

Operation Protective Edge--Fact Sheet – Updated July 18, 2014

Once again, Israel has been forced to launch a military operation to protect its citizens. The operation began on July 7th, one day after Hamas fired over 80 rockets in a 24-hour period. Named Operation Protective Edge, it has three purposes: stop the barrage of rockets that the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas and its allies have been firing into Israeli communities; destroy the web of underground tunnels Hamas built to infiltrate into Israel; restore calm.

Israel left Gaza nine years ago in a bold move for peace. Hamas turned it into a center of anti-Israel hatred and terrorism.

Hamas is an internationally recognized terrorist organization with a genocidal Jihadist ideology. Hamas has once again declared war on Israel, striving to fulfill the goals in its founding charter: murdering Jews and “obliterating” the Jewish state. President Obama and UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon [condemned](#) the Hamas rocket attacks and underscored Israel’s right—and responsibility—to defend its citizens. You can read the Hamas Charter for yourself, in English at: www.HamasCharter.com

The rocket and mortar attacks [began](#) on June 15th, just three days after Hamas operatives kidnapped Israeli teens Eyal Yifrah, Naftali Frenkel, and Gilad Shaer. While Israelis mourned when the boys were found murdered on June 30th, Hamas attacks escalated. On July 3, it fired over 40 rockets into Israel, damaging homes, businesses, and communities. One rocket hit a nursery school. Between July 1 and July 7, terrorists fired over 180 rockets into Israel.

Israel began a ground operation on July 17th, following [1497](#) rocket attacks on Israeli civilians and Hamas’ repeated refusals to agree to a cease fire and a truce. Initially, the Israel Air Force carried out operations aimed at terrorist leaders headquarters, weapons storage and rocket launchers. That failed to stop the assault on Israel, necessitating a ground operation.

Hamas’ arsenal of over 10,000 rockets includes some with a longer range, and they have reached as far as Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Hadera, endangering over a three and a half million Israelis, and making daily life intolerable. Israelis, including toddlers and young children, have only 15 to 60 seconds to reach a bomb shelter when the red alert sounds. Normal life comes to a virtual standstill with summer camps and special educational activities [cancelled](#) across southern Israel; and wedding and religious celebrations suddenly interrupted.

Rockets and missile attacks on civilians are war crimes. No country would sustain these attacks without responding. Even Palestinians call these war crimes. “Each and every missile against Israel constitutes a crime against humanity, whether it hits or misses, because it is directed at civilian targets,” according to the [Palestinian Envoy](#) to the UN Human Rights Council.

No nation would allow even one rocket to target its citizens, yet Hamas has launched over a thousand in the last few weeks.

Israel repeatedly offered or accepted ceasefire and truce proposals; Hamas repeatedly rejected them. Prior to Israel’s initial response on July 8,, it urged Hamas to restore calm. Hamas refused. On July 17th,

Egypt offered a ceasefire proposal. Israel accepted; Hamas did not. Israel agreed to a 6-hour truce to allow transport of goods into Gaza on July 17th. Hamas broke the truce within 2 hours, and fired rockets into Israel.

Hamas activists use fake images in a propaganda war to demonize Israel. We must be skeptical when such photos are distributed and when charges are made by Hamas sympathizers. The BBC [reported](#) that the pictures Hamas claimed were from Operation Protective Edge were actually from 2009 or from atrocities in Iraq and Syria. A Hollywood horror movie was edited to make it look like Israel had perpetrated an attack. Photos in Gaza have been staged, with props used to give them more impact. These are then presented to the public as real.

The fact that Israelis have fewer casualties does not mean they are unjust or immoral. Israel built shelters to protect innocent civilians; Hamas built shelters to protect lethal rockets.

Israel has consistently sought to protect innocent Israelis and Palestinians. Israel's extensive civil defense system and Iron Dome have saved countless Israeli lives. Israel warns Gaza civilians to get out of harm's way through leaflets, phone calls, and "knocking" on the roof. It aborts operations if civilians would be in harm's way, even if this means sparing rockets and rocket launchers which could be used to target Israeli children.

The Gaza death toll is higher than the Israeli precisely because Hamas consistently and intentionally endangers its own civilians. It launched this unprovoked attack. Its underground bunkers were built only to protect rockets and Hamas leaders, not civilians. Hamas instructs its people to [ignore](#) Israeli warnings of impending attacks, [calls](#) upon civilians to go to intended targets and become martyrs, as they did on July 8,th uses human shields, and places its military arsenal in civilian centers as UNRWA [discovered](#) July 17th when 20 rockets were found near an UNRWA school. Hamas leaders boasted --"We aren't leading our people to destruction. We are leading them to death." *Hamas spokesman, Sami [Abu Zuhri](#), July 13, 2014*

The fact is that Hamas rockets have maimed and killed many innocent civilians over the last decade and, tragically, in recent weeks.

LINK TO ROZ IN SDEROT VIDEO

StandWithUs Statement

"We have to remember that Hamas is akin to ISIS, (the new Al Quada) Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations sweeping across the Middle East. They are fundamentalist, genocidal anti-Semitic organizations that threaten all liberal democracies. Israel stands alone on the front lines of this war. All people who support liberal democratic values should pray that Israel succeeds in dismantling or forcing Hamas to reform," said StandWithUs CEO Roz Rothstein.

Now is the time for people of good will to protest against their governments recognizing and accepting the new Hamas-PA “unity government.” Hamas has shown its true, hideous colors. Now is the time to protest against our tax dollars being used to fund the incitement and terrorism that permeates Palestinian society, particularly the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners which pays generous salaries and pensions to Palestinian prisoners convicted of terrorism.

[See www.notaxesforterror.com]

Now is also the time to show support for Israel.

Email the Israeli government and embassies, and let them know that you stand with Israel during this difficult time, and that you know they will do their utmost to protect the innocent even as they attack those who endanger Palestinians and Israelis alike.