

RELEASE IN PART B3 DIA/NRO/NGA,B6
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From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 6:39 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Eilat Attacks -- Friday a.m. Update

Think Jake may have passed but in case

From: Meehan, Bernadette M
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 06:08 AM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Wells, Alice G
Cc: S_SpecialAssistants
Subject: Fw: Eilat Attacks -- Friday a.m. Update

Update on Eilat attacks. Note the bullet indicating that six USAID-funded grantees have crossed from Gaza to Israel, but had to take cover from a rocket attack during the move. Two were AmCits. None injured.

--At 2030 local August 18 the IDF spokesman said the Iron Dome Missile Defense system intercepted a rocket fired at the Israeli city of Ashkelon located north of the Gaza strip.

--2030 August 18: PM Netanyahu made a

public statement expressing condolences to the families of those killed in the August 18 attacks, saying "Israel responds immediately and with force" to attacks, and "those who gave the order to murder our citizens and who hid themselves in Gaza are no longer alive."

--0300 August 19: Israeli Airforce strikes on Gaza. IDF issued a statement at 0600 that it hit 7 targets in Gaza overnight, including a weapons manufacturing site in northern Gaza and "two terror activity sites." IDF said targets in southern Gaza included two smuggling tunnels, "a terror tunnel" and a "terror activity site." Press the morning of August 19 reported 12 targets in Gaza hit overnight.

--0500-0800 August 19: According to press, about 12 rockets from Gaza were fired at Ashkelon, Be'ersheva, Ashdod and Israeli areas adjacent to Gaza. Local press is reporting 6 persons injured in Ashdod. A contact reported hearing explosions in Be'ersheva.

--0845 August 19: six USAID-funded grantees (2 AmCits, 1 Canadian, 1 Nepalese, 1 Croat, and 1 Kosovar) successfully crossed into Israel from Gaza, via Erez. As they were moving towards Erez there was a rocket attack which they had to take cover for.

--Ambassador Shapiro is attending the funeral for the IDF soldier killed in the IED attack yesterday northwest of Eilat. The Ambassador gave a phone interview to Israel Radio in Hebrew the evening of August 18 in which he read the Secretary's statement. Post is disseminating widely that statement and the White House statement.

From: Smith, Rachel E
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 05:31 AM
To: S_SpecialAssistants

Cc: NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL
Subject: FW: Eilat Attacks -- Friday a.m. Update

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 2:47 AM
To: Walles, Jacob; Russell, Melissa H ; Buzbee, John R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Rudman, Mara; Hale, David M; Reed, Julia G; SES-O; 'Steven_N_Simon [redacted]'; 'Prem_G_Kumar [redacted]'; Schlicher, Ronald L; Marchese, Gregory M; Lempert, Yael; Grech, Robert F; Blome, Donald A; Mandel, Lawrence C (Amman) B6
Cc: Shapiro, Daniel B (Tel Aviv); Crippen, John; Silverman, Robert J; Berns, David B; Levin, Jan; Forden, Robert W; Adams, S_D; Schurman, Christian J; Hoyer, Kurt J; Green, Emily R; Hood, Jeffrey L; [redacted] Sachar, Alon B3
(NEA/IPA); Simons, David W; Harvey, Michael T; Harvey, Michael (WBGAZA/DIR); Carlin, Sherry (WBGAZA/DIR); DIA/NRO/NGA
Ramona S; Vincent, Wendy M; Carlin, Sherry (WBGAZA/DIR); Davis, Robert E; [redacted] Eussen, Matthew; B3
Silverman, Robert J; Harden, Dave DIA/NRO/NGA
Subject: Eilat Attacks -- Friday a.m. Update

Below is status of overnight developments as of Friday morning local time. [redacted] B3
[redacted] DIA/NRO/NGA

Tom

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----- Original Message -----

From: Eussen, Matthew

To: Walles, Jacob; Russell, Melissa H ; Buzbee, John R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Rudman, Mara; Hale, David M; Reed, Julia G; [redacted] 'Steven_N_Simon [redacted] <Steven_N_Simon [redacted]>; 'Prem_G_Kumar [redacted] <Prem_G_Kumar [redacted]>; Schlicher, Ronald L; Marchese, Gregory M; Lempert, Yael; Grech, Robert F; Blome, Donald A; Mandel, Lawrence C (Amman); Shapiro, Daniel B (Tel Aviv); Crippen, John; Silverman, Robert J; Berns, David B; Levin, Jan; Forden, Robert W; Adams, Julie D; Schurman, Christian J; Hoyer, Kurt J; Green, Emily R; Hood, Jeffrey L; [redacted] Sachar, Alon (NEA^{B3 A}); Simons, David W; [redacted] Harvey, Michael T; Harvey, Michael DIA/NRO/NGA (WBGZA/DIR); Carlin, Sherry (WBGZA/DIR); Crippen, Ramona S; Vincent, Wendy M; Carlin, Sherry DIA/NRO/NGA (WBGZA/DIR); Davis, Robert E

Sent: Thu Aug 18 20:46:47 2011

Subject: Eilat Attacks – 20:30 Update

B6

(U) The IDF conducted an airstrike on southern Gaza in response to today's attacks, reportedly killing five members of the Popular Resistance Committees.

(U) Israel's Channel 10 reported that IDF helicopters struck at militants north of Eilat. The report speculates that there are more militants at large in Israel's south.

(SBU) The IDF's MSIS clarified the facts of the events in an e-mail to defense attaches:

- The attack occurred at 12:09 in the afternoon, with the attackers using light arms and an explosive device (not an anti-tank weapon as previously reported)
- 2 civilian buses and 2 civilian vehicles were hit. 14 people (including 9 soldiers) were injured in the the first bus, while in the second the driver was killed (there were no passengers)
- 4 passengers in one of the civilian vehicles were killed, with 1 passenger injured and 1 killed in the second car
- A total of 27 were injured and 7 killed today
- 12:36 members of the Golani Brigade were struck by an IED
- 12:52 an Israel Police SWAT team engaged with terrorists, killing three
- 13:32 IDF Combat Engineers completing routine repair work on the border force came under mortar fire
- 13:39 an anti-tank missile was fired at an IDF combat helicopter

(U) IDF Southern Commander told local media that that in one of the exchanges of fire, two terrorist used small arms, while a third detonated explosives he wore.

(U) IDF Chief of Staff Beni Gantz said in a press conference near the Egyptian border that military search operations continued and confirmed Israeli strikes on Gaza. He stated that Israel believed "the roots" of the terror attack were located in Gaza and that the IDF would continue to operate as necessary. MinDef Ehud Barak spoke with reporters near the scene of today's attack, saying that the IDF will operate with all its force to defend normal life along the border with Egypt. "The IDF is striking at the heads of the committees in the Gaza Strip and if necessary the operation will be expanded," he said.

(U) In comments to Channel 10, a "senior defense official" said that the purpose of the attack was to kidnap and Israeli soldier or civilian in order to bring them to Gaza.

(U) [redacted] told us that the Erez crossing into Gaza closed at 4 pm and Kerem Shalom closed 30 minutes early. No decision has been made regarding crossing operations for tomorrow.

B6

(U) The Israeli Counter-Terrorism Bureau reissued its travel warning urging Israelis to avoid visiting Sinai and for those already visiting to return to Israel immediately.

(U) Ministry of Defense Director General Udi Shani held a meeting to examine accelerating construction plans for the security fence along the Egyptian-Israeli border.

(U) In a statement, UN SyG strongly condemned today's terror attacks in southern Israel, but "is concerned at the risk of escalation and calls for all to act with restraint."

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.