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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

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Adults continue enforcements as ‘process’ tries to seize the steering wheel in Florida and in courtrooms.

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THE BOTTOM LINE Hamas wrote the playbook: avoid saying “Jews,” say “colonial forces.” Don’t cite historical conspiracy texts, just behave accordingly. Seems they consulted with Qatar, Berkeley, and Harvard. Western institutions repeatedly fail basic tests: treating rhetorical hygiene as moral transformation. It isn’t—it’s marketing. Influencer spikes signal next U.S. politics phases: Israel skepticism migrating from fringe toward mass channels where “genocide” rhetoric becomes bipartisan vocabulary and conspiracies become permission.

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Flash Brief

- **Washington:** Netanyahu travels to Florida for meetings with Trump on Iran, Gaza sequencing, and related matters.
- **Northern Front:** Hezbollah refuses disarmament deadlines; IDF maintains posture across Lebanon.
- **Syria:** 55th Brigade completes rotation—receiving brief reprieve while another reserve brigade takes position immediately.
- **Gaza:** Reported covert capture of PIJ operative connected to Ran Gvili's burial location.
- **Judea & Samaria:** Qabatiya remains under sustained operations; attack-home sealing completed.
- **Jerusalem:** Atarot ramming incident prompts arrests and renewed examination of vehicle-based violence.
- **Axis & Red Sea:** Iran launches satellites via Russia; Houthis threaten Somaliland targeting.

The War Today

Perishability Doctrine Moves From Theory To Terrain

In the north, Hezbollah publicly refuses disarmament deadlines while its Radwan units train and rebuild under Lebanese-state protection, requiring the IDF to continue operations across Lebanon's depth—from southern communities to the Beqaa Valley. The 55th Reserve Brigade rotated out following over 100 days across Gaza, Lebanon, and southern Syria, with seamless replacement to maintain continuity along the Golan and inside the Syrian security zone.

In Gaza, enforcement continues unchanged: targeted operations, denial corridors, and intelligence operations—including reported seizure of a PIJ operative tied to remains location—while Hamas continues rearming, excavating, recruiting, and delaying under ceasefire language.

Judea and Samaria remains active as the internal front: the Qabatiya network remains under siege following the multi-site attack, with demolition advancing and enforcement now explicitly targeting facilitators—employers, transporters, enablers—who enable illegal entry as attack vectors.

Iron Beam has entered operational service, collapsing the cost-exchange logic Iran and proxies previously relied upon.

ASSESSMENT

Units are conducting operations far exceeding what gets publicized, carrying the weight of three fronts without theatrics. Hezbollah discusses deadlines while refusing them. Lebanon markets "phases." Gaza mediators market "formats." Israel does not market anything. It enforces. The north represents an Iranian problem using Lebanese flags for legal cover. Gaza involves demilitarization challenges being actively circumvented.

Demilitarization Or Theater—Choose One

Despite ceasefire promises, rebuild indicators persist: tunnel excavation, weapons production, recruitment (including minors), and governance reassertion above ground. Israeli operations remain precise and intelligence-led, showing enforcement has not softened but become quieter.

Politically, pressure campaigns are transparent: calls for partial disarmament, staged sequencing, or governance-first reconstruction surface from actors who openly admit unwillingness to confiscate weapons.

ASSESSMENT

Hamas continues betting Western impatience exceeds Israeli memory. It won't—unless Israel permits it. Leaving firearms, tunnels, or "local security forces" intact schedules the next massacre. The same capitals refusing weapon confiscation are demanding timelines, indicating everything about seriousness. Diplomatic drama will intensify to slow, cap, or contextualize enforcement before advantages compound. The proper response is disinterest. Enforce, deny, repeat. Bring fallen home. Strip the Strip. Everything else constitutes theater.

Inside Israel

The Seam Line Isn't A Fence When It's A Business Model

Investigations exposed multiple enforcement personnel and security contractors allegedly enabling Palestinian entry for payment—wiretapped checkpoint coordination, vehicle-loading instructions, staged inspections, forged permits, and residents-only gates bypassing formal crossings. Residents describe identical operational realities: breaches recur, ladders and ropes turn fences into suggestions, and "pastoral" suburbs sit kilometers from access routes moving people into Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

These incursions highlight an ecosystem: employment demand, weak enforcement, bribery, and routinized tolerance receiving brief "crackdowns" after infiltrators become attackers. The Gaza border's pre-October 7 warning history mirrors current patterns: observers reported hostile training, command received reports, and system comfort—"they can't"—enabled catastrophe. Today, identical cognitive errors sit at other borders: assuming most infiltrators are "just workers" becomes permission for the next attacker or facilitator.

ASSESSMENT

When Border Police sound like travel agents for illegal entry, the problem isn't fence gaps—it's gatehouse rot. Local leaders demand buffer zones and permanent forces because fences are treated as turnstiles. Casual infiltration is the intelligence signal itself. Casual means normalized. Normalized means repeated. Repeated means exploited.

The politically unpopular fix: treat illegal entry as attack architecture, not labor policy. Treat corrupt enablers as functional traitors, not "a few bad

apples.” Lock gates, man towers, prosecute bribery aggressively, and penalize employers buying cheap labor at national-security prices. Israel cannot afford another “we received warnings but assumed...” cycle.

The State Keeps Litigating While Enemies Keep Moving

The state fights simultaneously on operational and institutional fronts. The High Court upheld the Shin Bet chief’s appointment framework by majority, explicitly relying on prior process managing conflict risks tied to ongoing investigations involving the prime minister’s close associates. Meanwhile, an Iranian-linked cyber actor claimed accessing the chief of staff’s phone, threatening selective releases—classic second-circle targeting meant to shape Israeli consciousness whether materials are real, stale, or disinformation-padded.

The government and attorney general fight court battles over the planned IDF military radio station closure, with accusations of misleading affidavits and demands freezing execution pending ruling. Governance through injunction. Security leadership appointments, operational legitimacy, and messaging infrastructure get dragged into legal theater while adversaries run influence operations weaponizing exactly this friction.

ASSESSMENT

Iran sits back feeding the machine through leak-threats, Telegram countdowns, and paid protesters—precisely the environment hostile services engineer. Perpetual argument. Permanent suspicion. A public trained treating every institution as faction. The state needs security leadership insulated from factional leverage, cyber discipline treating aides and personal devices as operational surfaces, and legal architecture clarifying wartime authority rather than turning every decision into procedural cage matches.

Service Equity Fractures As Sectors Opt Out Loudly

A prominent ultra-Orthodox leader publicly burned a draft summons, instructing continued refusal to report—after a yeshiva student served military prison time—signaling “aggressive warfare” against enlistment as normalized behavior, not exception. Simultaneously, civil society and environmental organizations warn major planning and regulatory changes are being pushed through the Economic Arrangements Bill to limit scrutiny—fast-tracking housing, weakening coastal and nature protections, diluting early health-impact review already proven decisive in court.

On the culture front: a threatened funding cutoff triggered film-industry boycott threats, then negotiated reversal after promises to “work it out” with the minister—another public institution turning budgets into discipline tools while stakeholders convert participation into leverage. These arenas share one mechanism: governance through pressure tactics, procedural shortcuts, sectoral exemptions teaching the public duty is negotiable if you’re loud enough.

ASSESSMENT

When one sector burns draft papers like holiday while everyone else bleeds days, jobs, marriages, and sanity—that isn't "pluralism." It messages reservists the state respects slogans over sacrifice. Meanwhile, the Economic Arrangements Bill habit—smuggling sweeping policy changes through legislative bulk containers—mirrors the border problem: everything important becomes a shortcut until it breaks, triggering committee mourning. The culture fight mirrors this pathology in soft form: funding threats, boycotts, backroom "understandings," and permanent conversion of national institutions into factional bargaining chips.

Israel and the World

Washington Is The Center—That's Why Everyone Else Maneuvers

Netanyahu is in Florida for concentrated meetings with American leadership on Gaza sequencing, Hamas disarmament, and Iran—with Ran Gvili's mother rightfully pressing one of Israeli society's central issues. Iran and Russia launched three Iranian observation satellites on a Russian rocket—telegraphed as "defiance," but relevant as dual-use competence, surveillance appetite, and Moscow's continued willingness to facilitate.

In the Eastern Mediterranean, Israel, Greece, and Cyprus signed 2026 military cooperation plans with joint exercises and strategic dialogue, including rapid-response concepts deterring Turkish regional pressure. Under Somaliland headlines, quiet corridors matter: unusual heavy-lift logistics from the Gulf into Israel and maritime choke points continue attracting threat signaling, including explicit Houthi targeting language and predictable diplomatic complaints from states confusing "outrage" with "strategy."

ASSESSMENT

Israel must prioritize Washington without becoming America-only. States treating U.S. relationships as monopoly suppliers become hostages to American mood swings—while the world manufactures moods. Israel needs autarky focus too. Iran's space signaling normalizes Russia-Iran tech collaboration while suited figures pretend "defiance" is a press category, not capability category. The Greece-Cyprus track designs contingency against Turkey taxing Israel's freedom without paying direct-confrontation costs. Gulf logistics lanes stay quiet until becoming operationally decisive. Everyone watches one meeting like season finale while adversaries build redundancy, allies build geometry, and only headline-confused observers get surprised.

Hamas Teaches The West How To Be Fooled

A seized Hamas training booklet instructed spokesmen avoiding overt anti-semitic language and Holocaust references in Western discourse—sanitizing English messaging while preserving core hatred in Arabic materials. Propaganda as packaging continues piping into Western audiences through both political spectrum ends. A study found prominent right-wing influencers sharply increased anti-Israel focus and negative framing—one showing explicit anti-semitic content rises, the other consistently platforming extremists without boundaries.

Downstream effects are tangible: Israeli-led music events in Thailand faced incitement, vandalism, and equipment destruction, prompting cancellation—Jew-hatred laundered as “community protection” treating Jews hosting dance parties as occupation. The “Israelis are fleeing” narrative continues selling national obituary despite complicated data. Emigration intent polls capture mood, not demographics. Migration accounting shifts materially including returning traffic and aliyah, not just outflow.

ASSESSMENT

Hamas wrote the playbook: avoid saying “Jews,” say “colonial forces.” Don’t cite historical conspiracy texts, just behave accordingly. Seems they consulted with Qatar, Berkeley, and Harvard. Western institutions repeatedly fail basic tests: treating rhetorical hygiene as moral transformation. It isn’t—it’s marketing. Influencer spikes signal next U.S. politics phases: Israel skepticism migrating from fringe toward mass channels where “genocide” rhetoric becomes bipartisan vocabulary and conspiracies become permission.

The Thai episode miniaturizes the diaspora front—first incitement arrives, then vandalism, then administrative cancellation “for safety,” everyone congratulating themselves on neutrality while Jews learn (again) visibility carries tax and risk. Some Israeli emigration reflects normal “advanced-country” behavior—dangerous parts involve Israelis underestimating foreign conditions and assuming distance buys safety. It doesn’t. The world exports disorder; Jews receive demo versions first.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- **Jordan Airstrikes:** Jordan conducted multiple airstrikes in southern Syria targeting drug- and weapons-smuggling networks near its border, signaling post-Assad “transition” talk wore thin and border chaos now receives air-force responses.
- **Houthi Threats:** Houthis warned any Israeli presence in Somaliland receives military targeting, revealing panic about losing Red Sea chessboard monopoly access.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- **Somaliland Recognition:** Israel’s Somaliland recognition was defended as strategic geography, sea lanes, and long-term depth rather than popularity or optics—teaching diplomats counting likes instead of leverage that chokepoints ignore consensus statements.
- **Syrian Sectarian Clashes:** Sectarian clashes between Alawites and counterprotesters in coastal Syria killed at least three people following a mosque bombing, showing post-Assad order fractures along sect lines with no stability but present genocide.

Domestic & Law

- **Mosque Loudspeaker Bill:** A new bill would default-ban mosque loudspeakers, require permits, empower police confiscation, impose fines up to ₪50,000 for violations, finally stopping chronic noise pollution being framed as “religious freedom.”

Culture, Religion & Society

- **Narrative Dominance:** An opinion piece argues Israel’s real war now involves global narrative dominance rather than battlefield control, as Hamas propaganda fuels worldwide Jew-hatred, with Israel potentially losing strategically despite tactical victories.

Developments to Watch

Judea & Samaria

- **Qabatiya Pressure Persists:** The IDF completed sealing the attacker’s home and continues intensive operations around Qabatiya under Menashe Brigade command.
- **Jerusalem Ramming Probe:** A driver struck a police officer in Atarot and fled before arrest, with the incident treated as apparent ramming.

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Hezbollah Spits On Deadlines:** Hezbollah’s secretary-general publicly rejected disarmament deadlines and promised zero concessions—Lebanon’s government issues calendars, but Hezbollah runs clocks. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Southern Syria Rotation Continues:** The 55th Reserve Brigade completed Syria missions, being replaced seamlessly along the Golan and inside the security zone.

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Targeted Grab Near Yellow Line:** Reports indicate Israeli special forces seized a PIJ operative inside Gaza City with direct knowledge of Ran Gvili’s burial site—quiet coercion beats loud mediation, narrowing Hamas’s ability hiding behind ignorance.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Iran–Russia Space Sync:** Russia launched three Iranian observation satellites on Soyuz rockets, adding surveillance capacity and missile-adjacent competence under “space” euphemisms—infrastructure for subsequent rounds. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

- **Houthi Somaliland Threats:** The Houthi leader declared any Israeli Somaliland presence military targets—when proxies panic this publicly, Red Sea leverage lands where it hurts.
- **Bahrain–Nevatim Heavy Lift:** A UAE-linked Antonov flew from Bahrain to Nevatim in unusual logistics moves—heavy-lift flights don’t happen for vibes; they happen moving something large and urgent.
- **Baghdad Feels The Squeeze:** Iraq’s prime minister warned armed factions integrating or going political amid Israeli threat signaling—Baghdad knows it’s corridor, not firewall, and pressure isn’t easing.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **Trump Meeting Becomes Trigger Point:** The PM arrived in Florida seeking U.S. backing on Iran, Gaza sequencing, and enforcement red lines—this meeting produces constraints or permissions, not poetry. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Somaliland Dominoes Stir:** Ethiopia reportedly next recognizing Somaliland while Somalia and Saudi voices escalate—recognition starts looking contagious, explaining hysterical protest sounds.

Home Front & Politics

- **Galatz Freeze Fight:** The Attorney General urged the High Court freezing Army Radio shutdown pending review, while the defense minister accused opponents of misleading affidavits.
- **Iron Beam Goes Live:** The first operational Iron Beam laser system was handed to the IDF, integrated into air-defense arrays—cheap interceptions change enemy math quickly.

The next inflection arrives when Washington either grants sequencing with teeth or sells choreography with ribbon. Or when Hezbollah decides whether “answering” happens before losing more assets. Or when Iran tests whether space, cyber, and proxies compress Israel’s decision time. Israel controls timing if they persuade the President their plans properly target objectives.

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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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