



# 500 DAYS!

## The Evolution of Global Public Opinion since October 7, 2023

October 2023-May 2024  
An Analysis on the Remembrance Day of Anti-Semitism –  
Part 1

by Brigitte B. Nussbächer



*Remembering the victims. Photo: Shutterstock*

*On October 07th, 2023 thousands of Jews were injured, around 1,200 murdered and over 250 kidnapped by terrorists- on Israeli territory! The following day, Israel began the fight to defend itself, free the hostages and destroy the murderous terrorist organization.*

*The question is, whether the world would look away again - as it did 85 years ago during the Holocaust - or would it react differently this time? Facts from the past 500 days provide the answer.*



## World Reactions to the Middle East Conflict during the First Six Months



*The UN and its institutions adopt resolutions on Israel. Photo: Shutterstock*

The initial reactions are: shock, expressions of solidarity and visits of condolence. The atrocities are incomprehensible. What happened there, shakes to the core. But as soon as Israel attacks Hamas in the Gaza Strip, other images come to the forefront and the tide turns.

The first United Nations (UN) resolution after the massacre, on **October 27, 2023**, does not mention Hamas by name, does not condemn the atrocities committed by the terrorists and does not confirm Israel's right to self-defense under international law. Instead, it demands an immediate ceasefire from Israel, as well as the provision of water, food, fuel, electricity and “unhindered” access for humanitarian aid for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

In **November 2023**, due to a binding order from the UN Security Council, there is a brief ceasefire between Israel and Hamas during which some of the Israeli hostages (children and women) are released. Many of them were dual nationals and a number were Thai hostages. For every Israeli hostage, Israel had to release three times the number of convicted Palestinian prisoners. In addition, large quantities of goods were delivered to the Gaza Strip. Hamas was able to take these and to replenish its supplies, reposition itself and broke the ceasefire after a few days. It declared that the remaining 137 hostages would only be released in return for thousands of convicted Palestinian prisoners. In retrospect, this hostage agreement was a great success for the UN and also for Israel. Never again in the following 12 months could Hamas be persuaded to release a single hostage. A few were liberated by the Israeli army in heavy fighting, but often the Israel Defense Force (IDF) could only recover bodies. One year after the kidnapping, 101 hostages are still in the hands of the terrorists, and it is assumed that probably half of them are no longer alive.

In **December 2023**, the UN Security Council again passed a resolution to increase humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip.

On December 29, South Africa filed a lawsuit against Israel for “genocide against the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip” with the UN International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague. Chile, Colombia, Libya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Palestine, Spain and Turkey joined the complaint. Israel's defense presented evidence regarding the protective measures taken for the civilian population and demonstrated the large amount of humanitarian aid brought into Gaza. Nevertheless, on January 26, 2024, the ICJ recognized the plausibility of South Africa's allegations and ordered a series of interim measures against Israel, to ensure that no genocide would be committed.



In **January 2024**, Israel published details of the involvement of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) staff in the October 7 massacre. Some countries, including Germany, temporarily suspended their payments as a result. However, by April, all countries except the USA had resumed their payments, despite evidence that children were being educated to hate Jews in UNRWA run schools and despite Hamas making use of UNRWA structures. In August 2024, the UN dismissed nine employees due to this accusation. On October 29, 2024, the Israeli parliament finally passed a law banning UNRWA from operating on Israeli territory from 2025 due to infiltration by Hamas - and is strongly condemned by the UN.

In **February 2024**, the USA imposed sanctions against Israeli settlers for violence against Palestinians in Judea and Samaria. As a result, the assets of those affected are frozen in the USA. US citizens are prohibited from doing business with the sanctioned persons. In April, the European Union (EU) also imposes sanctions. Affected persons are no longer allowed to enter the EU or to do business with EU citizens. In addition, their accounts and other assets in the EU are frozen. The fact that Israel itself is investigating the allegations and ensuring law and order is not enough for the international community.

On **April 8, 2024**, Nicaragua demanded that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) put an end to German support for Israel on the grounds that it was “aiding and abetting genocide”. Between 2019 and 2023, Germany was Israel's second-largest arms supplier after the USA. Germany was able to plausibly demonstrate that 98% of the deliveries were only general armaments, such as helmets or protective vests, and not weapons of war. Nevertheless, since then and for months, Germany has largely stopped providing military aid to Israel. Only on the anniversary of the massacre and under massive pressure from the opposition parties (CDU, CSU, AfD, FDP) did the German government once again approve arms deliveries to Israel.



*Pro-Palestine and anti-Israel demonstrators during the fighting between Israel and Hamas. Photo: Shutterstock*

Students have been protesting against Israel since the Hamas terror attack and the subsequent war. From April 2024, the situation at US universities and also in Europe came to a head with campus protest camps and blockades of university buildings. Jewish students and university staff no longer feel safe as a result. The demonstrating students are demanding an end to the war, a “free Palestine” and that universities disclose and end their financial ties to Israel. They are also demanding the sale of shares in companies that have business relations with Israel. However, there are hardly any demands for the release of Israeli hostages who are still being held by Hamas.

Anti-Semitic demonstrations regularly bring thousands onto the streets around the world. Some European capitals are no longer recognizable. Slogans, calls for boycotts, divestment, sanctions and riots are the order of the day. And there are no calls for a two-state solution or peace. No, the slogan



“from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” is being shouted, which in plain language means that Israel must disappear from the map.

Anti-Semitism is on the rise worldwide. And this is not least attributable to the mainstream media. Because many take figures and narratives directly from Hamas and Hezbollah, as if terrorist organizations were trustworthy sources of information. The usual line after such statements that this data cannot be verified is a perfidious method of positioning oneself as an objective reporter. The poison of this one-sided, incomplete and sometimes simply inaccurate content is reaching millions every day and is spreading in people's minds. Israel is defamed as the aggressor; the history and context of actions are omitted. Anyone, who during this time does not inform themselves proactively and autonomously from various sources, will almost inevitably become a critic of Israel.

In the year following the October 7 terrorist attack, anti-Semitic crimes in Germany, Europe, the USA and worldwide have multiplied dramatically. The organizations involved are reporting doublings to quadruplings. Some Jews are now trying to hide their identity to avoid becoming a target. The promise “Never again!” is only kept by a few! (see article: [Never again! - A promise with substance?](#))

### Attacks from Many Wind Directions



*Israel is exposed to countless rocket attacks. Photo: Shutterstock*

**Hezbollah** has fired dozens of rockets at Israel from **Lebanon** every day since October 8, 2023! Almost all of the population of the northern region of Israel (over 110,000 people) had to be evacuated as a result and has been living in temporary accommodation for over a year, internally displaced in their own country. But for the world, this intolerable situation seems quite normal. In any other country, such attacks would certainly have led to massive international backlash and consequences! It was not until September 2024 (after almost one year!) that Israel began to take massive action against these attacks.

On the evening of April 13, 2024, **Iran** launched a massive aerial attack against Israel using 300 drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles aimed all over the country, but Israel along with its allies managed to successfully intercept 99% of them. It was one of the great moments of this war, when Israel did not fight alone, but received active support from the US and British armies, the French and Jordanian forces. The international pressure following this attack led to a very restrained response from Israel: only three missiles were fired at an air defense radar installation protecting a nuclear facility in Iran.

Iran should not be underestimated. Its attack seems rather restrained compared to those of



Hezbollah, but he is the head and mastermind of the actions against Israel - even if the Mullah regime (still) prefers to act via its proxies and not directly.

The **Houthis** also fired missiles at Israel from **Yemen**. Similarly, fighters from the so-called Islamic Resistance, Iranian-funded paramilitary groups from **Iraq** and **Syria**, have attacked strategic locations in Israel with drones.

But the UN and the ICJ continue to deal with Israel.

### ***Escalation in May 2024***



*Karim Khan applies for arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant. Photo: Shutterstock*

On **May 20, 2024**, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, requested arrest warrants for Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant. He accuses them of war crimes and crimes against humanity in connection with the war in the Gaza Strip. These arrest warrants are actually issued on November 21 and equate a democratically elected prime minister, who led his country to unprecedented prosperity for over a decade, with a globally wanted terrorist and criminal, for whom millions in bounties are being offered.

On May 22, Norway, Spain and Ireland declare their intention to recognize the Palestinian state without Israel's consent and implement this on May 28.

On May 24, the judges of the International Court of Justice decided by 13:2 votes that Israel must stop its offensive and other measures in Rafah “which could lead to the total or partial annihilation of the Palestinian civilian population”. In addition, the catastrophic humanitarian situation was deplored and the opening of the border crossing for humanitarian aid deliveries and UN investigators was demanded.

After months of hesitation, deliberations, negotiations and preparations, Israel enters Rafah anyway, but does everything it can to avoid civilian casualties. Great efforts are made to successfully evacuate the population prior to military operations. Finally, dozens of Hamas rocket launchers are found in Rafah, as well as hundreds of tunnels belonging to the terrorist organization that lead to Egypt and through which Hamas was supplied with weapons. The bodies of murdered Israeli hostages have also been recovered here. The occupation of Rafah and the Philadelphia Corridor, on the border with Egypt, uncovered Hamas' sources of supply and cut a vital lifeline for the terrorist organization.



## **UN & USA Peace Plans**



*What chance do peace plans with terrorists have? Photo: Shutterstock*

Eight months after the terrorist attack, more than 120 Israeli hostages - alive or dead - were still being held by Hamas and rockets were still being fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip. Both Israel and the Palestinian population are suffering from Hamas' terror. All the casualties of these months are ultimately victims of the Hamas leadership, which is not willing to make any compromise that respects Israel's existence.

On June 10, 2024, the United Nations Security Council passed another resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and a three-stage plan to end the war.

In the first phase, a small number of hostages would be released by Hamas during the ceasefire. In return, for every single hostage, alive or dead, a large number of Palestinian prisoners convicted of crimes and imprisoned in Israel would be released including multiple murderers and terrorists.

In the next phase, the fighting would then cease permanently, the Israeli army would withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the Palestinians, including the terrorists, would all be allowed to return to their homes. In return, a further number of living or dead hostages would be released - again for a large number of Palestinian convicted prisoners.

Israel would have to give up the blockade of Gaza and provide aid for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. Hamas would remain in power.

The negotiations on this peace plan went on for months and through many rounds, with the demands varying. Although this plan contained many hardships and concessions for Israel and demanded little from Hamas, in the end it was the Hamas leadership that rejected it.

*Follow how things continued after this intensification of the headwinds Israel had to contend with in [Part 2](#).*

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