

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #115 December 14 - December 20, 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: Prime Minister Netanyahu meeting with Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, and President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides as part of the Israel–Greece–Cyprus summit, in Jerusalem.

Source: Government Press Office

Greece, Cyprus and Israel reached a new milestone in their alliance, announcing the formation of a joint rapid reaction force to counter Turkish aggression, comprising of 2,500 troops from the 3 countries.

ISRAEL AT WAR

WEEK 115

0 Total Israeli casualties This Week

15 Total Civilians killed this week

0 Total IDF Casualties this week

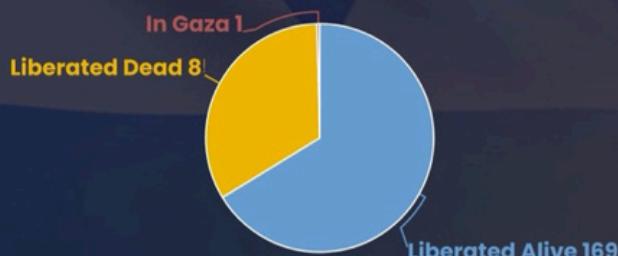
MAIN EVENTS

Terror in Australia: ISIS-linked terrorists killed 15 at a Sydney Hanukkah event; police later arrested five armed suspects targeting Bondi's Jewish community.

Hamas Anniversary: Marking 38 years, Hamas claimed strategic victory, demanding full Israeli withdrawal and insisting on independent Palestinian governance for Gaza.

Defense Strategy: Germany expanded the Arrow-3 deal; Israel, Greece, and Cyprus planned a joint force; Turkey may trade S-400s for F-35s.

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
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
Hezbollah 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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- Diplomatic pressure is building for Turkey to deploy troops to Gaza under the ISF framework, with claims circulating that Turkey is uniquely positioned to disarm Hamas. Hamas has signaled conditional openness to partial disarmament if Turkish forces are present, arguing that it would allow them continued maneuverability under the pretense of disarmament. This proposal is widely viewed as revealing and problematic, effectively offering Hamas survival through Turkish patronage, a “Turkish Shield”, rather than genuine demilitarization.
- An ISF summit in Doha included 45 countries, notably without Turkish participation. Reporting suggests no state is willing to forcibly confront Hamas, with most limiting their role to securing Hamas-free areas or training Palestinian police. Italy is reportedly at most, offering to secure the Rafah Crossing on the Egyptian side only.
- Egypt insists that the Rafah Crossing be opened in both directions, while Israel continues to demand outbound-only movement. Israel argues that a bi-directional gateway would enable Hamas to replenish manpower, smuggle weapons, and import construction materials, noting that Hamas already exploits the 600 aid trucks entering daily by reselling the aid to Gazans at inflated prices and by exercising their control over the distribution of the aid to Gazan society.
- Rubio described UNRWA as “a corrupted organization that’s unsalvageable. Period.” His remarks came amid reports that the U.S. is considering sanctions against the agency.
- Another espionage case was exposed in Israel, involving a Russian foreign worker who transferred videos and intelligence on sensitive sites, reinforcing assessments that Iran is preparing for a future confrontation.

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- In a speech marking 38 years since Hamas's founding, Khalil al-Hayya outlined what he described as Hamas's post-October 7 "achievements", including: the collapse of Israel's strategic deterrence, Israel's international isolation, legal actions against Israeli leaders and soldiers, the portrayal of Israel as a "terror entity", the erosion of the "Zionist narrative" among elites and publics, the complication of normalization with Arab states, the revival of the Palestinian issue as a central regional cause, and the presentation of Hamas's "resistance model" as a source of inspiration across the Arab and Islamic worlds. He also emphasized internal fractures within Israeli society and declining trust in Israel's leadership.
- In the Marazi camp area, gunmen loyal to independent clan leader, Ghassan al-Dahini assassinated Ahmed Zamzam, a Hamas Internal Security officer who, together with the Sahm unit, had been responsible for eliminating political opponents. Al-Dahini publicly claimed the killing occurred because Zamzam failed to stop at a militia checkpoint, but the message was clearly intended as a warning to Hamas operatives that militia authority must be obeyed.
- Another independent clan leader, Hussam al-Astal, speaking from his base in the Khan Younis area, issued a statement on Sunday, which coincided with Hamas's 38th anniversary, declaring that "the era of Hamas is over" and that his forces represent the future of Gaza. The timing was symbolic, aimed at undermining Hamas's legitimacy precisely as the movement marked its founding.
- U.S. Central Command, alongside the Jordanian Air Force, conducted 70 airstrikes using 100 munitions across Deir ez-Zor and the Syria-Iraq border, in retaliation for the killing of three U.S. personnel near Palmyra. Several ISIS operatives were eliminated, making this the largest U.S. strike wave in Syria in years.

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- In Jerusalem, a parking enforcement officer issuing a parking ticket in an ultra-orthodox neighborhood was confronted by local ultra-orthodox men. Police arriving on the scene discovered one individual was an IDF deserter and attempted an arrest. A “black color” riot code was triggered, drawing hundreds of rioters. The incident escalated into a large-scale riot, resulting in 13 injured police officers, 6 hospitalized, 4 patrol cars vandalized, and only 4 arrests. Riot-control measures, including stun grenades, water cannons, and batons, were used only after the situation significantly deteriorated.
- Another round of talks took place in Naqoura between Israel and Lebanon without a breakthrough. Lebanon is publicly demanding a halt to Israeli strikes and IDF withdrawal from five positions, while refusing to search civilian homes for weapons, while continuing to work with the IDF to degrade Hezbollah, a threat to both Lebanon and Israel. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that Lebanon is resisting directly confronting Hezbollah. France is attempting to extend the deadline by one month in an effort to prevent an Israeli escalation.
- On December 1, Greek Defense Minister Nikos Dendias announced a fundamental shift in Greece’s national defense strategy. Greece will no longer rely primarily on ground forces and infantry-centric deterrence, but instead transition toward missile-based denial and standoff capabilities. These missile systems are planned to be deployed across the Aegean islands, in some cases only a few kilometers from the Turkish coastline, explicitly framing the Aegean as a missile-saturated defensive barrier. Dendias justified the shift by arguing that Turkey effectively possesses “an army of one million drones”, highlighting Ankara’s overwhelming investment in UAV warfare, loitering munitions, and networked ISR, which Greece views as eroding traditional force balances.

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- A mass-casualty terrorist attack was carried out by the ISIS inspired terrorists, Sajid Akram and his son Navid. Surveillance footage showed them dressed in black and opening fire on Jews attending a Hanukkah candle-lighting event with more than 1,000 attendees. 15 people were killed and at least 40 wounded, making it Australia's deadliest terror attack in 30 years. An ISIS flag was found in the attackers' vehicle. Australia's ASIO had previously investigated Navid Akram six years earlier due to close ties to an ISIS cell in Sydney. Australian security forces later arrested five additional heavily armed suspects, who were assessed to have been en- route to Bondi, an area with a large Jewish community.
- The Bundestag approved an expansion of the defense agreement to purchase Israel's Arrow 3 system, adding approximately \$3.1 billion. The overall agreement between Israel and Germany is now expected to exceed \$6.7 billion (over ₪20 billion), making it the largest defense export deal in Israel's history.
- Canada announced new sanctions against senior IRGC officials for systematic and severe human rights violations in Iran. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced personal sanctions against two judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC), citing their efforts to investigate and prosecute Israelis without Israel's consent, despite Israel not being a member of the ICC and therefore rejecting its jurisdiction.