Helium balloons emerge as new smuggling tool on Israel’s borders with Egypt and Jordan

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 19.11.2026

Meir Ben Shabbat: Smuggling is like the silent diseases that gnaw away from within. People tend to repress them and grasp their implications only when there is an outbreak. Israel after October 7 cannot bury its head in the sand and come to terms with these phenomena, whether they occur through drones or helium balloons or any other method. The security establishment proves every day that it knows how to handle challenges immeasurably more complex than this one.

No agency in the Israeli system will be able to deal with this alone. We must therefore establish a joint inter-agency command center with the IDF, the Shin Bet, Israel Police and other enforcement bodies to deal with this effectively. The ‘Borders Law’ enacted in the previous Knesset, which defined any smuggling across the borders as a security offense and a violation of sovereignty, including harsher punishment, must be activated. The focus must be on those who order the smuggling, rather than relying only on containment efforts in the border zone.

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