



ISRAEL UPDATE

with Pastor Trey Graham



November 8, 2023

This is our 10th update on the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas on Israel. To listen to the previous teachings, please visit

firstmelissa.com/sermons





Israel: Almost 10,000 rockets fired from Gaza since Oct. 7

<https://www.jns.org/israel-almost-10000-rockets-fired-from-gaza-since-oct-7>

(November 8, 2023 / JNS) Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip have fired more than 9,500 rockets at Israeli territory since Hamas launched its multi-pronged attack on the Jewish state one month ago, according to data published by the Israeli Foreign Ministry on Tuesday. Jerusalem said the numbers are not final and are constantly being updated. Throughout Tuesday, multiple air-raid sirens were activated in central Israel and localities near the border with Gaza. Some 1,400 people have been murdered in Israel since Oct. 7, while 7,198 more have been wounded. As of Tuesday evening, 342 people remain hospitalized, of whom 51 are in serious condition, according to Israeli Health Ministry data. Hamas is believed to be holding at least 239 people hostage in Gaza. Along with Israeli citizens, this figure includes 25 Thai nationals, 21 Argentinians, 18 Germans, 10 Americans, seven French, seven Russians, four Hungarians, three Poles, three Portuguese, two Brits, two Filipinos, two Romanians and two Tanzanians. In addition, the terror group is holding hostage individual nationals of Canada, Austria, Brazil, China, South Africa, Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, Serbia, Ukraine and Uruguay. More than 330,000 Israeli citizens have returned from abroad since the start of "Operation Swords of Iron," the Israel Airports Authority announced on Tuesday, increasing the Jewish state's population by almost 3.5%. At the same time, Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics recorded a sharp decrease in foreigners, including tourists, entering the country. Approximately 98,600 visitors traveled to Israel in October, a decrease of 73% compared to the same month in 2022. Since Oct. 7, the Israel Defense Forces has attacked over 14,000 terror targets in Gaza, IDF Spokesman Brig. Gen. Daniel Hagari said on Tuesday night. Troops have killed "thousands of terrorists above and beneath the ground" in the coastal enclave, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On Wednesday, Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen is scheduled to travel to Brussels together with some of the families of the hostages, according to Hebrew media reports. As part of the visit, Israel's top diplomat will reportedly address the European Parliament and meet with senior E.U. officials. "Today, we mark one month since the terrible massacre committed by Hamas terrorists who infiltrated Israel. They committed the most horrible atrocities imaginable, murdered children, harmed women and kidnapped hundreds of civilians, including elderly people and children," tweeted Cohen on Tuesday. "We will never forget and never forgive. We will destroy Hamas, a terrorist organization worse than ISIS, and we will do everything in our power for the return of the hostages. I call on the international community to stand by our side in the fight against evil," he added.

IDF: Troops destroyed 130 Hamas tunnel shafts in Gaza since start of ground op

Forces uncover tunnel next to UNRWA school in Beit Hanoun, also find entrances next to structure with car batteries, thought to be hooked up to tunnel air filtration system

By EMANUEL FABIAN and TOI STAFF

Today, 9:26 pm | 1



IDF troops in Gaza exposing an entrance to a Hamas tunnel, November 2023. (IDF/Screenshot)



<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-troops-destroyed-130-hamas-tunnel-shafts-in-gaza-since-start-of-ground-op/>

Some 130 tunnel shafts in the Gaza Strip have been destroyed since Israel launched its ground operation last month to dismantle Hamas's terror infrastructure in the Palestinian enclave, the Israel Defense Forces. Israel has vowed to destroy the terror group, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, following its surprise mass assault on southern Israel October 7, in which terrorists invaded and killed some 1,400 people mainly in their homes in civilian communities and at an outdoor music festival, amid shocking acts of brutality that they widely documented. Terrorists also took some 240 hostages of all ages, who are believed to be held captive in underground areas in Gaza. Israel responded to the shock attack with widespread aerial strikes in the enclave and later a ground operation, during which troops of the Combat Engineering Forces have been working to clear routes for ground forces to maneuver, locate and destroy Hamas assets, including tunnels and rocket launchers. Hamas is known to operate a vast network of tunnels underneath the enclave for smuggling goods and weapons, and moving fighters. Clearing and collapsing these tunnels has been crucial to Israel's efforts to fight Hamas as it deepens and widens its ground offensive. Israel has repeatedly warned that it is heavily targeting Gaza City and other areas in northern Gaza, where Hamas is believed to have its main bases of operations, including under Shifa Hospital, and extensive underground installations. On Wednesday, the IDF said troops of the 460th Brigade with engineering forces found a number of tunnel entrances next to a structure with car batteries, which are thought to be hooked up to the tunnel's air filtration system. The military also said troops located and destroyed a Hamas tunnel adjacent to an UNRWA school in the Beit Hanoun area in northern Gaza. The IDF said the 252nd Reserve Division captured the area in recent days, engaging in battles with Hamas operatives and demolishing the terror group's infrastructure, including tunnels, compounds and launch positions. According to the military, since the beginning of the fighting, the 252nd Division has killed hundreds of Hamas operatives, including senior members, in Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya. Also Wednesday, the military said forces of the Nahal Infantry Brigade captured a Hamas training camp in northern Gaza that included a staging ground where operatives had prepared weapons and food to carry out an attack. Within the camp, several tunnel entrances were found. All of the tunnels were destroyed, the IDF said. On Wednesday, a military official said in a briefing that Israel will likely see "achievements" regarding the tunnels "in the coming days," and that if troops need to, "they will enter them." "Hamas has descended into an advanced and fortified underground system and built a number of protective mechanisms. Some of the tunnels can be attacked from the air," the official said. "The ground entry of the IDF exposes the enemy's infrastructure and the engineering corps has begun with the destruction of shafts and tunnels." Israel's toll of slain soldiers since the ground offensive in Gaza rose to 33 on Wednesday with the announcement of the death of First Class Jonathan Chazor, a soldier in the Air Force's elite Shaldag unit, who was killed fighting Hamas terrorists in northern Gaza a day earlier, and of Staff Sgt. Noam Yosef Abou, of the Nahal Brigade's 931st Battalion, who was killed in action earlier Wednesday, fighting against Hamas terrorists in the northern Gaza Strip. Separately, two soldiers of the Combat Engineering Corps' 7107th Battalion, a soldier of the 460th Brigade's 198th Battalion and a soldier of the 460th Brigade's 196th Battalion were seriously wounded in separate battles in Gaza Wednesday.

WATCH: Hamas uses ambulances to transport terrorists, weapons - IDF

"Most of Hamas' senior political and military figures are hiding in hospitals especially Shifa Hospital," the terrorist said.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF



Palestinian fighters from the armed wing of Hamas take part in a military parade to mark the anniversary of the 2014 war with Israel, near the border in the central Gaza Strip, July 19, 2023.

(photo credit: REUTERS/IBRAHEEM ABU MUSTAFA)

Hamas has been using hospitals, ambulances, clinics, mosques, and schools for purposes of terrorism, a Hamas terrorist admitted in a video of an interrogation of a Hamas terrorist released by the IDF and Shin Bet. The terrorist admitted that Hamas uses ambulances to transport weapons and terrorists throughout the Gaza Strip. "I can leave with any ambulance I want," the terrorist admitted during the interrogation. "Al-Qassam has its own ambulances, some of which are also at the military base," the terrorist said. The terrorist was from the Nukhba Force and took part in the massacre on October 7. "The appearance of ambulances is similar to civilian ambulances so that they do not arouse suspicion or be bombed by Israel."

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/2023-11-08/live-updates-772211>



Gazans are evacuating to the south: 'The IDF is shooting - but not at us'

Palestinians took advantage of the humanitarian corridor on Salah al Din Road and moved south; Some waved white flags as a sign of surrender, and raised their hands as they marched in front of the Israeli tanks protecting them from Hamas



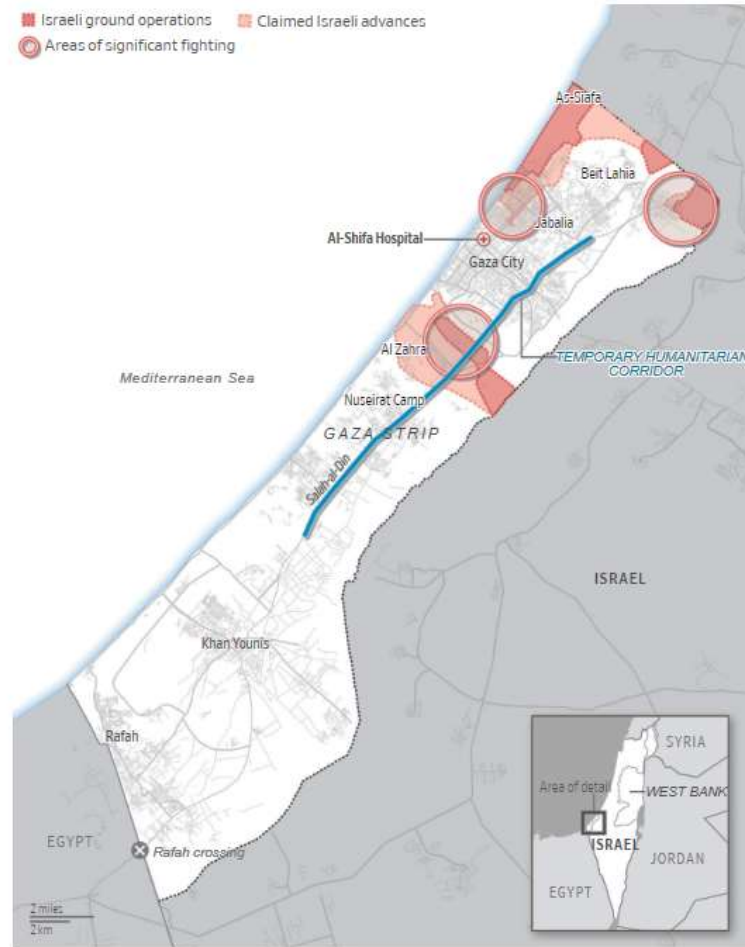
Hundreds of residents of Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood were captured on video Tuesday morning leaving their homes through humanitarian corridors opened by the IDF and evacuating south, with some waving white flags as a sign of surrender. The IDF has taken over the neighborhood in the south of the city, and more and more residents in the northern Gaza Strip realize that, in light of the advance of the IDF soldiers, it is better for them to evacuate to the south - even on foot. Hamas was quick to cast doubt on the photos of the residents of Zeitoun, and asked Gazan journalists not to spread them around the world. According to the terrorist organization, these are pictures that humiliate the citizens of Gaza. The IDF Arabic spokesperson Avichay Adraee, who published the video of the residents of Zeitoun, announced at the same time another humanitarian corridor opened through the main Salah al-Din Road, to allow the residents to move south Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. "Use this opportunity to go south to the other side of Wadi Gaza," he said, referring to the body of water that delineates the southern and northern parts of the Palestinian territory. "Many are doing so at this time. If you care for yourselves and your loved ones, move south according to our instructions. You can be sure Hamas leaders have already taken care of their own needs." A humanitarian corridor was opened to the south of the Gaza Strip also on Monday, and the IDF allowed civilian passage from the al-Shati refugee camp via the Salah al-Din Road. Contrary to the claims of Hamas, who said that the IDF was shooting at civilians moving south, the voices of Gazans traveling on Salah al-Din emphasized that the soldiers are not shooting evacuees and are allowing them to head south. A Gazan in the A-Shati camp interviewed by the Qatari Al-Araby channel said: "We were walking in the street and we were afraid. We raised our hands, and we had identity cards on us. They (the army) shot, but they didn't aim at us, and they let us go." Another resident said that, despite the fear, he and other residents preferred to "go toward the south and not stay in the fighting area." He emphasized that the sights on the road are horrifying and that the IDF "gave us the opportunity to pass and did not harm us." Contrary to the claims heard on the Al-Araby channel, the Associated Press news agency wrote that some Palestinians reported that IDF soldiers shot at them, and that they passed dead bodies that were lying along the Salah al-Din Road. According to the AP, the evacuees marching on Salah al-Din, or riding on donkeys, did so with their hands raised and waving white flags in front of IDF tanks. According to the United Nations, about 5,000 people on Tuesday took advantage of the humanitarian corridor from Salah al-Din to the south, which was open for four hours, compared to 2,000 Monday. UN data shows that, of the 2.4 million residents of Gaza, more than 1.5 million left their homes in the past month. According to UNRWA, the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, more than half a million are taking shelter in UNRWA facilities in the southern Gaza Strip - and the UNRWA is not able to take in new evacuees. According to the IDF, Hamas tried to sabotage the movement of the population to the south on Monday and fired an anti-tank missile at the residents. On Tuesday an IDF tank secured the evacuees on the Salah al-Din Road so that Hamas would not harm them.

Updated 1 day ago ★

Map Shows New Troop Movements, Fighting in Gaza

Israeli military in Gaza

- Israeli ground operations
- Claimed Israeli advances
- Areas of significant fighting

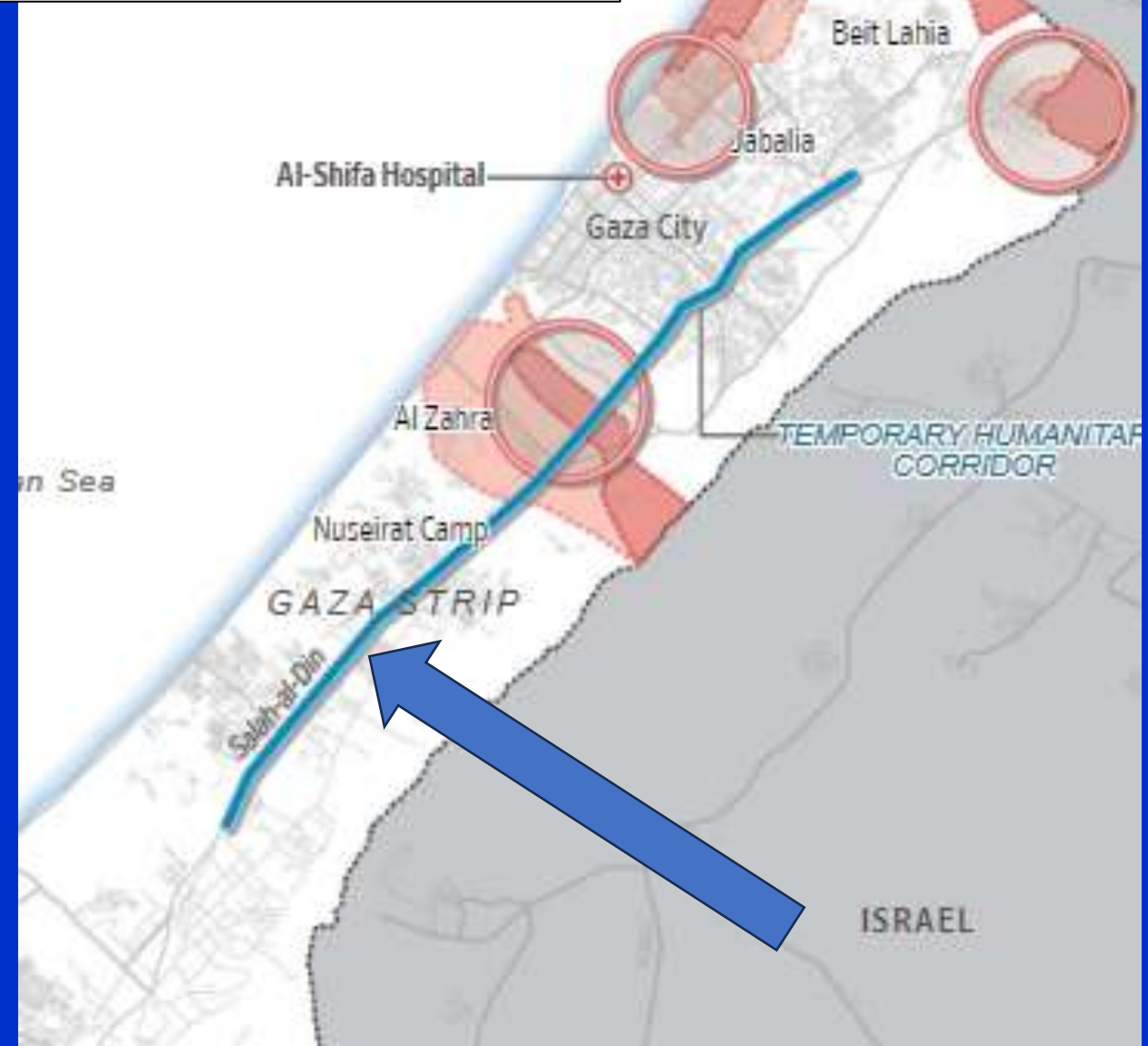


Note: As of Nov. 6, 2 p.m. ET

Sources: Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project (operations, advances); Israel Defense Forces (corridor)

■ Israeli ground operations

○ Areas of significant fighting



<https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/israel-hamas-war-gaza-strip-2023-11-06/card/map-shows-new-troop-civilian-movements-in-gaza-VNKXsKAFNAOWFpDKabVy>

Thousands of Gazans use humanitarian corridor to move south as IDF presses offensive

Israel says it killed head of Hamas weapons development team in airstrike; IDF special forces soldier killed in fighting, bringing military toll to 32 in ground offensive

By EMANUEL FABIAN and AGENCIES

Today, 3:41 pm | 0



Gazans fleeing Gaza City toward the south walk on a road on November 8, 2023. (MOHAMMED ABED / AFP)

Thousands of Gazans on Wednesday again made use of a humanitarian corridor opened by Israel to leave the northern Gaza Strip as Israel pressed ahead with its offensive to oust the Hamas terror group. “The northern Gaza Strip area is a fierce combat zone, and time is running out to evacuate it,” IDF Arabic language spokesman Avichay Adraee said, calling on Gazans to “join the hundreds of thousands” who have evacuated already. The passageway was open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. An extension was later granted until 3 p.m. because of the “sizable response”, according to the IDF’s Arabic-language spokesman Avichay Adraee. The IDF published video footage showing the movement of civilians southward, many of whom could be seen carrying white flags and holding their hands in the air. Crowd sizes appear to match those seen Tuesday, when an estimated 15,000 people moved south, compared to 5,000 on Monday and 2,000 on Sunday, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The pace of Palestinian civilians fleeing the combat zone in northern Gaza has picked up as Israel’s air and ground campaign there intensifies, UN monitors said. The civilians are able to move during a four-hour window set daily by the Israeli military that assures safe passage from Gaza City and its surroundings toward the south of the Strip, where there are fewer airstrikes. Most of those fleeing are children, the elderly and people with disabilities, the UN agency said. Many arrived on foot with minimal belongings. The densely populated northern area of Gaza, specifically Gaza City and neighborhoods, are the current focus of Israel’s campaign to crush Hamas.

IDF says its entire 252nd Reserve Division is operating inside Gaza

By EMANUEL FABIAN



Troops of the 252nd Reserve Division operate in the Gaza Strip, in a handout photo published on November 8, 2023. (Israel Defense Forces)

The Israel Defense Forces releases new information on the operations of the 252nd Reserve Division in the Gaza Strip during Israel's ground offensive which began late last month. With the 252nd Division fighting in Gaza, it marks the first time since the 1982 First Lebanon War that an entire IDF reserve division is maneuvering in enemy territory. The IDF says that in recent days the division captured the Beit Hanoun area in northern Gaza, while engaging in battles with Hamas operatives and demolishing the terror group's infrastructure, including tunnels. It says that since the beginning of the fighting, the 252nd Division has killed hundreds of Hamas operatives, including senior members, in Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya. The division's forces also destroyed Hamas compounds, launch positions and tunnel networks, among some 300 targets that were struck in the last week, according to the IDF. The commander of the division, Brig. Gen. Moran Omer, says it is a "defining moment" for the 252nd Division and the IDF's reserve army in general. "We have been preparing for this for years, now it is our duty to restore peace and security to our citizens," he says. "Our reservists and their families are an expression of our unity, of being willing to defend our people... and of getting only one result: defeating the enemy at every encounter, until victory."



252nd Sinai Division

Tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians remain in the combat area, many sheltering at hospitals or UN schools. Some said they were deterred from moving south because of dire humanitarian conditions in the evacuation zone and ongoing Israeli airstrikes across Gaza, including the south. Israel has accused Hamas of seeking to keep civilians in the northern part of Gaza to use them as human shields. **Hamas has accused the IDF of firing on or striking convoys of those evacuating, charges that Israel has strongly denied.** The IDF instead has provided evidence that Hamas operatives are trying to prevent civilians from moving south, setting up roadblocks and purportedly even firing on convoys.



Gaza man: Israeli agents spent hours on phone with me to evacuate targeted buildings

Mahmoud Shaheen tells BBC intel agents called him, urged him to get hundreds of residents to leave 22 buildings identified by IDF as housing Hamas infrastructure; all said survived

By TOI STAFF

Today, 1:50 pm | 17



Buildings destroyed in Israeli strikes on al-Zahra, on the outskirts of Gaza City, Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. (AP Photo/Ali Mahmoud)

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gaza-man-israeli-agents-spent-hours-on-phone-with-me-to-evacuate-targeted-buildings/>

A Palestinian dentist in Gaza recounted to the BBC how Israeli intelligence agents spent hours on the phone with him, urging him to evacuate and save hundreds of his neighbors ahead of a series of airstrikes that destroyed a wide swath of apartment buildings in a Gaza City neighborhood. In the dramatic account published Wednesday, Mahmoud Shaheen, 40, told the UK news service how on the morning of October 19 he suddenly heard a commotion outside his apartment in the middle-class neighborhood of al-Zahra. “You need to escape because they will bomb the towers,” he recounted someone in the street shouting. Then his phone rang; it was an unidentified number. “I’m speaking with you from Israeli intelligence,” Shaheen recounted being told, adding that the man addressed him in flawless Arabic and identified himself as “Abu Khaled.”

“He told me he wanted to bomb three towers... and ordered me to evacuate the surrounding area,” Shaheen said. Shaheen said he doubted the call was real as there had been widespread cautions on social media warning of fake calls from Israel, so he asked the man to fire a warning shot, hoping both for proof and that the noise would alert anybody who had not yet evacuated. A warning shot seemingly from nowhere, but perhaps from a drone, hit one of the apartment buildings under threat, he said “I asked him to ‘shoot another warning shot before you bomb,’” Shaheen said. One more rang out. Israel sometimes uses missiles without warheads as warnings in a move commonly known as “roof knocking.” However, the practice has been less commonly utilized in the current war. Shaheen said he then ran around the neighborhood frantically urging all those in the three apartment buildings to evacuate. His building was nearby, but not one of those targeted. The Israeli caller spent over an hour on the phone with Shaheen reportedly telling him that he would give him time as he did not want anyone to die. Shaheen said he then asked the caller why Israel wanted to bomb the area as they were just residential apartments. “He said, ‘There are some things that we see that you don’t see,’” Shaheen said, adding that the caller did not elaborate. Shaheen said that once he confirmed the area was clear, the man told him they would now bomb the first one, which they did, then all three buildings specified were hit as Israeli aircraft circled overhead. “This is the tower that we want, stay away,” Abu Khaled said. When the bombing was over, the Israeli told Shaheen. “We’ve finished... you can go back.” Israel declared war following the deadly assaults on October 7 when some 3,000 Hamas and other terrorists broke through the Gaza fence under the cover of thousands of rockets fired all over Israel, and rampaged murderously through border communities. Amid cases of horrific brutality, they killed 1,400 people, most of them civilians, and took more than 240 hostages to Gaza. The IDF launched widespread airstrikes, followed by a ground offensive, with the aim of toppling the Hamas terror group that rules the Strip. The IDF says it is hitting infrastructure used by Hamas and other terror groups, much of it in a vast network of fortified tunnels built beneath civilian areas, including under apartments, hospitals, mosques, and schools. Hamas says 10,000 Palestinians, including 4,000 children, have died since the start of Israel’s response. These numbers cannot be verified and Hamas has been accused of inflating them; failing to differentiate between terrorists and civilians; counting all fatalities aged under 18, including gunmen, as children, and including those killed by hundreds of terrorist rockets aimed at Israel that have fallen short in the Strip.

The BBC said it contacted Shaheen after multiple al-Zahra residents identified him as the man who received the warning calls. It noted that while it could not verify the contents of the call, the details matched those on a community Facebook group from the day, and satellite images before and after the bombing. Israel has repeatedly called on residents in north Gaza to move south into a safer area and continue to do so following the launch of a recent ground offensive that has surrounded Gaza City, where Hamas has extensive infrastructure. The IDF has released recordings of other calls made by officers in the Military Intelligence Directorate's Unit 504 — which specializes in HUMINT — to Gaza residents urging them to evacuate buildings and leave for the south. In one recording, the local resident can be heard telling the Israeli officer that Hamas was shooting at people trying to flee south. According to Shaheen, his phone rang again that evening with another Israeli officer on the line; this one identified himself as "Daoud." He told the BBC that the man praised him for his efforts that morning and called him a "wise man." He said the caller knew a great deal about him, including his son's name. He was told there would be further strikes and he had to evacuate his neighbors again. He repeated the morning process, this time in the dark, and then three more buildings were destroyed once they were empty. Shaheen said that then suddenly the orders changed and Daoud told him the full row of apartments on one side of the street would be targeted, bringing the total to more than 20 buildings. "There were people we hadn't evacuated yet because there was no warning about those buildings. I told him, 'At least give us until morning, in nighttime, where will the people go?' "The answer was, 'The orders have been received, and we will bomb all towers within two hours,'" Shaheen recounted. He said that during this time he ran around frantically trying to get the hundreds of people out, with the man remaining on the line with him the whole time. "He even told me, 'Take your time. I won't bomb unless you give me permission.' "I said, 'No, it's not my permission. I don't want you to bomb anything. If you want me to evacuate, I will evacuate for the safety of the people, but if you want to bomb, don't tell me you need my permission. It's not Mahmoud Shaheen who will bomb al-Zahra," he said. At one stage, with his phone battery running low, the Israeli told him to hang up and save his battery. A neighbor's phone then rang with Daoud on the line, asking for Mahmoud Shaheen, he recounted. He advised Shaheen to take the evacuated residents to the west, to the nearby University of Palestine, where they could seek shelter. The man then stayed on the line with him until the strikes were complete. In response to the report, the IDF told the BBC that as part of its "mission to dismantle the Hamas terrorist organization [it] has been targeting military targets across the Gaza Strip." Strikes on military targets were subject, it said, to "relevant provisions of international law, including the taking of feasible precautions to mitigate civilian casualties." "Hamas continues to attack Israel from across the entire Gaza Strip. Hamas has embedded itself in civilian infrastructure and operates across the entire Gaza Strip. The IDF is determined to end these attacks and as such we will strike Hamas wherever necessary." The BBC reported that "thanks to Mahmoud's efforts, it is believed that none of his neighbors died that day."

Anti-tank missile from Lebanon wounds two IDF soldiers

Civilian Meir Moyal from Kiryat Shmona was killed by an anti-tank missile on Sunday.



<https://www.jns.org/anti-tank-missile-from-lebanon-wounds-two-idf-soldiers/>



Mossad helps Brazil arrest Hezbollah-linked terrorists planning attack on Jews

O Globo reported that one of the prisoners was detained upon arriving from Lebanon. "The authorities believe that he has already arrived with information to carry out the attacks," the report said.

By ZVIKA KLEIN

NOVEMBER 8, 2023 19:33 Updated: NOVEMBER 8, 2023 21:58



Brazilian highway police, 2016.
(photo credit: PRF Paraná / CC 2.0)

An Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist cell that planned to carry out attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets in Brazil was thwarted, according to Brazilian news reports confirmed by the Prime Minister's Office. Brazilian Federal Police prevented imminent terrorist attacks within the country against the Jewish community, adding that the operation was aimed at dismantling groups allegedly "preparing to commit terrorist acts" and "recruiting Brazilians for extreme acts," targeting Jewish community buildings in Brazil. According to the report, authorities executed two temporary arrest warrants and conducted searches at 11 locations across Minas Gerais, São Paulo, and the federal capital, Brasília. The Federal Police said individuals involved in recruiting or joining terrorist organizations could face severe legal penalties, including lengthy prison sentences. The Prime Minister's Office said: "Security forces in Brazil, in collaboration with Mossad and its partners within the Israeli security community, as well as other international security and law enforcement agencies, successfully foiled a planned attack by the Hezbollah terrorist group – orchestrated and financed by the Iranian regime. This disruption targets a vast network that extends to several other nations globally." Investigations have identified the suspects' connections to Hezbollah, according to the report. A 2014 inquiry by the Federal Police found ties between Hezbollah and Brazil's First Command of the Capital cartel, including alleged weapons trade and the safeguarding of Lebanese prisoners in Brazil. "Amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza with the Hamas terrorist group, Hezbollah and the Iranian regime persist in their global efforts to orchestrate attacks against Israeli, Jewish, and Western targets," the Prime Minister's Office said. "The Mossad is active and will continue to employ a diverse array of tactics to prevent these attempts, operating wherever necessary." One of the prisoners was detained at São Paulo-Guarulhos Airport upon arrival from Lebanon, Rio de Janeiro-based newspaper O Globo reported. "The authorities believe that he has already arrived with information to carry out the attacks," the report said. An alarming increase in antisemitic incidents in Brazil has been reported, escalating tensions and vigilance among Jewish communities. The Brazilian Report highlighted a 760% rise in school-related antisemitic incidents over the past three years, intensifying concerns of potential threats and emphasizing the need for such preemptive actions by law-enforcement agencies. According to the World Jewish Congress, there are about 92,000 Jews in Brazil, making it the 10th-largest Jewish community in the world and second largest in Latin America, behind Argentina.

Seven years after his father was killed in terror attack, Pedaya Mark falls in Gaza

In an interview with Maariv last year, Mark told about the attack he went through with his family, about the pain of his father's death and life after the hardship.

By ARNOLD NATAEV/MAARIV, MOSHE COHEN/MAARIV

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 11:23 **Updated:** NOVEMBER 1, 2023 13:00



2nd-Lt. Pedaya Mark
(photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)



Second Lieutenant Pedaya Mark was killed in combat against Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip while serving as an officer in the Givati Brigade, the IDF announced. Mark was the son of the late Rabbi Michael (Miki) Mark, who was murdered in a shooting attack near the Hebron Hills in 2016. "We were always taught to go to combat service in the IDF, but after [my father's] murderous attack I felt that I understood how important it is," Mark told Maariv on June 29, 2022. Seven years after the murderous shooting attack on Route 60 - and three years after his late brother Shlomi, who was also a combat soldier in Givati, was killed in a car accident - Pedaya continued the family legacy and completed the training course as a combat soldier. In an interview, Mark talked about the painful days after the terror attack, and about his decision to serve as an infantryman and commander in the brigade. "I grew up in Otniel and about six years ago I drove with my father, mother, and sister Tehila to my grandmother's in Jerusalem. About five minutes after the start of the trip, a car overtook us and terrorists fired about 30 rounds at us from a Kalashnikov rifle. Our car overturned. My sister and I managed to free ourselves from our seat belts and immediately realized that it was a terror attack. When the car was upside down, I looked for a knife and Tehila tried to look for the cell phone of my parents, who were unconscious. One of the terrorists got out of the car to make sure we were killed. We saw the terrorist's legs and then by chance a Palestinian car drove by, which stopped and the terrorists fled."

In the Palestinian vehicle were a man and a woman, who tried to help. "At the beginning, we were very worried that they might be terrorists, so when they told me and Tehila to get into their car, we kept our feet outside the door to be safe. We asked them for a cell phone to call and report the attack. At the same time we found out that Tehila was wounded by a bullet in the stomach and the Palestinian woman began to help stop the bleeding. Then, an IDF patrol jeep followed by lots of soldiers arrived." Mark's personal turning point after the terrible experience came in the twelfth grade. "I realized that I would either let life pass me by or I would live it - and I chose to live. I started doing matriculation [exams] and getting back on track." While he was recovering, another heavy disaster befell the Mark family. "My brother Shlomi was a soldier and a company commander in Givati. After finishing his service in the IDF, he worked in the security system. About three years ago, he was killed in a car accident on Route 6 at the Kiryat Gat interchange. He left behind a wife and three children." Pedaya decided to follow in his brother's footsteps for significant combat service in the IDF. "I enlisted in March 2021. At first, I did the entrance tests to get into Sayeret Matkal, and then I enlisted in Givati. Family members came to the closing ceremony of the training course in Givati and we were all so excited. It was very exciting," Mark said last year. "I will be a training officer for new recruits at the Givati training base. I hope to continue as an officer and I see service in the IDF as a calling." Another disaster in the family came on October 8, when Elhanan Clemenzone, a 43-year-old resident of Otniel and a relative of the Mark family, fell in the Gaza Strip while rescuing civilians from the October 7 massacre.





August 2016

One month after Oct. 7, ruins of Kibbutz Kfar Aza testify to its horrors

Israeli forces continue to show evidence of Hamas's atrocities in all their horror to the world press in order to combat claims of exaggeration.

By DEBORAH DAHAN/JTA

NOVEMBER 7, 2023 21:05 **Updated:** NOVEMBER 7, 2023 21:31



THE JERUSALEM POST



One month after their bucolic kibbutz turned into a site of carnage, Hanan Dann and Gili Okev returned for a brief visit — alongside two former world leaders, dozens of journalists and a handful of volunteers who were still engaged in the painstaking work of gathering the traces of their neighbors who were murdered. The motley crew traipsing through Kibbutz Kfar Aza on Sunday had been brought together by the historic horror visited on the community of 750 on Oct. 7, when Hamas terrorists burst in. Between 52 and 60 people were murdered. Seventeen are believed to have been taken hostage in Gaza. The residents returned to retrieve belongings. The world leaders — former British prime minister Boris Johnson and former Australian prime minister Scott Morris — and journalists had come to bear witness. And the volunteers were doing the same work they had been doing since days after the massacre, when they arrived to retrieve and prepare bodies for burial according to Jewish tradition. They all carried on their work as the war that Israel launched in response to the attack carried on just kilometers away, its sounds audible and shadow palpable. The bus carrying the press delegation stopped at the entrance to the kibbutz. David Baruch, who was accompanying the group on behalf of the Israel Defense Force’s spokesperson’s unit, instructed the 40 or so members of the press to walk the rest of the way, explaining that the IDF had received an alert for anti-tank missiles in the area and that the bus was a sitting target. Baruch warned the journalists not to film any live reports. “The last time someone did that here ended up with four mortars fired from Gaza almost immediately,” he said. When the group reached the “younger generation” zone, the area earmarked for young couples and families, the cruel capriciousness of the attack was laid bare. Around 40 houses, typical of kibbutz architecture in their modest appearance and size, had sustained varying degrees of destruction. Some were entirely blackened out, their walls pockmarked with holes made from grenade fragments. Others were left with gaping holes in their exterior walls from RPG impacts. All of them bore remnants of the lives that were once lived within their walls: a hammock covered with a thin film of dust, a handful of cards from a children’s game scattered among the rubble, a full mug of coffee on a kitchen table. One house had the sentence “human remains on the couch” written in black paint on the outer wall. The adjacent wall featured yellow graffiti with the words “terrorist inside” and the date it was written, Oct. 11. One soldier at the site said Hamas terrorists were hiding in homes for days following the attack. The couch inside the compact living room was stained with blood. Dann said his neighbors Sivan Elkabetz and Naor Hasidim were likely pulled out of their safe room and murdered on the couch. “For the world this is maybe just another war in the Middle East. For Israelis this is a national tragedy,” Dann told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “But for me, this is a personal tragedy. These are people that are friends of mine.” It was the second time Dann had toured that area of the kibbutz since the massacre. The first time he “lasted five minutes and couldn’t take it any more,” said Dann, a computer programmer who has been residing in the Tel Aviv suburb of Kfar Shmaryahu in the past weeks. His house, on the other side of the kibbutz, was spared and together with his wife, young children and parents, who had been visiting for the Simchat Torah holiday, he survived the hours-long ordeal in their safe room, reading terror-filled text messages from friends and neighbors, some the last they would ever send. Dann recounted the harrowing story of the Almog-Goldstein family, in which it took a full week to determine, using DNA samples, that the father, Nadav, was killed alongside his eldest daughter, Yam, and that his wife, Chen, had been abducted to Gaza along with the couple’s younger three children. “They couldn’t even count how many bodies there were after the murder,” Dann said. “What would you rather hear? That your family has been all slaughtered and burnt to death? Or that they are being held captive by Hamas in Gaza? Which is the better news?” he asked. “This is the dilemma my friends are dealing with.” The IDF’s tours of the kibbutz and other sites hard hit during the attack are meant to flood the world with firsthand information about what happened there to counteract the distortion and denial that have spread in the weeks since. As foreign news organizations rotate their staff in and out of the country, more journalists have been able to see what Israel wants them to share — but also locals are being asked to recite over and over the horrors they have seen.

"I saw heads, and I saw bodies," said ZAKA volunteer Simcha Greineman after being asked by one reporter to verify IDF claims of Hamas beheadings. "I can't say that I saw someone do [a beheading]. I collected heads without bodies, I collected bodies without heads, I collected children that were stabbed." He went on: "One child had his whole body burned but there was a knife stuck in his head from side to side." Images of decapitated corpses were shown to the group of journalists. Greineman recounted a scene in which a family of five, including parents, two children, and a grandmother, were found in the bedroom "standing in a circle, hugging each other, locked arms." He and other volunteers from ZAKA, an organization that specializes in search and rescue for bodies, were tasked with detangling the family. "We're taking these last moments of life that they had, this circle, and we're taking apart every body that was attached to each other, and putting them in the bag," he said. "It's horrifying. People should not be mistaken about the savage attacks that occurred here," said Johnson, who resigned as British prime minister last July. "You can't help but be overwhelmed by the sense of that where we're standing was once, a month ago, a place of innocence and now has been desecrated beyond comprehension," said Morrison. Both Greineman and Dann spoke about the kibbutz families who had helped Palestinian workers from Gaza. Dann said he had a friend who had become close with one of the workers whose daughter was ill with a heart defect, and helped them get medication and medical care. "We were glad that workers from Gaza were coming to Israel with work permits to have jobs to meet Israelis, to see that we're not all 'those devils,'" he said, gesturing with air quotes. "We all really believed that things are changing. That Hamas has maybe matured from being this terrorist group to being the grown up; taking responsibility for their people, worrying for their welfare. And that concept really blew up in our face." Members of one family who had hired a Palestinian employee were now in Gaza themselves as hostages, Dann said. "I can't tell you if one of those workers was a spy," he said. "We can assume that probably yes because they had intelligence. They came here with maps. They knew exactly where everyone was." Okev, another resident who had returned to the kibbutz to gather some belongings, said he and his fellow kibbutz members were struck by an overwhelming feeling of "disappointment." "These people — not people, terrorists — they came to kill you just because you're Jewish. There's no other reason. They worked here, they lived here," Okev told JTA. "We had lots of faith in them. But after seeing them over [in Gaza] celebrating on the streets, we lost faith." Okev spent seven hours trapped with his wife in their safe room with the terrorists just on the other side of the wall on the couple's porch. According to Okev, they used the porch as a kind of headquarters to issue commands. The area was strewn with soot and charred farming tools, the aftermath of a battle between the terrorists and Israeli forces that would later unfold. During their time inside the safe room, the couple, whose adult sons were not on the kibbutz when the infiltration occurred, sat quietly, prayed occasionally, and set up a blockade by the door. "It wasn't a question of whether they would enter or not, it was a question of when," he said. But they didn't. Okev has no explanation as to why his life was spared when 12 of his close friends were murdered. "Divine providence, what can I tell you," he said. "There's someone watching over us. He didn't watch over the others, apparently. Or they were too good so He took them." Dann is unsure about whether he will ever return to the kibbutz. "Even though my individual house is intact, this place is so full of blood. It's a question that is still too big for me and still too big for everybody," he said. Okev, meanwhile, has a different take. "We will come back here and we'll build this place and it will flourish and grow. It won't stay like this," he said. "We won't let them move us."

Israeli kids killed on October 7 were actors, claims Jeremy Corbyn's brother

"It was a lie. There was no killing of children. It was a lie, a lie, a lie. The Israeli government admit it was a lie," Corbyn said.

By DANIELLE GREYMAN-KENNARD

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 21:04



Piers Corbyn
(photo credit: screencast)

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-771426#771426>

Piers Corbyn, brother of former UK Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, was recorded going on a tirade about whether Hamas' October 7 invasion had happened. Corbyn was at a pro-Palestine demonstration when a man approached him and asked him how he would solve the "hostage issue." Hamas is currently holding over 200 Israelis and other foreign nationals hostage. In response to the question, Corbyn said "Well, we'd have a ceasefire straight away and end this invasion." The man who approached Corbyn then asked: "Do you think Hamas will hand over the hostages?" "Well, I don't know. You see Hamas and Israel... Israel funds Hamas, you understand that? Israel let these so-called troops in. They allowed the hostages to be taken, the whole thing is a game to justify the flattening and genocide of Gaza. There is oil under there [Gaza], the Israelis want it, the Americans want it. All civilized countries should resist the Israeli invasion, including the Russian, Chinese with military force if necessary." Interrupting Corbyn, the man then asked "How did you feel when you saw the butchering and massacre of those kids and people at the rave?" Before the man had finished his question, Corbyn repeated "It was a lie. There was no killing of children. It was a lie, a lie, a lie. The Israeli government admits it was a lie." "So the Kibbutz..." the man can be heard saying, before Corbyn continued "CNN were actors, I have seen a film showing they were actors." In response to this comment, the man asks for clarification, saying "So do you deny that 1400 Israelis were butchered by Hamas?" "Yes, I do deny," Corbyn quickly interjected. "There's no evidence for this stuff. The whole thing was a set-up from start to finish to justify an invasion and genocide to take the oil, to destroy Palestine and to make an Israeli superstate. That is what it is about! It is a fake operation! Do you understand that?" "No, I don't actually," the man said in response to Corbyn's question. "You don't understand many things then," Corbyn continued. "The gates were open. They let the so-called Hamas terrorists in and they let them out again. The Israeli government organized this from start to finish and they invaded Palestine. That was planned all along."



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Forward

JEWISH. INDEPENDENT. NONPROFIT.

OPINION

The roots of Hamas' terror attack can be found in Gaza's schools


A generation of children have been taught to hate from antisemitic textbooks



Palestinian students attend a national education lesson at the Dar Al-Arqam school in Gaza City, founded by Hamas, in 2006. Photo by Abid Katib/Getty Images

<https://forward.com/opinion/566841/hamas-schools-indoctrination-antisemitic-textbooks-gaza/>

To Shape Young Palestinians, Hamas Creates Its Own Textbooks

 Share full article



At government schools it runs in Gaza, Hamas has introduced changes to the approved Palestinian Authority curriculum. Wissam Nassar for The New York Times

By **Fares Akram** and **Jodi Rudoren**

Nov. 3, 2013

The New York Times

November 2013

GAZA CITY — When a class of Palestinian ninth graders in Gaza recently discussed the deadly 1929 riots over access to the Western Wall in Jerusalem, it was guided by a new textbook, introduced this fall by the Islamist Hamas movement. Asked the lesson of the uprising, one of the 40 boys in class promptly answered, “Al Buraq Wall is an Islamic property,” using the Muslim name for the site, one of the holiest in Judaism. Pleased, the teacher then inquired whether the students would boycott Israeli products, as Arabs had boycotted Jewish businesses in 1929. A resounding chorus of “Yes!” came back from the class. For the first time since taking control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the Hamas movement is deviating from the approved Palestinian Authority curriculum, using the new texts as part of a broader push to infuse the next generation with its militant ideology. Among other points, the books, used by 55,000 children in the eighth, ninth and 10th grades as part of a required “national education” course of study in government schools, do not recognize modern Israel, or even mention the Oslo Peace Accords the country signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization in the 1990s. Textbooks have long been a point of contention in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in which dueling historical narratives and cultural clashes underpin a territorial fight. And they are central examples of what Israeli leaders call Palestinian “incitement” against Jews, held up as an obstacle to peace talks newly resumed under American pressure. Beyond their take on Israel, the new texts are also a salvo in the war for influence between the rival Palestinian factions: Gaza-based Hamas and Fatah, which dominates the Palestinian Authority and the West Bank. They reflect a growing gulf between the 1.7 million Palestinians living in the densely populated Gaza Strip and the 2.5 million spread among the West Bank’s cities and villages. “Textbooks are always and everywhere a very important means of representing a national ethos,” said Daniel Bar-Tal, a Tel Aviv University professor who helped lead a comprehensive recent study of Israeli and Palestinian textbooks. “When a leader says something, not everyone is listening. But when we talk about textbooks, all the children, all of a particular peer group, will be exposed to a particular material,” he added. “This is the strongest card.” What Gaza teenagers are reading in their 50-page hardcover texts this fall includes references to the Jewish Torah and Talmud as “fabricated,” and a description of Zionism as a racist movement whose goals include driving Arabs out of all of the area between the Nile in Africa and the Euphrates in Iraq, Syria and Turkey. “Palestine,” in turn, is defined as a state for Muslims stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. A list of Palestinian cities includes Haifa, Beersheba and Acre — all within Israel’s 1948 borders. And the books rebut Jewish historical claims to the territory by saying, “The Jews and the Zionist movement are not related to Israel, because the sons of Israel are a nation which had been annihilated.” For contemporary history, there is a recounting of Hamas’s battle with Israel last fall that exaggerates: The books say that rockets from Gaza sent “three million Zionists underground for eight days” (somewhat fewer Israelis were in and out of shelters sporadically), that Tel Aviv was hit (one missile landed in the sea, and another fell well short) and that an attempted strike on Israel’s Parliament building “forced the Zionists to beg for cease-fire.”

Yosef Kuperwasser, a senior Israeli official who has led the charge against the incitement, said the new texts were blunter expressions of a dangerous message spread throughout Palestinian schools and news media. “Palestinians have developed a system of deception — to English-speaking people they sell one story, and to themselves they have a different story,” Mr. Kuperwasser said. “Textbooks are one of the tools with which they tell their children what is the truth.” He added, “If you want real peace, it has to be based on a real change in the culture of hatred.” Books used by 55,000 children in eighth to 10th grade do not recognize modern Israel or mention the Oslo Peace Accords.. The study that Professor Bar-Tal co-led found that Palestinian Authority books generally contained more negative characterizations of Israel and less self-criticism than Israeli books do of Palestinians, but that both sides presented the other as the enemy, failed to properly mark most maps and lacked information about each other’s religion, culture and daily life. Hamas officials said they had introduced the new textbooks, and doubled the time devoted to the national education course to two sessions per week, because they believed that the Palestinian Authority was under pressure from Israel to sanitize its curriculum. “We need to make sure generations stick to the national rights,” said one Hamas lawmaker, Huda Naim. The Gaza Strip is home to 465,000 students. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which supports Palestinian refugee families, runs 250 schools for grades one to nine, and the Hamas government controls 400 schools serving all grades (there are also 46 private schools). Both Hamas and the refugee agency use the Palestinian Authority curriculum also taught throughout the West Bank, but Hamas has added programs, like a military training elective introduced in high schools last year that focuses on resistance to Israel. In April, Hamas approved a law requiring gender-segregated schools from age 9, and making criminal any contact between educational institutions and Israel. Hamas has also recently increased modesty patrols to check clothing on college campuses and to stop young unmarried men and women from fraternizing in public. Abdel-Hakim Abu Jamous, a spokesman for the Palestinian Authority’s Education Ministry in Ramallah in the West Bank, said no national education textbooks were used in West Bank schools, leaving individual teachers to run lessons as they wish. Jihad Zakarna, a senior official in the ministry, said he had not seen the Hamas textbooks, which were introduced at the start of school on Aug. 20, and therefore could not comment on them. The new books, written by a Hamas committee, feature cover pictures of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, a West Bank city, both sites of continuing clashes between Muslim and Jewish worshipers. Besides their questionable treatment of Israel and Jews, the textbooks present a decidedly Hamas spin on Palestinian politics and recent history. For example, Ahmed Yassin, a Hamas founder, is given equal billing with Yasir Arafat, the former Palestinian president, who remains the definitive national hero in the West Bank. Anound Ali, a 10th grader at another Gaza City school, expressed concern that the new books could further divide Palestinians. “School textbooks were the last thing uniting us with the West Bank — now we study something different,” she said one recent day after class. She added: “The book has nothing about Oslo. It’s our right to know about Oslo because it’s a fact in our life.” At Suliman Sultan School here in Gaza City, a three-story L-shaped building overlooking the rubble of a stadium destroyed by an Israeli F-16 airstrike last November, many students and teachers were thrilled to have the new textbooks. “It shows the cruelty of the occupation,” said Ahmed Bessisso, a 15-year-old student in the class that discussed the 1929 uprising. “It encourages students to participate in national activities.” Ahmed’s classmate Mohamed Ajour, also 15, said that he preferred “to study the history of Palestine instead of the history of Egypt or Jordan,” and that the books present the “Palestine I want to learn about — I don’t recognize that Palestine is only Gaza and West Bank.” Munir Qatayef, who teaches another national education section in the school, said the book had been “big for students.” “It’s highly politicized,” Mr. Qatayef said. “It’s a lesson of nationalism and belonging.”

1 Samuel 30

Then it happened when David and his men came to [his headquarters at] Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had made a **raid** on the Negev and on Ziklag, and had overthrown Ziklag and **burned it with fire**; 1 Samuel 30:1

*“On the third day indicates that David and his men covered about twenty-five miles a day on the march south from Aphek to Ziklag, where they would have arrived tired, hungry and expecting all the comforts of a welcome home.” (Baldwin)

DAVID'S FLIGHT FROM SAUL

- City
- Numbered movements of David
- Route of David from Saul (as far as Mizpah of Moab #5)
- Route of David from Saul (as far as Keilah #8)
- Route of David from Saul (as far as Wilderness of Maon #11)
- Route of David from Saul (as far as Ziklag #15)
- David's offensive actions (#16-19)
- David becomes king at Hebron (#20)
- ★ Battle scene

0 10 20 Kilometers

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

PHILISTIA

NEGEB

Place where David has chance to slay his rival (1 Sam. 26:1-7)

Place where David has chance to slay his rival (1 Sam. 26:4-16)

Mizpah of Moab (Kir-harese)

- David's offensive actions (#16-19)
- David becomes king at Hebron (#20)
- ★ Battle scene

0 10 20 Miles
0 10 20 Kilometers

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

PHILISTIA

NEGEB

Place where David has chance to slay his rival (1 Sam. 26:4-16)

Girzites Geshurites

AMALEK



*King Saul's failure to eliminate the Amalekites in 1 Samuel 15 cost him the throne and caused greater problems later for Israel.

- Then Samuel said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' " 1 Samuel 15:1-3
- So Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is east of Egypt. He captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. 1 Samuel 15:7-9
- Then Samuel said to Saul, "Wait, and let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak!" Samuel said, "Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the Lord anointed you king over Israel, and the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are exterminated.' Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord?" 1 Samuel 15:16-19
- But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel." 1 Samuel 15:26

Netanyahu's political future looks shakier in midst of Israel-Hamas war

*Bethan McKernan
in Jerusalem*

Already declining support for prime minister falls further as calls grow for his resignation and public anger rises

● [Israel and Hamas at war - live updates](#)



Benjamin Netanyahu left Saturday night's press conference early after facing hostile questions

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/31/netanyahus-political-future-looks-shakier-in-midst-of-israel-hamas-war>

WHITE HOUSE

Netanyahu may not last, Biden and aides increasingly believe

The Israeli prime minister's political obituary has been written before. But U.S. officials are already gauging potential successors.



President Joe Biden shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the 78th United Nations General Assembly in New York City in September. | Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, NAHAL TODSI and ALEXANDER WARD

11/01/2023 04:09 PM EDT

Updated: 11/01/2023 07:43 PM EDT



<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/11/01/biden-administration-thinks-netanyahu-may-not-last-politically-00124849>

the Amalekites had made a **raid** on the Negev and on Ziklag, **and had overthrown Ziklag and burned it with fire**; 1 Samuel 30:1

1843
MAGAZINE

The biblical archaeologist finding the victims Hamas burned

Bodies have been reduced to ash. Entire families are wiped out.
Dismembered limbs are jumbled together



Two weeks after the Hamas invasion of Israel, Moshe Ajami, deputy director of the Israel Antiquities Authority, received a call from the Israel Defence Forces asking for help. Ajami has built a career meticulously unearthing layers of biblical archaeology. Now his expertise in identifying charred and disintegrated remains was required to find bodies in the burnt-out houses on the kibbutzim which Hamas overran on October 7th. Ajami assembled a dozen or so archaeologists and got straight to work. They joined a number of teams from across society: engineers, sappers and rescue-and-recovery units from the army, police investigators, municipal authorities, military and civilian rabbinate, and volunteers from Zaka, an organisation that helps the emergency services after terrorist attacks and ensures those killed receive a religious burial.

and **they** [Amalekites] **took captive** the **women and all who were in it, both small and great, without killing anyone, and carried them off and went their way.** 1 Samuel 30:2

*“He who is compassionate to the cruel will ultimately become cruel to the compassionate”

Source: Midrash

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- City
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- David's offensive actions (#16-19)
- David becomes king at Hebron (#20)
- Battle scene

0 10 20 Miles
0 10 20 Kilometers

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

PHILISTIA

Asdod
Ashkelon
Gaza

Aphek

Ekron

Gath

Adullam

Keilah

Hebron

Ziph

Wilderness of Ziph

Wilderness of Maon

Carmel Maon

Arad

Beersheba

NEGEB

Tamar

Shechem

Shiloh

Bethel

Ramah

Gibeah of Saul

Nob

Jericho

Bethlehem

Tekoa

Forest of Hereth

Engedi

Dead Sea

Mizpah of Moab (Kir-haresi)

MOAB

Place where David has chance to slay his rival (1 Sam. 24:1-7)

Place where David has chance to slay his rival (1 Sam. 28:4-16)

Girzites Geshurites

AMALEK

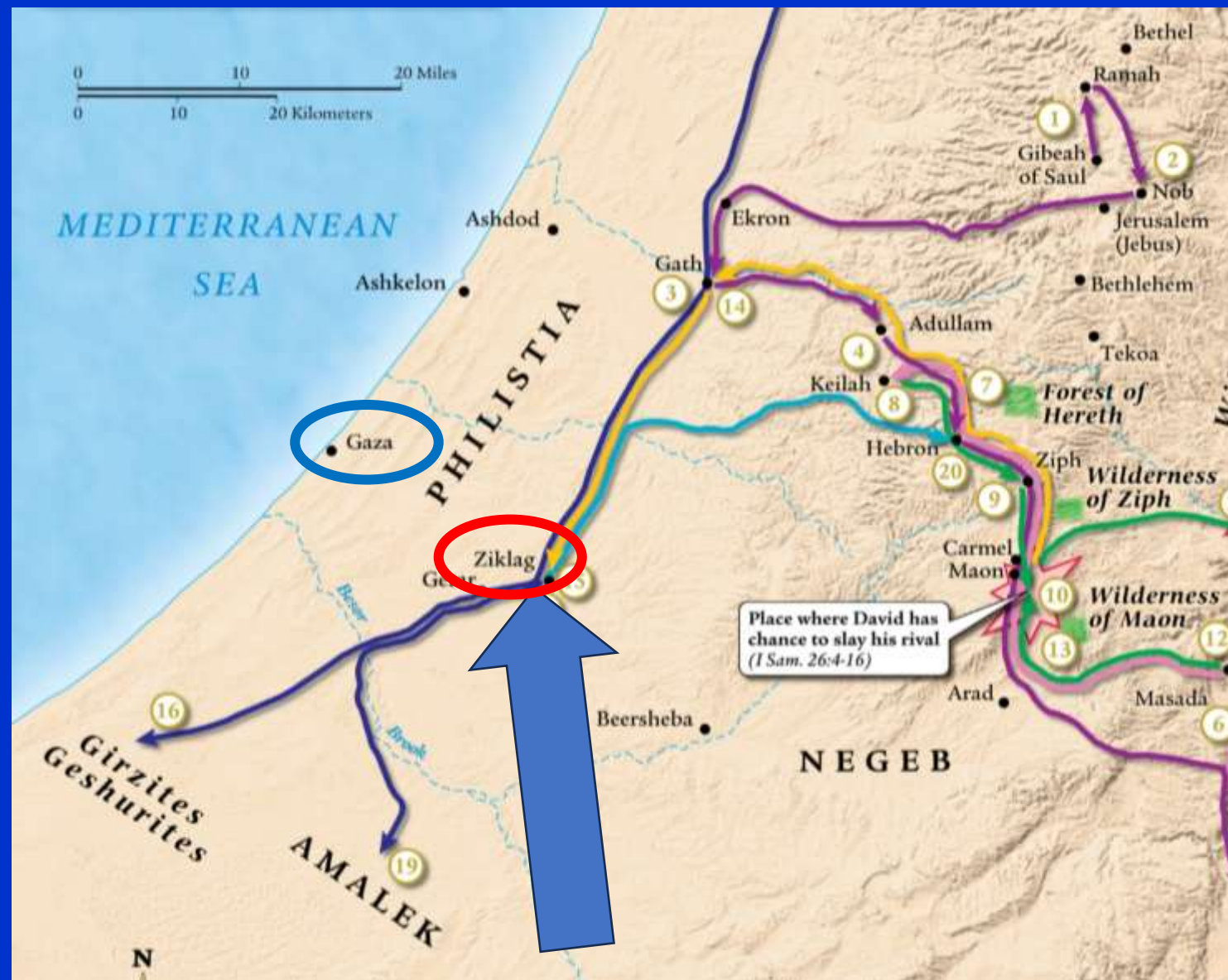
Ziklag

Gera

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

LOGOS

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When David and his men came to the city [Ziklag], behold, it was burned with fire, and their wives and their sons and their daughters had been taken captive. 1 Samuel 30:3

*What happened in Israel on October 7, 2023?

Then David and the people who were with him lifted their voices and **wept** until there was no strength in them to weep. 1 Samuel 30:4



Hostages in Israel update: Families of loved ones taken by Hamas share their horrific stories

The list of suspected hostages has grown to include children, elderly people and military service members.

Oct. 9, 2023, 7:04 PM CDT / Updated Oct. 18, 2023, 10:37 AM CDT

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/hamas-israel-hostages-tell-loved-ones-stories-rcna119509>

Then David and the people who were with him lifted their voices and wept **until there was no strength in them to weep.**

1 Samuel 30:4

Families of Israeli hostages taken by Hamas visit D.C. to plead for help

BY OLAFIMIHAN OSHIN - 11/05/23 9:25 PM ET

THE HILL

<https://thehill.com/homenews/4294837-families-of-israeli-hostages-taken-by-hamas-visit-d-c-to-plead-for-help/>

Now David's two wives had been taken captive, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite. Moreover **David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for all the people were embittered, each one because of his sons and his daughters.** But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. 1 Samuel 30:5-6



Israel's Hostage Families Feel Abandoned by Israel

They feel trapped in a nightmare—and ignored by their government.

OCTOBER 20, 2023, 10:36 AM

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/10/20/israels-hostage-families-abandoned-israel/>

Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, “Please bring me the ephod.” So Abiathar brought the ephod to David.

1 Samuel 30:7

*When David ascended the throne of Judah, Abiathar was appointed high priest (1 Chr. 15:11; 1 Kings 2:26) and the “king’s companion” (1 Chr. 27:34).

* Ephod was the high priest’s apron-like garment which contained the Urim and Thummim, the sacred stones used to discern the will of God (Ex. 28:30).

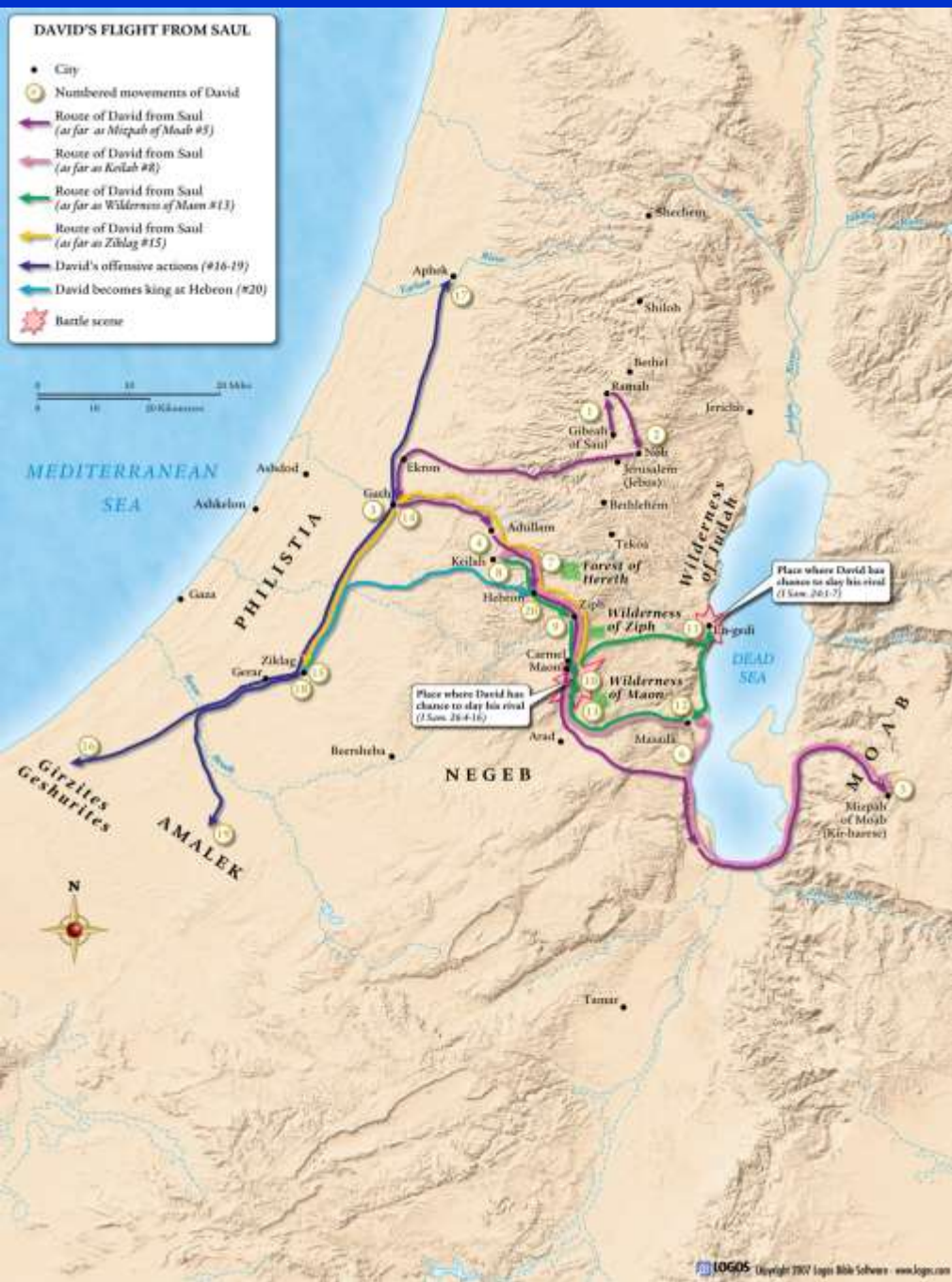
- Sources: Easton’s Bible Dictionary & Bible Knowledge Commentary

David inquired of the Lord, saying, “Shall I pursue this band? Shall I overtake them?” And He [the Lord] said to him [David], “Pursue, for you will surely overtake them, and you will surely rescue all.” 1 Samuel 30:8

*David prayed and asked the Lord what His will would be in this difficult struggle.

*God speaks to and guides the hearts of people who earnestly seek Him, especially in times of struggle.

So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those left behind remained. But David pursued, he and four hundred men, for two hundred who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor remained behind. Now they found an Egyptian in the field and brought him to David, and gave him bread and he ate, and they provided him water to drink. They gave him a piece of fig cake and two clusters of raisins, and he ate; then his spirit revived. For he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights. 1 Samuel 30:9-12



David said to him, “To whom do you belong?
And where are you from?” And he said, “I am a
young man of Egypt, a servant of an Amalekite;
and my master left me behind when I fell sick
three days ago. We made a raid on the Negev of
the Cherethites, and on that which belongs to
Judah, and on the Negev of Caleb, and **we**
burned Ziklag with fire.” 1 Samuel 30:13-14

Then David said to him, “Will you bring me down to this band?” And he said, “Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring you down to this band.” When he had brought him down, behold, they were spread over all the land, **eating and drinking and dancing** because of all the great spoil that they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah. 1 Samuel 30:15-16

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12608271/How-Hamas-leader-Ismail-Haniyeh-watched-attack-Israel-TV-office-Qatar-celebrated-officials.html>

How Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh watched attack on Israel on TV from his office in Qatar as he celebrated with other officials

- Terror chief Ismail Haniyeh cheered for joy in the safety of Qatar watching TV
- He sickently gloated over worst attack on Israel in its history with hundreds dead

By MATT DRAKE

PUBLISHED: 16:31 EST, 8 October 2023 | **UPDATED:** 02:59 EST, 9 October 2023

The Hamas leader behind the deadliest attack on Israel watched and celebrated the invasion from the safety of his Qatar office. Ismail Haniyeh was spotted with other Hamas officials cheering for joy before they prostrated themselves on the floor and praised God. It came as the terrorist group launched the single deadliest attack ever launched against Israel - which the Jewish state has claimed is 'our 9/11'. The gunmen rampaged for hours, gunning down civilians in towns, along roads and at a techno music festival being held in the desert near Gaza. Hamas fighters have also taken an unknown number of civilians and soldiers captive into Gaza. Haniyeh has emerged as the public's face behind Saturday's attack. He gave a speech hailing the killings as the beginning of a new era in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He said: 'Enough is enough, the cycle of intifadas and revolutions in the battle to liberate our Palestinian land and our prisoners languishing in occupation prisons must be completed.'

David slaughtered them from the twilight [dawn] until the evening of the next day; and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled. **So David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and rescued his two wives.** 1 Samuel 30:17-18

*We are praying every day for hostages in Gaza to be rescued

Let's pray Psalm 20 together

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high! May He send you help from the sanctuary and support you from Zion! May He remember all your meal offerings and find your burnt offering acceptable! May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your counsel! We will sing for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions. Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God. They have bowed down and fallen, but we have risen and stood upright. Save, O Lord; may the King answer us in the day we call.