

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

WEEK #103

SEPTEMBER 21-JANUARY 28 ,2025



IDF troops in Gaza City

Source: IDF Spokesperson

ACCOUNT OF THE MAIN EVENTS IN THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR AND HOSTILITIES BY THE IRANIAN AXIS

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OVERVIEW

- ◆ The U.S. published a **comprehensive 21-point framework** for ending the Gaza war.
- ◆ Over **700,000 Gazans have evacuated southward**, leaving an estimated **200,000 still inside Gaza City**.
- ◆ The **Palestinian Authority** announced that it had secured **foreign funding pledges** to maintain basic government services, as Israel continues to withhold tax revenues it collects on the PA's behalf, due to the PA's insistence of maintaining its policy of rewarding terrorists with monthly payments.
- ◆ During the UNGA, **France, Portugal, and other countries recognized the State of Palestine**, raising the total number of countries recognizing it to 153. In Turkey, Devlet Bahçeli, head of the nationalist **MHP party** and Erdogan's coalition partner, escalated rhetoric by saying it was time to issue a **hard ultimatum to Israel – including a military option**.
- ◆ On **Sept 25**, the IAF launched its largest strike in Yemen to date: 20 aircraft, 65 munitions, 7 targets across **Sana'a**.



ISRAEL AT WAR

WEEK 103

2 Total Israeli casualties This Week

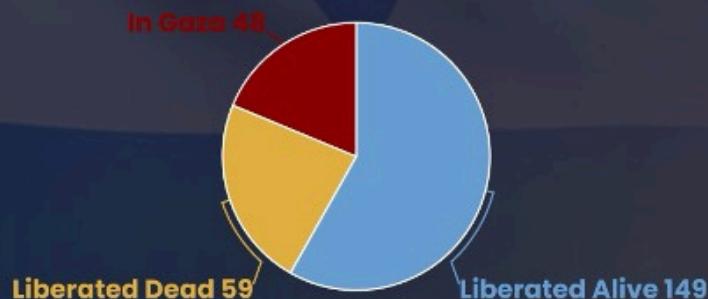
0 Total Civilians killed this week

2 Total IDF Casualties this week

MAIN EVENTS

Britain, Canada, and Australia recognize Palestine; Hamas and PA celebrate, urging global isolation of Israel. Hamas denounces Netanyahu at UN as "war criminal," deepening diplomatic rifts. Iranian leaders issue harsh threats at UN; U.S. restricts their delegation. Iran signs \$25bn nuclear deal with Russia, heightening concerns over regional escalation. Pro-Hamas media incite West Bank shootings; Hezbollah vows continued resistance and rejects disarmament. Turkey, EU, and others intensify ceasefire demands and pressure Israel diplomatically.

HOSTAGES IN GAZA 48 / 255



ATTACKS ON ISRAEL & ALLIES 2 / 37,301



Judea & Samaria + Israel Front



Gaza Front



Lebanon Front



Greater Middle East Front



◆ U.S. 21-Point Peace Proposal

The U.S. published a **comprehensive 21-point framework** for ending the Gaza war. Its key provisions include:

- The **framework does mention of the Palestinian Authority** (PA) as a possible partner in a future governing body for Gaza, contingent on **deep reforms** in Ramallah and after Gaza's reconstruction. This is seen by some as a **significant departure** from previous Trump administration policy, which excluded the PA which is contingent on how deep the required reforms of the PA will be.
- A **phased economic reconstruction plan**, that is to include an **international economic zone** to be negotiated among participating countries.
- The Establishment of a **temporary international stabilization force** to deploy in Gaza immediately after the war. This force would oversee security, gradually replace the IDF, and eventually **train and develop a Gazan police force** for long-term internal security.
- Israel would have **no long-term security role** inside Gaza under this framework.

◆ President Donald Trump

strongly condemned the wave of countries recognizing a Palestinian state, calling them a **submission to Hamas's "ransom demands."** He argued this move rewards terrorism and will **encourage further conflict** rather than peace.



DIPLOMATIC

GAZA

- ◆ President Donald Trump held a **side summit at the UNGA** with leaders of eight Muslim states (Turkey, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Indonesia). The goal: **release of all hostages and the termination of the war.**
- ◆ According to Axios, U.S. envoy **Steve Witkoff** and **Secretary of State Marco Rubio** later presented the **Trump Plan**, to gain support of Muslim states:
 - **Simultaneous release of all hostages.**
 - **Permanent ceasefire and phased Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.**
 - **No Hamas rule** in postwar Gaza.
 - **An Arab-Muslim peacekeeping force**, including Palestinians.
 - **A new governance body**, Arab-funded reconstruction program, and partial PA involvement.
- ◆ The Muslim states reportedly imposed additional conditions: **no annexation of Gaza or West Bank**, **no Israeli settlements**, **no change to Temple Mount status quo**, and an **immediate expansion of humanitarian aid**.
- ◆ Notably, **emigration of Gazans was absent** from the talks. Jerusalem has yet to issue an official response, though the plan partially aligns with Israeli interests on **hostages and Hamas removal**.



- ◆ Egypt rejected Western proposals to absorb Gazan refugees in exchange for Gulf investment, saying it would “**kill the Palestinian issue.**” Cairo backs the Trump Plan but insists **Hamas be included in the new governing framework** and supports an **Arab-Islamic peacekeeping mission** inside Gaza. Egypt has used the Palestinian issue to divert internal domestic dissent by blaming Israel for many grievances. Egypt’s rejection of “solving the Palestinian issue” is seen as confirmation that Egypt is petrified of the natural domestic accountability that would naturally follow, when Israel-Palestinian conflict is resolved.
- ◆ In a CNN interview, **Hamas official Ghazi Hamad** said the **October 7 attacks gave Palestinians unprecedented international visibility**, describing it as a “**golden moment for the world to change history.**” He declared that Hamas would **never lay down arms** to end the war.
- ◆ Hamas issued a statement celebrating the recognition of a Palestinian state by **Britain, Canada, and Australia**, portraying it as a **strategic victory from October 7:**
 - The recognition affirms the **Palestinian people’s right to their land, holy sites, and an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.**
 - Hamas demanded that such recognition be followed by “**practical measures**”: ending what it calls the “**genocidal war**” in **Gaza** and halting **Israeli annexation and Judaization projects** in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and Jerusalem.



NETANYAHU AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- ◆ Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered a 40-minute address to a largely empty UNGA hall, however the QR code that he wore on his suit jacket directing viewers to an October 7 atrocities portal was accessed by over 750,000 in the first 24 hours including almost 250,000 from Iran and Gaza. During his speech he warned:
 - “Giving the Palestinians a state one mile from Jerusalem after October 7 is like giving Al Qaeda a state one mile from New York City after September 11. This is sheer madness. It’s insane, and we won’t do it.”
 - He accused Western leaders of buckling under domestic Islamist and radical-left pressure, saying Israel is “fighting the West’s fight” against jihadism, and appeasement will not protect them from the Islamist threat.
 - Netanyahu praised Israel’s military achievements in the war.
 - He revealed talks with Lebanon and Syria about potential peace arrangements after the war.
 - He suggested the Abraham Accords could expand to include additional countries once the conflict ends.



HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS

- ◆ A New York Times investigation revealed that **Alex Witkoff**, CEO of the Witkoff Group, sought **\$4 billion in Qatari investment funds** for U.S. real estate ventures while his father, **Steve Witkoff**, served as **U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East** and was engaged in **hostage negotiations with Doha**.
- ◆ The Qatari sovereign wealth fund confirmed the pitch but said it did not advance.
- ◆ A Witkoff Group spokesperson dismissed the report as “**patently false**,” while Qatar’s Foreign Ministry also denied the allegations.

OPERATIONAL

- ◆ **Division 162** uncovered a **heavily booby-trapped Hamas combat complex** containing **14 explosives and pressure-plate traps**. Captured documents confirmed the site had been rigged in the past two weeks.
- ◆ **Division 98** conducted urban raids across Gaza City, supported by precision airstrikes destroying a weapons-production plant.
- ◆ The IDF is employing **remote-controlled “robotic” armored vehicles**, old APCs packed with explosives that are sent ahead to **detonate booby-trapped areas and clear paths for tanks**, reducing Israeli troop risk.



- ◆ The Air Force and Navy eliminated Hamas's deputy naval police commander, who had landed on Israeli soil during the October 7 massacre.
- ◆ A wave of airstrikes across Gaza hit areas often labeled as humanitarian zones—Nuseirat, southwest Khan Younis, and Az-Zawaida—causing dozens of casualties. Israel argues Hamas embeds itself in the civilian population in these areas, turning civilians into human shields.

HUMANITARIAN

- ◆ Over 700,000 Gazans have evacuated southward, leaving an estimated 200,000 still inside Gaza City. The smaller civilian presence gives the IDF greater maneuvering room, reducing the risk of mass civilian casualties and easing international pressure.
- ◆ The 107 patients and staff of the Jordanian Hospital in Tel al-Hawa were evacuated south, while the IDF dug around the site searching for tunnels and hostage remains. Only seven hospitals remain operational in Gaza City.
- ◆ The IDF publicized new footage of Hamas gunmen firing from inside Shifa Hospital, reinforcing its position that Hamas abuses medical facilities for combat purposes.



ANTI-HAMAS MILITIAS

- ◆ A growing phenomenon is the rise of Fatah-linked anti-Hamas militias:
 - Abo-Shabab's militia in Rafah.
 - Hussam al-Astal's militia, offering \$50 for the head of a Hamas fighter.
 - A new militia in Beit Lahia led by Ashraf al-Mansi, also Fatah-affiliated.
- ◆ Beit Lahia had earlier seen the strongest protests with chants of “Hamas out!” The IDF’s decision to avoid operations there now seems connected to letting these militias **consolidate as alternative governance structures**.
- ◆ Hamas’s “Sahm Unit” executed three Gazans accused of **collaboration with Israel and militias**. The public lynching was greeted by crowds chanting in praise of **Hamas’s Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades**.
- ◆ The best indication of Hamas’ weakness is the existence of more militias who have assessed that Hamas’ grip of the population is weak enough, that the threat of retribution is low enough to justify and encourage publicly opposing Hamas.



- ◆ Netanyahu's office claimed the IDF had "**taken control of Gazan phones**" to broadcast his speech live and even installed **loudspeakers inside Gaza** to amplify it. This sparked initial **domestic outrage**: critics accused him of risking soldiers' lives for a **political publicity stunt**. Mothers of combat soldiers publicly protested the move, while the IDF itself voiced opposition, saying the installations forced troops into **exposed positions vulnerable to Hamas attacks**.
- ◆ The Senior Appointments Advisory Committee approved **former IDF General David Zini** as the next **Shin Bet Director**, effectively finalizing his appointment.



IDF trucks carrying speakers into Gaza to play Prime Ministers' speech in Gaza

Source: Social Media Posts on X



- ◆ The **Palestinian Authority** announced that it had secured **foreign funding pledges** to maintain basic government services, as Israel continues to withhold tax revenues it collects on the PA's behalf, due to the PA's insistence of maintaining its policy of rewarding terrorists with monthly payments..
- ◆ **Saudi Arabia, France, Norway, and Spain** committed **\$200 million per month for six months**, totaling \$1.2 billion, only half of what the PA had initially sought, highlighting the gap between their purported needs and international support.
- ◆ Trump strongly opposed any **Israeli annexation of West Bank territory**, aligning with Muslim states that demanded this as a condition for supporting his Gaza framework.
- ◆ During the UNGA, **France, Portugal, and others countries recognized the State of Palestine** raising the total number of countries recognizing Palestine to **153** .
- ◆ In retaliation for acting unilaterally without Israel's consent, Prime Minister **Netanyahu similarly acted unilaterally to close the Allenby Crossing**, halting Palestinian trade with Jordan and movement of PA and Jordanian parliamentarians. The closure is a major blow to the **Palestinian economy**.
- ◆ PA Chairman **Mahmoud Abbas**, barred entry into the U.S. by the Trump administration, addressed the UN virtually. In a move seen as tailored to appeal to his suitors in the White House and Europe, he:
 - **Condemned the October 7 massacre.**
 - **Called on Hamas and other factions to disarm and surrender.**
 - Proposed Gaza be handed to the PA, with a **demilitarized Palestinian state** established that would **recognize Israel**.
 - **Promised PA elections within a year.**





OPERATIONAL

- ◆ Near al-Mughayir, dozens of Palestinians attacked Israeli shepherds with stones. An Israeli settler-soldier on leave opened fire, killing one and wounding two.
- ◆ In Tulkarm, Israeli forces seized an **improvised rocket** under construction—evidence of attempts to expand projectile capabilities in the West Bank.
- ◆ Over the past week:
 - **72 wanted persons arrested.**
 - **3 militants killed.**
 - Large seizures of **incitement materials and Hamas flags in schools, along with firearms, Carlo submachine guns, sniper rifles, magazines, and ammunition.**

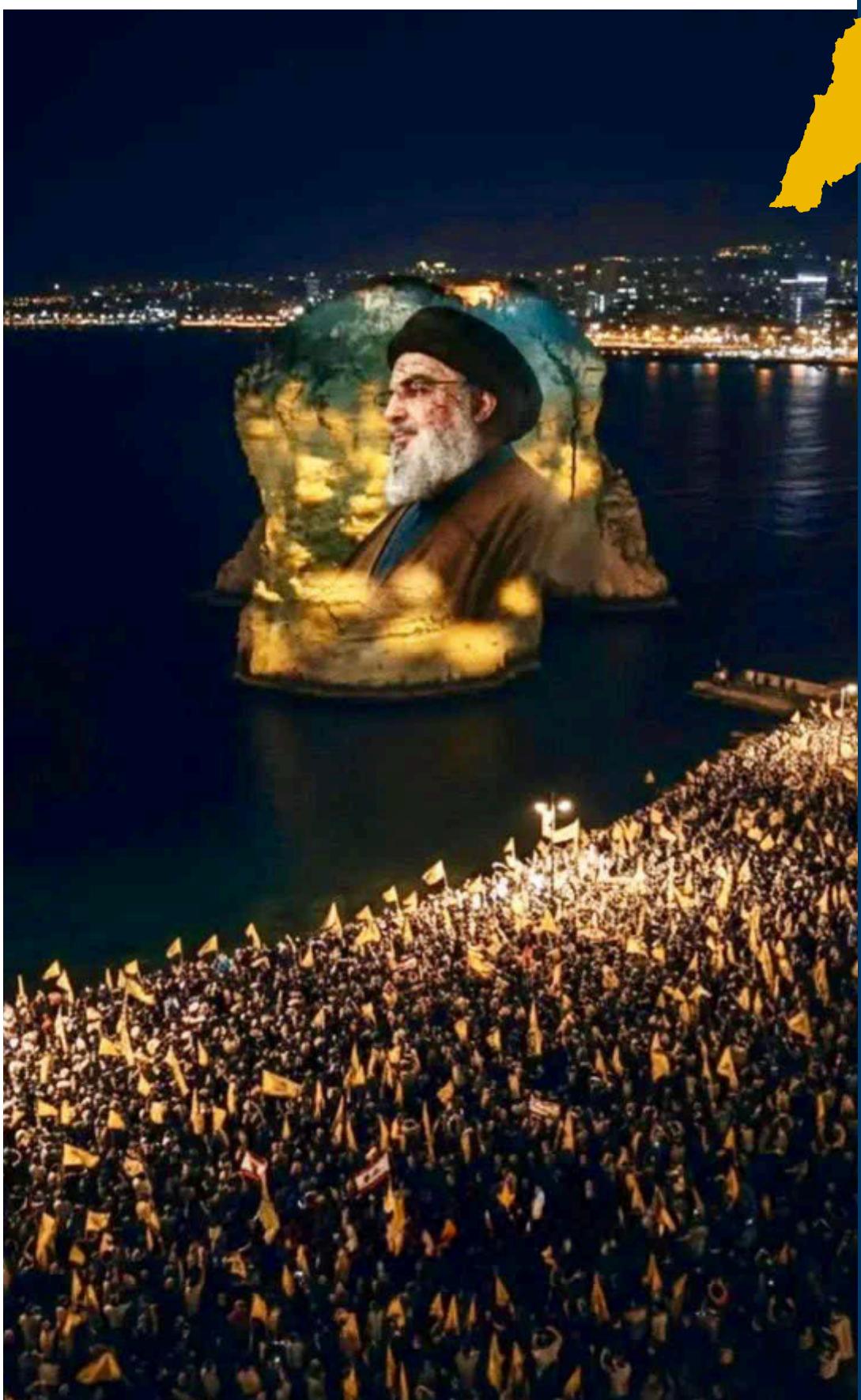




- ◆ Lebanon's president and FM met senior U.S. officials, pressing for Israel's **withdrawal from five border posts** and an end to Israeli airstrikes. They also sought **American and Gulf investment** to revive Lebanon's collapsed economy.
- ◆ **Nabih Berri**, Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament and leader of the Amal Movement, criticized U.S. envoy **Thomas Barrack's remarks on disarming Hezbollah**.
 - Berri rejected the idea of the **Lebanese Army** as a "border guard for Israel."
 - He insisted Lebanon has **respected the ceasefire** while Israel has **violated it**.
- ◆ Barrack had praised the LAF as a **well-intentioned but under-equipped institution**, clarifying U.S. support was aimed at strengthening it against **Hezbollah, not Israel**.
- ◆ Hezbollah supporters gathered at **Raouche Rocks** in Beirut to commemorate the first anniversary of the assassination of **Hassan Nasrallah and Hashem Safi al-Din**. Images of the two leaders were projected onto the rocks, sparking clashes between Hezbollah supporters and the **Lebanese Army**, with critics condemning the display as a provocation.
- ◆ Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem at the ceremony: "We will not abandon the battlefield, and we will not abandon our weapons." He added, "We will be the bearers of trust, the bearers of Islam, the resistance and the liberation of Palestine." He vowed that Hezbollah would never disarm, and declared that Hezbollah is recovering and rebuilding, "**We have achieved a jihadist recovery**, and we are ready for any defense against the Israeli enemy. We managed to remain in the arena of conflict, and they failed to achieve politically what they failed to achieve on the ground. Disarmament means disarmament to meet "Israel's" demands and achieve its goals.
We will not allow disarmament."



LEBANON



Hezbollah supporters cast Nasrallah's image on a rock

Source: @Fa_hadid98 on X





President Al Sharaa's first UN address

Source: @holmez00 on X

DIPLOMACY

- ◆ In a historic first since 1967, **Syrian President Ahmed al Sharaa** attended the **UNGA in New York**, meeting Secretary of State Rubio and senators including **Lindsey Graham**. Talks focused on **lifting sanctions**, enabling Syrian oil exports, and securing Western weapons and reconstruction funds.
- ◆ Al Sharaa even spoke at the Concordia Summit along the sidelines of the UNGA with **General David Petraeus**, who once fought against him—an unprecedented normalization.
- ◆ Israel confirmed it is in talks for an agreement to **demilitarize southwest Syria**, preserving Druze security and Israeli interests.
- ◆ During Al Sharaa's speech at the UNGA, he expressed: "Israeli policy is being conducted in **contradiction to the international position** supporting Syria and its citizens, while attempting to exploit the transition period." He added, "Syria is committed to the **1974 ceasefire agreement**."





- ◆ **On Sept 25, Syria's navy chief visited Turkey to expand military cooperation, including help rebuilding Syria's air, sea, and land forces.**
- ◆ Al Sharaa also met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, with the goal of normalizing ties with Ukraine to **undercut Russia's influence in Tartus and Hmeimim**. He later met Trump privately to accelerate Syrian sanctions relief.
- ◆ **Alawite and Druze communities in New York** launched a protest campaign against **Syrian President Ahmed al Sharaa's visit** to the UN, highlighting his **past jihadist record** and massacres of minorities, including atrocities in **Suwayda and Syria's coastal regions**.



President Al Sharaa meeting with President Trump

Source: @rassamsyria on X



- ◆ A Houthi drone struck Eilat, wounding 22 civilians (two serious, one moderate). Although Iron Dome interceptors were launched, the drone flew **too low for interception**; helicopter gunships were scrambled too late.
- ◆ On Sept 25, the IAF launched its **largest strike in Yemen to date**: 20 aircraft, 65 munitions, 7 targets across **Sana'a**. Targets included:
 - Houthi General Staff HQ
 - Intelligence and security compound
 - Military propaganda HQ
 - Weapon depots and training camps
- ◆ Local reports suggested damage to a **power station** and the **presidential palace compound**. Dozens of Houthi were killed.
- ◆ In retaliation, Houthi launched a **ballistic missile at central Israel** late at night. It was **successfully intercepted**.



- ◆ Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in a Fox News interview, rejected the designation of Hamas as a terrorist group, calling it instead a “**resistance organization**.” He said Hamas lacks heavy weaponry and only fights with what it has to defend itself.
- ◆ Devlet Bahçeli, head of the nationalist **MHP party** and Erdogan’s coalition partner, escalated rhetoric by saying it was time to issue a **hard ultimatum to Israel – including a military option**.



President trump meeting with President Erdogan

Source: @essamashafy on X



IRAN

- ◆ On September 23, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei banned further nuclear negotiations with the U.S. and the West. Domestic calls for building a **nuclear weapon** have intensified.
- ◆ Satellite imagery (Aug 28, Sept 5) showed Iran **rebuilding missile production facilities** in the north, complimented by a planned purchase of **MiG-29 fighter jets from Russia**.
- ◆ The **UN “Snapback” mechanism was triggered**, reinstating global sanctions against Iran. The **rial collapsed** to nearly **1.1 million per dollar**.
- ◆ Parliament Speaker **Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf** admitted Iran erred in not fully backing Assad and Hezbollah in June, leaving Israel unchecked. He called for **advanced air defenses and a new air force**, though such plans face the barrier of sanctions.
- ◆ The U.S. imposed **severe and unprecedented restrictions on Iran’s UN delegation in New York**, confining its movements strictly between its hotel and UN headquarters and prohibiting visits to luxury or wholesale stores.
- ◆ Iran and Russia signed a **\$25 billion deal to build four nuclear power plants** in Iran, further deepening their strategic cooperation.
- ◆ **Iranian Intelligence Minister, Esmail Khatib** a comments on Iranian espionage attempts in Israel: "There is **Iranian infiltration into Israel**, as evidenced by the arrest of people there on charges of spying for Iran." He added, "The recognition of this **Iranian influence and power** is one of the great blessings that we must express, explain and thank God for."





- ◆ **Saudi Arabia and France** issued a joint warning to Israel, declaring that “any form of annexation” of Palestinian territories would be considered a “red line.”
- ◆ The statement came in response to the wave of Western countries’ recognition of Palestinian statehood, suggesting that annexation could trigger further **diplomatic retaliation**.
- ◆ In an unusual move, the **Indonesian President** Prabowo Subianto declared at the UN that true peace requires **Israel’s security**, ending his speech with the Hebrew word “Shalom.” He also expressed willingness to deploy **Indonesian peacekeepers in Gaza**.
- ◆ The “**Sumud Flotilla**”, now **50 vessels strong**, was intercepted south of Crete. Israeli drones dropped **incendiary bombs on ten ships**, causing damage but no casualties. Italy announced it will send **two naval vessels** to escort the flotilla, but only within Italian waters. The Italian government had offered to transfer the aid to Israel directly, but were refused by the flotilla exposing the political nature of the flotilla, according to Italian sources. The Spanish navy, ironically armed with Israeli made weapons, pledged escort a Spanish ship to Gaza.
- ◆ In **Italy**, mass protests erupted in **75 cities** demanding Rome recognize Palestine and sanction Israel. Protesters shut down trains, blocked universities, clashed with police, and vandalized property. PM **Meloni refused recognition**, prompting further unrest.
- ◆ In Washington, Trump met warmly with **Erdogan**, hinting Turkey might **rejoin the F-35 program** and possibly receive **Patriot batteries**, which would lift U.S. defense sanctions on Ankara.





INTERNATIONALE

- ◆ Italian PM **Giorgia Meloni** at the UN declared that Italy would potentially recognize Palestine under **two conditions**:
 - Release of all Israeli hostages.
 - No Hamas involvement in the new government.
- ◆ **Spain's Economy Minister** announced a ban on imports from Israeli settlements and occupied territories.
- ◆ **German FM Johann Woodfull** stated that the European E3 (Germany, Britain, France) will launch a renewed effort to pressure Iran into compliance but admitted chances of diplomacy are "**minimal**."
- ◆ North Korean leader **Kim Jong Un** expressed willingness for talks with Washington if the U.S. abandons its **demand for denuclearization**.



FALLEN SOLDIERS



Staff sergeant
**INBAR AVRAHAM
KAV**
z"l



Staff sergeant
**CHALACHEW SHIMON
DEMALASH**
z"l



Major
**SHAHAR NETANEL
BOZAGLO**
z"l