



| Flash |

Ceasefire Between Israel and Hamas

F-2023-11-22c

Classification: TLP:CLEAR

Criticality: Medium

Intelligence Requirements: Geopolitical, Physical Security

November 22, 2023

Scope Note: ZeroFox Intelligence is derived from a variety of sources, including—but not limited to—curated open-source accesses, vetted social media, proprietary data sources, and direct access to threat actors and groups through covert communication channels. Information relied upon to complete any report cannot always be independently verified. As such, ZeroFox applies rigorous analytic standards and tradecraft in accordance with best practices and includes caveat language and source citations to clearly identify the veracity of our Intelligence reporting and substantiate our assessments and recommendations. All sources used in this particular Intelligence product were **identified prior to 10:30 AM (EST) on November 22, 2023**; per cyber hygiene best practices, caution is advised when clicking on any third-party links.

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> Key Findings

- Israel and Hamas have agreed to a four-day ceasefire to begin on November 23, 2023.
- Daily extensions to the ceasefire are possible but unlikely to expand beyond 10 days in total.
- Hamas could use the ceasefire to regroup militarily in an attempt to increase the cost to Israel for restarting military operations.
- Cyber threat actors will likely continue targeting the Israeli government and private entities while continuing to amplify reports on supposed ceasefire violations.

| Details

During the early morning hours local time on November 22, 2023, Israel's Cabinet approved a hostage exchange and four-day ceasefire with Hamas. The deal passed 35 votes to three, with only members of the far-right Otzma Yehudit party voting against it.¹

Per the terms of the deal, Hamas will release 50 women and children hostages in return for 150 Palestinian prisoners held by the Israelis, most of whom are males aged 18 and under. The agreement is set to come into force at 10:00 AM local time on November 23,

¹ [hXXps://www.jpost\[.\]com/israel-news/defense-news/article-774547](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-774547)

2023.² Approximately a dozen Israeli hostages are expected to be released through Egypt each day for the duration of the truce.³ The agreement also contains a provision allowing the ceasefire to be extended an additional day, up to 10 days, for every further group of 10 hostages freed.⁴

Although not a party to the negotiations, Hezbollah announced that it will also abide by the ceasefire.⁵

Any significant extension beyond 10 days appears unlikely, as Israeli forces recently surrounded Jabalia, an area they believe is Hamas' last redoubt in the northern Gaza Strip.⁶ Moreover, in the lead-up to the ceasefire, senior Israeli officials repeatedly asserted that any stoppage in the fighting would be antithetical to their goals in Gaza.⁷ In this vein, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared on November 22, 2023, that the war will resume following the truce and amid continued hostage negotiations.⁸ Israeli officials are reportedly skeptical that the deal will even last the possible 10 days.⁹

Hamas, on the other hand, could use the ceasefire to regroup militarily and will likely be eager to extend the ceasefire as long as possible. Militarily, the group could move assets and shift its positions. ZeroFox anticipates Hamas will announce new demands during the ceasefire period, which could include offering up more hostages to prolong the ceasefire. Hamas likely believes a longer ceasefire will make it more difficult for Israel to restart hostilities, both operationally and due to global public opinion, which has increasingly been calling for a slowdown in military operations.

² [hXXps://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-774544](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-774544)

³ [hXXps://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israelhamas-war-hostage-deal-ceasefire-gaza-2023-11-22/](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israelhamas-war-hostage-deal-ceasefire-gaza-2023-11-22/)

⁴ [hXXps://www.timesofisrael.com/cabinet-approves-deal-for-return-of-50-hostages-in-exchange-for-multi-day-ceasefire/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/cabinet-approves-deal-for-return-of-50-hostages-in-exchange-for-multi-day-ceasefire/)

⁵ [hXXps://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/301677-israel-hezbollah-hostilities-continue-as-group-says-to-abide-by-truce](https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/301677-israel-hezbollah-hostilities-continue-as-group-says-to-abide-by-truce)

⁶ [hXXps://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel-at-war/1700553090-idf-reports-encircling-jabalia-in-northern-gaza](https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel-at-war/1700553090-idf-reports-encircling-jabalia-in-northern-gaza)

⁷ [hXXps://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-rebuffs-allies-calls-pause-gaza-assault-first-open-disagreement-2023-10-27/](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-rebuffs-allies-calls-pause-gaza-assault-first-open-disagreement-2023-10-27/)

⁸ [hXXps://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/netanyahu-says-israel-will-continue-war-against-hamas-after-cease-fire](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/netanyahu-says-israel-will-continue-war-against-hamas-after-cease-fire)

⁹ [hXXps://www.cnn.com/2023/11/22/middleeast/israel-approves-hamas-hostage-deal-intl/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/22/middleeast/israel-approves-hamas-hostage-deal-intl/index.html)

Domestically, criticism has been mounting over the Israeli government's pace in securing hostages for release. In recent days, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem saw protests with thousands of attendees demanding the government do more to secure the release of those held by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. These demonstrations appear to have rejuvenated the anti-government protest movement that sprung up earlier in the year to condemn the government's proposed judicial reforms but had ceased activity since Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack. For instance, on November 25, 2023, nationwide protests are planned to demand Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's resignation, the first large-scale Saturday rallies since the outbreak of the conflict.¹⁰¹¹ Given the prime minister's collapsing approval ratings and refusal to resign, unrest of this type can be expected to grow.¹²¹³

| Cyber

In the days leading up to the ceasefire, ZeroFox observed pro-Palestinian hacktivist group activity led by Cyber Toufan Operations, which on November 22 claimed to have leaked databases associated with the Israel Innovation Authority and IKEA under its ongoing operations #OpCyberToufan and #OpIsrael. A day earlier, Cyber Toufan Operations claimed to have leaked databases from Israeli cybersecurity companies Radware and MAX Security & Intelligence. These actions by pro-Palestinian hacktivist groups are likely tied to ongoing hostilities in general and not developments related to the November 23 ceasefire specifically. Going forward, similar hacktivist activity can be expected, and cyber threat actors may shift to amplifying reports of supposed ceasefire violations.

¹⁰ [hXXps://twitter\[.\]com/GershonDror/status/1726669106135302250](https://twitter.com/GershonDror/status/1726669106135302250)

¹¹ [hXXps://twitter\[.\]com/Shaulirena/status/1726623462117032359](https://twitter.com/Shaulirena/status/1726623462117032359)

¹²

[hXXps://www.timesofisrael\[.\]com/poll-finds-netanyahu-would-be-pummeled-by-gantz-were-elections-held-today/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/poll-finds-netanyahu-would-be-pummeled-by-gantz-were-elections-held-today/)

¹³ [hXXps://www.voanews\[.\]com/a/calls-increase-for-israeli-prime-minister-to-resign-/7339897.html](https://www.voanews.com/a/calls-increase-for-israeli-prime-minister-to-resign-/7339897.html)

| Appendix A: Traffic Light Protocol for Information Dissemination

WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

Red

Sources may use

TLP:RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon by additional parties and could lead to impacts on a party's privacy, reputation, or operations if misused.

Amber

Sources may use

TLP:AMBER when information requires support to be effectively acted upon but carries risks to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organizations involved.

HOW MAY IT BE SHARED?

Recipients may NOT share

TLP:RED with any parties outside of the specific exchange, meeting, or conversation in which it is originally disclosed.

Recipients may ONLY share

TLP:AMBER information with members of their own organization and its clients, but only on a need-to-know basis to protect their organization and its clients and prevent further harm.

Note that

TLP:AMBER+STRICT restricts sharing to the organization only.

Green

WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

Sources may use

TLP:GREEN when information is useful for the awareness of all participating organizations, as well as with peers within the broader community or sector.

Clear

Sources may use

TLP:CLEAR when information carries minimal or no risk of misuse in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.

HOW MAY IT BE SHARED?

Recipients may share

TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their sector or community but not via publicly accessible channels.

Recipients may share

TLP:CLEAR information without restriction, subject to copyright controls.

| Appendix B: ZeroFox Intelligence Probability Scale

All ZeroFox intelligence products leverage probabilistic assessment language in analytic judgments. Qualitative statements used in these judgments refer to associated probability ranges, which state the likelihood of occurrence of an event or development. Ranges are used to avoid a false impression of accuracy. This scale is a standard that aligns with how readers should interpret such terms.

Almost No Chance	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Roughly Even Chance	Likely	Very Likely	Almost Certain
1-5%	5-20%	20-45%	45-55%	55-80%	80-95%	95-99%