



October 7, 2023: Hamas launches a massive attack on Israel, blowing up part of the border fence and then using bulldozers to widen the gap before sending hundreds of fighters into Israel on motorbikes. At the same time, Hamas launches thousands of rockets as far north as Tel Aviv. The Hamas fighters spread into more than a dozen Israeli communities and military bases within 15 miles of the Gaza border. At least 1,200 people in Israel are killed and almost 4,000 are wounded. Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) take at least 240 people hostage into Gaza, including military officers as well as children and the elderly. Hamas labels the attack "Al-Aqsa Storm." Israel declares war on Hamas and launches the "Swords of Iron" operation. (Sources: [Associated Press](#), [CNN](#), [NPR](#), [Newsweek](#))



October 28, 2023: Israel launches a ground operation into Gaza in response to Hamas's October 7 attack. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promises to "destroy the enemy above ground and below ground." (Sources: [Government of Israel](#), [Reuters](#))

November 24–December 1, 2023: Israel and Hamas observe a negotiated ceasefire during which Hamas releases 105 hostages in exchange for Israel releasing 240 Palestinian prisoners. The ceasefire ends after a week following a breakdown in negotiations over Hamas's release of hostages and after Hamas resumes launching rockets at Israel. (Sources: [Times of Israel](#), [Guardian](#), [Reuters](#), [Times of Israel](#), [Associated Press](#), [Times of Israel](#), [Times of Israel](#))

March 9-10, 2024: An overnight Israeli airstrike targets Qassam Brigades deputy leader Marwan Issa in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. On March 18, the White House confirms Issa's death in the strike, making him the highest-level Hamas target eliminated since the start of the war in October. According to Israeli intelligence, Issa was one of the main planners of the October 7 attack. (Sources: [New York Times](#), [Hill](#))

April 4, 2024: Hamas rejects a ceasefire proposal, demanding an end to the conflict, total Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, increased humanitarian assistance, and the return of all displaced residents of Gaza to their housing. (Source: [Haaretz](#))

May 5, 2024: A Hamas rocket attack on a crossing used to transport humanitarian aid to Gaza from Israel kills three Israeli soldiers. (Sources: [USA Today](#), [Guardian](#))

May 25–26, 2024: On May 25, Hamas official Osama Hamdan tells Al Jazeera that there is no need for new ceasefire negotiations with Israel, saying that Israel must cease hostilities and withdraw from Gaza. On May 26, Hamas launches a major rocket attack on Tel Aviv. (Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [BBC News](#))

Hamas: Key Events Since October 7

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June 11, 2024: Hamas rejects a U.S.-proposed ceasefire deal because it did not meet the group's maximalist demands, which include a lasting end to the conflict, withdrawal of the Israeli military from Gaza, reconstruction of the Strip, and the release of all Palestinians in Israeli prisons. (Source: [Reuters](#))

July 2, 2024: Hamas presents its own updated ceasefire proposal. (Source: [Times of Israel](#))

July 13, 2024: An Israeli airstrike kills Mohammed Deif, head of Hamas's Qassam Brigades, and Rafa Salama, commander of Hamas's Khan Younis Brigade, in the Gaza Strip. According to Israeli intelligence, Deif was one of the masterminds behind the October 7 attack. (Source: [Associated Press](#))

July 21–23, 2024: The Chinese government hosts reconciliation negotiations between Hamas, Fatah, and 12 other Palestinian factions, culminating in the July 23 Beijing Declaration calling for a Palestinian unity government to assume control of post-war Gaza. (Source: [Associated Press](#))

July 26, 2024: Hamas rejects Israel's proposed changes to a ceasefire deal. (Source: [Reuters](#))



July 31, 2024: Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh is killed in an explosion at his guesthouse in Tehran, Iran, alongside one of his guards. Haniyeh was in Tehran for the July 30 inauguration of the country's new president, Masoud Pezeshkian. Hamas blames a "Zionist airstrike." Israel does not claim responsibility for Haniyeh's death. (Sources: [Jerusalem Post](#), [Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#), [New York Times](#), [New York Times](#), [Reuters](#))

August 6, 2024: Hamas names Yahya Sinwar, the group's leader in the Gaza Strip, as its new political bureau chief, replacing Haniyeh. According to Israeli intelligence, Sinwar was one of the masterminds behind the October 7 attack. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [Agence France-Presse](#))

August 14, 2024: Hamas refuses to join indirect ceasefire talks in Qatar, accusing Israel of introducing new conditions. (Source: [BBC News](#))

August 18, 2024: Hamas rejects a U.S.-proposed ceasefire, claiming that the deal adopted Israel's conditions for ending the conflict. (Source: [USA Today](#))

August 25, 2024: Egypt-hosted ceasefire negotiations fail to reach an agreement. (Source: [Reuters](#))

September 1, 2024: The IDF recovers the bullet-riddled bodies of six Israeli hostages, including American national Hersh Goldberg-Polin, in a tunnel underneath Rafah in southern Gaza. According to forensic analysis by Israel's health ministry, the hostages had been executed 48 to 72 hours before their discovery. (Sources: [Associated Press](#), [Times of Israel](#))

September 3, 2024: The U.S. Department of Justice unseals a February 1, 2024, indictment charging Sinwar and five other senior Hamas leaders with terrorism, murder conspiracy, and evading sanctions. According to the indictment, the six leaders played central roles in planning, supporting, and perpetrating Hamas's terrorist atrocities of October 7. (Source: [U.S. Department of Justice](#))

September 9, 2024: Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant says that "Hamas as a military formation no longer exists. Hamas is engaged in guerrilla warfare and we are still fighting Hamas terrorists and pursuing Hamas leadership." (Source: [Times of Israel](#))

September 15, 2024: Hamas official Osama Hamdan claims that Hamas "has a high ability to continue [fighting]. There were martyrs and there were sacrifices. . . . but in return there was an accumulation of experiences and the recruitment of new generations into the resistance." (Source: [Times of Israel](#))

