



A Houthi missile hitting Ben Gurion airport on May 4th. | Source: Various Social Media Posts

Overview

- On **May 3rd**, the **Israeli military** began issuing **call-up notices** to **thousands of reservists** in preparation for an **expanded offensive** in Gaza. The **Israeli Security Cabinet** approved plans for this **expansion**.
- The IDF announced plans to establish a **humanitarian zone** between the **Morag Corridor** and the **Philadelphi Corridor** once the area is cleared. A **massive tent city** will be erected there, and **civilian companies** will distribute food. **Gazans from al-Mawasi** and other areas of the strip will be allowed to enter following **security checks** at the **Morag crossings**, with the goal of **reducing population density** in other parts of Gaza and thereby **disrupting Hamas' maneuvering space**.
- On the evening of **Independence Day, April 30**, Israel suffered from wild fires. There were **five main fire zones**, with several **"secondary" fire points** in between.
- On **May 4**, a **missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels** landed near **Ben Gurion Airport**, Israel's **main international airport**, causing a **plume of smoke** and widespread **panic among passengers** inside the terminal.
- **Palestinian Authority (PA) intelligence chief Majed Faraj** is expected to meet with **CIA counterparts in Washington**, marking the **first high-level security meeting** between the parties since **Donald Trump returned to the White House**.
- A series of **sectarian clashes** erupted starting **April 28**, following the release of an **fake audio recording** of a **Druze sheikh cursing Muhammad**. Although the sheikh later **denied** the recording and claimed it was **fake news**, events **spiraed out of control**. It is unclear who released the clip, but it served as **justification** for **numerous Sunni factions** to begin a **campaign of slaughter against the Syrian Druze**.

ISRAEL AT WAR WEEK 82

3

Total Israeli casualties This Week

0

Total Civilians killed this week

3

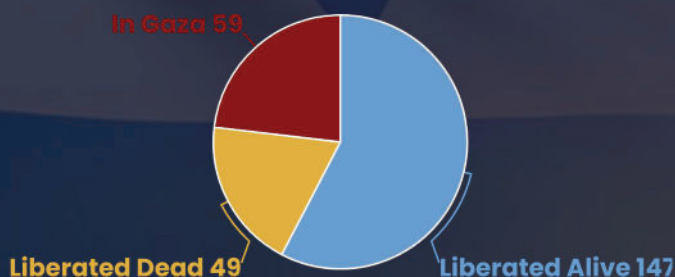
Total IDF Casualties this week

MAIN EVENTS

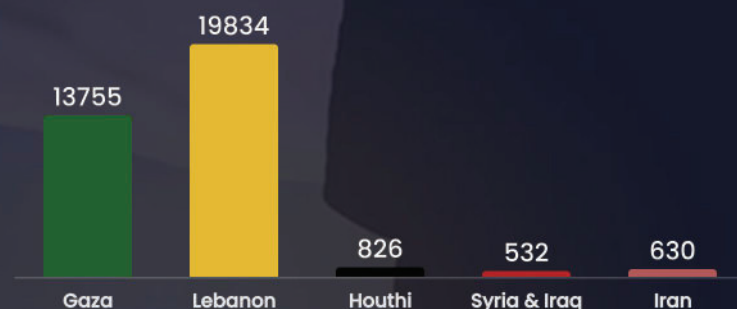
The Israeli cabinet has approved an escalation on the Gaza front, calling up tens of thousands of reservists.

President Donald Trump has dismissed National Security Adviser Waltz, marking a departure from the more hawkish elements within his inner circle as diplomatic negotiations with Iran move closer to a potential agreement.

HOSTAGES IN GAZA 59/255



ATTACKS ON ISRAEL & ALLIES 3/35,577



Judea & Samaria + Israel Front

1/95
This Week Since Oct.7
0 Civilians and 1 security force fell.

9,200
Since Oct.7
Palestinian Terror Attacks since Oct.7
6,800 Palestinians Arrested

Gaza Front

2/1,647
This Week Since Oct.7
2 IDF soldiers fell in battle. 0 hostage were returned dead.

23,660
Since Oct.7
 Hamas terrorists killed. Over 270 Senior officials killed since Oct.7

Lebanon Front

0/132
This Week Since Oct.7
0 civilian and 0 IDF soldiers fell.

+3,500
Since Oct.7
Hizbollah terrorists killed, 154 Hezbollah Leadership killed.

Greater Middle East Front

0/2
This Week Since Oct.7
0 Civilian killed this week.

+1,988
Since Oct.7
Attacks on Israel. +826 from Yemen, 532 from Iran, +630 from other

Gaza

Operational

- On **May 3rd**, the **Israeli military** began issuing **call-up notices** to **thousands of reservists** in preparation for an **expanded offensive** in Gaza. The **Israeli Security Cabinet** approved plans for this **expansion**.
- Over the weekend, the **Israeli Air Force** struck more than **100 terror targets** across the **Gaza Strip**. Targets included **terrorist cells**, **underground infrastructure**, and **military buildings** from which militants were operating.
- In the **northern Gaza Strip**, **IDF Division 252** continued its operations to locate and destroy both **above-ground and underground infrastructure**. During the operation, the forces discovered a **weapons stockpile** belonging to **Hamas** and **eliminated several militants** identified in the area.
- In the **southern Gaza Strip**, **IDF Division 36** engaged in combat in the **Rafah area** and along the **Morag Corridor**. The forces located and destroyed **weapons used by Hamas**, and in coordination with the **Air Force**, destroyed **terrorist infrastructure** from both the **air and ground**, killing additional militants.
- Simultaneously, **IDF's Gaza Division (143)** continued operations in the south, locating **weaponry**, destroying **dozens of terrorist infrastructure**, while eliminating **several militants**.
- The **"Iron Fist" combat team** is leading the assault in the **Tel al-Sultan camp**. So far, its fighters have located and destroyed dozens of **Hamas terrorist infrastructure** and **weapons caches**. During the operation, they discovered a weapons warehouse **80 meters** from a building used as a **school** and **100 meters** from a building used as a **hospital**. Inside the warehouse were **UNRWA sacks** filled with large quantities of **ammunition**.

Plan for Humanitarian Distribution

One of the leading obstacles in defeating Hamas was its control of humanitarian aid which gave it a huge lever over the civilian population in Gaza. Israel, with international allies, plans to change the humanitarian distribution mechanism which would remove this influence from Hamas.

The IDF announced plans to establish a **humanitarian zone** between the **Morag Corridor** and the **Philadelphi Corridor** once the area is cleared. A **massive tent city** will be erected there, and **civilian companies** will distribute food. **Gazans from al-Mawasi** and other areas of the strip will be allowed to enter following **security checks** at the **Morag crossings**, with the goal of **reducing population**

density in other parts of Gaza and thereby **disrupting Hamas' maneuvering space**. There is a possibility of **maneuvering operations** beginning for the first time in **al-Mawasi** or even **Deir al-Balah**.

According to the plan, **wholesale distribution and centralized warehousing** will be eliminated. Instead, **international organizations** and **private security contractors** will be responsible for **directly distributing aid packages**—boxes of food—to **individual Gazan families**. Each family will appoint a **designated representative** who will travel to an **IDF-controlled security zone in southern Gaza**, where aid will be distributed after it undergoes **multiple rounds of inspection**. Each food box will be sufficient for several days. Once depleted, the family representative will be permitted to return and collect another parcel.

This system is intended to **disrupt Hamas's control over aid**—particularly **food and water**, which the organization uses as **leverage over the population**. Although the **IDF will not be directly involved** in aid distribution, Israel believes this method will make it significantly harder for **Hamas to divert aid to its fighters**.

This change comes as part of Israel's broader strategy to pressure Hamas, which has included **cutting off aid deliveries** since **March 2**.

The **U.S.**, **Israel**, and representatives of a **new international foundation** are close to reaching an agreement on how to **resume the delivery of humanitarian aid** to Palestinians in Gaza **without Hamas control**, according to two Israeli officials and one U.S. source.



IDF troops operating in Gaza | Source: IDF Spokesperson

The proposed arrangement involves **donor countries funding** the foundation's operations, including **purchasing aid supplies**. A **private American company** would oversee **logistics and security** around **humanitarian aid compounds**. The **Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)** would **not be present** in these compounds or take part in the aid delivery itself, but would **secure the surrounding area**. Israeli officials aim to have this mechanism in place **before a further expansion** of the IDF's **ground operations** in Gaza, which are likely to proceed **later this month** if **hostage and ceasefire talks remain stalled**.

Diplomatic

- At the **JNS Conference** in **Jerusalem**, **Prime Minister Netanyahu** spoke about the two remaining theaters of war: **Gaza and Iran**. Regarding Gaza, he stated that the war will end only with the **release of the hostages** and the **defeat of Hamas**. He emphasized that **Israel will maintain operational freedom** in Gaza and that the **Palestinian Authority** will not govern the strip, saying, "We will not replace one **terrorist entity** with another." Concerning Iran, he declared that Israel would **destroy Iran's nuclear reactors** and would not accept any deal **less strict than the Libyan model**, which entails the **full dismantling** of Iran's nuclear program.
- Israel publicly called on **Qatar**, a key **mediator between Israel and Hamas**, to "**stop playing both sides**" and to **decide whether it stands with civilization or with Hamas**, according to a statement from the **Prime Minister's Office**.
- A **ship carrying humanitarian aid and activists** en route to Gaza was **bombed by drones** while sailing in **international waters off Malta** overnight between Thursday and Friday, according to the **Freedom Flotilla Coalition**, a **pro-Palestinian activist group**. **Saudi Al Arabiya**, citing a **Western security source**, reported that the convoy was **organized by Hamas**, and that those onboard **intended to engage with IDF forces** upon nearing the Gaza coast.



IDF troops in counter terrorism operations in Judea and Samaria | Source: IDF Spokesperson

Domestic Israel

Fires in the Jerusalem Mountains

On the evening of **Independence Day, April 30**, Israel experienced an exceptionally **hot and dry day**, with temperatures averaging **36°C (96.8°F)** between **Tel Aviv and Jerusalem**. **Haze, humidity, heatwave, and hot winds** affected the region. The **forested areas west of Jerusalem**, known for their dense groves and trees, have historically been prone to fires—whether by **natural causes** or **deliberate arson by Arabs**.

There were **five main fire zones**, with several **"secondary" fire points** in between. At least **120 firefighting teams** and **10 firefighting aircraft** were deployed but were **unsuccessful** in stopping the spread due to the **scale of the fires**.

By **midnight**, over **19,600 dunams** (approx. 4,800 acres) had been completely **burned**, and **22 people** were lightly injured from **smoke inhalation**. At least **14 settlements and areas**, including a **neighborhood in northern Beit Shemesh**, were issued **evacuation orders**.

Due to the need to **concentrate firefighting resources** on the blazes, there were insufficient crews available to cover **emergency events** during the **Independence Day celebrations**, leading to their **cancellation**.

Pro Hamas Incitement

Three arson suspects from **East Jerusalem** were arrested, and **18 social media posts** inciting arson were uncovered, including quotes like: "Oh God, increase and bless the fire. May God avenge our people in Gaza."

Hezbollah-affiliated channels mocked and celebrated the fires and **Hamas-affiliated channels** incited for more arson: "May the settlers' homes turn to ash beneath the feet of the revolutionary fighters," accompanied by the hashtag: **#Burn_the_settlers_homes**

These **pro-Hamas channels** escalated their **incitement**, calling the fires "**The Flame of Freedom**". Unlike earlier posts calling for **shooting, stabbing, car-ramming attacks, or arson**, this one included a **direct call for the kidnapping of Israelis**, taking advantage of the national emergency and the **distraction of security and fire forces** by the massive fires.

It is still **unclear** what caused these major fires—whether it was the **extreme heat, arson, carelessness by hikers**, or a **combination**. However, it is considered one of the **most severe wildfire events** in Israel's history.

Yemen

- According to **Arab media**, there were **36 American airstrikes** targeting **Houthi sites in Yemen**.
- On **May 4**, a **missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels** landed near **Ben Gurion Airport**, Israel's **main international airport**, causing a **plume of smoke** and widespread **panic among passengers** inside the terminal.
- Shortly afterward, the **Houthi military spokesperson** declared: "We succeeded in striking **Ben Gurion Airport** with a **hypersonic ballistic missile**. American and Israeli defense systems **failed**. Air traffic was **halted for one hour**. We warn airline companies: **Ben Gurion Airport is not safe**."



Air Force Commander, Tomer Bar, and Northern Command Commander, Uri Gordin during Israel's aerial operation in Syria | Source: IDF Spokesperson

Judea and Samaria

- **Palestinian Authority (PA) intelligence chief Majed Faraj** is expected to meet with **CIA counterparts in Washington**, marking the **first high-level security meeting** between the parties since **Donald Trump returned to the White House**.
- **Hussein al-Sheikh**, recently appointed **deputy to PA President Mahmoud Abbas**, is preparing for his **first diplomatic visit**—a trip to **Saudi Arabia next week**. Al-Sheikh's choice to prioritize Riyadh reflects a **strategic understanding** of the **key influence Saudi Arabia** holds in helping the PA **reestablish its international relevance**.
- A **Trump administration official** revealed that the **U.S. State Department** is planning to **shut down the office of the U.S. Security Coordinator**

(**USSC**) in **Jerusalem**, which plays a key role in **facilitating security cooperation** between **Israel and the Palestinian Authority**. This move is part of a **larger restructuring plan** being led by **Secretary of State Marco Rubio**.

Lebanon

Diplomatic

The **Lebanese Supreme Defence Council** issued a warning to **Hamas** not to **conduct operations from Lebanese territory** that could threaten **Lebanon's sovereignty or national security**.

Mohammad al-Mustafa, Secretary-General of the Supreme Defence Council, said the council would recommend several decisions to the **Lebanese cabinet**, including a direct **warning to Hamas** to avoid using **Lebanon as a staging ground** for activities that might **jeopardize national stability**.

Syria

Military Activity

A series of **sectarian clashes** erupted starting **April 28**, following the release of an **audio recording** of a **Druze sheikh cursing Muhammad**. Although the sheikh later **denied** the recording and claimed it was **fake news**, events **spiralized out of control**. It is unclear who released the clip, but it served as **justification** for **numerous Sunni factions** to begin a **campaign of slaughter**.

These clashes intensified across Syria. Islamists took to the streets to **"defend the prophet's name,"** with chants calling for **jihād**, alongside **anti-Jewish incitement** such as: "**Khaybar, Khaybar ya Yahud**" and displaying **Shahada flags** and **ISIS flags**. On **April 29**, jihadists in **Hama** also chanted: "**Khaybar, Khaybar ya Yahud**" and "**Khaybar, Khaybar ya Druze**," calling Druze "**pigs**."

This also presented an opportunity for **al-Julani** to target factions that **refused his authority** and **Syrian unity**. Specifically, the **Druze sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri** and his militia, the **"Military Council of Suwayda"** which were targeted in order to **expand al-Julani's control** over Syria.

From **April 28 to 30**, heavy **gunfire exchanges** occurred in **two southern Damascus neighborhoods**—**Jaramana** and **Sahnaya**—both of which have **mixed Druze-Christian populations**. Fighting took place between **armed Druze residents**,

reinforcements from other Druze areas, and **Sunni militants**, both those allegedly **unaffiliated with the regime** and those **directly tied to it**. By **Thursday, May 1**, at least **73 people** were reported **killed**, with other estimates exceeding **100 deaths**.

The **Lebanese Al-Mayadeen (a Hezbollah network)** channel reported that there were at least **five drone strikes** by **Israeli UAVs** targeting **Sunni militants**, killing at least **one**, with additional reports of **Israeli aircraft circling** but not attacking. **Five wounded Syrian Druze** were evacuated to Israel for **medical treatment**.

Following a **gathering of Druze dignitaries in Suwayda**, a **decision** was made by that faction to **allow al-Julani's security forces** into the **province**, including its **capital city**, and to **secure the Suwayda-Damascus Road**. They are reportedly willing to **recruit 2,000 Druze** to his army. However, the **senior Druze sheikh** was **absent**, and the **decision is not yet unanimously accepted**, pending developments in the coming days. This marks the **first time** such a move has occurred **since the fall of Bashar al-Assad** and the **rise to power of HTS**.

Druze representatives in the Jaramana area, a suburb of Damascus, reached an agreement with **Syrian regime officials** to **hand over heavy weapons** in their possession and to **reinforce regime security forces** in the area.



Situational assessment with representatives from Israel Homefront Command, Fire Department and the Police in the fire area| Source: IDF Spokesperson

Israel's Response

In **Israel**, the **Druze community** mobilized its leadership to meet with **Education Minister Yoav Kisch** and other senior officials to **press the**

government to assist and arm the Syrian Druze. Reports described a **Druze protest in Israel outside the Prime Minister's residence**, demanding **protection for Druze in Syria**. **Hundreds of Druze-Israelis** demonstrated, blocking **intersections and roads** in protest over **Israel's inaction**.

Netanyahu had previously stated that not only would **harm to the Druze community in southern Syria** not be tolerated, but also that **al-Julani's army** must **not move south** to Damascus, and that the three provinces of **Quneitra, Daraa, and Suwayda** must be **completely demilitarized**. All of this is now being put to the **test**.

In response to escalating **violence against the Druze minority in Syria**, **Israel conducted airstrikes** using **12 fighter jets** targeting **multiple components of weapons infrastructure** across **Syria**, including **anti-aircraft guns** and **surface-to-air missile launchers** on May 2nd near the official **residence compound of Syrian leader Al-Julani in Damascus**, according to a statement by the **Israel Defense Forces**.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with **Sheikh Muafak Tarif**, the **spiritual leader of the Druze community in Israel**. Tarif expressed gratitude for Netanyahu's **orders to protect Syrian Druze** this week. According to the Prime Minister's Office, Tarif said Israel's actions "**sent a deterrent message to the Syrian regime**" and reaffirmed Israel's **commitment to the Druze community in Syria**.



Cypriot helicopter brought to help Israel fight the fires around Jerusalem| Source: IDF Spokesperson

Diplomacy

- **Syrian Interior Minister Anas Khatib** met in **Damascus** with a joint **German-Austrian delegation** led by **German Interior Minister**

Nancy Faeser and **Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Karner**. They discussed **enhancing security cooperation** between the three nations.



Israel's Ben Gurion Airport after with debris from the missile launched by the Houthis| Source: Various social media posts

Iran

- **Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian** visited neighboring **Azerbaijan** and met with **President Ilham Aliyev**. During the visit, **Pezeshkian confirmed** that the **Nagorno-Karabakh region** is fully part of the **Republic of Azerbaijan**, and emphasized **Iran's support** for Azerbaijan's **territorial integrity**. The two presidents signed **seven memoranda of understanding** between Iran and Azerbaijan, covering areas such as **politics, transportation, culture, healthcare cooperation, media, and investment**.
- Nuclear Deal
- Negotiations are underway regarding **Iran's nuclear program**. Under the proposed terms, **Iran** would agree to:
- **Cap uranium enrichment at 3.67%**, in line with the **JCPOA**
- **Limit the size of its enriched uranium stockpile**
- **Use fewer advanced centrifuges**
- **Dilute, export, or seal uranium enriched to 60%**
- Accept **unprecedented oversight** by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

In return, **Iran would receive significant sanctions relief**, according to multiple sources.

However, **Prime Minister Netanyahu** is demanding a deal with **"zero enrichment"**, similar to the **Libya model**, which would require the **full dismantling** of Iran's **nuclear infrastructure**.

While **Iran insists its right to enrich uranium is non-negotiable**, its officials say discussions are open regarding the **amount of stockpiled material**, the **number of centrifuges**, and **possible export arrangements**.

The **United States** is also pressing for the inclusion of **Iran's ballistic missile program** in the talks, but **Tehran continues to reject** any discussion of that issue.

Ahead of the upcoming negotiation round, the **U.S. imposed sanctions** on entities accused of **illicit trading of Iranian petroleum and petrochemicals**.

Fallen Soldiers

- Captain Noam Ravid z"l
- Staff sergeant Yaly seror z"l
- Sergeant Niv Dayag z"l



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