

Report: Israeli Army Sees Spike in Soldier Suicides

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) – The findings, released by the Knesset Research and Information Center on Tuesday, indicate that for every soldier who died by suicide, seven others attempted to take their own lives. The report further highlighted a significant shift in the composition of cases, noting that in 2024, combat soldiers accounted for 78% of all military suicides, a steep increase from the 42–45% recorded between 2017 and 2022.

Analysts have linked this rise partly to the mass mobilization of reservists following the October 7, 2023 war, when tens of thousands of troops were recalled to active duty.

The majority of the data utilized in the report was sourced from the Israeli military medical corps’ mental health center and discussions held in various Knesset committees.

The report clarified that the figures only pertain to soldiers who were on active or reserve duty at the time of their death or suicide attempt, and exclude veterans who took their own lives after completing their service.

Since October 7, 2023, the report estimates that approximately 50 Israeli soldiers have died by suicide. There have been previous reports of Israeli soldiers committing suicide.

In July, Israeli media outlets revealed that nearly four dozen soldiers had taken their own lives in recent months due to profound psychological trauma



Israeli soldiers reportedly face severe psychological trauma from the Gaza and Lebanon wars, with thousands seeking mental health treatment.

and exposure to unspeakable violence during the regime’s genocide in the besieged enclave.

Despite attempts by the Israeli military to censor reports of soldier suicides and the surrounding circumstances, evidence continues to surface of a sharp increase in such cases.

The army has reportedly been burying some of these soldiers without military funerals or public announcements, in a desperate effort to conceal the extent of the crisis.

Turkey Signs \$11bn Deal to Buy Typhoons From Britain

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) -- Turkey has agreed to buy 20 Eurofighter Typhoons from Britain for £8 billion (\$10.7 billion), as Ankara said it was also seeking 24 jets from Persian Gulf states to bolster its air defense.

British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, on his first visit to Turkey since taking office last year, signed the deal with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and called it a “landmark moment”. Erdogan said joint defense industry projects could follow.

Turkey wants the warplanes to make up ground with regional rivals such as Israel, which has unleashed strikes across the Middle East this year.

Europe, meanwhile, has increasingly turned to Turkey, NATO’s second-largest military and a major exporter of armed drones, to reinforce its eastern flank and support any potential future post-war stabilization force in Ukraine.

The defense ministry said Turkey plans to buy 12 Typhoons each from Oman and Qatar.

London said Ankara would receive the first of the 20 Typhoons in 2030. Starmer said the deal, for which talks began in 2023, included an option to buy more.

Istanbul-based security and

defense analyst Burak Yildirim called the £8 billion price tag “outrageously high” and “unprecedented”, even if it includes options, ammunition, spare parts and training.

“They’re selling planes at frigate prices,” Yildirim said. “You can’t have a combat jet for £400 million. They’re selling one plane for the price of four.”

The sides did not give details on what, beyond the planes, was included in the deal.

In July, Turkey and Britain signed a preliminary purchase deal for up to 40 Typhoons approved by Eurofighter consortium members including Germany, Italy and Spain, represented by Airbus, BAE Systems and Leonardo.

Last week Erdoğan visited Qatar and Oman in part to discuss the plan.

Turkey, which is enjoying its warmest ties with the West in years, has sought to procure the Eurofighters and also potentially U.S.-made F-35s to support its ageing fleet of mostly F-16s.

It wants to fill a gap before its own Kaan fighters are ready in the coming years. Last year it secured a \$7 billion deal with Washington for 40 F-16s that have faced delays.

Saudi ‘Davos in the Desert’ Opens Amid Saudi Fiscal Pressures

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia opened the ninth edition of its Future Investment Initiative (FII) on Tuesday, seeking global investment for its ambitious “gigaprojects” and AI ventures, amid growing skepticism over the kingdom’s economic transformation.

Dubbed “Davos in the desert,” the conference attracts heads of state and top business executives, but critics question whether it can deliver on promises amid delays and rising fiscal pressures.

Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman is expected to travel to Washington soon for his first U.S. visit since 2018, highlighting Riyadh’s efforts to restore ties with key partners following years of international criticism, including over the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The kingdom has also signaled interest in closer contact with Israel, though normalization remains conditional on a Palestinian state, a position that complicates regional diplomacy.

The event’s roster is impressive: more than 20 heads of state, Chinese Vice President Han Zheng,

Syria’s de facto ruler Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, and leading U.S. investors, including Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, and BlackRock.

Yet questions persist over Saudi Arabia’s \$500 billion NEOM megacity and other flagship projects. Delays, personnel reshuffles, and redesigns have fueled doubts about feasibility, even as declining oil revenues exacerbate budget deficits.

Saudi officials, including Public Investment Fund head Yasir Al-Rumayyan, highlight a 24% rise in foreign investment last year, framing FII as proof of global confidence.

Analysts, however, note the conference largely serves as a platform to showcase ambition rather than deliver tangible results. Even the kingdom’s tech and AI initiatives, while heavily promoted, remain in early stages and will require sustained funding and expertise to compete globally.

Observers say FII’s real value may lie in signaling Riyadh’s willingness to engage with the world, but long-term credibility depends on turning ambitious plans into actionable projects amid mounting economic and political pressures.

Iraq Nears 20,000 Repatriations From Syria’s Al-Hol Camp

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Hundreds of Iraqis were transferred from a camp in north-east Syria housing individuals with alleged links to Daesh to a rehabilitation facility in northern Iraq, marking the 30th such transfer since the Iraqi government began addressing the issue in 2021.

Around 840 Iraqi refugees departed from the Al-Hol refugee camp in Hasaka province for the Al-Jadah camp in Iraq’s Nineveh province on Monday.

Located in Hasaka province, Al-Hol is one of the largest and most volatile displacement camps in the region.

As of September, local media learned that the camp hosted around 27,488 people - approximately 7,770 families - mainly women and children with alleged ties to Daesh. The population includes about 15,233 Syrians, 5,854 Iraqis and thousands of individuals from other countries.

The Iraqi families transferred from Al-Hol are chiefly transferred to the Al-Jadah camp in Iraq’s northern Nineveh province. Previously a general settlement for internally displaced persons (IDPs), the camp was redesignated in May 2021 to receive women and children with confirmed or suspected ISIS affiliations.

The Monday transfer marks the 30th batch since the repatriation process began.

In late August, Ali Abbas, spokesperson for Iraq’s migration ministry, had told local media that 29 batches had been completed since 2021. The ministry reported on Sunday that around 19,000 people had already returned from Al-Hol, with the latest group bringing the total to roughly 20,000.

Footage of the repatriation showed United States forces accompanying the convoy, believed to include family members of Ddaesh fighters.

In September, Iraq hosted a conference on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York to discuss plans for emptying and dismantling Al-Hol. The meeting resulted in the formation of a joint task cell, led by the U.S., to facilitate the repatriation of foreign nationals from the camp.

However, some governments continue to resist taking back their citizens, citing security concerns.

In addition to Al-Hol, the Roj camp - also located in Hasaka - holds around 2,600 foreign nationals linked to Daesh.

Roj is generally considered less volatile than Al-Hol, and some detainees have been transferred there for security or potential rehabilitation purposes.

ECO ... (Continued From Page One)

Pakistan will host next year’s session, signaling the enthusiasm of member states and the ECO Secretariat to expand future collaboration.

The 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting is expected to produce recommendations on border management, urban development, and security cooperation, with follow-up meetings scheduled in member countries. Pakistan is slated to host the next session, signaling continuity and shared interest in strengthening regional collaboration.

ECO Secretary-General Asad Majid Khan welcomed Iran’s role in hosting the meeting and emphasized that participation by all members and guest states demonstrates the organization’s commitment to fostering stability and the rule of law.

“This gathering highlights the collective determination to address common challenges, prevent organized crime, and advance sustainable regional development,” he said.

Pezeshkian’s remarks at the summit set the tone for what Iranian officials describe as a renewed era of ECO cooperation, with a focus on security, governance, and practical initiatives to support economic integration across the region.

Hezbollah... (Continued From Page One)

and safeguarding Lebanese territory.

He highlighted the moral and religious commitment of Hezbollah members, describing the spirit of martyrdom as central to their identity, extending from combatants to families who have borne significant sacrifices.

Despite Western claims that Hezbollah is rearming, supporters argue that the group’s efforts are defensive, meant to maintain deterrence against Israel.

Lebanese media report that Israel continues to violate ceasefire agreements, targeting resistance positions and civilian areas alike.

Analysts note that U.S. pressure for disarmament ignores the reality on the ground, where popular support for Hezbollah remains strong, with communities rallying around the group’s social, political, and security contributions.

The Lebanese government’s recent approval of an army plan to “monopolize weapons in the hands of the state” has been criticized by Hezbollah and its supporters as a provocation aligned with U.S. and Israeli interests.

Sheikh Qassem called the plan “extremely dangerous” and a violation of Lebanon’s national covenant, warning that it undermines the country’s ability to defend itself.

Western officials continue to escalate rhetoric. European sources warn that a large-scale Israeli invasion is “just a matter of time,” while Egyptian officials have cautioned that Israel may intensify attacks if Hezbollah’s weapons issue is not resolved.

Lebanese observers describe this as a sustained pressure campaign aimed at subordinating the country to foreign agendas, ignoring the will of its citizens.

Sheikh Qassem underscored that Hezbollah does not initiate conflict but acts in legitimate defense. “We will remain a resistance, even if we are left with only our fingernails or a stick,” he said, reaffirming the group’s commitment to defending Lebanon’s people, territory, and dignity.

Public rallies and support for Hezbollah across Lebanon reflect this widespread backing, signaling a population unwilling to allow foreign powers to dictate the nation’s security policies.

As U.S. envoys prepare to meet Lebanon’s leadership, the message from Aoun and Hezbollah is clear: Lebanon will resist foreign coercion, uphold its laws, and rely on the support of its citizens to safeguard its sovereignty.

In a region where external powers

often wield pressure and threats, Lebanon’s popular backing for Hezbollah remains a critical pillar of its national defense.

Vice... (Continued From Page 2)

The vice president emphasized that while people should continue living in peace and stability, the country’s academic, strategic, and defense centers have carried out their responsibilities without needing explicit directives.

According to Aref, Iran’s current situation and level of preparedness are better than before June 13, when the war broke out.

He reiterated that although Iran does not seek war, it remains fully prepared to defend itself.

On June 13, the Zionist regime launched an unprovoked war of aggression against Iran, targeting military, nuclear, and residential areas for 12 consecutive days. The United States later escalated the conflict by striking three of Iran’s nuclear sites in Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan on June 22.

Iran’s Armed Forces delivered an immediate and forceful response. The IRGC Aerospace Force carried out 22 waves of retaliatory missile strikes under Operation True Promise III, inflicting significant damage and heavy losses on cities across the occupied territories.

In retaliation for the U.S. attacks, Iranian forces also targeted al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar —the largest American military installation in West Asia— with a barrage of missiles.

The confrontation came to an end on June 24, when a ceasefire was enforced.

Ministry... (Continued From Page 2)

filed in Branch 20 of Tehran’s Public and Revolution Court, which handles international matters.

The ship, he went on, registered in Portugal and flying the flag of one of the islands, entered Iranian waters last year and was seized by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy in the Strait of Hormuz “for violating international regulations and failing to respond to relevant authorities.”

Jahangir said some containers aboard carried hazardous materials that were deemed to endanger “the security and tranquility of the country and the region.”

He added that the ship’s owner is an influential figure within the Israeli regime who served six years as an intelligence officer in its air force and has financed Israeli naval units through his family foundation.

These actions, Jahangir noted, have been identified as violations of international law under UN Security Council Resolution 2334.

He added that the case remains under judicial investigation.

Iranian... (Continued From Page 2)

Chamran stressed that the success of BRICS will deepen when cooperation extends beyond national governments to include cities and citizens, fostering solidarity among the peoples of member nations. This unity, he said, could empower independent nations to stand together against Western unilateral policies, particularly those led by the United States.

The Moscow City Duma hosted the signing ceremony, attended by representatives from Tehran, Moscow, Addis Ababa, Havana, Minsk, and Tshwane, with Beijing also supporting the initiative. The declaration aims to build an international mechanism for dialogue among city councils of BRICS capitals.

The BRICS Urban Future Forum will open Wednesday in St. Petersburg, gathering delegates from over 70 countries to exchange best practices and promote sustainable urban development.