



GAZA BORDER

The Gaza-Israel border is one of the most volatile places in the Middle East. The terrorist organization Hamas controls Gaza and uses its location there to regularly launch rockets into Israel. Since 2018, the group has held riots alongside the border intermingling armed terrorists with civilians in the hopes of drawing public condemnation against Israel for those caught in the crossfire. Israel unilaterally disengaged from Gaza in 2005, in what some referred to as "a test case for peace." The hope and prayer were that by leaving the Palestinians to control the coastal enclave and leaving behind an economic infrastructure for the population to utilize, a new path forward could be forged. Unfortunately, Palestinians in Gaza destroyed the economic infrastructure – which would have provided for the welfare of 100,000 people – and turned the Gaza Strip into a base of operations from which to terrorize Israelis. A generation of Israelis has grown up under this constant threat, constantly being forced to take refuge in bomb shelters with only seconds to reach one. The situation is so grave that 63% of Israeli children living in communities near the Gaza border have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. For years CUFI has sought to support Israel during this crisis. During one sustained conflict in 2014, CUFI brought one pastor from each state in the union on a solidarity mission to southern Israel. The people of Sderot were so grateful that many came into the streets and met our busses with smiles and tears. In addition, CUFI supports the southern Israeli economy by regularly selling products produced there to our membership.

