

Ynet-News, Apr 07, 2024 – Sunday

Note: Israel LEAP YEAR Adar-2 this year moves Pesach to April 22

Possible Abomination Day June 20, 2024

Ramadan start March 11 – Ends April 10, Pesach Mar 23-31 move Pesach to April 22

4.07. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in April 07 spot – Sunday Possible Abomination
IDF shift to third phase, reduced to 3 to 4 brigades to enable Gaza residents return

4.07. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Possible Abomination
PM reiterates Rafah invasion threats as IDF scales down forces in Gaza

4.06. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in April 06 spot – Saturday
Hamis demands IDF withdrawal rehousing aid and shelter before prisoner deal

4.05. 24 – Fr - - - News Placed in April 05 spot – Friday Abomination 02 days
Biden & EU require products from WB settlements to label origin as occupied territory

4.05. 24 – Fr - - - News – Friday Abomination 02 days
IDF admits to fatal missteps in misidentification of aid workers in Gaza convoy

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Biden's push of immediate cease-fire puts US support for Israel in jeopardy

4.04. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Abomination 03 days
11 from Negev & WB plot ISIS style attack on police station, bases and Airport

4.04. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in April 04 spot – Thursday Abomination 03 days
Cyber agencies purposefully disrupting GPS apps to confuse weapons

4.03. 24 – We- - - News Placed in April 03 spot – Wednesday Abomination 04 days
Quantity of Gaza food & aid significantly larger than what entered before the war

4.03. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Abomination 04 days
Tira Arab, car rams four pedestrians then four police then attempted to stab security

4.02. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in April 02 spot – Tuesday Abomination 05 days
IDF drone attacked three vehicles, killed 7 World Central Kitchen volunteers in Gaza

4.02. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Abomination 05 days
Israeli negotiators return from Cairo with new proposal waiting for Hamas

4.01. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Abomination 06 days
Iranian Quds commander killed in IDF strike on consulate building in Damascus

4.01. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Abomination 06 days
UAV from Iraq hits Israeli naval base Eilabun in the Galilee, Iraq militias celebrate

4.07. 24 – Su

IDF shift to third phase, reduced to 3 to 4 brigades to enable Gaza residents return

4.07. 24 – Su

Most Israeli forces pull out of Gaza; Only one brigade remains

Exactly 6 months since the start of the war, the IDF withdrew all of its forces from Khan Younis, and now only the Nahal Brigade remains in the Gaza Strip to hold a strategic position; Israel says withdrawal is unrelated to pressure from the Biden administration
Yoav Zitun|10:59

Six months into the conflict, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) began a substantial pullback of its remaining troops from the Gaza Strip in the early hours of Sunday morning. The 98th Division, previously stationed in the southern Khan Younis district, was among the units included in this strategic withdrawal.

Within hours of the IDF's pullback, just prior to 1 p.m, five rockets were launched from the Khan Younis region. The Iron Dome defense system responded, successfully intercepting two of the rockets. The Nahal Brigade is now the sole IDF unit in the strip, stationed at the Netzarim junction on the Gaza Strip's main north-south highway, a strategic point that divides the strip in two. From this location, targeted operations are conducted. Presently, the force consists of several hundred soldiers, a significant decrease from the peak deployment of 30,000 troops to 40,000 troops, equivalent to slightly over 20 brigades.

The latest withdrawal follows a significant reduction of forces implemented by the IDF in January, which saw the departure of the 36th Brigade, including the Golani Brigade, from the strip. This move signaled the shift toward a third, less intensive phase of combat, initially taking effect in northern Gaza, and subsequently in the south.

This third phase involves surgical and repeated raids, the most notable of which recently took place at the Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The two-week-long operation resulted in the elimination of approximately 200 terrorists who had returned to the complex following the IDF's departure. Additionally, around 500 arrests were made, including several high-ranking commanders. Despite these tactical gains, the ongoing conflict continues to exact a heavy toll: three soldiers lost their lives in the Al Shifa battles, and it was announced this morning that four more soldiers were killed on Saturday in a clash with Hamas terrorists in northwestern Khan Younis.

On the southern front in Khan Younis, IDF forces have effectively ceased maneuvers into new territory for several weeks, focusing instead on repeated raids. These operations may continue even after the full withdrawal of forces. Meanwhile, the military awaits political directives regarding potential action in Rafah, the last significant stronghold of Hamas, which currently hosts four battalions of the terrorist army.

The IDF has indicated that the most effective strategy in the Strip involves the implementation of the offensive's third phase, characterized by focused and confined raids, as exemplified by the actions in Al Shifa. The military has recognized that its previous maneuver strategy has reached its limit. Therefore, future raids will be launched from outside the strip into Khan Younis, subsequent to the disbanding of the local Hamas brigade.

Over recent months, the 98th Division has been instrumental in eliminating thousands of terrorists in Khan Younis and destroying over 18.6 miles of tunnels, the majority of which were of strategic importance to the Hamas leadership. Activity in Khan Younis was conducted both above and below ground, initially involving 7 to 8 brigades.

However, that number has been gradually reduced to a current strength of 3 to 4 brigades. The military has expressed the capability and willingness to return to Khan Younis if deemed necessary. Preparations are underway for future operations targeting Hamas brigades in Rafah, adjacent to the Egyptian border, and also in Deir al-Balah, located in the heart of Gaza. The army has emphasized that it would be imprudent to maintain withdrawal routes and deploy forces in the south of the strip that could put them at risk. Rather, any future actions will be guided by intelligence.

Israeli forces suggest the withdrawal from Khan Younis will present new opportunities for operations and intelligence gathering. However, there will be no direct route for force entry into the city due to its extensive size. Southern Gaza is broader than the north, spanning roughly 8.7 miles to 10 miles from the border to the sea, compared to a span of 4.3 miles to 5 miles in the northern strip.

The IDF has made clear that its withdrawal from Khan Younis is not linked to any pressure from the United States. Another factor contributing to the decision to withdraw is the need to accommodate displaced individuals who may have to vacate Rafah in the event of a large-scale raid. The military has also clarified that the cessation of activities in the city will enable Khan Younis residents who fled to Rafah to return to their homes. In fact, images of residents returning to Khan Younis from Rafah were already being circulated by midday.

4.07. 24 – Su

PM reiterates Rafah invasion threats as IDF scales down forces in Gaza

4.07. 24 – Su

Netanyahu reiterates Rafah invasion threats as IDF scales down forces in Gaza

Six months into war, PM asserts Israel 'step away from victory' and vows Gaza will not pose a threat anymore; Israeli delegation set for Cairo talks; 'Hamas blocking deal,'

Netanyahu says

Itamar Eichner, Yoav Zitun|08:03

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday reiterated his threats that Israel would invade the southern Gaza Strip of Rafah to clear it out of Hamas terrorists.

"We are **determined** to achieve total victory in the war, **return all our captives**, complete the elimination of Hamas throughout the Gaza Strip, including Rafah, and to **ensure Gaza no longer poses a threat to Israel**," Netanyahu said at the opening of the Weekly Cabinet meeting.

As the war marks its **six-month anniversary**, Netanyahu listed Israel's "significant achievements," including **dismantling "19 out of 24 Hamas battalions**, including senior commanders" and **clearing terrorist concentrations at Gaza City's Al Shifa Hospital** and other terrorist command centers. "We are a **step away from victory**, but the **toll** taken from us is painful and **heart-wrenching**," he said.

Meanwhile, the **98th Division**, which has been stationed **in the southern Gaza Strip** in recent months, particularly in the Khan Younis area, has **rotated out of the territory**, the IDF said earlier on **Sunday**.

Meanwhile, the **7th Armored Brigade** began its **withdrawal from the Gaza Strip Saturday** night, after engaging in combat in the Palestinian enclave since the start of ground operations at the end of October.

For the past **three months**, the **7th Armored Brigade** operated **in Khan Younis under the 98th Division**, and before that, it was stationed in northern and central Gaza under the 36th Division. This marks a further reduction of IDF forces in Gaza. Currently, the **Nahal Brigade**, which holds **Road 749 bisecting the enclave**, remains the only unit still **operating there**.

Meanwhile, Mossad Director David Barnea, Shin Bet head Ronen Bar and Major General (ret.) Nitzan Alon will travel to Cairo, Egypt, on Sunday for hostage negotiation talks, as sanctioned by the War Cabinet. The forum also expanded the **negotiation team's mandate**, following a **request from U.S. President Joe Biden**.

At the **Cabinet meeting**, Netanyahu said, "We will **not forget the horrific crimes** of the **Hamas monsters still holding our brothers and sisters** captive. To date, we have returned 123 hostages, and we are committed to bringing them all home.

I have made it clear to the international community that there will be **no cease fire without the return of the hostages**. It simply won't happen, and I welcome President **Biden's statement** yesterday reiterating this stance.

"Israel is **not the one blocking a deal**; **Hamas** is. Its extreme **demands** are designed to end the war while **maintaining its rule**, ensuring its survival and rehabilitation. Succumbing to **Hamas' demands** would **enable** it to **repeat the crimes** of October 7 **over and over**.

"**Hamas hopes** that internal and **external pressure will force Israel to capitulate**. That won't happen. **Israel will not surrender**. Our war has **revealed to the world** what Israel had always known; **Iran is behind the attack** against us.

“Since October 7, we have been attacked on multiple fronts by Iran's proxies. Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, militias in Iraq and Syria, among other attacks. Anyone who harms us or plans to harm us, we will strike back. Israel is prepared for any attempt, from anywhere.”

4.06. 24 – Sa

Hamas demands IDF withdrawal rehousing aid and shelter before prisoner deal

4.06. 24 – Sa

Hamas presents rigid front in hostage talks, Israeli officials point fingers at Biden
Jerusalem hasn't decided on joining Cairo talks, yet Mossad chief Barnea likely to attend;
 Hamas demands 'full IDF withdrawal'; Israel links tensions with the US to Hamas actions
and criticizes Qatar's 'playing both sides'

Itamar Eichner|10:34

CIA Director William Burns, Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed Al-Thani and Egyptian
spy chief Abbas Kamel are set to meet in Cairo on Sunday for a summit on a Gaza cease-
fire, amid expectations that Mossad Director David Barnea will also participate.

The meeting's goal remains uncertain as Israel deliberates its involvement, in light of
Hamas's increasingly rigid position and its delayed response to the newest mediation
offer.

Some Israeli officials link Hamas' hardening stance to the crisis with U.S. President Joe
Biden and his administration. Sources claim that Thursday's call between Biden and
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in which, according to the White House, the
president did not link an immediate cease-fire to the release of hostages, sent a clear
message to Hamas that a truce could be achieved without a deal.

Although the White House later clarified that there is no change in its policy and that a
cease-fire must come with the release of hostages, Jerusalem is reluctant to participate in
what it views as a "substance-less show."

Meanwhile, Jerusalem is growing increasingly frustrated with Qatar amid U.S. efforts to
engage Doha and Cairo to press Hamas into accepting the mediation proposal, which,
according to sources, includes significant concessions regarding the return of Gazan
civilians to the northern Gaza Strip.

Sources indicate that Hamas rejecting the offer would imply the terror group is not
interested in alleviating the plight of the Gaza population or releasing hostages but
merely seeks an end to the war.

Israel contends that Qatar has so far failed to pressure Hamas, expel any high-ranking
members of the terrorist organization or freeze their assets. This perceived inaction led
Prime Minister Netanyahu to expedite the closure of Al Jazeera's Israel operations after
months of delay. According to sources, Qatar is essentially playing both sides and needs
to apply pressure on Hamas.

Meanwhile, Hamas announced in an official statement Saturday afternoon that a delegation led by Khalil al-Haya, the deputy of the terror group's leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar, would head to Cairo for negotiation talks, following Egypt's invitation. Hamas reaffirmed its stance presented to mediators last month, demanding a complete IDF withdrawal from Gaza and a comprehensive cease-fire. "These are natural demands to end the aggression, and we will not relinquish them," Hamas said. "Our people and our national forces demand a complete halt of air strikes, IDF withdrawal from Gaza, rehousing the displaced, freedom of movement for civilians, provision of aid and shelter, ultimately leading to a prisoner exchange deal."

4.05. 24 – Fr

Biden & EU require products from WB settlements to label origin as occupied territory

4.05. 24 – Fr

Biden administration planning to label products from West Bank settlements, report says
Financial Times reports US plan came in response to Smotrich announcing nationalization of Jordan Valley land during Blinken visit; implementation delayed due to UN veto crisis
Ynet|07:53

The Biden administration is drawing up plans to require labeling of products originating from West Bank settlements, the Financial Times reported on Friday, citing U.S. officials.

It is still unclear if and when such an initiative would take effect as part of the Biden administration's efforts to turn the screws on Israel following reports of a supposed increase in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank. The report also highlighted Washington's frustration with how Israel is conducting the war in the Gaza Strip.

Products from settlements were prohibited from being labeled in the U.S. as "Made in Israel" until former President Donald Trump reversed the decision, allowing products from the Israeli-administered Area C to be tagged as such.

Against the backdrop of the U.S. decision, the newspaper cited Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich's March 22 announcement that the Civil Administration declared 2,000 acres in the Jordan Valley as state land, during U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Israel. Two days later, the U.S. abstained from vetoing a Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages. American sources stated the U.S. did not want to announce product labeling alongside this unprecedented move.

The European Union had already approved regulations in 2019 requiring products from settlements to be labeled as originating in "occupied territory," prohibiting them from being marked as products of Israel itself.

4.05. 24 – Fr

IDF admits to fatal missteps in misidentification of aid workers in Gaza convoy

4.05. 24 – Fr

IDF admits to fatal missteps in misidentification of aid workers in Gaza

Probe finds pickups joined aid convoy unnoticed by fire control center as communication with aid group failed and gunmen spotted near warehouse; workers killed in unauthorized drone strike without immediate risk to troops; 2 officer dismissed and others reprimanded Yoav Zitun, Itamar Eichner|07:42

The IDF released on Friday the findings of its investigation into the killing of seven humanitarian aid workers in the central Gaza Strip earlier this week, revealing a series of violations of the rules of engagement, resulting in the dismissal of two officers.

The IDF said that it “takes seriously the grave incident that claimed the lives of seven innocent humanitarian aid workers” with the international aid organization World Central Kitchen in Deir al-Balah on Tuesday.

“We express our deep sorrow for the loss and send our condolences to the families and the WCK organization,” a statement read.

“We consider the vital humanitarian activity of international aid organizations to be of utmost importance, and we will continue to work to coordinate and assist their activities, while ensuring their safety and safeguarding their lives.”

The investigation findings, presented Thursday night to the foreign press and representatives of the countries whose citizens were harmed in the attack, concluded the tragic incident could have been prevented, as forces were unaware of who was in the vehicles.

The military highlighted that since the war began, there were 6,000 successful and safe “coordination incidents” with humanitarian organizations, even as Palestinian crowds sometimes stormed the convoys and gunmen fired at them.

The incident began with a UAE-funded aid ship, inspected by the IDF in Cyprus, and headed toward the Gaza coast under naval supervision, carrying 300 tons of food.

Upon arrival in Gaza, the crew was to gradually unload its cargo over several days under IDF oversight. Initially, the cargo was successfully executed, with 162nd Division Commander Brig. Gen. Itzik Cohen overseeing the operation alongside naval forces at sea, while the Nahal Brigade monitored from land.

On the night of the incident, there were pre-coordinated efforts between WCK and the IDF. By 10 pm, eight trucks were loaded at the pier and began moving south along the coastal road to a food warehouse. About 20 minutes later, IDF forces identified four pickup trucks joining the convoy; according to Southern Command instructions, aid convoys include both trucks and pickups marked with WCK stickers and equipped with communication methods between IDF forces and their occupants.

These vehicles were supposed to pass through three checkpoints from the pier to the warehouses that night. These instructions were known to the 162nd Division but not to the Nahal Brigade's fire control center responsible for airstrikes, where officers believed the convoy should only consist of trucks.

Around 10:30 pm, the fire control center spotted the pickup trucks joining the convoy, and at 10:28 pm, they observed a gunman mounted on one of the trucks firing into the air. The representative who spotted this reported it to the division command, where he was instructed not to attack the convoy under any circumstances, even if a gunman was spotted, as it was a humanitarian convoy.

In this process, the fire control center also identified the four pickup trucks in the convoy and attempted to contact WCK representatives unsuccessfully. The government activities coordination representatives also tried to reach the organization's overseas coordinator, who couldn't establish contact during those critical minutes.

At 10:26 pm, the convoy stopped near one of the warehouses. From the air, the IDF identified approximately 15 individuals carrying bags near the pickup trucks and four gunmen as the trucks entered the warehouses.

At this stage, division instructions were still not to fire at all, but from the fire control center operators' perspective, the humanitarian mission ended once the trucks entered the warehouses.

At 10:29 pm, the pickup trucks left the warehouse, splitting into two directions - one vehicle headed north to the WCK concentration point, and three others went south. These vehicles were not considered innocent by the fire control center from the start due to the proximity of armed individuals. Thus, the forces classified the vehicles traveling south as belonging to Hamas.

The pickup trucks had identification stickers, but they were not visible from the drones at night due to the lack of thermal imaging. Consequently, the forces attacked the vehicles heading south three times from the air, with fatal results: seven WCK workers were killed, including six foreign nationals.

According to the investigation, the forces in the fire control center wrongly believed they were attacking Hamas operatives. However, the investigation found the strike was in violation of the rules of engagement since only the lead vehicle was suspected of carrying a Hamas operative, and the other two vehicles were targeted merely because some passengers moved between the vehicles. Such movement, according to the rules, is insufficient for targeting, yet three missiles were still fired.

The military described the attack as a severe failure and a violation of the rules of engagement. Early on, near the aid warehouse, the fire control center perceived the pickups as hostile rather than belonging to WCK; the Southern Command, where the attack was managed, should have sought firing approval from the brigade commander or division commander but did not; furthermore, there were no IDF soldiers in the vicinity, indicating there was no immediate danger, even if the pickups were indeed carrying gunmen.

4.05. 24 – Fr

Biden's push of immediate cease-fire puts US support for Israel in jeopardy

4.05. 24 – Fr

Biden's Gaza ultimatum puts US support for Israel in jeopardy

In call with Netanyahu, US president expresses growing frustration with humanitarian situation in Gaza, especially after inadvertent killing of aid workers; Washington signals potential policy change

Itamar Eichner|01:39

While some in Israel described Thursday's call between U.S. President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as "positive," the White House's readout of the conversation left no room for doubt.

The statement included some stern remarks for Israel, including an ultimatum following the inadvertent killing of aid workers in the Gaza Strip and the territory's overall humanitarian situation.

The White House statement hinted more than subtly that Washington might pull its support for Israel as the war rages on. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby later made similar comments. In essence, the White House issued what amounts to an ultimatum to Israel. "U.S. policy with respect to Gaza will be determined by our assessment of Israel's immediate action on these steps."

The White House readout makes no mention of arms shipments to Israel, but two U.S. officials told NBC on Thursday that Biden "strongly hinted" in his call with Netanyahu that Washington might condition its military aid to Israel based on actions it requires from it in the humanitarian field, as well as regarding the promotion of an immediate cease-fire. "That was the message," said one of the sources.

For some time, Biden has resisted the growing calls within his Democratic camp to limit weapons shipments. On Thursday, The Washington Post reported that the Biden administration had signed off on an additional 2,000 bombs to be sent to Israel.

However, the authorization was given a few hours before an IDF attack that killed seven workers from the international aid group World Central Kitchen in the central Gaza Strip's Deir al-Balah.

The attack, made on a mistaken identification that also killed an American-Canadian citizen as well as citizens from Britain, Poland, and Australia, sparked global outrage toward Israel and is now increasing international pressure on it.

"President Biden emphasized that the strikes on humanitarian workers and the overall humanitarian situation are unacceptable," the White House readout further read.

"He made clear the need for Israel to announce and implement a series of specific, concrete, and measurable steps to address civilian harm, humanitarian suffering, and the safety of aid workers. He made clear that U.S. policy with respect to Gaza will be determined by our assessment of Israel's immediate action on these steps."

The White House statement included a call for an **immediate cease-fire** that apparently is **not conditioned on the release of hostages**, a break from its previous statements. However, **Biden did later link the cease-fire to the release of hostages in an X post.**

Meanwhile, Secretary **Blinken** essentially **suggested at a press conference in Brussels** Thursday that American support could be compromised **if Israel does not make** significant **changes** in how it conducts the war. "If we don't see the changes that we need to see, there will be changes in our own policy," he said, without providing further details.

Kirby conveyed an increasing level of **exasperation**, outlining the specific actions the **U.S.** anticipates from Israel, which include the **introduction of more aid into Gaza** through land crossings, minimizing civilian casualties and effective coordination for the safety of aid workers.

Kirby said the U.S. will evaluate its approach to Israel based on the latter's policy adjustments and execution of commitments. Emphasizing the need for action beyond statements, Kirby warned that the **U.S. is prepared to change its stance if Israel does not alter its policy.**

The call also dealt with negotiations for a hostage exchange deal. Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan announced that the terror group effectively rejected the new proposal formulated in Cairo. However, Biden urged Netanyahu to accept the deal, even as Hamas communicated to mediators its rejection of the proposal.

The White House statement indicated that **Biden** "**urged** the Prime Minister to empower his negotiators **to conclude a deal without delay to bring the hostages home.**"

As **Biden** is **facing** growing **pressure for his support** of Israel's war effort, some top pollsters say the 81-year-old is trailing his Republican opponent Donald Trump ahead of the presidential election in November.

However, the White House readout further stated that "the two leaders **also discussed public Iranian threats against Israel** and the Israeli people. President **Biden made clear** that the United States strongly **supports Israel in the face of those threats.**"

4.04. 24 – Th

11 from Negev & WB plot ISIS style attack on police station, bases and Airport

4.04. 24 – Th

Shin Bet says foiled terror plot to assassinate Ben Gvir

11 suspects from Negev and West Bank accused of plotting attacks on military bases and Ben Gurion Airport using RPG to kill minister

Liran Tamari, Ilana Curiel, Yoav Zitun|05:19

Shin Bet, the IDF, and the Israel Police uncovered a plot to assassinate National Security Minister **Itamar Ben-Gvir and attack targets** such as military **bases**, the Ben Gurion **Airport and government offices.**

At least 11 suspects were charged at the Lod District court including seven from the Negev and the center, and four from the West Bank. The charges detailed the group's elaborate attack plans, including a plot to kidnap an Israeli civilian from one of the West Bank settlements.

The group had actively sought out terror activists to join their cause and even attempted to lease a plot of land to establish a factory for training and weapons production, masked as a legitimate business. They also attempted to secure protection, funding, and operational guidance from Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the security agencies said.

The charges detailed the group's elaborate attack plans, including a plot to kidnap an Israeli civilian from one of the West Bank settlements.

In an earlier statement, the Shin Bet said that in a joint operation with the Jerusalem police, a plot to carry out ISIS style attacks was also foiled. The plot involved attacking a police station and the area around Teddy Soccer Stadium with explosives and firearms. The terrorists had also planned to travel abroad for terror training. However, the police and Shin Bet arrested them before these plans could be executed.

The investigation revealed their allegiance to ISIS and their intention to launch multiple attacks in Jerusalem. Their strategy shifted to a shooting attack after their attempt to prepare an explosive device was unsuccessful. The terrorists had even planned to travel to Africa, Syria, or Iraq for terror training.

Before their arrest, the terrorists had begun preparations for the attacks and were learning how to prepare explosives and weapons. Jerusalem District Police and Shin Bet detectives discovered their intention to attack a police station near the city's football stadium.

Reports indicate that, since the onset of the war, the Jerusalem District Police and Shin Bet have successfully prevented dozens of attacks in the Jerusalem area due to intelligence activities, alertness, and professionalism.

4.04. 24 – Th

Cyber agencies purposefully disrupting GPS apps to confuse weapons

4.04. 24 – Th

You are still in Israel, this is not Beirut despite your navigation app's claim

As Israel braces for a possible attack from Iran or its proxies in the wake of the strike on Damascus that killed a senior member of the IRGC, Waze and other navigation apps purposefully disrupted

Ynet|01:29

After months of GPS mishaps in northern Israel amid cross border fighting with Hezbollah, Israelis in the center of the country are now also experiencing similar problems amid concerns of an Iranian attack in response to the killing of its senior IRGC commander last week.

Israelis in Tel Aviv reported their Waze navigational app was showing them that they were in Beirut. Google Maps, and Moovit were also insisting they were in the Lebanese capital although they were seeing Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan and Rishon Lezion outside their car windows.

Israel's cybersecurity chief Yigal Unna told Ynet on Thursday that the disruption of the GPS apps was an effective tool to confuse weapons using the technology to reach their targets and suggests using maps like in the old days.

Reports of GPS mishaps began early in the war, mostly in the north although at times, apps in the center of the country insisted Israelis were in Cairo while walking the shores of Tel Aviv. At the time, Israel's Cyber directorate said that security agencies were purposefully disrupting GPS apps for security reasons and urged the public to be patient and aware of temporary location-based mishaps, calming concerns of cyber attacks. "During the fighting, GPS jamming is activated for various operational needs in order to protect the security of the residents of the State of Israel," the IDF spokesperson's Unit said in December.

"We are aware that GPS disruptions are currently being activated throughout Israel and are affecting all location-based applications at this stage, Google, Waze parent company said at the time. "Due to the disruptions, there may be temporary inaccuracies in finding the location and navigation in the Waze application. As always, Waze monitors carefully to ensure that the map is as accurate and up-to-date as possible."

4.03. 24 – We

Quantity of Gaza food & aid significantly larger than what entered before the war

4.03. 24 – We

250,000 tons of food, 3.3 million cubic meters of water: Israel's aid to Gaza since start of war

Responding to an appeal filed by groups claiming it's preventing aid from Gaza, the state numbers staggering amount of aid given to the Strip since October 7

Gilad Morag|00:15

The state responded to an appeal to the Supreme Court on Tuesday made by various human rights groups who claimed that Israel doesn't provide and even prevents the supply of humanitarian aid to the civilian population in Gaza, and provided data on the extent of the aid provided since October 7.

The state noted that since the beginning of the war until the end of March, over 252 tons of food have been brought into the Gaza Strip in 12,000 aid trucks, over 3.3 million cubic meters of water were delivered, and 20 tons of medical equipment including two million vaccines doses of for various diseases were provided.

The appeal argued, "That Israel's failure to take immediate and effective steps to increase aid to all residents of the Gaza Strip constitutes a blatant violation of its obligations under international and Israeli law, both as a combatant and as an occupying power, and of the interim ruling issued by the International Court of Justice."

The state detailed in its response that since the beginning of the war until March 28, 11,954 aid trucks containing 252,585 tons of food entered the Strip, including the facilitation of 401 cooking gas tanks. It was further noted that the quantity of food trucks entering the strip since October 7 is significantly larger than the number of trucks that entered before the war.

In addition, it was detailed that since the start of the war until March 23, the pipelines to Gaza provided over 3.3 million cubic meters of water. Additionally, until March 28, Israel allowed the entry of 1,409 aid trucks carrying 28,100 tons of water through various border crossings.

In addition to these efforts, Israel coordinated the establishment of two additional water lines through the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which extend from Egypt into the Rafah area and have been operating since December 2023, providing 3,400 cubic meters per day. From their establishment until March 23, the new lines supplied 195,000 cubic meters of water.

Regarding the entry of electricity and fuel, the state noted that prior to the fighting, Gaza's electricity consumption, sourced from Israel, stood at 50%. However, with the onset of the war, nine out of 10 high-voltage lines were damaged by missiles fired by terrorist organizations in Gaza.

Additionally, the state clarified it doesn't restrict the volume of medicines and medical equipment going into the strip, and as of March 28, 1,705 trucks carrying 19,805 tons of medical equipment entered Gaza. Israel also allowed the entry of 105 new ambulances into the Strip, donated by various countries.

Moreover, the State of Israel maintains connections with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) organization to monitor the need for vaccines in the Strip and has allowed the entry of 458,636 vials containing 2,286,330 vaccine doses for various diseases.

"For these reasons," the state emphasized in its response, "the request for the appeal should be postponed."

4.03. 24 – We

Tira Arab, car rams four pedestrians then four police then attempted to stab security

4.03. 24 – We

Ramming attack injures four police officers in central Israel

Terrorist uses car to run over police forces stationed near Kochav Yair before being neutralized following attempted stabbing; one officer suffers serious injuries

Raanan Ben-Zur | 23:30

A ramming attack injured four police officers, one seriously so, Wednesday overnight near Kochav Yair located in central Israel. Following the attack, the terrorist, Wahhab Shbita, a 26-year-old Arab-Israeli from Tira, arrived at a checkpoint armed with a knife and attempted to stab security forces stationed there - and was neutralized.

Magen David Adom (MDA) emergency services teams evacuated the officer to the Rabin Medical Center in serious condition. Three other officers, one of whom was moderately injured, were taken to the Meir Medical Center.

The police launched an investigation into the attack and noted that following the ramming near Kochav Yair, the terrorist got out of his vehicle at the Eliyahu crossing, attempted to stab a security guard - and was neutralized.

Israel Police Central District chief, Superintendent Avi Biton, held a situation assessment at the scene, and said the terrorist rammed the officers who were stationed in the area, and then attempted to stab a security guard at the Eliyahu checkpoint.

MDA dispatch center received a report on the attack at 01:39 a.m. According to the report, a number of pedestrians were injured by a vehicle near Tira. MDA paramedics arrived at the scene and provided medical attention to the officers.

"Four injured individuals were evacuated to hospitals, including a 23-year-old man in serious condition with head trauma, a 46-year-old man suffering from head and limb injuries, and two others who received minor injuries," MDA reported.

MDA paramedics Amir Dahari and Eyal Davidzon, who arrived at the scene, said, "We arrived at the scene and saw four injured individuals lying on the roadside and sidewalk, about one meter apart from each other."

"A 24-year-old man was semi-conscious and suffered from head and limb injuries, a 46-year-old man was fully conscious and suffered from head and limb injuries, and two others were fully conscious. We gave them medical attention on-site and evacuated them to the hospital," they added.

4.02. 24 – Tu

IDF drone attacked three vehicles, killed 7 World Central Kitchen volunteers in Gaza

4.02. 24 – Tu

IDF drone strike killed 7 aid workers in Gaza, initial military investigation finds

Preliminary investigation will be presented to chief of staff Tuesday evening; IDF takes full responsibility for the incident, in the shadow of international criticism: 'This should not have happened'

Yoav Zitun, Moran Azulay|08:48

The IDF has taken full responsibility for the airstrike in Gaza that killed seven volunteers of the international aid organization World Central Kitchen.

IDF Southern Command head, Major General Yaron Finkelman, will present Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi with the findings of the initial investigation conducted by the IDF regarding the incident that took place overnight between Monday and Tuesday in the central Gaza Strip.

There has been public outcry in response to the attack from around the world. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the tragedy on Tuesday afternoon upon his release from Hadassah-Ein Kerem Hospital after hernia surgery, where he publicly admitted for the first time that the attack had been carried out by the IDF.

"Unfortunately, in the past day there was a tragic event in which our forces unintentionally harmed non-combatants in the Gaza Strip. This happens in war. We are conducting a thorough inquiry and are in contact with the governments. We will do everything to prevent a recurrence," Netanyahu said in a statement.

Preliminary information about the incident indicates that Israeli Air Force drones attacked three vehicles of the aid organization, after they had taken food from an aid ship of the organization that arrived at the pier located in the west of Gaza City. The ship was financed by the United Arab Emirates, similar to other ships that have brought aid to the temporary port and which is under IDF security and supervision.

According to initial information, The remotely controlled aircraft attacked the convoy with small missiles, and the attack did not stop even after some of the occupants of the first vehicle that was attacked got out of it to receive medical assistance. Six of the workers who were killed are citizens of foreign countries, which are in contact with Israel, and the seventh is a Palestinian who works for the organization.

In addition, the IDF is investigating a report saying an IDF sniper fired at a vehicle belonging to the same aid organization last week, in an incident that ended without casualties near the Netzarim Corridor, intended to prevent the return of Palestinian residents to their homes in the northern part of the Strip, as well as to secure and inspect the humanitarian aid reaching the 300,000 Gazans remaining in northern Gaza.

IDF spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari addressed the incident earlier on Tuesday. "Last night an incident took place in Gaza that led to the tragic death of the workers of the World Central Kitchen, while they were fulfilling their vital mission - to bring food to those in need."

"As a professional military committed to international law, we are committed to examining our operations thoroughly and transparently," he said. "I just spoke to WCK Founder, Chef Jose Anders, and expressed the deepest condolences of the IDF to the families and the entire World Central Kitchen family."

Hagari spoke in a video clip released by the military to the foreign press. "We also express sincere sorrow to our allied nations who have been doing and continue to do so much to assist those in need. We have been reviewing the incident at the highest levels to understand the circumstances of what happened and how it happened, Hagari said. "We will be opening a probe to examine this serious incident further. This will help us reduce the risk of such an event from occurring again.

He said the incident would be probed by the Fact-Finding and Assessment Mechanism, an independent, professional and expert body.

"For the last few months, the IDF has been working closely with the World Central Kitchen to assist them in fulfilling their noble mission of helping bring food and humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. WCK also came to help Israelis after the massacre of October 7th; they were one of the first NGOs here. The work of WCK is critical; they are on the frontlines of humanity. We will get to the bottom of this and we will share our findings transparently."

4.02. 24 – Tu

Israeli negotiators return from Cairo with new proposal waiting for Hamas

4.02. 24 – Tu

Israeli negotiators return from Cairo with new proposal for Hamas

Prime Minister's Office announces mediators formulated up-to-date hostage release proposal and is waiting for Hamas to respond; 'Israel expects the mediators to take vigorous action regarding Hamas to advance the negotiations toward a deal'

Itamar Eichner|07:47

The negotiating team made up of officials from the Mossad, the Shin Bet and the IDF will return on Tuesday afternoon from Cairo, "at the conclusion of an additional intensive round of negotiations," the Prime Minister's Office announced on Tuesday afternoon.

The bureau's announcement stated that: "In the framework of the talks, under useful Egyptian mediation, the mediators formulated an updated proposal for Hamas. Israel expects the mediators to take vigorous action regarding Hamas to advance the negotiations toward a deal."

The announcement comes as the families of the hostages still held in Gaza have stepped up the protests calling for the release of their family members from captivity.

In a message directed at the families and other protesters, the PMO statement also said that: "The State of Israel is continuing to make all necessary efforts for the release of the hostages from Hamas and their return to Israel."

The Israeli delegation led by Mossad personnel, arrived on Sunday in the Egyptian capital, where it worked to submit new proposals in an attempt to bring about a hostage deal with Hamas. Before the new round of talks in Cairo, senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan said in an interview with the Al Jazeera network: "We want answers regarding halting the assault on and withdrawal from Gaza, the return of displaced Gaza residents and rehabilitation of homes and other buildings. (Israel) did not provide any commitment in its responses, and its answers were an attempt to delay. We appreciate the efforts of the mediators, but the Israeli side is trying to hinder the negotiations."

The terrorist organization did not send representatives to the talks in Cairo. A source told the Al-Mayadeen network, which is affiliated with Hezbollah, that "the Hamas delegation

is waiting for the results of the meetings between the mediators and the Israeli delegation." The main dispute between the parties concerns the issue of the return of Gaza residents to the northern Gaza Strip. Hamas demands a return without restrictions, and the cancellation of the Philadelphi Corridor, carved out by the IDF to divide the Gaza Strip, which serves allows Israel to prevent the return of Hamas members to the north. On Monday night, senior political officials said that there is a potential for progress toward a hostage deal as part of the talks in Cairo. The initial estimate was that the delegation would return Monday morning, but it remained for an extra day. "It is still too early for optimism. There is seriousness and business on the part of the Israeli delegation and the Egyptian mediators with one goal - to advance a deal," a senior official said Monday. "We need to see that there is a real proposal on the part of Hamas to move forward, and see how Sinwar chooses to address the current flexibility on the part of Israel on the issues in dispute."

Families of hostages who participated in a rally at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv on Saturday night announced that they would increase the pressure in calling for a deal and have been demonstrating in front of the Knesset every day since.

Some of the participants in demonstrations calling for the release of the hostages first took part in protests on Kaplan Street where they called for early elections. Before that rally, about 20 hostages' families gave a statement in which they said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was the obstacle to the deal.

Einav Tsengauker, the mother hostage Matan Tsengauker, said: "Prime Minister - you are the obstacle to the deal, you are consciously preventing a deal, so we will do everything in our power to remove the obstacle that is you. Today we are forced to start a new phase in the struggle and from now on we will work for your immediate replacement. We will protest and call for your removal. We will demonstrate and call for your impeachment, we will persecute you publicly, we will not let up until you vacate your seat in favor of another leader."

4.01. 24 – Mo

Iranian Quds commander killed in IDF strike on consulate building in Damascus

4.01. 24 – Mo

Iranian Quds Force commander killed in Israeli strike in Damascus, Arab media reports Syrian media accuses Israel of attacking a building close to the Iranian embassy in the Syrian capital leading to the death of IRGC commander Mohammad Reza Zahedi; Iran says diplomats killed in strike; IDF increases readiness amid reports; Strike most significant since elimination of Kassem Suleimani

Lior Ben Ari|10:51

Media outlets in Syria and Iran accused Israel on Monday of an attack on the Iranian consulate building in Damascus, located close to the Iranian embassy in the country and serving as the Iranian ambassador's residence. According to the reports, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Mohammad Reza Zahedi was killed in

the strike, and five others were injured. Arab outlets added the Iranian ambassador wasn't harmed.

Following reports of the strike, the IDF has increased its readiness in all units and sectors. Iranian state media agency SNN reported that Iranian diplomats were also killed in the attack, including Reza Zahedi's deputy, Haji Rahimi.

The attack near the Iranian embassy – which Israel has yet to take responsibility for - has two aspects: according to reports in Arab media, it seems the consulate had ties to the operation of pro-Iranian militias working against Israel from Syria alongside Hezbollah; the second aspect is the launching of the drone toward Eilat that hit an IDF Navy base – which was reportedly carried out by Iran-backed Iraqi militias.

Israel recently stuck deeper into Lebanon in the Baalbek area, which estimates believe prompted Iran to launch attacks by its proxies toward Eilat and the Galilee, as a demonstration of their abilities.

If Israel was responsible for the attack, this can be seen as a warning to Iran – deterring them from attacking targets deeper inside Israeli territory in fear of retaliatory attacks against their officials in Syria.

It should be noted that the area targeted in the attack houses not only the Iranian embassy, but also the Canadian embassy and Al Razi Hospital.

The unusual attack in Syria took place after the Syrian Defense Ministry accused Israel of striking several targets in the Damascus area, injuring two civilians and causing damages. According to reports from Syrian opposition sources, the strike was aimed at a scientific research institute and military positions belonging to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces and Hezbollah.

4.01. 24 – Mo

UAV from Iraq hits Israeli naval base Eilat in the Galilee, Iraq militias celebrate

4.01. 24 – Mo

UAV launched from Iraq hits Gulf of Eilat Israeli naval base, IDF confirms

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, which is made up of pro-Iranian militias operating in Iraq and Syria, announced that it had attacked a 'vital target' in Israeli territory.

Yoav Zitun|07:49

The structure hit in the Gulf of Eilat by a UAV launched from Iraq is a naval base, the IDF announced on Monday afternoon.

"Following the announcement of a suspicious aerial target that fell in the area of the Gulf of Eilat last night, the target fell at the IDF base in Eilat, there were no casualties and minor damage was caused to the building," the IDF reported.

The IDF is investigating the incident, after the UAV launched by the pro-Iran militias in Iraq crossed into Israeli territory from Jordan.

The sirens warning of the infiltration were the first heard in the area in three weeks. The drone warning came a day after the interception of a drone as it attempted to enter the airspace of the Israeli-controlled Golan. Shortly after the sirens were triggered in Eilat, the IDF announced that a "suspicious aerial target" had exploded in the Gulf of Eilat after it crossed from the direction of Jordan toward Israeli territory. According to the announcement, there was minor damage caused to a building and no one was injured.

Later, the "Islamic Resistance in Iraq" organization, which is made up of pro-Iranian militias operating in Iraq and Syria, announced that it had attacked a "vital target" in Israeli territory.

The terror groups also published a similar message Sunday morning, in which they took responsibility for a UAV attack - again on a "vital target" - in the Arab-Christian village of Eilabun in the Galilee.

This claim of responsibility was made hours after the IDF announced that it had intercepted a suspicious aerial target that made its way to the southern Golan Heights region from Syria. The UAV was intercepted by a fighter jet even before it crossed into Israeli territory.

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Ynet-News, April 01, 2024 – Monday

Note: Israel LEAP YEAR Adar-2 this year moves Pesach to April 22

Possible Abomination Days are April 7 & June 20, 2024

Ramadan start March 11 – Ends April 10, Pesach Mar 23-31 move Pesach to April 22

4.01. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in April 01 spot – Monday

IDF reveals weapons concealed at Al Shifa Hospital maternity ward

3.31. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Sderot college near Gaza border studied remotely, now requires some attendance

3.31. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in March 31 spot – Sunday

Fraud in UN reports claim hunger; fact 80% more food daily than before war

3.31. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Terrorist stabbed IDF officer in Be'er Sheva central bus station

3.30. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in March 30 spot – Saturday

Hamas moves hostages in ambulances, after parading through streets like trophies

3.29. 24 – Fr - - - News Placed in March 29 spot – Friday

Islamic world prepared for Rafah invasion, with help from Iran and Hezbollah

3.28. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in March 28 spot – Thursday

Netanyahu will dispatch a delegation next week to Washington on Gaza cease-fire
Posted; - - - PM delegation next week to Washington on Gaza

3.27. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Israel rely on facial recognition in Gaza to locate terrorists & abducted Israelis

3.27. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

IDF hit Hezbollah on northern border; 40 rockets Wednesday in Galilee

3.27. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Members of Karta deter men from joining IDF; secularists choose to engage in war

3.27. 24 – We- - - News Placed in March 27 spot – Wednesday

Ex-US envoy David Friedman emphasized 'Biden and Democrats betrayed Israel'

3.26. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Maryland Bridge collapse; cargo ship fire disabled vessel, then collided with bridge

3.26. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in March 26 spot – Tuesday

Israeli team recalled from Qatar after Hamas rejected any compromise offer

3.25. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in March 25 spot – Monday

UN demands immediate cease-fire in Gaza, not imposing hostage release

3.25. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

IDF thwart weapons smuggling from Iran Guards destined for West Bank