

Situation Report

Israel-Hamas War Monitoring

Classification: TLP:CLEAR

Criticality: High

Intelligence Requirements: Key Personnel Residential Threats, Geopolitical, Military

As of 1000 EDT
October 18, 2023



Situation Report: Israel-Hamas War Monitoring as of 1000 EDT on October 18, 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 10:00 AM (EDT) on October 18, 2023**; per cyber hygiene best practices, caution is advised when clicking on any third-party links.

› Key Findings

- On October 17, 2023, an explosion occurred at Gaza's al-Ahli Baptist Hospital, killing at least 500 civilians. The cause of the explosion is highly disputed; Hamas and initial media reports stated that the hospital was targeted by an Israeli military airstrike, while the Israeli government has asserted that the explosion was caused by a misfired Islamic Jihad rocket.
- The explosion and reports of Israel's culpability have significantly escalated tensions in the region and triggered protests in cities around the world, several of which have escalated to violence.
- Lebanon's Hezbollah has announced an "unprecedented day of rage" on October 18, 2023.

| Situation on the Ground

On October 17, 2023, an explosion occurred at Gaza's al-Ahli Baptist Hospital, killing at least 500 civilians. The cause of the explosion is highly disputed; Hamas and initial media reports stated that an Israeli military airstrike targeted the hospital, while the Israeli government has asserted that the explosion was caused by a misfired rocket by Hamas.¹²³⁴⁵

¹ [hXXps://www.timesofisrael\[.\]com/israel-says-islamic-jihad-rocket-misfire-caused-gaza-hospital-blast/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-says-islamic-jihad-rocket-misfire-caused-gaza-hospital-blast/)

² [hXXps://www.reuters\[.\]com/world/middle-east/least-500-victims-israeli-air-strike-hospital-gaza-health-ministry-2023-10-17/](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/least-500-victims-israeli-air-strike-hospital-gaza-health-ministry-2023-10-17/)

³ [hXXps://www.haaretz\[.\]com/israel-news/2023-10-18/ty-article-live/israeli-army-blames-islamic-jihad-for-hitting-gaza-hospital-in-deadly-strike/0000018b-40a6-d881-abab-edae5c5d0000](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-10-18/ty-article-live/israeli-army-blames-islamic-jihad-for-hitting-gaza-hospital-in-deadly-strike/0000018b-40a6-d881-abab-edae5c5d0000)

⁴ [hXXps://inews\[.\]co\[.\]uk/news/israel-hamas-live-protests-erupt-middle-east-gaza-hospital-2694374?ITO=newsnow](https://inews[.]co[.]uk/news/israel-hamas-live-protests-erupt-middle-east-gaza-hospital-2694374?ITO=newsnow)

⁵ [hXXps://apnews\[.\]com/article/israel-palestinians-gaza-hamas-war-biden-rafah-e062825a375d9eb62e95509cab95b80c](https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-gaza-hamas-war-biden-rafah-e062825a375d9eb62e95509cab95b80c)



- The explosion and reports of Israel's culpability have significantly escalated regional tensions. Lebanon's Hezbollah has announced an "unprecedented day of rage" set for October 18, with the group claiming on Wednesday to have struck an Israeli Merkava tank across the border with an anti-tank missile, inflicting casualties.⁶⁷
- The U.S. State Department has raised the travel advisory for Lebanon to Level 4 (the highest level), urging people not to travel to the country.⁸ Jordan canceled a planned October 18 peace summit between U.S. President Joe Biden and Arab leaders in Amman.⁹
- President Biden is now expected only to visit Israel, where he arrived at around 11:00 AM local time.

| Global Protest Activity, Escalating Community Tensions

The explosion at the al-Ahli Baptist Hospital has triggered widespread protests targeting the Israeli, French, British, and U.S. consulates in Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Tunisia, Turkey, and Yemen.¹⁰ Several of the protests have escalated to violence against both the embassies and prominent media establishments. ZeroFox expects protests to continue in cities in the region, with some in Europe and North America

- In the West Bank city of Ramallah, Palestinian security forces used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse crowds reportedly protesting against Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.¹¹¹²
- In Turkey, protesters converged on the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul and clashed with police.¹³ Reporting also indicates that anti-American protests took place, alongside the burning of flags

⁶ [hXXps://www.naharnet\[.\]com/stories/en/301037-hezbollah-calls-for-day-of-rage-after-gaza-hospital-massacre](https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/301037-hezbollah-calls-for-day-of-rage-after-gaza-hospital-massacre)

⁷ [hXXps://www.naharnet\[.\]com/stories/en/301035-hezbollah-hits-israeli-tank-inflicting-casualties](https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/301035-hezbollah-hits-israeli-tank-inflicting-casualties)

⁸ [hXXps://twitter\[.\]com/TravelGov/status/1714457404669108380](https://twitter.com/TravelGov/status/1714457404669108380)

⁹

[hXXps://www.timesofisrael\[.\]com/liveblog_entry/jordan-cancels-biden-meetings-with-king-abdullah-sissi-abbas-in-amman-tomorrow/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/jordan-cancels-biden-meetings-with-king-abdullah-sissi-abbas-in-amman-tomorrow/)

¹⁰ [hXXps://x\[.\]com/Sprinter99800/status/1714413077062377883?s=20](https://x.com/Sprinter99800/status/1714413077062377883?s=20)

¹¹ [hXXps://x\[.\]com/IranObserver0/status/1714407828771815545?s=20](https://x.com/IranObserver0/status/1714407828771815545?s=20)

¹²

[hXXps://www.reuters\[.\]com/world/middle-east/palestinians-clash-with-abbas-west-bank-forces-after-gaza-hospital-strike-2023-10-17/](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/palestinians-clash-with-abbas-west-bank-forces-after-gaza-hospital-strike-2023-10-17/)

¹³ [hXXps://www.reuters\[.\]com/world/middle-east/fury-grows-turkey-against-israel-fresh-protests-planned-2023-10-18](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/fury-grows-turkey-against-israel-fresh-protests-planned-2023-10-18)



and targeting of U.S.-owned organizations. Earlier this week, Israel advised its citizens to leave Turkey as soon as possible.¹⁴

- In Amman, Jordan, protesters converged on the Israeli Embassy, launching fireworks against the building, burning U.S. flags, and clashing with security forces.¹⁵¹⁶¹⁷
- Protests in Beirut, Lebanon, have escalated to violence directed at the French and U.S. embassies, as well as a United Nations (UN) building.¹⁸ On Wednesday, Iran's embassy in Syria posted "time is up" in Hebrew on its X account.¹⁹ It is unclear what this message referred to, but Iran's Foreign Minister Hossain Amirabdollahian has previously called both for "preemptive action" against Israel and for Islamic nations to "impose sanctions."²⁰²¹

In Berlin, Germany, there were clashes between pro-Palestinian supporters and the German police.²² On Wednesday, a synagogue in Berlin was targeted with Molotov cocktails.²³ Berlin has seen a rise in antisemitic incidents, including a previously reported anti-Jewish intimidation campaign wherein Jewish residences and Jewish-owned stores were allegedly marked with a Star of David.²⁴

- Non-violent, pro-Palestinian, and pro-peace gatherings have occurred in various U.S. and Canadian locations, including New York, Washington, DC, and Toronto.²⁵

Cyber Activity, Mis-and Disinformation

Mis-and disinformation surrounding the hospital explosion is almost certainly widespread, eliciting extreme and reactionary responses.

¹⁴

[hXXps://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/israel-tells-its-citizens-to-leave-turkey-immediately-amid-fears-of-reprisal-attacks/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/israel-tells-its-citizens-to-leave-turkey-immediately-amid-fears-of-reprisal-attacks/)

¹⁵ [hXXps://x.com/visegrad24/status/1714377412509565087?s=46&t=VATiCQcdUox8xbblVbPD3A](https://x.com/visegrad24/status/1714377412509565087?s=46&t=VATiCQcdUox8xbblVbPD3A)

¹⁶ [hXXps://twitter.com/politicturk/status/1714411645382824101](https://twitter.com/politicturk/status/1714411645382824101)

¹⁷ [hXXps://twitter.com/TPostMillennial/status/1714425097917014409](https://twitter.com/TPostMillennial/status/1714425097917014409)

¹⁸ [hXXps://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1714410196070539355?s=20](https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1714410196070539355?s=20)

¹⁹ [hXXps://twitter.com/IranembassyDam/status/1714441734300524929](https://twitter.com/IranembassyDam/status/1714441734300524929)

²⁰ [hXXps://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/17/iran-warns-of-preemptive-action-against-israel-amid-gaza-war](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/17/iran-warns-of-preemptive-action-against-israel-amid-gaza-war)

²¹ [hXXps://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-calls-islamic-countries-sanction-israel-2023-10-18/](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-calls-islamic-countries-sanction-israel-2023-10-18/)

²² [hXXps://x.com/RadioGenoa/status/1714523105014563012?s=20](https://x.com/RadioGenoa/status/1714523105014563012?s=20)

²³ [hXXps://apnews.com/article/germany-berlin-synagogue-antisemitism-fdd10f32f7d5efc6da973f00c9a8b030](https://apnews.com/article/germany-berlin-synagogue-antisemitism-fdd10f32f7d5efc6da973f00c9a8b030)

²⁴

[hXXps://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/2023-10-18/ty-article/berlin-synagogue-attacked-with-firebombs-while-antisemitic-incidents-rise-in-germany/0000018b-41bc-df22-a5eb-49fd8bff0000](https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/2023-10-18/ty-article/berlin-synagogue-attacked-with-firebombs-while-antisemitic-incidents-rise-in-germany/0000018b-41bc-df22-a5eb-49fd8bff0000)

²⁵ [hXXps://x.com/zaidlala786/status/1714529704328523937?s=20](https://x.com/zaidlala786/status/1714529704328523937?s=20)



- A widely-circulated, now-deleted Meta post in Arabic by a purported official Israel Defence Force (IDF) account claimed that Israel was responsible for the attack. However, the post was not from the official IDF Meta page that posts in Arabic.²⁶
- A widely-shared video in the aftermath of the blast claimed to show a failed Hamas rocket hitting the hospital. However, the video was first circulated as early as 2022.²⁷

Pro-Palestinian threat actors have continued to target Israel-based organizations and their allies with disruption and website defacements. Activity continues to be conducted under the campaigns #OpIsraelV2, #OPALLIESOFISRAEL, #ALAQSAFLOOD, and #OpIsrael. The Telegram channel Moroccan Black Cyber Army claimed to have carried out a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack on the Institute for National Security (INSS) in Israel, along with the websites of other Israeli organizations.²⁸

- AnonGhost Indonesian has claimed to have targeted various entities from Israel in DDoS attacks and leaked data from victims.²⁹
- A BreachForums user posted a database allegedly stolen from the Israeli Ministry of Defense.³⁰ Another forum user posted a database allegedly stolen from the forum service UNION News Israel.³¹ ZeroFox has not independently confirmed or disconfirmed the legitimacy of the actors' claims of the stolen data.

²⁶ [hXXps://www.facebook.com/IDFarabicAvichayAdraee](https://www.facebook.com/IDFarabicAvichayAdraee)

²⁷ [hXXps://x.com/TheMossadIL/status/171435161110154288?s=20](https://x.com/TheMossadIL/status/171435161110154288?s=20)

²⁸ ZeroFox Internal Collections

²⁹ ZeroFox Internal Collections

³⁰ ZeroFox Internal Collections

³¹ ZeroFox Internal Collections



| Appendix A: Traffic Light Protocol for Information Dissemination

	Red	Amber
WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?	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.	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	Clear
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.	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%