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ISRAEL BRIEF

Wednesday, December 10

Hamas Hides One Body, Israel Hardens Its Borders

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Israel Brief: Wednesday, December 10

Hamas Hides One Body, Israel Hardens Its Borders

SHALOM, friends. The war has shifted into that unnerving phase where everything looks calmer on the map and much sharper under the surface.

Flash Brief

- **Gaza:** Hamas claims difficulties locating Ran Gvili's body while US pushes Phase II
- **Judea & Samaria:** Security forces discovered rocket production cell with live warhead near Israeli towns
- **North:** IDF strikes Hezbollah sites; storm concerns about potential strikes before deadline
- **Iran:** Resumed high-rate ballistic missile production
- **Inside Israel:** Six communities legalized; four outposts evacuated; October 7 commission advanced
- **Politics:** Haredi draft outline progressing; Hanukkah menorah at Western Wall
- **Diplomacy:** Egypt links summit to \$35 billion gas deal; Qatar and CAIR continue promoting narratives

The War Today

HAMAS STRATEGY ON HOSTAGE REMAINS

Hamas argues it “cannot be forced” to disarm and will only relinquish weapons through political negotiations tied to 1967 borders. The organization is deliberately obscuring Master Sergeant Ran Gvili's body location to transform hostage remains into bargaining power over Phase II negotiations.

A former hostage negotiator acknowledged Hamas faces “objective difficulty” but emphasized pressure “cannot be lifted.” IDF troops discovered booby-trapped sites containing evidence that hostages and tunnels remain operationally connected.

Hamas is not confused — it is executing a strategy. Remains become veto power. Disarmament shifts from prerequisite to negotiation point. Any Israeli government that green-lights Phase II while that body is underground and Hamas's weapons are intact risks the next conflict beginning from a position of demonstrated capitulation.

ROCKET NETWORK EXPOSURE

Security forces discovered a full production cell operating in Tulkarm — three rockets in assembly, one fully armed with a live warhead, explosives buried meters from Israeli population centers. Suspects admitted to multiple attacks on military vehicles.

Rocket manufacturing is transitioning from fringe experiments to industrialized production under Iranian influence. Treating it as marginal risks a second Gaza. Short-range homemade systems today could become coastal-plain-threatening infrastructure tomorrow.

Likely to escalate.

NORTHERN FRONT

Israel struck over a dozen Hezbollah sites. Intelligence flagged four large explosive-capable Chinese-made heavy-lift drones seized in Tripoli. The IDF warned of potential retaliatory strikes exploiting incoming extreme weather — elevated alert status at Northern Command.

The three-layer problem: Hezbollah preparation for a revenge window before December 31; Syria's post-Assad regime attempting legitimacy-laundering; Iranian proxy infrastructure expansion through multiple vectors.

Inside Israel

SETTLEMENT LEGALIZATION AND OUTPOST CLEARING

Six long-standing Samaria communities received formal legalization with full municipal jurisdiction after three decades of bureaucratic limbo. Border Police simultaneously evacuated four illegal outposts classified as hubs of extremist violence.

The dual approach — entrenching mainstream Israeli communities while dismantling fringe vigilantism — contradicts the “far-right takeover” characterization in foreign coverage. Sovereignty by accumulation operates precisely this way: each administrative act compounds.

OCTOBER 7 COMMISSION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

A national investigation bill modeled on America's 9/11 inquiry was advanced. Netanyahu: “fully balanced,” “no one will be shielded.” Simultaneously, the Lahav 433 commander faced exposure for suspected leaks to crime suspects, triggering corruption sweeps in Arab municipalities.

A nation investigating itself under fire demonstrates confidence. The contrast with narratives abroad about unchecked authority is not incidental — it is the point.

HAREDI DRAFT

The draft bill advancement features conscription benchmarks that would release reserve battalions once Haredim enter service. Rabbis from various communities convened to develop halachic service pathways.

Israel negotiates its social contract through parliamentary complexity rather than ideological purity tests.

Israel and the World

GAS DIPLOMACY

Egypt ties a three-way summit to a \$35 billion Leviathan gas deal while demanding Israeli corridor withdrawals. Israel's Energy Minister counters: cheap domestic pricing guarantees and Egyptian action against weapons smuggling are required.

Israel is developing Asian tech and defense partnerships with India, Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore — hardware production paired with Israeli cyber expertise as a strategic hedge against Beijing and Tehran. A regional power with global options, not a client state seeking approval.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEGITIMACY-LAUNDERING

The US House Foreign Affairs Committee gutted a Muslim Brotherhood designation bill. Florida officially labeled both the Brotherhood and CAIR as terrorist organizations. CAIR responded by suing Governor DeSantis for “defamation.”

A UN rapporteur received a human rights prize from the Basque region despite calling Gaza a “21st-century concentration camp” and promoting “Jewish lobby” narratives.

Respectable antisemitism operates through accusations of genocide and apartheid rather than explicit hatred. The antisemite rarely believes the Jew actually stole anything — the charge is the ritual, and demanding Jewish justification is the performance.

DIASPORA

In Paris, a Jewish pro-Israel woman was swarmed by protesters glorifying Hamas as “freedom fighters.” Observers asked what she did to “provoke” them rather than condemning the mob.

Canadian Muslim activist Raheel Raza organizes joint Jewish-Muslim inter-faith events and opposes jihadist ideology infiltration of Islam. Allies exist among those prioritizing civilization over extremism. The diaspora battlespace remains fully kinetic.

Briefly Noted

- A pro-Zionist student at Royal Holloway faced suspension for classroom remarks while the institution allowed antisemitic abuse.
- Qatar’s Doha Forum hosted Western diplomats and CEOs — legitimacy-laundering by a terror-adjacent regime on full display.
- Iran and Egypt complained about “Pride Match” branding for their World Cup game despite both nations imprisoning or executing LGBTQ individuals.
- Brussels’ Great Synagogue was evacuated after a false bomb threat.
- A US Marines billboard in Baltimore was vandalized with Nazi imagery.
- CAIR Action operates illegally in 22 states without required licenses while mobilizing voters.
- Columbia University’s Middle East faculty are “100%” explicitly anti-Zionist, with courses treating Zionism as illegitimate.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front - Storm weather may provide cover for Hezbollah revenge strikes before December 31. - Chinese-made heavy-lift drones seized in Tripoli capable of carrying significant payloads. - Syrian security force movements near IDF checkpoints test deconfliction protocols.

Gaza Theater - Ran Gvili body search stalls while Washington applies Phase II pressure. - Hamas proposes ten-year “hudna” as reload period while maintaining weapons. - Turkey claims readiness to deploy Gaza forces, contradicting Israeli statements.

West Bank Escalation - Three confirmed rocket discoveries in recent weeks indicate industrializing production. - **Likely to escalate.**

Regional Axis - Iran resumed high-rate ballistic missile production six months after the 12-day war. - **Likely to escalate.** - Jihadist cells in Damascus chant genocidal slogans while coordinating with Assad-aligned forces.

Diplomatic Pressure - US officials pushing hard for Phase II advancement. - ISF coalition remains shapeless, potentially favoring disarmament-light mandates.

The three shifts that matter: Hamas converting hostage remains into Phase II veto power; West Bank emergence as active rocket theater; Israeli home front actions — Jordan barrier extensions, settlement legalization, investigative frameworks — matching military rhetoric.

Facts on the ground rather than performances for people who enjoy the humiliation ritual.

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ABOUT MITZPE INSTITUTE

Mitzpe Institute is an intelligence and strategy organization focused on Israeli security, diaspora threat assessment, and the strategic challenges confronting the Jewish people and the West. We produce daily intelligence, forensic analyses, strategic assessments, and tactical briefings read by policymakers, military leaders, and institutional decision-makers across more than 90 countries and all 50 US states — from the Knesset and the US Congress to allied governments, major policy institutions, and Jewish organizational leadership worldwide.

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