

# ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #122 February 1 - February 7, 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: The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, accompanied by two military supply ships, and two U.S. Coast Guard cutters, in the Arabian Sea**  
Source: CENTCOM on X

Iran tested U.S. vigilance in two separate incidents. West of the Strait of Hormuz, six vessels approached a commercial ship and were repelled by the U.S. Navy. In the Arabian Sea, a Shahed-139 UAV approached the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln and was intercepted by an F-35; Iranian sources claim the drone successfully transmitted intelligence before interception. These actions are assessed as deliberate pressure tactics against the United States.

# SECURITY BRIEFING WEEK 122



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Israeli Citizens  
or IDF soldiers  
killed this week

87

Record monthly  
Israeli strikes in  
Lebanon

110

Mortar shells  
found in  
UNRWA bags



## 60% to 20%

Ali Shamkhani stated Iran could reduce uranium enrichment from high levels to lower purity if international concerns are resolved.



## \$2 Billion

Turkey and Saudi Arabia signed a solar energy deal worth this amount during President Erdogan's meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.



## 20 Agreements

During President Erdogan's visit to Egypt, the two nations signed approximately 20 agreements to strengthen cooperation and increase bilateral trade.



## 20 Individuals

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced sanctions against 20 Iranian citizens, including members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.



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- The Prime Minister's Office condemned the new emblem of the "Gaza Administration Committee" led by Ali Shaath. Whereas the previous emblem resembled a phoenix, the new symbol is nearly identical to that of the Palestinian Authority. Concurrently, Mahmoud Abbas announced Palestinian Authority elections by November 1, 2026, a move widely seen as an attempt to position the PA to retake control of Gaza.
- Following a meeting between Steve Witkoff, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the senior IDF leadership, an official statement reiterated that Hamas must be fully disarmed and Gaza demilitarized before any reconstruction process begins. The statement also clarified that the Palestinian Authority will have no role in governing Gaza in the day after scenario.
- The United Arab Emirates expressed willingness to assume responsibility for civilian administration in Gaza, including multi-billion-dollar investments in reconstruction, debris removal, logistics hub management, and joint projects with Israeli contractors.
- The IDF struck a Hamas weapons depot in Gaza City, stating that the attack was conducted after issuing advance warnings to civilians. This strike marked a significant precedent, as it was the first Israeli attack in the Gaza Strip accompanied by an official evacuation warning since September 2025, signaling a possible shift back toward more formalized rules of engagement amid rising tensions.
- The IDF spokesperson revealed January intelligence from Jabalia, showing Hamas operatives using ambulances to transport fighters and military equipment from hospitals to schools. Unlike previous ceasefires, this ceasefire imposed no restrictions on aerial surveillance, allowing Israel to collect significantly more intelligence on militant activity during the lull.

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- The Nahala movement organized a march advocating Jewish resettlement in northern Gaza. Several participants crossed the border fence and planted a tree. They were detained by soldiers and transferred to police custody, marking an internal Israeli security incident tied to the Gaza theater.
- Hamas claimed it ambushed the militia of Hossam al-Astal, killing 11 fighters. Al-Astal countered that his forces killed six Hamas operatives, captured several for interrogation, and challenged Hamas to provide proof of its claims. He also announced that Kizan al-Najjar in southern Khan Younis will soon reopen to residents. Overall, local militias continue operating and are visibly strengthening, increasingly acting as a policing force for the “day after” and positioning themselves as increasingly viable alternatives to Hamas governance.
- Renewed fighting is increasingly likely due to Hamas’s refusal to comply with the conditions of Phase 2 of the cease-fire, which requires Hamas to completely disarm. Additional IDF reserve brigades are expected to be mobilized in the near future, in anticipation of a new campaign commencing in March–April, coinciding with the expiration of the disarmament deadline. Likely axes of advance include Gaza City, Nuseirat Camp, and most notably Deir al-Balah, now considered viable precisely because no Israeli hostages remain.
- Iranian Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh conducted an official visit to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The visit comes amid heightened regional sensitivities, given Azerbaijan’s strategic location, its close military cooperation with Israel, and its shared border with Iran.



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- Netanyahu stated that “conditions are building toward a critical mass that could bring about the downfall of the Iranian regime,” framing the current moment as one of strategic vulnerability for Tehran. According to reports, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan have been pressuring the United States and Iran to sign a non-aggression pact, reflecting regional concern over escalation and instability.
- Washington is demanding that Iran hand over its enriched uranium stockpile, with particular emphasis on uranium enriched to 60 percent, a level just below weapons-grade (90 percent). The demand is aimed at rolling back Iran’s nuclear breakout capability. Iran, however, flatly rejected U.S. calls to halt uranium enrichment on its own territory, underscoring the continued deadlock over the core nuclear issue.
- The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed to have seized two oil tankers, carrying one million liters of fuel and 15 crew members, accusing them of smuggling. This move is viewed as a signal of readiness to disrupt the Strait of Hormuz.
- Iran also unveiled the Khorramshahr-4 hypersonic missile, with a 2,000-kilometer range and a 1.5-ton warhead, marking it as one of the most destructive missiles in its arsenal. This unveiling is widely viewed as an escalatory threat and to achieve regional deterrence for Iran.
- Yadollah Javani, political adviser to the commander of the IRGC, stated that the public unveiling of the Khorramshahr-4 missile serves as a clear message to the United States. He stressed that even if Iran sits at the negotiating table, it will not relinquish its military capabilities, underscoring Tehran’s position that diplomacy will not come at the expense of strategic deterrence.

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- The Israel Defense Forces approved new protocols regulating the service conditions for Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) soldiers, designed to accommodate religious requirements. These include gender-segregated service frameworks, designated prayer time, strict kosher food standards, and a formal declaration of allegiance to the IDF as an alternative to a traditional oath, which many Orthodox Jews consider religiously problematic. The move is intended to expand Haredi integration into military service while reducing friction with religious norms.
- In Lebanon, the head of Hezbollah's air-defense array was killed in an Israeli airstrike. Following Arabic evacuation warnings issued by the IDF spokesperson, a wave of strikes targeted Hezbollah terrorist infrastructure.
- President Erdoğan met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, during which Turkey and Saudi Arabia signed a \$2 billion solar energy deal. The agreement reflects expanding economic and energy cooperation between the two regional powers, particularly in renewable energy and large-scale infrastructure projects.
- During Erdoğan's visit to Egypt, the two sides signed approximately 20 agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation. These agreements included a substantial expansion of trade ties as well as a framework agreement for military cooperation between Turkey and Egypt, signaling a notable shift in regional defense and strategic coordination.