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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

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Fires in the North, Tunnels in the South, Pressure in the UN

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Overview

ISRAEL enters the High Holidays amid multifaceted military and diplomatic pressures. Hamas has reconstructed tunnel networks in Gaza City while the IDF conducts extensive operations constrained by hostage concerns. Simultaneously, Western nations prepare to recognize Palestinian statehood at the UN despite public opposition in their own countries.

The War Today

Gaza City Tunnel Rebuilding

HAMAS has rebuilt significant tunnel sections in Gaza City, with approximately 10,000 militants believed sheltering underground. The IDF has paused certain underground operations due to “concern for hostages possibly held in the shafts,” though Hamas has threatened captive safety if operations continue. President Trump has defended the operations as potentially accelerating hostage releases, while hostage families express alarm.

Expanded Gaza Offensive

The IDF widened its Gaza City assault, striking roughly 100 targets within 24 hours. Israel has requested U.S. pressure on Egypt regarding what it characterizes as a “Sinai military buildup that includes runways and underground sites,” potentially violating the peace treaty.

Hamas Propaganda Strategy

Hamas released propaganda depicting all 48 remaining hostages as “Ron Arad,” referencing the Israeli navigator who disappeared in 1988 and was never returned. The message blames leadership for rejecting deals. Israeli officials report 20 hostages believed alive, two in critical condition, with 26 bodies retained.

Humanitarian Manipulation

Hamas gunmen fired on UN teams establishing a humanitarian corridor, hijacked UN vehicles to block routes, and stole baby formula at gunpoint. Israeli officials assert the group manufactures crisis narratives for political leverage.

Inside Israel

Freed Hostage Pledges Service

EDAN Alexander, released after 584 days in captivity, announced plans to rejoin his Golani Brigade unit in October, stating his “story does not end with survival; it continues with service.”

Political Detention

Former Knesset member Haneen Zoabi faced detention on suspicion of incitement to terrorism for remarks made abroad, reflecting her history of endorsing Hamas.

Domestic Violence

Anti-government activists assaulted Likud MK Eli Dellal at a party event, prompting Prime Minister Netanyahu to condemn the escalating pattern of incitement.

Northern Fires

Multiple fires in northern Israel targeted trucks and open areas, with investigators suspecting arson and possible terror connections.

Israel and the World

Public Opinion vs. Policy

A French poll reveals 71% of the public opposes Palestinian state recognition before Hamas’s defeat and hostage release, yet France prepares to announce recognition at the UN General Assembly.

Holocaust Remembrance

Hundreds marched to Ponary in Lithuania, where 70,000 Jews were murdered between 1941–44. Survivor Arnold Kleys urged participants: “Help the State of Israel,” framing remembrance as solidarity with Israel’s security.

French Contradictions

President Macron promised stronger antisemitism enforcement, calling for “absolute vigilance,” while simultaneously advancing Palestinian state recognition—a policy opposed by French Jews and criticized by Israel.

Embassy Security Threat

Dutch police arrested a man attempting to breach Israel’s embassy in The Hague with incendiary materials. No injuries occurred, but the incident highlights record antisemitism levels in the Netherlands.

Briefly Noted

- Germany and Austria rejected Eurovision boycott calls, warning cultural bans divide Europe without aiding Gaza residents

- Dutch MP Esther Ouwehand wore protest clothing during budget debate, accusing her government of ignoring alleged “genocide”
- Eight IDF soldiers injured in Humvee overturn near Gaza City; all evacuated to medical facility
- Conservative youth overwhelmingly support Israel regardless of media figures followed
- New Hampshire shooting suspect arrested after killing one and wounding two; witness reported “Free Palestine” rhetoric

Developments to Watch

Military Operations: Heavy raids eliminated 30+ militants; 120+ Hamas positions struck; continued rocket fire from northern Gaza with partial interception.

Iran Escalation: Tehran suspended IAEA cooperation and claimed successful intercontinental missile test; UN sanctions snapback confirmed for later this month.

Cyber Threats: Iranian-linked accounts attempted recruitment of Israeli citizens; European airports disrupted by cyberattack.

Regional Security: Magnetometer checks implemented for Jordanian truck drivers; weapons smuggling via Sinai reported; Hezbollah operatives eliminated in southern Lebanon.

Diplomatic Track: Netanyahu convening security meetings on possible U.S.-mediated Syria arrangement.

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Mitzpe Institute is an intelligence and strategy organization focused on Israeli security, diaspora threat assessment, and the strategic challenges confronting the Jewish people and the West. We produce daily intelligence, forensic analyses, strategic assessments, and tactical briefings read by policymakers, military leaders, and institutional decision-makers across more than 90 countries and all 50 US states — from the Knesset and the US Congress to allied governments, major policy institutions, and Jewish organizational leadership worldwide.

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