

## Deadly exchanges reported in Gaza Strip

*by UPI*

JERUSALEM -- Deadly rocket and airstrike exchanges were reported in the Gaza Strip Wednesday between Palestinian militants and Israeli armed forces. Hamas Radio reported an Israeli airstrike near Khan Yunis killed two Hamas naval police officers and injured 10 civilians. The Israeli military confirmed the strike and said it was in response to 11 mortar and rocket attacks on nearby Israeli towns, Haaretz reported. None of the Palestinian shells caused any injuries, but some caused structural damage, officials said. The Israeli military said seven Hamas militants were killed in fighting during the past 24 hours, the newspaper said. Tuesday, an umbrella group of Palestinian militant groups opposed to the ongoing U.S.-brokered peace talks in Maryland said attacks on Israel would be stepped up to show their unwillingness to make any concessions to Israel.

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