

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #111 November 16 - November 22, 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: President Trump's meeting with Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia

Source: @fayz_slah on X

Mohammed bin Salman was accorded full ceremonial honors during his reception by President Trump at the White House, including a horse-guard parade with promises to receive the most advanced F-35s from the US. The Crown Prince expressed that Saudi Arabia will join the Abraham Accords only if there is a clear pathway to establishing a Palestinian state along the 1967 borders.

ISRAEL AT WAR WEEK 111

0

Total Israeli casualties This Week

1

Total Civilians killed this week

0

Total IDF Casualties this week

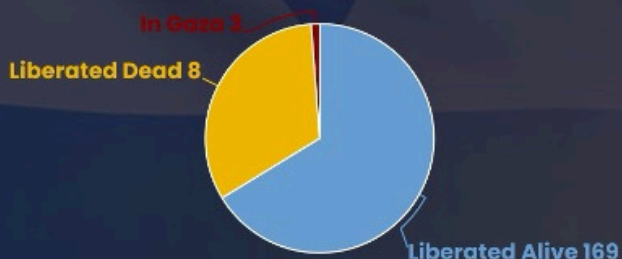
MAIN EVENTS

Clashes and Incitement in Judea and Samaria: Incitement from Hamas-backed channels resulted in a combined ramming and stabbing attack in Gush Etzion killing one Israeli.

Iranian Resistance to IAEA Decision and Conflict with Israel: Iran cancelled cooperation with the IAEA, following the Revolutionary Guard's claim that the attack on the BAZAN refinery shifted the war's balance.

The Issue of International Force and Global Hostility: Islamic Jihad rejected the American plan for an international force in Gaza, as the former NYC Mayor warned of growing global hostility toward Jews.

HOSTAGES IN GAZA 3/255



ATTACKS ON ISRAEL & ALLIES 0/37,307



Judea & Samaria + Israel Front

1/118
This Week Since Oct.7
1 Civilians and 0 security force fell.

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

Gaza Front

0/1,721
This Week Since Oct.7
1 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

Week #111

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- While IDF forces remain inside the Strip and along the “yellow line,” Hamas is working in parallel to rebuild its military capabilities. The de facto commander Izz al-Din Haddad is appointing new brigade and battalion commanders, recruiting new militants, and re-establishing weapons production using the large number of Israeli unexploded ordinance that litter Gaza. Hamas operatives are also collecting intelligence on IDF movements, and Israeli assessments suggest that the quantity of unexploded ordnance alone could sustain Hamas weapons production for years, if they are not removed or destroyed.
- The IDF revealed the tunnel system where the body of Lt. Hadar Goldin was held during the final of the 11 years his body was held hostage by Hamas. This was described as one of the most significant tunnel routes uncovered in Gaza so far: about 7 km long, approximately 25 meters deep, with roughly 80 living chambers/rooms and included widened sections in the walls for storing weapons and other equipment. The tunnel which ran under Rafah, was positioned between dense civilian infrastructure such as mosques, schools and near a UNRWA compound, and also contained command-and-control rooms used to direct attacks above ground. At one stage of the war, the Rafah brigade commander, Muhammad Shabana, stayed inside this complex.
- A Wall Street Journal poll shows that 51% of Gaza residents are satisfied with Hamas’s conduct during the war, compared to 43% in a similar survey in May. And 41% said they would vote for Hamas if Palestinian elections were held, up from 37% in the previous month, and 55% oppose disarming Hamas. The rise in Hamas’s popularity during the ceasefire is attributed to a sense of victory and the return of basic order to Gaza’s streets through Hamas policing and internal security

Week #111

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- The IDF hosted a 5-day seminar at Ground Forces Command base in Israel, for more than 100 senior commanders, researchers, and military academy representatives from 18 countries, including Britain, Germany, Poland, Morocco, India, Japan and others. The IDF is sharing operational and intelligence lessons developed over the last two years in order to strengthen ties and interoperability with foreign armies. This takes place against a backdrop in which public opinion in many of these countries is increasingly anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian, but their strategic-military interest remains to stay aligned with Israel, particularly on counter-terrorism, urban warfare, and missile defense.
- Hamas attempted to establish a “new status quo” under which it could carry out sporadic attacks and sniper fire along the yellow line with limited Israeli response, all under the umbrella of the ceasefire. The IDF coordinated in advance with the American force in Kiryat Gat, which is monitoring Gaza with its own UAVs, and did not wait for formal U.S. approval before striking. Hamas appealed to the U.S. to “enforce the ceasefire”, while France condemned Israel and announced it is prepared to send 100 soldiers to the International Stabilization Force (ISF).
- Hamas personnel, together with the Red Cross and Egyptian engineering equipment, are digging in northern Nuseirat camp to locate the body of an Israeli hostage. Across the Strip, three Israeli bodies remain in Hamas hands. Israel is waiting for their full return before any further major military action. The hostages still held include two Israelis and one Thai national: Dror Or, Master Sgt. Ran Gvili and Thai national Sudthisak Rinthalak.

Week #111

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- In southern Gaza, the Abu-Shabab militia released a video recognizing Trump's Peace Council and declaring a house-to-house "cleansing operation" in Rafah, street by street, promising that every sand dune will be inspected. Their stated goal is to eradicate any remaining terrorist infrastructure and prepare the area for the return of Gazans under the supervision and cooperation of the ISF. The militia is taking its first steps toward taking over at least parts of Rafah, positioning itself as a local security partner to the international force.
- The UN Security Council approved Trump's proposal for a "Peace Council" and deployment of the ISF in Gaza under his oversight and with an international mandate. According to Trump, this is "one of the best decisions in the UN's history." The resolution passed as UNSC Resolution 2803, with a 13–0 vote and 2 abstentions from Russia and China, who chose not to veto. For Trump, this represents a major diplomatic achievement, backed by a broad coalition of Arab and Muslim states that agreed to support the framework.
- From January 2026 to December 2027, a multinational force from unspecified Arab and Muslim countries will be deployed in Gaza, alongside thousands of Palestinian police officers trained in Egypt. Their mission will be to maintain peace, secure borders, protect humanitarian routes, train local police, and impose order among the population. Crucially, they are also tasked with dismantling terrorist infrastructure and collecting weapons, with the explicit goal of demilitarizing the Strip.
- The IDF confirmed that in an airstrike on a Palestinian camp near Sidon, Lebanon, 13 Hamas operatives were killed and no civilians were harmed. This indicates that southern Lebanon remains a significant rear base for Hamas, not only for Hezbollah, and that Israel is targeting those networks as well.

Week #111

November 16 - November 22, 2025

- Reports indicate that a Hamas figure known as Abu-Khalil, operating from Turkey, is directing the bulk of Hamas terror activity in Judea and Samaria. He is said to be organizing funding, purchasing weapons, and overseeing field cells, with the main overseas operational hub shifting from Iran and Lebanon to Turkey. Through based in Turkey, Abu-Khalil allegedly coordinates attacks in the Judea and Samaria, buys weapons and stockpiles them in African states or Yemen, plans attacks against Jews and Israeli targets in the West, and is preparing to smuggle weapons back into Gaza, attempting to find ways to circumvent the ISF presence and border controls.
- Dozens of extremist Israelis raided a Palestinian village near Bethlehem, where they set fire to a house and four vehicles. Prime Minister Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Sa'ar, along with other politicians, issued strong condemnations of these events. Together with local Judea and Samaria council leaders, they stated that such actions “harm the settlement enterprise” and undermine Israel’s broader strategic and moral interests.
- Israel’s security establishment arrested a smuggling cell of Syrian and Israeli Druze, at least five of whom serve in the IDF, on suspicion of smuggling weapons from Syria into Israel for profit. Since July 2025, when around 1,000 Druze crossed into Syria after a fence breach, connections were formed with Druze in the town of Hader, who can acquire diverse weapons cheaply and smuggle them to Druze in Israel, where they are sold on to criminal organizations. This blurs the line between ideological solidarity, economic opportunity, and organized crime, and poses a serious internal security challenge.
- Mazloun Abdi, commander of the Kurdish SDF, declared that: “We will not allow Syria to return to the centralized state system of the Assad era.”

Week #111

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- Reports indicate that President Masoud Pezeshkian sent a letter to President Trump via Mohammed bin Salman, calling for negotiations on a new nuclear deal. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made similar statements, but Iran insists on preserving its right to enrich uranium independently, while the IAEA presses for access to nuclear sites that were attacked by Israel/US. In parallel, the United States imposed sanctions on 50 individuals and companies involved in smuggling Iranian oil, sharpening economic pressure as diplomatic channels are tested.
- The IAEA Board adopted a formal resolution requiring immediate and full Iranian cooperation regarding the nuclear sites that were struck, and demanding that Iran clarify the status of its 60% enriched uranium stockpile. The resolution also calls for unrestricted cooperation with IAEA inspectors. In response, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi announced that Iran is canceling its cooperation agreements with the IAEA.
- During the same week, Pezeshkian publicly announced that parts of Tehran's population will have to be relocated due to a severe water shortage, and that there is a real possibility of moving the capital to another city. This underscores Iran's acute domestic governance challenges, where environmental and infrastructure crises converge with international isolation, and demonstrates how Iran has prioritized funding its proxies to attack Israel even at expense of substantial and critical domestic needs.
- The German government announced the removal of its partial arms-export embargo on Israel. Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt confirmed that Berlin authorities revoked the German citizenship of a Syrian national due to his support for Hamas.