

CLAWS Newsletter



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by Suyash Dwivedi

Domestic Developments

29 August ([FMEP](#)): Settlers attack elderly Palestinian woman and NBC news crew in West Bank village.

Israeli settlers violently attacked an elderly Palestinian woman and a visiting NBC News crew in the village of Jalud, near Nablus, as the crew filmed an interview about the impact of settler violence and land confiscation on the community. The incident, documented by the Foundation for Middle East Peace, formed part of a broader pattern of settler assaults across the northern West Bank during the final week of August. Human rights monitors reported that similar attacks were recorded almost daily in the area, often occurring under the protection or passive presence of Israeli security forces. Palestinian residents said the assaults were intended to intimidate families into abandoning land near expanding settlement outposts. The episode drew condemnation from press freedom groups, who noted that journalists documenting settler violence have increasingly become targets themselves, complicating independent coverage of the escalating situation in rural Palestinian communities.

2 September ([RFE/RL](#) via [GlobalSecurity.org](#)): Iranian rial hits record low against the dollar and euro.

The Iranian rial fell to fresh record lows on 2 September, with the euro exceeding 2.55 million rials for the first time and the US dollar quoted above 2.2 million rials on free-market tracking sites. The slide reflected mounting pressure from the reimposed US naval blockade of Iranian ports and the Treasury Department's expanding sanctions campaign, dubbed Operation Economic Outcast, targeting Iran's oil exports, aviation sector and financial channels. Analysts said the currency's collapse has accelerated since the outbreak of the war with the United States and Israel in February, compounding years of inflation and eroding household purchasing power. The devaluation has fuelled recurring protests among traders, retirees and public-sector workers, with many blaming government mismanagement as much as external sanctions for the crisis. Iranian officials have publicly maintained that the economy remains resilient despite the mounting pressure.

4 September ([FMEP](#)): Israel inaugurates three new West Bank settlements as Smotrich touts 'settlement revolution'.

Israeli authorities formally inaugurated three new settlements in the occupied West Bank, including Ma'ale Arugot near Bethlehem, in a ceremony attended by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich. Smotrich described the openings as part of his declared 'settlement revolution', a plan he has said aims to bring one million settlers into the West Bank. According to figures cited by monitoring groups, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has established 84 new settlements and roughly 150 outposts since taking office in 2022. Rights organisations, including Amnesty International, said fresh land-confiscation orders accompanying the announcement extended into nominally Palestinian-administered Area A for the first time, calling it a brazen expansion of Israel's annexation agenda. The Palestinian Authority condemned the move as a further obstacle to any future Palestinian state, while Israeli officials framed the expansion as a matter of national security and historic right.

8 September ([The Times of Israel](#)): Ultra-Orthodox party names Dr. Nechumi Yaffe as the first woman candidate for Knesset slate.

An ultra-Orthodox political party placed a woman, Dr Nechumi Yaffe, on its Knesset candidate slate for the first time in Israeli history, ahead of the 27 October legislative election. Yaffe, an academic who served as special adviser for Haredi affairs on the National Security Council and coordinated emergency assistance for families after the 7 October 2023 attacks, was added in a symbolic break from the strictly male-only lists traditionally fielded by Haredi parties. The move came as Israel's fragmented political landscape headed into a tightly contested campaign dominated by the war with Iran, the future of Gaza, and a long-running dispute over military conscription exemptions for religious seminary students. Analysts said the nomination was unlikely to signal a broader shift in Haredi politics but reflected growing internal pressure for representation as ultra-Orthodox voters face rising public criticism over draft exemptions.

8 September ([US Department of State](#)): US sanctions campaign grounds Iran's aviation sector.

The US State Department announced a fresh round of measures under its Operation Economic Outcast campaign, targeting Iran's aviation sector by restricting landing rights, refuelling services and ticket sales for Iranian carriers. The action followed weeks of escalating sanctions on Iran's military procurement networks, petroleum traders and financial institutions, part of

what Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent described as an effort to sever 'every economic lifeline' sustaining the Iranian government. The sanctions came against the backdrop of the continuing naval blockade on Iranian ports, which US officials said had prevented Iran from exporting oil for months while American forces escorted over a thousand vessels and hundreds of millions of barrels of crude through the Gulf. Iranian officials denounced the measures as economic warfare, while independent analysts said the aviation restrictions would deepen an already severe contraction in Iran's economy and further isolate the country internationally.

14 September ([Al Jazeera](#)): Ammonia gas leak at Aqaba industrial facility injures 14 in Jordan.

An ammonia gas leak at an industrial facility in the Jordanian port city of Aqaba left 14 people injured, according to civil defence authorities. Emergency teams cordoned off the affected area and evacuated nearby workers as crews worked to contain the leak and assess the extent of the damage. The incident came amid a difficult month for Jordan, which had also absorbed damage to military aircraft at the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base from an Iranian strike days earlier, part of the wider regional fallout from the ongoing Iran war. Aqaba, Jordan's only coastal city and a critical hub for the country's trade and energy imports, has faced repeated security and logistical strain since the conflict began in February. Jordanian officials said an investigation into the cause of the ammonia leak was underway, while stressing that the port's broader operations were not disrupted by the incident.

14 September ([US Department of State](#)): US sanctions VTB Bank over alleged role in Iran sanctions evasion.

The US Treasury Department announced sanctions against Russia's VTB Bank, accusing it of facilitating Iranian sanctions evasion as part of Washington's broader campaign to isolate Tehran financially. The move, part of a steady drumbeat of Treasury actions through September, reflected US efforts to close off remaining channels through which Iran has sought to move funds and trade oil despite the ongoing naval blockade. Officials said the sanctions targeted networks connecting Iranian entities to international banking systems, aiming to further squeeze the government's ability to finance its military and proxy networks across the region. Iranian officials dismissed the sanctions as ineffective and accused Washington of economic warfare, while independent economists noted that the rial's continuing depreciation and rising

inflation suggested the cumulative pressure of the sanctions regime was contributing meaningfully to Iran's deepening economic contraction.

16 September ([Naharnet](#)): Hezbollah MPs clash with rivals in Lebanese parliament over Israel policy.

Hezbollah lawmakers clashed verbally with rival MPs inside the Lebanese parliament over the government's approach to Israel and the ongoing disarmament debate, reflecting the deepening political rift over how Lebanon should respond to continued Israeli strikes and pressure to disarm the group. The confrontation came as President Joseph Aoun pressed ahead with plans to place all weapons under state authority, including Hezbollah's arsenal, while insisting the process be pursued without triggering internal conflict. Hezbollah's political bloc has resisted disarmament calls, arguing that Israel's continued occupation of parts of southern Lebanon and near-daily strikes undermine any obligation to disarm unilaterally. The parliamentary tension underscored the fragility of Lebanon's fragile political consensus as the country sought international backing for its army's deployment plans and negotiated for a replacement international force ahead of UNIFIL's mandate expiration at the end of the year.

20 September ([NCRI](#)): Iranian retirees protest in six cities as rial slides further.

Social Security retirees staged protests across at least six Iranian cities, including Rasht, Isfahan, Kermanshah, Tabriz, Sanandaj and Bijar, chanting slogans including 'our wages are in rials, our expenses are in dollars' and demanding the release of imprisoned workers and teachers. The demonstrations coincided with a fresh slide in the currency, which traded around 232,000 tomans to the dollar on domestic tracking platforms, up more than 20 percent in a single month and over 119 percent year-on-year. Some protesters also voiced opposition to executions, signalling that economic grievances were increasingly intersecting with broader political demands. Iranian lawmakers were reported to be advancing legislation expanding state security controls in response to the unrest, while some parliamentarians pursued a motion questioning President Masoud Pezeshkian's competence over the deteriorating economic, political and cultural conditions.

20 September ([Al Jazeera](#)): Gaza schools reopen for 540,000 students after three-year gap.

Gaza's students returned to in-person schooling for the first time in three years, with roughly 540,000 pupils expected back in classrooms, many of them housed in tents and partially damaged buildings due to the scale of destruction across the territory. The reopening marked a symbolic milestone nearly a year after the October 2025 ceasefire, even as families continued to struggle to afford basic school supplies amid a fragile economic recovery. Aid officials said the resumption of education was a critical but insufficient step, noting that reconstruction of Gaza's shattered infrastructure remained far behind the pace needed to restore normal life. UNRWA and other agencies continued to warn that humanitarian access, including aid-truck volumes, remained well below the levels stipulated under the ceasefire terms, even as some indicators, including famine conditions, had eased since the deal took effect.

21 September ([NCRI](#)): Iranian protests spread as authorities expand Basij mobilisation.

Iran's economic crisis continued spilling into the streets, with retirees demonstrating in multiple cities for a second consecutive day while the rial remained near historic lows. State-aligned media issued increasingly explicit warnings about pressure on Iran's remaining trade and financial channels, and authorities expanded a nationwide Basij paramilitary mobilisation beyond Tehran into the provinces. Officials attributed the mobilisation partly to a recent hacking incident affecting the country's fuel-distribution system, with state broadcasting chief Peyman Jebelli describing his organisation's role as shifting from passive observer to active 'event-maker' in shaping public narratives. Independent estimates cited by opposition-aligned monitors suggested the Iranian economy was contracting at a rate approaching ten percent, compounding soaring living costs, fuel shortages and disruptions across industrial supply chains as the country entered the final days of September under mounting internal and external pressure.

23 September ([The National](#)): Syria's al-Sharaa says he may run in future presidential election.

Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly that he had not ruled out standing in a future presidential election, adding he would run if he judged it necessary to complete his reform agenda. Speaking in New York, al-Sharaa criticised Israel's

continued strikes and incursions into Syrian territory, questioning whether targeting airports and the presidential palace had made Israeli citizens any safer. Under Syria's transitional constitutional declaration, al-Sharaa holds a five-year mandate to legislate and draft a new constitution ahead of elections expected roughly three and a half years from now, with UN officials having begun preliminary discussions with Damascus on electoral assistance. Al-Sharaa's remarks came as Syria sought to project a narrative of national recovery and diplomatic normalisation, even as it continued to contest Israel's expanded military presence in the country's south.

External Affairs

27 August ([The Peninsula](#)): Qatari Prime Minister meets Iranian President in Doha.

Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, held talks with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Doha, continuing Qatar's role as an active regional mediator amid the ongoing Iran war and its spillover across the Gulf. The meeting came weeks after Israel suspended weapons exports to Qatar and after reported friction between Doha and Israeli officials over Qatar's continued diplomatic engagement with Tehran. Qatari officials have consistently urged de-escalation and a return to negotiations between Washington and Tehran, while also facing renewed scrutiny over its historical role hosting Hamas political leaders. The talks reflected Doha's efforts to preserve its position as an indispensable regional interlocutor even as it navigated an increasingly strained relationship with Israel and continued pressure from Washington over its ties with Iran.

1 September ([Al Jazeera](#)): US strikes Iran again; Tehran retaliates on Bahrain, Jordan and Iraq.

The United States launched a fresh wave of strikes on southern Iran, prompting retaliatory Iranian strikes on US-linked targets in Bahrain, Jordan and Iraq in the heaviest exchange of fire between Washington and Tehran in more than a month. Kuwait's air defences also confronted incoming Iranian drones and missiles. US Central Command said the strikes killed 11 people, including five at a wedding party, drawing criticism over civilian casualties even as officials defended the operation as necessary to maintain pressure over the unresolved standoff surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. The exchange underscored the fragility of the intermittent ceasefire efforts that have punctuated the roughly six-month-old conflict, with Gulf states

repeatedly caught between US military operations against Iran and Iranian retaliation against American assets stationed on their territory.

1 September ([The Jerusalem Post](#)): Shin Bet captures Hamas's Gaza internal security chief in daytime raid.

Israeli Shin Bet agents, working alongside local Palestinian anti-Hamas militias, captured Hamas's internal security chief in Gaza in a daring daytime operation, according to Israeli officials. The raid formed part of a continuing Israeli campaign of targeted captures and strikes against remaining Hamas military and security infrastructure across the enclave, even as the broader ceasefire agreed in October 2025 continued to hold in name. US envoy Jared Kushner acknowledged that Hamas retained an extensive militarised presence in Gaza despite the ceasefire, while affirming continued US-Israeli agreement on desired outcomes for the territory's future governance. The operation came amid a series of similar Israeli actions through early September targeting Hamas figures linked to the 7 October 2023 attacks, part of what Israeli officials described as an ongoing effort to dismantle remaining militant networks within the framework of the ceasefire.

8 September ([Al Jazeera](#)): Houthis strike southern Saudi cities, wounding 73.

Yemen's Houthi movement launched missile and drone attacks on civilian, economic and military facilities in Abha, Jizan, Najran and Khamis Mushait in southern Saudi Arabia, wounding 73 people, including women and children, and igniting fires at oil facilities and utility infrastructure. The attacks marked a significant escalation in the Houthi campaign against the kingdom, which the group said was in response to Saudi military support for anti-Houthi forces in Yemen and its backing of Israel and the United States. Saudi authorities condemned the strikes as a flagrant violation of the kingdom's sovereignty and vowed to respond with all necessary measures to protect its citizens and infrastructure. The attacks came just days before the Houthis' broader offensive along the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which further compounded Saudi Arabia's security and energy-export challenges.

8 September ([The Jerusalem Post](#)): Washington conference finds Gaza reconstruction plans 'not progressing'.

Officials involved in shaping Gaza's future appeared together at the MEAD conference in Washington, where figures presented showed 1.2 million Palestinians had been displaced from

their homes and 370,000 homes damaged or destroyed, including 70,000 partially so. Participants said rebuilding Gaza would need to extend beyond physical reconstruction to include educational efforts addressing radicalisation among the population. While Hamas, the United States, Turkey, Egypt and Qatar have reportedly agreed on a framework to rebuild Gaza that includes disarming Hamas, officials acknowledged the initiative remained stalled amid mutual distrust among the parties. The Board of Peace's plan, which includes deploying 10,000 vetted Palestinian police officers to Gaza, was similarly described as 'not progressing.' Participants called on other countries to increase support for reconstruction efforts and to adjust rhetoric they said was hampering progress.

8 September ([The Siasat Daily](#)): Qatar rejects Netanyahu's characterisation of it as a 'hostile state'.

Qatar issued a formal response after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the Gulf state as hostile, rejecting the characterisation amid continuing friction between Doha and Jerusalem over Qatar's mediating role with Hamas and its broader engagement with Iran. The exchange followed Israel's earlier decision to halt weapons exports and related maintenance support to Qatar, a move Israeli officials justified by citing Doha's hosting of Hamas leaders and alleged efforts to influence Israeli public opinion. Qatari officials maintained that their mediation efforts, including on Gaza ceasefire implementation and broader regional de-escalation, served collective interests rather than any one party. The dispute added to a wider pattern of strained ties between Qatar and Israel since the September 2025 Israeli strike on a Hamas delegation in Doha, an episode that continued to reverberate through Gulf security calculations a year on.

9 September ([Sputnik](#)): Iranian strike damages US aircraft at Jordan's Muwaffaq Salti Air Base.

An Iranian strike damaged a Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II and approximately eight F-15 fighter jets at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan, according to US officials, contradicting initial statements from President Trump downplaying the damage. The attack formed part of Iran's continuing pattern of retaliatory strikes against US and coalition military assets hosted across the region since the war began in late February. Jordan, which hosts American forces and has faced repeated incursions into its airspace during the conflict, condemned the strike and reiterated its solidarity with fellow Gulf and regional states targeted by Iranian retaliation.

The incident added to a growing list of documented damage to US military hardware across Gulf and regional bases, feeding continuing debate in Washington over the costs and trajectory of the war.

10 September ([ABC News](#)): Houthis capture Yemen's Red Sea port city of Mokha.

Houthi forces captured the historic Red Sea port city of Mokha, marking a major advance in their campaign to seize control of Yemen's southern coastline and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Footage showed Houthi prisoners freed by the advancing forces being paraded through the streets on their way to Sanaa, underscoring the scale of the rebel group's gains. The capture of Mokha, followed within days by the seizure of the nearby island of Mayun, gave the Iran-aligned movement effective control over one of the world's most strategically vital shipping corridors, further threatening Saudi Arabia's oil-export routes and deepening fears that Yemen's fragile 2022 truce had definitively collapsed into renewed civil war.

11 September ([NBC News](#), [CBC News](#)): Houthis seize Mayun Island as Saudi Arabia shuts key oil pipeline.

Houthi forces seized Mayun Island, the only inhabited island inside the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, giving the group a fortified position controlling a waterway through which roughly ten percent of global trade passes. Saudi Arabia simultaneously shut down its 745-mile East-West pipeline after it was struck by drones launched from Iraq, a critical route the kingdom had relied on to bypass the blockaded Strait of Hormuz. Riyadh said it would not retaliate immediately following a request from Iraq's prime minister but reserved the right to take further measures to protect its sovereignty. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was reported to be urging President Trump to take direct military action against the Houthis, as crude prices surged above \$100 a barrel, handing Tehran additional leverage in the broader standoff over Gulf energy security.

12 September ([NBC News](#)): Houthis seize more Red Sea islands, advance toward Djibouti border.

Houthi forces seized additional islands dominating key Red Sea shipping routes, extending their advance to within roughly 32 kilometres of the US military base in Djibouti, on the opposite shore of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Regional officials said the Saudi East-West pipeline, struck days earlier, would remain largely out of service for weeks while repair teams

assessed the damage. The advance, following the seizure of Mokha and Mayun Island, further strained Saudi Arabia's efforts to route its oil exports away from the blockaded Strait of Hormuz. The Houthis also pressed an inland offensive in Taiz province, deepening fears that Yemen's civil conflict, largely dormant since a 2022 truce, was reigniting in full alongside the broader regional war centred on Iran.

13 September ([Shafaq News](#)): Regional Hormuz security talks in Oman postponed after Bahraini boycott.

A regional meeting on Strait of Hormuz security, set to bring together host Oman alongside Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain in Salalah, was postponed after Manama announced it would boycott the talks following alleged Iranian attacks on Gulf states. Oman's Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said the postponement reflected a request from some regional countries and was jointly agreed with Iran, adding that Muscat would coordinate closely with Tehran to set a new date. Iran's Foreign Ministry said the delay followed requests from unspecified regional states. The cancelled meeting had been intended to advance a joint working group on navigation and maritime safety in the strait, building on the Islamabad Memorandum reached earlier in the conflict, underscoring how the Houthi-driven Bab el-Mandeb crisis further complicated already fragile Gulf diplomacy.

15 September ([ABC News](#)): Iraq-based militias signal weapons will stay as US completes withdrawal.

As the final US troops prepared to depart Iraq ahead of the 30 September deadline, Iran-aligned militias indicated they had no intention of surrendering their weapons despite an Iraqi government ultimatum linking the American withdrawal to militia disarmament. Officials said the government wanted armed factions, many nominally under the Popular Mobilisation Forces umbrella, to hand over long-range missiles and other 'dynamic weapons' to central PMF command. The remaining hundreds of US troops in northern Iraq were expected to be redeployed largely to Jordan and other regional states, with equipment including air-defence systems removed. Iranian-backed Iraqi militias have struck US-linked targets both inside and outside Iraq since the war with Iran began in February, and have coordinated with Yemen's Houthis in attacks on Saudi Arabia, raising questions about what security arrangement would follow the coalition's departure.

15 September ([Al Arabiya](#)): Lebanon's Aoun seeks Israel security deal, vows Hezbollah disarmament 'without confrontation'.

President Joseph Aoun told AFP he wants to reach a security agreement with Israel once it withdraws from southern Lebanon and remains determined to disarm Hezbollah without triggering internal conflict. Aoun said Lebanon wanted a temporary international force, whether European, Arab, American or a mix, to prevent a security vacuum once UNIFIL's mandate expires at the end of the year, adding that extending the peacekeeping mission's mandate remained the 'best and most optimal option.' He called on the United States, European Union and Arab states to support the Lebanese army as it deploys across the south. The remarks came ahead of Aoun's departure for Paris, where he was due to attend talks hosted by President Emmanuel Macron aimed at building international backing for the Lebanese military's deployment plan.

15 September ([The Times of Israel](#)): Israeli, Qatari armed forces chiefs meet amid strained bilateral ties.

Israeli and American authorities announced that IDF Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir had met with his Qatari counterpart, the Qatar Armed Forces chief of staff, in a rare direct military-level contact between the two states. The meeting came despite months of public friction between Doha and Jerusalem, including Israel's suspension of weapons exports to Qatar in August and Netanyahu's recent description of Qatar as a 'hostile state.' Analysts said the contact suggested that security and mediation channels between the two governments, particularly concerning Gaza ceasefire enforcement, remained active even amid overt diplomatic tension. Qatar has continued to play a central mediating role between Israel, Hamas and Iran throughout the year, a position that has left it simultaneously indispensable to Western-backed regional diplomacy and a recurring target of Israeli criticism.

16 September ([The Time of Israel](#)): Lebanese, Israeli ambassadors meet in Washington as strikes on south Lebanon continue.

Lebanese and Israeli ambassadors held talks in Washington as part of ongoing US-mediated efforts to shore up the fragile ceasefire between the two countries, even as six people were killed and eight wounded in continued Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon the same day. Lebanon, the US and Qatar separately discussed measures to reinforce the truce, which has been repeatedly punctured by near-daily Israeli strikes despite the formal ceasefire announced

earlier in the year. The talks came as President Aoun pressed Washington and European partners for support in deploying the Lebanese army across the south and securing a credible international force to fill any security vacuum left by the eventual departure of UN peacekeepers, whose mandate is set to expire at the end of 2026.

16 September ([IPI Global Observatory](#)): At least 21 killed in continuing Israeli strikes on Gaza.

At least 21 people were reported killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza, underscoring the persistent gap between the formal terms of the October 2025 ceasefire and conditions on the ground nearly a year after it took effect. Humanitarian officials noted that aid deliveries into Gaza continued to fall well short of the 600 daily truck target stipulated under the truce, with an average of only 69 trucks entering per day over July and August. Israel had continued to expand its list of restricted 'dual-use' items, blocking the entry of generators, metal pallets and other materials aid agencies said were essential to reconstruction, even as commercial traders were permitted to import similar goods through the same crossings. The disparity, monitors said, illustrated how the ceasefire's implementation remained selective and contested more than eleven months after it was signed.

17 September ([AP](#)): UN experts cite possible US war crimes in February strikes on Iran.

A UN Human Rights Council-backed panel of experts said it had found 'reasonable grounds to believe' that the United States had committed war crimes during 'indiscriminate attacks' on an Iranian school and a residential area during the opening days of the war in February. Separately, the UN Security Council's dedicated mechanism for monitoring Iran's compliance with sanctions and nuclear commitments lost its mandate after Russia and China vetoed a US-backed draft resolution to extend the Panel of Experts overseeing the 1737 sanctions regime. The findings and the veto together underscored the deepening rift among permanent Security Council members over how to handle the conflict, complicating international oversight of both the conduct of the war and Iran's nuclear file at a critical juncture in diplomatic efforts to end the fighting.

The panel have also reported widespread human rights violations by Iranian state security forces over the past two years, alleging killings, violent repression, arbitrary arrests and torture of civilians. According to the experts, security forces used assault rifles against crowds, beat

protesters and detained healthcare workers. Detainees were reportedly denied legal counsel, while families were often left without information about their whereabouts. The experts also highlighted an intensified use of the death penalty, stating that more than 70 people, including five women and three boys, remain at imminent risk of execution. The report said several violations may amount to crimes against humanity.

17 September ([Al Jazeera](#)): Macron hosts Aoun and Jordan's King Abdullah II in Paris to back Lebanese army.

French President Emmanuel Macron hosted Lebanese President Joseph Aoun alongside Jordan's King Abdullah II in Paris to build international support for the Lebanese armed forces as they prepare to deploy across the country's south. 'A sovereign and stable Lebanon is a decisive step toward peace and stability for the entire region,' Macron said, adding that the Lebanese army was 'indispensable for asserting the authority of the Lebanese state across its entire territory.' The French presidency said the talks aimed to review a Lebanese deployment plan based on a 'clear, credible and realistic' framework, intended as a prerequisite for what Paris hoped would be robust international financial, equipment and training support. The meeting formed part of broader efforts to reinforce the June framework agreement between Lebanon and Israel on Hezbollah's disarmament and a phased Israeli withdrawal.

21 September ([CNN](#)): Houthis press new offensive phase as US steers clear of Yemen fight.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi movement launched the next phase of its campaign along the Red Sea coast even as Washington largely avoided direct military engagement in the Yemeni theatre, according to analysts tracking the conflict. Displacement camps swelled near Aden as fighting between Houthi forces and Saudi-backed government troops intensified in Taiz province and along the coastline. Analysts said the Houthis were deliberately avoiding urban entrenchment, instead seeking to encircle government forces while gauging how much financing, intelligence and airpower Riyadh would commit to reversing their territorial gains. The offensive's momentum, following the earlier seizure of Mokha and the Bab el-Mandeb islands, left the Houthis in their strongest military position in years, complicating any near-term prospects for restoring the 2022 truce that had largely held until the broader regional war reignited hostilities.

22 September ([The Times of Israel](#)): Israel warns 1 million Gazans would be relocated south if Hamas abducts Israeli again.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz warned that roughly one million Palestinians in Gaza would be relocated to the south of the territory should Hamas abduct another Israeli, as the IDF continued targeted strikes on remaining Hamas operatives, including two individuals linked to the 7 October 2023 attacks. The warning came alongside reports that an official Israeli government mapping website had inadvertently revealed the location of eleven IDF military bases across northern Gaza, contrary to the military's usual policy of concealment. The developments illustrated the extent of Israel's continued military footprint within Gaza nearly a year after the formal ceasefire took effect, as well as the fragile and conditional nature of the calm, with Israeli officials signalling readiness to resume large-scale displacement operations in response to renewed Hamas action.

22 September ([NBC News](#), [CNN](#)): Trump threatens to 'annihilate' Iran in UN address, dangles post-election deal.

President Donald Trump told the UN General Assembly he was weighing whether to 'annihilate' Iran and drive it 'into hell,' while suggesting a deal allowing Iran to rebuild could come after November's US midterm elections. 'I believe we'll make a deal right after the election because it doesn't make sense for them not to,' Trump said, adding that US and Iranian envoys had held an unexpected three-hour meeting on the sidelines of the gathering. Iranian parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf responded that Iran would 'never surrender' and would 'not shut down the country' in the face of US pressure. Trump also claimed the Gaza war had 'ended,' thanking other nations for helping stabilise the territory, while calling on Iran to fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz and return to negotiations.

23 September ([Al Jazeera](#), [Haaretz](#)): Syria's al-Sharaa tells UN that Israel must withdraw from Golan and seized territory.

Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa told the UN General Assembly that the Golan Heights would 'remain Syrian territory' and called on Israel to withdraw from land seized after the fall of the Assad government in December 2024, asserting there had been '500 air strikes, more than 1,200 incursions and 300 detentions' carried out by Israel in Syria since then. 'We reject Israeli attempts to impose a fait accompli,' al-Sharaa said, arguing Israel's actions undermined regional peace and security even as Syria pursued a broader recovery and diplomatic normalisation drive.

Al-Sharaa separately said Syria and Israel had been close to a security agreement before Israel withdrew from talks, and that Israeli policy should not be dictated by the legacy of the 7 October attacks. The speech underscored the unresolved territorial dispute complicating Damascus's efforts to rebuild ties with Washington and its regional neighbours.



About the Author

Suyash Dwivedi is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), focusing on strategic and security issues concerning West and Central Asia. He pursued a Master's in International Studies from Christ University and has gained nearly two years of experience as a policy consultant. His areas of interest lie in the political landscape and the geopolitics of West Asia. He can be reached at suyash.dwivedi110@gmail.com

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