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IDF considers recruiting from Diaspora due to severe manpower shortages

Currently, there are some 14,600 deserters from the haredi community. The military has made several arrests against haredi draft dodgers over the past week.



Israeli police and haredi demonstrators clash in Jerusalem, July 23, 2025.

(photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

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The IDF is exploring the possibility of reaching out to the [Jewish Diaspora](#) in

order to encourage young adults between the ages of 18-25 to enlist, according to a report published on Army Radio on Monday morning.

The move comes in direct response to a manpower shortage of approximately 10,000-12,000 soldiers and the ongoing lack of [ultra-Orthodox enlistment](#).

IDF officials noted that the goal is to recruit approximately 600-700 additional soldiers annually from the diaspora, with a focus on the United States and France.

The IDF is opening a [last-chance opportunity](#) for anyone who hasn't advanced with their draft notice, which would allow them to enlist in an accelerated process, as of Sunday. The offer will be available until Thursday.

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Haredi men are seen protesting the effort to draft ultra-Orthodox Israelis into the IDF. (credit: FLASH90)

Issues around drafting haredi men

Dialogue around the issue of an equal draft and the full integration of eligible haredi men into service has intensified at a steady rate since the [Israel-Hamas War](#) began nearly two years ago.

Anyone who answers the call now will be able to enlist and settle their affairs without arrest or jail time. They will be immediately taken to basic training.

The IDF will personally reach out to the relevant recruits, with an emphasis on those between the ages of 18 and 28.

Sarah Ben Nun contributed to this report.