



IDF troops operating in Gaza in the new operation, Gideon's Chariots. | Source: IDF Spokesperson

Overview

- After the Trump administration reached a **tentative understanding with the Houthis**, President Trump announced that the Houthis had pledged to stop attacking American vessels. As a result, the U.S. held off on further strikes. However, **Israeli officials were reportedly left out of the coordination**, despite the Houthis continuing attacks on Israel—including a **ballistic missile strike near Ben Gurion International Airport**.
- On **Tuesday, May 6**, IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir and Shin Bet Director Ronen Bar approved **operational plans** under the codename **"Gideon Chariots"**.
- Israel is currently offering Hamas a deal: release **26 hostages** in exchange for a **45-day ceasefire**. If Hamas declines, a full-scale operation will begin **prior to Trump's Middle East arrival**.
- New mechanism to distribute humanitarian aid in Gaza is being set up by Israel in collaboration with international partners which would prevent Hamas from stealing the aid.
- In an interview with Channel 14, Huckabee stated that unlike the previous administration, the **current**

U.S. government will not second-guess Israel's military decisions, effectively giving Israel a green light for its ongoing Gaza operations.

- In response to the missile that landed near Ben Gurion Airport, the **IDF launched strikes in Sana'a**. Newly released footage shows the attacks were executed within 15 minutes.
- Iranian Foreign Minister **Abbas Araghchi** asserted that Tehran will **never relinquish its nuclear rights** if the U.S. aims to permanently block its nuclear capabilities.
- Huckabee stated in a Kan interview that **Iran would not receive enriched uranium**, arguing it is unnecessary for peaceful energy purposes.
- When questioned on Channel 14 about apparent contradictions in the U.S. stance—between saying Iran won't get nuclear weapons and not deciding on uranium enrichment—he **urged Israelis to focus on Trump's stronger statements** against a nuclear Iran.

ISRAEL AT WAR

WEEK 83

2

Total Israeli casualties This Week

0

Total Civilians killed this week

2

Total IDF Casualties this week

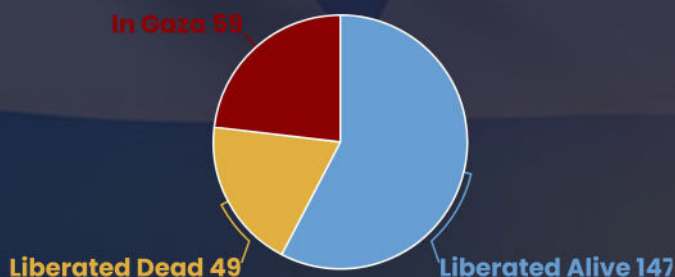
MAIN EVENTS

International airlines continue to suspend flights to Israel as Houthi missile attacks, effectively expanding the aerial blockade on the country.

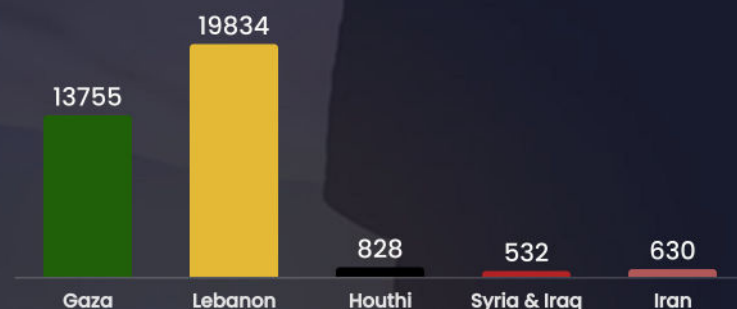
U.S. President reaches ceasefire agreement with the Houthis, effectively isolating Israel in its ongoing war against the Houthis.

Israeli forces (IDF, Shin Bet, and Yamam) eliminated Noor Bitawi, the head of Palestinian Islamic Jihad's terrorist network in Jenin.

HOSTAGES IN GAZA 59/255



ATTACKS ON ISRAEL & ALLIES 2/35,579



Judea & Samaria + Israel Front

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

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

Gaza Front

2/1,649
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

Yemen

- After the Trump administration reached a **tentative understanding with the Houthis**, President Trump announced that the Houthis had pledged to stop attacking American vessels. As a result, the U.S. held off on further strikes. However, **Israeli officials were reportedly left out of the coordination**, despite the Houthis continuing attacks on Israel—including a **ballistic missile strike near Ben Gurion International Airport**. The missile, which landed several hundred meters from the terminal, caused no casualties but disrupted international air traffic and harmed Israel's economy.
- **Oman's Foreign Minister**—also the key mediator in U.S.-Iran nuclear talks—announced that a ceasefire had been reached: the U.S. would halt airstrikes, and the Houthis would stop attacking maritime targets in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait. Operation "Tough Stallion," which began on March 15 and ended May 6, was declared successful by U.S. sources.
- Some reports suggested **Israel was blindsided by the U.S.**, with elements of the deal that were not fully communicated to Jerusalem. The **British Defense Secretary** also reportedly expressed dissatisfaction that the U.S. announcement had not been coordinated with the UK, which had conducted joint strikes with the U.S. against the Houthis.
- Despite the ceasefire, the Houthis still possess **dozens of ballistic missiles** and **hundreds of drones**. Recently, they launched **three drones** in a single day toward Israel—claiming one targeted "Occupied Jaffa" and two aimed at **Eilat**, intensifying economic pressure on the southern port city. The Houthis declared their continued commitment to fight Israel, with their leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi releasing a propaganda video emphasizing unwavering resistance and solidarity with the Palestinians.
- To reassure Israel, **U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee** told Kan News that Houthi attacks on Israel could be considered attacks on America, given the **over 700,000 Americans living in Israel**. Huckabee declined to specify what Prime Minister Netanyahu knew about the U.S.-Houthi agreement.
- In a separate interview with Channel 14, Huckabee emphasized that this was **not a peace agreement** but rather a temporary de-escalation based on the Houthis' own initiative. He stressed that the **administration views Houthi attacks on shipping and Israel as separate issues**, dealt with through different diplomatic channels. The underlying message was that **the U.S. is not abandoning Israel**, despite criticism from Israeli media.
- In response to the missile that landed near Ben Gurion Airport, the **IDF launched strikes in Sana'a**. Newly released footage shows the attacks were

executed within 15 minutes. Three power stations were hit (not just two, as initially reported), targeting **transformers, generators, and fuel reservoirs**. Strikes were also conducted on a **concrete factory in Al-Amran**, and at **Sana'a Airport**, damaging the terminal, runway, and a fuel facility.

President Trump's Planned Trip to the Middle East

Trump aims to use the Yemen ceasefire to create diplomatic momentum for a **nuclear deal with Iran**. On May 13, he will begin a Middle East tour—visiting **Saudi Arabia, Qatar**, and the **UAE**, while **skipping Israel**. The visit's objectives include finalizing or at least advancing:

- An arms deal with Saudi Arabia,
- The Iran nuclear agreement,
- A ceasefire in Gaza,
- Expansion of the Abraham Accords, and
- A broader vision of peace in the region.



Air Force Commander Tomer Bar in the Air Force war room during the IDF attack against the Houthis| Source: IDF Spokesperson

Gaza

Diplomatic

- In an interview with Channel 14, Huckabee stated that unlike the previous administration, the **current U.S. government will not second-guess Israel's military decisions**, effectively giving Israel a green light for its ongoing Gaza operations. He emphasized Israel's sovereignty and its right to make independent defense decisions.
- Pro-Hamas channels have launched a **coordinated media campaign** against President Trump's upcoming visit to the Middle East, calling for **mass protests outside U.S. embassies** in Arab states.
- According to *Al-Araby al-Jadeed*, the **U.S. has shifted its stance** on Israel's demand to **disarm Hamas**, choosing to delay that condition until after a ceasefire is achieved. A senior **Egyptian official**

noted that Washington now sees the demand to **expel all Hamas military operatives from Gaza** as unfeasible, given their numbers and the absence of willing third-party host nations. Instead, the U.S. is focused on securing a deal that would **release all 59 remaining hostages in a single exchange**, dismissing the likelihood of a successful outcome through further Israeli military pressure.

- On the **Qatar-Hamas hostage negotiations**, Huckabee claimed significant pressure was placed on Qatar to secure a deal and to **force Hamas to compromise**, suggesting Qatar never truly wanted to support Hamas.
- Regarding **Saudi-Israeli normalization**, Huckabee said the decision lies with Saudi Arabia and its internal public opinion considerations.



Hamas militias torturing a man stomping on his face, beating him, and shooting him under the accusation of "theft." | Source: Various X Posts

Operational

On **Tuesday, May 6**, Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir and Shin Bet Director Ronen Bar approved **operational plans** under the codename "**Gideon Chariots**. The stated objectives are to **return the Israeli hostages**, to **dismantle and defeat Hamas' rule**, to **relocate much of Gaza's population** into sterile, Hamas-free zones for civilian protection.

- Israel is currently offering Hamas a deal: release **26 hostages** in exchange for a **45-day ceasefire**. If Hamas declines, a full-scale operation will begin **prior to Trump's Middle East arrival**
- Between **Monday and Thursday (within 72 hours)**, the **IDF carried out 150 airstrikes** across Gaza.

Hamas command and control center in central Gaza was bombed. In **Deir al-Balah**, a commander involved in Hamas' rocket manufacturing unit was eliminated. Another Hamas operative, involved in the **October 7th kidnapping of Yaffa Adar**, was killed in a targeted strike.

Humanitarian Plan

- The IDF informed the **Israeli security cabinet** that **Gaza's food reserves are running low**, necessitating a new aid distribution strategy. Due to **Trump's support for humanitarian aid to Gaza**, and his concern for civilian well-being, Israel is expected to **ease the blockade** in coming days. **Trucks will resume food deliveries**, not as part of a southern evacuation plan, but for general civilian relief.
- As a result, **food prices in Gaza have dropped**, and **bakeries are expected to reopen** soon. However, **Hamas is replenishing its own food stockpiles**, while its elite internal police units are reportedly **executing suspected collaborators**, beating and shooting at those caught **stealing food**.
- Three **food distribution zones** will be established in the Rafah area, delivering **weekly 70 kg food rations per family**, directly to family heads.
- **American companies** will manage and register the distributions.
- A **temporary zone** will also operate in northern Gaza but will be shut down later.
- The plan is designed to **prevent Hamas from hijacking aid**, as there will be **no trucks to intercept**; any theft attempts will have to come from **within civilian zones**, increasing deterrence.
- **International Involvement**
- The **United Arab Emirates rejected** an Israeli request to finance a new aid initiative for Gaza. Israel, hoping Emirati support would attract broader international backing, has helped launch the **Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)** to oversee aid distribution while preventing **Hamas diversion**. However, a GHF memo revealed the plan will initially only serve **60% of Gaza's population**, prompting **UN and NGO pushback** for inadequately addressing the humanitarian crisis and allegedly "**weaponizing**" aid. Still, **Ambassador Mike Huckabee** stated that several unnamed countries had already pledged support, with more details expected soon. Meanwhile, the **IDF has begun constructing humanitarian hubs** in southern Gaza, funded by Israel, where **foreign governments and private U.S. security contractors** are expected to take over operations in future phases. **Special envoy Steve Witkoff** has also briefed the **UN Security Council** on this model, which is being promoted as a secure and Hamas-free channel for humanitarian relief.

Judea and Samaria

Operation "Iron Wall"

A summary of **Operation "Iron Wall"** was published, covering over 100 days of counterterror activity:

- Over **100 militants** were eliminated in **northern Samaria**.
- **320 suspects** were arrested.
- **450 weapons** were seized.
- **Hundreds of explosive devices** were destroyed.
- **Dozens of militant facilities and bomb labs** were demolished.
- Many of those eliminated were **local cell leaders**.
- The operation also aimed at **urban restructuring of refugee camps** to facilitate **IDF access** and reduce the risk of ambushes. This includes **systematic demolition** of buildings in **Nur al-Shams camp**, similar to operations in other camps.
- In **Reikhan**, a terrorist opened fire at Israeli forces, seriously injuring two soldiers. He fled but was later apprehended in **Nablus** by the **Gideonim unit**.
- In **Hebron Hills**, another attacker **attempted a ramming and stabbing**, but was neutralized by Israeli fire.



Hamas propaganda ahead of President Trump's visit to the Middle East| Source: Daffa media on telegram, <https://t.me/daffamedia>

Lebanon

Operational

The IDF carried out several strikes against Hezbollah forces:

- **The logistical commander of Hezbollah's Badr Unit** was killed.
- **Hamas' Western Brigade operations chief in Sidon** was eliminated.
- **IDF carried out at least 20 airstrikes** in the **Nabatieh area**, including a **Hezbollah site on Mount Beaufort**, containing weapons, fighters, and tunnel shafts used in their fire and defense systems. At least **2 militants were killed**. The IDF published a map indicating **19 targets**, all in proximity within **Nabatieh and north of the Litani River**.
- **Hamas' representative in Lebanon** stated that they support the **ceasefire** and **handed over 3 operatives** to the Lebanese authorities—an indication of **Hamas' weakening position in Lebanon**. Lebanon's **Supreme Military Council** announced it will dismantle **Palestinian terrorist factions** operating in the country.
- In a joint operation, the **IDF and Mossad recovered the remains of Sgt. First Class Zvi Feldman**, a soldier **missing since the 1982 Battle of Sultan Yacoub** during the **First Lebanon War**

Syria

Military Activity

- **Israeli Alpine Command units, paratroopers, and Yahalom (Combat Engineering) troops** raided a **former Assad military base** on what was once known as the "Syrian Hermon," now dubbed: "**Hermon Crown**." They discovered and destroyed: **Bunkers and weapons caches**, including cannons, rocket launchers, mortars, explosive devices, and mines.
- Fighters from **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)**—the jihadist coalition forming the core of **al-Julani's "Syrian Army"**—issued public threats toward Israel: "**Sons of Zion, your crimes will not go unpunished. People will not forget, and the truth will never die. No matter how long the night of injustice lasts, the dawn of resistance is inevitable.**"
- **HTS core fighters**, bolstered by **foreign jihadists** who **do not speak Arabic** and mimic **ISIS-style behavior and propaganda**. This hybrid formation operates under the **branding of the new "Syrian Army"**, merging radical messaging and militant infrastructure with a nationalist cover.

Druze in Southern Syria

- In southern Damascus, **Julani's fighters are confiscating weapons** (Kalashnikovs, machine guns, RPGs) from **Druze communities**, though the **Druze of Hauran** are resisting.
- **Jihadist forces under Abu Mohammad al-Julani** held a **military parade in Jabal al-Summaq**, a Druze-populated area in rural **Idlib**. The parade was clearly aimed at **intimidating the remaining Druze residents** and is interpreted as a **covert threat** against **Druze communities in Suwayda province**. Al-Julani appears to be using Druze populations in **Idlib, Jaramana, and Sahnaya** as **bargaining chips** to pressure Suwayda's Druze militias, with the goal of extending jihadist control into **southern Syria**.
- The IDF **evacuated 10 wounded Syrian Druze** for medical treatment in Israel and has positioned forces in **southern Syria** to protect Druze villages from further escalation.
- **Weapon Surrender Campaign**
- A **government-supervised arms collection center** was opened in **Sahnaya**, reportedly under the Syrian Interior Ministry, as part of what is officially framed as a **public safety and law enforcement initiative**.
- Syrian authorities have called on civilians to **voluntarily surrender unlicensed weapons**, claiming it serves **public order and security**.
- These efforts are part of a broader strategy to **pacify the Damascus area** and weaken **minority communities** like the Druze—under the **pretext of legal order**, but with the **real goal of disarmament and control**.



Syrian President Al-Julani on his first diplomatic trip to Bahrain | Source: General Command News Ahmed Al-Sharaa | Al-Julani on Telegram, https://t.me/syriaaa_2025

Diplomacy

- Syrian President **Julani visited France** for high-level talks with **President Emmanuel Macron**, focusing on strategic cooperation in **energy and aviation sectors**, the **removal of EU sanctions**, and the promotion of **foreign investment**.
- According to the *Wall Street Journal*, **al-Julani has also requested a meeting with Donald Trump** during the President's upcoming Middle East visit. His agenda includes lobbying for the **lifting of U.S. sanctions** and proposing a "**Marshall Plan**"-style **economic framework**, in which **American energy companies** would be allowed to operate in post-war Syria. At the same time, al-Julani issued a veiled warning by signaling a potential **pivot to China**, suggesting that Syria might adopt **Huawei infrastructure** over American telecom systems if the U.S. refuses to cooperate.
- **Qatar, with U.S. approval**, has committed to transferring **\$29 million monthly** to the Syrian government, specifically to fund **public sector salaries**, despite the ongoing international sanctions regime. This financial support underscores a new phase of **controlled economic engagement** with Damascus, driven by pragmatic concerns.
- *Reuters* reported that following **al-Julani's April 13 visit to Abu Dhabi**, the **United Arab Emirates has been mediating a quiet security coordination channel between Israel and Syria** aimed at **preventing escalation** across the southern front, especially amid regional instability.



The foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia, Abbas Araghchi and Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, respectively, met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on May 10, 2025 | Source: Irna news agency on telegram, https://t.me/Irna_en

Iran

- On May 4, Iran unveiled a new **medium-range ballistic missile** named *Qassem Basir* (range: 1,200 km). The missile incorporates lessons from previous confrontations with Israel. During the launch event, Iran issued **threats against U.S. military bases in the Middle East**, signaling a deterrent posture.
- **Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi** is set to visit **Saudi Arabia and Qatar** as part of a regional diplomatic tour aimed at **strengthening Iran's ties with its Sunni neighbors**.
- Iran Nuclear Issue
- Iranian Foreign Minister **Abbas Araghchi** asserted that Tehran will **never relinquish its nuclear rights** if the U.S. aims to permanently block its nuclear capabilities. Speaking in **Doha**, one day before the planned **U.S.-Iran talks in Oman**, he reaffirmed Iran's stance on uranium enrichment for civilian purposes. In contrast, **U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff** made clear that the **U.S. demands the dismantling of Iran's uranium enrichment infrastructure**, including the **removal of centrifuges**, and the **dilution and relocation of existing nuclear fuel**, before taking Iran's intentions seriously. The widening gap in positions underscores the difficulty of reaching an agreement.
- Huckabee stated in a Kan interview that **Iran would not receive enriched uranium**, arguing it is unnecessary for peaceful energy purposes.
- When questioned on Channel 14 about apparent contradictions in the U.S. stance—between saying Iran won't get nuclear weapons and not deciding on uranium enrichment—he **urged Israelis to focus on Trump's stronger statements** against a nuclear Iran.
- Despite reports of **policy rifts between Trump and Netanyahu**, Huckabee's media tour was intended to **reassure Israelis of the administration's firm commitment** to preventing a nuclear Iran.
- At a security conference in Munich, U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance said Iran could be reintegrated into the global economy under a deal that allows **nuclear capabilities for civilian use only**—mainly energy production—but not nuclear weapons. On the same day, Iranian President Pezeshkian discussed with Russian President Putin the **possibility of Russia storing Iran's enriched uranium** as part of the deal.

Wave of Explosions and Fires Raises Suspicions

A string of **fires, explosions, and suspected sabotage** incidents has struck Iranian industrial and military infrastructure:

- **April 26:** Massive explosion in the **Port of Bandar Abbas**.

- **April 29:** Explosion in a **gunpowder factory in Isfahan**, killing 2 and injuring several others.
- **May 3:** Fire at a **cardboard plant west of Tehran** spread to nearby factories. A **4.0-magnitude earthquake** occurred nearby, followed by a **fire at a local power station**.
- **May 4:** Chemical plant fire in **Qom** injured several, including 2 critically. In **Mashhad**, a fire engulfed a **motorcycle factory** that also produces **engines used in Shahed drones**, spreading across 3.9 km².
- **May 5:** Ammunition depot fire at a **Revolutionary Guards facility in Kazeroon**, and another fire at **Bandar Abbas oil depots**.
- **May 6:** Fire broke out in a **spare parts warehouse in central Tehran**.

While these incidents are officially described as **accidents**, the pattern and proximity of events—especially at military-related sites—suggest possible **covert sabotage operations**, potentially involving **booby traps**, akin to Hezbollah's past use of explosive decoys.



The foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia, Abbas Araghchi and Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, respectively, met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on May 10, 2025| Source: Irna news agency on telegram, https://t.me/Irna_en

International

- The *Wall Street Journal* reports that **ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan** began pursuing arrest warrants for **Prime Minister Netanyahu** and **former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant** just two and a half weeks after he was made aware of **sexual assault allegations** against him. The timing has raised suspicions that Khan may have initiated

the arrest process to shield himself from potential fallout. Notably, Khan **canceled a planned trip to Israel and Gaza** a day before making the announcement, which he had previously described as essential for forming a legal judgment. Sources told the paper that the warrants bolstered Khan's standing with **anti-Israel states** and may have deterred his accuser from going public.

- **U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth** had planned to arrive in Israel on **May 12**, one day before **Trump's regional tour** begins in **Saudi Arabia**, and then proceeds to **Qatar** and the **UAE**. This would have marked Hegseth's **first visit to Israel as the Secretary of Defense**, where he was scheduled to meet with **Prime Minister Netanyahu** and **Defense Minister Israel Katz**. In a parallel development, **Secretary of State Marco Rubio** formally **reintegrated the U.S. Office of Palestinian Affairs (OPA)** into the **U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem**, a move viewed as a **symbolic consolidation** of U.S. policy on Israel and the Palestinians.

Global Jihad

- On **May 7**, **Turkish security forces** issued **arrest warrants for 27 individuals** in Ankara and its surroundings on charges of **financial support for ISIS**.



HTS forces collecting weapons and ammunition from residents and local notables in the cities of Sahnaya and Ashrafiyah Sahnaya| Source: General Command News Ahmed Al-Sharaa | Al-Julani on Telegram, https://t.me/syriaaa_2025

Fallen Soldiers

- Sergeant major (res.) Dejen Daniel Sahalo z"l
- Staff sergeant Yam Frid z"l
- Sergeant Yishai Elyakim Urbach z"l



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