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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

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From Ramallah Rockets to Jordanian Terror Attacks: Escalation Before Shabbat

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Overview

TODAY’S briefing tracks three converging security fronts: the ground offensive in Gaza City, vulnerabilities exposed at the Allenby Crossing following a terror attack, and regional threats from Iran, Houthis, and Hezbollah. The IDF emphasizes protocols to protect hostages during operations while security forces conduct raids across multiple territories.

The War Today

West Bank Rocket Production Dismantled

IDF, Shin Bet, and Israel Police conducted raids in Ramallah, seizing “dozens of improvised rockets” and arresting three suspects connected to recent test launches toward central Israel. Security forces discovered rocket-manufacturing equipment and two staged projectiles without warheads, indicating escalating West Bank capabilities.

Gaza City Offensive Underway with Hostage Safeguards

The IDF’s 7th Armored Brigade is preparing to enter Gaza City with explicit orders prioritizing hostage protection. Tank crews carry photos of captives Nimrod Cohen and Matan Angrest, with instructions to halt fire immediately if intelligence suggests their presence. Officers describe the campaign as methodical, aimed at dismantling Hamas infrastructure.

Hamas Threats Over Hostage Safety

A senior Hamas official who survived an Israeli strike in Doha warned that the Gaza City operation “endangers hostages” and claimed roughly 48 captives remain dispersed throughout the city. Hamas’s military wing threatened Israel “will not retrieve any hostage” if operations continue, as families press for negotiated releases.

Inside Israel

Military Prosecution in Lebanon Incident

MILITARY prosecutors plan to indict a colonel for reckless manslaughter in deaths of a soldier and historian during a November 2024 clash in southern Lebanon. The incident involved bringing a civilian into a combat zone where Hezbollah gunfire erupted.

Gaza Aid Sourcing Requirements

New regulations require the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation to procure all food aid exclusively within Israel. The foundation has delivered 167 million

meals since its May establishment as a U.S.-Israel joint initiative to bypass Hamas distribution networks.

October 7 Trauma and Mental Health

Hebrew University research found nearly 40 percent of massacre survivors developed new or worsened obsessive-compulsive disorder symptoms. Compulsive checking behaviors reflected heightened security concerns following the invasion.

Israel and the World

Antisemitism in Germany

A shopkeeper in Flensburg posted signage excluding Jewish customers, claiming it protested Israeli military operations. German officials condemned the action as reminiscent of Nazi-era boycott tactics.

UN Staff Neutrality Disputed

U.S. and Israeli diplomats challenged UN institutional impartiality after thousands of employees attended briefings with a controversial special rapporteur and participated in vigils for colleagues killed in Gaza. UN management reminded staff to avoid political activities during work hours.

British Jewish Opinion Shift

For the first time in survey history, fewer than 50 percent of British Jews support a two-state solution—down from 77 percent fifteen years ago. Support for binational arrangements is growing, particularly among younger demographics.

Key Developments

Allenby Crossing Security Breach – A Jordanian truck driver opened fire and stabbed Israelis at the border crossing, killing two before being shot. The vehicle bypassed inspection protocols under existing bilateral agreements, prompting Israel to suspend Jordanian land shipments pending security review.

Houthi Escalation – Red Sea militants launched drone and ballistic missile attacks toward Eilat and central Israel, with Israeli defenses intercepting a projectile in one of the heaviest escalations since October 2023.

Lebanon Warnings – The IDF warned civilians in three villages to evacuate ahead of expanded strikes targeting Hezbollah positions.

Regional Military Posturing – Egypt deployed advanced Chinese air defense systems in Sinai; Iran tested ballistic missiles and positioned Russian-made S-300 systems at western airbases.

Diplomatic Progress – Syria’s president announced advancement toward military-security cooperation with Israel following London talks, with additional negotiations scheduled in Baku.

Defense Market Setback – The Philippines suspended weapons purchases from Israel under domestic political pressure.

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ABOUT MITZPE INSTITUTE

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