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See how the deadly surprise attack on Israel unfolded

2:07

October 7, 2023: Israel says it is 'at war' after Hamas surprise attack

By [Andrew Raine](#), [Chris Lau](#), [Joshua Berlinger](#), [Aditi Sangal](#), [Thom Poole](#) and [Matt Meyer](#), CNN

Updated 8:21 PM EST, Thu November 9, 2023

What we covered

- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel is “at war” after Gaza militants launched a surprise attack Saturday morning, firing thousands of rockets and entering Israel by land, sea and air using paragliders.
- At least 300 people have died and thousands of others are wounded in Israel, officials said. Fighting continued through the day, and a fresh round of rocket attacks hit Tel Aviv and other areas on Saturday evening.
- In Gaza, at least 232 Palestinians have died and more than 1,600 are wounded, the Palestinian health ministry said. Israel launched air strikes on the territory while its forces clashed on the ground with Hamas fighters.
- Hamas claims it has captured dozens of Israelis, including soldiers, and videos authenticated by CNN show some of the dramatic seizures. Israel’s military has

acknowledged hostages were taken.

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6:22 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



About 2,200 rockets have been launched into Israel from Gaza, IDF says

From CNN's Hadas Gold in Jerusalem and Alex Stambaugh in Hong Kong

The Israeli military said about 2,200 rockets have been launched from Gaza into Israel on Saturday since fighting began.

Those numbers contradict figures from Hamas military commander Muhammad Al-Deif, who previously said that 5,000 rockets had been launched.

To put that in context, some 4,000 rockets were fired from Gaza into Israel during the 50-day war between the two sides in 2014.

Reinforcements: Israel Defense Forces spokesman Rear. Admiral Daniel Hagari said in a statement that the military would reinforce southern Israel and the communities surrounding Gaza

“Numerous IDF soldiers, including special forces, have been dispatched to the area surrounding the Gaza Strip and are operating in a number of different locations in the division in order to protect the residents of southern Israel,” the IDF said in a statement.

3:54 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



Israeli police close crossings into Jerusalem for Palestinians

From Amir Tal

Palestinians have been barred from crossing checkpoints into Jerusalem from the West Bank since Hamas began its assault early Friday morning.

BANK SINCE Hamas began its assault early Friday morning.

Some context: Such checkpoints controlling the movement of Palestinians has long been a point of contention.

Palestinians say such restrictions on their freedom of movement are humiliating and see them treated as second-class citizens.

Israel contends they are an important tool to combat militant incursions and terror attacks.

3:47 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



Israeli Emergency Service says one of its staff is dead

From CNN's Amir Tal

Israeli Emergency Services Magen David Alom said one of its staffers was killed and another four have been wounded in Hamas' early morning attack and incursion into Israel.

The group added that one of their vehicles has been taken into the Gaza Strip.

Israeli authorities earlier said at least 22 people have been killed, with more than 250 casualties.

Many details are still unclear about the assault, it is not yet known whether the 22 are civilians or military members.

3:34 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



BREAKING: Hamas says it has captured Israeli soldiers

From CNN's Ibrahim Dahman in Gaza

Hamas said it captured Israeli soldiers near the Gaza border during its surprise attack Saturday morning.

In videos published by the militant group, at least three men dressed in civilian clothing were seen held at gunpoint. Hamas said the men were Israeli soldiers.

The Israel Defense Forces said it had no comment and CNN cannot verify Hamas' claim.

3:27 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



Residents tell Israeli TV that militants are trying to break into homes

From CNN's Amir Tal and Hadas Gold in Jerusalem

Residents of two Israeli communities told the country's Channel 12 television station that assailants from Gaza are trying to break into their homes. They have repeatedly pleaded on television for assistance from the Israel Defense Forces.

One resident of Kibbutz Nir Oz told the broadcaster over the phone that his family, including two children ages 7 and 9, have barricaded themselves in a safe room while militants fired at the door.

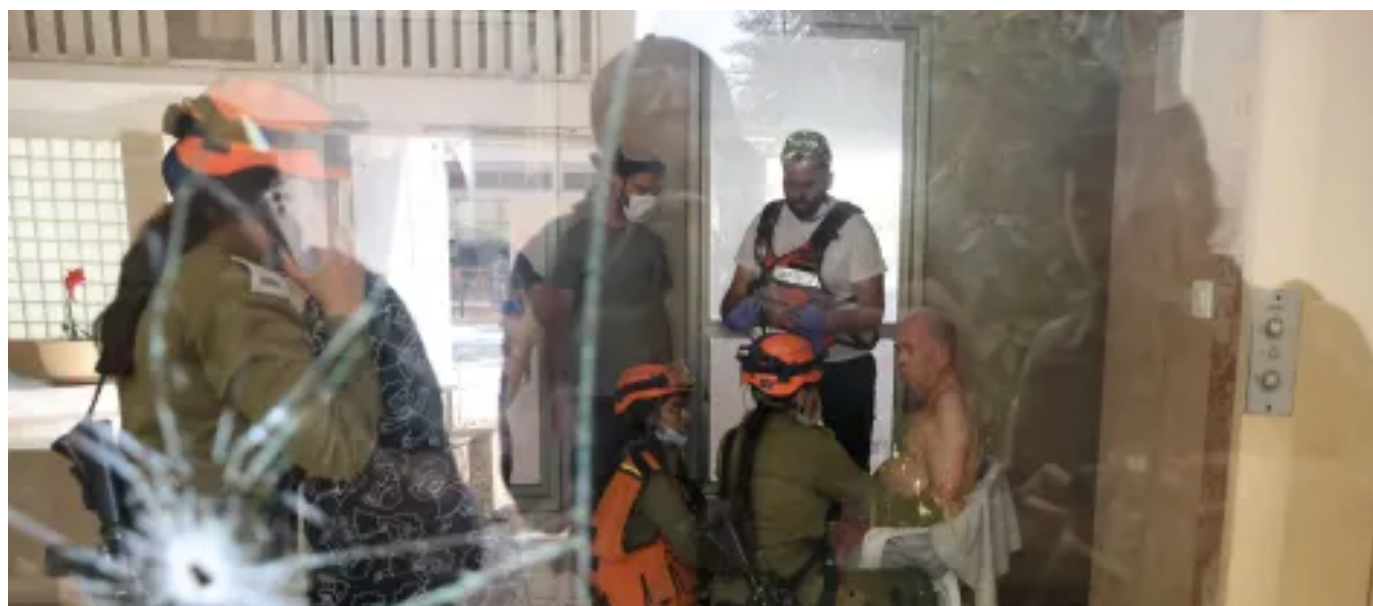
Some background: A kibbutz is a type of self-sustaining community in Israel. Traditionally agrarian, the kibbutzim (plural for kibbutz) were more popular in the country's early years.

3:05 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



Israeli police are responding to threats in "large" numbers, 21 active fronts identified

From CNN's Richard Greene in Jerusalem, Lauren Iszo in Tel Aviv and Alex Stambaugh in Hong Kong





Israeli rescue teams tend to an elderly man seated on a chair in the entrance of a building that received a direct hit in Ashkelon during a rocket attack from the Gaza Strip in southern Israel, on October 7, 2023.

Ahmad Gharabli/AFP/Getty Images

There are “large” numbers of Israel Police and Border Police responding to multiple locations and threats, police spokesman Dean Elsdunne said on Saturday.

Elsdunne said bomb squad technicians have been deployed to clear missile debris and

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2:59 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



Video appears to show Palestinian gunmen dragging an Israeli soldier from a tank

From CNN’s Stephanie Halasz, Hadas Gold and Alex Stambaugh

Videos of the violence Saturday morning across Israel have begun to circulate online, giving the world a glimpse of the chaos on the ground.

Clips geolocated by CNN show militants firing on civilians in the southern Israel city of Sderot.

A video published by Reuters appears to show Palestinian gunmen dragging what looks like an Israeli soldier out of a tank. It is not known what condition the soldier is in, but the tank seems to be parked at a fence separating Gaza from Israel.

The tank is a Merkava, a battle tank used by the Israel Defense Forces.

The tank is a Merkava, a battle tank used by the Israel Defense Forces.

2:48 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



Sirens have been blaring for the last five hours in Israel

From CNN's Richard Greene in Jerusalem

The Hamas attack on Israel has been underway for about five hours, with sirens continuing to ring as far north as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

The sirens started ringing out early Saturday morning after rockets were fired from Gaza. They could still be heard as of 12:30 p.m. local time.

2:46 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



Hezbollah praises Saturday morning attacks by Hamas

From Mia Alberti in Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese militant group Hezbollah praised the Saturday morning attack by militant group Hamas against Israel in a statement posted on Hezbollah-backed Al Manar TV.

Hezbollah is in direct contact with Hamas leadership, according to the statement.

Hezbollah is a Shiite Lebanese militant and political group that has fought in several conflicts with Israel. The group has strong ties to Iran as well.

2:51 a.m. MST, October 7, 2023



BREAKING NEWS: At least 22 dead in Saturday morning's assault

From CNN's Amir Tal in Jerusalem





An aerial view shows vehicles on fire as rockets are launched from the Gaza Strip, in Ashkelon, southern Israel, on October 7, 2023.

Ilan Rosenberg/Reuters

At least 22 people have been killed in the surprise attack launched by militant group Hamas on Saturday morning, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service.

MDA said more than 250 casualties have been reported, including the 22 people who died.

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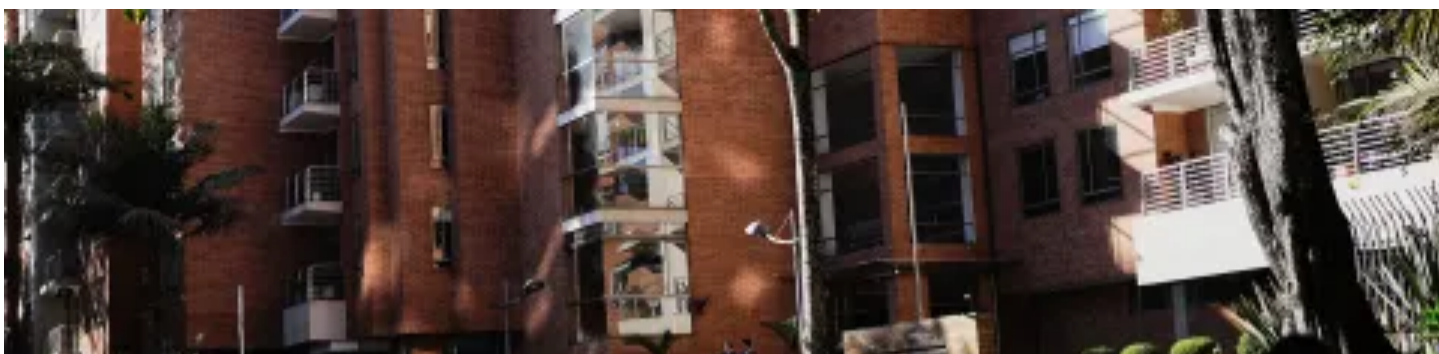




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