



Temple Israel of New Rochelle

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

TINR Israel Action Committee

Rabbi Jesse

October 17th, 2023

MAPS OF ISRAEL

1947 UN Plan

1948-Post Independence War

1916



1967



ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

- National capital
- District (mehoz) centre
- City, town
- ✈ Airport
- International boundary
- - - Boundary of former Palestine Mandate
- - - Armistice Demarcation Line
- - - District (mehoz) boundary
- Main road
- Secondary road
- Railroad
- Oil pipeline



MAPS OF ISRAEL

Israel / Gaza

10/10/23 04:00UTC

- Israel
- Retaken by Israel since last update
- Taken by Hamas since last update
- Reported Clashes
- Palestinian Civil and Security Administration
- Palestinian Civil and Israeli Security
- Israeli Civil and Security Administration
- Israeli controlled Golan Heights

War Mapper

1947 UN Plan

1948



2023

Israel's Population: 9,175,000 (2,100,000 Arabs)

Gaza's Population: 2,200,000

West Bank Population: 3,000,000

THE GAZA STRIP – KEY EVENTS

- 2005 Israel withdrew from Gaza under the leadership of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
- 2006 Hamas won legislative elections in Gaza.
- 2006-2007 both Israel and Egypt closed its borders with Gaza, thus trapping a population of 2 million people.
- Hamas built sophisticated network of tunnels that circumvented the Egyptian crossing into Gaza; this brought staples such as food, medicine, and cheap gas for electricity production into the territory, as well as construction materials, cash, and arms.
- 2016 - Egyptian military coup overthrew the Muslim Brotherhood & viewed Hamas as a threat to its stability.



HAMAS

- Hamas is a religious Palestinian terror organization. It is an acronym for “Islamic Resistance Movement.”
- They are loosely affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and founded in 1987 as the political arm of the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood.
- They call for the destruction of Israel and want to establish an Islamic Palestinian state in its place. They refuse to accept Israel and call it “The Zionist Entity.”
- Hamas believes terrorism is a valid form of resistance, first employing suicide bombing in 1993.
- Hamas also provides social services to the Palestinian people including schools, hospitals, and soup kitchens.



THE GAZA STRIP – INFO

- Hamas totally controls Gaza as a military ruler (similar to ISIS or other extremist groups).
- Iran is one of the largest supporters of Hamas both financially and by providing weapons.
- Qatar, Turkey, and private individuals also financially support Hamas.
- Hamas has fired over 30,000 rockets and mortars into Israel since the group took over the Gaza Strip.





ATTACK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

- Called “Operation Al-Aqsa Storm”, Hamas fired over 2,000 rockets into Israel and then stormed the border with over 1,500 militants.
- Innocent civilians were brutally murdered and kidnapped by the terrorists. 22 towns and military bases were infiltrated.
- Terrorist went from door to door massacring people, chasing down and gunning children, women, and unarmed populations, including Israeli-Arabs.
- Over 1300 Israelis were murdered, and 199 abducted

HOW IS ISRAEL DEALING WITH THE CRISIS?

- Israel was in complete shock. This is the first large scale assault on its civilian population. It is viewed as a terrorist *pogrom*, a massacre against Jewish people for being Jewish.
- Israel has formed an emergency coalition where all main political parties are working together during the war.
- Prime Minister Netanyahu has vowed to eliminate Hamas.



THE CURRENT SITUATION

- Israel has called up its military reserves and 360,000 troops are waiting at the Gaza border.
- Israel has been sending airstrikes into Gaza. Prime Minister Netanyahu has promised to annihilate Hamas and is preparing a ground offensive. Over 2,500 Palestinians have been killed.
- There are 199 Israeli hostages in Gaza.
- Hezbollah (supported by Iran) are currently sending rockets from Lebanon (with an arsenal of 150,000 rockets). The concern is that they will go into an all-out war when Israeli troops enter Gaza. Hezbollah is a much larger and more capable organization than Hamas.



HOW ARE GAZANS IMPACTED BY THE WAR?



- All water, electricity, and gas has been turned off in the Gaza Strip.
- Over 1 million Palestinians are already displaced to the southern region of Gaza
- With the Gaza Strip closed, there is a humanitarian crisis. Hospitals are running out of fuel for their generators, there is no potable water, and basic medical supplies are needed.
- There are conflicting accounts of why Rafah Crossing is continued to be closed.
- Today, a Gazan hospital was hit by a rocket. Israel says it was a failed launch from within Gaza. Gazans see it as an Israeli massacre.



WHAT IS THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY?

- The United States has 2 naval carriers in the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Secretary of State is currently in Israel, and President Biden is visiting on Wednesday.
- Russia and China are not supporting Israel. They have strong ties to Iran and the Arab world.
- All Arab governments are concerned with their populations and civil unrest if they are seen as supportive of Israel. Saudi Arabia has pulled away from discussion of the Abraham Accords.
- The UN Security Council voted down a Russian resolution for peace that was seen as being anti-Israel. Brazil is bringing forward a more inclusive resolution. The Brazilian draft resolution calls for “humanitarian pauses” and “firmly condemns all violence and hostilities against civilians and all acts of terrorism.” But it also “unequivocally rejects and condemns the heinous terrorist attacks by Hamas.”

LONG-TERM CHALLENGES

- If Israel succeeds with removing Hamas, who will lead the Gazan people and how long will Israel occupy Gaza?
- If Israel disables Hamas, but doesn't remove the organization, will they just regroup and build new tunnels, rearm, and attack again in the near future?
- Is it possible to fully annihilate Hamas with leaders living in Qatar and Iran?
- What countries will remain allies and who will become anti-Israel as the war goes on and the civilian death count rises?



WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Advocate for Israel - Know what is happening:
 - **Times of Israel, Haaretz, Jerusalem Post**
- Lobby congressional leaders to continue supporting Israel
- Donate to charities-
 - **UJA,**
 - **American Friends of Magen David Adom**
 - **Friends of IDF**
 - **Jewish Agency for Israel**
 - **Sheba Medical Center**
 - **Soroka Hospital**
 - **Tzofim Garin Tzabar (Lone Soldiers)**
 - **United Hatzalah (Emergency Services)**
- International charities that help the civilian Palestinians:
 - **Doctors Without Borders**
 - **International Committee of the Red Cross**
 - **UNICEF.**
- Participate in Jewish-Arab dialogues

