014. The location from which the rocket was fired was deliberately blurred, but running the video in slow motion shows it was launched near a mosque (The YouTube channel of the PIJ's Jerusalem Brigades, July 19, 2014). Left: The doctored picture of the rocket fire without buildings. Right: The reconstructed picture showing buildings.

Activity on Other Fronts

Rocket Fire from the Sinai Peninsula

25. On July 18, 2014, the Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (the Supporters of Jerusalem) claimed responsibility for firing three Grad rockets at Eilat, Israel's southernmost city, on the night of July 14. According to the claim the hits were "precise" and caused loss of life and damage to property (Twitter account of the Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, July 18, 2014). The Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis is a global jihad-affiliated organization operating in the Sinai Peninsula and Egypt. In the past it also claimed responsibility for rocket attacks on Eilat.

The Crossings – Update

The Erez Crossing

26. On Saturday, July 19, 2014, the Erez crossing was opened to allow the delivery of 100 tons of medicine and medical equipment to the Gaza Strip. Israel's political leadership also authorized the establishment of a field hospital at the crossing for Gazan civilians. The hospital will provide basic outpatient services and will be run by the IDF's medical corps and manned by doctors, nurses and X-ray technicians, and will also have a laboratory (Cogat.idf.il, July 21, 2014).
The Kerem Shalom Crossing

27. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 673 trucks carrying food, medicine and medical equipment have been delivered to the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom crossing. Fuel for the Gaza Strip power plant, gasoline and cooking gas have also been delivered (Cogat.idf.il, July 21, 2014).

29. On July 18, 2014, two power lines providing electricity to the Gaza Strip were repaired (Cogat.idf.il, July 21, 2014).

The Rafah Crossing

28. On July 20, 2014, the Rafah crossing was opened for the passage of humanitarian cases and the delivery of aid to the Gaza Strip. Nabil Shaath, a member of Fatah's Central Committee, said he was in contact with the Egyptians to have the Rafah crossing opened immediately (Palestinian TV, July 20, 2014).

Hamas' Propaganda Campaign

29. Hamas' propaganda currently focuses on making political and propaganda capital from the Palestinian civilian casualties caused by the heavy fighting in Shejaiya. Abu Obeida, spokesman for Hamas' military-terrorist wing, claimed that the military wing was teaching Israel a hard, unprecedented lesson. He claimed Israel could not cope with the fighters on the ground and had sustained extremely heavy losses. He also claimed Israel had not admitted that it had lost a soldier who was currently in the hands of Hamas' military-terrorist wing. He called on the Israeli populace to follow the announcements of the military wing on the subject (Al-Aqsa TV, July 20, 2014). Hamas' military-terrorist wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, said in a statement that the soldier had been abducted during the fighting in Shejaiya. They claimed he had been taken from an APC that had exploded (after being hit by an anti-tank rocket) (Ghaza al-A'an and the Shihab website, July 20, 2014). In reality, the announcement of the abduction of an IDF soldier was false.

30. Abu Obeida's false claim of a captured IDF soldier brought hundreds of Palestinians into the streets in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. They waved Hamas flags, shouted with joy and distributed candy to passersby (Safa.ps and Al-Aqsa TV, July 20, 2014).
A spokesman for the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades announces the "abduction" of an Israeli soldier (Al-Aqsa TV, July 20, 2014). Right: The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades claims responsibility for a number of actions in which IDF soldiers were killed, as well as the false claim of the "abduction" of an Israeli soldier (Qassam.ps, July 20, 2014).

Outpourings of joy following the (false) announcement of an abducted IDF soldier. Left: Candy is distributed in a Palestinian city in Judea and Samaria. Right: A Palestinian women wrapped in a Hamas flag gives out candy (Shihab website, July 20, 2014).

Judea and Samaria

31. Palestinians in Judea and Samaria continue to express solidarity and support for the Gaza Strip. So far there have been no exceptional incidents.

1) Tawfiq al-Tirawi, a member of Fatah's Central Committee, called on Fatah members to go out into all the streets of "Palestine" and lead demonstrations and marches to emphasize Fatah's role in the leadership of the Palestinian street. He said
daily protest activities had to be held in the Palestinian street (Maannews.net, July 20, 2014).

2) In Ramallah a rally was held in support of the Gaza Strip. Participants called for Hamas' military-terrorist wing to "increase its rocket fire" at Israeli cities and settlements (Al-Quds TV, July 20, 2014).

3) Iyad al-Bazam, former spokesman for the Hamas ministry of the interior, said that the Palestinians should not hold solidarity marches and demonstrations. That, he said, should be left to the Europeans. The Palestinians, he said, should go into the streets and "slaughter Zionist settlers" in retaliation for the blood spilled in the Gaza Strip (Facebook page of Iyad al-Bazam, July 20, 2014).

Demonstrations held in Judea and Samaria in support of the Gaza Strip (Wafa.ps, July 21, 2014).

Ceasefire Negotiations

32. Contacts for a ceasefire continue, with a central role played by Egypt. There has not yet been a breakthrough because Hamas consistently rejects the Egyptian formula of ceasing fire first and negotiating afterwards (although it does recognize the centrality of the Egyptian channel). Mahmoud Abbas shuttled from one capital to another to initiate a process that will lead to a ceasefire. Having visited Egypt he flew to Turkey and from there to Bahrain and Qatar. In a recorded speech aired on Palestinian TV, he noted the need for a commitment to the ceasefire proposed by Egypt (Palestinian TV, July 20, 2014). UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon also visited Israel and the Arab states to promote a ceasefire (UN website, July 19, 2014).
33. **Khaled Mashaal**, head of the Hamas political bureau, went to Kuwait as the head of a delegation of senior Hamas figures to discuss the ceasefire (Aa.com.tr, July 20, 2014). He reportedly also received an invitation to Cairo (Reuters.com, July 19, 2014). Egyptian sources denied that he had been invited to Egypt, calling it a Hamas leak (Youm7.com, July 20, 2014).

34. **Musa Abu Marzouq**, a member of Hamas' political bureau, said that Egypt was most capable of bringing about a ceasefire. He claimed Hamas was ready for the Egyptian initiative but wanted its demands agreed to before the ceasefire went into effect and not afterwards. He claimed that one of the demands rejected by the Hamas movement was the demand to disarm. **Khaled al-Batash**, senior PIJ figure, said that his organization objected to bypassing the Egyptian negotiation, claiming that that the "resistance's" demands for the Gazans were just, and the most important one was lifting the siege and the end of "aggression," opening a port and the crossings so that the Gazans could "live in dignity" (Sawa.ps, July 19, 2014).

35. American Secretary of State **John Kerry** said Hamas' actions had led Israel to respond in an attempt to stop the rockets being fired against it. He called on Hamas to be responsible for its actions and **ratify the ceasefire unconditionally** (as demanded by Egypt). He said Israel was being besieged by a terrorist organization which had no qualms about constructing tunnels and equipping itself with sedatives and weapons to abduct Israeli hostages. He said no country could sit idly by and not fight against people launching thousands of rockets into its territory. He also said that he expected to reach the Middle East shortly to support the effort to reach a ceasefire (ABC, July 20 2014).
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 10
(As of 1200 hours, July 11, 2014)

Overview

1. The fighting between the IDF and Hamas and the other terrorist organizations continues in various locations in the Gaza Strip, especially the Shejaiya neighborhood of Gaza City. The IDF continues exposing and blowing up tunnels used for terrorist purposes, some of them extending into Israeli territory (so far 45 shafts and between 14 and 16 complete tunnels have been exposed). The terrorist organizations have fired anti-tank rockets, detonate IEDs and fire mortar shells to cause the IDF forces as many losses as possible as a foundation for their myth of “victory.”

2. Hamas is also trying to infiltrate terrorist squads into Israel through the terrorist tunnels to carry out mass-killing attacks and abductions. One prominent attempt was the infiltration of a large group of terrorist operatives dressed in IDF uniforms. They emerged from a tunnel in the region of Kibbutz Nir Am in the western Negev (on the morning of July 21, 2014). The terrorists clashed with an IDF force, killing four IDF officers and soldiers. Nine terrorist operatives were killed (two apparently managed to return to the Gaza Strip).

3. In Cairo, activity continues to reach a ceasefire based on the Egyptian initiative. American Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon
arrived in Cairo providing diplomatic support for the Egyptian initiative. Hamas still rejects an immediate, unconditional ceasefire, adhering to its original demands, central to which are the opening of the Rafah crossing and the release of prisoners held by Israel.

The Ground Operation

IDF Activity

4. During the past 24 hours the IDF’s ground operation in the Gaza Strip continued. Since it began, according to the IDF Spokesman, as of the morning of July 21, 2014 more than 100 terrorist operatives had been killed, and many had been detained and interrogated (See below).

The Fighting in Shejaiya

5. During the past 24 hours the ground operation focused on the region of Shejaiya, a center of the terrorist infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. During the IDF activity to locate terrorist facilities and operatives there have been continual confrontations with terrorist operatives deployed in the Shejaiya neighborhood.

Anti-Tunnel Activity

6. So far, during the ground operation the IDF has exposed 45 tunnel shafts and between 14 and 16 terrorist tunnels, some of the originating from within mosques. During the past 24 hours IDF forces prevented an attack from terrorist operatives who used the tunnels to attack IDF forces (IDF Spokesman, July 22, 2014):

1) On the evening of July 21, 2014, two terrorist operatives emerged from a tunnel in the neighborhoods of Al-Atatra and Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. An IDF force attacked them. Ten terrorist operatives emerged from a tunnel shaft in a mosque. An IDF force shot and killed them. Other operatives who emerged from a tunnel shaft located in a house were also killed.

2) On the afternoon of July 21, 2014, the IDF exposed two tunnel shafts in the region of Shejaiya which were intended for terrorist attacks inside Israel. There was an exchange of fire during which two terrorist operatives were killed.

3) On July 21, 2014, three terrorist operatives emerged from a tunnel in the Rafah region. One of them was killed.

1 For further information about the military-terrorist use the terrorist organizations make of mosques, see the July 14, 2014 bulletin "The use of mosques in the Gaza Strip for military purposes by Hamas and other terrorist organizations: the case of the Al-Farouq Mosque.”
7. The Jerusalem Brigades, the military-terrorist wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), issued a statement on July 21, 2014, claiming to have fired Sagger anti-tank portable missiles at IDF forces. According to the claim, one attacked an IDF force in the Al-Bureij refugee camp and another at an IDF force east of Jabaliya. The statement also claimed in both cases the forces had been hit (Saraya.ps, July 21, 2014).
Terrorist Infiltration into Israeli Territory – Update

8. Four IDF officers and soldiers were shot to death by terrorists during a terrorist infiltration via a tunnel in the region of Kibbutz Nir Am in the western Negev on July 21, 2014. The IDF investigation revealed that the terrorist operatives wore IDF uniforms, making it difficult for the soldiers to identify them. The commanders on the ground thought they were IDF soldiers and only when they saw them carrying Kalashnikov assault rifles did they realize they were terrorist operatives. Apparently the operatives planned to carry out an attack in one or more Israeli villages in the area and possibly to abduct civilians. Searches conducted after the event revealed the bodies of nine terrorists (Haaretz.co.il, July 22, 2014). Two operatives managed to return to the Gaza Strip.

9. Major General Sammy Turgeman, commander of the Southern Command, said that the day before the infiltration the IDF had attacked the area of the tunnel in Beit Hanoun. He said that after the attack Hamas had apparently decided to carry out a terrorist attack before the tunnel was destroyed. He added that the IDF’s incursion into the Gaza Strip and its destruction of the tunnel system angered Hamas because the movement had invested a great deal in constructing them (IDF Spokesman, July 21, 2014).

10. Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack. It issued a statement claiming it had been carried out by an "elite unit" of 12 fighters divided into two groups. Two fighters, according to the statement, returned to the Gaza Strip after a fierce battle with the IDF (Qassam.ps, July 21, 2014).

IDF Activity

Attacks on Terrorist Targets in the Gaza Strip Continue

11. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, more than 2,887 terrorist targets have been attacked in the Gaza Strip. Since the ground operation began, more than 1,032 terrorist targets have been attacked from the air (IDF Spokesman, July 22, 2014).
Palestinian Documentation of Attacks on Buildings in the Gaza Strip

A video posted on YouTube on July 21, 2014 documented an attack on an eight-story building belonging to the Dughmush clan in Gaza City (some Dughmush clan members are terrorist operatives). The video showed the residents leaving before the attack, having enough time to document it. Note: The circle indicates the rocket fired at the house (YouTube, July 21, 2014)

A video posted on YouTube documented an attack on a house belonging to the al-Mashharawi clan in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City on July 21, 2014. The video showed the residents leaving, having enough time to document the attack. Note: The circle indicates the rocket fired at the house (YouTube, July 21, 2014 and Ghaza al-A'an, July 22, 2014)
IDF Losses

12. **Twenty-seven IDF soldiers have been killed in Operation Protective Edge.** One soldier was reported missing in action, **Sergeant Oron Shaul**, who was in an APC in Shejaiya. The names of the soldiers released for publication were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 22, 2014):

1) **Lieutenant Colonel Dolev Keidar**, 38, from Modi'in. Commander of the Geffen Battalion, killed by an anti-tank missile fired at the force responding to a terrorist infiltration at Kibbutz Nir Am.

2) **Staff Sergeant Tal Yifrach**, 21, from Rishon Letzion. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade. Killed in battle in Gaza.


4) **Sergeant Nadav Goldmacher**, 23, from Beersheba. Combat soldier in a training camp. Killed by an anti-tank missile fired at the force responding to a terrorist infiltration at Kibbutz Nir Am.

5) **Sergeant Major Bayhesain Kshaun**, 39, from Netivot. Killed by an anti-tank missile fired at the force responding to a terrorist infiltration at Kibbutz Nir Am.

6) **Second Lieutenant Yuval Haiman**, 21, from Efrat. Combat soldier in a training camp. Killed by an anti-tank missile fired at the force responding to a terrorist infiltration at Kibbutz Nir Am.

7) **Staff Sergeant Jordan Bensemhoun**, 22, from Ashqelon. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade. Killed by direct fire.


9) **Staff Sergeant Max Steinberg**, 24, from Beersheba. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade. Killed in Shejaiya when his APC took a direct hit on the first day of the ground operation.

10) **Staff Sergeant Shachar Tase**, 20, from Pardesiya. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade. Killed in Shejaiya when his APC took a direct hit on the first day of the ground operation.
11) **Staff Sergeant Daniel Pomerantz, 22**, from Kfar Azar. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade. Killed in Shejaiya when his APC took a direct hit on the first day of the ground operation.

12) **Sergeant Sean Mondshine**, 19, from Tel Aviv. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade. Killed in Shejaiya when his APC took a direct hit on the first day of the ground operation.

13) **Sergeant Ben Itzhak Oanounou**, 19, Ashdod. Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade. Killed in Shejaiya when his APC took a direct hit on the first day of the ground operation.

14) **Staff Sergeant Oren Simcha Noach**, 22, from Hoshaya, Combat soldier in the Golani Brigade. Killed in Shejaiya when his APC took a direct hit on the first day of the ground operation.

15) **Master Sergeant Ohad Shemesh**, 27, from Beit Elazari. Killed in combat in the Gaza Strip.

13. Several scores of soldiers were wounded in the ground operation, some of them critically. They were evacuated to hospitals in the center of Israel.

### Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory

14. Even after the ground operation began, the Palestinian terrorist organizations have continued to attack Israel with heavy rocket and mortar shell fire. **Since the beginning of the operation approximately 1,770 rockets have fallen in Israeli territory.** The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted about 400 of them. **Since the beginning of the ground operation more than 460 rocket hits have been identified in Israeli territory.** On July 21, 2014, **115 rocket hits** were identified. Most of the rocket fire has targeted the population centers in the western Negev, although several barrages were also fired at the center of Israel.

15. The main attacks were the following:

1) On the morning of **July 22, 2014**, a barrage of rockets was launched at the greater Tel Aviv area and the coastal plain. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted one rocket. A rocket fell in the center of a residential area in the town of Yehud (in the center of Israel), causing considerable damage to property. There were no casualties. Shortly beforehand a heavy barrage of rockets was launched at Ashdod. The Iron Dome intercepted seven of them. One of them
exploded near a school. There were no casualties and no damage was reported. Before dawn a barrage of rockets was launched at Beersheba.

2) On the evening of **July 21, 2014**, a barrage of rockets was launched at Petah Tikva and other population centers in the center of Israel. One rocket exploded in an open area near the city of Rosh Haayin. An hour later a barrage of rockets was fired at Beersheba. Seven rockets exploded in the city. Barrages of rockets were also fired at Ashdod and Gan Yavne. Two rockets exploded in Ashdod. There were no casualties.

3) On the morning of **July 21, 2014** a rocket exploded in Ashqelon. A building and cars were damaged. Previously, a rocket that had not been intercepted and carried a warhead with 30 kilograms (or 66 pounds) of explosives penetrated the apartment of a father and his three children. The rocket did not explode and demolitions experts removed it.
Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge

16. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the PIJ claimed responsibility for most of the rocket fire into Israeli territory and targeting IDF forces operating in the Gaza Strip.

The Use Made of Civilian Facilities by Hamas and the Other Terrorist Organizations

The Use of Schools in the Gaza Strip


18. Hamas' ministry of the interior denied the UNRWA report about its workers finding weapons hidden in one of the agency's schools. According to the ministry's (false) claim, the event had been "fabricated" to justify the harm done and provide a cover for the "crimes" Israel committed in the Gaza Strip. The ministry claimed that all UNRWA's schools were guarded by the agency and that there was no possibility of introducing weapons without the knowledge of the school guards. In addition, according to the ministry's announcement, Hamas did to need to use schools to store weapons (Al-Ra'i, July 20, 2014).

2 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.

3 For further information about Hamas' use of school, see the July 20, 2014 bulletin "Hamas and other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip use schools for military-terrorist purposes: The case of rockets found hidden in an UNRWA school during Operation Protective Edge."
The Use of Ambulances

19. During the IDF activity in the Gaza Strip an IDF force identified two Palestinian terrorist operatives using ambulances on a daily basis to move through the Gaza Strip (IDF Spokesman, July 22, 2014).

The Gazan Population

20. According to ITIC information, 610 Gazans have been killed since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, July 22). In ITIC assessment, there are scores of bodies of terrorist operatives killed in clashes with IDF forces in various combat areas that have not been included in the statistics. That is because their bodies have not yet been evacuated and Hamas and the other terrorist organizations are not aware of their deaths.

21. The distribution (not final, as of July 21, 2014) of the 610 Palestinians killed is as follows:

1) 172 terrorist operatives:
   A. 94 Hamas operatives
   B. 54 PIJ operatives
   C. 24 operatives from other terrorist organizations

2) 230 non-involved Palestinians

3) 208 Palestinians whose identity is not yet known

22. Since Operation Protective Edge's ground operation began more than 358 Palestinians have been killed, according to the following distribution:

1) More than 72 terrorist operatives (as noted, scores of operatives are not included in the statistics because their bodies have not yet been evacuated).

2) 129 non-involved Palestinians.

3) 157 Palestinians whose affiliation and degree of involvement are unknown.

23. A UN report issued during the past 24 hours indicated a difficult humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. According to the report, among the difficulties are problems with providing water and electricity, a lack of medical equipment and medicine, and a poor sanitation situation. According to the report, more than 100,000 Palestinians have been displaced from their houses and the agency needs $60 million to be able to continue functioning (Ochaopt.org, July 21, 2014).

24. According to UNRWA, as of July 21, 2014, 84,843 displaced persons from the Gaza Strip were housed in 67 emergency shelters set up by the agency. The
movement of civilians to the shelters is expected to continue (UNRWA.org, July 21, 2014). UNRWA spokesperson Chris Gunness said that a humanitarian convoy had set out from Dubai. He said it consisted of 115 tons of equipment including mattresses, blankets and hygiene kits for the residents of the Gaza Strip (Twitter account of Chris Gunness, July 21, 2014). The Palestinian government voted to allot 25 million shekels (about $7,300,000) in aid for the Gaza Strip and 10 million (about $2,900,000) for Gazans who had vacated their houses (Wafa.ps, July 21, 2014).

The Crossings – Update

The Erez Crossing

25. A field hospital authorized by the Israeli government has opened at the Erez crossing. It has ten beds, an emergency room, a dispensary, examination rooms for women and children and an X-ray unit. The hospital can provide ambulatory care and medicines for dozens of patients (Cogat.idf.il, July 21, 2014).

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

26. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 721 trucks carrying food, medicine and medical equipment have been delivered to the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom crossing. Fuel for the Gaza Strip power plant, gasoline and cooking gas have also been delivered (Cogat.idf.il, July 21, 2014).
The Rafah Crossing

27. According to Jamal al-Shubaki, Palestinian Authority (PA) representative in Egypt, the Rafah crossing is supposed to open on July 22, 2014 to allow for the passage of wounded Palestinians and holders of foreign passports (Wafa.ps, July 21, 2014). At a joint press conference held with UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon, Sameh Shukri, the Egyptian minister of foreign affairs, said that during the present crisis the crossing had been opened to allow wounded Palestinians to receive medical care in Egyptian hospitals. He said the crossing performed its function and would remain open. In addition, humanitarian aid would enter the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing and Egypt would spare no effort to support the Gaza Strip (Al-Arabiya TV, July 21, 2014).

Judea and Samaria

Shooting Attack

28. On the night of July 21, 2014 a 25 year-old Israeli man was shot and critically wounded in a drive-by shooting at the Rehalim junction (near Ariel). He had been waiting for a ride when several shot were fired at him from a passing car, wounding him in the back, arm and leg. He was evacuated to a hospital. The IDF searched the area.

29. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Fatah's military-terrorist wing, claimed responsibility for shooting at an Israeli vehicle on the bypass road south of Rehalim, near Nablus, on July 22, 2014 (Shasha website, July 22, 2014).
The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades Calls for an Intifada

30. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Fatah’s military-terrorist wing, issued an announcement claiming its members were fully prepared and that it was renewing attacks at all the points of friction with IDF forces. The military-terrorist wing claimed it would "send shock waves" through the “Zionist entity” in Judea and Samaria and promised an intifada the likes of which Israel had never seen. They asked all the [terrorist] organizations to unite under the principle of weapons and "resistance" to release the [Palestinian terrorist operative] prisoners and avenge the blood of the shaheeds (Maannews.net, July 21, 2014). The reliability of the announcement is unclear.

Contacts for a Ceasefire

31. Contacts continue in Cairo to reach a ceasefire based on the Egyptian initiative. American Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon have already arrived in Cairo. Hamas still rejects an immediate, unconditional ceasefire and refuses to give up its original demands.

32. Sameh Shukri, the Egyptian minister of foreign affairs, said Egypt had had contacts with senior Hamas figures before it presented its initiative. He said the sovereignty of the Rafah crossing was not something Egypt was prepared to discuss. A spokesman for the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs said that the current crisis could not be resolved without Egypt (Alhayat.com, July 21, 2014).

33. To promote contacts for a ceasefire Mahmoud Abbas met in Qatar with Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas' political bureau (Wafa.ps, July 21, 2014). According to official Palestinian sources, progress was made in the efforts to reach a ceasefire (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 21, 2014). Izzat al-Rishq, a senior Hamas figure who attended the meeting, denied the reports, claiming that during the meeting Hamas had emphasized its rejection of the Egyptian initiative (Al-Arabiya TV, July 21, 2014).
34. In a statement issued by the Palestinian Legislative Council's information bureau, Ismail Haniya, deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, said that Hamas' conditions were the minimum for any ceasefire and that Hamas would not agree to anything less (Al-Ra'i, July 21, 2014). Haniya gave a speech in which he reiterated Hamas' preconditions for a ceasefire: the end of Israel's "aggression," lifting the siege of the Gaza Strip including the opening of the crossings, and the release of the Palestinians detained during Operation Brothers' Keeper (Al-Aqsa TV, July 21, 2014).

35. Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary general, said that his organization demanded the same conditions for a ceasefire as Hamas, but added that the Egyptian initiative had to be "developed." As to the Rafah crossing, he said it was a sensitive issue linked to relations among the PA, Hamas and Egypt. He said the issue presented a great obstacle to reaching a ceasefire (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 21, 2014).
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 11
(As of 1200 hours, July 23, 2014)

Overview

1. The fighting between the IDF and Hamas and the other terrorist organizations continues at various friction points in the Gaza Strip, especially the Shejaiya neighborhood. The terrorist organizations make extensive use of anti-tank rockets, sniper fire and IEDs in order to cause the IDF the greatest number of casualties possible and to show they are standing firm. IDF activity currently focuses on exposing and destroying tunnels used for terrorist purposes. **On the political front** efforts continue to mediate a ceasefire based on the Egyptian initiative, while searching for ways to circumvent Hamas’ continuing rejection. Hamas wants to extract military and media achievements to give it more bargaining power in future negotiations.

2. **In the international arena** there were two prominent developments during the past 24 hours: one, as of July 22, 2014, the American (and in their wake European) airlines cancelled their flights to Israel (Hamas is encouraged by the situation and represents it as an achievement); two, the EU delegation to the UN issued a declaration calling for a ceasefire and strongly condemning the rocket fire into Israeli territory and the use of the civilian population as human shields. The declaration also noted, exceptionally, the need to disarm the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip.
The Ground Operation

IDF Activity

3. During the past 24 hours the IDF's ground operation focusing on destroying the terrorist infrastructure in the Gaza Strip continued. The focus of the activity is the exposure and destruction of the terrorist tunnels. During the ground operation the IDF forces have met with strong resistance from terrorist operatives. So far more than 110 terrorist operatives have been killed in the ground operation. IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Motti Almoz said the IDF was advancing and acting quickly to end the activity (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014).

4. During the past 24 hours 22 terrorist operatives have been killed and 28 caught and taken for interrogation. Prominent events were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014):

1) On the night of July 22, 2014, an IDF force located a Hamas war room used as a command and control headquarters by the organization. Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked the war room.

2) On the evening of July 22, 2014, two terrorist operatives used light arms to shoot at a Givati Brigade force. The soldiers returned fire and shot and hit the terrorists. There were no IDF casualties.

3) On the evening of July 22, 2014, a Golani Brigade force hit four terrorist operatives shooting at IDF soldiers. Later aircraft and a Paratrooper Brigade force hit seven terrorist operatives (among them snipers who had shot at the soldiers). An IDF soldier was killed in the exchange of fire and 13 soldiers were wounded.

4) In the afternoon of July 22, 2014, a terrorist operative shot at an IDF force. The soldiers returned fire, killing the terrorist.

5) On the morning of July 22, 2014, a Paratrooper Brigade force identified a terrorist squad. The squad was attacked from the air. Ten terrorist operatives were identified as hit. Other members of the squad were seen escaping in an ambulance. Not wanting to hit uninvolved civilians who might also have been in the ambulance, the IDF did not attack it. There were no IDF casualties. Later on a force from the Paratrooper Brigade identified three terrorist operatives. The soldiers shot at them.
The Fighting in Shejaiya
5. During the past 24 hours the fighting continued focusing on the neighborhood of Shejaiya, although it is ongoing in other combat areas of the Gaza Strip. During the past few days there were dozens of clashes between IDF forces and terrorist operatives in the area. According to IDF sources, because of Shejaiya's strategic importance, Hamas has a strong force (approximately equivalent to a battalion) there. The IDF is investing efforts in Shejaiya because it is a center for terrorist activity in the Gaza Strip, with a large number of terrorist headquarters and facilities. Many tunnel shafts have been exposed in Shejaiya, including one that extended into Israeli territory. The neighborhood is also a focus for rocket fire into Israel. About 10% of the rockets fired into Israel have been fired from Shejaiya (IDF Spokesman, July 22, 2014).

Exposure and Destruction of Terrorist Tunnels
6. According to an IDF report, as of the morning of July 23, 2014, the IDF had exposed 63 tunnel shafts and 28 terrorist tunnels. The IDF has begun destroying them. The IDF Spokesman added that hundreds of IDF soldiers were currently searching for tunnels and that their mission was to locate concealed shafts (most of which have a diameter of only 60-70 centimeters, or 24-27 inches). According to the IDF Spokesman, the intelligence achievement was significant. He added that most of the tunnels revealed through intelligence had already been exposed by IDF forces (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014).
Air Attacks on Terrorist Targets Continue

7. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, more than 3,313 terrorist targets have been attacked in the Gaza Strip. Since the ground operation began, more than 1,833 terrorist targets have been attacked from the air. Among the targets were rocket and mortar shell firing facilities, houses serving as command and control centers and concealed rocket launchers (IDF Spokesman, July 22, 2014).

8. On July 22, 2014, more than 187 terrorist targets were attacked, 100 of them in Shejaiya. Among the targets were concealed rocket launchers, houses of terrorist operatives used as command and control centers, a site for the manufacture of weapons, military structures, rocket launchers and anti-tank missile launchers. During the ground operation so far, 258 terrorist targets in Shejaiya have been attacked.

IDF Losses

9. Twenty-nine IDF soldiers have been killed in Operation Protective Edge. On the night of July 22, 2014, two armored corps officers were killed. One soldier was reported missing in action. According to the IDF Spokesman, the IDF continues to examine the site of the incident to determine its causes. Additional names of the soldiers released for publication were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 22, 2014):

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1 For further information about the use of mosques, see the July 14, 2014 bulletin "The use of mosques in the Gaza Strip for military purposes by Hamas and other terrorist organizations: the case of the Al-Farouq Mosque."
1) **Staff Sergeant Eviatar Turgeman**, 20, from Beit Shean. Combat soldier in the Paratrooper Brigade.

2) **Captain Dmitri Levitas**, 26, from Jerusalem. Commander of an Armored Corps company. Killed by sniper fire.


10. Several dozen additional soldiers have been wounded during the ground operation, some of them critically. They were evacuated to hospitals in the center of Israel.

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**Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory**

11. Heavy rocket and mortar shell fire continues to attack Israel. Since the beginning of the operation approximately **1,870 rockets have fallen in Israeli territory**. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted **more than 400** of them. Since the beginning of the ground operation more than **560 rocket hits have been identified in Israel**. On July 22, 2014, rocket fire continued targeting the population centers in the western Negev, the Negev, the coastal plain and the center of Israel. On July 22 **100 rocket hits** were identified. Most of the rocket fire has targeted the western Negev, although several barrages were also fired at the center of Israel.

12. The main attacks were the following:

1) On the evening of **July 22, 2014**, sirens were sounded in the greater Tel Aviv area and the entire coastal plain. According to reports, a rocket was intercepted in the skies over Yavne and one hit the area of Ashdod. Another rocket hit was identified in an open area in the coastal plain.

2) On the evening of **July 22, 2014**, sirens were sounded in Beersheba. Four rockets fell in open areas. One fell in the yard of a house and caused minor damage to the building.

3) On the morning of **July 22, 2014**, a barrage of rockets was fired at the center of Israel. One rocket that was not intercepted fell in the town of Yehud and damaged several houses.
Police demolitions experts deal with the fragments of the rockets fired into Israel (Israel Police Force, July 22, 2014).

13. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) continue claiming responsibility for most of the rockets and mortar shells fired into Israeli territory and at the IDF forces operating in the Gaza Strip.

**Commercial Flights To and From Israel Cancelled**

14. Because of the rocket fire, especially the rocket fire in the region of Ben-Gurion international airport and the rocket hit in Yehud (which is close to the airport), many commercial airlines cancelled their flights to and from Israel. According to the Israeli Airport Authority, during the past 24 hours more than 80 flights were cancelled. Many Israelis abroad could not return home. According to the Israel media, the minister of transportation decided to immediately open the Ovda airport, near Eilat, as an alternative. The foreign airlines were informed, but it is not known if they will accept the proposal.

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2 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
The Use Made of Civilian Facilities by Hamas and the Other Terrorist Organizations

Hiding Rockets in UNRWA Installations

15. **On July 22, 2014, UNRWA** reported that “in the course of the regular inspection of its premises, UNRWA discovered rockets hidden in a vacant school in the Gaza Strip. As soon as the rockets were discovered, UNRWA staff were withdrawn from the premises, and so we are unable to confirm the precise number of rockets. The school is situated between two other UNRWA schools that currently each accommodate 1,500 internally displaced persons.” UNRWA added that “the Agency immediately informed the relevant parties and is pursuing all possible measures for the removal of the objects in order to preserve the safety and security of the school. UNRWA will launch a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding this incident.” (UNRWA.org, July 22, 2014). It was the second time during Operation Protective Edge that UNRWA reported finding rockets in or near a school run by the agency in the Gaza Strip.³

**Foreign Correspondents Report Hamas' Military-Terrorist Use of the Civilian Population and Hospitals**

16. Several foreign correspondents currently in the Gaza Strip have recently documented cases of the use made of the civilian population and hospitals made by Hamas and the other terrorist organizations:

1) **Patrick Martin, Gaza Strip correspondent for the Canadian Globe and Mail**, wrote that "...the IDF informed the two groups that it had accepted a request from the Red Crescent for a two-hour humanitarian truce to allow medics to evacuate the dead and injured from Shejaia...as journalists arrived at the scene in Shejaia Sunday afternoon, several men with guns were scurrying from the scene. Some bore their weapons openly, slung over their shoulder, but two, disguised as women, were seen walking off with weapons partly concealed under their robes. Another had his weapon wrapped in a blanket and held on his chest as if it were a baby" (ITIC emphasis).⁴

³ For further information about the use of schools for military-terrorist purposes, see the July 20, 2014 bulletin "Hamas and other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip use schools for military-terrorist purposes: The case of rockets found hidden in an UNRWA school during Operation Protective Edge.“
2) Janis Mackey Frayer, a correspondent for Canadian TV, Tweeted the following:

3) Washington Post correspondent William Booth wrote on July 15 that the Al-Shifa’a Hospital had been turned into the headquarters of the Hamas leadership. He said they could be seen walking around the hospital corridors and in the offices.\(^5\)

4) According to another Washington Post report, on July 17, 2014, during the humanitarian truce, a group of in a mosque in the northern Gaza Strip said they had come back from cleaning glass from windows broken the day before in attacks. However, it could be seen that they were taking small rockets into the mosque.

**The Ministry of the Interior in the Gaza Strip Denies Using Civilians as Human Shields**

17. Iyad al-Bazam, spokesman for the Hamas-controlled ministry of the interior in the Gaza Strip, stressed that Israel's claims of the use the "resistance" made of hospitals, schools, mosques and civilian facilities in the Gaza Strip were lies. He added Israel was using lies to justify its attacks on the civilians of the Gaza Strip and to reduce international criticism of its actions. He claimed that his ministry was monitoring the institutions in the Gaza Strip and had not found one instance of their being used for any

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\(^5\) For further information see the July 23, 2014 bulletin "Hamas and the Other Terrorist Organizations in the Gaza Strip Use Medical Facilities and Ambulances for Military-Terrorist Purposes."
activity connected to the Palestinian "resistance" [i.e., terrorist organizations] (Website of the ministry of the interior, July 22, 2014).

The denial issued by the Palestinian ministry of the interior (Website of the ministry of the interior, July 22, 2014)

The Gazan Population

18. According to ITIC information, 674 Gazans have been killed since the beginning of the operation (as of 0800 hours, July 23). In ITIC assessment, there are scores of bodies of terrorist operatives killed in clashes with IDF forces in various combat areas that have not been included in the overall statistics. That is because their bodies have not yet been evacuated from the combat zones and Hamas and the other terrorist organizations may not necessarily be aware of their deaths.

19. The distribution (not final, as of July 21, 2014) of the 674 Palestinians killed is as follows:

1) 204 terrorist operatives:
   
   A) 118 Hamas operatives
   
   B) 59 PIJ operatives
   
   C) 27 operatives from other terrorist organizations

2) 241 non-involved Palestinians

3) 229 Palestinians whose identity is not yet known
20. **Chris Gunness, UNRWA spokesman** in the Gaza Strip, said that **more than 118,300 Palestinians had vacated their houses and had taken shelter in 77 UNRWA installations** throughout the Gaza Strip. He said Gazans continued leaving their houses (Twitter account of Chris Gunness, July 22, 2014).

21. **American Secretary of State John Kerry** said the United States was donating $47 million in aid to deal with the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip (State Department website, July 22, 2014).

**The Battle for Hears and Minds: Instructions Issued by the Hamas-Controlled Ministry of the Interior**

22. A few days after the beginning of Operation Protective Edge the information bureau of the Hamas-controlled ministry of the interior in the Gaza Strip issued **instructions for the Palestinians active on the social networks in the Strip.** The instructions dealt, among other things, with how to report on the dead and wounded and not to publicize proof of the use of civilians as human shields.

23. The main points of the instructions were the following (YouTube, July 10, 2014):

1) **How to relate to Palestinians who were killed:** the expression to be used is "innocent citizen" [in the Arabic instructions the words "innocent citizen" also appear in English]. When giving details [of terrorist operatives] it first must be stated that the person was "a resident of Gaza" or "a resident of Palestine" before mentioning his [jihadi role] in the organization or his rank.

2) **The context of the circumstances of the deaths:** Death notices are to begin "In response to the terrible Israeli attack..." to represent Israel as "aggressive" and the Palestinians as "responding."

3) **Not to use photographs which might prove that civilians were used as human shields:** Pictures of rocket launches from the center of Gazan cities into Israel should not be used.

4) **To be careful with photographs or videos documenting terrorist operatives ("resistance operatives"):** No pictures or videos should be used documenting (rocket) fire sites or the movement of operatives, or close-ups of masked operatives armed with heavy weapons.

5) **How to relate to rocket launches:** Rockets are to be described as manufactured locally and fired in response to an aggressive Israeli action.
6) **Emphasizing the number of women and children killed:** The number of women and children killed should be emphasized. Pictures of the wounded should also be used.

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Top: A video posted by the ministry of the interior on July 10, 2014 giving instructions to social network activists entitled "Be aware [of the following]."
Bottom left: "Every time [casualties] are presented, the number of the women and children killed or injured should to be noted. There is nothing to prevent the posting of the pictures of the wounded." Bottom right: "Anyone who was killed or died as a martyr [shaheed] should be described as a resident from Gaza of Palestine before his 'jihad' role or military rank is mentioned;" "Do not forget to add always the expression 'innocent citizen' [the words are also written in English] to describe those who died as having been killed in the attack on Gaza or by an Israeli bombing."
24. The website of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military-terrorist wing, has a link to a list of all its operatives who were killed and it is regularly updated. The last time it was updated was on July 6, 2014, the eve of Operation Protective Edge (upper right hand side of the screen). From the beginning of Operation Protective Edge Hamas stopped updating the site. It is part of Hamas' policy to make it difficult to identify the operatives killed during Operation Protective Edge and to support the propaganda image of the inflation of the number of civilians killed.

The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades website, Qassam.ps, which posts a list of operatives who were killed.

The Crossings – Update

Overview

25. During the ground operation the IDF has left the crossings open and allowed for merchandise and humanitarian aid to enter the Gaza Strip. According to sources in the office of the Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories, efforts are being made to distinguish between the civilian population and terrorist elements. That is being done despite the complex situation in which Hamas and other terrorist organization operatives blend into the civilian population and endanger them (Cogat.idf.il, July 22, 2014).

The Erez Crossing

26. During Operation Protective Edge more than 50 mortar shells have been fired at the Erez crossing (one Israeli civilian was killed). Nevertheless, the crossing continues operating, endangering the lives of the people working there. There
has been a decrease in the number of Palestinians seeking medical care because they are afraid of the roadblocks erected by Hamas to prevent them from reaching the crossing (Cogat.idf.il, July 22, 2014).

**The Kerem Shalom Crossing**

27. The Kerem Shalom crossing has remained open throughout Operation Protective Edge, even since the beginning of the ground operation, despite its being one of the sites most threatened, especially by mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip. On July 22, 2014, between 1000 and 1600 hours, the IDF declared it would be possible to deliver merchandise and humanitarian equipment to the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom crossing. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 778 trucks carrying food, medicine and medical equipment have entered the Gaza Strip through the crossing. Diesel fuel for the Gaza Strip power plant, gasoline and cooking gas have also been delivered (Cogat.idf.il, July 21, 2014).

**Contacts for a Ceasefire**

28. In Cairo contacts continue between the Arab and international parties involved in mediating a ceasefire based on the Egyptian initiative. **So far, there has not been a breakthrough because of Hamas' refusal to accept the initiative.**

29. **American Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon** also arrived in Cairo. The secretary of state met with the secretary general of the Arab League and with the Egypt president, minister of foreign affairs and head of general intelligence. Senior American sources reported that the United States had tried
to change the conditions of the ceasefire to ensure Hamas support (AFP.com, July 22, 2014). Kerry held a press conference where he said, "We are deeply concerned about the consequences of Israel’s appropriate and legitimate effort to defend itself. No country can stand by while rockets are attacking it and tunnels are dug in order to come into your country and assault your people...[and] we will work to see if there is some way to not only arrive at a cease-fire of some kind, but to get to a discussion about the underlying issues" (State Department website, July 21, 2014).6

30. **UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon** visited Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA). He called the rocket fire into Israel shocking and said that it had to stop immediately. He said all countries had a duty to their citizens. He called on Israel to act with restraint and on both sides to stop fighting and start talks that would deal with the root of the conflict to prevent it from recurring in the future (AFP.com, July 22, 2014). He said he hoped the joint efforts of the UN and the United States would contribute to the efforts to mediate between the parties in the region and end the violence (State Department website, July 21, 2014).

31. **Azzam al-Ahmad**, a member of Fatah’s Central Committee, said that the Palestinian leadership had made a suggestion, as part of the Egyptian initiative, that included a **ceasefire after which there would be five days of negotiations**. He said Egypt did not object to the proposal. He said Hamas still clung to its unilateral position but it was agreed to continue contacts with it to formulate a final proposal (Aa.com.tr, July 20, 2014).

## EU Declaration

32. At the end of the monthly meeting of EU delegation to the UN the EU Council issued a strong announcement condemning the indiscriminate rocket fire from the Gaza Strip into Israel. **In an exceptional statement, the announcement stressed the need to disarm all the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip.** It also stressed Israel's right to defend itself. However, the ministers said they were "appalled" by the "human cost" of the operation in Shejaiya. It also called for a ceasefire and "the immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings" (EU website, July 22, 2014).7

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6 http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/07/229574.htm
The announcement of the Council of the EU (EU website, July 22, 2014).
July 24, 2014

Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 12
(As of 1200 hours, July 24, 2014)

Major General Benny Gantz, the IDF Chief of Staff, visits the Gaza Strip (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014)

Overview

1. The fighting between the IDF and Hamas and the other terrorist organizations continues in the Shejaiya neighborhood and at other friction points in the Gaza Strip. IDF activity continues to focus on exposing and destroying tunnels used for terrorist purposes (31 so far). The extent of rocket fire targeting Israeli territory has not changed significantly. Most of the fire was directed against the population centers in the western Negev, although barrages were also fired at the center of Israel. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) lifted its flight ban on flights to Israel (as of the morning of July 24, 2014). European airlines are expected to follow suit.

2. In the political arena, Arab and international efforts continue in order to reach a ceasefire based on the Egyptian initiative. So far there has not been a breakthrough because Hamas clings to its original intransigent position (as was expressed in a speech given by Khaled Mashaal, see below). Efforts are therefore being made to circumvent Hamas' rejection of a ceasefire by means of a formula for a compromise, for example, the Palestinian Authority's (PA) proposal for a ceasefire, after which negotiations would be held for five days.
The Ground Operation

Overview
3. During the past 24 hours the IDF's ground activity (with extensive air support) continued in order to hit the terrorist infrastructure. The exposure and destruction of the terrorist tunnels continues to be the focus of IDF activity. IDF forces continued operating in Shejaiya and intensified their activities in the Beit Hanoun region (northern Gaza Strip). IDF forces took control of many terrorist targets, exposing large quantities of weapons as well as instruction and information manuals about the IDF collected by Hamas over the years. IDF forces continued clashing with terrorist operatives (IDF Spokesman, July 24, 2014).

IDF Activity
4. During the past 24 hours the IDF forces continued dealing with tunnels already found and exposing new shafts. In addition 150 Palestinians suspected of terrorist activities were apprehended in the Rafah region and taken for interrogation. Some of the important events were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014):

1) On the night of July 23, 2014, combat engineering soldiers identified several suspicious figures emerging from a tunnel shaft. Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked the suspects. A terrorist operative in a Hamas facility opened fire at a Golani Brigade force. The soldiers returned fire and killed him. Weapons were found in the facility. A Paratroopers Brigade force fired mortars at a number of suspects. Two terrorist operatives were killed.

2) In the early afternoon of July 23, 2014, an armored force identified fire from armed Palestinians on a motorbike. The force returned fire.

3) In the early afternoon of July 23, 2014, a terrorist operative wearing an IDF uniform was apprehended in the Gaza Strip.

4) On July 23, 2014 twelve terrorist operatives were identified who had gone to a building in the southern Gaza Strip in an ambulance. IAF aircraft attacked three of them outside the building. A short time later the building was attacked.

5) In the early afternoon of July 23, 2014, an IDF force exposed a tunnel shaft. The tunnel contained IDF uniforms, maps and weapons.

6) In the early afternoon of July 23, 2014, a Givati Brigade force shot at a terrorist squad that had emerged from a tunnel shaft.
7) On the morning of July 23, 2014, an armored force shot at two terrorist squads making final preparations for firing anti-tank weapons at IDF forces.

Exposure and Destruction of Terrorist Tunnels

5. According to an IDF report, as of the morning of July 23, 2014, the IDF had exposed 31 terrorist tunnels. In IDF assessment, all the tunnels had been constructed for the purpose of attacking targets inside Israel. The IDF continues to destroy the tunnels. According to IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Motti Almoz, the IDF has control of many tunnels leading into Israel and is currently engaged in destroying them. He said it would take several days to destroy them (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014).
Air Attacks on Terrorist Targets Continue
6. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, more than 3,400 terrorist targets have been attacked in the Gaza Strip. Since the ground operation began, more than 1,900 terrorist targets have been attacked from the air (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014).

7. On July 23, 2014, more than 100 terrorist targets were attacked. Among the targets were concealed rocket launchers, terrorist tunnels and buildings that served as centers for military-terrorist activity. On the night of July 23, 2014 the IDF attacked approximately 35 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip (IDF Spokesman, July 24, 2014):

1) On the night of July 23, 2014, combat engineering soldiers identified several suspicious figures emerging from a tunnel shaft. IAF aircraft attacked the suspects.

2) On the afternoon of July 23, 2014 IAF aircraft attacked terrorist operatives shooting at IDF forces from Hamas positions inside Al-Wafa Hospital, located near the Shejaiya neighborhood (See below).

3) On the afternoon of July 23, 2014, IAF aircraft attacked a terrorist facility in the western part of Jabaliya, which had been used as the headquarters of a senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist operative.

4) On the night of July 23, 2014, IAF aircraft attacked a terrorist squad preparing to fire an anti-tank weapon at IDF forces.

The PIJ headquarters attacked by the IAF. It was located behind the Al-Shamaa mosque in Gaza City. The sign at the entrance reads "[Palestinian] Islamic Jihad Center." Left: The sign. Right: The headquarters after the attack (Wafa.ps, July 23, 2014).
IDF Losses
8. **Thirty-two IDF soldiers have been killed in Operation Protective Edge.** One soldier was reported missing in action. During the past 24 hours three soldiers from the Paratroopers Brigade were killed by IEDs in a building where they were operating. The names of the three soldiers released for publication were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014):

1) **Captain Paz Eliahu**, 20, from Kibbutz Evron. IDF paratrooper, killed in combat in the Gaza Strip.

2) **Staff Sergeant Lee Matt**, 19, from Eilat. IDF paratrooper, killed in combat in the Gaza Strip.

3) **Staff Sergeant Shahar Dauber**, 20, from Kibbutz Ginegar IDF paratrooper, killed in combat in the Gaza Strip.

9. Several dozen additional soldiers have been wounded during the ground operation, some of them critically. They were evacuated to hospitals in the center of Israel.

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Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory

10. Heavy rocket and mortar shell fire continues to attack Israel. **Since the beginning of the operation approximately 1,985 rockets have fallen in Israeli territory.** The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted more than 420 of them. **Since the beginning of the ground operation more than 675 rocket hits have been identified in Israel.** On July 23, 2014, rocket fire continued targeting the population centers in the western Negev, the Negev, the coastal plain and the center of Israel. On July 23 **115 rocket hits** were identified. Most of the rocket fire has targeted the western Negev, although several barrages were also fired at the center of Israel.

11. A foreign worker from Thailand was killed by mortar shell fire in one of the villages in the western Negev. No siren was sounded before the attack and he did not have time to reach shelter. He was the second civilian killed as a direct result of mortar shell fire since Operation Protective Edge began.

12. The main attacks were the following:

1) On the morning of **July 24, 2014**, after a quiet night, a barrage of rockets was fired targeting the center of Israel and the coastal plain. Twenty minutes later another barrage was fired at the center of Israel. At least five rockets were intercepted in the skies over Tel Aviv.
2) On the evening of **July 23, 2014** a barrage of rockets was fired at the center of Israel. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted four of them, but rocket fragments exploded in an open area in the Yavne region. A foreign worker sustained minor injuries and was evacuated to a hospital.

3) In the morning and early afternoon of **July 23, 2014** rockets were fired at Beersheba, Ashdod, Netivot, Ashqelon and the western Negev.

**Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge**

13. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the PIJ continue claiming responsibility for most of the rockets and mortar shells fired into Israeli territory and at the IDF forces operating in the Gaza Strip.

**American Ban on Flights to Israel Lifted**

14. On the morning of July 24, 2014 the FAA issued a press release stating that following a security assessment, it **had lifted its restrictions on U.S. airline flights into and out of Israel’s Ben Gurion Airport it had imposed on July 22, 2014** in response to a rocket strike that landed approximately one mile from the airport. According to the release, the FAA worked with its US government counterparts to assess the security situation in Israel and carefully reviewed both significant new

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1 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
information and measures taken by the Government of Israel to mitigate potential risks to civil aviation (FAA website, July 23, 2014).2

The Use Made of Civilian Facilities by Hamas and the Other Terrorist Organizations

Hamas Shoots at IDF Forces from the Al-Wafa Hospital

15. In the early afternoon hours of July 23, 2014 IAF aircraft attacked terrorist operatives inside the Al-Wafa Hospital, located near the Shejaiya neighborhood. Hamas used the hospital as a military stronghold. In the hospital there was a Hamas command and control center from which fighting in the region was directed. There was also a reconnaissance position used to gather intelligence about IDF forces. In addition, there were a number of tunnel shafts in the hospital compound used by Hamas and from which IDF forces were fired on. After attacks from the hospital against IDF forces increased the IDF decided to attack the building (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014).

16. The Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories sent repeated warnings to international organizations and Palestinians and also conducted a phone conversation with the hospital director. The patients and medical personnel were evacuated as a result of the conversation and only Hamas terrorist operatives remained in the hospital. After an air attack it was completely destroyed. Photographs taken during the attack clearly show secondary explosions, indicating that large quantities of weapons had been stockpiled in the building (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014).3

3 For further information about the use Hamas makes of hospitals, see the July 23, 2014 bulletin "Hamas and the Other Terrorist Organizations in the Gaza Strip Use Medical Facilities and Ambulances for Military-Terrorist Purposes."
Terrorist operatives attacked in the Al-Wafa Hospital (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014)
Click https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX1joMdAO2M#t=147 for the video.

Nick Casey, Middle East correspondent for the Washington Post, tweeted a picture of a photographed interview with a Hamas spokesman in the Al-Shifa'a Hospital. The picture behind the spokesman shows ruins. The Al-Shifa'a Hospital is also used as a command post by senior Hamas operatives.

The Gazan Population

17. According to ITIC information, 775 Gazans have been killed since the beginning of the operation (July 23). In ITIC assessment, there are scores of bodies of terrorist operatives killed in clashes with IDF forces in various combat areas that have not been included in the overall statistics. That is because their bodies have not yet been evacuated from the combat zones and Hamas and the other terrorist organizations may not necessarily be aware of their deaths.
18. The distribution (not final, as of July 23, 2014) of the 775 Palestinians killed is as follows:

1) 229 terrorist operatives:
   A. 135 Hamas operatives
   B. 60 PIJ operatives
   C. 34 operatives from other terrorist organizations

2) 267 non-involved Palestinians

3) 279 Palestinians whose identity is not yet known

19. Chris Gunness, UNRWA spokesman in the Gaza Strip, said that 140,469 Palestinians had vacated their houses and had taken shelter in 83 UNRWA installations throughout the Gaza Strip (Twitter account of Chris Gunness, July 23, 2014). It was also reported that churches in the Gaza Strip had been turned into shelters for displaced persons after the UNRWA schools had been filled to capacity.

20. Jowad Awad, minister of health in the Gaza Strip warned of a health crisis in the Gaza Strip due to the inability of medical personnel to evacuate the bodies of the dead from under the ruins (Felesteen.ps, July 23, 2014).
The Crossings – Update

The Erez Crossing

21. On July 23, 2014 nine trucks entered the Gaza Strip through the Erez crossing (usually reserved for the passage of civilians) carrying medical supplies for the Jordanian hospital in the Gaza Strip.

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

22. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 864 trucks carrying food, medicine and medical equipment have entered the Gaza Strip through the crossing. Diesel fuel for the Gaza Strip power plant, gasoline and cooking gas have also been delivered. On July 23, 2014 a water pipe providing water for 100,000 Jabaliya residents was repaired (Cogat.idf.il, July 24, 2014).

Judea and Samaria

23. In Judea and Samaria violent clashes continue between Palestinians and the Israeli security forces. The clashes occur primarily during protest demonstrations and riots in support of the Gaza Strip held in cities in Judea and Samaria. There are also many calls for action to be taken against Israel and the settlers to show solidarity with the Gazans.
24. The protests can be expected to intensify as the end of the Muslim religious month of Ramadan approaches and *laylat al-qadr* is celebrated (the night on which, according to tradition, the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to Muhammad). A Facebook page called the Al-Qadr Intifada was begun on July 22, 2014, calling on Palestinians to rise up against the Israeli security forces after the prayers in the mosque, and to march to Jerusalem (Facebook page of the Al-Qadr Intifada).
25. In Cairo contacts continue between the Arab and international parties involved in mediating a ceasefire based on the Egyptian initiative. So far, there has not been a breakthrough because of Hamas’ refusal to accept it. Azzam al-Ahmad, a member of Fatah's Central Committee, said the Palestinian leadership had offered a new proposal for a ceasefire as part of the Egyptian initiative, according to which as soon as a ceasefire went into effect five days of negotiations would begin. He said Egypt did not object to the proposal (Voice of Palestine, July 23, 2014).

26. The heads of Hamas made their position on the issue clear in a number of statements:

1) Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas' political bureau, gave a speech stating Hamas' intransigent position and reiterated that Hamas would not agree to stop fighting before its conditions were met, particularly before the siege was lifted from the Gaza Strip. However, he hinted that Hamas might agree to a humanitarian pause (Al-Aqsa TV, July 23, 2014).

2) Mahmoud al-Zahar, a member of Hamas' political bureau, called for the "resistance's victory" in the Gaza Strip to be translated into political achievements. He said Israel would not get a free lull and that any lull had to be based on the principles of deterring Israel and meeting the Palestinian people's demands. Otherwise, he said, the resistance would continue (Aa.com.tr, July 23, 2014).

3) Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said that Hamas was interested in a lull agreement, an end to the aggression and the lifting of the siege, but wanted the price Hamas demanded to be paid (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 23, 2014).

4) Muhammad Nizal, a member of Hamas' political bureau, said there would be a ceasefire only if the Palestinians' demands were met and that Khaled Mashaal was not speaking from a position of weakness (Al-Jazeera, July 23, 2014).

27. In addition to political contacts Hamas is trying to get internal support for its intransigence. About 100 public figures, academicians and human rights activists in the Gaza Strip, some of them affiliated with Hamas, signed a petition supporting Hamas' position regarding the Egyptian initiative and Hamas' conditions for a ceasefire – lifting the siege of the Gaza Strip. They also rejected the claims that Hamas was using
Gazans as human shields. They said they were planning to disseminate the petition around the globe (Electricintifada.net, July 22, 2014).

**UN Commission of Inquiry**

28. **On July 23, 2014, the UN's Human Rights Council (UNHRC) voted to set up an international commission of inquiry to examine the allegation the Israel committed war crimes during Operation Protective Edge in the Gaza Strip.** Twenty-nine states voted in favor, 17 abstained (the EU countries) and the United States voted against the resolution. Following the vote a process was initiated to determine the commission's mandate, its compositions and schedule.

29. South African **Navi Pillay**, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in a speech that the situation in the Gaza Strip was critical for the civilians living there and required immediate attention. Since Israel announced its military operation on July 7, 2014, the Gaza Strip had undergone intensive bombardment from the air, land and sea, resulting in the deaths of more than 600 Palestinians, including at least 147 children and 74 women. She said that according to UN preliminary figures, around 74% of those killed so far were civilians. She added that hundreds of homes had been destroyed or severely damaged. However, she condemned rockets and mortar shells fired indiscriminately by Hamas and "other armed groups" at Israel which endangered the lives of civilians. She said there was a strong possibility that in certain incidents international humanitarian law had been violated in a manner that could amount to war crimes, and she called for them to be investigated (Ohchr.org, July 23, 2014).

**Initial Reactions**

30. **The office of the Israeli prime minister issued the following statement: “The decision today by the UNHRC is a travesty and should be rejected by decent people everywhere.** Rather than investigate Hamas, which is committing a double war crime by firing rockets at Israeli civilians while hiding behind Palestinian civilians, the UNHRC calls for an investigation of Israel, which has gone to unprecedented lengths to keep Palestinian civilians out of harm's way...The UNHRC should be launching an investigation into Hamas's decision to turn hospitals into military command centers, use schools as weapons depots and place missile batteries next to playgrounds, private homes and mosques. By failing to condemn Hamas's systematic use of human shields and by blaming Israel for the deaths that are caused by this grotesque human shields policy, the UNHRC is sending a message ...that using civilians as human

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4 [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx)
shields is an effective strategy. Like the investigation that led to the infamous Goldstone report...this investigation by a kangaroo court is a foregone conclusion. The predictable result will be the libeling of Israel and even greater use of human shields in the future by Hamas..." (Israeli Prime Minister's website, July 23, 2014).\(^5\)

31. **Keith Harper**, the United States Ambassador to the UNHRC, called the resolution "destructive," noting it lacked "any semblance of balance" because made no mention of Hamas attacks. He said it would undermine efforts to reach a ceasefire. Speaking for the European Union, Italian Ambassador Maurizio Serra also criticized the failure to mention Hamas or recognize Israel's right to self-defense (AFP.com, July 23, 2014).

\(^5\) [http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Spokesman/Pages/spokesrespon230714.aspx](http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Spokesman/Pages/spokesrespon230714.aspx)
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 13
(As of 1200 hours, July 27, 2014)

Overview

1. During the past 24 hours (July 26, 2014) there was a 12-hour humanitarian ceasefire initiated by the UN. It was honored by both Israel and Hamas and was accompanied by a significant decrease in friction between the IDF and the terrorist organizations operating in the Gaza Strip; the terrorist organizations also did not attack Israel with rocket fire. Gazans used the ceasefire to stock up on food, evacuate bodies and take possessions from areas that had been hit. In addition, teams of Palestinians worked to repair the infrastructure (water, electricity). During the humanitarian ceasefire Gazans exhibited the first signs of shock and amazement as the extent of the destruction and losses were revealed.

2. In the international arena, the American secretary of state and the foreign ministers of several European countries called for the humanitarian ceasefire to be extended for an additional 24 hours. In ITIC assessment their objective was to produce a series of extensions during which negotiations could be held to determine the conditions for a ceasefire. However, Hamas still rejects the Egyptian initiative and refuses to accede to Arab and international appeals for an agreement to end the fighting. Musa Abu Marzouq, deputy head of Hamas' political bureau said that Hamas would not agree to any ideas not on its own terms, and that it could "stand
firms" for a long time). Attempts to achieve a humanitarian ceasefire continued into July 27, 2014.

3. On **July 27, 2014** rocket fire into Israeli territory continued and the IDF resumed its air and ground attacks. **The IDF continued focusing on exposing and destroying tunnels used for terrorist purposes** (so far more than 31 tunnels have been exposed and about half of them have been destroyed).

## The Ground Operation

### IDF Activity

**Overview**

4. During the past few days IDF ground activities continued, **focusing on exposing and destroying terrorist tunnels**. According to the IDF Spokesman, so far **more than 30 tunnels have been exposed** and about half of them have been destroyed. In addition, 30%-40% of the rockets stockpiled by Hamas and the other terrorist organizations have been destroyed (IDF Spokesman, July 26, 2014).

5. On July 26, 2014, following an appeal from the UN, the Israeli political leadership instructed the IDF to declare a humanitarian window on July 26, 2014 between 0800 and 2000 hours. Hamas also agreed. The IDF Spokesman called on the Gazans not to return to houses in areas they had been instructed to vacate. It was also announced that any attempt to exploit the ceasefire for attacks on IDF soldiers would have serious consequences. It was decided that IDF operational activity related to neutralizing the tunnels would continue during the humanitarian window.

6. However, as soon as the ceasefire ended rocket and mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip into Israel resumed. Despite the attacks, after a Cabinet meeting, Israel announced it would agree to extend the ceasefire for four hours. Hamas rejected the extension and continued to fire rockets and mortar shells into Israel.
Mines located in a building next of an UNRWA school (IDF Spokesman, July 26, 2014)
Click https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLs6CKVrYAI for the video.

IDF Activity July 24-26, 2014

7. On the morning of July 24, 2014 IDF forces inside a building were attacked with an anti-tank missile launched from the Al-Wafa Hospital, which had been hit the previous day. Two terrorist operatives were killed in the exchange of fire (IDF Spokesman, July 24, 2014).

8. On July 25, 2014 IDF forces continued comprehensive activities in the Beit Hanoun region (northern Gaza Strip). Dozens of terrorist operatives were killed, and weapons caches, anti-tank posts, surveillance headquarters and other terrorist facilities were destroyed. The most important events were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 26, 2014):

   a. In the evening IDF forces exposed a number of booby-trapped buildings. Inside were large quantities of weapons and communications equipment.

   b. In the afternoon an IDF force, operating in a building in the southern Gaza Strip, found communications equipment, anti-tank missiles and grenades. An IDF force clashed with six terrorist operatives and killed them.

   c. In the morning an IDF armored force identified two rocket launchers aimed at Israeli territory. The launchers were positioned near two schools and a mosque. The force fired at the launchers.

   d. A Givati Brigade force exposed a house booby-trapped with eight IEDs.
Exposure and Destruction of Terrorist Tunnels

9. During the past few days IDF activity in the Gaza Strip has focused on locating, mapping and destroying tunnels and tunnel shafts used for terrorist purposes throughout the Gaza Strip. According to the IDF Spokesman, so far 31 tunnels and 39 shafts have been exposed, and fifteen of them have been completely destroyed. Destroying the tunnels demands unique professional solutions, depending on the specific nature of each tunnel.

10. The exposure of the tunnels deepened IDF understanding of the underground tunnel infrastructure directed against Israel. Tunnel shafts are located throughout the Gaza Strip, under built-up areas, and on the outskirts of Gaza. They are also located in citrus groves and even under residential buildings. In every tunnel exposed the IDF found between four and ten barrels of explosives and IEDs. The IDF also found handcuffs and sedatives, apparently intended for use in abducting Israelis.

11. Most of the tunnels exposed lead toward Israel. Thus it is clear that in recent years Hamas invested most of its efforts in improving its ability to penetrate into the territory of the State of Israel to be able to carry out terrorist attacks. According to reports from IDF soldiers, all the tunnels had branches, some of them intended for infiltrating terrorist operatives into Israel and some for the storage of large quantities of explosives (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014).

12. On the evening of July 24, 2014, an IDF force detained two terrorist operatives who were in a tunnel leading to Israeli territory. In addition, shafts
were exposed where large quantities of explosives were stored. On the night of July 25, 2014 an armored force exposed a tunnel shaft. They clashed with a terrorist squad that opened fired on them. The soldiers returned fired, hitting two terrorists.

13. On July 26, 2014, during the 12-hour humanitarian ceasefire, IDF forces, following instructions from the political leadership, continued to destroy terrorist tunnels. During the day IDF forces exposed four more tunnel shafts. In addition they exposed and destroyed a tunnel from which terrorists had emerged and fired an anti-tank missile at an IDF APC on the first day of the ground operation. The tunnel was located near a residential building (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014).

Blowing up a tunnel shaft from which terrorist operatives attacked a Golani Brigade APC with an anti-tank rocket (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014)
Click https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTVGSacskuY for the video

Air Attacks on Terrorist Targets Continue

14. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, more than 3,670 terrorist targets have been attacked (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014). The main events were the following (IDF Spokesman):

1) On the night of July 24, 2014 Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked 35 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip. On the morning of July 24, 2014 IAF aircraft attacked a building near the Al-Wafa Hospital, which served as a storehouse for weapons and as a command and control headquarters for the terrorist organizations.
2) **On July 25, 2014** more than 155 terrorist targets were attacked. In the morning IAF aircraft attacked a terrorist squad that shot at an IDF force. During the night IAF aircraft attacked a number of terrorist organization headquarters. Among them was the building housing the military-terrorist offices of **Ra'ed Thabet**, senior figures in the artillery unit of Hamas' military-terrorist wing. Also attacked was the house of **Salah Abu Hasnin**, a member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's (PIJ) military council and head of the organization's combat information department in the Rafah area (IDF Spokesman, July 25, 2014). The PIJ's military-terrorist wing formally announced that he had died in the attack (Saraya.ps, July 25, 2014).

3) **On July 26, 2014**, after the humanitarian ceasefire ended and Hamas and the other terrorist organizations resumed their rocket fire, approximately 40 terrorist targets were attacked (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014).

**IDF Losses**

15. **Forty-two IDF soldiers have been killed in Operation Protective Edge.** One soldier was reported missing in action. The names of those killed recently are the following (IDF Spokesman, July 23, 2014):

1) **Sergeant First Class (Res.) Barak Rafael Degorker**, 27, from Gan Yavne. Killed by mortar fire from the Gaza Strip.

2) **Captain Liad Lavi, 22, from Sde Nitzan.** Infantry Corps officer, died from his wounds after being injured in combat in the southern Gaza Strip on Thursday, July 24.
3) **Chief Warrant Officer Rami Kahalon**, 39, from Hadera. A non-commissioned infantry officer, he died from his wounds after being injured on the Gaza border on Tuesday, July 22.

4) **Second Lieutenant Roy Peles**, 21, from Tel Aviv. An officer in the Nahal, killed in an attack on an armored vehicle in the Gaza strip.

5) **Staff Sergeant Guy Levy**, 21, from Kfar Veradim. Soldier in the armored corps, killed in combat in the Gaza Strip.

6) **Staff Sergeant Guy Boyland**, 21, from Kibbutz Ginnosar. Combat engineer from the armored corps, killed in combat in the southern Gaza Strip.

7) **Staff Sergeant Amit Yeori**, 20, from Jerusalem. Combat engineer from the armored corps, killed in combat in the southern Gaza Strip.

8) **Staff Sergeant Avraham Grintzaig**, 20, from Petah Tikva. A Nahal soldier, killed in combat in the northern Gaza Strip.

9) **Staff Sergeant Gal Bason**, 20, from Holon. Combat engineer, killed in combat in the northern Gaza Strip.

10) **Master Sergeant (Res.) Yair Ashkenazy**, 36, from Rehovot. Reserve soldier killed during operational activity in the northern Gaza Strip.

11) **Staff Sergeant Oron Shaul**, 20, from Poriya. Soldier in the Golani Brigade. Killed on July 20, 2014 and declared MIA. Officially declared by the IDF chief rabbi as a soldier killed in action whose burial site is unknown.

16. Several score additional soldiers have been wounded during the ground operation, some of them critically. They were evacuated to hospitals in the center of Israel.

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**Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory**

17. Heavy rocket and mortar shell fire continues to attack Israel. **Since the beginning of the operation approximately 2,095 rockets have fallen in Israeli territory.** The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted more than 450.

18. During the past three days (July 24-26, 2014), **for the first time since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge there was a significant decrease in the amount of rocket fire targeting Israel.** During the past three days 110 rockets were
identified in Israeli territory. Most of the rockets and mortar shells targeted the western Negev, but there were also barrages fired at the center of Israel.

**Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge¹**

19. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the PIJ continue claiming responsibility for most of the rockets and mortar shells fired into Israeli territory and at the IDF forces operating in the Gaza Strip.

**The Use Made of Al-Shifa'a Hospital by Hamas and the Other Terrorist Organizations**

20. A spokesman for Fatah's military-terrorist wing in the Gaza Strip claimed that a force of Hamas internal security service detained him as he was preparing for a television interview on the grounds that the uniform he was wore was liable to endanger the area of the interview, especially the Al-Shifa'a Hospital. The Hamas ministry of the interior denied the incident. The ministry of the interior issued an announcement claiming that masked operatives had gone to the hospital and held a press conference. Hamas' security services asked them to leave so that Israel would not attack the hospital (Felesteen.ps, July 26, 2014).

¹ The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
21. **Note:** A few days ago Washington Post's Middle East correspondent Nick Casey posted a picture on his Twitter account showing a Hamas spokesman being interviewed. He is sitting in Al-Shifa'a Hospital in front of a picture of ruins.

![Hamas spokesman interviewed in Al-Shifa’a Hospital (Twitter account of Nick Casey).](image)

22. According to ITIC information, **947 Gazans have been killed** since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, July 27). In ITIC assessment, the number should be increased by about 100 to account for those whose bodies have not yet been removed from under the rubble, bringing the total count to **more than 1,000**.

23. The distribution (not final, as of noon, July 27, 2014) of the 947 Palestinians killed is as follows:

   1) **291 terrorist operatives:**
      A) **161 Hamas operatives**
      B) **87 PIJ operatives**
      C) **43 operatives** from other terrorist organizations
   2) **301 non-involved Palestinians**
   3) **355 Palestinians** whose identity is not yet known

24. **Chris Gunness, UNRWA spokesman** in the Gaza Strip, said that **150,137 Palestinians had vacated their houses** and had taken shelter in 84 UNRWA installations throughout the Gaza Strip (Twitter account of Chris Gunness, July 25, 2014).
UNRWA School Hit
25. On the afternoon of July 24, 2014, the Palestinians reported that the IDF had attacked an UNRWA school in Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip, killing 15 Palestinians and wounding several dozen. The IDF responded that the incident was under investigation and that it was not clear whether the school was hit by IDF or Hamas fire. Chris Gunness, UNRWA spokesman in the Gaza Strip, said that in coordination with the IDF an UNRWA team, including international weapons experts, had gone to the school to examine the circumstances of the event (Twitter account of Chris Gunness, July 25, 2014).
26. The Palestinians rushed to issue condemnations and accusations against Israel:

1) Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri claimed that the "fact" that Israel had attacked an UNRWA school was "a reprehensible crime and a bloodletting of international institutions." He claimed that Hamas would not remain silent. He also claimed that the silence of the international community regarding the incident made it an accomplice (Facebook page of Sami Abu Zuhri, July 24, 2014).

2) The PIJ issued a statement claiming that "the crime of the UNRWA school" showed that Israel aimed its fire at civilians. The statement called it a "crime" that demanded a strong, immediate response (Paltoday.ps, July 24, 2014).

3) The Palestinian Authority's (PA) national consensus government issued a statement claiming that attack was the continuation of "Israel's war crimes" and "disregard for international conventions" (Wafa.ps, July 24, 2014).

27. The United States and the UN Secretary General expressed shock and concern over the attack on the school and called on both sides to do their utmost to protect the civilian population (AFP.com, July 24, 2014). Egypt also issued a condemnation (Masrawy, July 25, 2014).

The Crossings – Update

The Erez Crossing

28. The Erez crossing is open for the passage of patients seeking medical care at the field hospital set up by the IDF. However, few Palestinians have taken advantage of it, despite the distressing medical conditions in the Gaza Strip. That was apparently because Hamas has forbidden the populace to go to the Erez crossing for treatment. Over the weekend only nine Palestinians went to the hospital (Cogat.idf.il, July 27, 2014).

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

29. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 979 trucks carrying food, medicine and medical equipment have entered the Gaza Strip through the crossing. Diesel fuel for the Gaza Strip power plant, gasoline and cooking gas have also been delivered. The humanitarian ceasefire was used to repair electrical and water facilities for the Palestinian population (Cogat.idf.il, July 27, 2014).
The Rafah crossing

30. The Egyptian authorities allowed humanitarian aid to enter the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing. Aid convoys arrived from Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and other countries. Most of the deliveries were of medical equipment (Maannews.net, July 25, 2014).

Judea and Samaria

Terrorist Attack Prevented

31. On the morning of July 27, 2014, Border Police soldiers stopped a vehicle at the roadblock near Beitar Illit (10 kilometers, or about 6 miles, south of Jerusalem). The soldiers stopped the vehicle because the driver was acting suspiciously. They told him to turn off the motor, and when he did not comply, one of the soldiers turned it off himself. The driver turned the engine back on and with the soldier half inside the window, he began driving away. After a short drive the soldier took out his weapon, cocked it, aimed it at the driver and ordered him to stop. The driver stopped the car and the soldiers detained him and took him for questioning. An examination of the car revealed that it had been booby-trapped with several gas bottles and pipe bombs containing large quantities of explosives (Facebook page of the Israel Police Force, July 27, 2014).
Violent Clashes Continue in a Show of Solidarity with the Gaza Strip

32. Recently, primarily since the beginning of the ground operation in the Gaza Strip, there has been an increase in riots held in Judea and Samaria. They peaked on the night of July 24, 2014, when the Palestinians marked laylat al-qadr and the last Friday of the Muslim religious month of Ramadan. Hamas encouraged the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria to participate in violent confrontations and called on them to show solidarity with the Gazans. There were riots in many cities in Judea and Samaria. The Palestinian media reported that six Palestinians had been killed during the riots, as follows:

33. On the evening of July 24, 2014 demonstrations and marches began at a number of locations in Gaza Strip as acts of solidarity with the Gazans. The most prominent event occurred at the Qalandia roadblock (north of Jerusalem) where violent confrontations developed between IDF forces and several thousand Palestinian rioters who approached the roadblock. Two young Palestinian men were killed by IDF fire. In the Old City of Jerusalem Israeli security forces detained approximately 20 Israeli Arabs who threw rocks and firecrackers at policemen. Five policemen were injured.

34. On July 25, 2014, the violence continued throughout Judea and Samaria. A young Palestinian man was killed at the Jalama roadblock near Jenin during a march where, according to the IDF, demonstrators shot at IDF forces and threw Molotov cocktails and burning tires at them. In the early afternoon hours several hundred Palestinians rioted in Hawara (near Nablus), throwing burning tires at the IDF soldiers. The Palestinians claimed that two demonstrators had been shot to death. An officer in the Border Police was wounded by a rock thrown at him (Ynetnews.co.il, July 26, 2014).

35. On July 26, 2014, dozens of masked young Palestinians threw rocks and shot firecrackers at several neighborhoods in Jerusalem. Molotov cocktails were also thrown at the light rail public transportation system. Police dispersed the rioters; one policeman sustained minor injuries. In the evening Palestinians threw rocks, burning tires and Molotov cocktails at IDF forces near Bayt Fajar (south of Bethlehem).

36. Hamas has tried to incite violence and terrorism in Judea and Samaria. Izzat al-Rishq, a member of Hamas' political bureau, called on all the Palestinians in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem to rise up against Israel. Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum praised the mass awakening in support of the Palestinians, claiming it was
"an act of resistance" that had to continue and spread to all the cities in Judea and Samaria (Palestine-info.info, July 25, 2014). Hamas spokesman Husam Badran said that showcase suicide bombing attacks had originated in Judea and Samaria for years, as has stabbing, shooting and vehicular attacks. He called on the residents of Judea and Samaria to act against Israel and the settlers (Al-Aqsa TV, July 16, 2014).


Left: Young Palestinian men riot and confront IDF soldiers near the Ofer jail (Paltimes.net, July 26, 2014). Right: A solidarity march held in Tubas (with PIJ, PFLP, Fatah and Hamas flags) (Paltimes.net, July 25, 2014).
Contacts for a Humanitarian Pause and a Ceasefire

37. In Paris a meeting was held on July 26, 2014, attended by the foreign ministers of the European countries and John Kerry, the American secretary of state. They called for an extension of the humanitarian ceasefire which would make it possible to hold a dialogue for a permanent ceasefire that would meet the demands of both Israel and the Palestinians (AFP.com, July 26, 2014).

38. Israel said it was ready to continue the humanitarian ceasefire of July 26, 2014. However, as soon as it ended, Hamas and the other terrorist organizations resumed their rocket and mortar shell attacks. In the early afternoon on July 27, 2014, after the Palestinians continued firing rockets and mortar shells, Israel resumed its attacks on the Gaza Strip. Hamas appealed to Robert Serry, the UN envoy to the Middle East, and asked for a pause. Hamas reportedly claimed it agreed to a 24-hour humanitarian ceasefire that would go into effect at 1400 hours. As of noon, Israel had not responded to the appeals and rocket fire into Israel continued (Ynetnews.co.il, July 27, 2014).

39. Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas' political bureau, reiterated Hamas' interest in a ceasefire but only on the condition that at the same time Hamas received a promise that the siege would be lifted from the Gaza Strip. He claimed the Gaza Strip needed an airport and a sea port, and that that they did not want to be ruled by a border crossing that had turned the Gaza Strip into a prison (BBC, July 24, 2014).

40. Musa Abu Marzouq, a member of Hamas' political bureau, said that Hamas would not agree to ideas that did not meet its demands and conditions for a ceasefire. He said Hamas would not agree to a solution that did not meet "the conditions of the resistance" (Aa.com.tr, July 26, 2014).

The Political-Lawfare-Propaganda Campaign

Appointment of an International Investigation Commission

41. On July 23, 2014, the UN Human Rights Council decided to appoint an international commission of inquiry to examine war crimes Israel may have committed during Operation Protective Edge. Twenty-nine countries voted in favor and 17 abstained (EU countries). Only the United States voted against. Following the adoption of the resolution, the commission's mandate, members and schedule now have to be determined.
42. **The Arab-Muslim world** welcomed the resolution:

1) **The Organisation for Islamic Cooperation** praised the resolution and expressed regret at the objection of the United States (BNA, July 24, 2014).

2) **Turkish prime minister Erdogan** said that if Israel continued its activity in the Gaza Strip Turkey would fight to try Israel in international courts. He repeated previous accusations that Israel's actions were like Hitler's and that as opposed to the rest of the world, Turkey would not remain silent in the face of Israel's activities (World Bulletin, July 24, 2014).

3) **Bülent Yildirim, head of the Turkish IHH** (the extremist Islamist organization responsible for the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla, May, 2010), held a press conference where he threatened that he would sent another flotilla to the Gaza Strip and this time it would be accompanied by the Turkish navy (IHH.org.tr, July 21, 2014).

4) The **Al-Mizan Center and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR)**, which operate in the Gaza Strip, issued a joint press release praising the resolution of the Human Rights Council to appoint a commission of inquiry (Facebook page of the PCHR, July 24, 2014). **Note:** Both organizations are active in the lawfare campaign against Israel and were an important factor in providing the Goldstone Commission with false information after Operation Cast Lead.
Jerusalem Day Devoted Entirely to the Gaza Strip

43. On July 25, 2014, the final Friday of the Muslim religious month of Ramadan, Iran and other countries marked Jerusalem Day. This year Jerusalem Day was exploited for shows of solidarity with the Gazans and for condemnation of Israel for its activity in the Gaza Strip. Mass marches were held throughout Iran, with marchers chanting slogans against Israel and the United States and burning Israeli and American flags. Senior Iranian figures gave speeches and called for the destruction of Israel and the arming of the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria to fight Israel. Khamenei gave a speech two days before Jerusalem in which he called for "the destruction of the Zionist regime," later repeated on signs carried by marchers and in speeches by senior Iranian figures given during the ceremonies.

Hassan Nasrallah Promises to Support the Palestinian Terrorist Organizations in the Gaza Strip

44. For World Jerusalem Day Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah gave a speech in which he related extensively to the events in the Gaza Strip. He praised the achievements of the Palestinian [terrorist] organizations, called for pressure not to be exerted on them to reach an agreement without "the lifting of the siege," praised the support Iran, Syria and Hezbollah had given the various organizations and assured the Gaza Strip that Hezbollah felt they shared a destiny and promised future support in all areas.

45. The following are the main points made by Nasrallah regarding the developments in the Gaza Strip (Al-Manar, July 25, 2014):

1) Operation Protective Edge (the so-called "the Israel terrorist war") is meant to make the Gaza Strip surrender and disarm Hamas, the PIJ and the other organizations operating in the Gaza Strip ("the objective is every tunnel in Gaza, every rocket in Gaza, every Kalashnikov in Gaza...")

2) Israel is slaughtering women and children in the Gaza Strip, destroying buildings, schools and mosques and expelling people from their houses. It is all being done with the support of the United States and because of the silence of the international community and some of the Arab states.

3) It is already clear that "the resistance has won in Gaza," because after 18 days Israel ("the Zionists") have not succeeded in realizing even one of its goals
despite the fact that the Israeli army is one of the strongest armies in the world. The Israelis have not succeeded in damaging the Gaza Strip's command and control system, their ground operation has failed, and they are afraid to extend it. As opposed to the Israelis, the organizations in the Gaza Strip have hit every area of Israel, even deeper inside than what Hezbollah managed [in the Second Lebanon War]. The IAF has failed [according to Nasrallah's claims] to tip the scales in the campaign and that Israel's intelligence has failed to acquire information about the capabilities of the various organizations (include everything relating to the storage, launching and manufacturing of rockets, and their locations in the tunnels.)

4) All Arab and Islamic governments must "adopt as a goal the lifting of the siege of the Gaza Strip" as a condition for stopping the fighting, according to the demand of "the leadership of the Palestinian resistance" [i.e., to adopt Hamas' demands]. Therefore, "the leadership of the Palestinian resistance" [i.e., Hamas] must be defended from the pressures exerted on it [a hint directed primarily at Egypt] to agree to a ceasefire without having achieved its goal.

5) "It is necessary to support" the Palestinian organizations operating in the Gaza Strip "politically, morally, with propaganda, financially and materially." That support must include weapons, "each one according to his ability," without sensitivities or quarreling. For years Iran, Syria and Hezbollah have not spared any effort to help the various organizations in the ways mentioned above, as well as with weapons, training and varied knowhow. Hezbollah has not spared any support and aid to the Palestinian organizations, and shares a common destiny with them. Hezbollah is following the developments in the Gaza Strip and will do its duty in every sphere.
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 14
(As of 1200 hours, July 28, 2014)

1. After the humanitarian ceasefire ended on July 26, 2014, its continuation was uncertain. On the morning of July 27, 2014, Israel’s Political-Security Cabinet authorized another humanitarian ceasefire, this one for 24 hours. However, rocket fire from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory continued. A Hamas spokesman claimed that an agreement for a humanitarian ceasefire of an additional 24 hours had been reached, but Israel did not accept it because Hamas continued firing rockets. However, the Israeli prime minister agreed to cease firing and attack only in response to attacks carried out by the terrorist organizations.

2. On the ground no significant attacks were recorded on July 27; there were a number of localized incidents. The IDF continued neutralizing terrorist tunnels and the IDF Spokesman made it clear that the humanitarian ceasefire would not prevent such activity. Hamas continued firing rockets and mortar shells into Israel (65 rocket hits on July 27, 2014), although the scope of the rocket fire has declined significantly in the past few days. Note: On July 28 ten IDF soldiers were killed. Four of them were killed by a mortar shell near the Gaza border and five others while preventing an infiltration.
of a terrorist squad through a tunnel near the village of Nahal Oz in the western Negev.

The Ground Operation

IDF Activity

Overview

3. During the past 24 hours IDF ground activities continued, focusing on exposing and destroying terrorist tunnels. IDF Chief of Staff Major General Benny Gantz visited the soldiers fighting in the Gaza Strip. He praised their achievements and said that all the attempts made by the enemy to attack Israeli territory had failed. He also said that the activity to neutralize the tunnels used for attack purposes had to continue (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014).

4. On the morning of July 27, 2014, the UN Security Council voted for a humanitarian ceasefire of 24 hours. However, rocket fire from the Gaza Strip continued, including rocket fire targeting the center of Israel. In the early afternoon, following an appeal from Robert Serry, the UN envoy to the Middle East, a humanitarian ceasefire of 24 hours was again discussed. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri claimed that a 24-hour humanitarian ceasefire had been agreed on and was supposed to start at 1400 hours (Al-Aqsa TV, July 27, 2014). However, Hamas continued its rocket attacks and therefore Israel was forced to reject the ceasefire.

5. On the evening of July 27, 2014, after international pressure had been exerted on Israel, especially the demands of American President Barack Obama and the UN Security Council for an immediate end to the fighting, Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu complied with the demand for an unlimited ceasefire. He said the IDF would attack only in response to terrorist activity carried out by Hamas and the other terrorist organizations operating in the Gaza Strip. However, the effort to neutralize the terrorist tunnels continues.
IDF Activity on July 27, 2014

6. On July 27, 2014, the IDF's ground operation in the Gaza Strip continued. According to IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Motti Almoz, the humanitarian ceasefire does not prevent the IDF forces from neutralizing the terrorist tunnels (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014). On July 27, 2014, an IDF force exposed a weapons stockpile which included a bulletproof vest, a Kalashnikov assault rifle, and communications equipment.

7. On Friday, July 25, 2014, the IDF carried out a targeted killing, attacking the vehicle of Ismail Sa'adi Aqluq, an operative in Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. Ismail Aqluq was an operative in the research, development and manufacture unit of Hamas military-terrorist wing. He participated in developing advanced weapons such as UAVs and rockets (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014).

Exposure and Destruction of Terrorist Tunnels

8. During the past 24 hours the IDF activity to expose and destroy tunnels continued. So far about half the tunnels leading from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory have been destroyed. On July 27, 2014, IDF forces destroyed a tunnel in the southern Gaza Strip, and one in the north was almost completely destroyed. IDF forces also exposed three additional tunnel shafts (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014).
Air Attacks on Terrorist Targets Continue

9. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, more than 3,690 terrorist targets have been attacked (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014). On July 27, 2014, Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked more than 20 terrorist targets, among them terrorist tunnels, concealed rocket launchers from which rockets were fired into Israel, terrorist squads and terrorist facilities.

IDF Losses

10. Forty-three IDF soldiers have been killed in Operation Protective Edge. One hundred and seventeen soldiers wounded in action are being treated in hospitals around the country. One is in critical condition, five are in serious condition, and the rest sustained moderate to minor injuries (Haaretz.co.il, July 18, 2014).

Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory

11. Rocket and mortar shell fire continues to attack Israel. Since the beginning of the operation approximately 2,160 rockets have fallen in Israeli territory. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted more than 450.
12. On July 27, 2014, 65 rocket hits were identified in Israeli territory, continuing the trend towards a decline in the number of rockets fired. Most of the rockets fell in southern Israel. One barrage was fired in the morning attacking the coastal plain, Judea and the center of Israel. Rocket fire increased in the afternoon after Israel said it would not comply with the UN request for a humanitarian ceasefire. An Israeli woman sustained moderate wounds when a mortar shell fell on her house in the western Negev.

**Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge**

¹ The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
13. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the PIJ continue claiming responsibility for most of the rockets and mortar shells fired into Israeli territory and at the IDF forces operating in the Gaza Strip.

A rocket fired from the Abu Nur school in the Gaza Strip (IDF Spokesman, July 27, 2014)
Click https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-fh-fRs7To#t=11 for the video.

The Use Made of Al-Shifa'a Hospital by Hamas and the Other Terrorist Organizations

14. Raja Abu Daka, a French-Palestinian correspondent, said he was summoned to the Al-Shifa'a Hospital in Gaza by the Hamas security forces. He said he went to the part of the hospital used for administrative purposes where he met with a group of operatives wearing civilian clothing. They were armed with hand guns, and some had walkie-talkies. He was ordered to empty his pockets and remove his shoes and belt. He was then taken to a room in the hospital used, he claimed, as a command center. There he was interrogated by operatives whom he thought belonged to the armed wing of Hamas. After the interrogation he was advised, “for his own good,” to leave the Gaza Strip (Libération, July 23, 2014).

15. It was not the first time rooms in the Al-Shifa’a Hospital were used for interrogation purposes. During Operation Cast Lead sources in Fatah reported that Hamas has turned the ground floor of the X-ray department into a jail and interrogation facility (Al-Ahed, a site affiliated with Fatah, January 21, 2009).
16. According to ITIC information, 972 Gazans have been killed since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, July 28). The number should be increased by about 100 to account for those whose bodies have not yet been removed from under the rubble, bringing the total count to more than 1,000.

17. The distribution (not final, as of noon, July 28, 2014) of the 972 Palestinians killed is as follows:

1) 309 terrorist operatives:
   A) 169 Hamas operatives
   B) 93 PIJ operatives
   C) 47 operatives from other terrorist organizations

2) 307 non-involved Palestinians

3) 356 Palestinians whose identity is not yet known

18. Chris Gunness, UNRWA spokesman in the Gaza Strip, said that 173,123 Palestinians had vacated their houses and had taken shelter in 82 UNRWA installations throughout the Gaza Strip (about 10% of the Gaza Strip’s population). About 200 tons of food are delivered to residents in UN installations every day (Twitter account of Chris Gunness, July 27, 2014).

19. The ministry of public works and housing in the Gaza Strip reported that 23,000 dwelling units have been partially destroyed and 1,960 totally destroyed, 50 mosques have been destroyed and seven hospitals have been attacked (Arn.ps, July 26, 2014).
Gazans leave their houses for the Eid al-Fitr prayer in the mosques (Wafa.ps, July 27, 2014).

UNRWA School Hit

20. On July 27, 2014, the IDF released the findings of the investigation of the hit on the UNRWA school. According to the IDF, the investigation revealed that the school had been hit by a stray IDF shell. According to photographs in IDF possession, the schoolyard was empty at the time and it is unlikely that anyone was killed. The investigation also revealed that the IDF had fired in the direction of the school in response to anti-tank missiles fired at IDF soldiers by Hamas operatives, either from the building itself or next to it (IDF radio, July 27, 2014).

The Crossings – Update

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

21. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 1,154 trucks carrying food, medicine and medical equipment have entered the Gaza Strip through the crossing. Diesel fuel for the Gaza Strip power plant, gasoline and cooking gas have also been delivered. The humanitarian ceasefire was used to repair electrical and water facilities that were damaged or had collapsed (Cogat.idf.il, July 27, 2014).

The Rafah Crossing

22. The Egyptian authorities opened the Rafah crossing for the Eid al-Fitr holiday to receive wounded Gazans and deliver aid to the Gaza Strip. To that end the crossing administration decided to increase the manpower stationed there (Almasrallyoum.com, July 27, 2014). According to Adel Adawi, the Egyptian minister
of health, 94 Gazans have received medical treatment in Egyptian hospitals since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge. However, the aid committee of the Egyptian union of pharmacists claimed that the second aid convoy could not leave Egypt because the Rafah crossing was closed.

**Support for the Gaza Strip**

23. The minister of health of the Palestinian Authority (PA) reported the dispatch of 12 trucks of medicine and medical equipment for the warehouses of the ministry of health in the Gaza Strip. He said they were carrying equipment for operating rooms and ICUs (Wafa.ps, July 27, 2014).

24. The Moroccan embassy in Egypt said it had sent 155 tons of food as well as medical and humanitarian equipment to the Gaza Strip. The shipment would enter through the Rafah crossing after coordination with the Egyptian authorities (Almasryalyoum.com, July 26, 2014).

**Judea and Samaria**

25. Throughout Judea and Samaria, Palestinians continue protesting and rioting in support of the Gazans. The Hamas movement in Nablus issued a notice calling on local residents to go to the Al-Nasr Mosque in the center of the city after the Sunday prayer to participate in a march supporting the Palestinian "resistance" [i.e., terrorist organizations] (Facebook page of Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, Nablus, July 27, 2014).

The notice issued by Hamas (Facebook page of Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, Nablus, July 27, 2014)
26. Speaking with Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, American President Barack Obama said that an immediate, unconditional humanitarian ceasefire was vital. Such a ceasefire, claimed Obama, would end the fighting and lead to a permanent ceasefire based on the understandings of Operation Cast Lead (November 2012). He said the United States supported the Egyptian initiative as well as regional and international coordination. A number of hours later the UN Security Council, in a presidential statement, called on Israel and Hamas to agree to an immediate, unconditional humanitarian ceasefire during and after Eid al-Fitr (UN.org, July 28, 2014).

Statements from Hamas

27. Osama Hamdan, holder of Hamas' international relations portfolio, accused Israel of rejecting the UN Secretary General's proposal to extend the humanitarian ceasefire. He claimed contacts were not being held directly with Israel, but through mediators. He also claimed that any agreement for a ceasefire discussed by Hamas had to include clear, binding guarantees that would not permit Israel to return to its "aggression." He claimed the guarantees demanded by Hamas were currently being discussed with the mediators (Aawsat.net, July 27, 2014).

28. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri claimed that Hamas did not need a humanitarian ceasefire but because of the dire situation of the Gazan civilians they had accepted the proposal made by Robert Serry, the UN envoy to the Middle East, to hold a 24-hour humanitarian ceasefire. He accused Israel of violating the agreements because in previous ceasefire agreements Israel had not allowed Gazans to return to their houses and evacuate the bodies of the dead and wounded (Al-Jazeera, July 27, 2014).

29. In response to statements made by Obama regarding the disarmament of Hamas, senior Hamas figure Izzat al-Rishq wrote in his Twitter account that "for the millionth time we say that anyone who tries to disarm us...we will make his life hell" (Twitter account of Izzat al-Rishq, July 24, 2014).

Statements from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)

30. PIJ secretary general Ramadan Shallah said in a speech for Eid al-Fitr that the operatives in the Gaza Strip had created a "new balance of force" between Israel and the Palestinians which would be very influential in the future. He claimed that the
Palestinians would not stop attacking Israel until it met their legitimate demands, which were the end of [so-called] "Israeli aggression" and the lifting of the siege (Paltoday.ps, July 28, 2014).

**Statements from the PA**

31. PA chairman **Mahmoud Abbas** paid a short visit to Saudi Arabia where he met with King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz al-Saud to discuss the situation in the Gaza Strip. Senior delegations from both sides attended the meeting (Wafa.ps, July 27, 2014).

![Mahmoud Abbas meets the king of Saudi Arabia (Wafa.ps, July 27, 2014)](image)

**The Political-Lawfare-Propaganda Campaign**

**Hamas' Propaganda Campaign**

32. The following are some of the statements from Hamas' military-terrorist wing and from a Hamas-affiliated Facebook page:

1) Hamas' military-terrorist wing released an animated video simulating military-terrorist operatives allegedly shooting down an Israeli F-16 airplane. Once the plane was down the operatives captured the pilot, who had activated the ejection seat. The video ended with a statement in Hebrew reading "Out skies are sacred and your planes cannot fly in them."
2) The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades claimed to have shot down an Israeli UAV in the Al-Tufah neighborhood of Gaza City (Qassam.ps, July 27, 2014).

3) The Facebook page of the Hamas-affiliated Palestinian Communications Center posted pictures claimed to have been taken by Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operatives of plundered IDF items. The pictures showed an Israeli map, a sketch for guards and a rocket launcher which, according to the claim, were left in Khan Yunis (Facebook page of Palestinian Communications Center, July 27, 2014).
Appointment of a Commission to Investigate the Events in the Gaza Strip

33. The humanitarian ceasefire which revealed the scope of the destruction of Shejaiya and Beit Hanoun, where Hamas and the other terrorist organizations had established extensive facilities, caused the call for an international investigatory commission:

1) **The Jordanian Al-Jisser Al-Arabi Center for Human Rights** said in an announcement that it had appealed to the Arab League to appoint an independent committee to investigate "Israel's crimes" against the civilians in the Gaza Strip. The committee will be composed of volunteers from Jordan and other Arab states who serve as observers on the Arab League's permanent human rights committee. They will deliver their findings to the International Criminal Court in The Hague (Wafa.ps, July 26, 2014).

2) **Muhammad Dahlan**, former senior Fatah figure and a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said that if the PA did not bring Israel to trial, he would form a committee to gather the legal claims of Palestinians who had been injured by IDF attacks and deliver them to international legal institutions (Maannews.net, July 27, 2014).
July 29, 2014

Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 15
(As of 1200 hours, July 29, 2014)

Overview

1. While contacts for a ceasefire continued, during the past 24 hours the fighting in the Gaza Strip escalated. Mortar shells were fired at an IDF assembly area near the Gaza Strip (four IDF soldiers killed) and an infiltration attack into Israeli territory through a tunnel was prevented (five IDF soldiers killed). Rocket fire into Israel continued (65 rocket hits identified), including rockets targeting the greater Tel Aviv and Haifa areas. Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft continued attacking terrorist targets. The IDF continued exposing and destroying terrorist tunnels (31 exposed, 15 destroyed).

The Ground Operation

IDF Activity

Overview

2. After a relatively quiet morning, on July 28, 2014, in the early afternoon rocket and mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory was renewed. IAF attacks were resumed while the ground activity to expose and destroy tunnels
continued. So far about half of the terrorist tunnels exposed have been destroyed. **Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu** said that "The operation against the tunnels is a first and necessary step in the demilitarization of the Gaza Strip. The process of preventing the arming of the terrorist organization and demilitarizing the Gaza Strip must be part of any solution" (Website of the prime minister's office, July 28, 2014).¹

3. During July 28, 2014, serious incidents took place near the Gaza Strip border, **claiming the lives of nine IDF soldiers**. A tenth soldier was killed in operational activity in the Gaza Strip.

**Four IDF Soldiers Killed by Mortar Shell Fire**

4. On the afternoon of July 28, 2014, a mortar shell fired from the Gaza Strip hit an IDF assembly area near the Gaza Strip border. **Four soldiers were killed and four were wounded**. Hamas' military-terrorist wing claimed responsibility for the mortar shell fire. According to the claim posted on the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades website, five 120mm mortar shells were fired at a group of soldiers. The military-terrorist wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) claimed responsibility for firing at the village of Be'eri (Hamas and PIJ websites, July 28, 2014).

![Left: Hamas' military-terrorist wing claims responsibility for mortar shell fire (Qassam.ps, July 28, 2014). Right: The PIJ's military-terrorist wing claims responsible for firing mortar shells at the village of Be'eri (Saraya.ps, July 29, 2014).](image)

**Terrorist Attack through Tunnel Prevented**

5. In the early evening the IDF prevented a terrorist squad from infiltrating into Israeli territory from a tunnel shaft near the village of Nahal Oz. The shaft opening

¹ [http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Events/Pages/eventkirya280714.aspx](http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Events/Pages/eventkirya280714.aspx)
was located south of the Karni crossing in the southern Gaza Strip. The tunnel penetrated 150 meters (or about a tenth of a mile) into Israeli territory. The terrorists fired an anti-tank missile at an IDF post, killing five soldiers. Soldiers in the post's guard tower opened fire at the terrorists. One of the soldiers reported that the terrorists tried to take the body of one of the dead soldiers. After shots were fired at the terrorists and one of them was killed, they threw down their weapons and returned to the tunnel shaft. They left four Kalashnikov assault rifles and two RPG launchers behind (IDF Spokesman, July 29, 2014).

6. Hamas' military-terrorist wing claimed responsibility for the "penetration behind enemy lines" which killed, according to the claim, ten soldiers. The claim also noted that they had tried to take one of the bodies but that had been impossible because of "the conditions on the ground." They also claimed to have taken a Tavor [Israeli-made] assault rifle (Qassam.ps, July 28, 2014).

Hamas' military-terrorist wing announcement of its attempt to penetrate "behind enemy line" (Qassam.ps, July 29, 2014)
Palestinians from Shejaiya who moved into the Al-Shifa’a Hospital celebrate the deaths of the Israeli soldiers (Paltimes.net, July 29, 2014).

**IDF Activity on July 28, 2014**

7. On July 28, 2014, the IDF's ground operation in the Gaza Strip continued and expanded. Residents of Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia and the Jabaliya refugee camp, all close to the Israeli-Gazan border, were instructed, via telephone calls and SMS messages, to vacate their houses immediately. In addition, on the morning of July 28, 2014, a terrorist squad opened fire at an IDF force in the central Gaza Strip. The force returned fire and killed the terrorist squad. There were no IDF casualties (IDF Spokesman, July 28, 2014).
Exposure and Destruction of Terrorist Tunnels

8. During the past 24 hours IDF activity to expose and destroy tunnels continued. Fifteen of the 31 tunnels exposed so far have been destroyed. During the morning of July 28 the IDF destroyed another tunnel in the southern Gaza Strip. IDF Chief of Staff Major General Benny Gantz said that the IDF activity to destroy the tunnel network, which he said honeycombed the length and breadth of Gaza Strip, was difficult and complex, and was proceeding slowly. He said that it was done "step after step, shaft after shaft, tunnel after tunnel, clash [with terrorist operatives] after clash" (IDF Spokesman, July 28, 2014).
Air Attacks on Terrorist Targets Continue

9. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, more than 3,700 terrorist targets have been attacked. Beginning in the afternoon of July 28, 2014, and continuing into the night, the air attacks increased. IAF aircraft attacked more than 150 terrorist targets.

10. Among the targets were the following (Ynetnews.co.il, July 29, 2014):

   1) **Houses of senior activists and operatives**, including the house of Ismail Haniya, deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, and the house of the commander of Hamas' Shejaiya battalion.

   2) **Installations and facilities**, including the building from which Hamas' radio and TV Al-Aqsa channels broadcast, the Hamas ministry of the treasury, and buildings used as command and control posts by Hamas' military-terrorist wing.

3) **Four mosques**, one of which was used as a [military] operation room and another in which a tunnel shaft was located.

4) **Sites for the manufacture of weapons**.

5) **Concealed rocket launchers**.

6) **Terrorist operatives**.
11. In the afternoon Palestinian sources claimed that IDF forces had hit the outpatient clinics of the Al-Shifa’a Hospital. The IDF Spokesman said that the hospital had been hit by rockets targeting Israel whose launch had failed. IDF Chief of Staff Major General Benny Gantz rejected the claim, saying that he possessed an aerial photograph showing rocket launchings carried out by Hamas near the hospital (IDF Spokesman, July 28, 2014).

**IDF Losses**

12. **Fifty-three IDF soldiers have been killed in Operation Protective Edge.**

13. **On July 28, 2014, ten IDF soldiers were killed.** Four were killed by mortar shell fire at a meeting in the western Negev, five were killed while preventing an infiltration attack near the village of Nahal Oz, and one when the bulldozer the soldier was using to destroy a terrorist tunnel in the Gaza Strip was hit with an anti-tank missile.

14. The names of the soldiers killed are the following (IDF Spokesman, July 28, 2014):

   1) **Sergeant Daniel Kedmi**, 18, from Sufim. Squad commander cadet. Killed in combat when terrorists infiltrated Israel via a tunnel from Gaza.

   2) **Sergeant Barkai Ishai Shor**, 21, from Jerusalem. Squad commander cadet. Killed in combat when terrorists infiltrated Israel via a tunnel from Gaza.

   3) **Sergeant Sagi Erez**, 19, from Kiryat Atta. Squad commander cadet. Killed in combat when terrorists infiltrated Israel via a tunnel from Gaza.

   4) **Sergeant Dor Deri**, 18, from Jerusalem. Squad commander cadet. Killed in combat when terrorists infiltrated Israel via a tunnel from Gaza.

   5) **Sergeant Nadav Raimond**, 19, from Shadmot Devora. Squad commander cadet. Killed in combat when terrorists infiltrated Israel via a tunnel from Gaza.

   6) **Staff Sergeant Eliav Eliahu Haim Kahlon**, 22, from Safed. Armored corps soldier. Killed by a mortar shell near the Gaza Strip border.


   8) **Corporal Niran Cohen**, 20, from Tiberias. Armored corps soldier. Killed by a mortar shell near the Gaza Strip border.


Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory

15. Since the beginning of the operation approximately 2,225 rockets have fallen in Israeli territory. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted more than 500.

16. The morning of July 28, 2014 was relatively quiet after a night without rocket fire. In the early afternoon rocket and mortar shell fire into Israeli territory was renewed. During July 28, 2014, 65 rocket hits were identified. Most of the rockets fell in the south of Israel. In the afternoon rockets were fired at the north of Israel. Sirens were sounded in Haifa, Zichron Yaakov and along the Carmel coast. On the night of July 28, 2014, rockets were fired at the greater Tel Aviv area. Three rockets were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system and one fell in an open area.

Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge²

² The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does not include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
17. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the PIJ continue claiming responsibility for most of the rockets and mortar shells fired into Israeli territory and at the IDF forces operating in the Gaza Strip.

A Hamas military-terrorist wing video of a rocket fired at Tel Aviv on July 28, 2014. It shows the rocket fired near a residential neighborhood (Qassam.ps, July 28, 2014)

The Gazan Population

18. According to ITIC information, **1,031 Gazans have been killed** since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, July 29).

19. The distribution (not final, as of noon, July 29, 2014) of the 1,031 Palestinians killed is as follows:

1) **328 terrorist operatives**:
   A) **175 Hamas operatives**
   B) **100 PIJ operatives**
   C) **53 operatives** from other terrorist organizations

2) **327 non-involved Palestinians**

3) **376 Palestinians** whose identity is not yet known

20. On July 27, 2014, the French TV station France 24 broadcast the evacuation of casualties from under the rubble in the Gaza Strip. One of them was a military operative wearing a uniform and armed with a rifle, apparently dead. The announcer noted that "His rifle was quickly hidden from our cameras." A civilian who received the rifle was seen passing it to another man, saying, "Take it and hide it" (France 24, July 27, 2014).
21. On July 27, 2014, several dozen civilians from the Ikhza' neighborhood in the southern Gaza Strip rioted in front of Red Cross headquarters in Khan Yunis, where they burned a dispensary. They claimed the Red Cross was not evacuating the dead bodies from their neighborhood. They also claimed the Red Cross collaborated with Israel (Facebook page of Muthana Najar, July 27, 2014).

Torching Red Cross headquarters (Facebook page of Muthana Najar, July 27, 2014)

The Crossings – Update

The Rafah Crossing

22. The Rafah crossing opened on July 28, 2014 for wounded Palestinians and holders of foreign passports. Food was delivered to the Gaza Strip through the crossing (Youm7.com, July 28, 2014).

Contacts for a Humanitarian and General Ceasefire

23. **American Secretary of State John Kerry** said "Today, we are continuing to work toward establishing an unconditional humanitarian cease-fire, one that could honor Eid [al-Fitr], which begins now, and that will stop the fighting, allow desperately needed food and medicine and other supplies into Gaza, and enable Israel to address the threat which we fully understand and which is real – the threat posed by tunnel attacks – and to be able to do so without having to resort to combat."
That is what could come from a cease-fire...) (State Department website, July 27, 2014).³

24. At the same time, contacts are being held regarding the Egyptian initiative. Muhammad Dahlan, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, claimed that the Egyptian initiative remained the basis for an agreement because it took the Palestinian demands into consideration. He said that during the next few days the Palestinian organizations would hold a meeting in Cairo. He repeated Hamas' conditions: a seaport, an airport and the designation of [the Gaza Strip's] territorial waters. He said those demands would be defined during negotiations with the PLO, which he said was the only source of authority for the Palestinian people (Maannews.net, July 27, 2014).

25. Nasser al-Laham, director of the Al-Mayadeen offices in Judea and Samaria, reported that Egypt had agreed to receive a delegation appointed by Mahmoud Abbas. The delegation would include representatives of the Palestinian organizations, including Hamas. He said the delegation, headed by Majed Faraj, head of Palestinian general intelligence, would arrive in Cairo to formulate the agreement (Almayadeen.net, July 28, 2014).

Statements from Hamas

26. Senior Hamas figures have reiterated their position that there will not be a ceasefire until Hamas’ conditions are met, and accuse Israel of escalation:

1) Musa Abu Marzouq, a member of the Hamas political bureau, claimed that in the coming hours there would be a change in Egypt's position. He accused the United States of "partnership in Israel's aggression" (Alresala.net, July 28, 2014).

2) In response to John Kerry's statement that any solution would be based on disarming the [terrorist] organizations in the Gaza Strip, senior Hamas figure Izzat al-Rishq claimed that such demands were not realistic and that the "resistance's" weapons were not an issue for discussion. He claimed as long as the [so-called Israeli] occupation existed, Hamas would keep its arms, manufacture weapons, develop weapons and acquire weapons in any way possible (Al-Quds TV, July 28, 2014).

3) Osama Hamdan, in charge of Hamas' external relations, claimed that efforts were being invested in reaching a ceasefire, but the facts on the ground proved that Israel refused to accept a ceasefire (Al-Aqsa TV, July 28, 2014).

³ http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/07/229857.htm
4) Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri accused Israel of full responsibility for the escalation and of violating the humanitarian ceasefire (Alresala.net, July 28, 2014).

**Statements from the Palestinian Authority**

27. Mahmoud Abbas held a series of telephone consultations regarding a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. He spoke with Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas’ political bureau; Ramadan Shallah, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad; Sheikh Tamim bin Hamed al-Thani, the emir of Qatar; Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the president of Egypt; and others. In his conversation with Abdel Fattah el-Sisi he expressed his appreciation for the role Egypt was playing regarding a ceasefire agreement (Wafa.ps, July 28, 2014).
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 16
(As of 1200 hours, July 30, 2014)

Overview

1. The existing format of Operation Protective Edge continues. The IDF continues attacking terrorist targets from the air and on the ground the forces expose and destroy tunnels used for terrorist purposes. Hamas and the other terrorist organizations continue clashing with IDF forces and fire rockets into Israeli territory (approximately 50 rocket hits on July 29, 2014).

2. The Palestinian media reported that Mahmoud Abbas was trying to form an official Palestinian delegation in the name of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the PLO with representatives from all the organizations, to hold the talks in Cairo. So far, the delegation has not set out. While Mahmoud Abbas declared it was necessary to adhere to the Egyptian initiative, Musa Abu Marzouq, the Hamas representative to the talks, demanded that changes be made in the initiative, claiming that only then would Hamas accept Egypt as a mediator.
3. On **July 29, 2014**, the ground operation continued. In the early afternoon the residents of Khan Yunis were asked to leave their houses. The appeal was made by means of dropping leaflets dropped by IDF planes and recorded telephone calls. **IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Motti Almoz** said the IDF had conducted intensive activities throughout the day, killing many terrorist operatives. He said the operation currently had two focuses: **air attacks, and the exposure and destruction of the tunnels**. He said that during the day large quantities of weapons had been seized and tunnels had been destroyed. He added that Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft had attacked about 200 terrorist targets during the past 24 hours (IDF Spokesman, July 29, 2014).

4. **Muhammad Deif**, head of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas’ military-terrorist wing, made a rare media appearance praising the determination of the resistance fighters threatening that the fighting was "complex and serious," much more than Israel imagined. He said the IDF was facing united organizations "whose operatives sought to die to the same degree IDF fighters desired not to die." He claimed that **there would be no ceasefire and the rocket fire into Israel would not end until Israeli aggression ended and the siege of the Gaza Strip was lifted**. He claimed that there would be no compromises in the matter (Al-Aqsa TV, July 29, 2014). During his speech rockets were fired at the greater Tel Aviv area and at Ashdod, to magnify the impact of his announcement.
IDF Activity on July 29, 2014

5. On **July 29, 2014** the IDF's ground operation in the Gaza Strip continued. The main incidents of the past 24 hours were the following (IDF Spokesman, July 29, 2014):

1) **An armored force exposed weapons inside a mosque**, including a Kornet anti-tank missile ready for firing, an IED, a walkie-talkie and maps.

2) **An IDF force identified five terrorist operatives emerging from a tunnel shaft.** The force shot and killed them.

3) **An IDF force exposed a cache of weapons**, including a Kalashnikov assault rifle, machine guns and IEDs.

4) **An IDF force exposed a tunnel shaft** in which were a Kalashnikov assault rifle and a stock of hand grenades.

6. A map was found in the pocket of a senior Hamas terrorist operative showing areas of Hamas activity. It showed points of access to the tunnels and concealed rocket launchers located inside populated areas (IDF Spokesman, July 29, 2014).

Exposure and Destruction of Terrorist Tunnels

7. During the past 24 hours **IDF forces destroyed three terrorist attack tunnels:**

1) On the morning of **July 29, 2014**, **an attack tunnel leading into Israeli territory** was destroyed. It had a shaft opening on the Israeli side of the security
fence at a distance of about 2 kilometers, or about 1.25 miles, from the village of Be'eri. The main tunnel had eight shafts and at least two branches which had been exposed at the beginning of the ground operation. **The main shaft was near a mosque** and in it were uniforms and military equipment. Inside the tunnel were weapons and engineering equipment.

2) On July 29, 2014, an IDF force exposed a tunnel shaft with weapons including a Kalashnikov assault rifle and a cache of hand grenades.
Air Attacks on Terrorist Targets Continue

8. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, more than 3,700 terrorist targets have been attacked in the Gaza Strip.

9. On July 29, 2014, IAF aircraft attacked more than 190 terrorist targets. On the night of July 29, 2014, IAF aircraft attacked 80 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian media reported that Ahmed Najam, head of Rafah battalion of the Jerusalem Brigades, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad’s (PIJ) military-terrorist wing, was killed in an Israeli attack. The PIJ’s radio station denied the claim, calling the notice of his death a tactical ploy meant to enable him to move to a safe location (Sawt al-Quds, July 29, 2014).

10. The IAF attacked the location from which mortar shells were fired at an IDF armored force. In addition, a number of buildings in the northern Gaza Strip used for terrorist purposes and weapons storehouses were attacked (IDF Spokesman, July 30, 2014).

IDF and Civilian Losses

11. Fifty-three IDF soldiers and three civilians have been killed in Operation Protective Edge. In addition, 365 soldiers have been wounded, 42 critically, 103 seriously and 220 sustained minor injuries. Seventy-nine civilians have been wounded, six critically, four seriously and 69 sustained minor injuries.
12. Since the beginning of the operation approximately 2,275 rockets have hit Israeli territory. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted more than 500.

13. On July 29, 2014, 50 rocket hits were identified in Israeli territory. Most of them targeted the south of Israel. In the evening a number of rockets were fired at the coastal plain, the greater Tel Aviv area and the Jerusalem area. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted the rockets. There were no casualties and no damage was reported.

**Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge**

14. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the PIJ continue claiming responsibility for most of the rockets and mortar shells fired into Israeli territory and at the IDF forces operating in the Gaza Strip.

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1 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
A rocket launcher exposed in the Gaza Strip (IDF Spokesman, July 29, 2014)
Click https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lh3wCtwohik for the video.

The Gazan Population

15. According to ITIC information, **1,122 Gazans have been killed** since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, July 29).

16. The distribution (not final, as of noon, July 29, 2014) of the 1,122 Palestinians killed is as follows:

1) **335 terrorist operatives:**
   A) **175 Hamas operatives**
   B) **104 PIJ operatives**
   C) **56 operatives** from other terrorist organizations

2) **347 non-involved Palestinians**

3) **440 Palestinians** whose identity is not yet known

17. Chris Gunness, UNRWA spokesman in the Gaza Strip, said that **200,337 Palestinians had left their houses** and **taken shelter in 85 UNRWA installations**. He reported that three additional UNRWA installations had been opened in the central Gaza Strip (Twitter account of Chris Gunness, July 29, 2014).

18. UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon warned that the Gazans’ vacating their homes would have "destructive humanitarian consequences". He said that the UN agencies in the Gaza Strip did not have the sources or resources to cope with the situation (Felesteen.ps, July 29, 2014).
19. **UNRWA reported finding another cache of rockets in one of its schools in the Gaza Strip.** UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness condemned "condemned those who put civilian lives at risk by placing the rockets in a school" run by the agency. He did not mention to which organization the rockets belonged. He said that UNRWA condemned "the group or groups who endangered civilians by placing these munitions in our school. This is yet another flagrant violation of the neutrality of our premises" (Jpost.com, date, 2014).² It was the third time since the beginning of **Operation Protective Edge** that UNRWA reported finding weapons in its schools.

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Gaza Strip Power Plant Hit

20. According to reports in the Palestinian media, on July 29, 2014, a fuel tank of the Gaza Strip's power plant was hit. Sheikh Fathi Khalil, deputy head engineer of the Gaza Strip's energy authority, claimed one of the tanks was hit by artillery fire, damaging the steam generators. He said the plant would be out of commission for a year. According to the Palestinians, the power plant supplies about two-thirds of the Gazans' electricity and also operates several pumping stations (Paltoday.tv and Wafa.ps, July 29, 2014).

A burning fuel tank of the Gaza Strip's power plant (Ghaza al-A'an, July 29, 2014).

The Crossings – Update

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

21. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 1,279 trucks carrying food, medicine and medical equipment have entered the Gaza Strip through the crossing. Diesel fuel for the Gaza Strip power plant, gasoline and cooking gas have also been delivered. Contributions from international organizations for Eid al-Fitr (the holiday ending the Muslim religious month of Ramadan) were also delivered through the crossing, including 60 tons of medicine and medical equipment (Cogat.idf.il, July 30, 2014). The Turkish Red Crescent reported sending three shipments of medical equipment for the Gaza Strip. The equipment was consigned to the Palestinian Red Crescent and will enter through the Kerem Shalom crossing (Aa.com.tr, July 29, 2014).
The Erez Crossing

22. Since the field hospital was opened more than 40 patients have received medical care. Some were treated and sent home, while others were sent to hospitals in Israel for further care. Hamas still prevents Gazans from going to the Israeli field hospital (Cogat.idf.il, July 30, 2014).

Contacts for a Ceasefire

23. According to reports in the Palestinian media, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi asked Mahmoud Abbas to appoint an official Palestinian delegation in the name of the PA and the PLO with representatives from all the organizations to participate in the talks in Cairo. The PA is expected to be represented by Majed al-Faraj, head of general intelligence, and Azzam al-Ahmed, a senior Fatah figure. Other delegates will be Musa Abu Marzouq, a member of Hamas' political bureau, and Ziyad al-Nakhala, the PIJ's deputy secretary general. The delegation is supposed to formulate a Palestinian proposal and ratify it with the Egyptians and other parties (Alwatanvoice.com, July 29, 2014).

24. Mahmoud Abbas said that the Egyptians had proposed the best initiative, it had to be adhered to and all other initiatives had to be rejected (Safa.ps, July 28, 2014). However, Hamas representative Musa Abu Marzouq claimed in an interview that changes had to be made in the Egyptian initiative. He claimed that what Hamas needed was "talks and respect for Hamas," and only then would it accept Egypt's role as mediator. He also claimed that the conditions for a ceasefire agreement were the
lifting of the siege, the immediate opening of the crossings, freedom of fishing, the
abolishment of the demilitarized perimeter between Israel and the Gaza Strip, the
release of the Palestinian prisoners detained in Operation Brothers' Keeper, the
rehabilitation of the Gaza Strip's infrastructure and guarantees the Israel would meet
its commitments (Ria.ru, July 29, 2014).

The American Position

25. American Secretary of State John Kerry said that all the international efforts
being made for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas had to lead to the
disarmament of Hamas. He said a ceasefire agreement would be a new chance for
the two sides to negotiate (Maannews.net, July 29, 2014).

26. At a meeting held in the National Press Club in Washington, DC, National
Security Advisor Susan Rice told the National Jewish Leaders Assembly that "the
United States supports an immediate, unconditional humanitarian ceasefire... But,
here's one thing you never have to worry about: America's support for the State of
Israel... We don't just fight for Israel's security. We also fight for Israel's
legitimacy...President Obama has been equally clear about who has been
responsible for the violence. Hamas fired the rockets. Hamas deliberately targeted
Israeli citizens, particularly civilians..." (White House website, July 29, 2014).³

The UN Position

27. UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon called for the humanitarian ceasefire to be
renewed and called the situation in the Gaza Strip "a human tsunami." He said the
UN was not in direct contact with Hamas but rather through Qatar and Turkey
(Felesteen.ps, July 29, 2014).

The Battle for Hearts and Minds

Video Documents Hamas Attack on IDF Soldiers

28. On the night of July 29, 2014, Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa TV aired a video produced
by Hamas' military-terrorist wing. Three minutes long, it documented seven terrorist
operatives infiltrating into Israeli territory near the village of Nahal Oz and their attempt
to abduct an IDF soldier (five IDF soldiers were killed in the attack). One of the terrorist
operatives photographed the incident. The video documents the terrorists trying to

national-jewish-leaders-a
abduct a soldier. It also shows an Israeli-made Tavor rifle taken as booty (Al-Aqsa TV, July 29, 2014).

Scenes from the video. Left: The tunnel used by the terrorists. Right: The terrorist squad approaches the IDF post. Bottom: The Tavor rifle (Al-Aqsa TV, July 29, 2014).
Overview of the Situation

1. On August 1, 2014, at 0800 hours a 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire went into effect. Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire in response to an appeal from American Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon. At the same time an Israeli delegation and a Palestinian delegation (composed of representatives from the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and other terrorist organizations) were supposed to go to Cairo to negotiate a long-term, Egyptian-mediated ceasefire.

2. Hamas violated the humanitarian ceasefire on August 1, 2014, at 0930 hours, an hour and a half after it had started. A Hamas terrorist squad attacked an IDF force that was neutralizing tunnels on the outskirts of Rafah, killed two soldiers and abducted IDF Lieutenant Hadar Goldin. (Note: On the night of August 2 the IDF’s chief rabbi declared Lieutenant Goldin dead, based on findings from the scene of the abduction.) American President Barack Obama and UN envoy Robert Serry strongly condemned Hamas’ violation of the humanitarian ceasefire.

3. In view of the gross violation of the ceasefire, the sixth one violated by Hamas during Operation Protective Edge, Israel decided not to send the delegation to the negotiations in Cairo. Some of Israel's forces in the Gaza Strip began unilaterally...
withdrawing from urban Gazan areas and were redeployed near the Gaza Strip border. IDF forces remaining in the Gaza Strip continue destroying the terrorist tunnels, and are close to finishing the task. Hamas continues firing rockets into Israeli territory, although it launches fewer rockets and focuses on short-range attacks, primarily against IDF forces and western Negev villages. A Palestinian delegation is expected to arrive in Cairo led by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and with the participation of Hamas and other terrorist organizations, to conduct negotiations based on the Egyptian initiative.

4. In view of the complex situation, **Operation Protective Edge has entered a new stage**. The ground operation, which was limited by Israel to neutralizing the tunnels, is about to be completed. How Israel will continue the operation does not depend on the negotiations in Cairo, but rather on the IDF's deterrent capabilities and on Israel's political and military considerations. It seems that Israel's stance poses a dilemma for Hamas as to how the organization will continue, and whether it can extract significant political achievements once the operation is over.

### The Ground Operation

#### IDF Activity

5. **On July 31 – August 2, 2014**, the IDF ground activity in the Gaza Strip continued, focusing on exposing and destroying the terrorist targets. At the same time ground, air and sea forces continued attacking Hamas' terrorist infrastructure. During the past few days there have been fewer clashes between IDF forces and terrorist operatives in the Gaza Strip.

#### Humanitarian Ceasefire Declared

6. On the night of **July 31, 2014**, American Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon announced that an agreement had been reached for a 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire that would go into effect on August 1 at 0800 hours. Israel announced that the Cabinet had authorized the prime minister and the minister of defense to accept the proposal. Israel also announced that the ceasefire would include continued IDF activities to destroy the tunnels. Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip agreed to the ceasefire conditions. The original intention was to have Israel and Palestinian delegations arrive in Cairo while it was in effect. However, despite Hamas’ agreement to the ceasefire, sirens continued to sound in the western Negev and coastal plain. The ceasefire collapsed completely.
after two Israeli soldiers had been killed and one had been abducted near Rafah and IDF forces initiated extensive searches to find the abducted soldier.

7. It was not the first time Hamas had violated a ceasefire. Throughout Operation Protective Edge Hamas consistently and methodically violated every ceasefire it agreed to, including the humanitarian ceasefire it had requested itself.

Abduction of an IDF Officer

8. On the morning of August 1, 2014, approximately one hour after the ceasefire had begun, an IDF force was attacked by terrorists. They emerged from a tunnel shaft and opened fire on the IDF soldiers. According to reports in the Israeli media, a suicide bomber blew himself up next to the soldiers. An IDF officer and soldier were killed and another officer was abducted. Immediately after the attack the force realized that one of their soldiers was missing and instituted a search. It was suspected that he had been abducted and taken into the tunnel. IDF forces heavily bombarded buildings in the area and attacked cars driving near the site of the attack. Tunnel shafts were destroyed, as were houses in which additional tunnels might be located (IDF Spokesman, August 1, 2014).

Hamas' Reactions and Reactions in the International Arena

9. Hamas has been deliberately vague regarding the abduction. Initially Musa Abu Marzouq, deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, claimed that the officer was being held by Hamas. Later, a senior Hamas source explained that Musa Abu Marzouq had only been quoting an Israeli report. Hamas claimed to have no information about the officer and that they were not holding him. Hamas' military-terrorist wing claimed in an announcement that they had lost contact with the squad that had participated in the ambush, and that they thought the squad had been killed in the Israeli attacks. A short time after the original announcement in Arabic, the military-terrorist wing issued a similar announcement in English. That exception announcement had apparently been issued in response to the wave of condemnations against the violation of the ceasefire (Qassam.ps, August 2, 2014).
10. **American President Obama** called for the immediate, unconditional release of the abducted soldier and strongly condemned Hamas and the other organizations in the Gaza Strip for violating the ceasefire. **UN envoy Robert Serry** said that the event was a grave violation of the ceasefire and called on the Palestinians to renew their commitment to implement it.

11. Hamas' propaganda tried to minimize damages by accusing Israel of violating the ceasefire, falsely claiming the Israeli forces had advanced deeply into Rafah at 0700 hours and joined battle, fighting until the time when the ceasefire was supposed to go into effect (Hamas' information office, August 1, 2014). Hamas spokesman **Sami Abu Zuhri** claimed on his Facebook page that the authorization given by the UN secretary general to Israel's fairy tale regarding the abducted soldier had provided legitimization for a slaughter in Rafah (Facebook page of Sami Abu Zuhri, August 2, 2014).

12. On **August 2, 2014**, after the meeting of a court convened for the specific purpose, the IDF's chief rabbi said that in view of the evidence found at the site, and taking into consideration medical, religious and other relevant considerations, Lieutenant Hadar Goldin had died in battle and his family had been notified (IDF Spokesman, August 2, 2014).

### Announcement of Redeployment

13. On the evening of **August 2, 2014**, IDF sources announced that most of the **terrorist tunnels** had been destroyed and that the **ground forces were beginning to withdraw and would be redeployed outside the Gaza Strip to continue the operation**. A high-ranking officer said that the operation had not yet ended and that the IDF would continue operating on the ground even after the last tunnel had been
destroyed. He said if the attacks on Israel or the rocket fire continued, the IDF would respond accordingly and without limitations (Walla.co.il, August 3, 2014).

14. **Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon** told a press conference that the operation would continue and that the IDF would continue exerting all its force to achieve its objective: restoring long-term peace and quiet to the citizens of Israel by delivering a significant blow to the terrorist infrastructure (Website of the Israeli prime minister, August 2, 2014). The prime minister's statements and the redeployment of the IDF soldiers provoked reactions from Hamas:

1) **Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri** claimed that if Israel decided on a unilateral withdrawal, it was Hamas that would decide how to respond on the ground. He claimed that in any case Israel would pay the price whether it remained in the Gaza Strip or left it or negotiated (Maannews.net, August 2, 2014).

2) **Osama Hamdan**, responsible for Hamas' international relations, claimed that the withdrawal of the soldiers indicated that the ground operation had failed since Israel had achieved nothing but the killing of women and children and the loss of soldiers' lives. He further claimed that it was true that Hamas operatives had died and that "a tunnel here and there" had been destroyed (an attempt to minimize the damage done to Hamas' tunnel system). He claimed the unilateral withdrawal would not end the battle because it had "given the resistance space to complete its activities" (Al-Jazeera, August 2, 2014).

3) **Izzat al-Rishq**, a member of Hamas' political bureau, claimed on his Facebook page that Israeli prime minister's speech signified failure, defeat and confusion.

4) **Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum** claimed that the prime minister's speech was confused and indicated a genuine crisis, and that the prime minister wanted to create a fictitious victory. He claimed Hamas would continue the "resistance" until it achieved its goals. Hamas spokesman **Sami Abu Zuhri** made similar statements (AFP.com, and Alresala.net, August 2, 2014)
Air Attacks on Terrorist Targets Continue

15. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, more than 4,574 terrorist targets have been attacked in the Gaza Strip.

16. On August 2, 2014, Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked 200 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip, among them the following:

1) Sites for the manufacture and storage of weapons.

2) A rocket launcher from which rockets were fired at the center of Israel on the morning of August 2, 2014.

3) Terrorist tunnels.

4) Terrorist facilities and headquarters located in the houses of terrorist operatives.

5) Stockpiles of rockets and weapons concentrated in mosques.

6) A building in the Islamic University complex which was part of Hamas' military-terrorist infrastructure.¹

¹ During Operation Cast Lead the Israeli Air Force attacked a Hamas center for research and development situated in the Islamic University in Gaza City. The Islamic University is not only an ordinary academic institution, but also a Hamas political stronghold. It is used by Hamas' military-terrorist wing for many military purposes.
7) A Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist operative who headed the organization's internal security and the house of Khaled Manaame commander of the Hamas force in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City (IDF Spokesman, August 2, 2014).

17. On July 31, 2014, 110 terrorist targets were attacked, among them houses of senior terrorist operatives which served as command and control facilities for the terrorist organizations (IDF Spokesman, July 31, 2014).

![Image of the Islamic University administration building attacked by IAF aircraft (Alresala.net, August 2, 2014).](image)

**IDF and Civilian Losses**

18. **Sixty-four IDF soldiers and three civilians have been killed in Operation Protective Edge.** The soldiers killed between July 31 and August 2, 2014, were the following (IDF Spokesman, August 3, 2014):

1) **Captain Omri Tal**, 22, from Yehud. Soldier in the Armored Corps. Killed while operating on the border of the Gaza Strip.

2) **Captain Liran Adir (Edri)**, 31, from Ezuz. Soldier in the Armored Corps. Killed while operating on the border of the Gaza Strip.

3) **Sergeant First Class Daniel Marash**, 22, from Rishon Letzion. Soldier in the Armored Corps. Killed while operating on the border of the Gaza Strip.

4) **Staff Sergeant Shai Kushnir**, 20, from Kiryat Motzkin. Soldier in the Armored Corps. Killed while operating on the border of the Gaza Strip.
5) **Staff Sergeant Noam Rosenthal**, 20, from Meitar. Soldier in the Armored Corps. Killed while operating on the border of the Gaza Strip.


8) **Lieutenant Hadar Goldin**, 23, from Kfar Saba. Soldier in the Givati Brigade. Abducted during an operational activity in Rafah. The IDF's chief rabbi determined that in view of evidence found at the site of the abduction he was killed in battle.

### Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory

19. **Since the beginning of the operation approximately 2,555 rockets have hit Israeli territory**, 1,370 since the beginning of the ground operation. During the past few days rocket and mortar shell fire into Israel has continued, but the scope of rocket fire, especially long and medium range rockets, has decreased somewhat:

1) **On August 2, 2014**, 60 rocket hits were identified in Israeli territory. Most of the rockets fell in the western Negev. In the early morning hours rockets were fired targeting the center of Israel. One man in the western Negev was seriously wounded by a mortar shell.

2) **On August 1, 2014**, 35 rocket hits were identified in Israeli territory, most of them in the western Negev. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted a rocket in the skies over the central Israeli city of Ramla.

3) **On July 31, 2014**, 75 rocket hits were identified in Israeli territory. One man in Kiryat Gat was seriously wounded by shrapnel.
20. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the PIJ continue claiming responsibility for most of the rockets and mortar shells fired into Israeli territory and at the IDF forces operating in the Gaza Strip.

Israel Police Force demolitions experts deal with the rocket fragments (Israel Police Force, August 2, 2014).

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2 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does not include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
Hamas Trained Terrorist Operatives to Attack with Hang Gliders

21. On the night of July 20 an IDF force in the area of Qarara (Khan Yunis) detained the Hamas terrorist squad commander in the Khan Yunis battalion. During interrogation he said he had been trained to operate a hang glider to infiltrate Israel for an attack.

22. The operative said he had been recruited to the Hamas military-terrorist wing in 2007, and three years later was moved to a special force and sent to Malaysia for training in operating a hang glider. He said about ten other operatives from various battalions were sent with him. They spent a week training in Malaysia, and when they returned to the Gaza Strip they were called for additional training. All the operatives were warned to preserve secrecy. In 2014 he was summoned for further training (Shabak.gov.il, July 31, 2014).

23. Malaysia has denied training Hamas terrorist operatives. The Malaysian deputy minister of the interior claimed that Malaysia had never organized secret military training for Hamas operatives or any other foreign group except for countries with which it had formal agreements (Bernama.com, July 31, 2014).

24. Hamas publicized the denial. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades issued a press release claiming that the accusations were false and meant to sabotage international support for the Palestinians and influence Malaysia’s position on the Palestinians (Alresala.net, August 1, 2014).

The Gazan Population

25. According to ITIC information, 1,438 Gazans have been killed since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, August 3).

26. The distribution (not final, as of noon, August 3, 2014) of the 1,438 Palestinians killed is as follows:

1) 407 terrorist operatives:
   A. 222 Hamas operatives
   B. 123 PIJ operatives
   C. 62 operatives from other terrorist organizations

2) 452 non-involved Palestinians
3) 589 Palestinians whose identity is not yet known
Residents Begin Returning to Their Houses

27. In the early afternoon on August 2, 2014, the IDF permitted residents of Beit Lahia and Al-Atatra in the northern Gaza Strip to return to their houses, after they had been required to leave them at the beginning of the ground operation. Major General Poli Mordechai, the Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories, warned them they might find explosives left by Hamas around their houses. He said that in their absence Hamas had taken over residential buildings and kept explosives in them, planning to detonate them to attack IDF soldiers. He also made it clear that Hamas was exclusively responsible for the destruction and killing (IDF Spokesman, August 2, 2014).

The Humanitarian Situation in the Gaza Strip

28. According to reports from the Gaza Strip, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. In addition to difficulties in supplying water and electricity and the hundreds of thousands of internal refugees, there is a danger of disease due to crowding and the lack of sanitation facilities. According to a UNOCHA report, as of July 31, 2014, an estimated 450,000 Gazans left their houses and 236,375 of them are currently in official UNRWA installations. Others are staying with relatives and approximately 20,800 are housed in government schools or public buildings.

Rocket Fire from UNRWA Schools

29. John Ging, head of OCHA, told Canadian Broadcasting that “The armed groups [i.e. Hamas, the PIJ and other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip] are
firing their rockets into Israel from the vicinity of U.N. facilities and residential areas, absolutely.” Ging served as UNRWA director in Gaza from 2006 to 2011.³

Note: During Operation Protective Edge UNRWA made three reports stating that weapons had been found in its schools.

Rocket Fire from the Al-Shifa'a Hospital

30. On August 2, 2014, a Finnish correspondent told Finnish HUMAN SHIELD-TV that rockets were being fired from the parking lot behind the Al-Shifa'a Hospital in Gaza City (YouTube, August 2, 2014).

The Finnish correspondent reporting from Al-Shifa’a Hospital on rocket fire from the hospital's parking lot (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nu-e5qWXx-k)

The Crossings – Update

The Rafah Crossing

31. An Egyptian security source reported that on August 1 and 2, 2014, the Egyptian authorities closed the Rafah crossing after, they claimed, Israeli shells had fallen near the crossing on the Palestinian side. The source said that the authorities thought it better to close the crossing until the situation stabilized to protect the lives of the people working there and those using the crossing (DPA.de, August 1, 2014). The Hamas ministry of the interior later reported that the Rafah crossing had opened for holders of foreign passports. The crossings authority announced that the crossing

was open but workers could not reach it because of the tension in the region (Website of the Hamas ministry of the interior, August 2, 2014).

**Judea and Samaria**

**Hamas Tries to Provoke the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria**

32. In Judea and Samaria many riots and marches were held in support of the Gaza Strip, leading to violent confrontations with the Israeli security forces. A Palestinian in Tulkarm was killed. Marches and various events were held in the large cities, including Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Bethlehem and Ramallah.

*Left: Riots in Bethlehem. Right: Violent confrontations between Palestinians and the Israeli security forces (Wafa.ps, August 1, 2014).*
33. A campaign was held in Judea and Samaria to collect donations for the Gazans (PNN TV, August 2-3; Wafa.ps, August 3, 2014).

Contacts for a Ceasefire

33. According to the Turkish news agency Anadolu, on August 2, 2014, the PA delegation arrived in Cairo to begin indirect Egyptian-mediated negotiations with Israel. Members of the delegation included Azzam al-Ahmed, a member of Fatah's Central Committee, Majed Faraj, head of Palestinian general intelligence, and others. Reportedly, other members include representatives of Hamas and the PIJ who are
expected to arrive in the coming days (Aa.com.tr, August 2, 2014). Israel announced it would not send a delegation.

34. **Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** said that the Egyptian initiative was still valid and was a "genuine opportunity" for resolving the crisis in the Gaza Strip. He said it was based on **a lull in the fighting, the provision of aid to the Gaza Strip and starting negotiations**. He called on all the sides to invest effort in the matter immediately. He said that the Egyptian initiative could seriously resolve the problem and called on the parties involved not to pose conditions that would make the lull fail and keep aid from entering the Gaza Strip (Egyptian TV, August 2, 2014).

**The Propaganda and Legal Campaign**

Activity to Bring Israel to Trial

35. **Mahmoud Abbas** asked all the Palestinian organizations, including Hamas and the PIJ, for **written agreement** to formulate a lawsuit against Israel in the International Criminal Court in The Hague. He asked for agreement in writing because it is likely that if Hamas and the PIJ bring suit against Israel, **they will expose themselves to the same action**. According to reports, so far Hamas and the PIJ have not given their agreement (AP.org, July 31, 2014).
Three motorcycles found in a tunnel that extended from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory near the Karni crossing (IDF Spokesman, August 3, 2014). They were meant to help abduct Israelis and transport them rapidly to the Gaza Strip.

Overview of the Situation

1. The destruction of terrorist tunnels in the Gaza Strip is coming to an end. A considerable portion of the IDF forces have already withdrawn from combat areas in the Gaza Strip and redeployed near the border. During the past 24 hours there were fewer clashes between IDF forces and terrorist operatives but attempts were still being made to attack Israeli soldiers. Mortar shell fire continues to target the western Negev; rocket fire into Israeli territory continues (75 rocket hits identified on August 3, 2014). The humanitarian ceasefire unilaterally declared by Israel on August 4 was not respected and the rocket fire continued.

2. On August 3, 2014, Egyptian-mediated talks began in Cairo for a ceasefire arrangement. The talks were attended by a Palestinian delegation of representatives from the Palestinian Authority (PA), Hamas and other terrorist organizations (with the exception of those living in the Gaza Strip, who encountered problems in leaving). According to the media, the Palestinian delegation presented a list of combined Hamas-PA maximum demands. Hamas continued firing rockets during the talks to be able to exert pressure on Israel.
IDF Activity

Overview

3. During August 3, 2014 the IDF continued redeploying. A considerable portion of the IDF forces have already withdrawn from the Gaza Strip. The withdrawal is intended to allow the forces to organize for continuing its tasks, depending on an evaluation of the situation and its requirements. Even after the redeployment, activity continued in the Gaza Strip to locate and destroy terrorist tunnels and stop the rocket and mortar shell fire into Israeli territory. So far more than half of the terrorist tunnels located have been destroyed. Ground, air and sea forces also continue their activity to destroy the terrorist infrastructure constructed by Hamas and the other terrorist organizations (IDF Spokesman, August 4, 2014).

Humanitarian Ceasefire Declared

4. On August 4, 2014, Israel declared a seven-hour unilateral humanitarian ceasefire between 1000 and 1700 hours. It included the entire Gaza Strip with the exception of the eastern area of Rafah, where IDF activity continued. Israel called on the residents of the Khan Yunis neighborhoods of Abasan al-Kabira and Abasan al-Saghira to return to their houses.

5. In response to the Israeli declaration of a humanitarian ceasefire, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said it was a unilateral ceasefire whose objective was to draw attention away from what he called “Israel’s acts of slaughter.” He said Hamas did not trust the ceasefire and called on Gazans to be extremely careful (Al-Aqsa TV, August 4, 2014). A spokesman for the Hamas ministry of health told Gazans to be careful because the declaration of a ceasefire was unilateral and had not been agreed to by the Palestinian organizations (Facebook page of the spokesman for the ministry of the interior, August 4, 2014).

6. The latest ceasefire was also not respected by Hamas. As of noon, August 4, 2014, rocket and mortar shell fire continued to attack the western Negev, Ashqelon and Ashdod.

The Ground Operation

7. Along with the IDF’s redeployment of its forces, the ground operation in the Gaza Strip continues in a limited number of combat areas. Terrorist tunnels continue to be exposed and destroyed; IDF fighting with terrorist operatives also continues. As opposed to the first days of the ground operation, the scope of clashes between IDF
forces and terrorist operatives has lessened. Some of the main events were the following (IDF Spokesman, August 3, 2014):

1) An IDF force identified four terrorist operatives in the last stages of preparing to fire an anti-tank missile from inside a building. An armored force opened fire at the structure, which collapsed, killing the operatives.

2) An IDF force exposed 150 mortar shells and a tunnel shaft. During the activity a number of terrorist operatives were seen emerging from the shaft. IDF forces fired at the operatives, who escaped into a nearby building. Three operatives were killed. The forces exploded the tunnel.

3) An IDF force identified light arms fire coming from inside a building and returned fire. A terrorist operative was seen driving away. Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked the vehicle.

8. In a joint IDF-Israeli security forces operation, Daniel Kamal Mansour, commander of the northern Gaza Strip brigade of the military-terrorist wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), was attacked and killed. According to Israeli security sources he dealt with firing rockets into Israel and was responsible for the intelligence network in the northern Gaza Strip (NRG.co.il, August 4, 2014). The Jerusalem Brigades, the PIJ's military-terrorist wing, announced that Daniel Kamal Mansour, aka Abu Abdallah, the commander of the northern Gaza Strip brigade of the military wing and member of the military council, had been killed on the evening of August 3. He died in Israel's attack on the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip (Saraya.ps, August 4, 2014).
Military Equipment Found in a Tunnel Extending into Israeli Territory

9. On July 28, 2014, an IDF force clashed with a terrorist squad that emerged from a terrorist tunnel opening on the Israeli side of the border near the Karni crossing. Five IDF soldiers were killed. In the activity carried out to neutralize the tunnel, a large quantity of weapons was found. They included RPGs, gas masks, various types of grenades, mortar shells, ammunition, blocks of explosives ready for detonation, launchers, IEDs and Kalashnikov assault rifles. Three motorcycles were also found parked facing outward. They were apparently meant to be used to provide rapid transportation to the Gaza Strip after the abduction of Israelis. The tunnel was wide enough to accommodate them.

Air Attacks on Terrorist Targets Continue

10. In addition to the ground operation, the IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. So far, about 4,635 terrorist targets have been attacked in the Gaza Strip. On August 3, 2014, approximately 40 terrorist targets were attacked.

IDF and Civilian Losses

11. Sixty-four IDF soldiers and three civilians have been killed in Operation Protective Edge.
12. Since the beginning of the operation approximately 2,630 rockets have hit Israeli territory, 1,445 since the beginning of the ground operation. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted about 560 of them. During the past 24 hours, perhaps because of the IDF's redeployment and the start of the talks in Cairo, the scope of rocket and mortar shell fire into Israeli territory increased. On August 3, 2014, 75 rocket hits were identified, most of them in the western Negev. Rockets were also fired at Ashqelon, Ashdod and Beersheba. One barrage was fired at the center of Israel. Two civilians were wounded by mortar shell fire in one of the western Negev communities.

13. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military-terrorist wing, issued an announcement claiming responsibility for rocket fire targeting Tel Aviv, Beersheba and the southern city of Kiryat Malachi. According to the announcement, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades still had a sufficient quantity of weapons to make Israel surrender to the Palestinians' demands (Qassam.ps, August 3, 2014).

14. A CNN correspondent interviewed Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas' political bureau. Asked if Hamas would be willing to stop firing rockets and constructing tunnels, Khaled Mashaal said it was possible, if an arrangement could be reached with Israel. The correspondent said that according to Mashaal, he would agree to a long-term ceasefire if Hamas' demands were met (CNN.com, August 3, 2014).
Daily Distribution of Rocket Hits in Israeli Territory during Operation Protective Edge

Rocket Fire from the Sinai Peninsula

15. **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**, a Salafist organization affiliated with the global jihad, claimed responsibility for firing four rockets from the Sinai Peninsula at Ketziot (in Israel's south near the Egyptian border) on August 3, 2014. The organization also posted pictures of the rockets and launches. The rockets apparently landed in open areas (Facebook page of Adam D9 News, August 3, 2014).

\[\text{Graph showing daily distribution of rocket hits during Operation Protective Edge} \]

Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge, 2,630 rocket hits have been identified in Israel territory, 1,445 since the beginning of the ground operation.

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\[\text{Graph of daily rocket hits}\]

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\[\text{Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge, 2,630 rocket hits have been identified in Israel territory, 1,445 since the beginning of the ground operation.}\]

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\[1\] The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
The Gazan Population

16. According to ITIC information, **1,498 Gazans have been killed** since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, August 3).

17. The distribution (not final, as of noon, August 4, 2014) of the 1,498 Palestinians killed is as follows:

1) **453 terrorist operatives**:
   A. **244 Hamas operatives**
   B. **142 PIJ operatives**
   C. **67 operatives** from other terrorist organizations

2) **2) 466 non-involved Palestinians**

3) **579 Palestinians** whose identity is not yet known

Residents Begin Returning to Their Houses

18. Regarding the return of the civilian population to their houses, **IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Motti Almoz** said that the IDF had no desire to harm local residents. He said they could get organized and equip themselves with food and water. However, he said, Hamas was forcing civilians to remain in the combat areas (IDF Spokesman, August 4, 2014).

19. On the other hand, a spokesman for the Popular Resistance Committees called on the Gazans not to return to their houses in the areas from which the IDF had
withdrawn. He said that [calling on residents to return] was part of an Israeli tactic. He said the IDF had withdrawn from the region because of "resistance" attacks behind enemy lines that prevented the Israeli forces from entering Palestinian territory (Al-Jazeera, August 3, 2014).

**The Humanitarian Situation in the Gaza Strip**

20. Reports from the Gaza Strip indicate that the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. According to a UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) report issued on August 3, 2014, approximately 26% of Gazans have been displaced, water and electrical facilities have collapsed, the health system is on the verge of collapse. According to a report, contagious diseases have begun to appear. Despite the needs, financial aid has not yet arrived. The report calls for humanitarian ceasefires and the establishment of humanitarian corridors to enable the continuous work of health care workers (UNOCHA report, August 3, 2014).

21. According to an August 3, 2014 UNRWA report, 90 of its schools currently house 259,321 Gazans. The schools can house them for only a few days because they do not have appropriate sanitation facilities. In addition, UNRWA can occasionally supply three liters of drinking water per person daily, far less than the World Health Organization's standard of 9-15 liters a day (UNRWA.org, August 3, 2014).

Creative ways to charge cell phones in the absence of electricity (Ghaza al-A'an, August 2, 2014).
UNRWA School Hit

22. On August 3, 2014, the medical services in the Gaza Strip reported that ten people had been killed, most of them women and children, and dozens had been wounded when an UNRWA school in eastern Rafah was hit. The school serves as a shelter for 3,000 Gazans who left their houses. IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Motti Almoz said that the IDF was investigating the events. He said the IDF had been operating near the school, but that no IDF hit had been seen in the area and that there was no confirmation that an attack on the school had been carried out by IDF forces (IDF Spokesman, August 4, 2014).

23. The news of the hit on the school led to angry responses around the globe:

1) UNRWA's commissioner general said that the IDF had been informed of the school's location to ensure its safety. He said UNRWA had informed the IDF several times that they were using the school to shelter civilians who had left their houses. He called on the authorities in Israel to investigate the incident as well as two similar incidents of attacks on UNRWA schools (UNRWA.org, August 3, 2014).

2) UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon called the [alleged IDF] attack a criminal act and a moral outrage, and called for those responsible to be brought to trial for a gross violation of humanitarian law (UN.org, August 3, 2014).

3) The spokesperson for the American department of state said that "Israel must do more to meet its own standards and avoid civilian casualties. UN
facilities, especially those sheltering civilians, must be protected, and must not be used as bases from which to launch attacks. The suspicion that militants are operating nearby does not justify strikes that put at risk the lives of so many innocent civilians. We call for a full and prompt investigation of this incident as well as the recent shelling of other UNRWA schools” (State Department website, August 3, 2014).2

4) The Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs issued an announcement condemning the attack and saying that Egypt demanded an immediate end to the attacks on innocent civilians and that a ceasefire had to be reached (Youm7.com, August 3, 2014).

Rocket Fire from the Al-Shifa’a Hospital

24. A France 24 TV broadcast in Arabic from Al-Shifa’a Hospital on the night of August 2, 2014, reported the difficult conditions prevailing in the hospital. While the correspondent was reporting, a rocket was launched close to where she was standing. The shriek of the rocket and the flash of its launch could be clearly heard and seen (YouTube, August 3, 2014).

Left: The France 24 correspondent flinches away from the noise of the rocket launcher, and the flash can be seen. Right: The correspondent reporting from the Al-Shifa’a Hospital. Click https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuN6lzalalE for the video.

2 http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/230160.htm
The Crossings – Update

The Erez Crossing

25. Passage through the Erez crossing was coordinated for 24 patients and their escorts who were en route to medical treatment in hospitals in Judea and Samaria. Fifteen wounded Palestinians were transferred to hospitals after receiving primary treatment at the Israeli field hospital established at the crossing. On August 1, 2014, 30 doctors, 29 of them from Judea and Samaria and one from Israel, entered the Gaza Strip through the Erez crossing.

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

26. Throughout Operation Protective Edge the Kerem Shalom crossing has remained open, even after the ground operation began. It remained open despite the fact that it has been one of the sites most menaced by mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 1,552 trucks have entered the Gaza Strip through the crossing carrying food, medical equipment, diesel fuel for the power plant, gasoline for transportation and cooking gas (Cogat.idf.il, August 3, 2014).

27. On August 1, 2014, in light of the fighting in the Rafah area after the abduction of an Israeli officer, the Kerem Shalom crossing was closed because of its proximity to the battle zone. Ninety-one trucks carrying food, water and medicine could not enter the Gaza Strip and 19 repairs planned for the infrastructure were cancelled (ten of them repairs to the electrical grid) (Cogat.idf.il, August 3, 2014).

28. On August 3, 2014, 186 trucks entered the Gaza Strip, more than half of them carrying food. In addition, 3,000 units of blood for transfusion, water containers, generators, medical equipment, animal food, clothing and various types of fuel were also delivered.
The Rafah Crossing

29. On the evening of August 3, 2014, the Egyptians closed the Rafah crossing because of IAF attacks nearby. According to the Egyptians, the crossing will remain closed until the situation stabilizes and the lives of crossing workers and those using the crossing can be protected (Almasryalyoum.com, August 3, 2014).

Judea and Samaria

Violent Confrontations on the Temple Mount

30. When the Temple Mount opened to visitors on August 4, 2014, dozens of masked Palestinians began throwing rocks and firecrackers at Israeli policemen at the Mugrabi Gate. Police broke into the Temple Mount compound and detained the rioters. Five policemen sustained minor wounds. According to the Israel Police Force, masked Palestinians placed barricades at two mosque entrances to keep the doors from being closed. The police removed the barricades and gained control of the rioters (Facebook page of the Israel Police Force, August 4, 2014).
Call for "Resistance" [i.e., Violence and Terrorism]

Hamas continues inciting the residents of Judea and Samaria to acts of terrorism and violence. On August 2, 2014, the Islamic Bloc of Al-Najah University in Nablus posted a call on its Facebook page suggesting ways to "resist" (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc of Al-Najah University, August 2, 2014).

Contacts for a Ceasefire

31. According to the media, the Palestinian delegation (without representatives from the Gaza Strip) met with the Egyptians in Cairo to reach a unified position before the negotiations began. Senior Hamas figure izzat al-Rishq met with the head of Egyptian general intelligence, after which he said they had presented Egypt with Hamas' demands in writing. He said they asked the Egyptian to invest effort to meet the demands. The Palestinians intend to use the Egyptians as middlemen to inform
Israel of their demands (Egyptian TV and Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, August 3, 2014).

32. **Musa Abu Marzouq**, deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, said the Hamas delegation would participate in the talks in Cairo without representatives from the Gaza Strip, who could not leave because of security circumstances. He said Hamas wanted a ceasefire and the lifting of the siege. He said Hamas' participation in the delegation in Cairo was a great achievement and was potentially a new stage in Hamas' relations with Egypt (Alqudsnews.net, August 3, 2014).

33. **Saeb Erekat**, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said he had the signatures of all the members of Fatah on a document stating that Mahmoud Abbas should sign the Rome Convention. He said that when he was in Qatar he had even shown the document to Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas' political bureau. Khaled Mashaal, he said, told him Hamas would discuss the matter. However, Hamas had yet to sign (Palestinian TV, August 3, 2014). *(Note: Mahmoud Abbas asked all the Palestinian organizations to agree in writing to legal procedures undertaken by the Palestinians because if Hamas and the PIJ lodged a suit against Israel in international courts, they themselves could also be liable to suits).*
Video Depicting the Weapons in the Hands of Hamas' Military-Terrorist Wing

34. On August 3, 2014, Hamas' military-terrorist wing issued a video called "Surprise." It showed a "Ghoul" sniper rifle, named for Adnan al-Ghoul, who had been a senior Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operative and the right hand of Muhammad Deif, the head of the Brigades. According to the video the rifle has a diameter of 14.5mm and a range of two kilometers (about a mile and a quarter). The video showed four events in which the rifle was allegedly used in Operation Protective Edge (Qassam.ps, August 3, 2014).

Left: An Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operative fires a "Ghoul" rifle. Right: A "Ghoul" rifle barrel and ammunition on a Hamas-affiliated flag.
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 20
(As of 1200 hours, August 5, 2014)

Overview of the Situation

1. On August 5, 2014, a 72-hour ceasefire went into effect, initiated by Egypt and agreed to by Israel and Hamas. The IDF Spokesman reported that IDF forces were about to complete their withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and to redeploy along the border. He also reported that all the terrorist tunnels known to the IDF had been destroyed. Talks began in Cairo, attended by a Palestinian delegation, for arrangement. The Israeli media reported that an Israeli delegation is expected to leave for Cairo soon.

2. On August 4, 2014, the level of friction between the IDF and the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip declined, the result of the unilateral ceasefire declared by Israel. However, the terrorist organizations continued firing rockets and mortar shells into Israeli territory (80 rocket hits were identified on August 4). In addition, two terrorist attacks were carried out in Jerusalem (a vehicular attack and a shooting attack). A stabbing attack was carried out at the entrance to the city of Maale Adumim in Judea (east of Jerusalem) on August 5.
Terrorist Attacks in Jerusalem

Overview

3. On August 4, 2014, **two terrorist attacks were carried out in Jerusalem**: a vehicular attack involving a 360-degree excavator and a shooting attack. One Israeli civilian was killed and several were injured. An attack may have been prevented when an IDF force detained a Palestinian at the Hawara roadblock (south of Nablus). The Palestinian had three knives in his possession. An attack may also have been planned for Tel Aviv, and the police raised an alert and asked local residents to be wary (Walla.co.il, August 4, 2014).

Vehicular Attack in Jerusalem

4. In the early afternoon of August 4, 2014, a 360-degree excavator was driven off a building site in the center of Jerusalem by a Palestinian terrorist and used to run over a nearby pedestrian. The driver than used the excavator's blade to overturn a bus. The bus was empty except for the driver and another employee of the company. The two sustained minor injuries and managed to leave the bus. A member of the Israel Prison Service shot and killed the terrorist, **Muhammad Naif Jabis**, from Jabal Mukaber. He had a criminal record and was known to the police.

5. The victim of the vehicular attack was an Orthodox Jew named Avraham Walles, 29, married and father of five, from the neighborhood of Mea Shearim in Jerusalem. He belonged to the Toldos Aharon Hasidic movement. Five other people were injured (not seriously) in the attack.

Left: The excavator used in the attack. Right: Avraham Walles, killed in the attack (Police.gov.il, August 4, 2014)
6. It was not the first time heavy construction equipment was used in Jerusalem for a vehicular attack. Such attacks are a familiar component of the so-called "non-violent" popular resistance, are relatively lethal and are generally carried out by lone terrorists. Between 2000 and 2008 approximately 20 vehicular attacks were carried out, killing 15 people. Conspicuous among them were three vehicular attacks in Jerusalem, two using heavy equipment, in which three people were killed and about 100 wounded (Israel Security Agency website, "Analysis of Attacks in the Last Decade").

7. Hamas spokesmen praised the attack and called for more of the same:

1) Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said that the attack was "a daring resistance act" and the natural reaction to Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip. He called for the increase of all forms of "resistance" [i.e., violence and terrorism] throughout Palestine (Alresala.net, August 4, 2014). In a recent interview, Fawzi Barhoum called on the residents of Judea and Samaria to overcome their political disagreements, declare a "struggle," take their vehicles and "run over Jews and kill scores of Zionists" (Alquds.com, July 30, 2014).

2) Hamas spokesman Husam Badran praised the "heroic act." He said it was the natural response to Israel's [so-called] "crimes" in the Gaza Strip, which authorized the Palestinians to respond with the means they had at their disposal. He said that in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria there was room for more such acts (Al-Aqsa TV, August 4, 2014).

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1 For further information see the October 22, 2013 ITIC bulletin "Vehicular Attacks: Modus Operandi Considered by the Palestinians as Part of the Popular Resistance in Judea and Samaria."
Shooting Attack on Mt. Scopus

8. On the afternoon of August 4 a man dressed in black shot a soldier waiting at a bus stop near the Mt. Scopus tunnel. A security guard near the soldier tried to shoot back but the terrorist escaped on a motorcycle. Police forces tried to locate him but so far have not been successful. The soldier, shot in the stomach, was critically wounded and evacuated to a hospital.

IDF Activity

IDF Activity in View of the Ceasefire

9. On the evening of August 4, 2014, Major General Sammy Turgeman, commander of the Southern Command, announced that the task of destroying the tunnels extending into Israeli territory would soon come to an end. He said that most of the tunnels known to the IDF had been destroyed, including those exposed during the ground operation (IDF Spokesman, August 4, 2014).

10. Later the same evening it was reported that Israel had accepted the Egyptian proposal for a 72-hour, unconditional ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, beginning on August 5 at 0800 hours. It was also reported that in the near future an Israeli delegation would leave for Cairo for talks for a long-term, stable ceasefire.

11. Brigadier General Motti Almoz announced that the IDF would soon complete its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and redeploy along the border. He said the withdrawal was not a condition for a ceasefire but an Israeli decision made on the basis of operational considerations (IDF Spokesman, August 5, 2014).

12. At 0800 hours on August 5, after 29 days of Operation Protective Edge, and after the IDF announced that all the known terrorist tunnels had been destroyed, the ceasefire went into effect. A few minutes before 0800 hours Israel was attacked by a heavy barrage of rocket fire. So far, the ceasefire is still in force.

Israel’s Unilateral Humanitarian Ceasefire

13. On August 4, 2014, Israel unilaterally announced a seven-hour humanitarian ceasefire between the hours of 1000 and 17000. The ceasefire was not honored by the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip. While there were fewer clashes between IDF forces and terrorist operatives, throughout the day rocket and mortar shell fire continued targeting Israeli territory. The IDF continued destroying terrorist tunnels.
14. The security forces of the terrorist organizations warned Gazans not to be drawn in by Israeli announcements about a ceasefire and not to be less careful because of Israel's "deception" (Paltoday.ps, August 5, 2014).

15. During the past 24 hours, until the ceasefire went into effect, Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge about 4,720 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip have been attacked.

16. Sixty-four IDF soldiers and three civilians have been killed in Operation Protective Edge. Ninety-seven soldiers are still hospitalized, nine of them in critical condition.

17. Since the beginning of the operation approximately 2,710 rockets have hit Israeli territory, 1,525 since the beginning of the ground operation. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted about 570 of them. During the IDF's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and redeployment, the scope of rocket and mortar shell fire into Israel again increased.
18. On August 4, 2014, **80 rocket hits were identified in Israeli territory. Most of the rockets fell in the communities near the Gaza Strip and in the western Negev.** In addition, several dozen mortar shells were fired at the communities near the Gaza Strip and at the IDF forces deployed along the border. An IDF soldier sustained minor shrapnel wounds from a mortar shell.

19. On the morning of August 5, 2014, a few minutes before the ceasefire went into effect, a barrage of rockets was fired into Israel. About 20 rockets were launched at the communities around the Gaza Strip, Ashdod, Ashqelon, Kiryat Malachi, Gan Yavne, Maale Adumim, Rishon Letzion and Rehovot. Rocket fragments were found in the heart of Jerusalem and a building in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, was hit. Hamas' military-terrorist wing issued a statement claiming responsibility for the rocket fire on August 5, minutes before the ceasefire began.

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The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades claim of responsibility for the rocket fire (Qassam.ps, August 5, 2014).
Fragments of M75 rockets found in the region of Jerusalem. Left: "M75" can be seen printed on the rocket (Facebook page of Israel's "Red Alert," August 5, 2014)

Daily Distribution of Rocket Hits in Israeli Territory during Operation Protective Edge²

Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge, 2,710 rocket hits have been identified in Israel territory, 1,525 since the beginning of the ground operation.

² The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
20. According to ITIC information, **1,552 Gazans have been killed** since the beginning of the operation (as of noon, August 5).

21. The distribution (not final, as of noon, August 4, 2014) of the 1,552 Palestinians killed is as follows:

1) **467 terrorist operatives**:
   - **254 Hamas operatives**
   - **147 PIJ operatives**
   - **66 operatives** from other terrorist organizations

2) **480 non-involved Palestinians**

3) **605 Palestinians** whose identity is not yet known

## The Humanitarian Situation in the Gaza Strip

22. Reports from the Gaza Strip indicate that **the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate**. According to a UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) report, about 485,000 Gazans have been displaced, approximately 27% of the population. About 260,000 Gazans have found shelter in 90 UNRWA schools. UNRWA reported difficulties with supplies of food, water, and sanitation and cleaning materials for Gazans sheltered in their schools. It was also reported that the cost of rebuilding the schools and the houses of Gazans destroyed in the operation was estimated at $380 million (UNRWA.org, August 3, 2014).

23. **Mufid al-Hasayneh**, minister of public works and housing in the national consensus government, claimed that rebuilding the Gaza Strip could be expected to reach $5 billion. He claimed that 10,000 houses had been completely destroyed and 30,000 had been damaged. The infrastructure had been damaged, including the water and sewage systems, as well as government buildings, mosques, police stations, diesel fuel tanks used by the power plant, etc. (Maannews.net, August 4, 2014). **Jawad Awad**, minister of health in the national consensus government, met with a Red Cross delegation and demanded it continue its activities in the Gaza Strip and that it protect the Gazans. He also asked that the Red Cross answer the complaints of Gazans regarding the slowness of its response to their calls for help (Aa.com.tr, August 4, 2014).
24. Given the difficult humanitarian situation, aid convoys and shipments are being organized for the Gaza Strip, among them the following:

1) **The Palestinian Authority (PA) representative in South Africa** reported that a medical delegation was being organized which would include 39 doctors, male nurses and orderlies, as well as media personnel. The delegation would bring medical equipment for three hospitals (Maannews.net, August 4, 2014).

2) **A plane from Italy** is supposed to land in Israel bringing tents, blankets, batteries, containers of water and medicines. The material will enter the Gaza Strip through Israel (Wafa.ps, August 4, 2014).

3) **A PA delegation headed by Mustafa Barghouti**, secretary general of the National Palestinian Initiative, arrived in the Gaza Strip. According to Barghouti, entering the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing was not easy because of the Israeli activity in the area (Maannews.net, August 4, 2014).

Gazans return to their houses in the ruins of Ikhza’ (Ghaza al-A’an, August 5, 2014).
The Crossings – Update

The Erez Crossing

25. So far 50 Palestinians have received medical treatment at the field hospital Israel erected at the crossing. Hamas continues to prevent Gazans from reaching the crossing for treatment.

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

26. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 1,737 trucks have entered the Gaza Strip through the crossing carrying food, medical equipment, diesel fuel for the power plant, gasoline for transportation and cooking gas (Cogat.idf.il, August 4, 2014).
The Rafah Crossing

27. Close sources reported that Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi objected to any attempt to include the opening of the Rafah crossing in the negotiations. He also objects to any international management of the crossing or any attempt to force Egypt to open it at specific times. He requested that the discussion about opening the crossing be postponed until after the negotiations had ended. Regarding the ceasefire he said that only Egypt and the PA would coordinate the issue (Al-Akhbar.com, August 4, 2014).

Judea and Samaria

28. Calls continue to be heard in Judea and Samaria for Palestinians to demonstrate and hold events in support of the Gaza Strip. The Islamic Bloc of Al-Najah University in Nablus posted an invitation on its Facebook page asking people to come to a demonstration in support of the Gazans on August 4, 2014. The invitation was issued by Hamas under the heading "No bargaining over the weapon of the resistance." Many Palestinians attended the demonstration, where green Hamas-affiliated flags were waved and models of rockets were carried (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc of Al-Najah University, August 4, 2014).
Contacts for a Ceasefire

29. **Egypt** appealed to Israel, the PA and all the Palestinian terrorist organizations to agree to a 72-hour ceasefire, which could be extended. The ceasefire went into effect at 0800 hours on August 5, 2014. While it is in effect high-level delegations from both sides will meet to implement the Egyptian initiative (MENA.org.eg, August 4, 2014).

30. **Israel** accepted the Egyptian initiative for a ceasefire. Cabinet members were informed of the prime minister’s decision to accept the proposal. It was also reported that in the near future an Israeli delegation would leave for Cairo for talks for a long-term, stable ceasefire.

31. **Azzam al-Ahmad**, a member of the PLO’s Central Committee who heads the Palestinian delegation to Egypt, claimed the Palestinian delegation had agreed to a ceasefire but stressed that there would be no direct negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations (Wafa.ps, August 4, 2014). He reported that Egypt had formulated a two-part proposal: a 72-hour ceasefire and the cessation of all military activity, after which a permanent ceasefire would be reached (Palestinian TV, August 4, 2014). Regarding the disarmament of the Gaza Strip, Azzam al-Ahmad claimed that Mahmoud Abbas had made it particularly clear to John Kerry that the issue of disarming the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip was out of the question and that the Palestinians would never agree to it (Al-Jazeera, August 4, 2014).

32. Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) responded as follows:
1) Senior Hamas figure **Izzat al-Rishq** reported that Hamas had agreed to a 72-hour ceasefire. He said that while it was in effect indirect negotiations would take place in Cairo regarding the terms of a lull. It would be based on the demands the Palestinian delegation had presented to Egypt (Facebook page of Izzat al-Rishq, August 5, 2014).

2) Hamas spokesman **Sami Abu Zuhri** said the Hamas document included "the cessation of all forms of aggression towards the Gaza Strip" and the lifting of the [so-called Israeli] siege. He claimed the precondition for the ceasefire was the withdrawal of all the Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip (Al-Aqsa TV, August 5, 2014).

3) **Ziyad al-Nakhaleh**, deputy PIJ secretary general, claimed the ceasefire met the demands of the Palestinian people, which were an end to Israeli aggression and the lifting of the siege. He claimed Egypt understood the Palestinians' demands and had agreed to them (Paltoday.ps, August 4, 2014).

### The Propaganda and Legal Campaign

#### Promoting Legal Procedures

33. **Saeb Erekat**, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, claimed he had begun consulting with legal experts in preparation for the PA's appealing to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. He claimed he would arrive in London in the near future to discuss the matter. He claimed he was still waiting for a response from Hamas and the PIJ regarding their signing a document authorizing Mahmoud Abbas to join the Rome Convention (Palestinian TV, August 4, 2014). The PA is postponing its appeal to the ICC until it receives formal authorization from Hamas and the PIJ out of concern that an appeal to the ICC will expose the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip to suits.

34. However, Hamas spokesman **Musheir al-Masri** claimed not to understand the excuse Mahmoud Abbas was using to avoid appealing to the ICC. He said Mahmoud Abbas had every possibility of doing so in view of the proof he had. He claimed that Hamas had encouraged and pushed the PA to appeal to the ICC and that no delay was justified (Al-Aqsa, August 4, 2014).
Calls to Remove the Al-Jazeera Correspondent from the Gaza Strip

35. Social network activists called for the expulsion of **Nick Schifrin**, Al-Jazeera's correspondent in English, from the Gaza Strip because of what they called his "unprofessional coverage of the events." They claimed his coverage was biased toward Israel and that he had adopted Israel's position towards the attacks on Gaza. They also claimed that his reporting had revealed the location of rocket launching sites (Palpress.ps, August 4, 2014). On July 31, 2014, Schifrin, who serves as the Al-Jazeera director in Jerusalem, reported that a building near his hotel was attacked immediately after he finished his report. **He also said that rockets had been fired an estimated 80-100 meters (or about 88-110 yards) from the building, and that showed how close rocket launchers were to residential neighborhoods.**
Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 21
(As of 1200 hours, August 6, 2014)\(^1\)

The IDF deploys along the Gaza Strip border (IDF Spokesman, August 5, 2014)

Overview

Overview of the Situation

1. The ceasefire that went into effect at 0800 hours on August 5 continues. The IDF completed the destruction of 32 tunnels extending under the border into Israeli territory, withdrew its forces from the Gaza Strip and redeployed them in a defensive line along the border. Negotiations to reach an arrangement are being held in Cairo, joined by representatives of Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and other terrorist organizations from the Gaza Strip. The Israeli media reported that a three-man Israeli delegation had also arrived in Egypt and met with Egyptian mediators.

IDF Activity

Ceasefire Declared

2. At 0800 hours on August 5, 2014, a ceasefire was declared. The IDF withdrew its forces from the Gaza Strip and redeployed in a defensive line along the border. So far large numbers of forces are deployed ready for action according to operational

\(^1\) In view of the ceasefire and the beginning of the talks in Cairo, the ITIC will no longer issue daily updates for Operation Protective Edge. Relevant updates will appear in the weekly News of Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict bulletin posted every Tuesday or in ad hoc bulletins according to developments.
necessity. Rocket fire attacking Israel from the Gaza Strip continued until a few minutes before the ceasefire went into effect (IDF Spokesman, August 5, 2014).

3. **Major General Sammy Turgeman**, commander of the Southern Command, said that the IDF had located and destroyed all the tunnels leading into Israel. He said Hamas had been constructing the tunnels for years and had invested millions of dollars, and that they had been destroyed in two weeks. He added that the IDF had fought professionally, admirably and with determination against the challenges, with included combat in densely-populated areas, a vast underground tunnel network, anti-tank missiles, mortar shells, sniper fire, and booby-trapped buildings and streets. He said the operation had not ended and that the forces were still prepared to carry out any mission. He warned Hamas that it would make an enormous mistake if it violated the ceasefire. He called on the residents of southern Israel to return to their homes, saying they could feel secure and calm, and that the IDF had the capability and strength to provide them with security (IDF Spokesman, August 5, 2014).

4. **Ismail Haniya**, deputy head of the Hamas' political bureau, issued a statement read by a presenter on TV claiming that what Israel had not achieved on the ground during the operation it would not under any circumstances achieve in the political arena. Hamas, he claimed, had dealt with the political maneuvers with a great deal of responsibility while maintaining contact with Qatar and Turkey, and later with Egypt. He also claimed that the Hamas delegation was operating within the overall Palestinian delegation to end the siege of the Gaza Strip (Al-Aqsa TV, August 5, 2014).

5. **The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades**, Hamas' military-terrorist wing, issued a statement claiming that although a ceasefire had been declared, its forces were still on alert and the campaign continued. It would not end, the statement continued, until Israel surrendered to the Palestinians' demands and restored their rights. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades also stated that it regarded the current stage [i.e., the 72-hour ceasefire] as temporary and that Israel's conduct would determine the progress of the campaign and its consequences (Qassam.ps, August 5, 2014).
IDF Activity

6. During the 29 days of fighting, the IDF forces dealt a significant blow to the terrorist infrastructures of Hamas, the PIJ and the other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip. **Thirty-two known tunnels used for terrorist purposes were destroyed.**

Until the ceasefire went into effect, Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. During the operation 4,762 terrorist targets were attacked from the air (IDF Spokesman, August 6, 2014).

IDF and Civilian Losses

7. Sixty-four IDF soldiers and three civilians were killed in Operation Protective Edge. One civilian was killed in a terrorist attack in Jerusalem. About 450 soldiers and 80 civilians were wounded.

Rocket Fire into Israeli Territory

8. On the morning of August 5, 2014, a few minutes before the ceasefire began, a barrage of rockets was fired into Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip. About 20 rockets were fired at the western Negev, Ashdod, Ashqelon, Kiryat Malachi, Gan Yavne, Maale Adumim, Rishon Letzion and Rehovot. Rocket fragments fell in the heart of Jerusalem. The Palestinian media reported that a rocket hit a building in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, causing extensive damage to the building and to the electrical grid (Maannews.net, August 5, 2014). Hamas’ military-terrorist wing claimed responsibility for the rocket fire on August 5 during the few minutes before the ceasefire. According
to the announcement, the barrage was fired in response to IDF activity in the Shati and Rafah refugee camps (Qassam.ps, August 5, 2014).

The house in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, hit by a Hamas rocket (Alquds.com, August 4, 2014).

9. During Operation Protective Edge 2,710 rockets hit Israeli territory, 1,525 during the ground operation. The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted more than 580 of them. In ITIC assessment Approximately 20% more can be added to the number of rockets fired to account for rocket launchings that failed (some of which landed inside the Gaza Strip and caused damage). Thus the total number of rockets fired to attack Israel was more than 3,000. More than half the rockets were short-range rockets that targeted the western Negev. In addition, massive mortar shell fire targeted the western Negev.
Instructions from the Ministry of the Interior in the Gaza Strip

10. On the night of August 5, 2014, the ministry of the interior in the Gaza Strip posted a notice on its Facebook page warning Palestinians not to divulge information about terrorist operatives ("resistance" casualties) who were killed during Operation Protective Edge. That was because, claimed the announcement, the "occupation" [i.e., Israel] was collecting all the information and reports [about casualties] and would use them as evidence to "justify its crimes against [Palestinian] civilians." The objectives of the instructions were, on the one hand, to preserve the image of "victory" Hamas is trying to establish, and on the other, to significantly inflate the number of civilian casualties to smear Israel and exert media, political and legal pressure on it.3

During Operation Protective Edge 2,710 rocket hits were identified in Israel territory, 1,525 during the ground operation.

2 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
3 For further information see the August 6, 2014 bulletin "War of the Casualties: the Hamas-controlled ministry of the interior in the Gaza Strip issued a warning not to divulge information about terrorist operatives killed in Operation Protective Edge."
The Humanitarian Situation in the Gaza Strip

11. The Palestinian media reported that with the withdrawal of the IDF and the beginning of the ceasefire, Gazans living near the Israeli border had begun returning to their houses. According to the reports, the Gazans were stunned by the extent of the destruction and rescue forces were still working to find bodies under the rubble. The civil defense apparatus asked all owners of heavy vehicles to help clear the rubble (Paltoday.ps, August 5, 2014).

12. UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness reported that the number of Gazans sheltered in UNRWA installations had declined, and that 50,000 had left the shelters and returned to their houses. According to the report there are currently 216,082 civilians in 90 UNRWA installations. Gunness said that the level of destruction in the Gaza Strip was without precedent and that changes had to be made in the aid policy to make it possible to rebuild. He said that the import of building materials into the Gaza Strip had to be permitted (Twitter account of Chris Gunness, August 5, 2014).

13. The president of the International Red Cross is currently visiting the Gaza Strip to assess damages. He said it would take days and weeks to provide a response to the humanitarian issues in the Gaza Strip, and that it would be necessary to hold talks with Israel regarding the delivery of as much aid as possible (CNN.com, August 5, 2014).
14. **Rami Hamdallah**, prime minister of the Palestinian national consensus government, hosted Pierre Krähenbühl, UNRWA commissioner-general, in his office in Ramallah and updated him on the situation in the Gaza Strip. He said the Palestinian government was committed to providing all the necessary aid. Krähenbühl said that UNRWA was willing to collaborate with the Palestinian government, adding that it was time to discuss who would sit on the committee examining the situation in the Gaza Strip and the possibilities for rebuilding it (Alhayat-j.com, August 5, 2014).

15. **Ms. Pernille Ironside**, head of UNICEF'S field office in the Gaza Strip, said that reconstruction would require hundreds of millions of dollars. She said that 142 schools, 89 of them run by the United Nations, had been damaged. She also asked for increased international support, saying that "The international community cannot accept the rebuilding of Gaza on the same terms as before" (Nytimes.com, August 5, 2014).4

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Residents of Rafah and Shejaiya return to their houses (Wafa.ps, August 5, 2014).

**The Crossings – Update**

**The Kerem Shalom Crossing**

16. Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 1,904 trucks have entered the Gaza Strip through the crossing carrying food, medical equipment, diesel fuel for the power plant, gasoline for transportation and cooking gas. On August 4, 2014, 167 trucks entered the Gaza Strip carrying 3,361 tons of supplies including food, medicine, humanitarian equipment and agricultural supplies (Cogat.idf.il, August 5, 2014). In view of the ceasefire, the number of trucks can be expected to increase. During the operation drivers on both sides of the crossing encountered difficulties in reaching it to deliver and receive merchandise because of the fighting.

**Judea and Samaria**

**Stabbing Attack near Maale Adumim**

17. At around **noon on August 5, 2014**, a security guard at the entrance to Maale Adumim (east of Jerusalem) was stabbed, apparently by a Palestinian, who fled in a vehicle. The Palestinian approached the roadblock holding a bag that aroused the suspicions of the security guards stationed there. When one of the guards asked to examine the bag, the Palestinian took out a knife, stabbed him and fled. The guard, 55 years old, was seriously wounded and evacuated to a hospital. Israeli security forces found a taxi similar to the description of the vehicle in which the stabber fled, and detained three suspects, one of whom answered the description of the attacker (Ynetnews.co.il, August 5, 2014).
Boycott of Israel-Made Products

18. The Palestinian society for consumer protection initiated a campaign to remove Israeli-made products from the shelves of stores in Palestinian cities and to encourage the sales of Palestinian-made and imported merchandise. The society claimed that the money Palestinians paid for Israeli products eventually reached the IDF and purchased weapons used against the Palestinian people. The campaign has already begun in Bitunia, Hebron and Tulkarm (PNN TV, August 5, and Wafa.ps, August 6, 2014).
Information Revealed about the Perpetrators of the Abduction and Murder of the Three Israeli Youths in Gush Etzion

19. The Israeli media reported that the Israel Security Agency (ISA) had detained Husam al-Qawasmeh, a Hamas terrorist operative involved in the abduction and murder of the three Israeli youths in Gush Etzion in June. According to the report he handled the abductors and helped them bury the bodies of the victims. During interrogation Husam al-Qawasmeh admitted that he had received money from Hamas operatives in the Gaza Strip to fund the attack (Israel Channel 10 TV, August 5, 2014).

20. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri issued a press release claiming that the news item reported by Israeli Channel 10 TV, that Husam al-Qawasmeh had received money from Hamas in the Gaza Strip, was false. He claimed Hamas did not know anyone named Husam al-Qawasmeh and that the news had been broadcast to "confuse the media" and draw attention away from what was being done in the Gaza Strip (Aa.com.tr, August 5, 2014).

Contacts for a Ceasefire

21. A 72-hour ceasefire went into effect at 0800 hours on August 5, 2014. So far it was not been violated. The Israel media reported that a three-man Israeli delegation arrived in Cairo and had met with Egyptian mediators (Haaretz.co.il, August 6, 2014).

22. On the night of August 5, 2014, an eight-man Palestinian delegation of representatives of Hamas, the PIJ and other terrorist organizations left the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing (Alquds.com, Al-Watan.com, August 5, 2014). Khalil al-Haya, a member of Hamas' political bureau, one of the representatives from the Gaza Strip, claimed they were going to negotiations that would end the siege once and for all. He also said that they were going to the negotiations "with their fingers on the trigger" (Al-Jazeera, August 5, 2014).

23. Osama Hamdan, in charge of Hamas' international relations, claimed comprehensive negotiations would begin as soon as the Israeli delegation arrived. He said that the Palestinians were united in their demands, and claimed that all the demands had been put on the agenda, including the issue of air and sea ports. He admitted that the Palestinian organizations were facing a difficult political campaign with Israel, no less difficult than the military battle (Alaraby.co.uk, August 5, 2014).
24. **Ziyad al-Nakhaleh**, PIJ deputy secretary general, claimed he expected good results would come from the talks in Cairo in view of the Egyptian position. He claimed the Palestinians had transmitted their demands to the Egyptians so they could transmit them to the Israelis. He claimed Israel had lost its deterrent capability during the operation because of the improvements in the capabilities of the "resistance" [i.e., terrorist organizations] (Maannews.net, August 6, 2014).

25. **Riyadh al-Maliki**, foreign minister in the national consensus government, arrived in Holland, where he met with **Fatou Bensouda**, the attorney general of the International Criminal Court (ICC). He said he had been sent by Mahmoud Abbas to examine and study the bureaucratic procedures the PA would have to follow to join the Rome Convention (Wafa.ps, August 5, 2014).

26. After meeting the attorney general Riyadh al-Maliki held a press conference where he claimed the PA's situation allowed it to sign the Rome Convention, and that the decision to do so would be made soon. However, he also said he did not mean "tomorrow or the day after." He claimed the "slaughter" [allegedly] carried out by Israel during the operation had forced the PA to approach the ICC. He also claimed that the Palestinians were prepared to bear the results of an investigation into the actions of the Palestinian organizations in the Gaza Strip because "they cannot be compared to the actions taken by Israel" (Al-Jazeera, August 5, 2014).

27. **Muhammad Ashtiya**, a member of Fatah's Central Committee, claimed that the PA had prepared a "sheet of accusations" against Israel, and that the Palestinian leadership was in the last stages of preparing to appeal to the ICC. He claimed all the Palestinian organizations would sign the accusations and that Hamas, which had not yet signed, was currently deliberating the issue (Aa.com.tr, August 5, 2014).

28. **Navi Pillay**, the UN high commissioner for human rights in Geneva, condemned Israel's alleged attacks on schools, hospitals, places of worship and the infrastructure, including the Gaza Strip's only power plant. She said that in view of the great evidence of war crimes allegedly committed by Israel, and the large number of civilian casualties, an investigation had to be conducted to determine if international humanitarian law had been violated or even if war crimes had been committed (Ohchr.org, August 5, 2014).
29. Ms. Pillay also condemned the rocket fire into Israel by "armed groups in the Gaza Strip" (without mentioning Hamas and other terrorist organizations by name). She said it was forbidden to situate weapons and carry out attacks from densely-populated civilian areas. She also said that any violation of the laws of war by one side did not release the other side from its obligation to protect civilians. She said the international community had joint responsibility not to exempt such acts from punishment, and the events that occurred during the operation had to be presented in court. She added that it was unlikely that justice would be served by only domestic proceedings (Ohchr.org, August 5, 2014).

"Images of Victory" (Cold Comfort...)

30. On August 5, 2014, various Palestinian Facebook pages posted pictures of civilian, mostly children from east Khan Yunis, with IDF equipment soldiers apparently left behind (Facebook pages of the Palestine Network, August 5, and Paltoday.tv, August 6, 2014).

Foreign Correspondents in the Gaza Strip Report on Rocket Fire from Populated Areas

31. During Operation Protective Edge several Gaza-based correspondents reported rocket fire from the densely-populated areas in which they stayed. The areas included the Al-Shifa'a Hospital and the hotel in which foreign media personnel were lodged. Two current examples follow:

1) On August 5, 2014, Gallagher Fenwick, a correspondent for France 24 TV, reported on rocket fire. He said the rockets were launched about 50 meters (about 55 yards) from the hotel where he and most of the foreign media
correspondents in the Gaza Strip were stationed and about 100 meters (about 110 yards) from a UN building, which was flying the UN flag at the time (See picture). He reported that Israel had repeated noted that the Palestinians were locating the rocket launchers in a densely-populated civilian area. The video included a clip of a previous rocket previous launched when he was standing nearby (France 24, August 5, 2014).

2) After he left the Gaza Strip, a correspondent for the Indian TV channel NDTV released a video he had photographed from his hotel room on at 0630 hours on August 4, 2014. The video shows a group of military operatives in an abandoned plot of land near the hotel. The operatives can be seen moving under a blue tent erected to hide their actions [possibly because blue would be associated with the UN by anyone who saw it]. After positioning the rocket launcher under the sand, laying cables and preparing it for firing, they removed the tent, covered the location with branches, changed their clothing and left. The following day the correspondent documented rocket fire from the same location, and when he tried to reach the launching site he asked not to approach.
Left: The blue tent erected to hide the operatives. Right: The correspondent next to the window in his hotel room. Bottom: He tries to approach to launch site. Click https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_ihf2omMX4 for the video.
August 10, 2014

Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 22
(As of 1200 hours, August 10, 2014)

Overview of the Situation

1. After the official end of the 72-hour ceasefire the Palestinian terrorist organizations resumed firing rockets and mortar shells into Israeli territory. Most of the rocket fire targeted the western Negev, but rockets also hit Beersheba and Ashqelon (45 rocket hits on August 8, 30 on August 9, rockets targeted the western Negev and Ashqelon on August 10).

2. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and several small terrorist organizations claimed responsibility for the rocket and mortar shell fire. In ITIC assessment the attacks were carried out with the permission and/or encouragement of Hamas, part of its policy to exert pressure on Israel through controlled shelling. At the same time, Hamas spokesmen told the media that Hamas was prepared to renew its military campaign if Israel did not meet its demands. Israel, according to the Israeli media, made it clear to Egypt that it would not return its delegation to the negotiations until the rocket fire ceased. (Note: At midnight on August 12, 2014, another 72-hour ceasefire went into effect, as Israel and the Palestinians complied with the Egyptian request.)
3. At 0800 hours on August 8, 2014, the 72-hour ceasefire ended. At 0400 hours, four hours before the ceasefire's official end, two mortar shells were fired into Israeli territory and exploded in open areas in the western Negev. At 0800 hours massive rocket and mortar shell fire into Israeli territory was renewed. Most of the attacks targeted the communities near the Gaza Strip border, but rockets also fell in Beersheba, Ashqelon and Sderot.

4. In response to the renewed rocket attacks, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) attacked terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip. Some of the residents of the communities bordering the Gaza Strip who had decided to return home when the ceasefire was declared changed their minds and did not return. Israel made it clear to Egypt that it would not send its delegation back to the negotiations until the rocket fire ceased.

5. At the beginning of the government meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said "Israel will not negotiate under fire and Israel will continue to take all action in order to change the current reality and bring quiet to all of its citizens" (Israeli prime minister's website, August 10, 2014).

6. In response to the rocket and mortar shell fire attacking Israel IAF aircraft attacked more than 100 terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip. A number of targets were attacked from the sea (IDF Spokesman):

1) On **August 9, 2014**, more than 60 terrorist targets were attacked, including terrorist operatives who were engaged in firing rockets into Israel.

2) On **August 8, 2014**, IAF aircraft attacked approximately 50 terrorist targets, including terrorist operatives, concealed rocket launchers, command and control facilities and military compounds.

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1 [http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Spokesman/Pages/spokestart100814.aspx](http://www.pmo.gov.il/English/MediaCenter/Spokesman/Pages/spokestart100814.aspx)
7. At 0800 hours on the morning of August 8, 2014, a few minutes before the ceasefire ended, the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip resumed firing rockets into Israeli territory. Most of the rockets attacked the communities in the western Negev, especially those close to the Gaza Strip, but rockets also hit Beersheba, Ashqelon and Sderot. Since the end of the ceasefire 75 rocket hits have been identified in Israeli territory, most of them in the western Negev. A similar number of mortar shells have been fired at the communities
close to the Gaza Strip. Two Israelis were injured by mortar shell fire and property damage was reported.

Fragments that fell on one of the communities in the western Negev (Local council spokesman).

8. Since the beginning of the operation 2,814 rocket hits have been identified in Israeli territory, 1,629 since the beginning of the ground operation. Since the ceasefire ended, 75 rocket hits have been identified.

**Daily Distribution of Rocket Hits in Israeli Territory during Operation Protective Edge**

Since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge 2,814 rocket hits have been identified in Israeli territory, 1,629 since the beginning of the ground operation, 75 since the end of the ceasefire.

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2 The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does to include the massive mortar shell fire into the western Negev or rocket launches that failed.
Claims of Responsibility

9. The PIJ, the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) and a number of small terrorist organizations all claimed responsibility for the rockets fired after the end of the ceasefire. While Hamas did not claim responsibility for rocket fire, it did nothing to prevent it. Hamas spokesman Musheir al-Masri claimed Hamas was not responsible for rocket fire attacking Israel. He did claim, however, that the Palestinian organizations were united during the lull as they were during the fighting (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, August 9, 2014).

10. On the evening of August 7, 2014, the Palestinian media reported the deaths of four operatives from Hamas' military-terrorist wing, the result of an IED that exploded in eastern Jabaliya. According to the report, the four were killed while working with an IED in preparation for renewing the fighting in the Gaza Strip if the negotiations in Cairo failed (Paltimes.net, Alresala.net website, August 7, 2014).

The Gazan Population

Gazan Civilians

11. According to UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness, 238,097 Gazans are still housed in 90 UNRWA shelters. He said that 16,543 Gazans had already left the shelters (Twitter account of Chris Gunness, August 9, 2014). There are also 30,000 Gazans housed in government schools. UNRWA proved them with food, water and equipment (UNRWA Twitter account, August 9, 2014).

Aid Convoys to the Gaza Strip

12. In light of the situation in the Gaza Strip, aid convoys are being sent from all over the globe, as well as funds for the population and for rebuilding the Gaza Strip:

1) Britain – The British secretary for international development announced that because of the pressing need for food and medical equipment in the Gaza Strip, Britain had decided to reinstitute its emergency management plan to support the Gazans.

2) Turkey – The Turkish Red Crescent said in a statement that it had sent 3,000 packages of food to the Gaza Strip, thousands of beds and water for the families housed in UN installations (Aa.com.tr, August 9, 2014).
3) The UAE – A delegation of the UAE’s Red Crescent arrived in the Gaza Strip with seven truckloads of food, medical equipment and clothing. The UAE also set up a field hospital in the Gaza Strip to treat the wounded (Maannews.net, August 9, 2014).

4) The Palestinian Authority (PA) – A campaign was launched in the cities in the PA to aid the Gaza Strip. Donations of equipment, food and money were accepted (Wafa.ps, August 9, 2014).

The Crossings – Update

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

13. It was reported that after two rockets fell near the Kerem Shalom crossing on the morning of August 10, 2014, **all activity stopped and the crossing was closed** (Maannews.net, August 10, 2014). It was later reopened, but another rocket fell near the crossing in the early afternoon and it was closed again.

The Rafah Crossing

14. In light of the renewed fighting in the Gaza Strip, the Egyptian authorities raised the alert level along the Egyptian-Gazan border, including the area around the Rafah crossing, where they positioned Egyptian army armored vehicles (Shorouknews.com, August 8, 2014). However, the Rafah crossing was open for the exit of wounded Gazans seeking...
medical treatment in Egyptian hospitals and for the entrance of medical equipment into the Gaza Strip (Youm7.com, August 8, 2014).

Judea and Samaria

Demonstrations and Other Events in Support of the Gaza Strip

15. Over the weekend, especially after the Friday prayer, many demonstrations and marches were held in Judea and Samaria in support of the Gaza Strip. Hamas organized most of the demonstrations. Green Hamas-affiliated flags and signs in support of the "resistance" [i.e., terrorist organizations] were carried. Some of the demonstrations turned into riots and violent confrontations with the Israeli security forces, resulting in the deaths of two Palestinians, one in Hebron and one in Ramallah. Several dozen rioters were wounded.

16. Sa'ad Abu al-Baha, a senior Hamas figure in Judea and Samaria, claimed that the objective of the events was to publicize the Palestinians' demands and to show that the Palestinian people were united. He claimed he wanted to tell the Palestinian delegation in Cairo that the Palestinian people were behind them and that they should not return without having the Palestinian's demands met (Al-Aqsa TV, August 8, 2014).

A march in Ramallah in support of the Gaza Strip organized by Hamas. Hamas-affiliated flags were carried and models of Hamas-made rockets were exhibited (Paltimes.net, August 9, 2014).
17. In view of the renewal of the rocket fire, Israeli recalled its delegation from Egypt. Israel made it clear that its negotiators would not return to Cairo until the rocket fire ceased. The Egyptians tried to arrange a ceasefire to make it possible to renew the negotiations.

18. Sources within Hamas and the other terrorist organizations blamed Israel for the lack of progress in the talks, claiming that was why the rocket fire had been renewed. Despite the continuing rocket fire and the recall of the Israeli delegation, the Palestinian delegation remained in Cairo. According to Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri, they were still waiting for the Israel's response (Alquds.com, August 9, 2014).
The Palestinian Authority

19. **Azzam al-Ahmad**, a member of Fatah’s Central Committee and head of the Palestinian negotiating team in Cairo, claimed that the Palestinian delegation would not leave Egypt until a final arrangement had been reached. He claimed the Palestinians were not afraid of an escalation but were prepared to continue the negotiations to arrive at an agreement that would lift all manifestations of the siege of the Gaza Strip. He criticized the Israeli delegation for not staying in Egypt for more than a few hours (Maannews.net, Sky News, August 8, 2014).

Hamas

20. Hamas spokesmen said the following:

1) **Musa Abu Marzouq**, a member of Hamas’ political bureau, claimed that Israel was not genuinely serious about the negotiations, and deliberately rejected and delayed its response to the Palestinians’ demands. He claimed the Hamas delegation would not remain in Cairo for long if serious negotiations did not begin within the next 24 hours (Alqudsnews.net, August 9, 2014).

2) Hamas spokesman **Sami Abu Zuhri** claimed that the Israeli delegation had not related to any one of the Palestinian demands. In addition, the suggestions they received did not contain so much as a reference to lifting the siege, although they did mention opening the Kerem Shalom and Erez crossings, which were open anyway. He accused Israel of delaying tactics and wasting time (Al-Aqsa, August 8, 2014).

3) Hamas spokesman **Musheir al-Masri** claimed that Israel had not sufficiently met the Palestinians’ demands and was trying to return to the status quo ante. He claimed that if the negotiations failed Hamas would have no choice but to wage another military campaign “more cruel than the last one.” He claimed the Palestinian delegation would not negotiate with the Egyptian mediator if the Israeli delegation were not present in Cairo (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, August 9, 2014).

The PIJ

21. Senior PIJ figure **Khaled al-Batash** claimed that Israel was trying to circumvent the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people. He also claimed they had told Egypt that they adhered to their demands and were not prepared to make any concession. He claimed their first demand was the cessation of the [so-called Israeli] aggression and the lifting of the siege. As to the matter of the Rafah crossing, he claimed it was between the Palestinians
and Egypt, and that the negotiations with Israel had nothing to do with it (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, August 8, 2014).

The International Community

22. International sources condemned the renewal of the rocket fire and called for negotiations to be resumed. A spokesman for the UN secretary general said that "The Secretary-General expresses his deep disappointment that the parties were unable to agree to an extension of the ceasefire in their talks in Cairo" (UN.org, August 8, 2014).

23. The foreign ministers of Germany, France and Britain issued a joint statement in support of the Egyptian efforts and called on both sides to renew the ceasefire immediately (Website of the French foreign ministry, August 9, 2014).

Prisoner Exchange

24. A source in the Palestinian delegation claimed that the Hamas representatives insisted that the issue of the exchange of prisoners or bodies be discussed outside the negotiations for a ceasefire. The source claimed the representatives refused to confirm or deny that they had the bodies (Aa.com.tr, August 9, 2014). Muhammad Nizal, a member of Hamas' political bureau, claimed that Hamas was prepared to negotiate about the soldier Hamas had, but not during the current round of negotiations, whose objective was to lift the siege of the Gaza Strip (Alresala.net, August 9, 2014).

The Propaganda and Legal Campaign

Promoting Legal Procedures against Israel

25. Christophe Oberline, a French physician who visited the Gaza Strip and revealed information about the complaint the Palestinians will lodge with the ICC, said that in the wake of pressure exerted by Western sources Mahmoud Abbas had withdrawn the complaint. He said that the Palestinian foreign minister Riyadh al-Maliki had told the ICC's prosecutor that the complaint had been withdrawn (Safa.ps, August 8, 2014).
26. **Salim al-Saqa, minister of justice in the national consensus government**, claimed that his ministry's suit against Israel in the ICC was still in force and had not been withdrawn. He accused international, regional and local agencies of sabotaging the suit and preventing the necessary steps to try Israel from being taken (Alresala.net, August 8, 2014).

### Boycotting Israeli Products

27. The social network campaign in Judea and Samaria to boycott Israeli-made products continues, incited by the war in the Gaza Strip. Calls are heard to buy Palestinian-made or imported products instead, because, it is claimed, the money paid for goods produced in Israel is exploited to buy weapons for the IDF. A letter was distributed in one of the villages in the Qalqiliya district calling for the boycott of Israeli goods and promising discounts to whoever did so (Ghaza al-A'an, August 9, 2014).

28. **Azmi al-Shyoukhi, head of the consumer protection association**, claimed that the boycott was one of the weapons of the "resistance." He also threatened that any store owner who did not remove Israeli-made products from his shelves by September 15 would be subject to legal action (PNN TV, August 10, 2014; Facebook page of Ghaza al-A'an, August 7 and 8, 2014).

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Left: Israeli products marked as forbidden to buy (Facebook page of Palinfo, August 9, 2014).  
Right: Letter calling for the boycott of Israeli products and giving discounts to whoever did (Ghaza al-A'an, August 9, 2014).
Posters calling for the boycott of Israel products. Left: "Buying it is up to you," every purchase of an Israeli product returns to the Gaza Strip by means of a missile (Facebook page of Ghaza al-A'an, August 7 and 8, 2014). Middle: "Don't support the war against Gaza" (Facebook page of the Palestine Information Network, August 10, 2014). Right: "You support the Israeli army of occupation by buying [Israeli-made] products" (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc of Al-Najah University, August 8, 2014).