המכון למדיניות ביטחון
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INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY POLICY

Israel Weekly War Summary

Week #157 | October 11 - October 17 ,2026



Source: IDF Telegram Chanel

Weekly Security Update:
Israel's Security Outlook and Threat Horizon

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ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

IDSF הביטחוניסטים
Israel's Defense & Security Forum

WEEK #157 | October 11th - October 17th, 2026

1 GAZA STRIKES

The IDF killed four Hamas operatives in Gaza on October 17th following ceasefire violations.



2 GAZA GOVERNANCE & AID

Hamas generates up to $5 million daily via aid diversion, while the US-backed Board of Peace initiative remains stalled.



3 LEBANON REARMAMENT

Hezbollah is upgrading kamikaze drones and utilizing Syrian conduits for explosives, despite recent Lebanese army seizures.



4 LEBANON POSTURE

As Beirut seeks alternatives to UNIFIL, the IDF deployed two artillery battalions forward into southern Lebanon.



5 IRAN NUCLEAR THREAT

President Trump threatened conventional strikes against Iran's Pickaxe Mountain nuclear complex as Tehran hardens facilities.



6 IRAN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE

A U.S. naval blockade halted crude exports, prompting Tehran to attack 17 tankers and declare the Strait of Hormuz closed.



7 ABRAHAM ALLIANCE

Houthi strikes accelerated covert Israeli-Saudi air defense alignment; the IAF attended Morocco's Marrakech Airshow.



8 AZERBAIJAN SUMMIT

President Herzog attended Baku's CICA Summit, meeting international leaders to reinforce partnerships and counter isolation.



9 JUDEA & SAMARIA INCIDENTS

Authorities are investigating an uncoordinated European diplomatic visit and an assault that injured a journalist.



10 J&S COUNTERTERRORISM

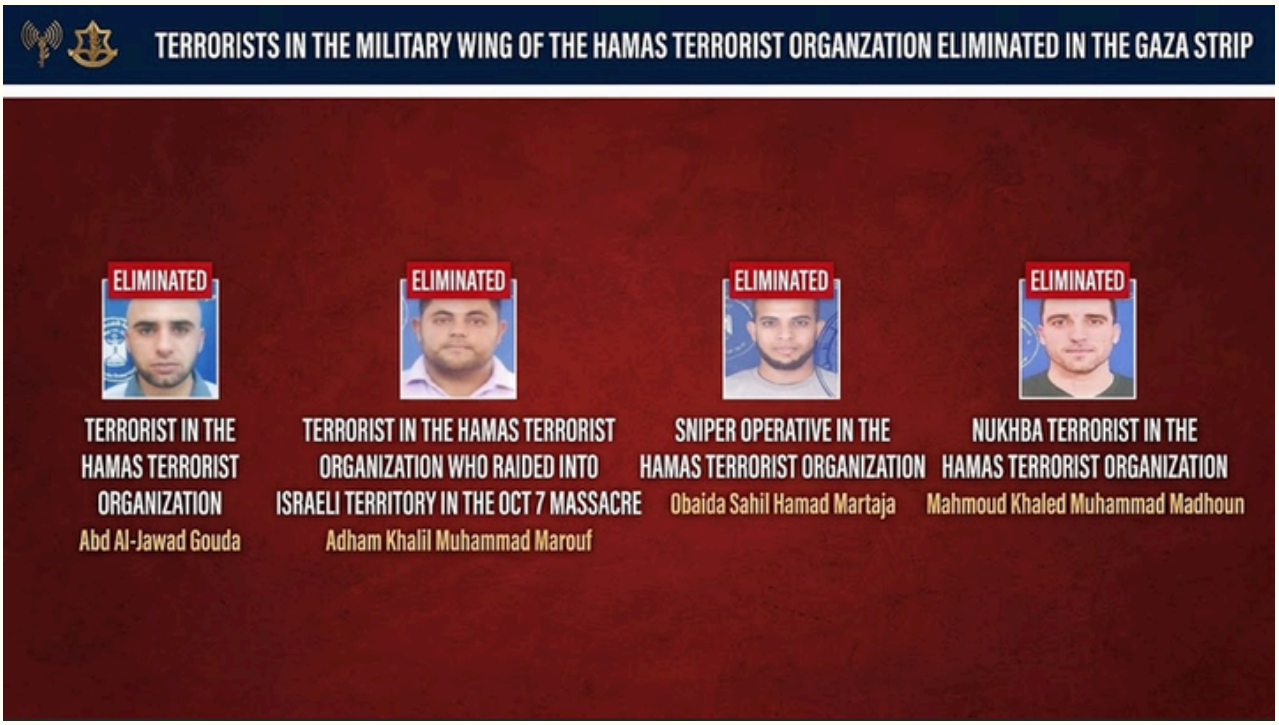
Security forces thwarted an imminent attack, arresting four Islamic Jihad operatives and seizing illicit weapons in Jenin.



Gaza

Hamas Operatives Targeted:

- **The IDF announced strikes in Gaza on October 17th that killed four Hamas operatives** for violating the ceasefire and advancing attacks on troops. Hamas operatives killed: Mahmoud Khaled Mohammed Madhoun, Ubaida Suhail Hamad Murtaja, Adham Khalil Mohammed Marouf, Abd al-Jawad Juda.



Source: IDF Telegram Chanel

This demonstrates that despite the existing ceasefire framework, Hamas is constantly looking to rebuild its operational strength threatening Israel, while the IDF is maintaining its posture, upholding the ceasefire by eliminating threats.

Board of Peace (BoP) remain deadlocked

- Administrative progress and the $2.45 billion recovery initiative by the U.S.-backed **Board of Peace (BoP) remain deadlocked** amid sequencing disputes over disarmament and withdrawal, compounded by Israel reportedly blocking the construction of the BoP's initial military facility. Meanwhile, Hamas continues to exert decentralized administrative control and impose fees that disrupt commercial imports. **Concurrently, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recorded 31 ceasefire violations between October 1 and 15**, triggering targeted operations against high-ranking operatives from Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

So long that there is no clear and timelimited formula for Hamas disarmament, the IDF will continue to clear out military infrastructure up until the Yellow Line, and eliminate threats throughout Gaza.

$5 million Daily Hamas Taxation

- According to a recent assessment by former Shin Bet research head Neomi Neumann, **Hamas maintains de facto control over the Gaza Strip, generating up to $5 million daily through heavy taxation and humanitarian aid diversion**. Neumann asserts that while US President Donald Trump's plan for Gaza offers a viable framework, its success depends on dismantling Hamas's financial streams, introducing new governance and stabilization mechanisms, and preventing the group's expansion into the West Bank.

- Commercial goods shipments into Gaza have stopped following a dispute over Hamas-imposed taxes and cash requirements. Officials warn this exacerbates severe humanitarian and economic vulnerabilities. The Israeli point of view is clear; as long as Hamas exploits international aid through taxation of its population, the aid won't flow freely since the taxed aid funds the rearmament of the Hamas military wing which threatens Israel.

Lebanon

Hezbollah Tactical Adaptation and Cross-Border Supply Networks

- Following the severe degradation of its heavy rocket arsenals, Hezbollah is pivoting toward low-signature, high-precision capabilities and covert smuggling to bypass IDF aerial superiority along Israel's northern border. The group is currently engineering upgrades to its First-Person View (FPV) kamikaze drones to increase both explosive payload capacity and operational range. Concurrently, **Hezbollah continues to rely on cross-border trafficking networks**, often facilitated by former Assad regime loyalists, to move personnel and munitions across the Syrian-Lebanese border.

While Lebanese authorities have conducted sporadic interdictions, including the seizure of 800 kilograms of explosives on October 5 and 200 kilograms transported via donkey on October 12, these efforts remain insufficient to dismantle Hezbollah's entrenched logistical pipelines. In response to these ongoing breaches, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun on October 15 to demand accountability for the smuggling networks. Diplomatic observers continue to urge Washington to press Beirut for a comprehensive anti-smuggling strategy and to condition future funding for the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) on measurable disarmament progress.



Source: IDF Telegram Chanel

Diplomatic Frameworks and IDF Operational Readiness in Southern Lebanon

- Ahead of U.S. talks and UNIFIL's expiring mandate, Beirut is seeking alternative international security arrangements for southern Lebanon to prevent a vacuum and avert direct confrontation with Israel amid stalled ceasefire terms.

Meanwhile, the IDF maintains a forward posture to enforce terms and dismantle terrorist infrastructure. Following high-intensity combat drills in the Golan Heights, the 282nd Artillery Brigade deployed its 405th and 411th battalions directly into southern Lebanon.



Source: IDF Telegram Chanel

Iran

U.S. Threatens "Pickaxe Mountain" Nuclear Facility with Massive Ordnance

- On October 15, President Donald Trump told Newsmax that the U.S. is weighing strikes against Iran's deeply buried Pickaxe Mountain nuclear complex near Natanz: "We may have to go there... We'll knock it out fast." While ruling out nuclear weapons, Trump suggested deploying GBU-43/B MOAB ("Mother of All Bombs") ordnance to collapse the facility's tunnel portals and surface access points.

Pickaxe Mountain sits 100 to 145 meters underground - deeper than both Fordow and the original Natanz centrifuge halls previously struck by U.S. and Israeli forces - making U.S. heavy-ordnance or ground-interdiction commitment critical to Israel's core war objective of preventing an Iranian nuclear breakout.

Iranian Rearmament, Military Adaptation & Proxy Reconstitution

- On October 13, ISW-CTP reported Iran is using back-channel threats alongside missile and "anti-drone jumping mine" tests to deter renewed U.S.-Israeli strikes. Concurrently, reports indicate the regime is preparing its home front for incoming bombardment by deploying paramilitaries into schools and training civilians to operate anti-aircraft systems.

Tehran's investment in low-altitude anti-drone countermeasures and civilian air-defense mobilization signals an effort to harden military and nuclear reconstruction sites against Israeli intelligence UAVs, loitering munitions, and covert sabotage operations. This also demonstrates how Iran is mobilizing civilians to deter American and Israeli attacks.

Blockade Statistics & Economic Impact on the Iranian Regime

- **Economic Strangulation of the Iranian Regime |** The U.S. naval counter-blockade has reduced Iran's seaborne crude exports to zero, stranding 83 million barrels in floating storage, including 43 million trapped west of the Strait of Hormuz, while cutting LPG exports by 48%. Although Tehran has covertly transferred refined fuel off Oman, U.S. forces have intercepted the vast majority of tankers, permitting only eight LPG vessels to escape since mid-July. With inflation reaching 300% and troops reportedly unpaid, this acute fiscal crisis severely restricts Tehran's capacity to reconstruct domestic military infrastructure or finance regional proxies like Hezbollah.

- **Escalated Tanker Warfare and the Closure of Hormuz |** To globalize the war's economic toll, Iran escalated maritime attacks between October 11 and 17, striking 17 commercial vessels with mines and RPGs before formally declaring the Strait of Hormuz legally "closed." Consequently, daily transits collapsed from 135 to six ships, war-risk insurance reached 10% of a ship's hull or cargo value, up from pre-war rates of roughly 0.25% to 3%, and Brent crude neared $107, as Tehran attempts to coerce Washington and Jerusalem into accepting its ceasefire terms.

Abraham Alliance

Morocco

- For the first time: An official Israeli Air Force delegation participated in the "Marrakech Airshow" in Morocco. An official delegation on behalf of the Israeli Air Force, led by the Head of the Air Force Training Department, participated this week for the first time in the international aerospace and defense exhibition "Marrakech Airshow" in Morocco.

This marks the first official participation of the State of Israel in this event since the signing of the "Abraham Accords".

Saudi Arabia

- Deadly October Houthi strikes on Riyadh's airport, palace, and Aramco facilities have catalyzed covert Israeli-Saudi security cooperation. On October 16, President Trump confirmed Israeli assistance to Riyadh, following Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement that regional states are actively seeking Israeli aid. Mediated by CENTCOM, this partnership focuses on Red Sea early-warning radar integration and IDF targeting intelligence against underground Houthi depots. Amid critical shortages of U.S. Patriot and THAAD interceptors, analysts increasingly view Israeli systems like Barak MX, SPYDER, and Iron Dome as crucial solutions for Saudi defense.

Strategically, this shared threat is reviving momentum for Saudi normalization under the Abraham Accords, with President Trump stating on October 16 that the prospect is back on the table "maybe more than ever." Mirroring the 2022 Houthi strikes on Abu Dhabi that accelerated Israeli-Emirati military integration, Iran's proxy escalation has undermined its prior détente with Riyadh. While political sensitivities currently restrict cooperation to CENTCOM-mediated channels, deepening intelligence and air-defense alignment is forging de facto normalization ahead of formal post-war diplomatic opportunities.

Azerbaijan

- From October 14–15, 2026, Israeli President Isaac Herzog attended the 7th CICA Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan. Addressing the 29-nation Asian forum, Herzog called for expanded regional peace while stating that cooperation cannot thrive alongside terror or boycotts. Although delegations from over 10 countries, including Türkiye, Iran, and Pakistan, walked out during his speech, representatives from the UAE, Bahrain, and Qatar remained seated. On the sidelines, Herzog held high-level bilateral talks with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, before meeting local Jewish community leaders.

The visit directly countered efforts to diplomatically isolate Israel after three years of a multi-front war, projecting an active Israeli presence on a major pan-Asian stage. Warmly hosted by President Aliyev, the trip reinforced the resilient Baku–Jerusalem strategic, energy, and defense alliance directly on Iran's northern border. Furthermore, Herzog's meeting with Bahrain's Foreign Minister and the decision by Gulf states to remain in the hall demonstrated the durability of the Abraham Accords. Finally, his rare face-to-face meeting with China's Wang Yi provided a critical channel to safeguard trade ties and address Iranian regional aggression.

Judea & Samaria (West Bank)

Alleged Attack on European Diplomats and Journalist

- Israel unequivocally condemns violence against diplomats and 10 Israelis have been arrested so far as investigations continue.

Key Facts known about the incident:

- **Uncoordinated Entry:** The IDF confirmed the delegation entered a high-friction zone without required security coordination.
- **Delegation Composition:** Participants included Bernard Baudot, a French Communist mayor previously sanctioned in France over unauthorized Palestinian flag displays.

This incident coincides with seasonal olive-harvest efforts to promote unverified claims maligning Jewish residents and instigating provocation.

- The Israel Defense and Security Forum unequivocally condemns the assault that injured journalist Heidi Levine, viewing nationalist crime with utmost severity and urging law enforcement to swiftly bring the perpetrators to justice. Firmly rejecting the actions of violent lawbreakers as antithetical to Jewish, Zionist, and settlement values, and deeply damaging to Israel's national interests, human life, and property, the movement extends its sincere wishes to Heidi Levine for a full and speedy recovery.

Counter Terrorism Operations



Source: IDF Telegram Chanel

- Underscoring the IDF's persistent offensive counter-terrorism posture, Israeli security forces, operating under ISA (Shin Bet) intelligence guidance, thwarted an imminent attack in northern Samaria this week by apprehending four Palestinian Islamic Jihad operatives in Qabatiya and Arraba.

- Complementing these preventive arrests, Duvdevan special forces conducted targeted raids in Beit Rima and Jenin, capturing key arms traffickers, including a primary illicit weapons dealer tied to a dismantled Jenin-based terror network, while joint IDF and Israel Police units actively pursued and detained suspects involved in a ramming attack against a security guard near Ariel.

These coordinated, intelligence-driven interdictions reflect Israel's broader strategy of systematically degrading terror financing, arms-smuggling conduits, and operational cells to preempt violence and preserve regional stability across the Judea and Samaria sector.