

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. Congressman Ibrahim Hamadeh, of Syrian descent, made a historic visit to Damascus, meeting de facto ruler Abu Muhammad al-Jolani to discuss issues including Syria’s potential accession to the Abraham Accords.

Hamadeh traveled directly from Tel Aviv to Syria—the first such direct trip since 1974, when U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger flew between Tel Aviv and Damascus amid ceasefire talks after the 1973 war. Prior to his Damascus visit, Hamadeh met with Mowafaq Tarif, the Druze spiritual leader in Israeli occupied territories, to discuss recent developments in Sweida, southern Syria.

One of the conveniences in life is to have less children. Loving one another is half of wisdom.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Report: Gaza Invasion Deepens Divisions Among Israeli Settlers

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- A new report published by the Israeli daily Haaretz reveals a sharp decline in the psychological and societal resilience of Jewish settlers following the war on Gaza, challenging global norms that typically show an increase in unity during times of conflict.

Citing a study conducted by Tel Aviv University, Haaretz reported on Tuesday that resilience among settlers has deteriorated significantly since the October 7 Hamas-led operation known as “Al-Aqsa Flood,” and the subsequent Israeli onslaught on Gaza.

The report quotes Dr. Shaul Kimhi, a prominent expert on societal resilience, who warned that internal divisions within Israeli settlers have deepened and reached a dangerous new phase.

Kimhi, who heads ongoing research into the psychological effects of the Gaza war and the issue of Israeli captives, noted that



A protester flees from a police horse at a protest in Tel Aviv, May 2024.

while national crises usually lead to an increase in social cohesion, patriotism, and collective endurance, the Israeli experience has defied this global trend. “Unlike in most countries at war, Israeli society is growing more fractured, not more united,” he said.

The report also draws a striking comparison with Ukraine. Despite facing a full-scale inva-

sion and millions of citizens being displaced, Ukrainian society has reportedly shown higher levels of resilience two years into its conflict than Jewish settlers have exhibited just months after the Gaza war.

According to Kimhi, two major factors are driving this erosion of Israeli morale. First is the growing public distrust in prime minister

Benjamin Netanyahu’s leadership. The study highlights a significant drop in confidence in the current regime’s ability to manage security, the economy, and the social crisis — all exacerbated by the ongoing war.

Second is the deep frustration surrounding the unresolved issue of Israeli captives held in Gaza. Kimhi noted that public sentiment increasingly views the Netanyahu regime’s efforts to recover captives as inadequate. This dissatisfaction, he warned, is feeding a broader crisis of identity and purpose.

Social rifts over the war and the fate of the captives are widening across Jewish settlers in an unprecedented way. The study concludes that without serious efforts to address these issues — especially the fate of the captives — settlers risk long-term psychological damage. “This wound,” Kimhi warned, “will not heal on its own. It threatens to leave a permanent scar.”

Power Struggle Among Military Leadership Adds to Israel’s Turmoil

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Israel’s war minister sharply reprimanded the military chief on Tuesday for making key military appointments without his approval, highlighting deepening tensions between the military leadership and the regime as Israel prepares to escalate its war on Gaza.

According to a statement issued by the war minister Israel Katz’s office, chief of staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir conducted deliberations over senior military appointments “without prior coordination or agreement” with the minister.

The statement condemned this as a breach of established protocol, declaring that Katz “does not intend to discuss or approve any of the appointments or names that were published.”

In response, the Israeli military issued a statement asserting that Zamir holds “the sole authority authorized to appoint

officers from the rank of colonel upwards,” and that such appointments are made by the chief of staff before being submitted to the war minister for approval.

The confrontation between Katz and Zamir comes amid escalating disagreements over the conduct of Israel’s military campaign in Gaza, which has been ongoing for nearly two years. Sources in Israeli media revealed that Zamir opposed a cabinet decision to fully occupy Gaza City, advocating instead for encircling the city.

Currently, Israeli forces occupy approximately 75 percent of the Palestinian territory, which has been devastated by prolonged warfare.

Meanwhile, war minister Katz maintained that while the military chief is free to “express his views,” it remains imperative that the military “execute” any directives issued by the regime regarding Gaza operations.

20,000 Indians Replace Palestinian Workers in Israeli Occupied Territories

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) -- More than 20,000 Indian workers have migrated to the Israeli-occupied territories since late 2023 to fill a critical labor shortage caused by the ongoing war on Gaza and the suspension of Palestinian work permits, according to India’s Ministry of External Affairs.

In a parliamentary response last week, State Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh revealed that between November 2023 and July 2025, approximately 6,730 construction workers and 44 caregivers arrived under a bilateral agreement signed by India and the occupying authorities. Additionally, around 7,000 caregivers and 6,400 construction workers entered the territories through private recruitment channels.

This surge in Indian laborers highlights the impact of the Israeli siege and military operation in Gaza, which has resulted in the revocation of work permits for more than 70,000 Palestinians. The construction sector, in particular, has faced a standstill due to labor shortages and rising costs, prompting Israeli-occupied authorities to seek workers abroad.

Recruitment centers in various Indian states saw thousands of job seekers lining up to apply, reflecting a stark contrast to India’s economic growth narrative. Despite being one of the world’s fastest-growing economies, India struggles with severe income inequality and a shortage of full-time jobs, driving many workers to seek opportunities overseas.

However, the recruitment drive has met strong criticism from Indian labor unions. The All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) condemned the campaign, calling it “suicidal” and accusing the Indian government of ignoring the humanitarian crisis in Gaza by facilitating labor support to the occupying forces.

Indian workers reportedly are attracted by wages up to three times higher than what they could earn at home. Recruitment agencies describe India’s role in sustaining the Israeli-occupied territories’ economy as “crucial” during this period of conflict and upheaval.

Despite some workers returning home due to skill mismatches or language barriers, the flow of laborers is expected to continue. The Indian government also confirmed that one agricultural worker was killed during the March 2024 Israeli aggression on Lebanon, while three others were injured in attacks related to the ongoing violence.

The massive displacement and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, including tens of thousands of deaths and widespread famine, continue to provoke international condemnation and calls for justice.

India’s growing labor involvement in the Israeli-occupied territories during this war raises serious moral and political questions about New Delhi’s stance amid the unfolding crisis, as Palestinians face mounting suffering under Israeli military operations.

Bold Lebanese Capture of High-Tech Vehicle Alarms Israel

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- An Israeli military autonomous vehicle equipped with a machine gun and advanced surveillance systems was seized last week during an operation near the Lebanon border and is now believed to be in the hands of hostile forces deep inside Lebanese territory, according to Israeli military officials.

The incident, first reported by Haaretz, occurred near Moshav Dovev, a northern Jewish settlement close to the volatile Lebanese frontier. The unmanned ground vehicle (UGV), one of two deployed by the Israeli military’s 91st Division during the operation, reportedly disappeared after

troops were distracted by the need to recover another UGV that had overturned and required a crane for extraction.

According to military officers familiar with the incident, Israeli troops observed the second autonomous vehicle being loaded onto a tow truck, which then moved further into Lebanon. Initial suspicions pointed to United Nations peacekeeping forces operating in the area, but a subsequent investigation determined that the vehicle had not been seized by international personnel.

The vehicle, outfitted with a mounted machine gun and

intelligence systems, raises serious concerns for Israeli military officials, particularly regarding the potential compromise of sensitive technology. The military has not disclosed which model of unmanned vehicle was involved, but the systems on board are typically used for surveillance, perimeter defense, and limited offensive operations.

Commanders in the 91st Division reportedly considered destroying the stolen vehicle with an airstrike but ultimately decided against it, citing operational concerns and possible political ramifications.

The incident comes amid

heightened tensions along the Lebanese border. Israel has maintained a growing presence of unmanned systems along the frontier, in part to reduce soldier exposure in contested areas and improve response times.

The Israeli army has not officially commented on whether the vehicle has been located or recovered, nor has it confirmed which group is suspected of taking it. The incident marks a rare and troubling breach for Israel’s increasingly autonomous military operations in a region where Hezbollah maintain significant capabilities.

Russians Leave Turkey in Drove Amid Rising Costs, Crackdowns

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) -- The number of Russians living in Turkey has fallen sharply over the past two years, nearly halving from 154,000 in 2023 to about 85,000 in 2025, according to figures cited by the Russian Embassy in Ankara and reported by the pro-Kremlin newspaper Izvestia.

Once a favored destination for Russians, Turkey is now witnessing a steady outflow. Rising inflation — currently hovering around 33% — and a more than 30% increase in housing prices over the past year have contributed to a growing sense of unease among Russian expatriates.

But financial strain is only part of the picture. Many long-term Russian residents, including those who have lived in Turkey for

up to a decade, are now reportedly being denied renewal of their residence permits, despite property ownership or legal presence, Izvestia reported.

“Living without a residence permit means becoming an undocumented immigrant. Not everyone is ready for that,” Irina Nepluyeva, an Istanbul resident, told the paper. She noted that friends in Istanbul, Antalya and Alanya — cities popular with Russian migrants — are being pushed out.

Turkish authorities have introduced a series of new restrictions over the past year. Some districts have been closed to foreign property transactions, taxes on foreigners have increased, and immigration enforcement has grown more stringent. In August 2024, Turk-

ish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya announced that short-term residence permits for tourists would no longer be issued.

Beyond economic and legal pressures, some Russians also cite deteriorating public services, long hospital wait times, littered streets, and lax enforcement of smoking bans as reasons for leaving.

While some are returning to Russia, others are moving on to destinations such as Serbia, Portugal, Spain, or Georgia.

The exodus from Russia since the Ukraine war began is estimated to be the country’s largest since the 1920s. Some estimates suggest the total number of Russians who have emigrated since 2022 may exceed one million.