

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #134 April 26 - May 2, 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



During a trip to the region earlier today, Adm. Brad Cooper, CENTCOM commander, visited sailors and marines aboard USS Tripoli (LHA 7) in the Arabian Sea.

Source: CENTCOM on X

U.S. Central Command continues to enforce the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. So far, 45 vessels have complied with the order to turn back. The current situation is described as a standoff over who will back down first, the United States or Iran, with the impression that Iran may be the first to retreat because of its worsening economic situation.



SECURITY BRIEFING WEEK 134

DAVID
INSTITUTE
FOR SECURITY POLICY

60

Lebanese villages captured

600

Aid trucks entering Gaza Daily

58

Flotilla vessels intercepted by the Israeli Navy



6,500 TONS

6,500

The Israeli Ministry of Defense reported that multiple transport aircraft and two ships delivered exactly 6,500 tons of diverse munitions, preparing military forces for another potential round of intense fighting.



\$1.8 million

The United States Treasury Secretary noted that Iran's currency has drastically plummeted, reaching a devastating 1.8 million rials per dollar, highlighting severe economic struggles under the ongoing strict naval blockade.



TERROR TUNNEL

450

The IDF destroyed Hezbollah's massive "Cities of Refuge" granite tunnel, stretching two kilometers underground, by detonating 450 tons of explosives to eliminate a major threat to northern and central Israel.



45

United States Central Command forces continue enforcing a strict naval blockade against Iran. Thus far, 45 vessels have fully complied with direct orders to turn back during this maritime standoff.

Week #134

April 26 - May 2, 2026

- On April 30, Mojtaba Khamenei published a written statement saying that Iran will retain control over the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf, while also maintaining control over its nuclear program and ballistic missile program. The statement presented Iran's position as one of continued strategic control over both maritime access and its core military programs.
- The negotiations with Iran appear to be stuck after Abbas Araghchi's visit to Pakistan. From there, he flew to Oman to discuss the security arrangements for tankers and ships in the Strait of Hormuz, and then continued to Russia, where he met with his counterpart Sergey Lavrov and Russian President Vladimir Putin. They noted that in January 2025, the two countries signed a strategic partnership agreement, and that Russia provided Iran during the current operation with satellite-imagery-based intelligence to help improve the accuracy of attacks against American bases.
- In the coming days, Iran is expected to begin shutting down its first oil wells because of a lack of storage capacity and an inability to export due to the American blockade. Closing oil wells is not only an economic blow but also a technical risk, because after several days without pumping, the wells may become clogged and undergo chemical changes that threaten the long term viability of the wells. The state has decided to suspend all steel exports until at least May 30, due to the damage to factories and the need to use that steel for repairing infrastructure.
- According to the Wall Street Journal, Iran is still insisting on the removal of the American blockade, control over Hormuz, and the exclusion of both the nuclear program and the ballistic missile program from the talks. According to CBS News, Iran is working to extract missiles from the mountains that were struck, after the entrances to those sites collapsed, in order to prepare for another round of fighting.

Week #134

April 26 - May 2, 2026

- It was reported that on April 28, the Supreme National Security Council convened a meeting to prepare for the possibility of renewed protests, against the background of expected unemployment caused by the closure of oil wells, factories, and shops. These include steel plants, petrochemical industries, and even the carpet export sector, which has been shut down due to the naval blockade.
- IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi claimed that most of Iran's most highly enriched uranium is likely still located at the Isfahan nuclear complex, which was bombed.
- The Israeli Ministry of Defense announced that within 24 hours, several transport aircraft loaded with ammunition landed in Israel, alongside two ships that brought a total of 6,500 tons of various munitions. This may be preparation for another round of fighting.
- According to the Wall Street Journal, Iran is still insisting on the removal of the American blockade, control over Hormuz, and the exclusion of both the nuclear program and the ballistic missile program from the talks. According to CBS News, Iran is working to extract missiles from the mountains that were struck, after the entrances to those sites collapsed, in order to prepare for another round of fighting.
- Lebanese President Joseph Aoun delivered a clear message to Hezbollah, saying that the purpose of negotiations with Israel is to end the war, and that he will not accept a humiliating agreement. He said that what the government is doing is not betrayal; rather, betrayal is committed by those who drag their country into war in order to serve foreign interests, clearly referring Hezbollah's dragging of Lebanon into war to serve the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Week #134

April 26 - May 2, 2026

- Israel is reportedly preparing to return to full-scale fighting when the ceasefire expires on May 16, because of Hezbollah's violations. For the first time since the ceasefire began, there was a concentration of strikes north of the Litani River, in the wider Nabatieh area. Footage was also published from Division 91 showing its strikes in the eastern sector.
- In an interview with Al Jazeera, one Hezbollah commander declared that Hezbollah is preparing to bring back 1980s-style suicide terrorists and to make life difficult for the IDF in the security zone until it withdraws.
- The IDF destroyed the giant tunnel known as "Cities of Refuge," the largest tunnel found in Lebanon. It was located 25 meters underground, stretched two kilometers, and was carved into granite. The tunnel contained 30 living rooms and 30 shafts, and hundreds of terrorists could operate from it, with even thousands able to fit inside under crowded conditions. From this tunnel, Hezbollah fighters were supposed to emerge in large launch cells toward northern and central Israel, and then return underground to avoid Israeli Air Force strikes. The tunnel was destroyed with 450 tons of explosives.
- Fighters from the "Nesher" unit destroyed a 140-meter tunnel route in al-Bayada, overlooking Nahariya and the western Galilee communities. The tunnel contained living rooms and operational shafts, and it was destroyed using 24 tons of explosives.
- The Bint Jbeil stadium was destroyed. This was the site where Nasrallah delivered the "spider web" speech. The location served not only as a strategic terror center and a preparation site for implementing the plan to conquer the Galilee, but also as a historic Hezbollah symbol. Its destruction by the IDF was described as a symbolic and morale blow to Hezbollah.

Week #134

April 26 - May 2, 2026

- An explosive drone hit near a troop assembly area close to Kafr Kila. One soldier was moderately wounded and another was killed.
- The IDF recruited a Ukrainian officer with extensive experience in the field of FPV warfare. The recruitment date was not stated, only that he was brought into the Planning Directorate. The army currently still lacks a sufficient solution, because regular electronic-warfare methods do not affect the fiber-optic FPV drones. The options being considered include netting Humvees and other military vehicles, or providing troops with weapons using dispersal ammunition to increase the chances of intercepting the drones.
- It was reported that a team of several dozen soldiers from the five countries expected to form the International Stabilization Force, or ISF, were supposed to enter the Gaza Strip in order to examine the process of deploying its forces. With the deployment of the ISF, the war was officially supposed to end. However, by order of the political echelon, their entry was prevented because of Hamas's refusal to disarm.
- On April 12, the Sumud flotilla left Barcelona and arrived in Sicily on April 23. Three days later, on April 26, it departed from Sicily toward Gaza in an attempt to break the Israeli blockade. The Israeli Navy prepared to meet it near the edge of Israel's economic waters with two landing crafts, missile ships, Dabur patrol boats, and fast boats from Shayetet 13.
- Hamas is growing stronger. Since the beginning of the ceasefire, an average of around 600 trucks has entered Gaza every day. Hamas takes control of these goods, sells them, or collects taxes from those who sell them. In addition, the flow of goods is being used for smuggling.

Week #134

April 26 - May 2, 2026

- An IDF Major was arrested for received millions of shekels to assist the smuggling of cigarettes, phones, laptops, vehicle batteries, electric bicycles, and other goods into Gaza, while knowing that they were going to Hamas.
- A weekly summary from the Judea and Samaria arena reported that a total of 80 wanted individuals were arrested. These included Hamas identifiers, inciters, stone and Molotov cocktail throwers, explosive-device makers, and holders of weapons. Security forces also confiscated 20 different weapons, including M-16s and M-4s, along with three workshops for manufacturing weapons, ready-to-use explosive devices, and seven drones.
- The United Arab Emirates announced that it is withdrawing from OPEC. The UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Suhail Al Mazrouei, said that the decision to withdraw from OPEC is a sovereign national decision based on the UAE's long-term strategic and economic vision, and that the UAE did not consult directly with any party before making the decision.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in St. Petersburg, Russia. Araghchi stated that Russia always supports Iran and Iran always supports Russia, and that the two countries have a strategic alliance.
- A Muslim terrorist stabbed two Jews in the heavily Jewish neighborhood of Golders Green in London.