

# ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #124 February 15 - February 21, 2026

This is a product of the IDSF Habithonistim Research Department, distributed by the David Institute for Security Policy in coordination with IDSF USA

  
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Account of the main events in the Israel-Hamas war and hostilities by the Iranian Axis



**Photo Cover: World leaders and founding members of the Board of Peace gather for the inaugural meeting hosted by President Trump.**

**Source: White House on X**

US President Donald Trump announced that the United States will invest \$10 billion in Gaza reconstruction, marking a shift from earlier positions that Washington would not directly allocate funds. An additional \$7 billion is expected from Gulf states, including Qatar, which pledged \$1 billion. Trump also stated that the United Nations will contribute \$2 billion, with funds to be managed through a special World Bank account, signaling an effort to institutionalize financial oversight and attract broader international participation.



# SECURITY BRIEFING WEEK 124

  
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IDF Casualty this week from the war in Gaza

\$8.6B

Indian arm purchase from Israel

+80K

Muslims attend Al-Aqsa Mosque peacefully



## 20,000 Foreign Troops

Former CENTCOM Commander General Jasper Jeffers is set to lead 20,000 foreign troops in Gaza to collect weapons, destroy tunnels, and train a new local police force.



## 10-15 Day Ultimatum

Iran has been given a 10-15 day ultimatum to dismantle its nuclear program. The US has deployed more firepower to the Middle East now than during the 2003 invasion of Iraq.



## \$10 Billion

President Trump announced a \$10 billion US investment for Gaza reconstruction, signaling a major policy shift toward direct funding.



## Hamas Refusal to Disarm

Despite reconstruction plans, Hamas official Osama Hamdan reiterated that the group will not disarm until a Palestinian state is established



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- Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan reiterated that Hamas will not disarm, asserting that weapons will not be surrendered or frozen until the objective of establishing a Palestinian state is achieved. This stance directly contradicts Israeli and American preconditions tying reconstruction to demilitarization.
- General Jasper Jeffers, former CENTCOM commander, is set to lead approximately 20,000 foreign troops in Gaza, divided into five brigades deployed sequentially from Rafah northward, mirroring Hamas's original territorial division. Countries agreeing to contribute troops include Indonesia (8,000 troops and deputy command role), Morocco, Kazakhstan, Albania, Kosovo, and Greece.
- Ali Shaat the director of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) announced plans to recruit 5,000 Gazan police officers within 60 days, with the goal of ultimately reaching 12,000 personnel. Egypt and Jordan agreed to train them on their soil. It was also reported that 2,000 applications have already been submitted.
- IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir stated that 2026 will remain an offensive year with a high operational tempo, emphasizing continued efforts to weaken and decisively defeat enemy forces along the lines of contact. In practical terms, this includes targeted eliminations along the "yellow line," strikes beyond it, operations in the Bashan sector, and continued attacks in Lebanon. The statement signals that Israel does not intend to shift into a lower- intensity phase but rather sustain pressure across multiple fronts.

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- According to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, approximately 350 kilometers of tunnels remain inside the Gaza Strip. Recently, fighters from the Gefen Battalion destroyed a one-kilometer-long tunnel route that included living quarters and several explosive devices. The remaining scale of underground infrastructure indicates that dismantling the tunnel network continues to be a central operational objective.
- In a friendly fire incident in Khan Younis, an IDF soldier from the Paratroopers Brigade was accidentally killed during an exchange between Israeli forces. The incident underscores the operational complexity and high-intensity environment in southern Gaza, where multiple units are maneuvering in dense urban terrain under sustained pressure.
- According to a report in The Guardian, the Trump administration intends to construct a large military base in southern Gaza for the International Stabilization Force (ISF). The facility would reportedly host over 5,000 soldiers and include 26 fortified towers, signaling a long-term international security footprint in Gaza, rather than a temporary deployment.
- Iran has reportedly been given an ultimatum to dismantle its nuclear program, with negotiations expected to last 10–15 days. However, the sides remain far from reaching an understanding, indicating that diplomatic channels are under severe strain.
- It was reported that there is more American firepower currently deployed in the Middle East than on the eve of the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, signaling the seriousness of military preparations and deterrence signaling toward Tehran.

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- Ambassadors of Iran, Russia, and China submitted a joint letter to IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi emphasizing trilateral coordination on Iran's nuclear file. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also held a phone conversation with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty regarding indirect Tehran–Washington talks. Tehran sent a formal complaint to the UN warning that Trump's statements suggest a real risk of military aggression.
- The Institute for the Study of War recorded 20 protests across 8 provinces on February 20, marking 40 days since protesters were killed. At least five demonstrations involved approximately 1,000 participants. Protests erupted in Tehran and western Iran with chants calling for the death of Khamenei, indicating that a broad protest base remains active and that the potential for sustained unrest continues.
- The IRGC Navy conducted the “Smart Control” exercise simulating closure of the Strait of Hormuz, cyber and electronic warfare, missile launches, and ship seizures, reflecting a deterrence strategy based on threatening global oil flows. A joint Iran–Russia naval drill in the Oman Sea simulated hostage rescue operations. An Iranian member of Parliament warned that in the event of war, Iran could strike Washington and sink US vessels in the Sea of Oman.
- Dozens of settler activists from the Nachala movement, including MK Limor Son Har-Melech, illegally entered the Gaza Strip. The IDF dispatched troops to remove them, reflecting tensions between ideological activism and military operational control.



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- Two female IDF soldiers, squad commanders in the Education and Youth Corps, were attacked by hundreds of ultra-Orthodox men in Bnei Brak during an official home visit to a future draftee. Police escorted the soldiers out while shielding them from a Haredi mob that chased them through the streets. The incident underscores ongoing friction between segments of the ultra-Orthodox community and the military establishment, particularly around issues of enlistment and gender integration.
- Approximately 80,000 Muslim worshipers, including several thousand Palestinians from Judea and Samaria, attended the first Friday noon prayer of Ramadan at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The event passed peacefully under heavy security, indicating controlled stability despite broader regional tensions.
- Hezbollah is reportedly considering whether to join a broader confrontation alongside Iran if the Iranian regime faces existential danger. Options range from limited symbolic rocket fire or attacks on five IDF outposts in southern Lebanon, to a potential full-scale escalation.
- The Lebanese Army commander stated it would take 4–8 months to disarm Hezbollah north of the Litani River. Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem rejected disarmament, arguing it would serve Israeli objectives and warning against efforts to equip the Lebanese Army to confront the “resistance.”
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un unveiled massive missile launchers capable of carrying nuclear warheads ahead of a key Workers’ Party meeting, underscoring Pyongyang’s continued expansion of its strategic weapons capabilities.