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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

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Enforcement tightens as “stabilization” expands—and the people selling process keep dodging disarmament.

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THE BOTTOM LINE When incitement is protected as speech and jihadist ecosystems are treated as “activism,” violence is not an aberration—it is the forecast. Iran’s disinformation blitz is merely operational support designed to blur culpability and widen the target set. Western governments are beginning to move, but always after the cost is paid in Jewish blood and never far enough. The system that produced Bondi is still running. Shutting it down requires more than condolences.

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EVERYTHING might seem contained on paper, but it's all unstable in practice. Gaza stays enforcement-first. The north keeps compressing. Abroad the same permission structure keeps producing downstream violence and lawfare—just even faster now as it seems to gain momentum. Inside Israel, authority is being stress-tested by people who, in their delirium, want exemptions without consequences.

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Here's the situation in ninety seconds.

Flash Brief

- **Gaza:** Yellow Line breach gets met with immediate strike; enforcement posture stays dense. You'd think Hamas would learn. *See The War Today.*
- **Lebanon:** Strike geography widens as rebuild networks stay targetable; Naqoura talks attempt to buy calm. *See The War Today / Developments to Watch.*
- **Judea & Samaria:** Jenin raids continue; illegal entries by Israelis into Area A trigger detentions and a preventable crisis. *See The War Today / Developments to Watch.*
- **Home Front:** Haredi draft-evader riots injure officers; violence against soldiers turns internal cohesion into an operational variable. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Diplomacy:** Gaza "stabilization" recruitment grows while disarmament remains politely undefined. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Lawfare:** U.S. sanctions ICC judges; the court screams "independence" while politicizing prosecutions. *See Developments to Watch.*
- **Diaspora:** ISIS propaganda praises Bondi; copycat logic spreads faster than Western enforcement. *See Israel and the World / Developments to Watch.*

Below: enforcement patterns, mandate pressure points, and escalation risks across fronts.

Israel is enforcing conditions while foreign capitals are inflating frameworks. The north and Gaza both signal the same doctrine—rebuild space gets deleted, not negotiated. Inside Israel, the state is struggling to learn that manpower and authority are strategic assets, not social suggestions.

The War Today

Ceasefire Optics Fray as Israel Targets Rebuild, Cash, and Breaches

IDF troops eliminated a terrorist who crossed the Yellow Line and approached forces, while maintaining dense deployments under ceasefire conditions. Parallel pressure is degrading Hamas's capacity to regenerate. Financial centers and exchange routes have been hit—forcing partial salary payments and exposing dependence on irregular Iranian transfers. Senior figures publicly reiterate refusal to disarm even as cash flow tightens. Diplomatic scaffolding meant to manage the truce is stalling. The U.S.-backed Civil-Military Coordination Center has become a logistics forum divorced from the core question of who removes weapons, absorbing time while leaving political authority and security control unresolved. Israeli officials continue to signal that demilitarization is the non-negotiable hinge of any Phase II, preferring diplomacy but keeping the military option explicit as Hamas has completely rejected disarmament (why pretend otherwise?) and attempts to convert enforcement friction into leverage.

ASSESSMENT

Israel is collapsing Hamas's two favorite buffers—space and money—while refusing to let “coordination” substitute for control. The CMCC's drift is not a bug—regardless of what anyone says. It's what happens when process is advanced without ownership of disarmament. Financial squeeze matters because it degrades recruitment and discipline, but it only converts to durable security if paired with boundary enforcement and denial of rebuild. The risk is external pressure to pause precisely where leverage is compounding.

Hezbollah Rebuild Gets Deleted as Diplomacy Buys Time

Israel struck Hezbollah operatives tied to reconstruction and logistics across southern Lebanon, with additional strikes reported deeper inland, reinforcing that geography no longer confers immunity. As France, the U.S., and Saudi Arabia press Beirut's army chief on disarmament plans, the gap between tours and outcomes remains wide. Hezbollah's weapons persist, and enforcement stays external. UNIFIL activity around tunnel discoveries underscores the monitoring theater, while simultaneous border talks aim to prevent escalation rather than remove capabilities. Predictably, Iranian backing continues to anchor Hezbollah's posture.

ASSESSMENT

Lebanon's problem is an authority deficit. Diplomatic choreography cannot seize rockets. Israel's campaign targets the connective tissue—people and rebuild pathways—because that's where denial works short of a larger war. As violation counts climb and strike geography expands, the corridor between managed attrition and decisive escalation narrows. Delay favors Hezbollah; deletion favors Israel.

Northern Samaria Raids

In Judea and Samaria, Israeli forces sustained a wide-scale counterterrorism operation in Jenin, arresting Islamic Jihad affiliates, seizing weapons, and conducting intelligence-led sweeps designed to preempt follow-on attacks. There is a zero-delay doctrine across the interior: rapid arrests, cordons, and confiscations to deny cells the oxygen of time while Gaza and the north remain active. Authorities also intervened against illegal Israeli civilian entries into Area A, detaining suspects and emphasizing that unauthorized entry into PA enclaves endangers lives and can disrupt security operations.

ASSESSMENT

The Jenin model—speed, intelligence fusion, and denial—reduces copycat bandwidth when external fronts are hot. The tradeoff is friction sensitivity, but October 7 ended the luxury of latency. Enforcing rules on both terror networks and reckless civilian incursions preserves maneuver space for the forces actually carrying the load.

Inside Israel

Draft Evasion Turns Violent

A routine traffic enforcement incident in Jerusalem escalated into a riot. Hundreds of young ultra-Orthodox men clashed with police near Bar-Ilan Street after a parking-ticket confrontation revealed a draft dodger and led to his subsequent arrest. The rioting haredim committed widespread vandalism, overturned patrol cars, and injured at least thirteen police officers. False alerts circulated in the community warning that “draft arrests” were underway, pulling more bodies into the street and turning the event into an organized “anti-enforcement” surge rather than a spontaneous protest. The same unrest produced a second red-line moment. More of the rioting haredim threw stones at a bus carrying trainee soldiers and IDF commanders—forcing the officers to exit the bus and secure the vehicle until police restored some semblance of order. The escalation did not stay in Jerusalem—organizers pushed protests southward, attempting to demonstrate at a Military Police officer’s home and then blocking major arteries near Ashkelon and Highway 4, resulting in additional arrests. In parallel, Shas lawmakers visited draft dodgers held in military prison, publicly praising them and pledging to advance the draft-evasion bill, while coalition mechanics continued shifting around the same fault line.

ASSESSMENT

In an egregious albeit on-brand move, the community “alert system” mobilized faster than the state’s enforcement loop. When violence becomes the tactic for preserving exemptions it is a chillel hashem. When draft dodging turns into rioting—and when that posture targets police and uniformed soldiers—the question stops being “social cohesion” and becomes “who governs.” The coalition’s problem is not optics. It’s problem is fully effective governance. You cannot condemn riots with one hand while politically rewarding the ecosystem that produced them with the other.

Litigation Replaces Chain Of Command, And Everyone Pretends It’s Normal

Israel’s internal governance keeps drifting toward courtroom-mediated command. Justice Minister Yariv Levin appealed to the High Court arguing that senior State Attorney officials remained entangled in an investigation despite prior court expectations—pressing for immediate oversight arrangements and effectively litigating who is “allowed” to supervise the supervisors. In a separate ruling, the High Court temporarily barred police from blocking entry to stadiums for fans wearing shirts reading “Police are scum,” framing it as protected expression. Meanwhile, the government’s commission-of-inquiry track moved forward: the ministerial team tasked with shaping the mandate is slated to convene, with legislation expected to advance and a preliminary Knesset vote presumably next week—an accountability mechanism being built while institutional trust continues to hemorrhage.

ASSESSMENT

A governance system that keeps routing operational friction into legal process may satisfy procedural instincts, but it erodes authority—exactly the wrong move for a government already struggling with both war and domestic order. The “shirts case” reads like a civics lesson until you picture the downstream effect: police told to absorb contempt as “expression,” while simultaneously expected to enforce order in riots where the same contempt becomes stones hurled at their heads. Levin’s appeal is the other side of the same coin—cabinet ministers are now litigating internal control lanes because the state’s chain-of-command remains blurred. This is not a debate club. A country cannot run security, policing, and accountability as three separate legal puzzles and then act surprised when nobody trusts the solution.

Infrastructure Starts, Terror Pays, And Pollution Becomes A Security Issue

In the Dan region, Netanyahu and Regev held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the long-delayed Tel Aviv metro, selling it as a national leap—while the underlying project governance looks dangerously thin, with the Metro Authority reportedly lacking a chair and operating with only a handful of staff despite overseeing Israel’s largest infrastructure investment—and a timeline now drifting toward 2040. In the legal-enforcement lane, a Jerusalem court ordered an Arab perpetrator to pay over half a million shekels in damages for a firebomb attack on a Jewish family’s home—an incident that nearly torched an infant as it slept—reinforcing civil liability as deterrence when terror targets the home front. And across Judea and Samaria, Katz and Smotrich formally defined large-scale Palestinian trash burning as a national security threat—moving it from “nuisance” into a security framework that includes expanded administrative tools, truck seizures, rapid-response contracting, and heavier penalties—because neither toxic fumes nor smoke respects the Green Line.

ASSESSMENT

Metro ceremonies are easy; competent authorities are harder. If the government wants Israelis out of cars and into tunnels, it needs an institution that can actually run the tunnels—otherwise you get speeches now and delays forever. The civil judgment on the firebomb attack matters for the same reason: deterrence must touch the attacker’s life, not just the victim’s window frame. And the trash-burning campaign is the most honest framing we’ve seen in a while—treat cross-border pollution as hostile governance failure with security consequences. Because that’s what it is. Build where you can, enforce where you must, and stop pretending administration is optional.

Israel and the World

Washington Shops For Troops, Thinks First Amendment Applies to Hamas

U.S.-led “day after” diplomacy is accelerating in form while hollowing out in substance. Washington is pressing ahead with an International Stabilization Force for Gaza, leaning on non-regional actors to supply mass while conspicuously dodging the mandate to disarm Hamas. Pakistan’s military chief, now constitutionally entrenched and personally insulated from prosecution, is slated for another high-level Washington visit. This amid reports Islamabad

is being tapped to provide a large troop contingent—despite Pakistani officials openly stating that disarming Hamas “is not our job.” Parallel outreach is underway to Ramallah: the U.S. ambassador met with the Palestinian Authority’s vice president to discuss tax revenues, movement restrictions, and Christian access to holy sites, as Washington quietly reconstitutes PA relevance without resolving its core jihadist pathologies. They treat governance and optics as substitutes for coercive authority—and hope time does the rest. Hamas, which openly rejects disarmament, is the only actor not being asked to pretend.

ASSESSMENT

A stabilization force that won’t seize weapons stabilizes only one thing: the illusion that someone else is responsible. Pakistan’s potential role exposes the contradiction cleanly—troops are welcome, enforcement is not. The PA channel does the same work in a different register, reviving an actor whose fiscal dependence and terror incentives remain unresolved. Israel’s remaining leverage lies in refusing to decouple sequencing. No guns removed, no Phase II. The moment enforcement is traded for paperwork, Israel inherits the risk while others collect credit. That trade should be rejected on sight.

Gas Becomes Leverage, Cairo Pretends Otherwise

Israel’s pending gas export agreement with Egypt—by scale the largest in Israel’s history—is reshaping the regional map whether Cairo admits it or not. The deal deepens long-term interdependence, reinforces the East Mediterranean gas bloc, and binds Egypt’s military-industrial ecosystem to Israeli energy flows at a moment when Gaza’s future and Sinai’s posture are both in flux. Egyptian officials, wary of domestic backlash, insist the agreement is “purely commercial” and unrelated to politics, even as Israeli leadership openly frames it as strategic leverage and Washington pushes for rapid finalization ahead of a potential Netanyahu–Trump–Sisi summit. The subtext is harder to obscure. Pipelines and revenue create incentives, constrain adventurism, and quietly price behavior—especially as Egypt’s military footprint in Sinai has expanded beyond treaty limits under fading ISIS cover.

ASSESSMENT

Cairo’s insistence on separating commerce from politics is theater for home consumption. States do not commit to multi-decade energy dependence without recalculating security behavior. For Israel, the opportunity is leverage without illusion: gas flows should reinforce, not replace, red lines on Gaza, Sinai, and regional alignment. The risk is mistaking interdependence for loyalty. Pipelines constrain options—they do not erase intent. Used correctly, this deal hardens Israel’s regional posture.

Diaspora Jews Targeted, Enablers Blame Everyone and Everything Else

The Bondi Beach massacre has triggered a global security scramble that exposes how late the reckoning really is. Australian authorities intercepted additional armed suspects en route to Bondi Beach—an area with a huge Jewish presence—while publicly hedging on links to the initial attack. Political leadership followed with promises to tighten hate-speech law, visa controls, and enforcement against extremist clerics—steps Jewish communities argue are

overdue. Simultaneously, Iran's information apparatus moved at speed: senior IRGC figures and state media pushed false-flag conspiracies, celebrated the bloodshed, and recycled claims that the attackers were Jews themselves—even as ISIS's outlets praised the assault and encouraged copycat attacks.

ASSESSMENT

When incitement is protected as speech and jihadist ecosystems are treated as “activism,” violence is not an aberration—it is the forecast. Iran's disinformation blitz is merely operational support designed to blur culpability and widen the target set. Western governments are beginning to move, but always after the cost is paid in Jewish blood and never far enough. The system that produced Bondi is still running. Shutting it down requires more than condolences.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *Jerusalem Post*: Iranian-backed Houthis began large-scale mobilization toward southern Yemen, redeploying artillery, missiles, and drones after losing smuggling routes to UAE-backed forces.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Iran uses civilian airlines, shell companies, and “emergency landings” to smuggle weapons under sanctions. Sanctions theater continues while the IRGC's logistics machine keeps feeding Hezbollah and other proxies.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Police identified the Brown University shooter as a Portuguese national who also murdered an MIT professor before killing himself.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *Ynet*: Israel announced plans to open embassies in Fiji, Bolivia, and Africa while closing one mission, potentially in Oslo or Chengdu. Jerusalem is reallocating diplomatic capital toward friendly states and away from hostile dead zones.
- *The Jewish Chronicle*: Tucker Carlson argued Israel is a net burden on the United States in favor of Gulf partnerships. That view is gaining airtime on the American right and will shape real policy pressure if not sufficiently challenged.
- *JNS*: Senior UN officials declined to offer a single positive statement about Israel during the holiday season.

Domestic & Law

- *JTA*: Four progressive House Democrats introduced an antisemitism bill emphasizing civil-rights offices and warning against “weaponizing” Jew-hate enforcement. The proposal prioritizes process over confronting anti-Zionist drivers of violence.

- *Israel National News*: Iran's president publicly admitted he cannot solve the country's crises and told provinces to act as if the central government doesn't exist. It seems the central government's focus is just on weapons and killing Jews. Regime decay is now being acknowledged on camera, even as Tehran projects external aggression.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *Algemeiner*: More than 600 musicians demanded Live Nation sever ties with Israel, recycling genocide rhetoric and boycott calls. Cultural boycotts remain the cheapest form of pressure—loud, unserious, and persistently festering with Jew hate.
- *Forward*: Poland's president canceled the annual menorah lighting at the presidential palace after courting far-right allies. Symbolic Jewish visibility is being bargained away as European leaders normalize Holocaust distortion.
- *Israel National News*: The activist group IfNotNow urged synagogues to avoid police or armed security despite rising terror threats. This is dangerous ideology divorced from reality masquerading as safety guidance—and if widely implemented will result in dead Jews.
- *JNS*: Wikipedia edited its main Israel entry to state as fact that Israel is committing "genocide." Merely avoiding the use of Wikipedia is no longer enough—these actions deserve condemnation. This incident is another Holocaust inversion laundered as neutrality—and it will feed AI, classrooms, and policy memos alike.

Developments to Watch

Judea & Samaria

- **Area A Joyrides** — Israeli civilians illegally entered Nablus, injured a Palestinian with their vehicle, fled on foot, and were detained after forces seized the car. Reckless civilians hand the enemy propaganda and tie down security units doing real work.

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Naqoura Direct Meeting** — Israeli, American, and Lebanese officials will hold a second direct meeting in Naqoura, publicly billed as "border-area economic cooperation."
- **Tunnel Detection Anxiety** — UNIFIL arrived at a newly found Hezbollah tunnel site near Touloun as Lebanese chatter fixated on Israel's alleged remote underground-detection capabilities. That obsession signals Hezbollah's core fear: its rebuild zones aren't safe, and neither are its assumptions.

- **Damascus Buffer Fight** — Israel's UN envoy called for a demilitarized zone from Damascus to the current buffer, while Syria's envoy demanded Syrian forces reassert control along the border. Israel wants security depth and denial, Syria (led by a jihadist) wants presence and posture. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Israeli Civilians Breach Fence** — Multiple groups of Israeli civilians attempted to cross into Gaza. Some breached the barrier before being stopped and returned. This is operational sabotage disguised as activism: it endangers lives, burns response bandwidth, and hands Hamas PR victories on a platter.
- **Stray-Bullet Casualty** — A reservist was slightly injured by a stray bullet in northern Gaza and evacuated for treatment. Dense deployments plus high sensitivity creates accidents.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Houthis Shift South** — Reports indicate Houthi forces are mobilizing for a southern Yemen offensive, moving artillery, drones, and missile platforms after smuggling routes were cut. Tehran's proxy machine is reallocating pressure while the region stares at Gaza. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Beirut Airport Weapons Cache** — Lebanese customs seized 90 pistols hidden in luggage arriving from France. Lebanon's "sovereignty" keeps arriving in pieces, packed between sweaters, because Hezbollah's ecosystem needs constant resupply lanes.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **ICC Judges Sanctioned** — The U.S. imposed personal sanctions on two ICC judges over efforts to prosecute Israelis without Israel's consent; the court called it an attack on its independence.
- **Sydney Incitement Goes Global** — ISIS's Al-Naba praised the Bondi massacre as a "blessed assault" and encouraged lone-wolf attacks against Jews, without formally claiming responsibility. Expect copycat attempts and faster radicalization.

Home Front & Politics

- **Iron Dome Production Surge** — Israel is expanding Iron Dome production as upgrades push radar, algorithms, interceptors, and complementary laser capability into a "new system" posture. Missile-defense exhaustion is real. This is Israel buying endurance before the next saturation round.

What cracked is the illusion that internal exemption culture can coexist with societal cohesion without turning violent and contagious. Watch for two event triggers: diplomatic pushes that attempt to freeze Gaza without disarmament,

and northern “calm” that noisily slips into deadline-driven escalation. The enemy still bets on delay. Israel’s survival depends on refusing it.

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