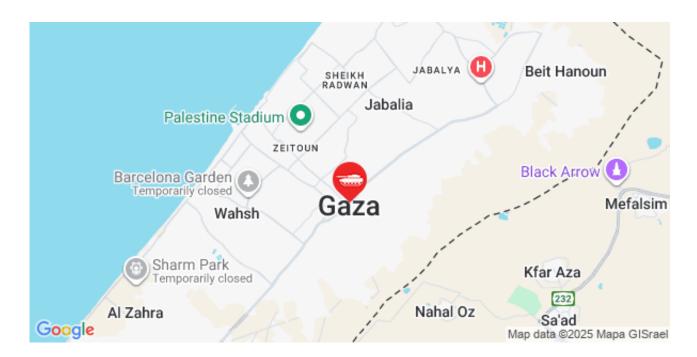


Armed Conflict



29 oct 9:38 utc Israel & Palestinian Territories Alert (UPDATE): IDF announces resumption of ceasefire during morning hours on October 29; continue monitoring developments

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Current Situation:

- The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced that, in accordance with political directives, it has "renewed enforcement" of the Israel-Hamas ceasefire during the morning hours (local time) on October 29.
- The IDF added that it targeted over 30 commanders amid dozens of strikes in Gaza since the "violation" by Hamas, referring to the October 28 attack on IDF troops in Rafah that killed a reservist.

Source: IDE

Assessments & Forecast:

1. The IDF strikes follow Prime Minister (PM) Benjamin Netanyahu's order to respond to perceived

- violations of the ceasefire by Hamas, including delays in returning the hostages' remains and the <u>October 28 attack</u> against IDF forces in the Rafah. While this underscores Israel's resolve to exact a price from Hamas, the subsequent reinforcement of the ceasefire reflects Jerusalem's desire to uphold the truce.
- **2. FORECAST:** Similar incidents, such as exchanges of fire in the Gaza Strip and IDF strikes against Hamas targets, are liable to recur. This, along with perceived Hamas ceasefire violations, is liable to sustain mistrust between the two parties and hinder the truce's progression toward the second phase. However, the quick resolution of the latest incident indicates that the ceasefire is expected to be upheld in the near term.

Recommendations:

- 1. Continue avoiding all travel to the Gaza Strip due to the potential for further armed conflict in the enclave.
- 2. Those operating or residing in Israel on October 29 and over the coming days are advised to continue monitoring developments and avoid travel to the immediate vicinity of the Gaza border fence.