

Terror Attacks by Hamas: Israel mobilizes near Gaza

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October 7-10, 2023: Jerusalem, Israel: On Saturday, at 6 AM on the day of the festival of **Shemini Atzeret**, a large number of Hamas terrorists entered Israel on motor-bikes, after cutting through the high-tech, tightly guarded border fence between Gaza strip and Israel.

Shemini Atzeret marks the end of the **Sukkot festival** and is celebrated with prayer services and festive meals.



The **Kibbutz of Kfar Aza** has 400 houses and is located less than 3Km from the Gaza border. Hamas attacked the Kibbutz from four directions. The lone security guard was killed and the terrorists barged into homes. A 90-year old woman, sitting in the verandah of her house was killed. When the Israeli Defense Forces were able to enter the Kibbutz, they found 40 babies, who had been killed and bodies of men, women and children lying on the roads and in homes.

The terrorist set fire to a house, with a fortified door so that the residents would be forced to come out. As they emerged, they were killed.

Babies and toddlers were found with their “heads decapitated” a spokesperson for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said — a claim Hamas has denied. US President Joe Biden also weighed in on the atrocities. “I never really thought that I would see it and have confirmed pictures of terrorist beheading children,” he said.

Similar blood baths took place in many communities near the border.

Hamas militants descended upon a **music festival, known as Nova**, just three miles south, shooting non-Muslim men revelers at point-blank range and looting their belongings. More than 260 bodies were later found at the festival site. Many women revelers were captured and taken to Gaza, sparking a desperate search by family members and foreign governments.

EMERGENCY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT: Israel has formed an emergency government and war management cabinet in the wake of Hamas' surprise attacks on border communities.

Former Defence minister Benny Gantz will join Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and current Defence Minister Yoav Gallant in a wartime cabinet. “There is time for war and time for peace. This, now, is the time for war,” Gantz said Wednesday during a televised address.

CORRIDOR for CIVILIANS in GAZA: Talks are underway to allow US and Palestinian civilians to leave Gaza through Egypt as a land invasion looms, a senior Israeli official said.

If such a corridor is not set up fast, a humanitarian crisis may rapidly unfold in Gaza as it faces a relentless Israeli bombardment. Already Hospitals in Gaza are overwhelmed and are experiencing shortages of drugs and medical supplies.

Several other countries are sending flights to evacuate their citizens.

THE LATEST DEATH TOLL: At least 1100 people have been killed in Gaza since Israel began airstrikes in response to Hamas' attacks, the Ministry of Health in Gaza said. Israel has reported at least 1200 people have been killed since Saturday.

IMPENDING ENTRY INTO GAZA: Israel has amassed more than 300000 reservists along its southern border, IDF spokesperson **Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus** said.

HAMAS PREPARATIONS: Hamas militants had been preparing for the attack for two years, a senior Hamas official based in Lebanon said. Ali Baraka, head of Hamas National Relations Abroad, said the group manufactured rockets, various ammunition and firearms, according to an edited interview with Russia Today's Arabic news channel RTArabic.

INVOLVEMENT OF IRAN: Though the intelligence community is not ready to reach a full conclusion, government officials have pointed to Iran's support for Hamas, including weapons and financing, that would have helped them even if not in a direct way.

SAUDI DIPLOMACY: Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said Saudi Arabia "is making unremitting efforts to stop the escalation in fighting in Israel, according to Saudi state-run SPA news. The crown prince held a phone call with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi — the first call since both countries renewed diplomatic ties, an Iranian presidential aide said. The leaders discussed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the aide said.

WORKING TO RESCUE HOSTAGES: The US is working closely with Israel to get American hostages home safely. FBI and Pentagon personnel are on the ground in Israel providing support to Israeli special operators. An interagency team from the State Department, National Security Council, and FBI is also receiving input about people missing or deceased, a US official said.

---- **By Dr K N Mistry**
