

# ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

## WEEK #124

FEBRUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 21, 2026



World leaders and founding members of the Board of Peace gather for the inaugural meeting hosted by President Trump. | Source: White House on X

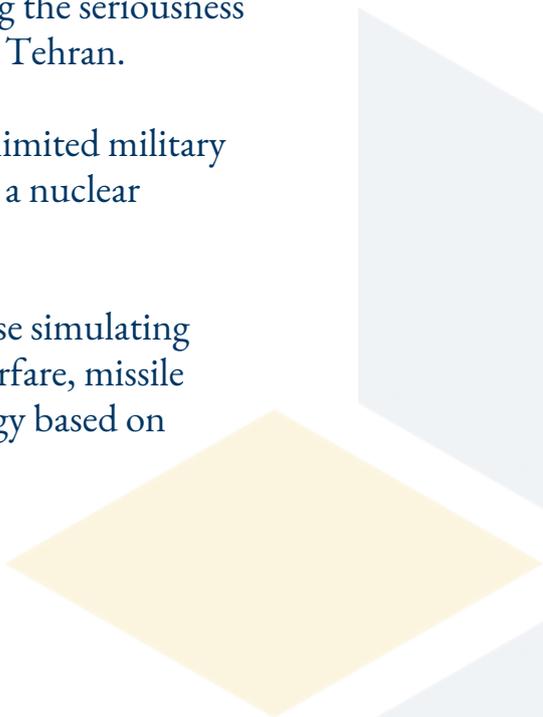
## ACCOUNT OF THE MAIN EVENTS IN THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR AND HOSTILITIES BY THE IRANIAN AXIS

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# OVERVIEW



- ◆ US President Donald Trump announced that the United States will invest \$10 billion in Gaza reconstruction, marking a shift from earlier positions that Washington would not directly allocate funds. An additional \$7 billion is expected from Gulf states, including Qatar, which pledged \$1 billion.
  - ◆ Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan reiterated that Hamas will not disarm, directly contradicting Israeli and American conditions of tying reconstruction to demilitarization.
  - ◆ General Jasper Jeffers, former CENTCOM commander, is set to lead approximately 20,000 foreign troops in Gaza, divided into five brigades.
  - ◆ Iran has reportedly been given an ultimatum to dismantle its nuclear program, with negotiations expected to last 10–15 days. However, the sides remain far from reaching an understanding.
  - ◆ There is more American firepower currently deployed in the Middle East than on the eve of the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, signaling the seriousness of military preparations and deterrence signaling toward Tehran.
  - ◆ President Donald Trump stated that he is considering a limited military strike on Iran in order to pressure Tehran into accepting a nuclear agreement.
  - ◆ The IRGC Navy conducted the “Smart Control” exercise simulating closure of the Strait of Hormuz, cyber and electronic warfare, missile launches, and ship seizures, reflecting a deterrence strategy based on threatening global flow of oil.
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# SECURITY BRIEFING WEEK 124

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IDF Casualty this week from the war in Gaza

\$8.6B

Indian arm purchase from Israel

+80K

Muslims attend Al-Aqsa Mosque peacefully



## 20,000 Foreign Troops

Former CENTCOM Commander General Jasper Jeffers is set to lead 20,000 foreign troops in Gaza to collect weapons, destroy tunnels, and train a new local police force.



## 10-15 Day Ultimatum

Iran has been given a 10-15 day ultimatum to dismantle its nuclear program. The US has deployed more firepower to the Middle East now than during the 2003 invasion of Iraq.



## \$10 Billion

President Trump announced a \$10 billion US investment for Gaza reconstruction, signaling a major policy shift toward direct funding.



## Hamas Refusal to Disarm

Despite reconstruction plans, Hamas official Osama Hamdan reiterated that the group will not disarm until a Palestinian state is established.

# TRUMP'S GAZA PLAN

- ◆ US President Donald Trump announced that the United States will invest \$10 billion in Gaza reconstruction, marking a shift from earlier positions that Washington would not directly allocate funds. An additional \$7 billion is expected from Gulf states, including Qatar, which pledged \$1 billion. Trump also stated that the United Nations will contribute \$2 billion, with funds to be managed through a special World Bank account, signaling an effort to institutionalize financial oversight and attract broader international participation.
- ◆ Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov declared Moscow's readiness to allocate \$1 billion from frozen Russian assets in the United States toward Gaza reconstruction and confirmed that a formal request had been submitted to redirect those funds.
- ◆ Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, following participation in the Washington meeting, stated that if the parties agree on an International Stabilization Force, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan would be prepared to deploy Turkish troops. Turkey also signaled willingness to contribute financially and logistically to reconstruction.
- ◆ Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan reiterated that Hamas will not disarm, asserting that weapons will not be surrendered or frozen until the objective of establishing a Palestinian state is achieved. This stance directly contradicts Israeli and American preconditions tying reconstruction to demilitarization.



# INTERNATIONAL STABILIZATION FORCES

- ◆ General Jasper Jeffers, former CENTCOM commander, is set to lead approximately 20,000 foreign troops in Gaza, divided into five brigades deployed sequentially from Rafah northward, mirroring Hamas's original territorial division. Countries agreeing to contribute troops include Indonesia (8,000 troops and deputy command role), Morocco, Kazakhstan, Albania, Kosovo, and Greece.
- ◆ The ISF has five core objectives:
  - Collect all Hamas weaponry.
  - Destroy tunnel infrastructure.
  - Establish security zones for food distribution, housing, and reconstruction.
  - Enforce an arms embargo and prevent smuggling.
  - Train a new Gazan police force under the "National Committee for the Administration of Gaza," led by Ali Shaat.
- ◆ Ali Shaat the director of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) announced plans to recruit 5,000 Gazan police officers within 60 days, with the goal of ultimately reaching 12,000 personnel. Egypt and Jordan agreed to train them on their soil. It was also reported that 2,000 applications have already been submitted.
- ◆ The first foreign base north of Rafah is scheduled for construction this month. Turkey and Qatar are expected to expand their involvement in Gaza's future through infrastructure investment, debris removal projects, Turkish contractors, and charitable organizations.





Weapons used by Hamas terrorists which were found by IDF troops in a tunnel un southern Gaza. | Source: IDF Spokesperson

## OPERATIONAL

- ◆ IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir stated that 2026 will remain an offensive year with a high operational tempo, emphasizing continued efforts to weaken and decisively defeat enemy forces along the lines of contact. In practical terms, this includes targeted eliminations along the “yellow line,” strikes beyond it, operations in the Bashan sector, and continued attacks in Lebanon. The statement signals that Israel does not intend to shift into a lower-intensity phase but rather sustain pressure across multiple fronts.
- ◆ According to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, approximately 350 kilometers of tunnels remain inside the Gaza Strip. Recently, fighters from the Gefen Battalion destroyed a one-kilometer-long tunnel route that included living quarters and several explosive devices. The remaining scale of underground infrastructure indicates that dismantling the tunnel network continues to be a central operational objective.



- ◆ The IDF shows no signs of withdrawal. Between southern Gaza City and Deir al-Balah, a trench has been constructed directly along the yellow line, reinforcing Israel's buffer strategy. During an officers' course graduation ceremony, Netanyahu reiterated that Hamas will be disarmed, Gaza demilitarized, and reconstruction will not proceed before demilitarization. This language implies that additional maneuvering operations are expected, as Israeli leadership sees no alternative path to achieving disarmament.
- ◆ Golani Brigade troops identified a militant crossing the yellow line in southern Gaza and directed an airstrike that eliminated the target, reinforcing Israel's enforcement of its security perimeter.
- ◆ In a friendly fire incident in Khan Younis, an IDF soldier from the Paratroopers Brigade was accidentally killed during an exchange between Israeli forces. The incident underscores the operational complexity and high-intensity environment in southern Gaza, where multiple units are maneuvering in dense urban terrain under sustained pressure.
- ◆ According to a report in *The Guardian*, the Trump administration intends to construct a large military base in southern Gaza for the International Stabilization Force (ISF). The facility would reportedly host over 5,000 soldiers and include 26 fortified towers, signaling a long-term international security footprint in Gaza, rather than a temporary deployment.
- ◆ Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem stated that Hamas is open to the presence of international peacekeeping forces in Gaza, but firmly rejected any interference in what he termed the territory's "internal affairs." This position reflects Hamas's attempt to balance tactical flexibility with preservation of internal authority and military autonomy.





# IRAN



IRGC Naval exercise in the Hormuz Strait | Source: Tasnim news agency on telegram, <https://t.me/Tasnimnews>

- ◆ Iran has reportedly been given an ultimatum to dismantle its nuclear program, with negotiations expected to last 10–15 days. However, the sides remain far from reaching an understanding, indicating that diplomatic channels are under severe strain.
- ◆ It was reported that there is more American firepower currently deployed in the Middle East than on the eve of the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, signaling the seriousness of military preparations and deterrence signaling toward Tehran.
- ◆ President Donald Trump stated that he is considering a limited military strike on Iran in order to pressure Tehran into accepting a nuclear agreement. This suggests a coercive diplomatic approach combining military threats with negotiations.



## DIPLOMATIC

- ◆ During a press conference, Donald Trump claimed that 32,000 civilians were killed during the Iranian protests, a figure significantly higher than previous verified estimates. The statement may serve to prepare public opinion for potential action, encourage renewed protests, or increase pressure on Tehran in negotiations.
- ◆ US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized that Trump insists on a diplomatic solution, with full focus on negotiations. Reports indicate Iran rejected a proposal by Steve Witkoff to remove all 60% enriched uranium from the country, suspend enrichment for 3–5 years, and later resume at 1.5%. Trump publicly stated he would accept no enrichment at all, suggesting either negotiating pressure or internal strategic differences.
- ◆ Ambassadors of Iran, Russia, and China submitted a joint letter to IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi emphasizing trilateral coordination on Iran's nuclear file. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also held a phone conversation with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty regarding indirect Tehran–Washington talks. Tehran sent a formal complaint to the UN warning that Trump's statements suggest a real risk of military aggression.

## DOMESTIC

- ◆ The Institute for the Study of War recorded 20 protests across 8 provinces on February 20, marking 40 days since protesters were killed. At least five demonstrations involved approximately 1,000 participants. Protests erupted in Tehran and western Iran with chants calling for the death of Khamenei, indicating that a broad protest base remains active and that the potential for sustained unrest continues.



# IRANIAN PREPAREDNESS

- ◆ The IRGC Navy conducted the “Smart Control” exercise simulating closure of the Strait of Hormuz, cyber and electronic warfare, missile launches, and ship seizures, reflecting a deterrence strategy based on threatening global oil flows. A joint Iran–Russia naval drill in the Oman Sea simulated hostage rescue operations. An Iranian member of Parliament warned that in the event of war, Iran could strike Washington and sink US vessels in the Sea of Oman.

# AMERICAN PREPAREDNESS

- ◆ According to reporting, the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford is expected to arrive in the eastern Mediterranean within a week and position off Israel’s coast to protect against potential Iranian attacks.
- ◆ Eighteen F-35 fighter jets deployed from the United Kingdom to Jordan, where more than 60 aircraft are reportedly stationed. The United States is reducing aircraft presence in Qatar due to ballistic missile risk. Additional assets include KC-46 refueling aircraft, the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln with approximately 90 aircraft, and multiple air defense batteries. The overall force concentration makes southern Jordan appear as a forward attack platform, with greater firepower than what was deployed prior to Operation “Rising Lion” (the 12- day war between Iran and Israel in June 2025).



- ◆ Reports indicate that India approved approximately \$8.6–8.7 billion in arms purchases from Israel, making Israel its second-largest defense supplier after France. The package includes 1,000 SPICE 1000 guided bombs, Rampage air-to-ground missiles, Air LORA air-launched ballistic missiles, Ice Breaker missile systems, drones, radars, and surveillance equipment. The deal strengthens Israel's defense export position and deepens strategic ties between the two countries.
- ◆ Dozens of settler activists from the Nachala movement, including MK Limor Son Har-Melech, illegally entered the Gaza Strip. The IDF dispatched troops to remove them, reflecting tensions between ideological activism and military operational control.
- ◆ Two female IDF soldiers, squad commanders in the Education and Youth Corps, were attacked by hundreds of ultra-Orthodox men in Bnei Brak during an official home visit to a future draftee. Police escorted the soldiers out while shielding them from a Haredi mob that chased them through the streets. The incident underscores ongoing friction between segments of the ultra-Orthodox community and the military establishment, particularly around issues of enlistment and gender integration.





IDF troops in a counter terrorism operation in Judea and Samaria. | Source: IDF Spokesperson

- ◆ With the start of Ramadan, a period historically associated with heightened extremist mobilization, the IDF launched counterterrorism operations targeting inciters and jihad-promoting social media influencers. The focus on online incitement reflects an effort to prevent lone-wolf attacks and organized violence before escalation.
- ◆ A Palestinian arms dealer was detained in Ramallah, and several houses belonging to terrorists who carried out attacks in previous years were demolished. These demolitions serve both as punitive and deterrent measures aimed at reducing future attacks.
- ◆ Security forces conducted two separate operations against ISIS-affiliated terrorists who were reportedly planning an attack in Judea and Samaria. The arrests highlight continued efforts to prevent the emergence of global jihadist networks within the Palestinian arena.
- ◆ Approximately 80,000 Muslim worshipers, including several thousand Palestinians from Judea and Samaria, attended the first Friday noon prayer of Ramadan at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The event passed peacefully under heavy security, indicating controlled stability despite broader regional tensions.



- ◆ A group of 10 prominent rabbis from Judea and Samaria issued a public statement opposing violence targeting Palestinians on religious and moral grounds, while also expressing that this type of irresponsible behavior could endanger the broader settlement project. The statement reflects internal concerns within the settler leadership about potential escalation of violence, which could undermining long-term strategic objectives.





# LEBANON



Over 80,000 worshippers have arrived at Al Aqsa for the first prayer of Ramadan. | Source: Abu Ali Express on Telegram, <https://t.me/abualicexpress/115034>

- ◆ Hezbollah is reportedly considering whether to join a broader confrontation alongside Iran if the Iranian regime faces existential danger. Options range from limited symbolic rocket fire or attacks on five IDF outposts in southern Lebanon, to a potential full-scale escalation.
- ◆ The IDF eliminated a Hezbollah operative in southern Lebanon and two Islamic Jihad members, who were attempting to cross from Lebanon into Syria. A strike in a Palestinian camp in Sidon killed three Hamas-Lebanese operatives. In Baalbek, four Hezbollah command buildings were targeted, reportedly resulting in 10 deaths and more than 30 injuries, bringing total militant fatalities in one day to 13.
- ◆ The Lebanese Army commander stated it would take 4–8 months to disarm Hezbollah north of the Litani River. Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem rejected disarmament, arguing it would serve Israeli objectives and warning against efforts to equip the Lebanese Army to confront the “resistance.”





- ◆ France is expected to host a summit aimed at strengthening and restoring the Lebanese Army. Lebanese officials are reportedly waiting to assess the outcome of the broader confrontation involving Iran, Israel, and the United States. If the Iranian regime were to fall, Hezbollah would likely face its weakest strategic position in decades, potentially altering Lebanon's internal balance of power.



- ◆ President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated that a realistic European security framework cannot be built without Turkey, emphasizing that Ankara must be included in Europe's defense and security mechanisms. The messaging reflects Turkey's broader effort to leverage its regional activism for greater strategic standing within Europe.





- ◆ North Korean leader Kim Jong Un unveiled massive missile launchers capable of carrying nuclear warheads ahead of a key Workers' Party meeting, underscoring Pyongyang's continued expansion of its strategic weapons capabilities.



# FALLEN SOLDIERS



Staff Sergeant Ofri Yafe z"l

