

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #123 February 8 - February 14, 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 only released photo of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meeting with US President Donald Trump.

Source: @IsraeliPM on X

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with President Trump for a three-hour session—their seventh meeting since Trump's second inauguration—to discuss acceptable parameters for a deal with Iran. Netanyahu stressed that any agreement must include restrictions not only on the nuclear program but also on ballistic missiles and support for regional proxies. Trump appears determined to demonstrate the complete exhaustion of diplomatic avenues before signing off on any military action.



SECURITY BRIEFING WEEK 123



23

Palestinian
Arrests in a J&S
Operation

2

Aircraft Carriers
to be deployed
near Iran

FEB 19

Major Peace
Council Summit
Scheduled



20,000 Soldiers

The maximum potential size of the Indonesian troop deployment to Gaza, starting with an initial commitment of 8,000.



40,000 Reservists

The new daily cap for the number of IDF reservists allowed to serve simultaneously in 2026 to manage the national budget.



\$1.25 Billion

The individual contribution expected from Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE respectively (totaling \$3.75 billion) for Gaza reconstruction.



5-10 Year Hudna

The duration of the long-term truce proposed by Hamas official Khaled Meshaal as a strategic "Lebanonization" model for Gaza.



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- According to Axios, President Donald Trump is expected to convene the first summit of his newly formed “Peace Council” in Washington on February 19, 2026. The summit will focus on Gaza reconstruction, implementation of Phase II of the ceasefire framework, mobilizing investors, and exerting pressure on Hamas to agree to disarmament. This meeting will serve as a first major test of Trump’s post-war diplomatic architecture for Gaza.
- Washington continues to expect the contribution of \$1.25 billion each from Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates toward Gaza reconstruction. The UAE is set to fund the first major housing project under the Board of Peace framework.
- The IDF is drafting plans for a renewed large-scale offensive in Gaza aimed at forcibly disarming Hamas. If hostilities resume, fighting is expected to be more intense and widespread than previous rounds, as Israeli forces would no longer be constrained by the presence of hostages on Gazan soil. This indicates a potential shift toward a decisive-force doctrine should diplomatic mechanisms fail.
- In Qatar, Ali Larijani, adviser to Iran’s Supreme Leader, met with Hamas’ political leadership and reiterated support for the “Axis of Resistance” and the Palestinian cause “on all fronts,” reinforcing Tehran’s continued strategic backing.
- Extensive tunnel networks continue to threaten Israeli forces, despite months of ground control and over a year of sustained operations in the Rafah sector. Israeli forces are conducting systematic drilling every few meters in order to locate remaining underground infrastructure. The continued discovery of tunnels, even after prolonged military presence underscores the depth and resilience of Hamas’ subterranean warfare strategy, particularly in southern Gaza.



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- A Palestinian Islamic Jihad commander was targeted in Khan Younis, while in a separate strike the head of Hamas' sniper array in the Beit Hanoun Battalion was eliminated. He was responsible for multiple attack outlines. Additionally, four militants surfaced in eastern Rafah and were killed by Brigade 7 forces. Reports indicate that a small number of remaining militants may still be entrenched in the Jenina pocket, suggesting residual resistance clusters despite overall operational degradation.
- An Israeli reservist and a civilian were indicted for allegedly using classified information to place bets on Polymarket regarding potential military operations in Iran. The investigation involved the Defense Establishment's Security Directorate, the Shin Bet, and Israel Police, highlighting concerns about information leaks intersecting with financial speculation platforms.
- The Defense Ministry announced the successful completion of complex tests of the David's Sling medium-range air defense system as part of upgrading readiness for future threats.
- The Israeli Security Cabinet adopted measures strengthening Jewish settlement and effectively unraveling aspects of the Hebron Protocol. Decisions included canceling a Jordanian-era law prohibiting land sales to Jews, transferring authority over the Cave of the Patriarchs and the Jewish community in Hebron to the Civil Administration rather than the municipality, and increasing transparency regarding land ownership records to facilitate purchases. The move drew international criticism, including from Turkey. In an Axios interview, President Trump expressed opposition to unilateral Israeli annexation of Judea and Samaria.



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- The U.S. Treasury Department, the Lebanese government, and Kuwait intensified sanctions against Hezbollah. Kuwait designated seven hospitals linked to Hezbollah as terrorist entities, prohibiting donations and financial transfers. Lebanon pledged stricter enforcement at Beirut International Airport and is considering reviewing diplomatic immunities for Iranians due to alleged dollar cash transfers. The U.S. Treasury sanctioned entities including Al-Qard al-Hassan, declaring a strategy aimed at economically strangling Hezbollah's financial infrastructure.
- The United States withdrew from the Al-Tanf base near the Syria–Jordan–Iraq tri-border area, where it had been stationed since March 2016. Control will be transferred to the Syrian Army's 56th Division. This marks a significant shift in the American footprint in eastern Syria.
- Clashes continue between Syrian forces and Druze militias controlling villages in western and northern Suwayda. Druze leaders, reportedly with Israeli support, are lobbying in Washington for recognition of the July 2025 massacre, protection for Druze, Kurds, and Alawites, and establishment of an internationally supervised humanitarian corridor from Israel alongside the release of Druze hostages.
- President Donald Trump announced that another round of negotiations will take place in the coming days but emphasized that Iran “needs to make a deal,” while simultaneously building military leverage in the region. U.S. Central Command released images of the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group in combat formation. Trump ordered the USS George H.W. Bush to the Middle East, expected within two to three weeks, meaning two U.S. aircraft carriers will be present in the region for the first time since March 2025, alongside additional F-35 deployments. British F-35 jets have also arrived in Cyprus as part of force reinforcement.

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- Following the Oman summit, Iranian leadership remained firm: no surrender of enrichment capabilities, no discussion of ballistic missiles, and no cessation of proxy support. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi insisted on enrichment rights “even at the price of war,” and warned in an Al Jazeera interview that any attack would prompt retaliation against U.S. bases across the region—implying potential regional escalation.
- Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan stated that if Iran enriches uranium, a regional nuclear race would follow and Turkey would also enrich uranium. This represents a clear escalation in rhetorical deterrence signaling, tying Ankara’s nuclear posture directly to Tehran’s enrichment trajectory.
- Yemeni “military sources” reported that the Houthis have entered a phase of “strategic isolation,” driven by U.S.–Iran diplomatic engagement and Hezbollah’s weakening. Hezbollah had long served as a key contributor to Houthi force-building, logistics, and financial support. Regional developments reportedly forced many Iranian and Lebanese experts and commanders to leave Yemen, shrinking the Houthis’ support infrastructure.
- The European Parliament adopted a new resolution condemning Iran for human rights violations, stating that Tehran violently suppresses citizens, including civil activists, protesters, women, minorities, and local communities. Members called on the European Council and European Commission to expand targeted sanctions against Iran, signaling tightening European alignment on human rights enforcement