



## Jericho Missile System: Israel's Ballistic Arsenal

The Jericho Missile System, a prominent part of Israel's military capabilities, has recently garnered international attention due to a controversial statement by an Israeli lawmaker suggesting the use of a 'doomsday' weapon against Hamas and Palestine. This statement has sparked a debate and brought the Jericho Missile Program into the spotlight. In this analysis, we will delve into the history, development, and capabilities of the Jericho Missile System, shedding light on its significance and the ongoing concerns surrounding its deployment.



(Source: English Jagran)

## The Genesis of Jericho

The Jericho Missile Program, named after the biblical city located in the West Bank, was initiated in the 1960s. It began as a collaboration between Israel and the French aerospace company Dassault. However, when France withdrew its support in 1969, Israel continued the program's development independently. This program marked the foundation of Israel's ballistic missile capabilities.

## Jericho-1: The Inaugural Model

The Jericho-1 missile system represented a significant milestone in the program's development. Operational during the Yom Kippur War in 1973, it weighed 6.5 tons, measured 13.4 meters in length, and had a diameter of 0.8 meters. Despite its early introduction, the Jericho-1 had a range of 500 kilometers and could carry a 1,000-kilogram payload. However, its accuracy was limited, with only a 50 percent chance of hitting within a 1,000-meter radius of the target. This missile was eventually retired in the 1990s.

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(Source: Crackit Today)

## Evolution of Jericho Missiles: Jericho-2

Israel continued to advance its ballistic missile capabilities, leading to the development of the Jericho-2 in the late 1980s. The Jericho-2 was a longer-range missile, boasting a length of 15 meters and a diameter of 1.35 meters while maintaining the same 1,000-kilogram payload capacity. Its range extended significantly, ranging from 1,500 to 3,500 kilometers, providing Israel with an enhanced strike capability.

## Jericho-3: An Intermediate-Range System

In subsequent years, Israel introduced the Jericho-3, representing an intermediate-range missile system. This model featured several improvements over its predecessors, making it a formidable part of Israel's military arsenal. The Jericho-3 boasted a longer length than the Jericho-2, with a larger diameter of 1.56 meters. This missile was reportedly tested in 2008 and entered into service in 2011.

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(Source: Newsweek)

**Enhanced Payload and Range:** The Jericho-3's capabilities marked a significant advancement. It had a range of 4,800 to 6,500 kilometers, greatly extending its reach and striking potential. Furthermore, its payload capacity extended to about 1,300 kilograms, providing the missile with a substantial destructive capability.

**Nuclear Warhead Speculation:** One aspect that has raised significant concern is the speculation that the Jericho-3 may be equipped with a 750-kilogram nuclear warhead. While it is essential to note that Israel neither confirms nor denies the existence of its nuclear arsenal, the presence of such a warhead on an intercontinental ballistic missile underscores the gravity of the situation.

## The Controversy Surrounding Jericho

The recent controversy involving Israeli legislator Revital 'Tally' Gotliv's provocative comments on the use of a 'doomsday' weapon against Hamas and Palestine has put the spotlight on the Jericho Missile System. This statement has raised questions about the potential use of nuclear weapons in the ongoing conflict and has drawn international attention.



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(Source: IAS Gyan)

The 'Doomsday' Scenario: Gotliv's assertion that Israel should consider nuclear warfare as an alternative to deploying large ground forces in the ongoing conflict has sparked a global debate. The reference to 'Jericho' in her statements has prompted a closer examination of the implications and consequences of such a course of action.

## International Concerns

The situation surrounding the potential use of advanced missile systems like the Jericho-3 in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza is a topic of great concern within the international community. Several key points merit consideration:

- 1. Regional Stability:** The deployment of such advanced missile systems, particularly those with the potential for nuclear payloads, can have far-reaching consequences for regional stability. The presence of such weapons in the Middle East adds an additional layer of complexity to an already volatile region.
- 2. Arms Race and Proliferation:** The existence and potential use of missiles like the Jericho-3 may lead to an arms race in the region, with neighboring countries feeling compelled to develop their own advanced missile systems. This proliferation of missile technology can exacerbate regional tensions and pose a threat to global security.

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**3. Strategic Implications:** The mere speculation of nuclear warheads on the Jericho-3 underscores the strategic implications of such weapons. The use of nuclear weapons, even in a limited capacity, has the potential to reshape the dynamics of the ongoing conflict and have repercussions on a global scale.

## International Diplomacy and Resolution

As the Jericho Missile System takes center stage in the ongoing conflict, it is imperative that international diplomatic efforts intensify to find a peaceful resolution. The escalation of violence and the potential use of such advanced weaponry heighten the urgency of seeking a lasting solution to the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



(Source: India.com)

**1. Role of the United Nations:** The United Nations, as a global peacekeeping body, must play a central role in mediating and facilitating dialogue between the parties involved. A peaceful resolution is paramount to avoid the devastating consequences of military conflict in the region.

**2. Nuclear Non-Proliferation:** The international community should use this situation as a reminder of the importance of nuclear non-proliferation efforts. The presence of nuclear capabilities in a volatile region necessitates strict monitoring and controls to prevent the spread of these weapons.



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The Jericho Missile System, with its historical evolution and its latest iteration, the Jericho-3, is a critical component of Israel's military capabilities. The recent controversy surrounding the potential use of a 'doomsday' weapon has ignited global debate and highlighted the significance of this ballistic missile program. The international community closely monitors the situation and remains concerned about the potential deployment of such advanced missile systems in the ongoing conflict. The consequences of such actions, particularly in a region as sensitive as the Middle East, are of paramount importance and warrant ongoing scrutiny and diplomatic efforts to maintain regional stability and global security. International diplomacy must take precedence to find a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict and prevent further escalation of violence.

