

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **cease** (verb) – end, halt, stop.
2. **fire** (noun) – gunfire, firing, bombing, bombardment.
3. **ceasefire** (noun) – a negotiated agreement that will be accompanied by other associated commitments to de-escalate the fighting; a temporary stoppage of war, truce, armistice.
4. **indiscriminate** (adjective) – thoughtless, careless, casual, aimless.
5. **civilian** (noun) – non-military person, ordinary citizen.
6. **Gaza** (noun) – a Palestinian city in the Gaza Strip. Gaza Strip is a self-governing Palestinian territory surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, Israel and Egypt.
7. **storm** (verb) – (of armed forces) suddenly attack and capture a building/place forcefully.
8. **Jerusalem** (proper noun) – a city in Western Asia; Jerusalem is home to major religious sites sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. It is the religious and historical epicenter of the world. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim Jerusalem as their capital, however, either claim is not widely recognized internationally. The United States has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
9. **pound** (verb) – bombard, bomb, shell, attack.
10. **strike** (verb) – attack, air strike, air attack, assault, bombing.
11. **artillery** (noun) – a military branch that uses big guns, heavy weapons, cannons.
12. **Hamas** (noun) – Hamas is an Islamist militant group based in Gaza. It won the legislative elections in 2006 to reinforce its power in Gaza Strip. Hamas (particularly its military wing) is designated a terrorist group by Israel, the United States, European Union and the United Kingdom, as well as other powers. Its name is an Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement. It formed in 1987 as a “resistance” group, pledging to destroy Israel and replace it with an all-Palestinian state. Hamas originally had a dual purpose of carrying out an armed struggle against Israel – led by its military wing, – and delivering social welfare programmes in Gaza Strip.
13. **escalate** (verb) – increase, heighten, intensify; become serious.
14. **for now** (phrase) – for the time being, for the present, for the moment.
15. **stand down** (phrasal verb) – to withdraw or remove from active duty/job; give up; leave, quit/resign, step down.

16. **appeal** (noun) – plea, earnest request, urgent request, entreaty.
17. **evade** (verb) – avoid, dodge, elude, escape.
18. **engulf** (verb) – overwhelm, swamp, overtake, affect something completely.
19. **resentment** (noun) – bitterness, indignation, irritation, enmity, hatred/hate.
20. **frustration** (noun) – disappointment, annoyance/irritation, dissatisfaction.
21. **territory** (noun) – sphere, arena, domain.
22. **settlement** (noun) – an uninhabited place where people established a community/colony.
23. **deepen** (verb) – intensify, strengthen, escalate.
24. **occupation** (noun) – invasion, seizure, takeover, annexation.
25. **besides** (preposition/linking adverb) – in addition to, as well, apart from.
26. **high-handedness** (noun) – heavy-handedness, autocracy, absolute power, totalitarianism.
27. **add to** (phrasal verb) – increase, intensify, deepen, escalate.
28. **lead to** (verb) – result in, cause, bring about, call forth, give rise to, produce.
29. **seize on** (phrasal verb) – to take an opportunity decisively.
30. **vow** (verb) – swear, pledge, promise, affirm.
31. **militant** (noun) – fanatic, extremist, radical, sectarian/partisan.
32. **infrastructure** (noun) – the basic physical or organisational structure for something (to function properly).
33. **be easier said than done** (phrase) – used to say that something sounds like a good idea in theory, but it would be very difficult to do.
34. **carry out** (phrasal verb) – conduct, perform, execute.
35. **objective** (noun) – aim, intention, purpose, target, goal.
36. **rhetoric** (noun) – the art of speaking or writing effectively & persuasively or impressively (but, often lacking substance); bombast, loftiness, hyperbole/extravagant language.
37. **lose-lose game/situation** (noun) – a situation in which each party could end up as losers in the event of a conflict.
38. **take/hold hostage** (phrase) – to keep someone as a hostage.
39. **distinguish** (verb) – differentiate, separate, set apart, make different.
40. **Iron Dome defence system** (noun) – Iron Dome is a multi-mission system capable of intercepting (stopping/obstructing) rockets, artillery, mortars and Precision Guided Munitions like very short-range air defence (V-SHORAD) systems as well as aircraft, helicopters and

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) over short ranges of up to 70 km. It is an all-weather system and can engage multiple targets simultaneously and can be deployed over land and sea.

41. **neutralise** (verb) – eliminate, cancel out, invalidate; counteract, counterbalance.
42. **grip** (verb) – afflict, affect, take over, beset, torment.
43. **vigilante** (noun) – a member of the self-appointed group which unofficially punishing crimes.
44. **mob** (noun) – a large, disorganized, and often violent crowd of people.
45. **prompt** (verb) – cause, bring about, produce, bring on.
46. **evoke** (verb) – invoke, induce, kindle, stimulate, stir up.
47. **civil war** (noun) – a war between organized groups within the same state or country.
48. **law and order** (phrase) – lawfulness, peacefulness, goodwill, cordiality, non-aggression.
49. **intifada** (noun) – Arabic Word; an uprising of Palestinians against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
50. **pulverise** (verb) – defeat utterly, annihilate, crush/vanquish.
51. **inflict on** (verb) – cause, impose, administer, deal out, mete out.
52. **casualty** (noun) – victim, fatality, mortality (people killed in a war).
53. **impoverished** (adjective) – weakened, exhausted, drained, diminished, depleted; poor, poverty-stricken, penniless, destitute, needy.
54. **point to** (verb) – indicate, suggest, denote.
55. **endorse** (verb) – uphold, support, ratify, approve, justify.
56. **ally** (noun) – a country that has strategic partnership with another country.
57. **keep/put pressure on** (phrase) – to try to influence/persuade someone to do something in a certain method.
58. **sooner rather than later** (phrase) – soon, immediately, without delay.

Cease the fire: On indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Gaza

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Israel's right to defend itself does not extend to indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Gaza

From [Israeli armed forces storming Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque](#) on Monday morning to [Israel pounding Gaza with air strikes](#) and artillery on Thursday night in response to the [rocket firing by Hamas](#), the Israel-Palestine conflict has escalated dangerously within days. At least 119 Palestinians, including 31 children, have been killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza since May 10, while nine people were killed in Israel in the rocket attacks, including an Indian national and a child. For now, both sides have refused to stand down from the fighting despite international appeal. [Israel cannot evade responsibility](#) for the crisis engulfing the region. There was already resentment and frustration among the Palestinians in the occupied territories as Israel has expanded Jewish settlements and deepened occupation. Besides, [Israel's high-handedness in East Jerusalem](#) and the move to evict Palestinian families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah for Jewish settlers added to the anger, leading to clashes. Hamas, which claims to be the main national resistance force against the occupation, seized on the opportunity and escalated the crisis with rocket attacks. Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas's militant infrastructure. But Israel knows that it is easier said than done. In 2014, Israel carried out a seven-week-long operation with the same objective. Seven years later, there is Hamas, firing over 1,800 rockets into Israel within five days.

Beyond the rhetoric by both sides, this is a loss-loss situation in which the civilians are taken hostage. Hamas's rockets do not distinguish between Israeli civilians and soldiers. While the Iron Dome defence system neutralised most of the rockets, some actually hit Israel's population centres, killing civilians and raising concerns for the country's rulers. Israel is in fact witnessing a twin crisis. While the conflict with Hamas is escalating into a

land attack, Israeli cities are gripped by riots between Jewish vigilantes and Arab mobs. The riots prompted President Reuven Rivlin to evoke fears of a civil war and the government to declare a state of emergency in some locations, including the central city of Lod. This is the most serious law and order crisis Israel is facing internally since the second intifada of 2000. In return, Israel has pulverised Gaza, inflicting a heavy casualty on the impoverished region's population. The high casualty of children points to the collective punishment approach of the Israeli military. Israel's right to defend itself, which the U.S. and Germany have endorsed, cannot be the right to launch an indiscriminate bombing on the civilians of Gaza. The international community, especially the U.S. which is a close ally of Israel, should put pressure on both sides to cease the fire. They should do it sooner rather than later as every day, dozens are being killed in the bombings.

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