



- News
- Opinion
- Money
- Culture
- Jewish
- Travel
- Singles

### Fatal Mistake



Injured child evacuated Photo: Reuters



Results of IDF shelling in Beit Hanoun Photo: Reuters



Injured evacuated to hospital Photo: AFP

### Pride Dispute



Full coverage of the Jerusalem gay parade controversy

## 18 Palestinians killed in Beit Hanoun

**(VIDEO)** Dozens of missiles, shells directed at Qassam launching sites hit Beit Hanoun, 18 Palestinians killed, including seven children, 30 injured. IDF looking into incident, says 'terror groups use all means, launch rockets from populated areas'

Ali Waked  
Latest Update: 11.08.06, 11:10

**VIDEO** - One day after the Israel Defense Forces declared that it had [completed Operation Autumn Clouds](#) in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, 18 people were killed and at least 30 injured as a large number of shells was fired at the town.

According to the Palestinians, some of the shells hit homes, killing 13 members of one family. Seven children and four women were among those killed.

IDF officials said in response that the artillery fire was directed at a Qassam launching spot and another nearby spot from where Palestinians planned to launch Qassam rockets.

Shortly before the Gaza incident, Palestinian medical sources reported that [five Palestinians](#), including five gunmen and two civilians, were killed in an IDF operation in the village of Yamoun, near Jenin. The three are members of the al-Aqsa Brigades, Fatah's military wing.

- [Peretz orders immediate investigation into shelling](#)
- [Hamas responds: Israel must be wiped out](#)
- [After strike: Qassam fired at Sderot](#)

Shortly after the shells landed in Beit Hanoun, five Qassam rockets were fired from the southern Gaza Strip. One of the rockets landed in the center of the southern town of Sderot. A woman was lightly injured and several people were treated for shock. The other four rockets landed in open areas.

Should the gay pride parade be held in Jerusalem?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Select one and vote



Results

### Lexicon

- The State of Israel
- PM Ehud Olmert
- Israel's defense minister, Amir Peretz
- Chief of Staff, Dan Halutz
- Lebanon
- The Lebanon War
- Hizbullah, the "Party of God"
- Hizbullah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah
- The Shiites
- Iran
- Syria
- Syrian President Bashar al-Assad
- Sabra and Shatila Massacre
- Operation Accountability
- Operation Grapes of Wrath



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### Beit Hanoun following shelling (Video: Reuters)

The series of incidents began at 6 a.m., when sources in the Strip reported that dozens of tank shells and missiles landed simultaneously in a small and limited area in Beit Hanoun. Ambulances found it difficult to evacuate the wounded.

Palestinian sources in Gaza reported that some of those killed were hurt after shells hit a group of civilians who arrived to aid those hurt in the first barrage. Residents in the area were called to donate blood for fear that the number of casualties would be higher.



Beit Hanoun, Wednesday morning (Photo: AP)

Eyewitnesses reported that at least seven houses were hit in the strike, and most of the casualties were killed while still in bed.

Atef Khamed, a 22-year-old resident, told Reuters: "This is the most difficult event I have ever witnessed. We saw scattered body parts, heads, leg and amputated hands on the street."

Reuters also reported that the town's streets were filled with cries of children and cries for help. One of the residents looked for his son, calling out: "Where is my child?" His neighbors were not strong enough to tell him that his son was no longer alive.

Shortly after the Beit Hanoun incident, Palestinian sources in the

Gaza Strip reported that six Palestinian gunmen were injured, one of them sustaining critical wounds, by an IDF shell fired at a group located east of Gaza City.

Later, Palestinian gunmen fired at the European Union building in Gaza City. There were no reports of injuries.

There were later reports of a missile fired by an Israeli aircraft, injuring three armed Palestinians. Immediately afterwards, sources in the Strip reported that several other Palestinians were wounded by a missile fired by an Israeli aircraft, in the Sufa crossing area in the southern Strip.

### **IDF: Fire directed at Qassam launching sites**

Sources in the IDF confirmed that artillery was fired at the area during the morning hours, but stressed that it was directed at Qassam launching sites which are very far from the populated neighborhoods.

While the defense establishment is looking into the harsh reports from Beit Hanoun, IDF officials made it clear that there was no intention to hit populated areas.



**Injured evacuated in Beit Hanoun (Photo: AP)**

"We have to remember the reality we are living in, with terror organizations using all means and launching Qassam rockets at Israel, also from populated areas and from homes," a senior military source said.

"We have no interest in hurting a civil population. We are trying to use a very cautious policy and are succeeding with that. Those who are endangering the civil population are the terror organizations," the source added.

In any case, the IDF launched a comprehensive inquiry into the incident, and an instruction may be issued to freeze the artillery fire in the coming hours.

Military sources told Ynet that an initial investigation revealed that an IDF gunner battery fired 12 missiles at a spot from where Qassams were fired at Ashkelon on Tuesday, as well as a nearby spot from where terrorists were planning to fire Qassams on Wednesday morning, according to information obtained by the IDF.



According to military sources, the distance between these spots and the area where the civilians were residing was approximately 500 meters, and so far it is unclear whether an artillery shell hit the building and caused the killing of Palestinian civilians.

[Defense Minister Amir Peretz](#) instructed the IDF to halt its artillery fire in the upcoming hours.

The IDF recently reduced its artillery fire for fear of hurting innocent civilians and because it is less accurate than other means.

On June, the IDF investigated the incident which took place at the [Beit Lahiya beach](#), in which seven members of the Ghalia family were killed by what initially appeared to be Israeli shells.

According to findings presented by an investigation committee headed by Major General Meir Kalifi, the shells did not hit the family members. The use of artillery fire, however, was significantly reduced.

### **Hanan Greenberg, Shmulik Hadad and Efrat Weiss contributed to the report**

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1. **God Bless IDF!**  
Ze'ev, Haifa (11.08.06)
2. Stop the carnage!  
Adam Keller, Holon, Israel (11.08.06)
3. A Nebach **(End)**  
Reuven Brauner, Raanana, Israel (11.08.06)
4. Pals should wake up  
Art, Sydney (11.08.06)

5. Its dangerous for civilians to hide among terrorists. **(End)**  
Bunnie Meyer, Santa Monica, CA USA (11.08.06)
6. We have reached a new low  
Levi, Israel (11.08.06)
7. @Falihat  
Suzanne (11.08.06)
8. Resistance at any Price  
Palestine-my-love, AL Quds (11.08.06)
9. Future of this kind of actions !  
Ariya Gothelf, Gedera Israel (11.08.06)
10. definitely its a "human error" a "mistake" in targeting ! **(End)**  
fadi, lebanon (11.08.06)
14. **the PA can stop the killing**  
sandgroper (11.08.06)
15. # 2's only concern is for our enemy, he could care less  
Sergei, Ashkelon (11.08.06)
16. equivalence  
Michael, Haifa (11.08.06)
17. sad and tragic  
yonatan, nyc (11.08.06)
18. What a criminal state?  
Hisham, Palestine (11.08.06)
19. #16 to survive in this region, you have to be or they'll win **(End)**  
Mike, Israel (11.08.06)
20. To falihat  
Muna, Bethlehem (11.08.06)
21. #19  
Michael, Haifa (11.08.06)
22. Maybe not so technical errors  
Dr D, Jerusalem (11.08.06)
23. The difference between Israel and palestinians is.....  
Roni (11.08.06)
24. Mirror, mirror  
Sarit (11.08.06)
25. Looking at future  
Bancor, Genoa, Italy (11.08.06)
26. massacre  
truth (11.08.06)
27. to #23  
reallity (11.08.06)
28. Idiots  
Eli Swartz, Haifa (11.08.06)
29. Just forget about it Please  
Art, Sydney (11.08.06)
30. #23 I agree, your are even worst  
Nick, USA (11.08.06)
31. #6 Levi, did you in anyway  
NTI, Red Chili (11.08.06)
32. #8 Palestine-my-love (ass)  
NTI, Red Chili (11.08.06)
33. anti christ  
USA (11.08.06)
34. A field day for liberal leftists  
Arn, Tel-Aviv (11.08.06)
35. Gaza Slaughter  
Mohammad Ahmad, Belfast, UK (11.08.06)
36. #18 Your post is good,  
NTI, Red Chili (11.08.06)
37. #18 "Even animals do not kill without "  
linda (11.08.06)
38. oops we did it again  
damien, london, UK (11.08.06)
39. To all my pro-Arab friends  
Ze'ev, Haifa (11.08.06)


40. Remember This  
ab, Montreal, Canada (11.08.06)
41. Blueprint  
Support Israel, Norway (11.08.06)
42. They thrive on this to gain support and sympathy  
John, NZ (11.08.06)
43. to #9. then stop bitching about the price **(End)**  
aaron, ra'anana (11.08.06)
44. Not In My Name  
tsedek, israel (11.08.06)
45. Israel Doomsday now Irreversible...  
Hani, Free Palestine (11.08.06)
46. Stop blaming Israel  
Dan, Israel (11.08.06)
47. #8  
tsedek, israel (11.08.06)
48. to 34  
A.C (11.08.06)
49. Nit Israel's fault  
Paul, England (11.08.06)
50. It's all good.  
Mike (11.08.06)
51. #41 You say...  
Yosh, Abuja (11.08.06)
52. stop it  
waly, gaza (11.08.06)
53. to 51  
A.C (11.08.06)
54. I hate to make this point, but...  
USA (11.08.06)
55. This is most unfortunate! War is so ugly **(End)**  
(11.08.06)
56. #14 So, you are encouraging rocketing till "Final Soutlion"  
observer (11.08.06)
57. to #53  
Yosh, Abuja (11.08.06)
58. Why are some faces blurred out?  
Kyle, Southpark, CO, USA (11.08.06)
59. Autumn's clouds..see next Winter's barad  
Safia, Algeria (11.08.06)

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