Israel-Hamas War Cyberattacks

U.S. ARMY

(U) This infographic provides an overview of Israeli-Hamas cyberattacks. In addition to the easily observed relentless rocket, tank, and artillery attacks, there lies a hidden layer of the war – an online conflict. Hamas, Israel, and other countries are using cyberattacks and soliciting the help of hacker groups. This unseen fight teaches us something important about cyber warfare in general – that the biggest victims of these online attacks tend to be ordinary civilians and not the soldiers fighting on the ground.

The conflict between Israel and Hamas is happening online as well as on the ground. Gwengoat/iStock / Getty Images Plus

Hamas' cyberwarfare activities

- Initial cyberattacks hitting Israeli government and civilian systems have had mixed effects on:
  - Obtaining crucial intelligence
  - Disrupting Israeli life and terrorizing the public
  - Conducting phishing attacks
- Since full-fledged hostilities erupted, cyber attacks have focused on:
  - Information warfare, seeking to evoke panic and shift public opinion
  - Distributed Denial-of-Service
    - News media outlets,
    - Banks
    - Financial institutions
    - Government agencies
  - Misinformation efforts

Israel's cyberwarfare activities

- Israel's cyber arsenal use is limited because Hamas does not depend on the internet
- Their primary strategy has bee to turn on or off the internet connectivity in Gaza
- When there was internet service, pro-Israeli hacktivists were involved:
  - Crashing the Gaza Now news site
  - Conducting denial-of-service attacks. Up to 60% of all traffic on Palestinian websites were denial-of-service attack traffic
    - Banks
    - Technology companies

Observations

- Most of the online operations in the Israel-Hamas war have had little effect on the actual battlefield
- Cyber activities involve spying or propaganda, not wholesale destruction
- Data shows cyber does not necessarily give terror groups the ability to face major powers on more equal terms.
- Israel's online capabilities are not a significant advantage against a largely offline opponent.
- Recurring findings show civilians are the main victims of cyberattacks during war.

While cyberattacks become increasingly common, it's the innocent people caught in the middle that pay the highest price. This cost of cyber warfare is a major concern that we must be aware of.

Sources: A look inside the cyberwar between Israel and Hamas reveals the civilian toll **(The Conversation)**