

Kandi Bracelets: Symbols of Friendship, Tools of Awareness

Keeping the Spirit of Hostages Alive

Appendix

OVERVIEW OF THE EVENTS OF OCTOBER 7TH

The following overview of the events of October 7th, can be helpful to give context to your learners about what led to the current hostage situation.

Facts about the Israel-Hamas war as we know them:⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾

- On the morning of Saturday, October 7, 2023, Hamas, a terror organization that governs the Gaza strip, openly and violently attacked Israeli communities in the areas just outside the northern part of Gaza (Southern Israel in the Negev near Kibbutz Re'im).
- Hamas terrorists attacked with rockets and munitions by land, air, and sea, facilitated by a complex network of tunnels underground.
- During the terrorist attack, Hamas targeted Jewish Israeli communities. Those who were killed, injured, and kidnapped include civilians and soldiers, Israelis and internationals, Jews and Arabs.
- One primary target was the Nova music festival, where young people were celebrating the holiday of Sukkot. The final figure communicated by police on November 17, 2023 was 364 killed (including 17 police officers) and 40 young people were abducted from the festival and brought into Gaza.
- On October 7, 2023, 240 men, women, and children were taken hostage into Gaza. The Israeli government says 138 of those taken hostage had foreign passports (meaning that several countries other than Israel are also impacted), including 15 Argentinians, 12 Germans, 12 Americans, 6 French, and 6 Russians.
- After a round of exchanges for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel in November-December 2023, 108 captives were released leaving approximately slightly over 130 captives remaining; at least one fourth of them are believed to be dead (their remains have yet to be released to their families).
- As of February 2024, over 1,200 Israelis have been killed. Nearly 600 soldiers have died since the war began.
- Israel, which has the right to self-defense, has a responsibility to minimize the loss of life of innocent Palestinians living in Gaza, while comprehensively defeating Hamas.

Sources and References:

1. [Wiki article giving overview of Nova festival](#)
2. [Article highlighting facts of Israel-Hamas war](#)
3. [Article with numbers of those captured, held captive, and killed](#)
4. [Article highlighting number of Israel soldiers killed in war](#)
5. [Article with captives statistics](#)