

Israel pounds Gaza with fiercest air strikes ever after shock Hamas attack

JERUSALEM/GAZA/KFER AZA, Oct 10 (Reuters) - Israel hammered the Gaza Strip on Tuesday with the fiercest air strikes in its 75-year conflict with the Palestinians, razing entire districts despite a threat from Hamas militants to execute a captive for each home hit.

Across the barrier wall enclosing the coastal enclave, Israeli soldiers collected the last of the dead four days after Islamist Hamas gunmen rampaged through towns in the deadliest attack in Israel's history.

Israel has vowed to take "mighty revenge", calling up hundreds of thousands of reservists and placing Gaza, crowded home to 2.3 million people, under total siege.

Israel's embassy in Washington said the death toll from the weekend Hamas attacks had surpassed 1,000, dwarfing all modern Islamist attacks on the West except for 9/11.

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