

The Whole Truth About the Israeli Strike on the Building Housing the AP and Al Jazeera Offices in Gaza

by Hugh Fitzgerald



Israel continues its attacks on Hamas, which began on May 10, and a week later numbered close to 800 airstrikes, while in the same period Hamas had launched nearly 3,250 rockets toward Israel. Neither shows any signs of wanting a ceasefire. On Saturday, the IAF hit the Jala tower, which contained offices of Hamas' military intelligence, and its research and weapons development unit, as well as the offices of AP and Al Jazeera. The story of this latest installment in the Gaza war is here: "IDF Attacks Gaza Rocket Launchers, Houses of Senior Hamas Leaders," [We have seen](#) the querulous CEO of AP, Mr. Pruitt,

who thinks that Israel did a terrible thing in attacking the building housing the advanced weapons development unit of the Hamas terrorist group because, unavoidably, other offices, including those of the AP and other media companies, were also destroyed. Al Jazeera has been similarly indignant. But both AP and Al Jazeera journalists were perfectly aware that their offices were in the same building as Hamas, that they were being used as human shields by Hamas, and that they could have moved away to safer quarters but chose not to.

Matti Friedman, who worked for the AP in Gaza City until 2014, has said that the AP was well aware of the Hamas offices in the same building. And the AP journalists could see rockets being launched at Israel from the building right next door to the Jala tower. It was obvious that the AP was being used as a hostage, to prevent Israel from destroying the building in which offices critical to Hamas' war-making were located. What changed by 2021 to make Israel decide it had to bomb the Jala building? What changed was apparently the increased success of Hamas' advanced weapons development office, and of its intelligence office – both in the Jala building – and the consequent greater need for Israel to destroy both. An hour before the attack, Israel warned everyone in the building to leave; as a consequence, no media journalists were hurt nor, for that matter, were any of those Hamas operatives who worked in the building. "Israel showed US 'smoking gun' on Hamas in AP office tower, officials say," by Lahav Harkov, [having said](#) in Copenhagen on Monday that he had not seen any evidence from Israel about Hamas offices in the Jala tower, announced from Reykyavik on Tuesday that, in fact, Israel had provided the American government with evidence of Hamas offices in the tower. [spoke of the desirability of a "ceasefire."](#) That's the first time he's mentioned that possibility. But he didn't go further: he didn't, thank god, "demand" that Israel agree to a ceasefire. He knows full well that the Israelis mean it when they say they will continue fighting until no more rockets are launched by Hamas at Israel. And while he mentioned his

concern over mounting civilian casualties, he didn't press the point. He's well aware that those civilian casualties in Gaza are a direct result of Hamas' deliberate policy of placing weapons inside civilian buildings. He reiterated his support for Israel's "right to defend itself." So far, he continues to enrage the anti-Israel left-wing of his party: Sanders, Warren, Murphy, Betty McCollum, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. That's a good sign.

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