

# Review of: "[Commentary] Explaining Hamas Attack of October 7"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is interesting and contributes to the body of literature on the October 7 attacks by Hamas against Israel. The theories used also contribute to applying theory to the empirical part and are original contributions to the topic, whose implications are still felt across the Middle East and beyond.

I think the article is publishable after making the following changes:

1. The author uses Kfar Aza or Kibbutzum throughout the text to refer to the attacks. Kfar Aza is one of many kibbutzim that Hamas attacked. Kibbutzim is the Hebrew plural for kibbutz. I would suggest giving a context to the reader of what a kibbutz is and to refer to these settler communities attacked by Hamas as the Gaza Envelope, as it contains dozens of towns and communities, and Kfar Aza is one of them.
2. There is a reference to Turkey suggesting that it is yet to accept Sweden's NATO membership; it needs an update now.
3. The author talks about the motivations why Hamas attacked Israel. Attacks on Al-Aqsa (please cite the speech by Hamas military commander Aldif after the attack) is one of them. At the same time, freeing some 6,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails is another. Please highlight these from the point of view of Hamas.
4. The author refers to the timing of the attack by saying Hamas might have waited for approval from Iran and Hezbollah. Here there is a lack of explanation of Hamas agency. Hezbollah and Iran, according to statements by Hamas, Iran, and Hezbollah, were not aware of the attack. In fact, Hamas issued a statement in response to an Iranian military official who claimed the attack was in response to assassinating Soleimani, by saying it is in response to attacks on Al-Aqsa, hence the name Al-Aqsa Flood, and to free prisoners; you can cite this statement too.
5. Finally, it is important to further highlight that normalization of ties in the region, such as that with Saudi Arabia and Israel, pushed Hamas to attack to bring the Palestinian cause to the fore.
6. Good luck to you.