RWI SITREP 014 — Special: Israel election day, 27 October 2026

Window **26 Oct 20:15 → 27 Oct 20:15 UTC** (22:15 → 22:15 Israel time; polls closed at 22:00). Area: Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, the Golan, southern Lebanon to the Litani and the Jordan and Egypt borders (34.15–36.0E, 29.4–33.5N). Thermal: NASA FIRMS, all four satellites, newest pass 14:44 UTC (no evening pass yet). Imagery: no Sentinel-2 pass on 27 Oct; nearest clear passes 23 and 26 Oct. Flights: the open ADS-B archive for 26 Oct, the eve of the vote (27 Oct publishes tomorrow). Night lights: to the night of 25 Oct. Times UTC unless marked.

REPORTER LEADS — things in our data that no public reporting explains yet. Leads, not findings: each needs a reporter to confirm or kill it.

L1. A daytime fire in the central Arava, seen by three satellites in under an hour on election day
27 Oct 09:52, 10:28 and 10:47 UTC; 30.678N 35.254E, farmland in the central Arava, Israel; 7.7–8.4 MW on each pass (Plate A1)
Why it is a lead: Three satellites measured it at the same strength over 55 minutes, so it burned steadily. We found no report of a fire, an incident or a strike there. The nearest clear image is from 23 Oct, before the fire, so we cannot see what burned.
What would settle it: Israel Fire and Rescue Services (southern district) or the Central Arava regional council: was there a fire there on the morning of 27 Oct, and what burned? The next clear Sentinel-2 pass will show any burn scar. (Plate A1)

1. Bottom line

1.1 **Election day passed without a visible security event in the open data.** In the 24 hours to 20:15 UTC, NASA's fire satellites saw four heat sources in the whole area: one unexplained daytime fire (the lead above), a field in the Jezreel Valley, a refinery flare at Ashdod, and nothing in Gaza, the West Bank or southern Lebanon. The only incidents in the reporting we checked were an Egyptian man who crossed the border near Nitzana overnight and was detained, and a man arrested near opposition leader Yair Golan in Tel Aviv (police said no stabbing was attempted). Turnout reached 74.3% at 20:00 Israel time, a record pace. **PARTIAL**

1.2 **Southern Lebanon: strikes reported, none seen.** Anadolu reports an Israeli drone strike near Mayfadoun, shelling, a strike at Mansouri, an airstrike near Qantara and two large demolitions at Zawtar al-Sharqiya on Monday 26 Oct. All lie in or next to our box, and none produced a detection: the box had heat on 7 of the 8 days from 18 to 25 Oct and none on 26 or 27 Oct. Short events between passes, and cloud on 27 Oct, are the likely reasons. Absence of heat is not absence of strikes. **PARTIAL**

1.3 **Gaza: no heat for 48 hours.** That is normal in our record (detections on 2 of the 8 days from 18 to 25 Oct). Plate B1 shows the last clear pass, 23 Oct. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.4 **Election eve in the air (26 Oct):** seven USAF KC-135 tankers flew from and around Ben Gurion, four of them for most of the day, where US tankers have been based this year under an arrangement reported to run to the end of 2027; two USAF C-17s crossed central Israel; Israeli Air Force traffic included a C-130 at low level from near Gaza to Nevatim, a Boeing 767 (tail 312, consistent with the KC-46 Gideon tankers delivered since May), and two Israeli Air Force Gulfstreams over the sea. An Israeli Heron drone flew 08:33–17:04 UTC from Tel Nof, circling the Shephelah and the Tel Aviv–Ben Gurion area (Plate F1). We found no report of the drone's task. **PARTIAL**

1.5 **Weather:** rain, thunderstorms and hail across several regions on 27 Oct (i24NEWS). Cloud cuts thermal coverage; the absence of detections on election day is weaker evidence than on a clear day.

2. Heat detections, 26 Oct 20:15 → 27 Oct 20:15 UTC

UTC	Satellite	Position	FRP (MW)	Where	Read	News
27 Oct 09:52 / 10:28 / 10:47	NOAA-21, S-NPP, NOAA-20	30.678N 35.254E	7.7–8.4	Central Arava farmland	Sustained daytime fire — lead L1	**NOT IN NEWS**
27 Oct 10:28	S-NPP	32.670N 35.369E	4.3	Jezreel Valley fields, ~3 km SW of Mount Tabor	Probably field burning (autumn)	**NOTHING TO MATCH**
26 Oct 23:29	NOAA-20	31.845N 34.677E	0.9	Tank farm north of Ashdod port	Refinery / terminal flare	**NOTHING TO MATCH**
—	all	Gaza Strip	—		None in 48 h	**NOTHING TO MATCH**
—	all	West Bank	—		None in 48 h	**NOTHING TO MATCH**
—	all	Southern Lebanon strip	—		None since 25 Oct (Khiam); strikes reported 26 Oct	**PARTIAL**

Arava (L1). The three detections fall within 300 m of each other over irrigated plots in the central Arava (Plate A1, Sentinel-2 on 23 Oct, before the fire). Each satellite measured 7.7–8.4 MW, so the fire was steady for at least 55 minutes. Burning of greenhouse waste and stubble is common in the Arava in autumn and is the most likely innocent explanation; we found nothing reported. The next clear optical pass will show whether there is a burn scar and how large it is.

Context, just before the window: a daytime detection on 26 Oct 10:11 UTC at 33.116N 35.791E, in the Golan near the ceasefire line west of Quneitra (Plate B3); not in the news we checked. **NOT IN NEWS**

3. Election-eve military flights (26 Oct)

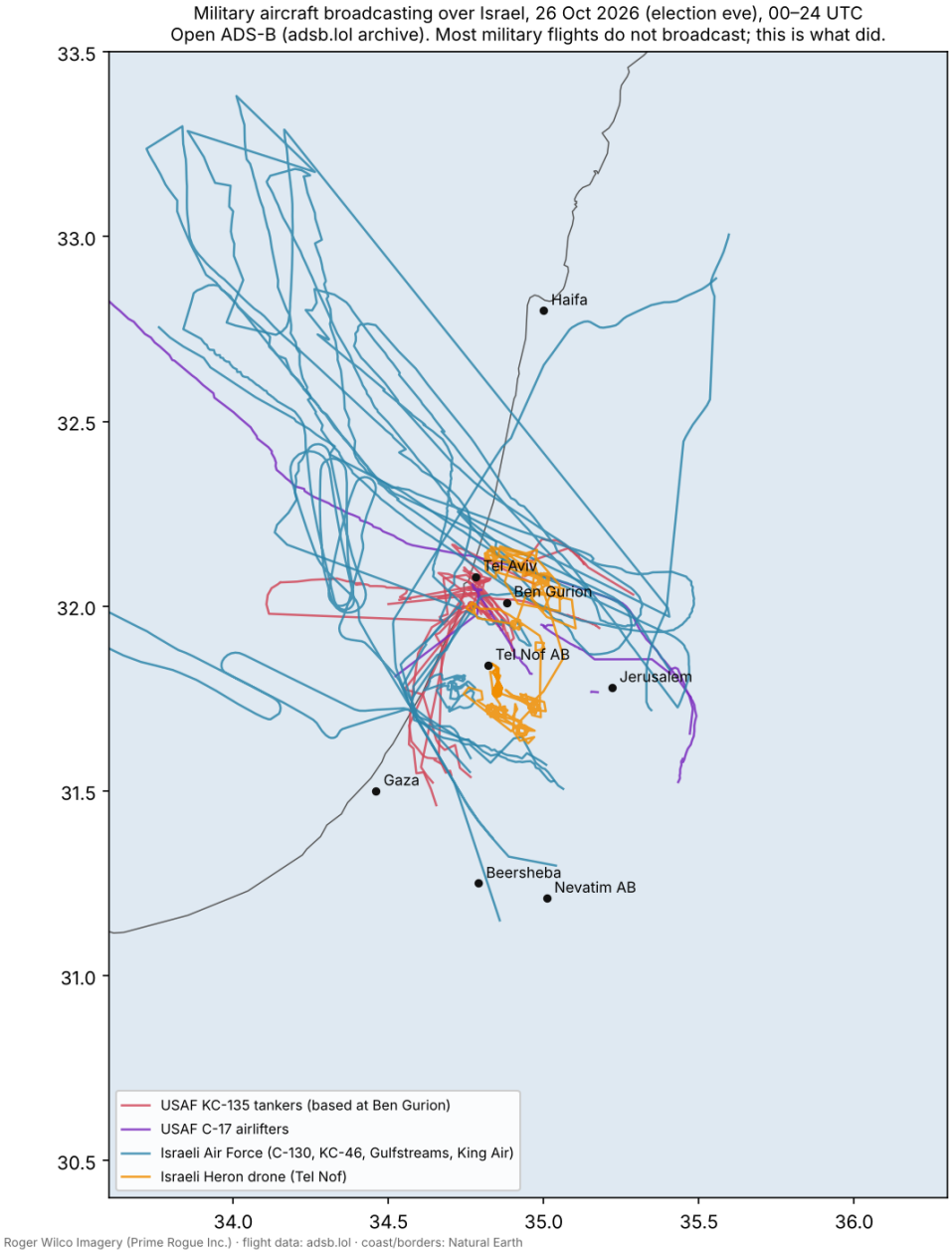

Plate F1 — Military aircraft broadcasting over Israel, 26 Oct, 00–24 UTC. Most military flights do not broadcast; this is the visible part.

Aircraft	UTC (26 Oct)	What we saw	News
USAF KC-135R ×7 (64-14839, 62-3561, 63-8036, 59-1495 for hours; 62-3526, 61-0300, 63-8003 briefly)	02:46–21:50	Departures and returns around Ben Gurion, orbits over the coast at up to 19,000 ft	**CORRELATED** US tankers based at Ben Gurion
USAF C-17A ×2 (03-3124, 04-4134)	13:40–19:58	Across central Israel at 23,000–33,000 ft; one descending toward Ben Gurion	**NOTHING TO MATCH**
IAF Heron drone (738be8)	08:33–17:04	From Tel Nof; circled the Shephelah and the Tel Aviv–Ben Gurion area, 600–20,000 ft	**NOT IN NEWS**
IAF C-130 (420)	07:50–16:34	Low level (450–4,850 ft) from near Gaza to Nevatim	**NOTHING TO MATCH**
IAF Boeing 767 (312)	15:06–19:14	15,500–35,000 ft over central Israel and the sea	**CORRELATED** KC-46 Gideon in service
IAF Gulfstream V ×2 (452, 679)	09:30–11:48, 17:00–18:08	High over the sea and the north	**NOTHING TO MATCH**

Also in range: RAF Voyager and A400M, a German A400M, French and Australian C-130Js, Italian military AW169 helicopters over Lebanon, Royal Jordanian Air Force aircraft over Jordan, and a US Navy MQ-4C Triton over Jordan at 23:05. Routine for the region. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

4. Night lights

Night lights reach the night of 25 Oct; election-eve and election-night images arrive over the next two days. Gaza's brightness rose from 2.6–3.8 nW/cm²/sr (19–23 Oct) to 5.6–6.2 (24–25 Oct), but the full moon was on 26 Oct and the nightly product is not corrected for moonlight, so the rise cannot be read as more electricity (Plate N1). **NOTHING TO MATCH**

5. What we cannot see

• No optical imagery on election day (no pass, and cloud).

• Fire satellites pass four to six times a day; short events between passes — most strikes and demolitions — are missed.

• Military aircraft broadcast by choice. Fighters, most drones and anything on an operation are invisible to open ADS-B.

• The flight archive for 27 Oct itself publishes tomorrow.

6. Follow-ups

6.1 First clear Sentinel-2 pass over the Arava: burn scar for L1.

6.2 27 Oct flight archive (publishes 28 Oct) and the election-night night lights.

6.3 Southern Lebanon: match the 26 Oct strikes to the next clear pass.

How to read the news tags: **CORRELATED** reporting confirms an event at that place and time · **PARTIAL** reporting in the area/period but not a clean match · **NOT IN NEWS** we see something the news does not (a lead, not a finding) · **NOTHING TO MATCH** nothing notable in our data to match.

Plates — every component in this brief

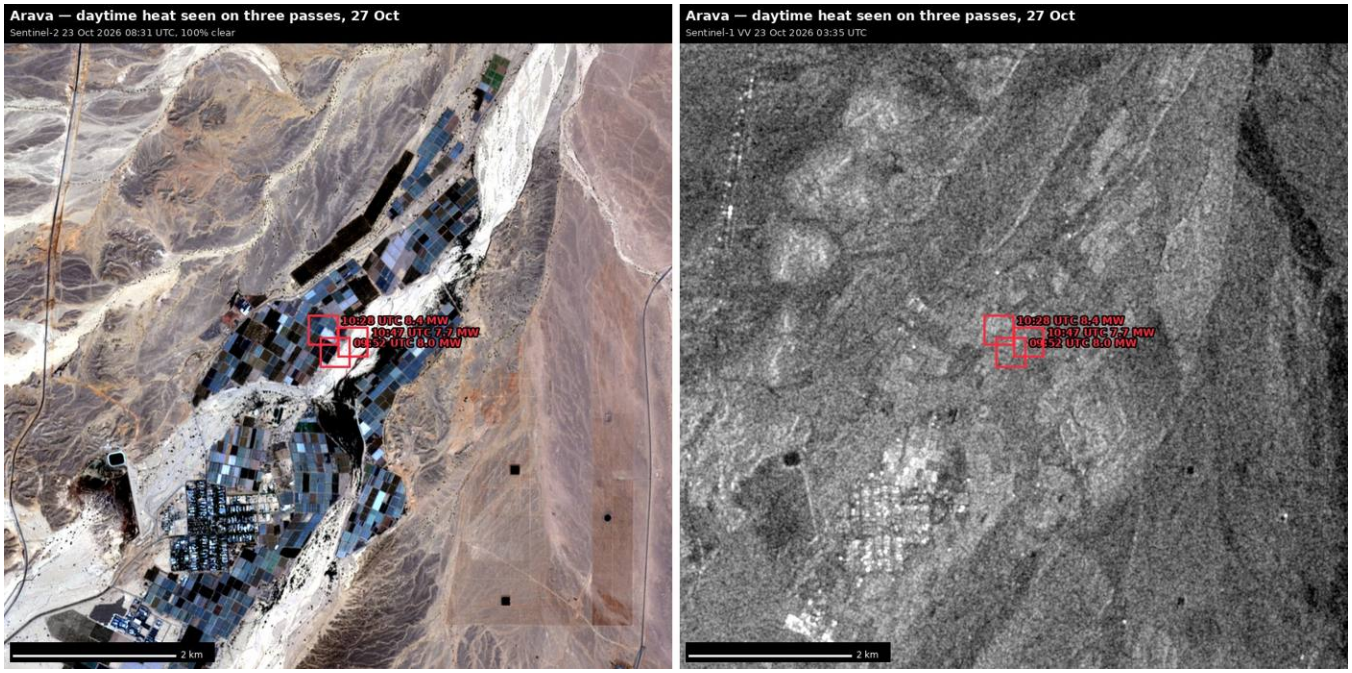

Plate A1 — Arava — daytime heat seen on three passes, 27 Oct.

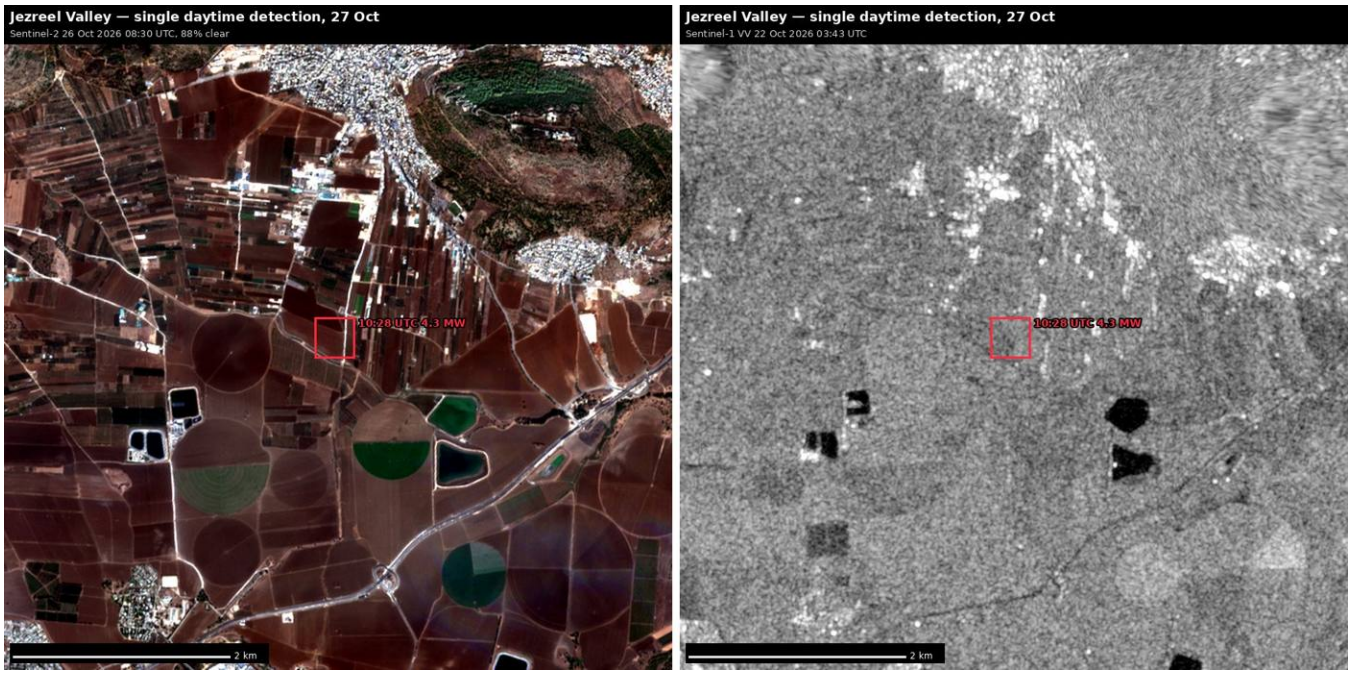

Plate A2 — Jezreel Valley — single daytime detection, 27 Oct.

Plate A3 — East of Ashdod — small night detection, 26 Oct.

Plate B1 — Gaza Strip — no heat detections in 48 h.

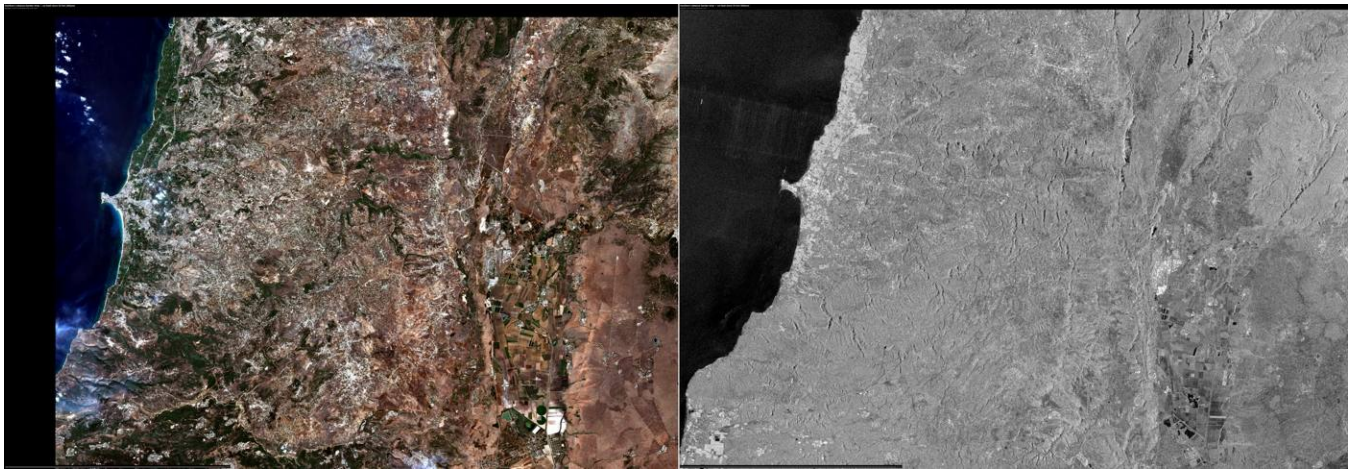

Plate B2 — Southern Lebanon border strip — no heat since 25 Oct (Khiam).

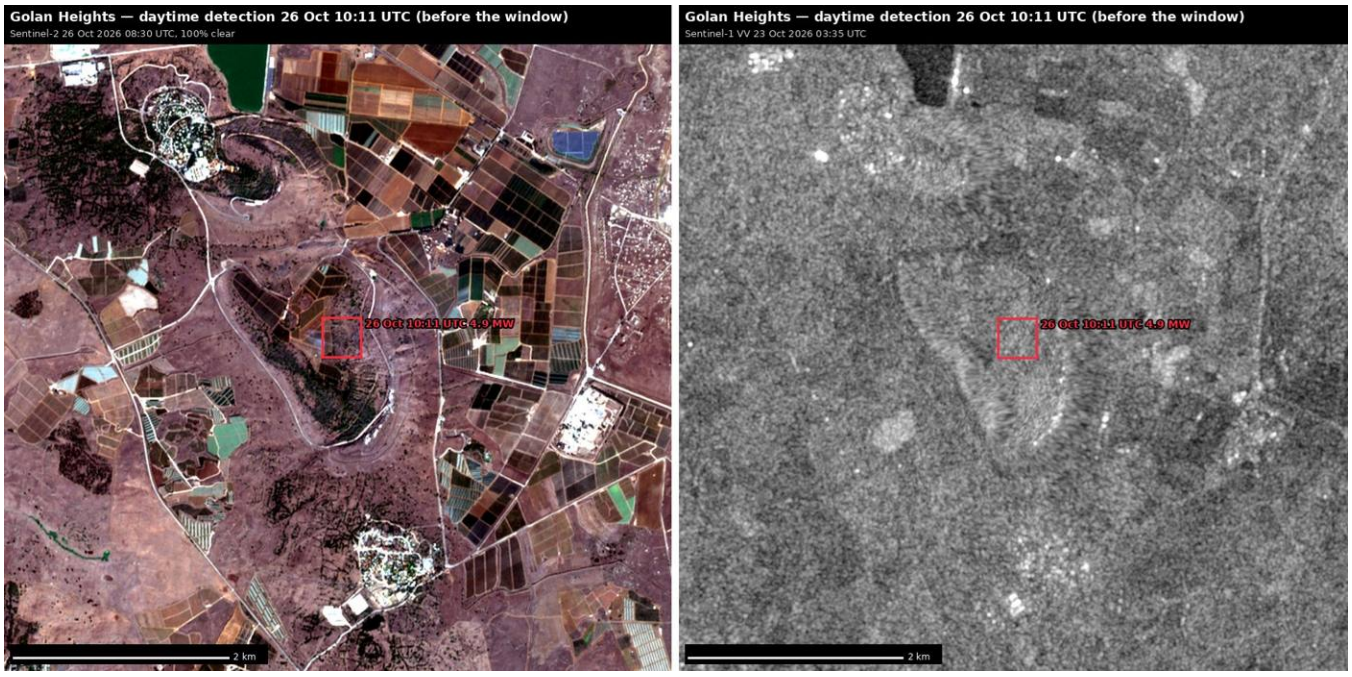

Plate B3 — Golan Heights — daytime detection 26 Oct 10:11 UTC (before the window).

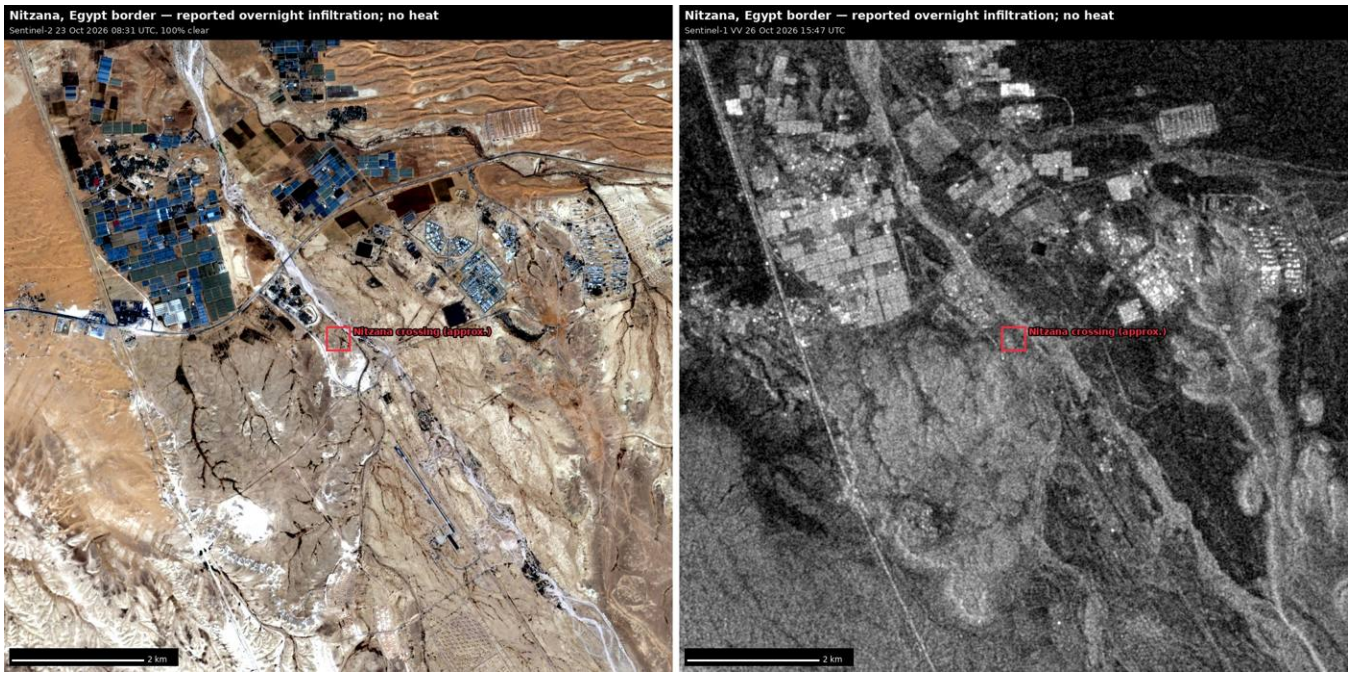

Plate B4 — Nitzana, Egypt border — reported overnight infiltration; no heat.

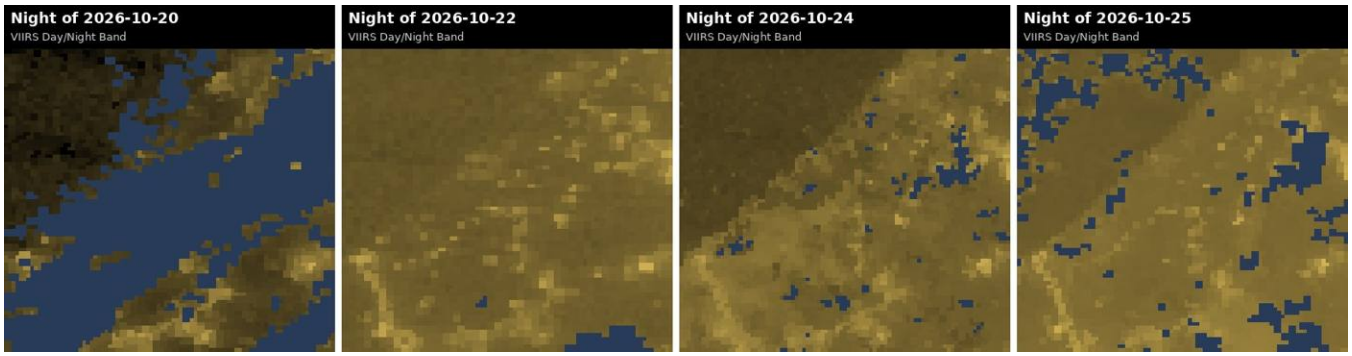

Plate N1 — Gaza — night lights 20–25 Oct (full moon 26 Oct).

Sources

• NASA FIRMS (VIIRS S-NPP / NOAA-20 / NOAA-21, MODIS) 48 h global files; Copernicus Sentinel-2 and Sentinel-1 (Element 84); adsb.lol daily archive (globe_history) for 26 Oct; NASA Black Marble VNP46A1.
• i24NEWS, Israelis head to the polls — live blog, 27 Oct 2026 (turnout, Nitzana infiltration, weather, polling hours).
• Axios, Israeli turnout hits four-decade high, 27 Oct 2026. CBS News, Israeli police arrest man with knife near left-wing politician, 27 Oct 2026.
• Anadolu Agency, Israel carries out strikes in southern Lebanon in fresh ceasefire violations, 27 Oct 2026.
• Jerusalem Post, US refueling aircraft to stay at Ben-Gurion Airport until the end of 2027. The Aviationist, Israeli Air Force takes delivery of its first KC-46A Gideon, 27 May 2026.
• Wikipedia, 2026 Israeli legislative election.