

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 11, 2025 (Kislev 21, 5786)



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Israel-Hamas Cease-fire

Netanyahu: Ex-security Chiefs Shouldn't Help Decide How Oct. 7 Attack Is Investigated

- *Trump plans to appoint U.S. general to lead Gaza security force, report*
- *In first, Amnesty accuses Hamas of 'crimes against humanity' on October 7*
- *Sources: U.S. weighs hitting UN Palestinian refugee agency with terrorism-related sanctions*
- *Without mentioning Gaza, U.S. Senators introduce bill to protect aid workers in conflict zones*
- *'You owe us answers' - Oct. 7 parents confront Netanyahu at his trial, demand state inquiry*
 - *Israel's defense minister, IDF chief agree to consolidate probes into Oct. 7 failures*
- *Heavy rainfall devastates large parts of Gaza, where many thousands of displaced Palestinians live in tents*
 - *Dozens of Palestinians detained by IDF in West Bank, Palestinian sources say*
 - *Shells of unknown origin land near military airport in Damascus, Syrian media says*

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Knesset Advances Motion Backing Trump's Gaza Plan; Coalition Boycotts Vote; On Wednesday, December 3, the Knesset advanced a motion to endorse President Trump's 20-point plan to end the Gaza conflict, with 39 votes in favor and none against. Most coalition MKs, including the prime minister, did not attend, as opponents within the government object to the plan's reference to a potential future path to Palestinian statehood. The motion's backers cast the vote as an opportunity to present national unity, thank Washington, and signal intent to move the plan to its next phase. Supporters described the framework as a path to disarming Hamas, consolidating a fragile ceasefire, and preparing a transitional governing authority for Gaza alongside heavy reforms in Ramallah. Critics inside the coalition argued the references to statehood were unacceptable and boycotted rather than voting it down. The proposal now heads to the committee for further readings as Israel debates the parameters of security, governance, and reconstruction under the plan. The vote's symbolism—coming after the release of remaining living hostages and ongoing returns of the fallen—was highlighted by opposition leaders who urged lawmakers to show unity around a shared goal of ending the war and securing the future. Even as the vote moved forward, the unresolved details of implementation, enforcement, and timing left significant questions for Israel's defense and political establishments. (TOI/VFI News)

Israel to Fully Deploy 'Iron Beam' Laser Defense by Month's End; Israel is preparing to fully deploy the Iron Beam system on December 30, a high-energy laser interceptor designed to neutralize rockets, drones, missiles, and mortars at speed. Defense officials describe the system as a game-changer that will complement existing multi-layered air defenses by delivering precise, low-cost shots against a wide range of aerial threats. After extensive development and wartime testing, the laser will enter operational service to help secure Israel's skies. Beyond the immediate tactical benefits, Iron Beam is intended to ease the economic strain of missile defense by replacing some costly interceptor launches with laser engagements. Planners expect its integration to reduce the burden on other systems during escalations and to serve as a deterrent message to adversaries attempting saturation attacks. The announcement comes amid continuing regional threats and the need to harden northern and southern fronts. The rollout underscores Israel's long-term investment in layered defense and indigenous innovation—reinforcing a doctrine that pairs offensive pressure on terror infrastructure with advanced defensive technologies to protect civilians. With deployment imminent, commanders see the system as a fresh pillar in Israel's ongoing effort to adapt to evolving threats. (JPost/VFI News)

Trump Adviser Mike Evans Rebukes US Stance on Israeli Sovereignty in Judea and Samaria; At an event in Ancient Shiloh on Friday, December 5, Dr Mike Evans—an evangelical leader long connected with President Trump—criticized statements by US Vice President JD Vance opposing Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria. Addressing a gathering hosted by Binyamin Regional Council head Israel Ganz, he argued that the biblical heritage of the region anchors Israel's legitimate claims and urged Washington not to pressure Jerusalem on matters he described as core to Israel's identity and security. Evans emphasized the

centrality of Judea and Samaria to Scripture and Jewish history, saying the land's meaning must not be subordinated to diplomatic convenience. He spoke warmly of US-Israel friendship while pressing American leaders to avoid policies that could embolden extremists or weaken Israel's strategic depth. In his view, the path to stability lies in reinforcing Israel's rights and ensuring that terror groups cannot leverage international debates to advance hostility. The remarks resonated with attendees who view Judea and Samaria as integral to Israel's future. They also highlighted a continuing debate inside the US-Israel relationship over how to balance peacemaking efforts with the security realities on the ground. (*INN/VFI News*)

Gaza Peace Deal Keeps Israel in Eurovision Song Contest; The European Broadcasting Union confirmed that Israel remains eligible for Eurovision 2026 after members amended contest rules but declined to hold a vote on expelling any country. Organizers emphasized that all broadcasters willing to follow the updated guidelines may participate, a move that effectively closed the door on efforts to exclude Israel following the Gaza ceasefire and hostage-release agreement. The decision followed months of pressure from activist groups and some public broadcasters seeking to punish Israel over the war. The updated rules include limits on coordinated government promotion and adjustments to voting procedures intended to bolster public trust in results. Israel's continued presence drew praise from those arguing that cultural events should not be hijacked by political campaigns, especially when the country had been attacked by a terror organization and secured a truce that returned hostages. Even so, the outcome set the stage for some national broadcasters to reconsider their involvement next year. With Israel cleared to compete, attention now turns to the 70th edition of the contest in Vienna. Organizers expect to release the final list of participants before Christmas, with security and logistical planning already underway for the May 2026 shows. (*BB/VFI News*)

Four Countries Boycott Eurovision after Israel is Cleared to Compete; Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, and Slovenia announced they will boycott Eurovision 2026 in protest of Israel's participation, days after organizers affirmed that all compliant members may join next year's show. The broadcasters that withdrew framed the move as a response to the humanitarian toll of the Gaza war, while Eurovision officials reiterated that the revised rules—rather than expulsions—would govern participation. The withdrawals spotlighted an ongoing split among European outlets over whether cultural contests should serve as political battlegrounds. Despite calls to exclude Israel, other broadcasters signaled they would proceed under the new framework, pointing to the importance of keeping the contest open and apolitical. In recent years, Israeli entrants received modest jury scores but significant support from popular voting, a dynamic that fueled accusations and counter-claims about fairness and campaigning. With boycotts declared and preparations continuing in Vienna, the coming months will test whether Eurovision can maintain its brand of cross-border culture while navigating deeply contentious politics surrounding Israel's place in the event. (*BB/VFI News*)

Costa Rica to Open Jerusalem Innovation Office with Diplomatic Status; Israel and Costa Rica agreed to establish a Jerusalem-based innovation office with diplomatic standing, part of a broader push to deepen bilateral trade and technology ties. Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar and Costa Rica's Minister of Foreign Trade Manuel Tovar Rivera also signaled that a free trade agreement is close, with a signing anticipated this week alongside Israel's economy minister. Officials described the planned office not as symbolic, but as a practical hub to strengthen cooperation in innovation and investment. The announcement comes as Costa Rica adopts key international definitions combating antisemitism and pursues partnerships across security and economic domains. Jerusalem hailed the step as evidence of expanding ties with Latin America and a vote of confidence in Israel's innovation economy amid regional volatility. For Costa Rica, the move aligns with export-driven strategies and access to Israeli tech ecosystems in fields like agriculture, health, and cyber. As details are finalized, both governments point to the office as a platform for steady collaboration beyond photo-ops—channeling expertise, facilitating business, and promoting research links that can weather geopolitical ups and downs. (*INN/VFI News*)

Inside the Race to Bring Every Hostage Home; A senior reserve IDF intelligence officer who has spent more than a decade supporting families of the fallen and missing described the painstaking work that led to the recovery of long-held remains and the renewed push to return the last captives from Gaza. Reflecting on the emotional moment when Hadar Goldin’s body came home on Saturday, November 8, 2025, he traced the years-long effort of assembling intelligence, creating opportunities, and preparing for precisely timed operations—while counseling families through uncertainty and grief. The officer detailed how lessons from past cases informed current efforts, emphasizing persistence, creativity, and orchestration across units. He outlined how analysts and operators ran parallel tracks—human sources, detainee questioning, and technical means—to narrow the search, while constantly managing expectations to protect families from rumors and psychological manipulation. Even as he maintained contact over the years, he said the work demanded humility and restraint: to be present when needed, and invisible when not. With a fragile ceasefire holding and negotiations evolving, his message was one of resolve: there is no substitute for bringing captives home alive, and the state bears that responsibility regardless of complexity. The goal, he said, is to turn experience into action so that families do not wait years for closure again. (*YNN/VFI News*)



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