



# ISRAEL PM SAYS “WE ARE AT WAR”



Ashkelon, Israel

**ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told his nation to prepare for a “long and difficult war” against Hamas.**

Hamas is an Islamist group that rules the Gaza part of Palestine. Early on Saturday, it began launching thousands of rockets at Israel from Gaza, a strip of Palestinian land that borders the southwest of Israel. At the same time, hundreds of armed Hamas fighters broke through a border fence in several places to launch a surprise attack. More than 900 people in Israel have died, including many who were at a music festival when the attack started. More than 100 Israelis have been taken as hostages.

In response, Mr Netanyahu said Hamas will “pay a price it has never known”. Israel began firing rockets back at important buildings on Palestine land. On Monday, Israel’s defence minister, Yoav Gallant, ordered a “complete siege” of Gaza, as Israel cut off fuel, electricity and water supplies. More than 700 people there have died since Israel began its counter-attack.

Hamas is classed as a terrorist organisation by many countries, including the UK and the US, and on Saturday leaders from both countries condemned their attack.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said: “We will continue to provide Israel with every support that it needs... we stand with Israel.” The Israeli flag was beamed onto his home, 10 Downing Street, over the weekend in a show of support.

The US has sent military ships towards the conflict in support of Israel. President Joe Biden said: “Israel has the right to defend itself and its people, full stop.”

Since fighting began, 11 US citizens caught up in it have



Gaza, Palestine

**Watch:** Children from Israel and Palestine come together to talk.



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu

died, and more than ten British citizens are feared to have died or are missing.

Conflict between Israel and Palestine isn’t new. The two states have a complicated history; Israel was created on land that once belonged to Palestine, and people on both sides feel strongly about their right to be there. Israel built a huge wall around Palestinian areas, and controls what goods and people can go in and out.

Hamas doesn’t recognise Israel’s right to exist and has declared it wants to see the destruction of Israel. Saleh al-Aroui, a senior member of the group, said: “We are ready to do whatever is necessary for the dignity and freedom of our people.”



Israel’s flag on 10 Downing Street

You can read more on the history of the conflict, and watch a film from 2021 about two young people from both sides, at [first.news/palestine](https://www.first.news/palestine), or scan the QR code above.

Teachers and parents – see our free resources around this issue at [schools.firstnews.co.uk/freeresources](https://schools.firstnews.co.uk/freeresources).

## EDITOR’S COMMENT



Nicky Cox MBE

THE news from Israel this week has been shocking and incredibly upsetting to many people (see left).

The Israel-Palestine conflict is something that many people feel very, very strongly about, and it’s possibly the most difficult issue in the world to cover in a newspaper. Since we try to be as neutral as possible, we don’t get many complaints here at *First News*, but even we’ve been accused – by both sides – of being biased one way or the other.

To help you form your own opinion, make sure you read our background to the conflict and watch our video of an Israeli kid meeting a Palestinian kid to talk about it.

For the sake of innocent civilians in both countries, we hope that peace can be found soon.

## Astronauts

IN *Toy Story*, Woody tells Buzz that his flying is just “falling with style”, but even the heroic toy space ranger may soon struggle to match the style of real-life astronauts. That’s because luxury fashion designer Prada will help to design NASA’s space suits for its mission to the moon in 2025! They’ve been given the job thanks to their technical experience with materials.



Getty



## Dish Network

THE USA has handed out its first-ever fine to a company for leaving junk in space. TV service provider Dish Network was told to pay \$150,000 (£125,000) for failing to get rid of an old satellite, called EchoStar-7, properly. It was meant to be moved 300km (186 miles) further from Earth, but was only moved 122km (76 miles) because it ran out of fuel. Space junk is things like old satellites or parts of spacecraft. When left to orbit the Earth, this junk is at risk of crashing into other satellites.



Getty

## Deepfake videos “make learning easier”

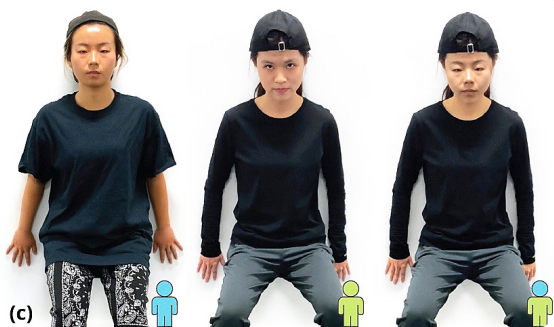
**SCIENTISTS** at the University of Bath say ‘deepfake’ videos that copy your face make learning easier, faster and more fun for you!

Deepfake videos are where a person’s face or body is copied so they appear as someone else in a video.

The researchers created training videos for exercise and public speaking. They found people learned better from these training videos when their own faces were pasted onto the instructors.

Dr Christof Lutteroth said: “Deepfake has the potential to be really exciting for people. By following a tutorial where they act as their own tutor, people can immediately get better at a task – it’s like magic.”

He added that it’s important to use the tech responsibly.



(c)

## DON’T MISS OUT!

Get *First News* online and delivered to your home every week, or recommend *First News* to a friend with our fantastic introductory offer of six weeks for £1.



Visit [first.news/6for1](https://www.first.news/6for1)