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Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant is scheduled to arrive in Washington, D.C., on Sunday for meetings with key U.S. officials. Among those he will meet are Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The discussions will focus on the escalating threat of conflict between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, as well as ongoing developments in Gaza and Lebanon. A primary topic will also be efforts to secure the release of Israeli hostages currently held by Hamas.

In a statement, Gallant highlighted the significance of U.S.-Israeli ties during these critical times. Gallant has underscored the importance of his upcoming discussions in Washington, particularly given the threats issued in a recent video by Hezbollah. The video, which includes coordinates of key Israeli infrastructure, features a clip of Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah warning of unrestrained warfare if conflict intensifies.

This visit comes shortly after tensions flared when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused the U.S. of delaying weapons shipments to Israel—a claim that was met with confusion by the White House. Gallant's office noted that his trip is at the invitation of Secretary Austin and happens amid rising military activities. Just recently, Israel intensified military operations in the Gaza Strip, particularly in the city of Rafah, aiming to undermine remaining Hamas forces.

Additionally, video from Hezbollah last week showed drone footage of an Israeli military base, signaling the militant group's readiness to target multiple key locations in Israel, including airports, power plants, and ports. These developments underscore the heightened state of alert and the potential for increased hostilities in the region.

As Gallant heads to Washington, his visit underscores the strategic importance of U.S.-Israeli relations, particularly as both nations navigate the complexities of Middle East tensions.