

Every civilian loss of life in war is a tragedy. The IDF continues to emphasize that this war is against Hamas, not the people of Gaza, and goes to great lengths to minimize civilian casualties. According to military and urban warfare experts, Israel is complying with international law. Hamas cynically exploits the Palestinian people by embedding itself within Gaza's civilian infrastructure and using human shields. Israel has invested significant effort since the beginning of the war to evacuate civilians from combat zones, in order to free Gaza from Hamas.

- Since the outbreak of the war, the IDF has repeatedly worked to warn civilians ahead of military strikes. In addition to the designation of safe passageways and pauses in fighting, these measures include dropping 4 million leaflets, issuing 42,000 phone calls and 12 million recorded messages and sending 15 million text messages, which have enabled over 1 million people to evacuate from northern Gaza and 400,000 from the south, saving many lives.
- The IDF relies heavily on advanced technological means to map the civilian population. A senior IDF official explained that, "The IDF puts a lot of effort in...to make sure that civilians won't be on the battlefield. Unfortunately, we are facing an enemy whose core strategy is to do exactly the opposite."
- In a recently published article by The Lieber Institute for Law & Warfare at West Point, Professor Michael N. Schmitt wrote, "The IDF has provided unprecedented warnings throughout the conflict," which have "exceeded what the law required."
- As reported last week, NSC Spokesman John Kirby recognized Israel's efforts "to minimize civilian casualties" and Secretary of State Antony Blinken acknowledged Israel's efforts in the face of Hamas that "intentionally embeds itself with civilians."
- It is estimated that over 5,000 terrorists and 10,000 civilians have been killed as a result of IDF operations, a ratio of 2:1. According to humanitarian organizations, 90% of casualties in modern wars in highly dense areas are noncombatants, or a ratio of 9:1. In the Battle of Mosul, where coalition forces faced conditions of urban warfare similar to the IDF, estimates are that 10,000 civilians were killed. According to urban warfare expert John Spencer who served two tours in Iraq, casualty numbers were difficult to assess, with estimates of ISIS fighters "killed in the thousands."
- COGAT, the Israeli body responsible for coordinating Israel's humanitarian response in Gaza, announced earlier this week that the Kerem Shalom Crossing will open for security checks on aid shipments from Al-Arish, doubling the volume of humanitarian aid delivered through the Rafah Crossing and admitted into the Gaza Strip, despite evidence that Hamas is working to hamper the humanitarian efforts and steal supplies for terror purposes. According to COGAT, the United Nations has not made possible the necessary logistics for aid to flow in, causing a bottleneck at the Rafah Crossing and a delay in the delivery of supplies.

- On numerous occasions in recent years, Israel has stopped short of ridding Gaza of the Hamas regime. Each time, Hamas has attacked again. Even following the October 7th attacks, Hamas continues to vow that its plans include “additional October 7s” until Israel is annihilated. This leaves the Jewish state little choice but to ensure that Hamas is removed from power.
- The scope and brutality of the Oct 7th massacres required a substantial response, something any nation would do if its borders were breached and its people brutalized and murdered so horrifically. Israelis and Palestinians alike are terrorized by Hamas’ rule over Gaza and use of human shields. Support Israel in its efforts to free Gaza from Hamas.