Israel/Lebanon 9 January
The Israeli military confirmed killing an individual described as “Hizbollah's commander of southern Lebanon aerial unit, Ali Husin Berji 'Abu Maadi', using an IAF aircraft. Ali led dozens of attacks using UAVs against Israel”. A spokesperson further reported that “throughout the day, several launches were carried out from Lebanese territory, two UAVs hit the northern command base. There were no casualties and minor damage was caused… Ali also carried out this attack - and he was eliminated three hours afterwards, along with other operatives who were with him”. He also noted: “Today we eliminated a terrorist squad that was attempting to launch UAVs towards the State of Israel, three terrorists were killed in this strike and their weapons were destroyed”.

Tehran 9 January
Discussing the Gaza war, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei argued that “today the Resistance remains strong… [Israel] is exhausted, humiliated and filled with regret”. “The Resistance should target and strike the enemy whenever and wherever possible”, he added.

Washington/Iraq/Tanf/MERV 9 January
Media reports citing Iraqi army sources indicated that on 8 January, “a U.S. air strike on a rocket launcher… foiled an attack on Ain al-Assad air base”. The same day, a U.S. spokesperson tallied a total of 127 attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria since mid-October 2023.

Washington/Israel 9 January
Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Israeli war cabinet, expressing “support for Israel’s right to prevent the terrorist attacks of 7 October from being repeated” and highlighting “the importance of avoiding further civilian harm and protecting civilian infrastructure in Gaza”. Separately, Blinken emphasised to Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant “the importance of preventing the conflict from spreading, including by avoiding escalation in Lebanon or the West Bank”. Gallant noted “growing security tensions across the Middle East and Iranian aggression conducted against Israel via proxies”, asserting that “an increase in the pressure placed on Iran is critical, and may prevent regional escalation in additional arenas”.

Israel/Lebanon/Golan 8 January

Hizbollah confirmed the killing of a senior commander in a suspected Israeli strike in southern Lebanon. The same day, Israeli revealed that it had killed a Hamas official in Syria, while warning: “We will not allow terror from Syrian territory, and it is responsible for any action that emanates its territory”. Hizbollah reported striking several Israeli targets near the border throughout the day, while the Israeli military said it hit “a series of Hizbollah targets across southern Lebanon, including military sites belonging to the organisation. We responded with fire to areas from which launches were identified toward Israeli territory”. At the norther border, Prime Minister Netanyahu asserted that “we will do everything to restore security to the north and allow [residents] to return home in safety… We prefer that this be done without a wide-ranging campaign, but that will not stop us. We have given it an example of what is happening to its friends in the south; this is what will happen here in the north. We will do everything to restore security”.

Tehran/Yemen 8 January

In response to U.S. claims at the UN Security Council about Iran having been “deeply involved in planning operations against commercial vessels in the Red Sea”, Iran’s envoy wrote to the Council that “Iran unequivocally condemns and categorically rejects the unfounded allegations… Incidents in the Red Sea are directly related to Israel’s continued atrocities against the Palestinian people in Gaza”.

Washington/Iraq 8 January

A Pentagon spokesperson reiterated that U.S. forces were in Iraq “at the invitation of the government… We are going to continue to stay in close consultation with the Iraqi government when it comes to U.S. force presence, in particular the safety and security of those forces”.