

September 16th, 2025

**Statement by the Chief of the General Staff, LTG Eyal Zamir, on the Launch of
Operation "Gideon's Chariots II"**

IDF soldiers and commanders, Israeli civilians. Over the past 24 hours, following extensive discussions with the political echelon, the IDF has significantly expanded its operation in Gaza City. We are operating deep in the area, combining ground troops, precision strikes, and high-quality intelligence. Our objective is to enhance the strikes on Hamas until its decisive defeat. All our actions are carried out according to an orderly plan, with the return of the hostages and the decisive defeat of Hamas at the forefront of our minds. Hamas has been struck and weakened; we have defeated its core military power, and now we are expanding the achievement that will bring the end of the war closer.

I want to emphasize: bringing back our hostages is an objective of the war and a national and moral obligation. We have called up thousands of reservists for the campaign, and they are operating alongside the regular troops. I wish to express my deep appreciation to them and to their families, who bear this heavy burden. They are the spearhead of the IDF and the guarantors of the State of Israel's security. They carry out their mission with dedication, professionalism, and responsibility.

The IDF is the people's army - that is the source of its strength. The IDF serves the people and operates on their behalf. As the IDF's commander, it is my duty to present prior to every operation all possible security implications. All the risks and opportunities were presented to the political echelon clearly and professionally. This is my duty, and under this truth I lead the operation, together with an excellent and experienced line of commanders, to meet all objectives with responsibility and security.

Since October 7th, the day we were brutally attacked, our operational concept has changed completely. In cooperation with all security branches, we eliminated most of Hamas' leadership, struck the entire Iranian axis of evil, and removed existential threats as part of Operation "Rising Lion".

These results, achieved through the sacrifice and heroism of our brave soldiers, in the air, at sea and on land, have created a new security reality and opportunities that can improve the strategic position of the State of Israel and the situation in the Middle East in our favor.

The IDF operates in accordance with international law; we do our utmost to mitigate harm to civilians. In this operation, we are acting to defeat a terrorist organization that proclaims from every platform that its objective is to eliminate the very existence of the State of Israel.

Citizens of Israel, Rosh Hashanah is upon us. Even in these days, as the people of Israel gather around the holiday table, our soldiers are deployed on the frontlines and beyond enemy lines, in both defense and offense. They do so with a sense of mission and deep commitment to the nation. As one who is with them almost daily in the field, I can say they also do it with unity and camaraderie that cannot be replaced.

We will not forget for a moment those who are not with us and the bereaved families who have paid the highest price. The IDF and the entire State of Israel bow their heads in the face of their sacrifice. We will continue to support and accompany our wounded in their recovery process.

My Soldiers, as it is said in the Ne'ilah prayer: "Open for us a gate at the time of the closing of the gate." With the arrival of the new year, we will ensure it is a gate of security, growth, and prosperity in our land. We are all partners in destiny, united around a shared heritage and a commitment to the future of the State of Israel. Be proud of your actions, act with responsibility, and lead us to victory.