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READER EDITION

March 11, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Wednesday, March 11

Iran mines the Strait of Hormuz and loses its fleet in hours. Hezbollah's missile penetrates central Israel without a siren. Netanyahu clears the budget by shelving the domestic fights.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE Fourteen years. The Al-Quds march paraded through London annually since 2012 without bans—featuring Hezbollah flags, regime propaganda, arrests—and required shooting war, Iranian agents caught planning attacks on British soil, and “unprecedented volatility” triggering basic public order exercises. The ban is correct and overdue. The IHRC’s objection—that police “cannot present evidence because there is none”—proves comical given the march’s documented terrorist organization support. The regime’s London-based network will adapt rather than disappear. The deeper question: what triggers British institutional treatment of Iranian-regime-aligned activism as the security threat it perpetually represents, not just when missiles fly?

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Flash Brief

- **Hormuz mined:** Iran deployed naval mines; Trump destroyed 10 mine-laying boats within hours, warning of “consequences never seen before”
- **French-led escort coalition:** Macron announced eight frigates and two carriers for defensive Hormuz operations; Netherlands committed a frigate
- **Iran’s repression apparatus fracturing:** Basij paramilitaries discarding phones, mid-level commanders seeking exits, Ilam Province infrastructure largely dismantled
- **Mojtaba’s \$3 billion shadow empire:** New supreme leader controls hidden financial network across London, Frankfurt, and Gulf nations
- **Hezbollah missile penetrates air defense:** Strike hit satellite facility near Beit Shemesh without interception or siren; IDF acknowledged “isolated failure”
- **Nasser Unit commander eliminated:** IAF killed Hassan Salameh in strike near Jwaya
- **Dairy reform killed, Draft Law shelved:** Netanyahu pulled both from budget for wartime funding
- **Schools reopen in yellow zones:** Partial reopening begins Wednesday; 40% of schools lack shelters
- **Abraham Accords partners deepen military ties:** Morocco, UAE, Bahrain increased exchanges; 130 foreign military officials received classified IDF briefings

The War Today

Iran Lays Mines in Hormuz; Trump Destroys Mine-Laying Fleet Within Hours

Iran began deploying naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz—through which roughly 20% of global oil transits—using small boats carrying several mines each. Only dozens have been placed, but Iran retains most mine-laying vessels and an estimated 2,000–6,000 mines from domestic production and Chinese/Russian supplies.

The IRGC Navy declared no ships associated with “aggressors against Iran” would transit the strait and threatened preventing oil exports “until further notice.” President Trump warned of military consequences “at a level never seen before.” General Dan Caine confirmed CENTCOM continues striking mine-laying vessels and storage locations.

Maritime traffic halted since the war began. The IRGC offered conditional passage: any Arab or European nation expelling Israeli/American ambassadors would receive “full authority and freedom” through the strait.

France, Greece, and Cyprus announced a defensive escort mission. President Macron, speaking from the Charles de Gaulle carrier, detailed eight frigates and two amphibious helicopter carriers for the eastern Mediterranean, Red

Sea, and Hormuz. The Netherlands committed a frigate; the EU pledged enhanced naval operations.

The US requested Israel stop striking Iran's energy/oil infrastructure, fearing global oil price spikes and preferring to preserve the sector for potential post-war cooperation.

ASSESSMENT

The mines represent a tactical nuisance rather than significant threat. The IRGC's conditional offer constitutes extortion. Macron's naval positioning marks Europe's first serious military commitment—triggered by oil disruption, not Iranian missile attacks on Cyprus, revealing European priorities clearly. The emerging friction point: Washington wants post-war oil sector access; Jerusalem seeks destroying the revenue funding the proxy empire.

Iran's Repression Apparatus Fractures as Mojtaba Inherits Crumbling Command Structure

Defections and command breakdowns accelerate across Iran's internal security forces. Basij paramilitaries discard mobile phones into rubble to appear dead; security personnel families urge sons to stay home as US-Israeli strikes target repression units—claiming hundreds daily.

Targeted facilities included IRGC's Sarallah headquarters and three Faraja special units responsible for crowd control. The IDF degraded most Ilam Province Internal Security Forces and Basij assets, including main headquarters, Intelligence Ministry headquarters, IRGC command centers for protest-suppression battalions, and multiple Basij compounds.

With facilities destroyed, units relocated to civilian infrastructure—sports centers, public buildings. Lacking clear command structure, mostly rank-and-file and mid-level personnel feel disoriented and seek defection opportunities. The regime persists through its 20–30% loyal base, military cohesion, and willingness to employ extreme violence—potentially sustaining it for years despite weakening.

Regime change requires encouraging defections through inducements, offering defectors alternatives to regime service. IDF Spokesman Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin reported 1,900+ Iranian soldiers/commanders killed in Israeli strikes, with thousands more wounded.

The IRGC Aerospace Forces escalated rhetoric: "From now on, we will not launch any missile with a warhead weighing less than a ton."

Mojtaba Khamenei—elevated to supreme leader after eight days of factional deliberation—controls approximately \$3 billion in hidden financial assets across London, UAE, and European countries. His financial agent Ali Ansari assembled a portfolio including luxury Hampstead properties (£73 million), apartments near the Israeli embassy (£35.7 million), two Frankfurt Hilton hotels, a Spanish leisure resort, German shopping center, and Toronto penthouse—totaling approximately €400 million.

Ansari used Isle of Man and Nevis offshore shell companies alongside Mohammad Hossein Shamkhani's son to circumvent sanctions, launder IRGC money, and finance Hezbollah from London. British authorities froze Ansari's London assets (over £150 million) for IRGC financing.

IDF assessments confirm roughly 50% of Iran's ballistic missiles carried cluster warheads—approximately 20 submunitions per warhead spreading explosives across 8km radius—complicating Iron Dome interception geometry and multiplying casualty footprints. The IDF assesses Iran struggles executing coordinated larger barrages.

ASSESSMENT

The IDF's systematic physical destruction of repression infrastructure—province-by-province Basij and internal security facility degradation—targets the apparatus suppressing December-January protests. Combined with psychological erosion from mid-level commanders discarding phones and families urging sons homeward, the regime persists but trends optimistically. Regimes maintaining loyalty through ideology, patronage, and fear lose grip when fear apparatus dismantles and patronage networks freeze in European banks. The IRGC's one-ton warhead threat constitutes domestic morale bluster, not military logic. Iran's problem involves launch cells, not payload weight—and the IAF eliminates those at pace.

Hezbollah Missile Penetrates Israeli Air Defense Near Beit Shemesh; IDF Eliminates Nasser Unit Commander

A Hezbollah missile struck a civilian satellite communications facility (operated by European company SES) near Beit Shemesh without triggering sirens or interception. The IDF acknowledged an “isolated failure,” completing joint review with the Air Force Monday and implementing unspecified adjustments. The site isn't military despite Hezbollah's claim targeting the “Communications and Cyber Defense Division.”

Sixteen sustained light injuries across the barrage, including 14 in Ramle from impact damaging a daycare facility. The IDF struck responsible launchers within minutes; most rockets toward central Israel were intercepted, though two interception attempts failed.

The IDF confirmed eliminating Hassan Salameh, Hezbollah's Nasser Unit commander, in an IAF strike in Jwaya, southern Lebanon. Salameh succeeded Abu Talib, serving as Khaim region commander and Nasser Unit deputy operational commander—one of three Hezbollah units commanding southern Lebanon operations.

The IDF continued large-scale strikes against Hezbollah's financial/military infrastructure: Al-Qard al-Hassan facilities (IRGC-funded quasi-bank deepening civilian dependency and funding weapons procurement), Dahiyeh command centers, and Tyre, Sidon, and Ansar infrastructure.

A diplomatic source indicated Hezbollah “believes it has reached a point where it has nothing to lose”—with Iran weakening, IRGC operatives withdrawing from Lebanon, and financial transfers blocked. Hezbollah aims deterring the

Lebanese government by demonstrating capabilities while pressuring Israel to withdraw from Lebanese positions.

The United States discouraged Lebanon's diplomatic initiative, believing the Lebanese government insufficiently acts against Hezbollah and rejecting Beirut's proposals. Israel "categorically refuses" such considerations, believing such processes have long passed.

Defense Minister Katz visited Northern Command, stating: "Not only will we not withdraw in the face of Hezbollah, but we will seize the opportunity to strike it."

The Syrian Army accused Hezbollah of firing artillery shells near Damascus (landing near Serghaya), observing militia activity near the Lebanese border while coordinating with Lebanese Armed Forces.

Staff Sergeant Or Demry ז"ל, 20, from Liman, a Combat Engineering Corps soldier in the 91st Division, fell during combat in southern Lebanon.

ASSESSMENT

One missile penetrating without siren/interception—against civilian rather than military targets—exposes a gap the IDF quickly labeled "isolated." Hezbollah's precision-missile capability targeting central Israeli infrastructure represents the threat northern mayors have emphasized since 2006; public IDF failure admission rather than concealment indicates October 7 institutional lessons—don't hide gaps—persist. Diplomatically: Washington rejected Beirut's overture; Jerusalem refused consideration; Hezbollah accepted strategic isolation fighting for relevance rather than outcomes—the most dangerous adversary profile. Syria's accusation against Hezbollah suggests new Syrian government under al-Sharaa names the group as aggressor—isolating it further. Katz's "seize the opportunity" statement and Netanyahu's security meeting indicate broader Lebanon operation under active consideration.

Inside Israel

Dairy Reform Dies, Draft Law Shelved as Netanyahu and Smotrich Clear Budget for War

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich's dairy reform—centerpiece of his cost-of-living agenda—was pulled from the 2026 Arrangements Law after Prime Minister Netanyahu insisted removing it to pass wartime budget. Smotrich's office framed the decision as mutual: "It was decided to split issues that are in dispute...from the Arrangements Law."

The reform would cut per-liter dairy processor payments to farmers by 15% and abolish 40% import tariffs. Smotrich's office stated the reform would "continue to advance in committee" post-war "under coalition discipline."

The dairy industry deployed full advocacy arsenal—food security, periphery settlement, border farms, Zionist agricultural mythology—with the Israel Dairy Board distributing farmer photographs in bulletproof vests near the northern border.

In a separate Tuesday evening statement, Netanyahu and Smotrich announced the Draft Law would not advance “at this time,” declaring “war is a time for unity and national responsibility.” Smotrich framed it as setting aside “issues that are in dispute and are not appropriate during wartime.”

The new budget includes increased defense funding while cutting planned civilian benefits. This marks Smotrich’s second visible policy defeat recently—the Knesset revoked his overseas VAT exemption order last month after Netanyahu declined imposing coalition discipline despite initial pledges.

ASSESSMENT

This reflects a previous Dossier prediction playing out in real time. The outcome represents a hybrid of cosmetic trimming and wartime freezing. Netanyahu pulled the reform to preserve the budget, dressed it in wartime language, and promised revisiting “after the war.” Internal coalition opposition killed it—Dichter and Barkat from within Likud, not opposition parties. Smotrich’s office framing—“it was decided together”—signals a finance minister losing while pretending otherwise. The dairy cartel never needed winning arguments; it needed outlasting the reformer. Today it did. Draft Law shelving proves more consequential. Shas and Degel HaTorah pressed finalizing conscription exemption bills during wartime; Smotrich publicly shelving it under “national responsibility” concedes to coalition partners, buying time without resolving anything. Smotrich’s leverage depends on budget-sinking willingness—he’s now hit those limits twice.

Schools Reopen in Yellow Zones as Parents Absorb Full Cost of Wartime Disruption

Education Minister Yoav Kisch announced that beginning Wednesday, schools partially reopen in areas the Home Front Command designates “yellow zones”—where security conditions and protected space access permit limited in-person learning, with parents responsible for transportation. Municipalities may request exceptions with Home Front Command approval. Special education transportation initially falls to parents.

The announcement followed chaotic 48 hours: Kisch proposed color-coded reopening Monday, municipal leaders split—Haifa’s mayor refused citing student/staff danger; Jerusalem’s and Nesher’s mayors said they would proceed—and by Monday evening, Kisch backpedaled after the Home Front Command said wartime restrictions remain nationwide.

The partial reopening follows weeks of Zoom-based remote learning parents described as a “nightmare”—working parents supervising multiple children with attention difficulties, insufficient devices, constant technical failures, mounting mental health strain.

Finance Minister Smotrich announced Sunday that one parent in households with children under 14 could take unpaid leave, prompting backlash from parents choosing between childcare and income.

Roughly 40% of Israeli schools cannot provide all students access to bomb shelters during sirens. Domestic violence reports rose—post-October 7 data

showed 28% increase in welfare ministry hotline calls during home confinement. In one incident, a Jerusalem teacher was attacked by her partner during an online lesson before students.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir extended blanket firearms eligibility to 41 additional Jerusalem neighborhoods—effectively covering 300,000+ Jewish residents.

ASSESSMENT

The state reopened workplaces last week, left schools closed, offered parents unpaid leave—that's not policy; it's cost distribution onto people least able absorbing them. The 40% shelter gap deserves precedence: four in ten schools cannot protect students during sirens, yet the system asks parents driving children to those schools. Kisch's color-coded system directly echoes COVID-era frameworks Israelis remember with weary contempt—same labels, confusion, municipal inconsistency. Ben Gvir's gun-license expansion remains operationally defensible (armed civilians have stopped Jerusalem attacks many times) and politically calibrated.

Israel and the World

Abraham Accords Partners Deepen Military Ties as War Redraws Regional Architecture

Israel's military relationships with Abraham Accords countries advance during the war. Morocco, UAE, and Bahrain each separately increased military exchanges since 2020—Iran's ballistic missile/drone attacks on Middle Eastern nations accelerating the trend.

Approximately 130 foreign military officials—including Moroccan representatives—visited Israeli military installations in November 2025, receiving classified briefings on military tactics. Col. “A,” Intelligence Directorate training chief, hopes these officials become “ambassadors” for Israel in home countries. Israel and Morocco conducted publicly acknowledged joint military exercises; Eyal Zamir facilitated arms exports to Morocco and UAE during his DG tenure.

In cyber, former INCD chief Gaby Portnoy noted an Israeli-UAE information-sharing platform expanded from 13 active to 33 countries, and 40 passive to 70 countries, over the past year—with progress continuing in cyber relations with Morocco and Bahrain despite the war. Countries without formal Israeli diplomatic relations work through CENTCOM parallel channels.

ASSESSMENT

The war produces the regional architecture two decades of peace-process diplomacy never delivered. Abraham Accords countries maintain ties during shooting war while deepening them—sharing classified intelligence, conducting joint exercises, building cyber infrastructure locking in interdependence. The 130 foreign military officials receiving classified briefings at Israeli installations in November constitutes unthinkable numbers five years ago. Iran’s Gulf state attacks—Bahrain refinery, Kuwait government building, desalination plants—consolidate the anti-Iran coalition more than diplomatic communiqués. Saudi Arabia remains the missing partner, operating through CENTCOM parallel channels rather than direct bilateral military coordination. The war presents the formalization argument; whether Riyadh accepts given domestic situation remains uncertain.

Britain Bans Al-Quds Day March for First Time in Fourteen Years

British police banned the annual Al-Quds Day march—scheduled for central London on March 15—citing “extreme tensions” and security risks tied to the Iran conflict, the first such ban in 14 years.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley approached Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood Tuesday evening requesting prohibition. Mahmood said she was “satisfied doing so is necessary to prevent serious public disorder, due to the scale of the protest and multiple counter-protests, in the context of the ongoing conflict.”

The march, organized by the Islamic Human Rights Commission (an Islamist group ideologically aligned with the Iranian regime), previously featured Hezbollah/Hamas flags, arrests for supporting terrorist organizations, and antisemitic hate crimes.

The IHRC said it “strongly condemns” the decision and seeks legal advice. The ban followed British police arresting four men—some entering as asylum seekers—on suspicion of spying for Iran and plotting attacks on the Israeli Embassy, Jewish community centers, and journalists.

The Community Security Trust welcomed the ban, calling it evidence of “the unprecedented volatility of the current situation and how extreme such marches have always been.” The Campaign Against Antisemitism added: “Allowing this hate-fest to go ahead would have sent the message that Islamists rule the roost in Britain.”

Police warned they are preparing for “a challenging, potentially violent weekend” even with the march cancelled.

ASSESSMENT

Fourteen years. The Al-Quds march paraded through London annually since 2012 without bans—featuring Hezbollah flags, regime propaganda, arrests—and required shooting war, Iranian agents caught planning attacks on British soil, and “unprecedented volatility” triggering basic public order exercises. The ban is correct and overdue. The IHRC’s objection—that police “cannot present evidence because there is none”—proves comical given the march’s documented terrorist organization support. The regime’s London-based network will adapt rather than disappear. The deeper question: what triggers British institutional treatment of Iranian-regime-aligned activism as the security threat it perpetually represents, not just when missiles fly?

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- **JNS:** The IDF deployed two additional reserve combat battalions per Judea and Samaria region since Operation Roaring Lion began, arresting 200+ terrorists in one week—bomb makers, weapons dealers, Hamas affiliates, attack planners—while coordinating defensive measures with communities and security teams. Iran funnels millions to territory proxies for terrorist recruitment/weapons purchasing; Ramadan compounds infiltration risk.
- **Israel National News:** Police and Counterterrorism Brigade fighters raided Rahat locations following violent inter-family disputes, seizing guns, grenades, magazines, ammunition. Bedouin lawlessness—especially when security forces stretch across multiple fronts—represents standing vulnerability.
- **Times of Israel:** A German court sentenced a Lebanese man to six years four months for supplying Hezbollah €500,000 worth of drone components—enough material for 300+ explosive drones—after joining the organization in 2016.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- **Israel National News:** Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana responded in Persian to Iran's parliament speaker—who declared Tehran seeks no ceasefire—writing: “The only thing offered to you is unconditional surrender.”
- **Jewish Insider:** Nebraska independent Senate candidate Dan Osborn—running against Sen. Pete Ricketts with tacit Democratic support, polling tied—touted endorsement from A New Policy PAC, founded by a former State Department official who left over post-October 7 US-Israel support and whose advocacy arm accuses Israel of genocide, opposes the Antisemitism Awareness Act, conditions US aid. Osborn said he was “proud to stand with A New Policy PAC” and criticized “bombs that kill kids.”
- **Jewish News:** Forty-five MPs and peers signed a letter demanding Keir Starmer formally apologize for Britain's Mandatory Palestine actions (1917–1948), claiming Britain “gave away Palestine, a land we had no right to give.” Signatories include Layla Moran, John McDonnell, Friends of Al-Aqsa chair; organizers threatened judicial review if government fails responding by September.
- **Jerusalem Post:** The US told the UN Security Council that international Afghanistan assistance should be reassessed given Taliban “intransigence” on women's rights, despite 17 million Afghans facing acute hunger and the UNAMA budget—the world's largest special UN mission—coming up for renewal next week. Secretary Rubio designated Afghanistan a “State Sponsor of Wrongful Detention” demanding Taliban release detained Americans.

Domestic & Law

- **Jerusalem Post:** Israel Police officer Rinat Saban filed contempt motion demanding Ben Gvir sign her court-ordered chief superintendent promotion within three days—accusing the minister of deliberately defying a February ruling calling his refusal “unlawful,” tainted by extraneous considerations.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- **Times of Israel:** SIPRI’s report shows Israel’s global arms export share climbed to 4.4% (2021–2025)—up from 3.1%—making it the world’s seventh-largest arms exporter, surpassing Britain for the first time, driven by air defense system sales to India (56% of exports), Germany (21%), US (7.8%). Israeli arms sales to 23 European countries persisted despite diplomatic backlash; the \$10 billion India deal signed last month isn’t included yet.
- **Globes:** Mitzpe Ramon—population 6,000, one siren since war began—filled all 800 guest rooms as Israelis flee the country’s center, with garbage collection up 50% and Facebook sublet groups flooded by families, students, reservists. The town plans tripling population to 17,000 by 2030; wartime became its best marketing campaign.

Culture, Religion & Society

- **J. Weekly:** Three men attacked two Israeli Americans—Lior Zeevi, 47, and Daniel Levy, 48—outside a San Jose restaurant after hearing Hebrew spoken, punching/kicking them while shouting “f***ing Jew.” A witness heard one attacker shout something in Farsi escaping. Zeevi was previously targeted when business vehicles were spray-painted with swastikas in August.
- **Israel National News:** Two white Honda occupants fired at the American consulate in Toronto at 4:30 a.m. Tuesday—no injuries, though the building was occupied—following five separate synagogue/Jewish institution shootings in the Toronto area over the past week. US and Israeli Toronto consulates are under heightened security. The US embassy in Oslo was also hit by deliberate explosion Sunday.
- **Jerusalem Post:** A Baltimore police officer and suspect were shot during active shooter incident near Agudath Israel of Baltimore synagogue Tuesday afternoon; no congregants were injured.
- **Times of Israel:** UBS asked a Brooklyn federal judge blocking the Simon Wiesenthal Center from reopening a 1999 Holocaust settlement after investigation commissioned by former Credit Suisse uncovered 890 additional accounts with potential Nazi links—including German Foreign Office, SS, German arms manufacturer accounts. The Wiesenthal Center’s lawyer accused UBS of trying to “put a sock in Simon Wiesenthal’s mouth.” The judge noted Nazi assets never appeared in 1999 negotiations.
- **The JC:** Rabbi Elhanan Miller’s People of the Book project—Arabic-language Judaism explainer videos—reached 7.8 million YouTube views and 500,000

subscribers, mostly in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Algeria (nations with no Israeli diplomatic relations). Miller, Jerusalem-born Arabic speaker since age 13, expanded from religious content to Jewish peoplehood post-October 7, now appearing regularly on BBC Arabic and Sky News Arabic.

- **Jewish Chronicle:** The Board of Deputies launched Britain's first Jewish Culture Month—over 100 events May 16–June 16, including Tate and V&A exhibitions—with Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy's endorsement. Board President Phil Rosenberg framed it as “less ‘oy’ and more joy” after difficult years for British Jewry.
- **Jewish Chronicle:** An estimated 1,000 Israelis stranded in London after flight cancellations are hosted by Jewish families coordinated through WhatsApp groups—volunteers offering rooms, meals, even laptops for remote work. One guest, celebrating her 26th birthday when the war broke out, said it was her first Israel departure since October 7.

Developments to Watch

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Hormuz mine clearance timeline** — Trump destroyed 10 mine-laying boats; IRGC Navy warned no allied ship may transit the strait. Iran retains estimated 2,000–6,000 mines and most deployment vessels.
- **IRGC one-ton warhead threat** — IRGC Aerospace Forces declared they will no longer fire warheads weighing less than a ton. Bluster aimed at domestic morale changes interception calculus—heavier payloads stress Iron Dome and Arrow geometry differently than cluster submunitions.
- **Iran arrests 30 “spies and collaborators”** — Iran's Intelligence Ministry claimed recent detentions. Probably loyalty purge disguised as counterintelligence. Signals a regime looking inward for threats, accelerating paranoia cycles.
- **US asks Israel to stop hitting energy infrastructure** — Trump administration wants preserving Iran's oil sector for post-war cooperation. Jerusalem wants destroying revenue funding the regime and proxies.
- **Houthi ground operation concern** — Israeli intelligence officials remain worried the Houthis may plan ground operation, possibly with Iraqi Shia militias, using current restraint as cover. Combat divisions mobilized along Israel's borders; Military Intelligence treats early warning as primary mission.

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Expanded security zone under active discussion** — Israeli officials say the cabinet discusses ground operation expanding southern Lebanon buffer zone.

- **Syria accuses Hezbollah of shelling near Damascus** — Artillery shells from Lebanon landed near Serghaya; Syrian Army named Hezbollah and said assessing response options.
- **Hezbollah ceasefire feelers rejected** — Hezbollah initiated preliminary contacts; Lebanese government asked US mediation. Diplomatic channels are closed. Washington refused, saying Beirut insufficiently acts against Hezbollah. Jerusalem “categorically refused to communicate.”

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Three operatives crossed Yellow Line** — IDF troops eliminated three Gazans who crossed the ceasefire line approaching Israeli positions in northern Gaza. Hamas rocket infrastructure in Gaza City’s Sabra neighborhood was struck after IDF said restoration violated ceasefire agreement.

Judea & Samaria

- **Ramadan infiltration risk elevated** — Two additional reserve combat battalions deployed per region, 200+ arrests in one week, community-level coordination with civilian security teams. Iran funds proxy recruitment/weapons purchases in the territory; regional security director identified Ramadan-motivated infiltration attempts as primary concern.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **French-led Hormuz escort coalition forming** — Eight frigates, two amphibious carriers, Dutch frigate committed, EU “enhancing” Aspides. Mission is framed as post-“hottest phase”—but coalition assembly during fighting creates facts on water shaping post-war maritime security architecture.
- **45 MPs demand Starmer apologize for Mandate-era Palestine** — Lawfare wrapped in historical grievance. Judicial review threat gives September deadline. Government engagement legitimizes framing; ignoring escalates. Standard pressure-campaign mechanics.

Home Front & Politics

- **Draft Law shelved alongside dairy reform** — Smotrich publicly set aside conscription exemption bill under wartime unity framing, but Shas and Degel HaTorah pressed finalizing during war. Shelving buys coalition calm; doesn’t resolve underlying Haredi draft standoff.
- **Air defense gap after Beit Shemesh hit** — IDF’s joint review found two interception failures during Hezbollah’s central Israel barrage, both without sirens. Adjustments implemented, but public acknowledgment—plus 40% school shelter gaps—defines home front structural vulnerability as schools attempt reopening.

Eleven days in, the operational picture favors Israel and the United States—but the regime isn’t collapsing on the media-schedule timeline, Hezbollah fights like an organization with nothing remaining to lose, and the home

front absorbs daily compounding costs. The war's next phase will shape less by what gets destroyed in Iran than by how long Washington and Jerusalem agree on what to preserve.

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.



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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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