

The Surprise Attack on Israel," also known as the "October 7 Massacre," "Simchat Torah Massacre," "The Seventh of October," "7/10," and "Black Sabbath," was a widespread surprise attack carried out by Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations from the Gaza Strip against military and civilian targets in Israel. The attack began on the morning of Saturday and Simchat Torah holiday, , 7th of October 2023.

The surprise attack commenced with a massive and sustained barrage of rockets and mortar shells, numbering in the thousands, targeting various regions in Israel, especially in the southern and central areas. Concurrently, a land, air, and sea infiltration of approximately 3,000 terrorists into Israeli territory, spanning a front of about 60 kilometers, took place. These terrorists initiated attacks, seized control of IDF bases and positions, engaged in combat with security forces, infiltrated towns, cities, villages and kibbutzim all around the south of Israel and carried out acts of violence, including massacres.

During the attack, over 1,200 Israeli and foreign civilians were killed, including women, children, and the elderly. The atrocities included torture, abuse, mutilation, rape, burning of living people, and desecration of corpses. One of the most significant incidents was the massacre during the "Nova music Festival" near Kibbutz Re'im, These events marking the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of the State of Israel. Additionally, 253 Israeli and foreign citizens and soldiers were kidnapped.

In response to the attack, Israel declared a state of war, known as the "Iron Swords War." The assault resulted in the deaths of over 1,200 individuals and over 1,941 injuries, with around 360 in critical condition. Numerous foreign citizens were also among the casualties. 253 people, including foreign citizens, Israeli citizens, and soldiers, were abducted to the Gaza Strip. Extensive damage occurred in communities surrounding the Gaza Strip, and other areas were affected by rocket strikes.

Hamas committed war crimes and crimes against humanity during this widespread assault, including allegations of deliberately targeting civilians. This event stands as the deadliest terrorist attack in Israel's history and the most catastrophic event for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.