

Tabled by: Senator Henderson  
Tabled on: 24 October 2023

## aid begins to arrive in Gaza



A relative of a hostage joins a rally calling for their release, mourners (left) at a funeral in Israel and (below) an injured Palestinian woman at the border in Rafah. Pictures: AFP



of their hiding places that they hide underneath the civilians, which is what they're doing now, and return our hostages – all 212 of them – and surrender unconditionally then the war would end.”  
People in northern Gaza have been receiving voice messages on their phones urging them to leave, but there was confusion with the translation from Hebrew to Arabic as Israel denied the message declared anyone still in the region will be called a “terrorist”.

There are 77 Australians among the two million people caught in Gaza when its borders were closed on October 7 following Hamas' bloody attack that claimed the lives of more than 1400 Israelis.  
At least six fuel tankers were allowed into Gaza on Monday through the Rafah crossing on its border with Egypt. However, hospitals in Gaza were running low on fuel to run generators to keep equipment, including incubators for pre-term babies, operating.

Palestinian medical sources claim at least 400 people were killed in bombing raids on Gaza on Monday, while as much as 40 per cent of housing in the region had been destroyed. More than one million people in Gaza have been displaced in a territory that would cover only 3 per cent of Sydney's total land area.  
US President Joe Biden revealed on Monday that a deal had been brokered to allow more aid into the Gaza Strip through Rafah.

Hard-line Israeli politicians have criticised the deal to allow aid into Gaza while Hamas still has hostages.  
Mr Biden spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the phone to discuss Gaza and the aid delivery.  
“The President welcomed the first two convoys of humanitarian assistance,” a White House statement said. “The leaders affirmed that there will now be continued flow of this critical assistance into Gaza.”

# Global list of Hamas victims

Scores of foreigners kidnapped by Hamas terrorists remain unaccounted for after they were snatched at gunpoint and taken to Gaza more than two weeks ago.  
At least 200 foreigners – many of them dual Israeli nationals – were killed when terrorists attacked a music festival and at least five rural communities near the Gaza border.  
Among those killed were 31 Americans, while another 13 are missing.  
Jon Polin has watched video of his seriously wounded son being hustled into the back of a truck by Hamas gunmen countless times.  
The scene played out hours after 21-year-old Hersh Goldberg-Polin had been with his family on the last day of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, and then spent the night dancing at the Nova Music Festival with friends.  
Goldberg-Polin was camping with friends at the festival when Hamas gunmen turned up and hurled grenades into a shelter where he and others had been hiding.  
Footage online shows the Israeli-American nursing his mangled arm which was blown apart near the elbow by a grenade, the remains wrapped in a bloody, makeshift bandage.  
“That’s a video that nobody ever wants to see of their loved one,” Mr Polin said.  
“Despite that, I’ve watched it dozens of times, maybe hundreds of times.  
“In a really confusing way, I watch it and take strength from it,” he said, pointing to his son’s ability to walk “on his own legs, on his own strength” – which he attributes to “shock”.  
“I hope that he has the physical and mental fortitude to keep on fighting.”



Hersh Goldberg-Polin was at the Nova Music Festival

Thailand had 30 of its citizens killed, and another 19 are still missing. About 30,000 Thai work in Israel, most in the agricultural sector, according to government figures.  
France – whose President Emmanuel Macron is expected to visit Tel Aviv on Tuesday for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – also had 30 citizens killed, another taken hostage and six still unaccounted for. Footage of French-Israeli hostage Mia Schem was released by Hamas last week showing the 21-year-old with a badly injured arm.  
Russia has 19 dead, two hostages and seven missing, Ukraine has 18 dead and the UK lost 10 citizens with another six missing. The family of British dual national Liamie Shamhi confirmed she and her daughters Noiya, 16, and Yabel, 13, were killed when their kibbutz was attacked, while her husband Eli is still missing.  
Hamas militants on Saturday freed two Americans – Judith Tai Raanan and her daughter Natalie Shoshana Raanan – following mediation efforts by Qatar, which said it hoped to secure the release of more hostages soon.



Heston Russell

## Marine's apology to commando over ABC stories

**William Tyson**  
The former US soldier at the centre of the Heston Russell defamation case has issued an apology to the Australian war veteran after he won a defamation case against the ABC's reporting of war crimes last week.  
Mr Russell successfully sued the ABC and two of its reporters in the Federal Court for defaming him in articles and

broadcasts involving his 2012 service in Afghanistan.  
His claim centred around aired allegations US forces refused to work with the 2nd Commando Regiment's November Platoon after believing they had executed a hogtied Afghan prisoner.  
Former major Mr Russell, was commander of the platoon and sued the ABC and reporters Josh Robertson and Mark Willacy.

The source at the centre of the case, a former helicopter pilot from the US Marines, issued a message to Mr Russell over the weekend.  
“This has been a lesson learned about how my intentions may not have matched the intentions of the people I spoke with,” the former marine Dean, who throughout the trial was known as ‘Josh’, said in his message.  
“I was naive about how

everything would play out, and in retrospect should have been much more thoughtful about what was shared.”  
The former helicopter pilot said he was on a mission in Afghanistan in 2012 and assumed Australian soldiers had killed a prisoner after he heard a pop sound over the radio.  
He said he was sorry that the lesson he learned came at Mr Russell's expense.  
“I have no plans on ever

speaking to any media or anyone else about what happened over there with your unit again, and I'm sorry my lesson learned came at your expense. I can only imagine the stress it put on you and the people you care about,” the statement said.  
The federal court ruled in favour of the retired war veteran Mr Russell, who is now entitled to \$390,000 in damages. Legal costs will be determined today.