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READER EDITION

November 10, 2025

ISRAEL BRIEF

Monday, November 10

Washington wants a pilot in Rafah, Ankara wants a role, Hamas wants oxygen. Israel is busy removing tunnels, not theater props.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE The collapse didn't happen overnight; it rotted in plain sight while editors called it "balance" and professors called it "critical thought." The BBC resignations are a symptom, not repentance, after years of laundering Hamas propaganda and calling it journalism. Europe's elites turned antisemitism into moral chic, and the Left now chants the same slogans that once came from brownshirts—only with hashtags. We've warned for years as synagogues burned, students were hunted, and newsrooms erased Israeli dead. No one listened outside the Jewish world and a handful of allies who still recognize truth when it bleeds. The West's media and academia no longer report on terror; they enable it. The time for explaining is over. The only answer now is exposure, consequence, and the refusal to play nice with those who made Jew-hatred fashionable again.

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Israel Brief: Monday, November 10

Washington wants a pilot in Rafah, Ankara wants a role, Hamas wants oxygen. Israel is busy removing tunnels, not theater props.

Shalom, friends.

The map is taut. In Gaza, the “pause” now runs through Rafah’s concrete, where 100–200 Hamas men sit in tunnels while mediators try to rename them “civilians.” Up north, precision attrition keeps grinding—houses wired in Houla, a courier car erased near Sidon—while Hezbollah stitches faces and messages. Iran hums: deeper vaults, busier lines, louder threats. At home, funerals give the country a conscience and the High Court will test whether the state still has a spine.

Flash Brief

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rafah: IDF 10th Brigade killed dozens, cut tunnels behind the Yellow Line; no safe passage for gunmen.• Gaza: Jerusalem reiterates “no Turkish boots”; Kushner/Witkoff pitch Rafah “pilot city” concept today.• South Lebanon: Sixth strike in 48 hours; three Houla houses blown on-site; LAF stood down.• Iran: “Pickaxe Mountain” sealed to inspectors; stockpile moved; | <p>missile lines 24/7; another war “a matter of time.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hostages: Islamic Jihad holds two of four bodies; Israel ties any coordination to full returns.• Courts & politics: Sde Teiman probe control argued live tomorrow; UTJ to oppose terror death-penalty bill.• Readiness: Three-day IDF drill across Judea, Samaria, Jordan Valley; Kiryat Shmona urban defense exercise. |
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We’ve warned that the truce is paperwork and the war is muscle memory. Today proves it. Rafah’s “pilot” proposal meets a wall of Israeli policy; the north keeps losing Hezbollah nodes with no press conference attached; and Tehran’s escalator runs, inexorably, up. The rest of this brief takes you through the operational verbs, not the diplomatic adjectives.

The War Today

GAZA: CEASEFIRE’S FAULT LINE RUNS THROUGH RAFAH

Israel’s 10th Brigade killed dozens of Hamas operatives and dismantled multiple tunnels behind the Yellow Line near Khan Yunis, reinforcing control in areas nominally under “ceasefire.” The operation followed renewed U.S. pressure to allow 100–200 Hamas fighters trapped in Rafah tunnels to disarm and leave under Red Cross escort—a proposal Washington frames as a “pilot” for Trump’s Gaza plan. Ankara has jumped in, branding the militants “civilians” and claiming credit for the return of Lt. Hadar Goldin’s body, while Egypt and Qatar continue quiet mediation. The UAE, once floated as a core participant in the International Stabilization Force, now says it will sit out, citing the absence of a “clear framework.” Jerusalem, meanwhile, told Trump

envoys Kushner and Witkoff that Turkish troops will never deploy in Gaza and that trapped terrorists will either surrender or die underground.

ASSESSMENT

The ceasefire has curdled into an unpleasant political mess. The U.S. wants optics; Turkey wants leverage; Hamas wants air. Everyone but Israel pretends the men under Rafah are “civilians.” The IDF’s tunnel demolitions show Jerusalem has no intention of letting mediators turn the battlefield into a seminar. The ISF fantasy—foreign troops, Qatari cash, Turkish “peacekeepers”—is already unravelling before it exists. Israel’s message is blunt and overdue: there will be no second UNRWA, no Turkish boots, and no parole for murderers in uniforms. If Washington insists on experimenting, Gaza will provide its own peer review—in rubble.

NORTHERN FRONT: PRECISION ATTRITION AND HEZBOLLAH’S COSMETIC WAR

Israeli drones and commandos struck Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon for the sixth time in forty-eight hours, including demolitions of three houses in Hula used as staging posts. In parallel, Washington’s sanctions chief John Hurley toured the region urging Arab allies to choke Iran’s \$1 billion annual pipeline to Hezbollah, calling it “the moment to disarm the militia and give Lebanon back to its people.” Intelligence leaks paint a macabre picture of Hezbollah’s leadership literally remaking its face—dozens of commanders undergoing plastic surgery in Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon to dodge Israeli targeting after repeated precision hits. The group is also re-staffing southern cells with younger cadres while Tehran quietly replenishes funding and missiles.

ASSESSMENT

Hezbollah is bleeding cash, commanders, and confidence—so it hides behind bandages and borrowed money. The IRGC’s surgeons can fix faces, not morale. Israel’s low-grade war—daily drone strikes, collapsing houses one by one—has turned Hezbollah’s “resistance” into a cosmetic enterprise. Yet sanctions and scalpel work won’t finish the job: the group still commands tens of thousands of rockets and a government too afraid to act on its own. The next escalation will hinge on whether Lebanon’s elites prefer U.S. dollars or Iranian funerals. For now, Israel is content to keep trimming Hezbollah’s ranks until Tehran runs out of both surgeons and excuses.

IRAN: PREPARING FOR THE NEXT [INEVITABLE] ROUND

Regional and Western intelligence agree that Iran’s next confrontation with Israel is all but scheduled. Tehran’s “Pickaxe Mountain” enrichment site near Natanz is now sealed to inspectors, and missile factories run around the clock—aiming to launch two thousand rockets a day (four times June’s terrible pace). The same regime that funds Hezbollah’s reconstructive surgery now funds hackers: Cyber Toufan, an Iranian-linked pro-Hamas group, claims to have penetrated Israeli-Australian defense systems, exposing project data and doxing hundreds of engineers. Meanwhile, Iran’s uranium stockpile—enough for roughly eleven bombs—has reportedly been relocated from bombed facilities to deeper vaults. Trump’s envoys admit privately the “obliteration” of Iran’s program was only partial.

ASSESSMENT

Tehran is sewing up its wounds and calling it recovery. Missile lines hum, centrifuges spin, and hackers scout blueprints while Western capitals congratulate themselves on “containment.” The regime’s strategy is simple: trade blood for time, money for missiles, and propaganda for deterrence. Another Israel–Iran war is inevitable because the first one didn’t end—it paused to reload. Israel will strike again the moment diplomacy pretends it can’t see what’s glowing under Pickaxe Mountain.

Inside Israel

HADAR COMES HOME, AND A COUNTRY CONFRONTS ITS CONSCIENCE

Israel buried two of its long-missing sons this week — Lt. Hadar Goldin, z”l, returned after 4,118 days in Gaza, and Staff Sgt. Itay Chen, z”l, whose body Hamas hoarded for over two years. Goldin’s parents stood by their conviction that Israel must never trade the living for the dead; Chen’s father stood by his son’s grave and gave voice to public anger: those responsible for October 7 — negligent commanders and politicians alike — will face the nation. Behind the funerals, Islamic Jihad still clings to two of the four murdered hostages’ bodies, bartering corpses as leverage for “reconstruction.” Mediators hint at progress; Israel’s patience is spent.

ASSESSMENT

The return of our dead does not absolve the living. Until the state shows the same relentlessness as the bereaved — in Rafah’s tunnels, in inquiry rooms, and in the Knesset itself — every funeral remains unfinished business.

PAY IS NOT ENOUGH: RESTORING THE MORAL CONTRACT OF SERVICE

The government approved a NIS 3.25 billion package for permanent service members — bonuses, housing grants, and a “digital wallet” for career troops — while reservists still shoulder shattered businesses, interrupted studies, and family strain. Finance Minister Smotrich calls it a long-overdue correction for those who make the army their life’s work. The opposition brands it a distraction, arguing that real fairness starts with a binding, enforceable draft framework and tax relief for reservists, not one-off grants. The “Change Bloc” has pledged to fight the coalition’s proposed exemptions and demand equal service obligations across the board, even as Smotrich’s own reservist-credit bill remains stalled by partisan crossfire.

ASSESSMENT

This package is a welcome step, but it cannot be the full answer. A professional army needs stability, yet the defense contract must be moral as well as financial: those who fight need to know the rest of the country is carrying its weight. The next compact should marry pay with principle — a clear national-service framework for every citizen, binding for Haredi and secular alike, paired with measurable support for those already serving. Israel’s soldiers deserve both respect and a functioning social covenant. Money sustains morale for a season; fairness sustains it for a generation.

THE LEGAL CORPS BURNS, THE DEEP STATE BLINKS

As the Sde Teiman scandal staggers toward the High Court, Force 100 reservists are suing *Haaretz* journalist Uri Misgav for reviving debunked rape

claims — a sign that the army’s lawyers are no longer the only ones on trial. Defense Minister Katz named outsider Itai Ophir as the new IDF chief lawyer, bypassing the compromised corps and ignoring Prime Minister Netanyahu’s protests. Ophir has no criminal-law experience but a reputation for cutting through bureaucratic rot. The appointment, meant to steady the ship, instead highlights a system where lawfare has become both weapon and wound.

ASSESSMENT

Katz’s gamble on an outsider is the right instinct: the corps cannot clean itself. Yet even that act becomes another trench in Israel’s bureaucratic civil war — ministers versus judges, media versus men in uniform. The Sde Teiman saga will decide whether Israel’s justice system serves the soldier or sacrifices him for appearances.

SOVEREIGNTY DECLARED — AND STILL DEFERRED

Central Command approved legal jurisdiction for 13 young communities across Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley — formalizing decades of fact on the ground. Finance Minister Smotrich hailed it as “Zionism at its best”; the opposition called it “provocation.” Mansour Abbas, head of the Islamic Ra’am party, stormed out of a live interview when asked whether Hamas should be dismantled — a silence that says what everyone knows: parts of Israel’s own parliament can’t bring themselves to say Hamas must die — and the Palestinian Authority is steeped in the same rot.

ASSESSMENT

Every meter of land Israel regulates is another meter it will not have to re-conquer later. The Left calls it occupation; in truth, it is merely administration — something the State forgot how to do while outsourcing sovereignty to NGOs and foreign mediators. Abbas’s walkout is the mirror image of that rot: elites too “polite” to defend the Jewish state while cashing its salaries. Declaring sovereignty is easy. Exercising it — in Hebron, in Ramallah, in the Knesset itself — is the real test. The state that hesitates to rule Judea will one day find itself ruled by Jenin.

Israel and the World

FAITH, FIREPOWER, AND THE FUTURE: ISRAEL’S NEW STRATEGIC TRIANGLE

In Delhi, negotiations advanced for joint Indian production of Israel’s LORA theater-range missiles and Rafael’s Ice Breaker cruise systems under “Make in India,” binding the two democracies through shared technology and deterrence. In Tirana, Albania formally joined the Israel Allies Foundation at its 64th parliamentary caucus, uniting both ruling and opposition parties around faith-based support for Israel—a continuation of Albania’s wartime legacy of sheltering Jews. And in Budapest, 300 Jewish teenagers from Israel and the Diaspora convened at the first World Jewish-Zionist Youth Congress, drafting a global youth charter to reconnect a generation to Herzl’s mission in the city of his birth.

ASSESSMENT

Jerusalem's long game is visible in these three theaters: strategic alignment with India secures the industrial resources needed for deterrence; alliance with Albania extends moral diplomacy into Europe's Balkan flank; and the youth congress plants a generation that knows Zionism is not a guilt to explain but a destiny to pursue. In an age when Western elites hedge on Israel, these partnerships signal something larger than trade or symbolism—they're the architecture of a world that still wants to stand with a confident Jewish state. Israel's task now is to knit these lanes together: anchor defense co-production in enduring treaties, turn moral allies into commercial ones, and ensure the young Jews writing charters in Herzl's city one day write laws in Jerusalem.

THE WEST'S WAR ON TRUTH—AND WHY ISRAEL CAN'T OUTSOURCE ITS DEFENSE

Israel's information front cracked wide open this week—from London to Berlin to American campuses—revealing that the West's cultural institutions have become both battlefield and breeding ground for antisemitic decay. The BBC's director-general and news chief resigned after a leaked internal report confirmed systemic anti-Israel bias, including deliberate omissions of Israeli suffering and a Gaza documentary narrated by a Hamas official's child. In Germany, Ambassador Ron Prosor warned that the “educated” Left's antisemitism—polished, academic, and disguised as moral critique—has crossed from rhetoric into incitement, citing the Left Party's youth wing resolution denying Israel's right to exist. In Paris, four extremists were charged after firebombing the Israel Philharmonic's concert hall, underscoring how leftist anti-Israel activism in Europe now routinely crosses into physical violence. On campuses, Students for Justice in Palestine remained conspicuously silent after the UN recognized Palestinian statehood—because peace isn't their platform, Israel's erasure is. And as Western progressives perform moral theater over Gaza, Africa bleeds unnoticed: jihadists have slaughtered tens of thousands in Sudan and Nigeria while global outrage stays monopolized by Hamas propaganda.

ASSESSMENT

The collapse didn't happen overnight; it rotted in plain sight while editors called it “balance” and professors called it “critical thought.” The BBC resignations are a symptom, not repentance, after years of laundering Hamas propaganda and calling it journalism. Europe's elites turned antisemitism into moral chic, and the Left now chants the same slogans that once came from brownshirts—only with hashtags. We've warned for years as synagogues burned, students were hunted, and newsrooms erased Israeli dead. No one listened outside the Jewish world and a handful of allies who still recognize truth when it bleeds. The West's media and academia no longer report on terror; they enable it. The time for explaining is over. The only answer now is exposure, consequence, and the refusal to play nice with those who made Jew-hatred fashionable again.

Briefly Noted

FRONTLINE & SECURITY

- **Israel National News:** Defense Minister Israel Katz declared the Sinai frontier a closed military zone to combat drone-enabled gun running from Egypt, formally treating the smuggling pipeline as a terror threat; local

leaders backed the terror designation but warned closures hurt agriculture and tourism without crushing the illegal arms market that fuels the drones.

- **Jerusalem Post:** National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir approved Israeli-Druze officer Hatem Azzam as Israel Prison Service deputy chief, tasking him with force-build, threat readiness and governance across IPS facilities amid heightened risks from security prisoners since the war.

DIPLOMACY & GEOPOLITICS

- **JNS:** Israel and Morocco agreed to restart direct El Al flights “in the coming months,” signaling a post-ceasefire reset of the aviation lane opened by the Abraham Accords and strong demand from Israel’s million-strong Moroccan-Jewish community.

DOMESTIC & LAW

- **Times of Israel:** Israel published tenders for 5,667 homes in Judea and Samaria this year—an all-time high—moving long-approved projects in Ma’ale Adumim (including E-1), Ariel, and other communities from paper to builders; for Israel, that’s housing supply and strategic contiguity, not a bargaining chip.
- **Times of Israel:** Police are examining allegations that Jerusalem’s mayor enabled a municipal salary for a minister’s associate who allegedly didn’t work, with potential probes of related municipal placements and salary moves.
- **Ynet:** Prosecutors charged three Nazareth residents with attempted kidnapping, robbery and extortion after they allegedly assaulted a businessman over a six-figure debt while a civil suit was still pending.

CULTURE, RELIGION & SOCIETY

- **Times of Israel:** New South Wales police allowed a neo-Nazi rally outside the state parliament—prompting bipartisan condemnation and a review of police powers as Jewish leaders warned against normalizing open Jew-hate.
- **Israel National News:** Ahead of the annual Chayei Sara pilgrimage, MK Tzvi Succot entered Isaac Hall at the Cave of the Patriarchs—usually closed to Jews—and urged full-time Jewish access to the entire site as a matter of sovereignty and basic fairness.

ECONOMY, TECH, & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Globes:** Israel’s foreign exchange reserves hit a record \$231.95b at October’s end—about 41% of GDP—reflecting revaluation gains that outpaced government FX activity and reinforcing financial shock-absorption capacity.
- **Jerusalem Post:** With AI now the “connective tissue” across Israeli deep tech, investors and multinationals are ramping chip-design and defense-grade analytics R&D, while policy makers push to scale more companies under Israeli ownership—not just build to sell.

Developments to Watch

NORTHERN FRONT (LEBANON / SYRIA)

- **Houla, LAF Stands Off** – After IDF engineers blew three Hezbollah-linked houses in Houla, Lebanese troops nearby did not intervene—evidence the LAF is yielding ground while the IDF expands precise denial ops. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Kiryat Shmona Readiness Drill** – A defense-platoon exercise runs today inside city blocks and along HaBanim Street, sharpening urban defense and evacuation coordination as strike tempo in the sector rises.

GAZA & SOUTHERN THEATER

- **Hostage-Remains Standoff** – Mediators are pressing Islamic Jihad, which is holding two of the four murdered hostages' bodies, as Israel conditions any further coordination on full return—no staged “finds,” no armed escorts. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

REGIONAL AXIS (IRAN, HOUTHIS, MILITIAS)

- **Houthis Threaten Renewed Strikes** – Sana'a warned it will resume deep attacks and reinstate Red Sea/Arabian Sea bans if Gaza operations restart, tying launch cadence explicitly to Lebanon and Rafah developments. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

JUDEA & SAMARIA

- **Three-Day IDF Drill Launches** – The army begins a region-wide exercise across Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley; expect heavy troop movement, road holds, and live-fire zones as rapid-response units rehearse multi-node riots and raids.
- **Bruqin House Demolition** – Forces razed the home of a Hamas gunman tied to the May 14 murder of Tzeela Gez, z”l; all accomplices' homes in the cell are now down, signaling continued deterrent demolitions alongside arrests.
- **Menashe Stop on Imminent Attack** – An IDF unit shot and killed a terrorist preparing to strike troops overnight; no Israeli injuries reported as quick-reaction teams remain forward-deployed.

HOMEFRONT & POLITICS

- **High Court to Spotlight Sde Teiman** – Tomorrow's televised hearing will decide who runs the leak probe—AG camp or the justice minister's special overseer.
- **UTJ to Oppose Death-Penalty Bill** – United Torah Judaism will vote against the terror-death-penalty first reading “for fear of bloodshed,” narrowing the coalition math and sharpening public argument over deterrence.
- **Border Crossings Drill Today** – Security exercises at Beqaa (Rt-90) and Te'enim (Rt-557) will slow traffic mid-day as police, IDF, and ISA test layered screening and closure procedures against smuggling and vehicle-borne threats.

Rafah is the fault line. If mediators try to walk armed men out under Red Cross cover, expect Israel to answer with more than words. In Lebanon, the

standoff model is cracking: more house-level demolitions and road hits until Beirut's elites fear U.S. banking pain more than Iranian praise. Iran's nuclear-missile tempo shortens Israel's decision window; one more "inspection denied" story and the clocks merge. At home, the High Court's choice on Sde Teiman will signal whether soldiers get law or theater. The verdict: no Turkish troops, no parole for tunnel-bound terrorists, and no second UNRWA—enforcement first, experiments later.

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

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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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