

## **Background: ‘Great Return March’ on the Gazan Border**

- Today’s action is part of the Gazan ‘Great Return March’ campaign, which kicked off in March of this year and is expected to continue through tomorrow — when it will reach its height.
- The Hamas-sponsored protesters have increased their attacks on the border. Several Hamas agents have attempted — and in some cases, succeeded — in sabotaging the border fence and, in at least two cases, crossing the border into Israel. Many of these operatives subsequently attacked IDF troops with explosive devices, acts which resulted in the deaths and arrests of several Hamas agents. The IDF has called these attempts to cross the border “part of a broader effort by Hamas to give its terror efforts a civilian cover and turn the border fence area into a battle zone.”
- There has also been an intensification of Hamas’s efforts to use human shields in their efforts, as exemplified by the hundreds of rioters who attacked the border fence in an attempt to burn it and enter Israel on Apr. 27. The rioters threw explosives, firebombs, and rocks. This prompted the IDF to open fire “in accordance with the rules of engagement.”
- In addition to throwing incendiary devices and rocks, terrorists on the border have been building hundreds of kites with tails meant to carry rags soaked in gasoline. Their plan, according to an [article by the New York Times](#), “was to fly them in swarms into Israel with the aim of igniting the dry fields of the rural communities on the other side of the border fence.”
- The Hamas protests are expected to peak on May 15, when Palestinians mark “Nakba Day,” the anniversary of Arab loss following Israel’s creation. This year the day is expected to be particularly tense, as Nakba Day falls one day after the opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem and the day before the first Friday in Ramadan.
- Hamas is exploiting civilian protestors — many of them young children and women — for the use of propaganda. Leaders are inciting the population, mostly concerned with improving its livelihood, against IDF troops. In the New York Times article cited above, a terrorist describes making 40 fire-starting kites with the help of his four children.
- Hamas has created a press trap for the international media in which the terror group is in a win-win situation: if Israel allows the border to be overrun with those who will infiltrate into Israeli communities, Hamas wins. If Israel prevents this situation, however, and Gazan civilians die in the process, Hamas wins. This is the result of a regime that

holds its citizens hostage to its extreme terrorist ideologies and invests billions of dollars in terror infrastructure instead of its citizens' well-being. The PA leader Mahmoud Abbas called for a three-day general strike to mourn the Palestinians killed in Gaza, Channel 10 reports. Hamas called for an intifada.

### **Updates:**

- Over 50 Palestinians were killed today on May 14, in the most violent of the riots along the Gaza border with Israel. An estimated 40,000 Palestinians participated in riots at 12 locations
- On May 14, an IAF aircraft and an IDF tank targeted two additional military positions belonging to Hamas in the northern Gaza Strip. These strikes were conducted in response to the incident in which IDF forces were fired upon.
- According to Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an IAF fighter jet struck five terrorist targets in a Hamas military training facility in the northern Gaza Strip. The strike was conducted in response to the violent acts of the last few hours being carried out by Hamas along the security fence.
- According to an IDF Spokesperson, IDF troops thwarted a terror attack in which three terrorists attempted to place an explosive device adjacent to the security fence in the Rafah area, where especially violent riots are taking place. In response, IDF troops fired at the terrorists, who were killed.
- IAF aircraft targeted Hamas military posts near the Jabalia area after IDF forces were fired upon from the northern Gaza Strip. No IDF soldiers were injured in the incident.
- The IDF operates with determination in order to prevent massive terror activities constantly being led by
- Hamas in Gaza. Each act of terror will be met with a harsh response. The Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot, conducted a situation assessment with commanders of the Gaza Division regarding their security activities and possible developments.
- 40,000 Palestinians are currently partaking in violent riots in 13 locations along the Gaza Strip security fence.
- The rioters are hurling firebombs and explosive devices at the security fence and at IDF troops. They are also burning tires, throwing rocks and launching flaming objects with

the intention of igniting fires in Israeli territory and harming IDF troops. IDF troops are responding with riot dispersal means and fire, and are operating according to standard operating procedures.

- The IDF is determined to fulfill its mission to protect Israeli sovereignty and Israeli civilians.

#### **Media:**

- Footage depicting an IDF response to a terror cell's attempt to infiltrate the security fence: <http://videoidf.co.il/140518-CL-07.mp4>
- Footage depicting an IAF strike on a terror post belonging to the Hamas terror organization in response to shots being fired at IDF troops: <http://videoidf.co.il/140518-CL-06.mp4>
- Footage depicting attempts to sabotage security infrastructure: <http://videoidf.co.il/140518-CL-04.mp4>
- Photographs showing terrorists placing explosive devices adjacent to the security fence: <http://app.activetrail.com/S/eiwix3detxt.htm>
- Photographs of violence taking place near the security fence: <http://app.activetrail.com/S/eiwix3detxx.htm>
- Video documenting the violent riots: <http://videoidf.co.il/140518-CL-02.mp4>
- Photographs from the situation assessment conducted by the Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot, with the Commanding Officer of the Southern Command, Maj. Gen. Eyal Zamir, and the Commanding Officer of the Gaza Division, Brig. Gen. Yehuda Fuchs, in addition to photographs from today's violent riots: <http://app.activetrail.com/S/eiwix3d3aex.htm>

