

# Chronology of Events in Israel and Palestine

Israel begins 2023 with Benjamin Netanyahu reinstated as Prime Minister and at the head of the most ultra-conservative government in the country's history. One significant measure taken by the coalition government is the reform of the judicial system, which immediately causes widespread consternation with massive street demonstrations denouncing the violation of the separation of powers and the attempt by Netanyahu and his associates to reshape the judiciary to their own benefit. Although the fierce opposition and growing social polarization force the government to suspend the reform in late March, in July the government resumes its law reform efforts with the approval of the controversial clause that prevents the judicial authority from using the reasonableness standard to overturn or oppose decisions taken by the cabinet. In addition, the rejection of the judicial reforms by a broad sector of Israeli society becomes the pretext for the new National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir to announce the creation of a new police body, the National Guard, with the aim of "restoring" the country's governance.

Ben Gvir was already at the centre of the controversy following his visit in January – repeated in July – to the Temple Mount as part of his electoral promise to change the area's status quo, stoking tensions between Arabs and Israelis at a time in which the spiral of violence which began in March 2022 over the evictions of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem continues to give rise to a number of assaults, cross-attacks and clashes which, despite Jordanian, Egyptian and US mediation efforts, continue unabated. In April, at the beginning of the Jewish Passover or Pesach,

which also takes place right in the middle of Ramadan, Israeli security forces raid the Temple Mount to remove a group of Palestinians attempting to prevent Israelis from entering the compound. This episode further increases the tension and triggers rocket launches from Gaza, as well as from Lebanese territory, in turn leading to a severe Israeli army response.

Two events of particular concern cause an escalation of the conflict in the spring. Firstly, the death in May, following an 86-day hunger strike, of Khader Adnan, considered the leader of Islamic Jihad in the West Bank and which eventually leads to Israel's Operation Shield and Arrow offensive, between 9 and 14 May in response to the launch of more than a hundred missiles from Gaza. Secondly, the raid carried out by Israeli forces on the Jenin refugee camp in June, which triggers a series of reprisals ending in a fresh large-scale Israeli offensive in the West Bank, launched against armed Palestinian groups in early July. At the end of June, in light of the serious deterioration of the situation, Morocco decides to cancel plans to host the Negev Summit, a new cooperation framework arising from the signing of the 2020 Abraham Accords to normalize ties between Israel and several Arab nations.

This scenario of rapidly rising tensions eventually comes to a dramatic and definitive head on 7 October, when members of Hamas and other Palestinian militias from the Gaza Strip launch the largest attack on Israel since the Yom Kippur War, killing at least a thousand people and kidnapping a further 240, in an extreme action, supported by Iran and coinciding with the extension to Saudi Arabia of the US-brokered pro-

cess known as the Abraham Accords, aimed at normalizing Israeli relations with several Arab countries. Israel's immediate reaction comes hours later with the beginning of Operation Swords of Iron, launched with the goal of putting a definitive end to Hamas. By the close of the year, Gaza has been devastated by war, with over 24,000 dead and 61,000 injured, mostly civilian victims, and more than 75% of the population of Gaza displaced to the south of the Palestinian exclave and teetering on the brink of a serious humanitarian crisis. Further uncertainty arises from a contagion effect across other regions of the Middle East with fronts also opening in the West Bank, southern Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, from where Iranian-sponsored Houthi rebels launch attacks on Western ships as they pass through the Bab el-Mandeb strait. The US and UK respond to these attacks with the launch of Operation Prosperity Guardian, in which the EU also participates, expanding the scope of operations of its Operation Atalanta against piracy in the Indian Ocean, to include the Red Sea.

## January 2023

### Israel

- On 3 January despite warnings from the opposition and threats from Hamas, the ultranationalist leader and new Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir visits the Temple Mount. One of his central election promises is to establish a change in the status quo so that prayer here is not restricted to Muslims. On 17 January, amid the prevailing tension in the area, Jordan summons the Israeli ambassador in Amman Eitan Surkis after the Jorda-

nian ambassador in Israel Ghassan Majali is denied entry to the compound.

- On 14 January some 90,000 people rally in Tel Aviv to protest against a judicial overhaul announced by Benjamin Netanyahu's new government, which would limit judicial powers enabling a parliamentary majority to overturn Supreme Court rulings.
- On 18 January the Supreme Court revokes the appointment of rabbi Aryeh Deri, from the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, as Interior and Health Minister, due to his criminal convictions, the most recent in 2022 when he agreed in court to retire from politics in exchange for the repeal of a tax fraud conviction. On 22 January, Netanyahu dismisses Deri and, as an interim measure for three months, appoints the Minister of Religious Services Michael Malkieli to helm the Interior Ministry and Yoav Ben-Tzur as Health Minister, both from Shas.
- On 30 January Yoav Ben-Tzur is appointed Minister of the new Labour Ministry, after the Parliament approves separating it from Social Affairs and Social Services, to which it had been linked since 1977. Yaakov Margi (Shas) will remain at the head of Social Affairs and Social Services.

#### *Palestine*

- On 19 January the Palestinian Maher Younis is released from prison by Israel after serving a 40-year sentence for abducting and murdering an Israeli soldier in 1980.

#### *Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 5 January a Palestinian teenager is shot dead by the Israeli Army in an operation in Nablus.
- On 11 January at least two Palestinians are shot dead by the Israeli army in two separate clashes in Hebron and Nablus.
- On 26 January at least 10 Palestinians are killed in clashes during a raid carried out by Israeli soldiers on an Islamic Jihad cell in the Jenin refugee camp. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) responds with a new suspension of the security coordination agreement with Israel and rockets are fired from the Gaza Strip at Israeli territory.

On 27 January, Israel retaliates with strikes on Hamas military targets in the Palestinian exclave.

- On 27 January a young Palestinian shoots seven people dead at the doors of a synagogue in Neve Yaacov, Jerusalem. 42 people are arrested in connection with the attack. On 28 January, another young Palestinian shoots and injures two people in the vicinity of the Old City of Jerusalem, after which he is wounded and detained by the police.
- On 30 January a young Palestinian is killed by a shot to the head fired from an Israeli military checkpoint near a mosque in Hebron.

### **February 2023**

#### *Israel*

- On 13 February some 100,000 demonstrators protest outside the Knesset (Parliament) in Jerusalem against the government coalition's plans to reform the judiciary. The planned changes include reducing the Supreme Court's power to revoke laws passed by the Parliament and an increase in the government's influence on appointing judges. On 21 February, tens of thousands of Israelis once again gather outside the Parliament to protest against the reform.
- On 20 February the United Nations Security Council unanimously approves a statement criticizing Israel's settlement activities in Palestinian territory, although it rules out putting a resolution to the vote calling for an end to settlement expansion.

#### *Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 2 February Israel attacks two Hamas targets in response to the launch of a missile at Sderot.
- On 4 February at least 13 Palestinians are injured and a dozen arrested in an Israeli army operation at the Aqbat Jabr refugee camp, following a seven-day siege.
- On 10 February two Israelis are killed by a Palestinian driver after he rams his car into a group of people at the Ramot bus station in Jerusalem.
- On 13 February Israel bombs an underground Hamas complex in Gaza in

response to a rocket fired into Israeli territory. On the same day, Israel announces that, in response to the latest Palestinian attacks, it will approve the legalization of nine enclaves built without government authorization and the construction of nine homes in existing settlements in the West Bank.

- On 23 February at least 11 Palestinians are killed and more than 80 injured during an Israeli army raid followed by clashes with Islamic Jihad and Lion's Den members in Nablus, in the bloodiest incursion in the West Bank since 2005. Several rockets are fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip in response to the raid.
- On 26 February Israelis and Palestinians meet in Aqaba under Jordanian, Egyptian and US mediation in light of the growing spiral of violence that began in March 2022. The parties agree to reduce tension ahead of the beginning of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan which coincides with the Jewish Passover. As well as the creation of a commission to resume security cooperation between the PNA and Israel, the commitment includes a temporary freeze on the construction of new housing units in the Israeli settlements and the authorization of illegal or unofficial enclaves, despite this measure being outrightly rejected by the ultranationalist members of the Israeli government coalition.
- On 26 February two Israeli settlers from Har Braja in the West Bank are killed by a Palestinian in Hawara, in retaliation for the deaths in Nablus on 23 February. Young settlers respond to the attack by setting light to dozens of Palestinian homes, shops and cars in Hawara.

#### *Peace Negotiations*

- On 3 February France offers to contribute to a resumption of dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, amid a flare-up of tensions between the parties.

### **March 2023**

#### *Israel*

- On 1 March new clashes break out, the most intense since the protests began against the Benjamin Netanyahu

government's planned judicial reform, which leave at least 11 people injured and 40 under arrest. On 8 March, hundreds of army reservists sign an open letter stating they will only perform minimum duties or will not take part in military training as an action of protest against the reform. On 9 March, the President Isaac Herzog calls on the government to abandon the judicial reform to avoid undermining Israel's democratic foundations. 12 March marks the tenth week of mass protest marches in different cities across the country, the response to which is Netanyahu's refusal to withdraw the judicial reform, parliamentary approval on 13 March for two laws from the package of judicial reforms and an outright rejection of the alternative route map for the overhaul, unveiled by President Herzog, who, in turn, warns that the polarization generated by the coalition government's decisions could degenerate into civil conflict. On 20 March, the government announces a watered-down version of the controversial reform that reduces the power of the government to appoint Supreme Court judges and delays the approval of the rest of the legislative package until April. On 25 March, some 195,000 demonstrators rally in Tel Aviv, in the twelfth week of protests against the reform. On 26 March, Benjamin Netanyahu sacks the Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, from the centrist Kulanu (All of Us) party, after he said the government should delay moving forward with the reform in light of the deep divisions it is generating in society and the army. On 26 March, there are new demonstrations and clashes, particularly in Tel Aviv. On 27 March, the General Federation of Labour in Israel – Histadrut –, the Medical Association and workers from the Ben Gurion International Airport, among others, announce calls for a general strike, adding to President Herzog's fresh call to halt the reform. On the same day, the National Security Minister and leader of the ultra-right party Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power), Ben Gvir, announces a government agreement to delay the reform until the summer after warning the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he would leave the government coalition if the reforms are halted.

- On 19 March Cyprus and Israel reach an agreement in Tel Aviv on a

military cooperation programme, as well as a tripartite defence programme with Greece.

- On 30 March hundreds of demonstrators protest in different cities against the National Guard, the new police body unveiled by the National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir to "restore governance."

#### *Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 7 March at least six Palestinians are killed in Jenin during an Israeli army raid to detain the main suspect in the murder of two Israeli settlers in late February, who is found to be among the dead.

- On 9 March at least three people are injured in Tel Aviv during an armed attack by a Hamas member, who is then shot dead by a police officer.

- On 11 March the Israeli armed forces kill a young Palestinian in Qalqilya, the West Bank, claiming that the teenager had thrown a Molotov cocktail at the soldiers.

- On 12 March members of Israel's counter-terrorism battalion Sayeret Golani shoot three Palestinian militants and Lion's Den members after they open fire on an army position in Jit, the West Bank.

- On 18 March senior Israeli and Palestinian officials meet in the Egyptian town of Sharm el-Sheikh to resume the security talks initiated in February at the Jordan port of Aqaba, primarily focused on efforts to reduce tensions in the region ahead of the start of Ramadan.

### **April 2023**

#### *Israel*

- On 1, 8 and 15 April the protests against the judicial reform continue, despite the government's announcement to temporarily freeze the measure.

- On 9 April the Israeli army responds to two rocket attacks launched from Syria at the Golan Heights with artillery fire and drone strikes.

- On 10 April Benjamin Netanyahu reverses his decision announced in March to fire Yoav Gallant as Defence Minister.

- On 19 April Moshe Arbel, from the Shas party, is appointed Interior Minister

and Health Minister to replace Michael Malchieli and Yoav Ben-Tzur respectively, the acting ministers since Aryeh Deri was fired in January. The two men continue as Minister of Religious Services and Labour Minister, respectively.

- On 24 April the Israeli army shells Hezbollah positions near Quneitra in the Golan Heights.

- On 27 April several Ministers and thousands of right-wing demonstrators rally to call on the government to go ahead with its plans to reform the judiciary.

#### *Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 3 April Israeli forces kill a member of Fatah and another of the Lion's Den in clashes in Nablus, the West Bank, during a raid to arrest suspects in connection with a shootout on 25 March, in which two Israeli soldiers were wounded.

- On 3 April Rafael Morris, leader of Israel's radical Return to the Mount movement, is arrested for trying to sacrifice a lamb at the Temple Mount. According to the status quo in force since the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem, non-Muslims can visit the compound, but can neither pray nor perform ceremonies there.

- On 5 April coinciding with the start of the Jewish Passover and 15 days ahead of the start of Ramadan, clashes break out between Palestinians and Israeli security forces at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, after Israeli officers evict a group of demonstrators who had shut themselves inside the compound to prevent entry by Israelis planning to perform ceremonies inside. After the incidents, which end with 350 arrests, at least nine missiles are fired at southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, in response to which, the Israeli air force bombs Gaza.

- On 6 April Israel blames Hamas for the launch on the same day of more than 30 rockets from Lebanon at Israeli territory, in the biggest rocket attack from Lebanese territory since 2006.

- On 7 April an attack on the Hamra settlement in the West Bank claims the lives of an Israeli woman and her two daughters. On the same day, an Italian national is killed in another Palestinian attack when a vehicle rams into a group of British and Italian tourists on the

beachside promenade in Tel Aviv. The driver is subsequently shot dead by a police officer.

- On 10 April two Israeli soldiers and two Palestinians are injured in a raid on a refugee camp in Nablus. Hours later, at least one Palestinian is killed during another raid at the Aqbat Jabr refugee camp in Jericho.
- On 11 April the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu orders a ban on non-Muslims from entering the Temple Mount until the end of Ramadan, in an effort to reduce the tension.
- On 18 April an armed man opens fire on a vehicle in Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem, wounding two Israelis.
- On 24 April at least six people are injured in a car-ramming attack on Agrippas Street in Jerusalem. The driver of the vehicle, a Palestinian resident of Beit Safafa, East Jerusalem, is shot dead after the attack.

## May 2023

### *Israel*

- On 2 May Amnesty International (AI) reports that Israel is using an experimental facial recognition system called Red Wolf in the occupied Palestinian territories to track its citizens and automate Israeli restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement.
- On 8 May the EU delegation to Israel cancels the diplomatic reception in Tel Aviv to mark Europe Day, because of the designation of the ultra-right minister Itamar Ben Gvir as representative of the Israeli government.
- On 21 May Itamar Ben Gvir visits the Temple Mount again, as he did in January, drawing condemnation from Palestinians and Arab countries.

### *Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 1 May Israeli forces shoot and kill a Palestinian teenager during a raid at the Aqabat Jabr refugee camp in Jericho, sparking clashes. The raid forms part of a broader operation in the West Bank, which ends with 17 arrests and confiscation of weapons. In a separate incident, the Palestinian Health Ministry announces that Israeli soldiers have se-

riously injured another Palestinian teenager in Bethlehem.

- On 2 May Palestinian militias launch around a hundred missiles from Gaza at Israeli territory after the man considered the leader of Islamic Jihad in the West Bank, Khader Adnan, dies following an 86-day hunger strike in an Israeli prison, where he was being held by Israel on terrorism charges. On 9 March, the Israeli army responds to the launches activating Operation Shield and Sword and killing three Islamic Jihad leaders and at least 10 Palestinian civilians in Gaza. By 12 May, six Islamic Jihad leaders have been killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza. On 14 May, the Egyptian and Qatari mediation manages to broker a temporary ceasefire between the parties.
- On 18 May amid an atmosphere of growing tension, Israel deploys over 2,000 police officers for the annual parade of Israeli nationalists through the Old City, which commemorates Israel's capture of the city during the Six-Day War.
- On 29 May at least one Palestinian is killed and a further seven injured during an Israeli army raid in Jenin, the West Bank.

## June 2023

### *Israel*

- On 2 June, amid tight security measures, some 30,000 people attend the Gay Pride parade, the biggest in Jerusalem's history. On 8 June more than 150,000 people take part in Tel Aviv's Gay Pride parade, also under heavy security due to a number of threats.
- On 3 June three Israeli soldiers are killed near the border with Egypt, shot by an Egyptian police officer, who also died and who, according to the Egyptian army, was chasing drug traffickers.
- On 18 June the Israeli government announces it has given preliminary approval to develop a gas field off the coast of the Gaza Strip, in collaboration with the PNA and Egypt.
- On 24 June the Moroccan and Israeli media report Rabat's decision to postpone, for the second time and due to the tense situation in the West Bank, the second edition of the Negev Forum, which gathers the Foreign Ministers

from signatory countries to the Abraham Accords and was scheduled to be held in Morocco.

- On 29 June Mossad reports the arrest of the leader of a terrorist cell in Iranian territory that was planning an attack on Israeli citizens in Cyprus.

### *Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 19 June an Israeli army incursion and subsequent clashes leaves five Palestinians dead and hundreds injured in Jenin, the West Bank. On 20 June, in response to the raid in Jenin, two Hamas members carry out an attack near the West Bank settlement of Eli leaving four Israelis dead and several others injured. In turn, on 21 June, dozens of Israeli settlers storm the West Bank town of Turmus Aya, setting fire to more than a hundred cars and injuring at least 34 people. On 22 June, three Palestinian militants are killed in Jenin in the first targeted drone attack carried out by Israel since the Second Intifada, in response to shots fired by the militants at the Jalamah border crossing.

## July 2023

### *Israel*

- On 1 July the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports that at least 97 Israeli, US, British, Dutch, French, Spanish and Luxembourgish companies collaborate in the construction of the Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.
- On 2 July the Israel Defence Forces launch an airstrike on a Syrian air defence battery in response to the launch of an anti-aircraft missile into Israeli territory.
- On 6 July the Israeli army reports having responded to a missile launched from southern Lebanon with artillery fire, amid an uptick in tensions between Israel and Hezbollah.
- On 11 July more than 65 people are arrested in a fresh day of mass demonstrations and clashes in several cities in protest against the planned reforms to the judicial system and particularly against the removal of the so-called reasonableness standard, which allows the

Supreme Court to overturn decisions taken by the government on the grounds that they were unreasonable. On 22 July, more than 200,000 people protest in the streets and over 11,000 reservists announce they will resign from military service to if the judicial reform goes ahead. In addition, a mass four-day march from Tel Aviv calling for an end to the reform arrives at the Knesset in Jerusalem and protesters set up camp in Sacher Park. On 24 July, with the opposition boycotting the vote, the Parliament approves repealing the reasonableness standard by 64 votes to none.

- On 15 July the Israeli army fires shots into the air to ward off a group including the Lebanese deputy and member of the Shiite Amal party, Kasem Hashem, as it was making its way towards the Blue Line, on the border between Israel and Lebanon.
- On 21 July Israel begins the construction of a new settlement in the al-Sawahreh neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.
- On 27 July the Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir visits the Temple Mount in Jerusalem for the Tisha B'Av day of fasting, claiming the site should be under Israeli "governance."
- On 30 July the Israeli authorities approve the demolition of eight Palestinian homes in Furush Beit Dajan, northeast of Nablus, which adds to the demolition or confiscation of 54 buildings in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank, during the month of July.

#### *Palestine*

- On 10 July the Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh rejects the conditions set by Israel – an end to anti-Israeli activities in the international sphere and legal diplomacy – to release frozen PNA funds and thus avoid the collapse of the Palestinian economy.
- On 18 July the United Nations expresses its concern over the political arrests carried out by the PNA in the West Bank, after the release on 16 July of the journalist Akil Auadé, arrested in Beitunia for posting a video in which he questioned the Palestinian security forces' denial of political arrests in the West Bank.
- On 21 July the Portuguese Parliament approves recognition of the Nak-

ba, which commemorates the exodus of around 700,000 people from their homes following the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.

- On 24 July the Foreign Minister of the PNA Riyad al-Malki submits a statement to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for its opinion on the nature of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and its legal consequences.
- On 30 July the Palestinian factions announce the creation of a National Committee to culminate the latest attempt at reconciliation talks initiated in el-Alamein, Egypt.

#### *Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 3 July at least 12 people die and around a hundred are injured in the biggest Israeli military operation in the West Bank in the last two decades, targeting armed Palestinian groups in the Jenin refugee camp. On 4 July, the Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announces the end of the operation in Jenin.
- On 4 July seven people are injured in Tel Aviv after a Palestinian rams his vehicle into several pedestrians and then stabs others.
- On 5 July Israel attacks a number of Hamas positions in the Gaza Strip after announcing the interception of five rockets launched from the Palestinian enclave at southern Israel.
- On 7 July two Palestinians are killed in an Israeli army incursion in Nablus.
- On 14 July at least four Palestinians are injured in an attack by Israeli settlers in Qalqilya.
- On 17 July at least four vehicles are set alight in an attack on the majority Arab town of Abu Ghosh, near Jerusalem.
- On 23 July at least 13 Palestinians are injured in an Israeli army attack on the Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm.
- On 27 July a Palestinian teenager is killed during an Israeli army raid in Qalqilya, the West Bank.

#### **August 2023**

##### *Israel*

- On 2 August thousands of demonstrators protest against the judicial re-

form. On 6 August, in the face of unremitting social opposition to the reform, the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announces that he will not go ahead with the reform plans in their entirety, but instead will focus only on changing the makeup of the Judicial Selection Committee.

- On 13 August hundreds of Ethiopian Jews demonstrate to call on the government to speed up the evacuation process of their families that are trapped in the Ethiopian state of Amhara, where the Ethiopian army is fighting insurgents from the Fano militia.
- On 26 August the Israeli police places the leader of the Hadash-Taal, Ayman Odeh, one of the main political representatives of the Arab-Israeli community, under protection after his condemnation of the wave of violence led by the mafias of the Arab community in the West Bank and Gaza, which since January has left 159 people dead, the most recent victims on 21 and 22 August being the Druze politicians Abed Rahman Kashua and Ghazi Saab. On the same day, Benjamin Netanyahu calls for a bill to be pushed through that will increase the powers of the security forces in the fight against the crime wave in Arab-Israeli communities.
- On 28 August the Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich agrees to release around 48.7 million euros in funds earmarked for Arab towns, despite having initially suspended their delivery to avoid their use by criminal organizations and after saying that a mechanism would be created to increase oversight of the transferred money's use.

##### *Palestine*

- On 6 August a court in Gaza sentences six Palestinians to death and another to life in prison under charges of collaborating with Israel.
- On 8 August Australia recognizes the West Bank as "Occupied Palestinian Territories."
- On 14 August the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Abdullah II of Jordan and the PNA President Mahmoud Abbas meet in El-Alamein, reiterating their support for the two-state solution and the end of Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

*Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 1 August Israeli army soldiers kill a Palestinian minor who, according to army sources, was about to carry out a knife attack in Hebron.
- On 5 August a Palestinian is killed in an Israeli settler attack on the village of Burqa.
- On 5 August a municipal police officer is shot dead in Tel Aviv by a member of Islamic Jihad.
- On 6 August Israeli security forces kill three Palestinians accused of attempting an attack near the Israeli settlement of Mevo Dotan in the West Bank.
- On 17 August a Palestinian militant is killed in an Israeli army raid in Jenin. The incident comes days after two other Palestinians are killed on 10 and 11 August in army operations in Zawata and Tulkarm.
- On 19 August two Israeli civilians are gunned down by a Palestinian man in Huwara.
- On 21 August an Israeli woman is killed in a terrorist attack near Hebron.
- On 30 August a Palestinian stabs and wounds an Israeli near the Old City of Jerusalem before being shot dead by a border police officer. The incident occurs hours after a Palestinian is injured and arrested after an attempted car-ramping attack on soldiers near Beit Hagai.
- On 31 August four Israeli soldiers are wounded in a bomb attack on a convoy transporting around a thousand Israelis to visit Joseph's Tomb in Nablus. Hamas and Islamic Jihad claim responsibility. Hours later, a soldier is killed in a car-ramping attack carried out by a Palestinian man in Maccabim, who is shot dead shortly afterwards.

**September 2023***Israel*

- On 2 September violent clashes erupt in southern Tel Aviv between two groups of Eritrean migrants, supporters and opponents of Isaias Afewerki's regime, leaving at least 170 people injured. On 3 August, the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu calls an emergen-

cy meeting to take measures including mass detentions and the immediate deportation of irregular immigrants taking part in the clashes.

- On 5 September the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel leads a general strike denouncing Israeli police "passivity" in the face of criminal acts committed against Arabs.
- On 4 September the Foreign Minister Eli Cohen inaugurates the Israeli embassy in Manama.
- On 4 September Israel, Greece and Cyprus reaffirm their commitment to the EastMed gas pipeline project, which has been on hold since 2020.
- On 6 September Papua New Guinea inaugurates its new embassy to Israel in Jerusalem.
- On 11 September thousands rally in another protest against the judicial reform in Israel on the eve of a Supreme Court hearing on the cancellation of the reasonableness clause. On 23 September, there are new protests against the reform.
- On 28 September Israel announces the reopening of the Erez border crossing with the Gaza Strip, after two weeks of closure due to the protests and unrest in the Palestinian exclave.
- On 29 September Israel's attorney general authorizes the police to use Pegasus spyware in the fight against the wave of violence in Israel's Arab communities, which has left 192 dead since it began in early 2023.

*Palestine*

- On 6 September according to the BBC, PNA representatives meet in Riyadh with the Saudi authorities and US diplomats to lay down their demands before the imminent agreement to normalize relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel, which will be focused on obtaining greater control over the territories in the West Bank that are under full Israeli governance and resuming Riyadh's annual economic aid to the Palestinian administration.
- On 14 September Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails begin an indefinite hunger strike to call for the suspension of the latest restrictions imposed by the Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, which notably include a reduction in family visits to security prisoners.

- On 23 September the government of Gaza launches an international campaign to call for the end of the 17-year Israeli siege on the Palestinian exclave.

*Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 5 September an Islamic Jihad member is shot dead by the Israeli army during clashes at the Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm.
- On 6 September two Israelis are stabbed and wounded by a Palestinian man outside the Old City of Jerusalem.
- On 7 September the Israeli navy opens fire on Palestinian fishermen who were fishing in coastal waters off Gaza.
- On 20 September at least three people are killed and 30 injured in an Israeli army operation in the Jenin refugee camp. On the same day, another Palestinian is killed in fresh clashes in the Gaza Strip.
- On 22 September Israeli soldiers kill a member of Islamic Jihad during an operation in Kafr Dan.
- On 24 September at least two Palestinians are killed in a gunfight with Israeli soldiers during a new operation in the Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm.

*Peace Negotiations*

- On 11 September the Israeli government's National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi confirms he has been in regular contact with the PNA for several months, affirming a positive "change of approach" of the Palestinian leadership.

**October 2023***Israel*

- On 1 October at least two people are killed in Hatsav and Ramle amid the surge in violence in Israeli Arab communities.
- On 11 October the Prime Minister and leader of Likud (Consolidation, right-wing) Benjamin Netanyahu and leader of the centrist opposition coalition National Unity Benny Gantz agree on the creation of an emergency national government to join forces in re-

sponse to the Hamas attacks. During the period of conflict, the government will coordinate around a war cabinet formed by Netanyahu himself, Gantz and the Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. Ron Dermer, the Foreign Affairs Minister, and Gadi Eizenkot, former Chief of Staff, will serve as observers. In addition, during the war there will be no bills passed or any government decisions unrelated to the conflict and all senior appointments will be automatically extended. Yair Lapid's centrist Yesh Atid party (There Is a Future) rules out joining the initiative because the cabinet includes far-right parties.

- On 11 October the Interior Minister announces the municipal elections scheduled for 31 October are indefinitely postponed due to the war in Gaza, in the first electoral delay in the country since 1973.
- On 12 October Moshe Arbel is replaced as the head of the Health Ministry by Uriel Buso, remaining only as the Interior Minister.
- On 22 October Israel orders the evacuation of 14 towns near the Lebanese border, adding to the 28 evacuated during the previous week, while its attacks on Hezbollah targets intensify. Hezbollah also increases its missile launches aimed at Israeli territory.
- On 23 October the Israeli army and government issue a statement refuting reports in the media indicating tensions between the two bodies in light of a delay in the ground offensive on Gaza, approved by the cabinet to give time for international mediation to reduce tensions and avoid a regional contagion, first secure the release of hostages taken by Hamas on 7 October and ensure the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza.
- On 24 October the French President Emmanuel Macron visits Israel where, besides expressing his solidarity with Israel over the attacks and kidnappings on 7 October, calls for "a halt on settlement construction" and the creation of a Palestinian state.
- On 25 October the Israeli army reports attacks on Syrian army infrastructure, hours after militias allied with Hezbollah launch missiles at the Golan Heights, amid an escalation over the conflict in Gaza.

## *Palestine*

- On 11 October the Gaza Strip is left without electricity due to a lack of fuel at the only power plant in the Palestinian exclave, which is grappling with a severe Israeli blockade.
- On 11 October in Damascus, Khaled Meshaal, one of the founders of Hamas and leader of its Syrian branch, calls for a Friday of anger and jihad across the Muslim world.

## *Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 7 October during the Jewish festival of Tabernacles, Hamas launches a surprise attack known as Operation al-Aqsa Flood, the biggest offensive against Israel since the Yom Kippur War in 1973. At least 2,200 rockets fired from the Gaza Strip hit Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Beersheba. Infiltrators from the Palestinian resistance movement storm 25 towns in southern Israel, including Sderot, leaving at least a thousand dead and kidnapping at least 242 people. Added to this offensive are a number of missiles fired by Hezbollah at Israeli targets in the Shebaa Farms. Israel's immediate response, Operation Swords of Iron, leaves at least 1,300 Palestinians dead in the Gaza Strip in its first days. Israel also reinforces its troops on the Lebanese border and declares a state of war. On 11 October, the Israeli government confirms the deployment of 300,000 reservists on the border with Gaza and, on 13 October, the Israeli army orders the evacuation of Gaza City, urging over a million people to leave the northern part of the Strip to seek refuge south of the Wadi Gaza river, ahead of an imminent large-scale and definitive operation to dismantle Hamas and its structure.
- On 15 October the Commissioner-General for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, affirms that his staff "can no longer provide humanitarian aid" to civilians in Gaza, due to the siege imposed by Israel.
- On 16 October Hamas calls for the release of 6,000 prisoners in exchange for the release of the hostages taken on 7 October.

- On 16 October Israel says that around 200,000 Israelis have been internally displaced following the Hamas attacks. The number of displaced people in Gaza stands at around a million.
- On 16 October the United Nations Security Council rejects a Russian draft resolution for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, due to opposition from the US, France, the United Kingdom and Japan on the grounds it fails to condemn Hamas' attack on Israel, which began the crisis, and makes no reference to international humanitarian law.
- On 17 October a missile hits al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza leaving 471 dead, according to the Gazan authorities. Israel and Hamas blame each other for the attack, after which thousands of demonstrators rally in protest outside the Israeli and US embassies in several Arab capitals and other cities around the world. Israel evacuates its embassy staff in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain and Turkmenistan.
- On 18 October the US President Joe Biden visits Israel as part of the diplomatic efforts to avoid a regional escalation of the conflict and an Israeli ground offensive on Gaza, in its mission to fully dismantle Hamas. At the same time, the US ramps up its military presence in the eastern Mediterranean to dissuade Iran from intervening in the conflict and support Israel.
- On 18 October Egypt confirms it has been able to open the Rafah border crossing under supervision of the United Nations to allow the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.
- On 19 October the Israeli army reports that Jamila Abdallah Taha al-Shanti, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council and founder of Hamas' women's branch has been killed in an airstrike.
- On 19 October at least five Palestinians are killed in the West Bank during numerous clashes with the army and Israeli settlers during protests in response to the attack on al-Ahli Arab Hospital.
- On 19 October an Israeli army operation in the Nur Shams refugee camp in the West Bank leaves at least 13 Palestinians dead.
- On 19 October at least eight Palestinians are killed in an Israeli airstrike

on the Greek Orthodox Saint Porphyrius Church in the Gaza Strip, which was sheltering hundreds of displaced people.

- On 20 October at least 21 Palestinians are killed in an Israeli airstrike on six residential buildings in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.
- On 28 October, until further orders, Israel begins the second phase of its offensive on the Gaza Strip, which the Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant says will see continued fighting, only with less intensity and focused on “eliminating pockets of resistance.”
- On 29 October thousands storm UN aid storage facilities in Gaza to take foods, medicines and other basic supplies.
- On 31 October the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reports that 31 journalists have been killed since the beginning of the war between Israel and Hamas.
- On 31 October the Israeli army affirms it has carried out attacks on almost 300 Hamas targets over 24 hours of bombing in the Gaza Strip.

## November 2023

### *Israel*

- On 1 November Bolivia breaks diplomatic ties with Israel due to the conflict in Gaza. For their part, Jordan, Colombia and Chile recall their respective ambassadors for consultations.
- On 13 November Israel approves the closure of the Lebanese al-Mayadeen television channel and the confiscation of its assets, on the grounds that its coverage of the conflict in Gaza is harmful to the State of Israel.
- On 14 November the pro-Iranian Iraqi militia Al Nujaba Movement claims responsibility for an attack on Eilat.
- On 19 November the Houthi rebels in Yemen announce they have captured an Israeli cargo ship in the Red Sea, in a measure aimed at pressuring Israel into halting its offensive on Gaza.
- On 20 November in a tense parliamentary session, families of the hostages held by Hamas since 7 October call on the members of the far-right parties to halt the debate on reinstating

the death penalty for anyone who murders an Israeli with political or hateful motives.

- On 23 November Hezbollah fires around 50 missiles at Israel from southern Lebanon, in its biggest attack against Israel since the outbreak of the conflict in Gaza.
- On 25 November the Foreign Minister Eli Cohen summons the Spanish and Belgian ambassadors to Israel to express his condemnation of remarks made about the military offensive in the Gaza Strip by the Spanish and Belgian prime ministers, Pedro Sanchez and Alexander De Croo, during their visit to the Rafah border crossing. On 30 November, Israel again summons the Spanish ambassador in Tel Aviv, Ana Maria Salomon, after Sanchez expresses his doubts over Israel’s respect of international law in Gaza and recalls the Israeli ambassador in Madrid Rodica Radian-Gordon for consultations.
- On 29 November the UN General Assembly adopts a resolution calling for Israel’s withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

### *Palestine*

- On 2 November Germany includes Hamas and the association of Palestinian prisoners in Israel Samidoun on its list of banned organizations, faced with the surge in antisemitic incidents in the country since the outbreak of the war in Gaza.

### *Conflicts between the Parties*

- On 1 November around 500 foreigners and Palestinians with dual nationality are evacuated from the Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. On 2 November, a further 600 join the group of evacuees.
- On 1 November dozens are killed by Israeli bombing in the Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza. These add to the 145 people killed the previous day in airstrikes on the same camp.
- On 2 November the Israel Defense Forces confirms that its troops have encircled Gaza City.
- On 3 November Israel returns thousands of workers to the Gaza Strip who were in Israel at the start of the war and

were detained en masse or forcibly transferred to the West Bank.

- On 6 November the Israeli army gives a new four-hour window for civilians in Gaza to leave the north of the Strip and move towards the southern areas, while Israeli attacks and arrests continue in the Palestinian territory.
- On 7 November Benjamin Netanyahu affirms that Israel will take overall security responsibility indefinitely in the Gaza Strip once the conflict with Hamas is over.
- On 9 November 1.1 billion euros in humanitarian aid are pledged at the international donor conference for Gaza, held in Paris.
- On 10 November at least 20 Palestinians are killed in a day of fighting with the Israeli army in the West Bank, mostly in Beit Furik and the Jenin refugee camp. On the same day, Israeli police arrest dozens of people, among them the head of the High Follow-up Committee for Arab Citizens, Mohammad Baraka, for protesting against the war in Gaza.
- On 10 November the US reports that Israel will implement four-hour daily pauses in its military operations in the northern Gaza Strip to facilitate the southward evacuation of civilians in the Palestinian exclave. Parallel to this, negotiations mediated by the US, Egypt and Qatar continue for a possible two or three-day ceasefire in exchange for Hamas releasing between 10 and 15 hostages.
- On 12 November the Israeli army reaches the centre of the Gaza Strip and steps up attacks on al-Shifa Hospital, the biggest in Gaza City, where Israel believes Hamas has tunnels that lead to the organization’s command centre.
- On 13 November the PNA calls on the US for urgent and real intervention to put an end to the attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians in the West Bank, which have increased since the beginning of the conflict in Gaza.
- On 13 November Hamas suspends the negotiations on the release of the 240 hostages taken on 7 October while the Israeli siege on al-Shifa Hospital continues, where the situation for patients and staff is critical, unable to be evacuated and faced with severe supply



shortages. Israel claims that beneath the hospital are tunnels that lead to Hamas' command centre.

- On 14 November at least six Palestinians are killed in Israeli army operations in Tulkarm, the West Bank.
- On 15 November the Israeli army storms al-Shifa Hospital in search of tunnels that allegedly lead to Hamas' command centre.
- On 15 November, after four failed attempts, the UN Security Council adopts a humanitarian resolution on the conflict in Gaza – drafted on this occasion by Malta – which calls for “urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors in the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days.”
- On 16 November the Israeli Minister Gideon Sa'ar affirms that the PNA is not a suitable partner to take charge of the Gaza Strip during the period immediately following an end to the conflict in Gaza and considers giving Egypt and Saudi Arabia a role in the management of the Palestinian territory.
- On 16 November at least 50 people are killed in an Israeli attack on a mosque in the Sabra neighbourhood in Gaza.
- On 16 November Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi decries an Israeli airstrike on the field hospital it has set up in the Gaza Strip, describing the attack as an “extension of the war crimes already committed” by Israel.
- On 16 November at least seven Israelis are injured in a shooting attack near an Israeli checkpoint south of Jerusalem.
- On 17 November the Israeli army kills two Palestinians near Hebron after they opened fire on a group of soldiers.
- On 17 November Ahmed Bahr, the first deputy speaker of the Palestinian Parliament and senior Hamas official, dies from his wounds after one of the Israeli bombings of the Gaza Strip, which have left at least 50 dead during the day.
- On 17 November at least three Palestinians, including an Islamic Jihad commander, are killed in a new operation on the Jenin refugee camp.
- On 17 November the Israeli Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi affirms that the army is close to “dismantling” Hamas' entire “military system” in the northern

Gaza Strip and announces the expansion of the offensive to other areas of the territory.

- On 19 November the United Nations reports that 104 UNRWA workers have been killed in Gaza since the outbreak of the conflict on 7 October.
- On 22 November Israel and Hamas announce a four-day ceasefire for the release of at least 50 hostages held by Hamas and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners from Israel' jails. On 23 November, dozens of Palestinians are killed in a fresh wave of Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, following a delay in the ceasefire that finally begins on 24 November, the release of 24 hostages by Hamas in exchange for the release of 39 Palestinian prisoners in Israel. On 25 November, the second exchange takes place: 13 hostages held by Hamas in exchange for 39 Palestinian prisoners. On 26 November, 17 more hostages are returned to Israel in exchange for a third group of 39 Palestinian prisoners. On 27 November Israel and Hamas agree on a 48-hour ceasefire extension thanks to international mediation and on 30 November the parties agree once again to an additional day's extension.
- On 28 November at least two Palestinians are shot dead by the Israeli army near Ramallah, in clashes during the arrival of three Palestinian women and thirty minors recently released from Ofer prison as part of the hostage-prisoner exchange between Israel and Hamas.
- On 29 November Hamas invites the magnate Elon Musk to visit the Gaza Strip and witness “the massacres and destruction” committed by Israel, as a reaction to Musk's recent visit to Israel during which an agreement on principle was announced for the use, under specific conditions, of the Starlink satellite communication system in the Gaza Strip.
- On 30 November a shooting attack carried out by Palestinian assailants on a bus stop in Jerusalem leaves three people dead.
- On 30 November at least one Palestinian is shot dead by the Israeli army in Beitunia, near the West Bank prison of Ofer, during a new release of Palestinian prisoners.

## December 2023

### Israel

- On 12 December Israel attacks military targets in Syrian territory after condemning the launch by a Hezbollah-allied militia of three missiles from Syria at the Golan Heights, amid the war in Gaza.
- On 15 December Israel authorizes the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom border crossing.
- On 21 December several hostages released after being kidnapped by Hamas during the attacks on 7 October file a lawsuit against the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for “failing to comply with their obligations in the framework of International Law.”
- On 28 December the Israeli government affirms that its ambassador to Turkey Irit Lilian will not return to Ankara while Recep Tayyip Erdogan remains as the country's President. Israel withdrew its ambassador on 19 October over concerns for her security. Turkey, for its part, recalled its ambassador to Israel for consultations on 4 November over the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- On 29 December South Africa files a case against Israel at the ICJ for war crimes in the Gaza Strip.

### Palestine

- On 11 December the population of the West Bank holds a general strike to demand an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, in an action supported by Jordan and Lebanon.
- On 20 December the head of Hamas' political bureau Ismail Haniyeh travels to Egypt to negotiate a second ceasefire with Israel in the Gaza Strip, according to sources from the BBC.

### Conflicts between the Parties

- On 1 December hours before the end of the latest agreed ceasefire extension, fighting resumes between the Israeli army and Islamist militants in the Gaza Strip, who fire several missiles at southern Israel. Hamas, for its part, blames Israel for the end of the ceasefire after its rejection of all offers made

by the organization to continue with the release of hostages.

- On 4 December the Israeli army says it has attacked 200 Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip, coinciding with the expansion of its military operations to the south of the Palestinian enclave.
- On 5 December the Israeli army reports fresh attacks on Hezbollah positions on the border between Lebanon and Israel, in response to missiles launched by the militia.
- On 5 December the Israeli Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi announces the start of the third phase of the ground offensive on the Gaza Strip, marked by military operations in the south of the enclave, mainly in Khan Younis.
- On 5 December the US imposes travel bans on a number of extremist Israeli settlers who attacked Palestinian residents in the West Bank. Washington also announces the same measures for Palestinians involved in attacks on Israelis in the West Bank.
- On 6 December the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk condemns the serious sexual violations that, according to reports and witness accounts, Hamas committed during and after their attacks on Israel on 7 October. The statement urging that an investigation be opened into the allegation comes after Israel and Israeli lawyers and activists accuse international women's rights defence organizations of remaining silent over the reports.
- On 10 December WHO's executive board adopts a resolution by consensus calling for the "immediate, sustained and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief" to Gaza.
- On 11-12 December the Israeli army steps up its airstrikes in the south of the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian situation is now unsustainable. According to UN estimates, 1.9 million people, 79% of the population of Gaza, have been displaced to the far south of the Strip.
- On 12 December the United Nations General Assembly adopts a non-binding resolution calling for an "immediate ceasefire" in the Gaza Strip, after Egypt and Mauritania request an emergency session invoking Resolution 377, which gives the Assembly the authority to adopt

measures when peace is under threat if the Security Council cannot due to a veto by a permanent member, in this case the US, whose President Joe Biden, however, warns Benjamin Netanyahu on the same day of the need to reform Israel's ultraconservative government coalition, which rejects the two-state solution and promotes an "indiscriminate" and "disproportionate" response to the Hamas attacks on 7 October.

- On 12 December at least seven Palestinians are killed in an Israeli army operation in Jenin, the West Bank.
- On 13 December the Israeli army begins flooding Hamas' tunnels in the Gaza Strip with sea water, despite suspicions that there may be hostages inside.
- On 15 December the Israeli army says it has destroyed the headquarters of Hamas' Shejaiya Battalion in Gaza City.
- On 15 December the Israeli army accepts the blame for shooting dead three hostages that had escaped from Hamas. The statement reactivates protests by the families of the more than 100 hostages still being held in Gaza to call on the government to resume negotiations and prioritize the safe return of the captives.
- On 17 December the United Kingdom and Germany urge Hamas and Israel to declare a "sustainable ceasefire" and press for the immediate implementation of a mechanism that guarantees peace "for generations" in the Middle East. The call adds to pressures exerted by France, the US, Egypt, Jordan and Qatar for the parties to resume a ceasefire in a conflict that has left almost 20,000 people dead since its outbreak in October.
- On 17 December at least 110 people are killed in Israeli airstrikes on the Jabalia refugee camp.
- On 18 December Israel uncovers a four-kilometre-long and 50-metre-deep tunnel, the longest of Hamas' 1,300-tunnel network stretching approximately 500 km below the Gaza Strip.
- On 19 December the US expresses its concern and again urges Israel to scale down its offensive on Gaza, after two women are killed in an attack on 16 December on the Holy Family Parish in Gaza City.

- On 29 December the United Nations' head of Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths calls for an urgent increase in humanitarian aid in light of the mass exodus towards the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, as the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip intensifies.

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