Following an attack by Hamas on Israeli soldiers near Rafah, in which two soldiers were killed and three injured, the Israeli army attacked several targets in Gaza on Monday night. According to the IDF, the attacks were directed against Hamas positions from which anti-tank and sniper fire had previously been fired.

Despite the renewed violence, Israel intends to adhere to the existing ceasefire. Government spokespeople stated that the agreement remains valid “provided Hamas fulfills its obligations”. These include the return of the bodies of Israeli hostages and compliance with the agreed periods of calm.

According to Palestinian reports, the airstrikes resulted in several dozen deaths, including civilians. Israel held Hamas responsible as it continued to use military infrastructure in residential areas.

Aid deliveries via the Rafah border crossing were temporarily halted. The government in Jerusalem declared that access would only be reopened once the security of Israeli forces was guaranteed.