

Hundreds of Israeli buildings marred by Iran's Oct. 1 attack

Damage to private property from Iran's recent missile barrage on Israel amounted to 150 million to 200 million shekels (\$40 million to \$53 million), according to figures provided by Israel's tax authority, making it the most costly since the start of war a year ago. Some 2,500 claims were submitted in the two weeks following the Oct. 1 attack, more than half for damage to apartments and several businesses in the vicinity of north Tel Aviv.



A man checks the damages at a restaurant in the aftermath of an Iranian missile attack on Israel, on October 1, 2024 in Tel Aviv. ● AFP



Damage to the Israeli airbases of Tel Nof and Nevatim aren't included in the calculations.



A projectile is seen in the sky after Iran fired a salvo of ballistic missiles, as seen from Tel Aviv on October 1, 2024. ● REUTERS

One of the epicenters was the town of Hod Hasharon, where over 1,000 homes were damaged, according to the insurance claims.

Another was a commercial and living complex near north Tel Aviv's coast, where dozens of apartments and a restaurant were hit. The rest of the damage was concentrated in other parts of central Israel, south of Tel Aviv, including to an empty school. It's not clear how much of the damage was caused by direct hits and how much from falling debris as missiles were intercepted.

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The Israeli Tax Authority said it has paid out 1.5 billion shekels in compensation for damaged properties since Oct. 7, 2023, and estimates that payouts of some 1 billion shekels more are pending, including for damages not yet claimed, mostly in Israel's north.

Some 60,000 Israelis have left their homes in the northern region over the past year, when Israel's war in Gaza started and Hezbollah fighters based in Lebanon stepped up cross-border strikes in support of Hamas.

Hundreds of thousands of residents have also had to evacuate from south Lebanon as a result of increased fighting between Israel and Hezbollah over the past month.

The US is sending an advanced missile defense system and associated troops to Israel to help shield its ally from attacks by Iran, the Pentagon announced

Sunday. Deployment of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense battery will buttress Israel's own air defenses, which have been stretched by Iranian attacks at least twice this year. THAAD will work as a counterpart to Israel's Arrow system at the top level of a multitier missile shield that includes the mid-range David's Sling and the short-range Iron Dome. A THAAD battery consists of 95 soldiers, six truck-mounted

launchers, eight interceptors per launcher and associated equipment.

The Oct. 1 ballistic missile attack was launched by Iran in what it said was retaliation for the assassination of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah by Israel in Beirut, and the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

The Oct. 1 strikes were Iran's second direct attack on Israel, following an initial hit in April

that involved 300 drones and 100 ballistic missiles.

At that time, only four or five missiles managed to penetrate Israel's air defense shield. Reports in Israel suggest that this time, Iran used advanced weaponry and that more of its missiles entered Israel's airspace. One person was killed near the town of Jericho in the occupied West Bank and a few people were lightly wounded elsewhere. More missiles in-

crease the risk of debris hitting the ground and causing damage. Arrow, the most advanced of Israel's defense systems, helped the country and its allies — including the US — intercept the bulk of roughly 200 missiles fired on Oct. 1. The head of IAI, the Israeli manufacturer of Arrow, told Bloomberg that the system performed as expected. Israeli officials declined to give interception rates, though, and the low number of casualties was also attributed to the wide availability of bomb shelters throughout the country.

Israel vowed to retaliate against Iran for the missile barrage and has been discussing its options with the US. The decision-making security cabinet convened last week, but hasn't yet voted on Israel's response. A planned visit by Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to Washington last week to meet with his US counterpart was postponed at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's order. The premier requested to first speak to US President Joe Biden and conclude domestic discussions.

As of Sunday at noon, there was no further scheduled meeting of Israel's security cabinet.

Biden has made it clear that he wants Israel to refrain from attacking Iran's oil and nuclear facilities. If Israel agrees, it would be left with a choice of military targets or others associated with the Iranian state. Gallant said last week that the strike will be powerful, precise and, above all, contain the element of surprise.

"They will not understand what happened and how it happened," he said.

The article first appeared on Bloomberg.

