



Forensic intelligence for those who act.

READER EDITION

November 4, 2025

ISRAEL BRIEF

Tuesday, November 4

Washington drafts a Gaza stabilization mission while Hamas bargains from tunnels and Hezbollah reloads under a fading UN.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE This is a campaign to normalize the erasure of Jewish safety as free expression. Israel should help allies professionalize enforcement, arm friendly executives and school boards with model policies, and keep feeding prosecutors the cases that prove intent. The cost of organized intimidation must rise until it stops being profitable.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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THE day opens with two clocks running at once. In Gaza, the U.S. is pushing a two-year stabilization force even as Hamas tries to turn the Yellow Line into leverage. Up north, Israel keeps shaving Hezbollah's logistics while UNIFIL's authority has fled. At home, a hardening justice posture collides with a legal meltdown that won't quit.

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Here's the map before the noise:

Flash Brief

- **Gaza:** U.S. circulates a UN draft for a two-year ISF by January; Israel rejects safe passage for 200 Hamas gunmen. *See The War Today.*
- **Rafah:** IAF kills militants who crossed the Yellow Line toward IDF troops; escort “corridor” rules stay tight. *See The War Today.*
- **Lebanon:** IDF drones hit Nabatieh and Aita al-Shaab as reports show Hezbollah restocking rockets and ATGMs; U.S. warns Beirut. *See Developments to Watch.*
- **UNIFIL:** Israeli officials say elements are obstructing ISR and exceeding mandate; Israel treats UNIFIL airspace as untrusted. *See Developments to Watch.*
- **Axis:** Iraqi militias evacuate bases amid GPS jamming; Houthis threaten “immediate” response to Israeli action in Lebanon. *See Developments to Watch.*
- **Knesset:** Death-penalty bill for terror clears first reading; Lahav-433 widens the Histadrut corruption probe. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Legal:** Police recover a phone tied to the MAG leak; U.S. intel chief lands for briefings with the PM. *See Inside Israel.*

THOSE are the facts — here's what they mean.

The War Today

ISF Push Meets Street Power Plays in Gaza and Istanbul

Washington circulated a UN Security Council draft to stand up a two-year International Stabilization Force (ISF) for Gaza, aiming to deploy first troops by January under a mandate to enforce demilitarization alongside a vetted Palestinian police—explicitly not a Chapter VII “Blue Helmet” mission, a design Israel prefers. In Istanbul, Turkey rallied Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Jordan, Pakistan, and Indonesia to demand Palestinian-run governance in Gaza. Israel remains adamant that Turkish forces won't set foot in Gaza. Ankara then blamed Israel for ceasefire breaches while vouching for Hamas's “adherence”—a tell of the politics shadowing any force that arrives. Back in Jerusalem, the government shut the door on a proposed “safe passage” for roughly 200 armed Hamas operatives trapped inside the IDF-controlled Yellow Zone.

ASSESSMENT

Three tracks are converging. First, the U.S. is trying to swap a paper truce for a managed enforcement regime—an ISF with enough teeth to police demilitarization, but not so “UN” that Israel vetoes it. Second, Turkey is organizing a Muslim-led political wrapper for Gaza’s “Palestinian self-rule,” while publicly absolving Hamas and demanding a UN-blessed mandate for the force it hopes will yield to its influence—Israel will fight that inside the mandate text and at the gate. Third, Hamas shows no signs of moderating—their internal security abducted five rivals prompting a call for payback from a rival warlord (Hosam al-Astal). Whoever is meant to keep the peace will have their work cut out for them.

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

Israel Tightens Northern Denial as Hezbollah Reloads

Israel’s Security Cabinet weighed expanded options against Hezbollah after fresh ceasefire breaches and visible rebuild south of the Litani, even as daily interdictions continue—most recently the elimination of a commander near Nabatiyeh and another operative in Aita al-Shaab. Hezbollah is re-stocking rockets, anti-tank missiles, and artillery, while U.S. envoy Tom Barrack warned Beirut that disarmament no longer lives on an elastic timeline. Jerusalem’s message matched the pressure: Lebanon must enforce commitments or expect intensified “maximum enforcement.” With Assad gone, Syria’s new authorities are seizing multimillions from drug pipelines long tied to Iran’s proxy economy—while analysts use AI to attempt to surface Hezbollah/Hamas finance patterns across banks, trade, and crypto in time to freeze assets before they become rockets.

ASSESSMENT

Israel is combining a rolling logistics-kill campaign with financial denial—because Hezbollah’s arsenal is fed by a wallet. UNIFIL credibility has fully evaporated and the Lebanese state hedges as Hezbollah exploits the lull to rebuild and localize production. Expect deeper Beqaa strikes, more precision hits on Radwan facilitators, and overt targeting of Captagon (the main money making drug in their pipelines) and the trade-finance nodes. Washington’s leverage matters only if it couples diplomacy with costs; otherwise Israel will keep enforcing unilaterally and expand the denial envelope toward Beirut’s southern suburbs.

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

Iran Arms Militias as Israel Expands Northern Containment

Tehran has restarted advanced weapons transfers to Shi’ite militias in Iraq, according to Israeli and Iraqi sources, supplying drones and precision munitions under Quds Force supervision. The shipments follow IRGC commander Esmail Ghaani’s visit to Baghdad and coincide with Hezbollah’s accelerated rearmament along Israel’s northern border. IDF Northern Command now assesses that Iraqi militias are preparing combined ground and aerial attacks as part of an Iranian proxy network linking Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq.

ASSESSMENT

Tehran is testing its limits by rebuilding its proxy architecture before winter. Hezbollah's rearmament and the reactivation of Iraqi militias are parts of the same playbook—distributed pressure meant to dilute Israel's focus and deter a decisive campaign in Lebanon. When Iran's proxies launch their next coordinated cross-border attack, the “managed war” along the northern line will collapse into open confrontation.

Media Source: JNS.

Inside Israel

Legal Meltdown Deepens

The Sde Teiman affair has metastasized into a full institutional crisis. Former IDF Military Advocate General Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi—already accused of leaking footage of detainee abuse to Channel 12—was arrested after vanishing for hours, leaving a note and allegedly throwing her phone into the sea to destroy evidence. Police say the “suicide attempt” was staged; divers later recovered a phone near HaTzuk Beach, now under forensic review. Her former chief prosecutor, Col. Matan Solomosh, is also in custody. Both face charges of fraud, breach of trust, and obstruction. Justice Minister Yariv Levin, defying Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, appointed retired judge Asher Kula to head an independent probe—an act some legal scholars are calling unconstitutional but politically inevitable. Inside the military courts, the case's foundation just collapsed: the supposed Hamas victim whose alleged injuries triggered the indictments was quietly deported back to Gaza under the ceasefire deal. Defense lawyers now demand the soldiers' acquittal, calling the entire prosecution “a fraud built on a ghost witness.” Meanwhile, police continue to interrogate senior officers in the MAG Corps and trace WhatsApp groups used to coordinate the leak.

ASSESSMENT

What began as an abuse probe has become a mirror of Israel's internal tumult. The MAG Corps is now on trial itself, accused of treachery, cover-up, and political manipulation. The collapse of the case's key witness and the spectacle of a senior officer allegedly staging her own disappearance expose a justice system eating its own credibility. The IDF fights one war against Hamas and another against self-inflicted chaos. The first is winnable. The second decides who we become.

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

Israel and the World

Cutting the NGO Lifelines to Hamas

Israel's Foreign Ministry outed two Gaza UNRWA employees as Hamas operatives—posting documents that tie Ashraf Mahd El-Madhoun and Mohammed Ibrahim

Abd Ghafour to the terror group—while Sweden’s parliament moved to haul in its aid chief over \$5.5 million routed through Sida to a “rights commission” that platformed and collaborated with Hamas, PIJ and the PFLP. In the background, Tehran’s ruler declared conflict with the U.S. “inherent,” a reminder that the same axis Israel fights on the battlefield is coming for the West when it can.

Why It Matters: The money war is the long war. Naming names at UNRWA and forcing parliamentary scrutiny in Stockholm does more than shame institutions—it threatens payrolls, permits, and the legal cover Hamas uses for recruitment, propaganda, and lawfare. The secondary effect is strategic: once Europe concedes the pipeline is dirty, Israel gains room to strike the network that pipeline sustains.

Media Sources: Jerusalem Post, JNS.

Campus Mobs, Street Abuse, and a Court Fight Over Antisemitism

In London, an Egyptian student suspended by King’s College for prior agitation surfaced masked to shut down Israeli professor Michael Ben-Gad’s lecture, with deportation now on the table; across town, British Jews protesting Israel’s government were heckled as “genocidal” by passers-by—proof that being a “good Jew” isn’t going to spare anyone. On the continent, Jewish leaders marked Kristallnacht and warned that Europe now tolerates the same libels—only rebranded. In the United States, CAIR, a group linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, sued to kill California’s new K-12 antisemitism office and training program, arguing that policing harassment “hands classrooms to a foreign agenda.”

ASSESSMENT

This is a campaign to normalize the erasure of Jewish safety as free expression. Israel should help allies professionalize enforcement, arm friendly executives and school boards with model policies, and keep feeding prosecutors the cases that prove intent. The cost of organized intimidation must rise until it stops being profitable.

Media Sources: Jewish Chronicle, Jerusalem Post, Allgemeiner.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *Ynet*: Nearly 900 drone-smuggling attempts from Egypt into Israel were recorded in three months; new IDF interception systems along the Sinai frontier have sharply reduced overflights, but smugglers are shifting routes north and south.
- *Times of Israel*: Federal agents charged two men inspired by ISIS with planning a Halloween-night attack on LGBTQ bars near Detroit, seizing a weapons cache after the suspects cased targets.

- *JNS*: An Israeli civilian shot and killed a Palestinian during a violent confrontation and attempted car theft near Kiryat Arba; police say the shooter fired when his life was in danger and are hunting an accomplice who fled with the vehicle.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *Times of Israel*: French prosecutors put Lafarge on trial for allegedly funding ISIS and al-Nusra with €5 million to keep its Syrian plant running—an unprecedented corporate terror-financing case that could reverberate across European risk management departments.
- *Israel National News*: President Trump endorsed Andrew Cuomo for NYC mayor and warned of federal funding cuts if frontrunner Zohran Mamdani wins, citing the candidate's anti-Israel record and promising "minimum required" aid to the city under a Mamdani administration.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar heads to India for meetings with External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and business leaders, advancing a security-and-tech partnership New Delhi calls ripe for "institutionalization."

Domestic & Law

- *Ynet*: In a first, Israel deported an Eritrean identified as a regime supporter after a machete-related arrest and review by the interior minister—signaling a harder line in immigration enforcement.
- *Jerusalem Post*: The Israel Lands Authority and police launched "Southern Hawk 3" against illegal Negev land grabs near Beersheba, Sa'wa and Neva-tim, issuing hundreds of demolition notices using AI-assisted aerial scans.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *Jerusalem Post*: The Tekuma Administration approved NIS 326 million for Gaza-envelope communities, including a NIS 95m innovation hub in Sha'ar HaNegev and new rehab, tech, and culture centers to shift the region from recovery to growth.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *CJN*: Montreal voters ousted progressive blocs that backed boycotts and elected a slate more responsive to Jewish security concerns, with the city's lone Jewish councillor calling it "a Montreal victory" anchored in public-safety fixes.
- *JNS*: Sotheby's sold what it calls the earliest known kiddush cup—an 11th–12th century Khurasan piece—for a record \$4 million; the Toledo Museum of Art will display it in 2027.
- *CJN*: Quebec broadened its laicity rules in public education, banning face coverings and all religious symbols for *all* staff and volunteers, curbing religious leave, and tightening French-only rules—moves Jewish groups say need careful implementation to avoid exclusion.

- *Algemeiner*: Yad Vashem has now identified five million Holocaust victims and will use AI to recover roughly 250,000 more names from vast archives—pushing back against the Nazis’ attempt to erase identities.
- *Jerusalem Post*: An Israeli traveler reported rare public warmth toward Jews during a visit to Damascus, meeting one of the city’s last Jews and helping convene prayers in a long-shuttered synagogue.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Hezbollah Restocks Under Fire** – IDF drone strikes in Nabatieh and Aita al-Shaab killed at least two Hezbollah operatives as the group resumes weapons manufacturing south of the Litani. U.S. envoy Tom Barrack warned Beirut that failure to disarm will leave Lebanon “to its fate.” **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **UNIFIL Credibility Collapses** – Israeli officials accuse UNIFIL of exceeding its mandate and “acting against the IDF,” amid evidence that French units have obstructed surveillance flights (including shooting down Israeli reconnaissance drones). Expect Israel to treat UNIFIL zones as untrusted airspace. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Lebanon Flirts With Negotiation** – President Joseph Aoun publicly admitted “negotiation with the enemy” is inevitable, signaling readiness for a U.S.-brokered disarmament track even as Hezbollah vows to resist.

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Ceasefire Breach in Rafah** – The IAF struck several Hamas cells after operatives crossed the Yellow Line and approached IDF troops; four militants killed on contact. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **ISF Resolution Moves Forward** – Washington circulated a UN draft for a two-year International Stabilization Force in Gaza, targeting first deployments by January; Israel insists on full operational control and veto over troop composition.
- **Tunnel Entrapment Standoff** – Hamas claims ~150 operatives are sealed inside a concrete-filled tunnel in Rafah; mediators press for their “humanitarian evacuation.” Jerusalem refuses any safe-passage deal.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Iraqi Militias Evacuate Bases** – GPS jamming and sudden withdrawals suggest Tehran-backed militias in Iraq are repositioning ahead of potential Israeli or U.S. strikes on logistics hubs. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

- **Houthi Command Threatens Israel Directly** – Senior official Mohammed al-Bukhaiti vowed “immediate and forceful” retaliation for any Israeli action in Lebanon, framing open war with Israel as a path to Yemeni unity. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Larijani Warns of U.S. Provocation** – Iran’s National Security Council chief accused Washington of delivering a “veiled threat” via Ambassador Barack, signaling Tehran’s intent to frame Israeli action as American proxy war.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **UN Force Draft at Security Council** – The U.S. resolution to authorize Gaza’s stabilization mission faces Arab resistance over enforcement clauses and Turkish lobbying to join. The debate will define Israel’s post-war freedom of maneuver.
- **Death Penalty Bill Advances** – The Knesset approved first reading of legislation mandating execution for terrorists convicted of ideological murders. Ben Gvir says deterrence “begins at the gallows.” **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Home Front & Politics

- **MAG Scandal Deepens** – Police divers recovered a cellphone near HaTzuk Beach believed tied to ex-Military Advocate General Tomer-Yerushalmi; forensic analysis could expose senior legal-corps coordination. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **U.S. Intel Chief in Israel** – Director Tulsi Gabbard arrived for briefings with Netanyahu amid U.S. pressure to align strike policy with diplomatic timing; meetings expected to shape the Gaza force mandate.

The ISF push gives Washington a lever, not a solution. Any mandate worth pursuing will be contested on every comma by Ankara, Doha, and the other usual suspects.

Israel will keep enforcing in all arenas it can: deny safe passage to armed Hamas, keep detonating tunnels, and run daily precision strikes against Hezbollah’s rebuild.

Inside Israel, the death-penalty vote and the MAG scandal point in the same direction—clarity over decorum.

Watch two thresholds: whether mediators try to smuggle gunmen out under “humanitarian” cover, and whether Hezbollah attempts a field goal to answer its own field grumbling. If either happens, the response, surgical and fast, will come with its own momentum.

— *Uri Zehavi · Intelligence Editor With Modi Zehavi · Data + Research Analyst*

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