

Gaza-Hamas Fact Sheet (Dec. 22, 2008)

Compiled by: Embassy of Israel

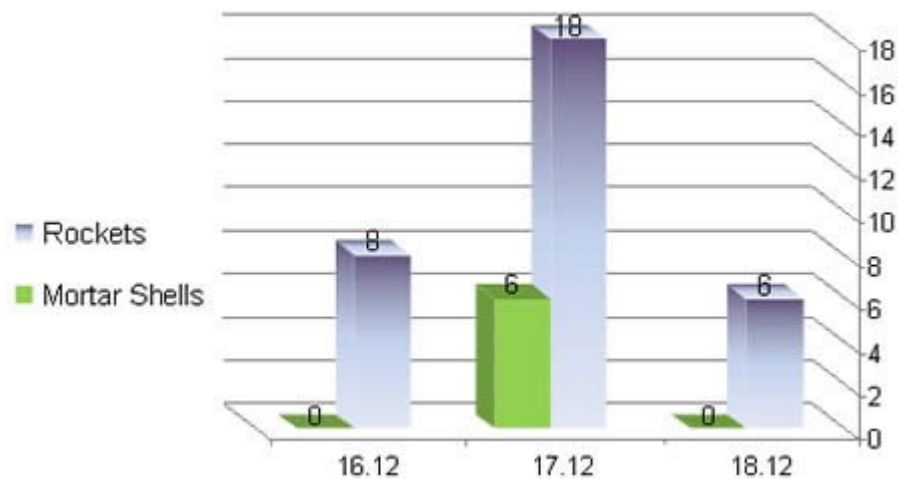
Source: Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center

Rocket and Mortar Attacks Continue

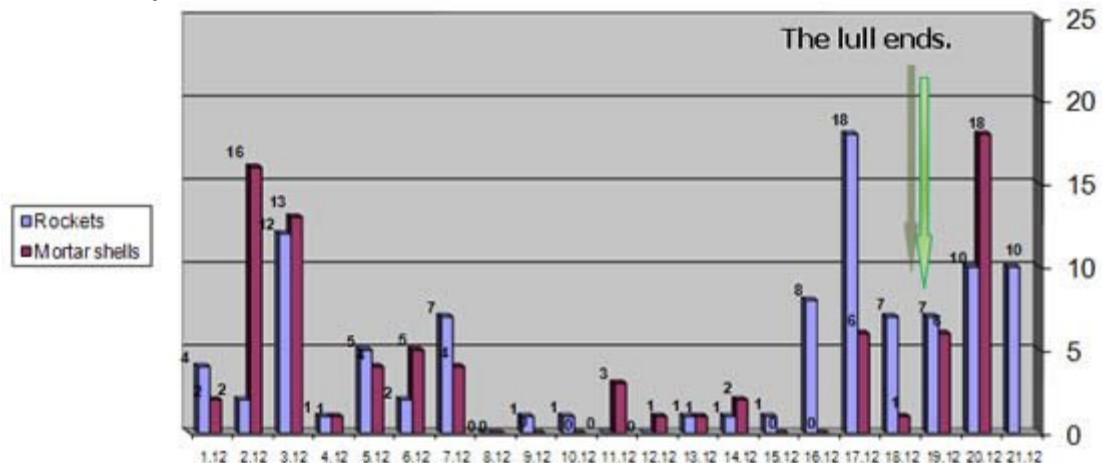
The current escalation is a continuation of the series of events that began with the prevention of an abduction attack on November 4th, leading to a significant erosion of the lull arrangement. In the past month-and-a-half (as of December 22), **242 rockets** and **152 mortar shells** have been fired by the Palestinian terrorist organizations into Israel, accompanied by other kinds of attacks, including abductions, IEDs, and sniper fire. Beginning November 4th, the lull arrangement has been eroded by the terrorist organizations to the point at which it exists only on paper.

Graphs

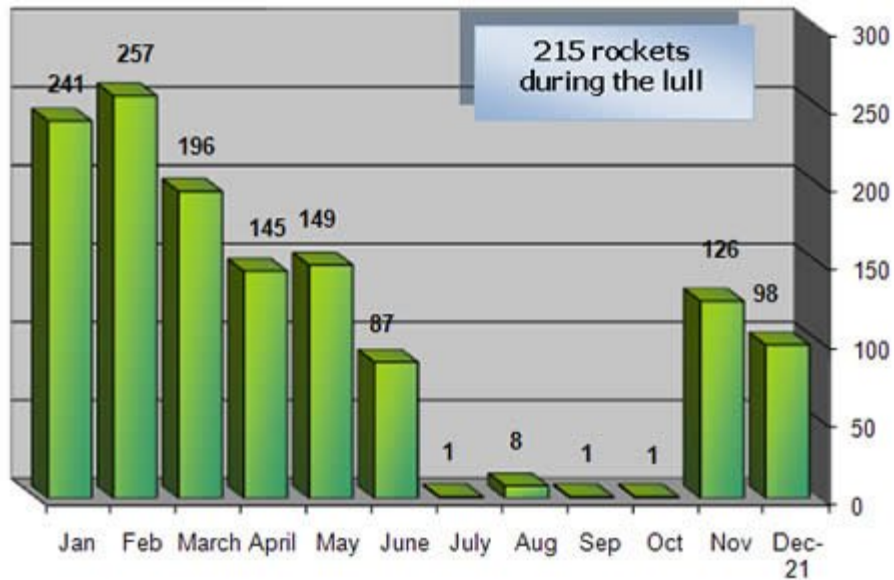
Rocket Fire on Dec. 16-18 leading up to the end of the "State of Calm"



Daily Distribution of Rocket and Mortar Shell Fire, December 2008

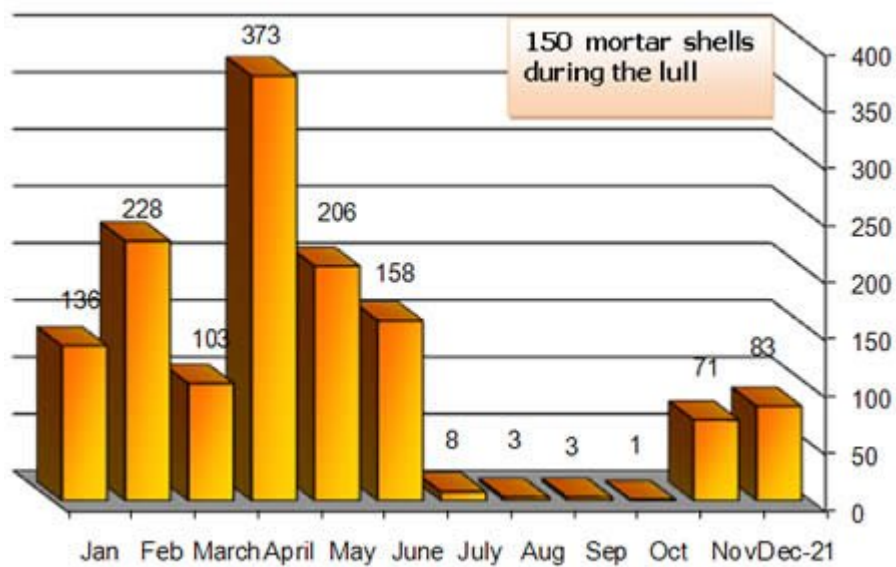


Monthly Distribution of Rocket Fire, 2008



NOTE: "Lull" refers to the six months spanning June 19th – December 18th

Monthly Distribution of Mortar Shell Fire, 2008



NOTE: "Lull" refers to the six months spanning June 19th – December 18th

Supplies to Gaza

In the five-month lull between June 19th - Nov 4th
17,000 trucks of supplies reached Gaza containing food, building materials etc.

In the five-month lull from Jan 19th - June 19th
9,000 trucks

Humanitarian Aid to Gaza Strip from Dec. 14-17, 2008

Merchandise	Total trucks	Weight (ton)
Milk Powder and Baby Food	17	249
Rice	11	375
Meat/Chicken/Fish	13	238
Hygiene products	4	123
Dairy products	17	306
Flour and yeast	28	900
Oil	10	298
Medications	6	37
Agricultural equipment	1	15
Sugar	15	547
Medical Equipment	1	1
Total	123	3124

Rocket and Mortar Fire Following the “Lull” Dec 19 – 21, 2008

Dec 19: Hours after the six-month “state of calm” expired, three rockets were fired into uninhabited areas of the western Negev. A few hours later farmers working in Kibbutz Nir Oz were attacked with light arms; a vehicle was damaged. In the evening, additional rockets were fired. In total, seven rockets and six mortar shells were fired. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Dec. 20: Four rockets were fired into Israeli territory, landing in open areas around the Gaza Strip. The IDF attacked a squad of rocket launchers north of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip. An operative of Fatah's military-terrorist wing was killed and a number of operatives were wounded (Al-Aqsa TV, December 20). In the early afternoon,

another barrage of rockets and mortar shells was fired. One rocket landed in the center of Sderot, but no casualties were reported. Rocket and mortar shell fire continued until the evening - 10 rockets and 18 mortar shells in total. The PIJ claimed responsibility, as did Fatah's military-terrorist wing, the PFLP, as well as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Hamas claimed responsibility for the mortar shell attacks. In response, the IAF attacked another squad of rocket launchers and destroyed its equipment. Apparently, several Fatah military-terrorist operatives were injured (Qudsnet website, Paltoday website, December 20).

Dec 21: Three rockets and mortar shells landed in Israeli territory wounding one civilian. In response, the IDF attacked a rocket launcher near Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip. An hour later, six rockets were launched, two of them falling in the Gaza Strip. Four rockets fell in and around Sderot, one of them directly hitting a house causing severe property damage; one resident was treated for shock. One of the rockets fell near an elementary school. At 1000 hours a rocket landed in the industrial zone of Ashkelon. There were no casualties reported. As of 1300 hours, 10 rockets had been fired at Israel.

Rocket and Mortar Attack Statistics: Nov 18 – Dec 22, 2008

Dec. 22: Two rockets, one mortar shell fired into Israel. Sniper fire also reported.

Dec. 21: Ten rockets and one mortar shell fired at Israel. A home in Sderot was directly hit, and a foreign worker was wounded by shrapnel.

Dec. 20: Ten rockets and 18 mortar shells were launched at Israeli communities.

Dec. 19: Seven rockets and six mortar shells fired into Israel. Bullets fired at farmers working on Kibbutz Nir Oz. Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Dec. 17: Eighteen rockets and six mortars were fired into Israel. One rocket exploded next to a large shopping center in Sderot, wounding three.

Dec. 16: Eight rockets fired. One landed near a soccer field where children were playing.

Dec. 9-15: Five rockets and seven mortars fired (two fell in Egypt).

Dec. 7: Seven Kassam rockets and four mortar shells fired into Israel.

Dec. 5-6: Six Kassam rockets and five mortar shells fired into Israel.

Dec. 4: One Kassam rocket landed north of Sderot.

Dec. 3: Twelve rockets and 13 mortars were into Israel.

Dec. 2: Two Kassam rockets and 16 mortar shells were fired into Israel.

Dec. 1: Four Kassams and two mortar shells were fired into Israel.

Nov. 28: Palestinian terrorist organizations launched a massive barrage of 17 mortar shells and one rocket. Hamas, PIJ and PRC all claimed responsibility. One of the mortar shells hit an IDF base, wounding eight soldiers, one of them critically (he lost a leg).

Nov. 18-25: A total of 14 rockets and 10 mortar shells were fired at Israel population centers and IDF soldiers operating near the border security fence. The Popular Resistance Committees, the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, and Fatah claimed responsibility for the attacks.

IDF Counterterrorism

Dec. 17-18: The IAF conducted four aerial strikes against rocket-launching squads and against an explosives factory.

Dec. 8: Three explosive devices were placed near the fence: one at *Karni* crossing and two more 1 km south of the crossing. The explosive devices were detonated by IDF sappers. An additional explosive device was activated against an IDF mobilized patrol approximately 6 km south of *Erez* crossing. Hamas claimed responsibility.

Dec. 7: In response to rocket and mortar fire, the IAF targeted and hit a Kassam launcher.

Dec. 6: The IDF carried out pinpoint operations, targeting rocket-launching squads in *Beit Hanoun* and *Jabalya*.

Dec. 5-6: Along the Egyptian-Gaza border, Egyptian forces uncovered 500 tons of TNT and storage rooms containing anti-tank missiles intended for smuggling.

Dec. 2: In response to rocket and mortar fire on Negev communities, the IAF targeted a squad of mortar shells launchers. Two terrorists were killed and four were injured. In addition, IDF troops discovered and detonated an explosive device northeast of *Kissufim* crossing.

Dec. 1: Snipers shot at IDF troops south of *Sufa* crossing; the soldiers returned fire.

Nov. 28: During routine operations, an IDF force identified terrorist operatives laying an IED near the Gaza Strip border security fence in the region of Abasan, near Khan Yunis. A firefight developed between the terrorists and the IDF soldiers, resulting in the death of a Popular Resistance Committees operative and the wounding of four others.

Nov. 23: The IDF attacked a rocket-launching squad in northern Gaza, neutralizing the operatives after they had already launched one Kassam rocket. They were in the middle of launching another rocket when they were neutralized.