

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #108 October 26 - November 1, 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



Photo cover: Two bodies of released hostages, Sahar Baruch and Amiram Coop, and fallen soldier Dmitry Shapiro

Source: News from the ground @yediotnews25 - Telegram

This week, two more of Israel's fallen hostages were returned from the Gaza Strip: 85-year-old Amiram Cooper from Kibbutz Nir Oz and 25-year-old Sahar Baruch from Kibbutz Be'eri. Their identification was completed by the National Center of Forensic Medicine, and the Israeli government reaffirmed its commitment to recovering the remains of all remaining hostages. Continued on page 3.

ISRAEL AT WAR

WEEK 108

1 Total Israeli casualties This Week

0 Total Civilians killed this week

1 Total IDF Casualties this week

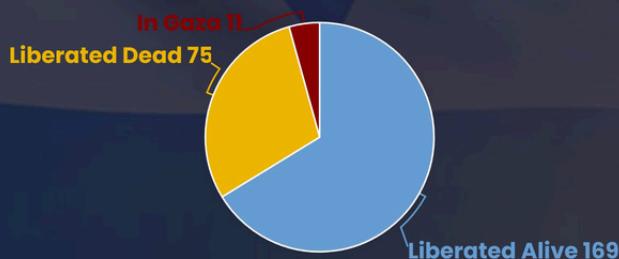
MAIN EVENTS

Hamas continues to exploit the ceasefire, staging false body recoveries and withholding hostages for leverage, while promoting a deceptive narrative of victimhood and resistance.

Iran, Russia, China, and Turkey continue to align against Israel diplomatically and militarily, while Britain and Germany delivered strong pro-Israel statements rejecting antisemitic narratives.

Hezbollah escalates attacks under the protection of the Lebanese state, which now mirrors its rhetoric and shields its operations. The IDF must retain full freedom of action in the north.

HOSTAGES IN GAZA 11 / 255



ATTACKS ON ISRAEL & ALLIES 0 / 37,307



Judea & Samaria + Israel Front



0 / 117

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



11,371

Since Oct.7
Over 7,000 Palestinians Arrested



Gaza Front



0 / 1,721

This Week Since Oct.7
1 IDF soldier 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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- Cover story continued: Dmitry Shapiro, a 34-year-old IDF reservist and tank crewman from Kiryat Malakhi, was a devoted husband and father of two. After months of intense combat duty in Gaza, he returned home deeply affected and emotionally broken. In recent days, he took his own life near Beit Elazari. His family described signs of severe trauma and depression that went unnoticed or untreated by the system. Dmitry's death is a painful reminder of the invisible wounds carried by Israel's soldiers — those who survive the battlefield but struggle to find peace after returning home.
- The IDF has exposed Hamas's deliberate manipulation of body recovery efforts to deceive international observers. Drone footage revealed Hamas operatives planting bodies or remains at designated sites, burying them, and then theatrically "discovering" them in front of Red Cross representatives to create a false image of cooperation and humanitarian concern. This staged performance contradicts Hamas's claims that it lacks the tools to locate and recover bodies. In reality, Hamas is intentionally withholding the remains of Israeli hostages to use as political leverage, while spreading disinformation about equipment shortages. The Israeli military views these actions as clear violations of the ceasefire agreement and part of a broader propaganda effort aimed at exploiting global sympathy while continuing to act as a terrorist organization.
- During a meeting in Tehran, Chinese and Iranian officials discussed countering U.S. and Israeli influence globally. Iranian sources reported that the conversation included explicit condemnation of U.S. support for "the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza." These statements underscore the tightening alliance between Iran and China, both of whom are advancing a shared anti-Israel diplomatic agenda across international platforms.

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- This past week in Judea and Samaria, significant internal political maneuvering by the Palestinian Authority (PA) has exposed growing instability and renewed tensions between Fatah and Hamas. In a move interpreted as a power consolidation effort, PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas issued a constitutional declaration appointing his close ally, Hussein al-Sheikh, as his official successor. The decision grants al-Sheikh temporary leadership of the PA for 90 days in the event of Abbas's departure, during which elections are meant to be held. This appointment was made unilaterally, without parliamentary oversight, as the Palestinian Legislative Council has been defunct since 2007. The move triggered immediate backlash from Hamas, which accused the PA of violating the Basic Law and bypassing any semblance of national consensus.
- Amid these political tensions, Abbas's advisor Mahmoud al-Habbash issued a statement denying any coordination with Hamas regarding the establishment of a governing committee for the Gaza Strip. This rejection signals the PA's concern over Hamas's recent efforts to present itself as a viable administrative alternative and to gain international legitimacy under the guise of unity or interim arrangements.
- This past week, Jerusalem witnessed a massive ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) protest aimed at pressuring the government to abandon legislation that would require yeshiva/seminary students to serve in the IDF or perform national service. The demonstrators, backed by Haredi leadership, are resisting long-overdue efforts to end sweeping exemptions that have allowed tens of thousands to avoid military duty for decades. The protest paralyzed central Jerusalem, but more importantly, it underscored a dangerous reality: a segment of Israeli society continues to reject any role in defending the state, even as the country faces existential threats on multiple fronts.

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- In recent days, Lebanon has intensified both its diplomatic attacks and military posture against Israel. Under the leadership of President Joseph Aoun, the Lebanese government is signaling a coordinated escalation, clearly aligned with the demands of Hezbollah, Iran's most dangerous regional proxy. The Lebanese state, which is failing to assert its own sovereignty, is enabling the militarization of its southern border, using the excuse of "Israeli violations" to justify Hezbollah's illegal presence and actions. This is a strategic narrative designed to shield terror and undermine Israeli deterrence.
- In a major legal challenge to anti-Israel propaganda at the UN, UN Watch director Hillel Neuer personally delivered legal documents to Francesca Albanese, the UN's special rapporteur for Palestinian territories, during an anti-Israel lecture in South Africa. The documents allege that Albanese's appointment lapsed in April, and that she has no diplomatic immunity, leaving her open to legal action for her denial of sexual violence committed by Hamas on October 7. This marks a critical pushback against efforts to whitewash Hamas atrocities and a significant move in confronting biased UN officials targeting Israel.
- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz made key pro-Israel statements this week. While in Ankara, Merz firmly rejected a Turkish journalist's antisemitic accusations, reaffirming that "Germany has stood with Israel since its founding" and emphasized that "the children in Gaza are hostages of Hamas." This rare moral clarity from a European leader was immediately countered by President Erdogan, who repeated false claims that Israel used nuclear weapons in Gaza, an incendiary and baseless lie intended to delegitimize Israel and galvanize Islamist sentiment.