



Forensic intelligence for those who act.

READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

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Iranian streets are aflame as “day after” committees keep dodging the guns.

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THE BOTTOM LINE When boycotts threaten jobs and capability, “principle” suddenly becomes “commercial.” The goal is not to isolate Israel—Spain can’t. The goal is to normalize the stigma and make everyone else pay a reputational tax for doing business with the Jewish state. Somaliland shows a small actor acting like a sovereign, building leverage through geography while larger actors scream “international law” as if maps care.

CLASSIFICATION

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BEIRUT recites “state authority” while Hezbollah keeps the rockets. Gaza gets marketed as governance while Hamas recruits teenagers with cash. Tehran’s regime answers economic collapse with bullets. Abroad, mayors and ministers keep discovering the modern West’s favorite hobby—claim to protect Jews with rhetoric, and endanger them Jews with policy.

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Here's the situation in ninety seconds.

Flash Brief

- **Northern Border:** IDF launches interceptor at suspicious aerial target near Bar'am; seems to be a false target. *See The War Today.*
- **Lebanon:** Hezbollah stays entrenched south of the Litani; Lebanese enforcement remains performative. *See The War Today.*
- **Gaza:** Hamas rebuilds manpower and control while refusing disarmament; Israel prepares contingency disarm plans. *See The War Today.*
- **Turkey:** U.S. explores Turkish "logistics" role for Gaza force from Jordan/Egypt; Israel fully rejects Ankara inside the apparatus. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Iran:** Protests escalate into day five with fatalities, Basij targets hit, and university raids for "foreign links." *See Developments to Watch.*
- **Judea & Samaria:** Ambush near Luban al-Sharqiya ends with terrorist eliminated during stoning attacks. *See The War Today.*
- **Home Front:** Severe storm floods corridors; Route 40 blockade in the Negev pressures policing and mobility. *See Developments to Watch.*

BELOW: connective analysis across Gaza demilitarization, northern enforcement options, Iran spillover risk, and sovereignty constraints.

Hezbollah counts on Lebanon's refusal to enter private property. Hamas counts on donors and diplomats being allergic to the word "seizure." Iran counts on the West treating blood on Persian streets as "internal affairs"—until it becomes regional fire, of course.

The War Today

Beirut Talks Monopoly On Arms While Hezbollah Rebuilds Under It

The U.S.-set year-end disarmament deadline passed, and Hezbollah stayed put—still entrenched south of the Litani, still rebuilding under "civilian homes," still operating under a ceasefire that has been violated thousands of times, with hundreds of complaints filed and a large residue of "open" targets where Lebanese enforcement never arrived. Israel has kept interdiction pressure steady, degrading rebuild nodes and liaisons embedded in civilian areas—while holding ready a short, intensive strike package designed to hit the infrastructure the routine "containment" rhythm avoids, if political authorization comes. Parallel diplomatic messaging is now trying to sell a "final chance" formula: outside actors warning Hezbollah that disarmament spares Lebanon a strike, while Lebanon's prime minister publicly repeats "weapons under state authority" in a country where the state won't enter private property to collect them. In the last hour or so, a suspicious aerial incident near Bar'am

triggered an interceptor launch—though it seems it might have been a false alarm.

ASSESSMENT

It's not really whether this specific aerial threat materialized, but it's important to note that the north remains a live arena where Israel must treat any attempted contact-line activity as an immediate-fire problem—regardless of what diplomats might try to claim. Lebanese leaders saying “state authority” while Hezbollah keeps the rockets is bad performance art performed in front of an armed patron. If Beirut won't seize the armament materiel, Israel will keep making the inventory perishable until the fiction collapses.

Gaza's Day-After Vacuum Collides With One Fact: Hamas Still Has both a Hostage and Guns

Gaza is being marketed as a governance puzzle while behaving like a rearmament program. Israel's defense leadership is openly preparing for renewed intensive fighting if Hamas refuses disarmament and if the U.S.-backed “international stabilization” concept fails to do the one job that matters—seize weapons. The Chief of Staff pressed for a political decision on who governs Gaza if Israel is forced to finish disarmament itself. Warning that without a defined ruling alternative, Hamas recovery becomes the default outcome. Hamas has reasserted control in much of the Strip (recruiting teenagers with cash, food, and blackmail). Assessments show that only about half of the tunnel network on the IDF-controlled side of the ceasefire line has been neutralized. Meanwhile Hamas is trying to launder refusal as “complexity,” claiming Washington “understands” the weapons issue even as Trump publicly frames disarmament as a short-fuse ultimatum with consequences. Israeli ministers have explicitly rejected both Turkey and Qatar from participation inside a future force—with U.S. discussions reportedly exploring Turkish “support” from outside Gaza via Jordan and Egypt—an attempt to keep the patron in the room.

ASSESSMENT

A terror organization that recruits minors with shekels and flour is not “transitioning” into civil society—it is replenishing manpower under humanitarian cover while betting that foreigners will fund the rebuild and outsource the weapons problem to wishful thinking. The “stabilization force” pitch is the same old Western hobby: invent a structure that sounds professional enough to delay the moment anyone has to do anything difficult. If no one is willing to do seizures—at scale, under fire—then all “Phase Two” talk is simply a timetable for Hamas's recovery. Everyone really ought to stop pretending that governance can be purchased while the gunmen hold a hostage and remain employed.

Judea And Samaria: Hamas Admits The Map Is Shifting

Hamas's own messaging has a tone of alarm as they acknowledge Israel is moving from scattered outposts to a contiguous, state-backed settlement and infrastructure plan in Judea and Samaria—with a heavy emphasis on Jerusalem's perimeter and eastern approaches. New approvals and recognitions are positioned explicitly as strategic anchors. Which neatly intersects with near-term

security reality on the ground. Overnight in Samaria, an ambush on a central route near Luban al-Sharqiya ended with a terrorist eliminated while throwing stones and additional assailants hit—an unglamorous reminder that the “small” violence is still the daily feedstock of bigger networks.

ASSESSMENT

Hamas’s panic about “contiguity” is a backhanded compliment—and a warning. Israel’s advantage comes when strategic depth and tactical pressure reinforce each other. Stabilize the high ground. Choke the hostile corridors. Keep daily violence from becoming “normal background noise” that metastasizes into larger attacks and incitement. The risk is internal softness—treating sovereignty as messaging while letting enforcement fray on the edges (roads, protests, lawfare). The enemy does not need Israel to retreat. They need only for Israel to hesitate.

Inside Israel

Intelligence Failed At Synthesis, Not At Collection

A detailed first-person account from an Air Force UAV operator on the night before October 7 sharpens focus on the government’s failure. Indicators existed and reporting occurred, but the system could not assemble a coherent threat picture. One UAV covered a narrow field of view over Gaza as unusual activity unfolded at Hamas emergency positions. Reports moved up the chain and were shared with intelligence partners—yet the prevailing assessment classified the activity as an exercise. An order to launch an additional UAV was issued but not executed. When the attack began, the same crews transitioned immediately into combat under extreme ambiguity—distinguishing terrorists from Israeli forces in smoke-filled skies, conserving munitions, and disrupting infiltrations in real time. Intelligence inputs without analytical integration collapse into false reassurance. Parallel internal reviews and doctrinal changes since then—faster alert timelines, predefined sector targets, and expanded aerial readiness—are framed by the operators themselves as corrections to a failure.

ASSESSMENT

The system did not lack eyes, It lacked competent analysis. October 7 exposed an intelligence culture optimized for pattern recognition inside assumptions. The danger now is turning a systemic failure into accusations of treason (which corrodes trust and distracts from the real fix). Leadership must focus on rebuilding analytical authority that can override comfort—and empower people to push things to higher echelons even if it makes the bosses nervous.

Courts Tighten, Ministers Push Back

The judiciary–executive collision continues widening on multiple fronts. The High Court ordered the state to justify legislation allowing the Education Ministry to dismiss teachers who praise or support terrorism, reopening a core debate over due process versus security in schools—particularly in Jerusalem institutions accused of glorifying violence. Separately, the attorney-general

asked the court to compel the prime minister to explain why he has not dismissed the national security minister. She alleges abuse of authority and improper interference in policing. Ministers responded by correctly noting the AG is overstepping her role and by framing the court as detached from security reality and intruding into political appointments. Simultaneously, the justice minister demanded cancellation of a Supreme Court-hosted conference he described as ideologically one-sided. And coalition figures questioned the legitimacy of the court president's appointment altogether.

ASSESSMENT

Each move is legally arguable, though together they make it quite clear that the system is in need of some real guardrails and a robust framework. Right now all we have is paralysis disguised as process. When firing a terror-sympathizing teacher or directing police priorities becomes a constitutional showdown it's hard to imagine how public trust can be rebuilt by either branch—directly weakening internal security, policing legitimacy, and wartime cohesion.

Smuggling, Arson, And State Capacity Tests

Security services dismantled two major weapons pipelines: a year-long “Southern Route” that moved arms from Judea and Samaria into Bedouin communities, and a drone-based smuggling ring on the Egyptian border that trafficked machine guns while eavesdropping on IDF communications. In Judea and Samaria, the finance minister ordered the state to clear toxic waste (and to prevent illegal fires) and bill the Palestinian Authority. These moves unfolded alongside unrest in the Negev, where protests blocked a major highway after a fatal shooting tied to suspected smuggling activity, and amid a severe winter storm that strained emergency response across the country. Polling shows political blocs largely frozen—no governing majority in sight for the next election—while public anger concentrates less on ideology and more on whether the state can actually enforce law, protect infrastructure, and share burdens fairly.

ASSESSMENT

Weapons smuggling, arson, and road blockages are signals of where sovereignty thins. The state is finally acting like it understands this—treating arms pipelines as terror infrastructure, intentional pollution as coercion, and internal order as a security mission. Israel needs clear rules, equal enforcement, and the manpower to sustain it.

Israel and the World

City Halls Normalize Pressure While Jews Pay The Security Bill

The diaspora threat picture continues to harden into a law-and-order test, rather than just a “community relations” problem. In New York, the new mayor's first-day “fresh start” revoked a tranche of recent city executive orders—including measures tied to confronting Jew-hatred, adopting the IHRA definition, barring city divestment from Israel, and exploring protest-buffer zones

around houses of worship. While simultaneously claiming that he intends to keep an antisemitism office under new appointment authority. In Toronto, Ontario's solicitor general publicly pushed police leadership to curb repeated anti-Israel demonstrations that have migrated into residential Jewish neighborhoods, framing the status quo as intimidation and insisting the tools already exist. In Barcelona, Israeli artists attempting to overwrite antisemitic street propaganda with pro-Israel murals were attacked by a mob, with escalating assaults.

ASSESSMENT

Institutions tolerate (or even encourage) intimidation, then act surprised when intimidation turns physical. Mamdani's move matters strips away definitions and enforcement frameworks so can claim he's still "against hate" while the city loses the ability to identify it (and therefore can't enforce a thing). Stop pretending you need new laws, use the ones you have, and make intimidation expensive. Leave propaganda unchallenged, and you manufacture the moral permission slip for the next attack.

Turkey Runs The Gaza Franchise In Plain Sight

While Washington debates "roles," Ankara keeps publicly inciting and mobilizing terror supporters. Istanbul opened 2026 with a mass pro-Gaza rally organized by a broad civil-society coalition and led prominently by the president's son—hundreds of thousands in the street under a banner promising they will not forget Palestine, in a country that has already severed trade, closed official airspace lanes, and issued warrants for Israeli officials while its leadership routinely deploys Nazi comparisons. Israel's response is evolving from ad hoc messaging to infrastructure: the Foreign Ministry's J50 forum is designed to link dozens of diaspora community leadership structures into a rapid coordination and information-sharing network, built on secure comms, regular briefings, and repeatable tactics—because antisemitism and anti-Israel incitement now propagate globally and land locally as physical threats.

ASSESSMENT

Turkey is a platform for the Muslim Brotherhood. Trump calling Erdogan a "friend"—while Turkey hosts mega-hate-marches and runs anti-Israel lawfare abroad—is how Western systems confuse smiles with alignment. Stop treating diaspora pressure as a PR problem and treat it as a network at war. We need coordination, rapid response, legal playbooks, and security posture sharing across communities facing the same threat (even if it has different accents).

Spain Postures, Somaliland Hardens Geometry, America Renews Trade

Spain's boycott posture against Israeli-linked goods and technology exposed its own dependency when Madrid carved out an Airbus-linked exemption as "economically essential" while simultaneously tightening anti-Israel trade measures elsewhere—an admission that the boycott is designed primarily for domestic theater. In the Horn of Africa, Somaliland publicly rejected claims that Israel recognition came with any arrangement to resettle Gazans

or host Israeli military bases—framing the allegations as an attempt to sabotage diplomatic momentum. Somaliland’s leadership is expected to visit Israel soon and move toward Abraham Accords alignment and broader bilateral agreements. Meanwhile, the U.S. renewed the annual agricultural trade framework that governs specific duty-free Israeli imports, extending the existing structure while a newer replacement agreement remains in staged implementation.

ASSESSMENT

When boycotts threaten jobs and capability, “principle” suddenly becomes “commercial.” The goal is not to isolate Israel—Spain can’t. The goal is to normalize the stigma and make everyone else pay a reputational tax for doing business with the Jewish state. Somaliland shows a small actor acting like a sovereign, building leverage through geography while larger actors scream “international law” as if maps care.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- Iranian security forces used live ammo and tear gas against nationwide protests as chants escalated to “Death to the dictator.” The regime is burning coercive capital to survive an economic collapse, raising the odds it exports pressure outward if control wobbles further.
- Taiwan announced a ~\$40B program to build 1,600 unmanned attack sea drones amid intensified Chinese blockade drills.
- A hacker posing as a Mossad agent recorded former Assad-era commanders allegedly plotting to destabilize post-Assad Syria while invoking Israeli backing. Syria’s transition is already contested, and chaos entrepreneurs are trying to launder credibility by blaming Israel for their own sabotage.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- Protesters across Iran revived chants of “Javid Shah,” openly invoking the Pahlavi monarchy alongside calls to topple the Islamic Republic.
- Iran’s Defense Ministry export arm offered to accept cryptocurrency for arms contracts to bypass sanctions—exposing buyers as willing partners in Iranian weapons proliferation and attempts to bypass sanctions.
- Israel’s gas megadeal with Egypt tests deterrence, not economics, amid Cairo’s Camp David breaches. Energy leverage without conditions risks financing patience rather than enforcing compliance.

Domestic & Law

- Fatah media glorified female terrorists and named women’s student cells after child-murderer Dalal Mughrabi. This is more institutional incitement packaged as “gender equality,” signaling PA culture remains terror-positive.

Culture, Religion & Society

- Reports described Egypt allocating large swaths of North Sinai land for “logistics zones” near Rafah. Bureaucratic concrete often precedes political admissions, and Cairo appears hedging for scenarios it still publicly denies.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Hashmonaim Brigade Extends Syria Footprint** — Ultra-Orthodox Hashmonaim Brigade units completed their first operational activity in southern Syria and remain deployed.

Judea & Samaria

- **Roadside Ambush Pressure Holds** — An ambush near Luban al-Sharqiya ended with one terrorist killed and others hit during stone-throwing attacks.

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Turkey-in-Gaza Logistics Talk** — U.S. officials floated Turkish logistical support for a Gaza force from Jordan and Egypt without boots inside Gaza. Ankara is trying to re-enter the franchise by spreadsheet, not rifles—Israel’s veto posture will be tested fast—in Turkey’s attempt to further support Hamas.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Iran Street Violence Deepens** — Protests entered another day with Basij facilities attacked, fatalities on both sides, and university raids over alleged “foreign links.” Regimes under this stress look outward for diversion; proxy activation becomes a cheap option. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Somaliland Threat Counterfire** — Somaliland denied claims of Gazan resettlement or Israeli bases as recognition momentum continues toward Abraham Accords alignment. Smear escalation signals nerves across the Red Sea axis as geometry hardens against Houthi leverage.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **Somaliland Visit Clock Starts** — Somaliland’s president is expected in Israel within weeks to sign multi-sector agreements. Expect a rapid UN/Arab pressure cycle to front-load lawfare before facts on the ground set.

Home Front & Politics

- **Negev Route 40 Blockade** — Bedouin protesters blocked Route 40 after a fatal shooting tied to suspected smuggling, prompting heavy police presence.

- **Storm Stress-Test** — Severe flooding disrupted central corridors and required rescues nationwide.
- **Bahrain–Nevatim Heavy Lift** — A Bahraini military cargo plane landed at Nevatim for the third consecutive day. Sustained heavy-lift traffic signals ongoing regional logistics.

Beirut’s “monopoly on arms” speech is starting to sound more like a hostage reading a script. Gaza’s “day after” talk is collapsing under a simpler question—who takes the rifles, and who gets shot doing it—and the international answer remains: “why should we bother?” Iran’s regime is bleeding legitimacy and compensating with coercion. When dictators feel cornered, they don’t become reasonable, they become creative—meaning proxies, cyber, and surprise pressure points get cheaper than reform.

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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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