

Ynet-News, Apr 12, 2024 – Friday

Traditional Pesach - April 22 to 30, First-Fruits April 26 :

Possible Abomination Day June 20, 2024

Ramadan – Ends April 10, Feast Fri Apr 12 Pesach Apr 21-28 First-Fruits April 29

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European Parliament condemns UNRWA, PA for antisemitism, Incitement

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Iran seeks assurance that US will not get involved if they attack Israel

4.11. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Aid bottleneck from 600 trucks sitting inside Gaza waiting UN staff to distribute

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Tehran airspace closed due to 'military drills'; Germany suspends flights to Tehran

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IDF launches ground assault series of unusual strikes in central Gaza Strip

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Indonesia bid to join OECD; recently hostile to Israel, must prove change in 3 yrs

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US envoy Kurilla asks Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Iraq to mediate with Iran

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Israel exposes media of Hamas brutality translated for Arab deniers

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Israel promised Britain 500 aid trucks, 100 Jordan truck corridor, protect aid workers

4.09. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Iran continues massive arms smuggling operation to advance West Bank unrest

4.09. 24 – Tu- - - News – Placed in April 09 spot – Tuesday

C-Dome: Israeli Navy's new defense system intercepted drone over Eilat

4.09. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

US assessed Iran will respond to senior general assassination through militias

4.08. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Eclipse

Islamic Jihad Prisoners say all Gaza hospitals used as military bases

4.08. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in April 08 spot – Monday Eclipse
Gallant willing to enable hostage deal, gives lull during Muslim holiday

4.08. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Eclipse
Far-right MK's warn Netanyahu won't continue as PM without Rafah incursion

4.08. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Eclipse
IDF holding onto 'war' label to activate a range of laws & duty regulations

4.08. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Eclipse
Death toll in Gaza led to US to condition military funding and assistance

4.12. 24 – Fr
European Parliament condemns UNRWA, PA for antisemitism, Incitement

4.12. 24 – Fr
European Parliament condemns UNRWA, PA for antisemitism, Incitement
Lawmakers claim material taught to Palestinian school children contributed to the
October 7 massacre and demand a freeze on funding of education in PA and UNRWA
until antisemitic, inciteful content removed
Itamar Eichner|04:08

The European parliament on Thursday, voted to condemn UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority for their schoolbooks and learning material, claiming that they led to the October 7 massacre by Hamas and the war in Gaza. "Educating to hate has direct and dramatic consequences," Parliament said referring to the "heinous terror attacks perpetrated by Hamas."

The vote that passed in the parliament's plenum demanded that the EU freeze its funding of Palestinian education until the books are "free from antisemitism and incitement to violence," and added that the funding must be conditioned on full compliance with UNISCO standards of peace and tolerance. It also demanded that funding be carefully monitored if it is directly or indirectly linked to problematic learning material.

One of the resolutions called for funds to be diverted from UNRWA to more reliable partners such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF, following concerning

reliable reporting on UNRWA staff being members of Hamas and participating in the October 7 massacre.

The European Parliament also voted down three attempts to add to its resolution wording that hails UNRWA's efforts and its managerial conduct that promise neutrality and independence and describes its staff as "victims of an ongoing humanitarian tragedy."

This is the fifth year in a row that the European lawmakers have voted to specifically condemn the Palestinian education and its misuse of EU funds in order to teach violence and antisemitism, in its review of how tax payer funds are being invested.

But in an unprecedented turn, the decisions adopted by the parliament came from the center-left liberal Renew Europe Party and not from the more right-wing lawmakers, which helped gather the supporting votes from across the political spectrum.

The decision of the parliament was based on research presented to it by IMPACT-se, showing UNRWA and PA school material that was published after October 7 as well as in recent years. The study showed proof from inside Gaza schools, of long-years of incitement, contrary to claims from UNRWA and the PA. IMPACT-se also showed its studies revealed that more than 100 graduates of UNRWA schools had joined the military wing of Hamas and had murdered Israelis.

Catherine Colonna, the head of the UN Review Group to examine UNRWA's conduct, requested material from IMPACT-se that show the incitement in the organization's schools. Her report is due to be published on April 20.

4.12. 24 – Fr

Iran seeks assurance that US will not get involved if they attack Israel

4.12. 24 – Fr

Iran says will retaliate against Israel in a way that won't start regional war
Tehran seeks assurances that the United States will not get involved in the event of a 'controlled attack' on Israel by Iran, a demand which the United States rejects
Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi, |16:29

Iran has signaled to Washington that it will respond to Israel's attack on its Syrian embassy in a way that aims to avoid major escalation and that it will not act hastily, as Tehran presses demands including a Gaza truce, Iranian sources said.

Iran's message to Washington was conveyed by Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian during a visit on Sunday to the Gulf Arab state of Oman, which has often
A White House spokesperson declined to comment on any messages from Iran but said the United States has communicated to Iran that it was not involved in the strike on the embassy.

A source familiar with U.S. intelligence was not aware of the message conveyed via Oman but said Iran has "been very clear" that its response to the attack on its Damascus

embassy compound would be "controlled" and "non-escalatory" and planned "to use regional proxies to launch a number of attacks on Israel."

The diplomatic messaging points to a cautious approach by Iran as it weighs how to respond to the April 1 attack in a way that deters Israel from further such actions, but avoids a military escalation that could suck in the United States.

The White House on Thursday, repeated its "iron clad" commitment to Israel's security amid expectations of an Iranian attack. The administration asked Arab nations in the area to deliver a message of caution to Tehran that if it attacked Israel it could ultimately cause a regional war.

The leaders of France, the UK and Germany also conveyed messages cautioning the Iranian regime. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said Iran's threats to attack Israel in retaliation for the killing of senior members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) were "unacceptable" and that the UK supports Israel's right to defend itself. Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that Israel "must be punished and it shall be," saying it was tantamount to an attack on Iranian soil. Israel has not confirmed it was responsible, but the Pentagon has said it was.

The attack, which killed a top Iranian general, marked an escalation in the violence that has spread through the region since the Gaza war began. Tehran has carefully avoided any direct role in the regional spillover, while backing groups which have waged attacks from Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon.

Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim militias have not attacked U.S. troops in Syria and Iraq since early February.

One of the Iranian sources did not rule out the possibility that members of the Iran-backed Axis of Resistance could attack Israel at any moment - an option analysts have flagged as one possible means of reprisal.

The sources said Amir-Abdollahian, in his Oman meetings, signaled Tehran's willingness to de-escalate on condition demands are met, including a permanent Gaza cease-fire - something Israel has ruled out as it seeks to crush Hamas.

The sources said Iran also sought the revival of talks over its disputed nuclear program. Those talks have been stalled for nearly two years, with both sides accusing each other of making unreasonable demands.

And Tehran also sought assurances that the United States would not get involved in the event of a "controlled attack" on Israel by Iran - a demand which the United States rejected in a response delivered via Oman, the sources said.

Iran's retaliatory strikes would be "non-escalatory" toward the United States "as they don't want the U.S. to get involved," said the source familiar with U.S. intelligence, indicating Iran would not direct its proxy militias in Syria and Iraq to target U.S. forces in those countries.

The source added that Iran-directed strikes on Israel would likely prompt Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to respond.

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Wednesday that Iran was threatening to launch a "significant attack in Israel," and that he had told Netanyahu "our commitment to Israel security against these threats from Iran and its proxies is iron-clad."

"If Iran attacks from its territory, Israel will respond and attack in Iran," Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a post on the X messaging platform in Farsi and Hebrew on Wednesday.

The Iranian sources said the U.S. had asked Iran to exercise restraint and allow space for diplomacy, cautioning Tehran that in the event of a direct attack it will stand by Israel. The sources said Iran believes Netanyahu aims to draw Tehran into a war, therefore its retaliation could be a restrained one that avoids direct strikes on Israeli territory and may draw on Tehran's allies.

4.11. 24 – Th

Aid bottleneck from 600 trucks sitting inside Gaza waiting UN staff to distribute

4.11. 24 – Th

Aid from 600 trucks stranded inside Gaza, Israel says

Head of COGAT tells UN to do its job after Israel increases delivery of humanitarian aid to the Strip but it is not collected or distributed

Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi|14:54

Israel's coordinator for government activities in the territories, (COGAT) Major General Ghassan Alian, posted a video showing what he described as the content of 600 trucks worth of humanitarian aid that was delivered from Israel to Gaza through the Kerem Shalom border crossing and had accumulated there over the past week.

"We have increased the hours we operate and have added means to expedite security inspections, now it is your turn to do your jobs," the official said in a call to the UN.

"Israel is where the bottleneck is."

Alian posted the images after a substantial increase of the humanitarian aid deliveries into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom and Nitzana crossings.

Israel has come under fire from the international community for preventing sufficient aid from being transported into Gaza.

Members of the UN Security Council on Thursday published a joint call to immediately remove any obstacle for aid deliveries. Members of the council, including the U.S., did praise Israel's recent steps, including the use of the Ashdod port for humanitarian supplies to arrive and opening an additional crossing into the northern areas of the strip, but they also said Israel must do more.

Now Alian hopes to show the world what is really stopping the aid from reaching the Gazan population in need.

The supplies that are sitting inside Gaza are waiting for UN staff to collect them and distribute their contents.

"There has been a significant increase in humanitarian aid delivered into Gaza after a security inspection," according to a COGAT official. "But the UN is slow to collect and distribute it due to its logistical inability and a shortage of manpower that has resulted in the accumulation of the content of hundreds of trucks, flooding the Palestinian side of the border crossing and preventing additional aid from entering the strip."

Alian said it is the failing of the UN that are harming Israel's efforts to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza. Israeli officials also noted that the tragic killing of members of the World Central Kitchen staff did not impact aid deliveries because the organization was not tasked with collecting the aid after it crosses the border.

4.11. 24 – Th

Tehran airspace closed due to 'military drills'; Germany suspends flights to Tehran

4.11. 24 – Th

Iran news agency scrubs posts alluding to strikes against Israel

Mehr news cites Iranian defense minister closing Tehran's airspace due to 'military drills' only to take down report shortly after

Lior Ben Ari, News Agencies|05:23

Iranian news agency Mehr reported overnight Thursday that Iran temporarily grounded all air activity over Tehran's airspace starting from midnight due to "military drills," according to a report published on the agency's X account, citing Iranian Defense Minister Mohammad-Reza Gharaei Ashtiani. Half an hour later, however, the post was removed, with the agency later denying its publishing.

In another deleted post, Mehr shared a video showing missiles with the caption "Maybe tonight... Stay tuned." The posts come amid worry Iran would try and seek revenge against Israel, which it blames for a strike in Damascus in which several of its senior officers were killed.

Furthermore, Mehr included a quote from another Iranian news agency, Fars, in which an Iranian Air Force source said that the missiles produced in the country during the last 12 years didn't use a GPS guiding system. This came following GPS disruptions operated by the IDF last week, which also led to malfunctions in navigation applications such as Waze.

On Wednesday, German airline Lufthansa announced a one-day suspension of flights to Tehran. The company said flights were suspended due to the "situation in the Middle East."

On Thursday, the airline extended the cancellation of daily flights from Frankfurt to Tehran due to security concerns until April 13. A spokesperson for the company said that

the decision was taken last weekend to avoid a situation where the airline's crew had to stay overnight in Tehran.

Meanwhile, U.S. envoy to the Middle East Brett McGurk spoke with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Iraq, asking them to tell Iran it should avoid escalation against Israel, following its threats.

According to a source familiar with the details speaking with Reuters, McGurk asked the ministers to contact Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and convey the same message to him. Shortly afterward, Iranian reports said that Abdollahian spoke with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Iraq. Meanwhile, discussions between senior U.S. and Israeli officials continue amid concerns of Iranian retaliation. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Wednesday and assured him the United States will stand by Israel against any threat from Iran and its proxies.

4.11.24 – Th

IDF launches ground assault series of unusual strikes in central Gaza Strip

4.11.24 – Th

IDF launches ground assault in central Gaza Strip

Army says overnight Air Force sorties targeted dozens of terrorist sites above and below ground north of Nuseirat before 162nd Division troops began a targeted operation in the area

Elisha Ben Kimon|03:53

Following a series of unusual strikes overnight and the bombing of a tower block in the morning hours, the IDF announced that the 162nd Division began a targeted operation in the area overnight, noting that fighter jets and drones attacked dozens of terror sites above and below ground.

"Prior to the entrance of the troops to the area, IAF fighter jets and additional aircraft struck terrorist infrastructure above and below the ground in the central Gaza Strip," a statement read.

"During the operation, the Israeli Navy conducted a number of targeted strikes along the coastline in the central Gaza Strip in order to assist ground troops operating in the area." During the operational activity overnight, IDF troops identified an armed terrorist who exited a terror tunnel shaft adjacent to IDF troops and entered a military structure. An IDF fighter jet struck the terrorist as he was approaching the troops. Furthermore, IDF troops observed and located a number of launchers in the area.

The operation in central Gaza is expected to last several days, aiming to extend southward the corridor that bisects the Gaza Strip, known as Road 749. So far, the IDF has encountered no resistance or clashes and clarifies that ground forces are not entering the refugee camps themselves, Nuseirat and Al-Bureij.

Overnight, the forces advanced in the area, locating weapons at several sites. This raid follows a series of intelligence-based probe operations in northern and central Gaza, beginning with a massive assault that included several sorties lasting through the morning hours.

The Palestinians reported heavy bombardments north of Nuseirat, attacks near mosques, military vehicles entering the refugee camp and damage to residential towers. Al Jazeera reported that five were killed and several injured in attacks on a school and a residential building in Nuseirat.

4.11. 24 – Th

Indonesia bid to join OECD; recently hostile to Israel, must prove change in 3 yrs

4.11. 24 – Th

Indonesia to normalize ties with Israel as part of bid to join OECD

World's largest Muslim country agrees to start process of establishing diplomatic ties with Israel in return for Jerusalem's approval of its request to join the OECD

Itamar Eichner|01:49

Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world, will normalize ties with Israel in exchange for Jerusalem's approval of its request to join the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), following three months of discreet negotiations between the two countries and the organization, Ynet learned on Thursday.

"I am pleased to announce the Council has officially agreed to the clear and explicit early conditions according to which Indonesia must establish diplomatic relations with all OECD member countries before any decision is made to admit it to the OECD," OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann wrote in a letter issued two weeks ago to Foreign Minister Israel Katz and approved by Indonesia beforehand.

"Furthermore, any future decision to accept Indonesia as a member of the organization will require unanimous agreement among all member countries, including Israel. I am convinced that this provides you with assurance at this crucial point," the letter added.

In a response letter sent by Katz to Cormann on Wednesday, the minister welcomed the breakthrough. "I share your expectation that this process will constitute a change for Indonesia, as I anticipate a positive change in its policy toward Israel, especially abandoning its hostile policy toward it, leading the path to full diplomatic relations between all sides."

According to sources involved in the talks, Indonesia wishes to start the process of joining the OECD, which requires the consensus of all 38 member states of the organization, including the establishment of diplomatic relations with all of them.

Originally, the OECD asked Israel "not to object" to the move, to which Katz declined citing Indonesia's comments against Israel since the start of the war in Gaza and its support of South Africa's litigation against Israel at the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Secretary-General Cormann appealed to Katz and asked him to withdraw the objection, which he refused, insisting Indonesia must show a gesture of goodwill toward Israel. Cormann then discussed the matter with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who decided to leave the decision in Katz's hands.

After weeks of negotiations, the OECD and Indonesia agreed to include a term in the decision stating Indonesia would have to establish diplomatic relations with Israel before a vote for its joining was approved by the organization.

Prior to this decision, Cormann made an early commitment in a formal letter notifying Katz of the agreement. "I want to sincerely thank you for our very constructive discussions over the past few weeks and for Israel's important decision to allow talks between Indonesia and the OECD regarding its joining the organization."

"As discussed with you and Prime Minister Netanyahu, the precondition of the start of diplomatic relations prior to any decision to invite Indonesia as a member of the organization is included as a clause in the OECD Council's official conclusions for the talks," he added.

Cormann added he was willing to assist in improving relations between Indonesia and Israel at an early stage of the talks as agreed. However, he asserted the final deadline for doing so will take place after Indonesia's joining the OECD. "As we discussed, this process will have a positive long-term impact, so it was crucial to allow the process to begin," he wrote.

Cormann further specified Indonesia must undergo a technical process that could take between two to three years before joining the organization, implementing a roadmap that includes 26 committees to examine legislation, policies, and regulations in the country. Each committee will include an Israeli expert, giving Israel a systematic opportunity to communicate with Indonesia - and cast a veto on its accession should it fail to normalize ties with Israel.

4.11. 24 – Th

US envoy Kurilla asks Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Iraq to mediate with Iran

4.11. 24 – Th

US envoy asks Middle East foreign ministers to mediate with Iran

Israeli officials say CENTCOM commander Gen. Erik Kurilla expected to arrive in Israel to coordinate around a possible attack on Israel by Iran and its proxies, according to an Axios report

Reuters, Ynet|Yesterday | 23:19

The U.S. Middle East envoy called the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Iraq to ask them to deliver a message to Iran urging it to lower tensions with Israel

following a suspected Israeli air strike on Iran's embassy in Syria, a source with knowledge of the situation said.

White House Middle East czar Brett McGurk asked the officials to contact the Iranian foreign minister to convey a message that Iran should de-escalate with Israel, which they did, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

An Iranian news agency briefly stoked tensions when it published an Arabic report on social media platform X saying all airspace over Tehran had been closed for military drills. The agency then removed the report and denied it had issued such news. Axios reported late on Wednesday that Gen. Erik Kurilla, the U.S. military commander in charge of the Middle East was expected to arrive in Israel Thursday to coordinate around a possible attack on Israel by Iran and its proxies, two Israeli officials said. Iran's foreign ministry said on Wednesday the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Iraq spoke on the phone with Iran's foreign minister and discussed regional tensions.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Israel "must be punished and it shall be" for the Damascus strike that killed seven Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps members. Among them was Mohammad Reza Zahedi, a senior commander in the Quds Force, an elite overseas unit of the Revolutionary Guards.

Also on Wednesday U.S. President Joe Biden said that his administration's commitment to protect Israel against threats from Iran and its proxies is iron clad. "We're going to do all we can to protect Israel's security," he said.

4.11. 24 – Th

Israeli Farmers Plowing after 97% of the crops on the farm rotted away

4.11. 24 – Th

Israeli Farmers Are Plowing on After October 7th Attacks

After October 7th, a direct rocket hit from Hamas destroyed the expensive infrastructure of the Yshuot Chalutza farm, and the invaluable foreign workers left the country. 97% of the crops rotted away.

Published: Mar 5, 2024, 8:11 PM (GMT+2)

Updated: Mar 12, 2024, 5:36 PM

97% of the crops on the farm rotted away for the week that everyone evacuated from the area, but there was no one there to remove the deceased vegetables.

After the first week, hardy, brave men and women from all over the country dropped everything and came to help the farmers. Dentists, opticians, professors, and accountants converged upon our farm every day to remove the ruined vegetables and plant new ones.

It warmed the hearts of the farmers that the people of the Land hadn't forgotten about them. Every day, an assortment of teenagers, adults, men, women, chareidi, dati, and secular people labored in the fields, doing work they never dreamed they would do to help the land prosper. Although untrained and somewhat unprepared, they helped the farmers every day without fail.

But as time moves on and the kindhearted volunteers have to return to their daily lives, the farmers need more help in the fields. It's difficult to predict how many people will show up every morning and how many will be competent enough to help.

Until the farmers at Yshuot Chalutza farm receive enough funds to replace the expensive infrastructure destroyed in the shelling, they urgently need some machinery to replace the volunteers' work. These specialized machinery can do the work faster and more reliably than the well-meaning but untrained and unpredictable volunteers.

Their new mission now is to raise the funds needed to purchase practical equipment and machinery. Israelis are tough. They've seen the worst of humanity time and again, and yet they refuse to ever give up on their beloved homeland. They'll continue to fight evil and put their hearts and souls into harvesting the land.

The vegetables of the Yshuot Chalutza farm are transported all over the country to proud Israeli supermarkets. The Ministry of Education distributes their vegetables to children nationwide as part of their after-school program. The vegetables of the land are their pride and joy, the proof that the land will continue to flourish despite the forces of evil trying to destroy it.

To help the Yshuot Chalutza farmers reach their goal of [number] shekels to purchase the machinery they need, click here to donate.

4.10.24 – We

Israel exposes media of Hamas brutality translated for Arab deniers

4.10.24 – We

'Apocalypse of bodies'; Israel exposes Hamas' atrocities to the Arab world

In a first-of-its-kind campaign launched by the Foreign Ministry, evidence of rape and sexual crimes committed by Hamas on October 7th presented by Israeli women in Arabic; Dozens of articles on the subject were translated into Arabic to raise awareness in the Arab world

Itamar Eichner|11:49

The Foreign Ministry's digital division has launched a first-of-its-kind campaign presenting evidence of sexual violence committed by Hamas since October 7, in Arabic. The campaign will be shared through over 20 of the ministry's channels in Arabic and

various embassies in the Middle East, which altogether have more than five million followers and a weekly exposure of about 10 million views.

For the campaign, dozens of articles about sexual assaults, testimonies of survivors and released captives, as well as stories of emergency teams who witnessed the atrocities, were translated into Arabic. Additionally, the report of the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Pramila Patten, confirming the evidence of sexual assaults during the massacre, was also translated.

Israeli women read the testimonies in Arabic to the camera, not skipping any gruesome detail. One of the testimonies recorded was from a survivor of the Nova music festival massacre: "It was an apocalypse of bodies, girls without clothes, no tops, no bottoms. People cut in half, decapitated heads. There were girls whose pelvis was simply shattered from being raped, girls in positions of splits, with broken legs."

The project emphasizes the comparison between Hamas's crimes against Israeli women and those of ISIS against Yazidi women in Iraq, since the Arab world was aware of the crimes against humanity by the Islamic State. Both terrorist organizations share similar modus operandi including abduction, captivity, human trafficking, sexual abuse, rape, and violence.

All translated materials would be posted on an Arabic language website, to serve as a source of knowledge and to facilitate public discourse regarding the massacre. According to the Foreign Ministry, anyone who is currently watching television channels in the Arab world or browsing leading news sites in the Middle East will not find any mention of Hamas's sexual crimes on October 7. For example, the UN report, which presents evidence, was suppressed and did not receive any exposure in the mainstream Arab media.

Additionally, a debate has been ongoing for several months regarding the Qatari network Al-Jazeera's shielding of Hamas. The network has accused the IDF of committing sexual crimes against Palestinians and later had to retract the statement without apologizing for their mistake.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz addressed the campaign, saying, "The sexual crimes committed by Hamas on October 7 must be known internationally. The Arab media refrains from covering Hamas's crimes at all, let alone the sexual crimes in particular, creating a void and perpetuating an anti-Israeli narrative among Arabic-speaking audiences. Our goal is to combat the deniers of the massacre and to bring the crimes to the attention of wider audiences worldwide."

Director of the Digital Diplomacy Bureau in the Foreign Ministry, David Saranga, added: "Until October 7, we dealt with 'soft' topics that focused on coexistence, innovation, history, and culture. In the past six months, we realized that our lives will not be the same. We feel a wrench in the stomach every time we hear testimony like this and so should the Arab world. This is a sensitive topic that includes cultural nuances that are taboo in the Arab world, requiring great sensitivity from the digital team."

The Foreign Ministry operates on several social media platforms - Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube, with more than five million followers from the Arab world. Since the beginning of the war, more than 5,000 posts in Arabic have been published, receiving over half a billion views.

4.09. 24 – Tu

Israel promised Britain 500 aid trucks, 100 Jordan truck corridor, protect aid workers

4.09. 24 – Tu

Britain says it won't stop selling arms to Israel, yet

Despite growing internal pressure, senior British officials have informed Israel there will be no change in the arms export policy; Foreign Minister Israel Katz made significant promises to Foreign Secretary David Cameron, and warned an arms embargo will damage negotiations with Hamas

Foreign Minister Israel Katz spoke with his British counterpart David Cameron and conveyed significant Israeli commitments regarding the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the incident of the killing of World Central Kitchen workers by the IDF. In return, Cameron told Katz that Britain will not change its defense export policy.

Cameron stirred controversy last week among Israel's allies, including former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, when he did not rule out an arms embargo against Israel, but now says that he has stopped considering it for the time being. The British Foreign Secretary confirmed this on Tuesday during his visit to Washington with Secretary of State Antony Blinken. "The latest assessment leaves our position on export licenses unchanged. This is consistent with the advice that I and other ministers have received," Cameron told reporters during an appearance with Blinken.

Despite Israeli promises, the British have serious concerns about the issue. Cameron conveyed in messages to Katz that he expects to see the implementation of the promised steps during his visit to Israel next week, together with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock.

The British requests include: expanding the operating hours of the Kerem Shalom crossing, increasing the number of aid trucks entering Gaza daily to 500, providing protective equipment for humanitarian workers, opening the Erez crossing, establishing a humanitarian corridor from Jordan that will include 100 trucks a day, and a de-escalation mechanism to ensure the safety of humanitarian aid workers.

In his talks with Cameron, Katz said that suspending arms exports to Israel at this time would severely affect its leverage against Hamas to reach a hostage deal. Additional British requests include Red Cross or British diplomats' visits for Hamas Nukhba terrorist detainees as well as Palestinian detainees from the West Bank, and examining how Israel distinguishes civilians from terror targets to ensure that this process also complies with international law.

Although **British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak supports Israel**, pressure has been increasing with Cameron's strong stance and the letter signed by British lawyers and judges, warning of complicity in war crimes. Johnson replied with an article in the **British Daily Mail** newspaper, accusing the involved **parties of giving in to Hamas**.

4.09. 24 – Tu

Iran continues massive arms smuggling operation to advance West Bank unrest

4.09. 24 – Tu

Iran runs massive arms smuggling operation to foment West Bank unrest, report says
Weeks after Shin Bet exposed large Iranian arms shipment, New York Times reveals **Tehran's elaborate smuggling network** which Israel tries to chock out; Iranian intelligence units **boost Palestinian terror groups**
Ynet|07:55

Iran is operating **secret smuggling routes** across the Middle East and employing intelligence agents, armed militias and criminal organizations to **transfer weapons to Palestinians in the West Bank**, The New York Times reported on Tuesday, citing sources from the United States, Israel and Iran.

According to Iranian sources, the goal is to foment **unrest among Palestinians** against Israel **by flooding the West Bank with as many weapons as possible**.

The report details that the **Iranians** are directing their smuggling **efforts along two main routes**. The first involves Iran-backed militias and Iranian operatives transporting weapons from **Syria to Jordan**.

From there, the sources say, the weapons are handed over to **Bedouin smugglers** who then move them **to the border with Israel**, where they are **passed to criminal organizations** that transport them into the West Bank.

The Iranian effort is anchored in a **well-established smuggling route through Jordan**, which shares a border with Israel. Last year, Jordanian Member of Parliament Imad al-Adwan was arrested in Israel carrying approximately 200 handguns and rifles he attempted to smuggle through the Allenby Bridge crossing but was eventually released back to Jordan.

One senior Iranian official disclosed to The Times that **since October 7, Israel and Jordan have tightened security along their borders** due to concerns over smuggling.

The **second and more challenging route**, according to two senior U.S. officials, runs from **Syria to Lebanon**. From there, **most of the weapons are smuggled into Israel**. Criminal organizations collect them in Lebanon and **transport them to the West Bank**.

Most of the smuggled weapons, experts told The Times, are **light arms such as handguns and assault rifles**. However, U.S. and Israeli sources believe that Iran is **also** smuggling

more advanced weaponry, including sophisticated explosive devices and anti-tank missiles, posing a greater challenge for the IDF and security forces.

U.S. sources and two Israeli ones reported that last week's series of strikes in Syria targeted two Iranian intelligence brigades involved in the smuggling operations. One unit, known as "Division 4000," is under the direct command of Iran's Revolutionary Guards. The second, known as "Unit 18840," is operated by the Quds Force.

Days before the attack attributed to Israel in Damascus, which resulted in the death of Revolutionary Guards senior officer Mohammed Reza Zahedi, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei approved support for Palestinian terror organizations receiving substantial arms from Iran.

He met in Tehran with leaders from two main terrorist factions - Ismail Haniyeh from Hamas, and Ziyad al-Nakhala from Palestinian Islamic Jihad. According to Iranian state media, Khamenei assured both that Tehran would not hesitate to support them and their goals.

"It would not have been easy for the Palestinian people to withstand this battle without Iran's continuous and consistent support at all political, military and security levels," al-Nakhala said in a speech in Tehran.

Last month, the Shin Bet and IDF announced that security forces intercepted an advanced arms shipment from Iran intended for the West Bank. According to the joint statement, Iranian security elements have been attempting to smuggle weapons into the West Bank in recent months to carry out terrorist attacks against Israeli targets.

Among the arms seized were rockets, shrapnel charges, mines and RPG launchers. Additionally, 50 handguns, 33 M4 rifles, explosives, 13 anti-tank missiles and 25 grenades were found.

The smuggling operation was coordinated by the Revolutionary Guards' special operations division, led by Ghaani Javad Afari, former commander of the Quds Force in Syria.

The Shin Bet and IDF detained Palestinian operatives planning to carry out attacks against Israeli targets. Investigations also brought to light the recent activities of Munir Makdah, a Palestinian residing in Ein al-Hilweh, Lebanon, known for years as an operator for Hezbollah and the Revolutionary Guards, continuing his efforts to orchestrate attacks.

4.09. 24 – Tu

C-Dome: Israeli Navy's new defense system intercepted drone over Eilat

4.09. 24 – Tu

C-Dome: the Israeli Navy's new defense system

Iron Dome-based naval defense system makes first baptism of after intercepting drone entering over Eilat; designed to intercept rockets, missiles and drones to protect maritime infrastructure, gas platforms and other naval assets

Yoav Zitun|03:53

The C-Dome defense system made its first baptism of fire overnight Monday after intercepting a drone that entered Israeli airspace from the east, near the Eilat area in southern Israel.

The C-Dome is the naval version of the famed Iron Dome missile defense system and is installed on the Israeli Navy's Sa'ar 6-class corvettes and joins the Barak defense system which is designed to shoot down larger and more distant threats.

The Defense Ministry, IDF, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries conducted successful trials of the C-Dome system last May, about five months before the outbreak of the war.

During these trials, Shayetet 3 missile boat squadron troops launched interceptors at simulated existing and future threats that the Sa'ar 6-class ships might encounter during conflict, such as rockets, cruise missiles and drones.

In the trial, ship systems were integrated into the multi-layered defense array, testing new technologies to enhance the operational effectiveness of the aerial defense apparatus at sea and on land.

"The success of the trial marks another important milestone in the system's development against existing and future threats in the IDF's various theaters of operation," the military said.

The C-Dome system is designed to intercept rockets, missiles and drones to protect maritime infrastructure, gas platforms and other naval assets. It essentially serves as an extension of the Iron Dome system, which is intended for land-based interception.

The C-Dome on Sa'ar 6 ships is integrated into the national aerial defense array, which also includes the Arrow and David's Sling systems.

The first Sa'ar 6-class corvette arrived in Israel in late 2020 and entered operational service in the middle of last year. Their operational debut came with the onset of the war, during which they first struck a weapon manufacturing facility, a deployment and a Hamas naval force observation post in the Gaza Strip.

Monday night, shortly before midnight, an alarm sounded in the city of Eilat and its vicinity due to a drone infiltration from the east. Shortly thereafter, the IDF announced that naval forces had identified the suspicious target that had crossed into Israeli territory and successfully intercepted it using the C-Dome system. The interceptor was launched from the new Sa'ar 6 corvette, and according to the IDF statement, the target was being tracked by IDF forces. No injuries or damage were reported.

Earlier this month, the IDF reported that a drone, launched by pro-Iranian militias from Jordan, had struck a naval base in Eilat. The alarm that sounded then was the first in Eilat in three weeks, following which the IDF updated that a "suspicious target that had crossed from Jordan toward Israeli territory" had exploded in the Eilat Bay area, causing minor damage to a building without any injuries.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, comprised of pro-Iranian militias operating in Iraq and Syria, announced that they had attacked a "vital target" in Israeli territory, and published a photo with the caption, "Eilat, and beyond Eilat."

4.09. 24 – Tu

US assessed Iran will respond to senior general assassination through militias

4.09. 24 – Tu

Report: US believes Iran will respond to general's assassination through militias

Sources tell CNN Tehran directed Middle East militias to carry out widespread combined attack against Israel, involving missiles and drones, as soon as this week

Lior Ben Ari|03:16

U.S. intelligence assesses that Iran will respond to the high-ranking official's assassination in Damascus through its proxies in the Middle East, rather than directly, CNN reported on Tuesday, citing two sources familiar with the matter.

According to the report, Iran is cautious of dramatically escalating the conflict and does not wish to give the U.S. or its allies a reason to directly attack Iranian territory.

The report suggests that Iran and its Middle Eastern proxies do not intend to attack U.S. forces or assets in the region, but the possibility cannot be discounted since Tehran does not have full control over all proxy forces.

Regardless, the sources indicated that U.S. intelligence believes Iran has directed its militias in the Middle East to carry out a widespread combined attack against Israel, involving missiles and drones, which could occur this week.

Additionally, one source speaking to CNN mentioned a debate on whether the Iranians would wait until after Ramadan to act. Ramadan ends on Tuesday, the official may have referred to the Eid al-Fitr holiday, which concludes on Friday.

Meanwhile, Saudi news site Elaph reported Monday, citing a Western security source, that Israel would strike targets inside Iran if the Islamic Republic attacks it. According to the unverified report, the source noted that in recent days, Israel has been conducting secret Air Force drills simulating strikes on sensitive sites in Iran possibly linked to its nuclear project.

Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah accused Israel of assassinating a senior Revolutionary Guards officer Mohammed Reza Zahedi last week and said Monday that the "Israeli" action has two main implications, "An attack against Iran, and the targeting of the head of the Iranian advisors in Lebanon and Syria."

Zahedi's funeral in Isfahan, Iran

In a speech during a ceremony commemorating Zahedi, Nasrallah claimed that the attack attributed to Israel in Damascus "is the most significant against Iranian advisors in years.

It demonstrates the importance of these advisors' presence in Syria. The Revolutionary Guards have been in Syria and Lebanon since 1982, following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon."

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant conducted an operational assessment at the IDF headquarters in Tel Aviv earlier this week. Following the meeting, Gallant said that the defense establishment had completed preparations to respond to any scenario that might unfold with Iran, amid Israel's heightened readiness to retaliate for the assassination of the senior Iranian official in Damascus.

Over the past weekend, Gallant attempted to calm the Israeli public's panic, saying, "Preparedness, readiness, and alertness are not synonymous with panic and fear." During a visit to the Tel Nof Air Force base, the defense minister added, "The enemy has been severely damaged everywhere and is therefore looking for ways to respond. We are prepared with multi-layered defense."

Concerns over Iranian retaliation also surfaced in a conversation between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Joe Biden last Thursday. According to National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby, "The president was clear, very clear, that Israel can count on the United States to assist in defending against the threats posed by Iran."

4.08. 24 – Mo

Islamic Jihad Prisoners say all Gaza hospitals used as military bases

4.08. 24 – Mo

Islamic Jihad Prisoners say all Gaza hospitals used as military bases

Islamic Jihad spokesperson says terrorist organizations utilize hospitals because 'they have internet and electricity 24/7'; adds how they manipulated the narrative at the outset of the war, alleging that Israel caused the explosion at the hospital

The IDF revealed on Monday that during the interrogation of Tariq Silmi Ousa Abu Shlouf, the spokesperson for the Islamic Jihad's political office in the Gaza Strip he confessed Hamas and other terror organizations utilize all hospitals in the Gaza Strip as military bases.

Abu Shlouf also confessed that it was his organization that concocted the story that sparked controversy at the outset of the war, claiming that the explosion at Al-Ahli Hospital was caused by an Israeli rocket.

At the beginning of the war, was it true that a rocket hit the hospital?

"It was indeed a rocket from within Gaza, but we said it was Israeli. To erase this narrative, the organization fabricated a story claiming that the rocket belonged to the 'occupation' and that the target was the building. Some international media outlets relied on this narrative, and some international communication systems automatically contact us when such events occur."

Regarding the connection with the international media, Abu Shlouf said, "They like to interview figures from the political office. Senior figures like Khaled al-Batsh. Several

international networks conducted interviews with him. He sits with a reporter, who starts asking him, 'Was the rocket that fell yours?' Al-Batsh, of course, replies, 'No, it's from the occupation.' The reporter knows that the rocket is ours, not yours."

Even if the reporter knows, is he still echoing what the organization says?

"Yes, because we tell the reporter before he publishes it, he needs to send it to us for approval. If it doesn't fit our narrative, it's not published. It's because the reporter needs us for more interviews."

The Islamic Jihad spokesperson also explained the difference in dealing with the Arab and Western media. "International systems are different from Arab ones; they focus on humanitarian issues. We don't speak to them in a language of violence, destruction, and revenge," said Abu Shlouf.

"They come and say, 'Come, I'll talk to you for a minute or two, but only about the humanitarian aspect.' This means, for example, to say 'our right to live' or 'we want the situation to return to normal, and our children deserve to live like other children in the world.'"

Regarding the terrorist organizations' use of hospitals, Abu Shlouf they "use all hospitals because they have internet and electricity there 24/7." According to him, "They choose certain places. For example, they take two rooms from the X-ray department, two from the triage department, and two from the internal medicine department. They don't completely shut down the departments."

The spokesperson also admitted that the organizations use hospital ambulances for transporting senior, wanted, and injured individuals. Abu Shlouf also recounted his interactions with spokespeople from other organizations. "For example, with Hazem Qassem from Hamas, there are also visits. He comes to my office, or I go to him to discuss some of the communication issues related to resistance," he described. "We meet together with the head of the Hamas media department and other speakers from other factions, and then we discuss. For example, we want to shift the focus from the energy crisis. The situation in Gaza is very difficult, and it bothers people."

4.08. 24 – Mo

Gallant willing to enable hostage deal, gives lull during Muslim holiday

4.08. 24 – Mo

Gallant says Israel can and willing to pay price in hostage deal

Defense Minister says IDF achievements in the war place Israel in a position of strength and provides flexibility to enable a deal that would see hostages released, which he says is absolute commitment of the government

Yoav Zitun, Lior Ben Ari, Moran Azulay|08:17

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday that the position of power obtained by the IDF in Gaza allows flexibility in hostage release negotiations.

"We have the absolute commitment to bringing our hostages home and the operational circumstances created by the IDF's constant pressure on Hamas and our position of power achieved in battle, allows us flexibility, freedom of movement and the ability to make difficult decisions," Gallant said during a visit to the IDF inductions center.

"There will be difficult decisions and we are prepared to pay a price to release the hostages," he said adding that as in the November hostage release and cease-fire deal, the military would know how to return to the fight.

Gallant spoke as the Saudi Asharq Al-Awsat reported that CIA chief William Burns proposed a lull in the fighting during the Muslim holiday of Eid al Fitr which begins on Tuesday and lasts through Friday.

Far-right members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition voiced their opposition to a scale down of the fighting in Gaza and a withdrawal of troops and that they would oppose concessions in a hostage release deal.

Netanyahu met with Bezalel Smotrich after the Finance Minister demanded that the security cabinet be summoned urgently to be briefed on the redeployment of troops, the ongoing negotiations for a hostage deal and the failure to launch an offensive of Rafah.

"Following the withdrawal of troops from Gaza and the general reduction in the intensity of the war, along with long delays in entering Rafah, reports of Israel's readiness to discuss the return of Gaza civilians to the northern Strip effectively ending the war, and publications about granting a significantly broad mandate to negotiation teams, I demand that you convene a special Cabinet meeting tonight for a full update and comprehensive information on the war's status," he said in a letter sent to Netanyahu earlier.

While National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir placed an ultimatum on Netanyahu to continue the war against Hamas.

"If the prime minister decides to end the war without a broad attack on Rafah in order to defeat Hamas, he will not have a mandate to continue serving as prime minister," Ben-Gvir posted on X.

Coalition party sources say they believe that Netanyahu is "phasing out the war" and does not intend to fulfill his promises of "dismantling Hamas" and achieving "total victory."

IDF says contacted by Hezbollah operatives fearing Lebanon might share Gaza's fate Army's Arabic spokesperson says Lebanese users have tried reaching out to Israeli authorities through him in attempt to prevent all-out war, directs them to Mossad

4.08. 24 – Mo

Far-right MK's warn Netanyahu won't continue as PM without Rafah incursion

4.08. 24 – Mo

Far-right allies warn Netanyahu won't continue as PM without Rafah incursion

Hawkish ministers Ben-Gvir and Smotrich protest as IDF withdraws from southern Gaza and cease-fire talks in Cairo pick up steam
Moran Azulay, Itamar Eichner|05:17

Amid reports on progress in cease-fire negotiations and IDF scaling down its presence in the Gaza Strip, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir on Monday placed an ultimatum on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to continue the war against Hamas.

"If the prime minister decides to end the war without a broad attack on Rafah in order to defeat Hamas, he will not have a mandate to continue serving as prime minister," Ben-Gvir posted on X.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich summoned ministers and lawmakers from his ultranationalist Religious Zionist Party for an urgent consultation on the incoming reports.

Smotrich addressed a letter to Netanyahu, writing, "Following the withdrawal of troops from Gaza and the general reduction in the intensity of the war, along with long delays in entering Rafah, reports of Israel's readiness to discuss the return of Gaza civilians to the northern Strip effectively ending the war, and publications about granting a significantly broad mandate to negotiation teams, I demand that you convene a special Cabinet meeting tonight for a full update and comprehensive information on the war's status."

Coalition party sources say they believe that Netanyahu is "phasing out the war" and does not intend to fulfill his promises of "dismantling Hamas" and achieving "total victory."

4.08. 24 – Mo

IDF holding onto 'war' label to activate a range of laws & duty regulations

4.08. 24 – Mo

With one brigade left in Gaza, Israeli government holding onto 'war' label
Over 20 IDF brigades were in Gaza at operation's peak; now, only Nachal remains; government's 'war' label likely aims to block senior military resignations, heightening pressure on Gallant and Netanyahu; at least 4 IDF seniors reportedly await redefinition of conflict

Yoav Zitun|00:24

Six months after October 7, the Israeli government still insists on defining the current situation as a war, despite the conclusion of the ground operation in Gaza, with most forces having left Gaza nearly three months ago, and any potential action in Rafah and Deir al-Balah being limited and targeted.

Sunday before dawn, the IDF withdrew most of the remaining forces from the Gaza Strip. Now, only a few hundred soldiers are left in the enclave, compared to the peak of 30,000-40,000 (about 20 brigades) during the height of the ground operation.

The **withdrawal** included all forces from the 98th Division, which had been active in the southern Khan Younis area in recent months. The **Nahal Brigade, holding Road 749 that bisects the territory** from the border near Kibbutz Be'eri to the sea, remains primarily as a **bargaining chip for future negotiations**, from which soldiers launch targeted raids in other areas.

However, Sunday, just before 1 PM – only hours after the withdrawal of the forces – five rockets were launched from the Khan Younis area toward the surrounding Israeli communities, with the Iron Dome system intercepting two of them.

The IDF is now awaiting a decision from the political leadership regarding a possible action in Rafah, **Hamas' last major stronghold** where **four battalions** of the terror organization operate, and **says it could return to Khan Younis** if necessary.

The military explained that **holding redundant positions** and introducing forces that could be **endangered in southern Gaza** is not advisable, but actions should be based on intelligence going forward.

The IDF also emphasized that the **U.S. pressure** applied on Israel is **unrelated to the withdrawal** from Khan Younis. Another consideration contributing to the **move is** the desire **to leave space for the masses** of displaced Gazans who will need to leave Rafah if and when a comprehensive raid is conducted there.

Ynet military correspondent Elisha Ben Kimon reported Sunday that IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi said that “the war in Gaza continues” **despite the 98th Division's withdrawal from Khan Younis.**

“We are far from stopping. The **IDF has not left** the **Gaza Strip.** **We currently have many fighters in Gaza,**” he said.

“This is a long war where **we cannot maintain the same force configuration at all times.**

We are **changing** forces and **modes of operation.** We will not allow Hamas brigades to remain active in any part of the Strip. We have plans, and **we will act when we decide.**”

The army chief underscored that one of the war's objectives, the return of the hostages, is “urgent and important, with a different timeline than other goals.”

He also appeared to send a message to the political echelon, saying, “The IDF is strong enough for the State of Israel to afford the prices for **bringing back its sons and daughters.** We have a **moral obligation to them,** and the **IDF can bear** a significant **cost and will** also know how to **return and fight with full force.**”

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, who held a situation assessment Sunday at Southern Command alongside Defense Ministry Director-General Maj. Gen. (res.) Eyal Zamir, Southern Command Chief Maj. Gen. Yaron Finkelman and General Staff officers made it clear that the **IDF would continue to operate in the Gaza Strip.**

“The **achievements** of the 98th Division and its units are most impressive – striking terrorists, destroying enemy targets, warehouses, weapons, underground facilities, command centers, communication rooms - all these were carried out impressively, and thus Hamas ceased to function as a military organization throughout the Gaza Strip,” Gallant said.

"The forces are withdrawing and preparing for their next missions; we've seen examples of such missions in action in Al Shifa Hospital. We will reach a situation where Hamas does not control the Gaza Strip and does not function as a military framework posing a risk to the citizens of Israel."

The military clarified and anticipated that dismantling Hamas' army would take many months and prepared the public for 2024 as a year of warfare. However, they also stated that Phase C of the fighting would be less intense, including the release of reserve brigades that have been grinding for about 100 days in Gaza and in the electronic warfare sectors.

Some military officials estimate that a complete defeat of the terror army will take at least an additional 3-4 years, theoretically allowing the political echelon to continue declaring a state of war until 2027.

"It's very similar to what happened in Operation Defensive Shield. We struck terror organizations hard by occupying West Bank cities for a month and a half with regular and reserve brigades, but the fighting continued afterward on a smaller scale, and the Second Intifada terror was only subdued by 2006-2007," said a military source.

"Even then, it didn't disappear, certainly wasn't eradicated, and that's what will happen in the Strip, where a much larger and more powerful terror army was built over the last 15 years compared to what existed in the West Bank in the early 2000s."

Criticism within the IDF about freezing the definition of the situation joins the erosion of IDF achievements in the Gaza Strip against the political echelon's refusal to find a less hostile alternative to Hamas to govern the territory's two million Palestinians after the IDF's exit from there.

"Everywhere we maneuvered, operated, lost soldiers and significantly hit Hamas, and then left, Hamas returned to try and rule again because it has no alternative in Gaza. At this rate, we'll be fighting there for years," added the source.

According to the source, "There is a range of solutions for the future of the Gaza Strip, and all are supposed to be decided and determined by the political echelon: re-establishing Israeli settlements, martial law over two million Palestinians, withdrawing from the territory and restoring Hamas control.

"The problem is that for any such solution, the IDF is supposed to prepare and get ready over months, yet still, nothing moves. In some places, the IDF could have acted faster in the Strip but didn't know that defeating a Hamas battalion would take five weeks instead of two."

Veteran IDF officers also remind that in recent decades, there were years of intense fighting not defined as war, from the Second Intifada years to the Katushya rocket barrages on the Galilee and the IDF's weekly confrontations with Hezbollah in the security zone in southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, one consequence of the situation still being defined as "war," despite currently being in a much less intense phase, is that senior commanders who want to take responsibility and resign are not doing so as long as the status has not changed.

According to IDF sources, at least four officers at the rank of lieutenant colonel, including commanders of combat units, have informed their associates that they decided

to retire from the military due to the blunders and failures of October 7, but are waiting for the war to end.

The entire senior command has announced that it takes responsibility for the failures of October 7, but beyond these statements, the IDF has almost returned to routine in recent months: appointment cycles are conducted "so the army does not freeze in place," including officers who served in relevant positions in the Southern Command or in the Military Intelligence; various courses, including combat ones, have resumed their schedules; the Home Front Command has lifted most of its restrictions on the public and accordingly, rocket fire has greatly decreased, especially toward central Israel. Ben-Gurion Airport also returned to hosting foreign airlines that resumed flights to Israel. The chain of command that faltered on October 7 "benefits" from the freezing of the situation as "war" and continues to command various missions – from the Gaza Division commander, the 8200 Unit commander to seniors like the chief of Military Intelligence, the Southern Command chief, the Shin Bet director and IDF chief of staff.

Some IDF officials believe that declaring the end of the war would immediately lead to a domino effect, which politicians like Defense Minister Gallant and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are deterring: a staggered and widespread resignation of military seniors, leaving the political echelon – responsible at its level for the mishaps – alone against an even heavier public pressure to also resign, not just satisfied with military resignations.

Already today, many field commanders are disillusioned by the failures of October 7 and the helplessness in which the residents of the Western Negev were left facing Hamas' murderous invasion. Some military officials estimate that if a decision to end the war is not taken, seniors in the military and other security bodies will resign within six to eight weeks regardless. "Reality is stronger and it will eventually explode. It can't be engineered," a source said.

It has also been revealed that some of the internal probes already underway in the IDF are exposing severe flaws and exchanges of blame within the military, likely to accelerate the resignation of officers.

The IDF has begun these investigations slowly and with delays, expected to conclude around June, with findings to be presented to the public in the summer. There's little discussion of external investigations, perceived as more credible and independent, like inquiry commissions led by retired generals, despite half a year passing since the war began.

IDF Chief of Staff Halevi intended to appoint such inquiry commissions led by senior military officials who retired years ago, as was done after the Second Lebanon War. However, this intention was met with fierce opposition from the political echelon, prompting Halevi to retract and, at least temporarily, shelf this plan.

A state inquiry commission does not seem imminent. The government may delay its appointment amid severely damaged public trust in both the military and political leadership, with about 100,000 Israelis fearful of returning to their homes in the north and south.

The start of the school year in the north in just five months is shrouded in uncertainty, and the military hopes for impromptu solutions for northern students, such as extensively

secured educational frameworks near the abandoned settlements, ensuring that communities remain united and do not disband.

The IDF said in response, "The IDF has been engaged in intense warfare on several fronts simultaneously for about half a year, focused on achieving the war's objectives and will continue to act to maintain the security of the citizens of the State of Israel."

Prof. Kobi Michael, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies, explained, "Declaring a state of war is a statutory matter that allows the activation of a range of laws and emergency regulations from that moment, for example, Section 8 orders which are exceptional (emergency reserve duty call-ups)," he said.

"The Yom Kippur War officially ended after six weeks, with a cease-fire. I do not recall such a lengthy period of a defined state of war. In principle, the situation could be defined this way for years if the government does not decide otherwise. The decision regarding the end is one that the government needs to make, and it can exercise this authority without consulting the professional echelon."

4.08. 24 – Mo

Death toll in Gaza led to US to condition military funding and assistance

4.08. 24 – Mo

This is the military support the US gives to Israel

Death toll in Gaza has led to calls for Washington to condition military funding and other assistance it provides to Jerusalem

Reuters|00:39

The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza has prompted calls for Washington to put conditions on the billions of dollars in military funding and other assistance it provides to Israel, which has received more U.S. foreign aid since World War II than any other country.

In 2016, the U.S. and Israeli governments signed a third 10-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), covering the period from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2028. The MOU provides a total of \$38 billion in military aid over the 10-year period, \$33 billion in grants to buy military equipment and \$5 billion for missile defense systems.

What advanced weapons systems does Israel get?

Israel is the first international operator of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, considered the most technologically advanced fighter jet ever made. Israel is in the process of buying 75 F-35s and - as of last year - had taken delivery of 36, paying for them with U.S. assistance.

The United States has also helped Israel develop and arm its Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system, developed after the 2006 war between Israel and Lebanon-based Hezbollah. The United States has repeatedly sent Israel hundreds of millions of dollars to help replenish its interceptor missiles. This system has saved the lives of millions of

Israeli civilians who have come under rocket attack from both Gaza terrorists and terrorists along the northern border.

Washington has also helped fund the development of Israel's "David's Sling" system, designed to shoot down rockets fired from 100 kilometers to 200 km (62 miles to 124 miles) away.

Will Israel get more for its campaign against Hamas?

Last year, President Joe Biden asked Congress to approve a \$95 billion supplemental spending bill that included \$14 billion for Israel, in addition to \$60 billion for Ukraine, support for Taiwan and billions in humanitarian assistance.

That package passed the Senate with 70% support in February but has been blocked in the House, whose Republican leaders will not call it up for a vote, largely because of their objection to further funding for Ukraine. It also faces resistance from a handful of left-leaning Democrats who object to sending more money to Israel while it pursues a military campaign that has killed more than 30,000 civilians in Gaza, as reported by the Hamas-run Palestinian Health Ministry.

How else does Washington support Israel?

The United States has long used its veto power on the U.N. Security Council to block resolutions seen as critical of Israel. Earlier in the six-month-long war in Gaza, it vetoed measures that included calls for an immediate cease-fire.

To pass in the Security Council, a resolution needs at least nine votes in favor and no veto by the U.S., France, Britain, Russia or China.

Late last month, Washington dropped its traditional protection of Israel by abstaining from a vote on a resolution demanding a cease-fire, instead of casting a veto, although it described the brief text as 'non-binding.'

Washington has taken Israel's side elsewhere. Former Republican President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the world's most important human rights body, the U.N. Human Rights Council, in protest of its criticism of Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Also under Trump, it left the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), partly because of what his administration called a bias against Israel.

Trump also reversed decades of U.S. policy in 2017 by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The status of Jerusalem - home to sites holy to the Muslim, Jewish and Christian religions - has been one of the biggest obstacles to reaching a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

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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
 Hamas 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

4.05. 24 – Fr - - - News – Friday Abomination 02 days
 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