

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #114 December 7 - December 13, 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



Elimination of the terrorist Ra'ad Sa'ad

Photo Cover: Elimination of Ra'ad Sa'ad

Source: IDF Spokesperson

Ra'ad Sa'ad, Head of the Weapons Production Headquarters of Hamas' Military Wing and one of the architects of the brutal October 7th Massacre was eliminated. Sa'ad was one of the last remaining veteran senior militants in the Gaza Strip and a close associate of Marwan Issa, the deputy head of Hamas' military wing.

IDSF USA

ISRAEL'S DEFENSE & SECURITY FORUM

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ISRAEL AT WAR

WEEK 114

0 Total Israeli casualties This Week

0 Total Civilians killed this week

0 Total IDF Casualties this week

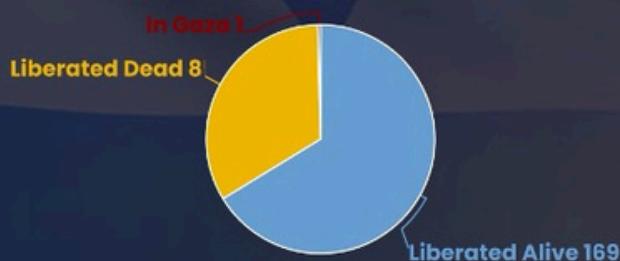
MAIN EVENTS

Hamas leaders reject disarmament or international mandates, claiming Israeli failure. They demand withdrawal and aid, citing Trump's statements as leverage for ending the war.

Iran deepens Russian alliances amid "identity wars," while Trump claims Tehran is weakened. Turkey condemns Israeli actions in Syria, and diplomatic tensions with Lebanon escalate.

One year post-coup, Syria's regime exhibits jihadist anti-Israel rhetoric and military parades. Tensions spill into Lebanon, sparking clashes between regime supporters and Hezbollah.

HOSTAGES IN GAZA 1



ATTACKS ON ISRAEL & ALLIES 0/37,307



Judea & Samaria + Israel Front



0 / 118

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



12,801

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
Hizbullah 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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- Prime Minister Netanyahu is scheduled to depart for the United States on December 28, with a meeting at Trump's private estate the following day, the beginning of a US visit that will conclude on January 3, 2026. Discussions are expected to focus on normalization efforts with Lebanon and Syria, mechanisms to prevent renewed fighting on the northern front, and Iran's attempts to revive its ballistic missile program. Central to the talks will be the transition to Phase II, and what it will take to 'disarm' Hamas.
- According to a Financial Times report, former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair will not head the "Peace Council", despite meeting Netanyahu seven times during 2024, due to opposition from Qatar, Turkey, and Egypt, which view him as too aligned with Israeli interests. Instead, an Egyptian businessman will be appointed, a decision welcomed by Hamas. This development is widely seen as evidence that Qatar, Turkey, and Egypt are leveraging their influence in Washington to preserve Hamas's grip on power.
- Trump is reportedly pushing for a Netanyahu–Sisi meeting before the end of the month. In August, Israel and Egypt signed a major gas export agreement, under which Israel would supply 25% of Egypt's electricity generation—the largest export deal in Israeli history. However, Israel is currently withholding implementation for geo-economic leverage, possibly to pressure Egypt on Gazan migration issues. Egyptian sources reportedly condition the meeting on IDF withdrawal from Rafah Crossing and the Philadelphi Corridor.

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- A joint Israeli–American naval exercise has begun, shortly after Iran concluded Revolutionary Guard naval drills on 4–5 December 2025, simulating closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran also unveiled a “303” missile with a claimed range of 1,350 km, underscoring its continued preparations for a future regional confrontation.
- Despite the failure to locate Ran Givili’s body in Zeitoun, the Trump administration remains determined to move to Phase II, deploying the ISF in early 2026 even if only one or two states participate. While Hamas is formally slated for disarmament, the ISF will not enter the Red Zone, raising serious doubts about how disarmament could be enforced in practice.
- In an interview with The Jerusalem Post, U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye and Special Envoy Tom Barak expressed support for including Türkiye in the ISF, citing Ankara’s dialogue with Hamas and its large ground force, and argued that this could facilitate normalization between Jerusalem, Ankara, and Damascus. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan confirmed readiness to deploy troops, accusing Netanyahu of seeking to expel Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank. From Washington’s perspective, the priority is stabilization, reconstruction, establishment of the technocratic government, debris removal, and ISF deployment, based on the expectation that the war will officially end in January. This stance directly clashes with Israel’s insistence on full Hamas disarmament prior to reconstruction, citing past experience showing Hamas’s systematic diversion of humanitarian aid for rearmament.



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- The U.S. command in Kiryat Gat reported that since the ceasefire, 30,000 aid trucks have entered Gaza, with a target of 600 trucks per day. Winterization supplies, including tents and equipment, are expected imminently. The U.S. has demanded—and Israel has agreed—to finance the removal of 60 million tons of rubble, at an estimated cost of ₪1 billion.
- Senior Hamas official Khaled Mashal, in an interview with Al Jazeera, claimed that the “flood” of the past two years resulted in 70,000 “martyrs” and 200,000 wounded, arguing that these sacrifices would ultimately lead to Palestinian “liberation.” Mashal asserted that public opinion in Europe and even in the United States is shifting, claiming—without evidence—that half of the American public now supports Hamas and the “resistance.” In the same interview, Mashal categorically rejected any disarmament, stating that Hamas’s weapons are inseparable from the Palestinian cause. He insisted that there is no threat of attack from Gaza, claiming that the only danger is renewed Israeli aggression, thereby framing Hamas as a defensive actor despite ongoing rearmament.
- Palestinian Authority leader, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) stated that Hamas must surrender, hand over its weapons, and end its rule in Gaza. He argued for a modern Palestinian state that is demilitarized, signaling a direct political contrast between the PA’s stated model—statehood paired with disarmament—and Hamas’s position that weapons are non-negotiable while “occupation” continues.
- The U.S. Congress approved lifting sanctions on Syria, with strong Republican support but Democratic resistance. The move still requires Senate approval and a potential presidential signature on December 22, and includes conditions such as non-aggression toward Israel and active combat against ISIS.

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- A serious incident occurred in Khan Arnabeh, Quneitra province, approximately 5 km from the Golan Heights. An IDF unit attempting to interrogate terror suspects encountered a violent riot in the village of roughly 7,000 residents. Soldiers fired at the lower extremities, wounding two civilians, and no arrests were made, signaling a loss of operational freedom in comparison to earlier stages of Operation Bashan Arrow. Simultaneously, armed internal security forces loyal to al-Julani drove past IDF troops, while waving Salafi flags and chanting Islamist and anti-Israel slogans, including “Khaybar Khaybar ya Yahud” and calls to march on Jerusalem. This incident underscores that no effective buffer zone currently exists.
- On 10 December 2025, U.S. Southern Command seized an Iranian-sanctioned oil tanker, “Skippy,” in the Caribbean near Venezuela, involved in smuggling oil—including to China. This followed Iranian naval drills simulating closure of the Strait of Hormuz, while U.S. Navy and Fifth Fleet force concluded a five-day joint maritime exercise.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and said Russia-Iran relations are advancing “very positively.” Putin highlighted negotiations and cooperation in gas and electricity, expansion of ties through the North–South Corridor, and increased cooperation at the Bushehr power plant. He added that Russia supports Iran on the nuclear issue, describing ongoing close coordination between Tehran and Moscow and continuous contact via foreign ministers.
- U.S., Israel, and Qatar held a trilateral meeting in New York on Sunday, 7 December 2025, aimed at rebuilding relations after a n Israeli strike in Doha. This was the first meeting under a trilateral mechanism established by the U.S. after a September attack in Doha targeting Hamas officials.