



THE FOREIGN PRESS BRANCH ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT

Announcement

July 8, 2014

Location : Tel Aviv

Operation 'Protective Edge' Commences as IDF Targets Terror Sites in the Gaza Strip

In combined efforts of both aerial and naval forces, the IDF targeted overnight approximately 50 terror sites and targets across the Gaza Strip, commencing operation 'Protective Edge' – aimed to retrieve stability to the residents of southern Israel, eliminate Hamas' capabilities and destroy terror infrastructure operating against the State of Israel and its civilians.

Among the targets are 4 residences and activity sites utilized by Hamas operatives who are responsible for numerous rocket attacks and were involved in various terror activities against the State of Israel

The residences and sites that were targeted were utilized by the following operatives:

- *Ei'ad Sakik*, a Hamas operative affiliated with rocket operations in the Gaza city, was involved in launching of rockets and mortars at Israel.
- *Abdullah Hshash*, a Hamas operative affiliated with rockets operation in Rafah, was involved in rocket attacks during the past few weeks and in the past as well.
- *Samer Abu Daka*, a Hamas operative in Khan Yunin, involved in terrorist activity against the State of Israel.
- *Hassan Abdullah*, a Hamas operative affiliated with rocket operations in Khan Yunis, was involved in rocket attacks during the past few weeks.

The IDF targeted dozens of terror sites across the Gaza Strip, including concealed rocket launchers, launching infrastructures, training bases, terror tunnels' shafts and further targets.

Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, IDF Spokesman: *"In the past weeks, residents of southern Israel were forced into an unbearable reality – a situation they haven't encountered in these scales since November 2012. In light of these circumstances, the IDF commenced operation 'Protective Edge'. We are determined to lay a significant blow on Hamas' terror capabilities and infrastructure, eliminate any threat on Israeli sovereignty emanating from the Gaza Strip and restore stability to the southern region."*



THE IDF HAS COMMENCED OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE TO DEFEND ISRAEL'S CIVILIANS AGAINST HAMAS TERRORISM

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**What can you do in
15 seconds?**



Tie your shoes



Drink a glass of water



Send a text message

SAVE YOUR LIFE



Israelis living near Gaza have only 15 seconds to run for shelter during a rocket alert.

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“Operation Protective Edge”

Over the past few weeks, over 300 rockets have been fired at Israel, therefore; the Israeli government has ordered the commencement of Operation ‘Protective Edge’

The terrorist organization Hamas has been under enormous pressure taking into account that they haven’t gained anything from the kidnapping and murder of the three abducted Israeli teenagers.

We are currently seeing a gradual increase in violence, therefore the level of operational alert has increased. The Israeli army has called up 1,500 reserves soldiers and officers and in the upcoming days more will be called. As of this moment, we know that this will not be a short operation; Hamas militants have over 10,000 rockets targeting cities as far as Tel Aviv and beyond.

Hamas has chosen to escalate this situation, and are currently using the people of the Gaza Strip as a shield for terrorist activities during this time of the Ramadan. This is the reality the Hamas wishes for its people. In spite of these actions, The IDF does everything possible to minimize civilian casualties. Such tactics involve phone calls to homes that are being used forcibly as hubs for terrorist activities that are going to be bombed, pin point precision rockets and the ‘knock on the roof’ tactic- where Israel deploys a ‘scare’ bomb which only makes noise in order to make civilians leave the targeted area.

Beer Sheva and all the cities within 40km from the Gaza Strip are under instructions from the Home Front Command to be close at all moments to a shelter. No studies, work or gatherings will be taking place today.

The IDF will be releasing more specific information on the targets it hits further on.

Attached are links with official information as well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Hmmdz-RI6A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScPLpsaFaWU>

**NO NATION WOULD ACCEPT
CONSTANT ROCKET FIRE**

NEITHER WILL WE

