

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 18, 2025 (Elul 25, 5785)



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Israel-Hamas War 713 Days, IDF Orders Evacuations in South Lebanon Ahead of Strikes Against Hezbollah

- *IDF says shooting attack at Israel-Jordan crossing, which killed two, was carried out by Gaza-bound aid truck driver*
- *Gaza Health Ministry: 79 Palestinians killed by IDF fire in past 24 hours*
- *Italy considering trade sanctions against Israel, foreign minister says*
 - I ■ *DF says forces searching Israel-Jordan border crossing area, encircling Jericho after shooting attack*
 - *Gaza medical officials say 62 killed in IDF attacks;*
- U.K. ambassador says recognition of Palestinian state 'not intended as a threat'*
- *Reports from Gaza: 13 killed as they were leaving Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City*
 - *Israel blocking WHO fuel into Gaza City, Hamas-run Health Ministry says*
 - *EU leader proposes sanctions on far-right Israeli ministers and settlers, suspending trade benefits with Israel over 'horrific' daily events in Gaza*

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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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Hamas Holding Hostages Above Ground in Gaza City to Hinder IDF Offensive; Israeli assessments indicate that Hamas has shifted some hostages into homes and tented areas above ground in Gaza City as the Israel Defense Forces intensify pressure around the metropolis. The move appears designed to complicate urban maneuvering, slow evacuation corridors, and raise the risk to noncombatants should the army press a deeper incursion. Briefings describe this as part of a broader “legitimacy ambush,” leveraging civilian proximity to deter operations and amplify international scrutiny at a crucial moment in the campaign. The redeployments reportedly coincide with intensified strikes and shaping actions aimed at degrading Hamas positions ahead of an expected ground phase. Placing hostages amid dense residential zones could leave commanders weighing every advance against potential harm to captives and bystanders. It also signals that Hamas is preparing to fight within populated districts while attempting to maximize political fallout from any collateral damage. The IDF has continued to urge civilians to move out of designated combat areas and has reiterated that responsibility for the hostages’ welfare lies with the captor organization. For families, the reports heighten anxiety about the remaining captives’ safety as Gaza City braces for further escalation and negotiations remain fragile. (*JPost/VFI News*)

IDF Targets More High-Rise Buildings as It Ramps Up Pressure on Gaza City; The Israel Defense Forces broadened strikes against additional high-rise structures in Gaza City, following evacuation advisories to residents in the Gaza Port area and the southern al-Rimal neighborhood. Military officials say these towers were used for observation, command posts, and other hostile functions embedded within civilian zones. The campaign aims to disrupt battlefield awareness and degrade the enemy’s ability to coordinate fire as the IDF shapes the arena for further ground action. Footage from the area showed heavy plumes of smoke rising over multiple districts while sirens sounded and residents fled. The military framed the strikes as part of a systematic effort to dismantle Hamas’s urban infrastructure, emphasizing that warnings preceded the operations to allow civilians to leave designated buildings. With pressure building inside and around Gaza City, residents have moved through corridors where possible, even as sporadic clashes and explosions continue. These actions come amid heightened diplomatic and regional tensions, with actors weighing the costs and consequences of an intensified battle in the most congested theaters. The days ahead are expected to bring continued aerial activity and renewed calls for humanitarian mitigation measures, as the IDF seeks to erode command hubs without entangling civilians. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Terror in Jerusalem: Seven Dead in Shooting Attack at Ramot Junction; On Monday, September 8, 2025, two terrorists opened fire at the Ramot Junction in Jerusalem, murdering seven people and wounding others before being neutralized by an armed IDF soldier on leave and a civilian yeshiva student. Witnesses described bursts of automatic fire targeted at a bus in traffic and a nearby hitchhiking stop, with shattered glass and chaos strewn across the roadway as medics rushed in to triage the wounded. Authorities quickly sealed off access roads as large police and emergency teams converged on the scene. The attackers, believed

to have come from a village near Ramallah, reportedly used a locally manufactured Carlo-type submachine gun produced in Judea and Samaria. In the hours after the assault, the IDF encircled neighboring villages and launched a broad search for potential accomplices while investigators worked to identify the shooters and reconstruct the attack timeline. Hospitals received multiple victims in serious and moderate condition, while volunteers and first responders offered lifesaving care and comfort amid grief and shock. The city braced for additional security measures as families began to mourn loved ones lost in the sudden eruption of violence. *(INN/VFI News)*

Jerusalem Shield: IDF Arrests Terror Suspects and Confiscates Weapons; Security forces launched Operation Jerusalem Shield across the Binyamin sector and beyond, tightening a ring around villages linked to the recent deadly attack in Jerusalem. Troops detained dozens of wanted suspects tied to terror activity, mapped the homes of involved operatives, and expanded searches to hundreds of sites across Judea and Samaria. Along the way, forces located and seized improvised weapons, firearm components, cartridges, and military equipment, as well as ISIS flags and terror funds. Parallel enforcement by the Civil Administration targeted illegal construction in known hotbeds of activity, with additional brigades operating in the Sanur Valley, Qabatiya, the Jenin sector, and villages near Mahmosh. Several terrorists were eliminated in exchanges of fire, others arrested, and multiple residences tied to operatives were demolished following security reviews. The seized materiel and detainees were transferred for further investigation by the police and the Shin Bet. Commanders described the multi-day push as a focused effort to cut off staging grounds and logistics that enable attacks inside Israel. Roadblocks, encirclements, and sweeping checks choked movement for armed cells while minimizing disruption for everyday residents as much as possible amid the heightened alert. *(INN/VFI News)*

'Every Delay Is Mortal Danger': Hostage Families Denounce Doha Strike, Demand Deal; Families rallied in Tel Aviv and across the country on Saturday, September 13, 2025, urging leaders to secure a ceasefire-for-hostages agreement and warning that a targeted strike in Doha days earlier had derailed fragile negotiations. Speakers in Hostages Square described fear for the 48 captives believed to remain in Gaza and accused the government of hesitating at critical moments. Emotional appeals pressed for an immediate path forward, insisting that every day without a deal increases the peril to those still in captivity. Former captives and relatives emphasized the moral duty to bring home the living and the fallen, recounting interrupted deals and missed opportunities that compounded anguish. From the stage, family members questioned official priorities and asked how anyone could accept the risk of receiving coffins instead of reunions. Their message echoed through large crowds: end the standoff, salvage talks, and avoid steps that could further endanger the captives. Officials continued preparations for intensified military action around Gaza City even as demonstrators warned that expanded operations could heighten risks for those held in densely populated districts. The night ended with vows to keep public pressure high until a workable agreement is reached. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Unburied Treasures: Israel Unveils Online Database of 4 Million Archaeological Finds; Israel has launched a comprehensive online repository that brings together millions of records related to the land's ancient past. The platform features detailed entries on sites and artifacts, accompanied by photographs, excavation reports, and thousands of 3D models, all accessible for search and study. Experts describe it as one of the world's largest archaeology databases, designed to serve both scholars and enthusiasts by centralizing materials once scattered across archives and institutions. The initial release already features more than 3.9 million records and nearly a million artifacts, supported by over 1.2 million images and upwards of 15,000 three-dimensional models. With smart filters, users can explore periods, locations, and artifact types, opening discoveries to a global audience and classrooms far beyond Israel's borders. The project marks a milestone in public access to the country's cultural heritage and offers a foundation for new research collaborations. Curators say the resource will continue to grow as additional collections are

digitized and uploaded, preserving fragile archives while inviting fresh questions about the past. For many Israelis and lovers of the Bible, the database is more than a technical feat—it is a living window into the stones and stories that have shaped a people. *(TOI/VFI News)*

IDF Soldier Walks Again With Cutting-Edge Exoskeleton After Gaza Injury; A wounded IDF soldier is back on his feet with the help of a next-generation exoskeleton system, highlighting the relentless innovation of Israel’s medical community in wartime. Specialists at Sheba Medical Center tailored a rehabilitation regimen that pairs advanced robotics with intensive physical therapy, enabling the patient to relearn gait, balance, and endurance after devastating injuries sustained in combat. Clinicians involved in the case noted that progress came in incremental milestones—first supported standing, then slow steps, and eventually controlled walking with the device. The approach reflects years of investment in trauma care, neuro-rehabilitation, and assistive technologies that have transformed outcomes for many wounded soldiers and civilians alike. For the patient and family, the breakthrough represents renewed independence and hope following months of uncertainty. The success story underscores the broader push within Israeli hospitals to innovate under pressure, using data-driven protocols and cross-disciplinary teams to return patients to meaningful lives. Beyond the individual victory, the case hints at future applications of wearable robotics for stroke survivors, spinal injuries, and others who face long roads to recovery. *(TOI/VFI News)*



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