



## 400 DAYS AFTER!

*Thoughts on the 86th anniversary of the night of the broken glass,  
around a year after the worst pogrom since the Shoah.*



*Remembering the victims. Photo: Shutterstock*

*On October 07th, 2023 thousands of Jews were injured, around 1,200 murdered and over 250 kidnapped by terrorists- on Israeli territory! The following day, Israel began the fight to defend itself, free the hostages and destroy the murderous terrorist organization.*

*The question is, whether the world would look away again - as it did 85 years ago during the Holocaust - or would it react differently this time? Facts from the past 400 days provide the answer.*

### World Reactions to the Middle East Conflict during the First Six Months



*The UN and its institutions adopt resolutions on Israel. Photo: Shutterstock*



The initial reactions are: shock, expressions of solidarity and visits of condolence. The atrocities are incomprehensible. What happened there, shakes to the core. But as soon as Israel attacks Hamas in the Gaza Strip, other images come to the forefront and the tide turns.

The first United Nations (UN) resolution after the massacre, on **October 27, 2023**, does not mention Hamas by name, does not condemn the atrocities committed by the terrorists and does not confirm Israel's right to self-defense under international law. Instead, it demands an immediate ceasefire from Israel, as well as the provision of water, food, fuel, electricity and “unhindered” access for humanitarian aid for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

In **November 2023**, due to a binding order from the UN Security Council, there is a brief ceasefire between Israel and Hamas during which some of the Israeli hostages (children and women) are released. Many of them were dual nationals and a number were Thai hostages. For every Israeli hostage, Israel had to release three times the number of convicted Palestinian prisoners. In addition, large quantities of goods were delivered to the Gaza Strip. Hamas was able to take these and to replenish its supplies, reposition itself and broke the ceasefire after a few days. It declared that the remaining 137 hostages would only be released in return for thousands of convicted Palestinian prisoners. In retrospect, this hostage agreement was a great success for the UN and also for Israel. Never again in the following 12 months could Hamas be persuaded to release a single hostage. A few were liberated by the Israeli army in heavy fighting, but often the Israel Defense Force (IDF) could only recover bodies. One year after the kidnapping, 101 hostages are still in the hands of the terrorists, and it is assumed that probably half of them are no longer alive.

In **December 2023**, the UN Security Council again passed a resolution to increase humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip.

On December 29, South Africa filed a lawsuit against Israel for “genocide against the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip” with the UN International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague. Chile, Colombia, Libya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Palestine, Spain and Turkey joined the complaint. Israel's defense presented evidence regarding the protective measures taken for the civilian population and demonstrated the large amount of humanitarian aid brought into Gaza. Nevertheless, on January 26, 2024, the ICJ recognized the plausibility of South Africa's allegations and ordered a series of interim measures against Israel, to ensure that no genocide would be committed.

In **January 2024**, Israel published details of the involvement of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) staff in the October 7 massacre. Some countries, including Germany, temporarily suspended their payments as a result. However, by April, all countries except the USA had resumed their payments, despite evidence that children were being educated to hate Jews in UNRWA run schools and despite Hamas making use of UNRWA structures. In August 2024, the UN dismissed nine employees due to this accusation. On October 29, 2024, the Israeli parliament finally passed a law banning UNRWA from operating on Israeli territory from 2025 due to infiltration by Hamas - and is strongly condemned by the UN.

In **February 2024**, the USA imposed sanctions against Israeli settlers for violence against Palestinians in Judea and Samaria. As a result, the assets of those affected are frozen in the USA. US citizens are prohibited from doing business with the sanctioned persons. In April, the European Union (EU) also imposes sanctions. Affected persons are no longer allowed to enter the EU or to do business with EU citizens. In addition, their accounts and other assets in the EU are frozen. The fact that Israel itself is investigating the allegations and ensuring law and order is not enough for the international community.



On **April 8, 2024**, Nicaragua demanded that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) put an end to German support for Israel on the grounds that it was “aiding and abetting genocide”. Between 2019 and 2023, Germany was Israel's second-largest arms supplier after the USA. Germany was able to plausibly demonstrate that 98% of the deliveries were only general armaments, such as helmets or protective vests, and not weapons of war. Nevertheless, since then and for months, Germany has largely stopped providing military aid to Israel. Only on the anniversary of the massacre and under massive pressure from the opposition parties (CDU, CSU, AfD, FDP) did the German government once again approve arms deliveries to Israel.



*Pro-Palestine and anti-Israel demonstrators during the fighting between Israel and Hamas. Photo: Shutterstock*

Students have been protesting against Israel since the Hamas terror attack and the subsequent war. From April 2024, the situation at US universities and also in Europe came to a head with campus protest camps and blockades of university buildings. Jewish students and university staff no longer feel safe as a result. The demonstrating students are demanding an end to the war, a “free Palestine” and that universities disclose and end their financial ties to Israel. They are also demanding the sale of shares in companies that have business relations with Israel. However, there are hardly any demands for the release of Israeli hostages who are still being held by Hamas.

Anti-Semitic demonstrations regularly bring thousands onto the streets around the world. Some European capitals are no longer recognizable. Slogans, calls for boycotts, divestment, sanctions and riots are the order of the day. And there are no calls for a two-state solution or peace. No, the slogan “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” is being shouted, which in plain language means that Israel must disappear from the map.

Anti-Semitism is on the rise worldwide. And this is not least attributable to the mainstream media. Because many take figures and narratives directly from Hamas and Hezbollah, as if terrorist organizations were trustworthy sources of information. The usual line after such statements that this data cannot be verified is a perfidious method of positioning oneself as an objective reporter. The poison of this one-sided, incomplete and sometimes simply inaccurate content is reaching millions every day and is spreading in people's minds. Israel is defamed as the aggressor; the history and context of actions are omitted. Anyone, who during this time does not inform themselves proactively and autonomously from various sources, will almost inevitably become a critic of Israel.

In the year following the October 7 terrorist attack, anti-Semitic crimes in Germany, Europe, the USA and worldwide have multiplied dramatically. The organizations involved are reporting doublings to quadruplings. Some Jews are now trying to hide their identity to avoid becoming a target. The promise “Never again!” is only kept by a few! (see article: [Never again! - A promise with substance?](#))



## Attacks from Many Wind Directions



*Israel is exposed to countless rocket attacks. Photo: Shutterstock*

**Hezbollah** has fired dozens of rockets at Israel from **Lebanon** every day since October 8, 2023! Almost all of the population of the northern region of Israel (over 110,000 people) had to be evacuated as a result and has been living in temporary accommodation for over a year, internally displaced in their own country. But for the world, this intolerable situation seems quite normal. In any other country, such attacks would certainly have led to massive international backlash and consequences! It was not until September 2024 (after almost one year!) that Israel began to take massive action against these attacks.

On the evening of April 13, 2024, **Iran** launched a massive aerial attack against Israel using 300 drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles aimed all over the country, but Israel along with its allies managed to successfully intercept 99% of them. It was one of the great moments of this war, when Israel did not fight alone, but received active support from the US and British armies, the French and Jordanian forces. The international pressure following this attack led to a very restrained response from Israel: only three missiles were fired at an air defense radar installation protecting a nuclear facility in Iran.

Iran should not be underestimated. Its attack seems rather restrained compared to those of Hezbollah, but he is the head and mastermind of the actions against Israel - even if the Mullah regime (still) prefers to act via its proxies and not directly.

The **Houthis** also fired missiles at Israel from **Yemen**. Similarly, fighters from the so-called Islamic Resistance, Iranian-funded paramilitary groups from **Iraq** and **Syria**, have attacked strategic locations in Israel with drones.

But the UN and the ICJ continue to deal with Israel.



### ***Escalation in May 2024***



*Karim Khan applies for arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant. Photo: Shutterstock*

On **May 20, 2024**, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, requested arrest warrants for Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant. He accuses them of war crimes and crimes against humanity in connection with the war in the Gaza Strip.

On May 22, Norway, Spain and Ireland declare their intention to recognize the Palestinian state without Israel's consent and implement this on May 28.

On May 24, the judges of the International Court of Justice decided by 13:2 votes that Israel must stop its offensive and other measures in Rafah “which could lead to the total or partial annihilation of the Palestinian civilian population”. In addition, the catastrophic humanitarian situation was deplored and the opening of the border crossing for humanitarian aid deliveries and UN investigators was demanded.

After months of hesitation, deliberations, negotiations and preparations, Israel enters Rafah anyway, but does everything it can to avoid civilian casualties. Great efforts are made to successfully evacuate the population prior to military operations. Finally, dozens of Hamas rocket launchers are found in Rafah, as well as hundreds of tunnels belonging to the terrorist organization that lead to Egypt and through which Hamas was supplied with weapons. The bodies of murdered Israeli hostages have also been recovered here. The occupation of Rafah and the Philadelphia Corridor, on the border with Egypt, uncovered Hamas' sources of supply and cut a vital lifeline for the terrorist organization.



## ***UN & USA Peace Plans***



*What chance do peace plans with terrorists have? Photo: Shutterstock*

Eight months after the terrorist attack, more than 120 Israeli hostages - alive or dead - were still being held by Hamas and rockets were still being fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip. Both Israel and the Palestinian population are suffering from Hamas' terror. All the casualties of these months are ultimately victims of the Hamas leadership, which is not willing to make any compromise that respects Israel's existence.

On June 10, 2024, the United Nations Security Council passed another resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and a three-stage plan to end the war.

In the first phase, a small number of hostages would be released by Hamas during the ceasefire. In return, for every single hostage, alive or dead, a large number of Palestinian prisoners convicted of crimes and imprisoned in Israel would be released including multiple murderers and terrorists.

In the next phase, the fighting would then cease permanently, the Israeli army would withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the Palestinians, including the terrorists, would all be allowed to return to their homes. In return, a further number of living or dead hostages would be released - again for a large number of Palestinian convicted prisoners.

Israel would have to give up the blockade of Gaza and provide aid for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. Hamas would remain in power.

The negotiations on this peace plan went on for months and through many rounds, with the demands varying. Although this plan contained many hardships and concessions for Israel and demanded little from Hamas, in the end it was the Hamas leadership that rejected it.



## International Claims and Convictions in Summer 2024



*The nations take a stand. Photo: Shutterstock*

On **June 15, 2024** the Group of Seven (G7) members demanded that Israel cooperate with the Palestinian Authority (PA), even though the PA had not condemned or distanced itself from the crimes of the terrorist organizations.

In **July 2024**, the International Court of Justice ruled in an advisory opinion that the occupation of the Palestinian territories (West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza) violates international law and must be ended as soon as possible. The resolution calls on all member states to stop importing products from “Israeli settlements”. Similarly, the supply of weapons, ammunition and equipment to Israel should be stopped “if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that they could be used in the occupied Palestinian territory”. In other words: Israel is not allowed to defend itself with weapons in the event of terrorist attacks from the “occupied territories”, which includes the Gaza Strip.

On **August 10, 2024**, Israel attacked the Al-Tabien school in Gaza and eliminated 31 fighters from Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist organization who were holed up inside. Israel has ended the large-scale ground offensive in the Gaza Strip for months, and now operates in a targeted manner, based on intelligence information, wherever Hamas regroups. Even in schools (which have not been used as schools for a year) and buildings formerly used for humanitarian purposes, which lose their protected status if misused by terrorists. Nevertheless, the attack is condemned not only by Qatar, Egypt and Jordan, but also by the USA, Germany, France, Great Britain and the EU foreign affairs representative Josep Borrell.

On August 13, the prayer by Israeli Police Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem also triggered international outrage. The European Union, the United Nations, the USA and numerous Arab countries condemned this “provocation”. This is because Jews are not allowed to pray in their own capital city of Jerusalem on the site, where the two Jewish Temples stood and which is the holiest place for them. In a reversal of the facts, however, Israel is accused of discriminating against the Arabs.

Based on the ICJ's opinion from June, on **September 18th, 2024** the UN General Assembly with a majority of 124 votes finally calls for Israel to withdraw from all “occupied Palestinian territories” (Gaza, West Bank, East Jerusalem) within one year.

As a reminder: Israel withdrew completely from Gaza in 2005 and the autonomous strip by the sea received billions in financial aid. And what became of it: tunnels, rockets, weapons, terror - and in 2023 endless suffering, including for its own population.



## New Attacks

On **October 1, 2024**, Iran attacked Israel again with around 200 ballistic missiles, claiming this was justified revenge for the elimination of Hezbollah terror leader Nasrallah in Lebanon. And once again, the international community is exerting pressure and defining what Israel must not do.

On October 5, French President Macron spoke out in favor of stopping all arms deliveries to Israel and announced that France would only send Israel defense equipment. On October 11, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez also called on the international community to stop supplying Israel with weapons.

Finally, on October 20, it became public that the “Middle East Spectator” Telegram account, linked to the Iranian regime apparently published US intelligence documents dated October 15 and 16 containing information on Israel's military preparations for a counterattack on Iran. It is being investigated, how he obtained the top-secret documents.

If you have friends like that, you don't need enemies!

On the night of October 25-26, Israel finally retaliated, albeit to a limited extent in accordance with US demands. No oil or nuclear facilities are bombed, only a few production facilities and storage sites for missiles and air defense systems. What will be the next move in this chess game?

## The Conclusion

Exactly one year ago, I wrote the article “[The Second Chance](#)”. It deals with the failure of our ancestors to prevent the inconceivable crime of the Holocaust committed by the National Socialists and their accomplices. It shows the historical parallels between the night of the broken glass and the massacre on October 7, 2023 and is still red-hot.



*Have we learned from the mistakes of our ancestors? Photo: Shutterstock*

It was dedicated to the question of whether we had learned from the mistakes of our grandfathers? Would we take the opportunity to stand with Israel this time?

If we look at the last 400 days, it is obvious that the initial compassion and solidarity with Israel was very soon compromised by concerns, reservations and interests. There was no major, joint action against the Islamist terrorist organizations, even though they are not only life-threatening for Israel, but also have more and more supporters and influence abroad, despise Western values and act against them. Israel has not received much constant, concrete help over the months.





The decisive difference to the situation 85 years ago is therefore not the reaction of world public, but the fact that the Jews are no longer defenseless today. The fact that there is an Israeli defense force that protects and fights for its citizens. For the liberation of the hostages, for the return of the evacuees and for security within the Israeli state.



*Today, Israel is no longer defenseless. Photo: Shutterstock*

But exactly that seems to be the problem for many!

It is staggering that Israel is expected to accept continual attacks go unanswered. That Hezbollah was able to fire a total of 13,000 missiles into Israeli territory for 12 months without being admonished or punished by the international community. And that there is an obvious international desire for Israel to leave the second Iranian attack unanswered as long as possible.

It is also astonishing to see the idealism with which a solution was sought for months in diplomatic negotiations at eye level with Hamas, although the terrorist organization has clearly and unmistakably emphasized its goal since its foundation: the destruction of Israel. And acts accordingly! It has invested all the funds made available to it by the international community not for the Palestinian population, but rather in developing weapons and underground structures used against Israel. In this war, Hamas has abused its own population as human shields, causing immense suffering for hundreds of thousands. And to this day, it is more important to it to continue torturing Israel with the fate of the remaining hostages than to release them and thus herald an end to the war. How much longer do we want to cling to the misconception that terrorists act according to the same logic and principles as democracies?

It would help to remember that even in 1948, diplomatic efforts paved the way but were not enough. That five Arab nations despised and rejected the UN resolutions and took armed action against them. And that only Israel's struggle for independence ultimately made an Israeli state possible.



## The Individuals



*Every individual can make a difference. Photo: Shutterstock*

But the summary of this time would be incomplete if I did not mention the “unnamed heroes”. Because they do exist! Just like 85 years ago, in 2023/2024 there were once again individuals who did not look away, who have consciously dealt with the situation and the suffering in Israel and took responsibility. Who tried within their means to be a voice for Israel and to help. Who have not allowed themselves to rest for over a year and who have surpassed themselves in their efforts.

People who were not deterred by the dangerous situation and still flew to Israel during wartime. Who did not use their vacation to relax and enjoy life, but to help in Israel. With harvest work and work in the destroyed kibbutzim on the border with Gaza. Visiting and reporting on those affected to correct the one-sided, incomplete picture in their environment. Who tried to comfort and who brought practical help and contributions for the reconstruction. Who showed the Israelis with everything they are and have: We stand by your side.

Unnamed heroes have donated large sums to Israel: to support evacuees, especially mothers who had to give birth to their babies far from home. To help children orphaned by October 7 (see: "[The Gift for the Orphans](#)") and the families who took them in. And to advance the recovery of Israelis who were traumatized by the massacre and the war.

They have organized Israel events as well as charity concerts and hold speeches in their countries to raise awareness about the current situation and the historical context. They took to the streets to hold public demonstrations and vigils to commemorate the suffering and the hostages. They have published articles in traditional and social media and spoken out for Israel. Some have (re)discovered buried or unsuspected talents, by doing so.

And they have been supported and carried by the many people, who have recognized their task as "watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem" and who have been tirelessly standing up for Israel in prayer for the past year.

Some have not only sacrificed their time, energy and resources for this commitment, but have also paid a high social price, because they have been condemned for their dedication, some even by their own families.

I am not just talking about the well-known names and celebrities who are influential and whose every utterance is noticed and multiplied. I would particularly like to mention the many small, unknown people, who devote their whole heart and being to Israel and yet are only noticed in their own circle and often receive no recognition for their efforts.



Nevertheless, every single one of them is valuable, a spark of light in the darkness! And there are many of them. Surprisingly and movingly many!

### Hope at the End



*We remain on Israel's side. Photo: Shutterstock*

The war in the Middle East continues with suffering, blood and tears. Millions will be marked and scarred by these times. For the two-thousand-year-old hope of the Jews, to be a free people in the land of Zion and Jerusalem, of which Israel's anthem "Hatikvah" speaks, is still being fought over to this day. Over 30,000 Israelis have died since the state was founded because Israel's right to exist is still denied today - especially by the parties and states currently involved in the Middle East conflict.

But the hope that allowed Israel to rise from the ashes of the Holocaust to new life is stronger. The sun of righteousness will rise and bring healing (Malachi 4:2).

And we, the individuals, will remain at Israel's side!



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