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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

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Ceasefire by script. War by habit.

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THE BOTTOM LINE Israel's enemies no longer need to infiltrate Europe—they're already there. Between judicial cowardice, editorial rot, and the Islamization of protest culture, the continent has normalized what it once swore never to repeat. Jerusalem should treat this not as PR but as security: pressure London and Berlin to act on terror finance and speech laws, file counter-warrants against Hamas operatives using universal-jurisdiction statutes, and invest in direct-to-public media that bypasses the gatekeepers now working for its enemies. Europe's moral perimeter has collapsed; Israel can no longer rely on its courts or its newsrooms to tell the truth.

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THE fronts are steady only on a map—and even there they shift. In Gaza, Hamas continues to stage “finds” under Red Cross cover while refusing any surrender; up north, Hezbollah’s base demands a visible reply as rockets flow in from Syria to bolster their arsenals. Washington’s CMCC is writing the commas, so Jerusalem is trying to lock the verbs with a U.S. memorandum on freedom of action. At home, the MAG crisis moves to the High Court as the IDF installs a temporary stabilizer.

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Flash Brief

- **Gaza:** Hamas rejects Egypt's offer; operatives entered the Yellow Line with ICRC cover, retrieved a body, and walked back to Gaza. *See The War Today.*
- **Aid control:** U.S. Civil–Military Center in Kiryat Gat now gatekeeps Gaza aid timing and lanes; Israel eyes an MoU to codify operational sovereignty. *See The War Today.*
- **North:** IDF drones hit a Lebanese Brigades car near Shbaa and a motorcycle in the south; Israel warned the LAF via U.S. channels to act “fast and deep.” *See Developments to Watch.*
- **Missiles:** Tracking shows >1,000 long-range rockets moved from Syria into Lebanon in three weeks despite interdictions. *See Developments to Watch.*
- **Iran abroad:** Mexico foiled a Quds Force plot to kill Israel's ambassador, highlighting persistent IRGC external ops. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Law & order:** IDF names Maj. Gen. Dado Bar Kalifa interim head of the MAG Corps' administration pending High Court guidance; digital forensics proceed. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Economy/air lanes:** S&P lifts Israel's outlook to “stable”; El Al and Arkia await Oman's nod to restore India routes. *See Developments to Watch.*

We're in a phase where each “humanitarian” movement doubles as leverage and every northern interdiction shaves Hezbollah's courier net without advertising escalation. Diplomacy is busy branding the truce; the battlefield is busy proving it's on borrowed time.

Read the day with that lens and the logic of the next moves—tight lanes, faster denials, fewer photo ops—comes into focus.

The War Today

Ceasefire on Paper, Blackmail in Practice

Hamas's military wing declared its gunmen in Rafah “will not surrender,” rejecting an Egyptian proposal to hand over weapons and tunnel maps in exchange for safe passage. The group's statement—“surrender does not exist in the dictionary of the Qassam Brigades”—ended any pretense of compliance with the U.S.-brokered ceasefire. At the same time, the terrorists continue to hold the bodies of Israeli soldiers as bargaining chips, delaying the promised return of Lt. Hadar Goldin and others while staging propaganda footage of “discoveries” inside IDF-controlled zones. Armed Hamas operatives were filmed entering the Yellow Line under Red Cross escort, excavating a body, and walking back into Gaza—an act Israel called an outrageous breach. Along the border, residents warn of a “return to October 6 policy” as incursions, gunfire, and tunnel demolitions grind on under a political fiction of calm. Meanwhile, Washington's new Civil–Military Coordination Center in Kiryat Gat has quietly seized control of Gaza aid oversight from Israel's COGAT, with U.S. officials telling the press, “The Israelis are part of the conversation, but we decide.” While they're deciding, the composition of the ISF

is failing to coalesce with Azerbaijan refusing to participate if any fighting is on the radar. Netanyahu and Dermer are finalizing a U.S. memorandum to codify Israel's full freedom of action in Gaza, a bid to lock operational sovereignty amid growing American micromanagement of aid lanes.

ASSESSMENT

Hamas uses corpses and foreign diplomats the way it once used human shields—tools to stall, extract concessions, and humiliate. Egypt looks impotent, the U.S. looks eager to micromanage what it doesn't understand, and Israel is being demoted from sovereign to subcontractor inside its own war. Every time the Red Cross crosses the line, the terrorists gain another photo op and another week of breathing room. The “no-surrender” declaration is theater, but it works because the audience keeps buying tickets. Until Jerusalem resets the terms—no bodies, no aid, no ceasefire until Hamas gives back the bodies and gives up its weapons—Hamas remains effectively in control as it regroups.

Media Sources: Ynet (1)(2)(3), Jerusalem Post (1)(2)(3), Israel National News.

Axis of “Resistance” Declares Itself Permanent

At a joint conference in Beirut, leaders of Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Houthis celebrated the October 7 massacre as a “landmark victory,” vowed never to disarm, and rejected the U.S.-brokered Gaza peace plan outright. Hamas deputy chief Khalil al-Hayya called the massacre “an extraordinary act of heroism,” while PIJ’s Ziad al-Nakhala dismissed Washington’s initiative as “impossible to implement.” Hezbollah’s Ammar al-Moussawi and Houthi chief Abdul-Malik al-Houthi pledged to keep fighting Israel “and its American sponsors,” casting continued violence as “national sovereignty.” The gathering, which included PFLP and other Iran-aligned factions, functioned as a de facto war council affirming Tehran’s regional architecture from Beirut to Sana’a. Simultaneously, the IDF struck multiple Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon—Chebaa, Baraashit, and Tyre—killing several operatives rebuilding Radwan Force sites in violation of last year’s truce. The EU condemned the strikes and urged Israel to “respect Resolution 1701,” a demand that ignored Hezbollah’s open rearmament. Syrian forces, meanwhile, launched their own sweep against ISIS cells as interim president Ahmed al-Sharaa prepared to visit Washington—an optics move to present Damascus as a “counterterror partner” even as Iran moves men and matériel through the same terrain.

ASSESSMENT

Beirut’s terrorist jamboree stripped away the last fig leaf of “national resistance.” Iran’s proxies now speak as one bloc, reading from the same Tehran-approved script—entirely unashamed of the October 7 atrocities and united against any external mediation. The EU’s ritual “both-sides” scolding only underscores how hollow Western diplomacy has become—condemning Israel’s precision strikes while ignoring the rearmament they target. Israel’s must treat every “political” statement from Hamas or Hezbollah as a military communique—each speech means another shipment, each resolution another stall. The regional map has sorted itself into clarity—those who fight terror, and those who fund it. The former will have to act without the latter’s permission.

Media Sources: JNS, Algemeiner, Israel National News (1)(2).

Inside Israel

Broken Ceasefire, Unbroken Resolve

Tens of thousands filled Tel Aviv's Hostages Square again Saturday night, demanding the return of the five slain Israelis still held in Gaza—Lt. Hadar Goldin, Meny Godard, Ran Gvili, Dror Or, and Sudthisak Rinthalak. Families and freed captives broke symbolic dog tags in unison, warning that “no victory exists until everyone returns.” The rallies coincided with Hamas's claim to have “found” Goldin's remains in IDF-controlled Yabna, though armed operatives under Red Cross cover later retrieved the body and took it back to Gaza, triggering outrage in Israel. The protests mixed grief and fury: ex-hostage Rom Braslavski described unfiltered sadism in captivity—starvation, mutilation, sexual torture—saying, “They did it for one reason: because I am a Jew.” His words reignited public anger at mediators still treating Hamas as a negotiating partner. In Jerusalem, police arrested a shopkeeper for selling terror-glorifying merchandise in the Old City. Meanwhile, Transportation Minister Miri Regev called the expansion of highways and lighting across Judea and Samaria “de facto sovereignty,” arguing that “eventually there must be full sovereignty.” The opposition's “change bloc” met in Tel Aviv, pledging to fight the government's draft and judicial bills “in the Knesset, on the streets, and in court,” even as public rage over Sde Teiman and hostage policy fuels momentum for early elections.

ASSESSMENT

The protests have become a referendum on governance itself. What began as a plea for the hostages' return has turned into an indictment of a leadership gridlocked by self-preservation. Netanyahu's coalition is consumed with survival—splitting Shas over the draft, fighting the courts over Sde Teiman, and dangling “de facto sovereignty” in Judea and Samaria to placate the right—while the opposition smells blood but still lacks a plan. The public's patience has inverted into contempt: citizens see a government running on inertia and slogans while families bury their dead and shoulder the costs.

Media Sources: Jerusalem Post (1)(2), Times of Israel (1)(2), JNS.

Sde Teiman Probe Pivots to the High Court, With Evidence in Hand

The High Court will hear dueling petitions this week over who controls the Sde Teiman leak investigation—one to bar Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara from any role, the other to void Justice Minister Yariv Levin's hand-picked overseer, Judge Asher Kula—after police leadership refused Kula access to case files pending a ruling. To steady the ship, the Chief of Staff tasked Maj. Gen. Dado Bar Kalifa with temporary command of the MAG Corps' administration until incoming MAG Itay Ofir is in seat. Meanwhile, former Military Advocate General Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi admitted during interrogation that she personally leaked the detention-abuse video and concealed that

fact from the IDF chief of staff, the AG, and the defense minister. Police confirmed that a phone recovered off Herzliya is hers and are extracting data. The court panel will now referee not just an evidentiary mess but a separation-of-powers fight ignited by Levin's attempt to sideline the AG and by law enforcement's counter-move to hold the line until the bench speaks.

ASSESSMENT

With a confession on record and the phone in police hands, the factual framework of the case is strengthening even as institutional infighting continued—ministry versus ministry, bench versus cabinet. The smart play is disciplined triage: freeze political tug-of-war, let police finish digital forensics, and appoint (by court order if needed) a neutral, temporary prosecutor of record with full access and public reporting deadlines. Anything else feeds the worst narratives at home and abroad.

Media Sources: Israel National News (1)(2), Times of Israel.

Israel and the World

Europe's Moral Collapse Meets Israel's Legal Resilience

A leaked internal dossier has torn open the BBC's double standard: 523 Arabic-language pieces on the war omitted every hostage story and parroted Hamas talking points that the English site itself had debunked. In Turkey, prosecutors loyal to Erdoğan issued arrest warrants for 37 Israelis, including the prime minister, on fabricated "genocide" charges. In Belgium, a Hamas terrorist filmed at the October 7 massacre lives freely in Brussels. And in the Netherlands, chanting "Death to the IDF" is now officially "protected expression." Europe's courts and broadcasters have turned selective blindness into doctrine—coddling killers while prosecuting their victims' defenders.

ASSESSMENT

Israel's enemies no longer need to infiltrate Europe—they're already there. Between judicial cowardice, editorial rot, and the Islamization of protest culture, the continent has normalized what it once swore never to repeat. Jerusalem should treat this not as PR but as security: pressure London and Berlin to act on terror finance and speech laws, file counter-warrants against Hamas operatives using universal-jurisdiction statutes, and invest in direct-to-public media that bypasses the gatekeepers now working for its enemies. Europe's moral perimeter has collapsed; Israel can no longer rely on its courts or its newsrooms to tell the truth.

Media Sources: Jewish News, Israel National News (1)(2), JNS.

Iran's Shadow War and the Western Echo Chamber

Mexican authorities foiled an IRGC plot to assassinate Israel's ambassador—a stark reminder that Tehran's terror apparatus stretches from Caracas to Cancun and beyond. At the same moment, the Palestinian Authority publicly admitted that it still pays \$30 million a month to terrorists while teachers go unpaid, proof that "state-building" remains code for subsidized jihad. In Washington, 104 House Democrats lectured Israel, in a letter endorsed by JStreet,

over plans to demolish an illegal Bedouin encampment. And across Europe's stadiums, the new antisemitism is cheered in uniform: mobs hunted Israeli players in Birmingham, chanted "Death to the IDF" in Amsterdam, and forced FIFA to fine Italy and Norway for failing to contain anti-Israel riots.

Why It Matters: This is a single theater: Iran wages covert war, the PA moralizes it, and Western elites launder it through activism and sport. Israel's response must fuse diplomacy with exposure—publicly link every terror plot and every "human-rights" plea to the same Iranian and Qatari funding lines. Demand accountability from allies who preach restraint while hosting Hamas agents and mob culture. The assassination attempt in Mexico failed; the propaganda campaign in London, Brussels, and Washington hasn't—and that's the one aimed not at diplomats, but at legitimacy itself.

Media Sources: Jerusalem Post, Algemeiner (1)(2), JNS, Jewish Chronicle (1)(2), Times of Israel.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *Ynet*: Israel faces an expanded smuggling front along the Syrian border, where weapons and cash are being trafficked through the Golan Heights by criminal and militant networks exploiting the chaos in southern Syria.
- *Jerusalem Post*: The IDF killed three terrorists and arrested 60 suspects in operations across Judea and Samaria, uncovering weapons and explosives in Jenin, Hebron, and Nablus as the army intensifies raids on militant cells.
- *Ynet*: Two Arab-Israeli brothers were shot dead and their father wounded in Ramla, as police probe yet another gang-linked killing in a wave of Arab-community violence that has claimed over 200 lives this year.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Syria launched pre-emptive raids on Islamic State cells ahead of President Sharaa's visit to Washington, aiming to prove his commitment to join the U.S.-led coalition against ISIS.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *Ynet*: Israel, the U.S., Greece, and Cyprus held an Athens summit pledging to replace Russian energy in Europe through joint EastMed projects linking Israeli gas to Europe via Cyprus and Greece—cementing Israel's role as a regional energy bridge.
- *JNS*: President Isaac Herzog departed for state visits to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia—the first by an Israeli president—deepening Israel's ties with pro-Israel African nations and expanding faith-based diplomacy on the continent.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Paraguay's new ambassador to Washington reaffirmed his country's alliance with Israel and Taiwan, vowing to strengthen trade and pro-Israel advocacy while promoting Jerusalem as Israel's "true capital."

- *Israel National News*: UAE strategist Amjad Taha told an EJA forum that antisemitism is a crime in his country and warned that European elites have become “hostages of Islamist propaganda,” praising growing Israel–UAE trade exceeding \$3 billion.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Lebanon erupted online after Israeli travel influencer Avi Gold filmed himself speaking Hebrew in Beirut, entering on a Canadian passport before flying to Syria—a reminder of the risks Israelis face in hostile states.

Domestic & Law

- *Jerusalem Post*: Six soccer fans were arrested after a violent brawl between Bnei Sakhnin and Maccabi Haifa supporters, capping weeks of fan-related unrest and renewed scrutiny of stadium security.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *Globes*: Israel’s Finance Ministry moved to curb natural-gas exports and mandate that 15% of domestic demand remain untapped for future use—defying the Energy Ministry’s stance and reigniting a power struggle over the country’s gas policy.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Hezbollah Base Pressure Rises** – Beirut interlocutors report Hezbollah commanders face mounting demands from their own fighters’ families for a visible reply to Israel; window for a prestige strike—rocket, drone, or abduction attempt—has opened. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Courier Routes Hit, Again** – IDF UAVs struck a Lebanese Brigades vehicle near Shbaa and a motorcycle in south Lebanon, continuing the low-signature campaign against Hezbollah’s short-haul logistics close to the Blue Line.
- **LAF Warned via Intermediaries** – Israel relayed through U.S. channels that if the Lebanese Army does not act “fast and deep” against Hezbollah rebuilds on private lands, Israeli strikes will intensify and broaden beyond routine target sets. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Missiles Flowing From Syria** – U.S./Israeli tracking indicates >1,000 long-range rockets moved from Syrian factories into Lebanon over three weeks, shifting Hezbollah’s inventory north-to-south despite Israeli interdictions. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Yellow Line Contact Trend** – IDF neutralized infiltrators approaching forces in northern Gaza as blasts echoed along the line from ongoing demolition of Hamas infrastructure; expect tighter escort rules for any ICRC movement inside IDF-held sectors. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

- **Border Smuggling Clamp** – The Paran Brigade seized a weapons cache on the Egypt frontier and intercepted multiple drone drops since Friday, underscoring an emerging mixed air-ground pipeline feeding cells west-to-east.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **IRGC External Ops Persist** – Latin American partners foiled an Iranian plot against Israel's ambassador in Mexico; Quds Force unit 11000 continues to outsource hits via regional embassies and criminal cut-outs—risk of copycats in Europe and the Americas remains elevated. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Hezbollah Rearmament Shielded** – Syrian “counter-ISIS” sweeps precede Damascus's Washington charm offensive while the same corridor ferries Iranian kit into Lebanon.

Homefront & Politics

- **IDF Legal Corps Stabilizer** – The Chief of Staff placed Maj. Gen. Dado Bar Kalifa over the MAG Corps on a temporary, administrative basis while the High Court hashes control of the Sde Teiman probe; goal is continuity until Itay Ofir is seated.
- **S&P Outlook Lift** – Israel's sovereign outlook rose from “negative” to “stable,” buying fiscal breathing room just as the treasury and energy ministry clash over gas export caps and strategic reserves.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **India Air Corridor Talks** – El Al and Arkia await Omani clearance to re-open India routes cut at the war's onset; approval would save two-hours of flight time and signal quiet Gulf alignment despite public theater.
- **Turkey's Lawfare Theater** – Istanbul prosecutors issued arrest warrants for 37 Israelis, from the PM down, on fabricated “genocide” charges—expect INTERPOL non-action but increased harassment risk for Israeli travelers transiting Türkiye.

Three pressures ripened at once. First, Gaza's corridor games now require policy, not outrage: no armed presence under ICRC escort, and each failed body transfer paired with a spectacular tunnel demolition cycle. Second, the north's “quiet” is loaded—rocket transfers plus base pressure inside Hezbollah equals a prestige strike attempt window; expect Israel to keep cutting courier routes and warn Beirut publicly if the LAF stays decorative. Third, if Washington is going to supervise aid, Jerusalem will lock a written freedom-of-action deal or act as if it has one. The next breach—of the Yellow Line or the Blue Line—will be answered and not just with a mealy-mouthed statement.

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

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