

Since the early hours of Saturday morning, some 200 mortars and rockets were launched from the Gaza Strip towards Israeli territory, triggering 173 separate Red Alert sirens. Tens of thousands of residents spent much of the Sabbath in shelters. Approximately 30 projectiles were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system and some 73 projectiles landed in open areas.

In the most serious event, three people were injured when a rocket hit a home in Sderot. One 17 year-old girl was wounded with shrapnel wounds to her face, a 20 year-old girl with injuries to her limbs and a 52 year-old man with a chest injury. In a separate incident, a rocket hit a synagogue, also in Sderot, but there were no injuries there. Another rocket landed near homes on a kibbutz in the Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council. Video of some of the damage can be seen [here](#). Chilling footage from a security camera showing a rocket hitting a public area in Sderot just in front of a passerby can be seen [here](#).

During the afternoon, the IDF instructed residents in Gaza border communities to remain within 15-seconds of bomb shelters or safe rooms, closed the local Zikim Beach, and restricted gatherings of more than 100 people in open spaces and more than 500 people in closed spaces across the Gaza border communities. As of early this morning, those restrictions have been lifted. See [here](#) for a video report from the IDF at the scene of Sderot rocket attacks.

In response to the rocket fire, Israel's air force carried out its largest daytime operation against Hamas since 2014's Operation Protective Edge. Israeli jets reportedly hit some 40 Hamas targets across the Gaza Strip in four separate military compounds. As part of the operation, the IDF hit a Hamas high-rise urban training facility and a terror tunnel that had been dug underneath, two additional terror tunnels, a Hamas Battalion HQ in Beit Lahia and dozens of other terror targets in several military compounds. Video of the attack on Beit Lahia can be seen [here](#). According to Israeli military spokesman Brigadier-General Ronen Manelis, "The battalion command's entire infrastructure has been destroyed."

The IDF spokesperson issued the following statement: "The IDF holds Hamas accountable for everything happening in the Gaza Strip. The IDF is prepared for a wide variety of scenarios and is ready to take necessary steps, which will intensify according to the situation assessment and the operational need. The IDF is determined to continue to implement its mission to defend Israeli civilians."

The IDF also released a statement in Arabic on social media, addressing Palestinian in Gaza. The message read: "This is a special announcement for Gaza's residents. You are requested to immediately remove yourselves from every facility or infrastructure that are used by terror organizations, to stay away from every person that is known as a terrorist and from every space in which terror organizations operate....Beware, you have been warned."

At 11pm last night, Hamas announced that a ceasefire agreement had been reached, but this has not been confirmed by Israel. Since the announcement, two additional rockets were fired at southern Israel. At the time of writing, Israel's security cabinet is meeting to discuss the current situation.

At this point, we are monitoring the situation closely and reviewing all contingencies. As of today, Sunday morning Israel time, the violence does not appear to be escalating further. Nonetheless, the situation remains sensitive and tense. We will continue to observe closely and will keep you informed if the situation changes.