

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

WEEK #122

FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 7, 2026



The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, accompanied by two military supply ships, and two U.S. Coast Guard cutters, in the Arabian Sea | Source: CENTCOM on X

ACCOUNT OF THE MAIN EVENTS IN THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR AND HOSTILITIES BY THE IRANIAN AXIS

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OVERVIEW

- ◆ U.S.–Iran talks were moved from Istanbul to Muscat at Iran’s request. Tehran redefined the talks to focus exclusively on the nuclear issue
- ◆ Renewed fighting in Gaza is increasingly likely due to Hamas’s refusal to disarm. Additional reserve brigades are expected to be mobilized for a new campaign anticipated to commence in March–April.
- ◆ Iran flatly rejected U.S. calls to halt uranium enrichment on its own territory in the Muscat talks.
- ◆ The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed to have seized two oil tankers, carrying one million liters of fuel and 15 crew members, under allegations of smuggling. This move is viewed as a signal of readiness to disrupt the Strait of Hormuz.
- ◆ The Syrian government signed an agreement with American and Qatari energy companies to explore gas and oil in Syrian maritime territory.
- ◆ Following Hamas’s ceasefire violations, the IDF launched a wave of artillery fire, airstrikes, and targeted assassinations.
- ◆ The IDF spokesperson revealed January intelligence from Jabalia, showing Hamas operatives using ambulances to transport fighters and military equipment from hospitals to schools.
- ◆ President Erdoğan met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, during which Turkey and Saudi Arabia signed a \$2 billion solar energy deal.



SECURITY BRIEFING

WEEK 122



0

Israeli Citizens
or IDF soldiers
killed this week

87

Record monthly
Israeli strikes in
Lebanon

110

Mortar shells
found in
UNRWA bags



60% to 20%

Ali Shamkhani stated Iran could reduce uranium enrichment from high levels to lower purity if international concerns are resolved.



\$2 Billion

Turkey and Saudi Arabia signed a solar energy deal worth this amount during President Erdogan's meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.



20 Agreements

During President Erdogan's visit to Egypt, the two nations signed approximately 20 agreements to strengthen cooperation and increase bilateral trade.



20 Individuals

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced sanctions against 20 Iranian citizens, including members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

TRUMP'S GAZA PLAN

GAZA

- ◆ Despite the reopening of the Rafah Crossing, Gaza sources report that only a few dozen people crossed in either direction. Egypt stated it is prepared to deploy 12,000 medical personnel and 600 ambulances into Gaza, explicitly aimed at preventing large-scale Gazan emigration.
- ◆ A European Union delegation entered via Kerem Shalom to participate in management of the Rafah Crossing. Additionally, several dozen Palestinian Authority personnel, previously stationed in El-Arish, Egypt will also take part in operating the crossing.
- ◆ The Prime Minister's Office condemned the new emblem of the "Gaza Administration Committee" led by Ali Shaath. Whereas the previous emblem resembled a phoenix, the new symbol is nearly identical to that of the Palestinian Authority. Concurrently, Mahmoud Abbas announced Palestinian Authority elections by November 1, 2026, a move widely seen as an attempt to position the PA to retake control of Gaza.
- ◆ Following a meeting between Steve Witkoff, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the senior IDF leadership, an official statement reiterated that Hamas must be fully disarmed and Gaza demilitarized before any reconstruction process begins. The statement also clarified that the Palestinian Authority will have no role in governing Gaza in the day after scenario.
- ◆ The United Arab Emirates expressed willingness to assume responsibility for civilian administration in Gaza, including multi-billion-dollar investments in reconstruction, debris removal, logistics hub management, and joint projects with Israeli contractors.



OPERATIONAL



IDF troops uncovered 110 mortar shells, several rockets, and additional weapons hidden inside blankets & UNRWA humanitarian aid bags near the Yellow Line. | Source: IDF Spokesperson

- ◆ The IDF struck a Hamas weapons depot in Gaza City, stating that the attack was conducted after issuing advance warnings to civilians. This strike marked a significant precedent, as it was the first Israeli attack in the Gaza Strip accompanied by an official evacuation warning since September 2025, signaling a possible shift back toward more formalized rules of engagement amid rising tensions.
- ◆ Numerous ceasefire violations by Hamas included several armed incidents along the yellow line. Fighters from the Alexandroni Brigade identified four militants operating near the northern sector of the strip, actively directing hostile activity. An airstrike was guided onto the cell, resulting in their elimination. In a separate incident, a brigade officer in northern Gaza was seriously wounded by terrorist gunfire, indicating continued hostile engagement despite the ceasefire framework.

- ◆ Following Hamas's ceasefire violations, the IDF launched a wave of artillery fire, airstrikes, and targeted assassinations. These actions included the killing of a Nukhba company commander who led the October 7 massacre at Kibbutz Nir Oz and who likely held hostages throughout the war. In Deir al-Balah, the commander of Palestinian Islamic Jihad's northern brigade was eliminated; he had been responsible for hostage detention and had held his role prior to the war. In the Shati Camp, a Hamas team commander was killed - who had brutally murdered the Israeli observation soldier Noa Marciano during her captivity.
- ◆ Along Salah al-Din Road in Khan Younis, engineering units demolished structures adjacent to the yellow line to clear operational space. Local Gaza residents gathered to observe, and had to be dispersed via warning shots fired into the air, underscoring continued civilian proximity to combat zones.
- ◆ In eastern Rafah, Israeli forces destroyed a tunnel extending several hundred meters, adding to efforts to dismantle Hamas's underground infrastructure.
- ◆ The IDF spokesperson revealed January intelligence from Jabalia, showing Hamas operatives using ambulances to transport fighters and military equipment from hospitals to schools. Unlike previous ceasefires, this ceasefire imposed no restrictions on aerial surveillance, allowing Israel to collect significantly more intelligence on militant activity during the lull.
- ◆ The Nahala movement organized a march advocating Jewish resettlement in northern Gaza. Several participants crossed the border fence and planted a tree. They were detained by soldiers and transferred to police custody, marking an internal Israeli security incident tied to the Gaza theater.





Underground tunnel in Khan Younis which was located and destroyed by IDF troops | Source: IDF Spokesperson

ANTI-HAMAS MILITIAS

- ◆ Hamas claimed it ambushed the militia of Hossam al-Astal, killing 11 fighters. Al-Astal countered that his forces killed six Hamas operatives, captured several for interrogation, and challenged Hamas to provide proof of its claims. He also announced that Kizan al-Najjar in southern Khan Younis will soon reopen to residents.
- ◆ Overall, local militias continue operating and are visibly strengthening, increasingly acting as a policing force for the “day after” and positioning themselves as increasingly viable alternatives to Hamas governance.



PHASE B

- ◆ With the transition to Phase B, the security establishment presented the political leadership with a series of plans to defeat Hamas. One option known as the “Lebanese model”, relies on ongoing assassinations and infrastructure strikes without a full ground maneuver, which is expected to gradually degrade Hamas. A second option is a full-scale ground maneuver with maximal firepower; much easier to execute now that there are no Israeli hostages remaining in Gaza. The assessment is that Gaza could be conquered within weeks, with the population relocated between various safe zones and allowed to return only through controlled filtering mechanisms.
- ◆ Renewed fighting is increasingly likely due to Hamas’s refusal to comply with the conditions of Phase 2 of the cease-fire, which requires Hamas to completely disarm. Additional IDF reserve brigades are expected to be mobilized in the near future, in anticipation of a new campaign commencing in March–April, coinciding with the expiration of the disarmament deadline. Likely axes of advance include Gaza City, Nuseirat Camp, and most notably Deir al-Balah, now considered viable precisely because no Israeli hostages remain.

HUMANITARIAN

- ◆ New data emerged on Gaza’s “cigarette economy.” Before the war, a pack cost around 20 shekels. By July 2024, prices peaked at up to 1,500 shekels per pack, transforming cigarettes into the most valuable and sought-after commodity, effectively a financial asset. Hamas controlled a monopoly over the trade, generating significant revenue. As aid truck flows increased and smuggling expanded, prices dropped during the ceasefire, but have risen again due to exposure of smuggling networks and speculative trading, referred to locally as a “Gazan stock exchange.”



DIPLOMATIC



IRAN



A joint exercise between a U.S. Navy destroyer and Israeli Navy vessels. | Source: IDF Spokesperson

- ◆ Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced the imposition of sanctions on 20 Iranian citizens, including several members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The move reflects Australia's alignment with Western efforts to increase pressure on Iran over its military, security, and regional activities.
- ◆ Iranian Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh conducted an official visit to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The visit comes amid heightened regional sensitivities, given Azerbaijan's strategic location, its close military cooperation with Israel, and its shared border with Iran.
- ◆ Hours before the start of negotiations between Iran and the United States, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi released a public statement declaring that Iran is entering diplomacy with open eyes and a firm memory of the past year. He emphasized that Iran is approaching the talks in good faith, while standing firmly on its rights, and insisted that equality, mutual respect, and that "reciprocal interests" should not be viewed as slogans but obligations.





IRAN

- ◆ Iranian parliamentary representatives appeared in the Majlis (Iranian Parliament Building) wearing Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps uniforms, in direct response to the European Union's designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organization. As part of the same session, lawmakers proceeded, as is customary in such symbolic acts, to chant "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" from the parliamentary floor, reinforcing Iran's ideological defiance and rejection of Western pressure.



Iranian members of parliament appeared in the Majlis wearing Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps uniforms, in a symbolic act responding directly to the European Union's designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organization. | Source: Tasnim news agency on telegram, <https://t.me/Tasnimnews>



IRANIAN AMERICAN TALKS



IRAN

- ◆ U.S.–Iran talks were moved from Istanbul to Muscat at Iran’s request. Tehran redefined the talks to focus exclusively on the nuclear issue, and according to Axios reporting, the United States agreed under pressure from Arab states. Vice President J.D. Vance criticized the lack of direct engagement between Trump and Khamenei, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that U.S. goals extend beyond the nuclear file to include missile limitations, proxy support, and Iran’s treatment of its population.
- ◆ Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened a meeting of Israel’s security cabinet ahead of the scheduled nuclear talks in Muscat between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and senior U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. The meeting also included the Commander of U.S. Central Command, Gen. Brad Cooper, whose participation reportedly angered the Iranian delegation, signaling the seriousness with which Washington and Jerusalem are treating the talks.
- ◆ Netanyahu stated that “conditions are building toward a critical mass that could bring about the downfall of the Iranian regime,” framing the current moment as one of strategic vulnerability for Tehran. According to reports, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan have been pressuring the United States and Iran to sign a non-aggression pact, reflecting regional concern over escalation and instability.
- ◆ Washington is demanding that Iran hand over its enriched uranium stockpile, with particular emphasis on uranium enriched to 60 percent, a level just below weapons-grade (90 percent). The demand is aimed at rolling back Iran’s nuclear breakout capability. Iran, however, flatly rejected U.S. calls to halt uranium enrichment on its own territory, underscoring the continued deadlock over the core nuclear issue.





Iranian Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh conducted an official visit to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. | Source: Tasnim news agency on telegram, <https://t.me/Tasnimnews>

OPERATIONAL AND MILITARY SIGNALING

- ◆ The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed to have seized two oil tankers, carrying one million liters of fuel and 15 crew members, accusing them of smuggling. This move is viewed as a signal of readiness to disrupt the Strait of Hormuz.
- ◆ Iran also unveiled the Khorramshahr-4 hypersonic missile, with a 2,000-kilometer range and a 1.5-ton warhead, marking it as one of the most destructive missiles in its arsenal. This unveiling is widely viewed as an escalatory threat and to achieve regional deterrence for Iran.
- ◆ Iran tested U.S. vigilance in two separate incidents. West of the Strait of Hormuz, six vessels approached a commercial ship and were repelled by the U.S. Navy. In the Arabian Sea, a Shahed-139 UAV approached the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln and was intercepted by an F-35; Iranian sources claim the drone successfully transmitted intelligence before interception. These actions are assessed as deliberate pressure tactics against the United States.





IRAN

- ◆ U.S. Central Command released footage of the USS Abraham Lincoln, without disclosing its exact location, likely somewhere in the Arabian Sea. CENTCOM also published images of the HC-130J aircraft, capable of the aerial refueling of helicopters and combat rescue missions, a platform typically deployed only in high-intensity combat zones.
- ◆ A U.S. destroyer that had docked in Eilat departed for the Red Sea, where it conducted a joint naval exercise with the Israeli Navy, explicitly in preparation for a potential operation against Iran.
- ◆ Ali Shamkhani, the Supreme Leader's representative on Iran's Supreme National Defense Council, stated that Iran is not seeking war but is fully prepared for one. He emphasized that Iran is already living under conditions akin to warfare, while remaining acutely aware of the dangers and "shadows" of escalation. Shamkhani clarified that military readiness does not indicate a desire for conflict or provocation, but rather reflects Iran's determination to stand with full force against what it describes as unjust conditions and threats imposed by its enemies.
- ◆ Yadollah Javani, political adviser to the commander of the IRGC, stated that the public unveiling of the Khorramshahr-4 missile serves as a clear message to the United States. He stressed that even if Iran sits at the negotiating table, it will not relinquish its military capabilities, underscoring Tehran's position that diplomacy will not come at the expense of strategic deterrence.



- ◆ State prosecutors indicted Bezalel Zini, the brother of Shin Bet chief David Zini, along with two additional defendants, on charges of trafficking cigarettes into the Gaza Strip as part of a large-scale smuggling ring. All three were charged with assisting the enemy during wartime, fraud, bribery, and violations of Israel's counterterrorism laws. Prosecutors also filed charges against 12 other suspects, including several IDF reservists, highlighting the breadth of the network.
- ◆ According to the indictment, between August and September 2025, the defendants allegedly smuggled 26 crates of cigarettes into Gaza, worth NIS 3.9 million (approximately \$1.25 million). Prosecutors emphasized that this shipment was only one part of a broader pattern of illicit deliveries. Other items allegedly smuggled included iPhones, batteries, telecommunications cables, and car parts, worth millions of shekels in total, with some classified as "dual-use" goods capable of supporting military activity.
- ◆ The Israel Defense Forces approved new protocols regulating the service conditions for Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) soldiers, designed to accommodate religious requirements. These include gender-segregated service frameworks, designated prayer time, strict kosher food standards, and a formal declaration of allegiance to the IDF as an alternative to a traditional oath, which many Orthodox Jews consider religiously problematic. The move is intended to expand Haredi integration into military service while reducing friction with religious norms.
- ◆ Maj. Ella Waweya was selected to replace Col. Avichay Adraee as the IDF's Arabic-language spokesperson. She is the highest-ranking female Muslim officer in the IDF and commands hundreds of thousands of followers on social media, making her appointment both symbolically significant and operationally relevant in Israel's regional information and influence efforts.





LEBANON



IDF troops operating in southern Lebanon | Source: IDF Spokesperson

- ◆ In Lebanon, the head of Hezbollah's air-defense array was killed in an Israeli airstrike. Following Arabic evacuation warnings issued by the IDF spokesperson, a wave of strikes targeted Hezbollah terrorist infrastructure.
- ◆ The Alma Research Center reported that January marked a record month for Israeli strikes in Lebanon since November 2024. Eighty-seven strikes were recorded in January, compared to 41 in December and 57 in November. The previous record stood at 84 strikes in December 2024, underscoring a clear escalation trend.



- ◆ The Syrian government signed an agreement with American and Qatari energy companies to explore gas and oil in Syrian maritime territory.
- ◆ The French foreign minister visited Damascus for the first time, aiming to strengthen bilateral relations. Simultaneously, Russia's deputy defense minister arrived to secure the continued operation of Russian bases in Tartus and Hmeimim, reaffirming the military partnership between Moscow and Damascus.



TURKEY



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. | Source: [@anadoluhaber0rg](#) on X

- ◆ Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney publicly praised Turkey, describing it as a vital NATO partner and a key actor in a strategically important and often challenging region. He highlighted significant opportunities to deepen trade relations, noting that he personally initiated discussions with President Erdogan in New York. Carney stated that future talks may include security and nuclear cooperation, emphasizing Turkey's status as a global leader in advanced manufacturing and a promising partner in high-value industrial sectors.
- ◆ President Erdogan met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, during which Turkey and Saudi Arabia signed a \$2 billion solar energy deal. The agreement reflects expanding economic and energy cooperation between the two regional powers, particularly in renewable energy and large-scale infrastructure projects.



- ◆ Following his visit to Saudi Arabia, Erdoğan traveled to Egypt, where he met with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. The visit marked a significant step in the normalization and expansion of relations between Ankara and Cairo after years of tension.
- ◆ During Erdoğan's visit to Egypt, the two sides signed approximately 20 agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation. These agreements included a substantial expansion of trade ties as well as a framework agreement for military cooperation between Turkey and Egypt, signaling a notable shift in regional defense and strategic coordination.
- ◆ As part of the diplomatic gestures accompanying the visit, President Erdoğan presented President el-Sisi with a luxury electric vehicle manufactured in Turkey, symbolizing Turkey's industrial capabilities and the warming of political relations between the two countries.



President Erdogan meeting MBS in Saudi Arabia | Source: @GNMadani on X

