Photo: AFP IDF bombing in Gaza

## comment

## IDF strikes Gaza overnight, two rockets launched from the Strip

IDF hits several Hamas military targets in the Strip's north following the launching of several firebombs and one long-range rocket from Gaza throughout the week; Gaza's militarist groups strike back, launch two rockets into Israel in early hours of the morning Yoav Zitun, Elior Levy., MatanTzuri|Published: 05.02.19, 09:11 The IDF struck several Hamas military targets in the northern Gaza Strip overnight, in response to the launching of incendiary airborne devices into Israel earlier Wednesday.

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One firebomb launched on Wednesday caused a fire in a field in the Eshkol Regional Council.

The IDF said following the strike, that it views any attempt to harm the citizens of Israel, severely, and that it will continue to act against "all terror acts."

"We hold Hamas responsible for everything that happens in the Strip," said the IDF.

at 05:36 am Thursday, two Red Alert sirens blared through border area communities, as two rocket launches from Gaza into the area were observed. No damage or injuries were reported.

On Monday, a long-range rocket was fired from the Gaza Strip and landed at sea, off the shore of one of Israel's Southern coastal towns. It did not cause any damage. The IDF said that the Islamic Jihad terror group was behind the launch.

In an unusual statement, the IDF specifically laid blame on Baha Abu Al Ata, Islamic Jihad's commander of Gaza city, in what can be seen, as a threat of possible Israeli action directed at him.

Al Ata is believed to have been operating under orders from Ziad Nahala, the organizations' leader.

A senior Islamic Jihad official denied the claims the following day, saying that the accusations made by Israel are made in order to incite the Palestinians against the organization.

According to military sources, Islamic Jihad has been more active, lately, in its efforts to instigate violent attacks 'under the radar' and cause disruption to civilian life.

IDF hits Hamas targets in Gaza in response to wave of incendiary balloons In retaliation, two rockets are launched from the Hamas-run coastal enclave into Israeli territory. IDF says it holds Hamas responsible for any hostile acts emanating from Gaza. Iron Dome batteries moved south ahead of Independence Day next Wednesday. by i24NEWS and Israel Hayom Staff Published on 2019-05-02 07:40 Last modified: 2019-05-02 11:20 IDF hits Hamas targets in Gaza in response to wave of incendiary balloons An Israeli airforce plane drops flares during an airstrike in eastern Gaza, February 2017 (Illustrative) | Photo: EPA

Sirens blared throughout Israel's southern border region with Gaza early Thursday morning after two rockets were launched from the Hamas-run coastal enclave into Israeli territory, according to a statement from the Israeli Defense Forces.

Earlier, the IDF said it had struck a number of Hamas military positions in northern Gaza in retaliation for a wave of incendiary balloons that were launched from the enclave into Israel.

The IDF added that it holds Hamas responsible for any hostile activities against Israel emanating from Gaza.

The fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas abruptly ended on Tuesday when a rocket fired from Gaza landed in the Mediterranean Sea, which the IDF said was fired "deliberately" by the Iran-backed Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist group with the intent to escalate tensions with Israel.

Wednesday marked Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day. The army has already ramped up security measures, including deploying Iron Dome missile defense batteries in anticipation of possible flare-ups with armed groups in Gaza, ahead of Independence Day celebrations next Wednesday.

Last month, Israel agreed to an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire, following a major flare-up sparked by a rocket that struck a home in central Israel.

This article was originally published by i24NEWS. Read more at https://www.i24news.tv/en.

Tags: airstrikesGaza StripHamasIDFIslamic JihadIsraelPalestiniansrockets

Israel reaches another milestone as population crosses 9 million Israel reaches another milestone as population crosses 9 million by Zeev K lein The number of Jews stood at a record 6,738,500 last March, the Central Bureau of Statistics said on Thursday.

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The diamond ring effect is displayed during totality of the solar eclipse in Hopkinsville, Ky., on Aug. 21, 2017. (Photo: Michael Clevenger, Courier-Journal, via USA TODAY NETWORK)

If you've still got leftover solar eclipse fever from 2017, don't fret: There's another one coming soon.

But there's a catch – you'll have to hop on a plane to see it.

On July 2, just two months from Thursday, a total eclipse of the sun will be visible in portions of South America. The path of the eclipse, which moves from west to east,

"starts in the South Pacific near Pitcairn Island and ends over land, having touched just two countries: Chile and Argentina," according to Astronomy magazine.

Specifically, the sun will disappear along a narrow track that stretches from Chile's coast to just south of Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital and largest city.

"Totality will first make landfall in South America on the coast of Chile near the city of La Serena at 4:39 p.m. on July 2," Space.com said.

That's about 250 miles north of Santiago, Chile's capital and largest city. Santiago residents will have to drive over 5 hours north to see the spectacle, Astronomy magazine said.

After that, the moon's shadow will cross the Andes Mountains and graze the city of San Juan, Argentina.

The blue stripe that stretches from the South Pacific Ocean (left) to South America (right) shows the path of the total solar eclipse of July 2, 2019. Portions of Chile and Argentina (right) will be the only major land areas where the eclipse will be visible. Other areas (in green and blue) will see varying degrees of a partial eclipse of the sun. The blue stripe that stretches from the South Pacific Ocean (left) to South America (right) shows the path of the total solar eclipse of July 2, 2019. Portions of Chile and Argentina (right) will be the only major land areas where the eclipse will be visible. Other areas (in green and blue) will see varying degrees of a partial eclipse of the sun.

Then, as the eclipse moves east across Argentina, it will slide just south of the cities of Cordoba and Buenos Aires before heading back out to the Atlantic Ocean just before sunset at 5:40 p.m.

Though the total eclipse will be visible in the southern suburbs of Buenos Aires, the sun will be setting and thus very close to the horizon.

As a refresher, during a total solar eclipse, the moon blocks the sun, turning day to an eerie twilight.

If you do venture down to South America, keep this in mind: Never look directly at the sun, except during the brief moments of totality. NASA said the only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as "eclipse glasses.

It's the Earth's first total solar eclipse "since the Great American Total Eclipse of 2017," according to EclipseWise.com.

Here in the U.S., the next total solar eclipse will be on April 8, 2024, and it will be visible from Texas to New England. Big U.S. and Canadian cities in the path of the 2024 eclipse include Austin, Dallas, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Buffalo and Montreal.