

Rocket barrage draws Israeli airstrikes

by UPI

JERUSALEM -- Israel launched airstrikes Thursday on the Gaza Strip in response to a barrage of 12 Palestinian rockets fired at the western Negev region, Israeli media said. No injuries were reported in the rocket attacks. Half of the rockets landed in open fields, Ynetnews.com said. Soon after the firing began, however, Israeli jets deployed and six militants at a suspected rocket-launching site in the Gaza Strip were killed, CNN reported. Ynetnews said five were Hamas operatives and the sixth was an Islamic Jihad member. Another mission reportedly killed a civilian but the military didn't elaborate, the report said. Wednesday, a rocket landed near a kindergarten at a western Negev kibbutz, injuring two children. Hamas has pledged to follow up on the suicide bombing that killed a 73-year-old woman and injured 43 people in Dimona Monday with more attacks in Israel, DEBKAFfile said.

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