



Operation Iron Swords Updated to 1 p.m., March 7, 2024

Northern Arena	Israeli Casualties	Rocket Fire
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 985 attacks• 228 Hezbollah operatives killed• 44 operatives of other terrorist-organization killed• One non-affiliated operative• One Lebanese army soldier killed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 1,500 military and civilian dead (unofficial estimate)• 130 hostages remain in the Gaza Strip	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 11,000 rockets and mortar shells• Approximately 9,000 rockets and mortar shells launched from the Gaza Strip• Approximately 2,000 rockets launched from Lebanon and 30 from Syria

Overview¹

► **The southern arena:** The IDF forces continued the integrated ground maneuver, focusing on the southern Gaza Strip, especially the Hamad neighborhood in the northwest of Khan Yunis. They also operated in the central Gaza Strip refugee camps and the Jebalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, mainly against the remaining enclaves of terrorists.

► **According to unofficial data, since October 7, 2023, approximately 1,500 Israeli civilians and security personnel have been killed, 587 of them soldiers and officers; 130 civilian and military hostages are still being held by the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip; 123 hostages have been released.**

► **Negotiations for a hostage deal:** Hamas continues to adhere to its position that there will be no deal without a ceasefire, a complete withdrawal of IDF forces from the Gaza Strip and the unconditional return of the displaced persons to their previous places of residence. Some Hamas members indicated they might show "flexibility" regarding a hostage deal after their demands had been met. Hamas also claimed the negotiations had reached a

¹ Click <https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en> to subscribe and receive the ITIC's daily updates as well as its other publications.

dangerous point of no return, threatening its success and a final agreement. They also cited time as an important factor and accused Israel of having no interest in an agreement. An "Egyptian source" stated that the Egyptian and Qatari mediators accepted Hamas' claim that without a ceasefire it would be difficult to comply with Israel's request for a list of hostages.

► **The northern arena:** Hezbollah claimed responsibility for four attacks. One attack was carried out using a UAV and was intercepted by IDF forces. The IDF responded to the events by attacking Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon.

► **Judea and Samaria:** On the afternoon of March 6, 2024, a Palestinian carried out a stabbing attack in the Neve Yaakov neighborhood in Jerusalem, wounding an Israeli civilian. The perpetrator of the attack was a 14 year-old boy; he was detained. The IDF forces continued their counterterrorism activities.

► **The Palestinian Authority (PA): Muhammad Shtayyeh, prime minister of the interim PA government,** told CNN that the resignation of the government had provided a new opportunity for the Palestinians to promote the idea of a Palestinian state and achieve internal unity.

► **Iran:** The commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps' Qods Force claimed Israel exaggerated its successes, adding that the current struggle had "proved" that the "resistance front"² was an array of interconnected groups with many capabilities which had not yet shown its full potential, and that no one could ignore it.

► **The pro-Iranian militias:** The Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed responsibility for launching a UAV at Kiryat Shmona. The Houthis hit an American ship in the Gulf of Aden, reportedly killing three people and wounding several. It was the first time since the outbreak of the war that crew members had been killed in a Houthi attack.

► **The inter-Arab arena:** Israeli Arab parties and the PA condemned the decision of the Civil Administration's planning committee to approve the construction of 3,500 housing units in Judea and Samaria.

The Southern Arena

► Palestinian media outlets reported on centers of IDF activity during the past day, as follows: In **the northern Gaza Strip** the IDF attacked in several areas in the Jebalya region. In **Gaza**

² Iran, Syria, Hezbollah, the Palestinian terrorist organizations, the Shi'ite Houthis in Yemen and the pro-Iranian militias in Iraq.

City, the IDF attacked in the southern part of the city in the Zeitoun and Sabra neighborhoods. In **the central Gaza Strip**, there were attacks in the Nuseirat refugee camp and Deir al-Balah. In **Khan Yunis** there were massive attacks in the Hamad neighborhood in northwestern Khan Yunis and east of the city in Bani Suheila and Qarara. In **Rafah**, the IDF attacked in the east and near the airport (Ma'an, March 7, 2024).



An al-Jazeera TV presenter describes IDF activity in the Hamad neighborhood in the northwest of Khan Yunis (right), and in the south of Gaza City (left) (al-Jazeera YouTube channel, March 6, 2024)



IDF forces in the Gaza Strip (IDF spokesperson, March 7, 2024)

► **The southern Gaza Strip:** IDF forces continued operations in the Hamad neighborhood in the northwest of Khan Yunis. They moved from structure to structure, including high-rise buildings used by Hamas for military-terrorist purposes. The forces detained large numbers of terrorist operatives, including the commander of a Hamas sniper squad and two other commanders. Some of the detainees participated in the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack and massacre and some were operatives of the nukhba force. The fighters located large quantities of weapons, IEDs, ammunition, vests, explosives and diving equipment (IDF spokesperson, March 6, 2024).



**The weapons found during IDF operations in the southern Gaza Strip
(IDF spokesperson, March 6, 2024)**

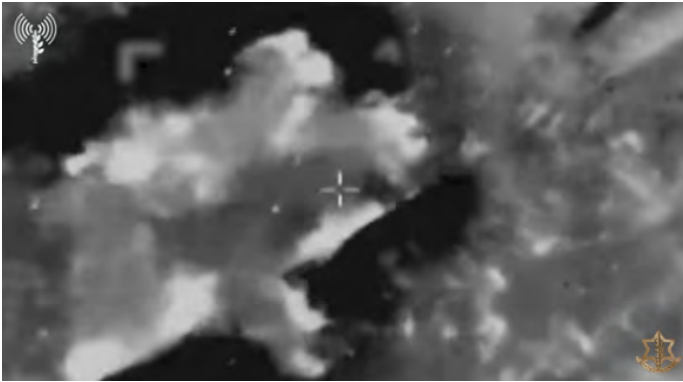


Residents evacuate from the Hamad neighborhood in Khan Yunis in fear of increasing IDF activity (Telegram channel of journalist Hassan Aslih, March 6, 2024)

► During an operation in the Qarara area north of Khan Yunis, the forces detected six armed terrorists entering a military building with a rocket launcher. A fighter jet attacked the terrorists (IDF spokesperson, March 7, 2024).

► **The central Gaza Strip:** Guided by intelligence information, IDF forces eliminated veteran Hamas terrorist Amer Attiya Darwish al-Adini, responsible for firing rockets and mortar shells from the central Gaza Strip refugee camps. Beginning with Operation Cast Lead in 2008, he was a senior operative specializing in the area of firing rockets. He played a central role in the preparations for the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack and massacre. During the war he shot at IDF forces in the Gaza Strip and was in charge of firing rockets into Israeli territory, including the center of the country (IDF spokesperson, March 6, 2024).

► During the operation, IDF forces identified a terrorist squad loading military equipment onto vehicles; an Israeli Air Force aircraft attacked the vehicles. After the attack, secondary explosions indicated the presence of weapons (IDF spokesperson, March 7, 2024).



**Right: Attack on a Hamas terrorist facility. Left: Attack on a terrorist squad
(IDF spokesperson, March 7, 2024)**

► **The northern Gaza Strip:** In response to the recent rocket attacks on the cities, towns and villages surrounding the Gaza Strip, including the city of Sderot, a joint Israeli Air Force-Southern Command operation attacked Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) targets in the Jebalya area. The targets included apartments used as hideouts by armed terrorist operatives who stored weapons in them, weapon warehouses, rocket launching pits and tunnel shafts (IDF spokesperson, March 6, 2024).



**Israeli Air Force attack in the Alsikka area, east of the Jebalya refugee camp
(Shehab X account, March 6, 2024)**

Israeli casualties

► According to unofficial data, since October 7, 2023, approximately 1,500 Israelis have been killed. According to the IDF spokesperson, 587 of them are soldiers and officers (247 since the start of the ground maneuver on 27 October, 2023); 130 civilian and military hostages are still being held by the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip; 123 hostages have been released.

The issue of the hostages and a ceasefire agreement

► **Osama Hamdan, a senior Hamas member,** said any negotiation which did not produce the expected result could not continue indefinitely. He claimed Hamas' goal was to stop the

"aggression" and deal with its consequences, while Israel, however, did not want to stop it and wanted a temporary truce during which the IDF could catch its breath and then continue the "aggression." He said that even during a truce Israel wanted a free hand to control the humanitarian aid entering the Gaza Strip and did not want the displaced persons to return to their previous places of residence. He claimed such conditions were worse than surrender. He also noted that the United States expected a response from Hamas to the idea of a six-week truce, but it refused to stop the fighting and opposed an agreement for a permanent ceasefire. Regarding the hostages, he said that information about the hostages had a price, the most important of which was ending the "aggression" and the dealing with its consequences (al-Mayadeen YouTube channel, March 7, 2024). In another interview, Osama Hamdan said that Israel had requested the list of hostages "only two days previously," but claimed Israel knew their names and did not need lists. He called Israel's request a "maneuver" designed to sabotage the negotiations (al-Jadid TV YouTube channel, March 6, 2024).

►Regarding the list of hostages, "an Egyptian source" reported that the Egyptian and Qatari mediators accepted Hamas' position regarding a "difficulty" in complying with Israel's request to provide the names of the Israeli hostages who are still alive without a ceasefire (al-Araby al-Jadeed, March 7, 2024).

►"A senior member of the Palestinian resistance [terrorist organizations]" said the negotiations had reached a dangerous point of no return, threatening the possibility of success and a final agreement. According to the source, after the rounds of talks in Cairo, Hamas was certain that Israel would not give clear responses to its demands. He noted that Hamas' main demands had not changed, reiterating yet again that they were a ceasefire, a complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the return of the displaced persons to their previous places of residence. Therefore, he said, Hamas had not presented a new initiative for the number of hostages, which was the most important issue for Israel. He claimed it was clear that the mediators had tried to reassure Hamas that its demands were "acceptable to the Israeli side," but Hamas wanted that specified in the agreement, and not just verbal guarantees. Regarding the withdrawal of IDF forces from the Gaza Strip, the source noted Hamas claimed the agreement was unclear and vague. Israel offered to withdraw to the east of the Gaza Strip without specifying locations, while Hamas demanded that the withdrawal of the forces be shown on maps. Regarding the ceasefire, he said that Israel did not provide

any guarantees. He noted that during the first phase Hamas demanded a complete suspension of military operations, and for the second phase to include a discussion of a final ceasefire. He also noted that the obstacle in the hostage issue was the number [of prisoners] that Hamas demanded and which Israel opposed (Almayadeen.net, March 6, 2024).

► Other senior Hamas members also reiterated Hamas' demands. Some of them claimed that if Israel met them, Hamas might show "flexibility" regarding the hostage deal:

- ◆ **Bassem Na'im, a member of the Hamas leadership** in the Gaza Strip and the chairman of the political department, claimed Hamas did not have "extreme demands" [sic] regarding a ceasefire. However, Hamas meant a ceasefire and not a humanitarian truce, as the American administration wanted, regarding the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip, and the return of the displaced persons. He claimed Hamas' demands were "normal and reasonable" and should have been much stricter. He claimed Hamas could show great flexibility in the hostage deal if Israel agreed to its terms (Aljazeera.net, March 6, 2024).

- ◆ **Mahmoud Mardawi, a senior Hamas member**, said Hamas had five demands for the future and life of the Palestinian people: a ceasefire and withdrawal; a constant supply of aid, automatically accompanied by the lifting of the "siege;" gradual reconstruction [of the Gaza Strip] and agreement on a satisfactory deal. He claimed they would show flexibility regarding the prisoners [sic] after Israel agreed to the four demands related to the lives of the Palestinian people (al-Ghad TV YouTube channel, March 6, 2024)

- ◆ **Sami Abu Zuhri, head of Hamas' "external" political bureau**, stated that Israel's position was obvious, it was to obtain the hostages at a low price and then continue the [alleged] "war of extermination." He claimed it was impossible to agree to an arrangement which did not guarantee the three conditions (al-Jazeera Mubasher website, March 7, 2024).

► Meanwhile, Rai al-Youm, reportedly from "reliable sources," revealed Hamas' conditions for a cease-fire agreement, claiming **Khalil al-Haya, a senior Hamas member**, had transmitted them to Abbas Kamel, the head of the Egyptian General Intelligence, when the Hamas delegation was in Cairo. According to the article, al-Haya told Kamel that Hamas' terms were final and non-negotiable and included a demand to stop the war in the Gaza Strip a week before the start of releasing the hostages, an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip with

international guarantees for its permanence, and that the ceasefire not be defined as "humanitarian" but as a general cessation of "aggression" against the Gaza Strip. According to the report, Hamas is ready for the hostage deal to be carried out in several installments if international guarantees are provided. In addition, Hamas demands the release of all 57 [Palestinian terrorist] prisoners who were released in the Gilad Shalit exchange deal and redetained. It was also stated that for each installment, Hamas would submit the names of the hostages to be released 48 hours before the exchange was carried out. In addition, Hamas will demand the release of 16 prisoners who were sentenced to long prison terms, among them Marwan al-Barghouthi (Fatah) and Ahmed Saadat (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) (Rai al-Youm, March 6, 2024).³

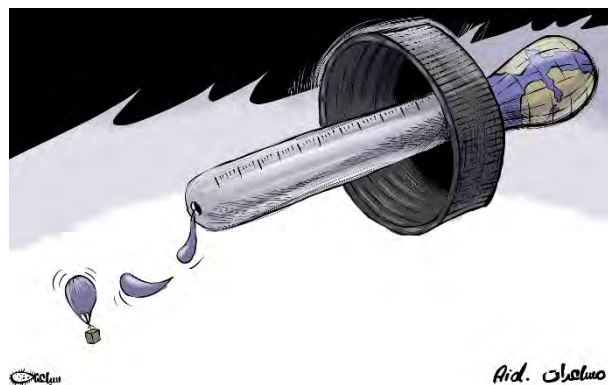
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The Gaza Strip

Palestinian casualties

► **The Hamas-controlled ministry of health in the Gaza Strip** reported at 11:40 a.m., March 7, 2024, that during the past day 83 Gazans had been killed and 142 wounded, bringing the number of dead since the beginning of the war to 30,800 and the number of wounded to 72,298 (ministry of health in Gaza Facebook page, March 7, 2024).

Aid for the Gaza Strip



Palestinian displeasure at the small amount international aid airlifted to the Gaza Strip
(Facebook page of Muhammad Sabaana, March 6, 2024)

³ The report was published by Zuhair Andrews, an Israeli Arab correspondent, who reports for a newspaper from Israel (Nazareth, according to the newspaper), and he usually bases his reports on the Israeli media. Although it was claimed to be "an exclusive report," its sources provided the information the al-Ra'i newspaper, which they claim is published in Israel. Furthermore, the report was initially published on social networks as early as March 5, and its origin is unclear.

The situation in the Gaza Strip



Residents return to Khan Yunis with the departure of IDF forces from several areas of the city
(Wafa YouTube channel, March 6, 2024)

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The Northern Arena

Hezbollah attacks

- ▶ During the past day, Hezbollah claimed responsibility for **four attacks** using anti-tank missiles and rockets, mortar shells and a UAV (Hezbollah combat information Telegram channel, March 6-7, 2024).
- ▶ On the afternoon of March 6, 2024, IDF forces shot down an explosive Hezbollah drone that crossed from Lebanese territory to the Metula area (IDF spokesperson, March 6, 2024). Hezbollah reported an attack using an unmanned explosive aircraft against the Narkiss outpost. The announcement claimed the aircraft hit its target precisely, adding that the attack was in response to Israeli attacks on villages and civilian homes in south Lebanon (Hezbollah combat information Telegram channel, March 6, 2024).

IDF response

- ▶ In response to Hezbollah activity, Israeli Air Force warplanes attacked one Hezbollah military structure in the Yaroun area and one in the Kafra area and one in the Kafr Hamam area (IDF spokesperson, March 6, 2024).



IDF attack in Kafra (IDF spokesperson, March 6, 2024)



Right: Attack in Yater. Left: Airstrike in Yaroun (Ali Shoeib's X account, March 6, 2024)

►"Western diplomatic sources" said Israel informed the Western countries that it had extended the deadline until March 15, 2024 to reach a political settlement with Lebanon, otherwise, it was prepared to escalate its military activity to the point of a full-scale war (al-Akhbar, March 7, 2024).

Lebanese casualties

►According to reports, so far Israeli attacks on the towns and villages in south Lebanon have killed more than 300 people, including 230 Hezbollah operatives, 12 Amal Movement operatives, a Lebanese army soldier, an operative of the Syrian National Socialist Party and more than 30 civilians; among the dead were Hamas and PIJ terrorist operatives (Janoubia, March 6, 2024).

Criticism of Hezbollah

►A news site identified as opposing Hezbollah criticized the organization's activities and noted that Hezbollah put all Lebanese into a bottleneck of a "hollow deterrence equation,"

which pushes them into the "furnace of the Israeli killing, destruction and displacement machine"⁴ (Janoubia, March 6, 2024).

The Lebanese government

► **Najib Mikati, prime minister of the Lebanese interim government**, met with Aroldo Lazzaro, UNIFIL commander. They discussed the situation in south Lebanon and the cooperation between the Lebanese army and the UNIFIL forces. Lazzaro briefed Mikati on the content of the UN Security Council's periodic report regarding the implementation of Resolution 1701 (Lebanese prime minister's office X account, March 6, 2024).

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Israel, Judea and Samaria

Terrorist attacks

► On the afternoon of March 6, 2024, a stabbing attack was carried out in the Neve Yaakov neighborhood of Jerusalem. A Palestinian who arrived at the scene stabbed an Israeli standing at the bus stop and fled the scene. The knife used in the attack was found at the scene. Shortly after the attack, the stabber, a 14-year-old boy from east Jerusalem, was detained (Israeli media, March 6, 2024).



Right: The scene of the stabbing attack in the Neve Yaakov neighborhood of Jerusalem.

Left: The knife used by the terrorist (Israel Police spokesman's unit, March 6, 2024)

Counterterrorism activities

► The Israeli security forces continued their counterterrorism activities in Judea and Samaria, detaining 34 wanted Palestinians. Since the beginning of the war, some 3,450 wanted

⁴ For further information, see the March 7, 2024 ITIC report, "Public Criticism in Lebanon of Hezbollah' Activity along the Israel-Lebanese Border"

Palestinians have been detained, including about 1,500 Hamas operatives (IDF spokesperson's X account, March 7, 2024).

► During the night, the Israeli security forces operated in Tubas and Tammun (eastern Samaria), detaining five wanted Palestinians, questioning suspects and locating weapons. Palestinians reportedly threw IEDs at the forces. The Israeli security forces also operated in the Jalazone refugee camp (north of Ramallah) and in Jab'a (west of Bethlehem), where they detained several wanted Palestinians (IDF spokesperson's X account, March 7, 2024).



IDF activity (IDF spokesperson, March 7, 2024)

Palestinian prisoners

► **Amani Sarhaneh, media director at the Palestinian prisoners' club**, said Israel had detained 11 people released in the exchange deal with Hamas in November 2023⁵, and later two of them were released. She said the last detainee was Hanan al-Barghouti (sister of Palestinian prisoner, Nael al-Barghouti), who was detained on March 5, 2024, in Kobar, near Ramallah. Sarhaneh said all the detainees were under the age of 19, except for two women: Asil Khader, 22 years old, and Hanan Barghouti, 60 years old (Anadolu News, March 5, 2024).

Palestinian Authority (PA)

► **Muhammad Shtayyeh, the PA's interim prime minister**, told CNN that now, after the resignation of the government, the Palestinians had an opportunity to unite with the result that the PA would control all the Palestinian territories, including the Gaza Strip, Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem [sic]. He noted there was now an opportunity to promote the idea of a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital. He said they had a plan, were prepared for it, and were in contact with the international community, including Saudi Arabia and the United States. He also said the airlifts of international aid in the Gaza Strip at the same time

⁵ The prisoners were released as part of the first hostage exchange deal in November 2023.

with Israel's continued attacks in the Gaza Strip were two contradictory things (Muhammad Shtayyeh's Facebook page, March 6, 2024).



**Muhammad Shtayyeh being interviewed on CNN
(Muhammad Shtayyeh's Facebook page, March 6, 2024)**

► Mohammed Shtayyeh met with the European commissioner for crisis management and humanitarian aid to speak on the Humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. Shtayyeh said humanitarian aid had to come along with ceasefire efforts. Otherwise, dropping aid from the air while Israel continued to drop bombs was a "wasted effort" (Wafa, March 6, 2024).



Mohammed Shtayyeh meets with the European commissioner for crisis management and humanitarian aid (Wafa, March 6, 2024)

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Iran

► **Esmail Qaani, commander of the Qods Force**, told a meeting of the Assembly of Experts in Tehran that the "resistance" had grown in stages with the encouragement of Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic revolution, and Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei until it reached its current strength. He noted that two decades ago, young Palestinians used to defend themselves with their bare hands and stones, but today the "resistance front," especially Hamas, was attacking the IDF with its weapons, posing a significant challenge to it.

According to Qaani, Israel exaggerated its success in the media, while its "only great victory" was the killing of some 40,000 people, most of them [allegedly] women and children. He said the ruins of the Gaza Strip would be reconstructed, but Israel's honor would not be restored. He added that the current struggle had proved that the "resistance front" was a network of interconnected groups with many capabilities, which had not yet reached its full potential, and that no one could ignore it (IRNA, March 6, 2024).

Pro-Iranian militias

Iraq

► The Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed responsibility for a UAV attack on the Kiryat Shmona airport (Islamic Resistance Telegram channel, March 6, 2024). In practice, no such incident occurred.



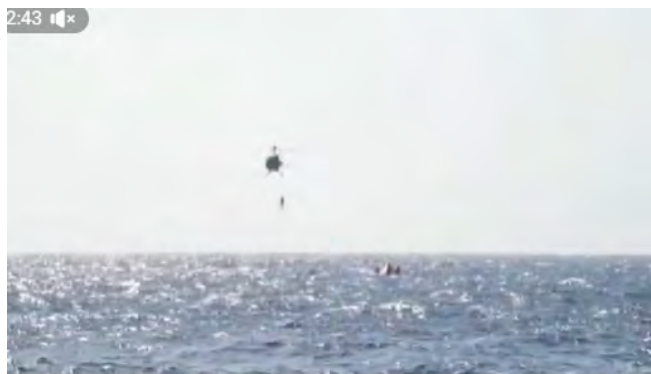
The launch of the UAV (Telegram channel of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, March 6, 2024)

Yemen

► The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) reported that on March 6, 2024, at around 11:30 a.m. (Sana'a time), an anti-ship ballistic missile was fired from a Houthi-controlled area in Yemen at the Liberian-owned ship True Confidence in the Gulf of Aden. The missile reportedly hit the vessel and the ship's crew reported three dead and at least four wounded, three of them in critical condition. The vessel was also significantly damaged (CENTCOM X account, March 7, 2024). This is the first time since the Houthis began attacking ships in which crew members were killed.

► **Yahya Saria, spokesman for the Houthi armed forces**, issued a statement announcing that the Houthis had attacked an American ship in the Gulf of Aden with several naval missiles. He said it had been a precise hit, causing fire on the ship. Saria noted that the attack occurred after the ship's crew rejected their warnings and that the Yemeni armed forces were renewing their warning to all ships in accordance with the calls of the Yemeni

navy, and all the crews of ships that were targeted had to leave quickly (Yahya Saria's Telegram channel, March 6, 2024).



The efforts to rescue the ship's crew (Indian Navy spokesperson's X account, March 7, 2024)

► **Muhammad Ali al-Houthi, a member of the Houthi political bureau**, said regarding the attack on the American ship that Yemen did not deliberately harm civilians. He said they did not intend to harm civilians, but if they were indeed killed on board, the United States was to blame and had to compensate the victims. Al-Houthi also said they were prepared to provide compensation, like the compensation that would be given to civilians in the Gaza Strip by the United States and Israel. He said once again they were warning in advance that they would continue their attacks (Mohammad Ali al-Houthi's X account, March 7, 2024).

► The United States Treasury Department announced that it had imposed sanctions on two companies and two ships that helped transport goods to Yemen on behalf of Saeed al-Jamal, an Iranian-based businessman. The proceeds from the sale of the goods reportedly helped the Houthis in carrying out attacks against international shipping traffic in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (United States Department of the Treasury website, March 6, 2024).

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The Arab Arena

Arab League

► **Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal al-Miqdad** met with the foreign ministers participating in Arab League meetings, including **Sameh Shoukry, Egyptian foreign minister, Abdallah Bou Habib, Lebanese foreign minister, and Shahin al-Marar, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs**. They discussed the need to take a united stand in support of the

Palestinians' struggle against Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria and the right of the Palestinians to establish an independent state (Syrian News Agency, March 6, 2024).

Egypt

► **Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**, during a visit by a delegation of the British Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee to Cairo, said that the danger of expanding the conflict in the Gaza Strip threatened the entire region. He stressed that a ceasefire had to be reached as soon as possible (al-Qahera 24, March 6, 2024).

Jordan

► **Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman al-Safadi** spoke with **American Secretary of State Antony Blinken** and discussed efforts to achieve a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and a hostage deal. Al-Safadi said the “aggression” against the Palestinians had to be stopped. He noted that more humanitarian aid had to be allowed into the Gaza Strip and had to reach all the districts in the Gaza Strip. They also said that escalation in Jerusalem had to be prevented during the month of Ramadan (Jordanian foreign ministry X account, March 7, 2024).

Reactions to Israel's approval for the construction of housing units in Judea and Samaria

► On March 7, 2024, the Supreme Planning Council of the Israeli Civil Administration approved promoting the construction of 3,500 housing units in Judea and Samaria, including housing units in Ma'ale Adumim, Efrat and Kedar (Israeli media, March 7, 2024). The decision provoked angry reactions in Arab countries and in the PA.

► **The foreign ministries of Egypt and Jordan** condemned the decision, saying it undermined any chance of achieving peace and establishing an independent and sovereign Palestinian state. They called on international actors to adopt a firm stance rejecting "Israel's settlement policy." They also called on the UN Security Council to stop "Israeli violations" of international law against the Palestinian people (Egyptian foreign ministry X account and Jordanian foreign ministry X account, March 6, 2024).

► **The Saudi Arabian foreign ministry** strongly condemned Israel's decision, stressing that it contradicted all international resolutions and laws and delayed the achievement of peace and stability in the region. The announcement also stated that the Palestinian people had to

be allowed to live in safety, obtain their rights, and establish a Palestinian state (Saudi Arabian foreign ministry X account, March 7, 2024).

► **Nabil Abu Rudeina, spokesman for Mahmoud Abbas' office**, said the approval reflected a clear Israeli attempt to drag the area into a general explosion that they had repeatedly warned about. He also said it showed that the international failure, and particularly the American failure, to punish Israel encouraged it to continue challenging international law (Wafa, March 6, 2024).