

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #107 October 19 - October 25, 2025

This is a product of the IDSF Habithonistim Research Department, distributed by the David Institute for Security Policy in coordination with IDSF USA



Account of the main events in the Israel-Hamas war and hostilities by the Iranian Axis



President Donald Trump meeting with Qatar's Emir and Prime Minister on Air Force One in Qatar

Source: @RapidResponse47 on X

En route to the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia, President Trump stopped in Doha, meeting the Qatari Emir and Prime Minister. He praised them for "bringing peace to the Middle East" and confirmed that Qatar will deploy troops as part of the Gaza international force — marking the first time Qatari soldiers would serve in Gaza.

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2

Total Israeli casualties This Week

0

Total Civilians killed this week

2

Total IDF Casualties this week

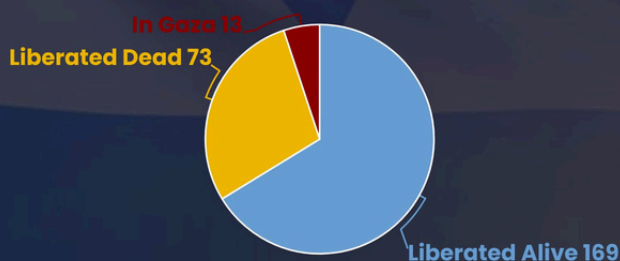
MAIN EVENTS

U.S. leaders J.D. Vance and Marco Rubio visited Israel, reinforcing the Gaza cease-fire and discussing a multinational stabilization plan with Netanyahu and hostage families.

Two IDF soldiers were killed in a Hamas attack in Rafah, marking the cease-fire's gravest breach and prompting brief Israeli retaliatory strikes.

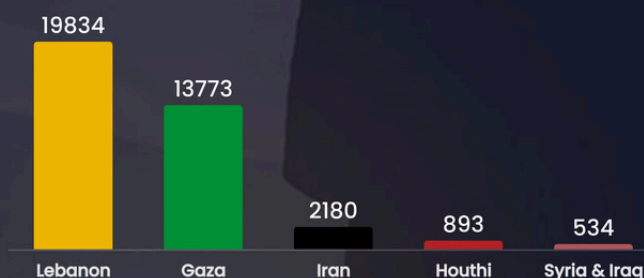
Five hostage bodies were returned to Israel continuing efforts to recover all remaining captives' remains from Gaza

HOSTAGES IN GAZA 13/255



ATTACKS ON ISRAEL & ALLIES 0/37,307

This Week Since Oct.7



Judea & Samaria + Israel Front

0 / 117
This Week Since Oct.7
0 Civilians and 0 security force fell.

11,371
Since Oct.7
Palestinian Terror Attacks since Oct.7
Over 7,000 Palestinians Arrested

Gaza Front

2 / 1,721
This Week Since Oct.7
2 IDF soldiers fell in battle. 0 Civilians killed

24,500
Since Oct.7
Hamas terrorists killed. Over 275 Senior officials killed since Oct.7

Lebanon Front

0 / 133
This Week Since Oct.7
0 civilian and 0 IDF soldiers fell.

+3,500
Since Oct.7
Hizbollah terrorists killed, 154 Hezbollah Leadership killed.

Greater Middle East Front

0 / 36
This Week Since Oct.7
0 Civilian killed this week.

+3,696
Since Oct.7
Attacks on Israel. +884 from Yemen, 2180 from Iran, +632 from other

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- A new joint U.S.–Israeli command center is being established in Kiryat Gat, manned by 200 U.S. soldiers under CENTCOM command. The base will host representatives from 12 countries — including Greece, Denmark, Jordan, the UAE, and Spain.
- In Israel’s Parliament, two annexation bills passed its first of 3 readings to become law — one for the overall region of Judea & Samaria/West Bank, another for the city of Maale Adumim located just southeast of Jerusalem. The bills passed despite opposition from Netanyahu demonstrating the growing support in Israel for clearly declaring Israel’s intentions to incorporate the Judea and Samaria into Israel. Netanyahu expressed support for the policy but opposed the legislation due to the timing as it would discourage Arab and Muslim countries from advancing relations with Israel. Similarly, the Trump Administration condemned the legislation- Rubio denounced them and Vance called them “foolish and insulting,” while Trump warned that Israel would lose his support if annexation proceeds, saying he had promised Arab states that Israel would not advance annexation. The Prime Minister’s Office issued an English statement disavowing responsibility and opposing the bills.
- In Cairo, a meeting took place between Hamas, the PFLP, and Fatah, mediated by Egypt, to form a joint Palestinian national strategy for the post-war period. All factions endorsed the Trump framework and agreed to create a technocratic government formally unaffiliated with either Hamas or the PA. Still, deep divisions remain: Abbas demands recognition as the sole Palestinian leader.

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- In the Jenina neighborhood of Rafah (inside the IDF-held area), Hamas cells emerged from tunnels and attacked an engineering unit operating with the Nahal's "Granite" battalion. They first hit a bulldozer with an anti-tank weapon — killing two — then opened sniper fire at a second bulldozer and the arriving evacuation crew. Hamas denies organized responsibility, claiming tunnel fighters have been cut off from leadership since March and acted independently; alternative reporting suggests the strike may have been deliberately aimed at the al-Biyoukh pocket east of Rafah, where Abu Shabab's militia is based.
- Hamas announced a halt to public executions, but this has not stopped targeted killings, beatings, or brutality; the public cessation is a tactical move to reduce Trump-era pressure and avoid giving Israel a pretext to resume large-scale combat. Like in Ukraine, this is a strategic lull, not an end; the ISF cannot realistically disarm Hamas, Hamas has no intention of surrendering weapons, and the only real solution — from this perspective — is a decisive military operation.
- According to Sky News, four pro-Israeli militias now operate inside Gaza under COGAT coordination, each based on clan structures and positioned hundreds of meters from IDF posts. Abu Shabab's militia, the largest, has 500–700 fighters. The fourth and newest militia, led by Rami Khalas in east Shejaiya, publicly announced support for the Trump plan and a halt to inter-Palestinian fighting. Reports mention a possible fifth militia in Khan Younis, commanded by Yasser Hanidek. All are reportedly aligned with Fatah or the Palestinian Authority, working informally to extract anti-Hamas activists from Hamas-controlled zones.

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- Trump officials have normalized engagement with Hamas, reportedly holding two direct meetings. Hamas is reconstituting brigades, appointing new commanders, and extracting weapons caches from underground — one reason it welcomes Egyptian engineering access. For Hamas, the current ceasefire is a long-term ‘hudna’, meant to buy time for rearmament.
- Hamas spokesmen publicly praised Trump’s decision to maintain the ceasefire and his condemnation of Judea and Samaria annexation proposals — a statement also echoed by Abbas’s office.
- The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAC) is preparing to begin operations to remove both IDF and militant munitions, recover bodies, and open civilian movement routes in Gaza.
- The New York Times reports many countries are reluctant to send troops to Gaza if Hamas refuses to surrender its weapons. The ISF’s mission would be policing, building a local police force, and blocking arms smuggling, but prospective countries insist ISF units must not enter dense urban areas out of fear of guerrilla attacks, casualties, and negative domestic political imagery of them acting as an occupying force.
- Lebanon’s Prime Minister pledged to disarm Hezbollah south of the Litani River within three months, aiming to complete it by end-2025, though internal resistance makes this unlikely without significant Israeli intervention.

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- A Druze leader in Lebanon, Wiyab Wiham, recently called for direct talks between Lebanon and Israel to achieve peace and to accept the Trump framework as a vehicle to rebuild southern Lebanon with factories in destroyed Shiite villages (a controversial notion, since Israel opposes return of those displaced). Wiham — formerly allied with Hezbollah — issued a threat against the Julani regime, warning that attacks on the Druze in Sweida would prompt missile strikes on Damascus and the presidential palace from positions near Mount Hermon, implying covert access to rocket stocks and possible cooperation with Israeli forces in that area. If true, this signals a quiet realignment of some Lebanese minorities away from Hezbollah.
- On October 18, 2025, Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani said Damascus is prepared to normalize relations with Russia only if Moscow hands over Assad to face justice and offers reconstruction funding. He also plans a November trip to China to seek investment in six reconstruction projects. This reflects Syrian attempts to diversify international patrons and secure reconstruction capital.
- Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is due to visit Washington to discuss parameters for a potential agreement for Saudi normalization with Israel which is expected to be conditioned, among other things, on the end state in Gaza. This aligns Gulf leverage over Israel's diplomatic trajectory and the Abraham Accords process.