



ISRAELI ATTACK IN QATAR

On 9 September 2025, Israel carried out its first direct airstrike inside Qatar, targeting Hamas leaders in Doha while they were discussing a US ceasefire proposal. The attack marked a turning point in the Gaza war, triggering widespread international condemnation.

THE ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE IN DOHA, QATAR



Target:
Senior Hamas officials (Khalil Al-Hayya and Khaled Meshaal).



6
killed (at least)



~10
Israeli fighter jets involved



~10
ballistic missiles



The first direct Israeli attack inside the GCC.



Senior Hamas leaders reportedly survived the strike. Al-Hayya's son, aide and a Qatari security official were among those killed.



Israel claimed the strike was in retaliation for Hamas' attacks, including the shooting in Jerusalem on 8 September.

Reportedly launched over the Red Sea and bypassed Qatari and US air defences.



The US is Qatar's main security guarantor and has its largest military base in the Middle East (the Al Udeid Air Base) in Qatar.



Details regarding prior knowledge by other actors, including the US, have been disputed. Qatar said the warning came too late.

(Sources: Reuters, The Associated Press, The Wall Street Journal)

CONTEXT LEADING TO THE DOHA STRIKE & ITS AFTERMATH

- 2012** Fatah and Hamas signed the Doha Agreement. Hamas split with Assad and relocated its political bureau from Syria to Qatar, with US support.
- 2014-2021** Qatar helped mediate ceasefires between Israel and Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza.
- 7 Oct 2023** Hamas attacked Israel (~1,200 killed; ~250 hostages). Israel declared war on Hamas and launched an air and land offensive in Gaza.
- Nov 2023** Qatar, Egypt and the US brokered the first deal between Israel and Hamas since 7 October (4-day pause, hostage-prisoner swaps, aid).
- 2023-2024** Doha became a mediation hub. In Nov 2024 Qatar paused mediation over a lack of progress; reports that it may reconsider the hosting of Hamas.

- 19 Jan-18 Mar 2025** Ceasefire and hostage-prisoner swaps mediated by Qatar, Egypt, the US; breakdown over the 2nd phase. Israel resumed its ground invasion.
- 7 Sep 2025** US President Trump issued a final warning to Hamas to accept the US ceasefire plan, which he said was accepted by Israel.
- 8 Sep** Hamas claimed Jerusalem shooting as its negotiators met Qatari officials in Doha to discuss the US ceasefire proposal.
- 9 Sep** Israel carried out an airstrike on Hamas in Doha, violating Qatar's sovereignty and prompting international condemnation.
- 11 Sep** UN Security Council unanimously condemned the strike. Israeli Prime Minister hinted at further targeted strikes against Hamas abroad.

- 15 Sep** The Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Doha strongly condemned the Israeli attack and expressed solidarity with Qatar.
- 16 Sep** US Secretary of State Rubio visited Qatar and said they are close to concluding an enhanced defence cooperation agreement.
- 18 Sep** Extraordinary Joint Defence Council in Doha reaffirmed GCC collective security clause.
- 20 Sep** Qatar demanded Israeli apology before resuming mediation.
- 21-22 Sep** The UK, Canada, Australia, Portugal, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta and others recognised Palestine.
- 23 Sep** In his address at the UN General Assembly, Qatar's Emir condemned the strike as 'state terrorism.'

ISRAEL'S HIGH-RANKING ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN SINCE 7 OCTOBER 2023

Saleh Al-Arouri
Hamas Politburo Deputy Head, Hamas Leader in the West Bank (†2 Jan 2024)

Fuad Shukur
Hezbollah Military Commander (†30 Jul 2024)

Hassan Nasrallah
Hezbollah Secretary-General (†27 Sep 2024)

Hashem Safieddine
Head of Hezbollah's Executive Council (†3 Oct 2024)

Mohammad Reza Zahedi
IRGC Quds Force Commander in Syria and Lebanon (†2 Apr 2024)

Ismail Haniyeh
Hamas Politburo Chairman (†31 Jul 2024)

Marwan Issa
Deputy Commander of Hamas' Military Wing (†10 Mar 2024)

Mohammed Deif
Commander of Hamas' Military Wing (†13 Jul 2024)

Yahya Sinwar
Hamas Politburo Chairman, Leader of Hamas in Gaza (†16 Oct 2024)

Mohammed Sinwar
Commander of Hamas' Military Wing, Leader of Hamas in Gaza (†13 May 2025)

Ahmed Al-Rahawi
Houthi Prime Minister (†28 Aug 2025)

Hossein Salami
IRGC Commander-in-Chief (†13 Jun 2025)

Saeed Izadi
IRGC Quds Force Palestine Corps Commander (†21 Jun 2025)

Behnam Shahriyari
IRGC Quds Force's Weapons Transfer Unit Commander (†21 Jun 2025)

(Reuters, The Associated Press, Al Jazeera, Israel Defence Forces, The Guardian, The Times of Israel)



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