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READER EDITION

November 11, 2025

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ISRAEL BRIEF

# Tuesday, November 11

*Washington sells theater in Rafah; Israel writes the script in Lebanon.*

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

**THE BOTTOM LINE** The same political system that once outsourced power—to unions, to jurists, to foreign sponsors—is finally being forced to govern again. Cleaning house hurts; it always does. Yet corruption probes, judicial showdowns, and strong legislation are not symptoms of decline but of a state clawing back control from entrenched fiefdoms. The public is no longer content to be managed by lawyers or lectured by broadcasters paid in Qatari riyals. Ben-Gvir's policing drive, the death-penalty bill, and the Al Jazeera Law each signal a deeper instinct: Israel will no longer apologize for defending itself—physically, legally, or morally. The task now is discipline. Punish graft without paralyzing government. Rebuild faith in law without surrendering sovereignty.

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## Flash Brief

- **South Lebanon:** IAF strikes across Nabatieh and the Beqaa; weapons sites hit; three Hezbollah operatives killed.
- **Israel–U.S.–Lebanon:** Washington offers LAF help to “disarm” Hezbollah; Beirut refuses house searches; Israel insists.
- **Gaza:** Two Hamas gunmen shot crossing the Yellow Line toward IDF positions in the south.
- **Smuggling drone:** West-to-east UAV intercepted; three M16s seized; network mapping underway.
- **Iran:** Larijani rejects limits on nukes and missiles; Shin Bet exposes Tehran-run crypto spy tasking in Tel Aviv.
- **Regionals:** Egypt refuses to host Rafah tunnel fighters; UAE declines Gaza peacekeeping force without mandate.
- **Home front:** Three-day IDF drill across Judea, Samaria, Jordan Valley; hospital hardening plan moves to procurement.

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## The War Today

### Gaza: The Yellow Line Is Now a Border of Lies

Foreign capitals market “day-after” fantasies while the IDF does “day-of” enforcement. Two Hamas gunmen were killed crossing the Yellow Line in southern Gaza after approaching IDF positions—another test of Israel’s resolve under a ceasefire written in pencil. Prime Minister Netanyahu met U.S. envoy Jared Kushner, who pressed for “safe passage” for roughly 200 Hamas fighters trapped under Rafah. Ankara called them “civilians” and claimed credit for facilitating Lt. Hadar Goldin’s return, while Washington floated amnesty and exile options. Egypt flatly refused to host them, and the UAE walked away from any peacekeeping role. As Trump’s Gaza plan stalls, the Strip is splitting in two: an Israeli-controlled zone rebuilding in order, and a Hamas enclave sinking back into rule by gunmen. The U.S. is considering a permanent base on Israel’s border to “coordinate stabilization”—a euphemism for supervision.

#### ASSESSMENT

*Gaza is being internationalized by stealth. Every “pilot plan” and “coordination center” hands Israel’s hard-won control to foreign bureaucrats who never paid the price of it. The United States is trying to manage Hamas’s surrender theatrically; Israel is treating it operationally. The split now visible on the ground—half governed, half feral—is the real outcome of restraint. Unless Jerusalem reasserts unilateral authority, the Yellow Line will become the new partition of Gaza: one side for order, the other for excuses.*

### Northern Front: Hezbollah Disarms Only on Paper

Israeli jets struck across southern Lebanon and the Beqaa Valley, killing senior Hezbollah operative Samir Ali Faqih and two others involved in weapons smuggling and storage. The attacks came after Jerusalem demanded that the Lebanese Army conduct house-to-house searches for Hezbollah arms—an order Beirut refused, citing fear of civil war. The U.S. is urging President Aoun to call Netanyahu directly and cut a deal; instead, the Lebanese leadership hides behind “mechanisms” while Hezbollah rebuilds in residences and bunkers. Israeli intelligence says at least 50 tunnels and hundreds of missiles have already been located despite these denials.

#### ASSESSMENT

*Lebanon’s army talks disarmament and enforces nothing. Hezbollah governs the state that pretends to police it, and Washington’s diplomacy only legitimizes the arrangement. Each week Israel strikes deeper—because no one else will. The choice facing Beirut is simple: disarm Hezbollah with its own hands or watch Israel do it from the air.*

### Courage in Uniform: Learning from October 7 Failures

An external panel led by Maj. Gen. Sami Turgeman found the IDF’s internal October 7 investigations “inadequate to unacceptable,” exposing systemic arrogance, analytic blindness, and cultural decay that left the army unready for war. Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir accepted the findings, promised dismissals, and called for a multidisciplinary external inquiry—while Prime Minister Netanyahu again blocked a state commission, claiming “half the nation” opposes it. The reports lists various causes of failure—including misreading Hamas, ignoring intelligence, neglecting the “Jericho Wall” plan, and a command culture allergic to bad news. Zamir’s own response is decisive: sweeping reforms in intelligence, regional defense, and operational readiness, including a proposed demilitarized buffer in southern Syria to seal the eastern flank.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The real national commission has already begun—in the barracks, not the Knesset—as soldiers look inward and rebuild their army. What Zamir calls “meta-investigation” is the army reclaiming integrity.*

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## Inside Israel

### Israel’s Internal Front: Cleaning House While Under Fire

Israel’s internal front is no quieter than its borders. The Histadrut corruption probe exploded as union chief Arnon Bar-David was arrested for running the labor federation “like a private business,” entangled with political fixers and government contracts. At the same time, Moshe Feiglin accused past governments of surrendering sovereignty to Washington—pointing to the U.S. base at Kiryat Gat as proof that dependency is a choice. Bereaved families

packed the Knesset to demand a full state inquiry into October 7 while Netanyahu held firm that any commission must come after the war. The High Court heard the latest round of the Sde Teiman case, where judicial elites are fighting to protect their own while the justice minister pushes to pry their fingers off the tiller. In parallel, the coalition advanced long-delayed corrections: a mandatory death penalty for terrorists and a permanent Al Jazeera Law to end the foreign-funded agitprop masquerading as journalism. Ben-Gvir continues to reassert police authority against chaos, even as opposition leaders caricature him for doing what weak ministers before him refused to do. In Judea and Samaria, the IDF wants its legal tools restored to handle genuine extremists while reminding foreign critics that Jewish farmers defending their land are not “settler violence”—they’re citizens under siege. Across every front, Israelis are discovering that reform and sovereignty begin at home.

#### ASSESSMENT

*The same political system that once outsourced power—to unions, to jurists, to foreign sponsors—is finally being forced to govern again. Cleaning house hurts; it always does. Yet corruption probes, judicial showdowns, and strong legislation are not symptoms of decline but of a state clawing back control from entrenched fiefdoms. The public is no longer content to be managed by lawyers or lectured by broadcasters paid in Qatari riyals. Ben-Gvir’s policing drive, the death-penalty bill, and the Al Jazeera Law each signal a deeper instinct: Israel will no longer apologize for defending itself—physically, legally, or morally. The task now is discipline. Punish graft without paralyzing government. Rebuild faith in law without surrendering sovereignty.*

## Israel and the World

### The Strategic Tables Turn

Across the diplomatic chessboard, the hypocrisy is now fluorescent. In Paris, Emmanuel Macron rolled out the red carpet for Mahmoud Abbas—calling him “President of the State of Palestine” and vowing to “implement the Gaza ceasefire”—even as the same Europe quietly re-arms through Israeli technology. Germany just bought €2 billion in Spike anti-tank missiles, the UK renewed defense intel sharing, and Spain, after declaring a “total embargo,” quietly signed a €350 million Elbit contract. Norway’s “boycott” fund still holds \$2 billion in Israeli equities. Abbas, meanwhile, fired his finance minister for keeping the “pay-to-slay” system alive—a cosmetic move meant to fool donors while stipends flow under new paperwork. In Washington, bipartisan momentum builds to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terror organization, while in Tehran, centrifuges hum and a senior Israeli official warns that the window to act before Trump’s term ends is closing. Europe commemorated Kristallnacht with candlelight—and fresh UN applause for “Palestine”—even as French anti-terror police foiled another jihadist cell plotting attacks near the Bataclan. Meanwhile, Damascus now seeks U.S.-brokered talks with Jerusalem, proof that even enemies understand which side history is moving

toward. The West moralizes by morning and militarizes by night, rediscovering Israel every time reality intrudes.

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## Briefly Noted

### Frontline & Security

- Police shot dead a gunman who opened fire during a vehicle stop near Hebron; separate Border Police ops used drones and forensic tracking to arrest three Molotov-throwers.
- Israel and Turkey now lead rival global UAV export tracks—and could see their drones collide in Syrian airspace—as Ankara floods the market with Bayraktars while Israeli systems keep the high end and the combat record.

### Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- ITV will air a documentary front-loading anonymous allegations about IDF “misconduct,” another salvo in London’s media lawfare while the IDF says probes are ongoing and rules of engagement stand.
- After scrutiny, BBC Arabic pulled a piece that cast a Hamas October 7 gunman as a Gaza “civilian” killed by Israel—yet more evidence that the network’s Arabic arm keeps laundering terrorists as victims.
- Stormont’s education minister faces a performative no-confidence stunt for a six-day Israel visit; unionists are holding the line while Sinn Féin hurls “genocide” slurs from the cheap seats.
- A shadowy Hezbollah-linked NGO helped midwife West Midlands Police’s “no Israeli fans” rule at Aston Villa–Maccabi Tel Aviv—outsourcing public safety to terror-adjacent propagandists and calling it community relations.
- A Chapman University suit aims to use contract-discrimination law against campus Jew-hatred, potentially widening civil-rights tools when Title VI compliance becomes an academic suggestion.

### Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- A nationwide sting found approximately 80% of cabbies skipped smart meters, just as Uber eyes a return—proof that cartel rules protect no one but the rule-breakers.

### Culture, Religion & Society

- A UK doctor who tweeted “gas the Jews” got a GMC warning, not a ban.
- Op-ed: Western “feminism” learned to excuse real gender apartheid while demonizing Israel—the only MENA state with equal rights—because identity politics beats facts every time.

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## Developments to Watch

### Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

**U.S. Clock on Beirut** – Washington delivered a 60-day ultimatum tying reforms and Hezbollah disarmament to future support; failure risks a sharper Israeli air campaign and Western financial squeeze on Lebanese state organs. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

**House-to-House Red Line** – Israel is pressing the LAF to search private homes for Hezbollah arms; Beirut refuses, citing civil-war risk. Expect more precision strikes on “residential” stockpiles and deeper Beqaa hits as Israel enforces alone. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

**Concrete Reality on Blue Line** – IDF engineers are erecting a new concrete barrier opposite Maroun al-Ras, reshaping friction points and channeling incursions into surveilled seams; look for Hezbollah propaganda around “sovereignty violations” as work expands.

### Gaza & Southern Theater

**West-Front Drone Pipeline** – Israel intercepted a west-to-east weapons-smuggling drone and seized three M16s; security forces are mapping handlers and launch sites, a sign the air corridor will see more frequent shoot-downs and arrests. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

**Hospital Hardening Plan** – Health Ministry leadership is moving to upgrade missile protection at legacy hospitals; procurement and design choices in the next 30–60 days will determine surge capacity under a northern escalation scenario.

### Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

**Larijani Signals No Compromise** – Tehran’s security chief vowed to resist limits on missiles and nukes “even at risk of war,” reinforcing a hard line as enrichment shifts underground and production lines hum. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

**IRGC Tasking in Tel Aviv** – Shin Bet exposed an Iranian crypto-paid spotter photographing strategic sites for handlers; more arrests are expected as the obedience-testing network is rolled up across central Israel. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

**Syria Sanctions Eased** – The U.S. temporarily suspended portions of Caesar Act penalties after Damascus pledged ISIS cooperation; any follow-on arrangements that touch airfields or corridors could alter Iran-Hezbollah logistics—watch for hidden quid pro quos.

### Diplomatic & Legal

**Gulf Troops Off the Table** – The UAE publicly nixed participation in any Gaza multinational force absent a clear mandate, narrowing sponsor options for

an ISF and increasing pressure on Washington to define enforcement teeth or drop the idea.

### Home Front & Politics

**IDF Multi-District Drill** – A three-day exercise across Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley is stress-testing rapid-response lanes, drone countermeasures, and live-fire clearances ahead of holiday-season cells; road holds and air activity will stay elevated. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Three main moves today. First, Beirut drew its red line—no house-to-house—so Jerusalem will keep collapsing “residential stockpiles” from 20,000 feet. Second, Gaza’s amnesty carousel lost riders: Cairo won’t host them, Abu Dhabi won’t police them, and the only corridor that works is a tunnel demolition. Third, Iran said the quiet part loudly—missiles and centrifuges stay—while its cutouts photographed Israeli targets for crypto. Expect deeper Beqaa hits, more Yellow Line contact kills, and domestic steps that trade performance for enforcement.

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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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