

IDF Launches 'Gideon's Chariots' to Dismantle Hamas in Gaza

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have initiated a large-scale ground operation in Gaza, aiming to dismantle Hamas's military and governance structures. This move follows a week of intensive airstrikes targeting over 670 Hamas positions.

The operation, named "Gideon's Chariots," involves coordinated assaults in both northern and southern Gaza, with the objective of eliminating Hamas operatives and infrastructure.

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Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz announced that IDF troops have begun extensive ground operations throughout Gaza. The IDF reported the elimination of dozens of Hamas terrorists and the dismantling of terrorist infrastructure sites above and below ground.

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The offensive has resulted in significant casualties. According to Gaza's Health Ministry, at least 464 Palestinians have been killed over the past week, with 130 casualties reported overnight. The total death toll since the conflict began in October 2023 has surpassed 53,000.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is deteriorating rapidly. Hospitals are overwhelmed, and fuel shortages have crippled ambulance services. The Israeli blockade since March has severely limited humanitarian aid, raising fears of famine.

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Amid the military escalation, ceasefire negotiations are ongoing in Qatar. Hamas has proposed releasing nine hostages in exchange for a 60-day truce, the release of Palestinian prisoners, and the resumption of humanitarian aid.

Israel has not formally responded to the proposal, maintaining its stance against withdrawing troops or ending the conflict until Hamas is dismantled.

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The IDF's current operations are part of a broader strategy approved by the Israeli government to expand its military campaign in Gaza. This strategy includes the occupation and sustained control of territory, marking a shift from previous raid-based operations. The plan aims to intensify efforts against Hamas and recover remaining hostages.

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