

Israeli Army to Demobilize 10,000 Reservists as Budget Crisis Deepens

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Israeli soldiers targeted by Palestinian resistance in Gaza. (Photo: video grab)

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By Palestine Chronicle



Staff

Israel is reportedly preparing to demobilize 10,000 reservists as a deepening budget crisis strains military operations on multiple fronts.

Key Developments

- Israeli media reported the military plans to demobilize around 10,000 reservists by the end of July.
- The move comes amid a budget shortfall estimated at tens of billions of shekels.
- Former Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman warned Israel's ammunition stockpiles could be exhausted within 10 days.

Israel Plans to Reduce Reserve Forces

The Israeli military is preparing to demobilize approximately 10,000 reserve soldiers by the end of July as it grapples with a worsening budget crisis driven by the cost of operations on multiple fronts, according to the Israeli newspaper Israel Hayom.

The report said the number of reservists on active duty is expected to fall from around 60,000 to roughly 50,000. Although the decision has not yet been formally approved, Israeli officials expect it to be finalized in the coming days.

According to the newspaper, the military is facing a budget shortfall worth tens of billions of shekels after a sharp increase in operational spending.

Cuts to Regional Defense

Israeli newspapers Yedioth Ahronoth and Calcalist reported that the planned reductions would primarily affect reserve units assigned to the military's "regional defense" system, including

personnel deployed around Israeli settlements near the Gaza Strip and throughout the occupied West Bank.

The plan also reportedly includes reducing staffing levels at military headquarters as part of broader efforts to curb expenditures.

The proposed cuts come amid an ongoing dispute between Israel's Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Finance over military spending.

According to the reports, the military is seeking a record increase in funding to sustain operations across several fronts, while the Finance Ministry has opposed the request over concerns that it would further expand Israel's fiscal deficit.

The two sides are said to have reached a preliminary compromise under which additional funding would be released conditionally in exchange for reducing reliance on reserve forces and lowering operational costs.

Lieberman Warns of Ammunition Shortages

The reports follow comments by former Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who warned earlier on Friday that Israeli forces could exhaust their ammunition stockpiles within 10 days if the financial crisis is not addressed.

Lieberman's warning came after Channel 12 reported that the military faces an estimated 40 billion shekel (\$13.5 billion) budget gap that could soon halt procurement of spare parts for tanks and armored personnel carriers while disrupting several military programs.

According to military sources cited by the broadcaster, the funding shortfall could also force the dismissal of reserve soldiers despite continued operational demand and freeze planned programs supporting wounded and disabled troops.

The officials warned that unless the budget dispute is resolved, the financial crisis could begin affecting operational readiness within two to three weeks, raising concerns about the military's ability to sustain operations across multiple fronts.

(PC, Al Mayadeen, Israeli media)