

Netanyahu declares war after Hamas launches massive surprise attack

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Body

By Emad Drimly and Sara Lemel, dpa Tel Aviv/GAZA (dpa-AFX) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his fellow citizens on Saturday that the country is at war, after the Palestinian militant organization Hamas fired 2,200 rockets into Israel in what it called a "military operation." "Citizens of Israel, we are at war, not in an operation or in rounds, but at war," Netanyahu told Israelis, saying Hamas had launched "a murderous surprise attack against the State of Israel and its citizens." Netanyahu vowed to "return fire of a magnitude that the enemy has not known. The enemy will pay an unprecedented price. "We are at war and we will win it." So far Israel reported that a 60-year-old woman had been killed and 15 people were injured, but in an ever moving military situation this is likely to change throughout the day. Palestinian militants had infiltrated Israel by land, sea and air, army spokesman Richard Hecht said. Netanyahu, in his statement, said a top security priority was to "clear out the communities that have been infiltrated by terrorists." Israeli soldiers are currently fighting at various locations around the Gaza Strip, Hecht said, including two military bases, the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip and several towns. Israeli media reported that hostages had been taken, but there was no official confirmation. It was initially unclear how exactly the Palestinian militants were able to enter Israel despite strict border controls. Hecht said that, among other things, gliders had been used. He could not name the number of attackers. "There were not one or two." The massive attacks set off alarms in many Israeli cities, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. It came as the country is celebrating the Jewish festival of Simchat Torah, which honours the holy book. Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif said in a message that the group had decided to put an end to Israeli violations, as he called them. Israel's response was the swift shelling of Hamas targets in Gaza, according to eye witnesses. "Hamas committed a grave mistake this morning and started a war against the state of Israel," Israeli Defence Minister Joav Gallant countered. Israeli soldiers were fighting "in all the places where incursions were made." He mobilized the country's reservists and called on citizens to obey the authorities' orders. The Israeli army called its defensive action "Iron Swords." Condemnation and support for Israel came from many governments. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen condemned the attack and called it "terrorism in its most despicable form." "Israel has the right to defend itself against such heinous attacks," she wrote on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter. European Council President Charles Michel said the European Union "stands in solidarity with Israeli people in this horrific moment," in a post on X. "Terrifying news is reaching us today from Israel," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz posted on X. "We are deeply shocked by the rocket fire from Gaza and the escalating violence. Germany condemns these Hamas attacks and stands by Israel's side." British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, also on X, said "the UK unequivocally condemns the horrific attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians. "The UK will always support Israel's right to defend itself," he added. The massive attack from the Gaza Strip came as a surprise. The situation had

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recently escalated again, especially in the occupied West Bank. Since Thursday, four Palestinians had died in their own attacks or in confrontations with the army. The security situation in Israel and the West Bank has long been tense. Since the beginning of the year, 27 Israelis, one Ukrainian and one Italian have been killed in attacks. In the same period, more than 200 Palestinians have died in Israeli military operations, confrontations or after their own attacks. Israel took over the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 1967. The Palestinians claim the territories for an independent state of Palestine with the Arab East Jerusalem as its capital. There have been several violent protests on the Gaza border in the past month. Explosives have been thrown at soldiers and several Palestinians have been injured by gunshots. The Israeli air force has in turn repeatedly attacked posts of the militant Palestinian organisation Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip. According to the UN, more than 2 million people live in very poor conditions in the Gaza Strip. Hamas, classified as a terrorist organization by the European Union, the United States and Israel, seized power by force in 2007 and controls the overpopulated strip. Copyright dpa

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Hamas 'military operation' on Israel attack kills one, injuries 15

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Length: 670 words

Body

By Sara Lemel in Tel Aviv and Emad Drimly in Gaza Tel Aviv/GAZA (dpa-AFX) - Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip, in a surprise attack, fired dozens of rockets at targets in Israel early on Saturday in what they called a "military operation," killing a 60-year-old woman and injuring 15. Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif declared the start Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, aimed at putting an end to Israeli "violations," in a brief recorded statement. In response, the Israeli air force shelled targets in Gaza, according to eyewitnesses. There were no reports of military casualties. An army spokesman confirmed the airstrikes. The Israeli army reported the casualties and said the attack had set off warning sirens in several cities across the country. Alarms were also heard in Tel Aviv. Several armed Palestinians entered Israeli territory during the rocket attack, according to army sources. "A number of terrorists have infiltrated into Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip. Residents in the area surrounding the Gaza Strip have been asked to stay in their homes," the Israeli Defence Force wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. Eyewitnesses reported exchanges of fire in the streets. It was unclear how the attackers from the Gaza Strip had been able to cross the strictly protected border. A video showing a hang-glider was circulating on social media. However, it could not initially be independently verified. The military called on residents of the southern and central parts of Israel to stay in protected areas. The country is currently marking the Jewish festival of Simchat Torah, celebrating the holy book. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been updated about the situation and will convene a meeting of senior officials of the security echelon in the next few hours. Netanyahu is on his way to the Kirya in order to conduct a security assessment together with the leaders of the entire security establishment, a spokesman said. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant approved the mobilization of reservists, "in accordance with the IDF's [Israeli Defence Force] requirements," a Defence Ministry spokeswoman said. The killed woman was fatally injured in a direct hit on a building near the town of Gedera, the Magen David Adom ambulance service said. Two people suffered serious injuries. Apart from Gedera, medics reported casualties from the rocket attacks around the towns of Ashkelon and Yavne. A house was also hit in Tel Aviv, according to army sources. It was initially unclear whether there were any casualties. The ambulance service called for urgent blood donations at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv due to a blood shortage. The massive attack from the Gaza Strip came as a surprise. The situation had recently escalated again, especially in the occupied West Bank. Since Thursday, four Palestinians have died in their own attacks or in confrontations with the army. The security situation in Israel and the West Bank has long been tense. Since the beginning of the year, 27 Israelis, one Ukrainian and one Italian have been killed in attacks. In the same period, more than 200 Palestinians have died in Israeli military operations, confrontations or after their own attacks. Israel took over the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 1967. The Palestinians claim the territories for an independent state of Palestine with the Arab East Jerusalem as its capital. There have been several violent

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protests on the Gaza border in the past month. Explosives have been thrown at soldiers and several Palestinians have been injured by gunshots. The Israeli air force has in turn repeatedly attacked posts of the militant Palestinian organisation Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip. According to the UN, more than 2 million people live in very poor conditions in the Gaza Strip. Hamas, classified as a terrorist organization by the European Union, the United States and Israel, seized power by force in 2007 and controls the overpopulated strip. Copyright dpa

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FED:Sparks fly as Australians split on Arab-Israel conflict

AAP Newsfeed

October 10, 2023 Tuesday 3:32 AM AEST

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Section: DOMESTIC NEWS

Length: 534 words

Dateline: CANBERRA Oct 10

Body

Australians are divided on the Arab-Israel conflict with some taking to the streets after a weekend of violence in the Middle East reignited tensions.

In a continuation of a 75-year-long conflict, more than 700 people are dead and thousands more wounded after Islamist group Hamas launched attacks on Israeli towns on Saturday and another 400 have been killed in Israel's retaliatory attacks.

Hundreds of pro-Palestine protesters marched on the Sydney Opera House, setting flares ablaze as its sails lit up in the blue and white of the Israeli flag on Monday evening.

Speaking at the rally, Palestinian and academic Fahad Ali called on the words of South African apartheid activist Nelson Mandela, saying Palestine had been left with no choice but armed struggle.

"The world has done nothing to support us," he said.

"Non-violent protest has been criminalised. Governments, including the government of this colonial entity that we call Australia, are tripping over themselves to outlaw boycott, divestment and sanctions on Israel.

"When all channels and peaceful protests had been barred to us, the decision was made to embark on violent forms of political struggle. We did so not because we desired such a course but solely because the government had left us with no other choice."

A video posted to social media also showed one man with an Israeli flag walking away from the rally after being confronted by protesters at Sydney Town Hall.

Earlier on Monday, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told 2GB the pro-Palestine rally should have been called off out of respect for the loss of life.

"I support people's right to demonstrate their their views - we're a democratic nation ... But what is to be served apart from creating a climate that is not conducive to peace?" he said.

Declaring himself a supporter of the two-state solution, he also said Hamas' attack was not in the interests of either Israelis or Palestinians.

"There's no doubt there has been and continues to be Palestinian suffering but the actions of Hamas in this are completely indefensible," he said.

FED:Sparks fly as Australians split on Arab- Israel conflict

"Every effort should always be made to protect and not to harm civilians.

"But Israel, of course, does have a right to defend itself."

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton also threw his support behind Israel and hit back against foreign minister Penny Wong's calls for restraint.

"This is not the time for restraint," he told Sky News on Monday.

"People who try to draw a parallel or argue equivalence between Israeli activity in their retaliation for the strikes and the barbaric attacks that we've seen by Hamas - there is no comparison."

But Greens politicians condemned the pro-Israeli sentiment with senator Mehreen Faruqi calling out the government's decision to illuminate Parliament House blue and white in support of Israel.

"One colonial government supporting another. What a disgrace," she wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

In Melbourne, synagogue Caulfield Shule held a vigil on Monday night to commemorate the lives lost in Israel.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles told those gathered "Australia's heart breaks" for them and described the Hamas assault as an act of terrorism.

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Large-scale attack on Israel War in the Middle East Terrorist organization Hamas attacks Israeli localities and fires thousands of rockets. At least 100 Israeli....

Large-scale attack on Israel War in the Middle East; Terrorist organization Hamas attacks Israeli localities and fires thousands of rockets. At least 100 Israelis reportedly killed. Government declares state of war

Die Welt am Sonntag (English)

October 8, 2023 Sunday

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Section: TITLE; Pg. 1; No. 41

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Byline: Clemens Wergin

Body

The images from the Israeli border area with the Gaza Strip are like something out of a nightmare. Completely unexpectedly, Palestinian militants from the coastal strip fired thousands of rockets at Israeli localities early Saturday morning. At the same time, numerous armed Palestinians advance into Israel by land, sea and air on the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah (Joy of the Torah), despite the fact that the barrier is considered to be particularly tightly secured.

According to Israeli media reports, at least 100 Israelis were killed and some 900 injured by Saturday afternoon, when the attackers entered several towns in the border area and also holed up in homes with hostages, according to media reports. Quite a few Israelis were also reportedly taken into the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the start of a security cabinet meeting in Tel Aviv, "As of this morning, the state of Israel is at war." The country was also officially put on war readiness, according to military sources, with thousands of reservists called up. The Israeli army called its defensive action "Iron Swords." An Israeli representative warned that the Islamist Palestinian organization Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, had opened "the gates of hell" with its large-scale attack on Israel. The first goal now is to "clear the area of the enemy forces that have entered," Netanyahu said. Hamas will pay an "immense price" for the attack, he announced. He also said it was important to secure other fronts "so that no one makes the mistake of entering this war." Israel's army primarily secured the northern border out of concern for a possible attack by Lebanon's Hezbollah militia. In response to the 2220-missile attack, Israeli warplanes bombed Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas, classified as a terrorist organization by the EU, U.S. and Israel, called it a "military operation" against Israel. Military chief Mohammed Deif said they had decided to put an end to Israeli crimes, as he called them. Warning sirens kept wailing in various cities in Israel because of the rocket attacks, according to the army. Rocket alarms were also heard several times in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In Tel Aviv, a house was hit. The military called on

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residents of the southern and central parts of the country to stay in protected areas. Defense Minister Joav Galant declared a special security situation within 80 kilometers of the Gaza Strip.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and EU Council President Charles Michel condemned the attack. The United States clearly sided with Israel. German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser stressed that protecting Jewish and Israeli institutions in Germany was now a "top priority." According to the Berlin Interior Senate, protection in the German capital has already been stepped up.

Iran, on the other hand, congratulated Hamas and spoke of a "turning point" in armed resistance against Israel. The attacks from the Gaza Strip, which had apparently been prepared for some time, came unexpectedly for Israel. The Israeli army had assumed that Hamas was not currently interested in a new round of arms. Not least because several wars in the past 15 years have had devastating effects on the civilian population in the Gaza Strip. Hamas seized power there by force in 2007. Israel subsequently tightened a blockade of the coastal area, which is supported by Egypt.

There have been several violent protests on the Gaza border in the past month. Explosive devices were thrown at soldiers, and several Palestinians were injured by gunfire. The Israeli air force attacked Hamas posts because of the incidents. Nevertheless, before Saturday's attack, the Israeli military's attention was mainly focused on the occupied West Bank, where the situation had recently deteriorated further. Since Thursday, four Palestinians had been killed there in attacks of their own or confrontations with the army. The security situation in Israel and the West Bank has been very tense for about a year and a half. Since the beginning of the year, 27 Israelis, one Ukrainian, and one Italian have been killed in attacks. During the same period, more than 200 Palestinians have died in Israeli military operations, confrontations, or following attacks of their own. Pages 2, 3

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Document original

Graphic

Continuous alarm: thousands of rockets fired from Gaza Strip

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