

Ynet-News, May 03, 2024 – Friday
Possible Abomination Day June 20, 2024
Pesach Apr 21-28 First-Fruits April 29

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5.03. 24 – Fr

Israel plan joint Gaza control with Arab states, allows IDF continue in Gaza & WB

5.03. 24 – Fr

Israeli officials examine joint control of Gaza with Arab states postwar, report says
According to the plan, Israel to share control with the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, alongside the United States, and it will allow for continued IDF operations inside Gaza

Ynetnews|11:45

The New York Times reported Friday that senior officials in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office are exploring a post-war plan in which Israel would share control of the Gaza Strip with the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, alongside the United States.

The report, based on three Israeli sources and five people briefed on the plan with the Israeli government, notes that Israel would do so in exchange for normalization with Saudi Arabia.

Additionally, it's mentioned that Netanyahu avoided discussing the issue due to disagreements with his government colleagues, but his office worked behind the scenes to craft the proposal.

Arab officials and analysts criticize the power-sharing plan as unworkable, arguing it lacks a clear path to a Palestinian state, a requirement set by the Emirati and Saudi governments for their involvement in post-war planning. However, some cautiously welcome the proposal, seeing it as a sign of greater flexibility among Israeli leaders than their public statements suggest.

According to the proposal, an Arab-Israeli coalition, in collaboration with the United States, would appoint Gaza leaders to rebuild the devastated territory, reform its education system, and maintain order. After a period of seven to ten years, Gazans would vote on whether to join a unified Palestinian administration governing both Gaza and the West Bank. In the interim, the plan allows for continued IDF operations inside Gaza.

The proposal does not clearly specify whether the unified administration would form a sovereign Palestinian state or if it would incorporate the Palestinian Authority, which governs parts of the West Bank. Prime Minister Netanyahu has publicly dismissed the notion of full Palestinian sovereignty and practically dismissed the involvement of the Palestinian Authority.

The Israeli prime minister's office declined to comment.

5.03. 24 – Fr

France outlines 3-phase proposal to withdraw Hezbollah & redraw border line

5.03. 24 – Fr

France outlines 3-phase proposal to end Hezbollah-Israel conflict, report

In French outline, armed militias to withdraw 10 km (6.2 miles) north of blue line as Lebanon military to bolster presence there; Israel-Lebanon to resume negotiations on international border agreement; Financial support for Lebanon
Lior Ben Ari|03:06

Details of the French proposed deal to end the Israel-Hezbollah conflict across the northern border were revealed on Friday in a report in the Hezbollah affiliated Al Akhbar newspaper according to which it includes three main phases. The proposal was presented to the Lebanese government earlier this week.

In the first phase armed Lebanese groups would commit to ending military actions inside Israel and in the areas in dispute, will avoid attacking UN peacekeepers and power stations and will ensure freedom of movement for the Lebanon military.

Israel would end military actions in Lebanon, including air raids, will avoid any action to could endanger the UN forces, will ensure its freedom of movement and disruptions to its naval radar. UNIFIL would monitor actions on the ground, increase reconnaissance missions along the Israel-Lebanon border (The blue line) to ensure both sides adhere to the commitments.

In the second phase which would begin within three days, the armed Lebanese groups will dismantle all installations near the border with Israel, including containers, observation towers and tents. The military forces, including Hezbollah's Radwan force, anti-tank missile batteries, and other military capabilities would withdraw no less than 10 kilometers (over 6 miles) north of the border with Israel.

Israel will suspend its flights over Lebanese territory. Beirut would resume the three-way coordination with UNIFIL and deploy 15,000 troops to the areas south of the Litani River, including along the Israeli border, assisted by relevant partners. At this stage, the Lebanese military will be provided with fuel, food and medicine as well as military assistance, in accordance with UN resolution 1701. UNIFIL will summon the three-way coordination meetings and support the Lebanon forces.

In the third phase which would come into effect within 10 days Jerusalem and Beirut will resume negotiations on the final drawing of their land-border line based on the 2017 outline focusing first on the issues that were discussed in the three-way talks hosted by UNIFIL in 2018. This stage will include the beginning of negotiations to reach an agreed roadmap to ensure the area between the blue line and the Litani river will be empty of armed groups, other than UNIFIL or Lebanon military forces. At the same time international efforts may be considered to provide financial support, equipment and training for the Lebanese military as well as funding for Lebanese social and economic development.

5.03.24 – Fr

Syria accuses Israel of attacking Damascus military site from the Golan Heights

5.03. 24 – Fr

Syria accuses Israel of attacking military site near Damascus

It is the first time Israel has been blamed for an attack in Syria since the assassination of a senior Revolutionary Guards officer a month ago; 8 soldiers reported injured in attack
Lior Ben Ari | 17:11

The Syrian army accused Israel of an attack on Thursday night that hit a military site where Syrian security forces operate on the outskirts of the capital Damascus.

"The attack was carried out from the Golan Heights area, eight soldiers were injured and damage was caused," the Syrian military said in a statement. This is the first attack attributed to Israel in Damascus since the assassination of senior Revolutionary Guards officer Hassan Mahdawi, also known as Mohammad Reza Zahedi, on April 1.

The Syrian Observatory For Human Rights reported in a statement that although it is still "not possible to confirm that Israel is behind the attacks in the rural area west of Damascus," the area that was attacked is under the control of Hezbollah. "Damascus asked Tehran not to attack Israel from the Golan," it reported.

The Syrian "Voice of the Capital" reported that an airstrike was "aimed at a military point in the area of the road to Damascus International Airport." It also noted that the air defense "did not deal with the Israeli missiles," and that "the Israeli army is talking about hitting the Quneitra area and Damascus in response to the launch of a number of missiles from Syria to the Golan."

5.03. 24 – Fr

Turkey bans all Israeli imports and exports, ending a major trading partner

5.03. 24 – Fr

Turkey bans all Israeli imports and exports

Turkey halts all trade with Israel to pressure it into ending the war in Gaza; Turkey is currently one of Israel's major trading partners; Israel seeks alternative trading partners to send a message to all countries that choose to boycott it in the future

Gad Lior, Itamar Eichner | 16:03

Turkish commerce officials announced on Thursday that it would halt all trade with Israel over the war in Gaza. Israeli officials estimate this move is meant to pressure Israel not to operate in Rafah.

"Erdogan crossed a line and blocked ports for Israeli exports and imports. This is how a dictator behaves, trampling on the interests of the Turkish people, businessmen, and ignoring international trade agreements," said Foreign Minister Israel Katz. "I have instructed the Foreign Ministry Director-General to hold immediate discussions with all

relevant parties to find alternative solutions for trade with Turkey. Israel has a strong economy and will emerge stronger from this. We win, and they lose."

Israel fears heavy damage to commerce

The cessation of all trade between Israel and Turkey could cause significant damage to industry and trade in Israel, since the volume of imports of raw materials and goods from Turkey amounts to about \$5 billion a year. Aside from the embargo of construction materials, Turkey has halted the export of minerals, machinery, cars, energy products, rubber, plastic, health and agricultural products. At the same time, dozens of Israeli factories are expected to stop exporting to Turkey, amounting to \$1.5 billion.

Turkey is currently one of Israel's major trading partners, and according to an Economy Ministry official, "there will be an immediate need to find companies and factories that will export goods and raw materials to Israel. Apparently, some of these will be imported from friendly countries like Germany, Britain, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Greece."

Israel's manufacturers criticize the government

On Thursday, the president of the Manufacturers Association of Israel, Ron Tomer, said: "Over a month ago, we asked the Finance and Economy ministries to respond to the threat and then implement a 100% tariff against Turkey to signal to Erdogan and the world that Israel will not take a boycott quietly. Beyond the show of weakness and loss of national pride, we have lost an opportunity to send a message to anyone seeking to boycott us, that we will not accept it, and every move against us will be punished in return.

"We need to impose 100% protective tariffs for three years on all imports from Turkey and to completely ban certain imports from there. This is the only way Erdogan will understand that he cannot play with us and that his move will bring a long-term response. This will also allow many local industries to invest and establish additional production bases in Israel to maintain industrial independence," said Tomer.

"It is also time to strengthen our industrial independence in the food and construction sectors. Israel should do its best to increase the volume of food and construction materials produced in Israel and be independent from Turkey," he added.

Shachar Turgeman, chair of the Committee for the Advancement of the Retail Sector in the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, said: "It is a shame that the Turkish authorities do not maintain the tradition of keeping political and economic matters separate. The main losers of Erdogan's actions are the Turkish traders and not the State of Israel. The Israeli economy is strong enough to find alternatives to imports from Turkey." About a month ago, Turkey escalated its conflict with Israel, when the Turkish Trade Ministry announced restrictions on exports to Israel in 54 categories, including construction materials such as cement and steel products. Turkey announced that the trade restriction would remain in effect until Israel declared an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and allowed aid to be brought into Gaza undisturbed.

Since October 7, Erdogan has gradually been harming Israel-Turkey relations with hateful rhetoric, hosting the Hamas leadership in Turkey, and recently joining forces with South Africa's genocide allegations against Israel in the International Court of Justice. Turks shouting 'Death to Israel'

During an event in parliament, Erdogan emphasized that there is no difference between Hamas and Turkish guerrilla organizations that operated in the Turkish War of Independence under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey. A propaganda film was screened showing actions taken by Turkey on behalf of the Palestinians, and the audience shouted "Death to Israel."

5.02. 24 – Th

Wary of The Hague ICC arrest warrants, Israel turns to US legislators for help

5.02. 24 – Th

Wary of ICC arrest warrants, Israel turns to US Congress for help

Netanyahu, concerned about possibility of ICC arrest warrant, increases humanitarian aid to Gaza and seeks help from US legislators to support Israel

Nadav Eyal|05:39

Several months ago, a Washington insider suggested an idea to me: "Make Bibi your Slobodan Milošević." Milošević, the nationalist Serbian leader who played a major role in the Yugoslav Wars and the Srebrenica genocide, spent his final days in a prison cell in The Hague, facing charges of crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court (ICC), the same body now contemplating arrest warrants for top Israeli officials.

This proposal wasn't an accusation of genocide against Israel or Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, nor a call for his incarceration. Rather, it was a strategic political maneuver: to attribute Israel's wartime errors solely to Netanyahu, initiating a process to cleanse and absolve the nation of its accumulated blemishes. This comes at a time when, just months after the October 7 massacre, Israel finds itself mired in a severe global diplomatic predicament, in desperate need of a way out.

The echoes of the Yugoslav Wars are apparent in the current discourse surrounding the ICC. After Serbia faced international sanctions, it was a Serbian political adversary who handed Milošević over to The Hague, sidestepping local legal procedures in what was deemed a national interest. It appears Netanyahu is well aware of this historical precedent. He faces significant pressure as the ICC considers action.

In response, Netanyahu has recently intensified efforts to push for more humanitarian aid and food supplies to enter Gaza, arguing that these measures might stave off or delay the warrants.

Moreover, in a swift shift from his earlier stance during the war's onset, where he advocated for isolating Gaza, he has been urgently advocating for the reopening of the Erez crossing. "The same person who once urged us to sever all ties with Gaza is now pressing for Erez to be opened as quickly as possible," a senior security official highlighted protested.

On Wednesday, under the intense pressure exerted by Prime Minister Netanyahu, the crossing was opened; a place where Hamas' elite Nukhba terrorists committed some of their atrocities.

Netanyahu's push is so intense that he is taking actions that are of questionable benefit. In recent days, Israel has reached out to U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson and prominent senators to put pressure on chief ICC prosecutor Karim Khan. There have also been talks of promoting legislation in the U.S. against the court should warrants be issued.

This situation reflects a deep-seated distrust within the American administration. This week, it emerged that Prime Minister Netanyahu had solicited the families of hostages to join the efforts against the ICC warrants. Wednesday night, Barak Ravid of Axios reported that Israel had warned the United States that it would retaliate against the Palestinian Authority, and potentially topple it, should warrants be issued by The Hague. Karim Khan, the incoming prosecutor at the ICC, pictured in Baghdad, July 27, 2019, Chief ICC prosecutor Karim Khan (Photo: AFP)

Netanyahu portrays these potential warrants as a national affliction, and perhaps rightly so. Yet, within the corridors of power and among his own coalition, there's speculation that his actions may be driven by personal concerns about his future. As one insider cynically remarked to me, "Should such warrants be issued, Netanyahu's global freedom of movement could soon mirror that of Vladimir Putin," referencing the ICC's arrest warrant issued against the Russian president in March 2023 for the invasion of Ukraine. The possibility of issuing arrest warrants against Israelis marks a perilous juncture, posing risks not only to the individuals involved and to Israel's international standing but also to Israel's entire defense establishment. This includes the reservists who continue to serve in the Gaza Strip and the broader strategy of managing ongoing military engagements.

These are issues that required attention far sooner. Netanyahu's tendency to delay, ignore and then react with sudden, panicked measures exemplifies his problematic style of management. Regrettably, he has thus far refrained from exerting similar efforts into crafting a viable plan for a Hamas-free Gaza or effectively rallying international support for the release of hostages.

5.02. 24 – Th

Forces stationed for Rafah offensive, hinging on hostage deal or scuttled talks

5.02. 24 – Th

IDF partially releases reservists as Rafah offensive looms

Israel awaits Hamas' response to Egyptian hostage deal proposal amid growing international concerns about invasion of last Hamas bastion in Gaza

Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi|02:09

The IDF has released some reserve forces stationed near the Gaza Strip's Rafah, an Israeli source told Ynet, as the military prepares for a large-scale ground offensive in the Palestinian border city and Israel awaits Hamas' response to the proposed Egyptian-mediated hostage release deal proposal.

The decision to launch an operation in Rafah hinges on the success of ongoing negotiations for a deal, even as senior Israeli officials insist the operation will proceed despite international concerns about a military incursion into the area.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu affirmed on Tuesday that the operation would move forward regardless of whether a deal with Hamas is reached, asserting that Israel will not stop its war against the terror group.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday that according to intermediaries between Israel and Hamas, the terror organization expressed concern that recent statements by senior Israeli officials indicate their intention to continue military operations - even though, according to the report, Israel offered a "prolonged period of calm," in exchange for the release of hostages.

Meanwhile, senior Hamas member Osama Hamdan said on Wednesday that a Rafah offensive would scuttle hostage talks. "The resistance will not negotiate under fire," he told Hezbollah-owned Lebanese channel Al Manar.

International media published on Wednesday images of armored vehicles being amassed in southern Israel on the border with Rafah. The Associated Press news agency reported that tanks were also spotted at the assembly area.

The preparations are reportedly aimed at ramping up pressure on Hamas during negotiations, although Israel has clarified that these actions are part of broader preparations. The outcome of these negotiations, particularly Hamas' response to the proposed deal, is expected to shape Israel's next steps.

Meanwhile, the United States, through Secretary of State Antony Blinken, has expressed opposition to any operation in Rafah without a plan to evacuate civilians from the fighting, a stance he reiterated during his recent meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel.

"We cannot, will not support a major military operation in Rafah absent an effective plan to make sure that civilians are not harmed and no, we've not seen such a plan," Blinken told reporters.

5.02. 24 – Th

UN blacklists Israel over Gaza harming children; Biased inaccuracies in the draft

5.02. 24 – Th

Tension mounts as Israel faces unprecedented UN blacklisting over Gaza campaign. Amid war, officials concerned Israel will be included for first time in UN report listing entities harming children in conflict zones alongside groups like Islamic State and Al-Qaeda

Itamar Eichner|Yesterday | 23:59

Amid the war in Gaza, the numerous statements made by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres against Israel have raised concerns that, for the first time, the country may be

included on the international body's **blacklist of nations harming children** in conflict zones.

UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia **Gamba** is expected **to publish a report on the issue** next month and Israeli officials are scrambling behind the scenes to persuade the UN to correct the many **inaccuracies included in the draft.**

Given Guterres' criticism of **Israeli** actions in Gaza, Jerusalem fears it will be **listed alongside terrorist organizations** such as Islamic State, Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram. Hamas is also expected to be added to the list, according to assessments.

Last year, Israel's **UN Ambassador** Gilad **Erdan** organized a between meeting UN officials and then- IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi as **part of efforts to amend** the heavily **critical draft**, successfully keeping Israel off the blacklist. Although **no immediate sanctions are imposed** on entities included in the list, there is significant concern that Israel's inclusion **could facilitate** further **international initiatives** against it, **such as boycotts** by commercial or arms companies. Meanwhile, Colombian President Gustavo Petro said on Wednesday he will break diplomatic relations with Israel **over its actions in Gaza** after threatening to do so last March, if Israel does not comply with the United Nations Security Council resolution, which **includes a "demand" for a cease-fire** during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Petro has heavily criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and requested to join **South Africa's petition accusing Israel of genocide** at the International Court of Justice. "Here in front of you, the government of change, of the president of the republic announces that tomorrow we will break diplomatic relations with the state of Israel ... for having a government, for having a president who is genocidal," Petro told cheering **crowds in Bogota** who marched to mark International Worker's Day and back Petro's social and economic reforms.

Colombia has become the second Latin American country **to break off** diplomatic **ties** due to the war in Gaza after **Bolivia** did so in November.

5.01. 24 – We

Violent Clashes of University protesters & Police at Los Angeles & New York

5.01. 24 – We

Clashes turn violent between protesters against and in support of Israel at UCLA
The confrontation escalated into pushing, kicking and beating with sticks; Police were called to the **campus**; **Violence** comes hours after the evacuation and arrest of the **anti-Israel demonstrators** who **took over the Hamilton Hall** building at **Columbia University** in **New York**

Ynet, News Agencies|09:08

Violent clashes broke out Wednesday between protesters against and in support of Israel on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), hours after the evacuation and arrest of the anti-Israel demonstrators who took over the Hamilton Hall building at Columbia University in New York. The UCLA student newspaper, the Daily Bruin, reported that the pro-Israel protesters tried to break up the opposition protest camp on campus, and then the clashes broke out.

During the riot at UCLA, chairs were thrown, and protesters were seen pushing and kicking each other and hitting other protesters with sticks, wooden boards and other objects, including a tennis racket. In one of the videos, activists were seen approaching the makeshift wall of the protest camp and were blocked by a pro-Palestinian protester, who they then beat and kicked to the floor. In another video, the apparently pro-Israel group is seen approaching the barrier set up by the opposition, shouting "USA!". One of its masked men is heard shouting: "You want to block Jewish children? Let's see. We are fighting back!"

Following the outbreak of violence, which began in the middle of the night in California, the university administration called police to the scene. Policemen dressed in protective gear were seen standing on campus in a line, without intervening.

"Horrible acts of violence took place tonight at the protest camp, and we immediately called law enforcement to assist," UCLA senior Marie Osco told the university's student newspaper. The mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass, spoke with university officials and said that the police would assist the management as requested.

The Los Angeles Police Department said on X it was responding to UCLA's request "due to multiple acts of violence within the large encampment on their campus", to restore order and maintain public safety.

Broadcast footage showed a police cordon slowly clearing a central quad beside the encampment.

Los Angeles Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, whose district includes UCLA, posted on X: "Everyone has a right to free speech and protest, but the situation on UCLA's campus is out of control and is no longer safe."

Bass called the violence "absolutely abhorrent and inexcusable" in a post on social media platform X and said officers from the Los Angeles Police Department were on the scene. Officers from the California Highway Patrol also appeared to be there. The university said it had requested help.

The confrontation at UCLA came hours after police raided Hamilton Hall at Columbia University in New York and evicted anti-Israel protesters who had barricaded themselves there, while arresting some of them. About three hours later, the university informed the faculty and students: "The campus is being evacuated of protesters." Dozens of the protesters were arrested; according to reports, one of the students on the scene lost consciousness during the police raid.

During the operation at Columbia University, the police used four stun grenades, and they claim that some of the protesters tried to prevent the police from entering the campus. In video images distributed from Hamilton Hall, police are seen raiding the building through the second-floor windows.

Columbia University said in a statement that New York police forces arrived on campus at the university's request in order to restore security and order to the campus.

"After the university learned overnight that Hamilton Hall had been occupied, vandalized and blockaded, we were left with no choice," the school said. "The decision to reach out to the NYPD was in response to the actions of the protesters, not the cause they are championing. We have made it clear that the life of campus cannot be endlessly interrupted by protesters who violate the rules and the law."

The university statement also noted that the group that broke into and fortified the building is led by people who are not connected to the campus. The university stated that it contacted the police because "it is impossible to allow protesters who violate the law to disrupt the conduct of the campus on a regular basis."

The takeover of the building began Tuesday after the university announced that anti-Israel students who set up the protest camp would be suspended. The protesters, including masked ones with hoods, broke down the front door, smashed its windows, and barricaded themselves in the seven-story building with tables and trash cans, when outside about 1,000 students surrounded the building and blocked the entrance doors.

The protesters stated that they will remain in the building until all their demands from the university are met - removal of investments, financial transparency and amnesty for the protesters. The protestors even called "for the press and the public to hold Columbia accountable for any disproportionate response to the actions of the students today. To the administrators and trustees of Columbia: do not bring soldiers and police with weapons to our campus. The blood of the students will be on your hands."

At the same time as the events tonight at Columbia University, clashes between police officers and protesters developed on the nearby campus of City College (CCNY), and dozens were arrested there as well. In total, more than 100 students were arrested on both campuses, most of them at Columbia. CNN also reported violent clashes on the campus of the University of Arizona, where the police used tear gas against anti-Israel activists and called on people to avoid coming to the area. Police also appeared to be breaking up a protest camp at the University of Wisconsin on Wednesday morning, according to CNN.

4.30. 24 – Tu

PA students attack German ambassador & EU representatives to protest Gaza war

4.30. 24 – Tu

Palestinian students attack German ambassador to Israel at West Bank university
Videos from incident at Birzeit University show students removing their shoes and throwing them at the German envoy and other EU representatives

Einav Halabi|08:51

Students at Birzeit University located in Ramallah in the West Bank attacked German Ambassador to the Palestinian Authority Oliver Owczar, as well as a number of ambassadors and foreign officials from European Union countries, including German Ambassador to Israel Steffen Seibert, forcing them from the Palestinian museum on the university campus, claiming that it was part of a "protest against Germany's support for the war in Gaza."

"Peaceful protest & dialogue always has its place. We regret that today's meeting of EU Heads of Missions at the National Museum in Birzeit was unduly interrupted by protesters," Owczar wrote on his X account shortly after the visit. "Nevertheless, we remain committed to constructively work with our Palestinian partners!"

This isn't the first time European diplomats have been chased away by Palestinian protesters. In a similar incident that occurred 24 years ago, then-French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin also was driven away from the same campus. On February 27, 2000, Jospin delivered a lecture at the university, during which he used racial terms and expressions that angered the students. In response, they hurled stones at him and chased him out of the institution.

4.30. 24 – Tu

The Hague ICC Court issued arrest warrants for all Israel officials & military leadership

4.30. 24 – Tu

Netanyahu coalition scrambling to counter ICC efforts to arrest Israeli officials
On the agenda for Tuesday's government meeting are discussions regarding potential arrest warrants issued by The Hague against Israeli national and military leadership; On Monday, U.S. officials said the international court lacks the judicial authority to do so, despite supporting similar efforts against Russian President Vladimir Putin last year
Itamar Eichner|08:25

The primary topic of discussion at Tuesday's government meeting, spearheaded by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is the looming issue of potential arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague directed at high-ranking Israeli officials. This pressing concern was a late addition to the agenda, reflecting the urgency of the matter. Discussions will not only focus on this but also include the ongoing hostage situation and the strategic movements at Rafah.

The ICC's scrutiny extends beyond Israeli figures, with indications that senior Hamas officials might also face arrest warrants. This development highlights the complex and all-encompassing nature of the ICC's investigations, which have recently been examining the events of Hamas' October 7 attack and the subsequent responses by the IDF.

On the international front, Russia has criticized the United States for its apparent double standards. The U.S. opposes the ICC's pursuits against Israel while endorsing the arrest warrants issued for Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kremlin spokeswoman Maria Zakharova condemned the U.S. stance as hypocritical, emphasizing the inconsistency with which the American political system acknowledges the legitimacy of the ICC, especially when it involves its own actions or those of its allies. She labeled this approach as "absurd."

Amid these global and legal complexities, Netanyahu remains resolute, asserting on Friday that Israel will resist any judicial attempts that might compromise its fundamental right to self-defense. He stressed that the actions and decisions of the ICC will not sway Israel's operational strategies, though he acknowledged the dangerous precedent such decisions could set, potentially endangering Israeli soldiers and public officials.

Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz expressed strong disapproval of the International Criminal Court, remarking on the irony of figures like Khamenei, Nasrallah, and Sinwar anticipating the court's judgment of Israel, which he labeled as "utterly absurd." In a related vein, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre articulated the U.S. stance on Monday, asserting that "the United States does not endorse the ICC's probe into Israel and questions the court's authority in this matter." This position aligns with comments made last year by U.S. President Joe Biden, who supported an arrest warrant issued by The Hague for Putin, citing justified reasons. The U.S. has cooperated with the court by providing information on alleged war crimes by Russia in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Russia has dismissed the arrest warrant issued against Putin as "a futile effort by the West to tarnish Russia's image," firmly denying any war crimes by Russian forces. Moscow also accused the West of "ignoring alleged war crimes committed by Ukraine," claims that are vehemently denied by Kyiv.

4.29. 24 – Mo

Egyptians oppose Israeli military action in Rafah; publish study of Israeli weaknesses

4.29. 24 – Mo

A message ahead of Rafah? Egypt quickly removes photos of military studying Israeli tanks

During military academy visit, Egyptian presidency releases, then deletes, photos of cadets studying Israel's Merkava tank, sparking debate on Arab social media amid tensions

Lior Ben Ari | 08:17

Last weekend, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi paid a visit to the country's military academy, which was extensively covered by Egyptian media.

Images from the visit showed cadets being briefed on the Israeli Merkava tank. This has sparked discussions in Arab media and communication channels, particularly during

these tense days when there is ongoing debate about potential Israeli military action in Rafah and negotiations for a cease-fire in Gaza.

Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese newspaper Al Akhbar reported, citing a senior Egyptian source, that "the publication of the photos was intended to send a clear message to Israel that Egypt possesses combat capabilities and is studying Israeli weaponry."

According to the report, the photos from President el-Sisi's visit, released by Egypt's presidential spokesperson, were quickly scrubbed off official accounts to avoid upsetting the Israelis.

According to sources speaking with the newspaper, the removal came following discussions at the Egyptian military high command. The report added that "keeping the photos was deemed unnecessary as the message had already been conveyed."

London-based Arabic-language Saudi newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat reported Sunday that some social media users linked the release of the photos to Egypt's warnings to Israel to avoid action in Rafah. The paper noted that the Egyptian president had repeatedly warned Israel against military action in Rafah, emphasizing his country's "rejection of the plans due to their humanitarian implications for the residents of Gaza."

Additionally, the head of Egypt's intelligence service, Diah Rashwan, cautioned against a "reoccupation" of the Philadelphi Corridor on the Egyptian border, saying it would pose a serious threat to Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Asharq Al-Awsat also reported that some see these images as a signal that Egypt is analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the Israeli tank and how to counter it. They argue that this perception sends a reassuring message about the capabilities of Egyptian military academies to study and confront various types of weaponry.

Nasr Salem, a former senior figure in the Egyptian forces, told the newspaper that studying Israeli weaponry is routine. "In the study of enemy armament, we learn its strengths to counter them and its weaknesses to exploit and destroy it in direct conflict," Salem said.

"Military academic study includes all the equipment and weapons of the enemy and this has been happening for years in various military institutes and academies."

Another former senior Egyptian military official, Samir Farag, told Asharq Al-Awsat that the published photos carry both political and military messages. According to him, the message to Egypt is that "the army is prepared and ready to handle whatever happens," and the second message to Israel is that "the forces are ready to respond to any threat to national security."

Meanwhile, other Egyptian leaders such as Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly have also voiced opposition to Israeli activities in Rafah in recent days. Speaking at an economic forum in Riyadh on Monday, Madbouly said, "Any attack in Rafah will lead to disaster and cause the displacement of Palestinians seeking a safe place."

4.29. 24 – Mo

Senator Rubio urges US oppose Hezbollah & revoke campus protest visas

4.29. 24 – Mo

Senator Marco Rubio: 'US must pay more attention to Israel's north'
Rubio highlights Hezbollah's greater capability compared to Hamas, describing it as a significant threat in northern Israel, urges Washington to recognize serious nature of conflict in region
i24NEWS|04:47

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio shared insights into the diplomatic relations between Israel and the United States amid recent pro-Palestinian protests on U.S. educational campuses.

Senator Rubio, who serves as the vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee in the U.S., addressed in an interview with i24NEWS various aspects of the Israel-Hamas war, Hezbollah and the U.S.'s role in it.

Senator Rubio emphasized the significant threat posed by Hezbollah in the north, stating that the terrorist group is "multiple times more capable than Hamas." He stressed the importance of awareness in the U.S. regarding the gravity of the conflict in the northern region of Israel.

While advocating for a peaceful resolution, Senator Rubio underscored the necessity of not allowing any remnants of Hamas to persist after the war, as they would claim it as a victory.

According to Rubio, while there are U.S. senators who harbor a less supportive opinion on Israel, the aid package that the U.S. recently passed to help Israel should have been passed much earlier "already on Oct. 8". Senator Rubio highlighted the bipartisan support for Israel in Congress and emphasized the importance of continuing aid to Israel.

Turning to the protests on U.S. campuses, Senator Rubio expressed concern over what he described as a "global left ideology" that portrays the weaker party, such as Hamas, as the victim.

He criticized the takeover of higher education campuses by protest mobs and condemned any threats against Jewish students, emphasizing the need to ensure a comfortable environment for all students, especially considering the historical context of antisemitism. He said "free speech does not allow you to threaten Jewish students," and called to revoke the visas of terrorist sympathizers and deport them.

Senator Rubio warned against the danger of pouring billions into universities where students propagate anti-Israel sentiments, highlighting that the ultimate target of such sentiments is not just Israel but the United States itself.

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Ynet-News, Apr 28, 2024 – Sunday - Pesach day 7

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

Possible Abomination Day June 20, 2024

Pesach Apr 21-28 First-Fruits April 29

4.28. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in April 28 spot – Sunday Pesach day 7
Pro-Palestinian protests at US universities show no sign of slowing

4.28. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Pesach day 7
Netanyahu, Biden speak on hostages & Rafah operation

4.27. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in April 27 spot – Saturday Pesach day 6
Foreign Minister Katz says hostage deal would defer Rafah operation

4.26. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Pesach day 5
Prominent PA leader eliminated in southern Lebanon airstrike by IDF

4.26. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in April 26 spot – Friday Pesach day 5
International Court (ICJ) plan to arrest Israel PM & officials – failed by US veto

4.25. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in April 25 spot – Thursday Pesach day 4
18 world leaders call on Hamas to release hostages, 'deal is on the table'

4.25. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Pesach day 4
EU Parliament votes for unprecedented condemnation & sanctions on Iran

4.25. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Pesach day 4
Egypt & China advance hostage negotiations to pause Rafah offensive

4.24. 24 – We- - - News Placed in April 24 spot – Wednesday Pesach day 3
Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets at Galilee Wednesday, keeping residents away

4.23. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in April 23 spot – Tuesday Pesach day 2
Hezbollah renews rocket & drone attacks on north Israel

4.21. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in April 21 spot – Sunday Sundown Pesach
Blinken & Kerry vie to sanction Israel for executing PA without trial; to halt aid

4.21. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Sundown Pesach
Daily Mail reported only 40 Hamas hostages still alive & Qatar deal deadlock

4.21. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Sundown Pesach
Settlements & Police facing booby-traps & terror attacks in West Bank

4.20. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
Blinken sanction IDF & denies military aid to Israel for violating PA human rights

4.20. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in April 20 spot – Saturday
Israel precise cruise missiles strike on Iran defense radar sends message to regime