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ISRAEL BRIEF

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Israel goes to top-tier home-front alert as Tehran plays in Hormuz. Europe finally names the IRGC.

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THE BOTTOM LINE Subsidize the worldview, credential it, teach it, publish it, and then act shocked when it becomes “public sentiment.” It’s mapped clearly in *Controlled Surrender*. Yet somehow people are still shocked as it metastasizes further. Europe’s polling admission—Gaza influences how Jews are perceived—confesses that the continent still treats Jewish belonging as conditional and revocable. Qatar’s campus financing shows the Western demand side. Institutions sell their intellectual independence for donor cash, then call the resulting ideological capture “scholarship.” Once Jews are reclassified from minority to “privileged oppressor,” exclusion becomes by design a moral performance rather than discrimination.

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Flash Brief

- **Iran Alert:** Israel raises Home Front Command to the highest level as Tehran signals city-focused retaliation.
- **Europe Legal Tools:** EU designates IRGC a terrorist organization and sanctions 21 officials and security-linked entities.
- **Hormuz Risk:** Iran schedules live-fire in the Strait and plans naval drills with Russia and China.
- **Red Sea Signal:** U.S. destroyer docks in Eilat during cooperation visit as U.S. strike options expand.
- **Gaza Phase II:** Hamas rejects disarmament and claims gate veto as IDF strikes tunnel exits near Rafah.
- **Home-Front Incident:** Security services neutralize explosive device in Lod as public guidance tracks the Iran alert.
- **Economy + Capacity:** Budget clears first reading as draft enforcement fight tightens; Apple buys Q for about \$1.5B.

The War Today

Tehran Preps Hormuz Disruption as Israel Raises Maximum Alert

Israel shifted to the highest Home Front Command alert posture across all sectors, reinforced forces, and put alert systems fully online as senior leadership convened an Iran-focused security assessment amid an assessment that Tehran may try to strike first—aiming at major Israeli cities. The U.S. continued to thicken the strike-and-defense stack: additional fighters and tankers repositioned west-to-east via European staging, a missile destroyer docked in Eilat under a “routine” cooperation banner. Washington briefed Trump on multiple Iran options ranging from broad strikes on regime/IRGC targets to escalatory packages and cyber pressure. In parallel, EU foreign ministers formally designated the IRGC as a terrorist organization and adopted new sanctions targeting Iranian officials and security bodies—prompting Tehran to threaten Europe directly and accuse it of “fanning the flames.” Iran has converted some of its metro and underground-parking areas into bomb shelters and moved senior leadership into hardened locations. It continues warning that any U.S. strike—limited or “surgical”—will be treated as all-out war. Market pricing followed the threat math with a sharp oil jump.

ASSESSMENT

The EU’s IRGC designation is a real step only if it becomes seizures, prosecutions, and shut doors across Europe’s financial plumbing. Iran’s Hormuz live-fire warning and Russia/China naval choreography are a global-oil hostage note stapled to a “multipolar” photo op. This is the Axis operating as designed: synchronize brinkmanship, launder coercion through “regional stability” language, and hope the West negotiates with the gun still on the table. For the structural pattern—proxy synchronization, Iran-Russia-China signaling, and missile-defense exhaustion as a strategic lever—see Axis in the Shadows.

IDF Strikes Rafah Tunnels as Gaza's Phase II Turns Kinetic

A senior Hamas official admitted the group never discussed disarmament “for a single moment,” mocked the idea that weapons could be obtained through talks after the war, and claimed Hamas holds effective veto power over the U.S.-backed National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (the technocratic NCAG) by controlling who can enter the Strip—saying Hamas already forced the removal/blocking of specific committee figures via mediation channels. That statement landed as the U.S.-run “Board of Peace” machinery tried to clarify its own chain of command: a draft resolution described the Qatar/Turkey-including Gaza Executive Board as advisory to a separate Executive Board dominated by White House-linked figures, while vesting sweeping operational power in a High Representative for Gaza to issue directives, establish enforcement structures, and set eligibility standards for Gaza governance—standards that claim to bar Hamas affiliation but openly admit they cannot really “de-Hamasify” staffing. Hamas continued to test the ceasefire’s edges and Israel continued to neutralize imminent threats—they carried out a precise drone strike on a Hamas operative planning an imminent attack against IDF security forces in the southern Strip, eliminated a terrorist who crossed the Yellow Line, and overnight in eastern Rafah, troops identified eight terrorists emerging from underground terrorist infrastructure, with the Air Force striking and eliminating three and additional strikes conducted as the remaining suspects attempted to escape (results still under review) while forces continued searches to locate and eliminate the rest. Residents in the Gaza envelope reported loud explosions and heavy artillery consistent with the continuing contact-and-denial pattern.

ASSESSMENT

A committee that cannot enter Gaza without Hamas’s permission is not governance. The Board of Peace draft tries to solve a political optics problem (Turkey/Qatar exposure) by downgrading a panel on paper while empowering a High Representative with decree-like authorities and “eligibility standards” that will inevitably fail to function. Israel’s operational posture continues with identifying imminent threats, removing them, and treating tunnels as a threat. Amnesty schemes, buybacks, phased “decommissioning”—none of this will remove Hamas or counter the jihadist problems festering in the Strip.

Inside Israel

Election Math Tightens, Arab Unity Reprices Seats, and Judea & Samaria Stays Unspoken

A new poll modeled the revived Arab Joint List at 13 seats—up from the fragmented run—while Likud strengthened to 27 and the opposition bloc shrank as seats bled from Bennett, Eisenkot, and Yesh Atid. Most Israelis want elections either on schedule later this year (49%) or as early as possible (39%). On the public mood around the war’s costs, the same polling found a plurality thinking Gvili’s return should have been secured earlier, with meaningful minorities framing the outcome as a major success or as too costly

and incentive-setting. Israel's long-term posture in Judea and Samaria has become the issue nobody wants to touch: neither leading contender is offering an overarching plan, annexation is restrained by external red lines, Palestinian statehood support has cratered, and the political center has learned that strategic silence is safer than commitment. Meanwhile, the public needs truly functional governance. Two people were stabbed in Sur Baher in eastern Jerusalem (one seriously wounded), IDF troops were dispatched to the Mukhmas area after reports of arson of two Bedouin structures, police neutralized an improvised explosive device in a residential neighborhood in Lod (without casualties), and Tel Aviv's municipality ordered a community-center shop in Jaffa to stop selling items deemed nationalist/pro-Palestinian symbols (watermelon imagery, "biladi"—"my land"), enforcing a "no political items in municipal facilities" rule after public pressure.

ASSESSMENT

The revived Joint List consolidates Arab turnout into seats while cannibalizing the anti-Netanyahu camp's margins, and it gives every would-be coalition architect one more variable to misread at 2 a.m. on election night. Likud's bump alongside opposition fragmentation shows the "anyone but Bibi" ecosystem keeps cannibalizing itself. The silence around the Judea-and-Samaria non-debate is a strategic error. When leaders don't actually lead, the destination becomes whatever accumulates through security incidents, legal friction, and international pressure—by default. The stabbings, arson reports, bomb disposal, and symbol-policing in municipal spaces all warn of a lack of sufficient policing and deterrence. The state's job is to enforce law cleanly, prevent vigilantism from becoming politics, and stop municipal buildings from turning into propaganda kiosks—while national leadership stops hiding from a major territorial-security question that needs an answer.

Israel and the World

Foreign Influence Hardens "Acceptable" Hate

A new EU-wide public-opinion survey found majorities increasingly view antisemitism as a serious national problem and openly link Jewish perceptions to "Middle East conflicts," signaling that Europe's default reflex is collective association—Jews pay the reputational bill for headlines. The pipeline feeding that reflex is visible across institutions. A study of Tunisian textbooks reported that "tolerance" language coexists with selective application—classic antisemitic stereotypes, near-erasure of the Holocaust, maps that erase Israel, and the framing of mass-casualty terror attacks as legitimized "operations." In the U.S., a new report alleged that roughly \$1 billion in Qatari funding over two decades has penetrated Georgetown's ecosystem—chairs, research agendas, programming, and personnel—producing ideological drift toward anti-West and anti-Israel activism while a Qatar-backed Doha campus remains structurally entangled through renewals extending into the 2030s. In the UK, a published critique described how "identity" fashion in publishing turned Zionist Jews into a sanctioned out-group—an industry rebrand that made room for moralizing and purges while insisting it was merely "progress."

ASSESSMENT

Subsidize the worldview, credential it, teach it, publish it, and then act shocked when it becomes “public sentiment.” It’s mapped clearly in Controlled Surrender. Yet somehow people are still shocked as it metastasizes further. Europe’s polling admission—Gaza influences how Jews are perceived—confesses that the continent still treats Jewish belonging as conditional and revocable. Qatar’s campus financing shows the Western demand side. Institutions sell their intellectual independence for donor cash, then call the resulting ideological capture “scholarship.” Once Jews are reclassified from minority to “privileged oppressor,” exclusion becomes by design a moral performance rather than discrimination.

Briefly Noted

Domestic & Law

- *Jerusalem Post*: A Palestinian-American TikTok influencer says she shut her Ramallah café after an alleged \$100K scam tied to a PA security figure, followed by arrests and legal harassment. The PA’s “state-building” pitch collapses fast when corruption and weaponized policing are the official order of business.
- *JNS*: Washington state Democrats introduced HB 2589 to require 21 days’ notice for campus encampments and to make unauthorized groups liable for damages and removal costs.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *Jewish News*: The government is being urged to make pro-Palestine march organizers pay policing costs—citing £82 million in Met spending since October 2023 and calling anti-Israel activism a “Trojan horse” for Jew-hate.
- *Times of Israel*: A surge of users is fleeing TikTok to the Palestinian-founded app UpScrolled, which hit 1 million users while filling up with open anti-semitic and pro-terror content as moderators admit they can’t keep up. “No rules” platforms turn Jew-hate into engagement—great for extremists, bad for everyone else.
- *Jewish Chronicle*: A jihadist convicted over terror offences is running for a seat on the Birmingham City Council—as part of a pro-Palestine activist alliance.
- *Forward*: Comparing ICE to Nazis is historically wrong and politically self-sabotaging. The report cites high-profile U.S. figures invoking Anne Frank and Brownshirts to score points. Turning Nazism into a generic insult cheapens the Holocaust, fuels Holocaust inversion, and hands Jew-haters a cleaner runway to call everything “Nazi” while meaning “Jew.”

Developments to Watch

Judea & Samaria

- **Mukhmas arson** — Overnight arson against Bedouin structures near Mukhmas drew an IDF response but no arrests.

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **GPS jamming blankets the north** — Reports of major GPS jamming across Lebanon and Syria are popping alongside the Iran decision window. Weather or a permissive layer for drones, spoofed navigation, and misidentification panic? Hm.
- **IAF probes southern Syria** — Israeli fighters entered southern Syrian airspace (Daraa / Quneitra belt).

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Aid throttle decision point** — The IDF is pushing to cut aid trucks from ~600/day toward ~200 as Phase II turns kinetic. If Israel doesn't enforce the throttle quickly, Hamas will treat "excess aid" as salary, patronage, and control—then dare Israel to stop it.
- **Rafah tunnel pop-up warning** — Eight terrorists emerging from underground infrastructure in eastern Rafah. Phase II paperwork didn't collapse the tunnel ecosystem. Expect more "emergence" events and Yellow Line probing as Hamas continues to test what the ceasefire envelope actually permits.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Hormuz "exercise" as coercion** — Iran's live-fire warning in the Strait of Hormuz plus upcoming drills with Russia and China sets the stage for "training" that functions like interdiction. The real target is insurance desks and shipping schedules.
- **Strike-stack goes global** — Tankers and EW assets are visibly shifting (Atlantic staging), while U.S. bomber movements signal broader deterrence choreography and bandwidth.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **EU terror-listing reality check** — Don't celebrate too quickly. The IRGC designation is only real if it turns into raids, seizures, banking de-risking, and prosecutions across Europe's financial plumbing.
- **Embassies trim, visits cancel** — The Italian embassy reducing staff and leaders canceling Israel trips show governments are considering a near-term strike cycle. Expect more advisory tightening, airline route shifts, and "routine" security posture changes that won't be called what they are.

Home Front & Politics

- **Highest alert means imminent friction** — Home Front Command moving to the top alert tier is an admission of expected developments. If Iran

or proxies fire, expect rapid guideline changes, aviation disruption, and cyber noise aimed at civilian confidence. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Israel activated home-front machinery as if impact is plausible, and Tehran built its coercion narrative around shipping, insurance, and civilian anxiety rather than battlefield wins.

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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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