

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 8, 2025 (Kislev 18, 5786)



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Israel-Hamas Cease-fire

Netanyahu to Meet Trump in the U.S. on December 29, PM's Office Says

- *Defense Ministry says work has begun on separation barrier with Jordan*
- *Senior Lebanese Shia leader reportedly asks Iran's Supreme Leader to issue ruling allowing Hezbollah to disarm*
- *Palestinian media reports Israeli strike in central Gaza; IDF says it struck ' Hamas terrorist' who planned 'imminent terror attack'*
 - *Israeli teenager confesses to conducting tasks for Iranian operative*
 - *IDF chief says Yellow Line new Gaza border; Netanyahu rejects retirement for pardon*
 - *Netanyahu: Israel will keep Syrian territories, 'done with tolerance' to Iran axis threats*
 - *Kibbutz Be'eri votes to demolish houses damaged in Hamas attack on October 7*
 - *U.S., Israel, Qatar holding trilateral meeting in New York*

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Phone 770-641-3000 ext. 6



Abu Shabab Militia Chief Shot in Gaza Gunfight, Dies in Israeli Hospital; Yasser Abu Shabab, the head of a Gaza-based anti-Hamas militia, was fatally wounded during an internal clan gunfight and later died after being taken to an Israeli hospital, Israeli sources confirmed on Thursday, December 4, 2025. Early reports indicate the clash stemmed from intra-family or factional tensions rather than a direct confrontation with Hamas. The incident underscores continuing volatility among armed groups inside Gaza even amid broader ceasefire arrangements. Abu Shabab's group, which has been reported as opposing Hamas authority, had become a point of friction within the enclave's complex network of militias and family dynasties. His transfer to an Israeli medical facility following the shooting highlighted both the severity of his injuries and the ad hoc channels that have emerged for urgent medical evacuation. Officials did not immediately provide further details about the gunfight or arrests connected to the killing. The death will likely reverberate across local power structures in Gaza, where such militias can play outsized roles within neighborhoods and tribes. Observers note the potential for retaliatory disputes or temporary lulls in activity while leadership questions are sorted out. Authorities were still piecing together the chain of events late Thursday night. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Israel: Rafah Crossing to Open for Exit of Gazans; Egypt: We Won't Allow One-Way Transit; On Wednesday, December 3, Israel said it plans to reopen the Rafah Crossing in the coming days to permit Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip to Egypt, while Cairo publicly denied coordinating with Jerusalem on a renewed mechanism. Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) described the move as aligned with the ceasefire's terms and political directives, with departures to occur following Israeli security approval and under European Union supervision—a setup similar to a framework used earlier this year. An Israeli official, speaking on background, indicated the crossing would facilitate departures for those cleared to leave, conditional on Egypt's agreement to receive them, but not for returns into Gaza. The EU was said to be adjusting logistics before openings could proceed. Questions remained about whether and when Gazans who depart would be allowed to return, and how medical cases—estimated by the UN to number at least 16,500—would be prioritized. Rafah has long been the principal exit for authorized Palestinian travel, though it was closed by Egypt after Israel seized the Gaza-side crossing in May 2024 and briefly reopened during a short-lived truce in early 2025. The crossing has been central to Gaza's humanitarian corridors amid a broader blockade designed to prevent the smuggling of weapons to terror groups. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Netanyahu Taps Military Secretary Roman Gofman as Next Mossad Director; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on Thursday, December 4, nominated Maj. Gen. Roman Gofman, his military secretary, to serve as the next director of the Mossad. The appointment is being reviewed by the Advisory Committee for Senior Appointments. Gofman, widely viewed as close to the premier, was selected over two candidates reportedly put forward by outgoing chief David Barnea, whose term ends in June 2026. In announcing the pick, the Prime Minister's Office praised Gofman's "creativity" and "deep knowledge of the

enemy,” citing his coordinating role across intelligence and security agencies during the ongoing war. IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir welcomed the decision and emphasized inter-agency cooperation, as the IDF pledged support to ensure Gofman’s success in the role. Gofman’s career began in the IDF Armored Corps, later including command of the Etzion Regional Brigade in Judea and Samaria during a wave of terror attacks in 2015, and leadership of the 7th Armored Brigade from 2017. He has served as Netanyahu’s military secretary since 2024, with responsibilities spanning travel, directives to the IDF, and wartime liaison with the Mossad. (TOI/VFI News)

‘Invade Iran or Accept Talks,’ Ex-Israeli Air Force Chief Warns; Former Israel Air Force commander Eitan Ben Eliyahu warned that Iran’s nuclear program, disrupted but not destroyed by Israel’s Operation Rising Lion, will continue to advance unless checked by either decisive military action or a credible diplomatic arrangement. In comments carried Thursday, December 4, he argued Tehran is learning from the recent strikes and preparing for future rounds, leaving Israel and its allies with stark choices. Ben Eliyahu’s remarks framed the strategic dilemma: either push for negotiations capable of verifiable rollback of enrichment and weaponization, or prepare for a broader campaign to neutralize critical infrastructure. He suggested that deterrence alone is insufficient if the regime calculates that it can rebuild faster than Israel can degrade. The debate over next steps continues as regional actors assess Iran’s timelines and red lines. Security officials increasingly weigh long-term costs, risks of escalation, and the sustainability of intermittent strikes versus a comprehensive diplomatic track. (JPost/VFI News)

Israel Delivers Arrow 3 to Germany in Largest Defense Export Deal Ever; Israel formally handed over the Arrow 3 long-range missile defense system to the German Air Force on Wednesday, December 3, completing a sale worth €4 billion (\$4.6 billion)—the biggest defense export in Israel’s history. The ceremony at Holzdorf Air Base south of Berlin marked the first time Arrow 3 has been deployed beyond Israel and the United States, and the first time another country will operate it independently. The Defense Ministry described the transfer as a milestone for Israel’s strategic ties with Germany, as the system becomes part of Europe’s expanding air and missile defense architecture. Additional deployment sites in Germany are expected, with the initial emplacement located roughly 120 kilometers south of Berlin. The deal, originally signed in September 2023, reflects both countries’ emphasis on layered missile defense amid evolving aerial threats, and it underscores Israel’s growing role as a supplier of high-end strategic systems to European partners. (TOI/VFI News)

Israel Planning Hospital for Jordanian Patients in Joint Cross-Border Industrial Zone; Israel is advancing plans to build a hospital on its side of the border to treat Jordanian patients as part of the “Jordan Gateway” industrial park—a joint zone enabling Israelis and Jordanians to cross for work and shared projects. Regional council head Itamar Matiash told The Times of Israel on Wednesday, December 3, that ideas under consideration include establishing a cancer-treatment center to serve patients from Jordan and beyond, while leveraging existing cross-border infrastructure at the Jordan River Crossing near Beit She’an. The initiative, first proposed in the 1994 peace talks and approved in 2022, stalled in recent years amid legal disputes. However, a mediation process between the state, the contractor, and the council has cleared the way forward. Officials say the zone could help alleviate Jordan’s high unemployment and support Israeli high-tech and medical-tourism ventures, with low-tech factories envisioned across the border and advanced services on the Israeli side. Backers also see the industrial park as a key node in the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor, drawing interest from partners in the US and EU. The project is framed as practical peace-building through commerce, employment, and shared health services. (TOI/VFI News)

Ashkelon Man Indicted for Allegedly Spying for Iran as Cases Continue to Pile Up; Prosecutors on Thursday, December 4, indicted an Ashkelon resident on suspicion of spying for Iran over several months, as authorities warn of intensified Iranian online recruitment efforts targeting Israelis with promises of money.

Police said the suspect, 37-year-old Amir Malka, allegedly received roughly \$4,225 in cryptocurrency for activities carried out at the direction of a foreign handler. He was arrested last month in an investigation led by Jerusalem District detectives and the Shin Bet. The indictment—filed in the Beersheba District Court—comes amid a wider crackdown, with officials cautioning the public to ignore messages soliciting intelligence or operational assistance. The mayor of Bat Yam publicly urged residents this week to stop cooperating with Iranian operators, noting the scale of the outreach attempts. Authorities say they continue to identify and disrupt espionage networks leveraging social media and encrypted apps to recruit Israelis for surveillance and other tasks. The case adds to a growing list of prosecutions tied to hostile foreign intelligence activity. *(TOI/VFI News)*



Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: <https://www.yachad.com>

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

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