# Israeli Tank Fire Incident Claims Lives of Five Soldiers in Gaza



**Israeli Tank Fire Incident Results in Friendly Fire Casualties**

On May 15, 2024, Israeli tank fire resulted in the deaths of five Israeli soldiers in Gaza. This friendly fire incident occurred during an operation in a densely populated area of Gaza City as the troops were engaging with Hamas forces.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, a spokesman for the Israeli military, confirmed that the incident is under review. The soldiers who were killed belonged to the Paratroopers Brigade, as reported by the military and noted by The Jerusalem Post. Seven additional soldiers were wounded when two tanks mistakenly opened fire on their position.

This incident adds to the ongoing toll of the conflict with Hamas, which began when Israel invaded Gaza in October 2023. According to the Israeli military, approximately 278 Israeli soldiers have died in Gaza since the start of the offensive, with a significant portion attributed to accidents and friendly fire.

**U.S. Efforts to Aid Gaza Amid Conflict**

Amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, the U.S. military anchored a floating pier to the Gaza Strip on May 16, 2024, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. The operation, directed by President Joe Biden, aims to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where starvation is a critical concern. Aid deliveries via this maritime corridor are expected to begin shortly, with an initial goal of 90 trucks per day, potentially increasing to 150 trucks.

This effort supplements aid entering Gaza through various land routes. Aid will be inspected in Cyprus before being shipped to Gaza, with U.S. troops handling the transportation of supplies to shore. Distribution will be overseen by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

**U.S. and Israeli Military Cooperation**

The Biden administration has announced a new $1 billion arms deal for Israel, despite concerns over its military actions in Rafah, a city with a significant civilian population. The U.S. has paused shipments of 2,000-pound and 500-pound bombs, citing humanitarian concerns.

Controversy surrounds a Republican-led bill in the U.S. House of Representatives to compel the delivery of defensive weapons to Israel, limiting the President's authority over foreign policy decisions on arms transfers. House Democratic leaders have opposed this bill, highlighting its potential security implications and loss of executive oversight. President Biden has indicated he would veto the bill if passed.