



IDF troops operating in Gaza in the "Gideon's Chariots" Operations| Source: IDF Spokesperson

Overview

- U.S. Middle East Envoy Steve Witkoff criticized Hamas for submitting what he termed "backward" revisions to Washington's hostage exchange framework. In its reply, Hamas stipulated that Israeli captives must be released throughout the proposed 60-day truce
- The Gaza Humanitarian Fund which was established to exclude Hamas from the humanitarian aid distribution process, has distributed 23,040 food boxes—equating to around two million meals, with each box intended to feed an average of 5.5 people for 3.5 days.
- Despite Hamas's calls not to cooperate with the new distribution mechanism, tens of thousands of Gazans tens of thousands of Gazans defied Hamas to access the aid.
- Bedouin leader Yasser Abu Shabab has formed a militia of 100–150 armed men tasked with securing food convoys, Red Crescent workers, and even assisting the IDF in the searches of Gaza buildings.
- Osama Hamdan, a senior Hamas political leader in Lebanon, declared on camera: "We expect our great people to thwart the method of receiving aid today, just as they thwarted it yesterday. We trust that our people will endure hunger and not extend their hands to the occupier asking for aid."
- Lebanese Prime Minister **Nawaf Salam** declared on **CNN** his willingness to **normalize relations with Israel**.

ISRAEL AT WAR WEEK 86

1

Total Israeli casualties This Week

1

Total Civilians killed this week

0

Total IDF Casualties this week

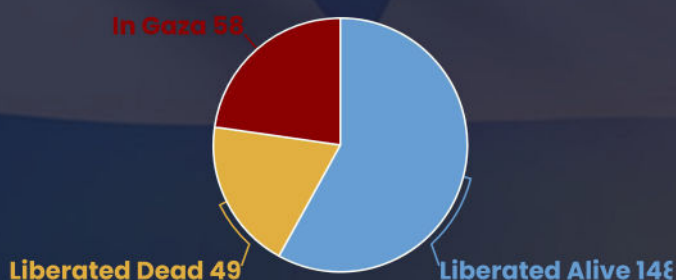
MAIN EVENTS

Hamas rejected the U.S.-proposed hostage deal with demands that Israeli captives be released only gradually over a 60-day truce

Despite Hamas opposition, Gazans accepted humanitarian aid from the new Gaza Humanitarian Fund, which has delivered over two million meals

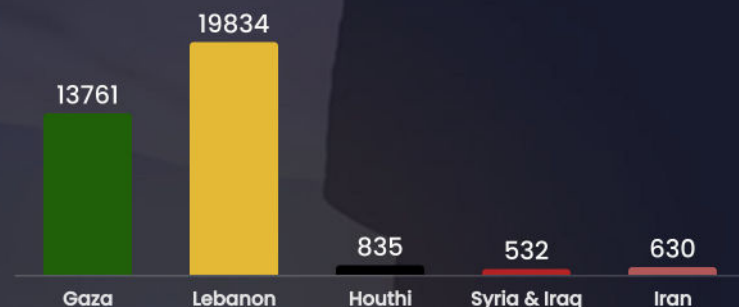
Hamas leaders publicly urged Gazans to reject aid, framing it as collaboration with Israel, while Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam expressed openness to normalizing ties with Israel.

HOSTAGES IN GAZA 58/255



ATTACKS ON ISRAEL & ALLIES 1/35,592

This Week Since Oct.7



Judea & Samaria + Israel Front

0 / 98
This Week Since Oct.7
0 Civilians and 0 security force fell.

10,575
Since Oct.7
Palestinian Terror Attacks since Oct.7
6,800 Palestinians Arrested

Gaza Front

1 / 1,652
This Week Since Oct.7
2 IDF soldiers fell in battle. 0 hostage were returned dead.

23,700
Since Oct.7
Hamas terrorists killed. Over 275 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.

+1,997
Since Oct.7
Attacks on Israel. +835 from Yemen, 532 from Iran, +630 from other

Hostage Deal

- Under the **Witkoff proposal**, a **60-day ceasefire** would begin with the release of **5 live hostages and 9 bodies** on Day 1, followed on Day 7 by another **5 live hostages and 9 bodies** (totaling 10 live, 18 bodies). By Day 10, Hamas would provide a **detailed medical report** on remaining captives. Israel would **withdraw** from **parts of the territory gained during the war**, while President Trump would proclaim the ceasefire under **U.S.-Egypt-Qatar guarantees**. In exchange, Israel would free **125 "world" prisoners** and **1,111 Gazan detainees** for the live hostages; and **180 Gazan bodies in exchange** for the bodies of the deceased captives.
- U.S. Middle East Envoy **Steve Witkoff** criticized Hamas for submitting what he termed **"backward" revisions** to Washington's hostage exchange framework. In its reply, Hamas stipulated that **Israeli captives** must be released **throughout** the proposed **60-day truce**—a condition meant to **prevent any resumption** of Israel's military campaign—and demanded explicit assurances that hostilities would not restart once those two months concluded. Unlike Witkoff's original plan, which did not require a **full IDF withdrawal from all of the strip** or establish a **permanent ceasefire**, Hamas appended its own conditions. Israeli officials acknowledged acceptance of the **updated Witkoff framework** for freeing hostages but noted that Hamas still **"clings to its refusal"** to meet core demands. According to local media (N12, Ynet), Hamas leaders quietly pushed for an **up to seven-year ceasefire**, effectively preserving their **control over Gaza** and allowing for **rearmament** during that period. Despite publicly claiming they have not rejected the U.S. proposal—as stated by senior official **Basem Nā'im** to Reuters—Hamas's additions ensure the group remains unwilling to comply with the deal's essential terms.
- Humanitarian Aid
- More than **250,000 Palestinians** were evacuated from Jabalya to designated shelter zones, but humanitarian conditions remain dire. Field reports describe Thursday night as one of the most intense since the campaign began, with bombardments and urban fighting intensifying civilian dislocation as Hamas militants cling to the dwindling civilian infrastructure, to use as human shields.
- UN aid chief **Tom Fletcher** publicly retracted his claim that **14,000 infants** faced imminent death within 48 hours—a statement later disproven by COGAT—yet he has not withdrawn the assertion that **10,000 aid trucks** were "cleared and ready" at the border. In reality, Israel has permitted only **900 aid trucks** into Gaza over the past week, of which **135 out of 238** dispatched from Kerem Shalom

were looted by civilians and unaffiliated armed groups.

- Despite **Hamas's calls** not to cooperate with the new distribution mechanism, **tens of thousands of Gazans** traveled south to Tel Sultan through the "right corridor," passing through five holding pens designed to regulate the flow of civilians before they reached the distribution area and exited via the left corridor. According to eyewitness testimony, the wait could last **an hour and a half**, after which each family received a package intended to sustain **five people for one week**, containing **flour, cooking oil, sugar, pasta, tahini, canned meat, various preserves** and a **sweet treat**. Over the course of Tuesday, **8,000 packages** were distributed—equivalent to **462,000 meals**. When crowds surged, Gazans breached the fences and stormed the distribution center; the American team retreated, and some aid workers' vehicles were looted. In response, U.S. personnel fired warning shots into the air, and an IAF helicopter discharged flares near looters to restore order—distribution resumed about an hour later. Simultaneously, in Nuseirat camp, mass looting of aid trucks took place.
- The **Gaza Humanitarian Fund** which was established to exclude Hamas from the humanitarian aid distribution process, has distributed **23,040 food boxes**—equating to around **two million meals**, with each box intended to feed an average of 5.5 people for 3.5 days—yet only about **40 trucks'** worth of supplies arrived. Some beneficiaries publicly **thanked Trump and Netanyahu** on camera, symbolically shattering Hamas's "barrier of fear." Under immense pressure from losing its monopoly on food aid, Hamas offered a compromise: in a Wednesday statement it **accepted the Witkoff framework** and pledged to release **10 hostages (five alive, five deceased)** as a gesture to open negotiations for ending the war. On that day, **121 trucks** entered the Strip. Meanwhile, Gazans openly **cursed Hamas**, stormed World Food Programme warehouses (actually controlled by Hamas), and looted the giant **Marzi camp flour depot**—even though Hamas gunmen fired on them, killing **five civilians**.



IDF troops operating in Judea and Samaria in a counter terrorism operation. | Source: IDF Spokesperson

Osama Hamdan, a senior Hamas political leader in Lebanon, declared on camera: *"We expect our great people to thwart the method of receiving aid today, just as they thwarted it yesterday. We trust that our people will endure hunger and not extend their hands to the occupier asking for aid."*

In a further sign of shifting power dynamics, reports emerged that a Bedouin leader **Yasser Abu Shabab** has formed a militia of **100–150 armed men** tasked with securing food convoys, Red Crescent workers, and even assisting the IDF in the searches of Gaza buildings. They are serving as the de facto security for incoming aid trucks. Abu Shabab, once imprisoned by Hamas on drug- and theft-related charges, has recruited primarily ex-officers of Palestinian security forces, directly challenging Hamas's authority. Hamas, for its part, accuses him of **looting aid trucks** and colluding with Israel. According to Reuters, Hamas is **unable to operate** in those sectors of Rafah under Abu Shabab's influence. If reports are accurate, this emerging force could serve as the foundation for replacing Hamas's rule with **another local rule** once hostilities cease.

Operational

- The IDF estimates that **Operation Gideon's Chariots** will continue for another two months, during which it currently controls **40%** of the Strip and aims to seize and "clear" an additional **35%**, thereby confining the remaining civilian population to just **25%** of the territory. Most residents have fled Khan Younis for the **Mawasi** area, where roughly **750,000 Palestinians** now live; only a few hundred militants remain in Khan Younis itself. Despite dwindling resources, Hamas still possesses **thousands of rockets and mortar shells and remains a threat to Israeli security**.

Diplomatic

- **Saudi Arabia** has been quietly crafting a proposal—developed with French assistance—to **disarm Hamas terrorists**, opening the door to their demobilization; Saudi envoys have reportedly engaged in direct talks with Hamas leadership to advance this initiative.

Domestic Israel

- Defense Minister **Israel Katz** and Finance Minister **Bezalel Smotrich** announced a **plan** to establish **22 new Israeli residential communities** throughout Judea and Samaria (West Bank), including the Jordan Valley, aimed at reinforcing Israel's **strategic grip** on the region.
- Concurrently, after extensive testing, the **"Iron Beam" laser defense system** has been declared **operational** under Israel's **Maf'at** and Ministry of Defense. Integrated into the IAF and Rafael's multi-

layered air defense network, it follows **dozens of successful UAV interceptions**, many of which targeted **Hezbollah** drones.



ISIS announced responsibility for its first attack targeting Syria's new government forces. ISIS said it planted an improvised explosive device under a "vehicle of the apostate regime" in the al-Safa desert of Sweida province. | Source: Suwayda news on telegram, <https://t.me/swiedamarketing>

Judea and Samaria

- Over the past week, Israeli security forces conducted raids on **foreign exchange shops** across several Palestinian cities, including Ramallah and Nablus, alleging that their parent company maintained **"terrorist affiliations."**
- IDF arrested **80 wanted suspects**, seized an array of weapons, and confiscated **7 million ₪ shekel in cash** linked to terrorist financing in the Judea and Samaria, which led to the ramping up of IDF deployments ahead of the upcoming Shavuot holiday.
- In a tragic incident, 15-day-old **baby Ravid Haim Gez**—whose mother was fatally shot by a Palestinian militant en route to deliver him—succumbed to his injuries shortly after birth.
- Israel **blocked** a planned Arab foreign ministers' meeting in **Ramallah**—which would have included dignitaries from Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE—labeling it a **provocative maneuver** given the PA's continued refusal to condemn the October 7 massacre.

Lebanon

Diplomatic

- Lebanese Prime Minister **Nawaf Salam** declared on **CNN** his willingness to **normalize relations with Israel**. Concurrently, a Wall Street Journal report on May 28 revealed that **80% of Hezbollah's weapon stockpiles** south of the Litani River have been confiscated through **joint IDF–Lebanese Army operations**, signaling unprecedented cooperation between the two adversaries in curbing Hezbollah's military infrastructure.
- Senior Hezbollah figure **Wafiq Safa**, once close to Nasrallah and now head of the group's liaison and coordination unit, met with **UN Special Coordinator Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert**. They discussed **UNSC Resolution 1701**, recent developments in southern Lebanon, and **"the need to maintain regional stability."** Safa—implicated in Rafik Hariri's assassination, drug trafficking, and money laundering—survived an IDF assassination attempt in October 2024 and exemplifies Hezbollah's nexus of terror and narcotics.

Operational

- An Israeli airstrike in southern Lebanon **killed a commander** of the Radwan Force, prompting Lebanese politicians to call for **Hezbollah's disarmament**. Of the **16,000 buildings destroyed** in border villages, only **50** show signs of reconstruction; most remain leveled and desolate. By contrast, **60–70 percent** of Galilee residents have returned home, with many more expected before the new school year.



Wafiq Safa, head of Hezbollah's Liaison and Coordination Unit and a long-time associate of Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, met on May 30, 2025, with UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert. | Source: Shehab Rasda News, <https://t.me/mehwaralmokawma>

Syria

Military Activity

- In a strategic move to neutralize threats to regional shipping routes, the IDF conducted an **airstrike on ammunition depots** near **Latakia's coast**, destroying **anti-ship missiles** and **surface-to-air missile components** that endangered Israeli navigation.
- According to *Asharq al-Awsat*, **security cooperation** between Syria and Jordan is deemed essential amid fears that **ISIS** cells could regroup in Syria's deserts to launch attacks on neighboring countries like Jordan. Jordanian sources warn of **"serious concerns"** over renewed terror activity and infiltration of local communities, noting that some ISIS or sympathizing elements are hostile to Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham's leadership and fear Syria's collapse. ISIS has, for the first time, claimed responsibility for a **suicide car bombing** in As-Suwayda governorate that killed and wounded seven regime personnel.

Diplomacy

- The U.S. and EU are in advanced stages of **lifting sanctions** on Syria, though the EU will retain measures against individuals implicated in **ethnic persecution, human rights abuses, human trafficking**, weapons trade, or previous Assad-regime officials. Despite these sanctions relief moves, **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham** leader **al-Julani** continues to appoint his associates—accused of similar crimes—to key positions, including in the military.
- The **U.S. embassy in Damascus** has reopened.
- Reuters reports that, under **UAE mediation**, Israel and Syria are holding **direct security talks** in Quneitra to prevent escalation.
- Meanwhile, on the Druze side of the Golan Heights, the IDF's new **medical facility in Khader** has treated **500 Druze patients**, bolstering Israel's **strategic ties** with local communities.
- Saudi Foreign Minister **Prince Faisal bin Farhān** arrived in **Damascus** accompanied by a senior economic delegation, including officials from the Saudi Ministry of Finance and the Foreign Ministry's economic and development offices. During his visit, he is slated to meet Syrian President **Al-Julānī** and Foreign Minister **As'ad al-Shibānī**, underlining a **revival of economic ties** and signaling Riyadh's broader **regional outreach** despite lingering political tensions.
- The commander of Syria's Kurdish-led forces, **Mazloun Abdi**, announced that his group, the **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)**, is in **direct contact** with Turkey and is open to **improving ties**, even considering a meeting with President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**.

- Meanwhile, the U.S. Special Envoy for Syria held discussions with **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham's** leader **al-Julani** at the presidential palace in **Damascus**, urging the signing of a **non-aggression pact** with Israel.
- On the economic front, al-Julani's administration has already embarked on a reconstruction initiative, signing a **\$7 billion memorandum of understanding** with energy firms from Turkey, Qatar, and the UAE to rebuild Syria's power infrastructure—projects projected to employ up to **300,000 Syrians**.



Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud arrived in Damascus with a senior economic delegation from the Saudi Ministry of Finance and Foreign Ministry's economic and development departments to meet Syrian President Al-Julani and Foreign Minister Faysal al-Shibani to discuss ways to collaborate on supporting Syria's economic recovery and strengthening the development of Syrian governmental institutions.
| Source: al-sharq news on telegram, <https://t.me/AsharqNewsSYR>

Yemen

- The IAF struck the **Sana'a port**, reopened just ten days earlier, as the Houthis acknowledged at least **24 UAV and missile launches** toward Israel in May. In "**Operation Golden Ornament**," launch sites were disabled and Yemenia's **fourth and final** aircraft was destroyed upon landing from Jordan. U.S. Special Envoy for Yemen, via Oman, is attempting to **renew negotiations** for the release of **UN personnel** and a return to peace talks with Saudi Arabia, though **attacks on Israel** remain unaddressed.
- The **Institute for the Study of War** reports that the Houthis are enhancing UAV capabilities: the **Shahed-238** (jet-powered) can reach **600 km/h**, hitting Eilat in two hours and the central Red Sea in 48 minutes, versus the slower **Shahed-136** at 185 km/h (nine hours to Eilat, 1 h 20 m to the Red Sea), making it **harder to detect and intercept** as speed increases.

Iran

Nuclear Deal Talks

- The U.S. and Iran are negotiating an **interim agreement** under which Iran would **freeze uranium enrichment** for one year, **export** its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, and permit **U.S. inspectors** at its nuclear sites, in return for lifting the **threat of Israeli strikes** and unfreezing **billions in assets** overseas. President Trump has publicly endorsed the deal and warned Prime Minister Netanyahu not to **sabotage** the talks. According to Axios, on **May 22**, Trump **phoned Netanyahu**, threatening repercussions if he undermined the process; on **May 26**, Israel's Strategic Affairs Minister and Mossad Chief traveled to Washington to meet with the **Vice President, CIA Director, and Witkoff** to discuss Iran.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency report disclosed alarming figures: in recent months, Iran has ramped up its **60% enriched uranium stockpile** by an additional **133.8 kg**, bringing the total to over **400 kg**—sufficient material for approximately **ten nuclear weapons**. In parallel, its stock of **20% enriched uranium** has reached **274.5 kg**, illustrating Tehran's accelerating **nuclear enrichment program**.

International

- At the UN Security Council, the United States took a firm stance in support of Israel by **rejecting unilateral recognition** of Palestinian statehood—explicitly rebuffing France's push for such a move.
- French Foreign Minister **Jean-Noël Barrot** reiterated Paris's call to implement a **two-state solution** and announced that France, in partnership with Saudi Arabia, will **co-host a UN conference in June** to further the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Meanwhile, French President **Emmanuel Macron** signaled in April that Paris could officially **recognize Palestine** in June unless Israel significantly ameliorates Gaza's humanitarian crisis.
- United Kingdom is weighing **sanctions against specific Israeli ministers**—namely, National Security Minister **Itamar Ben-Gvir** and Finance Minister **Bezael Smotrich**—in a move reported by The New York Times.
- On May 26, Spanish Foreign Minister **José Manuel Albares** urged the international community to consider **sanctions** against Israel to compel an **end to the Gaza war**. Malta announced plans to **recognize the State of Palestine** next month, with Prime Minister **Robert Abela** affirming his country's intention to make the declaration at a **France–Saudi–hosted** New York conference. On May 30 in Singapore, French President **Emmanuel Macron** labeled Palestinian statehood recognition a "**moral imperative**" and warned that Europe

would **harden its stance** toward Israel unless Gaza's humanitarian situation improves.

- Foreign Minister **Abbas Araghchi** declared that **"Saudi Arabia holds an important place in our regional neighborhood policy."** Emphasizing Iran's commitment to **Iran–Saudi rapprochement**, he vowed to **"continue our fraternal relations without allowing any disruption."** Despite this diplomatic olive branch, Iran remains locked in a struggle for **regional hegemony**, seeking to **undermine the Abraham Accords**, isolate Israel, and leverage Gulf states' fear of a **nuclear-armed Iran** to forge dependencies through diplomatic ties—all while advancing its own **nuclear weapons ambitions**.

Global Jihad

- On May 29, *al-Nabā'*, the weekly magazine of ISIS, issued a call to carry out **jihad** and **suicide attacks** against "infidels" during the first ten days of **Dhu al-Hijjah**, the Hajj pilgrimage month. The editorial specifically urged "lone wolf" assailants to strike, emphasizing the use of **individual initiative** rather than organized cells.



A video circulated on social media shows Gazan residents cheering and chanting "Trump, Trump, Netanyahu" while blowing kisses, expressing gratitude after receiving millions of humanitarian meals | Source: @mog_Russ on X



Ali Akbar Velayati—senior adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on international affairs—met in Tehran with Khaled Qaddoumi, Hamas's representative in Iran, and Nasser Abu Sharif, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's representative. | Source: Hams west bank on telegram, <https://t.me/hamaswestbank1>

Israel Defense and Security Forum Transparency Register Number:
750395594910-66

This report was produced by Atar Porat and Eran Lahav under the supervision
of Or Yissachar and Elie Pieprz

<https://idsf.org.il/en/team-members/atar-porat/>
<https://idsf.org.il/en/team-members/eran-lahav-en/>