

Israel-Gaza conflict intensifies

19th November, 2012



Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said his country is prepared to send troops into Gaza if Hamas does not stop firing rockets into Israel. Despite growing pressure for Israel to end its strikes, Mr Netanyahu made it clear to world

leaders that Israel would consider all options to defend itself from attacks from Gaza. He also stated his hopes for a ceasefire to avoid an invasion of Gaza, which would likely lead to an escalated death toll. Netanyahu said any cessation of air strikes would depend on Hamas ending its bombardment of Israel's cities. Sources say as many as 100 rockets a day are fired across the border, some reaching Tel Aviv. Air raid sirens sounded in Jerusalem for the first time in decades.

Israel said it still has hundreds of targets to hit and is targeting those associated with Hamas. It already destroyed the Hamas prime minister's office. The death toll from the conflict has now claimed the lives of more than 50 Palestinians and three Israelis. Dozens more have been injured, many of them civilians. An Israeli military spokesperson said Israeli forces had targeted close to 1,000 sites in Gaza, while Hamas has launched more than 400 missiles into Israel. The Israeli government also approved the call-up of 75,000 reservists in preparation for a ground offensive. Diplomatic efforts are in full swing as regional leaders are meeting in Cairo in an attempt to stop the situation from spiralling further out of control.

Sources: Haaretz / Al Jazeera / VOA

Writing

The conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians is one that will never find a peaceful solution. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Israeli prime minister / troops / firing rockets / ceasefire / death toll / air raid sirens / targets / Hamas / civilians / conflict / ground offensive / spiralling out of control

True / False

- Israel's prime minister is considering soldiers into Gaza. T / F
- Mr Netanyahu has so far refused to speak with other world leaders. T / F
- Netanyahu says a ceasefire could happen if Hamas stops firing rockets. T / F
- Almost 100 rockets have reached Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. T / F
- Israel said it still has around 100 more targets it wants to hit. T / F
- Israeli forces have so far hit around 1,000 sites in Gaza. T / F
- Israel has asked 7,500 reserve troops to prepare to enter Gaza. T / F
- Leaders from neighboring country are talking in Cairo about solutions. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. prepared | a. related to |
| 2. troops | b. ending |
| 3. options | c. given the OK |
| 4. cessation | d. soldiers |
| 5. sounded | e. ordinary citizens |
| 6. associated with | f. ready |
| 7. claimed | g. escalating |
| 8. civilians | h. taken |
| 9. approved | i. blared out |
| 10. spiralling | j. alternatives |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Gaza'?
- What do you know about what started this conflict?
- Do you think Israel should send troops into Gaza?
- Why is Hamas firing rockets into Israel?
- Is Hamas achieving anything by firing rockets into Israel?
- What will it take for there to be a ceasefire?
- What would happen if Israel launched a ground offensive in Gaza?
- What do you think world leaders think about the situation?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. his country is prepared to send | a. to defend itself |
| 2. Israel would consider all options | b. offensive |
| 3. hopes for a ceasefire to | c. sounded in Jerusalem |
| 4. lead to an escalated | d. full swing |
| 5. Air raid sirens | e. out of control |
| 6. targeting those associated | f. avoid an invasion |
| 7. The death | g. troops into Gaza |
| 8. in preparation for a ground | h. toll from the conflict |
| 9. Diplomatic efforts are in | i. death toll |
| 10. stop the situation from spiralling further | j. with Hamas |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think Gaza residents think of the conflict?
- What do you think Tel Aviv residents think of the conflict?
- Would peace come to Gaza if Hamas disappeared?
- What would bring peace between Palestinians and Israelis?
- Which side is more responsible for the conflict?
- Will diplomatic efforts do any good?
- What questions would you like to ask Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu?
- What do you think his answers might be?

Spelling

- growing eursprse for Israel to end its strikes
- hopes for a iesarefec
- avoid an noivashn of Gaza
- nasestoic of air strikes
- Air raid sirens ddnouse in Jerusalem
- for the first time in sddeeac
- netiragtq those associated with Hamas
- mailedc the lives of more than 50
- Hamas has daechnlu more than 400 missiles
- in preparation for a ground eifvfson
- pdmailotci efforts are in full swing
- stop the tiisnouta from spiralling further out of control

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. i
6. a	7. h	8. e	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Benjamin Netanyahu - You will take any steps necessary to stop rockets landing on Israeli cities. Think of three reasons why. You will never stop attacking Hamas if they do not stop launching rockets. You will not talk to Hamas' leader – you want actions, not talk. You know what's best for Israel – citizens and soldiers don't.

Hamas' leader - You will do whatever is necessary to get Israel to return Palestinian land. You will never stop firing rockets into Israel unless Israel returns land. You want talks with Netanyahu at the UN in New York. Think of three reasons why. You don't think civilians and soldiers know what they are talking about.

A civilian - You are totally fed up with the fighting and the daily rockets and missiles. Think of three reasons why. It is only the leaders that bring war. The people want peace. Arabs and Jews can live side-by-side as neighbours. Tell the two leaders to start an immediate ceasefire and serious peace talks.

A soldier - You have seen decades of fighting that only results in three things – death, destruction and mutual hate. Armies can kill 100,000 people and the situation will be the same. You have zero faith in your leaders. Think of three reasons why. Call for peace talks and a demilitarized zone in the region.

Speaking - Peace

What / Who can bring it to the region? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the likeliest at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Barack Obama | • the Arab countries |
| • tanks & fighter jets | • Hamas |
| • an Israeli leader | • Israeli and Gaza citizens |
| • the United Nations | • a boycott |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.