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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

Tuesday, February 3

Gaza gets a committee and a “new” logo. The guns keep their job. Iran gets a meeting. The region gets yet another timer.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVER

THE BOTTOM LINE New York’s quantitative evidence corresponds with Philadelphia’s public performance patterns. Jewish populations transition to “permitted other” classification preceding mob escalation from rhetoric to operational specification. Philadelphia rally detail proves damning through instruction-adjacent framing quality.

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Flash Brief

- **Gaza Governance:** Hamas directs its administrative departments to maintain operations under the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza framework.
- **Aid Diversion:** IDF discovers mortar shells and rockets concealed in UNRWA aid bags near the Yellow Line.
- **Northern Front:** Air strikes target Hezbollah weapons facilities; reconstruction operations continue despite military actions.
- **Iran:** Diplomatic discussions intensify as Steve Witkoff travels toward Israel, with potential Istanbul meetings reportedly planned.
- **Home Front:** Israel Electric Corporation conducts blackout simulations; Jerusalem police apprehend suspect with weapons and military attire.
- **Draft Enforcement:** Coordination challenges emerge between police and Military Police regarding arrests as evasion numbers grow.
- **Diaspora Pressure:** London demonstrations support Iran's leadership; New York City sees elevated hate crimes; University of Nebraska-Lincoln schedules divestment discussion.

The War Today

Hamas Turns Technocrat Rule Into A Shell Company

Hamas has distributed internal guidance directing its administrative personnel to continue functioning under the incoming National Committee framework while maintaining organizational control and limiting external engagement. Intelligence assessments indicate Hamas operatives are embedding themselves within ministerial and security structures “from below”—positioning the organization to retain influence absent disarmament commitments. The committee rebranded using Palestinian Authority symbols; Israel rejected this approach as incompatible with governance reconstruction. The committee plans entry through Rafah Crossing the following week, establishing operations west of the ceasefire demarcation.

The United Arab Emirates publicly denied intentions to assume Gaza's civilian administration responsibilities. IDF troops recovered approximately 110 mortar shells, rockets, and additional weapons hidden inside blankets and UNRWA aid bags near the demarcation line. Separately, four armed individuals approached troops adjacent to the line and were neutralized.

The committee's designated administrator, Ali Shaath, faces scrutiny for openly ideological framing—characterizing Israel as a colonial implant and referencing organization of protest activities—a profile suggesting reconstruction prioritizes political identity preservation over de-radicalization.

ASSESSMENT

Hamas is authoring survival instructions for the governance arrangement designed to replace it. The committee pursues Gaza's reintegration into Palestinian Authority ideological frameworks while claiming post-Hamas transformation. Disarmament outcomes on negotiated timelines appear inconsistent with organizational behavior patterns.

Strike-Cycle Readiness Hardens From Lebanon Depots To Power Grids

The Air Force conducted strikes on weapons storage facilities in Kfar Tebnit and Ain Qana following evacuation alerts, with confirmed Hezbollah leadership losses. The USS Delbert D. Black executed coordinated drills with INS Eilat in the Red Sea following scheduled port operations in Eilat.

Iran publicly denied any enriched material transfer intentions and escalated threat messaging through senior officials, with Khamenei reverting to regime narratives emphasizing foreign interference and subversion. Eyal Zamir convened senior commanders' assessment focused on raid scenarios and multi-front coordinated operations readiness. The Israel Electric Corporation executed emergency simulations modeling missile strikes on power infrastructure and cascading disruptions.

Washington sources indicate Trump administration interest in "quick and decisive" strike options avoiding prolonged conflict dynamics. Steve Witkoff's anticipated arrival targets meetings with Netanyahu, Zamir, and David Barnea, with reporting suggesting potential Friday Istanbul discussions centered on nuclear considerations.

ASSESSMENT

Situation remains stabilized pending unforeseen developments. The diplomatic pathway demonstrates characteristic dysfunction patterns: nuclear-focused discussions that artificially separate missile systems and regional proxy networks as peripheral matters. Israel's posture—readiness assessments, infrastructure simulations, explicit red-line language—reflects preparation for escalatory scenarios rather than negotiated resolution.

Inside Israel**Police Gatekeeping Leaves Draft Enforcement Toothless**

Israel Police routinely denies IDF Military Police operational clearance in Haredi-concentrated neighborhoods, with police detention discovery of draft evaders typically concluding through release and summons rather than custody transfer. The Israel Police service confirmed that "summon and release" constitutes the prevailing enforcement approach while emphasizing resource requirements—specifically additional Border Police companies—for expanded operations. Approximately 71,000 draft evaders, predominantly Haredi individuals, creates scaling difficulties. Current institutional incentive structures—funding mechanisms, exemption policies, and implicit "patience prevails" signals—reinforce avoidance of service obligations.

ASSESSMENT

Enforcement absent operational capacity constitutes governance suggestion rather than law. The manpower constraints prove indifferent to coalition political sensitivities, affecting families rotating through reserve obligations while government navigates exemption-class expansion dynamics.

Strong Shekel Squeezes Exporters As Dairy Shortage Spreads

Israel's currency demonstrates strength near multi-year dollar highs, driven by market performance and investment inflows into technology and defense sectors. Export-oriented manufacturers report margin compression and re-location risk from dollar-earning operations against shekel-denominated costs. The Manufacturers Association of Israel and the Israel Advanced Technology Industries advocacy groups pressed for parliamentary discussion and government "emergency response," warning of employment reduction, periphery facility vulnerability, and potential brain drain from multinational development center decisions.

The Bank of Israel indicated reluctance toward intervention, attributing responsibility to government policy mechanisms. Domestically, dairy supply disruptions from farmer protest activities produced supermarket quantity restrictions on milk and cheese products. Minister Bezalel Smotrich cautioned that supply constraints could trigger tariff elimination to prevent persistent shortages.

ASSESSMENT

Currency strength proves manageable through policy approaches treating export sectors as strategic infrastructure rather than exploitable tax resources. Export activity constitutes insufficient justification for inaction on currency considerations.

Democracy Ceremony Becomes Court Boycott And Political Knife Fight

A Knesset commemorative session marking building history descended into institutional fragmentation demonstration. Benjamin Netanyahu cautioned that democratic equilibrium has deteriorated and called for branch-balance restoration, while opposition factions boycotted the event following Isaac Amit's non-invitation and Isaac Herzog's absence. Yair Lapid and Benny Gantz leveraged the occasion for coalition criticism regarding civic milestone transformation into factional performance, while Amir Ohana characterized the posture as reciprocal "respect between branches."

Golan's remarks lost effectiveness when paired with simultaneous declarations regarding settlement funding elimination upon power assumption. Bezalel Smotrich reframed Golan's positioning as targeting a population with disproportionate military service and casualty rates.

ASSESSMENT

Institutional disputes require genuine reform rather than branded procedural adjustments. Political communications require professional consultation—Golan's settlement-funding commentary constituted self-directed damage inflicted through attempt to reshape international perception, followed by retreat into "illegal portions" clarification.

Israel and the World

Britain Normalizes Ayatollah Chic While Consulting Extremist Gatekeepers
A London demonstration featured messaging praising Iran's leadership, with signage describing Iranian dissidents as "filthy Zionists" while progressing toward government offices—illustrating "Gaza" rhetoric repurposing into regime apologetics and diaspora intimidation. A Home Office-commissioned "call for evidence" on hate-crime and public-order reform reportedly engaged organizations previously flagged for extremism concerns, including the Muslim Council of Britain, Muslim Association of Britain, and Friends of Al-Aqsa, as consultation participants following the Manchester synagogue incident.

The BBC Arabic service omitted Holocaust Memorial Day acknowledgment for the first time in approximately five years, coinciding with continued Holocaust distortion prevalence in Arabic-language information environments.

ASSESSMENT

Britain treats jihad-support networks as possessing legitimate standing. The London demonstration functions as useful intimidation directed at Iranian dissidents, Jewish populations, and analytical observers. Home Office consultation exemplifies institutional capitulation via procedural capture, asymmetrical enforcement norms, and extremist inclusion masquerading as representational inclusivity.

Hate-Crime Spikes, "Martyrdom" Rallies, And Campus Votes Converge

NYPD reports January hate-crime investigations increased substantially year-over-year, with anti-Jewish incidents exceeding fifty percent of monthly hate-crime case volume. Jewish communal organizations pressed Zohran Mamdani regarding rapid credible antisemitism portfolio development—a challenging expectation given Mamdani's background.

A Philadelphia gathering in Rittenhouse Square promoted "martyrdom" language and Hamas support, featuring reported instructions regarding "tangible" attack methods and implementation approaches. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln student government scheduled a February 4 divestment resolution vote ("Divest for Humanity Act") advanced by Students for Justice in Palestine-aligned organizers, claiming institutional holdings exceed \$9 million in weapons-manufacturer investments and demanding policy exclusion of firms including Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics while rhetorically bundling Israel with unrelated domestic grievances.

ASSESSMENT

New York's quantitative evidence corresponds with Philadelphia's public performance patterns. Jewish populations transition to "permitted other" classification preceding mob escalation from rhetoric to operational specification. Philadelphia rally detail proves damning through instruction-adjacent framing quality.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- Qatar's state development fund provided approximately \$7 million to Jerusalem's St. Joseph's Hospital, with foreign patronage purchasing capital influence through "humanitarian" frameworks that exploit budget gaps.
- The IDF selected Major Ella Waweya, a Muslim Arab officer with substantial social reach, to succeed Colonel Avichay Adraee as Arabic-language spokesperson.

Domestic & Law

- Yair Lapid's office confirmed a single "limited meeting" with Qatari officials on January 12, 2025 regarding Gaza hostages, with hostage family participation and subsequent reporting. Israel's political environment treats Qatar simultaneously as indispensable channel and convenient rhetorical target.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- Iran's security chief transmitted Khamenei correspondence to Putin proposing Iranian enriched uranium transfer to Russia under revised nuclear arrangements, with supplementary discussions reportedly addressing missiles. Tehran attempts outsourcing risk transfer while preserving escalatory capability.
- Mohammed bin Salman's normalization cooling reflects NEOM credibility deterioration and palace honor dynamics rather than Gaza considerations or Arab public pressure. Saudi normalization remains personalistic, unstable, and contingent on internal perception management.

Culture, Religion & Society

- Western crime increases correlate with mass migration and assimilation failure patterns—analysis identifies Japan's cultural homogeneity as exemplar model and Sweden/Germany as cautionary cases. This framing will shape Western discourse regarding Islamist violence, enforcement, and Jewish security considerations.
- Wikipedia pages addressing antisemitism, BDS, and campus organizations experience editorial direction from "extreme" anti-Zionist contributors, according to US lawmakers investigating systematic platform bias.

Developments to Watch

Judea & Samaria - Jerusalem entrance police interdicted a suspicious vehicle, apprehending an illegal entrant from Judea and Samaria with discovered knives and military-style clothing following bomb-squad examination. - Suspected vehicle identifier falsification featured in the Jerusalem interception.

Northern Front (Lebanon/Syria) - Air strikes targeted Hezbollah weapons storage in Kfar Tebnit and Ain Qana following evacuation alerts, with eliminations connected to rehabilitation operations in Harouf and Ansariya. - A Hezbollah weapons facility description emphasized embedding “in the heart of a civilian population,” with advance warnings employed to mitigate casualties. Hezbollah calculates that civilian-area storage forces Israel toward choosing between deterrence and international criticism.

Gaza & Southern Theater - Troops recovered approximately 110 mortar shells, rockets, and additional weapons concealed inside blankets and UNRWA aid bags near the Yellow Line. - Four armed individuals approached troops adjacent to the Yellow Line and were eliminated to neutralize the threat.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias) - Steve Witkoff’s anticipated arrival targets Israel engagement, with reported Friday Istanbul discussions. Early framing emphasizes “nuclear-only” focus excluding missiles. Tehran’s preferred framework achieves diplomatic protection umbrella while preserving missiles, regional arrangements, and proxy networks intact. - A senior Iranian official publicly denied enriched material transfer intentions and insisted talks exclude this consideration.

Diplomatic & Legal - Ukraine informed Israel it will designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization.

Home Front & Politics - Israel Electric Corporation executes emergency drills simulating power infrastructure missile strikes and widespread disruptions. - Eyal Zamir convened senior commanders’ assessment reviewing divisional exercises and large-scale raid or surprise war risk, emphasizing multi-arena coordinated operations. IDF “surprise war” drilling indicates threat environment compression and reduced institutional comfort margins. - The USS Delbert D. Black executed coordinated drills with INS Eilat in the Red Sea following scheduled Eilat port operations, maintaining maritime deterrence signaling.

MONITOR three friction zones: a Gaza “governance” maneuver designed for apparent irreversibility, a northern reconstruction attempt testing Israel’s response rhythm, and an Iran diplomatic channel attempting missile and militia discussion exclusion through framing peripheral status. Ukraine’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps terrorist designation announcement importance derives from procedural rather than rhetorical quality—effectiveness depends on interdiction execution rather than announcement distribution.

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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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