

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 04, 2025 (Elul 11, 5785)



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Israel-Hamas War 699 Days, Gaza Health Ministry Says 84 Palestinians Killed, 338 Wounded Over Past 24 Hours

- *Hostage families call on Netanyahu, Trump and Hamas to convene negotiations and seal a deal*
- *IDF orders two-hour notice for evacuation of West Bank neighborhood Abu Safiya near Tulkarm*
 - *Lebanese prime minister calls on int'l community to 'force Israel to halt attacks'*
 - *Retired IDF general agrees to police order to extend suspension from IDF hostage division*
 - *Protests erupted in Jerusalem with fires, rooftop barricade and demonstrations*
- *Gaza Health Ministry: Six died of hunger and malnutrition in the past 24 hours, including a child*
 - *Police remove protesters from roof of National Library in Jerusalem*
 - *Yemen's Houthis says they targeted Tel Aviv in response to Sanaa strike*

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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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Israeli Strike on Yemen Said to Kill Houthi Prime Minister, Other Top Officials; An Israeli strike in Sanaa was reported to have killed the Houthi movement’s prime minister along with several senior officials, marking one of the most consequential blows to the Iran-backed group since it entrenched control over parts of Yemen. Initial reports on Sunday, August 31, 2025, said the attack hit a high-level meeting in the capital and left the rebel leadership scrambling to assess casualties and continuity of command. The development followed months of Houthi missile and drone launches toward Israel and attacks on maritime targets in regional shipping lanes. Regional outlets noted that the strike focused on command-and-control nodes used to coordinate operations against Israel and international shipping. Houthi channels vowed retaliation and framed the incident as further proof of outside interference in Yemen’s civil conflict, even as local authorities moved quickly to restrict access to the blast zone. Emergency services evacuated the wounded while security forces attempted to cordon off the area amid concerns of additional strikes. Foreign missions in Sanaa urged caution to staff and local partners after the explosion. In Jerusalem, officials kept public comments restrained but underscored Israel’s right to defend itself from cross-border aggression. The incident immediately raised questions about the Houthis’ capacity to sustain their aerial and maritime threat following the reported deaths of top decision-makers. Observers said the coming days would clarify whether the group’s military tempo can be maintained or whether internal rivalries and succession disputes would slow further escalation. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Diplomatic Source: Only the Military Option Remains on the Table; A senior diplomatic source said on Sunday, August 31, 2025, that earlier ideas for a hostage deal or a ceasefire no longer apply, stressing that any possible arrangement at this late stage would have to address all captives—both those confirmed alive and those who have been declared dead. The Security Cabinet was slated to convene on Sunday evening to sign off on the operational plan to take control of Gaza City. The source emphasized that, for now, “only the military maneuver is on the table.” Officials added that there are no signals from Hamas of a willingness to discuss conditions for ending the war. As a result, there has been no preparatory work to form an Israeli negotiating team or to explore new mediation tracks. The focus instead is on consolidating battlefield gains, isolating remaining militant cells, and establishing persistent pressure designed to degrade command networks and logistics over time. The shift in posture reflects a broader assessment that the conflict’s parameters have hardened since the early months of fighting. The government’s immediate aim is to create secure conditions for communities near the border, hamper cross-border rocket fire, and provide sustained relief to the frontlines. Any movement on the hostage issue, the source said, would now have to come within a comprehensive framework rather than piecemeal steps. *(INN/VFI News)*

Hamas Confirms Death of Mohammed Sinwar, Three Months After Deadly IDF Strike; Hamas publicly acknowledged on Sunday, August 31, 2025, that Mohammed Sinwar—long seen as a key operative in Khan Yunis—was killed in an Israeli airstrike on May 13, 2025. Israel had previously stated that the strike targeted a location linked to senior operatives near the European Hospital area, and that Sinwar was among those eliminated. The confirmation ends months of ambiguity surrounding his fate and comes amid heightened pressure on the group’s remaining leadership. The announcement followed repeated claims by

Israeli officials that the attack had removed Sinwar from the battlefield, a point that Hamas neither confirmed nor credibly refuted until now. Analysts said the timing likely reflects both internal dynamics in Gaza and the group's desire to shape the narrative as the fighting shifts to more targeted operations. For families of victims and those still awaiting news of the missing, the development served as a reminder of the personal toll that continues to mount. Attention now turns to how the organization will recalibrate in Khan Yunis and beyond. The removal of a senior figure often prompts short-term disruptions, but the group's decentralized cells may attempt to compensate by spreading leadership responsibilities and leaning further on external backers. For Israel, the episode is being folded into a wider campaign to degrade decision-making and logistical capabilities in the southern Gaza theater. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Courage and Bravery: 900 Soldiers Have Fallen Since October 7, 2023; The IDF confirmed that 900 soldiers have fallen since the Hamas onslaught of October 7, 2023, a figure updated on Friday, August 29, 2025, with the death of Sergeant-First-Class (Res.) Ariel Lubliner in southern Gaza. Of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, 301 fell during the murderous assault launched in the early morning hours of October 7. The updated tally underscores the enduring costs borne by soldiers and families across the country as the campaign enters a new phase. Names and details have been cleared for publication in stages as families are notified and circumstances are reviewed. Recent announcements included casualties from fierce engagements in the Khan Yunis sector and operations in northern Gaza against entrenched militant positions. The military said it continues to adapt tactics to minimize risk while preserving operational effectiveness against a determined enemy embedded in dense urban terrain. The fallen are being honored at cemeteries, in local ceremonies, and within units that carry forward their memory into ongoing missions. As the country braces for the next steps, Israelis pause to remember the servicemembers whose commitment and courage shielded communities and saved lives. Their legacy remains a call to unity, vigilance, and steadfast care for the wounded and the bereaved. (*INN/VFI News*)

US Says It's Denying Visas to Palestinian Officials for UN General Assembly Next Month; The United States said it will deny visas to Palestinian Authority and PLO officials for the United Nations General Assembly in September 2025, citing a policy response to diplomatic efforts seen as bypassing direct negotiations. The move, disclosed at the close of August, signaled a tougher line toward unilateral steps on the international stage and raised questions about which officials might be affected by the restrictions during the New York gathering. Officials conveyed that the measure is intended to discourage initiatives aimed at securing recognition outside a negotiated framework and to underscore expectations around incitement and accountability. The announcement came as delegations finalize their travel plans and side meetings that typically occur on the sidelines of the UNGA. Observers noted potential ripple effects for scheduled bilateral engagements and for forums where Palestinian participation is customary. The decision also fits into a broader debate over how to incentivize constructive engagement while responding to actions that deepen diplomatic friction. With global attention fixed on the annual summit, the policy will be closely watched for its practical impact and for any adjustments in the weeks ahead. (*TOI/VFI News*)

In Major Increase, UN Says Iran Has Executed at Least 841 People This Year; The UN human rights office said this week that Iran has executed at least 841 people so far in 2025, warning of a disturbing rise that includes executions in public and cases involving ethnic minorities. The office described a systematic use of the death penalty that extends beyond the most serious crimes under international law. The appeal urged Tehran to halt executions and to move toward reforms aligned with basic due-process standards. Officials noted that among those executed were individuals convicted on drug-related charges and offenses deemed political or security-related by Iranian courts. Advocates said the pace of capital punishment has accelerated since earlier years, and highlighted concerns about confessions allegedly obtained under duress. The trend has drawn criticism from governments and civil society groups who argue that the surge undermines prospects for greater regional stability. Rights monitors emphasized that

transparency remains limited around trials, notifications to families, and access to counsel. The latest tally cast a spotlight on Iran's posture amid broader tensions in the Middle East, and added urgency to calls for an international response calibrated to deter further abuses while preserving channels for humanitarian engagement. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Bahrain Receives Credentials of Israel's New Ambassador to the Gulf Kingdom; Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani received on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, the credentials of Israel's new ambassador to Manama, Shmuel Revel. The ceremony at the Foreign Ministry offered a public signal of ongoing ties forged under the Abraham Accords and followed a period of reduced engagement in late 2023. Officials highlighted cooperation in areas of mutual interest and the potential for further people-to-people exchanges. The credential presentation marked a step in resuming routine diplomatic rhythms, including coordination on economic, cultural, and security matters. While broader regional dynamics continue to influence the pace of normalization, both sides expressed an interest in building quietly on practical initiatives that have already benefited trade and tourism. For residents and business leaders, the visible presence of an ambassador creates a focal point for dialogue and problem-solving. Continued diplomatic contact, even during turbulent times, is seen by many as an anchor for stability and a platform for future progress. *(TOI/VFI News)*

New York City Jewish Educators Say They're Leaving Teacher Union Due to Anti-Semitism; Dozens of Jewish educators in New York City said they are cutting ties with the United Federation of Teachers, citing a culture of antisemitism that they argue has taken root in the public-school system. The announcement, made in the final week of August 2025, included calls for the union to adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and to bar classroom materials that demonize Jews, Zionism, or Israel. Organizers said the climate has chilled debate and left many professionals feeling isolated. Participants described incidents that, in their view, went insufficiently addressed by administrators and union leaders. They argued that stronger policies and training are necessary to ensure Jewish staff and students feel safe and respected. The move drew attention from city and state officials who have been grappling with a rise in bias incidents and seeking ways to balance free expression with protections against harassment. Those involved said they hope the decision prompts constructive reforms and a more transparent process for reporting and resolving complaints. They also underscored that the goal is not division but an environment where educators can serve all students without fear of hostility or reprisal. *(TOI/VFI News)*

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