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Body of Meny Godard, 73, lover of 'sports, the ocean, people,' returned from Gaza
Godard, a former soccer pro, war veteran, economist and lifeguard, was murdered at Kibbutz Be'eri along with his wife Ayelet on Oct. 7, with Meny's body abducted

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

13 November 2025, 11:09 pm Updated at 12:49 am



Meny Godard. (Courtesy)

The body of slain hostage Meny Godard was returned to Israel by Hamas on Thursday night, officials confirmed, after forensic experts completed their identification of the remains handed over by the terror group, and military representatives notified Godard's family.

Godard, 73, was murdered by Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists in Kibbutz Be'eri on October 7, 2023, alongside his wife Ayelet, 63, and his body was abducted to Gaza by the Hamas-allied terror group. The couple is survived by their children, Mor, Gal,

Bar, and Goni, a number of grandchildren and several siblings.

Godard's body was transferred by the Red Cross from the terror group to Israel Defense Forces troops inside the Strip, where a small ceremony, led by a military rabbi, was held, the IDF said. The casket was then escorted by the police to the Abu Kabir forensic institute in Tel Aviv for identification.

Crowds of people carrying Israeli and yellow flags lined roads to pay their respects as the convoy carrying the body passed by.

In **March, troops recovered findings belonging to Godard at an Islamic Jihad post** in southern Gaza's Rafah. The findings found at the post were taken to Israel and identified as belonging to Godard, but his body remained held in Gaza.

Hamas, in a joint statement with Palestinian Islamic Jihad, said that the body had been located in the Khan Younis area of southern Gaza on Thursday. Footage aired by Al Jazeera earlier in the day showed heavy equipment digging through rubble in Khan Younis, before masked gunmen dug up white plastic sheeting apparently containing the body.



Footage showing apparent efforts by Hamas to recover the remains of a dead hostage, in Khan Younis, the Gaza Strip, November 13, 2025. (Al Jazeera screenshot)

The bodies of three slain hostages now remain held in the Strip — two



Israelis and one Thai national: Master Sgt. Ran Gvili, Dror Or and Sudthisak Rinthalak.

IDF troops salute the casket containing the body of hostage Meny Godard after it was returned by Hamas, during a short ceremony led by IDF Chief Rabbi Brig. Gen. Eyal Krim (right) in the Gaza Strip, November 13, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

"The Israeli government shares in the deep sorrow of the Godard family and of all the families of the fallen hostages," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

The PMO said that Israel was "determined, committed, and working tirelessly" to bring back the remaining three slain hostages for burial, adding that Hamas is "required to fulfill its commitments to the mediators and

return them as part of the implementation of the agreement.”

Ex-soccer pro, Yom Kippur War fighter, chief kibbutz economist, lifeguard

On October 7, Ayelet Godard called one of the couple’s children, screaming that Meny had been killed and she was hiding in the bushes from the terrorists. She was never heard from again, and her body was found some time later. A funeral for the couple was held on October 29, 2023, in Palmahim. However, Kibbutz Be’eri announced on February 8, 2024, that Meny’s body was being held in Gaza.

A eulogy posted on the kibbutz website remembered Ayelet as a longtime educator, “a special teacher, one of days gone by, the kind who brought nature into the classroom and took the children outside,” and shaped many of the youth who grew up in the kibbutz and nearby. She was an “incredible mother and a revered grandmother,” who also “believed with all her heart in the kibbutz and its members, and was an active part of the kibbutz life.”

Meny, the kibbutz eulogized, had “a love of sports, the ocean and people.” He was a professional soccer player in the 1970s before enlisting in the army and fighting in the Yom Kippur War. In the kibbutz, he worked in a variety of positions, including in the printing house, the local kibbutz store, the chief economist, and as a lifeguard.



Bar Godard, whose father Meny was murdered on October 7, 2023 by Hamas terrorists and his body taken to Gaza, speaks at Hostages Square, Tel Aviv, March 29, 2025. (Hostage and Missing Families Forum/Lior Rotshtein)

Their son Goni wrote on Facebook after their deaths that they were “people with a special heart of gold... Everyone wanted to say thank you — thank you for all the years that you hugged us and loved us. Thank you for the endless support and help. Thank you for all the experiences we had with you.”

“These are the people you were — people who spread light in every direction, people of people, thank you for everything,” he wrote. “You will always, always, no matter what, be an

inseparable part of us.”



Ayelet and Meny Godard (Courtesy)

One of their daughters, Mor Godard, wrote on Facebook that she struggled to find the words for their eulogy, and lamented that she could no longer call them to ask for help.

“Now, there is nobody to ask, there is no flashlight illuminating the way, there is no way,” she wrote. “There is great darkness, there is fear and there is longing.”

Mor described her father as “the anchor in our lives, our guy, who was always there to rely on. The one who would pick us up from youth parties in the middle of the night, send us money to India because we spent too much, who was always the first in every kindergarten classroom and every class when the grandchildren had their birthdays.”

Her mother, she wrote, “was always my first telephone call in the morning and my last at the end of the day — 20 times a day I want to call you and I can’t. You were everything to me, the one I always sought advice from on everything from big to small... You always listened, strengthened, defended and also offered solutions.”

Mor wrote, “I am sure that if there is a place up above, you are sitting together, laughing, talking, bringing up memories, and proud that we all survived. That you sacrificed your lives so that we would make it out of that horror

alive. Mom and Dad, I want you to know that we are strong, we are together, we are taking care of each other, supporting, embracing, there for each other without limitation, just like you taught us, just like you raised us.”

Bar Godard, whose father Meny was murdered on October 7, 2023 by Hamas terrorists and his body taken to Gaza, speaks at Hostages Square, Tel Aviv, March 29, 2025. (Hostage and Missing Families Forum/Lior Rotshtein)

At the start of the truce, Hamas still held 48 hostages in Gaza — 20 alive and 28 deceased. Under the terms of the ceasefire, it was obligated to return all of them within 72 hours.





The terrorists have since released all surviving captives, but Israel has accused Hamas of dragging its feet over the return of the remaining deceased hostages.

As part of the deal, Israel has returned the remains of 15 Palestinians for each deceased Israeli hostage it receives. *The three slain hostages whose bodies were still held in Gaza as of November 14, 2025 (L-R): Dror Or, Sudthisak Rinthalak and Ran Gvili. (Collage by Times of Israel; Photos: Courtesy)*

The previous deceased hostage handover was on [Sunday](#), when the body of Lt. Hadar Goldin, killed and abducted by Hamas during the 2014 Gaza war, was returned to Israel after more than 11 years in captivity.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-receives-casket-with-apparent-body-of-hostage-from-red-cross-in-gaza-2/>

Hamas reinstates fees on imported goods, raises taxes as it reasserts control in Gaza

Gazan merchants say terror group is trying to regulate high market prices, but analysts see move as sign that Hamas is preparing to dig in its feet and refuse to cede power

By [Reuters](#) Today, 11:14 am



Palestinian markets are crowded with people as life returns to normal in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, in an undated photo from October 2025 following the start of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. (Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90)

CAIRO, Egypt — From regulating the price of chicken to levying fees on cigarettes, Hamas is seeking to widen control over Gaza as US plans for its future slowly take shape, Gazans say, adding to rivals' doubts over whether it will cede authority as promised.

After a ceasefire began last month, Hamas swiftly reestablished its hold over areas from which Israel withdrew, killing dozens of Palestinians it accused of collaborating

with Israel, theft, or other crimes. Foreign powers demand the terror group disarm and leave government, but have yet to agree on who will replace them.

Now, a dozen Gazans tell Reuters they are increasingly feeling Hamas control in other ways. Authorities monitor everything coming into areas of Gaza held by Hamas, levying fees on some privately imported goods including fuel as well as cigarettes, and fining merchants considered to be overcharging for goods, according to 10 of the Gazans, three of them merchants with direct knowledge.

Ismail Al-Thawabta, head of the media office of the Hamas government, said accounts of Hamas taxing cigarettes and fuel were inaccurate, denying that the government was raising any taxes.

Analyst sees Hamas entrenching

The authorities were only carrying out urgent humanitarian and administrative tasks whilst making “strenuous efforts” to control prices, Thawabta said. He reiterated Hamas’ readiness to hand over to a new technocratic administration, saying it aimed to avoid chaos in Gaza: “Our goal is for the transition to proceed smoothly.”

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Hatem Abu Dalal, owner of a Gaza mall, said prices were high because not enough goods were coming into Gaza. Government representatives were trying to bring order to the economy — touring around, checking goods and setting prices, he said.



A Palestinian vendor at a market in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, October 23, 2025. (AP/Jehad Alshrafi)

Mohammed Khalifa, shopping in central Gaza's Nuseirat area, said prices were constantly changing despite attempts to regulate them. "It's like a stock exchange," he said.

"The prices are high. There's no income, circumstances are difficult, life is hard, and winter is coming," he said.

US President Donald Trump's Gaza plan secured a ceasefire on October 10 and the release of the last living hostages seized during the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel. The terror group has since returned the

bodies of 25 deceased hostages as well, leaving three slain hostages still in Gaza.

Once all the hostages, living and dead, have been returned, Trump's plan calls for the establishment of a transitional authority, the deployment of a multinational security force, Hamas' disarmament, and the start of reconstruction.

But Reuters, citing multiple sources, reported this week that [Gaza's de facto partition](#) appeared increasingly likely, with Israeli forces still deployed in more than half the territory, behind the so-called "Yellow Line," and efforts to advance the plan faltering.

Nearly all of Gaza's 2 million people live in areas controlled by Hamas, which seized control of the territory from the Palestinian Authority and PA President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Movement in 2007.

Ghaith al-Omari, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute think-tank, said Hamas' actions aimed to show Gazans and foreign powers alike that it cannot be bypassed.

"The longer that the international community waits, the more entrenched Hamas becomes," Omari said.

US State Department: Hamas 'will not govern'

Asked for comment on Gazans' accounts of Hamas levying fees on some goods, among other reported activities, a US State Department spokesperson said: "This is why Hamas cannot and will not govern in Gaza."

A new Gaza government can be formed once the United Nations [approves Trump's plan](#), the spokesperson said, adding that progress has been made towards forming the multinational force.

The PA is pressing for a say in Gaza's new government, though Israel rejects the idea of it running Gaza again. Fatah and Hamas are at odds over how the new governing body should be formed.

Munther al-Hayek, a Fatah spokesperson in Gaza, said Hamas' actions "give a clear indication that Hamas wants to continue to govern."



Armed Hamas members are seen guarding an area in Gaza City on November 3, 2025. (Omar Al-Qattaa / AFP)

In the areas held by Israel, small Palestinian groups that oppose Hamas have a foothold, a lingering challenge to it.

Gazans continue to endure dire conditions, though more aid has entered since the ceasefire.

They 'record everything'

A senior Gazan food importer said Hamas hadn't returned to a full taxation policy, but they "see and record everything."

They monitor everything that enters, with checkpoints along routes, and stop trucks and question drivers, he said, declining

to be identified. Price manipulators are fined, which helps reduce some prices, but they are still much higher than before the war began and people complain they have no money.

Hamas' government employed up to 50,000 people, including policemen, before the war. Thawabta said that thousands of them were killed, and those remaining were ready to continue working under a new administration.

Hamas authorities continued paying them salaries during the war, though it cut the highest, standardizing wages to 1,500 shekels (\$470) a month, Hamas sources and economists familiar with the matter said. It is believed that Hamas drew on stockpiled cash to pay the wages, a diplomat said.

The Hamas government replaced four regional governors who were killed, sources close to Hamas said. A Hamas official said the group also replaced 11 members of its Gaza politburo who died.

Gaza City activist and commentator Mustafa Ibrahim said the terror group was exploiting delays in the Trump plan “to bolster its rule.”

“Will it be allowed to continue doing so? I think it will continue until an alternative government is in place,” he said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-reinstates-fees-on-imported-goods-raises-taxes-as-it-reasserts-control-in-gaza/>

Indonesia says it has trained 20,000 troops for Gaza peacekeeping force

Defense minister says troops to focus on health and construction-related tasks, deployment will only come after UN mandate is given to International Stabilization Force

By [Reuters](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 2:04 pm



Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto (L) inspects troops from a vehicle during the Operational Troops and Military Honors ceremony at Suparlan Airfield, in Bandung, West Java, August 10, 2025. (Photo by Timur Matahari / AFP)

Indonesia has trained up to 20,000 troops to take on health and construction-related tasks during a planned peacekeeping operation in the war-torn enclave of Gaza, the defense minister said on Friday.

The world's most populous Muslim nation, Indonesia is among the countries with which the United States has discussed plans for an International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza, which include Azerbaijan, Egypt and

Qatar.

Last week, Reuters reported a draft readied by Washington for such a force that would authorize it to “use all necessary measures” to **demilitarize Gaza**, secure its borders, protect civilians and aid delivery, and support a newly trained Palestinian police force.

Indonesia said there was no decision yet on when troops will be deployed and what mandate they will have, underscoring the uncertainty over establishing an international presence in Gaza.

“We’ve prepared a maximum of 20,000 troops, but the specifications will revolve around health and construction,” Indonesian Defense Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin told reporters. “We are waiting for further decisions on Gaza peace action.”

Indonesia’s President Prabowo Subianto and Jordan’s King Abdullah, who is making a state visit to Indonesia from Friday, would discuss the initiative of US President Donald Trump, he added.

“We’re waiting for the possibilities of a role Indonesia can take in peace efforts,” said Sjamsoeddin. He did not say when troops would be deployed or how many, but said the decision would be made by Prabowo.

Indonesia’s Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin attends the opening of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



Defence Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on October 31, 2025. (Vincent Thian / POOL / AFP)

Meanwhile, European Union foreign ministers will discuss next week a proposal for the bloc to take the lead in training 3,000 Palestinian police officers with the aim of later deploying them in Gaza, according to a document seen by Reuters on Friday.

In a paper produced by the bloc’s diplomatic arm ahead of the gathering of ministers on November 20, officials outlined options for contributing to the implementation of Trump’s peace

plan,

In the document, the European External Action Service outlined proposals to expand the bloc’s two civilian missions in the region, which focus on border assistance and supporting the Palestinian Authority’s policing and justice reforms.

The EU's police support mission could "take leadership in training the Palestinian police force in Gaza by providing direct training and support to approximately 3,000 Palestinian police officers (on the PA pay-roll) from Gaza, with a view to training the full 13,000 Palestinian police force," it said.

The paper also raises the idea of expanding the EU's civilian border monitoring mission in Rafah to other border crossing points.

Under Trump's [comprehensive Gaza ceasefire plan](#), which he first presented in September, the ISF is supposed to take control of Gaza as Israel withdraws further in the Strip. The plan has been [included](#) in its entirety in a draft UN Security Council resolution that the US is advancing.

Israel currently controls about half the enclave following an initial October 10 withdrawal as part of the [hostage-ceasefire deal](#) with Hamas that was reached the day before. The terror group has been reasserting control on its part of the ceasefire line.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono said this month that his country would require a UN Security Council resolution enshrining the ISF to participate in the force.

Prabowo told the UN General Assembly in September that, if there were a UN resolution, his country would be prepared to deploy at least 20,000 troops in Gaza to help secure peace.



Indonesia's president Prabowo Subianto puts his hands together as he finishes his address to the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly with the word 'shalom,' September 23, 2025, at UN headquarters in New York. (AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura)

That speech made waves in Israel after Prabowo, whose country has no diplomatic ties with Israel, stressed the need to guarantee Israel's safety and security, and signed off with the Hebrew word for peace, "shalom."

Prabowo was also widely reported to be planning an unprecedented visit to Israel following his participation at the world leaders' Sharm El Sheikh Peace Conference on Gaza on October 13 — three days into the ceasefire in the Strip, when Hamas released the last 20 living hostages abducted

when the terror group invaded Israel on October 7, 2023, sparking the war in Gaza.

However, Indonesia quickly denied the reports that Prabowo would come to Israel. A source familiar with the matter later told The Times of Israel that Prabowo gave an initial green light to interlocutors that he would make the visit, but, concerned about domestic pushback, backed out when it was leaked to the press. According to the source, Jakarta's denial that such a visit was ever in the works was a bid to save face.

Despite the lack of formal ties, Indonesia has previously coordinated with Israel on airdropping humanitarian aid to Gaza, and was [said](#) last year to be considering normalization in order to join the OECD.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/indonesia-says-it-has-trained-20000-troops-for-gaza-peacekeeping-force/>

IDF says it shot dead 2 Palestinians en route to carry out West Bank 'terror attack'

Army does not offer further details; Ramallah says the two were 15 years old

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [AFP](#) Today, 5:58 am



Illustrative: Israeli soldiers conduct a raid in the West Bank city of Ramallah, on August 26, 2025. (Zain JAAFAR / AFP)

The IDF said Thursday that troops had shot dead two Palestinians who were "on their way to carry out a terror attack" near the West Bank settlement of Karmeit Zur.

The pair were shot dead by soldiers of the 636th Combat Intelligence Collection Unit, who were waiting in an ambush in the area.

The IDF did not elaborate on what the two suspects were planning.

AFP)

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The Palestinian Authority said the two were 15 years old. The Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry announced without further details “the martyrdom of Bilal Bahaa Ali Baaran (15 years old) and Muhammad Mahmud Abu Ayash (15 years old), killed by bullets from the occupation this afternoon, Thursday, near Beit Omar, north of Hebron.”

Earlier Thursday the Shin Bet said that some 40 members of a Hamas network in the Bethlehem area of the West Bank were detained in a series of recent operations. It said they were planning to carry out imminent shooting attacks.

The security agency said that in cooperation with the IDF and police, it detained the members of the Hamas network in recent weeks during 15 or so separate arrest raids. Several weapons used by the Hamas operatives, including an assault rifle, were also captured, the agency’s statement said.

According to the Shin Bet, the suspects’ interrogations revealed that the leaders of the Hamas network recruited and set up terror cells, procured weapons, and planned to carry out shootings against Israeli security forces and civilians.

“One of the terror cells was at an advanced stage of readiness to carry out attacks in the immediate term,” the agency said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-says-it-shot-dead-2-palestinians-en-route-to-carry-out-west-bank-terror-attack/>

Foreign national found decapitated in Tel Aviv; woman shot dead near Kafr Qasim

Police arrest suspect in connection with killing of man in south Tel Aviv; four brothers of Tahlil Amer, 30, also detained in connection with her murder but later released

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 10:05 am



First responders work the scene of a murder in south Tel Aviv on November 13, 2025. (ZAKA via X)

Police arrested a man in Tel Aviv in connection with the murder of a foreign citizen whose headless body was found Thursday in the city’s south. Separately, a woman was shot dead in the central Arab town of Kafr Qasim.

The Tel Aviv murder victim, whose name has not been published, was about 30 years old, the Magen David Adom ambulance service said. According to Haaretz, he was an African national.

The murder scene was described by body retrieval service

ZAKA as “extremely unusual,” with one volunteer calling it “cruel and devastating.”

The Kafr Qasim murder victim was identified in Arabic media as 28-year-old Tahlil Amer. A source familiar with the investigation was cited by Haaretz as saying the victim was shot while in her car, which then crashed into an adjacent wall.

She was discovered in her car in an olive grove outside town on Thursday, then taken to Petach Tikva’s Beilinson Hospital, where she was declared dead, police and medics said.

Four of Amer’s brothers, all in their 20s, were arrested Thursday night in connection with the murder. However, they were released on Friday due to a lack of evidence tying them to their sister’s murder.

Tahlil Amer, who was shot dead in Kafr Qasim on November 13, 2025, is seen in an undated photo published by Arabic media. (Used in accordance with Clause 27a of the Copyright Law)

According to Ynet, the case hit a dead end with the release of the four men, as there are currently no additional suspects.

Maintaining the innocence of Amer’s brothers, her family demanded in a statement on Friday that the police “get the murderers and uncover everything she (Tahlil) went through, from the moment she left the house



until she was murdered.”

The **Abraham Initiatives coexistence watchdog** said **Amer’s death brought to 226 the number of Arab citizens of Israel who have died as a result of criminal violence since the beginning of 2025.**

The figure was up from 205 victims during the same period in 2024, and put 2025 on track to be the [third straight year](#) of a notable spike in homicides in the Arab community.

The period coincides with National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir’s time in office, at the start of which he gutted a plan his predecessor Omer Barlev put in place in cooperation with Arab municipal leaders to fight crime in the Arab community.



Amer is also the 21st Arab woman to have died in criminal violent circumstances since the start of 2025.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir attends a National Security Committee meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem on October 27, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

The Yodaat gender-based violence watchdog found in October that at least 38 women, including 18 Arab women, have been killed in gender-based homicides in Israel in 2025 as of last month.

It was the same number of women killed in such homicides in all of 2024, during which Ben Gvir [slashed](#) the government budget for a program to protect women at risk of domestic abuse.

That year had seen the highest number of women killed in gender-based homicides since 2017, the earliest year in Yodaat’s record. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/foreign-national-found-decapitated-in-tel-aviv-woman-shot-dead-near-kafr-qasim/>

UN Gaza resolution draft mentions Palestinian state for first time

Notably, this is the same language as is used in the US-backed Gaza plan. However, this is the first time a Palestinian state was mentioned in the main body of the resolution and not in the annex.



Displaced Palestinians carry food parcels and supplies from aid trucks near the Zikim border crossing between Israel and Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, August 18, 2025. (photo credit: Khalil Kahlout/ Flash90)

For the first time, a reference to a Palestinian state was seen in a draft to the UN Security Council regarding the International Security Force that is meant to govern Gaza, a document seen by The Jerusalem Post on Thursday shows.

“After the PA reform program is faithfully carried out and Gaza redevelopment has advanced, the conditions may finally be in place for a credible

pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood.

The **United States will establish a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a political horizon for peaceful and prosperous coexistence,**” the new clause in the draft seen by the *Post*

read.

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Russia proposes its own UN resolution on Gaza in challenge to US draft

Russia on Thursday proposed its own draft of a UN resolution on Gaza in a challenge to a US effort to pass its own text at the Security Council that would endorse President Donald Trump’s Gaza peace plan, according to a copy of the draft seen by Reuters. Russia’s Foreign

Minister Sergei Lavrov speaks during a press conference after addressing the

80th United Nations General Assembly, September 27, 2025. (credit: REUTERS/EDUARDO MUNOZ)

The **US formally circulated the draft resolution to the 15 Council members last week and has**



said it has regional support for its resolution that would authorize a two-year mandate for a transitional governance body and international stabilization force.

Russia's UN mission said in a note to Security Council members on Thursday afternoon, seen by Reuters, that its "counter-proposal is inspired by the US draft."

"The objective of our draft is to enable the Security Council to develop a balanced, acceptable, and unified approach toward achieving a sustainable cessation of hostilities," the note said.

The Russian draft, also seen by Reuters, requests that the UN Secretary-General identify options for an international stabilization force for Gaza, and does not mention the "Board of Peace" that the US has proposed as a transitional administration for Gaza.

The US mission to the UN urged the Security Council to move ahead with Washington's resolution. "Attempts to sow discord now – when agreement on this resolution is under active negotiation – has grave, tangible, and entirely avoidable consequences for Palestinians in Gaza," a US mission spokesperson said. "The ceasefire is fragile and we urge the Council to unite and move forward to secure the peace that is desperately needed."

Israel and Palestinian terror group Hamas agreed in October to the first phase of Trump's 20-point plan for Gaza, in their two-year war and a hostage release deal. That 20-point plan is annexed to the draft US resolution. Trump has ruled out sending US soldiers into the Gaza Strip, but officials have described a force of about 20,000 troops and have been in discussions with Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Qatar, Turkey and Azerbaijan to contribute. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-873829>

Twelve rescued from cars as first major rains of season cause floods, fire, damage **Lightning strikes tree, apparently igniting nearby electric lines, as part of Tel Aviv light rail shuts down;** **Hamas urges displaced Gazans to dig drainage channels between tents**

By [Tel Staff](#) Today, 11:36 am Updated at 6:52 pm



People walk past a tree that fell due to heavy winds outside the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, November 14, 2025.
(Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)



Lightning illuminates the sky over the Upper Galilee, during a rain storm on November 13, 2025 (Ayal Margolin/Flash90)



Palestinians drive down a muddy road after the first winter rainfall in a displacement camp in Gaza City on November 14, 2025. (Omar al-Qattaa/AFP)



A young girl walks along a street with an umbrella as the first winter rain falls in Jerusalem on November 14, 2025. (John Wessels/AFP)



A Palestinian boy clears water from his shelter after the first winter rainfall in a displacement camp in Gaza City on November 14, 2025. (Omar al-Qattaa/AFP)

Eight people were rescued from their cars in Ashkelon amid floods that followed the first heavy rainfall of the season across the country Friday morning, the Fire and Rescue Service said.

Footage from the southern city, where authorities reported at least 70 millimeters of rain, showed cars floating in the floodwater.

Further north, near Adanim Junction on Route 40, four passengers — three adults and a 3-year-

old — were rescued from the roof of their car, after it had sunk some 1.5 meters (yards). Emergency services arrived with a ladder to retrieve them.

In Tel Aviv, the balcony of an apartment building collapsed as a result of the storm, and a traffic light that fell on the street almost injured a group of young people, according to Channel 12.

The light rail in Tel Aviv temporarily ran on a limited service due to power outages as a result of the storm.

Footage from the northern town of Rosh Ha'ayin caught lightning striking a palm tree, which in set off a series of explosions in the area, as the tree was apparently near an electrical line.

The inclement weather also caused some delays at Ben Gurion Airport, with some 15 landings backed up, according to Ynet.

The Israel Meteorological Society warned of possible flash floods around streams in the Judean Desert and the Dead Sea.

Floods were also possible in normally dry river channels in the south, and the public was warned to stay away, IMS said. It added that the stormy weather will persist throughout the day and into Saturday, when it is expected to ease up.

The wintry burst also saw the Hermon mountaintop coated in snow for the first time this season.



Cars in Ashkelon float in a flood following heavy rainfall, November 14, 2025. (Screen capture: Magen David Adom Lachish Region medics via X)

In Gaza, Hamas's Civil Defense Agency called on Palestinians displaced by the war with Israel to dig channels between their tents so that the rain drains, and to make sure the tents are firmly secured to guard against strong winds.

The agency also warned against entering heavily bombed structures due to the fear that they could collapse as a result of the heavy rain.

The stormy weather follows [sweltering temperatures](#) recorded in the first ten days of November, which saw some areas of Israel

reach their hottest levels on record. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/eight-rescued-from-cars-in-ashkelon-as-first-major-rains-of-season-cause-floods/>

UNIFIL says parts of new Israeli border wall violate Lebanese sovereignty

Beirut cracks down on moneychangers in a bid to cut off Iran's funding to Hezbollah; Israel says Hezbollah murdered Lebanese Christian politician in 2023

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies Today](#), 6:00 pm



View of the Israeli border with Lebanon on March 28, 2025. (Ayal Margolin/Flash90)

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon said Friday that sections of a border wall Israel is constructing on the Lebanese frontier cross the UN-recognized Blue Line, calling the construction a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty.

Work on a border wall to replace Israel's aging fence with Lebanon began in 2018 but has progressed slowly.

The accusation by UNIFIL came as Israel continues near-daily strikes

against Hezbollah terror group operatives in southern Lebanon, amid US and Israeli pressure on Beirut to cut off the terror group's funding and confiscate its arms.

According to UNIFIL, in October, its observers "conducted a geospatial survey of a concrete T-wall erected by the Israel Defense Forces southwest of Yaroun," which confirmed that the wall "crossed the Blue Line, rendering more than 4,000 square meters of Lebanese territory inaccessible to the Lebanese people."

UNIFIL said it informed the IDF of the findings and requested that it move the wall.

This month, UNIFIL said its observers "observed additional T-wall construction in the area," reporting: "A survey confirmed that a section of wall southeast of Yaroun also crossed the Blue Line. We will formally inform the IDF of our findings here as well."

UNIFIL said that "Israeli presence and construction in Lebanese territory are violations of Security Council resolution 1701 and of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

In early 2023, the IDF ramped up construction of the wall, which then halted with the start of the war on October 7, 2023, with the Hezbollah terror group launching attacks on Israel. Since the November 2024 ceasefire, work has resumed on the border wall, along with the construction of dozens of new army posts on the Israeli side of the border.



Israeli soldiers guard along the border wall with Lebanon, northern Israel, March 22, 2025. (Ayal Margolin/Flash90)

"We again call on the IDF to respect the Blue Line in its full length and withdraw from all areas north of it," it said, as the military still maintains five positions inside southern Lebanon following the November 2024 ceasefire that ended fighting with Hezbollah.

UNIFIL added that a new wall that is being constructed between Aitaroun and Maroun al-Ras is on the Israeli side of the Blue Line.

IDF strikes Hezbollah weapons depot

The UNIFIL accusation came a day after Israel struck a Hezbollah weapons depot and adjacent

underground site in southern Lebanon, the latest in near-daily Israeli airstrikes against Hezbollah targets in the region, with Israel accusing the Iran-backed terror group of seeking to re-establish itself in violation of the ceasefire deal.

The infrastructure was located next to a public sports and leisure center, "serving as yet another example of Hezbollah's cynical use of Lebanese civilians as human shields for its operations conducted from within civilian areas," the military said.

Another Hezbollah site in southern Lebanon was also targeted in an airstrike Thursday morning, the IDF added.

The military said Hezbollah is continuing its efforts to restore its infrastructure in Lebanon, and the presence of such sites and the terror group's activity in the area "constitute a violation of the understandings

between Israel and Lebanon.”

Lebanese media also reported a separate Israeli airstrike on a car in the southern Lebanese town of Toul. The IDF said that the explosion was not the result of a strike, but rather an accident during a Hezbollah attempt to smuggle weapons.

Hezbollah was greatly weakened in its most recent war with Israel, which started when the terror group began firing missiles at the Jewish state on October 8, 2023, a day after the Hamas terror group launched its own attack on Israel from Gaza, triggering the war in the Strip.

After nearly a year of daily skirmishes, Israel launched massive airstrikes and a limited ground incursion into southern Lebanon in September 2024. A ceasefire was declared two months later, with Hezbollah left severely weakened. The agreement allows Israel to strike imminent threats.

Beirut cracks down on moneychangers

On Friday, Lebanon announced that moneychangers and transfer companies must comply with stricter rules.

The move came days after a visiting US official said his country was determined to cut off Tehran’s funding to Hezbollah, and after the US Treasury said Iran’s Revolutionary Guards had transferred over \$1 billion to the terror group this year, mainly via money exchange companies.

As part of efforts “to remove Lebanon from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list... the central bank of Lebanon today has taken the first step in a series of precautionary measures aiming to strengthen the compliance environment within the financial sector,” a central bank statement



said.

A teller counts money at an exchange office in Beirut, Lebanon, on November 14, 2025. (Joseph EID / AFP)

The FATF in October last year added Lebanon to its “grey list” of nations that are subject to increased monitoring of financial transactions.

The central bank said it was imposing measures “on all non-bank financial institutions licensed by the central bank of Lebanon, including money transfer companies, exchange bureaus,” and other firms handling foreign currency transactions and transfers to and from the country.

According to a central bank circular from December 1, all non-bank financial institutions must “collect information and data linked to their customers and operations” for transactions of \$1,000 or more and report them to the central bank.

Institutions must confirm they have collected the required information before carrying out any transaction, the circular added.

The measures are consistent “with international standards on fighting money laundering and terrorist financing, and preventing the misuse of the authorized financial system for suspicious transactions,” it said.

Israel says Hezbollah murdered Christian politician

Amid the disarming and defunding efforts, Israel said Friday that a Lebanese politician who died in August 2023 was not the victim of a car accident, as initially claimed, but rather was murdered by Hezbollah.

Elias al-Hasrouni, 72, was a senior member of the Lebanese Forces, Lebanon’s main Christian party headed by Samir Geagea.

Hasrouni was found dead on August 2, 2023, in Ain Ebel — a Christian-majority town surrounded by Shiite villages with strong Hezbollah presence in southern Lebanon — with Lebanese media first reporting it to have been a car crash.

Days later, local authorities and Hasrouni’s party claimed he had been kidnapped by several individuals and beaten to death.

In a post on X on Friday, Col. Avichay Adraee, the IDF’s Arabic-language spokesman, said Hasrouni, who was “known for his strongly anti-Hezbollah stance,” was murdered by the terror group’s special operations unit.

“On the night of August 1, 2023, members of Unit 121 ambushed Hasrouni on a road near his home in Ain Ebel in southern Lebanon, where they kidnapped him and killed him by poisoning and breaking his ribs. Afterwards, to create the impression that he’d veered off the road and died in a car accident, they returned his body to his car, which they crashed into a tree, and left him inside it in a roadside ditch,” Adraee said.

According to Adraee, Unit 121, Hezbollah’s surveillance and special operations unit, “carries out

assassinations targeting journalists, officers, politicians and other figures in Lebanon who oppose Hezbollah and its activities.”

“This unit serves as the organization’s internal security arm, which it uses to track and eliminate its opponents,” he said, noting that among the unit’s victims was former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri.

“Despite the heavy blow Hezbollah suffered during the war, it continues to try to sow chaos in Lebanon and rebuild its strength by using Unit 121 and other tools. The Lebanese people, who yearn for stability and prosperity, fully understand the need to eliminate this decaying Iranian arm that has dragged the country into futile wars, spies on the population, and assassinates its opponents,” Adraee added. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/unifil-says-parts-of-new-israeli-border-wall-violate-lebanese-sovereignty/>

Iran accused of seizing Singapore-bound tanker off coast of UAE

British military warns of ‘state activity’ after ship-tracking data shows Greek-owned, Marshall Islands-flagged vessel Talara suddenly diverted toward Islamic Republic

By [Jon Gambrell](#) Today, 12:58 pm



A frame grab from a video released by Iran's Revolutionary Guard on November 3, 2021, shows the Guard speed boats, center, in front of a US warship, left, amid the seizure of a Vietnamese-flagged oil tanker, right, in the Gulf of Oman. (Revolutionary Guard via AP)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A tanker transiting through the narrow Strait of Hormuz suddenly changed course into Iranian territorial waters Friday, with the British military warning that a possible “state activity” had affected it.

The warning from the British military’s United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) center comes as a private security firm said small vessels had intercepted the ship earlier.

Iran has not acknowledged the incident, which happened off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. However, Tehran in the past has seized ships amid tensions with the West.

Details offered by the UKMTO and the private security firm Ambrey corresponded to a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker called Talara, which had left Ajman in the United Arab Emirates bound for Singapore. The ship suddenly turned toward Iran without explanation, ship-tracking data analyzed by The Associated Press showed Friday. The ship’s Greek owners did not respond to requests for comment.

Meanwhile, a US Navy MQ-4C Triton drone had been circling above the area where the Talara was for hours on Friday. The Navy’s Bahrain-based 5th Fleet did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The US Navy has blamed Iran for a series of [limpet mine attacks](#) on vessels that damaged tankers in 2019, as well as for a [fatal drone attack](#) on an Israeli-linked oil tanker that killed two European crew members in 2021.



Those attacks began after US President Donald Trump, in his first term in office, unilaterally withdrew from Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The last major seizure came when Iran took two Greek tankers in May 2022 and [held them](#) until November of that year.

The Greek-flagged oil tanker Prudent Warrior, one of the ships seized by Iran in May 2022, is seen as it sails past Istanbul, Turkey, April 19, 2019. (Dursun Çam via AP)

Those attacks found themselves subsumed by the Iranian-backed Houthis’ assaults targeting ships during the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, which drastically reduced shipping in the crucial Red Sea corridor. The years of tensions between Iran and the West,

coupled with the situation in the Gaza Strip, exploded into a full-scale 12-day war in June between Iran and Israel.

During that war, the US bombed Iranian nuclear sites as well. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-accused-of-seizing-singapore-bound-tanker-off-coast-of-uae/>

Druze and Syrian government forces accuse each other of violating Sweida ceasefire ***Renewed violence subsides, with reports of wounded on both sides but no casualties; Air Force said to have flown overhead as clashes erupted Thursday***

By [ABDULRAHMAN SHAHEEN](#) and [ABBY SEWELL](#) Today, 2:34 pm



Illustrative: A car drives by a destroyed statue in the Druze-majority town of Sweida, Syria, July 25, 2025. (AP Photo/Omar Sanadiki)

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — A new round of clashes between Druze armed groups and government forces in the province of Sweida in southern Syria had subsided Friday but left fears of another escalation.

Clashes on Thursday led to both sides blaming each other for violating a ceasefire that ended several days of violent fighting in July. There were reports of people wounded on both sides, but no deaths were reported.

The National Guard, the de facto military in Sweida, accused Syrian government forces of launching an attack on the town of al-Majdal Thursday, “employing heavy and medium weapons and attack drones, in an aggressive attempt to breach our defense lines and target vital locations.”

“Our forces bravely and with high combat efficiency repelled this attack, inflicting heavy losses on the attacking forces in terms of equipment and personnel,” it said in a statement.

The government in Damascus accused the Sweida factions of violating the ceasefire first.

Mustafa al-Bakour, the Damascus-appointed governor of Sweida province, said “some factions and the so-called National Guard” launched “attacks on de-escalation points.” The attacks, he added, “constitute a clear violation of international agreements and obstruct efforts to rebuild and prepare for the return of residents to their villages.”

Saber Abou Ras, a political analyst who lives in Sweida city, said Thursday’s clashes “were very intense and violent” and included attacks with drones, anti-aircraft machine guns and mortar shells.

He said Israeli warplanes could be heard over the city of Sweida, but it was not clear if they launched any strikes. The IDF has not confirmed flying planes over Sweida on Thursday.

Abou Ras said he believes the Syrian government forces had launched “a retaliatory attack” after the police chief of the local governmental body in Sweida — along with a “large group of officers” — took over a checkpoint formerly controlled by Syrian government security forces in the northern countryside of the province.

On Thursday, Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani, speaking at an event held by the Chatham House international affairs think tank during a visit to London, said there had been “mistakes made by all sides” in Sweida.

“There are many problems, but we are not dealing with them as if we are the other party,” he said. “We are dealing with this as a Syrian wound, and there is an internal problem within the same house.”



Syria’s interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa (R) signs the country’s constitutional declaration, which will be enforced throughout a five-year transitional period, as interim Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani looks on, at the presidential palace in Damascus on March 13, 2025. (Bakr ALKASEM / AFP)

Sweida was the site of violent clashes in July that began as fighting between Druze groups and local Bedouin tribes after a series of tit-for-tat kidnappings.

The violence escalated after government security forces intervened, ostensibly to break up the fighting, but ended up siding with the Bedouins. Hundreds of civilians,

mostly Druze, were killed, many by government fighters.

Israel, home to some 150,000 Druze, intervened on the side of the Syrian Druze, launching strikes on Syrian government forces and on the defense ministry building in central Damascus. A US-brokered ceasefire led to Syrian government forces withdrawing from Sweida.

Since then, Druze groups have set up a de facto military and governmental body in Sweida, similar to the Kurdish-led authorities in the country's northeast, and have largely refused to deal with the government in Damascus.

Tens of thousands of people remain displaced after the July fighting, including Druze internally displaced within Sweida province and Bedouins who were evacuated from the province to other areas.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/druze-and-syrian-government-forces-accuse-each-other-of-violating-sweida-ceasefire/>

OP ED



UN Report Shows 'Palestinians' Fatter Than Israelis

Thu, 13 Nov 2025 6:57 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield

After two years of barraging social media with lies about a famine in Gaza, Hamas propaganda channels are now trying to cover up their obesity by claiming that Israel is making them fat.

One recent Hamas media story [clamored that](#) "they're forcing us to gain weight", and objected that supermarkets have "shelves overflowing with chocolate, soft drinks, and cigarettes", along with unhealthy "flour and various types of cheese used in sweets and pizza, in addition to sugar and flour derivatives used in confectionery production."

An Arab Muslim settler in Gaza who had previously justified the Hamas massacres complained, "I am compelled to consume carbohydrates, processed cheese, and manufactured meat."

What some are calling the 'Fatocide' reflects the reality that there was never a famine in Gaza, but there was a [very real obesity problem](#). Past reports had found high rates of obesity among children and adults in Gaza and a 2019 study found that almost half of adults over the age of 42 had Type 2 Diabetes. Another Gaza report citing Hamas Ministry of Health numbers claimed that 9.6% of the population in Gaza has diabetes and it's the cause of 11.2% deaths.

The 'Fatocide' is real and is claiming 'Palestinian' lives every day.

A [study from a decade](#) ago found that 1 out of every 5 adolescents in Gaza was overweight or obese and more recent numbers from the combined terrorist occupied territories of Israel, including Judea, Samaria and Gaza, showed that around a third of boys and girls were obese.

Now a new UNICEF study [usefully](#) compares obesity rates in Israel and in the so-called 'Palestinian' entity areas. If Israel were really starving, oppressing or denying materials to the terrorist occupied territories, then the Israelis should be fatter than the 'Palestinians'.

And yet the UNICEF report found that in Israel, 23% of 5-9 year olds were fat, but 28% of children in the same age group in 'Palestine' were obese.

28% of children aged 10-14 in Israel were fat, but in 'Palestine', 33% of children were obese.

Among 15-19 year olds, 19% of Israeli teens were fat, but 32% of 'Palestinian' teens were. Notably, while the Israeli teens appeared to be getting in shape before going into the Israeli Army, their counterparts in the terrorist-occupied territories stayed fat. But then again while you need to be in good shape to be in the infantry, not so much to be a suicide bomber.

While Hamas propagandists accused Israel of a 'Fatocide' by making them gain weight with pizza and soda, high obesity rates are actually common among Arab Muslims across the region. Indeed, the UNICEF report revealed that "obesity among school-aged children and adolescents in the Middle East and North Africa doubled since 2000, and is surpassing underweight rates".

The Global Obesity Observatory (a project of the EU) ranks Israel as 101st in world obesity, but it's

sandwiched between Egypt (15th), Jordan (24th), and Syria (36th). This is significant because there is actually no such thing as a 'Palestinian' or for that matter a Jordanian, Syrian or Egyptian. These were artificial barriers for the same Arab Muslim colonial population and the Arab Muslims who claim to be 'Palestinians' resemble the rest of their neighboring families.

Lebanon, in 60th place, reflects elements of its healthier Christian and secular population.

'Palestine' ranks 27th, demonstrating the closeness of its population to Jordan, 24th, since both are populated by the same group of Arab Muslim settlers before being split up by the British.

If 'Palestine' were a country, it would be the 27th fattest nation in the world.

And if the childhood obesity rates seem bad, the 38.5% adult obesity rate is even worse.

We were told that the Arab Muslim settlers in Gaza were saving food for their children, but the obesity rates show that the adults in the terrorist territories are fatter than the children.

The nearly 40% obesity rate not only puts 'Palestine' far ahead of Israel at 23%, but far ahead of much of the world which receives far less 'humanitarian' aid than the UN lavishes on the 'Palestinians'. While many African nations have obesity rates in the single digits and suffer from actual hunger, fortunes were spent and lives were lost shipping food to Gaza that it didn't need.

Why is there a 'Fatocide'? One reason is that there is an entire UN agency, UNRWA, dedicated to catering to cities full of Arab Muslims in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and parts of Israel, which, despite having existed for 70 years in some cases, are falsely described as "refugee camps".

In one of the greatest welfare scams in the world, Arab Muslims living in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are branded third generation and fourth generation "refugees" rather than immigrants.

And UNRWA is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the 'Palestinian' welfare state.

The Biden administration had dispatched \$1.2 billion in only a few years. The EU estimated its own outlay at around \$1.8 billion. Japan promised \$100 million. The UN is asking for \$4 billion for its 'flash appeal' for Gaza. Even a fraction of that could have saved actual lives in places with actual famines like Sudan, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Instead, the UN funded another 'fatocide'. And it's not the first time.

Before faking a famine to bail out Islamic terrorists in Gaza, international agencies and propaganda outlets had faked a famine in Yemen to bail out the Houthi Jihadists. Even as the Houthis went to war against the United States in 2024, the Biden administration went on supplying [hundreds of millions of dollars](#) in aid: much of which was taken by the terrorists.

Despite the pictures of starving bony children (actually children with medical conditions) and claims that 85,000 children had starved to death, Yemen's population increased 30%.

Since the famine began, Yemen's population shot up from 30 million [to 39 million](#).

While Yemen's child obesity rates don't top Israel's, except in the 5-9 range, at 27%, 21% and 15% respectively, they're well in excess of anything to be found in a country with an actual famine. Yemen's kids are significantly fatter than those of nearly every African country which have real food shortage problems, not NGO fatocides faked for the cameras. When the biggest problem for 1 in 4 children in the country is obesity, that's not a famine, it's a 'fatocide'.

Over 60% of 'Palestinian' women are obese or overweight. 20% have diabetes. After blaming Israel for a famine that didn't exist, they're now blaming Israel for making them eat chocolate and pizza, drink soda and gorge themselves on all the free food being sent by their victims.

From the pizza place to the ice cream shop, Fatostine will be free. Just not calorie free.

Daniel Greenfield is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's [Front Page Magazine](#).

<https://bkdvk-zgpvh.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser>



BS"D

STEP BY STEP

STEP BY STEP: Good news is that many friends and supporters of Lev U'Neshama (Heart and Soul) donated towards the Education Fund project to provide basic school supplies for actually 350 children within our Lev U'Neshama families.

We are grateful that the school supply part of our effort has been successful.

According to the Israel Population and Statistics office, Tzfat's population is about 40,000, and one third live at the poverty level. We do what we can so at least the children within our struggling LUN families can get the things they need.

Every week we are providing new sport shoes and eye exams/eyeglasses to the children on our request list. However, previous donations are rapidly dwindling. I am reaching out now before the fund has been emptied and we will have to say "no" to additional requests.

We work with two local shoe merchants who give Lev U'Neshama a discount but they advised us the cost of the shoes has increased. Also, we work with an accredited optician in town who also gives us a discount but his cost is stable.

Lev U'Neshama is an Israeli registered non-profit charity organization, volunteer run, no business expenses whatsoever and every \$ goes into our programs.

Shoes: \$45 per pair regular and \$60 for First Steps, baby shoes.

Eye Exam/Eyeglasses: \$60 per child.

Your support is urgently requested.

Or use the Zelle US to US bank transfer system (contact me at mortsmo@aol.com for bank information.

US Donors may also send checks made payable to

Simcha Smolensky, my son, who is also a volunteer. Send to:

Rabbi Simcha Smolensky, 6739 N Mozart St Chicago IL 60645

Your support will be appreciated.

Yaffa Smolensky