



Forensic intelligence for those who act.

READER EDITION

March 9, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Monday, March 9

Oil burns in Iran and Tehran grapples with succession.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE Toronto's three shootings in a week — at three different synagogues, in three different neighborhoods — is a campaign. Someone is driving through Jewish Toronto firing at shuls, and the operational pattern suggests either a single actor or a coordinated cell that has mapped Jewish institutions and acts with impunity under cover of darkness. The 670% increase in Canadian antisemitic incidents is the new baseline. The Liège explosion — a synagogue built in 1899, one of Belgium's oldest — may or may not be an attack; the investigation will determine that. The timing, a week into the Iran war, does not require commentary. The CAM data confirms what every Jewish community leader already knows: every conflict involving Israel produces a permission structure, and the permission structure produces violence. The 150 campus protests are the institutional layer — the same Answer Coalition / SJP / PSL infrastructure that activated after October 7, now repurposed for the Iran war, now spreading to campuses that were quiet during the 2024 encampment cycle. Penzel's Luton detention is the granular version: one man, one shirt reading "End Jew Hatred," one book about October 7 testimony — and a security apparatus that treated him as a threat. The airport apologized. The security guard's comments — that October 7 was payback and Israel has been an "illegal occupation since 1948" — remain the actual data point. Penzel's book belongs on every shelf. Kosha Dillz took a Khamenei poster down and got beaten by a crowd mourning a dictator who hanged gay men and murdered his own citizens by the tens of thousands. He needed 10 stitches. His attackers were not charged. The permission structure is not abstract. It is a fist.

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THE second week of Operation Roaring Lion opened with black rain over Tehran and cluster warheads over central Israel. The IAF continues targeting senior roles— it killed the supreme leader’s military chief within 50 minutes of receiving the intelligence. Mojtaba Khamenei was officially installed as Iran’s new supreme leader, completing the hereditary succession of a regime founded to prevent exactly that. The Gulf is still absorbing Iranian fire, the northern front is accelerating, and the IRGC has promised to double heavy missile deployments starting tonight.

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Flash Brief

- **Babaeian Killed:** Supreme Leader's newly appointed military chief eliminated within 50 minutes of real-time intelligence. *See The War Today.*
- **600 Targets in Lebanon:** IDF strikes 600+ Hezbollah targets in one week; five Quds Force commanders killed in Beirut hotel strike. *See The War Today.*
- **IRGC Doubles Down:** Iran announces 100% increase in heavy missile deployment and expanded target bank including non-military US and Israeli assets. *See The War Today.*
- **Liège Synagogue Bombed:** Explosion shatters windows of Belgium's 1899 synagogue; cause under investigation. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Mojtaba Installed:** Assembly of Experts names Khamenei's son as successor; Trump calls appointment "unacceptable." *See The War Today.*
- **UAE Furious Over Leaks:** Abu Dhabi denies striking Iran and rebukes Israeli officials for attributing the attack publicly. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Sde Teiman Probe Moves:** State Attorney Aisman recommended to receive full leak investigation file — AG locked out. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Three Synagogues Shot in Toronto:** Third shooting in a week; global Jew-hate up 34% since war began. *See Israel and the World.*

Below: the Assessment on why the IAF's 50-minute kill chain is now faster than Iran's succession process, what Hezbollah's order to confront the Lebanese army reveals about its confidence, and US-Israeli ground operations that changes what "everything is on the table" actually means.

Nine days of war and the regime has elevated its founder's son to a hereditary throne, lost its oil infrastructure to Israeli jets, and drove its Gulf neighbors to a fury that no apology from Pezeshkian can walk back. The IRGC's promise to double heavy missile use is the threat of an organization spending its last reserves to prove it still exists. The IAF is operating inside Iranian airspace with the tempo of an air force that has already won the air defense war and is now choosing which categories of pressure to apply. The question for this week is no longer whether Iran can sustain the fight — it is whether anyone in Tehran has the authority to stop it.

The War Today

IAF STRIKES IRAN'S OIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ELIMINATES SUPREME LEADER'S NEW MILITARY CHIEF

Saturday night's oil strikes — 30 fuel storage facilities, the first time Roaring Lion has targeted national petroleum infrastructure — left black rain falling on Tehran Sunday morning, with oil from the burning sites saturating the rainwater across a capital of 10 million. Residents told BBC Persian it was the worst night since the war began. Separately, the IAF added over 400 targets to the campaign's total in the preceding 24 hours, including Iranian F-14 fighter jets at Isfahan airport and detection and air defense systems protecting them

— following the destruction of 16 Quds Force aircraft at Mehrabad airport in Tehran earlier in the week. The IAF also struck the IRGC Air Force Headquarters in Tehran, described as the main command-and-control center directing ballistic missile command, the UAV array, and air force operations — the site responsible for producing the operational situational picture and planning missile attacks against Israel and regional targets. Defense Minister Israel Katz confirmed the elimination of Abolghasem Babaeian, the newly appointed head of the military bureau of Iran's supreme leader and chief of staff of the Khatam al-Anbiya emergency command headquarters. The IDF said the strike was executed within approximately 50 minutes of receiving real-time intelligence — fighter jets launched for Iran while the intelligence was still being consolidated. Babaeian had been appointed days earlier after his predecessor, Mohammad Shirazi, was killed alongside Khamenei in the opening strikes. The Min Zada nuclear weapons development site northeast of Tehran — struck on March 3 and revealed by IDF Spokesperson Brig.-Gen. Effie Defrin — was a critical component of Iran's effort to reconstitute its nuclear weapons program after the June 2025 strikes.

ASSESSMENT

Petroleum infrastructure is both national wealth and, to an extent, military hardware — and hitting it tells Tehran and the watching world that the IAF's target bank now includes the economic base that funds the IRGC's survival. Black rain over a capital of 10 million people is an image that will drive ceasefire pressure faster than any UN vote. That's the cost. The benefit is that every fuel depot burning is one that cannot supply military logistics. The regime's ability to sustain operations depends on the same infrastructure Israel just set on fire. Babaeian's elimination — 50 minutes from raw intelligence to munitions on target — demonstrates that the IDF's kill chain is now faster than Iran's succession process. The regime appointed a replacement for Shirazi. That replacement? Already gone. The next appointee will know what happened to his two predecessors, and the operational inference is obvious: anyone who accepts a senior military role in the Islamic Republic is signing their own death warrant.

HEZBOLLAH THREATENS TO FIGHT THE LEBANESE ARMY AS IDF HUNTS QUDS FORCE ACROSS LEBANON

Northern Command's week-one summary — 600+ targets, 820 munitions, 190+ terrorists eliminated including Islamic Jihad's Lebanon commander Abu Hamza Rami — now establishes the operational baseline. The Beirut hotel strike reported yesterday has now been detailed by the IDF: the Israeli Navy killed five senior Quds Force commanders from the Lebanon Corps and Palestine Corps — Majid Hassini (responsible for transferring funds to Iranian proxies in Lebanon, financing Hezbollah, Hamas, and other terror organizations), Ali Reza Bi-Azar (head of the Quds Force Lebanon Corps intelligence branch), Ahmad Rasouli (intelligence officer for the Palestine Corps collecting intelligence for Palestinian terror groups), Hossein Ahmadi (intelligence operative gathering intelligence on Israel), and Abu Mohammad Ali (Hezbollah's representative in the Palestine Corps). The strike followed last week's elimination of Daoud Ali Zadeh, commander of the Quds Force's Lebanon Corps. A separate strike in the Beqaa eliminated Hezbollah operative Mustafa Ahmad al-Zein, who had lived in Iran managing activities supporting terrorist

operations against Israel. Unfortunately, we sustained our own losses. Two IDF soldiers were killed early Sunday in an attack near an army post in southern Lebanon opposite the Israeli border community of Manara — a Puma APC became stuck during operations, and during the recovery effort a D9 armored bulldozer was struck by a projectile, possibly an anti-tank missile or mortar, causing a fire. Master Sergeant Maher Khatar ז"ל, 38, from Majdal Shams, a Combat Engineering Corps soldier in the 91st "Galilee" Regional Division, was cleared for publication; the name of the second soldier will be released later. A source familiar with Hezbollah's internal directives says that the organization has instructed its members to confront the Lebanese army if it attempts to dismantle positions or prevent rocket fire — a direct response to Lebanon's government banning IRGC activity, designating the IRGC as illegal, and requiring visas for Iranian nationals. Despite Beirut's steps against Iran, real and effective action against Hezbollah itself still doesn't appear to be on the horizon.

ASSESSMENT

The Quds Force hotel strike is a decapitation within a decapitation. The Lebanon Corps and Palestine Corps are the operational connective architecture between Tehran and its proxies — the people who move the money, the intelligence, and the coordination that make Hezbollah more than a militia. Five commanders killed in one Navy strike, a week after their corps commander was killed in a separate operation. The IRGC's ability to manage Hezbollah from Tehran is being dismantled at pace. An organization confident in its political position does not threaten the host state's military; an organization that fears enforcement does. Whether the Lebanese Armed Forces will test Hezbollah's threat is a different question, and the answer depends on whether anyone in Beirut believes Hezbollah, having just lost its entire Iranian command liaison, can afford a two-front confrontation.

MOJTABA INSTALLED, IRGC DOUBLES MISSILE TEMPO, AND IRAN'S NEIGHBORS COUNT THEIR DEAD

Across the Gulf, Iran struck Kuwait — where a drone ignited a fire at the Public Institution for Social Security building in Kuwait City, two military officers were killed, and an 11-year-old girl was among the dead. Iran hit a desalination plant in Bahrain and struck a residential area in Saudi Arabia's Al-Kharj, killing two foreign workers (from India and Bangladesh) and injuring 12. At least 14 people have died across the Persian Gulf from Iranian attacks, including 10 civilians. Iran's armed forces signaled expanded operations Sunday night: a source told Fars News Agency the IRGC would increase heavy and strategic missile use by 100%, and an official stated Iran's target bank had been "fundamentally updated" to include US and Israeli assets throughout the region — no longer limited to military targets (as if that were true at any point). The Iranian General Staff warned that if strikes on Iranian infrastructure continue, "similar measures will be taken," and added: "If the enemy can withstand an oil price exceeding \$200 per barrel, let them continue with this game." Hours earlier, President Pezeshkian had apologized to neighboring Gulf states and said Iran's forces were instructed not to attack them unless strikes on Iran originated from their territory. IRGC hardliners objected, telling Reuters the apology made Iran appear weak during an active

conflict. Mojtaba Khamenei was officially announced as the new Supreme Leader, succeeding his father — though Trump says the appointment is “unacceptable” and that Iran’s next leader would need US approval to remain in power.

ASSESSMENT

The regime spending its last strategic reserves to prove it can still escalate — while its president apologizes to the neighbors his military is killing. The Gulf casualty picture — an 11-year-old girl in Kuwait, Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia, a desalination plant in Bahrain — is the collateral damage of a regime that claims its quarrel is with Israel and America, not its neighbors, while killing its neighbors’ children and laborers. Pezeshkian’s apology and the IRGC’s immediate rejection tell you everything about the power distribution inside what remains of the Iranian government.

Inside Israel

SDE TEIMAN LEAK PROBE LANDS ON THE STATE ATTORNEY’S DESK

The Justice Ministry’s legal advisor formally recommended to the High Court that State Attorney Amit Aisman is the “appropriate senior figure” to receive the full Sde Teiman leak investigation file and decide on potential indictments — attempting to resolve a months-long jurisdictional deadlock that has kept the probe frozen between police and the prosecution. The recommendation locks Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara and her staff out of the case, citing the fact that several of the AG’s subordinates have already provided testimony and may be called as witnesses. Kotik submitted sealed reasoning to the Justices, arguing that public disclosure of specific testimonies could influence the investigation’s final stage. Aisman would operate under a strict firewall separating his team from the AG’s office. Justice Daphna Barak-Erez, who had ordered Kotik to identify a suitable official by March 1, must now decide whether to ratify the arrangement. If accepted, Israel Police will hand over the full, unredacted file and the State Attorney becomes the sole arbiter of whether criminal charges are filed — against a suspect list that includes former military advocate-general Maj.-Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi. Justice Minister Yariv Levin had pushed for an entirely external figure; Kotik’s recommendation represents a middle path — within the professional civil service, but routed around the AG’s specific office.

ASSESSMENT

Whoever controls the file controls the outcome. The AG’s office wanted it. The coalition wanted anyone but the AG. Kotik threaded the needle: Aisman is inside the system [so the left can’t scream political interference] and outside Baharav-Miara’s chain of command [so the coalition can’t scream cover-up]. The sealed reasoning is the interesting detail — Kotik is telling the Court that what’s in the testimonies is sensitive enough that publishing them would compromise the investigation. That implies the investigation has substance, which elevates the indictment question. Whether Aisman follows through or buries it depends on whether “firewall from the AG” means actual independence or cosmetic separation. We’ll find out.

Israel and the World

UAE FURIOUS OVER ISRAELI LEAKS ABOUT GULF STRIKES ON IRAN

The United Arab Emirates denied striking an Iranian desalination facility and launched an unusually sharp public rebuke of Israeli conduct after sources close to Israel were reported to have attributed the strike to Abu Dhabi. An Emirati official told the *Jerusalem Post*: “It is not appropriate for what is described as a ‘senior Israeli source’ to speak on our behalf or spread rumors about the actions of another sovereign state.” The UAE Foreign Ministry reaffirmed the country was acting solely in self-defense against “brutal and unjustified Iranian aggression” and emphasized it “does not seek to be drawn into any conflict or escalation.” Ali Al Nuaimi, chairman of the UAE National Defense Committee, drew a pointed distinction between the Iranian regime and the Iranian people, calling the latter “the real victims.” Former Israeli ambassador to the UAE Amir Hayek called the leak story “unnecessary, dangerous, and brazen.” The UAE defense ministry reported four dead from Iranian attacks, interception of 16 of 17 ballistic missiles, and 113 of 117 detected UAVs shot down — with four reaching Emirati territory.

ASSESSMENT

The UAE is doing what it has to do — deny, deny, deny — because the alternative is an Iranian escalation against a Gulf state that has both Abraham Accords normalization with Israel and critical US military infrastructure. Whether Abu Dhabi actually struck the facility is less important than what the leak accomplished: it closed options. The moment Abu Dhabi’s name was attached to an offensive strike inside Iran, the Emiratis had to deny it regardless of the truth — and their willingness to conduct any future offensive operations just dropped. Israel has limited partners willing to act against Iran. Officials burning them for headlines is a strategic own-goal.

EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS OPEN LEGAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE WAR

Swiss Defense Minister Martin Pfister says that the Swiss Federal Council considers the US-Israeli strikes on Iran a “violation of international law,” specifically the prohibition on the use of force — a position he extended to “all countries not complying,” including the United States and Israel. German Vice Chancellor Lars Klingbeil echoed the position, telling RND he had “serious doubts that this war is legitimate under international law” and stated flatly: “This is not our war. We will not participate in this war.” Spain also denounced the strikes as reckless and illegal. In London, a cross-party letter signed by Lords Mendelsohn and Polak and backed by dozens of MPs and peers urged Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood to ban the March 15 Al Quds Day march, organized by the Islamic Human Rights Commission — which is under Charity Commission investigation over funding concerns. The letter described the annual demonstration as “part of an international campaign established in 1979 by Ruhollah Khomeini to advance the ideological aims of the Iranian regime” and cited recurring arrests for racial hatred, displays of support for proscribed terrorist organizations, and antisemitic rhetoric. Former Home Secretary Suella Braverman noted every Reform UK MP had

signed immediately. A promotional video for this year's march showed IHRC-branded signs declaring the late Khamenei was on "the right side of history."

ASSESSMENT

Switzerland, Germany, and Spain have each declared the war illegal — and not one of them has offered to dismantle Iran's nuclear weapons program by other means. The legal framework they invoke — the UN Charter's prohibition on the use of force — was designed for a world in which the Security Council functioned and rogue states did not build nuclear arsenals while funding proxy armies across several continents. The framework failed. The institution has failed—to say nothing of having been entirely infiltrated. The countries citing it know it failed. The declarations are not legal analysis; they are posturing — for domestic audiences, for EU consensus, and for the post-war settlement where European capitals will demand a seat at the table they refused to defend. German bases host American forces. German intelligence cooperates with Israeli services. German exports fuel the Gulf economies under Iranian missile fire. It is, in fact, also Germany's war — Klingbeil just doesn't want to say so before an election. The Al Quds march demand is the domestic corollary: Iranian state ideology, promoted by an organization under investigation, marching through London two weeks after Iran struck a British base in Cyprus. If the Home Secretary lets it proceed, the message is that Iranian regime propaganda enjoys the protection of British law even when the regime is actively attacking British military personnel.

JEW-HATE ESCALATES FROM TORONTO TO LIÈGE AS 150 PRO-REGIME PROTESTS SPREAD

Three Toronto-area synagogues have been shot at within a single week. Gunfire struck Shaarei Shomayim in North York and The Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto (BAYT) in Vaughan late Friday — suspects in a dark sedan opened fire on BAYT while two people were inside. No injuries were reported in either incident. The shootings followed a March 2 attack on Temple Emanuel in North York, where bullet holes were found in front windows after a Purim celebration. PM Mark Carney called the attacks "an assault on the rights of Jewish Canadians to live and pray in safety." CIJA CEO Noah Shack said the country is "at a crossroads" and noted a 670% increase in Canadian antisemitic incidents. In Belgium, a powerful explosion damaged the facade and shattered windows of the Synagogue de Liège — established in 1899 — early Monday morning. Authorities have not yet determined the cause, but the area has been cordoned off for investigation. Globally, the Combat Antisemitism Movement recorded 154 antisemitic incidents in the first week of the Iran conflict — a 34% spike, with nearly half directly linked to the war, including incitement, conspiracy theories blaming Jews, and public glorification of the Iranian regime. The Israel on Campus Coalition identified more than 150 pro-regime protests across the United States since the strikes began — exceeding pre-war projections — at campuses including Columbia, Stanford, NYU, and Penn State, with organizing infrastructure that has "expanded well beyond elite universities." In New York, Israeli-American rapper Kosha Dillz (Rami Even-Esh) was beaten and arrested after he grabbed a poster of Khamenei from a Washington Square Park vigil, sustaining injuries that required 10 stitches. He was charged with disrupting a public gathering while his attackers walked away. He told the *Post*: "I didn't think I'd be

jumped on by tons of people because of a photo of a man who murdered nearly 30,000 Iranian citizens.” In Britain, Luton Airport formally apologized and overhauled staff training after my friend, Israeli author and journalist Alon Penzel — who was returning to Tel Aviv after promoting his book on October 7 survivor and first-responder testimonies — was detained for 90 minutes, accused of protesting, and told by a security officer that his sign was “offensive” and that Israel was “an illegal occupation since 1948.” Penzel had been wearing an “End Jew Hatred” shirt and carrying promotional material for his book *Testimonies Without Boundaries: Israel: October 7th 2023*, which compiles ZAKA volunteer, forensic institute, and Nova survivor testimony from the massacre. UK Lawyers for Israel and 3D Solicitors took up the case, alleging false imprisonment and discriminatory treatment; Luton Airport issued an “unreserved apology” and pledged “enhanced training” to ensure Jewish and Israeli passengers are welcome.

ASSESSMENT

Toronto’s three shootings in a week — at three different synagogues, in three different neighborhoods — is a campaign. Someone is driving through Jewish Toronto firing at shuls, and the operational pattern suggests either a single actor or a coordinated cell that has mapped Jewish institutions and acts with impunity under cover of darkness. The 670% increase in Canadian antisemitic incidents is the new baseline. The Liège explosion — a synagogue built in 1899, one of Belgium’s oldest — may or may not be an attack; the investigation will determine that. The timing, a week into the Iran war, does not require commentary. The CAM data confirms what every Jewish community leader already knows: every conflict involving Israel produces a permission structure, and the permission structure produces violence. The 150 campus protests are the institutional layer — the same Answer Coalition / SJP / PSL infrastructure that activated after October 7, now repurposed for the Iran war, now spreading to campuses that were quiet during the 2024 encampment cycle. Penzel’s Luton detention is the granular version: one man, one shirt reading “End Jew Hatred,” one book about October 7 testimony — and a security apparatus that treated him as a threat. The airport apologized. The security guard’s comments — that October 7 was payback and Israel has been an “illegal occupation since 1948” — remain the actual data point. Penzel’s book belongs on every shelf. Kosha Dillz took a Khamenei poster down and got beaten by a crowd mourning a dictator who hanged gay men and murdered his own citizens by the tens of thousands. He needed 10 stitches. His attackers were not charged. The permission structure is not abstract. It is a fist.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- JNS: IDF troops struck two Hamas terrorists planning an imminent sniper attack on Israeli forces in northern Gaza — one of several attacks attempted since the October ceasefire went into effect. Hamas simultaneously called on “the Arab and Islamic nation to unite” against Israel, framing Operation Roaring Lion as a plot to establish “Greater Israel” — the talking points are recycled; the sniper cell was not.

- *Ynet*: Israel's National Security Council expanded travel warnings to Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, citing heightened Iranian efforts to target Israelis and Jews abroad, and advised Israelis overseas to conceal visible Jewish or Israeli symbols and avoid Chabad centers and synagogues. Several attempted attacks against Israelis abroad were reportedly thwarted in recent days — the threat is operational, not advisory.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Iran-linked hackers have launched a wave of data-wiping cyberattacks against Israeli organizations across multiple sectors, penetrating networks using stolen credentials and remote-access vulnerabilities. National Cyber Directorate head Yossi Karadi said no essential home front infrastructure has been hit — but the directorate is fielding a growing number of reports, and the attack vector (old leaked passwords, unpatched remote access) suggests the damage is a function of Israeli organizational hygiene as much as Iranian capability.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *Israel National News*: An exposé compiled from leaked diplomatic cables and internal emails details the Iran Experts Initiative as a Tehran-directed influence network embedded in Western foreign ministries, with operatives including Trita Parsi's NIAC and figures like Ariane Tabatabai — who held a US security clearance while checking in with Iranian officials before international conferences. US senators have demanded DOJ and FBI investigations under FARA; the operational question is whether the current administration follows through now that the regime those operatives served is burning.

Domestic & Law

- *Israel National News*: Hesder yeshiva students in Battalion 603 protested serving alongside a female paramedic assigned to their engineering vehicles, were warned of possible disciplinary action, and ultimately got their way — commanders declined to pursue charges and will not require the mixed assignment. The organization Hotem used the incident to argue that debates over Haredi conscription “cannot be separated” from gender integration — a neat trick that yokes two distinct policy fights into one coalition lever.
- *Globes*: Finance Minister Smotrich announced that one parent per family with children under 14 will be eligible for unpaid leave as long as schools remain closed, with a broader compensation plan for businesses and affected employees expected in coming days. The Home Front Command's decision to reopen workplaces while keeping schools shuttered created the gap; Smotrich is plugging it before it becomes a political problem.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *Times of Israel*: Iran's women's soccer team refused to sing the national anthem before an Asian Cup match in Australia — a gesture that got them branded “wartime traitors” on Iranian state television — and Reza Pahlavi, J.K. Rowling, and Australian politicians are now calling on Canberra to

offer them asylum. Crowds surrounded the team bus chanting “Save our girls”; Australia has declined to comment on individual cases, which is diplomatic code for “we’d rather not.”

Developments to Watch

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **US-Israel Ground Operations Under Discussion** — Axios reported the US and Israel have discussed sending special forces into Iran to secure enriched uranium stockpiles, with Delta Force prepared for WMD missions; a separate plan targets Kharg Island, which handles 90% of Iran’s crude exports. Trump: “Everything is on the table.” **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Russia Feeding Iran Intelligence on US Positions** — Russia is providing Iran with real-time locations of American warships, aircraft, and radar systems across the Middle East; China is not providing similar assistance.
- **IRGC Orders Shoot-to-Kill Against Protesters on Live Television** — IRGC commander Salar Abnough issued the order on IRIB, telling Iranians that anyone “who voices a tune that aligns with the enemy” is a legitimate target. Basij and IRGC forces deployed armored vehicles at key Tehran intersections; US-Israeli strikes subsequently hit cover sites including Azadi Stadium and Besats Sports Complex. The regime fears its own streets more than it fears the IAF.
- **Hormuz — Navy Escorts Now Active** — The White House committed US Navy vessels to escort oil tankers through the Strait; Iran’s General Staff responded with a price threat: “If the enemy can withstand \$200 per barrel, let them continue.” The regime’s Bandar Abbas port is functionally shut — Hormuz disruption is now costing Tehran as much as anyone.

Home Front & Politics

- **Ben Gurion Outbound Flights Resume — Barely** — Departures restarted Sunday: 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 tied to inbound repatriation flights.
- **First Week: \$6 Billion and Counting** — Pentagon officials told Congress the first week of the war cost approximately \$6 billion; a Trump administration official told CNN strikes will continue for “the next 3 weeks.” The timeline and the price tag together tell you the scale Washington has committed to — and the budget line that congressional opponents will target first.

The hereditary supreme leader of an anti-monarchical revolution took office under bombardment, in a country where it rained oil yesterday morning and an IRGC commander told citizens on live television that anyone who speaks up will be shot. The 11-year-old girl killed by an Iranian drone in Kuwait was not Israeli, not American, not a combatant — she was a child in a

country Iran's president had just apologized to, hours before his own military said the apology didn't count. Our friend Alon Penzel — the Israeli author whose testimony book from October 7 just forced Luton Airport to overhaul its staff training after they detained him for carrying it — is right now outside Haifa, running on almost no sleep between Iranian missile barrages and calls with journalists around the world. His book, *Testimonies Without Boundaries*, compiles ZAKA volunteer, forensic institute, and Nova survivor testimony from the massacre. It is a hard read. Buy it. Read it. Buy another copy and put it in the hands of someone who needs to understand what really happened.

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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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