



500 DAYS! The Evolution of Global Public Opinion since October 7, 2023

June 2023 - October 2024
An Analysis on the Remembrance Day of Anti-Semitism –
Part 2

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*15 months after the massacre, a hostage deal with high risks for Israel is finalized.
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Although there were pledges of solidarity from many sides immediately after the Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023, international support waned significantly in the following months. In May 2024, condemnations of Israel reached a sad peak. Read more about this in [Part 1](#).

How the situation has developed since then until the so-called “hostage deal” in January 2025 – and what opportunities we have as individuals to stand up for Israel.



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.



Turning Point in Lebanon

It is not until September that Israel begins to defend itself massively against Hezbollah attacks from Lebanon. First with the detonation of thousands of special pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah, by which the terrorists are taken out of action. On September 28, Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, was targeted and killed. At the end of September, Israel enters Lebanon to enforce UN Resolution 1701 of 2006, namely the creation of an area between the Blue Line and the Litani River that is free of armed personnel, material and weapons. The fighting is intense and fierce on both sides and this time both the north and the center of Israel are affected. On November 27, a two-month ceasefire with conditions was finally agreed. Hezbollah was to give up its presence south of the Litani River on the southern Lebanese border, while Israeli troops were to withdraw from Lebanon. This ceasefire expires exactly on January 27, 2025.

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?

No End in Sight

At the end of October, Israel bans UNRWA's activities on its territory, because its employees were involved in terrorist activities against Israel. This is immediately followed by condemnations from the USA, China and Russia, and the EU demands that Israel withdraw its ban

And the calls for more and more humanitarian aid continue, knowingly ignoring the fact that Hamas is stealing aid on a massive scale in order to sell it to its own civilian population at high prices.

On December 3, the UN once again calls for Israel to withdraw from Gaza, Judea and Samaria. Also in December, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Doctors Without Borders accuse Israel of genocide. Reporters Without Borders accuses Israel of war crimes against journalists at the International Court of Justice.



And the fact that Hamas deliberately misuses clinics as shields continues to be deliberately ignored. Accordingly, Israel is condemned every time it attacks terrorists in a medical facility - even though international law clearly defines that the use of an institution by terrorists legitimizes such an attack.



Israel is under attack from many sides. Photo Shutterstock

So Israel has not only to fight on the fronts: Gaza (Hamas), Lebanon (Hezbollah), Iran (Mullah regime), Iraq& Syria (paramilitary militias financed by Iran), Yemen (Huthi) Judea& Samaria (terror attacks) - but a broad front of nations and organizations condemning Israel has formed over the last 14 months. This logic is made possible by the fact that the overall situation is consistently viewed one-sidedly and the actions of the Islamic terrorist organizations and their attacks on Israel are overlooked in order to impose the role of the aggressor on the Jews.

The “Hostage Deal”

In January 2025, under extreme pressure from the US and President-elect Donald Trump, a ceasefire and hostage deal is agreed between Hamas and Israel, dated one day before Trump's inauguration.

Basically, it is almost the same plan that Biden outlined back in May. Three phases. Only the first has been finalized. The terms are not good for Israel. 33 hostages, “humanitarian cases” - women, children, men over 50, injured and sick - alive or dead! are to be released within 6 weeks. Three per week and 14 at the very end. That is the positive part.

BUT until then, Israel must release 1,904 Palestinian convicted criminals, withdraw from Gaza, the Gazans are allowed to return to their areas of origin and Hamas remains in power.



Hamas terrorists drive fully armed through Gaza's streets on ceasefire day. Photo Shutterstock



On the day the ceasefire came into force (January 19, 2025), Hamas terrorists drove triumphantly through the streets of Gaza with waving flags, fully armed, and were cheered and celebrated as victors by the civilian population. Columns of Palestinians simply returned to their areas (although the agreement provides for controls by external forces). Unbelievable crowds of Palestinians surrounded the Red Cross vehicles that brought the three young Israeli women back to Israel. If it weren't for the bombed-out buildings, you would have thought it was footage from October 7, 2023. The same hatred and jubilation over the powerlessness of the three hostages.

Is THAT supposed to be the end?

The Conclusion

After October 7, 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.



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 500 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 Iranian attacks unanswered as long as possible.

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 fight for independence ultimately made an Israeli state 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. How much longer do we want to cling to the misconception that terrorists act according to the same logic and principles as democracies?

The "equation" of the so-called "hostage deal" is also frightening and incomprehensible. On the Israeli side, there are 33 (or a total of 98) civilians, who were torn from their beds at dawn on October 7 and forcibly abducted to Gaza. On the Palestinian side, there are 1,904 convicted and sentenced criminals, 496 of whom are (or should be) serving life sentences for murder and terror attacks in Israel's prisons.

And what arguments will Israel have against Hamas in the negotiations for phases 2 and 3, which will begin in early February 2025, if it has ceased all hostilities and withdrawn from Gaza by the end of the first phase, as planned? One can understand the concern of the families of hostages who are not among the first 33 to be released, that with this agreement, the remaining 65 hostages do not stand a good chance.

How realistic is the idea that - as long as Hamas remains in power - the money now flowing into Gaza will actually be used to build civilian infrastructure and not for weapons or the construction of terror tunnels?

On what basis is a long-term peace in Gaza to emerge, as the West expects from this deal, if Hamas, which has enshrined the destruction of Israel in its charter and is now reaffirming it, retains control of the Gaza Strip and can reorganize and rearm itself?

When you consider that the past teaches us, how often criminals (especially multiple murderers and terrorists) become active again, when they are released; when you also consider that Israel must now also give up the Philadelphia Corridor on the border with Egypt, through which Hamas has smuggled its arsenal of weapons; when you add to this that Hamas' hatred of Israel has only grown fiercer in recent months and the fact that Hamas still controls the Gaza Strip, the likelihood that Israel will free its hostages, living or dead, at the price of other massacres is frighteningly high.

Both Hamas and the Palestinians are celebrating this agreement, which the West describes as a breakthrough, as their victory!

It remains incomprehensible why the USA, as a friend and supporter of Israel, proposed and pushed through a deal that - from today's perspective - looks more like a strategic defeat for Israel.



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

The suffering, blood and tears of the last 15 months have left their mark on millions in the Middle East.

Because the two-thousand-year-old hope of the Jews to be a free people in the land of Zion and in Jerusalem, of which Israel's anthem "Hatikva" speaks, remains contested to this very 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.



We remain on Israel's side. Photo: Shutterstock

But regardless of the attitude of the nations and world public opinion, the force that made Israel rise from the ashes of the Holocaust to new life is stronger. And so the whole of Israel rejoices at the release of every single hostage as if it were a great victory. Because their motto is: "Whoever saves one person saves the whole world". The fact that it is still possible to free some of the hostages alive after 15 months vindicates those who never gave up and inspires the whole nation. The hope therefore remains that Israel will ultimately emerge stronger from the ashes and suffering of this war.

And we, the individuals, remain at Israel's side - and fulfill the promise "Never again!"



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