Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 15, 2026 (Cheshvan 3, 5787)



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For October 2026

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Israel; "A Light to the Nations": Israel's Battlefield Medicine, Forged After October 7, Now a Model for the US Army

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Standing with Israel!

Netanyahu Condemns the Deadly Houthi Strike on Riyadh's Airport: 'On Behalf of the Citizens of Israel, I Extend Our Deepest Condolences'; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, October 11, 2026, publicly condemned the missile attack on Saudi Arabia's main international airport, an unusual step for Israel. The strike on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, blamed on Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi terrorists, killed 12 people and wounded 309. "On behalf of the citizens of Israel, I extend our deepest condolences to the families of those murdered," Netanyahu said, condemning "the shocking terrorist attack at Riyadh airport" in the strongest possible terms and wishing the injured a full recovery. Terrorism "targets innocent people and seeks to spread fear and instability," Netanyahu said, and must be confronted with determination; Israel, he added, hopes for a strong Middle East that stands united against threats. His message of solidarity came as the Houthis threatened further attacks across the kingdom. Less than a day after the deadly strike of Saturday, October 10, 2026, a new projectile hit a passenger terminal on Sunday afternoon. The Saudi-led coalition said the projectile struck Terminal 4 and started a fire, and that it intercepted a separate cruise missile; around the same time, reports emerged of an attack on Sanaa airport in the Houthi-controlled Yemeni capital. Earlier on Sunday, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree reaffirmed the group's plan to enforce what it calls an "aerial blockade" of Saudi Arabia, warning international airlines, airport employees, and passengers against using the kingdom's airports and airspace, which he said had become "theaters of operations for our forces." Saree vowed to keep to the principle of "airport for airport, blockade for blockade and escalation for escalation" until the group's objectives are achieved, and declared every area of Saudi Arabia a potential target except Mecca and Medina. *(YNN/VFI News)*

After the Riyadh Attack, Washington Asks Israel's Chief of Staff Whether the IDF Could Strike Houthi Targets in Yemen; American officials have raised with IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir the question of whether Israel could hit Houthi targets in Yemen, as fighting between the Iran-backed terror group and Saudi Arabia escalates and missile attacks on Riyadh's international airport turn deadly. The approach came in place of an American request for Israel to strike Iran, which had been the subject of an earlier account. Footage published on Sunday, October 11, 2026, shows the moment of the missile strike on King Khalid International Airport on Saturday, October 10, 2026, which killed at least 12 people and wounded more than 300. Washington is trying to avoid direct involvement in the crisis with the US midterm elections scheduled for November 2026. Zamir warned his American counterparts that an Israeli strike could trigger further escalation with the Houthis, and potentially with Iran, and could lead to an indefinite postponement of Israel's elections, currently set for Tuesday, October 27, 2026. In a conversation with US Central Command commander Adm. Brad Cooper, Zamir also discussed possible future strikes against Iran, though the two made no concrete plans for near-term military action. The Israeli Air Force and the IDF's Military Intelligence Directorate remain on constant alert for escalation with Iran, which is still considered Israel's primary military front, and the Israeli and American militaries have kept up the close coordination established after the ceasefire that concluded Operation Roaring Lion in April

2026. Military Intelligence is building an extensive target bank in Iran covering missile capabilities, strike systems, military buildup, and facilities linked to the nuclear program. During a visit to Tel Nof Air Base in the first days of October 2026, Netanyahu warned that "there are signs that our enemies will try to attack us ahead of the elections," adding, "Don't mess with us, not now and not ever. Our long arm will reach you anywhere, anytime." *(YNN/VFI News)*

US Fighter Jet Disables a Cargo Ship Trying to Run the Naval Blockade of Iran; 135 Ships Turned Back in Three Months; US Central Command announced on Saturday, October 10, 2026, that its forces disabled a commercial cargo vessel in the Gulf of Oman after its crew disregarded repeated warnings and attempted to breach the ongoing naval blockade of Iran. A US military fighter jet struck the stern of the Panama-flagged M/V Ocean Molica, also known as the "Arika Sun," with a precision munition, knocking out the ship's propulsion. No crew members were harmed, CENTCOM said. The vessel had departed an Iranian port shortly before and was attempting to transit regional waters. CENTCOM reinstated the blockade on July 14, 2026, against all ships entering or leaving Iranian ports. Over three months of strict enforcement, US forces have disabled four commercial vessels and turned 135 ships around. During the same period they destroyed 10 tankers tied to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' multibillion-dollar shadow network. "All mariners are advised to heed blockade warnings from CENTCOM forces," the command said. "Crews should also continue to monitor Notice to Mariners broadcasts." Vessels operating near the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz are to contact US naval forces on bridge-to-bridge channel 16. *(INN/VFI News)*

IDF and Shin Bet Eliminate the Nukhba Commander Who Led the October 7 Raid on the Kissufim Outpost and Took Part in Abducting Israelis; The IDF and the Israel Security Agency have eliminated a Hamas Nukhba platoon commander who led part of the October 7 raid on the Kissufim outpost and took part in abducting Israelis during the massacre, the military announced on Sunday, October 11, 2026. In a strike in the Khan Younis area of southern Gaza on Monday, October 5, 2026, the forces killed Hisham Jamal Muhammad Abu Ghala, a platoon commander in the terror organization's military wing. Abu Ghala was among the leaders of the Kissufim outpost raid and participated in the abduction of Israelis on October 7, 2023. Before his elimination he led attacks on IDF troops and Israeli civilians and worked to rebuild Hamas's capabilities in what the military called a systematic violation of the ceasefire. He was killed in an aerial strike to remove the threat he posed, and before the strike steps were taken to reduce harm to civilians, including the use of precise munitions and aerial surveillance. Security forces under the Southern Command remain deployed in the area under the ceasefire agreement. They will continue operating to remove any immediate threat. *(INN/VFI News)*

Israel Approves the Entry of a Board of Peace Team to Map the Sites Where Hamas Will Surrender Its Weapons; Israel has approved the entry into the Gaza Strip of an American company working for the Board of Peace, whose task is to identify and map locations where Hamas members could surrender their weapons for destruction. The approval emerged on the evening of Sunday, October 11, 2026, with the team expected to enter in the days that follow. The move advances a key stage of US President Donald Trump's peace plan, which calls for Hamas to give up its weapons and for Gaza to be demilitarized. The American team is expected to begin in southern Gaza, focusing on Rafah and Khan Yunis, both currently under Israeli control, and will conduct field surveys to find sites where armed Palestinians could hand over their weapons. A central open question is how to move armed Hamas members safely to the designated sites, possibly under IDF security. The mechanism for surrendering weapons has not yet been finalized, and no arrangements yet exist for armed individuals to travel through Gaza without threatening Israeli forces. Under the Board of Peace plan, the surrender of Hamas's weapons is to come before Israel's gradual withdrawal from the Strip: Israel would pull out of an area only after it is

cleared of terrorists, and that area would then pass to the administration of a technocratic government. Israel's security establishment remains pessimistic about the plan's prospects. A senior security official said the Americans are exerting heavy pressure on Israel to implement it, and that while Hamas has publicly said it intends to give up its weapons, "the terrorist organization is continuing to rebuild its military capabilities in the Gaza Strip." *(INN/VFI News)*

Three Years After October 7, Jewish Engagement Has Settled at an Elevated 'New Normal,' Jewish Federations Survey Finds; Engagement in Jewish life has risen overall three years after the October 7, 2023, attacks and has reached an elevated "new normal," the Jewish Federations of North America found in a survey released on Thursday, October 8, 2026. Of the Jewish respondents surveyed in May and June 2026, 38% said they had increased their Jewish engagement in some way over the three years since the attacks, up 7 percentage points from 2025 and below the 43% recorded in March 2024, months after the massacre. The survey's margin of error was 1.8%. JFNA researchers say the initial spike, which the organization calls "the Surge," has had a lasting effect, with people deepening their involvement even three years later. Mimi Kravetz, JFNA's chief impact and growth officer, said many in the community had feared engagement "would continue to decline as we got further out from the events of Oct. 7," and that the fact that "people are continuing to engage with community during a difficult time is a good thing." The federations surveyed more than 2,800 Jews by text message, with AI-generated follow-up questions allowing open-ended answers to be sorted quickly by category. The top motivator was "social or interpersonal" connection in informal settings such as Shabbat dinners or personal invitations to Jewish events, and 65% of "Surgers" were turning to synagogues, with the Chabad-Lubavitch movement the second most popular option. Jews who increased their engagement were markedly more likely to support Israel: 93% of Surgers said they were "emotionally attached to Israel," compared with 51% of Jews whose engagement did not change, and 75% agreed that Israel makes them proud to be Jewish, versus 36% of non-Surgers. *(INN/VFI News)*

42.2 Kilometers of Longing: 25 Bereaved Israeli Parents, Widows, and Siblings Run the Chicago Marathon in Memory of Their Fallen; Among the tens of thousands of runners in the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 11, 2026, was a special team from OneFamily, the organization that supports Israel's bereaved families and terror victims. The team numbers about 25 bereaved parents, widows, and siblings of fallen soldiers and terror victims, together with other runners who joined to run in memory of the murdered; for them the 42.2 kilometers mean far more than athletic effort, since each runner carries a personal story. The team flew from Israel to Chicago on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, exactly three years after the massacre, linking remembrance and grief with the choice to keep moving forward. Among them is Gil Pazi, father of Yogev Pazi, who fell in battle in northern Gaza in November 2024 at age 22. Yogev had spent a year volunteering in Chicago through the Jewish Agency and built lasting ties with the city's Jewish community. "The moment I saw that it said Chicago, I knew I was signing up," Gil said. In training he found belonging alongside others who had suffered similar losses, reconnecting with people and society and realizing he is not alone; running, he says, is a means rather than the goal, and what frightens him is not the race but "the day after, when this journey ends." Preparation began about five months before the race and included group sessions, long runs, and physical and mental readiness work, and the team grew into a close group whose members found common understanding among different kinds of loss. Beyond fitness, the training sessions became a place to speak about longing and hardship, along with laughter, encouragement, and celebrating achievements. "This team is much more than a running group," said Moshe Saville, CEO of OneFamily, describing how members who arrived in pain found people who understood and supported them. *(INN/VFI News)*



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