





**THE CURRENT
CRISIS IN ISRAEL**



**What is the
Gaza Strip?**



Gaza
2.1 million
people

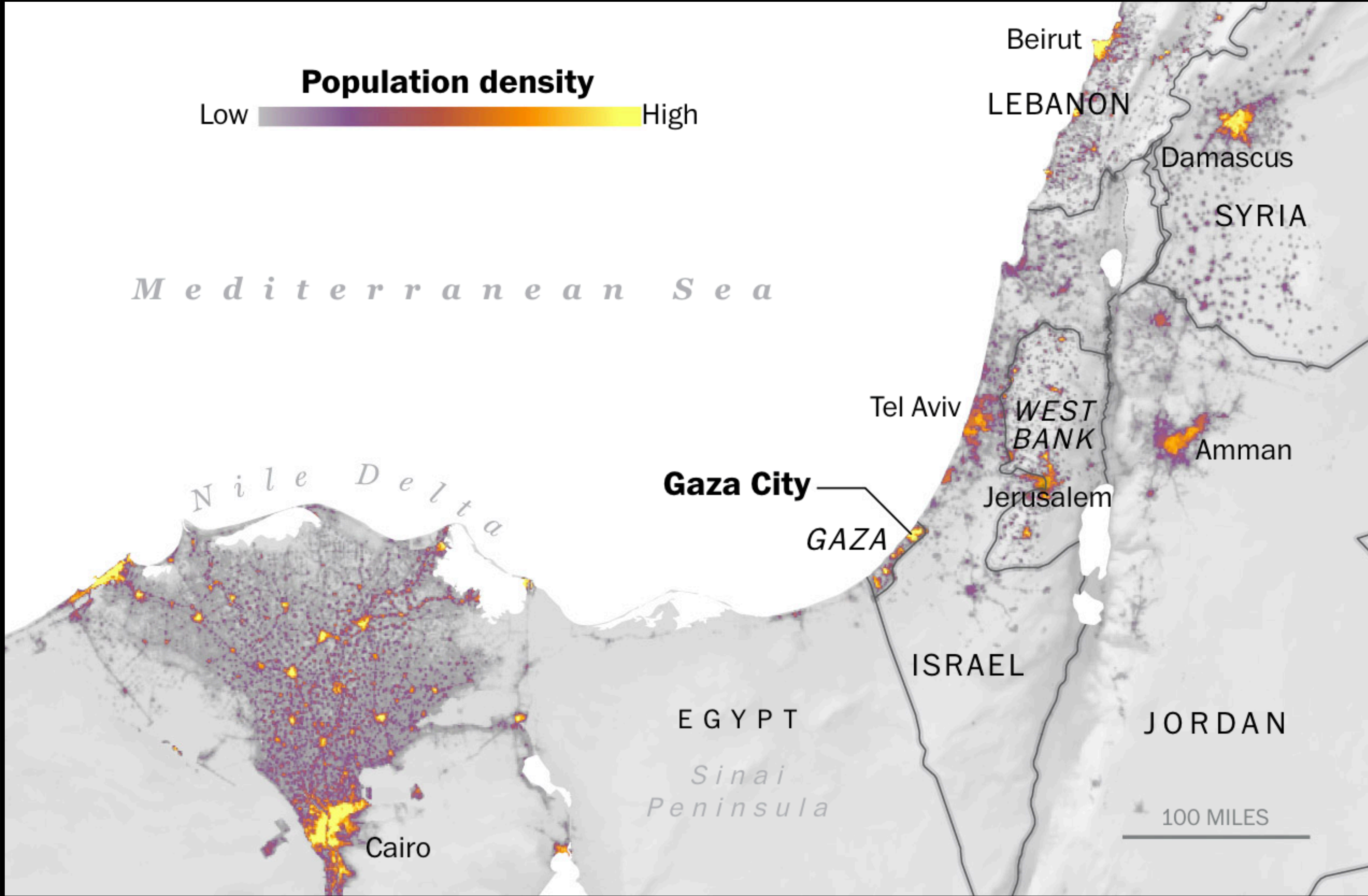
Gaza
City

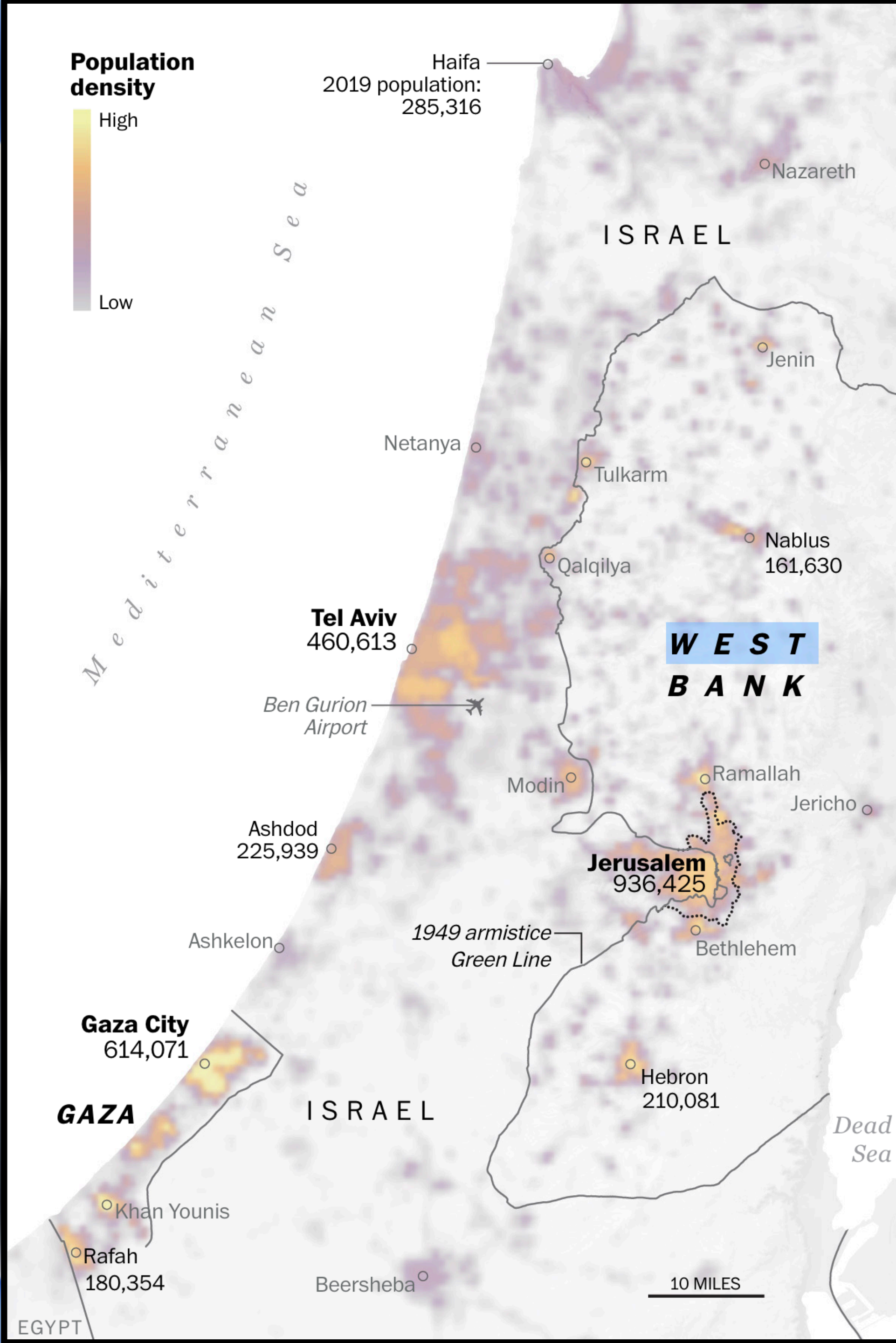
Khan
Younis

Rafah

Washington D.C.
690,000

5 MILES







**Who governs and
who controls it?**



**What is
Hamas?**

HAMAS:

Hamas, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, is a militant terrorist organization that governs the Gaza Strip, a 25-mile-long, densely populated enclave of more than 2.1 million people. Hamas emerged in 1987 as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood during the first Palestinian intifada, or uprising, against the Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. Unlike the Palestinian Authority, Hamas does not recognize the existence of Israel and is committed to replacing it through armed struggle with a Palestinian, Islamic state stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River.



**Who are the
Palestinians?**

PALESTINIAN:

The Palestinian people are an Arab ethno-nationalist group residing primarily in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Israel, Jordan and parts of southern Lebanon and Syria. Significant Palestinian communities are located in other countries as well, including Saudi Arabia and the United States, which is home to about 85,000 people of Palestinian descent according to a 2013 U.S. Census figure. There are roughly 13 million Palestinians in the world, the vast majority of whom are Sunni Muslims, though a significant minority is Christian. Nearly 5 million live in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and another 1.9 million in Israel. The remaining population lives elsewhere, with the largest communities in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

PALESTINIAN:

“Palestine” is not mentioned in the Hebrew Bible or New Testament. It does occur at least eight times in eight verses of the Hebrew concordance of the King James Bible. The name “Palestine” became common in Early Modern English. It was used, for example, by the Crusaders in the Middle Ages. According to Bernard Lewis, Europeans' reference to the Holy Land as “Palestine” gained greater currency beginning with the Renaissance. Leading up to Israel's independence in 1948, it was common for the international press to label Jews, not Arabs, living in the mandate as Palestinians.



**What is
Zionism?**

ZIONISM:

Zionism is the movement for the self-determination and statehood for the Jewish people in their ancestral homeland, the land of Israel. The vast majority of Jews around the world feel a connection or kinship with Israel, whether or not they explicitly identify as Zionists, and regardless of their opinions on the policies of the Israeli government.

<https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/zionism>



MYTH

This is because of Israeli occupation.

FACT

More than 18 years ago Israel forcibly removed its own citizens from Gaza and returned all of it to the Palestinian people to thrive in freedom. Hamas overtook Gaza in 2006 and has since exercised its freedom to impoverish and oppress Palestinians, impose medieval restrictions on women, and terrorize and murder innocent Israelis, while blaming it all on an Israeli “occupation” that does not exist.



MYTH

Hamas is not antisemitic, just anti-Zionist.

FACT

“The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.’” (Hamas Covenant, Article 7) Hamas does not only seek to murder Zionists and Israelis; they want all Jews dead...all.

@steve_leder

MYTH

Hamas fighters are militants.

FACT

They are not. They are terrorists, defined as such by the United States, Canada, the UK, all 35 countries in the Organization of American States, and scores of others.

MYTH

Hamas is the real enemy.

FACT

Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad are funded, trained, supplied and assisted by Iran. This latest Hamas massacre is an Iranian backed effort to sabotage a potential peace agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which would further marginalize the failing State of Iran.



What can

WE do?





1. Post this image of a ribbon hung on an olive tree on your social media profiles. You can download the picture from the QR below or share it directly from our Instagram, Facebook, or LinkedIn pages.

2. Share your “why” — tell your friends, family, and online community about the devastating reality in Israel, why it matters to you, and encourage them to participate in this campaign in solidarity.

3. Donate and support efforts on the ground. Over the coming days, we will develop and routinely update a central resource of the many different grassroots campaigns and organizations who are providing services to victims.



Together, with your participation, we can keep the world’s attention on this humanitarian crisis and ensure none of these people are ever forgotten.

What can WE do?

- Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia: many of these funds will be directed to desperately needed social services.
- Join Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia on Monday at 4p on the north side of City Hall for a rally of solitary and support of Israel.



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- FIDF: Friends of the IDF is the sole organization authorized to collect charitable donations on behalf of the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces across the United States of America.



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- Zaka: non-governmental rescue and recovery organization, with over 3,000 volunteers deployed around the country, on call 24/7 to respond to any terror attack, disaster, or accident immediately, professionally, and with the necessary equipment. ZAKA, a civilian volunteer organization with sole responsibility in Israel for dealing with incidents of unnatural death, works in close cooperation with all the emergency services and security forces.



Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism



Urge President Biden and Congress to Continue Supporting Israel

On the morning of October 7, Iran-backed terror group Hamas launched an unprecedented and horrific attack on the State of Israel. Hamas militants infiltrated Israel from air, land, and sea, massacring over one thousand Israelis and taking more than 150 Israelis hostage, including women, children, and the elderly. More than 5,000 rockets have been fired into Israel so far, continuing to target communities across the country.

Urge President Biden and Congress to continue to stand with Israel and lead other nations to do the same.



A Prayer for Israel

Sovereign of All the World —
accept our plea on behalf of the state and people of Israel;
pour forth Your blessing on the land and all who call it home.

May Your laws of kindness guide its people;
and may the teaching of Your prophets
live within their hearts and ours —

“Only to do justice,
and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.”

-(Micah 6:8)

A Prayer for Israel

Awaken Your spirit in the Jewish people and the whole human family;
implant within us all patience and mutual respect;
uproot from our midst hatred, violence, coercion, and exploitation.

We pray for strength of body and spirit to journey to the land,
and to be a true friend of the land and its people — a lover of Zion.

May life there become “shevet achim gam yachad . . .
brothers and sisters dwelling together.” (Psalm 133:1)

And in every corner of the earth, spread Your shelter of peace over the
House of Israel.

A Prayer for Israel

Strengthen the will and stamina of Israel's soldiers;
fill with courage the hearts of those who shield the land.
Let their spirits be resilient and their use of arms pure.
Valiant in war, ever-striving for peace —
may they overcome all enemies,
as You guard them in the shadow of Your wings.

A Prayer for Israel

For this, and this alone, we pray:
Make peace in the land;
may all its inhabitants be blessed;
and may this vision of Your prophet soon be achieved —
“Nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
Neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4)
Amen

-Prayer for Israel by Rabbi Sheldon Marder, from Mishkan HaNefesh (CCAR Press, 2015)

HaTikvah

Kol ode balevav P'nimah
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah

Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah
Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah.

Ode lo avdah tikvatenu
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim:

L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu -
Eretz Tzion v'Yerushalayim.

כל עוד בלבב פנימה
נפש יהודי הומייה

ולפאתי מזרח קדימה
עין לציון צופיה

עוד לא אבדה תקוותינו
התקווה בת שנות אלפיים

להיות עם חופשי בארצנו
ארץ ציון וירושלים

