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READER EDITION

October 13, 2025

ISRAEL BRIEF

Monday, October 13

Freedom returned, hatred remains. Vigilance is the price of peace.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

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Available reconstructed structure from two fetches:

Israel Brief: Monday, October 13

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The War Today

GOVERNMENT amendments reduced the prisoner release list to 1,718 detainees after swapping out certain Fatah and Hamas-linked individuals plus seven minors. The IDF distributed Arabic-language warnings across the West Bank, signaling zero tolerance for terrorist group support during exchanges.

Raed Sheikh—convicted in the 2000 Ramallah lynching of two IDF reservists—is scheduled for release and deportation. Hamas officials claim Israel altered prisoner lists and warned of resumed fighting without external pressure.

Gaza militia commanders report Hamas's grip on power is weakening amid clan resistance, with local groups now controlling territory with Israeli coordination.

Inside Israel's Heart

THE homecoming of hostages dominates Israeli consciousness. Individual profiles highlight survivors from the Nova Music Festival and kibbutz families, including twenty-one-year-old Rom Braslavski, a German-Israeli medic described as having “tried to fight off Hamas terrorists with stones.”

The briefing also honors those who died in captivity or were murdered: Yossi Sharabi (53, kibbutz resident), Tal Haimi (41, engineer), Eitan Levy (53, cab driver), and Uriel Baruch (35, father of two).

One hostage's mother publicly thanked Prime Minister Netanyahu, contrasting sharply with earlier public criticism. Israelis participated in nationwide piano performances honoring hostage Alon Ohel, a gifted pianist.

Israel and the World

NETANYAHU declined attending the Trump-led “Peace Summit” in Sharm el-Sheikh due to Simchat Torah observance, citing ultra-Orthodox coalition objections. Indonesia’s president is expected to visit Jerusalem, signaling potential diplomatic shifts.

Internationally, demonstrations continue despite the ceasefire: - Switzerland: 18 police injured during unauthorized “pro-Palestinian” riots in Bern - United Kingdom: Tens of thousands marched through London chanting calls for “intifada” - Netherlands: Over 300 activists arrested blocking train lines at Rotterdam port

Briefly Noted

- Families of terror victims express simultaneous relief and fear that released terrorists will plan future attacks
- Israel’s Foreign Ministry released a Yahya Sinwar memo proving October 7 was “premeditated and choreographed”
- Turkey may restore trade while continuing to shelter Hamas operatives
- U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee credited Trump’s team exclusively for ceasefire brokering
- A Gaza restaurant mockingly named “Nova” sparked outrage among Israelis
- A Dutch retiree uncovered Nazi-looted artwork in Argentina through his father’s wartime diaries

Developments to Watch

Likely to escalate: - Hostage convoy security threats if crowds interfere with Red Cross transfers - Hezbollah retaliation debate following Israeli destruction of engineering vehicles; Gaza’s disarmament stalls

Other monitoring points: - IDF maintains forward positions (99th Division, 401st Brigade) in northern Gaza - Cairo invited Iran’s president to peace summit - Egypt border smuggling attempt interdicted - Hamas imposed information restrictions on Gazans - Qatar’s hostage-negotiation team suffered fatal car crash (four dead, two critical) - FBI arrested two immigrants allegedly planning attacks on Jewish institutions

Closing Assessment

THE hostage returns are “sacred work” while the terrorist releases represent significant future risk. Hamas characterizes the ceasefire as victory and reaffirms commitment to future violence. Iran continues testing boundaries, and European demonstrations increasingly normalize calls for Israeli erasure.

Three factors to monitor: whether Gaza’s anti-Hamas militias consolidate territory; whether Cairo attempts deploying foreign troops that would restrict Israeli operations; whether international information warfare hardens or weakens.

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