

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 20, 2025 (Cheshvan 29, 5786)



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Israel-Hamas Cease-fire Damascus Condemns Netanyahu's Visit to 'Syria Buffer Zone' in Golan Heights

- *Human Rights Watch accuses Israel of war crimes in West Bank expulsions*
- *Police called as pro-Palestinians protest outside New York synagogue hosting Nefesh B'Nefesh event*
- *Freed Israeli hostage Guy Gilboa-Dalal says he was sexually assaulted by a Hamas captor*
 - *Gaza medical sources say 28 dead in Israeli strikes*
- *Top court orders Israeli government to explain not forming independent Oct. 7 probe*
- *Trump praises Saudi crown prince as possible member in global Gaza peace initiative*

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Qatar Slams Jewish Visitors to Temple Mount; Qatar’s Foreign Ministry condemned Jewish visits to the Temple Mount, characterizing them as a “storming” of Al-Aqsa Mosque courtyards by “settlers.” In reality, Jewish visitors do not enter the mosque building itself; their access to the compound is tightly supervised and restricted. The statement also denounced an alleged “attack” on a mosque in Kifl Haris (Samaria), calling it a violation of international norms while linking disparate incidents into a single narrative of harm to Muslim holy places. Officials warned that altering the site’s “religious and historical status” would be seen as an assault on millions of Muslims worldwide. Doha reiterated its “consistent position” of support for Palestinian demands, including unrestricted Muslim worship on the Mount and a state along the 1967 lines with eastern Jerusalem as its capital. Israeli voices counter that a regulated Jewish presence does not impede Muslim prayer and that inflammatory language fuels tensions. (*INN/VFI News*)

‘You Brought Me Home’: Ex-Hostages Thank Protesters for Their Return, Call for Last 3 Captives’ Release; At nationwide rallies on Saturday, November 15, recently released hostages publicly thanked demonstrators for sustaining the campaign that helped secure their freedom. From Tel Aviv’s Hostages Square to junctions near the border, speakers urged Israelis to keep pressing until the bodies of the last three deceased captives are brought home. One freed captive, Maxim Herkin, told thousands that he had dreamed of the moment and spoke “from the heart,” saying the weekly gatherings gave him strength throughout captivity underground. Others described the emotional weight of returning while friends remain unreturned, turning gratitude into renewed resolve. Alongside the call to bring everyone home—living and deceased—families and supporters again urged the formation of a state commission of inquiry into the October 7, 2023, massacre, saying accountability is vital to national healing. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Government Moves to Appoint Own Probe Into Oct. 7, Nixing State Commission of Inquiry; The government decided Sunday to establish its own commission to investigate failures surrounding the October 7, 2023, onslaught, rather than forming a traditional state commission of inquiry. Ministers would define the panel’s mandate and composition, while officials would nevertheless describe the body as independent. According to the decision, the panel would have full investigative authority, though the scope was not specified. A ministerial team will draft the mandate within 45 days, and the government has told the High Court it will provide an update within 60 days on the commission’s establishment. Opponents argue that a government-appointed panel risks eroding public trust and limiting accountability, pressing instead for a full state inquiry with subpoena power. Supporters say a bespoke commission could achieve broader political buy-in. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Israel Returns 15 Palestinian Bodies to Gaza, Where Displaced Families Endure Winter Rains; Israel transferred 15 Palestinian bodies back to Gaza on Friday as part of the ongoing ceasefire framework, shortly after the handover of murdered Israeli hostage Meny Godard’s remains. Officials say 20 living hostages were released on October 13, and three deceased Israelis’ bodies are still to be recovered. For each Israeli hostage—living or deceased—returned under the deal, Israel has released multiple Palestinian bodies; the running total is in the hundreds, with relatively few positively identified due to limited forensics capacity

in Gaza. Families on both sides remain in limbo as they await certainty about their loved ones. Meanwhile, the first winter rains have deepened the hardship faced by displaced families in crowded encampments and precarious ruins, soaking belongings and destabilizing makeshift shelters. Residents describe working through the night to shore up tarps against the next downpour. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Columbia University: Police Arrest Pro-Palestinian Protesters Occupying Library; On May 7, 2025, police arrested demonstrators who forced their way into Columbia University's Butler Library and attempted an occupation. Organizers framed the action as part of a broader campaign to disrupt the university over its ties and policies related to Israel. Campus officials said disruption of core academic functions would draw disciplinary consequences, while law enforcement warned that failing to present ID could lead to arrest. The episode unfolded as students prepared for final exams, fueling concerns about safety and harassment of Jewish students. The incident reflects wider tensions on US campuses where anti-Israel activism, confrontations, and rhetoric viewed by many Jews as antisemitic have escalated since the war began. *(BB/VFI News)*



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