

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 15, 2025 (Kislev 25, 5786)



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Israel-Hamas Cease-fire Netanyahu Meets Trump's Syria Envoy in Jerusalem

- *Netanyahu to meet with Barrack on Monday; IDF shoots 'suspicious' Israeli in West Bank*
- *Australia's Albanese rejects Netanyahu comment that Palestine recognition prompted terror attack*
 - *Trump comments on 'terrible attack' in Sydney: 'Today we can first say loudly: we celebrate Hanukkah'*
 - *At least 15 people killed in Sydney Hanukkah shooting, including rabbi, Holocaust survivor, Israeli and 12-year-old girl*
- *Sydney shooters identified as 50-year-old father who was killed and 24-year-old son, police say*
 - *Netanyahu gov't approves directing \$31 million from Arab social programs to Shin Bet*

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If you are interested in having Yachad Ministries to come your church and share about what is going on in Israel and the Middle East, and how the Bible is unfolding right in front of our eyes.

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US Considers Hitting UNRWA With Terrorism-Related Sanctions; US officials are assessing whether to impose terrorism-related sanctions on UNRWA, a move that would be without precedent for a UN body and could cut the agency off from critical financing and operations. Internal discussions center on whether to target the agency as a whole or specific figures, amid ongoing debate in Washington over UNRWA's role in Gaza and the region. The deliberations follow prior US funding freezes in 2024 and renewed scrutiny of allegations that some UNRWA employees abetted Hamas's October 7, 2023 atrocities. Supporters of sanctions argue the step is necessary to curb abuse and ensure that aid is not co-opted by terror networks. Critics warn that sanctions could jeopardize humanitarian work across Gaza, Judea and Samaria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria, where UNRWA runs schools, clinics, and emergency programs for Palestinians. The legal questions are complex: designating a UN agency as a terrorist entity would break new ground and could reverberate across broader UN–US relations. Israeli officials have long pressed for an overhaul of UNRWA and cite evidence they say ties some staff to Hamas activities; UNRWA leadership rejects calls for blanket punishment and says donor governments should focus on targeted accountability while keeping relief flowing. As US agencies weigh options, allies and regional partners are watching closely to see whether Washington opts for a sweeping verdict or a narrower, individual-based approach. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Report: Trump Officials Mulling Terror Sanctions on UNRWA; Parallel to broader US deliberations, reports indicate Trump administration officials are weighing terrorism-related sanctions on UNRWA, citing serious allegations about the agency's ties and conduct. Legal and humanitarian concerns are reportedly being debated within the State Department as options are drafted from sanctioning individuals to considering an unprecedented designation affecting the organization itself. The discussion reflects Washington's evolving posture since funding was halted in 2024 over staff links to Hamas's October 7 atrocities. UNRWA officials counter that sweeping penalties would hinder vital aid networks serving Palestinians in Gaza and across the region, calling instead for focused accountability measures. Any final decision would have significant diplomatic repercussions, testing how the US balances counterterrorism and humanitarian imperatives while navigating UN politics and regional stability. *(INN/VFI News)*

In First, Amnesty Accuses Hamas of Crimes Against Humanity During Oct. 7 Attack and Gaza War; Amnesty International, which has often been sharply critical of Israel, formally stated for the first time that Hamas committed crimes against humanity during and after the October 7, 2023 massacre. The group's assessment cites mass murder, abductions, and other grave abuses against civilians, and it urges accountability mechanisms that address violations by all parties. The statement marks a notable shift in Amnesty's framing of Hamas's culpability in the bloodshed that ignited the Gaza war. The organization's findings are likely to influence public debates, legal forums, and advocacy campaigns worldwide. Rights groups and diplomats have sparred for months over the application of international law in the conflict, but consensus has grown that hostage-taking and deliberate attacks on noncombatants, central to Hamas's October 7 operation, are prohibited acts of the highest order. Amnesty's call for accountability adds pressure on Hamas's political and military leadership while also fueling broader arguments for impartial

investigations covering all violations. For families of hostages and victims, the recognition serves as an affirmation that the atrocities that day and since meet the most serious legal thresholds. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Israel Unveils Iron Beam Laser System amid Record Defense Sales; Israel publicly highlighted its Iron Beam laser defense system, a directed-energy interceptor designed to shoot down rockets, mortars, and drones at a fraction of the per-shot cost of kinetic interceptors. Officials frame Iron Beam as a complement to Iron Dome and other layers, seeking to blunt saturation attacks by neutralizing short-range threats with speed and precision. The reveal comes alongside reports of record defense exports, reflecting global demand for Israeli air and missile defense technologies. Beyond the technology's showcase value, fielding a reliable laser layer could reshape Israel's cost curve: while development and power demands are significant, each engagement costs dramatically less than a missile interceptor and could conserve stocks for higher-end threats. Defense customers abroad are tracking progress, exploring how a mature system might fit into integrated air-defense architectures against proliferating UAVs and rockets. Even as timelines and integration details remain closely held, Israel's pursuit of directed energy underscores a broader shift in modern air defense one that blends kinetic and non-kinetic tools to keep pace with evolving adversary tactics. *(FOX/VFI News)*

Sa'ar and Rubio Meet in Washington: 'Our Unbreakable Alliance Has Never Been Stronger'; Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington on Wednesday, December 10, emphasizing shared interests across the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and beyond. Sa'ar highlighted the renewal of ties with Bolivia as part of a broader strategy to deepen Israel's relationships in the region and voiced support for US steps aimed at countering politicized lawfare at the International Criminal Court. Following the meeting, Sa'ar characterized the US-Israel partnership as "unbreakable," pointing to ongoing coordination on security, diplomacy, and regional normalization tracks. Both sides signaled that the alliance remains focused on deterring Iran, confronting terror proxies, and advancing pragmatic cooperation with interested Arab and Latin American states. The session also served as a signal to adversaries that Israel and the US are aligning policies in multilateral arenas while managing humanitarian and political challenges stemming from the Gaza war. *(INN/VFI News)*

Cabinet Approves 19 New Communities in Judea and Samaria; Israel's cabinet approved the establishment of 19 new communities in Judea and Samaria, advancing a significant expansion of residential planning in the area. Supporters argue that the move will meet housing needs and strengthen strategic footholds; opponents contend that it will complicate diplomacy and escalate tensions on the ground. The plan sets in motion a series of bureaucratic steps, including zoning, infrastructure coordination, and security provisioning. The decision arrives amid heightened debates over governance, security arrangements, and movement corridors across the territory. It also intersects with international pressure and pending court and diplomatic tracks that could influence implementation timelines. Local leaders are preparing for the long process ahead while national ministries coordinate budgets, services, and protection measures to support residents. *(INN/VFI News)*

Archaeologists Uncover Jerusalem Wall Mysteriously Destroyed in Biblical Era; Archaeologists in Jerusalem announced the discovery of a substantial ancient wall segment that appears to have been demolished amid a power struggle in the biblical period. The find described as both impressive and unique adds a new chapter to the city's layered history, offering clues to political upheaval and urban defenses in antiquity. Preliminary analysis of the destruction layer suggests abrupt, possibly violent events rather than gradual decay. Scholars say the context could illuminate rivalries among local rulers or external interventions, and future study is expected to refine dating and attribution. As excavations continue, the team anticipates additional artifacts and architectural insights that may help connect the structure to known biblical-era narratives and administrative centers. *(FOX/VFI News)*

Musk: Omar's Somali Remarks 'Sound Like Treason'; Elon Musk amplified resurfaced 2024 footage of Rep. Ilhan Omar addressing Somali constituents in Minnesota, writing that her comments “sound like treason.” The video shows Omar asserting that the US government would act in line with Somali community priorities, remarks that have fueled fresh controversy in the current political climate. The exchange reignited debates over diaspora politics, representation, and national allegiance, drawing sharp reactions across social media. Context around the clip includes Minnesota’s sizable Somali community and ongoing disputes over Somaliland’s proposed arrangements with Ethiopia. Omar’s defenders frame her comments as advocacy for constituents with ties to the Horn of Africa, while critics accuse her of privileging foreign interests. The renewed storm comes as national leaders spar over Middle East policy, immigration, and free speech boundaries. With tempers high, the episode underscores how US domestic discourse around Israel, the Middle East, and allied issues frequently intersects with identity debates and viral social media dynamics. (INN/VFI News)



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