

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 3, 2025 (Cheshvan 12, 5786)



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Israel-Hamas Cease-fire

IDF Says It Struck Militants in Gaza Who Crossed Cease-fire Line

- *Court extends detention of Israel's military prosecutor;
Israeli Knesset committee moves forward with death penalty bill*
- *Israeli police raid Israeli labor union offices, arrest dozens in corruption investigation*
- *IDF announces two other hostage bodies identified as Col. Asaf Hamami and Sgt. Oz Daniel*
- *Criminal complaint filed against Israeli soldier visiting Berlin, Zionist Congress to block Yair Netanyahu's appointment*

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Red Cross Issues Rare Criticism of Hamas After Fake Hostage Body Handover; On Tuesday, October 28, 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issued a rare public rebuke of Hamas after aid workers witnessed what appeared to be a staged “recovery” of human remains in Gaza presented as belonging to a missing Israeli hostage. According to details released alongside aerial footage from Israeli authorities, militants dug into the rubble of a building, unearthed remains, reburied them at a nearby spot, and then summoned ICRC personnel to observe as the same remains were theatrically “discovered” and transferred in a coffin. Israeli forensic specialists later determined that the body parts belonged to a slain hostage whose partial remains had already been recovered two years earlier, intensifying the anguish of families still waiting for answers and inflaming public outrage inside Israel. The incident unfolded amid a fragile ceasefire framework that relies on good-faith handling of hostages and the deceased, with each breach further undermining channels painstakingly built to bring closure to families and de-escalate the conflict. The organization, which typically avoids public judgments while operating in conflict zones, stated that it had no prior knowledge of the circumstances leading up to the staged scene and condemned the manipulation of a process meant to be governed by dignity, privacy, and humanitarian law. Stressing that the handling and return of remains should never be politicized, the ICRC said it was raising concerns directly with the parties and reiterated its call for the respectful, transparent transfer of the dead to their loved ones. Families’ advocacy groups likewise demanded that all bodies and personal effects be returned swiftly and that any future handovers be conducted with independent scrutiny and clear chain-of-custody procedures to prevent a repeat of such deception. Israeli officials said the episode validated calls to increase pressure on Hamas to account for every hostage and every set of remains still within its control. They argued that a ceasefire cannot function if the mechanisms for humanitarian exchange are exploited for propaganda or tactical advantage. The staged burial, they added, compounded the trauma of bereaved families and eroded the already fragile trust required to move forward on additional exchanges. They also underscored that aerial surveillance captured the ruse from start to finish, providing documentary evidence that the transfer was not the genuine recovery Hamas claimed. The ICRC’s censure—rare precisely because of the organization’s guarded public posture—refocused attention on the obligations of armed groups under international humanitarian law, particularly regarding the treatment of the dead and the right of families to know the fate of missing relatives. As diplomatic interlocutors assessed the damage to ongoing talks, Israeli authorities urged that future transfers be tightly monitored and conducted under conditions that minimize theater and maximize accountability. For families still waiting, the latest twist was another painful delay in the search for closure, while for mediators it served as a stark reminder that progress depends on verifiable actions rather than staged gestures. *(BB/VFI News)*

Poll: 2 Years After Oct. 7, Majority Palestinians Say Hamas Was Right to Attack — 86% Deny Civilian Atrocities; Two years after the October 7, 2023, massacre that left more than 1,200 Israelis dead and hundreds abducted, new survey findings from the Ramallah-based Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research indicate that 53% of Palestinian respondents still say Hamas was right to launch the assault. The polling suggests support is strongest in Judea and Samaria at 59%, while 44% in Gaza express approval—an uptick from previous measurements. The results arrive despite extensive, widely disseminated

evidence documenting the brutal nature of the raid and its aftermath, and they point to a hardening of attitudes rather than the erosion of support that many outside observers had predicted would follow prolonged conflict and devastation. Perhaps more striking is the degree of denial: when asked directly whether Hamas committed the atrocities that were publicly shown and verified by multiple forms of evidence, 86% of respondents answered “no,” with just 10% saying “yes.” This overwhelming rejection of documented facts reflects the depth of polarization and the persistence of narratives that conflict with on-the-ground footage and testimonies. It also underscores the steep challenge that mediators face in attempting to build a common factual foundation on which to negotiate a durable ceasefire, transition governance, or contemplate long-term reconstruction. The poll further points to substantial political momentum for Hamas. If legislative elections were held now, 44% of likely voters said they would back Hamas compared to 30% for Fatah. In a hypothetical presidential contest, Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal would hold a commanding advantage over Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. Respondents also expressed relatively high satisfaction with Hamas’s wartime performance, with approval crossing the 50% threshold across territories and notably higher in Judea and Samaria than in Gaza itself—a divergence that has appeared in previous polling waves as well. On questions of strategy, a plurality of respondents endorsed “armed struggle” as the most effective route to end the conflict and achieve statehood, outpacing support for negotiations or nonviolent protest. Nearly 70% said they oppose disarming Hamas even as a condition of a permanent end to hostilities—an outlook fundamentally at odds with the demobilization requirements embedded in current diplomatic proposals. Together, these findings depict a public that remains deeply radicalized, skeptical of compromise, and oriented toward confrontation—conditions that complicate every pathway being discussed for post-war governance and regional stability. *(BB/VFI News)*

Qatari Prime Minister Says Gaza Violence ‘Very Disappointing, Frustrating’; On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, Qatar’s Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, described the latest outbreak of violence in Gaza—including a deadly attack on Israeli soldiers and the subsequent strikes—as “very disappointing” and “frustrating.” His remarks, delivered amid a flurry of high-level diplomacy in Doha, signaled a mix of exasperation and concern over the fragility of ongoing ceasefire arrangements and the uncertain prospects for returning the remaining hostages. The prime minister’s comments carried added weight given his government’s central role in brokering previous exchanges and facilitating contacts among parties who otherwise refuse to speak directly with one another. He urged a renewed commitment to de-escalation and to the practical steps necessary to stabilize the situation on the ground—steps that include stopping attacks on soldiers and civilians alike and curbing retaliatory spirals that threaten to unravel fragile understandings. For interlocutors trying to preserve channels for humanitarian access, his emphasis on restraint was a reminder that every fresh incident reverberates through the entire negotiating architecture, triggering demands for retaliation and counter-retaliation that make even small confidence-building measures politically costly. Qatar’s role as a mediator has long been controversial, but it remains pivotal while multiple capitals focus on preventing a broader regional flare-up. The prime minister’s message suggested that Doha intends to continue engaging with regional and international partners to shore up compliance with existing commitments, while keeping the door open for incremental steps that can improve conditions for civilians and create space for more substantive agreements. The statement also implicitly appealed to the parties to weigh the human consequences of each decision in a theatre already marked by profound loss. For families of hostages and communities living under fire, statements of frustration are no substitute for tangible progress; yet such interventions can steady diplomatic efforts at moments when they appear closest to collapsing. Whether these appeals lead to restored calm or presage a new phase of confrontation will depend on choices made in the coming days—choices that could either entrench despair or open a narrow path toward relief for soldiers and civilians on both sides of the fence. *(JPost/VFI News)*

Iran Rebuilding Ballistic Missile Manufacturing Capabilities with China's Support; Iran is in the process of restoring its ballistic-missile production capacity with assistance from Chinese sources, according to assessments cited by regional outlets. Since the 12-Day War, Tehran has imported more than 2,000 tons of sodium perchlorate, a key oxidizer for solid-fuel rockets—an amount analysts say would be sufficient to propel fuel production for over 500 missiles. The renewed procurement, combined with upgrades to production infrastructure, points to an effort to reconstitute and potentially exceed pre-war capabilities despite ongoing sanctions regimes designed to limit precisely these activities. The supply chain described in the reporting relies on commercial fronts and opaque brokers who can move dual-use materials through jurisdictions with limited enforcement or political willingness to confront the trade. In parallel, monitoring organizations have noted suspicious movements and atypical activity patterns around several facilities linked to missile development, suggesting that the pace of refurbishment has quickened. The picture that emerges is of a sanctions-savvy program able to exploit gaps in oversight while testing how much international pressure key suppliers are willing to withstand. If these trends continue, the strategic implications could be significant. A reconstituted and expanded Iranian missile inventory would shift the deterrence calculus across the region, strengthening Tehran's hand with proxies and complicating air-defense planning for Israel and allied partners. It would also raise the stakes in any future negotiations over Iran's nuclear activities, since accurate delivery systems are critical to the value of any fissile capability and are a focal point for non-proliferation policy. For policymakers, the findings underscore persistent challenges in enforcing export controls, the necessity of coordinated action among major powers, and the consequences when suppliers look the other way. Whether through tighter interdiction, diplomatic leverage, or targeted sanctions that bite into the networks facilitating these transfers, the responses chosen in the near term will shape the trajectory of Iran's missile program and the risks faced by civilians across the Middle East. (*JPost/VFI News*)

279 IDF Soldiers Attempted Suicide Since Start of 2024, Knesset Report Finds; A report published on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, by the Knesset Research and Information Center found that from January 2024 through July 2025, 279 Israel Defense Forces soldiers attempted to take their own lives. For every soldier who died by suicide, the report noted seven additional attempts—an alarming multiplier that illuminates the scale of distress within the ranks nearly two years into the war. The figures, compiled with data from the IDF Medical Corps' mental-health center and various Knesset committees, focus on soldiers serving at the time of death or attempt and do not include veterans who died by suicide after completing their service. One of the starkest shifts appears in the composition of cases. In 2024, combat soldiers accounted for 78% of all suicide cases—well above the 42–45% share recorded annually between 2017 and 2022, and far from the anomalously low 17% observed in 2023. Between 2017 and July 2025, 124 soldiers died by suicide; of those, 68% were conscripts, 21% active reservists, and 11% career soldiers. The report also found that just 17% of soldiers who died by suicide over the past two years had met with a mental-health officer in the two months before their deaths, suggesting both access gaps and missed opportunities for early intervention. Analysts and clinicians have linked the increase to the surge in reservist mobilization and extended combat deployments following Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack. Sustained exposure to danger, family separation, financial strain, and cumulative trauma have all been cited as stressors that can magnify pre-existing vulnerabilities. The authors stress that numbers alone cannot capture the complex personal and situational factors that contribute to suicide risk. Still, the trend line nonetheless signals a need for more robust prevention, earlier identification of warning signs, and rapid pathways to care without stigma or bureaucratic hurdles. The findings have prompted calls to expand mental-health staffing, increase outreach within combat units and reserve formations, and ensure immediate follow-up after any expression of self-harm. Commanders are being urged to normalize help-seeking, provide confidential access to care, and coordinate closely with families to spot changes in behavior. With the war's strain still visible across Israeli society, the report is a sobering reminder that support for soldiers must include practical steps that meet them where they are—on base, in the field, and at home. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Ben Gurion Airport's Terminal 3 to Undergo NIS 310 m. Expansion; Israel's Airports Authority has approved a NIS 310 million project to expand Terminal 3 at Ben Gurion Airport, adding roughly 7,000 square meters across four floors and a new passenger gate to ease congestion at the country's busiest air hub. The tender was awarded to Oron Infrastructure, with the work slated to boost processing capacity as international carriers continue to resume service. The plan addresses bottlenecks that have grown more acute during peak travel periods and anticipates continued demand growth as Israel's skies normalize. Officials say the expansion will enhance the passenger experience by enlarging check-in, security, and boarding areas while integrating updated screening and baggage systems. The improvements will complement recently completed upgrades elsewhere in the terminal and are intended to streamline flows from curb to gate. The added square footage will also provide flexibility for future operational changes should airlines reconfigure schedules or introduce larger aircraft on key routes. Ben Gurion remains Israel's primary international gateway, and the project underscores a long-term commitment to maintaining both security and efficiency at the facility. While construction timelines and phasing will be designed to minimize disruption, travelers can expect intermittent detours and temporary closures of certain areas as work proceeds. Once completed, the expansion is expected to reduce crowding, shorten wait times, and strengthen the infrastructure that supports tourism, business travel, and family reunions. In a period when the nation is balancing urgent security demands with the needs of daily life and economic recovery, investments like this carry symbolic and practical weight. They signal confidence in the future and a determination to keep Israel connected to the world, even as the broader region navigates uncertainty. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Israeli Archaeologists Uncover Medieval Sugar Mills Beneath Gan Hashlosa National Park; Israeli archaeologists have uncovered a network of medieval tunnels beneath Gan Hashlosa National Park that appears to have powered sugar-production mills during the Mamluk period. Researchers say the subterranean system was engineered to channel water with enough force to drive horizontal paddle wheels, which in turn rotated millstones used to crush sugarcane. The discovery sheds fresh light on the scale and sophistication of local industry centuries ago, offering a rare glimpse into how communities in the Beit She'an Valley harnessed natural resources to fuel economic life. Initial surveys and excavations indicate that the tunnels were part of a larger complex that likely included processing rooms, storage areas, and channels for directing both clean water and waste. The surviving elements suggest careful planning and maintenance over long stretches of time, with construction techniques adapted to the geology and hydrology of the site. The layout points to an operation capable of steady production, demonstrating that medieval sugar-making in the region was not merely seasonal or small-scale but a significant driver of local commerce. In addition to its technological insights, the find illuminates the social and agricultural rhythms of the period. Sugarcane cultivation demanded coordinated labor, reliable irrigation, and specialized skills, implying networks of farmers, craftsmen, and traders who moved raw cane, processed sugar, and by-products through nearby markets. The tunnels' engineering also hints at knowledge transfer across cultures, as methods of water management evolved through successive eras and rulers. Park authorities plan to preserve and interpret the remains for visitors, integrating new research into educational materials and guided tours. As further study unfolds, the site is poised to become a centerpiece for understanding how innovation and community shaped the region's past—reminding today's visitors that resilience and ingenuity have long been hallmarks of life in the land of Israel. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Israel, Hungary Join Forces to Combat Rising Antisemitism in Europe, Diaspora Ministry Announces; Israel's Diaspora Affairs Minister Amichai Chikli met with Hungary's European Affairs Minister János Bóka on Monday, October 27, 2025, to coordinate a response to rising antisemitism across the continent. The meeting, held as part of an expanding bilateral agenda, focused on practical measures to protect Jewish communities, improve incident tracking, and bolster legal and diplomatic tools that deter and punish hate crimes. Both sides emphasized the need for closer cooperation between governments, local communities, and civil society organizations to counter harassment, vandalism, and violent attacks targeting

Jews and Jewish institutions. Among the steps under discussion were joint training exercises for law enforcement and community security volunteers, information-sharing protocols that speed alerts and enable targeted protection during high-risk periods, and new educational initiatives aimed at reducing radicalization and conspiracy-driven hate. Officials also explored ways to coordinate with social-media platforms and technology companies to curb the spread of antisemitic incitement online and to support faster removal of content that crosses into criminal speech under national laws. The collaboration reflects a growing recognition that rising antisemitism is both a domestic and international challenge requiring coherent strategies across borders. By pairing policy efforts with community-level support, Israel and Hungary aim to send a clear message that attacks on Jews will be met with vigorous enforcement and sustained political attention. The bilateral framework also invites participation from additional European partners who share a commitment to protecting Jewish life and religious freedom. As the program takes shape, officials signaled that measurable goals—such as reduced incident rates, faster response times, and improved prosecution outcomes—will guide next steps. Jewish communities across Europe have repeatedly asked for tangible assistance; this initiative is positioned to deliver practical tools while strengthening ties among those determined to confront hatred wherever it surfaces. (*JPost/VFI News*)

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