NEWSLETTER

WILL IT END?

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| BaCKGROUNd The [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-us-policy-israeli-palestinian-conflict) dates back to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1947, the United Nations adopted [Resolution 181](https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-208958/), known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended in 1949 with Israel’s victory, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced, and the territory was divided into 3 parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip. | Over the following years, tensions rose in the region, particularly between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Following the [1956 Suez Crisis](https://www.aljazeera.com/focus/arabunity/2008/02/200852517304630655.html) and Israel’s invasion of the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria signed mutual defense pacts in anticipation of a possible mobilization of Israeli troops. In June 1967, following [a series of maneuvers](https://www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War) by Egyptian President Abdel Gamal Nasser, Israel preemptively attacked Egyptian and Syrian air forces, starting the Six-Day War. After the war, Israel gained territorial control over the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt; the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan; and the Golan Heights from Syria. | Six years later, in what is referred to as the Yom Kippur War or the October War, Egypt and Syria launched [a surprise two-front attack](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2017/10/23/the-fog-of-certainty-learning-from-the-intelligence-failures-of-the-1973-war/) on Israel to regain their lost territory; the conflict did not result in significant gains for Egypt, Israel, or Syria, but Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat declared the war a victory for Egypt as it allowed Egypt and Syria to [negotiate over previously ceded territory](https://www.britannica.com/event/Yom-Kippur-War). Finally, in 1979, following a series of cease-fires and peace negotiations, representatives from Egypt and Israel signed the [Camp David Accords](https://history.state.gov/milestones/1977-1980/camp-david), a peace treaty that ended the thirty-year conflict between Egypt and Israel. |
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|  | Hamas Leader Yahya Sinwar Killed by Israeli Strike in Gaza *October 17, 2024*  The Israel Defence Forces confirmed that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar was "eliminated" yesterday after an Israeli tank struck a building in southern Gaza during a routine military operation ([CNN](https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/israel-iran-gaza-lebanon-10-17-24-intl-hnk/index.html)). Sinwar was widely considered to be the mastermind behind the October 7 attack that killed nearly 1,200 people in Israel last year ([AP](https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-hamas-war-sinwar-leader-2963dbc6e8ef040a00e588488cba33e7)). Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the killing of Sinwar an "important moment in the war" but said that the fighting "has not ended yet" ([AP](https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-hamas-lebanon-hezbollah-news-10-17-2024-d12ca71945313e601cf10876072f4182)). A senior Hamas official said in a public statement that the killing would not stop their fight for a “free Palestine” and that the group has only become “stronger and more popular” with each death of its leaders ([NBC](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/live-blog/live-updates-hamas-leader-yahya-sinwar-possibly-killed-gaza-rcna175922)). In a statement released today, President Joe Biden likened Sinwar's death to the U.S. military operation that killed Osama Bin Laden in 2011 and stated that it provides "the opportunity for a 'day after' in Gaza" ([Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/live-updates-yahya-sinwar-2024-10-17/)). Biden further indicated that he would be speaking with Netanyahu soon to "discuss the pathway for bringing the hostages home...and for ending this war once and for all" ([NYT](https://www.nytimes.com/live/2024/10/17/world/israel-lebanon-iran-gaza-news/c5fc7253-330a-5c50-8c82-cecc6cdee311?smid=url-share)). |

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| UN Warns Food Supplies Will Deplete for North Gaza by Next Week *October 17, 2024*  The World Food Program’s director of Palestinian territories urged Israel to allow for an immediate increase in aid delivery, with existing aid to the Gaza Strip already well below what’s required for the hundreds of thousands of people that have evacuated to the north; Israel has launched a massive new offensive in the area in recent days and has blocked the organization from getting aid in [(FT)](https://www.ft.com/content/4591ec61-2c81-48c2-b60a-11679bed200d). The UN Security Council unanimously called on Israel yesterday to allow aid and assistance into northern Gaza [(NYT)](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/16/world/middleeast/un-gaza-aid-israel.html?smid=url-share). |  |
| U.S. Threatens to Withhold Military Aid to Israel Until Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza Is Addressed *October 15, 2024*  In a letter from U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Washington is giving the Israeli government thirty days to meet a swath of humanitarian demands; last month saw the lowest level of humanitarian aid in any month since the war began, Blinken and Austin wrote [(FT)](https://www.ft.com/content/aa5fb16e-a25d-4d05-95ce-670b78d4e2de?). This includes allowing at least 350 trucks a day into the Gaza Strip and implementing a humanitarian pause for vaccinations and aid distribution for at least the next four months [(CNN)](https://www.cnn.com/2024/10/15/politics/us-israel-gaza-humanitarian-situation-letter/index.html). |  |
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| Israel Strike Hits Central Hospital Complex in Gaza Strip*October 14, 2024* Israel claimed Hamas fighters were hiding in the hospital complex; another missile struck a school-turned-shelter, killing and injuring dozens [(NYT)](https://www.nytimes.com/live/2024/10/14/world/israel-lebanon-hezbollah-news/here-are-the-latest-developments?smid=url-share). Israeli Defense Minister Postpones DC Trip Amid Lebanon Ground Campaign *October 9, 2024*  Yoav Gallant pushed a trip to Washington that would have included talks at the Pentagon today, a U.S. military spokesperson said [(NYT)](https://www.nytimes.com/live/2024/10/08/world/israel-iran-lebanon-hezbollah/here-are-the-latest-developments?smid=url-share). Meanwhile, Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah are holding a governance dialogue today in Cairo, a Hamas official and unnamed Egyptian security sources said [(Reuters,](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/hamas-fatah-leaders-hold-palestinian-unity-talks-cairo-2024-10-09/) [EFE)](https://efe.com/en/latest-news/2024-10-08/hamas-fatah/). The talks come as Gaza’s Health Ministry reported forty-two thousand Palestinians have died in Hamas’s war with Israel[(AP)](https://apnews.com/video/gaza-strip-palestinian-territories-government-war-and-unrest-532fdf9c32ec4479b880983f4ab3cdbd). |

##### Israel Continues Operations in Lebanon As It Marks One Year of War With Hamas

*October 8, 2024*

In a departure from Hezbollah’s previous public statements, deputy leader Naim Qassemhe did not mention an end to the war in the Gaza Strip as a precondition to ending fighting on the Lebanon-Israel border in a televised address today [(Reuters)](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/hezbollah-strikes-israel-gaza-war-anniversary-fears-grow-over-middle-east-2024-10-07/). Israel’s defense minister is due to participate in talks at the Pentagon tomorrow [(The Hill)](https://thehill.com/homenews/4920702-defense-secretary-meets-israeli-counterpart/). Meanwhile, the U.S. Treasury yesterday announced new sanctions on Hamas [(Reuters)](https://www.reuters.com/world/us-targets-hamas-with-sanctions-anniversary-gaza-war-2024-10-07/).