

importance of finding common ground for  
lasting peace.

than 1400 people and took hundreds captive. The military wing of Hamas said that the original number of captives held was 200 to 250 with Hamas holding about 200. The spokesperson also said 50 captives have been killed in the Israeli air raids on the Gaza Strip. It was most astonishing that Hamas not only killed Israeli but also capture Israelis as war prisoners.

According to the Israeli army, the number of captives is 240, and they include Israeli soldiers, civilians and foreigners. And their release was conditioned with setting Hamas fighters free by Israel.

A deal between Israel and Hamas, mediated by Qatar, paused the fighting on Nov 24 and allowed for the release of women and children in exchange for Palestinian women and teens in Israeli prisons. Under the deal's framework, every Israeli hostage freed would initiate the release of three Palestinian prisoners.

**Conclusion:** In a shocking turn of events on Oct 7, 2023, Hamas launched an unprecedented and large-scale attack on well-protected Israel. The world watched Hamas equipped with proper weapons and a well-established plan to attack Israel created tension, concern and fear in Israel and its allies. The repercussions of such actions serve as a stark reminder of the challenges in the region and the

base, a kibbutz, a road or a town. Three tasks were given to different units.

**1<sup>st</sup> Group:** The first group/unit was ordered to overwhelm the unprepared Israeli military bases around Gaza. A large groups of Hamas fighters quickly moved on several military bases on the far side of the border, apparently aware of their locations, layout and the best approach routes to avoid detection.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Group:** The second unit/group were ordered to defend positions against Israeli military forces when they came, often with ambushes on key roads.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Group:** The third set of unit/groups were detailed with seizing as many hostages as possible and bringing them to the gaps in the fence where dedicated squads were waiting to take the hostages.

Also, those civilian areas were targeted which were recently captured by Jews from Muslims.

Hamas fighter not only killed but brought prisoners of wars into Gaza: During the Oct 7 assault by Hamas on Israel, it killed more

Secondly, many Hamas fighters sailed into the sea towards the North of Gaza and landed on Israeli territories. The forces had entered Israel by sea from the Gaza Strip near the Israeli city of Zikim, near the border with Gaza. The motorboats carrying fighters also entered.

Third and the unparallel, more than 200 Hamas fighters entered into Israeli territory through paragliding.

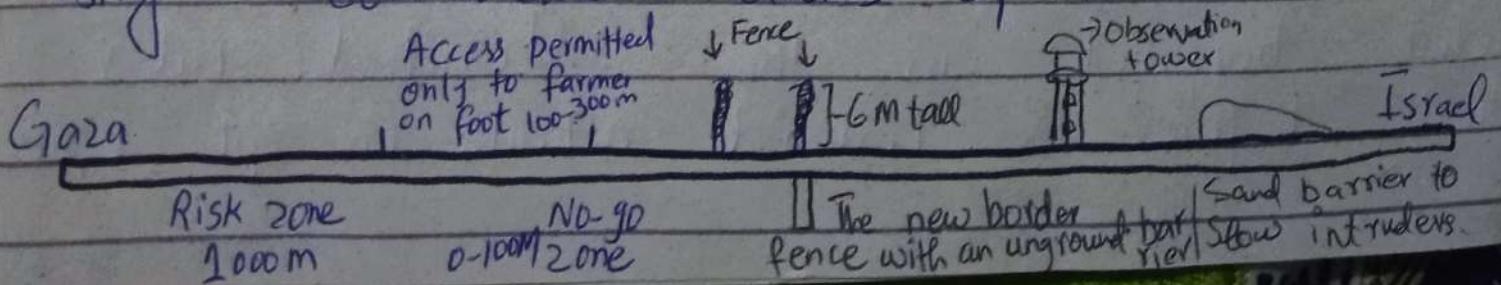
**Huge number of missiles were fired by Hamas against Israel:** The Hamas fighters fired huge number of missiles into Israeli territory. Israel counted more than 2,200 incoming rockets by Hamas, though Hamas claimed the figure was double that. A Times visual analysis found that a rocket launched from Gaza by Hamas hit an Israeli military base believed to house nuclear-capable missiles. Hamas also fired a huge barrage of rockets into Southern Israel with sirens heard as far away as Tel Aviv and Beersheba. The Israel air defense system (IRON DOME) could not intercept the majority of mortars and 13 different cities were heavily bombarded.

**The ground attacks of Hamas were numerous and surprising:** The Hamas fighters that entered into Israel used a precise plan. Each unit was given a separate objective: a military

The border crossing was surprising: The massive, complex attack on Israel on Saturday by Hamas stunned Israel, who watched in horror as fighters easily bypassed one of the world's most advanced security systems.

The "smart fence" that separates Israel from Gaza is equipped with cutting-edge technology, designed to detect any security breach. This is how the Hamas got through.

Almost 3000 Hamas fighters crossed the border in 3 different ways. First of all, the majority fighters made the land crossing. The surprise series of co-ordinated efforts enabled Hamas to get past the wall. The fence was breached at 29 points. Hamas also used explosives to blow up sections of the barrier. Men on motorbikes drove through the gaps. The Hamas fighters rush through gaps that were smashed through the fence. The Hamas fighters overran an army base, captured a police station and attacked several dozen communities. Then bulldozers bulldozed the wall allowing enough space for larger vehicles to drive through. The cameras system, Israeli observation towers, communications infrastructure and weapons system along the border were bombed using commercial drones by Hamas.



# Current Affairs

## Israel-Palestine Issue:

The Attack of Hamas were unprecedented.

What is Hamas? Hamas is a Palestinian Islamist political organization and militant group that has waged war on Israel since the group's 1987 founding, most notably through Suicide bombings and rocket attacks.

**When did Hamas attack Israel:** The recent attack of Hamas on Israel is on 7, Oct 2023. Israel is widely recognized as having highly sophisticated intelligence capabilities, both in terms of its ability to collect information about potential threats within its own country and outside of it. And so as details unfold of the recent attack of Hamas on 20 Israeli towns and several army bases, the questions arises/lingers: How did Israel fail to piece together clues about this unprecedented and complex plot in advance?

Israeli intelligence did detect some suspicious activity on Hamas militant networks before the attack, **The New York Times** reported on Oct 10, 2023. But the warning wasn't acted upon or fully understood in its entirely - similar to what happened in the United States shortly before the terrorist attacks on Sept 11, 2001.