

# *Israel Launches Airstrikes in Gaza, Blocks Flotilla Seeking to Break Blockade*

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Gaza City, May 30 (RHC)-- In the Gaza Strip, Israeli warplanes launched scores of airstrikes overnight Tuesday, while Hamas fired dozens of rockets and mortars into southern Israel, in the most intense fighting in the besieged Palestinian territory since 2014.

A tentative ceasefire appears to have taken hold after Hamas said it had agreed to a truce with Israel. The fighting followed a recent wave of nonviolent protests near Israel's militarized border with Gaza, in which Israeli snipers killed 116 Palestinians and injured thousands of others.

Meanwhile, Israel's navy intercepted a flotilla carrying about two dozen people—activists challenging Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip as well as patients seeking medical treatment abroad. The protest came as Israel is constructing a fortified maritime barrier.

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