

Iran Update



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June 8, 2024, 2:00 pm ET

The Iran Update provides insights into Iranian and Iranian-sponsored activities abroad that undermine regional stability and threaten US forces and interests. It also covers events and trends that affect the stability and decision-making of the Iranian regime. The Critical Threats Project (CTP) at the American Enterprise Institute and the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) provides these updates regularly based on regional events. Click [here](#) to see CTP and ISW's interactive map of Israeli ground operations. This map is updated daily alongside the static maps present in this report. Click [here](#) to subscribe to the Iran Update.

CTP-ISW defines the “Axis of Resistance” as the unconventional alliance that Iran has cultivated in the Middle East since the Islamic Republic came to power in 1979. This transnational coalition is comprised of state, semi-state, and non-state actors that cooperate to secure their collective interests. Tehran considers itself to be both part of the alliance and its leader. Iran furnishes these groups with varying levels of financial, military, and political support in exchange for some degree of influence or control over their actions. Some are traditional proxies that are highly responsive to Iranian direction, while others are partners over which Iran exerts more limited influence. Members of the Axis of Resistance are united by their grand strategic objectives, which include eroding and eventually expelling American influence from the Middle East, destroying the Israeli state, or both. Pursuing these objectives and supporting the Axis of Resistance to those ends have become cornerstones of Iranian regional strategy.

We do not report in detail on war crimes because these activities are well-covered in Western media and do not directly affect the military operations we are assessing and forecasting. We utterly condemn violations of the laws of armed conflict and the Geneva Conventions and crimes against humanity even though we do not describe them in these reports.

Israeli forces rescued four Hamas-held hostages during a complex operation in the central Gaza Strip.[1] Hamas captured the four hostages from the Nova music festival during the October 7 attack.[2] This marks the second successful rescue of living hostages by Israel during the war.[3] Israeli forces engaged Palestinian fighters during the rescue and Palestinian fighters killed one Israeli officer during the engagement.[4] Hamas fighters fired a man portable air defense system at an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) helicopter in Nuseirat, where the rescue occurred.[5] The IDF acknowledged the presence of civilians in the area and estimated the number of casualties to be under 100. Palestinian reports said that hundreds of civilians died during the rescue.[6] An Israeli Army Radio correspondent reported that the IDF recently launched raids in eastern Bureij and eastern Deir al Balah in the central Gaza Strip prior to “provide cover” for the rescue operation.[7] US officials speaking to Western media said that the United States provided some intelligence to support the hostage rescue operation.[8]

The spokesperson for Hamas’ military wing threatened to capture more hostages and noted that most hostages remain in Hamas’ hands in response to the Israeli hostage rescue.^[9] Hamas referenced its May 2024 claims that it captured Israeli soldiers in Jabalia as evidence of its ability to take additional hostages.^[10] The IDF has previously denied that Hamas kidnapped an Israeli soldier in Jabalia in May 2024.^[11] Hamas also said that Israel killed other hostages while conducting the rescue.^[12] Hamas stated that Israel’s rescue operation does not alter what it calls Israel’s “strategic failure” in the Gaza Strip.^[13] Hamas commended its fighters who engaged Israeli forces during the rescue and criticized the United States for its involvement in the operation.^[14]

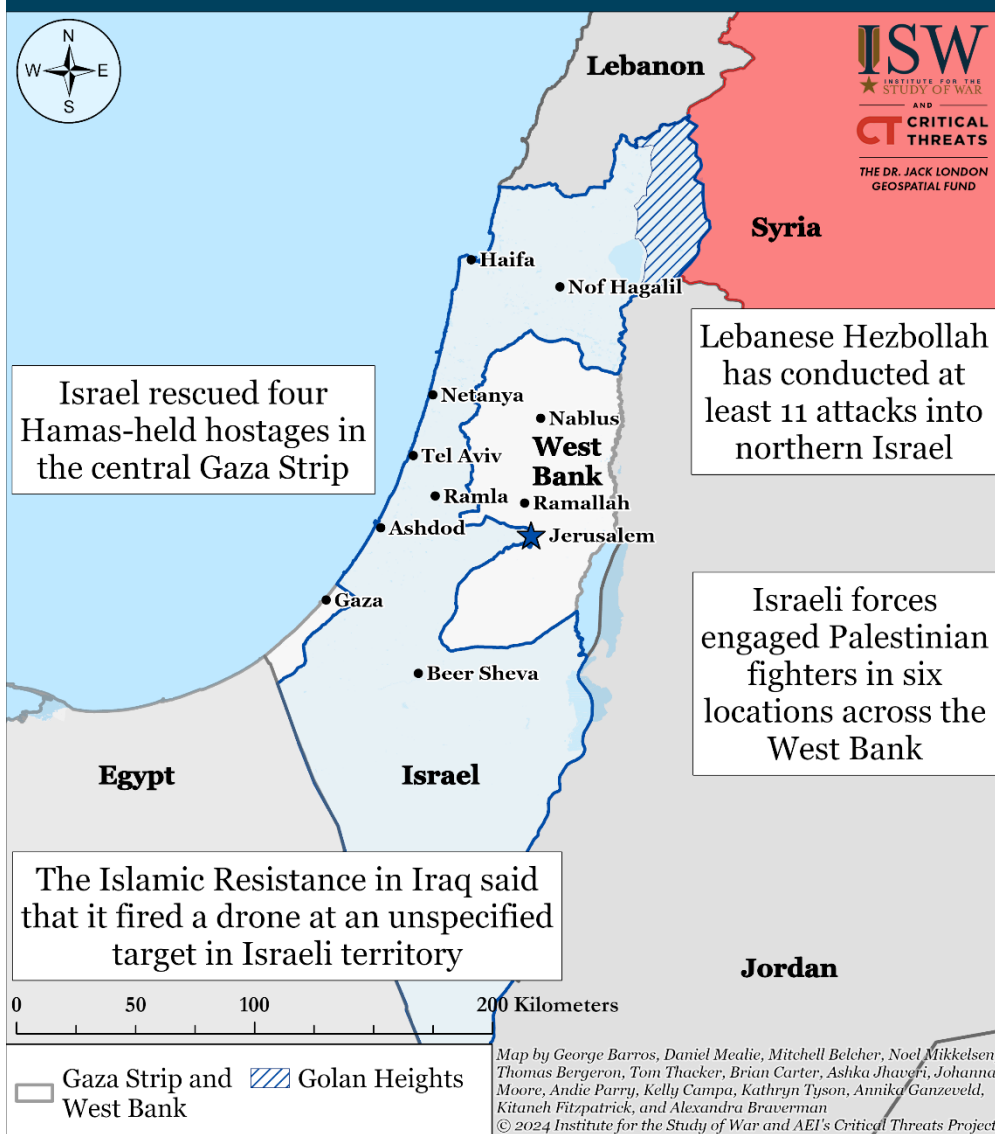
Israeli war cabinet minister Benny Gantz canceled his June 8 speech, in which he was expected to announce his resignation from the coalition government.^[15] He made this decision following the Israeli hostage rescue. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Gantz not to leave the government during “this time for unity.”^[16]

Key Takeaways:

- **Gaza Strip:** The IDF rescued four hostages in an operation in Nuseirat, central Gaza Strip. Palestinian fighters killed one Israeli officer during the rescue. Separately, Israeli War Cabinet minister Benny Gantz canceled a speech in which he was expected to announce his resignation from the Israeli coalition government.
- **West Bank:** Israeli forces engaged Palestinian fighters in at least six locations across the West Bank since CTP-ISW’s last data cut off on June 7.
- **Lebanon:** Lebanese Hezbollah has conducted at least 11 attacks into northern Israel since CTP-ISW’s last data cutoff on June 7.
- **Yemen:** US CENTCOM destroyed a Houthi patrol boat in the Red Sea on June 7.

Key Takeaways in the Israel-Hamas War

As of June 8, 2024 at 2:00 PM ET



Gaza Strip

Axis of Resistance objectives:

- Erode the will of the Israeli political establishment and public to sustain clearing operations in the Gaza Strip
- Reestablish Hamas as the governing authority in the Gaza Strip

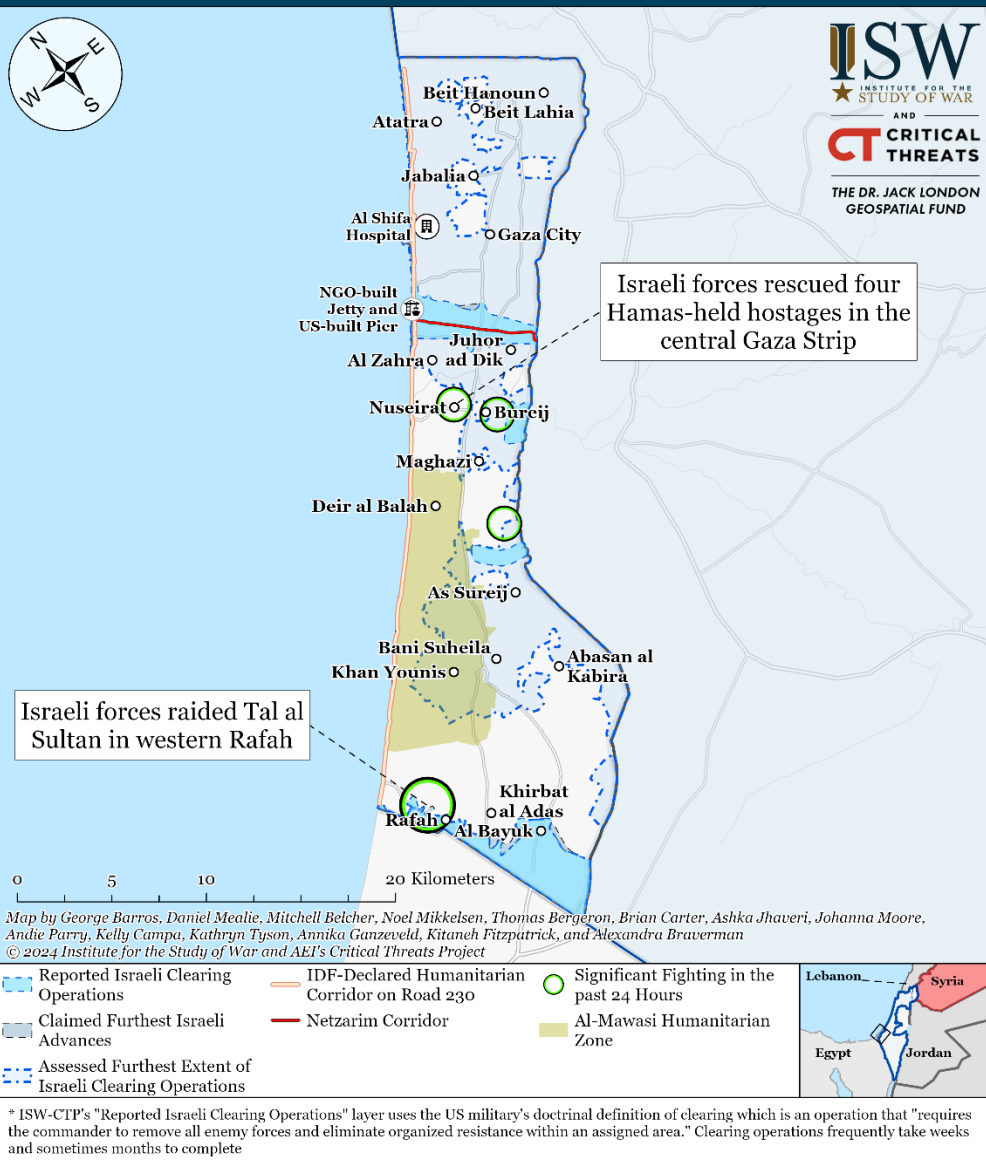
The IDF 99th Division continued to operate along the Netzarim Corridor in southern Gaza City on June 8.^[17] Palestinian Islamic Jihad fighters mortared Israeli forces operating along the corridor.^[18] Hamas claimed two attacks targeting Israeli forces in Gaza City's Zaytoun neighborhood.^[19]

The IDF continued clearing operations in eastern Deir al Balah and eastern Bureij.[20] The IDF Air Force struck militia infrastructure in the area and reported that there were secondary explosions caused by the airstrike. A Palestinian activist reported violent clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian militia fighters east of Bureij and Maghazi.[21] Palestinian militias claimed attacks targeting Israeli forces using mortars and small arms in eastern Deir al Balah.[22] An Israeli Army Radio correspondent said that the IDF launched raids in the central Gaza Strip as a cover for the hostage rescue operation in Nuseirat.[23] It is unclear if the IDF will continue operations in eastern Deir al Balah and eastern Bureij following the rescue operation.

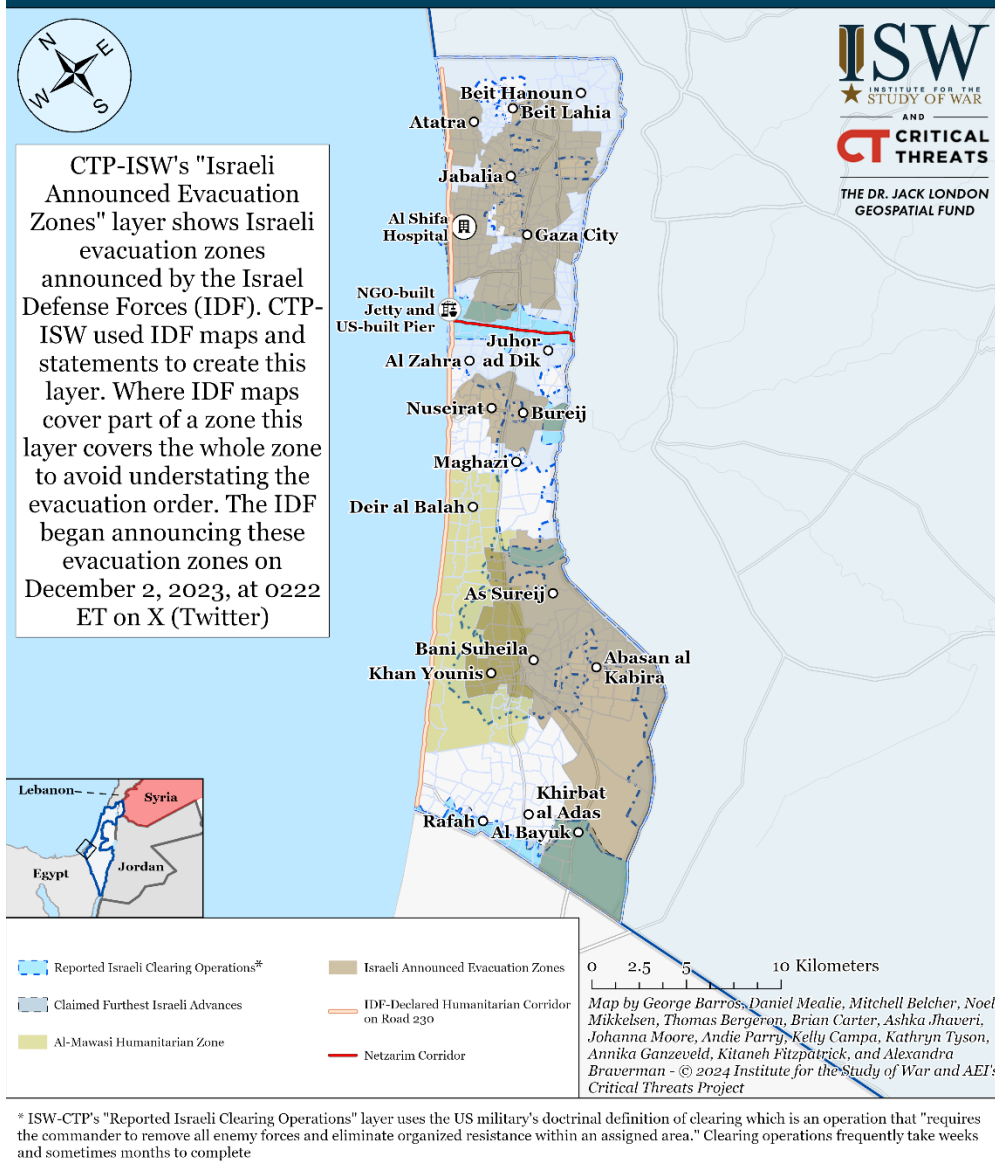
Israeli forces continued clearing operations in western Rafah on June 8.[24] The IDF 401st Brigade raided Tal al Sultan, western Rafah, and destroyed a Hamas training facility.[25] Palestinian militias claimed attacks in several sectors of Rafah, including western Rafah.[26]

Reported Israeli Ground Operations in the Gaza Strip

As of June 8, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



Israeli-Announced Evacuation Zones in the Gaza Strip As of June 8, 2024 at 2:00 PM ET

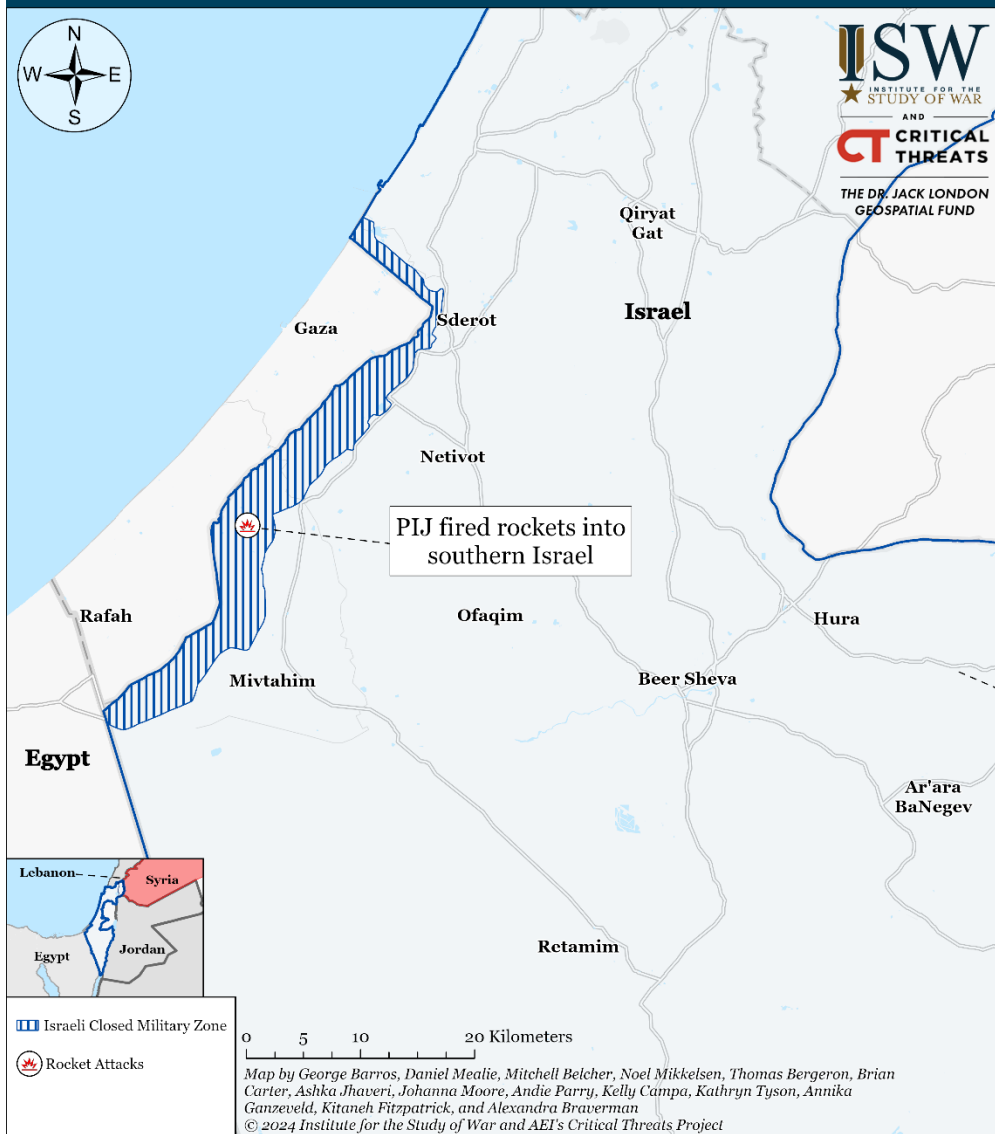


The IDF began “reinforcing security” near the US-constructed temporary pier in Gaza City to begin facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid.[27] US CENTCOM reattached its temporary pier off the coast of the Gaza Strip on June 7 after it suspended operations due to damage sustained at sea.[28]

Palestinian militias conducted one indirect fire attack from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel on June 8.[29]

Attacks into Israel from the Gaza Strip

As of June 8, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



Recorded reports of attacks; CTP-ISW cannot independently verify impact.

West Bank

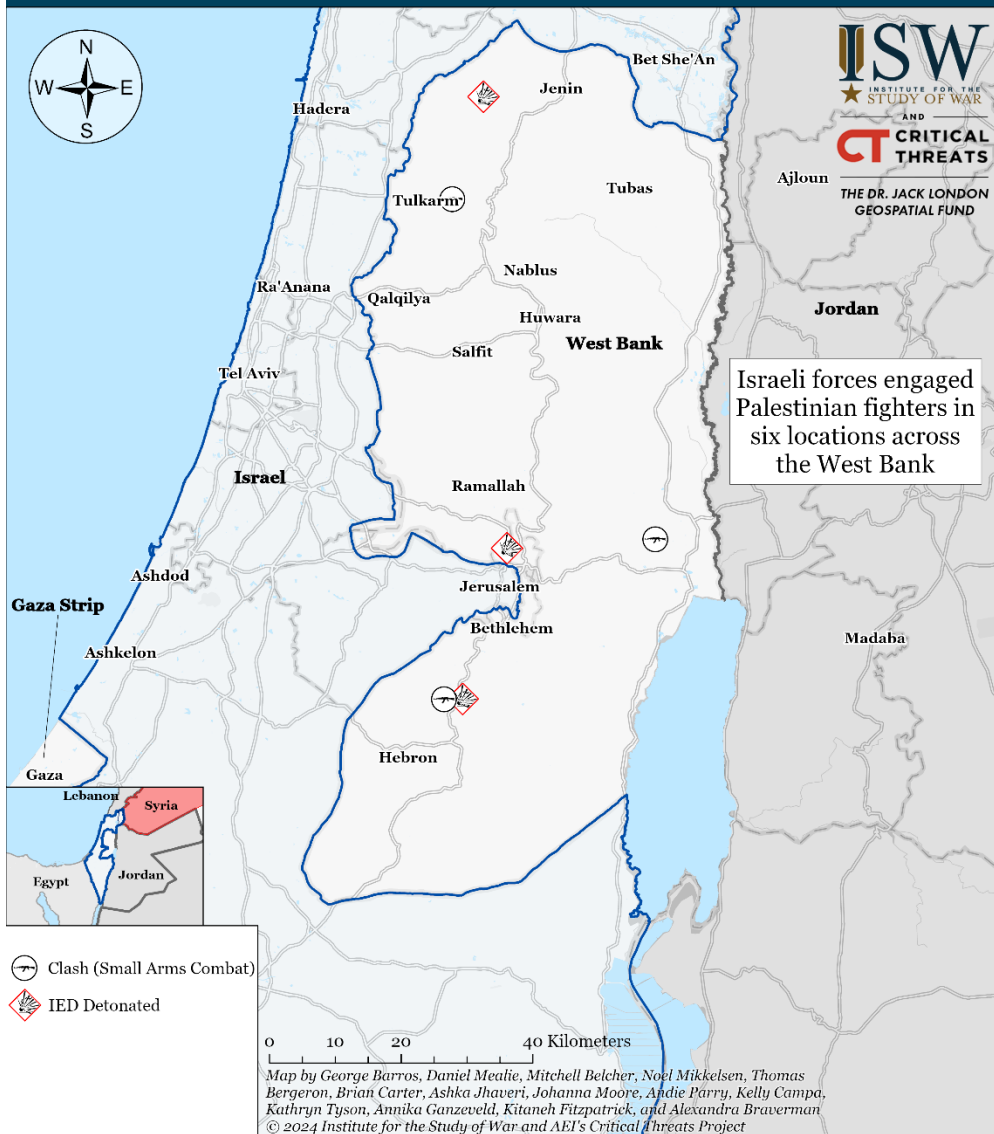
Axis of Resistance objectives:

- Establish the West Bank as a viable front against Israel

Israeli forces engaged Palestinian fighters in at least six locations across the West Bank since CTP-ISW's last data cut off on June 7.[30]

Significant Activity in the West Bank

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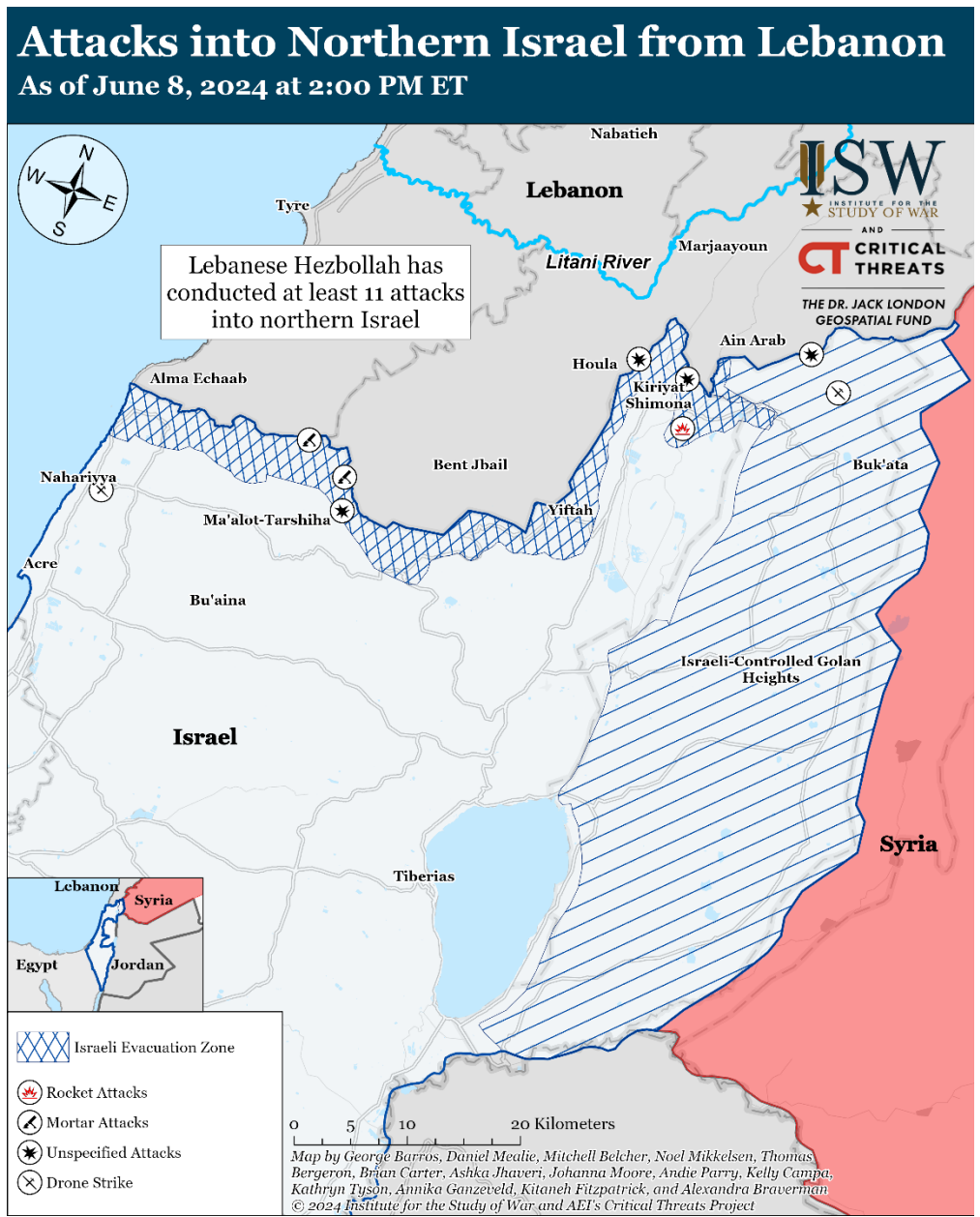
This map is not an exhaustive depiction of clashes and demonstrations in the West Bank.

Southern Lebanon and Golan Heights

Axis of Resistance objectives:

- Deter Israel from conducting a ground operation into Lebanon
- Prepare for an expanded and protracted conflict with Israel in the near term
- Expel the United States from Syria

Lebanese Hezbollah has conducted at least 11 attacks into northern Israel since CTP-ISW's last data cutoff on June 7.[31]



Recorded reports of attacks; CTP-ISW cannot independently verify impact.

Iran and Axis of Resistance

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed on June 7 that it launched a drone at an unspecified target in Israeli territory.[32] Saraya Awliya al Dam, an Iraqi militia facade group with suspected ties to Kataib Sayyida al Shuhada and Kataib Hezbollah, said on June 8 that the Islamic Resistance in Iraq targeted the Rabin power station in Caesarea, Israel.[33]

US CENTCOM destroyed a Houthi patrol boat in the Red Sea on June 7.[34]



[1] <https://x.com/idfonline/status/1799369817021112693> ; <https://x.com/idfonline/status/1799389200912974152>;

- [2] <https://x.com/idfonline/status/1799389200912974152>
- [3] https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-announces-rescue-of-2-hostages-from-rafah-now-safely-back-in-israel/
- [4] (https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/police-say-officer-arnon-zamora-dies-of-wounds-from-hostage-rescue-op/; <https://x.com/idfonline/status/1799448388468936966>)
- [5] <https://t.me/qassam1brigades/2421>
- [6] https://x.com/Doron_Kadosh/status/1799420654317400186; <https://t.me/QudsN/418290>; <https://x.com/ytirawi/status/1799386685047964004> <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2024/06/08/world/israel-gaza-war-hamas/hospital-officials-say-more-than-200-people-were-killed-in-central-gaza?smid=url-share>; <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2024/06/08/world/israel-gaza-war-hamas/hospital-officials-say-more-than-200-people-were-killed-in-central-gaza?smid=url-share>
- [7] https://x.com/Doron_Kadosh/status/1799420654317400186
- [8] <https://www.axios.com/2024/06/08/israel-hostage-rescue-gaza-music-festival>; <https://t.me/sarayaps/18061>
- [9] <https://t.me/QudsN/418336>; <https://t.me/QudsN/418337>; <https://t.me/QudsN/418335>
- [10] <https://abcnews.go.com/International/live-updates/israel-hamas-gaza-may/hamas-claims-to-have-captured-and-killed-israeli-soldiers-idf-denies-110566250?id=110380947>; <https://t.me/QudsN/418335>
- [11] <https://abcnews.go.com/International/live-updates/israel-hamas-gaza-may/hamas-claims-to-have-captured-and-killed-israeli-soldiers-idf-denies-110566250?id=110380947>
- [12] <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/hamas-armed-wing-says-israel-killed-some-its-hostages-operation-central-gazas-al-2024-06-08/>
- [13] <https://t.me/QudsN/418335>
- [14] <https://t.me/QudsN/418337>
- [15] <https://t.me/moriahdoron/10860>; <https://www.axios.com/2024/06/08/israel-hostage-rescue-gaza-music-festival>
- [16] <https://x.com/netanyahu/status/1799494513448169688>
- [17] <https://x.com/idfonline/status/1799332778385031243>
- [18] <https://t.me/sarayaps/18061>
- [19] <https://t.me/qassam1brigades/2422>; <https://t.me/qassam1brigades/2423>
- [20] <https://x.com/idfonline/status/1799332771493748842>
- [21] <https://t.me/QudsN/418084>
- [22] https://t.me/elaqsa_1965/6586; <https://t.me/darebmojahden/4810>; <https://t.me/sarayaps/18063>
- [23] https://x.com/Doron_Kadosh/status/1799420654317400186
- [24] <https://x.com/idfonline/status/1799332768184463467>
- [25] <https://x.com/idfonline/status/1799332768184463467>
- [26] <https://t.me/qassam1brigades/2418>; <https://t.me/qassam1brigades/2419>; <https://t.me/sarayaps/18065>; <https://t.me/sarayaps/18066>
- [27] <https://x.com/idfonline/status/1799332761704239328>
- [28] <https://x.com/CENTCOM/status/1799068478751797680>
- [29] <https://t.me/sarayaps/18064>
- [30] <https://t.me/QudsN/418057>; <https://t.me/QudsN/418039>; <https://t.me/QudsN/418037>; <https://t.me/QudsN/418031>; <https://t.me/QudsN/417996>; <https://t.me/QudsN/417983>
- [31] https://x.com/Doron_Kadosh/status/1799141096791957749; <https://t.me/mmirleb/4609>; <https://t.me/mmirleb/4613>; <https://t.me/mmirleb/4614>; <https://t.me/mmirleb/4615>; <https://t.me/m>

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[32] <https://t.me/ElamAlmoqawama/1174>

[33] <https://www.shafaq dot>

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[34] <https://x.com/CENTCOM/status/1799166170446118977>