



June 28, 2006

**Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center  
at the Center for Special Studies (C.S.S)**

## **IDF force attacked and soldier abducted near Kibbutz Kerem Shalom (Update No. 2, June 28, 1 p.m.)**

### **Operation Summer Rains: The IDF enters the southern Gaza Strip**

✦ On the night of June 27 the IDF initiated Operation Summer Rains, a limited land and air action in the southern Gaza Strip.



**IDF soldiers receive briefing at the Rafah crossing before entering the Gaza Strip  
(Yunnis Behrakis, Reuters, June 28)**

✦ The operation's goals:

- ✓ **To prevent the abducted soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, from being removed from the southern Gaza Strip** (where he is apparently being held by Hamas terrorists)<sup>1</sup> **and to exert pressure on his abductors to release him.**
- ✓ **To cause damage to terrorist infrastructures** (including those which are directly or indirectly connected to the attack near Kibbutz Kerem Shalom) **and to prevent** Sderot and other western Negev population centers from being attacked by **Qassam rocket attacks.**

✦ The Israeli government decided on the operation after political attempts to secure the abducted soldier's release had failed, and **on the basis of Israel's stated policy not to negotiate with Hamas** (on June 27 the prime minister said in the Knesset that "we do not intend to compromise with terrorism or negotiate with it"<sup>2</sup>).

✦ During the operation infantry forces supported by the armored corps took over **the airport at Dahaniya** in the southern Gaza Strip, the area commanding the Rafah region and the southeastern Gaza Strip. **At the same time,**

- ✓ **Three bridges in the center of the Gaza Strip were attacked from the air.** One of them led from Khan Yunis to the north and center of the Strip.



**One of the bridges attacked (Palestinian TV, June 28)**

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<sup>1</sup> According to a report given to the Israeli Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee by a senior Military Intelligence officer on June 27 (reported by Yehuda Golan in Ma'ariv, June 28).

<sup>2</sup> Website of the Prime Minister's Office, June 27.

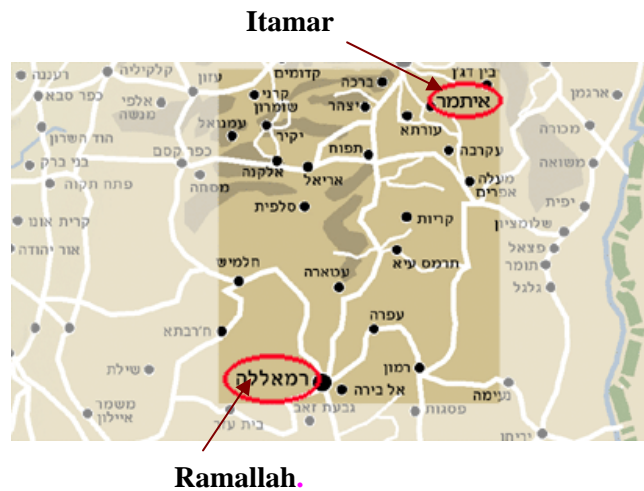


## First responses from Hamas spokesmen

✦ A spokesman for the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's terrorist-operative wing, threatened that if Israel attacked, the captive soldier was liable to be killed. Ghazi Hamad, a spokesman for the Hamas government, blamed Israel for the escalation. Yusuf Ruzqa, Hamas Information Minister, called the operation "government terrorism." The Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades Website posted a bulletin threatening terrorist attacks if Israel attacked the Gaza Strip.

## Civilain abducted and held by the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC)

✦ **Eliahu Pinchas Osheri**, 18, from the Samarian settlement of Itamar, has been missing since June 25. Military and police forces have been searching for him throughout Samaria. He is believed to have been abducted by Palestinian terrorists in the vicinity of Ramallah.



**Eliahu Pinchas Osheri and the area in which the search is being carried out (Photo courtesy of Ynet).**

✦ Abu 'Abir, a spokesman for the PRC, stated that Osheri had been abducted by his organization (Al-Aqsa TV, June 27) and showed a photograph of Oshri's **identity card**, which was part of a PRC poster (Israeli TV Channel 10 and Reuters, June 28). He claimed that the PRC had set up groups throughout the West Bank whose main

mission was “to abduct soldiers and settlers” (Ynet, June 27).<sup>3</sup> He threatened to kill Osheri if the IDF continued its operation in the Gaza Strip (Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades Website, June 28).



Abu 'Abir, PRC spokesman, with the poster containing a picture of Osheri's identity card (Photo: Mohammed Salem for Reuters, June 28).

## Qassam rockets fired at western Negev population centers

✦ **Qassam rocket fire continues** to attack the western Negev. As of this morning, June 28, three rockets were fired at Kibbutz Kerem Shalom. No one was hurt. It should be noted that during June<sup>4</sup> **approximately 150 Qassam rockets were fired at western Negev population centers**, the majority at Sderot. That is a record number of rockets fired since the disengagement; **660** rocket hits have been identified since then.

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<sup>3</sup> It should be recalled that on June 22 three Palestinian terrorists used guns to threaten and abduct two girls who were waiting for a ride at the Rechalim junction (near Ariel). The girls fought them off and escaped.

<sup>4</sup> As of the morning of June 28.