



July 16, 2014

Operation Protective Edge – Update No. 6 (As of 1200 hours, July 16, 2014)



Hamas rejects the ceasefire. Left: The Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepts a barrage of six rockets fired at the southern coastal city of Ashqelon (Ashqelon Municipality spokesman, July 15, 2014). Right: A video posted by Hamas' military-terrorist wing claiming an M75 rocket was fired at Ben-Gurion international airport (Qassam.ps, July 15, 2014)

Overview

1. The ceasefire proposed by Egypt and accepted by Israel was rejected by Hamas. During July 15, 2014, rocket and mortar shell fire attacking Israel increased (125 rocket hits on July 15). One Israeli civilian died after being hit by mortar shell shrapnel. In response the IDF resumed attacking terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip from the air. The Israeli prime minister declared Israel had no choice but to intensify the campaign until a significant blow to Hamas had restored quiet to Israeli civilians.

Hamas Rejects the Ceasefire

2. The ceasefire proposed by Egypt and agreed to by the Israeli Security Cabinet began on July 15, 2014, at 0900 hours (0600 hours GMT). It was strongly rejected by Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip. Approximately two hours after the ceasefire was supposed to begin Hamas and the other terrorist organizations began firing massive

barrages of rocket and mortar shells into Israeli territory. After several hours of unabated rocket fire the IDF resumed attacking terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip.

3. As to the terrorist organizations' rejection of the ceasefire, **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** said that Hamas had chosen to continue its campaign and would pay the price for its decision. He said that when there was no ceasefire, Israel's response was fire. He said Israel would fight on the operational front, the diplomatic front, and the home front. Israel would fight on all three with due consideration, he said, to provide the State of Israel and the IDF with the greatest freedom of action. He said Hamas left Israel no choice but to expand and intensify its campaign until **it achieved its goal of restoring quiet to the citizens of Israel by dealing a significant blow to the terrorist organizations** (Prime minister's website, July 15, 2014).

4. **American Secretary of State John Kerry** said "I cannot condemn strongly enough the actions of Hamas in so brazenly firing rockets in multiple numbers in the face of a goodwill effort to operate a cease-fire," and said that "Israel has right to defend itself." He accused Hamas of "purposefully trying to play politics in order to gain greater followers...and use the innocent lives of civilians" as human shields¹ (Website of the State Department, July 15, 2014).

Israeli Civilian Killed

5. At around noon on July 15, 2014, an Israeli civilian was killed by a mortar shell hit near the Erez crossing. **Note: In addition to the intensive rockets barrages fired in Operation Protective Edge, there has been massive mortar shell fire at Israeli targets close to the Gaza Strip.**

6. The victim was **Dror Hanin**, 37, married and father of three, who went to the Erez crossing to bring food for the IDF soldiers stationed there. He was critically wounded by fragments of a mortar shell and died on the way to the hospital. He was the first Israeli killed as a direct result of Operation Protective Edge (an elderly woman apparently died of a heart attack while running to a shelter).

¹ <http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/07/229275.htm>



Dror Hanin (Spokesman for the Judea and Samaria fire and rescue services)

IDF Activities

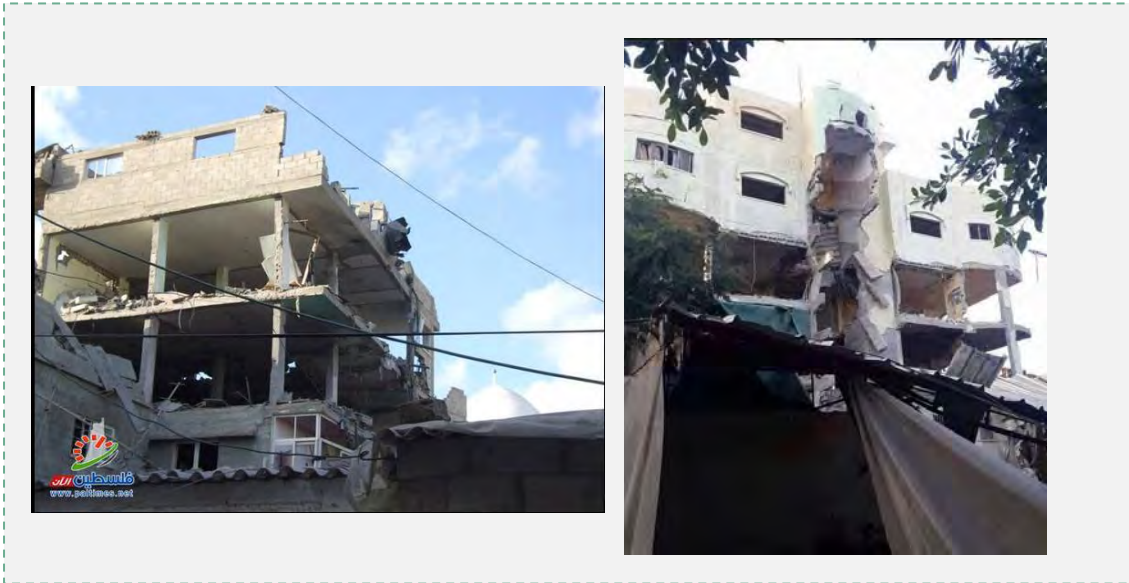
Attacks on Terrorist Targets in the Gaza Strip

7. The IDF continued attacking terrorist targets from the air. **More than 1,750 terrorist targets have been attacked** since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge, among them 768 rocket launchers, 427 terrorist headquarters, approximately 210 terrorist tunnels, 66 locations for the manufacture of weapons and many additional terrorist targets (IDF Spokesman, July 16, 2014).

8. In response to the continual, increasing rocket and mortar shell fire attacking Israel from the Gaza Strip, and after the Security Cabinet had announced its acceptance of the ceasefire, on the afternoon of July 15, 2014, the IDF resumed its air attacks on terrorist targets. During the past 24 hours **more than 100 terrorist targets were attacked**, among them the following (IDF Spokesman, July 16, 2014):

- 1) On the night of **July 15, 2014**, the IDF attacked 39 terrorist targets, among them four targeted attacks on terrorist operatives and attacks on the operational facilities used as bases for terrorist activity, and also related to senior Hamas operatives.
- 2) On the afternoon of **July 15, 2014**, the IDF attacked approximately 30 terrorist targets, among them concealed rocket launchers, terrorist tunnels, a weapons cache, focal points of terrorist activities and the operational facility of a senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist operative, and a terrorist operative who was in the final stages of preparing to launch rockets into Israeli territory.

- 3) The Israeli navy attacked terrorist targets along the Gaza Strip shore.



Left: The house of senior Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operative Marwan Issa in the Al-Bureij refugee camp (central Gaza Strip) after it was attacked by the IDF (Paltimes.net, July 16, 2014). Right: The house of senior Hamas figure Mahmoud al-Zahar after it was attacked on the night of July 15, 2014 (YouTube, July 16, 2014).

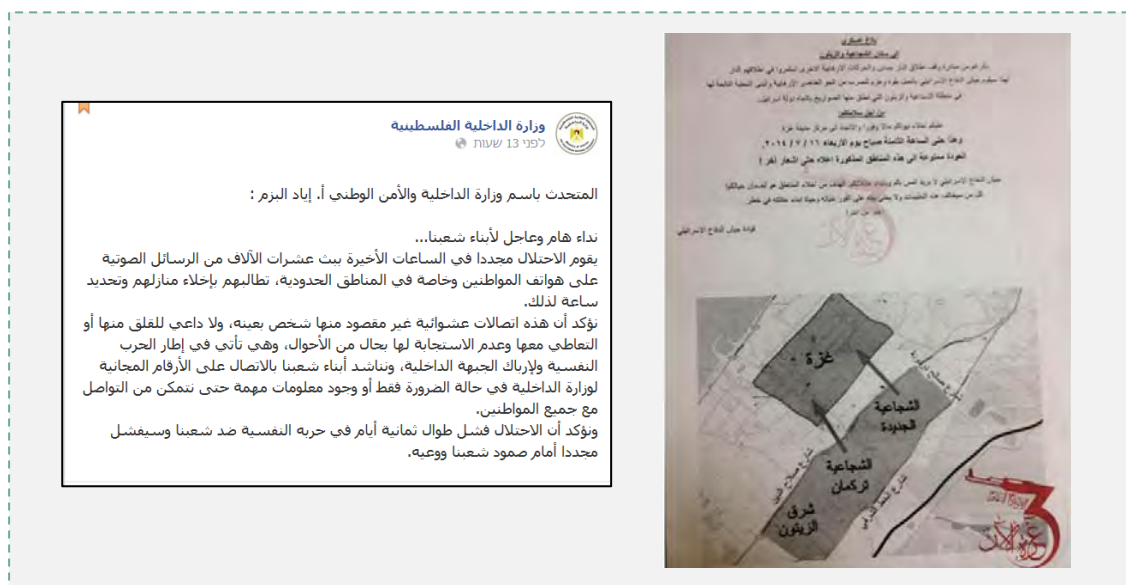
The Gazan Population

9. The Palestinian media and ministry of health **reported that 197 Gazans had been killed** since the beginning of the operation, and 1,485 had been wounded.

10. During the night of July 15, 2014, the IDF dropped flyers for the residents of Sajaiya and Zeitoun on the eastern outskirts of Gaza City, and for the residents of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. The residents were asked to vacate their houses for their own safety and to move to the central region of Gaza City by the morning of July 16, 2014, and not to return until further notice. That was because the IDF was planning a significant airstrike against terrorist targets in the area (IDF Spokesman, July 16, 2014). According to the Palestinian media, as of the morning of July 16, 2014, the request was not generally heeded and many people stayed in their houses.

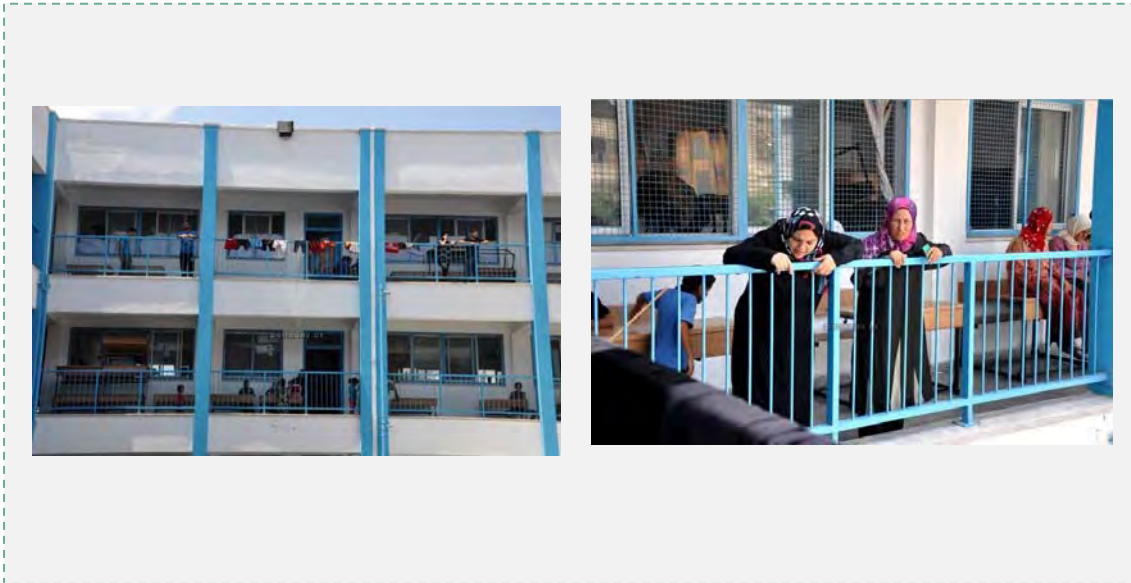
11. A spokesman for Hamas' ministry of the interior said that Israel had failed to exert pressure on the Gazan population with its flyers demanding they vacate their houses. He

said that the ministry would continue performing its functions although, he claimed, 35 of its buildings had been destroyed (Radio Sawt al-Aqsa, July 15, 2014).



Left: A spokesman for Hamas' ministry of the interior repeats his call to Gaza residents not to heed the IDF's telephone announcements about the immediate evacuation of their houses. He said the phone calls were psychological warfare against the Gaza population (Facebook page of the Gaza ministry of the interior, July 15, 2014). Right: The IDF's flyer instructing the residents of Sajaiya and Zeitoun, east of Gaza City, to vacate their houses and move to the central part of the city (Facebook page of Gaza al-A'an, July 16, 2014).

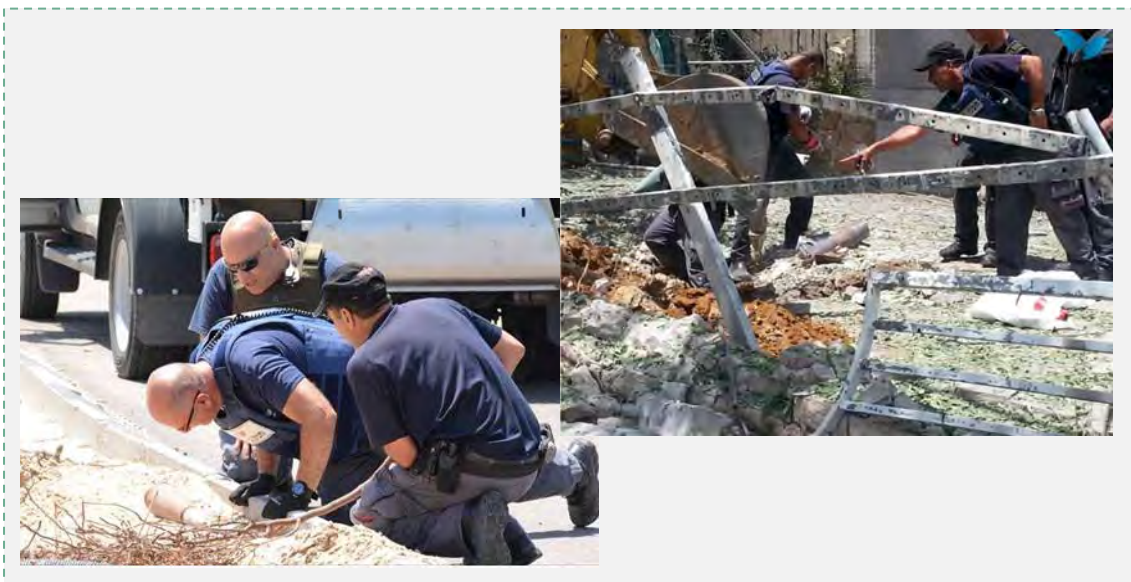
12. The UNRWA representative in the Gaza Strip said at a briefing about the situation in the Gaza Strip UNRWA needed one million dollars immediately and that it was working, along with the UN's World Food Programme, to provide food for the Palestinians in UNRWA shelters in the Gaza Strip. He said he was afraid that an Israeli ground operation would displace an additional 50,000 people who would seek shelter, but the agency, he said, could only cope with 35,000 people (UNRWA website, July 15, 2014).



Gazans who found shelter in an UNRWA school in Gaza (Paltoday.ps, July 15, 2014).

Rocket Fire

13. Despite the proposed Egyptian ceasefire, massive rocket and mortar shell barrages continue to be fired into Israeli territory. So far **1,065 rocket hits have been identified**. The Iron Dome aerial defense system has intercepted 176 rockets targeting population centers throughout the country.

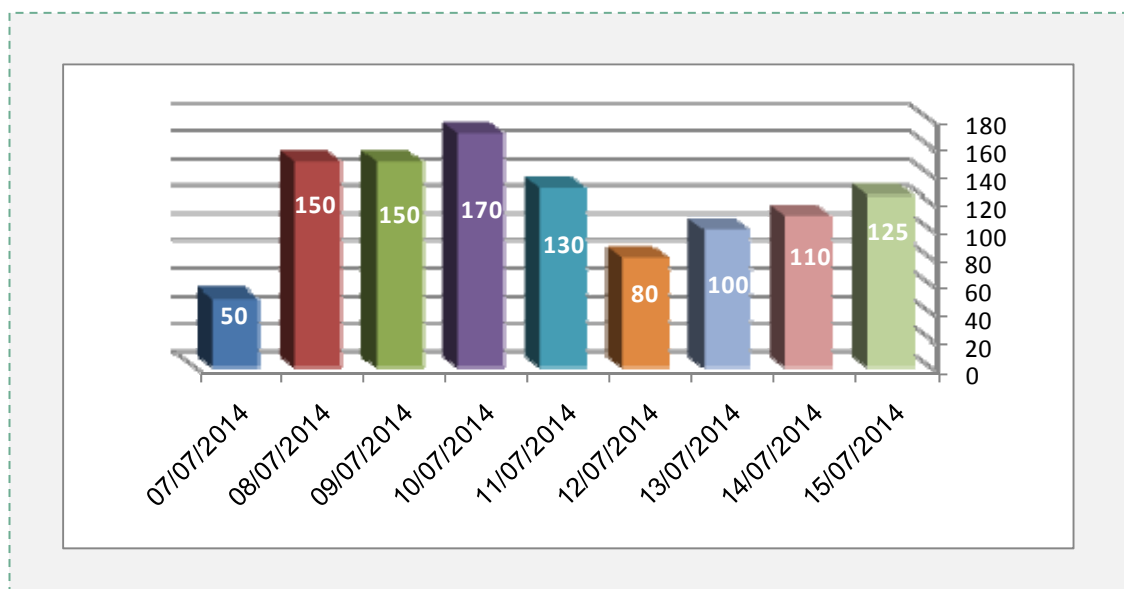


Left: Police demolitions experts examine a rocket that landed between two buildings in Sderot (Facebook page of the Israel Police Force, July 15, 2014). Right: Destruction caused by a rocket hit in Sderot (Photo by Tehia Ditsheim for Tazpit.org.il, July 15, 2014)

14. **During the past 24 hours, after the Egyptian announcement of a ceasefire, rocket and mortar shell fire into Israeli territory intensified, and 125 rocket hits were identified.** The main events were the following:

- 1) On **July 15, 2014**, approximately two hours after Israel announced its ceasefire had gone into effect, a barrage of rockets was fired from the Gaza Strip targeting Ashqelon, Ashdod, Sderot, Kiryat Malachi and other southern population centers. One rocket fell close to a house in Ashdod and damaged it. At least eight of the rockets were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system.
- 2) About one hour later the range of the rockets was increased and sirens were heard on the outskirts of Haifa, in Yokneam, Zichron Yaakov, and Daliat al-Carmel on the Mt. Carmel ridge.
- 3) At **1900 hours on July 15, 2014**, a barrage of rockets was fired at the greater Tel Aviv area and the coastal plain. A school for children with special needs in Rishon Letzion was hit.

Daily Distribution of Rocket Fire from the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge²



² The graph indicates rocket hits in Israeli territory and does not include mortar shell fire or rocket launches that failed.

Claims of Responsibility for Rocket Fire

15. The military-terrorist wings of Hamas and the PIJ continued to claim responsibility for most of the rocket and mortar shell fire during the past 24 hours. Responsibility was also claimed by the military-terrorist wings of the PFLP, the DFLP and the Popular Resistance Committees. Local networks claimed responsibility for firing at populated areas around the Gaza Strip.

16. **Ziyad Nakhleh**, deputy secretary general of the PIJ, said that for the first time a joint operation had been carried out by the military wings of his organization and Hamas. He said it was an important step forward and had involved the launching of long-range rockets to Tel Aviv. He said he hoped that more joint operations would be carried out (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 15, 2014).



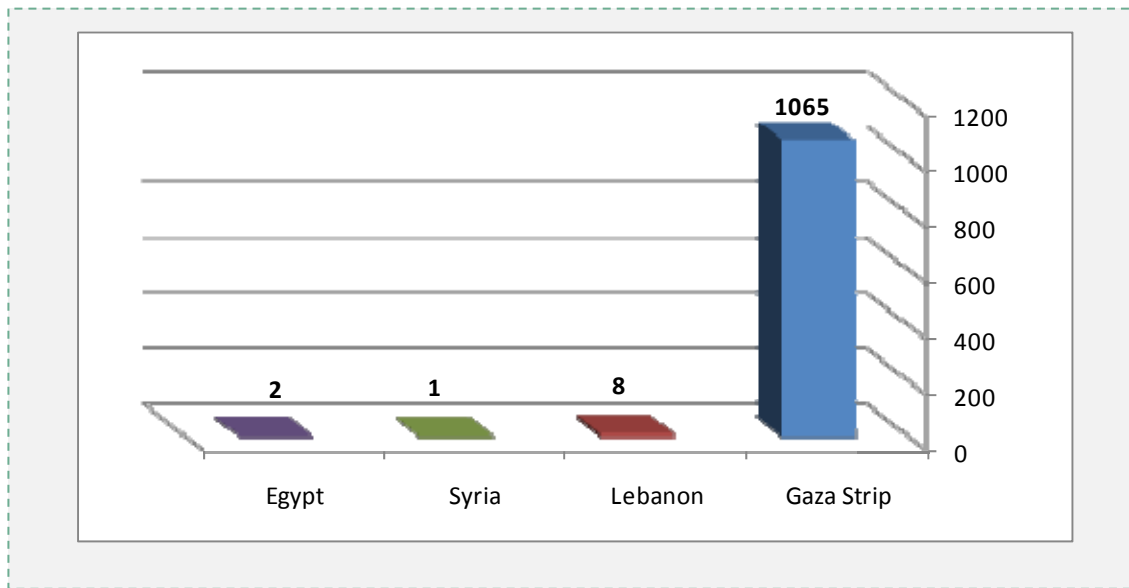
Hamas' military-terrorist wing issues statistics claimed for 901 rockets fired into Israeli territory since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge. Left to right, there were 6 R160s, 29 Sajil55s, 12 J80s, 62 M75s, 2 Fajr-5s, and 790 Qassams, Grads and Katyushas (Qassam.ps, July 14, 2014).

Activity on Other Fronts

Rocket Fire from Lebanon

17. In the wake of the rocket fire from Lebanon (eight rockets have been fired since the beginning of the operation), the Lebanese army and security services, in conjunction with UNIFIL forces and residents on the villages in south Lebanon, have deployed to prevent more rockets from being fired. Among the steps taken was preventing non-residents from entering south Lebanon (Almarkazia.com, July 14, 2014).

Regional Distribution of Rocket Fire into Israel



The Crossings – Update

The Kerem Shalom Crossing

18. Despite the unabated rocket fire and the IAF's attacks, **the Kerem Shalom crossing continues functioning as an important lifeline for supplies entering the Gaza Strip.** Every day food, medical equipment and fuel are delivered through it (Cogat.idf.il, July 14, 2014).

The Erez Crossing

19. During Operation Protective Edge the Erez crossing has been open to allow foreign nationals to leave the Gaza Strip (despite the mortar shell fire targeting the crossing that killed an Israeli civilian). On July 15, 2014, apparently because of the death of the Israeli, the Hamas ministry of the interior announced that the crossing would resume activity on the afternoon of July 16, 2014. According to the announcement, all the international agencies had to provide their employees working at the crossing with the necessary protection (Website of the Hamas ministry of the interior, July 15, 2014).

Aid for the Gazan Population

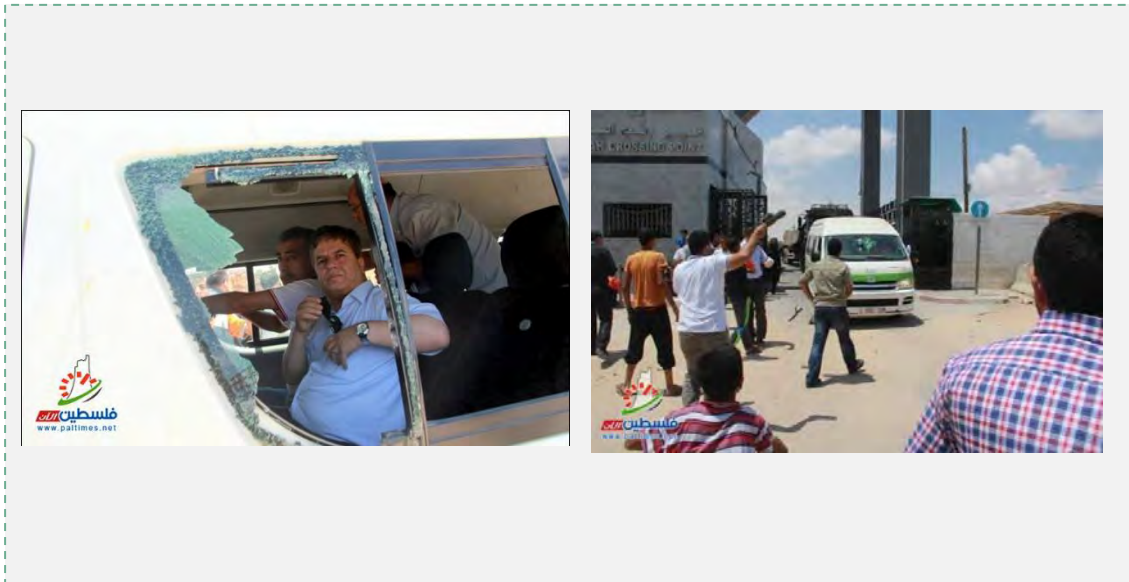
20. Several countries announced their intention to send aid to the Gaza Strip:

- 1) The **king of Bahrain** issued urgent instructions providing humanitarian aid to be sent to the Palestinian people to ease their suffering and appointed the royal charity organization to deal with the issue (Bna.bh, July 15, 2014).
- 2) **Mohamed Mortagi**, who represents Turkey's TIKA (Turkey's Coordination and Cooperation Agency) in the Palestinian Authority (PA), said that on orders from the Turkish prime minister, the agency had begun distributing food and other humanitarian aid to the Gazans (Aa.com.tr, July 15, 2014).
- 3) **Following** a telephone conversation with **Khaled Mashaal**, head of Hamas' political bureau, the head of the **Malaysian government** said he would send humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip (Bernama.com, July 15, 2014).

Attack on the Convoy of the National Consensus Government's Minister of Health

21. **Jowad Awad**, minister of health in the Palestinian national consensus government, who entered the Gaza Strip at the head of an aid convoy on July 15, 2014, **was attacked on the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing by Hamas activists**. The attackers threw shoes and eggs at him. Hamas criticized him for coming "late, nine days after the beginning of the operation in the Gaza Strip" (Alhayat-j.com and Paltimes.net, July 16, 2014).

22. The minister of health arrived on the instructions of **PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas** and **PA Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah**, to monitor the activity of the health system in the Gaza Strip first hand. The PA strongly condemned the attack on him (Alhayat-j.com, July 16, 2014).



Attack on the convoy of the Palestinian national consensus government's minister of health
(Paltimes.net, July 16, 2014)

Statements

Hammas

23. Interviewed in Cairo, **Musa Abu Marzouq**, a member of Hamas' political bureau, said that Hamas was still holding consultations regarding the Egyptian initiative for a **ceasefire**. He said the lull agreement from 2012 [following Operation Pillar of Defense] was insufficient because the [so-called Israeli] "siege" on the Gaza Strip had to be lifted so that there would not be a war every two years (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 15, 2014).

24. In a different interview in Cairo, **Musa Abu Marzouq** said that equation of "quiet in return for quiet" was out of the question and that the conditions under which the Gazans had lived for the past seven years could not continue (Al-Arabia Al-Hadath, July 15, 2014).

25. **Osama Hamdan**, responsible for Hamas' international relations, said that all the talk about the initiative [i.e., the Egyptian ceasefire] was a mistake, because it was not based on understandings between the involved parties. He said the initiative could not be discussed only via the media (Al-Jazeera, July 15, 2014).

Hammas in the Gaza Strip

26. Senior Hamas figure **Musheir al-Masri** said that Hamas had rejected the Egyptian initiative in its entirety because the Egyptians had not communicated with Hamas regarding

it. He called the initiative a "free service" for Israel that rescued the Israeli prime minister, who could not cope with the capabilities of the "resistance" [i.e., the terrorist organizations] to strike the Israeli home front. He said the new lull agreement had to involve conditions and commitments resulting from them (Aa.com.tr, July 15, 2014). In another interview he said that the Egyptian initiative would be fruitless, because it was "only words for the media" (Felesteen.ps, July 15, 2014).

27. Hamas spokesman **Fawzi Barhoum** said that Israel's aggression in the Gaza Strip had not stopped for a minute and that all the talk about a lull was a lie. He said the initiative meant "turning its back on the resistance and coordinating with the Israeli enemy," and it was an attempt to disarm the "resistance." He said Hamas would continue striking deep inside Israel with every weapon the "resistance" had until Israel complied with its demands (Sawt al-Aqsa, July 15, 2014).



A Hamas cartoon in which an Arab [i.e., Egypt] tries to coax Hamas under the IDF's boot (Facebook page of the Hamas forum, July 16, 2014).

The PIJ

28. **Ziyad Nakhleh**, PIJ deputy secretary general, said that they had already stated their position that the initiative did not approach the lowest level of the Palestinian peoples' demands. He added that they demanded the [so-called Israeli] siege be entirely lifted. He said they objected to the initiative but welcomed its development and the open dialogue with Egypt (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, July 15, 2014).

The PA

29. Before Hamas rejected the ceasefire, **Mahmoud Abbas** said in a formal announcement that he welcomed the Egyptian initiative and valued the efforts the Egyptians made to defend the Palestinian people. He called on "all the sides" to commit to the initiative, which would be a step towards a political effort to end the [so-called Israeli] occupation and establish an independent Palestinian state (Wafa.ps, July 15, 2014).

Exception Palestinian Statement

30. **Ibrahim Kharisha**, Palestinian representative to the UN Human Rights Council, said that there was international pressure for a ceasefire that would stop "Israeli aggression" as well as the rocket fire into Israel. He said every rocket launched at Israel was "a crime against humanity" whether it caused damage or not, because the rockets were deliberately aimed at civilian targets. What Israel was doing in the Gaza Strip, he said, was also "a crime against humanity." He added that when Israel had instructed the Gazans to vacate their houses before an attack, if there were casualties it was not murder but rather an error and that the attacks had been carried out according to law. However, the warnings [given by Israel], he said, were the opposite of the rockets fired from the Gaza Strip, which were not accompanied by warnings (Awda TV, July 13, 2014).

Hamas' Propaganda Machine Seeks to Establish "an Image of Victory"

31. Hamas' propaganda machine focuses on glorifying its military attack capabilities and the "surprises" it prepared for the [Israeli] enemy. Hamas spokesman **Musheir al-Masri** claimed Hamas had shown Israel that it could attack on land, from the air and from the sea, and that its fighters could penetrate deep into Israeli territory.

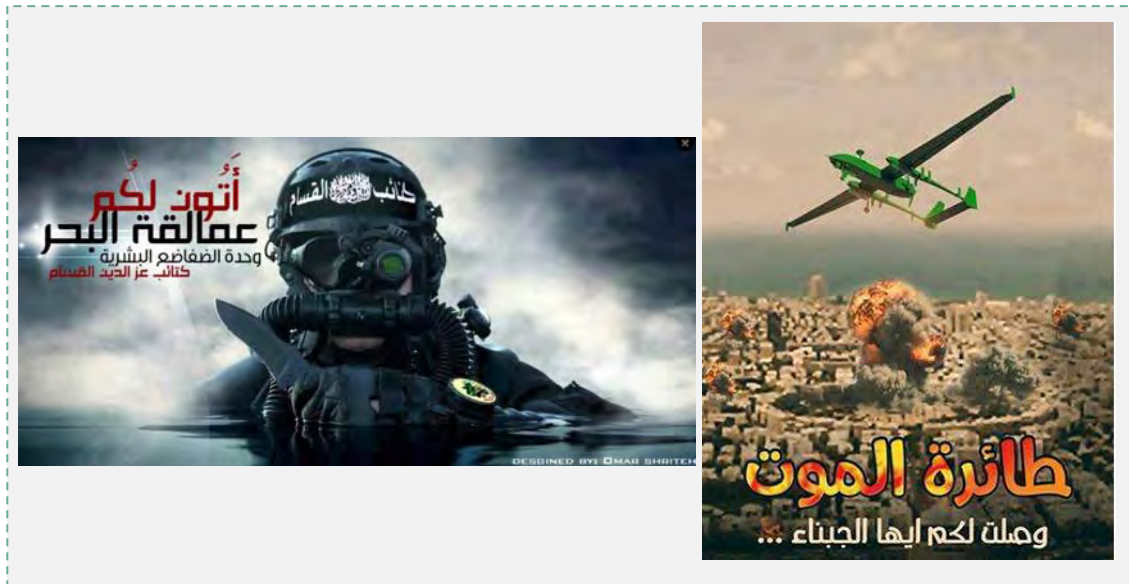
32. The most recent example of a "surprise," according to Hamas claims, was the dispatch of the UAV into Israeli airspace.³ Hamas released a video showing a UAV of the type in its possession. The video was aired scores of times on its TV channel, while

³ On the morning of July 14, 2014, a UAV dispatched from the Gaza Strip was identified in Israeli air space. It was intercepted by a Patriot surface-to-air missile near Ashdod (IDF Spokesman, July 14, 2014).

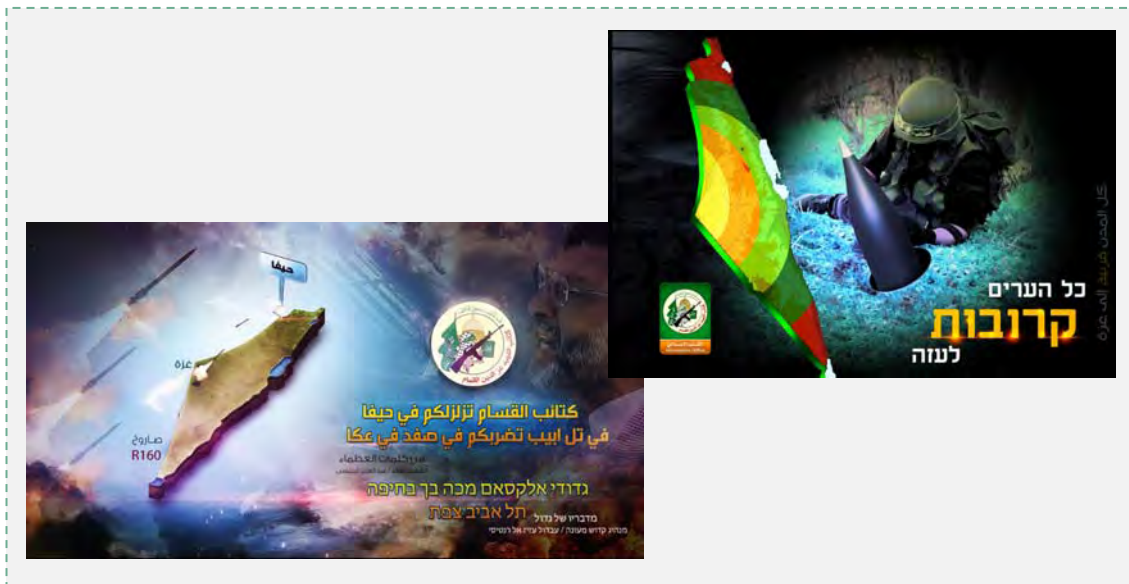
presenters and commentators extolled the importance of the new "surprise." The Hamas media connected the "surprise" to previous "surprises" Hamas had prepared for Israel, among them rocket fire targeting Haifa, the infiltration of a naval commando unit at Zikim, and the launching of an anti-tank missile (a Kornet, according to Hamas claims) at an IDF jeep.

33. However, the Hamas media **neglect to mention** that Hamas' attempts to create "surprises" and rack up military achievements have consistently failed, and that **the IDF had thwarted a series of attempted attacks by sea, land and air.** In ITIC assessment, Hamas' boasting about its military capabilities is part of a **media strategy to create an "image of victory,"** as it did in previous rounds of escalation with Israel. **For Hamas the "image of victory" is a vital component for the end of the current escalation, both within the internal Palestinian-Arab arena and as a means of creating a deterrent against Israel in the future.**

Pictures of Hamas "Achievements and Surprises" for Establishing the "Image of Victory"



Left: A notice glorifying the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' naval commando unit (Qassam.ps, July 16, 2014). Right: A picture of a Hamas UAV: "The plane of death [i.e., the UAV] has arrived for you, oh cowards..." (Facebook page of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, July 15, 2014).



Left: Hamas boasts of firing an R160 at Haifa (Qassam.ps, July 16, 2014). Right: A notice in Hebrew reading "All [your] cities are close to Gaza," boasting of Hamas' ability to attack most of Israel's territory with its rockets (Qassam.ps, July 16, 2014)