



ISRAEL-GAZA

ONE MONTH ON



An Israeli tank near Gaza

THE conflict between Israel and Hamas, the militant group that controls the Palestinian region of Gaza, continues.

This week, armoured Israeli vehicles approached Gaza City, the main city in Gaza. Israel's army then rescued a soldier who had been taken prisoner by Hamas (which the UK and US class as a terrorist organisation). Around 240 hostages were taken when Hamas invaded Israel and killed 1,400 people in a deadly attack on 7 October. As we went to press, Hamas was still holding most of the hostages.

Israel has responded by hitting Gaza with rockets, which has destroyed homes and killed thousands. The United Nations said "hundreds and hundreds" of people are stuck in local hospitals. Doctors at the Al-Quds hospital in Gaza City said Israel had told them to leave the area, but that they can't because some patients are too poorly to move.

More than 100 aid trucks have delivered medicine, food and water into Gaza to help civilians. But, the UN and global charities such as Oxfam have called for a ceasefire (a pause in the fighting) to allow more aid in to help people.

Both sides of the wall

There are two areas of Palestinian land that are walled off from Israel – Gaza is one, and the West Bank is the other.

First News' partner television programme, *FYI*, met two young people last year in the West Bank – one Palestinian and one Israeli – to talk about the historic problems, before the latest conflict broke out. Both their families were taking part in a project run by the Parents Circle Families Forum (PCFF), which brings together Palestinian and Israeli families to get a better understanding of each other. The charity believes that a better world is possible.

Right now, PCFF says: "It is a time of great sorrow, knowing that countless families [are suffering] the tragic loss of their loved ones." It says it's working for a future "where the people of this region can live without fear, where children can grow

up in safety, and where the seeds of hope can flourish."

In the film, Israeli girl Talia says: "Everyone loses from this conflict. We lose soldiers. They lose people. We lose people. But I don't think everyone's on board with meeting the other side. But I think it's really the only way. I think Israel does have the right to defend itself but it is not making its way towards peace. What's best for my country is peace."

Her Palestinian friend, Ibraheem, says: "Everyone living the way we are is angry. If we are going to change the situation, first of all we need to understand that the others are human, just like us. So, we should talk to them and listen to their opinions, know what's the problem, know what's the cause of the hatred. War makes people lose their hopes."

Asked whether friendships like theirs will eventually bring about peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Talia said: "I think this is the beginning of everything. Understanding that we are humans before we are enemies, or 'the other side'. And I think this is the true core of peace."

Ibraheem says: "It's really hard to say now because it hasn't been lots of time since we started to understand each other. We really hope."



Friends Ibraheem (left) and Talia

Watch the film with Ibraheem and Talia, and read our coverage of the conflict so far, at [first.news/palestine](https://www.first.news/palestine).

Social media giants sued by 42 states



Meta owns all of these apps

SOCIAL media firm Meta, which runs Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, is being sued by 42 states in the USA over concerns for children's mental health.

They say some features, like notification alerts, are designed to hook young people and get them spending as much time on the apps as possible.

Letitia James, the Attorney General of New York (the state's main legal advisor), explained: "Social media companies, including Meta, have contributed to a national youth mental health crisis and

they must be held accountable." New York is one of 33 states that have teamed up to sue the company together. Nine more states are suing separately.

They also say that filters, which allow users to edit their photos, lead children to spend a lot of time worrying about their appearance. They say that young people are more likely to develop addictions, and that Meta takes advantage of this.

Meta said it was "disappointed" and that it's committed to "providing teens with safe, positive experiences online".

AI in schools

Continued from page 1

However, while AI can help with learning, there are also concerns about how pupils use AI tools such as ChatGPT to do their work for them, like writing essays.

Maya, 14, told us: "Because so many kids are using AI to get better marks, it means everyone feels they need to use it, too, so their grades keep up! But, it's cheating."

The Government's schools boss, Education Secretary Gillian Keegan, sat down with *First News* and our partner Sky News show, *FYI*, to talk about how the use of AI could be a good, but also a bad, thing in schools.

She said teachers had told her it can speed up marking and free up their time – and that it can help pupils, too. She warned them against using AI to cheat, though. "That wouldn't be a smart thing to do!" she said. "You need the knowledge in your brain. Of course it can help you get facts but if you use it to give in homework, first, you'll get caught, secondly, you haven't learned anything."

At the moment, AI draws information from everywhere. Ms Keegan spoke about training it to suit the UK's curriculum and GCSEs, creating lesson plans, quizzes and tests.

She added: "I think AI will be able to close the attainment [achievement] gap, so all the kids who are struggling, for whatever reason, will be able to catch up. If it can help personalise a learning journey and make sure nothing's too hard and nothing's too boring, that would be my dream."

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was also looking into AI this week, alongside tech boss Elon Musk. The PM held a big meeting at Bletchley Park with AI experts and world leaders to look at what safety rules need to be in place as AI advances.

This is because there are concerns about what happens if AI becomes more intelligent than humans themselves.

Have you used AI to do school work for you?

Let us know at [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)



IMAGINE your teacher having to call this name out on the register...

A Spanish duke and his wife tried to name their newborn daughter (deep breath!) Sofía Fernanda Dolores Cayetana Teresa Ángela de la Cruz Micaela del Santísimo Sacramento del Perpetuo Socorro de la Santísima Trinidad y de Todos Los Santos. Unfortunately, Spain's legal register office told them that it breaks the rules because it's far, far too long!