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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

Sunday, September 28

From the UN podium to Gaza's alleys: Israel fights enemies without and illusions within.

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CLASSIFICATION

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IN THIS EDITION

The War Today	3
Inside Israel	3
Israel and the World	4
Briefly Noted	4
Developments to Watch	5

The War Today

Gaza Operations Intensify

THE IDF expanded ground operations in Gaza City, eliminating armed operatives and discovering weapons caches including rockets and anti-tank missiles. Approximately 120 airstrikes targeted observation posts and underground infrastructure while troops neutralized explosive devices.

Hamas Operative Eliminated Israeli forces killed Mohammed Ahmad Yousef al-Jamal, a Hamas operative responsible for fatally shooting Yamam officer Arnon Zamora ז"ל during a June 2024 hostage rescue operation. The strike honored Zamora's memory while dismantling Hamas infrastructure.

Iran's Recruitment Campaign Hundreds of Israelis received threatening phone calls from Iranian intelligence operatives in broken Hebrew, attempting recruitment and intimidation. The National Cyber Directorate confirmed the coordinated operation and cautioned citizens against engagement.

Trump's Hostage Plan President Trump's 21-point proposal demands all hostage releases within a 72-hour ceasefire but lacks explicit requirements that Hamas leave Gaza or disarm. Netanyahu faces pressure from coalition partners opposing concessions while opposition leader Lapid offers political cover for accepting a deal.

Gaza Clan Dynamics Reports indicate Israel approached the Bakr and Durmush clans with proposals opposing Hamas, reportedly striking their homes after refusal, killing dozens of family members.

Inside Israel

Opposition Support for Hostage Deal

YAIR Lapid told U.S. officials he would support Netanyahu on hostage and ceasefire legislation, offering what he termed a "safety net." Lapid emphasized existing majority support exists for such measures.

Hostage Families Protest Thousands rallied nationwide demanding ceasefire and hostage-release agreements. Danny Elgarat, whose brother died on October 7, criticized Netanyahu's UN speech as "empty" and blamed him for the "holocaust" of that day.

Kibbutz Attack A hotel maintenance worker at Kibbutz Tzuba stabbed two guests, admitting he targeted them "because they are Jews." Civilians and a vacationing officer subdued him before police arrival.

2021 Lynching Convictions The Lod court sentenced six Arab Israelis and one Palestinian to 11-17 years for fatally attacking resident Yigal Yehoshua during May 2021 riots. The court classified it terrorist violence despite avoiding murder charges through plea arrangements.

Measles Emergency Israel's Chief Rabbis urged vaccination after four Jerusalem toddlers died from measles, framing immunization as a religious obligation under Jewish law.

Israel and the World

Iran Sanctions Reinstated

THE UN Security Council restored sweeping sanctions on Iran including arms embargoes and uranium enrichment restrictions after Britain, France, and Germany cited nuclear deal violations. The Iranian currency hit record lows as retaliation threats mounted.

Russia-Iran Nuclear Deal Iran and Russia signed a \$25 billion agreement for four nuclear power plants hours before sanctions took effect. Iran warned it would revoke International Atomic Energy Agency inspection access if sanctions proceeded.

Syria-Israel Security Talks Stall U.S.-brokered negotiations faltered over Jerusalem's demand for an aid corridor protecting the Druze community in Sweida, which Damascus deemed a sovereignty violation. Discussions shifted toward narrower de-escalation arrangements.

New Zealand Delays Palestinian Recognition Wellington declined immediate Palestinian state recognition, citing Hamas control of Gaza and the absence of post-war frameworks. The government framed recognition as inevitable but premature currently.

Hungarian EU Resistance Budapest continued blocking European Union sanctions against Israel, arguing such measures prove counterproductive while cultivating ties with Iran and Russia.

Hezbollah's Symbolic Projection Beirut's projection of slain Hezbollah leaders' images onto Raouche Rocks reignited sovereignty debates while demonstrating the group's weakened operational capacity despite symbolic posturing.

Briefly Noted

- Real estate firm Melisron purchased controlling interest in Rishon LeZion's Kenyon Hazahav mall for NIS 818 million
- KLM resumed daily Tel Aviv service via Larnaca
- The UN Human Rights Office blacklisted 68 additional companies over alleged settlement activities, expanding its list to 158 firms
- Italy urged organizers of the Global sumud flotilla to redirect Gaza cargo through Cyprus; organizers refused

- Ukraine's Zelenskyy claimed an Israeli Patriot system operates there; Jerusalem emphasized U.S. re-export status
- Egyptian military buildup in Sinai prompted concerns about the 1979 peace treaty's viability
- Colombian President Gustavo Petro accused Washington of violating international law after visa revocation
- A Palestinian refugee in Spain filed genocide charges against an IDF engineer citing Instagram posts
- Analysis warned of China's deepening hostility toward Israel post-October 7 through port control and Iranian arms supplies
- Tel Aviv University and Ichilov validated an eye-tracking memory assessment using pupil response measurement
- Middle East scholar Mordechai Kedar noted Iran's shifted stance on the Zangezur Corridor toward diplomatic engagement
- A Trump administration official reported harassment and pursuit in a UN restroom by pro-Palestinian activists

Developments to Watch

- **Hezbollah Facility Struck:** IDF operations against Lebanese Hezbollah missile sites continue escalating
- **Iraqi Militia Tensions:** Netanyahu warned of targeting Iran-backed Iraqi forces; Baghdad condemned the threat as crossing red lines
- **Egyptian Missile Deployment:** Medium-range launchers positioned in Sinai signal rising regional tensions
- **Houthi Responses:** Yemeni forces launched missiles at Israeli aircraft following Israeli strikes
- **Anti-Hamas Factions:** Local armed groups in multiple Gaza locations challenge Hamas authority while Israel provides tacit support
- **Microsoft Access Blocked:** Microsoft restricted IDF database access citing alleged terms-of-service violations
- **Airport Security Incident:** Thirty-eight Georgian nationals attempting infiltration via false credentials were apprehended and expelled

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Uriel Zehavi is the executive director of Mitzpe Institute, where he writes the daily Israel Brief and co-directs its Institutional Intelligence practice with Modi Zehavi. He is the author of four books from Mitzpe Press and advises Israeli and allied clients on strategic communications for Western audiences.



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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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