



Forensic intelligence for those who act.

READER EDITION

November 28, 2025

ISRAEL BRIEF

Friday, November 28

The tunnels are collapsing, Lebanon is cornered, and every institution that failed two years ago is being forced to face itself.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE PA steals money. Foreign activists steal truth. Together they construct Western preferred illusions: perpetual Palestinian victimhood with clean hands and Israeli sovereignty enforcement as “true” violations. Israel must finally designate information arenas as national-security fronts rather than afterthoughts—because warfare shapes through whoever defines reality first. Traditional “hasbara” era concludes. Influence-operation era begins.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

DISTRIBUTION

Open · Free to share with attribution

IN THIS EDITION

Flash Brief	3
The War Today	3
Rafah's Underground War and the "Green Gaza" Gamble	3
Samaria Operations Advance as 'Execution' Narrative Gets Cut Apart	4
Northern Patience Runs Out as Syria Joins the Board	4
Inside Israel	5
New Haredi Conscription Bill Pits Elected Government Against the Bench	5
AG Blocks Lahav 433 as MAG Probe Thickens	6
Draft Law, Reservists and the Tech Economy: Who Actually Backs the People Who Showed Up?	6
Israel and the World	7
Erdogan, the Vatican, and Lebanon's Elite Build a New Theatre of Hypocrisy	7
BDS Silences Minorities While Europe Corrals Jews	7
PA Corruption Meets Western Naivety — Again	8
Briefly Noted	8
Diplomacy & Geopolitics	8
Domestic & Law	9
Frontline & Security	9
Culture, Religion & Society	9
Developments to Watch	9
Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)	9
Gaza & Southern Theater	10
Judea & Samaria	10
Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)	10
Diplomatic & Legal	10
Home Front & Politics	11
Closing Analysis	11

Flash Brief

- **Rafah:** Nine additional terrorists located dead in collapsed tunnel systems; “Green Rafah” reconstruction preparation underway
- **Northern Front:** IDF strikes on Hezbollah positions; Beit Jinn operation yielded seven Israeli wounded but disrupted jihadi operations
- **Judea & Samaria:** Jenin videos exposed as manipulated; multi-brigade raids continue across the region
- **Iran/Axis:** Mossad disrupts IRGC plots; Houthis threaten infiltrations; Iran-Russia cooperation deepens
- **Inside Israel:** Haredi draft legislation ignites court conflicts; police investigation access blocked; social media surveillance activated
- **International:** UN declares Western sanctions violations; Iran demands Israeli sanctions; Turkey courts Vatican support; Europe intensifies anti-Jewish policies
- **Economy & Tech:** Long-term rental reform; Israeli startups develop hydrogen drones and mapping robots

The War Today

Rafah’s Underground War and the “Green Gaza” Gamble

The IDF continues grinding down Hamas’s final major underground stronghold in eastern Rafah. Troops identified nine additional deceased terrorists in the tunnel network on Friday, with over thirty total eliminated while attempting escape. Deaths resulted from aerial strikes and engineering operations that collapse tunnel infrastructure and eliminate survival systems.

Israel prepares to introduce heavy machinery into Rafah for “Green Rafah”—a humanitarian zone promoted by Ron Dermer as a model for “New Gaza” under Israeli security rather than Hamas governance. Construction has reportedly commenced despite two hostage bodies remaining missing and the senior Nukhba commander still at large.

Cabinet officials pushed back against premature reconstruction. Netanyahu reaffirmed the official position: no genuine reconstruction before complete demilitarization. Egypt, Turkey, Qatar, and the U.S. continue proposing frameworks allowing Hamas to retain “light weapons” while foreign Muslim forces enter only IDF-controlled zones, leaving the broader population center for later resolution.

ASSESSMENT

The military situation favors Israel—collapsing tunnels, over thirty underground fugitives eliminated, additional terrorists surfacing malnourished, and the last significant Hamas pocket east of the Yellow Line shrinking. However, international pressure and “Green Rafah” initiatives risk sliding into reconstruction without full disarmament while populations continue supporting Hamas. Proper sequencing requires completing tunnel clearance and capturing or eliminating final commanders before infrastructure development.

Samaria Operations Advance as ‘Execution’ Narrative Gets Cut Apart

In northern Samaria, the same forces conducting terror infrastructure operations now confront narrative warfare. During a Jenin operation targeting wanted cell members, forces encircled a structure, attempted extended surrender protocols, used engineering tools for breach, and extracted two suspects—only to face gunfire seconds later. Hostile media distributed brief clips framing this as an “execution.”

Israeli analysts rapidly demonstrated the videos were heavily edited with visible jump cuts and altered frame rates. Analysis revealed “Gazawood” had spliced surrender footage from unrelated incidents previously aired by Al Jazeera into the Jenin narrative. Border Police and IDF report the suspects resisted clearance procedures, failed to comply, and attempted retreat into the building. Helmet-camera footage remains under review with operational investigations underway, potentially escalating to criminal status through the Military Advocate General if warranted.

ASSESSMENT

When factual accuracy becomes secondary, this outcome becomes inevitable. Clean operations against dangerous cells rapidly transform into edited-clip narratives across hostile channels. Israel must investigate quickly, publish complete uncut footage where security permits, and support troops conducting difficult work in Jenin, Tammun, and Qabatiya against Hamas and Turkish-backed propaganda. If edited videos define operational legitimacy in Judea and Samaria, Israel loses subsequent operations before warrants are issued. Countering this requires exceptional speed and broad publication. Realistically, expectations suggest meticulous investigations yielding barely-circulated results while narratives already dominate.

Northern Patience Runs Out as Syria Joins the Board

One year following Lebanon’s ceasefire, Jerusalem and Washington express “running out of patience” with Hezbollah’s reconstitution. The IDF executed approximately 1,200 operations inside Lebanon over the past year, killing over 370 terrorists, striking launch sites, depots, and forward positions including recent strikes near Jarmaq and Mahmoudiyeh.

Hezbollah relocates missiles across Syrian borders, restores previous positions, and claims its arsenal “deters” Israel. Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam stated plainly that those weapons “neither stopped Israeli strikes nor protected Hezbollah leaders or Lebanese civilians, as evidenced by dozens of wiped-out villages.”

The Syrian front shows renewed activity: overnight, a reserve paratroop force from the 55th Brigade advanced into Beit Jinn (8 kilometers from the Hermon line) to apprehend Jama'a al-Islamiya terrorists planning attacks. Forces captured targets but sustained seven wounded—three severely—in close-quarters fighting requiring air support but unresolvable through air operations alone. Israeli sources identify Beit Jinn as a hub for jihadis serving Turkish and Qatari agendas, demonstrating why Israel cannot withdraw from Mount Hermon or relax Golan positioning while Houthis and PIJ embed around Damascus.

ASSESSMENT

Hezbollah's steady reconstruction, Salam's unusually frank acknowledgment that the group's arsenal provides no deterrence, an Iranian adviser calling Hezbollah "more important than bread," and U.S. deadlines quietly affecting Beirut indicate the north operates on a timeline. Beit Jinn—Israelis wounded arresting terrorists inside Syria, Houthis boasting Syrian presence, PIJ establishing footprint around Damascus—clarifies the picture: the axis stacks pressure points from Litani to Hermon, wagering Israel resists spending blood for preemption. A state sending reservists into Beit Jinn to arrest jihadis demonstrates understanding of border-vacuum costs. The question becomes whether Jerusalem and Washington act while Hezbollah remains off-balance or delay until "security sovereignty" in southern Lebanon requires substantially larger engagement.

Inside Israel

New Haredi Conscription Bill Pits Elected Government Against the Bench
Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chair Boaz Bismuth introduced a concrete Haredi draft bill, generating opposition from legal authorities and opposition figures. The updated proposal, advanced with Netanyahu's approval and backed by leading Lithuanian rabbinic figures, defines a first "draft year" through June 2027, restores yeshiva funding immediately, then measures targets after system adjustment—while establishing broad channels for security-oriented national service in police, Prison Service, Shin Bet, and allied roles the defense establishment actually needs.

The bill expands "Haredi" definition (anyone educated in the sector ages 14-18), sets enlistment and national-service targets the Prime Minister's Office indicates will bring approximately 23,000 Haredim within three-and-a-half years—four times historic averages—with communal enforcement: missing 70% of targets eliminates state yeshiva funding.

Legal authorities and opposition figures call it "draft-evasion on steroids," "the most anti-Zionist law in history," and promise High Court challenges. Some vocal Likud MKs posture on television while the same High Court that never drafted anyone demands "personal sanctions" and instant perfection after seventy-five years of evasions.

ASSESSMENT

While imperfect, this represents the first serious attempt in decades matching Torah study, manpower reality, and coalition stability under one statute. Bismuth establishes what previous leaders avoided: concrete numbers, timelines, and enforcement—even initially communal—in statute rather than speeches. The test involves whether elected government can legislate messy, workable compromise without judicial veto. Should the Court invalidate this, it owns subsequent draft crises. If the coalition implements and progressively strengthens it, Israel finally achieves unified law rather than hypocrisy patchwork.

AG Blocks Lahav 433 as MAG Probe Thickens

Beneath the Katz-Zamir conflict sits a larger quiet scandal: institutional self-investigation when that institution fails. New reporting reveals Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara personally blocked transferring sensitive information on the Military Advocate General case to Lahav 433, even after the Chief of Staff coordinated an urgent meeting with the unit's commander. Minutes after she contacted Zamir, the meeting was canceled and the probe redirected to a Defense Ministry security officer via an arrangement she approved.

Retired judge Itai Ofir assumes MAG leadership just as helmet-camera footage from Jenin, Sde Teiman leaks, and October 7-related decision scrutiny sharpen public evaluation of military lawyers treating warfare like case law. The High Court, already furious at galleries calling President Amit a “criminal,” now defends an Attorney General deciding she, not the chief of staff or police, determines investigation oversight regarding the country's biggest legal-security scandal.

ASSESSMENT

This validates coalition insistence on external oversight and legal guild investigation-prevention habits. Katz correctly observes the army shouldn't grade its own October 7 examinations; identical logic applies to prosecutorial elites who concealed MAG leaks and pre-war engagement rules. If Baharav-Miara vetoes police involvement whenever trails reach her domain, rule of law becomes rule of lawyers. Sde Teiman and MAG probe disputes decide whether elected ministers accountable to voters or unelected administrative officials accountable to none govern Israel.

Draft Law, Reservists and the Tech Economy: Who Actually Backs the People Who Showed Up?

Beyond protests and opinion pieces, healthier developments emerge: institutional recognition of serious reservist treatment. MiluimTech's “Café Ba'Hazor” initiative enrolled over 1,000 reserve soldiers within 48 hours, connecting them with senior leaders from Google, Amazon, Varonis, Similarweb, Hi-Bob, and comparable tech companies restoring careers after months in Gaza, northern lines, or Judea and Samaria. One-third of initial 1,000 possessed three-plus years' experience—exactly the talent tech companies fear losing and nations cannot afford burning out.

Simultaneously, the Finance Ministry reversed position and now supports national long-term rental frameworks forgoing land revenue to stabilize housing for working middle classes providing most miluim service. Smotrich faces

criticism from multiple directions for trading short-term revenue for long-term stability. Wizz Air's CEO promises doubling passenger volume and establishing a base by April despite bus-fare increases of 12% and disputes between Regev and Smotrich over public-transport cost allocation.

ASSESSMENT

Coalition opponents claim “far-right wing” governance, yet examination reveals different realities: reservist career-bridge construction, rental-policy adjustment sacrificing land-sale income, and low-cost carrier persistence despite security challenges. Opposition provides reservists rhetoric; coalition combinations—Bismuth's draft law, Smotrich's rental shift, MiluimTech initiatives—offer service-and-life-after pathways. Maintaining dual identities as startup and fighting nation requires this alignment: governance treating service as obligation and reservists as strategic resources for quiet economic reconstruction.

Israel and the World

Erdogan, the Vatican, and Lebanon's Elite Build a New Theatre of Hypocrisy
Turkish President Erdogan welcomed Pope Leo with praise for his “astute” stance regarding Palestinian matters—diplomatically denoting Vatican lending moral legitimacy to Turkey's decades-long Hamas laundering and anti-Israel agitation. Simultaneously, Erdogan demanded 1967 two-state resolution and Palestinian “justice” while Turkey harbors Hamas leaders, finances militant networks, and pursues Gaza security roles impossible through battlefield means.

Lebanon's foreign minister now states “nothing is taboo” with Israel provided states—not Iran—lead. As developments unfold, UNIFIL quietly withdraws equipment and personnel, confirming fifteen-year Israeli understanding: international community members write resolutions before sprinting for exits when those resolutions matter.

ASSESSMENT

The region comprises failing elites auditioning for relevance as Iran uses territories as forward operating positions. Erdogan performs cleric-in-chief for Hamas. Vatican performs neutrality while enabling narratives endangering Jews. Beirut discusses sovereignty while Iran commands militia restraint. For Israel, consequences simplify: nobody disarms Hezbollah except the IDF, and nobody secures Gaza except Israel. Accelerating abandonment of this multinational farce strengthens borders.

BDS Silences Minorities While Europe Corrals Jews

A Druze University of Haifa scholar articulated what sane minorities understand: BDS doesn't “protect” Arabs, Druze, or Bedouin—it erases them by demanding expulsion from global academic and cultural systems unless renouncing the sole country guaranteeing their rights. Boycotts obstruct publication, conferences, and careers under “justice” banners.

In Britain, pro-Israel organization Stop the Hate refused—for the first time—counter-protesting a significant PSC march after London Metropolitan Police repeatedly forced Jewish demonstrators into isolated “Jewpen,” leveraged their presence for arrests, and granted near-total leniency to anti-Israel mobs chanting erasure outside synagogues. France witnessed a 12-year-old Jewish girl gang-raped by Muslim teens, filmed as “dirty Jew” punishment, with sentencing softened for “reintegration”—headlines returning as feminist organizations and UN officials continued denying October 7 sexual atrocities despite accumulating forensic evidence.

ASSESSMENT

Western elites spent two years lecturing Israel on “values” before transforming cities into soft-hate zones where Jewish women become targets, Jews face rounding up, and Jewish academics experience silencing by people unable locating Haifa geographically. This constitutes complicity. For publics equating politicians with Nazis opposing favored ideologies, current reality acceptance seems revealing. Strategic implication for Israel: Diaspora represents no longer moral buffer—it’s battlespace—and Israel cannot depend on Western institutions defending Jews, only constraining them.

PA Corruption Meets Western Naivety — Again

Palestinian Authority Makassed Hospital takeover—an Israeli-licensed institution—illustrates how foreign aid becomes political weaponry. Mahmoud Abbas installed Fatah loyalists violating Israeli law months after UAE and WHO announced \$89 million donations mysteriously absent from required NGO filings. This follows earlier “cancer center” schemes where \$250 million fundraising produced no hospital, equipment, or accounting. They siphon donor cash and establish PA political authority inside Jerusalem. Meanwhile, online battlefields mirror financial ones: major “Gaza” accounts driving global anti-Israel sentiment operate from Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Netherlands—digital Soviet-era anti-Zionist propaganda heirs, now TikTok and X-weaponized at scales Israel never contested. Global narratives undergo engineering by people never visiting Gaza yet fundraising millions from fabricated footage and AI-edited “surrender” terrorist clips.

ASSESSMENT

PA steals money. Foreign activists steal truth. Together they construct Western preferred illusions: perpetual Palestinian victimhood with clean hands and Israeli sovereignty enforcement as “true” violations. Israel must finally designate information arenas as national-security fronts rather than afterthoughts—because warfare shapes through whoever defines reality first. Traditional “hasbara” era concludes. Influence-operation era begins.

Briefly Noted

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

The UN marks December 4 as “International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures,” declaring Western sanctions on Iran, China, Russia, and North

Korea human-rights violations while those regimes denounce Israel as the true criminal. This demonstrates UN fusion with dictatorships' grievance theater—converting sanctions on mass-murdering states into problems and Israeli self-defense into crime.

Iran has funneled hundreds of millions to Hezbollah through Dubai-based exchange houses and Hawala networks, rebuilding the terror group after Israeli leadership decimation. This confirms sanctions pressure isn't containing Tehran—it's forcing regime creativity and global financing expansion for subsequent wars.

Khamenei declared Trump administration “not worthy” of contact and claimed June U.S.-Israel strikes failed damaging Iran. Tehran's denialism indicates struggling regimes—winning governments don't rant; they rant when strike packages exceeded street-belief damage.

Domestic & Law

Israel conducted national war-gaming simulating emergency aliyah of 45,000 Jews fleeing collapsing foreign states, stress-testing extraction, housing, medical care, and data sharing. The drill demonstrates Israel's internalized October 7 lesson: Jews abroad may require overnight lifelines, demanding aliyah operation as evacuation, not travel agency.

Frontline & Security

At Tel Aviv's UVID conference, Israeli firms unveiled hydrogen-powered cargo drones and agile “robot dog” ground units mapping danger zones and communicating with trapped civilians.

Culture, Religion & Society

A Polish MEP compared Jews to “Hannibal Lecter” during press events outside Auschwitz, railing against proposed antisemitism bills while repeating classic blood-libel rhetoric. The episode demonstrates Europe's post-war consensus failure—even Auschwitz cannot restrain old hatters when politics makes them useful.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

Hezbollah Deadline Looms — Washington's December 31 disarmament deadline hangs over Beirut as Salam publicly admits Hezbollah's arsenal “never deterred” Israel, bringing only devastated villages. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Beit Jinn Fight Signals a New Front — IDF deep arrest raid in Beit Jinn left seven wounded, exposing multi-faction jihadi hub 8 kilometers from Hermon line with PIJ expansion and Houthi propaganda celebrating “new front” in Syria. Israel faces increasingly colonized Syrian border by Iran-backed

networks, making proactive Golan positioning non-negotiable. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

UNIFIL Begins Quiet Retreat — Lebanon confirms 640 UNIFIL troops have already departed with naval assets redeployed, early-stage withdrawal signaling international force desires exit before fighting resumes.

Gaza & Southern Theater

Yellow Line Pressure Persists — Islamic Jihad operatives continue probing the Yellow Line with two additional terrorists eliminated on approach by IDF observation and rapid-response teams.

Green Rafah Timetable Accelerates — Heavy machinery stages for Rafah entry despite two hostage bodies remaining missing, signaling premature reconstruction drift under U.S. pressure. Early moves risk creating half-built “New Gaza” Hamas exploits unless Israel completes tunnel and fugitive clearance first.

Judea & Samaria

Video War Intensifies — Edited “execution” clips from Jenin now confirmed as manipulated composites, forcing IDF commanders into rapid-release review cycles preempting Gazawood propaganda. Narrative speed means every arrest operation risks becoming international incident unless Israel saturates zones with verified footage. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Weapons Pipelines Keep Surfacing — Shin Bet exposed another Hamas smuggling network using Israeli Arabs from Kafr Qasim and Rahat routing cash and weapons into Samaria. Turkey-linked logistics and Jordanian-border drones signal Hamas’s ridge project remains active, requiring sustained multi-brigade pressure.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

Houthi Messaging Shifts to the Golan — Iran’s Yemen franchise now openly claims Syrian presence promising ground Golan infiltrations. Whether bluff or preparation, Tehran clearly tests Israeli northern bandwidth adding another front brand. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Mossad Disrupts African Terror Plot — Israel reportedly foiled IRGC Quds Force plans striking Israeli diplomats in Senegal and Uganda using Pakistani and Bangladeshi recruits from Iran. Tehran’s Africa portfolio expands rapidly; Israel requires sustained reach protecting embassies and Jewish communities.

Diplomatic & Legal

Lebanon’s FM Breaks a Taboo — Foreign Minister Raggi states “nothing is off the table”—including direct Israeli talks—if restoring Lebanese sovereignty and implementing 1559/1701. These remarks expose Beirut’s political elite quietly accepting Hezbollah destroys Lebanon rather than protecting it.

U.S. Green Light for Lebanon Ops — American officials acknowledged Israel's right acting "anytime and anywhere" if threatened, underscoring Washington alignment with Israeli-defined security zones south of Litani. This may represent most permissive U.S. stance toward Israeli northern action in a decade.

Home Front & Politics

AI Social-Media Monitoring Goes Live — The IDF activated automated scrubbing of 170,000 soldiers' social accounts after learning Hamas built October 7 intelligence from TikTok and WhatsApp. This marks doctrinal shift: digital home front now qualifies as operational security arena, not discipline problem.

Housing Policy Quietly Rewritten — Finance Ministry now backs national long-term rental frameworks, accepting revenue losses stabilizing housing despite wartime deficits.

Closing Analysis

THE central theme: final illusions are cracking.

Hamas desires ceasefire protecting tunnels—but starving fighters stumbling from collapsed shafts aren't narrative assets but dismantled military-machine ruins. Hezbollah wants pretending restrained choice—but daily non-retaliation damages mythology it sells populations. PA wants donor money and diplomatic oxygen—but Jerusalem catches it siphoning hospital funds collaborating with Iran getting Tubas and Jenin guns.

Inside Israel, the country grinds through reckoning deserving arrival in 2021, 2014, 2010. Legal guild resists oversight. Army resists supervision. Politicians resist blame. Pressure becomes non-optional.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Uriel Zehavi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR · MITZPE INSTITUTE

Uriel Zehavi is the executive director of Mitzpe Institute, where he writes the daily Israel Brief and co-directs its Institutional Intelligence practice with Modi Zehavi. He is the author of four books from Mitzpe Press and advises Israeli and allied clients on strategic communications for Western audiences.



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.

PASSED ALONG TO YOU?

The daily Israel Brief is free at mitzpe.org. The operational layer — Closed Dossiers, Vantage, and Watchwords — is members-only. Become a member, gift a membership, or book a briefing at mitzpe.org.

Reader Edition · Free to share with attribution to Mitzpe Institute.