



Forensic intelligence for those who act.

READER EDITION

March 8, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Sunday, March 8

Phase 2 begins in Iran. Phase 1 hasn't ended at home.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE The resolution is factually obvious — Iran's status as a terror sponsor is a matter of settled facts to say nothing of US policy, not a matter of opinion. That 53 Democrats voted against a statement of existing fact tells you the war has reordered domestic political incentives. The moderate no votes are the analytically interesting ones. Krishnamoorthi's legal argument — that affirming Iran sponsors terrorism could trigger AUMF authority — masks a political calculation around a supposedly reasonable procedural concern. He is running in a progressive primary environment where any vote adjacent to supporting the war is fuel for an attack ad. The same logic explains Menendez, Cohen, and Menefee. Unfortunately, politicians no longer (not that they really did in recent history) vote their consciences without first checking the polling data. The progressive no votes require no analysis—that caucus would vote against affirming gravity if Trump or Netanyahu endorsed it. The 372 yes votes are the governing majority. The 53 are the emerging floor for anti-war positioning inside the Democratic caucus — a number that will grow or shrink depending on whether Iran's missile attacks on American soldiers and Gulf allies make the war harder or easier to oppose.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

DISTRIBUTION

Open · Free to share with attribution

IN THIS EDITION

Israel Brief: Sunday, March 8	4
Flash Brief	4
The War Today	4
Iran War Crosses into Phase Two as Oil and Military Industry Become Targets	4
Hezbollah Front Activates; IRGC Commanders Hunted Across Beirut and Tripoli	6
Inside Israel	7
Home Front Absorbs NIS 9 Billion Weekly as 120,000 Israelis Remain Stranded Abroad	7
Israel and the World	8
CPJ Counts Terror Operatives and Propagandists Among “Journalists Killed by Israel”	8
Fifty-Three House Democrats Vote Against Affirming Iran as State Sponsor of Terrorism	8
Briefly Noted	9
Diplomacy & Geopolitics	9
Domestic & Law	10
Economy, Tech & Infrastructure	10
Culture, Religion & Society	10
Developments to Watch	12
Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)	12
Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)	12
Home Front & Politics	12

Israel Brief: Sunday, March 8

Phase 2 begins in Iran. Phase 1 hasn't ended at home.

Flash Brief

- **Phase 2 — Oil and Industry:** IDF strikes 30 Iranian oil storage tanks and Khamenei's underground bunker; Zamir announces campaign's next stage targeting military-industrial supply chain.
- **Russia Feeds Iran Targeting Data:** Washington Post reports Moscow providing Iran with locations of US warships and aircraft — active operational support, not just diplomacy.
- **Isfahan Uranium Access:** US intelligence believes Iran can retrieve enriched uranium through a surviving tunnel passage; Trump refuses to rule out ground forces.
- **Hezbollah Front — 600 Targets:** IRGC Quds Force commanders killed in Beirut hotel strike; Hamas commander eliminated in Tripoli; Akrotiri drone carried Russian hardware.
- **Home Front Bleeds NIS 9B Weekly:** Economy partially reopens; 120,000 Israelis stranded abroad; small businesses hemorrhaging under inadequate compensation.
- **CPJ Launderers Terror Operatives as Journalists:** Breakdown shows 60% of journalists killed by Israel were Hamas affiliates, Houthi propagandists, or IRGC media employees.
- **53 Democrats Vote Against Calling Iran a Terror Sponsor:** Resolution passes 372–53; moderate no votes driven by primary politics and fear of providing Trump legal justification for the war.

The War Today

IRAN WAR CROSSES INTO PHASE TWO AS OIL AND MILITARY INDUSTRY BECOME TARGETS

The IDF struck 30 regime oil storage tanks in Kohak, Shahrn, and Karaj — the first strikes on Iran's national oil infrastructure since Operation Roaring Lion began. Separately, approximately 50 IAF fighter jets dropped roughly 100 bombs on Khamenei's underground military bunker beneath the regime's leadership compound in central Tehran, a facility spanning multiple streets that remained in use by senior officials after Khamenei's death. Israeli intelligence services mapped the complex over years using signals and visual intelligence.

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir announced the campaign is transitioning to the “next stage,” with thousands of new targets in Iran's military-industrial supply chain — engine factories, missile assembly plants, dual-use facilities producing components from explosives to aluminum — now on the strike list. This industrial system functions as a multi-layered “value chain” spanning raw materials, assembly, and operational deployment—even so, knowledge cannot be easily erased and Iran has technological backing from Russia, China, and North Korea.

The IAF has now carried out more than 2,500 strikes and dropped more than 6,000 munitions. More than 300 ballistic missile launchers — roughly 60% of Iran's total stockpile — have been destroyed. 80% of Iran's air defense systems are assessed as neutralized. Iranian ballistic missile launches against Israel have fallen from approximately 90 on Day 1 to roughly 20 per day—of course, they're timing them for maximum disruption.

CENTCOM chief Adm. Brad Cooper reported a 90% reduction in ballistic and 83% reduction in drone attacks, with more than 30 Iranian Navy ships sunk. Iran claims over 500 ballistic and cruise missiles and 2,000 drones launched since the war began (with some 60% aimed at American sites and 40% at Israel—they're math doesn't seem to account for the launches against regional targets).

Cluster-warhead submunitions from Iranian Khorramshahr missiles were filmed falling over central Israel. MDA reports 555 total casualties through the 8 days or so of operations thus far, including 10 fatalities.

US intelligence now believes a “very narrow access point” exists through which Iran could retrieve enriched uranium stored in the Isfahan tunnel complex — material enriched to 20% and 60% U-235 that had been thought buried by US strikes last June. Trump told reporters he would not rule out ground forces to secure the stockpiles. Indeed, discussions are underway between Israel and the US on a special forces operation to secure them.

US military investigators believe it is likely US forces struck the Iranian girls' school that killed scores of children, though the investigation is not complete.

Russia is providing Iran with the locations of US military assets — warships and aircraft — marking a shift from diplomatic condemnation to active operational support. CENTCOM has requested additional military intelligence officers for at least 100 more days.

US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth told Defense Minister Katz: “Keep going until the end — we're with you.”

Defense Minister Katz revealed that Netanyahu convened a tight forum in November and set the goal of eliminating Khamenei, with the timeline originally set for mid-2026 and accelerated as Iranian protests erupted.

Assembly of Experts member Hossein Mozaffari says that the meeting to select the next supreme leader will occur within the next 24 hours. Mojtaba Khamenei — wounded in the opening strike, his father, mother, wife, and son all killed — is the IRGC's preferred candidate but faces obstacles.

The Mossad's Farsi-language X account posted an image asking “Why did Mojtaba Khamenei burn his father's will?” Trump told Axios: “Khamenei's son is unacceptable to me. I have to be involved in the appointment.”

ASSESSMENT

Destroying launchers and air defenses was the precision work; grinding down military industry is an attrition project. The real question isn't how many factories you hit but how long reconstruction takes under sanctions with no Russian bailout available. Russia's intelligence-sharing with Iran reframes Moscow's role... a force multiplier whose contribution (targeting data against US interests) is calibrated to raise American costs without triggering direct confrontation. The Mossad's Farsi post about the burned will is aimed at fracturing IRGC consensus around Mojtaba. Trump publicly demanding a role in choosing Iran's next supreme leader is a statement of intent that no one in the regime will accept — which is well the point.

HEZBOLLAH FRONT ACTIVATES; IRGC COMMANDERS HUNTED ACROSS BEIRUT AND TRIPOLI

Hezbollah entered the war on Monday and the IDF has struck more than 600 targets in Lebanon since — senior commanders, Radwan Force operatives, rocket launchers, command centers, weapon depots, and members of other terror groups.

The IAF conducted a precise strike targeting key commanders in the IRGC's Quds Force Lebanon Corps operating from a Beirut hotel. The IDF describes the Lebanon Corps as the operational link between Hezbollah and Tehran, supporting force-building and connecting senior IRGC personnel with Hezbollah leadership.

The Israeli Navy struck and eliminated Hamas commander Wasim Attallah Ali in Tripoli — the first strike in that area since the war began — who was responsible for training and exercises in Hamas's military wing in Lebanon.

Hezbollah's head of artillery and former commander of the Al-Khiam sector, Zaid Ali Jumaa — who led the January 2015 Mount Dov attack that killed Givati soldiers Major Yohai Klengel ז"ל and Staff Sergeant Dor Haim Nini ז"ל — was eliminated in Beirut.

Eight IDF troops were wounded by Hezbollah fire, including a seriously injured Givati Brigade officer. Two Ghanaian UNIFIL peacekeepers were critically wounded when their base in Qawzah, southern Lebanon, was hit by two missiles; their officers' mess was burnt down completely.

More than 420,000 Lebanese have evacuated from southern Lebanon, partially in response to the IDF's evacuation warnings for multiple Beqaa Valley towns including Nabi Chit, Khader, Douris, Brital, and Majdaloun.

Defense Minister Katz said the IDF has "reinforced troops inside enemy territory and significantly expanded to additional positions." Brigadier General Dafrin confirmed the campaign may continue for a long time.

Several dozen IRGC Quds Force officers have left Beirut over the past 48 hours fearing Israeli targeting, according to two senior Israeli defense officials.

A drone equipped with Russian-made military hardware struck RAF Akrotiri Air Base in Cyprus. Cyprus officially accused Hezbollah, and Britain sent recovered components to a UK laboratory for investigation. Iran's ambassador to Britain warned London to be "very careful" about deeper involvement.

A drone targeting a US base in Hasakah, Syria, was shot down.

Northern municipal leaders pressed Chief of Staff Zamir in a tense meeting for clear war goals and timetables. Zamir said the goal is to remove the threat from Iran and disarm Hezbollah but provided no operational timeline.

ASSESSMENT

The Lebanon front moved from contingency to reality and the IDF's response — large targeted strike packages and hunting IRGC Quds Force commanders inside Beirut's hotels — signals that this campaign treats the Iranian command layer in Lebanon as a priority target, not just Hezbollah's local structure. The Akrotiri drone with Russian hardware is the most consequential single item here: Hezbollah launching at a British military base on NATO-member soil, using Russian-manufactured components, is a provocation that no one can afford to ignore. Northern leaders demanding a timeline from Zamir are asking the right question — the same one that went unanswered after 2006, after the ceasefire, and after every previous round. Zamir's non-answer is operationally prudent and politically insufficient. "The reality will be different" is not a plan. It is, however, what generals say when the plan exists but the political conditions for disclosing it do not.

Inside Israel

Unsurprisingly, not much is changing internally. Politics are stalled between wartime unity and the Haredim still fighting tooth-and-nail to avoid fighting. The only real update is the economics of the moment.

HOME FRONT ABSORBS NIS 9 BILLION WEEKLY AS 120,000 ISRAELIS REMAIN STRANDED ABROAD

The Finance Ministry estimated the war's weekly economic cost at more than NIS 9 billion and pressured the IDF Home Front Command to shift from "essential activity" to "limited activity" guidelines — a change the ministry calculated would save NIS 5 billion per week.

Workplaces with accessible shelters reopened from midday Thursday; gatherings of up to 50 are now permitted where adequate shelter exists. Schools remain closed, with remote learning in effect.

Repatriation flights brought approximately 3,500 Israelis home on Thursday — 20 flights by El Al, Arkia, and Israir from Athens, Rome, Larnaca, Munich, London, Batumi, and Zurich — with landings delayed during Iranian missile alerts. An El Al flight from Tbilisi was forced to abort its approach and circled for some 20 minutes. Another 15,000 returned via the Taba land crossing with Egypt. Some 120,000 Israelis remain stranded abroad.

Outbound flights from Ben Gurion resume Sunday in a restricted format: 50 passengers per flight, no checked luggage, 90-minute early check-in, no escorts in the terminal.

ASSESSMENT

The Finance Ministry's NIS 5 billion calculation for reopening is the clearest number in the entire home front debate — and it's the one driving policy. Schools remaining closed while workplaces open is a familiar compromise. Economically rational, sure. Unfortunately untenable for parents. 120,000 stranded Israelis and the 50-passenger outbound cap tell you how far Ben Gurion is from normal operations.

Israel and the World

CPJ COUNTS TERROR OPERATIVES AND PROPAGANDISTS AMONG “JOURNALISTS KILLED BY ISRAEL”

The Committee to Protect Journalists published its annual report claiming Israel killed 86 journalists and media workers in 2025 — two-thirds of the global total. HonestReporting’s breakdown found that almost 60% were not independent journalists.

Of 52 listed in Gaza, 18 (35%) had direct terrorist affiliations: 11 worked for media outlets run by or aligned with Hamas or Islamic Jihad; 7 — including Hossam Shabat (accused of being a Hamas sniper), Anas Al-Sharif (accused of commanding a rocket unit), and Ahmed Abu Mutair (accused of being a Hamas combatant) — are identified as terror operatives.

The CPJ profiled Shabat and Al-Sharif in its report and dismissed the IDF’s evidence, including captured Hamas documents naming them as combatants, as not “credible” or “unsubstantiated.”

Thirty-one additional individuals worked for the Houthi propaganda department’s 26 September and Yemen newspapers, killed when Israel struck their offices inside the Houthi public relations building.

Two of three Iranians named worked for Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, a regime propaganda outlet.

Of the 52 Gaza cases, CPJ itself designated only 18 (35%) as specifically targeted by Israel; the remaining 65% were classified as killed in the course of the conflict but not individually targeted. The resulting global headlines — from some of our “favorites” like Guardian, Reuters, and even more gallingly Haaretz — framed Israel as responsible for two-thirds of all press deaths worldwide.

ASSESSMENT

The CPJ report is a laundering operation. Terror operatives with documented Hamas affiliations, Houthi propagandists employed by a designated terrorist organization’s PR department, and IRGC state media employees are counted alongside genuine journalists — and the aggregate number is released to wire services that print it without the breakdown. I’ve said it before, but a press pass is not a license to commit terror. The CPJ’s evidentiary standard for dismissing IDF documentation is worth noting: captured internal Hamas documents naming someone as a combatant are “unsubstantiated,” but CPJ’s own classification of that same person as a journalist is apparently self-evident. The 65% that CPJ itself classifies as not individually targeted — killed in the course of conflict, in a combat zone where Hamas embeds among civilians — is buried beneath the headline. The function of the report is not to protect journalists. It is to generate a number that travels faster than the footnotes.

FIFTY-THREE HOUSE DEMOCRATS VOTE AGAINST AFFIRMING IRAN AS STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

Fifty-three House Democrats voted against a resolution “reaffirming Iran remains the largest state sponsor of terrorism,” which passed 372–53 with two members voting present. The no votes included expected “progressives” —

Tlaib, Omar, Ocasio-Cortez, Jayapal, and Castro — but also relative moderates with hawkish records on Iran: Raja Krishnamoorthi (running for higher office in Illinois), Rob Menendez, and Steve Cohen.

Krishnamoorthi said he feared Trump could use language in the resolution — specifically a clause noting Iran harbors senior al-Qaeda leaders and another describing Iran as a “direct and persistent threat” — as legal justification for continuing the war under the 2001 AUMF or Article II self-defense authorities.

Rep. Sara Jacobs said Republicans were “using this to claim that Iran is harboring Al Qaeda (sound familiar?) and is a direct and persistent threat to the U.S. so they can legally justify this reckless war.”

Rep. Robert Garcia called it “a purely political stunt.”

Rep. Adam Smith, the Armed Services ranking member, voted yes but added: “I do not support the president’s war of choice with Iran.”

Several moderate no votes face competitive primaries with challengers from their left. Newly elected Rep. Christian Menefee, facing a primary runoff with Al Green, voted no without prior record on Middle East votes.

ASSESSMENT

The resolution is factually obvious — Iran’s status as a terror sponsor is a matter of settled facts to say nothing of US policy, not a matter of opinion. That 53 Democrats voted against a statement of existing fact tells you the war has reordered domestic political incentives. The moderate no votes are the analytically interesting ones. Krishnamoorthi’s legal argument — that affirming Iran sponsors terrorism could trigger AUMF authority — masks a political calculation around a supposedly reasonable procedural concern. He is running in a progressive primary environment where any vote adjacent to supporting the war is fuel for an attack ad. The same logic explains Menendez, Cohen, and Menefee. Unfortunately, politicians no longer (not that they really did in recent history) vote their consciences without first checking the polling data. The progressive no votes require no analysis—that caucus would vote against affirming gravity if Trump or Netanyahu endorsed it. The 372 yes votes are the governing majority. The 53 are the emerging floor for anti-war positioning inside the Democratic caucus — a number that will grow or shrink depending on whether Iran’s missile attacks on American soldiers and Gulf allies make the war harder or easier to oppose.

Briefly Noted

DIPLOMACY & GEOPOLITICS

- **NATO air defenses shot down an Iranian ballistic missile** heading for Turkish airspace — likely targeting Incirlik Air Base — prompting Ankara to summon Tehran’s ambassador and warn that “all necessary steps” would follow. Iran and Turkey moved to de-escalate, with both sides offering contradictory explanations of the target. Former Cheney adviser David Wurmser warned Israeli and American officials that Sunni intervention by Turkey, Pakistan, or Qatar would “transform the texture of this war” and risk driving Iranians into rally-around-the-flag defensiveness rather than regime rejection.

- **Indonesian President Prabowo** told domestic Islamic leaders he will withdraw from Trump's Board of Peace if it fails to benefit Palestinians — a reassurance aimed at critics of Indonesia's decision to contribute 8,000 troops to the Gaza stabilization force. Indonesia's largest Muslim organization, Nahdlatul Ulama, called for all Board activities to be suspended until the Iran war ends.
- **Turkey's intelligence service asked Britain's MI6** to take a larger role in protecting Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa following multiple Islamic State assassination plots. A Western intelligence source said Turkey wanted a British presence in Damascus partly as a buffer between Turkish and Israeli intelligence operations, which are currently at odds.
- **Paraguay filed an ICJ brief in support of Israel** in South Africa's genocide case, arguing the court must not expand the definition of genocide beyond its original post-Holocaust formulation and that "any attempt to equate operational or security motives with genocidal intent constitutes a mischaracterization." All 15 prior state interventions had filed against Israel.

DOMESTIC & LAW

- **Trump fired DHS Secretary Kristi Noem** — after an alleged affair, a \$200 million self-promotional ad campaign she falsely attributed to the president, and months of delayed Nonprofit Security Grant Program funding — and nominated Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), effective March 31. Under Noem, NSGP grants were delayed by months, with new conditions tying funding to DEI elimination and immigration enforcement cooperation, and the Coast Guard twice tried to downgrade swastika displays from "banned hate symbols" to "potentially divisive."
- **Shas and Degel HaTorah urged the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee** legal adviser to finalize the conscription exemption bill during the war so it can advance to a vote the moment the Knesset resumes normal operations. Key disputes remain over fingerprint readers in yeshivas — which Frenkel Shor insists on and Haredi leaders call humiliating — and Shas chairman Deri's call to advance the bill over her objections, a move observers say would doom it in judicial review.

ECONOMY, TECH & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **The war-driven energy price spike** — up to 68% for gas and oil following Iran's Strait of Hormuz disruptions — exposes Israel's structural dependence on centralized natural gas and calls for a five-year emergency plan to move hospitals, military bases, and desalination plants to independent microgrids. The Leviathan rig as a single point of failure during a multi-front conflict is the unstated strategic premise.

CULTURE, RELIGION & SOCIETY

- **Gunmen shot at two Toronto synagogues** — Shaarei Shomayim and BAYT — overnight Friday, the third such shooting in a week after Temple Emanuel was hit March 2. Israel's deputy foreign minister Sharren Haskel — Toronto-born — called the attacks "antisemitic terrorism" and said "there is only one place in the world where Jews can truly guarantee their safety."

- **Starmer pledged security for Jewish and Muslim places of worship**, Communities Secretary Steve Reed met with the CST, and UK jets shot down drones heading for British bases — all while defending his refusal to allow American aircraft the use of British bases for the initial strikes on Iran. He has not spoken to Netanyahu since the war began [and is simultaneously creating an “anti-Muslim intimidation” czar].
- **Chicago Jewish leaders demanded Mayor Brandon Johnson** create a city task force on Jew-hate after anti-Jewish hate crimes rose 58% — even as overall city hate crimes declined — with Jews (3% of the population) accounting for more than a third of all reported hate crimes. The ADL’s Midwest director said Johnson “has made himself perfectly clear: He does not care about the safety of the Jewish community.”
- **Touro University and the National Jewish Advocacy Center** launched a teaching fellowship to help professors design undergraduate courses on Jew-hate and Jewish topics, with the first cohort attending a four-day retreat in June. NJAC director Mark Goldfeder: “If every campus suddenly had professors willing to do this, we wouldn’t need Qatar-level money.”
- **The Institute of Southern Jewish Life** — which serves 70 congregations across 13 Southern states from its base at Beth Israel in Jackson, Mississippi — is rebuilding operations after a December arson attack gutted the synagogue’s library and disrupted ISJL’s physical headquarters. The traveling rabbi network, education programs, and community infrastructure remain intact, and the institute is now expanding Jew-hate education to younger grades.
- **Roughly 100 people attended a candlelit vigil for Khamenei** in Manchester — organized by the Friends of the Islamic Centre and promoted by Manchester University’s Ahlul-Bayt Islamic Society — carrying a banner reading “You can kill a man, but you can’t kill an ideology.” Across the street, 300–400 counter-protesters — Iranians and local Jews — danced to Persian music, waved pre-1979 Lion and Sun flags alongside Israeli and British flags, and chanted “King Reza Pahlavi.”
- **Israeli shopping centers, Cinema City complexes, and Tel Aviv yoga studios** filled on Friday as the Home Front Command’s relaxed guidelines took effect and Iranians missile salvos slowed — with shoppers calmly walking to shelters during sirens and resuming their Shabbat errands afterward. Bakeries in Lod reported near-normal Friday traffic. A 14-year-old eating ice cream in a Jerusalem mall summed up the national posture: “We have the IDF and Iron Dome. We will win.”
- **Israel released “Michelle”** — its 2026 Eurovision entry, sung by Noam Botan in Hebrew, French, and English — during a broadcast on Kan that was interrupted several times by Iranian missile warnings and sirens. Co-written by 2025 Eurovision representative and Nova massacre survivor Yuval Raphael, the song heads to Vienna in May—though the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland, Spain, and Slovenia pulled out of this year’s contest in protest of Israel.

Developments to Watch

REGIONAL AXIS (IRAN, HOUTHIS, MILITIAS)

- **Assembly of Experts** — Member Hossein Mozaffari said the vote to select Iran's next supreme leader will occur within 24 hours. Trump publicly rejected Mojtaba Khamenei and demanded a role in the appointment. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Kurdish Front Activation** — CIA- and Mossad-backed Iranian Kurdish factions are preparing a possible ground offensive in northwestern Iran; Trump spoke with Iraqi Kurdish leaders Barzani and Talabani, who both expressed reservations. A US official warned the factions “don't have enough military power and they could end up as cannon fodder” — and Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government publicly denied any involvement. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Houthi Reserve** — Israeli intelligence officials are worried the Houthis may be planning a ground operation, possibly with Iraqi Shia militias, and are using their current restraint to lull Israel. Combat divisions have been mobilized along Israel's borders; Military Intelligence treats early warning of a Houthi move as a primary mission.
- **Strait of Hormuz — \$100 Oil on the Horizon** — Traders warned that \$100 oil is imminent if the war continues; Hapag-Lloyd's suspension of Hormuz transit remains in effect. Iran's Bandar Abbas port is functionally shut — the regime's Hormuz disruption is damaging its own supply chain as much as anyone else's. The US launched a \$20 billion Hormuz reinsurance facility to stabilize tanker traffic.
- **Iran Cluster Warheads Over Central Israel** — Footage confirmed Iranian ballistic missiles carrying cluster bomb warheads — roughly 20 submunitions per warhead, each carrying explosives across an 8km radius — falling over central Israel. This munition type complicates Iron Dome interception geometry and multiplies the casualty footprint of each missile that penetrates.

NORTHERN FRONT (LEBANON / SYRIA)

- **Lebanon Government Bans IRGC Activity** — Beirut's Cabinet ordered all IRGC activity in Lebanon halted, committed to full Hezbollah disarmament, and announced IRGC operatives would be detained. Iranian nationals will no longer receive visa-free entry. Whether this is enforceable or performative will be measured in arrests, not press releases.
- **Hezbollah Drone Reaches Cyprus — NATO Implications** — Drones launched from Lebanon struck RAF Akrotiri carrying Russian-made military hardware; Cyprus officially accused Hezbollah. Britain sent recovered components to a UK lab. If Hezbollah is targeting NATO military infrastructure with Russian-supplied equipment, the alliance's Article 5 threshold moves from theoretical to conversational.

HOME FRONT & POLITICS

- **Ben Gurion Outbound Flights Resume Sunday** — Departures restart in a severely restricted format: 50 passengers per flight, no checked luggage,

no terminal escorts. Some 28,000 tourists remain stranded and 120,000 Israelis are abroad. The bottleneck is landing slots — outbound capacity is linked to the number of inbound repatriation flights.

- **Smuggling Indictment — Still Imminent** — The Gaza smuggling indictment covering hundreds of millions of shekels and reportedly reaching into the US-run reconstruction headquarters at Kiryat Gat has not yet dropped. When it lands, it hits the aid apparatus, criminal networks, and American-managed infrastructure simultaneously.

The Assembly of Experts convenes this week to manufacture a supreme leader before the rubble settles. Trump, meanwhile, has told them their choice is unacceptable before they've made it. Iran's missiles are down 90%. Its oil infrastructure is burning. Its navy is at the bottom of the Gulf. And somewhere in Isfahan, a narrow tunnel passage leads to enough enriched uranium for eleven bombs — which is the reason this war started and the reason it cannot end with an air campaign alone.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Uriel Zehavi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR · MITZPE INSTITUTE

Uriel Zehavi is the executive director of Mitzpe Institute, where he writes the daily Israel Brief and co-directs its Institutional Intelligence practice with Modi Zehavi. He is the author of four books from Mitzpe Press and advises Israeli and allied clients on strategic communications for Western audiences.



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.

PASSED ALONG TO YOU?

The daily Israel Brief is free at mitzpe.org. The operational layer — Closed Dossiers, Vantage, and Watchwords — is members-only. Become a member, gift a membership, or book a briefing at mitzpe.org.

Reader Edition · Free to share with attribution to Mitzpe Institute.