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READER EDITION

November 5, 2025

ISRAEL BRIEF

Wednesday, November 5

Gaza's truce is run on signatures while Hamas fractures and tests the line; up north the Lebanese army toys with dangerous ROE, and in Jerusalem the state is tightening its control.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE The external arena is bifurcating. One track is coercive political warfare against Israel and Jews—state-driven (Iran's Paris operation), lawfare (the Berlin complaint targeting a Nova survivor), and royal-grade propaganda (Holocaust inversion in Munich). The other is overdue enforcement: Germany's ban signals that European governments can still wield hard administrative tools when Islamist agitation crosses the line from free speech to incitement. Israel should exploit this opening. Share dossiers that map Tehran's front groups to EU interior ministries; press for IRGC terror designation and expulsions of embassy "cultural" officers tied to Quds Force tasking; and pre-position legal defense teams to counter stunts. In parallel, double down where momentum is with us: scale co-production and air-defense work with India to anchor a multi-billion dollar, Make-in-India corridor; use the Kenya academy pact to seed applied research pipelines in ag-tech, renewables, and public health that translate into durable, pro-Israel constituencies. Expect more European proscriptions and raids—alongside louder lawfare and street theatrics.

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Israel Brief: Wednesday, November 5

GAZA's truce is run on signatures while Hamas fractures and tests the line; up north the Lebanese army toys with dangerous ROE, and in Jerusalem the state is tightening its control.

Shalom, friends.

The fronts are steady only on paper. In Gaza, the IDF is enforcing inches while Hamas's camps fight over spoils and bodies. In Lebanon, precision strikes now rub against a Lebanese army order to shoot Israeli drones—a misstep away from a bigger fire. At home, the Sde Teiman shock has become a power realignment across justice, defense, and media.

Here's the map before the noise:

Flash Brief

- **Gaza:** Third Yellow Line breach in as many days; IDF destroys a Jabaliya tunnel and Shejaiya launcher sites; Itay Chen's body returned.
- **Rafah:** IDF chief conditions any "trapped" Hamas exits on Hadar Goldin's remains; Hamas infighting widens between Hayya and Mashal camps.
- **Lebanon:** Israel hits a courier vehicle near Nabatiyeh as LAF orders troops to fire on Israeli UAVs over harvest zones, spiking miscalculation risk.
- **Region:** Washington warns Baghdad to rein in Iran-backed militias as Tehran feeds Iraqi proxies and vows a "heavier defeat."
- **Borders:** IDF downs a Jordan-border quadcopter with 10 pistols; two Turkish nationals detained crossing illegally amid a broader smuggling uptick.
- **Inside Israel:** Justice, defense, and media levers shift—new MAG appointed from outside, Karhi's broadcast bill clears first reading, AG sideline bid intensifies.
- **World:** Germany bans an Islamist group; a French report maps Iranian influence ops; India signs defense MoU; Nairobi-Jerusalem academic pact; Wikipedia freezes a biased Gaza page.
- **Coordination:** CENTCOM's Kiryat Gat CMCC grows to ~40 members, tightening aid deconfliction and outside scrutiny of strike/convoy timing.

American Readers: NYC Mayoral Election and Intelligence Bureau Access

For American readers, one headline today deserves extra scrutiny. New York's mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani—an avowed anti-Israel activist reportedly bankrolled by Islamist-aligned political networks and backed by CAIR-linked donors—will soon control appointments and oversight for the NYPD Intelligence Bureau. That unit is no ordinary police squad; it's a fusion node that coordinates daily with the CIA, FBI, and allied services including Israel's. It has "detectives" assigned around the globe as intelligence officers. It's not a Barney Fife sort of operation. Whoever holds City Hall wields access to sensitive data streams (potentially including sources and methods), personnel vetting,

and inter-agency coordination that keep terror plots from reaching American streets.

Federal partners are already discussing how to firewall classified channels and personnel until separation is guaranteed. Expect quiet resistance from the Bureau's veterans and from Washington's counter-intel offices—because a mayor with open ties to groups hostile to the United States, Israel, and the rest of the West is about to inherit the keys to America's most sophisticated municipal intelligence hub.

Beyond the classified world lies the civic one. Mamdani's record—refusing as a state legislator to affirm Holocaust remembrance, calling Israel a “colonial project,” and campaigning alongside agitators with Tehran-friendly sympathies—signals a cultural shift that will test New York's Jewish community. Many families who once rode out waves of antisemitism in Brooklyn and Queens are now weighing aliyah or permanent relocation.

Now, here's the operational picture in full.

The War Today

GAZA CEASEFIRE FRAYS AS HAMAS FRACTURES AND ISRAEL HOLDS THE LINE

Israeli forces killed a terrorist who crossed the Yellow Line in northern Gaza—the third such breach in as many days—while simultaneously dismantling a major Hamas tunnel in Jabaliya and a rocket-launch complex in Shejaiya. The incidents came as Israel received the body of slain Israeli-American Staff Sgt. Itay Chen, ז"ל, via the Red Cross, fulfilling part of Hamas's long-stalled obligation under the U.S.-brokered ceasefire. Inside Rafah, IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir ruled out any release of the 200 Hamas operatives trapped beyond the line unless the terror group returns the remains of fallen soldier Hadar Goldin, ז"ל. Hamas's internal crisis widened in parallel: its military wing, led by Khalil al-Hayya, clashed publicly with Khaled Mashal's overseas political bureau over ties to Iran and control of Gaza's “technocratic” committee, while Fatah and the PLO rejected Hamas's attempt to install a parallel administration under Cairo's supervision. Energy Minister Eli Cohen publicly questioned any international force's ability to disarm Hamas and argued Israel will regain full freedom of action once hostage returns conclude, signaling the cabinet's skepticism toward the ISF concept. The fragmentation of leadership leaves the U.S.-drafted International Stabilization Force proposal with no coherent local partner and deepens uncertainty over who actually governs Gaza's ruins.

ASSESSMENT

Hamas can no longer control its own factions—its battlefield commanders fight for survival, its exiled politicians fight for relevance—and that disarray makes escalation more likely, not less. Israel's elimination of infiltrators and tunnel networks shows the IDF is enforcing deterrence inch by inch in what ways they can. Yet every Hamas "search" for hostage remains doubles as a smuggling or reconnaissance attempt, and Jerusalem's patience is nearly spent. Expect continued low-intensity strikes east of the Yellow Line, a total freeze on militant movement under Red Cross protection, and rising friction between Hamas's rival camps as they compete for control of the ceasefire's spoils. What the world calls "stabilization" now amounts to holding the line while Gaza's rulers devour one another.

Inside Israel

SDE TEIMAN SHOCKWAVE: ONE LEAK, THREE MINISTRIES, AND A POWER GRAB

The aftershocks of a single leaked video now ripple through Israel's entire chain of authority. Justice Minister Yariv Levin moved to sideline Attorney-General Gali Baharav-Miara from the Sde Teiman investigation, prompting furious pushback from Yair Lapid and Benny Gantz, while Baharav-Miara herself refused to attend a Knesset hearing—citing conflict of interest—as police pressed forward with arrests inside the Military Advocate General's office. Defense Minister Israel Katz used the opening to appoint outsider Itai Ofir as the new MAG, bypassing the tainted legal corps and earning praise from coalition partners and qualified nods. Hours later, Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi pushed through the first reading of his broadcast-control bill—which would dissolve existing regulators in favor of a minister-appointed authority able to fine outlets and police bias. What began as a disciplinary scandal has become a structural reordering of power across the ministries of justice, defense, and communications—the state rewriting who enforces the law, who interprets it, and who tells the story.

ASSESSMENT

Levin's bid to displace the AG, Katz's elevation of a loyal outsider to police the IDF's own lawyers, and Karhi's media overhaul all point to the same strategic instinct: tighten the loop between political command and narrative control while the war still grants cover. Short-term, Katz's move may restore coherence to the IDF's legal front, but the cumulative effect risks fusing oversight with obedience. Each ministry now mirrors the battlefield logic—centralize authority, cut latency, disregard friction. The test will come when one of these levers—prosecution, regulation, or information—must act against the hand that built it. If Israel's leaders use this moment to rebuild integrity, the state stabilizes.

Israel and the World

EUROPE TIGHTENS WHILE ISRAEL BUILDS EASTWARD LANES

Germany outlawed "Muslim Interaktiv" for caliphate agitation and anti-Israel incitement and raided linked groups in Hamburg, Berlin, and Hesse, as a French think-tank detailed an Iranian embassy-run influence network recruiting journalists, students, and politicians in Paris to launder Tehran's narratives. At the same time, a Brussels-based anti-Israel group asked Germany's

federal prosecutor to arrest a Nova festival survivor as a “war criminal,” while Jordan’s Queen Rania used a Munich stage to liken Israeli rhetoric to Nazi dehumanization. Inside the information sphere, Wikipedia’s co-founder froze edits on a “Gaza genocide” page over anti-Israel bias. Against that headwind, Israel and India signed a defense MoU expected to advance development and sales of rockets, as well as and tanker conversions. Hebrew University and the University of Nairobi inked exchange and research agreements on food security, climate, and energy. The mosaic underscores a split West—some institutions finally enforcing lines against jihadist agitation and disinformation—while Israel accelerates resilient partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and Africa.

ASSESSMENT

The external arena is bifurcating. One track is coercive political warfare against Israel and Jews—state-driven (Iran’s Paris operation), lawfare (the Berlin complaint targeting a Nova survivor), and royal-grade propaganda (Holocaust inversion in Munich). The other is overdue enforcement: Germany’s ban signals that European governments can still wield hard administrative tools when Islamist agitation crosses the line from free speech to incitement. Israel should exploit this opening. Share dossiers that map Tehran’s front groups to EU interior ministries; press for IRGC terror designation and expulsions of embassy “cultural” officers tied to Quds Force tasking; and pre-position legal defense teams to counter stunts. In parallel, double down where momentum is with us: scale co-production and air-defense work with India to anchor a multi-billion dollar, Make-in-India corridor; use the Kenya academy pact to seed applied research pipelines in ag-tech, renewables, and public health that translate into durable, pro-Israel constituencies. Expect more European proscriptions and raids—alongside louder lawfare and street theatrics.

Briefly Noted

FRONTLINE & SECURITY

- **Sanctioned Hezbollah-linked charities** are soliciting donations via Lebanese payment firms using clean intermediaries, while Israeli officials warn the group has smuggled hundreds of rockets from Syria and may face strikes in Beirut’s Dahiya if rearmament continues.

DIPLOMACY & GEOPOLITICS

- **Zohran Mamdani**, a Democratic Socialist with a record of anti-Israel rhetoric, won New York City’s mayoral race, prompting Jewish organizations to vow aggressive oversight of his administration’s stance on antisemitism and public safety.
- A **CAIR-backed super PAC** was the largest institutional donor to a New York City PAC supporting Mamdani, according to remarks by Linda Sarsour and FEC records tying CAIR Action to funding flows.
- **Norway’s parliament** froze new “ethical divestment” moves by its \$2.1T sovereign wealth fund for roughly a year while guidelines are reviewed, after U.S. blowback over the fund’s Caterpillar exit tied to Israel operations.
- **Voters in Somerville, MA** approved a non-binding Israel divestment ballot measure, the first such win at the polls for BDS activists even as a mayoral ally of the initiative lost his race.

- **Pro-Palestinian activists** briefly blocked Israeli cruise passengers from disembarking at Crete's Souda Port, the second such incident in Greece in 24 hours, highlighting a growing security and consular challenge for Israeli tourists.
- An **Iranian man** who posted a video burning Khamenei's picture was found shot dead hours later; officials claimed suicide while mourners accused the regime, underscoring Tehran's post-war repression spike.

DOMESTIC & LAW

- **Israel's environment minister** unveiled a multi-agency plan to curb West Bank waste-burning—tightening enforcement, adding transfer and monitoring sites, and pushing Defense integration—after complaints tripled to 1,800 in a month.
- In a **Knesset briefing**, the Shin Bet said 80% of murderers freed in the 2011 Shalit deal returned to terror and announced it now supports the death penalty for convicted terrorists.
- The **State Comptroller** blasted the socio-economic cabinet's wartime paralysis, faulting the government for failing to coordinate civilian relief, especially for Israel's north.

CULTURE, RELIGION & SOCIETY

- A **Toronto synagogue** was attacked for the tenth time in 18 months, with windows smashed before dawn despite prior arrests, driving security costs well into six figures.
- **Merchandise supporting proscribed terror group** "Palestine Action" was sold on eBay and Etsy—including children's sizes—despite UK law banning such material.
- **Construction is underway** on a visitor-education center at Jerusalem's Mount of Olives, adding a police outpost, synagogue, and exhibits to secure and interpret the world's oldest Jewish cemetery.
- **Highway 66 works near Tel Megiddo** uncovered a 5,000-year-old rock-hewn winepress and a 3,300-year-old Canaanite ritual set, offering rare, intact evidence of early urban wine production and folk cult practice.

Developments to Watch

NORTHERN FRONT (LEBANON / SYRIA)

- **LAF Orders 'Fire on Drones'** – After Washington privately rebuked Beirut for demanding the army confront Israel, the Lebanese Armed Forces instructed units to shoot at Israeli UAVs, raising miscalculation risk on a tense line. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Road Interdictions Near Nabatiyeh** – An Israeli strike on a vehicle between Kfar Dajjal and Nabatiyeh fits the rolling effort to cut Hezbollah's courier routes and short-haul transfers close to the border; expect more low-signature hits. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

REGIONAL AXIS (IRAN, HOUTHIS, MILITIAS)

- **US Warning to Baghdad** – The Pentagon told Iraq a regional operation window is opening and urged it to keep Iran-backed militias out; any interference will widen Israel’s legal and operational lane east of the Golan. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **IRGC Feeds Iraqi Proxies** – Tehran is pushing more advanced systems to militias in Iraq to compensate for Hezbollah’s losses, preserving pressure with a cheaper launch arc; watch for mixed drone–rocket salvos from western Iraq. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **IRGC Signals Readiness** – An IRGC spokesman claimed greater offensive capacity since the April war and promised a “heavier defeat” for enemies, telegraphing resolve if Israel escalates against Hezbollah or strikes deeper in Syria.

JUDEA & SAMARIA

- **Jordan-Route Smuggling Surge** – Troops downed a quadcopter carrying pistols on the eastern frontier and detained two Turkish nationals crossing illegally; drone drops and “labor” cover stories are now a nightly pattern along the Jordan Valley.

HOME FRONT & POLITICS

- **Borderline Infiltration Trendline** – Rising Turkish-linked attempts from Jordan plus increased quadcopter drops point to Iranian brokers testing Israel’s quietest seam; anticipate more mixed human–air smuggling in the Yoav/Arava belts.

DIPLOMATIC & LEGAL

- **CMCC Grows to 40** – CENTCOM’s Civil-Military Coordination Center in Kiryat Gat now counts nearly 40 nations and organizations, tightening de-confliction on aid/commerce but also hardening external scrutiny of Israeli strike timing and corridor usage.
- **NYPD Intel Access Risk** – NYC’s mayor-elect will inherit influence over the NYPD Intelligence Bureau and federal liaison nodes; expect rapid push-back on personnel and access, and efforts to firewall sources-and-methods from politicized tampering. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Closing Analysis

The north is the fastest-moving risk: when the Lebanese army authorizes fire on Israeli UAVs, it invites the kind of roadside panic that turns a routine interdiction into an international incident.

In Gaza, Hamas’s fractures don’t produce compliance; they produce opportunism—more “finds” inside Israeli-held zones, more demands for lanes that double as reconnaissance.

The axis is shifting weight to Iraq while it refurbishes Lebanon, and Washington is telegraphing a window for action if militias get cute.

Expect Jerusalem to harden escort rules to near-zero movement under Red Cross cover and keep slicing off Hezbollah’s freedom of movement. If the

LAF forces an aerial contact, Israel will sanitize the sky and keep striking—quietly—where the logistics live.

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