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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

Monday, October 27

Maps redraw themselves when the ceasefire does not. Gaza digs, Lebanon bristles, and Washington keeps trying to referee a knife fight with a clipboard.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE This is the ecosystem in action: Islamist organizers, political enablers, and activist NGOs launder Hamas narratives into Western civic space while probing the limits of law, tax status, and speech. The US response is bifurcating—visa revocations and potential IRS scrutiny on one side; a permissive lane for groups that platform designated terrorists on the other. Policy traction lies in enforcement with teeth: material-support reviews for nonprofits that host sanctioned actors; visa and entry bars tied to terror designations; and robust security support for Jewish and Holocaust institutions now used as stages for inversion campaigns. *Secondary angle:* These battles travel—messaging exported from US and South African stages loops back into European lawfare and UN fora; winning the “day after” in Gaza requires contesting this pipeline as much as policing borders.

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THE quiet is getting noisy. In the south, the “truce” now runs through an American switchboard: every strike, convoy, and corridor requires signatures from both sides of the ocean. The IDF used that narrow lane last night—one precision hit in Nuseirat cleared by CENTCOM, framed as “not a breach,” and proof that Israel’s right to act still exists, though now under supervision. Egyptian bulldozers are digging through Gaza’s ruins under IDF escort, while—for the first time—a Hamas liaison walks beside the Red Cross to find the bodies of murdered Israelis. It’s a surreal tableau: enemies pretending to cooperate over corpses they created.

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North, the temperature is rising fast. The IAF has taken out Hezbollah's air-defense chief and several Radwan commanders in the Beqaa and south Lebanon. Tehran has moved IRGC officers into Hezbollah launch sites, turning the border into an Iranian franchise. Beirut has quietly told citizens to stockpile food and water—always a bad sign—and the Houthis just volunteered to “join the fight” if Israel expands operations. Israel's attrition campaign is bleeding Hezbollah without triggering a war it isn't ready to fight.

At home, the government has officially entered election year, though the campaign began months ago in all but name. The coalition is juggling draft riots, anti-Bennett laws, and normalization diplomacy while Washington redraws Gaza's future. Thursday's planned Haredi protest in Jerusalem will be a barometer of internal strain—tens of thousands expected to block the capital's gates in the name of “Torah persecution.” The IDF's reserve ranks will be watching; they've carried this country for two years and they're running out of patience with selective sacrifice.

Abroad, Mossad just exposed a global IRGC network spanning Europe and Australia, and new Iranian radar coverage now sits on the Sudanese coast, looking north. Every theater is connected: when Iran watches the Red Sea, Hezbollah digs in the Beqaa, and Hamas stalls in Gaza, it's one strategy—stretch Israel until restraint looks like weakness. The ceasefire buys time, not safety.

*Hit **subscribe**—because if you're going to lose sleep over the Middle East, you might as well know why.*

THE WAR TODAY

Ceasefire Exception: Targeted Strike, US Coordination, and Israel's Sovereignty Line

The IDF conducted a **targeted strike in Nuseirat** against a **Palestinian Islamic Jihad** operative planning an imminent attack on Israeli troops; **Washington publicly framed it as not a ceasefire breach**, citing Israel's retained right to self-defense against immediate threats. Behind the scenes, this one shot ran an unusually long approval ladder—up through the IDF chief and political echelon and across to the **US-Israel joint HQ and CENTCOM**—underscoring the new operating regime under the truce. As **Egyptian teams entered Gaza** to help recover the remains of slain hostages, the prime minister publicly pushed back on “client state” talk, insisting **Israel is sovereign** and will set **red lines on any international force** tied to the Trump plan, including who may or may not deploy in Gaza.

ASSESSMENT

*The ceasefire has a narrow “imminent threat” lane, and Israel just used it—with Washington’s public cover and quiet coordination. That protects deterrence in the short run, but the optics of **US-involved targeting chains** feed the sovereignty debate the prime minister is trying to shut down—a bad look as election talk heats up, and it will empower Bibi’s right flank to push harder in the annexation debate. Secondary angle: Israel’s pledge to **decide who sets foot in Gaza** will keep Ankara and other spoilers out—if Jerusalem can hold that line while still harvesting the diplomatic benefits of the US-run stabilization track.*

Media Sources: Ynet, Algemeiner, Times of Israel, JNS, Israel National News.

The Hostage Remains Standoff: Search Corridors Open, Leverage Closes

Israel is pushing a last-mile recovery of the fallen under the ceasefire, **authorizing Red Cross and Egyptian heavy teams to cross the “Yellow Line”** and—case by case—**permitting Hamas “Shadow Unit” representatives** to join searches inside IDF-held areas to speed retrievals. Jerusalem now **assesses the locations of 9 of the 13** deceased hostages while **four remain unlocated**, but says Hamas is **withholding information** and slow-rolling returns in breach of the October 9 deal; **five straight days** have passed with no bodies handed over despite Trump’s **48-hour warning** and stepped-up mediator pressure. To avoid a clash that could rupture the truce, the **IDF pulled back from one search zone** beyond the Yellow Line under mediator guidance, even as it continues targeted actions (e.g., Nuseirat) and tunnel hunts in the Israeli-controlled sector. In parallel, Jerusalem is calibrating sovereignty optics—**granting narrow access to accelerate returns** while insisting Israel **decides who crosses and under what rules**; that stance also shapes planning for the stabilization force and any third-party roles.

ASSESSMENT

*The body-recovery track is now the truce’s pressure point: Israel is trading **tightly-supervised access for time-bound compliance**, while Hamas banks delay into leverage. If the next 24–48 hours do not produce returns, expect **graduated coercion**—aid throttles, pinpoint strikes, and narrowed search corridors—backed by U.S. cover. Secondary angle: Hamas’s negotiators are already **hedging on disarmament**, signaling that even full returns won’t buy a “day after” with guns out of the picture; enforcement will still travel by bulldozer and warrant, not communiqués.*

Media Sources: Times of Israel, Ynet, Jerusalem Post, Israel National News.

Disarmament Denied: Hamas Seeks Technocrat Cover as ISF Takes Shape and Israel Draws Red Lines

Hamas’s leadership has moved to lock in post-war leverage, with **Khalil al-Hayya** declaring the group will **only disarm “if the occupation ends”**—a deliberately elastic condition—while Gaza civil-society figure **Amjad Shawa** was tapped in Cairo as the front man for a **“technocratic board”** assembled by **Hamas and the PA**, pending US acceptance. In Jerusalem, security officials briefed lawmakers that the **working assumption is Hamas will not disarm**,

even as planning advances for an **International Stabilization Force (ISF)** comprising **Indonesia, Pakistan, and Azerbaijan**, with **Malaysia** now publicly offering troops under a UN banner; **Jordan's King Abdullah** warned that **peace-enforcing mandates** will repel contributors, urging a limited **peacekeeping** role that trains Palestinian policing instead. Against this, **Israel insists on veto power** over any foreign troops and rejects Turkish participation, while signaling that **Gaza's demilitarization** remains a non-negotiable condition for phase two of the deal; in parallel, Israeli diplomat **Ofir Akunis** said **new Abraham Accords entrants** are likely in coming months even as **Hamas and Hezbollah** rebuild.

ASSESSMENT

Hamas isn't moderating—it's maneuvering. The new "technocratic" façade is camouflage for an old play: keep the weapons, buy time, and let others pay the bill. Every Islamist actor from Tehran to Doha reads from the same script—say what the West wants to hear, take the cash, rebuild the arsenal, then resume the war that never ended. The talk of unity boards and neutral forces is a holding pattern, not a compromise. An ISF unwilling to enforce disarmament becomes the next buffer protecting Hamas, not Gaza's civilians. Israel's red line is the only real one: no guns, no government. Secondary angle: Expanding the Abraham Accords has value only if partners understand this truth—normalization with Islamists (whether sunni or shiite) who deny Israel's right to exist is just appeasement with better lighting. Their goal hasn't changed since 1948; they'll smile at the table while rearming under it.

Media Sources: The Jewish Chronicle, Israel National News, Jerusalem Post, Ynet.

Hezbollah's Next Move: Refuse Disarmament, Hunt a Hostage, Absorb the Blows

Hezbollah's number two **Naim Qassem** rejected Lebanon's disarmament plan and declared the group's arsenal a "legitimate right," while boasting of a past strike on Netanyahu's home—signaling no intention to comply with any "weapons off the table" formula. On the ground, the **IDF has intensified precision strikes** deep into Lebanon—killing weapons smuggler **Ali Hussein al-Mousawi** in the **Beqaa Valley** and a local fixer near **Naqoura**, alongside a string of hits on **Radwan Force** cadre—part of a steady campaign that the army says has eliminated ~330 **Hezbollah operatives** since the ceasefire took effect. Israeli commanders capped the week with the **largest 91st Division drill** of the war to rehearse mass-infiltration defense and rapid counterstrikes, even as assessments in Jerusalem hold that **Hezbollah is not seeking full-scale war** now but may try to **kidnap an IDF soldier** to claw back prestige and bargaining leverage. U.S. coordination remained visible, with **Defense Minister Israel Katz** touring the northern front alongside **Washington's deputy envoy** during the latest strike series.

ASSESSMENT

Hezbollah is telegraphing a two-track strategy: keep the guns, dodge disarmament, and hunt for a symbolic grab—a kidnapping—to reset the narrative without inviting a major Israeli ground move. Israel's answer must remain attrition and denial: continue degrading smuggling nodes and Radwan rebuilders in the Beqaa and south, while hardening border units and civilian routes against abduction attempts with sensors, quick-reaction fire, and cross-border preemption when intelligence allows. Secondary angle: Beirut's "disarm by year-end" talk is theater while Tehran's pipelines still run; only sustained interdiction and credible penalties for rearmament will keep this border from sliding back to daily rocket roulette.

Media Sources: Israel National News, Ynet, Times of Israel.

INSIDE ISRAEL

Normalization vs. Annexation: A fraying coalition meets field friction

As Jerusalem courts Riyadh under the U.S.-brokered framework, the home front is wobbling—and loudly. **Avigdor Liberman** claims **Benjamin Netanyahu** erupted at Finance Minister **Bezalel Smotrich** over his “ride camels” dig at Saudi Arabia with such fury that aides “nearly called a doctor,” fearing he’d collapse—an outburst born of panic that the quip could derail a normalization track he views as legacy-defining. Liberman also alleges that **Gaza strike approvals and aid convoys** are now funneled through a **U.S.-command hub in Kiryat Gat**, complete with **American drones policing Israeli operations** and a third goods crossing slated to open. Last week, a **preliminary annexation bill in Judea and Samaria** passed its first Knesset hurdle against **Netanyahu's wishes**, proof that coalition discipline is unraveling as elections loom and firebrands prioritize populism over policy. On the ground, **Gush Etzion** residents exploded after IDF troops **detained Jewish shepherds** while alleged **Arab rioters roamed free**—a flashpoint for the growing perception that parts of the army now police settlers more aggressively than attackers.

ASSESSMENT

The strategic center of gravity is coherence—and this government doesn't have it. You can't sell normalization with Riyadh while your finance minister plays Bedouin insult comic and your backbenchers push annexation bills the prime minister can't control. Every outburst hands leverage to Washington and Riyadh, both of whom now measure Israeli reliability in decibels. On the ground, misapplied restraint breeds chaos; when shepherds need protection and get detention instead, locals lose faith and “vigilante defense” fills the vacuum. The cure is clarity and discipline: rules of engagement that hit rioters first, coalition restraint that spares Netanyahu more cardiac episodes, and tangible wins—hostage returns, calm borders, a Saudi handshake—to prove governance still outranks theater.

Media Sources: Jerusalem Post, Times of Israel, Israel National News.

Rule-of-Law Stress Test: Freezing the PM's Trial, Hobbling a Rival, and the Cost to Governance

The **Ministerial Committee for Legislation** moved to back two hard-edged “personal laws”: one empowering the **Knesset House Committee to halt a sitting prime minister's criminal trial**, and another forcing **Naftali Bennett's new party** to service old **Yamina/Jewish Home debts** before running, effectively taxing his 2026 comeback. **Attorney-General Gali Baharav-Miara** blasted the trial-freeze move as “illegal” and “unconstitutional,” a direct breach of equality before the law and separation of powers; opposition figures warned it births a two-tier justice system with politicians pausing their own prosecutions. Bennett branded the debt law “anti-democratic” and aimed squarely at him, while sponsors insisted it merely compels ex-party leaders to settle arrears rather than evade them.

ASSESSMENT

This is not judicial reform; it is coalitional self-protection at the expense of institutional ballast. Handing a parliamentary committee the power to suspend trials invites impunity by caucus and signals to allies abroad that Israel's rule-of-law is negotiable. Weaponizing campaign-finance rules against a single opponent is the mirror image: a pre-election booby trap dressed up as fiscal hygiene. If the coalition wants credibility on sovereignty, security, and normalization, it cannot also advertise that criminal exposure and ballot access are contingent on loyalty. The fix is simple and hard: drop personal bills, legislate neutral, forward-looking standards only, and let the courts finish their work.

Media Sources: Jerusalem Post, Times of Israel.

The Home Front's Breaking Point: Student-Reservists Strain and a Revolt Against a New Haredi Draft Bill

Two years of war have turned campuses into staging grounds for reserve deployments: a **National Student Union survey** of 15,000 shows **70,000 student-reservists** called up, **34%** considering dropping out, **67%** fearing they won't finish on time, and steep emotional, social, and academic fallout—**66%** of reservists struggled returning to class; **61%** reported major performance hits; half sought help. As the academic year opens, reservists describe living on **overlapping call-ups** and night courses just to stay enrolled, while younger cohorts delay enlistment prep and exams. Into this fatigue, the coalition is pushing a **new Haredi draft-exemption bill** that expands yeshiva carve-outs; thousands of reservists and families vow to protest en masse at the Knesset, some pledging to “stop it with our bodies.” Veterans cite a widening trust gap—“the serving population shrinks while exemptions grow”—and warn that politics-first lawmaking is eroding social cohesion in the middle of an extended war.

ASSESSMENT

The coalition is testing the one fuel Israel cannot replace: the consent of those who fight for it. You can't run a long war on selective sacrifice. Any draft framework that institutionalizes non-service while reservists lose semesters, salaries, and sleep will bleed readiness, legitimacy, and eventually recruitment. The fix is policy, not platitudes: universal obligation with flexible pathways (combat, national-civil service, essential skills), automatic academic and financial protections for call-ups, and enforcement with teeth for sectors that opt out while drawing state support. Without that, the front that breaks won't be in Gaza or Lebanon—it will be on campus and in the reserve brigades that hold the country together.

Media Sources: Ynet.

Zionism's Proxy Battle: WZC Resolutions on Draft and Sovereignty Collide with Likud Infighting

Meeting in Jerusalem, the **39th World Zionist Congress (WZC)** will vote on contentious resolutions that mirror Israel's hottest domestic fights—universal draft vs. expanded Haredi exemptions, sovereignty moves in Judea and Samaria (from backing Avi Maoz's bill to Temple Mount assertions), a push to halt E1 building, and a bid to establish a state commission of inquiry into October 7—even as an internal rift between World Likud factions led by Yaakov Ha-goel and Miki Zohar is stalling coalition deals and elections for key Zionist-institution posts. The split has already complicated negotiations over control of Israel's National Institutions, weakening Likud's leverage precisely as WZC decisions could steer funding priorities toward or away from settlements, pluralism initiatives, and draft-equality campaigns. If the sovereignty-aligned resolutions pass, the WZC could also signal diaspora backing for policies that clash with US mediation and Jordan's custodial sensitivities around the Temple Mount.

ASSESSMENT

The WZC is not a talking shop; it's a budget valve and a barometer for Israel–Diaspora alignment. Resolutions that bless annexation-adjacent moves or demand a universal draft will reverberate in embassies, campuses, and boardrooms. Meanwhile, Likud's civil war inside the global movement telegraphs disarray at the worst moment, risking losses in institutional turf that shape educational grants, land development, and advocacy dollars for years. Secondary angle: A WZC vote for an October 7 state inquiry would sharpen pressure on Jerusalem just as the government argues the war precludes one, deepening the legitimacy gap unless the cabinet fields its own credible path to accountability.

Media Sources: Jerusalem Post.

ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

Iran's Global Shadow War: Quds Force directs overseas cells while proxies probe Israel's seams

Mossad publicly exposed a **Quds Force network** run by senior IRGC commander **Sardar Ammar**, linking him to a string of **foiled plots against Jewish and Israeli targets** in Australia, Greece, and Germany, and detailing the tradecraft: “fingerprint-free” terror using local criminals, recruited foreigners, and strict compartmentalization to preserve deniability. The exposure coincides with domestic interdictions: Israeli prosecutors charged a Palestinian bomb-maker over a multi-device bus bombing plot around Tel Aviv that fizzled when timers detonated empty buses, and indicted three Turkish nationals who allegedly worked with Iranian suppliers to smuggle handguns via Jordan into Israel, blending migrant routes, cash couriers, and crime intermediaries. Abroad, the fallout has started: Canberra expelled Iran's ambassador and Berlin hauled in Tehran's envoy, signaling rising Western appetite to penalize Iranian state terror as it migrates from the Levant into diaspora streets.

ASSESSMENT

This is the red-green convergence in practice—the IRGC outsources jihad to criminal gangs, foreign fixers, and local fellow travelers, then rides the deniability. The plots look amateur; the intent isn't. The center of gravity is a network fight: designate and sanction the Quds Force chain (Ammar down), expand joint CT tasking with partners, criminalize IRGC affiliates at home (financial and immigration levers), and harden seams—Jordanian corridor, central bus hubs, community sites—where Iran's proxies test capacity. Secondary angle: Israel's internal arrests show the same ecosystem at work from Tulkarem to Tel Aviv; beating it requires one playbook across all borders—intelligence fusion, extraterritorial disruption, border tech, and a prosecutorial posture that treats Iranian direction as a campaign of state-sponsored terrorism, not “just” one-offs and organized crime.

Media Sources: Algemeiner, Times of Israel, JNS, Jerusalem Post, Israel National News, Ynet.

Exported Incitement: CAIR Platforming, US Visa Crackdowns, and Holocaust Centers Under Siege

A coordinated information-and-advocacy front sharpened this week across the US and abroad. In Ohio, the state director of **CAIR** moderated an Arabic-language web panel featuring **Majed al-Zeer**—a **US-designated Hamas operative**—alongside other Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad figures; speakers lauded “the resistance” and even floated Turkish troop involvement in Gaza, reinforcing CAIR's growing scrutiny over terror-adjacency and fundraising networks. In parallel, US authorities **revoked the visa and detained British commentator Sami Hamdi** during a stateside speaking tour after public remarks celebrating October 7 circulated; Immigration and Customs Enforcement said deportation is pending as the White House tightens entry for “those who support terrorism.” The clash over rhetoric bled into New York's mayoral race as candidate Zohran Mamdani traded shots with Vice President JD Vance

over charges of Islamophobia—while defending his meeting with Siraj Wahhaj, an unindicted 1993 WTC co-conspirator, stoking concern about mainstreaming Islamist fellow-travelers in US politics. Further south, anti-Israel activists targeted Holocaust and genocide centers in South Africa, staging protests during a genocide scholars' conference and sending letters demanding the institutions brand Israel "genocidal," close Israel's embassy, and endorse BDS—a campaign local Jewish leaders called intimidation masked as scholarship.

ASSESSMENT

This is the ecosystem in action: Islamist organizers, political enablers, and activist NGOs launder Hamas narratives into Western civic space while probing the limits of law, tax status, and speech. The US response is bifurcating—visa revocations and potential IRS scrutiny on one side; a permissive lane for groups that platform designated terrorists on the other. Policy traction lies in enforcement with teeth: material-support reviews for nonprofits that host sanctioned actors; visa and entry bars tied to terror designations; and robust security support for Jewish and Holocaust institutions now used as stages for inversion campaigns. Secondary angle: These battles travel—messaging exported from US and South African stages loops back into European lawfare and UN fora; winning the "day after" in Gaza requires contesting this pipeline as much as policing borders.

Media Sources: Jewish Insider, Times of Israel, Jerusalem Post, JNS.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Frontline and Security

- **Ynet News:** Newly detailed IDF accounts of the battles at Lulim outpost and Camp Amitai describe seven Nahal commandos holding off dozens of Hamas terrorists for hours on October 7, saving nearby communities.
- **Ynet News:** The battle for Zikim base saw commanders shielding recruits and civilians through hours of combat, preventing Hamas from seizing the base and breaching deeper into Israel on October 7.
- **Times of Israel:** UNIFIL shot down an Israeli surveillance drone it claimed was flying "aggressively" over its patrol; the IDF denied violating the cease-fire and said no fire was directed toward UN peacekeepers.
- **Ynet News:** Israel is preparing for a "propaganda war" as international journalists enter Gaza, planning IDF-escorted tours to display Hamas's use of civilian infrastructure and pre-empt renewed war-crimes accusations.
- **Jerusalem Post:** Inside the IDF's cyber-intelligence unit Matzpen, whose big-data and AI platforms now synchronize real-time combat data from Gaza to Iran, powering Israel's next-generation operational networks.

Diplomacy and Geopolitics

- **Jerusalem Post:** Watchdog says the Palestinian Authority quietly resumed “pay-for-slay” stipends via post offices despite a February decree claiming the program’s cancellation—undercutting European claims of PA reform.
- **Israel National News:** Argentine President Javier Milei’s sweeping midterm victory consolidates his free-market mandate and strengthens ties with Israel, which he has vowed to support by moving Argentina’s embassy to Jerusalem.
- **Israel National News:** Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s visit to Kazakhstan strengthened the Turkic alliance and opened new diplomatic and security opportunities for Israel in Central Asia’s emerging power network.
- **Jerusalem Post:** Pakistan reported deadly clashes along the Afghan border as both governments met in Istanbul to avert escalation, highlighting the Taliban’s struggle to curb cross-border insurgents.
- **Jerusalem Post:** Ireland’s new president Catherine Connolly—who has called Israel a “terrorist state” and framed Hamas as part of Palestinian “fabric”—prompts backlash and cautious outreach from Irish Jewish leaders.

Domestic Affairs

- **Israel National News:** MK Tzvi Succot warned of a kashrut loophole allowing meat imported for the Palestinian Authority to be sold in Israel as kosher, urging the Chief Rabbinate to tighten supervision.
- **JNS:** Over 100 Australian physicians are preparing aliyah at MedEx fairs in Melbourne and Sydney, boosting Israel’s doctor pipeline amid global antisemitism and a national clinician shortage.

Culture, History, and Science

- **Jerusalem Post:** Archaeologists uncovered a network of medieval sugar-mill tunnels beneath Gan Hashlosha National Park, revealing Mamluk-era hydraulic engineering that powered sugarcane processing.
- **Times of Israel:** Israeli and US researchers found Type 2 diabetes increases the risk of late-onset schizophrenia by 50%, prompting calls for new psychiatric screening protocols for diabetic patients.

DEVELOPMENTS TO WATCH

Northern Front and Regional Axis

- **Hezbollah command under siege** – Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon killed at least two senior Hezbollah commanders, including the group’s air-defense chief, as part of an intensified decapitation campaign. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

- **Iranian officers embedded in Lebanon** – Security officials confirm IRGC personnel now co-locate with Hezbollah missile teams, signaling Tehran's direct control over northern operations. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Beqaa Valley precision strikes** – The IAF hit multiple Hezbollah logistics and drone-assembly sites in the Baalbek region, expanding Israel's reach deep into Lebanon. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Lebanon warns of food shortages** – Beirut's municipal authorities urged civilians to stockpile essentials amid fears of an Israeli ground incursion following unprecedented overflights. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Houthis pledge joint front** – Yemen's Houthi militia declared solidarity with Hezbollah after the latest Israeli strikes, offering "shared retaliation" if Lebanon is attacked—another sign of cross-theater coordination. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Gaza and Southern Theater

- **Heavy equipment enters Gaza** – Twelve Egyptian bulldozers and dump trucks began clearing rubble under IDF supervision inside the Yellow Line to aid hostage-remains recovery and road reopening.
- **Hostage search coordination** – For the first time, Israel allowed a Hamas representative to join Red Cross teams during site searches, an experiment in controlled cooperation that could test the truce's limits. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Tunnel clearance priority order** – Defense Minister Katz instructed the IDF to make demolition of Hamas's surviving tunnel grid the army's top mission, integrating U.S. intelligence support.
- **Humvee collision injures soldiers** – Twelve IDF troops were hurt in a vehicle accident near the Gaza border; while not combat-related, it highlights the operational tempo even under ceasefire.

Judea, Samaria, and Domestic Stability

- **Ramallah unrest intensifies** – IDF forces clashed with armed militants in Al-Amari camp near Ramallah; five Palestinians were wounded and several arrests made. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Draft-law showdown expected** – Ultra-Orthodox parties plan a mass protest Thursday in Jerusalem against arrests of draft evaders and the stalled exemption bill; police brace for road closures and tens of thousands of participants. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Election year officially begins** – The calendar ticked over into Israel's election year ahead of the October 2026 Knesset vote, accelerating coalition infighting and legislative brinkmanship.

Iran and Wider Region

- **Quds Force radar in Sudan** – Iranian troops deployed a "Motlaa al-Fajr" radar system on Sudan's Red Sea coast, extending Tehran's surveillance reach roughly 1,000 km north toward Israel. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

- **Uranium-smuggling plot foiled** – Georgian authorities arrested three Chinese nationals attempting to traffic two kilograms of uranium via Russia—an alarming signal of loose WMD materials on black-market routes.

Closing Analysis

THE war no longer lives in headlines; it lives in the gaps between them. Gaza's rubble is a negotiation table, Lebanon's silence is a countdown, and Israel's coalition politics are now a national security variable. The IDF is fighting three wars at once: one with Hamas's tunnels, one with Hezbollah's patience, and one with its own civilian leadership's bandwidth. The difference between containment and collapse will come down to speed—who moves first when the next provocation hits.

Hamas believes Israel's coordination chain slows it down. Hezbollah believes Israel won't risk escalation before elections. Iran believes the world will keep confusing management for deterrence. They're all testing the same proposition: that Israel has learned to wait. If they're wrong, the proof will arrive by air, not announcement.

Byline:

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ABOUT MITZPE INSTITUTE

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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