

## Operation Breaking Dawn Brief #1 - Jewish Agency response – August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

אמירה אהרונוביץ  
מנכ"לית

1/ Throughout last week, communities in Israel's Gaza envelope area were under partial curfew, due to an imminent threat of a wide range attack by Islamic Jihad. It was reported that the terror group made plans to launch anti-tank guided missiles or commit a sniper attack on the border. Tensions around Gaza Strip spiked following the arrest of Islamic Jihad senior operative Bassam Saadi in Jenin on Monday night (August 1<sup>st</sup>). Saadi was taken in by forces in Jenin along with his son-in-law and aide, Ashraf al-Jada, and another member of the terror group was killed in a gun battle with troops. False rumors spread in Gaza regarding Saadi's alleged death were received in Gaza with promises of imminent revenge. The IDF later leaked images to reporters showing Saadi in good condition, with the aim of calming tensions.

Amira Ahronoviz  
Director General

2/However, Jihad leaders refused to heed calls by Hamas and Egypt to de-escalate and call off their revenge operation. The group's leader, Ziad Nahale, has been visiting Teheran these days and it is believed he pushed his organization to strike at all costs.

In a pre-emptive action, IDF eliminated last Friday (August 5<sup>th</sup>) Taysir Jabari, commander of the anti-tank arm of Islamic Jihad's military force. His organization responded with rocket and mortar fire, but so far only two smaller terror groups joined the attacks, while Hamas is so far contributing threats and condemnation, but no fire power.

At the time of the drafting of this document, 380 rockets have been fired from Gaza, of which 90 have fallen short, inside the Strip. Iron Dome had an interception rate of over 90%.

**3/The Jewish Agency is operating under emergency procedures to ensure the safety and protection of all those under its responsibility and jurisdiction in the areas under fire.** Measures have been taken to brief and protect some 3500 Olim in absorption centers and facilities, many of whom are experiencing this kind of violence for the first time. Some of them have come under incessant rocket fire throughout the weekend. It is envisaged to evacuate about 1000 of them to other parts of the country for a few days, until the fighting hopefully

subsidies. We are also taking appropriate measures to care for the approximately 4000 residents of Amigour old age homes. Our teams assist Olim and the elderly 24/7 to insure they are safe and all their needs are cared for.

We provide social and psychological assistance where needed. We also follow closely the needs of participants in our Experience programs who are currently in the Southern region: 2000 Masa participants, dozens of groups in shorter Israel Experience programs etc. All participants are briefed on protective drills and outdoor activities have been modified to adapt to current security requirements. Interested participants are given time and access to talk with their families. We provide access to crisis and stress helplines in all languages, responding to needs of participants from all over the world.

Most activities involving gatherings and outings have been postponed, while our security officers and professional teams are monitoring the situation and attending the various needs of all our groups, residents and participants. We maintain constant communication with security authorities and security directives are given to the educational and operational teams on the ground. Our Terror Victims Fund is preparing itself to extend its services where and when called for. We provide an immediate grant to any family who has suffered casualties, injuries or material damages to their home, while we accompany bereaved families from previous terror attacks. The latter find themselves in a particularly sensitive situation in current circumstances.

We look after our teams in the field in order to identify cases where support and assistance are needed to bolster resilience, both individual and familial. Where needed, we send reinforcements.

We monitor the developing situation through our organization's emergency forum, where all the urgent needs and necessities are processed. We are maintaining contacts with Mayors and heads of Regional Councils in the Gaza Envelope region in order to provide assistance to local inhabitants, in full coordination with the government branches. We will share these with our partners as soon as possible.

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