

Militant leader killed in Israeli strike

by UPI

JERUSALEM -- The Israeli air force struck a vehicle carrying a militant leader following several missile volleys between Israeli forces and militants in the Gaza Strip. The air force Thursday struck a vehicle in the northern Gaza Strip killing the leader of the alleged Hamas-allied Popular Resistance Committee, Raed Abu el-Foul, and his wife and wounding several others, Haaretz said Thursday. Militants in the Gaza Strip fired a barrage of Qassam rockets and mortars into southern Israel causing minor injuries and moderately damaging several buildings. Hamas and the militant Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the missile strikes. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel would continue its retaliatory strikes against militants in the Gaza Strip but senior Israeli military officials told the newspaper that the activity would cease if Hamas showed restraint. Also on Thursday, the Israeli military successfully tested a missile interceptor system intended to deter short- and long-range rocket attacks.

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