Gazans renew arson balloon attacks on southern Israel

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A fire that broke out on Wednesday in the Gaza-adjacent Simhoni forest was the result of an [arson balloon](https://www.israelhayom.com/2019/06/28/israel-hamas-said-to-agree-on-new-truce-amid-wave-of-arson-terrorism/) flown over the Gaza border fence, an arson investigator from the Ashkelon Fire and Rescue Service determined Wednesday afternoon.

The incident marked the first fire in the area to be caused by an [arson balloon from Gaza](https://www.israelhayom.com/2019/01/14/volunteer-firefighters-to-protect-gaza-periphery-from-arson-terrorism/) after a respite of about a month from attacks of this kind.

Last month, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi and GOC Southern Command Maj. Gen. Herzi Halevi met with heads of local authorities near Gaza. During the meeting, Kochavi said that the IDF was using every tool at its disposal to put a stop to arson terrorism from the Gaza Strip. Kochavi also briefed the local authority heads on the situation in Gaza, as well as provided an overview of the terrorist organizations which are active there.

The meeting touched on common goals and discussed continued cooperation between the IDF and communities that lie to the east of Gaza.