

Israel , militants clash in southern Gaza, 4 militants killed

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Israeli troops backed by aircraft and tanks are clashing with Palestinian gunmen in the southern Gaza Strip

Health officials say four militants have been killed and another eight wounded. Separately, a militant from Gaza's ruling Hamas movement died of wounds sustained in an Israeli airstrike last week. The Israeli military said the operation Sunday targeted militants who regularly fire rockets and mortars at southern Israel. It confirmed airstrikes but had no further details.

Hamas claimed tanks and bulldozers moved across the Israeli border into Gaza to back the troops, and Israeli aircraft struck twice.

According to Hamas, at least 25 men were arrested in Israeli military sweeps.