IAF hits Gaza terrorists hiding in media building
Hamas, Islamic Jihad fire 130 rockets on South • Seven wounded, nine treated for shock

— By Tamir Levi

Israel’s Operation Pillar of Defense continued on its sixth day on Monday. The Israeli Air Force struck over 80 terror targets in Gaza, while Hamas and Islamic Jihad fired 130 rockets into Israel.

The IAF has struck over 1,300 targets in Gaza since the start of Operation Pillar of Defense, including 60 on Monday. The targets included command-and-control sites, underground rocket launchers, and four Islamic Jihad terrorists.

Southern cities were repeatedly targeted by Palestinian rocket attacks and air raid sirens sent people running for cover in Ashkelon, Ashdod, Beer Sheva, and towns and villages across the South. Two rockets fell in Tel Aviv, and one caused major damage to a school in Ashkelon that was closed due to the conflict with Hamas and other terror groups in Gaza.

Medical teams treated 16 patients on Monday, including a 60-year-old woman who fell by calling for help from a window, and a 14-year-old boy who was shot in the thigh.

None of the 16 are suffering from shock and anxiety, medical said.

MDA forces have dealt with over 2,000 casualties since the beginning of the Gaza operation, including three killed by a rocket in Kiryat Malachi and 21 injured as a result of falling debris.

The Iron Dome intercepted more than 20 rockets on Monday, and 90 rockets in total since the start of the operation.

The IAF launched a precision air strike on four senior Islamic Jihad terrorists who were using a Gaza media building as a hideout. The terrorists were all struck by a missile that hit the second story of the building. They were killed in the blast, and at least one has been killed, according to Palestinian medical sources.

They have been identified as Alaa Abu Aita, Nidal Mahamoud Jalbouj, Khalil Baharini, and Ramzi Barzil.

EU asserts Islam's right to self-defense, calls for end to violence

Israel supports air operation but not ground offensive

GPO: Foreign press can go to Gaza

IAF

Continued from Page 3

Brigadiers massed at the border with Gaza, IAF Chief Staff Lt.-Gen. Benny Gantz said: “I trust you, when I repeat this spring... and you trust me that I will only release it when I think it is the necessary thing to do. I won't do it beforehand. Good luck.”

IAF Spokesman Yoav Mordechai said, “We are in the sixth day of Operation Pillar of Defense; the command and control of the Hamas leadership has been heavily hit, from Jabaliya and throughout other senior members. We will examine the results. In recent days, we've struck rocket launching sites and tunnels, rocket launching sites and tunnels were struck.”

Dozens of smuggling tunnels have been hit. Hamas bases and weapons depots have been severely hit. The operation is continuing throughout.

Mordechai added that the IAF also struck rocket-launching tunnels, trying to shoot projectiles into Israel.

“The scale of the rocket fire is decreasing. While it is continuing, terrorists are starting to retreat from open areas, and the rocket-launching efforts are moving to central Gaza,” he said.

The IAF also struck a soccer stadium used by the rockets and stone weapons. Yasir Arafat said it had been "turned into a terror stadium. It was hit and destroyed."

Senior counter-terrorist expert Dr. Ely Karmon, of the Herzliya-based Institute for Counter-Terrorism, told The Jerusalem Post that Israel's target in Gaza has been Hamas, not Israeli civilians, and it's not a war of aggression, but a war of self-defense.

"This is the second week of the situation, to make it clear, we are not talking about a nuclear war. We are talking about a war of existence, to stop the rocket attacks and to prevent Hamas from using them against Israeli civilians," he added.

"Hamas is driven, in my opinion, by the desire to see a more effective Egyptian regime in place, which will prevent them from reaching the open fields and complicate their efforts to open the border crossings with Gaza," Karmon said.

He warned that if Israel is not ready to make a genuine attempt to launch a pressure on Lebanon, it would lead to a new round of fighting in southern Lebanon.

On Tuesday night, a rocket directly hit a house near Kiryat Malachi. No rockets were reported, but the rocket caused damage to the building.

A witness on the scene, Gil Goldberg, 17, told the Post that he was cooling off in the open field and was hit by a rocket. "I saw the rocket, and then the explosion," he said.

The residents of the house had taken cover in the safe room. The rocket was part of a wave of several Grads, many of which were intercepted by Iron Dome interceptors over Ashkelon.

Goldberg said that the IAF must continue its operation in Gaza.