

‘Israel Is at War’: Hamas Initiates Surprise Sabbath Attack

“Israel is at war,” said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after Israelis woke up under attack by air, land and sea on Saturday, their Sabbath.

Sirens blared as more than 2,000 rockets launched at Israel from the Gaza Strip attempted to pummel the Jewish state, and Israelis ran for bomb shelters early on Saturday. By evening, Gaza terrorists had launched roughly 3,000 rockets at Israel. At the same time, a combined offensive including truckloads of dozens of armed terrorists infiltrated through the border into southern Israel by land, paragliders entered by air and others by sea.

“Citizens of Israel, we are at war, not in an operation or in rounds, but at war. This morning, Hamas launched a murderous surprise attack against the state of Israel and its citizens. We have been in this since the early morning hours,” Netanyahu told his nation.

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“I convened the heads of the security establishment and ordered—first of all—to clear out the communities that have been infiltrated by terrorists. This currently is being carried out,” he said. “At the same time, I have ordered an extensive mobilization of reserves and that we return fire of a magnitude that the enemy has not known. The enemy will pay an unprecedented price,” he added.

"We are at war and we will win it."

At least 200 Israelis are reported dead and at least 1,000 wounded, some critically. Some areas were reported to have fallen under complete control of Hamas. By evening, the IDF was still fighting terrorists in 22 locations inside Israel.

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