

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

WEEK #111

NOVEMBER 16- NOVEMBER 2, 2025



President Trump's meeting with MBS

Source: @fayz_slah on X

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

This is a product by IDSF-Habithonistim's Research Department | September 1st, 2025

Israel Defense and Security Forum Transparency Register Number: 750395594910-66

This report was produced by Atar Porat and Eran Lahav under the supervision of Or Yissachar and Elie Pieprz

<https://idsf.org.il/en/team-members/atar-porat/>

<https://idsf.org.il/en/team-members/eran-lahav-en/>

OVERVIEW

- ◆ The IDF hosted a 5-day seminar at Ground Forces Command base in Israel, for more than 100 senior commanders, researchers and military academy representatives from **18 countries**, including **Britain, Germany, Poland, Morocco, India, Japan and others**. The IDF is sharing operational and intelligence lessons developed over the last two years.
- ◆ UN Security Council approved Trump's proposal for a "Peace Council" and deployment of the International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza under his oversight and with an international mandate.
- ◆ Reports indicate that a Hamas figure known as Abu-Khalil, operating from Turkey, is directing the bulk of Hamas terror activity in Judea and Samaria.

Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) was accorded full ceremonial honors during his reception by President Trump at the White House with full, including a horse-guard parade with promises to receive the most advanced F-35s from the US. MBS expressed that Saudi Arabia will join the Abraham Accords only if there is a clear pathway to establishing a Palestinian state along the 1967 borders.



ISRAEL AT WAR WEEK 111

0

Total Israeli casualties This Week

1

Total Civilians killed this week

0

Total IDF Casualties this week

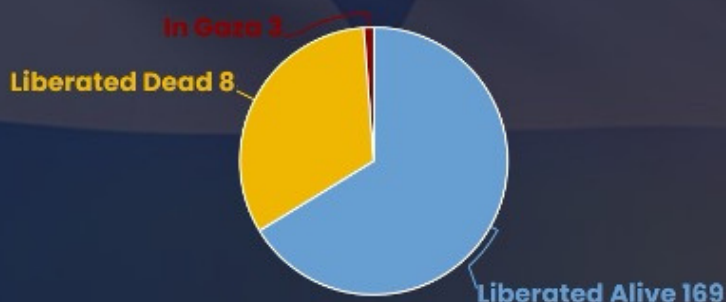
MAIN EVENTS

Clashes and Incitement in Judea and Samaria: Incitement from Hamas-backed channels resulted in a combined ramming and stabbing attack in Gush Etzion killing one Israeli.

Iranian Resistance to IAEA Decision and Conflict with Israel: Iran cancelled cooperation with the IAEA, following the Revolutionary Guard's claim that the attack on the BAZAN refinery shifted the war's balance.

The Issue of International Force and Global Hostility: Islamic Jihad rejected the American plan for an international force in Gaza, as the former NYC Mayor warned of growing global hostility toward Jews.

HOSTAGES IN GAZA 3/255



ATTACKS ON ISRAEL & ALLIES 0/37,307

This Week Since Oct.7



Judea & Samaria + Israel Front

1/118
This Week Since Oct.7
1 Civilians and 0 security force fell.

11,371
Since Oct.7
Palestinian Terror Attacks since Oct.7
Over 7,000 Palestinians Arrested

Gaza Front

0/1,721
This Week Since Oct.7
1 IDF soldiers fell in battle. 0 Civilians killed

24,500
Since Oct.7
Hamas terrorists killed. Over 275 Senior officials killed since Oct.7

Lebanon Front

0/133
This Week Since Oct.7
0 civilian and 0 IDF soldiers fell.

+3,500
Since Oct.7
Hizbollah terrorists killed, 154 Hezbollah Leadership killed.

Greater Middle East Front

0/36
This Week Since Oct.7
0 Civilian killed this week.

+3,696
Since Oct.7
Attacks on Israel. +884 from Yemen, 2180 from Iran, +632 from other



The tunnel in which the body of Hadar Goldin was kept in Gaza

Source: IDF Spokesperson

- ◆ While IDF forces remain inside the Strip and along the “yellow line”, Hamas is working in parallel to **rebuild its military capabilities**. The de facto commander ‘Az al-Din al-Haddad is appointing new brigade and battalion commanders, recruiting new militants, and **re-establishing weapons production** using the **large number of Israeli unexploded ordnance that litter Gaza**. Hamas operatives are also **collecting intelligence on IDF movements**, and Israeli assessments suggest that **the quantity of unexploded ordnance alone could sustain Hamas weapons production for years**, if they are not removed or destroyed.
- ◆ The IDF revealed the **tunnel system where the body of Lt. Hadar Goldin was held during the final of the 11 years his body was held hostage by Hamas**. This was described as **one of the most significant tunnel routes uncovered in Gaza so far**: about 7 km long, approximately **25 meters deep**, with roughly **80 living chambers/rooms** and included widened sections in the walls for **storing weapons and other equipment**. The tunnel which ran **under Rafah**, was positioned **between dense civilian infrastructure** such as mosques, schools and **near a UNRWA compound**, and also contained **command-and-control rooms** used to direct attacks above ground. At one stage of the war, **the Rafah brigade commander, Muhammad Shabana, stayed inside this complex**.



- ◆ It was cleared for publication that in **July 2025**, in a **joint IDF–Shin Bet–AMAN (Military Intelligence) special operation**, the **director of a Rafah hospital** who knew the location of Goldin’s body was captured. This arrest was part of **dozens of arrests over the past six months of Hamas operatives** who , at some point, had knowledge of the body’s location. All of this was conducted under **Operation “White Freedom”**, aimed at recovering Goldin’s remains.
- ◆ Across **Rafah and Khan Yunis**, the IDF is conducting **intense engineering activity aimed at eliminating Hamas’s military infrastructure**. Around **90% of Rafah’s buildings have been destroyed**, with a remaining **pocket of standing buildings in the Jenina neighborhood**. Similarly, due to the immense amount of Hamas’s military infrastructure in **Khan Yunis**, east of the **“Magen Oz” axis**, it also largely in ruins, with **additional pockets in Bani Suheila and several clusters of intact building in the Abasan area** that have not yet been fully expanded or cleared. **Nahal troops and other combined task forces** in southern Gaza secure these engineering works. While **IDF machinery dig toward a major tunnel in Jenina**, **Hamas militants underground are digging in the opposite direction in an attempt to escape**. A **15-man cell emerged north of Jenina attempting to flee**; **Nahal soldiers detected them**, guided an **airstrike that killed six, captured five**, and the remaining militants retreated back into the tunnel. According to the **interrogations of those captured**, **Hamas fighters still underground are increasingly desperate and number only several dozen, far fewer than the ~200 previously reported in the media**.
- ◆ The IDF continues to **demolish structures in northern Gaza that were used for Hamas’s military instillation and housed their strategic assets**. **Shejaiya is almost entirely destroyed**, all of eastern Sheikh Radwan, most of Jabalya city and most of the Jabalya refugee camp have been reduced to rubble.



- ◆ A Wall Street Journal poll shows that **51% of Gaza residents are satisfied with Hamas's conduct during the war**, compared to **43% in a similar survey in May**. **41% said they would vote for Hamas if Palestinian elections were held**, up from **37% in the previous month**, and **55% oppose disarming Hamas**. The rise in Hamas's popularity during the ceasefire is attributed to a sense of victory and the return of basic order to Gaza's streets through Hamas policing and internal security
- ◆ The IDF hosted a 5-day seminar at Ground Forces Command base in Israel, for more than 100 senior commanders, researchers and military academy representatives from **18 countries**, including **Britain, Germany, Poland, Morocco, India, Japan and others**. The IDF is sharing operational and intelligence lessons developed over the last two years in order to **strengthen ties and interoperability with foreign armies**. This takes place against a backdrop in which **public opinion in many of these countries is increasingly anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian**, but their **strategic-military interest remains to stay aligned with Israel**, particularly on **counter-terrorism, urban warfare, and missile defense**.



A Hamas terrorist violating the ceasefire and crossing the Yellow Line, trying to shoot IDF troops

Source: IDF Spokesperson



CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS INCIDENTS AND CHALLENGE "TO THE "NEW STATUS QUO"

- ◆ On Wednesday afternoon, November 19, Hamas tried to test the boundaries of the ceasefire with two parallel attacks. In the north of the Strip, an attack cell crossed the yellow line and attacked an Israeli force from the Carmeli reserve brigade; the soldiers killed the attackers, and there were no Israeli casualties. Near Khan Yunis, Hamas snipers fired at IDF forces, again without causing injuries. Shortly afterward, the Israeli Air Force launched a series of strikes in Khan Yunis, Mawasi, the Rimal and Zaytoun neighborhoods of Gaza City, Bani Suheila and al-Qarara.
- ◆ Hamas attempted to establish a “new status quo”, under which it could carry out sporadic attacks and sniper fire along the yellow line with limited Israeli response, all under the umbrella of the ceasefire. The IDF coordinated in advance with the American force in Kiryat Gat, which is monitoring Gaza with its own UAVs, and did not wait for formal U.S. approval before striking. Hamas appealed to the U.S. to “enforce the ceasefire”, while France condemned Israel and announced it is prepared to send 100 soldiers to the ISF (International Stabilization Force).
- ◆ In a separate short round of strikes, the IDF confirmed the elimination of the head of Hamas’s naval array, a senior operative with substantial operational experience who could have played a key role in rebuilding Hamas’s naval capability. He was also responsible for tunneling in one of the battalions of the Khan Yunis brigade and held hostages at some stage of the war.



OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ **Hamas personnel, together with the Red Cross and Egyptian engineering equipment, are digging in northern Nuseirat camp to locate the body of an Israeli hostage. Across the Strip, three Israeli bodies remain in Hamas hands. Israel is waiting for their full return before any further major military action.**
- ◆ **In southern Gaza, the Abu-Shabab militia released a video recognizing Trump's Peace Council and declaring a house-to-house "cleansing operation" in Rafah, street by street, promising that every sand dune will be inspected. Their stated goal is to eradicate any remaining terrorist infrastructure and prepare the area for the return of Gazans under the supervision and cooperation of the ISF. The militia is taking its first steps toward taking over at least parts of Rafah, positioning itself as a local security partner to the international force.**



TRUMP'S GAZA PLAN- "PARTITION AND "HUMANITARIAN CITIES

- ◆ According to a **Wall Street Journal**, the **U.S. administration** is preparing to partition the **Gaza Strip** in light of Hamas's refusal to disarm. In the **green zone**, i.e., inside the yellow line under **IDF** control, parts of the **Gazan civilian population** will be transferred via **controlled corridors**, screened, and settled in large humanitarian camps that will effectively become new cities under tight security. Engineers and work teams from the **U.S. and other countries** will build new infrastructure, clear **unexploded ordnance**, and begin rebuilding **Rafah** first, with Rafah intended as a model for an alternative governance structure to Hamas.
- ◆ The **UN Security Council** approved Trump's proposal for a "**Peace Council**" and deployment of the **International Stabilization Force (ISF)** in Gaza under his oversight and with an international mandate. According to Trump, this is "**one of the best decisions in the UN's history**." The resolution passed as **UNSC Resolution 2803**, with a **13–0 vote and 2 abstentions** (**Russia and China**), who chose not to veto. For Trump, this represents a **major diplomatic achievement**, backed by a **broad coalition of Arab and Muslim states** that agreed to support the framework.
- ◆ From **January 2026 to December 2027**, a multinational force from unspecified Arab and Muslim countries will be deployed in Gaza, alongside thousands of **Palestinian police officers trained in Egypt**. Their mission will be to **maintain peace**, secure borders, protect humanitarian routes, train local police, and impose order among the population. Crucially, they are also tasked with **dismantling terrorist infrastructure and collecting weapons**, with the explicit goal of **demilitarizing the Strip**.





- ◆ Over the past week, Israeli forces arrested 60 wanted individuals across the region, including 18 Hamas operatives, and seized dozens of weapons and illegal vehicles. This reflects a sustained operational tempo aimed at disrupting organized Palestinian military/terror networks and their logistical infrastructure.
- ◆ The Police's special unit Yamam fighters, guided by the Shin Bet, killed a terrorist in a village near Nablus who had shot and moderately wounded a reservist earlier in the week; the attacker was a Palestinian Authority policeman.
- ◆ The Samaria Regional Brigade conducted a brigade-level operation, searching 70 locations across several villages and seizing weapons, continuing the effort to locate arms caches and safe houses.
- ◆ In Etzion, a brigade-level operation together with Duvdevan saw 300 locations searched, 200 suspects questioned, three wanted individuals arrested, and at least 15 vehicles confiscated that were linked to terror organizations.
- ◆ Paratroopers Battalion 202 in Hebron arrested an incitement activist and three additional wanted suspects and seized weapons, focusing on both operational cells and those driving ideological mobilization on the ground.
- ◆ In Qabatiya, Yamas and the Paratroopers Reconnaissance Unit arrested three terrorists just before an imminent attack, along with several additional suspects involved in manufacturing explosive devices. This underscores the ongoing race between security forces and local bomb-making cells.
- ◆ At the Gush Etzion junction, two 18-year-old attackers arrived by car from the Hebron area, one from Hebron itself and the other from a nearby village known for previous attacks. They carried out a combined car-ramming and stabbing attack at the local hitchhiking stop, murdering a 60-year-old Israeli civilian and wounding three others. Both attackers were shot and killed by an IDF soldier on site.

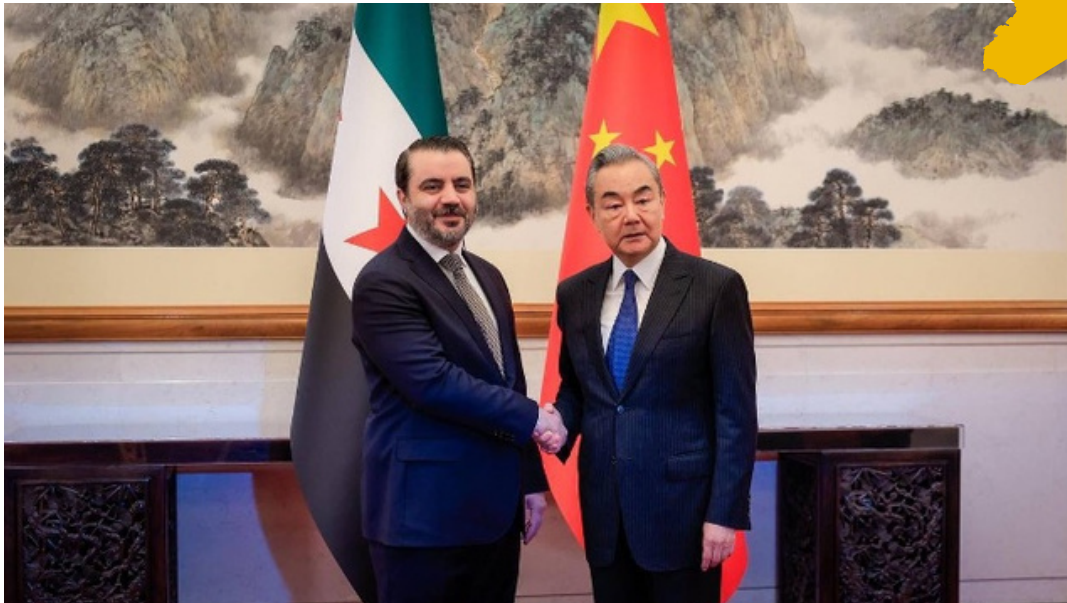


- ◆ Reports indicate that a Hamas figure known as Abu-Khalil, operating from Turkey, is directing the bulk of Hamas terror activity in Judea and Samaria. He is said to be organizing funding, purchasing weapons, and overseeing field cells, with the main overseas operational hub shifting from Iran and Lebanon to Turkey.
- ◆ Through operatives based in Turkey, Abu-Khalil allegedly coordinates attacks in the Judea and Samaria; buys weapons and stockpiles them in African states or Yemen; plans attacks against Jews and Israeli targets in the West; and is preparing to smuggle weapons back into Gaza, attempting to find ways to circumvent the ISF presence and border controls.
- ◆ Dozens of extremist Israelis raided a Palestinian village near Bethlehem, where they set fire to a house and four vehicles. Prime Minister Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Sa'ar, along with other politicians, issued strong condemnations of these events. Together with local Judea and Samaria council leaders, they stated that such actions “harm the settlement enterprise” and undermine Israel’s broader strategic and moral interests.
- ◆ Forces from the Edom (Red) Division are operating continuously along the Sinai–Negev border to thwart weapons, drugs and equipment smuggling carried out by drones from Sinai into the Negev for criminal and potentially terror-related purposes. Over the past month, they have intercepted 130 drones carrying, among other things, 2 machine guns, 16 long-barrel weapons and 66 pistols. These successes rely on constant patrols along the border and the deployment of electronic warfare systems that can detect and disrupt drone flights.



- ◆ **President Trump announced that he intends to invite the Lebanese President for a visit to the U.S., even as the Lebanese government insists that the IDF withdraw from five positions and halt its strikes before any negotiations.** Earlier this week, the US cancelled a planned visit to Washington by Lebanese Army Commander General Rudolf Haykal after he had expressed strong criticism of the IDF. Washington continues to send signals that they are aligned with Israel's consistent **military pressure, while extending a hand to Lebanon.**
- ◆ The IDF spokesperson revealed that **Hezbollah reconstruction efforts in the village of Beit Lif in southern Lebanon, include new underground infrastructure, weapons depots, and military facilities embedded in a civilian area and near a UNIFIL compound.** This highlights **Hezbollah's strategy of rebuilding under civilian cover, complicating any future military action and international oversight.**
- ◆ The IDF confirmed that in an **airstrike on a Palestinian camp near Sidon, Lebanon, 13 Hamas operatives were killed and no civilians were harmed.** This indicates that **southern Lebanon remains a significant rear base for Hamas, not only for Hezbollah, and that Israel is targeting those networks as well.**





Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shibani on his first official visit to China

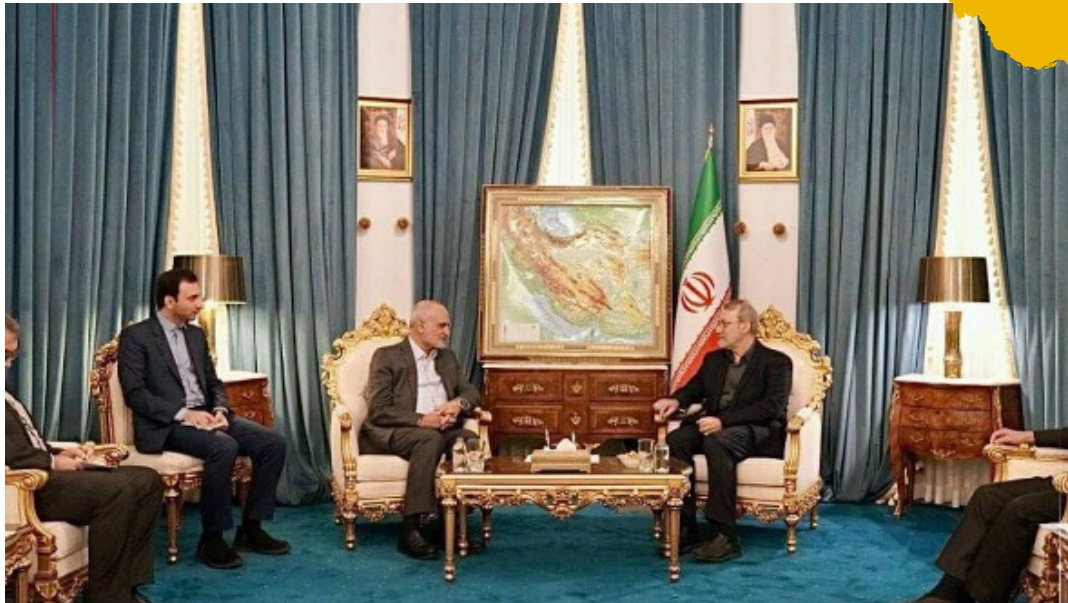
Source: @darwiesh78 on X

- ◆ The IDF reserve brigade “Spearhead” has been operating for the past two months in southern Syria, seizing large quantities of weapons including Kalashnikov rifles, RPGs, tactical vests, magazines and ammunition stockpiles. These operations aim to deny hostile militias and Iranian-aligned groups access to the Israeli border area, and to disrupt smuggling routes into the Golan Heights.
- ◆ A convoy of Russian officers and Turkish military personnel toured the Quneitra and Daraa provinces, visiting former Russian military positions and stations dating back to before Assad’s fall.
- ◆ Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani condemned the IDF’s activity in southern Syria, declaring that Damascus will not negotiate with Israel until there is a withdrawal to the 1974 ceasefire lines. At the same time, he signaled readiness to compromise by accepting the deployment of only a limited Syrian military force in the south, reflecting the international pressure that is leading to a mix of hard territorial demands and pragmatic security proposals.



- ◆ Shabani also stated that **Syria is prepared to allow expanded Russian deployment** in the country if Moscow pays financial compensation for the years of civil war and aligns with Syrian interests. On November 18, he made his first visit to Beijing and met his **Chinese counterpart**, with **China offering economic aid for Syria's reconstruction**. This signals Damascus's attempt to leverage both Russian and Chinese involvement in rebuilding the state and counterbalancing Western influence.
- ◆ These tensions occur against the backdrop of **U.S. efforts to promote normalization between Jerusalem and Damascus**, turning the southern Syria front into a territorial and diplomatic battleground. In this context, **Prime Minister Netanyahu, Defense Minister Katz and Foreign Minister Sa'ar visited Mount Hermon and several IDF positions in the Quneitra area**, emphasizing the **importance of Israel's defensive and offensive capabilities in Syria** and its obligation to protect its **Druze allies** across the border.
- ◆ Israel's security establishment arrested a **smuggling cell of Syrian and Israeli Druze**, at least five of whom serve in the IDF, on suspicion of **smuggling weapons from Syria into Israel for profit**. Since **July 2025**, when around **1,000 Druze** crossed into Syria after a fence breach, connections were formed with **Druze in the town of Hader**, who can **acquire diverse weapons cheaply and smuggle them to Druze in Israel**, where they are sold on to criminal organizations. This blurs the line between ideological solidarity, economic opportunity, and organized crime, and poses a serious internal security challenge.
- ◆ During a formal visit to China, **Foreign Minister Shabani** signed an agreement enhancing **counter-terrorism cooperation** between **Syria and China**.
- ◆ **Mazloun Abdi**, commander of the **Kurdish SDF**, declared that: **"We will not allow Syria to return to the centralized state system of the Assad era."**





Ali Hasan Khalil, the Political Deputy Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, met with Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Source: Tasnim news agency on telegram, <https://t.me/Tasnimnews>

- ◆ Reports indicate that **President Masoud Pezeshkian** sent a letter to **President Trump** via **Mohammed bin Salman**, calling for **negotiations on a new nuclear deal**. **Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi** made similar statements, but **Iran insists on preserving its right to enrich uranium independently**, while the **IAEA** presses for access to nuclear sites that were attacked by **Israel/US**. In parallel, the **United States** imposed sanctions on **50 individuals and companies** involved in **smuggling Iranian oil**, sharpening **economic pressure** as **diplomatic channels** are tested.
- ◆ During the same week, **Pezeshkian** publicly announced that parts of **Tehran's population** will have to be relocated due to a severe water shortage, and that there is a **real possibility of moving the capital to another city**. This underscores **Iran's acute domestic governance challenges**, where **environmental and infrastructure crises** converge with **international isolation**, and demonstrates how **Iran has prioritized funding its proxies to attack Israel** even at expense of **substantial and critical domestic needs**.



- ◆ **Iran released the tanker and its crew that it had seized on 14 November**, claiming the seizure was due to a **payment dispute involving an Iranian bank** over the ship's cargo. There was **no official American response**. Tehran expressed a **willingness to renew nuclear talks**, on condition that its **right to independent enrichment be recognized**, yet it **still refuses to allow IAEA inspectors to visit the attacked sites**. At a **Saudi-American investment conference**, **Trump declared that Iran is "ready for a deal"**, suggesting a **potential opening for renewed negotiations** amid continued brinkmanship.
- ◆ **Ali Hassan Khalil, the Deputy Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament**, met with **Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council**. According to Iranian sources, both sides **reviewed recent regional developments** with a particular focus on **IDF activity in southern Lebanon**
- ◆ During the **IAEA Board of Governors meeting**, **Iran, Russia, China**, and several additional states issued a **joint statement condemning U.S. and Israeli strikes** on Iranian nuclear facilities.
- ◆ The **IAEA Board adopted a formal resolution** requiring **immediate and full Iranian cooperation** regarding the **nuclear sites that were struck**, and demanding that Iran **clarify the status of its 60% enriched uranium stockpile**. The resolution also calls for **unrestricted cooperation with IAEA inspectors**. In response, **Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi** announced that Iran is **canceling its cooperation agreements with the IAEA**.
- ◆ The **U.S. Treasury added 14 individuals, 24 companies, 10 vessels, and 7 aircraft** to its sanctions list due to their ties to Iran.





MBS'S STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND STRATEGIC UPGRADE

- ◆ **Mohammed bin Salman (MBS)** was accorded full ceremonial honors during his reception by **President Trump at the White House**, including a **horse-guard parade and prominent display of the Saudi flag**. This was followed by a **festive dinner attended by Elon Musk and senior American industry executives**, where **Trump lavished praise on MBS** and framed **Saudi Arabia as a pivotal partner for the U.S.**
- ◆ In their **joint press conference**, they unveiled a **sweeping package of agreements**:
 - Saudi investment of up to \$1 trillion in the United States, through weapons purchases, infrastructure projects and investments in American industries within the U.S. itself.
 - A joint civilian nuclear energy agreement.
 - A memorandum of understanding on artificial intelligence, aimed at giving Saudi Arabia a technological breakthrough.
 - Cooperation in finance and banking, enhancing Riyadh's geo-economic influence.
 - Saudi acquisition of top-tier American weaponry, including Abrams tanks, MQ-9 UAVs and F-35 fighter jets.
- ◆ During the conference, **Trump stated that \$270 billion in contracts** between American and Saudi companies **have already been signed**, called Saudi Arabia "**America's best friend that is not in NATO**", and **announced that Saudi Arabia will be designated a major non-NATO ally.**





- ◆ Trump explicitly stated that, **despite Israeli opposition**, the Saudis will receive “**the best F-35s**”, with **expected delivery between 2030 and 2032**, and that the **two countries are both key allies**, which some have interpreted that Trump may not be protecting **Israel’s qualitative military superiority**. Should that be true, it would mark a **significant shift in regional military balance**, with **Riyadh** gaining advanced fifth-generation capabilities.
- ◆ In turn, **MBS** agreed that Saudi Arabia will join the **Abraham Accords** only if there is a **clear pathway to establishing a Palestinian state along the 1967 borders**. For him, this constitutes a **major geo-political victory**, combining **dramatic strengthening of Saudi defense**, a **deep strategic partnership with Washington**, and **public positioning as a champion of Palestinian statehood**.
- ◆ The German government announced the **removal of its partial arms-export embargo** on Israel.
- ◆ Interior Minister **Alexander Dobrindt** confirmed that Berlin authorities **revoked the German citizenship of a Syrian national** due to his **support for Hamas**.
- ◆ Texas Governor **Greg Abbott** officially **designated the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations)** as **foreign terrorist organization**.

