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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

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Decision clocks compress as Tehran signals jihad and Washington moves the plumbing. Davos signs governance—but rifles keep de facto veto power.

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THE BOTTOM LINE The U.S. domestic enforcement lane is finally catching up to reality: antisemitism is no longer just a campus nuisance. Jew-hate has metastasized into licensed professions where power meets vulnerability—medicine, mental health, professional associations, and workplace credentialing. When “Zionism is illness” seeps into therapy language, you don’t get “debate.” You get discriminatory practice dressed as care. HHS enforcement, if it becomes truly institutionalized rather than episodic, can choke off the incentives and funding that made this respectable. If it stays performative, it will teach every captured profession the same lesson Europe already teaches daily. Jews are the category you can safely manage, restrict, and pathologize—until the system is surprised by what that permission structure produces.

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IRAN is trying to widen deterrence language into a global license—while the U.S. stacks the logistics that make severe options real. In Gaza, Davos wants a “board” to look like control, even as the Yellow Line keeps producing weapons and kinetic contact. Inside Israel, the state is being tested in the least cinematic places—daycares, streets, spreadsheets, and spyware—right when it can least afford internal slack.

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Flash Brief

- **Iran Clock:** Trump issues warning against further assassination attempts; Iran parliament signals jihad framing; U.S. repositions military assets. *See The War Today.*
- **U.S. Air Bridge:** KC-135 tankers and command aircraft head toward Europe; another carrier group prepares to move. *See The War Today.*
- **Gaza Board:** Davos charter signing set; Israel joins talks while disputing Qatar–Turkey weight. *See The War Today.*
- **Yellow Line:** IDF finds weapons shaft with rifles and RPGs near southern approach routes. *See The War Today.*
- **Northern Front:** IDF strikes Hezbollah operative near Sidon after repeat violations; Galilee drill scheduled. *See Northern Front.*
- **Jerusalem Disorder:** Infant daycare deaths meet autopsy limits; riots spread, civilians attacked, arrests continue. *See Inside Israel.*

Tehran is writing permission structures, Washington is moving the hardware that makes threats credible, and Gaza is offering committees in exchange for immunity. The rest—Jerusalem street violence, reserve pay clawbacks, and illegal data retention—is the domestic version of the same thing—seeing if rules are enforced without negotiating with whoever screams loudest.

The War Today

IRGC Pressure Rises As Tehran Threatens Jihad And Retaliation

Iran's regime escalated both its internal-crackdown messaging and its external deterrence script as Washington pushed for what the president calls "decisive" military options—without yet ordering a strike. Tehran's parliament-level security committee publicly warned that any harm to the Supreme Leader would constitute war on the "Islamic world," explicitly foreshadowing a jihad fatwa and worldwide activation framing. In parallel, the U.S. president issued direct threats of total destruction if Iran targets him, while also citing an Iranian plan to execute 837 detainees and claiming the regime backed off after U.S. warnings—paired with continued review of scenarios ranging from strikes on IRGC facilities to broader regime-toppling concepts. U.S. force posture indicators further tightened. Additional F-15 deployments into the region were publicly acknowledged. Multiple KC-135 aerial refuelers were tracked moving toward Europe—with some reported headed to Spain. Strategic command aircraft activity was observed. And reporting indicated another U.S. carrier was instructed to prepare for movement toward the Middle East—while imagery circulated of Iran transporting missiles and drones across the country overnight. Israel matched with its own readiness signaling. Netanyahu warned that an Iranian attack would trigger a response "Iran has not yet experienced," and the IDF ran a large-scale aerial exercise over the eastern Mediterranean featuring ISR and tanker elements consistent with long-range contingency preparation. On the political-diplomatic front, Israel's foreign

minister called on Europe to designate the IRGC as a terrorist organization, with Prague's new leadership publicly supportive. Qatar publicly urged a diplomatic track on the nuclear question and warned against escalation—in the usual regional posture of “no war, no consequences.” Inside Iranian opposition, an analysis of Farsi search trends argued that Reza Pahlavi has become the dominant focal point compared to other opposition figures and regime legitimacy markers.

ASSESSMENT

This is a sequencing fight between three clocks: (1) Tehran's survival clock (kill faster, censor harder, threaten wider), (2) Washington's decision clock (“decisive,” but allergic to paying the bill), and (3) Israel's home-front clock (interceptors, endurance, and how many nights the public can live inside the rumor cycle before discipline frays). The Iranian parliament's jihad-fatwa signaling is a permission slip for proxy and lone-actor violence abroad. Qatar's “diplomacy” line is the same old insurance policy: delay consequences, keep channels open, and launder false symmetry (“secure for Iranians, Palestinians, Israelis”) as if the regime exporting missiles and militias is just another anxious stakeholder. Europe's IRGC designation question is the real tell. If Brussels can't call the IRGC what it is while it's openly butchering Iranians and running overseas networks, then Europe isn't even neutral. Israel should press this hard because once the IRGC is treated as a terrorist entity, every financial node, travel lane, and front group becomes fair game for disruption by policy—not just by covert action. Militarily, the refueling surge, command-aircraft movement, and carrier readiness chatter show Washington is trying to reduce single-point failure before it decides whether it has the stomach to follow through. However, Tehran should not confuse American deliberation with Israeli paralysis.

Board Of Peace Meets Yellow Line: Committees Multiply, Fire Continues

The U.S. has moved the Gaza “Board of Peace” from concept to ceremony, with a charter signing scheduled in Davos on Thursday and Bibi publicly accepting an invitation to join—while still disputing the composition and weight of the Gaza “Executive Board” (especially with Turkey and Qatar embedded). On the ground, the “phase two” packaging continues to collide with daily contact and Hamas force regeneration along and beyond the Yellow Line—including continued strikes and fires on approachers, repeated tunnel and weapons finds, and a newly located shaft near the southern line containing scores of weapons (AK-47s, RPGs, magazines). Reservists operating the northern Gaza strip describe the last months not as a ceasefire but as near-daily friction—small arms and artillery fire at probes, rapid approval to hit pre-designated targets, and recent concentrated shelling against multiple targets in minutes—while Hamas rebuilds deeper in the Strip where operational constraints and “arrangements” reduce Israeli freedom to strike. Hamas has also adapted the civilian shield machinery again. With observation posts and positions embedded in structures then filled with civilians to classify them as “sensitive.” It's also using roadblocks to funnel populations toward “shelters” that double as cover for redeployment. The newly appointed head of “general security” in the Gaza administration apparatus stressed that institutions belong to all Palestinians “without exception,” explicitly invoking “martyrs”

and social cohesion—i.e., a unity frame compatible with terror factions, not a disarmament program.

ASSESSMENT

A Davos charter and a host of committees that cannot seize a Kalashnikov, cannot compel tunnel mapping, and cannot force the return of a single body being held underground. International salvation this is not. The Board-of-Peace architecture is designed to manufacture legitimacy—get signatures, get photos, declare “progress”—then treat Israel’s insistence on physical demilitarization as sabotage. The moment Israel trades coercive control for governance branding, Hamas will correctly read it as permission. And it will accelerate with more weapons caches, more tunnel rehab, more “sensitive site” laundering, more probes to map response times. If the West wants a board, fine—let it fund rubble removal and sewage repairs. But the disarmament problem is structural, not rhetorical, and it sits squarely in the we outlined in The Jihadist Continuum: moderate laundering as a delivery mechanism for jihadist survival.

Inside Israel

Daycare Deaths Trigger Autopsy Clash and Street-Level Lawlessness

Following the deaths of two infants at an unlicensed, overcrowded Jerusalem daycare (with dozens of babies and toddlers evacuated for treatment), the High Court blocked full autopsies and ruled investigators may proceed with non-surgical testing, allowing burial without further delay after a lower court had approved autopsies at police request. The decision landed amid a second wave of Haredi riots in Jerusalem and beyond, with police reporting rock-throwing, arson, uprooted trees thrown onto roads, infrastructure damage, and multiple arrests, including assaults on civilians—an elderly man was shoved into traffic after trying to clear stones—and a teenage protester was run over while blocking a road (moderately injured). Authorities extended remand for two caregivers and arrested the daycare owner, reportedly after years of operation, while evidence surfaced that some infants were put to sleep in a bathroom. The disorder bled into media intimidation as a TV reporter was harassed live by Haredi youths who shouted that women should not be brought to demonstrations and threatened to attack them.

ASSESSMENT

This was not some sort of a “religion vs. state” debate. The state tolerated a massive gray market for early-childhood care, then acted surprised when the cheapest, most crowded, least-inspected version failed in the most terrible way. The street message from extremists was clear: we will set roads on fire, assault civilians, and threaten women on live television to control how the state investigates and how the public speaks. The autopsy ruling may be legally and religiously defensible in narrow terms, but the operational lesson is wider: when enforcement is sporadic and regulation is underfunded, the system does not “self-correct.” Israel cannot afford parallel autonomies that treat law as optional and women as fair game.

National Insurance Recalculations Hit Reservists With Retroactive Debts

Reservists are receiving demands to repay large sums—often tens of thousands of shekels—after National Insurance retroactively recalculated reserve-duty compensation under a legal change that took effect in May, aimed at preventing “inflated” benefits created when reserve service and intermittent employment raised monthly wage data used to compute subsequent payments. The wartime shift to paying compensation on an ongoing monthly basis (rather than after service periods) made the inflation effect more common and harder to prevent in real time, and the new rule now compels clawbacks after the fact. Leaving soldiers who already used the money facing sudden debts, rejected appeals, and legal costs. National Insurance argues it lacks discretion and must implement the law as written even as broader reviews examine how the compensation system is being handled.

ASSESSMENT

Retroactive clawbacks during a long war cycle convert service into personal financial risk—exactly the opposite incentive structure a manpower-stressed state should be creating. Even if the legislative intent was reasonable (stop gaming, stop distortions), the implementation is heinous. If the state cannot distinguish fraud from administrative noise without making reservists hire lawyers, it is not “fixing the system.” If mistakes happened in favor of reservists absent fraud, the state should absorb the error and redesign the calculation method forward—because making fighters finance the government’s math experiment is how you lose the reserve force one exhausted, resentful household at a time.

Israel and the World

Greece-Cyprus-Israel Deepens While Europe’s Moral Theater Continues

Israel’s Eastern Mediterranean alignment tightened in operational terms as Defense Minister Israel Katz met Greece’s defense minister in Athens and advanced joint intelligence, exercises, and cooperation on anti-drone swarm defenses and cyber interception, alongside continued trilateral planning with Cyprus that includes discussion of a non-permanent rapid-response force concept (reported at roughly 2,500 personnel) designed for fast deployment on land, sea, or air in a crisis. Greek integration of Israeli systems continues to move from procurement to posture-building (including long-range strike and networked sensors/command), explicitly framed as deterrence against actors trying to reprice borders and influence via proxies in Syria, Gaza, and maritime lanes. In parallel, a multi-year survey of 1,061 parliamentarians across 35 European countries found 70% rate their country’s relations with Israel as good, 68% recommend more cooperation (with defense and homeland security the most prioritized category, rising sharply over recent years), and 81% support promoting further Arab-Israeli normalization; it also recorded overwhelming parliamentary support for IRGC terror designation (92%) and broad agreement that UNRWA’s status quo is unsustainable, even as a small set of countries remain openly hostile outliers. Against this quiet security

convergence, President Herzog arrived in Davos and signaled he will confront the use of international legal/political mechanisms to freeze Israeli leadership out of global forums and to widen ICC pressure, while foreign minister Sa'ar discussed deepening ties with a Central European counterpart who indicated support for steps like a dedicated antisemitism envoy and even floated embassy-to-Jerusalem movement. Meanwhile, Washington's Syria envoy publicly framed the SDF's original anti-ISIS role as "expired," pitched Damascus as the new security partner (including custody of ISIS detention facilities), and warned Kurdish leadership against attempting to pull Israel into Syria's internal board—an American message designed to placate Turkey and compress Israeli maneuver space north and east even as Israel is building counterweight architecture in the Eastern Med.

ASSESSMENT

Europe is now split between its security reality and its cultural rot. The parliamentary numbers show that, beneath the activist fog, many European systems still understand Israel as a security partner and Iran as a direct threat—but Europe's public class keeps trying to transact in "values" while its own cities are being repressed by intimidation, bureaucracy, and selective enforcement. Fifteen or twenty years ago, Europe still looked like it believed in itself. Today it often looks like a museum that hired HR to run counterterrorism. Endless process. Soft language for hard enemies. And endless moralizing aimed at Israel because it is safer than fixing their own streets. Israel's correct response is to make cooperation structural: embed Israel into planning cycles, sensor networks, and rapid-response muscle so that "pressure" stops being free. At the same time, treat European parliamentary sentiment as leverage—not flattery—by demanding tangible moves where Europe's own survey responses already concede the logic (IRGC designation, UNRWA replacement, antisemitism enforcement). Europe can remain a partner in hard-security lanes, but Israel should stop pretending Europe still functions in a coherent way. It doesn't.

Israel Moves From "Revelations" To Damages, Discovery, And Demolition

A family of a murdered October 7 victim filed a civil suit in Jerusalem District Court seeking NIS 25 million in punitive damages under Israel's Compensation for Victims of Terrorism Law, alleging UNRWA's entanglement with Hamas moved from "contamination" to operational participation: the claim centers on an UNRWA employee allegedly arriving in a UN-marked agency vehicle, loading the victim's body into the car, and transporting it into Gaza, with the filing naming the agency, the alleged employee, and multiple current/former senior UNRWA officials as defendants. The suit argues this was not an isolated act but part of systemic integration in which UNRWA allegedly employed large numbers of Hamas/PIJ operatives or relatives and allowed facilities and resources to be used for terrorist activity, and it seeks not only damages but injunctive relief compelling disclosures about remains handling and internal UNRWA investigations—while directly challenging UNRWA's asserted immunity as a neutral humanitarian body.

ASSESSMENT

UNRWA survived for decades by hiding behind immunity language and donor guilt while operating as a parallel-state platform whose staffing and infrastructure were functionally co-opted in Gaza. The suit matters less as a one-off damages bid than as an attempted wedge into discovery, accountability, and precedent: force the immunity question into court records; force named officials into legal exposure; force donors to confront whether “humanitarian neutrality” is still a legally defensible fiction. Expect the usual counterattack—procedural delay, UN legal shields, and European handwringing. Ignore it. UNRWA’s core defense has always been “you can’t touch us.” Israel’s answer should be: “Watch.”

Antisemitism Moves Into Medicine As U.S. Enforcement Reawakens

Representatives from multiple Jewish and medical community groups met with senior leadership at the U.S. Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights to press for a more institutionalized enforcement posture against antisemitism in health-care settings and medical education, citing a surge in incident reports and specific ideological drift including “decolonizing therapy” frameworks that characterize Zionism as pathology, along with concerns that politicized hostility toward Jews in clinical environments risks patient safety and provider integrity. The groups discussed potential civil-rights investigations of institutions receiving federal funds, broader guidance mechanisms (including a “dear colleague” style letter), and improved reporting systems to quantify and pursue violations. They also flagged concerns about funding streams and activist capture inside professional associations.

ASSESSMENT

The U.S. domestic enforcement lane is finally catching up to reality: antisemitism is no longer just a campus nuisance. Jew-hate has metastasized into licensed professions where power meets vulnerability—medicine, mental health, professional associations, and workplace credentialing. When “Zionism is illness” seeps into therapy language, you don’t get “debate.” You get discriminatory practice dressed as care. HHS enforcement, if it becomes truly institutionalized rather than episodic, can choke off the incentives and funding that made this respectable. If it stays performative, it will teach every captured profession the same lesson Europe already teaches daily. Jews are the category you can safely manage, restrict, and pathologize—until the system is surprised by what that permission structure produces.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *Times of Israel*: Syria’s touted ceasefire with the Kurdish-led SDF frayed almost immediately as clashes resumed around ISIS prisons and roughly 120 detainees reportedly escaped amid the chaos. A collapsing “deal” plus jailbreaks is how ISIS gets oxygen again — and how Turkey and Damascus squeeze the Kurds while Washington scrambles to keep the whole file from detonating.

Domestic & Law

- *Jerusalem Post*: Israel's State Comptroller says police relied for years on advanced surveillance tools with weak legal authorization, sloppy approvals, and routine collection of prohibited data, while the police insist it was lawful and largely already fixed.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *Ynetnews*: Israel approved upgrading Tel-Hai Academic College into the University of Kiryat Shmona starting in 2026–27, backed by a 570 million shekel plan including PhD tracks, an engineering faculty, and a new veterinary school in the Golan.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *Jerusalem Post*: A Turkish Muslim student at Hebrew University says she's facing an arrest warrant, coordinated doxxing, and rape/death threats after a viral clip of her calling herself a Zionist. Turkey's message is clear: Zionism is criminal, mobs are policy, and "state security" is the velvet glove — which is exactly how regimes export intimidation beyond their borders.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *Israel National News*: Israeli comedian Guy Hochman was detained and questioned for six hours at Toronto's airport after an anti-Israel group filed complaints, then faced a protest and an assault attempt.

Developments to Watch

Judea & Samaria

- **Tapuach "Infiltration" False Ping** — A Home Front alert fired after a reported checkpoint breach, then resolved as a local resident. The point isn't the mis-identified resident; it's the sloppiness and alert fatigue.

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Sidon Envelope Widens** — The IDF struck a Hezbollah operative in the Sidon area after repeated ceasefire-violation cycles.
- **SDF Custody Handover Gamble** — U.S. envoy talk of Damascus taking ISIS prisons/camps, while Kurdish officials hint at Israeli contacts, is a recipe for jailbreaks and Turkish pressure. Watch for a staged "counter-ISIS" move that is really a map rewrite near Israel's north. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Hostage Remains Leverage Tightens** — Trump says the U.S. believes it knows the location of Ran Gvili's remains.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Jihad-Fatwa Language Goes Operational** — Iranian parliament-level rhetoric about a jihad fatwa if the Supreme Leader is harmed. It also pre-authorizes overseas targeting and lone-actor violence on cue—“religious duty” as command-and-control.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **UNRWA Ban Moves From Paper To Bulldozers** — The first physical enforcement in Jerusalem will trigger UN legal shields, donor whining, and local agitation.
- **Athens Axis Pokes Ankara** — Katz’s Greece meeting and “solid alliance” language is a signal to Turkey. Ankara’s cheap response lanes are maritime friction, cyber, and manufactured diplomatic “crisis.”

Home Front & Politics

- **Spyware Scandal Becomes A Handcuff** — Comptroller says police hold ~50TB of unlawfully obtained/retained data and used spyware without clear legal basis. Expect petitions, evidence challenges, and privacy campaigns that conveniently hobble enforcement while criminals keep upgrading.

Iran’s leadership is trying to export its internal panic as religious obligation and overseas targeting risk, while the U.S. is building a strike-capable geometry without yet paying the decision cost. Watch two collision points: (1) Davos turning “board” branding into pressure on Israeli operational freedom, and (2) Tehran using proxies, cyber, or diaspora intimidation to prove it can widen the map on demand. Inside Israel, the danger is quieter and more corrosive: if reservists feel financially punished for serving, and if rioters learn intimidation changes investigative outcomes, the state’s endurance erodes from the inside.

— *Uri Zehavi · Intelligence Editor With Modi Zehavi · Data + Research Analyst*

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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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