



Dear friends,

At this very moment, IDF soldiers are fighting to defend our basic rights and values. They are facing those who openly call for the destruction of the State of Israel.

The modern battlefield extends beyond the war-front and into our hearts and minds.

In this newsletter, and in the following ones, we wish to share with you some data and information regarding the current events.

We hope that this information will contribute to your better understanding of the IDF's actions.

Sincerely,  
The IDF Spokesperson Unit



Next 

# Operation Cast Lead: **Ground Operation**



The IDF began the ground operation in the Gaza Strip on January 3rd. The IDF does not intend to occupy the Gaza Strip; its' goal is solely to weaken Hamas's ability to commit terror attacks against Israeli civilians.



The soldiers of the IDF underwent extensive advanced training and are well-prepared to carry out their missions. They are ready and prepared to continue this operation until the threat posed by Hamas is significantly decreased.

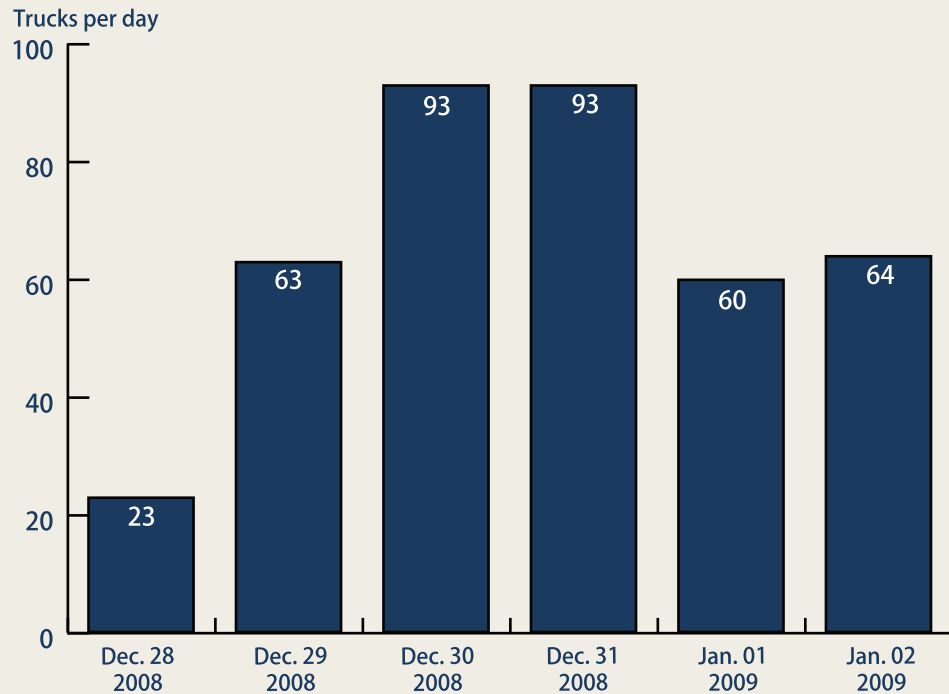


Hamas is intentionally operating from densely populated areas, using civilians as human shields, and disguising Hamas members as civilians. The IDF is committed to minimizing harm to the civilians of the Gaza Strip. In order to achieve this goal, the IDF constantly requests of civilians that they avoid locations from which Hamas is operating.



The IDF is not only concerned with the safety of civilians in the Gaza Strip; we are ensuring that humanitarian aid is transferred to civilians in the Gaza Strip. It is the responsibility of Hamas to make certain that the aid is distributed to those who need it.

## Number of humanitarian aid trucks



- Since the beginning of operation over 391 truckloads of aid carrying more than 6500 tons of aid (food, medicine and medical supplies)
- 10 ambulances have been transferred into Gaza through Kerem Shalom Crossing.
- Erez Crossing has been opened in limited capacity to allow patients in need of emergency care: 12 urgent medical cases absorbed via Erez, 2 of which were children.
- 226 foreign citizens let out, at request of their respective governments.
- During the Cease Fire (June 16-December 19) approx 17,000 truckloads of aid had been delivered, double the amount that Gaza had been receiving in the 5 months prior to the cease fire (approx 9000 truckloads.) In addition to food, gas and medicine, these truckloads carried in construction and industrial supplies/materials.
- Compared to 2007, 2008 saw a 20% increase in the amount of patients permitted to leave Gaza and receive hospital care in Israel and abroad.
- World Food Program (31/12/08): Announced it won't ship any more food to Gaza, because warehouses are full.

Hamas was founded in 1987 as the Palestinian wing of the Muslim Brotherhood. The Hamas Charter is the fundamental document of Hamas Ideology.

## The Hamas Charter states:

- "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."
- "The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that the land of Palestine is an Islamic Waqf consecrated for future Moslem generations until Judgment Day. It, or any part of it, should not be squandered: it, or any part of it, should not be given up".
- "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors."
- "After Palestine, the Zionists aspire to expand from the Nile to the Euphrates. When they will have digested the region they overtook, they will aspire to further expansion, and so on. Their plan is embodied in the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion", and their present conduct is the best proof of what we are saying."

## Visit the Palestinin Media Watch

Website: <http://www.pmw.org.il/>

Youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/pmwvideos>

يقول : « نعم القوم الأشعريون كانوا إذا جهدوا في حضر أو سفر جمعوا ما عندهم ثم قسموه بينهم بالسوية .- وهذه الروح الإسلامية هي التي يجب أن تسود في كل مجتمع مسلم، والمجتمع الذي يتصدى لعدو شرس نازي في تصرفاته لا يفرق بين رجل وامرأة أو كبير وصغير، هو أولى أن يتحلى بروح الإسلام هذه. وعدونا يعتمد أسلوب العقاب الجماعي، سلب الناس أوطانهم وممتلكاتهم، ولا يحقهم في مهاجرهم وأماكن تجمعهم فاعتمد تكسير العظام، وإطلاق النار على النساء والأطفال والشيوخ بسبب ويدون سبب، وفتح المعتقلات ليخرج فيها بالآلاف المؤلفة في ظروف لا إنسانية، هذا فضلاً عن هدم المنازل وتبتييم الأطفال، وإصدار الأحكام الظالمة على آلاف الشباب ليقتضوا زهرة شبابهم في غياهب السجون.

وقد شملت نازية اليهود النساء والأطفال، فالترويع للجميع، يحاربون الناس في أرزاقهم ويبتزون أموالهم ويدوسون كرامتهم، وهم بأعمالهم الفظيعة يعاملون الناس كأعنف ما يكون مجرمو الحرب، والإبعاد عن الوطن نوع من أنواع القتل. وفي مواجهة هذه التصرفات لا بد من أن يسود التكافل الاجتماعي بين الناس، ولا بد من مواجهة العدو كجسد واحد إذا اشتكى منه عضو تداعى له سائر الجسد بالسهر والحمى.

## المادة الحادية والعشرون،

ومن التكافل الاجتماعي تقديم المساعدة لكل محتاج، سواء كانت مادية أو معنوية، أو المشاركة في إنجاز بعض الأعمال، على عناصر حركة المقاومة الإسلامية أن ينظروا إلى مصالح الجماهير نظرتهم إلى مصالحهم الخاصة، وعليهم ألا يدخروا جهداً في سبيل تحقيقها والحفاظة عليها وعليهم أن يحولوا دون التلاعب بكل ما يؤثر في



Recruitment of Reserve Force in Mishmar HaNegev.



The Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, visits the Palmachim Air Force base. During the visit, Lt. Gen. Ashkenazi toured various squadrons and conversed with pilots: "We must reach a point where we, as an army, are keeping the South safe". In this photo: Palmachim base commander Brig. Gen. Itai Reiss, and Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi



Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the mayor of New York City, is one of the most significant leaders that has come to visit Israel in order to show his support for the IDF during their struggle against terror. In this picture Colonel Dedi Simchi of the Home Front Command explains the current initiatives of his unit in Sderot and other Israeli communities within the Gaza periphery that are under rocket attack by Hamas.

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Website: <http://dover.idf.il/IDF/English>  
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## Watch our movie



## **IDF soldiers and their commanders,**

Last night, the IDF began implementing the second stage of Operation Cast Lead, which involves ground maneuvers inside the Gaza Strip.

We implement the operation prepared, trained and imbued with a deep sense of mission. We do not crave war, but the spread of destruction and the fear in our homes and amongst our families has reinforced our decision to rise and subdue! Our goal is to protect the rights of the citizens of the State of Israel – women, men, children, and the elderly – to live their lives in peace!

Our enemies mistook the restraint and the forbearance that we displayed, as weakness. We will deliver them a double portion. We will strike terror, its senders and its supporters, with a decisive blow, and we will clarify to all who call for destruction our insistent pledge to peace and sovereignty of the State of Israel forever!

We are not at war with Palestinian civilians. Our enemy is terror factions – the Hamas and its outgrowths, who have transformed the entire population into a human shield. Our way is not theirs; we will implement our missions with decisiveness and understanding, and we will stay loyal to our values and our tradition.

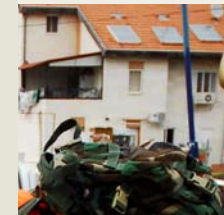
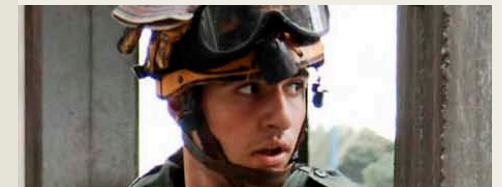
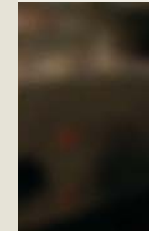
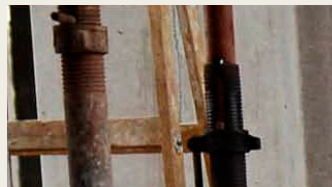
IDF combat fighters and commanders,  
Many eyes, throughout the country, look upon you today in pride and in hope.

I know you, the strength of your spirit and your devotion. I have faith in you and your abilities, and I am proud for the opportunity bestowed upon me to command you in this hour.

We will strike the enemy with a decisive blow, and we will reclaim safety for the citizens of the South.

Chazak v'nitchazek (be strong and may we be strengthened),

Gabi Ashkenazi, **Lieutenant General**  
**Chief of the General Staff**





"...the strength of your spirit  
and your devotion"