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Israel Update: November 21, 2012

Breaking News: Israel and Hamas have reached agreement on a ceasefire, which took effect at 9 p.m. Israel time today (1 p.m. Milwaukee time). [Read more here.](#)

Community Impact: Milwaukeean Rena Safer shares her thoughts during a visit to family in Israel

We came to Israel to celebrate our grandson's wedding. These were not the kind of 'fireworks' we were anticipating.

We have one grandson on active duty, and our granddaughter's husband was among the first of the reservists to be called up. Our great-niece's boyfriend got his call as we ate Shabbat dinner. On Tuesday, the sirens sounded just as we entered an outdoor restaurant with our granddaughter. There was no actual shelter, but everyone ran into the building and the three of us covered our heads with our jackets as a protection against possible flying glass. Over Shabbat in the Rehovot area we could hear the thuds as Iron Dome rockets took out incoming missiles in the Ashdod area. We have friends who had a rocket land in an open space near their home.

I guess hearing/reading the news will have a whole different meaning when we return to Milwaukee.

What Can You Do?

Take a Photo on Thanksgiving

In an effort to lift the spirits of Israelis, please take a picture with your family holding a poster or message. Feel free to use this poster ([click here](#)) or create your own; make sure the poster is clear and that it indicates your location.

Email your picture to milwaukeestandswithisrael@gmail.com by Monday, November 26 and the JCRC will collect and post all of the photos, and send them to the Israeli Consulate for distribution within Israel. This show of support might play one small part in helping those in Israel endure these difficult times.

Stay Informed

As the latest battles are being fought in the field, they are also being fought in the realm of public opinion. It is important that your voice is part of the conversation. Stay informed, engage with the media through letters to the editor, use social media to mobilize your friends into action!

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)
[New York Times](#)
[The Times of Israel](#)
[JTA: Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#)
[Ynet News](#)
[Haaretz](#)
[The Jerusalem Post](#)
[Jewish Council for Public Affairs](#)



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 Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)
 Embassy of Israel in Washington DC: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Social Media:

[Israel Under Fire Facebook page](#)

Facebook

"Like" the [Milwaukee Jewish Federation](#) and [JCRC](#)

Update your Facebook status to alert your friends to the crisis facing Israel.

Twitter

Follow [@JewishMilwaukee](#)

Use hashtags: #IsraelUnderFire, #PillarOfDefense, #StopTheRockets to get your tweets trending

Thank our Members of Congress

On Thanksgiving, take a moment to thank the Wisconsin Congressional delegation. Both the House and the Senate unanimously passed resolutions last week that express strong support for Israel as it seeks to defend itself from Hamas rocket attacks against civilians. Call your Members of Congress to thank them for supporting Israel's right to self-defense and for their financial support of the Iron Dome missile defense system. Senator Kohl was one of 62 co-sponsors of the Senate Resolution. These phone calls from constituents are very significant! It's critical for our legislators to know we are paying close attention and willing to take the time to express our appreciation.

U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121

Senator	Herb Kohl	(414) 297-4451
Senator	Ron Johnson	(414) 276-7282

House District	Name	Phone
1	Paul Ryan	(202) 225-3031
2	Tammy Baldwin	(202) 225-2906
3	Ron Kind	(202) 225-5506
4	Gwen Moore	(414) 297-1140
5	Jim Sensenbrenner	(262) 784-1111
6	Tom Petri	(202) 225-2476
7	Sean Duffy	(202) 225-3365
8	Reid Ribble	(202) 225-5665

Travel to Israel

The Jewish Federations of North America has organized a [solidarity mission to support Israel](#). The solidarity mission will convene in Israel from Dec. 4 - 6, and include meetings with leadership and residents of the most affected areas, briefings from senior military and political figures, a hands-on service project, and an opportunity to see the response of Jewish Federation partners on the ground.

For more information, please contact [Susan Solow-Dubin](#), office: 212-284-6537 cell: 914-772-7298 or [Tikva Mahlab](#), office: 212-284-6528, cell: 646-244-7652. [Click here](#) to register. Note: Due to the nature of this trip, registration must be complete by November 28th.

Thoughts to consider

- Since Israel completely withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005, over 13,000 rockets and mortars have been indiscriminately fired at Israel's towns and cities - more than 1,900 in 2012 alone. More than 3.5 million Israelis - Jews and Arabs alike - live within firing range of Hamas rockets.
- Israel has shown great restraint over this period, but as the attack intensified Israel was left with no choice but to defend its citizens. Israel has both the right and duty to take the necessary steps to protect its civilians and respond to these constant and unprovoked attacks from Hamas.
- The IDF has been making a concerted effort to avoid civilian casualties by dropping leaflets over Gaza, in addition to making thousands of automated calls, advising residents to avoid areas that may be targeted in the near future. Despite the military action, Israel has provided hospital care for over a dozen civilians from Gaza since attacks on Israel began to escalate. Over 14,000 tons of aid has been delivered to Gaza from Israel over the past week.
- Hamas and other terror groups in Gaza have responded by firing more than 1,300 rockets towards major population centers in Israel since the IDF began targeting Hamas assets. 350 rockets have been blocked by Israel's Iron Dome system. During the past week, rockets landed for the first time in the southern outskirts of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Rocket warning sirens were heard in Tel Aviv for the first time since the Gulf War in 1991 and in Jerusalem for the first time since 1970.

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