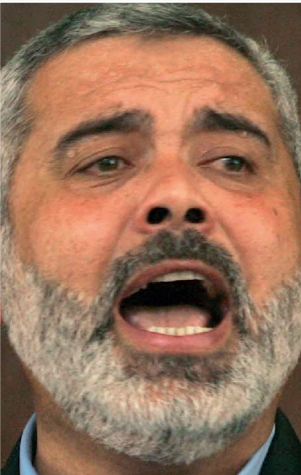


# How Hamas assault on Israel unfolded



**1 2021-23:** **Ismail Haniyeh** (above), leader of Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, oversees building and stockpiling of thousands of rockets and construction of mock Israeli settlement in Gaza where militants practice attacks.

Hamas convinces Israel it does not want war, fooling **Shin Bet**, Israeli domestic intelligence, and **Mossad**, external spy agency

**2 Sep 2023:** Meetings in Lebanon between Hamas and **Iranian Revolutionary Guard** commanders

**3 Oct 7, 05:50 local time:** Explosion at concrete barrier of **Erez crossing checkpoint** – main border crossing with Israel – signals start of assault. Fighters move into military base

**4** Hamas militants overrun **Kerem Shalom checkpoint**, cutting through fence. Motorbikes carrying armed militants (centre) pass through fence. Bulldozers (right) widen gaps for more fighters in pick-up trucks

**5 Dawn, Beit Lahia:** Video posted by Hamas shows fighters on hang gliders flying in direction of **Zikim**

**6 06:30, Be'eri:** Hang gliders descend on **Supernova** music festival, all-night dance party in desert. Hamas fighters on motorbikes arrive. Around 260 people killed, others taken hostage

**06:30-onwards:** Thousands of rockets launched from Gaza Strip into southern Israel

**7 07:40-onwards:** Hamas fighters infiltrate Israel by land – smashing down border walls – sea and air. Dozens of fighters, backed by bomb-dropping drones, take control of **Nahal Oz military base**



**11:00:** Israel's Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** (inset) declares "We are at war" after surprise attacks leave at least 800 Israeli soldiers and civilians dead