

# ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #119 January 10 - January 17, 2026

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: Iranian protestors who have been executed by regime forces. According to reports security personnel executed injured people in the hospital.**

**Source: @Vahid\_Beheshti on X**

On the ground, the regime is brutally suppressing protests, with reports of Shiite militias from Iraq and Afghanistan assisting Iranian security forces, including the Basij, in indiscriminate fire on demonstrators. After a week-long internet blackout, estimates suggest the death toll has reached up to 20,000 protesters, compared to 550 deaths over several months during the Mahsa Amini protests. As long as security forces remain loyal and lethal, the regime is assessed to be capable of crushing the uprising.



# SECURITY BRIEFING WEEK 119



0

Total Israeli casualties This Week

0

Total Civilians killed this week

0

Total IDF Casualties this week



**20,000**

The estimated death toll of Iranian protesters during the current uprising, a significant increase compared to the 550 deaths recorded during the Mahsa Amini protests.



**2,500**

The number of structures destroyed by the IDF in Gaza since the beginning of the ceasefire, based on satellite imagery analysis.



**2,000**

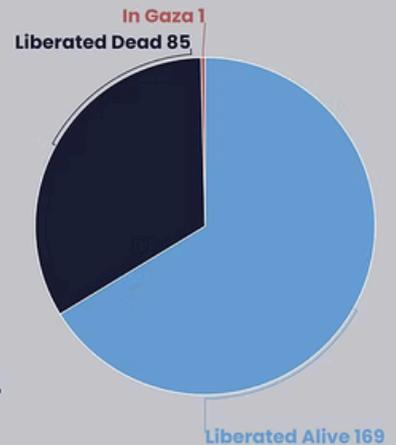
The number of Druze reportedly massacred by the ISIS-affiliated regime in Syria, with an additional 200 kidnapped.



**800**

The number of executions in Iran that the White House spokesperson stated were prevented due to U.S. pressure.

## HOSTAGES IN GAZA: 1



## Week #119

### January 10 - January 14, 2026

- Donald Trump announced that Phase II has begun, declaring himself Chairman of the “Peace Council” tasked with overseeing the technocratic government. With mediator support, he demanded that Hamas begin demilitarization immediately, warning it could proceed “the easy way or the hard way.” Despite this declaration, Hamas continues to hold hostages and has refused to disarm, while Israel remains constrained from resuming full-scale combat due to international pressure to continue Phase II toward war termination and Gaza reconstruction.
- According to Axios, the success of Phase II hinges on IDF withdrawal from Gaza and Hamas surrendering its weapons. The newly formed technocratic government, assembled through Israeli–Egyptian vetting and approved by both Hamas and Fatah, with backing from the Palestinian Authority, is intended to manage civilian life. A dedicated policing force is to be established under this framework, separating governance from militant control—at least formally.
- The Davos Summit scheduled for January 23, 2026, is expected to host the first meeting of the Peace Council, overseeing Phase II and the technocratic government. It remains unclear whether an ISF will materialize. Indonesia and Morocco are currently considered as potential contributors.
- Fatah and Hamas representatives, meeting under Egyptian mediation, jointly called for a halt to IDF strikes, full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, an end to West Bank settlement expansion, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Ali Shaath, a founding figure of the Palestinian Authority, was named prime minister of the technocratic government, which will be based in Cairo.

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- Members of the National Committee for the Administration of the Gaza Strip (NCAG) held their first official meeting in Cairo. The 15-member body, composed of Palestinian technocrats and headed by former Palestinian Authority deputy minister Ali Shaath, met in the presence of Nikolay Mladenov, who will oversee the committee's work on behalf of the Board of Peace, chaired by U.S. President Donald Trump. This meeting formally marked the launch of the technocratic governance framework intended to manage civilian affairs in Gaza during the current phase.
- The Executive Committee of the Board of Peace includes a mix of regional power brokers, Western officials, and private-sector figures. The inclusion of Qatar and Turkey, both of which have sponsored, hosted, and politically protected Hamas leadership over the years, represents a significant strategic blow to Israel. Their formal integration into the post-war governing framework grants them institutional legitimacy and access at precisely the stage when Gaza's future power structures are being reshaped.
- From Israel's perspective, the Board's composition raises concerns that the technocratic and stabilization framework could replicate past failures, where international involvement did not dismantle Hamas's power but instead enabled its survival through indirect channels. The presence of Qatar and Turkey introduces the possibility that political compromises inside the Board of Peace could override security imperatives, weakening enforcement of demilitarization and allowing Hamas to adapt rather than be eliminated.



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- Israeli forces identified four militants crossing the line and directed an airstrike that killed three of them. The cell was reportedly tracking operatives loyal to Hussam al-Astal, leader of an anti-Hamas militia. Al-Astal later claimed responsibility for the execution at point-blank range of a Hamas police officer in western Khan Younis, stating his men seized the officer's rifle and handgun and would hunt Hamas operatives throughout the Mawasi area, tent by tent. This assassination, carried out with Shin Bet guidance, is described as part of a broader targeted campaign against Hamas's internal security infrastructure.
- Intelligence assessments indicate close coordination between Shin Bet and local militias aimed at building an alternative governing structure in Gaza should the technocratic government model fail. Hamas, for its part, is reportedly seeking to replicate the Lebanon model, presenting a unified technocratic government with Fatah while quietly placing Hamas loyalists in key power positions, thereby maintaining de facto control over Gaza.
- Despite Trump's public calls encouraging continued protests in Iran, he welcomed the suspension of executions, sending messages to Tehran that no immediate strike would occur. The White House spokesperson stated that 800 executions were prevented, and reports indicate a planned U.S. attack was called off.
- The Iranian regime appears to be signaling openness to renewed nuclear negotiations, a tactic it has historically employed when fearing serious Western retaliation.

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- Alert levels at U.S. bases across the Middle East were lowered, with troops and aircraft redeployed, following Saudi, Turkish, Qatari, and Omani pressure on Washington to avoid an attack that could destabilize the region and spike oil prices.
- According to the Washington Post, Israeli officials conveyed via Russia that Israel would not strike Iran unless attacked first. Iran responded through the same channel that it would also refrain from preemptive action, establishing a temporary de-escalatory understanding.
- Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi urged protesters to continue, stating that “an ocean of blood” now separates the people from the regime. The scale of killings has strengthened the opposition, as the regime is increasingly viewed as murdering civilians indiscriminately for its own survival.
- A ceremony honoring the parents of 60 ultra-orthodox, Hashmonaim Brigade soldiers was held in Bnei Brak, attended by brigade commander Avinoam Emunah. Dozens of ultra-Orthodox anti-draft protesters attempted to disrupt the event and physically assaulted participants. Police intervened, evacuated the commander, and two assaulted soldiers were hospitalized, highlighting continued internal societal tensions surrounding military service.
- The Lebanese foreign minister publicly stated for the first time that Israel has no restriction on continuing strikes in Lebanon so long as Hezbollah remains armed, marking a notable rhetorical shift in Beirut’s official position.
- U.S. Central Command, alongside the Jordanian Air Force, conducted dozens of airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Deir ez-Zor and Suwayda. In parallel, French and British air forces struck ISIS weapons depots in Palmyra, signaling renewed Western counterterrorism coordination.