

Please Note:

This week we are getting ready for a big family time and the news will be less detailed with fewer highlighted areas and comments and more referrals to the Article resource sites for your further perusal. RDB

Netanyahu vows to disarm Hamas as US said to wobble on Gaza demilitarization

PM rejects 'lectures' on opposing Palestinian state, after his allies rail at US-backed statement that Trump's plan, up for UN vote Monday, offers pathway to establishing one

By [Lazar Berman](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 4:03 pm



US President Donald Trump, right, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a special plenum session in honor of Trump at the Knesset, October 13, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday vowed Hamas will be disarmed, following reports that the United States is considering moving ahead with rebuilding parts of Gaza even as the terror group retains its weapons.

Speaking at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Netanyahu also reiterated Israel's "opposition to a Palestinian state anywhere west of the Jordan River."

The comments came ahead of an expected UN Security Council vote on Monday on a draft resolution to enshrine US President Donald Trump's comprehensive Gaza plan, which says "the conditions may finally be in place for a credible pathway" to Palestinian statehood once there is peace in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority "faithfully" reforms itself.

Israel is lobbying the US and other countries to water down the language on Palestinian statehood, Hebrew media reported Sunday.

Trump's [20-point plan](#), which Netanyahu endorsed in a September 29 press conference with the US president, also calls for the disarmament of Hamas, demilitarization of Gaza, reconstruction of the Strip and handing the enclave over to an International Stabilization Force (ISF) and an apolitical Palestinian administration overseen by a Trump-chaired Board of Peace.

However, an Israeli source cited by Channel 13 on Saturday said the White House was [thinking](#) of ditching the disarmament demand and moving ahead with reconstruction, due to the difficulty in getting other countries to send troops to demilitarize Gaza.

Addressing the "so-called non-demilitarization" of the Hamas-controlled parts of Gaza, Netanyahu said Sunday that "there will be no such thing."

"In the 20-point plan, and in any other case, this area will be demilitarized and Hamas will be disarmed — either the easy way or the hard way," he said. "That is what I have said, and that is what President Trump has also said."



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, November 16, 2025. (Screenshot/GPO)

"Our opposition to a Palestinian state anywhere west of the Jordan River exists, is firm, and has not changed whatsoever," Netanyahu said. "I have been pushing back against these attempts for decades, and I do so against external pressure and internal pressure as well." "I don't need reinforcement, tweets, or lectures from anyone," added the prime minister, whose far-right coalition partners demanded Saturday night that he unequivocally reject Palestinian statehood following the release of a US-

organized statement by several nations asserting that Trump's plan "offers a pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood."



Displaced Palestinians walk past a vehicle carrying others west of Deir al-Balah city in the central Gaza Strip, on November 15, 2025. (Bashar TALEB / AFP)

Earlier Sunday, senior members of Netanyahu's own Likud party made their own statements rejecting Palestinian statehood and vowing to keep up military operations in Gaza and elsewhere.

Writing on X, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said Israel was fighting with three "terror states" bent on destroying it: " Hamas from Gaza, Hezbollah from Lebanon and the Houthis from Yemen," all of which have been at conflict with Israel following the Hamas onslaught of October 7, 2023, which sparked the war in Gaza.

"Israel will not agree to the establishment of a Palestinian terror state in the heart of the Land of Israel, at a negligible distance away from all its population centers and with topographical control over them," said Sa'ar.

Defense Minister Israel Katz also said in a statement that "Israel's policy is clear: There will be no Palestinian state."

He vowed to disarm Hamas on both sides of the Yellow Line in Gaza, where Israel withdrew on October 10 as part of the [ceasefire and hostage release deal](#) with Hamas.



Defense Minister Israel Katz, center, visits an IDF post in the Gaza Strip buffer zone, August 5, 2025. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry)

"Gaza will be demilitarized down to the last tunnel, and Hamas will be disarmed," said Katz, adding that the terror group would be disarmed by the IDF on the ceasefire line's Israeli-controlled side, and by either the International Stabilization Force or the IDF in "old Gaza."

Katz also said the IDF would "stay at the peak of the Hermon and in the security zone," apparently referring to parts of the Syrian side of the Golan Heights that Israel, citing fears of attacks from those areas, seized following the

ouster of Syria's former president Bashar al-Assad last December.

The Kan public broadcaster reported Sunday that Israel was engaged in a last-minute diplomatic blitz to alter the UN Security Council draft resolution that floated a possible "credible pathway" to Palestinian statehood.

According to the outlet, Foreign Ministry officials and Netanyahu confidants were discussing the matter with Arab leaders and Trump's close circle.

Israel is reportedly convinced that the unpopular, West Bank-based Palestinian Authority, which it accuses of incitement to terrorism in schools and through payments to terror convicts, will be unable to reform itself to the extent laid out by Trump's plan, which does not specify the "reform program" the PA is expected to undergo.

Despite the perceived slim chance that the PA will fulfill the conditions for Palestinian statehood, Israeli officials cited by Kan said the text the UN will vote on Monday would make for a dangerous resolution with unclear consequences. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-vows-to-disarm-hamas-as-us-said-to-wobble-on-gaza-demilitarization/>

Trump faces uphill battle to persuade Saudi crown prince to normalize Israel ties

US president's push to bring ally into Abraham Accords expected to be high on agenda for White House meeting with crown prince, though analysts suggest it's currently a long shot

By [AAMER MADHANI](#) and [Matthew Lee](#) Today, 6:08 pm



US President Donald Trump (left) speaks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman before posing for a family picture with Gulf leaders during a gathering of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh on May 14, 2025. (Brendan Smialowski / AFP)

WASHINGTON (AP) — US President Donald Trump has not been subtle about how badly he wants to see Saudi Arabia and Israel normalize relations.

He has talked up his push to extend his first-term Abraham Accords — the project that formalized commercial and diplomatic ties between Israel and a trio of Arab nations

— as key to his plan for bringing long-term stability to the Middle East as the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza continues to hold.

The normalization push is expected to be high on the agenda when Trump hosts Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Tuesday for talks during a pomp-filled White House visit.

"I hope that Saudi Arabia will be going into the Abraham Accords very shortly," Trump [told reporters](#) aboard Air Force One on Friday as he made his way to Florida for the weekend.

Yet Trump's optimism that a US-brokered deal could come soon is tempered by more sober internal assessments. Saudi Arabia is unlikely to sign on to the accords anytime soon, but there is cautious optimism that an agreement can be sealed by the end of Trump's second term, according to three administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-faces-uphill-battle-to-persuade-saudi-crown-prince-to-normalize-israel-ties/>

Hamas stockpiling weapons in sympathetic countries despite Gaza disarmament deal - KAN

The report comes amid the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which stipulates the disarmament of the latter.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) NOVEMBER 16, 2025 21:24



Hamas terrorists guard an area where they are searching for the bodies of hostages with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza City on November 3, 2025. (photo credit: OMAR AL-QATTAA/AFP via Getty Images)

Hamas has started stockpiling weapons in African countries, Yemen, and other nations sympathetic to the terrorist organization, Israeli public broadcaster KAN News reported on Sunday.

The report follows the implementation of the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which stipulates the disarmament of the latter.

According to Kan, **the weapons are being stockpiled so that they can later be smuggled to locations, including the Gaza Strip, where Hamas can access them.**



Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council is set to vote on Monday on a draft resolution it had seen last week regarding the multinational force expected to deploy to the Gaza Strip.

Multinational force expected to enforce Gaza demilitarization

According to the resolution, the force will demilitarize Gaza, destroy the military infrastructure there, and secure its borders.

Hamas terrorist stands guard, as heavy machinery operates at the site where searches are underway for the bodies of hostages killed after being seized by Hamas during the October 7, 2023 attack, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, October 17, 2025. (credit: REUTERS/STRINGER)

Despite agreeing to a ceasefire that requires its disarmament, Hamas has refused to commit to giving up its weapons.

Last month, Hamas politburo member [Mohammed Nazzal](#) told Reuters that he could not give an answer on whether or not the terror group would do so.

"I can't answer with a yes or no," Nazzal said. "Frankly, it depends on the nature of the project. The disarmament project you're talking about, what does it mean? To whom will the weapons be handed over?" <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-874099>

Netanyahu vows to take action against extremist settlers, directs warning at ministers

Netanyahu addressed the recent spike in West Bank Jewish settler violence, stressing the large majority of settlers are law-abiding and loyal to the state.

By[**KESHET NEEV**](#)**NOVEMBER 16, 2025 20:57Updated: NOVEMBER 16, 2025 22:29**



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir during a 40 signatures debate, at the plenum hall of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem, on November 10, 2025. (photo credit: YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the spike in West Bank [settler](#) violence and appeared to send a warning to political rivals, including Defense Minister Israel Katz, on Sunday.

“We are in an election year, and we are witnessing a campaign offensive, both within Likud and outside of it,” he said during the

cabinet meeting. “There is a constant barrage of tweets – ‘I said this, I did this, I updated this’ – including on matters related to national security. I remind everyone that these issues are coordinated with the prime minister, who is responsible for them.”

Katz has become well known for his many posts, particularly on security matters, leading to speculation that Netanyahu’s remarks were directed at him.

The recent spike in [West Bank Jewish settler violence](#) is a “phenomenon caused by a minority entering [Judea and Samaria](#), which does not represent the large community of settlers who are law-abiding and loyal to the state,” Netanyahu said.



A man looks at destroyed vehicles, as Palestinians assess damage at the scene after what they said was an Israeli settler attack, at their village of Um Safa near Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, March 11, 2025. (credit: REUTERS/Mohammed Torokman)

We will act with force to confront “the riots against IDF soldiers – against Palestinians and against IDF soldiers – because we are a nation of laws, and a nation of laws acts in accordance with the law,” he said.

Many violent incidents perpetrated by Israeli extremists have taken place recently amid this year’s olive harvest in the West Bank.

Violent incidents by West Bank extremist settlers

Last week, a group of [Jewish settlers](#) in the West Bank set fire to and vandalized a Palestinian mosque near Salfit, north of Ramallah. The IDF also detained multiple settlers for arson attacks on Palestinian vehicles, a factory, and agricultural land. Four Palestinians were hurt in the attacks.

Netanyahu also affirmed Israel’s opposition to a Palestinian state and his commitment to demilitarizing Hamas.

There has been a recent wave of statements from various MKs, calling on Netanyahu to clarify Israel’s stance regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state.

“Our opposition to a Palestinian state on any territory west of the Jordan River remains firm and unchanged,” Netanyahu said at the cabinet meeting.

“I have been pushing back against these attempts for decades, doing so in the face of pressure from abroad and from home,” he said. “So, I do not need reinforcements, tweets, or lectures from anyone.”

Netanyahu also said Gaza would be demilitarized, and that Hamas will be eliminated.

There will be “no such thing” as lack of demilitarization in the part of Gaza still held by Hamas, he said.

“In the 20-point plan” for peace in Gaza proposed by US President Donald Trump, “and in every other framework, that area will be demilitarized, and Hamas will be dismantled, either the easy way or the hard way,” Netanyahu said, adding that Trump has expressed the same sentiments.

Last Friday, the US, Qatar, Egypt, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan, and Turkey issued a joint statement, expressing support for a US-drafted UN Security Council resolution under consideration that would “offer a pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood.”

Additionally, a Palestinian state was mentioned in a UN Security Council draft last Thursday, discussing the International Security Force that is meant to govern Gaza.

Amichai Stein and Jerusalem Post Staff contributed to this report. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/crime-in-israel/article-874098>

How IAF intel helps Israel gain air supremacy over Iran as officials warn of renewed conflict - N12

Officials described in detail the entire system that was able to identify Iranian threats during the 12-day war in June and directed the Israel Air Force on where to operate.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) NOVEMBER 15, 2025 18:16 Updated: NOVEMBER 15, 2025 18:18



A female air force crew member preparing to strike Iran, June 2025. (photo credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit via Maariv)

The Israel Air Force was able to monitor the transfer of the Islamic Republic's air defense systems and missiles between locations during Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June, several military officials familiar with the matter told N12 News in an interview published on Thursday.

The officials described in detail to the Israeli outlet the actions taken by the Air Force's Intelligence Technology

Service (ITS), which identified Iranian threats, directed the IAF on where to operate, and informed them of areas to avoid, thus assisting Israeli forces in achieving air superiority over Iranian skies.

One air force official, whom the N12 article refers to as "Lieutenant G," recalled the moment when the IAF intelligence service caught the transfer of two air defense systems being moved from Tehran to another area in Iran, which he noted was how Shatal was able to help identify the routes Islamic Republic military personnel were using to transfer defense systems.

The ITS then passed the information to the Air Force to carry out precise strikes.

"Without such air superiority, the Air Force would not have been able to operate where it wanted,"

Lieutenant G. told N12. He serves as a commander of an air defense unit in ITS.

On Sunday, *The New York Times* cited [Ali Vaez](#), the Iran project director at the International Crisis Group, saying that he was informed by Iranian officials that missile factories are working 24 hours a day, and that if there is another war, Iran hopes to fire 2,000 at once, compared to the 500 they sent over a span of 12 days. [More-
https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-873917](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-873917)

Haredi crowds smash MK's car window, protest at another's home in furor over draft bill Mob targeting Shas lawmaker Yoav Ben-Tzur draws widespread condemnation; Bnei Brak home of UTJ's Ya'akov Asher also sees protests

By [Tol Staff](#) and [Sam Sokol](#)

Today, 6:08 am Updated at 9:31 am



A police officer stands next to a broken car window in footage of the mob attack on Shas MK Yoav Ben-Tzur's car in the Jerusalem area, November 15, 2025. (Screenshot from X)

Ultra-Orthodox crowds targeted two Haredi MKs from different parties on Saturday night, protesting their cooperation in the advancement of a bill to regulate conscription for yeshiva students.

In the first incident following Shabbat, extremists smashed a window of Shas MK Yoav Ben-Tzur's vehicle as he left a weekly lesson in Jerusalem. Later that night, dozens of Haredi demonstrators protested

outside the home of United Torah Judaism MK Ya'akov Asher in Bnei Brak. The protest appeared to be **disorganized**, with participants flanked by police vehicles and additional officers arriving to control the crowd.

The protests were the latest instances in which a hardline faction of Haredim demonstrated its rejection of any plan that would conscript yeshiva students, even though the proposed law would likely enshrine mass exemptions for the community. The attack on Ben-Tzur's car drew condemnation from across the political spectrum.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office released a statement Sunday morning "strongly condemning the violent attack on MK Yoav Ben-Tzur in Jerusalem last night by a handful of unruly protesters."

"Even when there are disagreements, there is absolutely no room for violence," said the statement. "Law-enforcement authorities must act firmly against any attempt to intimidate or harm elected officials." **More-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/haredi-lawmakers-targeted-by-protesters-opposing-conscription-bill-prompting-outcry/>

Likud MK says IDF conscription bill aims to draft half of Haredim 'not in yeshiva'

Controversial legislation, apparently set to enable most Haredi young men to continue to evade service in the coming years, is almost ready, says Defense Committee chair Bismuth

By [Sam Sokol](#)

15 November 2025, 10:17 pm



Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Boaz Bismuth at a committee meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem, September 3, 2025. (Sam Sokol/Times of Israel)

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Boaz Bismuth on Saturday appeared to confirm that his revised draft of a government-backed bill regulating ultra-Orthodox conscription would continue to exempt full-time yeshiva students from IDF service for the foreseeable future, and would draft only half of the eligible members of the community not engaged in full-time Talmud study, gradually, over the next five years.

Speaking with Channel 12's "Meet The Press," the Likud lawmaker rejected "fake" news reports regarding the contents of the bill — widely seen as intended to codify draft exemptions for much of the Haredi community, impose weak sanctions on evaders and pave the way for the ultra-Orthodox parties to return to the coalition. He said he would soon "present the final text to my colleagues on the committee."

The "locomotive is ready to leave the station [and is] waiting for passengers," he says. "The law is more or less ready. I am in full coordination with the prime minister. The prime minister wants this law; very much so," he said.

Appearing to confirm hints that the bill will allow those enrolled full-time in yeshiva to continue their studies without fear of conscription for years to come, Bismuth told the network that "within five years, 50 percent of those not in yeshiva" will enlist in the army — a development which he called "huge."

He did not specify how the military would decide which half of the Haredim not studying at yeshiva to enlist and who would be among the other 50 percent to be exempted. **More-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/likud-mk-says-idf-conscription-bill-aims-to-draft-half-of-haredim-not-in-yeshiva/>

Syria arrests military members for deadly attacks on Druze in Sweida in July

Committee investigating violence says it will only release death toll in final report later this year, doesn't say how many security forces were detained amid investigation

By [AP](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 9:58 pm



Members of Syria's security forces stand on a tank in the predominantly Druze city of Sweida on July 15, 2025, following clashes between Bedouin tribes and Druze fighters. (Bakr Alkasem / AFP)

Members of Syria's security and military services have been detained as part of an investigation into sectarian violence in the southern province of Sweida in July that left hundreds of people dead, investigators said Sunday.

The head of a Syrian committee investigating the violence in Sweida held a news conference in the capital, Damascus, to talk about progress made, but did not

release a death toll, saying this will come in the final report that is expected by the end of the year.

In mid-July, armed groups affiliated with Druze spiritual leader Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri clashed with local Bedouin clans, spurring intervention by government forces who effectively sided with the Bedouins. Hundreds of civilians, mostly Druze, were killed, many by government fighters.

Judge Hatem Naasan, head of the investigative committee, said they have listened to people affected by the violence, including “witnesses and victims.”

“We have achieved positive results,” Naasan told reporters in Damascus, adding that members of security services and the military “who were proven to have committed violations based on investigations of the committee and videos posted on social media platforms” have been detained. He did not say how many were held, adding that after they were questioned, they were referred to judicial authorities.

“Videos posted on social media clearly showed faces and they were detained by the authorities concerned,” Naasan said. He said security members were detained by the Interior Ministry while members of the military are being held by the Defense Ministry.



A Kurdish Syrian woman carries an image of a Druze elder Sheikh Merhej Shahin as a man in military attire, forcibly shaved off his moustache, during a march in support of the people of Sweida in the eastern city of Qamishli on July 17, 2025. (Delil Souleiman/AFP)

Videos surfaced online showing armed men killing Druze civilians kneeling in public squares and shaving the mustaches off elderly men in an act of humiliation.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based war monitor, claimed that the violence over the summer killed more than 2,000 people, including 789 Druze civilians “summarily executed by defense and interior ministry personnel.”

Naasan downplayed suggestions that foreign fighters took part in the violence in Sweida. He said that some foreign fighters were detained and questioned, adding they acted on their own by entering the city and none of them were members of the Syrian armed or security forces.

“What became clear to us is that some foreign fighters randomly and individually entered the city of Sweida,” Naasan said. [More-https://www.timesofisrael.com/syria-arrests-military-members-for-deadly-attacks-on-druze-in-sweida-in-july/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/syria-arrests-military-members-for-deadly-attacks-on-druze-in-sweida-in-july/)

Israel Police bust one of largest drug labs in recent years, arrest 9

Raid leads to arrest of 9 suspects in the Ashdod area for operating one of the largest drug labs exposed in recent years, and seizure of dozens of kilograms of the drug "Doctor" and millions of dollars in cash; The suspects manufactured and distributed synthetic drugs in the party market: 'The seizure will directly affect the drug market'

[Meir Turgeman](#) | 11:46

In a major operation, Israel Police arrested nine suspects in the Ashdod area Sunday morning on suspicion of running one of the largest drug laboratories uncovered in the country in recent years. Officers also seized tens of kilograms of a substance suspected to be the synthetic drug known as "Doctor," along with millions of dollars in cash.



The raid in the Ashdod area. Large sums of money in Israeli and foreign currency were also seized (Photo: Israel Police spokesperson)



The money and drugs seized (Photo: Israel Police spokesperson)



Dozens of kilograms of "Doctor" drug seized (Photo: Israel Police spokesperson)

According to a police statement, an undercover investigation had been ongoing in recent weeks into a group of suspects allegedly involved in large-scale drug production and distribution. The group is believed to have manufactured and sold significant quantities of the synthetic drug "Doctor," along with other synthetic narcotics. Each member reportedly had a defined role in the production and distribution chain, with additional associates responsible for distributing the drugs within the party scene. **More-** <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hy00vkkwgwe>

The mystery of 153 Palestinians' flight to South Africa: 'They told us not to pack anything'

From Rafah to Ramon, from there to Kenya, and then to Johannesburg: The Palestinians who were flown and denied entry for hours to South Africa still do not know who was behind the mysterious organization that coordinated their departure; Each family was required to pay about \$1,400 to \$2,000 per person; one of the passengers who returned said: 'It was a journey of suffering'; Israel claims: There were visas for a third country

[ynet Global](#) | 19:14

South African authorities are still investigating the mystery of the 153 Palestinian passengers who arrived from Gaza to Johannesburg without proper identification, days after the flight landed. While the probe continues, officials have allowed around 130 of them to remain in the country.

One of the passengers, Louay Abu-Saif, a Gaza resident who emigrated with his wife and children, told Al Jazeera about their mysterious journey: "I feel safe now. That means a lot, especially after coming from Gaza."

Abu-Saif said his wife had registered the family for the flight after seeing a post on social media. The post reportedly offered priority to families with children, valid travel documents, and Israeli security clearance. Beyond that, he said they had no information about the organizing body or the selection criteria. Even the departure date was unknown to them until 24 hours in advance. "We were told not to pack anything, not to bring bags or suitcases, just the relevant documents," he said.



Hanan Jarrar, Palestinian ambassador to South Africa, with the Gazans who arrived in Johannesburg by flight

(Photo: Reuters)

Israel issued an official response Thursday night, stating that the passengers had left Gaza only after securing visas to a third country, with coordination from the organization responsible for the flight.

"These people left the Gaza Strip after COGAT [the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories] received agreement from a third

country to take them," said COGAT in a statement to AFP. It did not name the third country or confirm if it was South Africa, which initially delayed the passengers' entry. **More-** <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sjfnwj8xwg>

UN rapporteur claims no independent probe found evidence of Oct. 7 sexual assault despite UN report



"No independent investigation found that rape took place on the 7th of October," United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, Reem Alsalem, claimed.

By [DANIELLE GREYMAN-KENNARD](#) NOVEMBER 15, 2025

15:13 Updated: NOVEMBER 15, 2025 20:04

United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem (L) and UN Human Rights Officer Orlagh McCann (R) address a press conference in Ankara on July 27, 2022. (photo credit: ADEM ALTAN/AFP via Getty Images)

Warning: This story describes deeply disturbing events and testimonies in graphic detail.

“No independent investigation found that rape took place on October 7,” United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women and girls, Reem Alsalem, falsely claimed on Friday, despite a UN report that detailed Hamas’s use of sexual violence during the October 7 massacre.

“No Palestinian applauded rape in Gaza,” Alsalem further wrote during a social media exchange on the ongoing legal case against soldiers accused of sexually assaulting a Palestinian prisoner in the [Sde Teiman](#) detention center.

[Last year in March](#), Alsalem also denied knowing Israel had been a victim of repeated missile attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah as the terrorist groups launched air barrages on civilian communities across Israel.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-873910>

WATCH: Canadian-Israeli denied option to put Israel as place of birth in her new passport

According to her video, the employee told her that the new Canadian policy was to write Palestine under certain Israeli cities in place of birth, after the recognition of Palestine by Mark Carney.

By [YOA VETIEL](#) NOVEMBER 16, 2025 01:07



Flags of Israel, Canada, and Palestine. (Illustrative)(photo credit: SHUTTERSTOCK)

A Canadian-Israeli was told that she could not put down Israel as her birthplace while applying for her new Canadian passport due to a “new policy applied by the Canadian government,” the woman, whose name is Anastasia, said in a social media post.

“A Canadian Passport employee told me they can not write Israel as my birth country. These are the clear consequences of the current government and leadership in power,” she wrote on X/Twitter.

According to her video, the employee told her that the recognition of a Palestinian state by the government of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney allowed people from certain cities in Israel to write that they are from Palestine. **More-** <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-873950>

How Iran revived its Hezbollah smuggling network through Turkey, the sea and crypto

After air and land routes were shut and senior Quds Force operatives were killed, Iran and Hezbollah rebuilt a smuggling system relying on third countries, maritime routes and money-exchange networks, transferring arms and hundreds of millions of dollars

[Ron Crissy](#) | 12:29

Air routes were cut off, key Iranian operatives were killed, and Syria dropped out of the smuggling equation almost entirely. Yet Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps found new ways over the past year to transfer weapons and hundreds of millions of dollars to Hezbollah.

According to the U.S. Treasury Department, Iran has transferred about one billion dollars to Hezbollah since the beginning of the year to rebuild the Lebanese terror group after its losses in the war with Israel. Much of the funding was channeled through money-exchange agencies and cash-based businesses, using legitimate financial mechanisms to disguise its origin and destination.



Ali Khamenei and Naim Qassem (Photo: AP, Reuters)

The department said the money is used to rebuild Hezbollah’s military capabilities and undermine the Lebanese government’s attempts to assert sovereign control across its territory. Mixing illicit funds with legitimate business activity, it warned, threatens the integrity and stability of Lebanon’s financial system.

Last week, a U.S. delegation visited Lebanon and delivered a blunt message to President Joseph Aoun, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and other officials: Hezbollah’s funding channels must be cut as part of efforts to

dismantle its weapons infrastructure. According to multiple reports, the delegation gave Lebanon a deadline through the end of the year to complete required reforms and tighten oversight of money-laundering networks. The delegation's head reportedly warned that failing to stem Hezbollah's financing could force the United States "to leave Beirut to its fate."

The fall of Assad and Lebanon's flight ban that upended the old routes

Nearly a year ago, on Nov. 27, the cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah took effect. Even then, Hezbollah began attempting to rebuild its strength with large infusions of Iranian money and efforts to smuggle weapons through multiple channels.

Less than two weeks later, as Hezbollah tried to move Iranian weapons and cash through Syria, the Assad regime fell. With the new Syrian leadership declaring it would not allow weapons transfers through its territory, Syria was largely removed from the smuggling map. Lebanon also banned flights arriving from Iran, closing both the air and land corridors the IRGC had used for years. **More-** <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rj0qfcdgzx>

OP ED

Turkey Is Thwarting Trump's Attempts to Disarm Hamas, Achieve Peace in the Middle East

by [Con Coughlin](#)

November 16, 2025 at 5:00 am



[W]ith both Turkey and Qatar, two countries that support Hamas's hardline Islamist agenda, seeking to play a more prominent role in Gaza's future development, the prospect of persuading Hamas to disarm and relinquish control appears even more remote.

Pictured: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (right) honors then Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh at the Parliament in Ankara, Turkey on January 3, 2012. (Photo credit by Adem Altan/AFP via Getty Images)

Attempts by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to play a key role in plans to form an "international security force" for Gaza pose a serious threat to US President Donald J. Trump's efforts to disarm Hamas terrorists and augur poorly for his efforts

to bring peace to the Middle East.

A key requirement of Trump's 20-point plan to end the Gaza conflict is for Hamas to disarm and end its malign control of the Gaza Strip. Only then will negotiations begin on finding a lasting ceasefire agreement and rebuilding the enclave for an enduring peace after two years of brutal conflict.

Trump has made clear his commitment to removing Hamas from Gaza even if, as is currently the case, the Islamist terror group shows no sign of complying with the terms of Trump's peace plan.

In [comments](#) made soon after the first stage of the US-sponsored ceasefire took hold in Gaza, Trump threatened to disarm Hamas "violently" if it did not fully comply with his terms. If Hamas failed to disarm within "a reasonable period of time" then "we will disarm them", the president warned.

Yet, rather than showing any inclination to relinquish its grip over Gaza, Hamas has instead used the ceasefire to reassert its control over parts of Gaza by deploying thousands of its "security" officials and carrying out summary [executions](#) in public of its political opponents.

Now, with both Turkey and Qatar, two countries that support Hamas's hardline Islamist agenda, seeking to play a more prominent role in Gaza's future development, the prospect of persuading Hamas to disarm and relinquish control appears even more remote.

As part of Trump's attempts to end hostilities in Gaza, he is planning to create a multinational force drawn from a number of Muslim countries, to maintain order in the area while negotiations on its future take place.

While details on how the force will be expected to operate in Gaza remain vague, there is a general expectation that one of its duties will be to disarm terrorist groups such as Hamas.

Speaking in Israel last month, US Vice President JD Vance [said](#) that the force would "take the lead on disarming Hamas", although he conceded that the task of disarming Hamas was "going to take some time and it's going to depend a lot on the composition of that force."

King Abdullah II of Jordan tried to [warn](#) Trump, also at the end of October:

"[W]e hope that it is peacekeeping, because if it's peace enforcing, nobody will want to touch that.... If we're running around Gaza on patrol with weapons, that's not a situation that any country would like to get involved

in."

Bringing Hamas's two-decade-long rule over Gaza is deemed vital to securing the its long-term stability. While significantly enhancing Israel's security along its southern border, it would liberate Palestinian civilians from the Islamist terror group's oppressive rule.

Trump's radical plan to transform Gaza's political landscape -- especially his focus on disarming Hamas -- could come unstuck, though, if pro-Hamas states such as Turkey and Qatar have any involvement in the territory's future administration.

Erdogan has already declared his intention to be a key player in Gaza's future development by offering to commit 2,000 Turkish troops to Trump's proposed stabilisation force, an offer that has been unequivocally rejected by Israel. Responding to Ankara's offer, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [stated](#) explicitly, "There will be no Turkish boots on the ground."

Israel's firm opposition to the presence of Turkish troops in Gaza stems from the dramatic deterioration in relations between Jerusalem and Ankara since Hamas carried out the October 7, 2023 invasion of Israel. Erdogan [responded](#) by praising Hamas, suspending trade with Israel, closing Turkish airspace to Israeli planes.

Erdogan, who is trying to replace Qatar as Hamas's main intermediary in negotiations with the US, has [accused](#) Israel of crimes against humanity and recently issued [arrest warrants](#) for 37 Israeli officials -- including Netanyahu -- alleging "genocide" in Gaza.

Erdogan has long stated that "[Jerusalem is our city](#)." As recently as last month, Erdogan was talking with his officials about [attacking Israel](#).

"No one can save it [Israel] now..." Erdogan [said](#) on October 6.

"It must be disciplined with war... War and power should make Israel kneel... However 'extreme' it looks, a Turkey-Israel war will absolutely happen... Israel's life is over.... Jerusalem will be saved! Israel will have no choice but to kneel in front of Turkey. This is the only way for it to live.... In the mind of the man who opened Hagia Sophia after 86 years, there is a settled plan to liberate Jerusalem and settle the account of 1917."

Despite vehement Israeli objections, Erdogan is hoping that his good relations with Trump will persuade the US president to dismiss Israel's concerns and allow Turkey to play a central role in future talks on Gaza's future.

If Trump allows this to happen, it could seriously undermine his attempts to disarm Hamas and achieve peace. Rather than ending the terrorist group's involvement in Gaza, Ankara is calling for Hamas to work together with the Palestinian Authority to form a new administration for the territory.

Erdogan has also been [seeking F-35 jets](#) from the United States. For what might he be intending to use them? Congress has wisely [prohibited](#) the deal so long as Turkey possesses Russia's S-400 air and missile defence system.

Erdogan's determination to play a prominent role in discussions on Gaza's future -- including Trump's plan for creating a multinational stabilisation force -- was very much in evidence at a [summit](#) of Muslim leaders he hosted in Istanbul this month. The summit was attended by representatives from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Pakistan and Indonesia, which have indicated a willingness to support the Gaza force.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan [told](#) reporters after the conference that the Turks wanted to see a "swift internal Palestinian reconciliation" between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority (PA), headed by Mahmoud Abbas. Fidan argued that such reconciliation would "enhance Palestine's representation in the international community."

Turkey's desire for Hamas to be reconciled with the PA completely contradicts a key requirement of Trump's peace plan, which demands that the terror group not only disarms, but ends its political involvement in Gaza. If implemented, any Turkish involvement in Trump's efforts to end the Gaza conflict would simply offer Hamas a lifeline, one that would enable it to maintain its terrorist agenda.

The Trump administration may be tempted to believe that Turkey's involvement in the issue is crucial if a settlement in Gaza is to be reached. The administration must also understand, however, that any Turkish involvement will completely undermine Trump's stated objective of forcing the terrorist organisation to disarm if there is to be any hope of a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Con Coughlin is the Telegraph's Defence and Foreign Affairs Editor and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Gatestone Institute. <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/22048/turkey-thwarting-trump-attempts-to-disarm-hamas>



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