



Forensic intelligence for those who act.

READER EDITION

November 13, 2025

ISRAEL BRIEF

Thursday, November 13

Foreign capitals keep pitching fantasy frameworks; Israel keeps being forced to kill terrorists under a 'ceasefire' only diplomats can see.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVER

THE BOTTOM LINE These three arenas—Kyiv, Taipei, Geneva—reveal which parts of the world understand the stakes and which parts perform moral theater. Ukraine faces the same Iranian drones that hit Eilat; Taiwan faces the same authoritarian axis that funds Hamas; both see Israel's survival as tied to their own. The UN system, by contrast, still launders Hamas propaganda while scolding Israel for fighting a genocidal army that filmed its own atrocities. Israel's strategic future lies with states fighting the same enemies—not committees addicted to manufactured outrage. The task now is to turn those real partnerships into a diplomatic counterweight and stop conceding the narrative battlefield to institutions that have forfeited their credibility.

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THE fronts don't calm — they get managed, sometimes loudly other times at a whisper. Later this morning I'm dropping a Dossier on how Britain managed to lose a civilization without losing a war—and why the fronts in New York, Paris, and Ottawa are already running the same script.

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Gaza's Yellow Line is now a live-fire ethics seminar for anyone still pretending this truce has meaning. In the north, Hezbollah screams "sovereignty" while rebuilding weapons caches under living rooms and watching the U.S. countdown tick toward zero. Iran is arming Judea and Samaria like it's the next theater, because it is. At home, the state is hardening while the justice system tries to decide whether it wants relevance or ritual.

Flash Brief

- **Gaza:** IDF kills multiple terrorists crossing the Yellow Line near Rafah and Khan Yunis; tunnel demolitions continue.
- **Rafah:** Israel rejects another Hamas "hostage search" pretext after explosives found during a Yellow Line breach.
- **North:** Israeli jets hit Hezbollah depots and bunkers embedded in civilian blocks; Lebanon's leaders deny Hezbollah even exists south of Litani.
- **Iran/Axis:** Tehran accelerates arming of factions in Judea and Samaria via Hezbollah-Syria routes; 4,000 rockets reportedly refreshed.
- **Homefront:** Senior police official interrogated for power abuse; PTSD ex-officer dies after self-immolation protest.
- **Politics:** Trump asks Herzog to pardon Netanyahu; Katz moves ahead with dismantling Army Radio's pundit circus.
- **Diplomacy:** France walks back ban on Israeli defense firms; Morocco reopens flights; Taiwan praises Israel as regional democratic anchor.

YOU can feel the tension between performance and enforcement widening.

Washington still talks about "phase two" in Gaza as if Hamas signs papers. Beirut acts as if denial is strategy. Europe hosts conferences while banning Israeli musicians and then un-banning them once shamed. And through all this noise, Israel keeps doing the only thing that actually shapes reality: enforcing consequences.

Let's go deeper into the fronts that matter — Gaza, Lebanon, and the creeping Iran belt.

The War Today

Ceasefire Line Becomes Contact Line

IDF units working to dismantle Hamas tunnels in Rafah repeatedly engaged terrorists east of the Yellow Line, killing three gunmen in one clash near the Jenina pocket and another infiltrator who crossed toward troops near Khan Yunis, all under the formal ceasefire framework. Across the day, forces reported roughly ten terrorists eliminated in Gaza, including a squad emerging

from a tunnel entrance inside a former school, while Southern Command emphasized it remains deployed “per the agreement” and will keep firing on any immediate threat. Over recent weeks, troops on the Israeli-controlled side of the Yellow Line have uncovered and demolished four terror tunnels and dozens of Hamas infrastructure sites, even as the truce technically remains in force. Israeli officials now confirm Hamas used the latest Yellow Line ‘body search’ as a cover to move explosives toward operational zones, reinforcing the IDF view that every so-called humanitarian entry is a hostile act.

ASSESSMENT

Hamas is treating the Yellow Line as a soft border to probe, smuggle, and reposition under the cover of ceasefire language; the IDF must continue to treat it as a hostile combat zone—where they can be forced to take lethal action at any time. The more “body searches” and “accidental” crossings pile up, the less anyone can pretend this is a stable truce.

Demilitarization Promises, Torture Facts

While diplomats draft elegant “day-after” plans—disarmament, deradicalization, democratic legitimacy—Gaza’s lived reality keeps screaming the opposite. Sources now confirm that Hamas holds full information on all four murdered hostages whose bodies remain in Gaza, including those held by Islamic Jihad, and that two sets of remains likely lie east of the Yellow Line in areas under Israeli control; officials insist pressure must continue until everyone is home. Before the UN Committee Against Torture, former hostages Keith and Aviva Siegel described systematic humiliation, starvation, and sexual abuse in Hamas captivity—guards forcing them to lie motionless for 16 hours a day, denying water, cutting a boy’s hand “for fun,” and abusing young girls in the shower—while the terrorists themselves grew fat off stolen food.

In Rafah, analysts warn that the roughly 150–200 Hamas operatives trapped in tunnels under IDF-controlled territory are a live test of whether Israel is serious about dismantling Hamas or can be sweet-talked into exile schemes that leave the movement’s prestige intact; the smart play, they argue, is surrender, arrest, or death—not a photo op. U.S. Secretary of State Rubio keeps selling an International Stabilization Force that “won’t be a fighting force” because Hamas has “agreed to disarm,” promising basic security in the red zone once the IDF withdraws. In parallel, policy shops in the West push a three-D framework—disarm Hamas under international supervision, deradicalize Gaza’s institutions and curricula along Emirati lines, and build a clean Palestinian governance model to replace the P.A. kleptocracy. And as Israeli media floated a giant U.S. base in the Negev to anchor all this, the White House publicly slapped it down as a single Navy inquiry inflated into policy, saying Washington has no interest in such a project.

ASSESSMENT

Gaza's "day after" has a split personality: on paper Hamas meekly disarms for a polite ISF and a technocratic board; in reality it hides bodies, glorifies torture, and refuses surrender while foreign envoys pretend signatures will change ideology. The Rafah tunnel pocket and the remains of the four murdered hostages are now litmus tests—either the terrorists surrender in underwear and handcuffs or are recovered from rubble. And, the bodies must all come back, or every word about demilitarization becomes a diplomatic joke. If Israel accepts cosmetic fixes here, every proxy from Beirut to Sana'a will learn the same lesson: hold enough Jews underground and the West will do your PR.

Israel Stays Behind Line, Hezbollah Hides Behind Civilians

The IDF confirmed it is building a new concrete barrier opposite villages like Yaroun and Maroun al-Ras and stressed the structure sits fully on the Israeli side of the Blue Line, flatly rejecting Arab reports that the wall encroaches into Lebanon. At the same time, Israeli jets, guided by fresh intelligence, struck a Hezbollah weapons depot and underground infrastructure in southern Lebanon, then hit another terror site hours later—each facility deliberately embedded near civilians, another textbook case of the group turning Lebanese neighborhoods into human shields while violating the post-war “understandings.”

ASSESSMENT

The north is a geometry lesson in bad faith: Israel pours concrete and keeps its barrier inside its own territory; Hezbollah rebuilds arsenals under living rooms and screams “sovereignty” through Beirut proxies and friendly microphones in Turtle Bay. Every strike on a “civilian” house stuffed with rockets exposes both the LAF’s hollowness and the UN’s reflex to blame the side that actually respects lines on the map. Israel is already shifting from deterrence to coercive enforcement along the border; unless someone in Beirut values the state more than Hezbollah’s image, that concrete wall will be the least dramatic thing to [possibly] encroach the Blue Line.

Inside Israel**Security System Re-Arms, Re-Trains, and Refuses to Blink**

Force 100 fighters are still walking into cages full of Nukhba murderers who turn bed frames, screws, safety pins, and fencing into knives and garrotes—proof that even inside high-security wings, every object becomes a weapon and every prison security search is a live op, not a checklist. While they fight that threat from within, Central Command just finished a landmark exercise that paired the Judea and Samaria Division with the new 96th Division across more than 40 scenarios: simultaneous infiltrations into multiple communities, attacks on outposts during reserve mobilization, dense-urban combat, mass-casualty evacuations, and full-spectrum inter-agency drills with Shin Bet, police, MDA, logistics and intelligence—all explicitly written around October 7 lessons about early response, special-forces deployment, and rapid

mobilization. On the home front, the Shin Bet and police rolled up an 18-year-old Israeli from the Sharon area who studied IED manuals and weapons handling under ISIS inspiration, and filed an indictment; in the Negev, police arrested three Bedouin from Tel Sheva after a taxi driver boasted he and his brother would “murder Ben-Gvir” over illegal-building demolitions, seizing the cab and in-car camera as evidence. In parallel, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich locked in expanded reservist grants through 2026 even as Tzav-8 emergency orders are set to end, with a revised Reserve Service Law capping routine call-ups at roughly 60–70 days a year under normal legal controls instead of permanent “emergency” mode.

ASSESSMENT

The security system is quietly shifting from shock to structure: prisons treated as active combat zones; Central Command training as if October 7 can happen in Qabatiya or Ariel; the Shin Bet hunting ISIS-style lone actors with Israeli ID numbers; and the state admitting that reservists are not an inexhaustible free resource. This is what a serious country looks like—treating Nukhba inmates, Bedouin death threats, and teenage jihadists as parts of the same front, while writing an actual contract with the citizen-soldiers carrying the load. If the political class matches this level of discipline on manpower, budgets, and legal backing, Israel will come out of this war with a sharper, more honest security covenant instead of another “lesson learned” PDF.

PTSD, Power Abuse, and a Justice System on Thin Ice

Former police officer Vital Mishayev, a 45-year-old PTSD sufferer injured on duty in 2013, died two weeks after setting himself on fire outside the home of the Defense Ministry’s Rehabilitation Department director—a copy-paste of the Itzik Saidian protest that the “One Soul” reform was supposed to make unthinkable. Friends say “the writing was on the wall,” accusing the very agencies charged with rebuilding him of slamming the door in his face, while the ministry insists he received “all available assistance” and condemns his desperate act as both tragic and violent. At almost the same moment, the Police Internal Investigations Department detained one of the most senior officers in the force—described by colleagues as “one of the sharpest commissioners”—for over seven hours of questioning on suspicion of breach of trust and abuse of authority, alleging he meddled in a case where he had a conflict of interest and tried to shape how it was handled inside his own unit. He was released under restrictions—barred from police facilities and contact with those involved for nine days—amid talk of an “earthquake” in the command ranks and a very fresh memory of earlier arrests of officers suspected of feeding intel to organized crime.

ASSESSMENT

Israelis are being asked to trust the same system to protect them, heal them, and police itself—and right now that trust is unfortunately quite brittle. When a traumatized ex-cop burns himself alive outside a rehab chief’s house and a top commissioner is hauled in for abusing his office, it tells you the problem isn’t one “bad apple,” it’s a barrel that sat too long. The answer isn’t to gut the police in the middle of a multi-front war; it’s to treat integrity failures as operational threats and fix them with the same urgency as a breached border fence.

Army Radio, Haredi Bill, Shin Bet, Ra'am: The New Red Lines

Defense Minister Israel Katz has decided to finally do what Barak and Gantz only talked about: strip Galei Tzahal of its civilian news-talk persona and return it to what it was meant to be—a station for soldiers, not yet another politicized pundit panel, just with a khaki logo. A Jerusalem Post column spells it out without hysteria: Israel is drowning in current-affairs channels, and there is no democratic right to have your politics subsidized by conscripts; Galgalatz survives as the country's soundtrack, while the "soldiers' house" stops doubling as a permanent studio for commentators who spend half their time sneering at the IDF. On the coalition minefield, the Haredi draft bill that was supposed to bring Shas and UTJ back into government is stuck in neutral: Boaz Bismuth can't even get a clean text onto the table; Haredi insiders privately admit the rabbis will never swallow 50% enlistment targets and sanctions, and Likud and New Hope MKs are already counting noses to vote against what reservists openly call an "evasion law." You don't need a crystal ball to see that even if it passes, the High Court will likely shred it, and Haredi politicians are already talking about elections "after Passover."

Meanwhile, the fight over who gets to run the security state is bleeding into the High Court docket. New Shin Bet chief David Zini has asked the justices to toss out petitions from three former agency heads who call him "messianic" and unfit, accusing them of trying to "police opinions" and turn religious pride into a disqualifying slur; Attorney-General Gali Baharav-Miara—no friend of this government in other battles—has formally backed Zini's appointment, telling the court the process followed its own prior rulings and was vetted by an advisory panel that found no integrity problems. In the background sits a slow burning fuse: Israel still hasn't declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terror entity, even as one of its branches (the Islamic Movement's northern arm) is outlawed for Hamas ties and another branch, Ra'am, sits in the Knesset. A detailed mapping of the Brotherhood's history here—Hamas, Raed Salah, Mansour Abbas, "Aid 48" charity transfers to Hamas-linked outfits—shows why: the law is built to hit concrete organizations and money trails, not a sprawling ideology that runs from jihadists to social-welfare Islamists. Mansour Abbas can condemn October 7 in Hebrew and then hang up when asked if Hamas should be dismantled; legally he stays inside the tent until "Aid 48" or another vehicle crosses the terror-finance line.

ASSESSMENT

Inside Israel, the real argument isn't really Left versus Right; it's who gets to define normal in a Jewish state that is at war and still wants to be liberal. Katz's move on Army Radio is a small but important boundary: the army talks to soldiers, not to panelists making a mockery of the soldiers serving. The Haredi draft saga shows the limit of coalition arithmetic—no bill that gives 80,000 yeshiva men a pass will survive either public or judicial opinion. The Zini fight marks a rare moment when the A-G and the government are right in the same direction: if "messianic" becomes code for "too Jewish for top security posts," the people who actually defend this country will walk. And the Muslim Brotherhood story is a reminder that Israel lives with Islamists both outside the fence and inside the chamber; the test is whether our legal and political system can draw a hard line at violence and financing without criminalizing an idea in a way that blows up the Arab-Israeli fabric we still need.

Israel and the World

Israel's Global Posture Rebuilds While Courts and Committees Snipe

An Israeli tourism chief shook hands with Pakistan's top tourism adviser in London—unthinkable a decade ago and quietly telling today—while Greece accelerates a €3 billion build-out of Israeli air-defense architecture to counter Turkey's aggression and replace Russian systems. The U.S. Treasury, meanwhile, hit 32 entities across eight countries running Iran's missile and UAV procurement chain, naming Chinese intermediaries, UAE brokers, and Ukrainian fronts feeding Parchin and IRGC platforms, tightening the squeeze around Iran's long-range ecosystem. At the UN, Danny Danon blasted the General Assembly's rubber-stamp approval of the ICC report that still pretends arrest warrants for Israeli leaders and Hamas murderers belong in the same moral zip code. And in sport—a domain once immune to geopolitics—the Olympic Committee of Israel canceled its 2025 Athlete and Coach of the Year awards for the first time, citing security disruption and global antisemitism that prevented Israeli teams across disciplines from even reaching competitions.

ASSESSMENT

Pakistan's handshake signals cracks in old taboos; Greece's procurement is another NATO-side admission that Israeli systems now anchor Europe's Mediterranean defense; U.S. sanctions show Washington's Iran policy is back to teeth, not talking points. Israel's diplomatic adversaries still dominate the UN hallways, but their resolutions carry less weight when half the democratic world is buying Israeli air-defense for its survival. States hedging against Iran and Turkey are moving toward Israel even as the UN sinks deeper into political cosplay. Israel should keep banking the partnerships that matter and treat UN theatrics as weather, not climate.

Information War, Moral War, and the Real West: Allies Who Stand and Allies Who Preen

Ukraine's Goncharenko arrived in Israel with a blunt warning: Israel is losing Europe—not morally, but narratively—and Kyiv can help if Jerusalem chooses to fight the information war instead of sulking about it. Ukraine is the only European state with zero anti-Israel rallies in two years; its cities are hit by Iranian drones daily; its parliamentarians openly call Israel a “fortress of democracy” and urge joint strategy from the Black Sea to the Middle East. At the UN in Geneva, by contrast, Israel endured another ritual denunciation—this time from the Committee Against Torture—accusing Jerusalem of “systematic” Palestinian abuse while footnoting Hamas torture as an administrative errand to be raised with the so-called “State of Palestine.” The hypocrisy collapsed moments later when former hostages Keith and Aviva Siegel testified in the same building about starvation, sexual assault, forced Islamic indoctrination, and daily sadism at Hamas's hands—evidence the committee treats as anecdote while treating Hamas NGOs as gospel. And in East Asia, Taiwan's foreign minister publicly declared that Israel is one of the only Mideast states friendly to Taipei—calling Ramallah “very bad to Taiwan” for parroting

Beijing's One-China line—and framed Israel's deterrence as a model for a democracy encircled by an expansionist autocracy.

ASSESSMENT

These three arenas—Kyiv, Taipei, Geneva—reveal which parts of the world understand the stakes and which parts perform moral theater. Ukraine faces the same Iranian drones that hit Eilat; Taiwan faces the same authoritarian axis that funds Hamas; both see Israel's survival as tied to their own. The UN system, by contrast, still launders Hamas propaganda while scolding Israel for fighting a genocidal army that filmed its own atrocities. Israel's strategic future lies with states fighting the same enemies—not committees addicted to manufactured outrage. The task now is to turn those real partnerships into a diplomatic counterweight and stop conceding the narrative battlefield to institutions that have forfeited their credibility.

Briefly Noted

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- **JNS:** Two Swedish nationals are on trial in Denmark for throwing grenades near Israel's embassy, with links to Sweden's Foxtrot gang and alleged Iranian direction. The case fits a larger pattern—Tehran outsourcing terror to European criminal networks while EU governments pretend it's just "gang violence."
- **Times of Israel:** Iraq's Iran-aligned Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani appears to have secured the largest bloc in national elections, positioning him for a second term. A renewed Sudani government cements Tehran's political foothold in Baghdad just as Israel keeps dismantling Iranian assets across the region.
- **Jerusalem Post:** Australia's Hizb ut-Tahrir chapter will host a conference calling Islamic rule "the only alternative" to the collapsing global order, prompting lawmakers to demand it be designated a terror group.
- **JNS:** Amsterdam's Royal Concert Hall reversed its attempt to ban IDF Chief Cantor Shai Abramson from a Chanukah concert after legal threats and public backlash.
- **JNS:** President Macron personally reversed a French defense-show ban on eight Israeli firms after a Jewish lawmaker publicly challenged him, reinstating them hours before opening.
- **Jewish Chronicle:** A watchdog found that the BBC's Editorial Complaints Unit rejected every single appeal about biased Gaza reporting on BBC Arabic, despite over 100 upheld complaints at lower levels. The pattern reveals not incompetence but institutional protection of a newsroom where anti-Israel narratives aren't errors—they're default settings.

Culture, Religion & Society

- **Shore News Network:** A Long Island man who spray-painted "Zionism is Nazism" and other antisemitic slurs outside a synagogue was convicted of felony hate-crime vandalism after blowing off court-ordered bias training

and community service. His “remorse” lasted exactly as long as it took to skip the classes—proof that soft-glove sentencing doesn’t deter bigots who think Jew-hate is a political identity, not a crime.

- **JNS:** Italian police arrested a Pakistani man for assaulting an American Jewish tourist in Milan after ranting about Gaza and chasing him through a train station.
- **Jerusalem Post:** A blistering column warns that Jews are mistaking a civilizational crisis for a bad news cycle, as antisemitism surges from the far-left, far-right, and collapsing Jewish institutions themselves. The piece matters because it diagnoses a strategic truth: Western Jewry is drifting into pre-war delusion while enemies—internal and external—shed all inhibition.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Hezbollah Leaders Talk Tough, Prep for Pain** – Naim Qassem vowed the militia “will not give up weapons” and warned Israel has “limits,” even as Israeli airstrikes this morning carved out more of Hezbollah’s southern stockpiles. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Lebanese Leadership Denies Reality** – President Joseph Aoun bizarrely insisted Hezbollah “does not operate south of the Litani” and claimed the LAF alone handles security there. The denial signals Beirut has no intent—and no capability—to meet the U.S. 60-day disarmament clock.
- **Iran-Hezbollah Corridor Reopens** – Syrian authorities reportedly loosened supervision on Lebanon border crossings, enabling Hezbollah to re-arm with over 4,000 rockets and 250 drones. This directly undercuts U.S. diplomacy and guarantees deeper Israeli interdictions north of the border. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Israeli Armor Shifts North** – Israeli outlets report substantial military equipment moving to the Lebanon frontier; Arab media claims tanks are arriving. Whether preparation or messaging, the posture suggests the next escalation cycle is already drafted.

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Hamas Uses ‘Hostage Search’ as Cover** – Hamas operatives again crossed the Yellow Line under the excuse of “searching for hostages,” prompting lethal IDF fire. Every humanitarian pretext is a smuggling or reconnaissance op. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **White House Rejects ‘U.S. Base in Gaza’ Story** – After Israeli media floated a massive U.S. base in the Negev, the White House dismissed it as a misread Navy inquiry, not policy.
- **UAE Signals Jitters Over Gaza Influence** – Senior Emirati voices warn that “ Hamas supporters are becoming dominant” in emerging Gaza discussions.

That anxiety will push Abu Dhabi away from security roles and complicate any ISF-type plan Washington wants to sell.

- **Morocco Reopens to Israeli Travel** – Direct flights resume for the first time since October 7. It's a small but important test of whether the Abraham Accords air corridor can withstand regional pressure.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **IRGC Claims to Uncover CIA–Mossad ‘Network’** – Tehran says it dismantled a foreign-run disruptive cell. This is pre-messaging for retaliation abroad and an excuse to tighten internal repression as the missile program accelerates.
- **Iran Arms West Bank Proxies** – Intelligence points to a major uptick in Iranian-supplied missiles, RPGs, drones, and anti-tank weapons funneled into Judea and Samaria via Hezbollah and Syrian routes. The shift signals Tehran's next front is here—not Gaza—and Israel will need to treat the area as a strategic theater, not just policing. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Homefront & Politics

- **Trump Presses Herzog to Pardon Netanyahu** – A formal letter from the U.S. president urged a pardon in the PM's absurd legal case; Herzog replied that protocol does not permit it.
- **Currency Spike Resets the Economic Front** – The shekel jumped to 3.19/\$ as foreign investors poured in, likely forcing the Bank of Israel to cut rates next week. A stronger shekel lowers import costs but squeezes exporters—pressure that hits defense manufacturing and tech simultaneously.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **UN Secretary-General Demands Israeli Pullback** – Guterres accused Israel of violating “Lebanon's sovereignty” and demanded withdrawal from areas north of the Blue Line, ignoring Hezbollah's embedded arsenals and daily violations.
- **India Deepens Weapons Partnership** – New Delhi signed a cooperation deal after the Rampage missile's battlefield success, expanding joint development. India is already a third of Israel's defense export market, and this signals the next leap: co-production as a strategic alliance.

The contradictions sharpen by the hour. Gaza's truce is now a contact sport where every “mistaken” crossing turns out to be a weapons run. Hezbollah insists it's not rebuilding while the IDF keeps hitting its new bunkers. Iran is repositioning for the next round not in Gaza but across Judea and Samaria, betting Israel is too distracted to see the shift. Abroad, Western institutions still launder Hamas narratives while the world's real democracies — Ukraine, Taiwan, India — quietly move closer to Israel because they recognize the same predators at their gates.

The next developments will hinge on whether Beirut blinks under the U.S. clock and whether Hamas accepts surrender (it won't) or keeps trying to smuggle explosives under the word “hostage” (it will).

The verdict: enforcement is the only language left that anyone actually hears.

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

P.S. At 9:30 a.m. Eastern, the Dossier “*Controlled Surrender*” goes live—read it as Britain’s autopsy and America’s / Canada’s / Europe’s warning label.

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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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