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ISRAEL BRIEF

Tuesday, November 18

Diplomats Lock In a Gaza Plan While Hamas, Tehran and Judea-Samaria Turn Up the Heat

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THE BOTTOM LINE 2025 America displays divergence: one faction employs state mechanisms naming the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR as destabilizing Islamist political warfare apparatuses with terror connections, restricting financial and property access. Another faction deploys mayoral platforms, academic institutions, and unionized service sectors laundering Hamas rhetoric and normalizing Jew-hatred as social justice messaging. Israel should consequently: prioritize governors, legislators, and agencies naming and acting against hostile entities, and abandon expectations that Washington's friendly administration eliminates institutional rot elsewhere.

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IN THIS EDITION

Israel Brief: Tuesday, November 18	3
Flash Brief	3
The War Today	3
Hamas Tightens Its Grip as the UN Sells a Fantasy	3
Iran Pushes on Every Front; Israel Picks Its Targets	4
Inside Israel	4
Terror Hits Gush Etzion as the Homefront Becomes a Frontline	4
Judea–Samaria Leaders Back Smotrich, Disown the Violent Few	5
Integrity Shockwaves: From Rabbinical Extortion to Reservist Neglect	5
Israelis Say No to Statehood—and No to Carrying the Load Alone . . .	6
Israel and the World	6
Abraham Accords Expansion Meets Israeli Red Lines on Statehood and F-35s	6
America’s Split Screen: Texas Blacklists CAIR as Its Cities Boycott Jews	7
Briefly Noted	8
Developments to Watch	9
Conclusion	11

Israel Brief: Tuesday, November 18

Diplomats Lock In a Gaza Plan While Hamas, Tehran and Judea–Samaria Turn Up the Heat

Flash Brief

- **Gaza / UNSC:** The IDF eliminated multiple terrorists at the Yellow Line while Security Council Resolution 2803 endorsed Trump's Gaza plan. Hamas publicly rejected disarmament provisions.
- **North / Iran Axis:** Israeli airstrikes hit a compound in Ain al-Hilweh, a vehicle in Blida, and equipment in Bint Jbeil. U.S. officials indicated Iran may face additional military action.
- **Judea & Samaria:** Aharon Cohen was killed in a ramming-stabbing at Gush Etzion. Israeli units conducted raids in Orif and seized weapons workshops.
- **Smuggling Front / Egypt Border:** The IDF's 80th Division reported downing 130 smuggling drones and seizing 85 weapons over one month along the Egyptian frontier.
- **Diplomacy / Saudi File:** Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived in Washington with F-35 sales and normalization discussions on the agenda.
- **Homefront / Burden & Law:** Data showed only 11% of eligible Israelis served in reserves. The State Comptroller criticized compensation and protections while the coalition pursued draft-exemption legislation.
- **Info-War / Islamists & Jew-Hatred:** Texas designated the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR as terror organizations while an Arabic conspiracy theory recycled antisemitic tropes online.

The War Today

HAMAS TIGHTENS ITS GRIP AS THE UN SELLS A FANTASY

Gaza now functions as two separate conflict zones. East of the Yellow Line, IDF units neutralized multiple Hamas operatives attempting breaches, while Chief of Staff Zamir prepares operations beyond the line. West of it, Hamas exercises full governance: taxing goods, managing security forces, reopening financial institutions, and detaining desalination workers until operations ceased for a million residents.

The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2803, incorporating Trump's 20-point plan featuring demilitarization, a Board of Peace chaired by Trump, an international stabilization force, and a pathway toward Palestinian statehood contingent on PA reforms. The resolution passed 13-0 with Russian and Chinese abstentions.

Hamas immediately rejected the disarmament provisions, describing international oversight as "guardianship" and asserting weapons represent "a sacred right." Recent polling indicates Gaza's majority believes "October 7 was the right decision." U.S. diplomats floated bypassing the disarmament phase entirely, while Hamas attempted concealing weapons through Palestinian Authority channels and pressured mediators via slow-walking hostage returns.

ASSESSMENT

The fundamental reality remains unchanged: Hamas governs western Gaza while the IDF controls the east. Any peace framework denying this split will collapse upon terrorist infiltration. Although Resolution 2803 provides diplomatic justification for demanding disarmament, Hamas has publicly rejected such measures, and Gazan public opinion supports this position. Washington's willingness to skip disarmament would grant Hamas precisely what it seeks: legitimacy, international protection, and time. The IDF understands what diplomats won't acknowledge—no viable "Phase Two" exists without coercive measures. Until all tunnels are destroyed, every weapon seized, and the Rafah leadership eliminated or surrendered, only the IDF can genuinely stabilize Gaza.

IRAN PUSHES ON EVERY FRONT; ISRAEL PICKS ITS TARGETS

Israel expanded its northern campaign, striking a training compound in Ain al-Hilweh and eliminating at least 11 junior operatives following weeks of surveillance, then hitting a vehicle in Blida and a terrorist-linked bulldozer in Bint Jbeil—concurrent with Hezbollah reconstruction south of the Litani and the Radwan force repositioning toward the border. Intelligence indicates the Iran-led axis is reconstituting across every ceasefire vacuum: Houthis replacing fallen commanders and restocking missiles; Iranian-manufactured weapons transiting Syria and Lebanon; and an industrial-scale pipeline of Iranian and Yemeni firearms reaching Israeli cities via the Egyptian border, where the IDF downed 130 smuggling drones this month and seized numerous weapons. In Syria, negotiations stall as Damascus demands Israeli withdrawal before signing. Washington signals potential force deployment at a southern Damascus airbase. Senior U.S. officials privately acknowledged Iran may require "further action" following June's nuclear strikes. The situation reflects one axis rebuilding under diplomatic cover while Israel enforces red lines wherever proxies emerge—within Lebanon, Gaza, and along the 200-kilometer Egyptian frontier now functioning as a weapons corridor.

ASSESSMENT

Iran is simultaneously rebuilding every proxy component: Hezbollah in the Beqaa and Tyre, Houthis in Sana'a, smuggling networks from Sinai to Hebron. These represent one unified strategy rather than isolated problems: pressuring Israel across multiple arenas while Washington attempts diplomatic freezing. The IDF's northern strikes constitute the opening phase of broader enforcement before the U.S. Lebanon 60-day deadline expires. Should Beirut decline disarming Hezbollah, Israel will continue methodically degrading the system. The Egyptian border drone-smuggling conflict represents identical strategic logic: Iranian weapons exploiting gaps between policing and warfare. Israel's appropriate posture—already visible—treats every proxy as interconnected, enforces boundaries through military means, and permits diplomacy to adapt afterward.

Inside Israel

TERROR HITS GUSH ETZION AS THE HOMEFRONT BECOMES A FRONTLINE

Aharon Cohen, 71, from Kiryat Arba died at the Gush Etzion Junction following a ramming and stabbing attack by two 18-year-old attackers from Hebron and Beit Omar. After ramming the hitchhiking post, the attackers exited with knives and stabbed civilians until Battalion 7491 reservists neutralized them.

Three Israelis sustained injuries, potentially including friendly-fire casualties amid the chaos. Bomb technicians discovered multiple explosive devices within the attackers' Suzuki. Palestinian Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility and encouraged escalation. The IDF sealed roads, encircled villages in the Etzion sector, and initiated broad-area sweeps, cautioning that revenge riots by fringe Jewish elements could divert counterterrorism resources.

ASSESSMENT

Judea and Samaria has transitioned from policing into active terror warfare, with PIJ and Hamas cells advancing toward the Hebron belt and targeting civilian infrastructure—junctions, bus stops, hitchhiking posts—through coordinated operations. Two immediate risks emerge: additional ramming-knife hybrid attacks at traffic nodes, and Jewish vigilante actions providing propaganda advantages that obscure Iranian involvement. The stabilizing approach demands relentless raids, perimeter restrictions, and strict discipline across both communities—because a junction requiring reserve battalion protection constitutes a battlefield, not a roadside.

JUDEA-SAMARIA LEADERS BACK SMOTRICH, DISOWN THE VIOLENT FEW

Following the demolition of the unlicensed Tzur Misgabi outpost in Gush Etzion, 25 regional leaders—spanning Binyamin to the Jordan Valley—released a statement supporting Smotrich's land policy, Gush Etzion's elected leadership, and the government's coordinated settlement approach. They praised hilltop farms and communities blocking PA-EU land seizures and securing Area C, while condemning construction violators and provocateurs treating state land as private property and hiding behind ideology. This unified message appeared after Israeli extremists torched homes and vehicles in the Arab village of Jab'a, forcing IDF, Border Police, and Israel Police to redirect counterterror assets. Netanyahu, Katz, and Sa'ar denounced rioters as a tiny criminal element damaging the state, military, and settlement enterprise, pledging prosecution.

ASSESSMENT

The movement is establishing clear boundaries: build everywhere through state mechanisms, not against state authority. Leadership understands the strategic map: authorized hilltop farms and legal construction secure territory, delegitimize PA illegal encroachment, and reduce IDF operational demands. Vigilante violence after terror attacks merely provides international media fodder terrorists desire and redirects brigades from actual warfighting. Tehran seeks igniting Judea and Samaria; settler leadership just signaled they won't serve as matches.

INTEGRITY SHOCKWAVES: FROM RABBINICAL EXTORTION TO RESERVIST NEGLECT

Israel's legal system absorbed multiple shocks. The High Court permitted Minister Levin appointing an external overseer for the Sde Teiman investigation, contingent on selecting a senior, apolitical criminal-law professional, yet afterward senior civil servants declined for professional retaliation concerns. Simultaneously, prosecutors appealed lenient 12–14-year sentences for Lod lynchings murdering Yigal Yehoshua, contending the terror-racist assault warranted harsher penalties. Lahav 433 disclosed a former chief rabbi

and senior rabbinical judges allegedly extorting colleagues and manipulating rulings on valuable hekdeshot land cases; files reached the State Attorney. The State Comptroller issued a scathing report: the state neglected reservists—unequal burden distribution, compensation mechanism collapse, work and school protection gaps, tens of thousands of student-reservists facing dropout pressure.

ASSESSMENT

Israel fights multi-front warfare while its justice system discovers internal cancers—prosecutorial breaches, rabbinical extortion, uneven terror sentencing, and legal structures protecting inadequately those reservists sustaining national survival. This argues for targeted institutional repair rather than dismantling: criminal-law professionals directing probes, not political appointees; meaningful sentences for Arab nationalist terror; zero rabbinical corruption tolerance; comprehensive reservist contract reconstruction. A state demanding 110 annual reserve days cannot maintain a legal system continuously rewriting mid-war rules.

ISRAELIS SAY NO TO STATEHOOD—AND NO TO CARRYING THE LOAD ALONE

Surveys show 70% of Israelis reject Palestinian statehood along 1967 lines, including 79% of Jewish Israelis—the highest wartime figure—while 62% oppose statehood within Saudi normalization packages. Only 8% support unconditional statehood. Identical research reveals burden distribution: reserve-service data demonstrates extreme disparities, with Modi'in residents serving up to 24 times more reserve days than Bnei Brak. Tel Aviv collapsed from first to last place annually as consensus deteriorated following hostage failures and political paralysis. The comptroller's concurrent report confirms inequality: only 11% of eligible Israelis served during wartime, hundreds of thousands received inadequate compensation, and student-reservists struggled academically while Haredi politics pursued additional draft-exemption legislation.

ASSESSMENT

Israelis recognize two parallel illusions: Palestinian statehood emerging from October 7's devastation, and military burdens perpetually shouldered by identical exhausted demographics. Wartime sharpened public reasoning—driven by experience rather than ideology. Reserve data reveals the emerging crisis: the IDF cannot sustain multi-front preparedness if leadership refuses fixing manpower contractual terms. Strategic freedom against Iranian proxies demands shutting external statehood fantasies while implementing universal military obligation reconnecting service with citizenship.

Israel and the World

ABRAHAM ACCORDS EXPANSION MEETS ISRAELI RED LINES ON STATEHOOD AND F-35S

The UN Security Council adopted Trump's Gaza plan as Resolution 2803: cease-fire, hostage deals, U.S.-led Board of Peace, an International Stabilization Force, and "pathway" language for Palestinian statehood following PA "reform." Washington frames the choice as Hamas governance or permanent Israeli military administration—permanent occupation would eliminate Trump's Abraham Accords expansion priority. The framework attempts reconciling

competing objectives: Hamas disarmament, IDF withdrawal from governance, sufficient diplomatic process for Arab capitals and Western NGOs. Activist organizations, including NYC's Palestinian Youth Movement, denounced the resolution as an "American occupation plan" liquidating Palestinian autonomy, despite embedded statehood language. Jerusalem's response remains straightforward: Foreign Minister Sa'ar declared Israel will "not agree to a Palestinian terrorist state in the heart of the Land of Israel." Ben-Gvir and Dermer cautioned F-35 sales to Riyadh risk eroding Israel's aerial superiority advantage, potentially transforming the IDF into "just another air force."

ASSESSMENT

The U.S. pursues three-dimensional diplomacy: eliminate Hamas, minimize visible Israeli governance, deliver Trump diplomatic achievements, provide Saudi jets, and signal Palestinian "pathways" satisfying European and Qatari constituencies. Israel operates different calculations. For Jerusalem, this remains elementary: no terror state two kilometers from Kiryat Gat, F-35 monopoly preservation without ironclad enforceable protections, and no ISF unwilling fighting Hamas. That identical resolution attracts New York criticism as "US-Israel occupation" while Gaza rejects disarmament "guardianship" simply demonstrates everyone weaponizes the document. Israel should treat 2803 as operational tools, not commandments: leverage international diplomatic coverage for genuine demilitarization, destroy every tunnel and weapons depot, and view statehood language and F-35 adjustments as negotiable elements rather than determinative factors.

AMERICA'S SPLIT SCREEN: TEXAS BLACKLISTS CAIR AS ITS CITIES BOYCOTT JEWS

Texas Governor Greg Abbott formally designated the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR as foreign terrorist and transnational criminal organizations, citing ideological lineage, Hamas connections, Holy Land Foundation history, and CAIR's explicit October 7 cheerleading. The action prohibits their land acquisition in Texas and facilitates enforcement against related networks. Simultaneously, coastal political institutions moved oppositely. New York's incoming socialist mayor Zohran Mamdani participated in a Starbucks "strike" framed as Palestinian "solidarity," committed refusing coffee "while workers are on strike," and pledged pursuing Netanyahu's arrest during UN visits. Seattle's mayor-elect, characterizing Israel as "genocidal," joined him. Boston's BU law school hosted a "democracy" symposium wherein sessions repeatedly portrayed Zionism as uniquely malevolent and reframed antisemitism complaints as censorship mechanisms; AJC flagged the event as conspiratorial, fixated on "nefarious actors manipulating universities," and trafficking classic antisemitic tropes disguised as critical theory.

ASSESSMENT

2025 America displays divergence: one faction employs state mechanisms naming the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR as destabilizing Islamist political warfare apparatuses with terror connections, restricting financial and property access. Another faction deploys mayoral platforms, academic institutions, and unionized service sectors laundering Hamas rhetoric and normalizing Jew-hatred as social justice messaging. Israel should consequently: prioritize governors, legislators, and agencies naming and acting against hostile entities, and abandon expectations that Washington's friendly administration eliminates institutional rot elsewhere.

Briefly Noted**Diplomacy & Geopolitics**

- An opinion piece argues Israel's Estonia embassy, expanding defense exports, and Knesset Taiwan support are building a quiet democratic bloc sharing Israeli technology and common adversaries.
- Arab sources report a Muslim Brotherhood charity operating from Turkey misappropriated approximately half a billion dollars collected "for Gaza," prompting Hamas itself to publicly denounce the fund and blacklist operators—a rare moment when even Hamas complained about Islamist fund exploitation rather than just weaponizing civilian suffering.

Frontline & Security

- German authorities arrested a sixth Hamas operative accused of transporting an automatic rifle, eight pistols, and hundreds of rounds for cells preparing attacks on Jewish and Israeli institutions. Europe's jihad challenge isn't theoretical; it actively stockpiles weapons targeting synagogue-adjacent locations.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- Israeli researchers from Tel Aviv University, Weizmann, and Ben-Gurion announced an RNA-based microRNA therapy halted ALS motor neuron degeneration and regenerated damaged cells in models. Should trials succeed, "Israeli tech" encompasses not only Iron Dome but extended survival for Lou Gehrig's disease patients.

Culture, Religion & Society

- The Knesset's Aliyah Committee heard 53,000 immigrants have arrived since war commencement with ministries preparing for substantial post-war waves requiring Hebrew education, housing, and employment budgets. The state romanticizes aliyah as poetry; eventual audits will demand practical absorption documentation.

- A column analyzes Britain's new "Independent Muslim MPs," quoting one declaring intentions to "take over...the whole of the UK" while claiming non-sectarianism. The warning: treat this explicitly Islamist political initiative seriously or repeat previous "we never anticipated this" responses regarding Muslim Brotherhood expansion.
- Los Angeles hosted a sold-out "Pride for Israel" conference with 120 LGBTQ Jews and allies, where former hostage Emily Damari stated, "You may be for Palestine, but Palestine is not for you," while activists recounted exclusion from queer spaces for wearing Israeli symbols.
- Seattle police investigated a man who drew a swastika on a receipt, hurled slurs believing a dancer was Jewish, left a counterfeit incendiary device at a strip club, and carried a Star of David noose sketch. He faces serial hate-crime probe status.
- The Oxford Union first voted Israel represents greater regional destabilization than Iran, subsequently allowing a screaming mob with red-painted "blood" hands blocking and ultimately canceling former PM Ehud Olmert's talk. Britain's premier debating institution has transformed into a student-union social media reproduction.
- France's incoming interior minister told 260 synagogue leaders he will "let nothing pass" regarding antisemitism, noting 60-80% of religious hate crimes target Jews and connecting Bataclan jihadists to October 7 perpetrators. This represents rare senior European acknowledgment that ideologies killing in Paris and Israel share identical foundations.
- Watchdog CyberWell flagged an Arabic social-media conspiracy labeled "Tired Islam," constructed around a fabricated Jewish-authored book describing plans destroying Muslim societies, already receiving Protocols of the Elders of Zion comparisons. The content is fabricated; the blood-libel pattern remains authentically destructive.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **UAV Strike Signals Target Expansion:** An Israeli drone struck a Blida vehicle hours following a Bint Jbeil bulldozer strike, indicating expanded Hezbollah rebuild-node hunting beyond conventional boundaries. Hezbollah's forward rehabilitation efforts encounter fire everywhere. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **US Eyes Footprint in Southern Damascus:** Reports indicate Washington may deploy forces at a strategic Damascus-south airbase under "humanitarian" framing, effectively positioning itself within the Israeli-Syrian contact zone. U.S. presence complicates both Israeli operational freedom and Iranian corridor-building strategies.

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Yellow Line Breaches Becoming Routine:** IDF troops eliminated two additional terrorists crossing northern Gaza boundaries, one actively planting explosives, as Hamas explores alternative weapon storage avoiding IDF inspection. Hamas tests whether international paperwork substitutes for physical deterrence. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Desalination Collapse Exposes Hamas Governance:** A Gaza water-desalination facility serving a million residents closed after Hamas detained workers, demonstrating “Phase A” transfer toward Hamas western control. Civilian hardship again becomes leverage weaponization.
- **Artillery Fire Marks Quiet Khan Yunis Shift:** IDF guns engaged terror suspects in eastern Khan Yunis—minor, tactical, but consistent with preventing the eastern sector becoming the subsequent tunnel construction zone.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **US Signals Iran Strikes “Not Finished”:** A senior American official stated Israel and the U.S. “will resume attacking Iran” because June objectives remained unfulfilled. This reactivates the nuclear file within operational postures and diminishes Iran’s recovery illusions. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Judea & Samaria

- **Gush Etzion Attack Spurs Sector-Wide Lockdown:** Following Aharon Cohen’s murder, the IDF sealed villages, blocked routes, and neutralized car explosives. Anticipate additional ramming-stabbing hybrids targeting traffic nodes. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Deep-Raid Units Hit Orif Workshops:** Duvdevan and Yahalom located two weapons-explosives workshops near Orif, continuing southern Iranian-fed infrastructure drift. Each removed workshop prevents potential bus bombings.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **Hamas Rejects UNSC 2803, Demands “Rights” and Guns:** Hamas condemned the UN resolution backing Trump’s Gaza plan, insisting it disregards Palestinian “will” and infringes their “rights”—disarmament refusal code. The rejection permits Jerusalem arguing any “pathway” is stillborn.
- **Saudi Crown Prince Heads to White House:** MBS meets Trump tomorrow featuring F-35 sales and normalization discussions; Washington hints backing the sale despite Israeli QME concerns. Diplomatic theater’s cost in aircraft narrows Israeli margins significantly.

Homefront & Politics

- **Haredi Anti-Draft Protests Escalate to Leaders' Homes:** Demonstrations target Shas leadership residences tonight concerning draft legislation, signaling widening fractures concurrent with reserve manpower strain peaks. Political upheaval directly impacts 2025-2026 IDF staffing calculations.

Conclusion

Three tracks determine whether this week's paperwork becomes substantive security or another Oslo-style performance. Israel must exploit 2803 as diplomatic protection for continuing tunnel demolition, Rafah elimination, and comprehensive rifle seizure before any ISF intervention, making demilitarization substantive rather than rhetorical.

Second, Lebanon and Iran: intensified Ain al-Hilweh, Blida, and Bint Jbeil strikes combined with U.S. "unfinished business" language regarding nuclear development constitute opening windows. Either the recommended brief air campaign targeting Hezbollah production and Radwan reconstitution initiates before the U.S. 60-day and international attention deadlines, or Israel faces perpetual coexistence with enemies relocating rockets and drones beneath residences labeled "stability."

Third, Judea and Samaria plus homefront integration: Gush Etzion attacks, Orif weapons workshops, and Hebron martyr-culture interviews reveal Tehran's desired theater. Simultaneously, reserve data and comptroller reports expose human-fabric fragility supporting this structure. Seven-front operations cannot sustain across 11% of the population while enacting draft-evasion legislation and declaring "unity." The succeeding government—current or replacement—either aligns manpower reality with declared wartime objectives or IDF loses its remaining superiority Iran hasn't breached: Israelis remaining responsive when mobilized.

The globe just drafted a Gaza script assuming Hamas management. Israel's responsibility demands Hamas destruction instead—while rapidly reconstructing internal capacity enabling continued enforcement.

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