



The Sabra Report

IDF Launches Rescue Op After Deadly Turkey Earthquake

Yonah Jeremy Bob, Jerusalem Post, February 6th, 2023

Recap:

Israeli rescue personnel were dispatched to Turkey to assist with the earthquake disaster response as part of Operation Olive Branch.

The Context:

- ✧ A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit southern Turkey and northern Syria early Monday, toppling buildings and triggering a frantic search for survivors [1]. 20,000 people have died, making it the deadliest seismic event in more than a decade [2].
- ✧ The IDF Home Front Command is regularly dispatched around the world to assist in natural disasters, undertaking 31 missions in 40 years. A team sent to Surfside, Florida, in 2021 helped rescue efforts at a deadly condo collapse [3]. The delegation also included a team of 25 Hatzalah members consisting of medics, doctors, search and rescue personnel, and psychotrauma specialists [4].
- ✧ In 2020, Israel offered Turkey aid following a deadly earthquake, although Ankara did not accept the assistance. Relations between the two countries have since improved [5]. Israel claims Syria requested assistance with earthquake relief and that it was prepared to oblige, however, the Syrian government denied it had made such a request. Israel previously helped evacuate Syrian rebels and rescue workers across the Golan Heights [6].
- ✧ Israel lies along the Syrian-African rift, an active fault line that runs the length of the border. Experts have long warned that Israel is overdue for a major earthquake that could cause significant damage to the country. The last major earthquake took place in 1927 and killed hundreds [7].

Conversation Points:

- ✧ Can Israel's international outreach help bridge the divide with hostile neighbors?
- ✧ Why is Israel on the forefront on emergency response?
- ✧ What is the importance of performing humanitarian assistance under the Israeli flag?

Notes:

1. [Israel To Dispatch Emergency Aid, Teams to Earthquake-Stricken Turkey](#), Amy Spiro and Lazar Berman, Times of Israel, February 6th, 2023
2. [Over 20,000 dead from quake in Turkey and Syria](#), By Tara Subramaniam, Sana Noor Haq, Ed Upright, Adrienne Vogt and Matt Meyer, CNN, February 9th 2023
3. [Israel To Dispatch Emergency Aid, Teams to Earthquake-Stricken Turkey](#), Amy Spiro and Lazar Berman, Times of Israel, February 6th, 2023
4. [Israel's United Hatzalah Sets Out for Turkey to Provide Earthquake Aid](#), Michael Starr, Jerusalem Post, February 7th, 2023
5. [Israel To Dispatch Emergency Aid, Teams to Earthquake-Stricken Turkey](#), Amy Spiro and Lazar Berman, Times of Israel, February 6th, 2023
6. [Israel Says It's Poised to Send Quake Aid for Old Foe Syria](#), Dan Williams, Reuters, February 6th, 2023
7. [Israel To Dispatch Emergency Aid, Teams to Earthquake-Stricken Turkey](#), Amy Spiro and Lazar Berman, Times of Israel, February 6th, 2023

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