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Rocket fire persists in south after Petah Tikva home takes direct hit overnight
5 people lightly to moderately wounded from shrapnel and smoke inhalation, ensuing fire engulfs several vehicles; Rishon Lezion home hit by massive rocket shrapnel, causing extensive property damage, no injuries reported. Raanan Ben Tzur, Roi Rubinstein, Yoav Zitun, Elior Levy, Eli Sinyor | Updated: 05.13.21 , 13:24

Israeli communities close to the Gaza Strip came under persistent rocket fire Thursday, hours after a heavy rocket salvo fired by the terrorist groups in the enclave targeted most of southern and central Israel overnight, with one projectile hitting a Petah Tikva home.

Sirens sounds repeated throughout Thursday morning, sending residents of the border region into their bomb shelters again and again.

The home in Petah Tikva near Tel Aviv took a direct hit from a rocket shortly after 1am (local time), starting a fire and leaving five people wounded.

Five residents were hurt from smoke inhalation and shrapnel — four of them sustained injuries and one resident was moderately wounded from shattered glass during the explosion.

Rescue teams evacuated the building and several adjacent residences. Firefighters arrived at the scene, and within minutes, got control of the fire which also engulfed several vehicles.

"I did not think it would happen here, in my house in Petah Tikva," said Hadas, a tenant in one of the buildings, and burst into tears.

"We went down to the bomb shelter, we heard an alarm and suddenly there was a bang. Smoke entered the shelter, and the neighbor next to me who was sitting on a chair flew back. One of the neighbors did not get into the shelter in time, was hit in the head and started bleeding. Our whole house was destroyed."

Another home took a direct hit from the shrapnel of a rocket that was intercepted mid-air by the Iron Dome missile defense system over the central city of Rishon Lezion before landing.

The tenant told Ynet he was sitting in the living room with his girlfriend and that they didn't hear a siren go off before the massive shard penetrated through the kitchen ceiling.

Later in the night, air raid sirens were set off around Gaza border communities. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit said that the alarms that sounded overnight in the Lower Galilee and the Jezreel Valley were used as a precautionary measure as air defense system failed to exactly gauge the landing locations of several rockets. However, there were no rocket launches at northern Israel.

Hamas' military wing Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades claimed responsibility for the barrage which started about an hour after the Air Force launched a massive attack in the northern Gaza Strip in which it destroyed Hamas' internal security headquarters which had served the organization's security apparatus.

The IDF said it had also destroyed Hamas' central bank in the seaside enclave and eliminated a squad of the terrorist group's naval force.

Gaza's health ministry said that 67 people had been killed so far as a result of IDF strikes in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the security cabinet on Wednesday night approved a plan to intensify military attacks on Hamas and Islamic Jihad targets in the Gaza Strip, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu informed its members that Israel has officially rejected a Hamas proposal for a ceasefire.

Israel dismissed the offer of a truce made earlier in the day via the Russian foreign ministry, which quoted a senior Hamas official as saying that the Islamist group was ready to halt attacks on a "mutual basis."

According to the military, more than 1,500 rockets had been fired from the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the current round of violence, known in Israel by the codename Guardian of the Walls.

Seven Israelis have been killed, including Ido Avigal — a 5-year-old boy killed Wednesday night when his home in the southern city of Sderot took a direct hit from a rocket. His mother Shani was seriously wounded by shrapnel that entered her breathing passage. Her life does not appear to be in danger.

Avigal's older sister Tahel (7) was lightly wounded and another cousin (6) who was also at the apartment during the attack was seriously injured.

First published: 09:20 , 05.13.21

05.13.21

Israel loses control over both Jew & Arab mobs with dozens wounded, detained

05.13.21

Israel loses control over riots with dozens wounded, detained

Police say among those hurt is a pregnant Arab woman who was hit in the head in Lod and is now in serious condition; Arab mob set fire to hotel in Acre as police, fire services refused to come; 374 people arrested, many of whom teens as young as 13

Ynet reporters| Updated: 05.13.21 , 11:23

Israel appears to have lost control over the nationwide riots by Arab and Jews as dozens of people were wounded and many detained following a night of unprecedented civil unrest in the country.

The latest outburst of Israel-Gaza violence has reached deeper into the country than any since the 2000 Palestinian intifada. Arab and Jewish mobs were seen rampaging through the streets, savagely beating people and torching cars, in cities and towns that just recently were praised for developing co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians.

The riots late Wednesday and early Tuesday took place in Jerusalem, Haifa, Lod, Tiberias, Acre, Umm al-Fahm, Bat Yam, Jaffa, Jisr a-Zarqa, Wadi Ara, Hadera and Be'er Sheva - where 22 people were arrested.

The police said at least 374 people were arrested over the nighttime riots, during which 36 police officers were lightly hurt. The police said many of the detained are teens aged as young as 13.

In the coastal city of Acre, Arab mob is suspected of attacking and seriously wounding a Jewish man amid clashes there on Wednesday evening.

He was apparently attacked with sticks and rocks. On Thursday morning, a hotel was set on fire in the Old City by an Arab mob. The fire spread to the nearby structure and the municipality said that in the wake of the riots, Israel Police and Fires and Rescue Services can't enter the Old City.

In Lod, where one of the largest riots took place, at least 20 people were wounded, including a 33-year-old pregnant Arab woman who was hit in the head and was in serious condition. She was taken to Assaf Harofeh Hospital where she safely gave birth.

At the Mahane Yehuda Market in Jerusalem, an Arab man was allegedly stabbed by Jewish mob and was seriously wounded. In the northern city of Tiberias, video uploaded to social media appeared to show flag-waving Israelis attacking a car.

In the northern Arab town of Umm al-Fahm, a Border Police officer was shot and moderately hurt. He was taken to Emek Medical Center in the Jezreel Valley. The ambulance that was transporting the officer was also attacked by rocks.

In apparent revenge attacks in Bat Yam, a large crowd of ultranationalists pulled an Arab man from a car and beat him until he lay on the ground motionless and bloodied. A hospital said he's in serious condition.

It later emerged the man is a resident of another mixed city of Ramla and a father of five. The man had massive laceration on his face and doctors conducted an emergency surgery to stabilize his condition.

Earlier, the mob smashed the windows of a popular, Arab-owned ice cream shop "Victory", while chanting, "Death to Arabs!" on live television during a standoff with Border Police, who would not allow them to move into neighboring Jaffa to clash with local Arab population.

In a late night television interview, President Reuven Rivlin said the country was gripped by civil war and urged citizens to "stop this madness." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on both Jews and Arabs to cease attacks on each other: "It doesn't matter to me that your blood is boiling. You can't take the law in your hands," he said.

Associated Press contributed to this report

First published: 10:10 , 05.13.21

05.13.21

Turkey calls on Muslims to take clear stance over Gaza

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President Erdogan's right-hand hits out at world powers' lack of action regarding latest cross-border fighting between Israel, Gaza terrorist factions despite repeated condemnations

Reuters| Published: 05.13.21 , 09:57

Muslim countries must show a united and clear stance over Israel's conflict with the Islamist Hamas movement in Gaza, Turkey's vice president, Fuat Oktay, said on Thursday, criticizing world powers for condemning violence without acting.

"What we desire is that active measures are taken," Oktay told reporters after morning prayers marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

"There are decisions taken repeatedly at the United Nations, there are condemnations. But unfortunately, no result has been obtained, because a clear stance is not displayed." In several days of conflict, Hamas has fired volleys of rockets towards Israeli cities and Israel has launched airstrikes against the Islamist faction in the Gaza Strip.

At least 67 people have been killed in Gaza since violence escalated on Monday, according to the enclave's health ministry. Seven people have been killed in Israel, medical officials said.

With the conflict beginning to resemble the Gaza war of 2014, world powers have demanded de-escalation and the United States said it planned to send an envoy for talks with Israel and Palestinians.

Turkey's president, RTayyip Erdogan, who has repeatedly condemned Israel's rule over the West Bank and its treatment of Palestinians, said on Saturday Israel was a "terror state" after Israeli police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades at Palestinian rioters at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque.

Oktay said Muslims had a responsibility to act.

"Everyone who does not display a clear stance against this are [sic] a party to this torment," Oktay said. "Unfortunately, when we look at the Muslim countries that do not display this unity and togetherness, everyone there who do [sic] not display a clear stance is a party to this."

05.12.21

Israel ministers reject Hamas truce offer; Gaza strikes may start ground operation

05.12.21

Israel rejects Hamas truce offer; ministers vote to intensify Gaza strikes

PM informs security cabinet that he has turned down proposal for cease fire on 'mutual basis' made via Russia; cabinet member says campaign 'far from over,' as 'whatever we don't do now, we will have to do in six months or a year'

Ynet,News Agencies| Published: 05.12.21 , 23:00

The security cabinet on Wednesday night approved a plan to intensify military attacks on Hamas and Islamic Jihad targets in the Gaza Strip, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu informed its members that Israel has officially rejected a Hamas proposal for a cease fire.

Israel dismissed the offer of a truce made earlier in the day via the Russian foreign ministry, which quoted a senior Hamas official as saying that the Islamist group was ready to halt attacks on a "mutual basis."

"The campaign is still far from over," a cabinet member said. "Whatever we don't do now, we will have to do in six months or a year from now."

The members of the cabinet were also asked to approve operational plans for the coming days.

"This it will not end in the next few days," said a cabinet member.

"Israel will not stop and has no interest in stopping. It is all moving in the right direction. We will act until they admit that opening fire was a mistake, just as Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah did after the Second Lebanon War in 2006," he said.

"When we have hit all our targets and the other side has still not surrendered, we will launch a ground operation even though we do not seek it."

Senior officials also said that the IDF had not been taken by surprise by Hamas' capabilities in the round of fighting.

"We were not surprised, neither by the scale of the rockets nor by their capabilities," one said.

"More than 1,000 rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip at Israel and a third of them fell inside Gaza. Of the remaining 700, half fell in open areas and 90% of the remaining 350 or so rockets were intercepted."

The official said that Israel's main achievement during the current campaign, dubbed Operation Guardian of the Walls, was the elimination of senior Hamas and Islamic Jihad officials earlier Wednesday.

"This was an amazing achievement by Shin Bet security service, which managed to trace these officials in just two days."

Wednesday marked the third consecutive day of rocket fire from Gaza at Israeli population centers, in a round of attacks that began Monday evening with a volley launched at the Jerusalem area after days of clashes in the city between Palestinians and Israeli security forces

That initial attack was followed by ongoing, near continuous heavy rocket fire on southern communities, which left two dead in Ashkelon and dozens wounded. And on

Tuesday night, two massive salvos were fired at central Israel, killing one person in Rishon Lezion and a father and his teenage daughter in Lod.

Israel has responded to the rockets with repeated air and artillery strikes on what it says were terror targets in Gaza.

A total of six people have been killed on the Israeli side by rocket fire, including the first death of an Israeli soldier in this round of conflict. Dozens more have been wounded. The death toll in Gaza rose Wednesday to 53, including 14 children, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run enclave. At least 320 have been wounded.

05.12.21

Top Hamas men killed in Israeli targeted strikes in Gaza; PM: It's 'only the beginning'

05.12.21

Top Hamas men killed in Israeli targeted strikes in Gaza; PM: It's 'only the beginning' Shin Bet says dead include veteran brigade commander for Gaza City and group's cyber and missile technology chief; security cabinet to meet on expansion of military operations as PM vows increasing force in response to rocket, mortar fire
Ynet, Reuters | Published: 05.12.21, 14:58

The IDF and the Shin Bet domestic security service said Wednesday that 16 high-ranking members of the Hamas terror group, including a senior commander and weapons developers, had been killed in Israeli targeted attacks on Gaza City and Khan Yunis.

The dead were members of the Hamas high command and close associates of Mohammed Deif, head of the terror group's military wing who has himself survived numerous Israeli attempts on his life.

According to the Shin Bet, the casualties included Bassim Issa, veteran Hamas brigade commander for Gaza City; Jomaa Tahla, the Hamas cyber and missile technology chief and 13 members of the group's weapons manufacturing staff. Israeli military officials called the killings a groundbreaking, complex operation whose details were yet to be revealed.

Palestinian sources confirmed an Israeli attack on a vehicle in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, saying at least one of the occupants had been killed.

The Israeli attacks were swiftly followed by a barrage of some 50 rockets fired from Gaza at the southern cities of Ashkelon and Ashdod and their environs.

Israeli media quoted military sources as saying that they expected further rocket fire on central Israel as a result of the killings.

Also Wednesday, the IDF attacked Hamas and Islamic Jihad weapon production sites in the northern Strip that were located inside civilian areas.

"The IDF is taking every precaution to avoid harm to civilians and their property but will continue to operate in Gaza as long as is necessary," the military said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said while visiting Wolfson Medical Center in Holon that the **targeted killing of Hamas top officials was "only the beginning"**.

He said earlier that Israel would respond with increasing force to the continued rocket and mortar fire directed at civilian communities along the border. But, the prime minister said, he would not "go into details here."

"From here I am heading to a meeting with the IDF chief of staff and Air Force commander at the Kiriya," Netanyahu said during a trip to the northern city of Acre, referring to the Defense Ministry headquarters in Tel Aviv.

"We will have a security cabinet meeting later, there are serious developments," he said. "We will respond with increasing force" to the attacks from Gaza.

Wednesday marked the **third consecutive day of rocket fire from Gaza** at Israeli population centers, in a round of attacks that began Monday evening with a volley launched at the Jerusalem area after days of clashes in the city between Palestinians and Israeli security forces.

That initial attack was followed by ongoing, near continuous heavy rocket fire on southern communities, which left two dead in Ashkelon and dozens wounded. And on Tuesday night, two massive salvos were fired at central Israel, killing one person in Rishon LeZion and a father and his teenage daughter in Lod.

Israel has responded to the rockets with repeated air and artillery strikes on what it says were terror targets in Gaza.

Palestinian officials say at least 48 people have been died in the Israeli strikes, including 14 children, and that 304 people had been wounded. Israel says that some of the dead were killed by scores of rockets that misfired and struck Gaza.

Israel's security cabinet was set to meet Wednesday at 5.30pm to discuss an expansion of its military operations against the Gaza terror groups.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz was also to request cabinet approval for a two-week extension to the emergency order for areas 80km or less from the Gaza border.

The order allows local officials to close schools and businesses in order to protect the civilian population.

Meanwhile Islamic **Jihad** said Wednesday it was **preparing further rocket attacks**.

"We fired 100 rockets at Tel Aviv and other cities and are prepared to fire more," the terror group said, referring to the barrages on the center of Israel on Tuesday night.

"We will continue our struggle and not back down. Gaza is the sword of Jerusalem," the Iranian-backed group said.

05.12.21

IDF says anti-tank missile from Gaza hit a vehicle in border area, 1 dead, 2 hurt

05.12.21

1 dead, 2 hurt as anti-tank missile from Gaza hits border area, IDF says

Hamas claims responsibility for attack; Gaza militants fire rockets as victims are evacuated from site near Moshav Netiv HaAsara, Israeli troops in area respond with shelling

Ynet| Updated: 05.12.21 , 11:40

One person was killed and those other wounded Wednesday morning when an anti-tank guided missile was fired into southern Israel from the northern Gaza Strip, hitting a vehicle, the IDF said Wednesday.

According to the Magen David Adom rescue service, two people are in serious condition after the attack in the area of Moshav Netiv HaAsara. The person who later succumbed to his wounds was originally identified as critically injured.

The scene of the anti-tank missile attack close to northern Gaza on Wednesday morning All three were taken to Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon.

Rockets were also fired from Gaza at the area of the attack as the wounded were being evacuated. IDF troops responded with tank and artillery fire.

The military wing of the Hamas terror group that rules Gaza took responsibility for the strike.

On Monday, a man was wounded when an anti-tank missile was fire from Gaza at his vehicle close to the border.

The Wednesday morning attack came after a night of heavy fighting between Israel and the Gaza terror groups, with two massive barrages of rockets being fired from the Strip into central Israel overnight. Three people were killed in the attacks, including a 16-year-old girl.

Five people have been killed in Israel by rockets from Gaza since Hamas' opening salvo on the Jerusalem area on Monday afternoon. Two people were killed Tuesday in Ashkelon in two separate rocket strikes on residential homes.

The Gaza Health Ministry said the death toll from Israeli airstrikes in Gaza climbed to 43 Palestinians, including 13 children.

The rocket strikes on southern Israel from the nearby Palestinian enclave have continued unabated since Monday, with multiple attacks on Ashkelon, Ashdod and the communities close to the Gaza border.

Schools within 40km of the border are closed and businesses without a functioning bomb shelter are also prevented from opening.

First published: 11:27 , 05.12.21

05.12.21

Abbas calls for calm in Gaza as street roils endangering young people

05.12.21

As Arab street roils, Islamist party leader Abbas calls for calm
Ra'am head says rioting poses danger to 'extraordinary' young Arabs, urges an end to violence; other Arab MKs also plead for end to rioting, one blaming PM for seeking to cling to power at any cost
Hassan Shaalan | Published: 05.12.21 , 12:02

As Israeli Arabs rioted in multiple locations across the country Tuesday night, the head of the Islamist Ra'am party Mansour Abbas pleaded for calm, warning that the violent protests could take a dangerous turn.

"Peaceful popular protests have become confrontational and endanger our young people," said Abbas, who has been locked in negotiations on the formation of the next government, with a list of demands to improve the sector.

"I ask you all to be responsible and behave wisely, to maintain public order and keep the law, protect your lives and the lives of local residents. You are all extraordinary," Abbas said.

Riots in the central city of Lod and in other Arab or mixed Arab-Jewish cities broke out in response to the long-running clashes between police and Palestinian protesters in Jerusalem and as Gaza terror groups pounded Israeli civilian communities in the south and center of the country.

Advertisement

The government on Tuesday night announced a state of emergency in Lod, where one Arab protester was shot dead and a Jewish man arrested in connection with his killing. The move grants security forces expanded authority to act against rioters in the city.

Two people were wounded in the city on Tuesday, one seriously, by stones thrown during riots. At least one synagogue in the city was also torched.

Riots were also reported in Bedouin communities on Tuesday with groups of masked men hurling stones at passing cars. Similar scenes played out at other Arab communities across the country.

An 84-year-old man was hurt when a fire was started in a Jewish-owned boutique hotel in the northern city of Acre on Tuesday night. The man was being treated in hospital for burns.

Uri Buri, a popular Jewish-owned restaurant in Acre known for its food and its commitment to coexistence, was also set alight.

Acre mayor Shimon Lankri called for police to respond forcefully to the riots that were concentrated around the old city, a popular tourist destination, causing damage to local businesses and property.

As the violent riots continued, Abbas appealed to Arab politicians from his erstwhile partner the Joint List alliance and to local leaders, calling on them to urge their constituents to refrain from violence and adhere to the rule of law before further damage was caused.

"This is a time for reflection. We must condemn those responsible for the violence but also think logically how best to rectify the situation," Abbas said.

Arab Meretz MK Issawi Frej, a resident of Kfar Kassem, also urged a return to calm. "We cannot remain silent," Frej said Tuesday night.

"The anarchy on the streets of Lod, Ramle and other cities is a threat to our existence as a society. We as public leaders have one mission – to end the violence. We must understand that Jews and Arabs are neighbors and not adversaries. I implore you to please return home, put an end to the violence or you will destroy us from within," he said.

Joint List leader MK Ayman Odeh also called for Arab Israelis to refrain from acts of violence.

"We are worried about the deterioration on the street," he said. "We oppose any attack on innocent civilians who must be kept out of the conflict. We have warned [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu time and again that he could ignite the entire area in order to preserve his rule and now we see the outcome of his actions."

But others in the Joint List slammed the increased deployment of Border Guard troops inside Lod, claiming these forces are known for their anti-Arab sentiments and warning that this could only lead to more violence.

Abbas has been advancing an agenda of Arab inclusion in Israeli politics, announcing ahead of the March 2021 elections that he would actively support any coalition government willing to cooperate with the Arab sector on key issues, including increased funding and tackling the crime syndicates responsible for much of the violence in Arab communities.

After the election, he was in negotiations with Netanyahu's Likud party to back his efforts to form a government.

After Netanyahu failed to build a coalition, Abbas said he would support his opponents if they too were willing to invest in the Arab sector.

But on Monday he announced a **suspension of coalition negotiations due to the security situation.**

05.11.21

Tel Aviv & Dan region 200+ projectiles intercepted in 24 hours from Gaza

05.11.21

**Tel Aviv area hit by massive wave of rockets from Gaza; at least 1 killed
50-year-old woman dies in strike on Rishon Lezion; three hurt when empty bus is hit in
Holon as sirens wail across central Israel; Ben-Gurion Airport briefly shut down and
residents of central region told to remain in bomb shelters overnight**

Ynet, News Agencies | Updated: **05.11.21**, 23:53

At least one person was killed and three others were wounded Tuesday night when central Israel was hit by a massive wave of rocket fire from Gaza, shortly after Hamas warned of a barrage on the Tel Aviv area if the IDF did not halt airstrikes that hit civilian buildings within the Gaza Strip.

The barrage began shortly before 9pm, sending Israelis in cities and communities across the center of the country into bomb shelters, reinforced rooms and even stairwells. Rockets also struck communities close to the Gaza border.

Sirens wailed in multiple locations in the center of the country, and 50-year-old woman was killed a rocket strike in Rishon Lezion, just south of Tel Aviv. In nearby Holon, an empty bus was hit by a rocket and went up in flames. Medics said three people, including a 5-year-old girl, were wounded. The moment a rocket from Gaza hit Holon on Tuesday night

Booms could be heard and windows shook as the Iron Dome missile defense system intercepted scores of rockets in the skies above the center of the country. Ichilov hospital in Tel Aviv and Wolfson Medical Center in Holon treated a total of 26 people, most with minor injuries.

Hamas said it launched a total of 130 rockets, its most intense strike so far, in response to Israel's destruction of a high-rise building in Gaza earlier in the evening. The sound of the outgoing rockets could be heard in Gaza. As the rockets rose into the skies, mosques across Gaza blared with chants of "God is great," "victory to Islam" and

Speaking after the barrage, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday night that militants in the Gaza Strip would "pay a very heavy price." "We are at the height of a weighty campaign," Netanyahu said in televised remarks as he stood alongside Defense Minister Benny Gantz and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi. "Hamas and Islamic Jihad paid and will pay a very heavy price for their belligerence. Their blood is forfeit."

Israeli officials expressed surprise at the volume of rockets fired on Tuesday night. Senior sources said that Israel has not ruled out a ground operation in the Gaza Strip, in addition to the ongoing airstrikes.

"The cabinet directed the army to put together the option for a ground operation, but there is not much appetite at present for this," the sources said. "The cabinet instructed the military to restore Israel's deterrence against Hamas and Islamic Jihad but the rocket attacks this evening on Tel Aviv and the Dan region show that this objective is far from being reached."

The IDF told residents of the Tel Aviv area to remain in their bomb shelters overnight. Ben-Gurion Airport, just outside Tel Aviv, was briefly shut down due to the rocket fire.

Videos showed projectiles fired from the Gaza Strip being intercepted by Iron Dome close to the airport.

Flights were diverted to Cyprus and Greece as it initially remained unclear how long the airport would remain closed. Outgoing flights were postponed.

In a statement, the Israel Airports Authority said that the airport had been shut down "to allow defense of [the] nation's skies."

A short time later, the airport reopened to arriving planes.

In Holon, the air bore a lingering smell of explosives for a time after the barrage and interceptions.

"If the enemy persists in bombing civilian towers, then Tel Aviv will have an appointment with a harsh missile strike that exceeds what happened in Ashkelon," Abu Ubeidah, spokesman for the Hamas armed wing, said Tuesday evening.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad said Tuesday evening that it would begin firing rockets at Tel Aviv at 9pm.

The 13-story residential building in Gaza was hit by an Israeli airstrike soon after the Hamas threat, and quickly collapsed to the ground, witnesses said.

Advertisement

The tower housed an office used by the political leadership of Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas.

Residents of the tower and people living nearby had been warned to evacuate the area around an hour before the airstrike, witnesses said. It was not immediately clear if the building had been fully evacuated, or if there were casualties.

The barrage was the second massive wave of rocket strikes fired at Israel on Tuesday. Hours earlier, more than 130 rockets were fired at the south, killing two women in Ashkelon and wounding . Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after two women were killed in Ashkelon on Tuesday afternoon that Israel would step up its attacks on Gaza and that Hamas "will now be dealt blows that it did not expect."

The two women were both died when rockets hit homes in the southern city of Ashkelon -- the first deaths in Israel in the current round of violence. More than 100 people were wounded in what Hamas said was its largest ever salvo from Gaza.

One of the women was later named as Soumya Santhosh, a 30-year-old Indian national from Kerala who was working in Israel and the mother of a nine-year-old son.

According to Indian media reports, Indian MP Dean Kuriakose was in contact with the Israeli authorities to repatriate her body.

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit said Tuesday evening that over 480 launches were detected from Gaza in the previous 24 hours, with more than 200 projectiles intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system.

Israel conducted a series of attacks inside Gaza on Tuesday, some of which were targeted strikes against Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) commanders. Many storage facilities and rocket launching platforms are located in and around civilian buildings.

The IDF and Shin Bet domestic security agency said that the head of the PIJ's rocket unit, Samih al-Mamluk, was killed in a direct airstrike. Other senior members of the organization were also killed in the attack, including Mohamad Abu al-Atta — brother of the military commander of the PIJ's Northern Brigade in Gaza Bahaa Abu al-Atta who was assassinated by Israel in late 2019.

PIJ confirmed the three who were killed in an airstrike on a hideout apartment in Gaza City were senior members of its armed wing and vowed retaliation.

The army also said it had killed Eyad Shrir, the head of the Hamas anti-tank units. The terror group has yet to confirm his death.

Since sundown Monday, 28 Palestinians -- including 10 children and a woman-- had been killed in Gaza, most by airstrikes, health officials there said. The IDF said at least 16 of the dead were militants.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian delegation was planning to mediate between Israel and Gaza in an effort to reach a ceasefire, according to a report by the Dubai-based Al Arabiya network.

According to the report, Cairo asked Israel halt all airstrikes in Gaza unconditionally. In return, Israel asked Egypt to halt the rocket fire from Gaza.

Egypt has reportedly contacted the Palestinian terror groups in Gaza on the matter.

First published: 20:37 , 05.11.21

05.11.21

Riots erupt in several locations across Israel, tensions of Arabs & Jews run high

05.11.21

Riots erupt in several locations across Israel as tensions between Arabs, Jews run high
Police fire tear gas, stun grenades in Lod after rioters throw rocks at officers during funeral of Arab man allegedly killed by Jewish resident; 2 officers hurt in Jaffa in clashes with rioters

Ynet reporters| Published: 05.11.21 , 20:12

Riots erupted in several locations across Israel Tuesday evening as tensions between Arabs and Jews continued running high and the IDF was waging a military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

Police have fired tear gas and stun grenades in the central city of Lod after rioters started throwing rocks at officers during the funeral of an Arab man who was allegedly shot dead by a Jewish resident.

The shooting early on Tuesday came at a time of heightened tensions following weeks of unrest in Jerusalem and heavy fighting between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. The fighting has spilled over into Israel's Arab sector, with protests taking place in dozens of communities across the country.

The victim was identified as 25-year old Moussa Hassoun who was killed during riots that broke out in the city in the wake of the tensions in Jerusalem. Hassoun was taken to Shamir Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

Thousands of people took part in the funeral in Lod. Police said two officers were injured and a patrol car was set on fire.

Police have arrested three people suspected of involvement in the shooting.

"Lod is burning," a senior police official said on Tuesday. "The riots continued all night and Arab youths were determined to hurl stones and set fires," he said, adding that a synagogue and a military academy in the city was set on fire during the rioting.

The rioters also replaced Israeli flags put up by the municipality in the city with Palestinian flags. At least 16 rioters in Lod and the neighboring Ramla were arrested. Jewish residents in Lod reported rioters threw rocks at windows of residences across the city. In the Ramat Eshkol neighborhood of the city, police fired tear gas at rioters and called in reinforcements. Part of the railway track in Lod was closed after the rioters set fire to tires near the track. Firefighters arrived at the scene and put out the flames. Two police officers were injured in clashes with rioters in the predominately Arab Tel Aviv suburb of Jaffa. Police arrested one suspect.

Police were on high alert in northern Israel, preparing for disturbances and rioters blocking roads. Large forces were deployed to mixed cities such as Haifa and Acre and the Arab towns of Sakhnin, Tamra, Deir al-Assad and Baana among others where demonstrations were expected.