

Ynet-News, May 24, 2024 – Friday
Possible Abomination Day **May 31** or June 20, 2024
May 31 = 490 dys = 70 wks to Messiah Arrival

5.24. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 26 07
Africa & ICJ vote to stop Israel attack in Rafah, the hiding place of Hamas leaders

5.24. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in May 24 spot – Friday Omer 26 07
\$1.2 billion fiscal collapse, 480,000 jobs lost, Norway, Ireland & Spain declare PA a state

5.24. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 26 07
Netanyahu says IDF has detailed & surprising plans for north war

5.23. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in May 23 spot – Thursday Omer 25 08
Gantz seeks inquiry of PM ignoring Gaza reports prior to Oct 7

5.23. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 25 08
IDF push westward into Rafah refugee camp, purging Hamas in close encounters

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Censored three minute hostage video publicly aired to show urgency of daily abuse

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Gallant ends 2005 Disengagement Law, opens Judea & Samaria settlements

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Smotrich to freeze PA funds & settle WB as EU & UN nations back PA state

5.21. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in May 21 spot – Tuesday Omer 23 10
AP, an American news agency providing images to Al Jazeera; defended by US

5.21. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 23 10
Minister Karai seize AP equipment providing live video feeds to Al Jazeera

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IDF use drones in WB & Gaza to detect & eliminate terrorists in structures & tunnels

5.20. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 22
Rafah operation coordinated daily with Egypt, to allow locating & clearing tunnels

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Three former Trump advisers met Netanyahu, amid strains between Israel and Biden

5.20. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 22

With audacity ICC warrants compare monsters of Hamas to IDF moral soldiers

5.20. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 22

ICC warrants jurisdiction of Gaza, E-Jerusalem & WB when PA signed Rome Statute

5.20. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 22

Northern farmers demand compensation for IDF commandeering their lands

5.20. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in May 20 spot – Monday Omer 22

World Court requests arrest of Israel & Hamas leaders on charges of war crimes

5.19. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 21

Possible Iran President Raisi death in severe weather helicopter crash

5.19. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in May 19 spot – Sunday Omer 21

Settler Activists vandalizing aid trucks & looting convoys with increasing violence

5.18. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in May 18 spot – Saturday Omer 20

Gantz sets June 8 coalition exit deadline; PM tells him to pose ultimatums to Hamas

5.24. 24 – Fr

Africa & ICJ vote to stop Israel attack in Rafah, the hiding place of Hamas leaders

5.24. 24 – Fr

ICJ: Israel must cease Rafah operation | Watch LIVE

UN top court says Israel must halt military operation in Rafah, responding favorably to South Africa's petition amid broader 'genocide' claims in Gaza; Experts believe Israel will not comply

Itamar Eichner|Updated:11:23

On Friday, The International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague has announced that, in accordance with South Africa's motion to stop the IDF's operation in Rafah, Israel is thereby ordered by the court to suspend the military operation being conducted in the Gaza Strip's most southern city, also believed to be the hiding place of Hamas' upper echelon.

The petition is part of a broader lawsuit accusing Israel of carrying out genocide in Gaza. Estimates in Israel say the likelihood of South Africa's original demand for stopping the war in Gaza being accepted is moderate, but the chances of partial acceptance of the

demand, focusing on a cease-fire in the Rafah area and issuing additional orders to increase humanitarian aid to the Strip, are higher.

The international panel of judges stated that Israel has not satisfactorily demonstrated that their evacuation efforts and associated measures, which they claim are aimed at improving civilian safety in the Gaza Strip, particularly for those recently displaced from Rafah, are sufficient to mitigate the substantial risks faced by the Palestinian population due to the military actions in Rafah.

In summary, Israeli officials note that while the decision is more limited than South Africa would have ideally wanted, it poses greater challenges because it significantly confronts the United States, who had opposed the Rafah operation and warned of a potential humanitarian catastrophe—an assertion the court has essentially endorsed, citing senior American officials. The issue becomes problematic because if Israel does not comply with the order, it will be referred to the UN Security Council, where it is uncertain whether the United States will exercise its veto power. Despite the order being issued by the ICJ, it is indeed widely believed by experts that Israel will not comply. What's likely to follow is a scenario where the Palestinians and their supporters will turn to the UN Security Council to try to pass a resolution to impose a cease-fire on Israel for all of Gaza or in Rafah specifically. Jerusalem is preparing for more challenging scenarios, especially after the recent political debacle at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the request by its chief prosecutor to pursue arrest warrants against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Gallant.

5.24. 24 – Fr

\$1.2 billion fiscal collapse, 480,000 jobs lost, Norway, Ireland & Spain declare PA a state

5.24. 24 – Fr

World Bank warns of Palestinian Authority's potential 'fiscal collapse'
International financial body says gap between revenue and spending in Palestinian territories increasing and is set to cross the \$1 billion mark
Ynet|04:17

The World Bank addressed the Palestinian Authority's (PA) financial situation on Thursday and reported a significant downturn seen in the last three months, raising concerns of a possible "fiscal collapse."

In its update on the PA's fiscal situation — related to the state's treasury and revenues — the World Bank pointed to a rapidly growing gap between the amount of revenue and the amount of funds needed to provide essential public expenditures in Palestinian territories. According to World Bank data, as of the end of 2023, this gap reached \$682 million, and is expected to double to \$1.2 billion in the coming months.

The World Bank indicated a significant impact on the PA's revenues due to a drastic decline in its economic activity. Since October 2023 and following the war in Gaza, the Palestinian economy has lost nearly half a million jobs: about 200,000 in the Gaza Strip, 144,000 in the West Bank, and approximately 148,000 jobs in Israel.

The proportion of Palestinians living below the poverty line stood at 32.8% by the middle of 2023, with dramatic disparities between Gaza and the West Bank: in Gaza, the poverty rate was close to 64%, and in the West Bank, it reached 12%.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday to take steps against the Palestinian Authority (PA) following the unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood by Norway, Ireland and Spain and the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s decision to pursue arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

In one of these steps, Smotrich announced that he intends to stop transferring tax revenues to the PA — which Israel collects as part of the Paris Protocol signed between the sides in 1994 — and won't extend the indemnity to correspondent banks that transfer funds to banks in the West Bank.

Israel's Security Cabinet approved in January a framework for transferring the Palestinian Authority's deducted tax revenues to Norway after Smotrich refused to deliver the funds, raising fears of the PA's collapse as a result.

The United States is making efforts to prevent Smotrich's plan from going forward, as the Israeli defense establishment raised concerns about the PA's potential collapse, which could lead to chaos in the West Bank.

In light of this, Gallant has made several attempts to increase the number of Palestinian workers entering Israel since October 7, arguing this factor helps maintain stability in the West Bank.

5.24. 24 – Fr

Netanyahu says IDF has detailed & surprising plans for north war

5.24. 24 – Fr

Netanyahu says Israel has 'detailed, surprising plans' as north burns from war
Prime minister visits IDF Northern Command amid missile volleys and drone infiltration warnings as local residents criticize government inaction

Yair Kraus, Lior Ben Ari, Elisha Ben Kimon, Itamar Eichner | Yesterday | 14:17

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the IDF Northern Command on Thursday and said that Israel has "detailed, important, even surprising plans," while sirens continued to sound in the Upper Galilee, missiles fired from Lebanon, and fires burned in various locations in northern Israel.

Following a series of sirens sounded throughout Thursday evening, the IDF announced that two drones had infiltrated Israeli territory; one was intercepted and the other detonated in the Kiryat Shemona area.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Air Force attacked several Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon. Among the targets were Hezbollah military complexes in Aytash Shab, Rab El Thalathine and Markaba, as well as a military structure and two observation posts in Odaisseh.

During his visit to the IDF command, Netanyahu received an operational briefing from Northern Command chief Major General Ori Gordin about the extensive offensive and defensive operations held in the sector.

Netanyahu spoke with Gordin and other military officials about the detailed operational plans in the area. A statement from his office, said that he heard about the soldiers' determination to act as needed in order to return the northern residents to their homes safely.

"We are constantly in action on the northern front. As of now we have eliminated hundreds of Hezbollah terrorists and we are still poised to – even today," Netanyahu said. "I just received a briefing from the head of Northern Command and I also spoke with the division commanders. We have detailed, important, and even surprising plans. But I will not share these plans – which are designed to do two things, 1) to restore security to the north, and 2) to restore the residents safely to their homes – with the enemy. We are determined to achieve both of them together."

Constant siren alerts were also heard in Kiryat Shemona and the Galilee on Thursday. Dozens of missiles were fired from Lebanon, and fires broke out in the area. Even hours after the volley, firefighters were operating at several major fire sites in open areas in Ayelet HaShahar and near Beit Hillel.

Northern residents, who have been suffering from the expansive and dangerous missile attack on the northern border for nearly eight months, sharply criticized the government's actions.

Nisan Ze'evi, a resident of Kibbutz Kfar Giladi in the Galilee, told Ynet about the situation in the north amid ongoing Hezbollah attacks. "We face a great challenge; our communities are asking for answers on so many issues. Meanwhile, we're trying to keep our businesses – agriculture and quarries. We're very close to a hostile Hezbollah village, from which most of the anti-tank missiles are being fired," he said.

5.23. 24 – Th

Gantz seeks inquiry of PM ignoring Gaza reports prior to Oct 7

5.23. 24 – Th

Gantz calls for state inquiry into Oct. 7 failures after reports that PM received warnings
Netanyahu's office says there was no warning about Hamas planning attack and that 'a completely opposite assessment was provided'

Moran Azulay, Itamar Eichner | Yesterday | 13:38

Government minister Benny Gantz, chairman of the National Unity party, announced Thursday evening that he will soon submit a proposal for the establishment of a state commission of inquiry. The announcement comes after reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu received four different warning letters from the IDF's intelligence division in the months between March and July 2023 that "Israel's enemies" planned to take advantage of judicial overhaul crisis and launch an attack.

The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement that "Not only was there no warning of any kind about a Hamas intention to attack Israel from Gaza, but a completely opposite assessment was provided."

"We've all seen the difficult video of the kidnapping in Nahal Oz, we've all seen the public debate about whether or not warning was given to the prime minister. There is no doubt, the period and the events leading up to October 7, and the continuation of the campaign since then, are a national upheaval that we must learn from," Gantz, a member of the war cabinet said. "This is the right action for the continued functioning of the state, and it will also help us with the international legal challenges that lie before us."

A state investigation committee is an independent body established for the purpose of investigating a specific matter and drawing conclusions. It is entitled to make recommendations on a matter of public importance. It has a quasi-legal nature and therefore carries a lot of weight.

The IDF confirmed on Thursday afternoon, in an official response to a Freedom of Information request submitted by the Hatzlacha (Success) nonprofit association, that the prime minister received four different warning letters from the IDF's Intelligence Division in the months between March 2023 and July 2023. In the letters themselves, whose existence was reported in Ynet and Yedioth Ahronoth as early as last July, Netanyahu was warned of the weakening of Israeli deterrence following the terrible damage to social cohesion in Israel, including threats by thousands of IDF soldiers that they would not show up for duty.

The IDF did not release the content of the letters sent to Netanyahu, but the prime minister revealed some of the information in a statement issued on Thursday evening by his office.

According to the statement: "Two references to Hamas in four intelligence documents point out that Hamas did not want to attack Israel from Gaza and that it favored a peaceful arrangement. The first reference, from March 19, 2023, notes that Hamas' strategy is "leaving Gaza on the back burner" and focusing attacks against Israel from other arenas. The second reference from May 31, 2023 recommended that Israel join the 'regional de-escalation trend' and 'take a step forward toward a peaceful arrangement with the Gaza Strip and the Hamas sovereign'."

The statement added that: All of the security bodies consistently supported these assessments that Hamas was not interested in escalation but in an arrangement with Israel and that Hamas was deterred."

The Prime Minister's Office also noted that that Netanyahu himself warned about the danger of the lack of cohesion in Israel when speaking about those who refuse to serve in the military.

"Yet Prime Minister Netanyahu was accurate when he warned Israel's enemies that on the day of reckoning, the internal debate will not impair our determination and strength to strike them whenever necessary," the statement concluded.

5.23. 24 – Th

IDF push westward into Rafah refugee camp, purging Hamas in close encounters

5.23. 24 – Th

IDF forces push deeper into Rafah

Army reports troops engaging terrorists in Brazil neighborhood and Al-Shaboura refugee camp, marking deepest point Israeli forces operated in Gaza's southernmost city as they continue pushing westward; World Court to rule on halt to Rafah offensive Friday
Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi|03:47

The IDF reported Thursday morning that troops were engaging terrorists in Rafah's Brazil neighborhood and Al-Shaboura refugee camp, marking the deepest point Israeli forces have operated in the Gaza Strip's southernmost city as they continue pushing westward.

According to the army, 162nd Division forces operating in Rafah located a ready-for-use rocket launcher, while Nahal and Givati Brigade soldiers located and destroyed several tunnels and rocket launchers there, eliminating terrorists in close-quarters encounters. Additionally, Israeli aircraft eliminated three terrorists who were firing mortars at the forces.

Earlier, Palestinian news agency Shehab reported exchanges of fire between Hamas operatives and IDF forces in Rafah's Yibna refugee camp, also the furthest west the IDF has reached in the city.

The army also reported that 98th Division forces eliminated several Hamas terrorists in strikes on military buildings used for storing weapons in the heart of the Jabalya refugee camp in northern Gaza as troops also operated in central Gaza.

The International Court of Justice said on Thursday it will rule on Friday, May 24 on South Africa's request to order a halt to the Rafah offensive in Gaza.

In hearings last week South Africa had asked the ICJ, also known as the World Court, to order a halt to Israel's offensive in Gaza, and in Rafah in particular, to ensure the survival of the Palestinian people.

The demand for such an emergency measure is part of a larger case brought by South Africa accusing Israel of genocide.

Israel has denounced South Africa's claim that it is violating the 1948 Genocide Convention, saying it makes a mockery of the crime of genocide. The court has previously rejected Israel's demand to throw out the case and has ordered it to prevent acts of genocide against the Palestinians.

Reuters contributed to this story.

5.22. 24 – We

IDF not yet in heart of Rafah, controls 70% Egypt border, intense fighting continues

5.22. 24 – We

Intense fighting as IDF advances to heart of Rafah

Exchanges of fire between IDF and Hamas are heard at all hours, and intensity has reached highs never before seen; Biden administration criticizing Netanyahu, saying his lack of a post-war vision is only strengthening Hamas
ynet correspondents|12:18

The IDF said on Wednesday that its forces have made significant strides in the war against Hamas. According to reports, forces reached the outskirts of a refugee camp located in the center of Rafah, but have not yet entered the city center, as intense fighting continues.

The Wall Street Journal, citing Egyptian sources, reported that the IDF controls 70% of the Philadelphi Corridor along the border with Egypt effectively controls half of the border area.

The military said that forces identified and destroyed launch sites in the Rafah area, which were loaded and aimed toward Israeli territory.

The United Nations reported that approximately 800,000 people have fled Rafah in recent days, while Israel claimed the figure was even higher. In light of the mass evacuation and efforts to avoid harming civilians, the Biden administration was expected to soften its opposition to a broad Israeli operation in Rafah.

According to a report in Politico, the White House claimed that the IDF has only managed to take out about a third of Hamas terrorists, and has left the majority of terror tunnels undisturbed. Senior figures in the Biden administration believed that Netanyahu's indecisiveness regarding the management of the Gaza Strip after the war had emboldened Hamas, to the point where it is routinely recruiting new terrorists in the areas where IDF has moved on from.

Earlier on Wednesday, the IDF announced the killing of a senior Hamas Northern Command operative Ahmed Yasser Alkara, who had taken part in the massacre of October 7 and carried out numerous shooting attempts directed at IDF troops. As troops prepared to carry out a strike on Alkara, a child was identified nearby, prompting forces to halt their operation. After the boy left the area, the forces attacked, killing the terrorist. The IDF said Air Force fighter jets killed five Hamas terrorists who operated from within a school compound in northern Gaza. The military said the attack was planned carefully, using precise fire and taking measures to ensure no civilians would be hurt.

5.22. 24 – We

Censored three minute hostage video publicly aired to show urgency of daily abuse

5.22. 24 – We

Hostages' mothers watch Hamas terrorist say in footage: 'These are the girls who can get pregnant'

For two hours, IDF soldiers Liri Albag, Karina Arie, Agam Berger, Daniella Gilboa, Naama Levy were surrounded by dozens of terrorists, with the bodies of dead friends beside them; 'In my worst dreams, in the worst Hollywood movie, I didn't think I would see such a moment in my daughter's eyes'; Censored version screened for public
Yael Ciechanover|Updated:11:12

Shira Albag, the mother one of the IDF soldiers seen in a video during the Hamas terrorist kidnapping of her and her friends, told Israel's Kan Public Broadcaster that in the film the terrorists are heard saying: "Here, these are the girls who can get pregnant."

The video that was aired Wednesday at 6 p.m. is a short edited and censored version of the full footage, captured by the body cameras of Hamas terrorists on October 7.

"I can tell you that I am one of the only mothers who have seen the video," Albag said. "Most of the mothers have not watched it. It is very difficult to watch. You see the girls there, after they have entered the shelter, and even after their friends have already been murdered. Large numbers of terrorists enter and they are treated with brutality and violence, and they are spoken to in a very unpleasant and violent manner. There is something unsaid that we are afraid of, but they even say it there among themselves: 'These are the girls who can get pregnant.'"

"The girls sat in the shelter for about two hours after the terrorists captured the base," according to Albag. "They are handcuffed and tied while all their friends are lying next to them and the terrorists are on top of them. This is a very edited video, very censored. It is three minutes long and does not show everything that happened there in the entire two hours - but one can only imagine."

At the Nahal Oz base, 15 female IDF soldiers who served at the base were murdered on October 7, and seven were abducted alive to the Gaza Strip. Ori Magidish was rescued by IDF forces after 23 days in captivity with the launch of ground operations in Gaza. Noa Marciano was killed by Hamas terrorists while in captivity, and her body was recovered and brought back to Israel by the IDF for burial.

The five soldiers still held by Hamas are Liri Albag, Karina Arie, Agam Berger, Daniella Gilboa and Naama Levy. They have been in captivity for 229 days.

'Their friends were dying in front of their eyes'

"Unfortunately, for two or three weeks now we have not heard public discussion about the return of the hostages, everything is stuck, Orly Gilboa, the mother of hostage Daniella said. "The decision-makers have time to wait - they have other goals, so this led us to release the video to the public. I personally have not dared to watch all the footage - but the decision-makers had to see what the girls have been going through for 230 days." According to Gilboa, Knesset members and government ministers received the full version of the footage. "Out of respect for the murdered women from that day, we censored it, but our girls sat in the shelter in front of the bodies of at least 12 of their

friends," she said. Despite the difficulty, she watched specific parts of the film, emphasizing that "I can't describe what I see in Daniella's eyes, these are looks that are hard to explain. She saw death in front of her, it's far beyond fear. It's so hard."

"You have to understand the context around these photos," Gilboa said. "It is already after the terrorists entered the shelter, which is a relatively small place; the terrorists are shooting everywhere, throwing grenades, and their friends are on fire; they experience this and finally the terrorists get to them and handcuff them. There are dozens of terrorists in this small place and their friends are dying in front of their eyes; in my worst nightmares, in the biggest and most terrible Hollywood movie, I never thought I would see such a moment in my daughter's eyes."

Gilboa also said that her daughter is seen in the footage with an injury, and that she may have been hit by gunfire, a grenade or shrapnel. "You see she is injured in the leg," she said. she hoped that the public airing of the video would rekindle public awareness of the issue of the hostages.

"We need to wake up the people who have gone back to routine," she said. "The hostages have been moved to the background, they don't fully understand the urgency. We need to wake up the decision-makers and beg for a Cabinet discussion on this. Everything is being conducted lazily because they have time, they sleep in their beds and eat with their families."

The War Cabinet convened on Wednesday night but, according to Gilboa, only Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has agreed to a meeting with the families of the hostages in the meantime.

"They say that first they will eliminate Hamas and then they will free the hostages - but it should be the other way around," she said. "The danger to the hostages is immediate, they are suffering, are murdered and injured by IDF fire. Dealing with Hamas will take years, the urgency is first of all to get the hostages out of there, even if you have to pay a price. They say that a deal is not possible, but these are slogans. Everything has to be done to bring back whoever it is possible."

'It's impossible to avoid'

"My parents watched the video first, it didn't take too long and we also watched it," Shai, Liri Elbag's older sister, said. "You can see the fear in their eyes, I look at my sister and don't recognize her. It is a very shocking video, very difficult. Liri saw with her own eyes her friends are being murdered, their bodies being tied up, and the number of terrorists that are around them and how they are being talked to.

She went on to say: "Seeing it with my own eyes is even worse than I imagined. This is a video from October 7, so many things have happened since then, so many things they see and experience every day – and for the last two weeks they have not talked about the hostages at all. I don't know how people don't talk about them, how people don't dare to watch this video."

Last month Ynet revealed that the footage was previously shown to the War Cabinet and the expanded Security Cabinet, but many of the ministers chose not to watch it. Minister Bezalel Smotrich, for example, turned to the ministers who chose to watch the film asked: "You don't want to sleep well at night?"

Referring to Smotrich, Shai Elbag said: "Today he could not avoid it, everyone saw it here in this country and all over the world and will remember that these are living people

and that they should be brought home. Of course, the bodies of the murdered also should be brought back, but there are still living people who suffer abuse daily. We have to do everything possible to bring them home."

Will ministers who oppose the deal change their minds following the video?

"I really want to hope that they will not be able to remain indifferent to such footage, and that they will just try to imagine their child in this situation and maybe it will change things there a little. They must remember that Liri and the other girls were kidnapped during their shift. They went to protect the state and that's how the state should protect them and all the hostages, and they are currently failing at this. For eight months, this has not happened, for eight months all the hostages are abused minute by minute."

Smotrich released a statement after seeing the clip in which he said the horrors depicted there only bolster his position that eliminating Hamas is the only way hostages would be returned.

5.22. 24 – We

Gallant ends 2005 Disengagement Law, opens Judea & Samaria settlements

5.22. 24 – We

Gallant ends 2005 disengagement restrictions, opens northern West Bank areas to Israelis
Defense minister grants Israelis access to dismantled settlements after 19 years; however, move symbolic only after IDF Central Command chief bars Israelis from entering area until 2028

Elisha Ben Kimon|07:08

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant instructed on Wednesday to put into effect a bill repealing the Disengagement Law in some northern West Bank areas, reopening them for Israelis for the first time since 2005.

The order will now allow Israeli citizens to return to the settlements of Sa-Nur, Ganim and Kadim after access was granted to Homesh last year.

"The bill's implementation comes after extensive discussions that Defense Minister Gallant held with the council head and IDF officials," Gallant's office said in a joint statement with Shomron Regional Council Head Yossi Dagan.

However, IDF Central Command chief Major General Yehuda Fox signed a closure order on April 1 for the areas of Sa-Nur, Ganim and Kadim in the northern West Bank, meaning Israelis cannot currently enter these areas. The closure order, effective from April this year until December 2028, aims to prevent an influx of settlers into the specified area.

"Following the repealing of the Disengagement Law in the Knesset and after completing the necessary procedures, we've succeeded in completing this historic move. Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria ensures security, and the bill's implementation will lead to

the proper growth of settlements and provide security to the area's residents," Gallant said, using the territory's biblical name.

"As I've done in all my roles in the Israeli government, I'll continue to develop settlements in Judea and Samaria, strengthen security measures and ensure the residents' safety — on the roads and in the settlements themselves."

"This correction is a historic moment, both morally and security-wise, for the State of Israel, especially after October 7," Dagan said. "Today, the State of Israel officially corrected the injustice of the disengagement from northern Samaria. I commend Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for this just and valuable decision for the State of Israel and IDF Central Command chief Yehuda Fox, who had the honor to sign this important correction. After the Disengagement Law's repeal was approved, settlers were allowed to stay in Homesh. Settlers pressured Gallant to instruct Major General Fox to lift the order, thereby making it legal to stay in the northern West Bank settlements.

"We welcome the just decision to repeal the Disengagement Law from the northern Samaria area. For many years, we have fought for the return of Jewish settlement to northern Samaria, and even after Homesh was approved as a settlement, we continued the fight, and now we welcome its conclusion," Homesh's yeshiva said in a statement. Settlers from Sa-Nur said, "We congratulate the defense minister on this historic move. He, alongside Yossi Dagan, is making history and returning us to the right path. In doing so, they aren't only changing the past but also the future that's to come to the communities of Emek Hefer, Harish and the surrounding area should we not return to settle in northern Samaria."

5.22. 24 – We

Smotrich to freeze PA funds & settle WB as EU & UN nations back PA state

5.22. 24 – We

Smotrich vows to freeze PA funds after European nations back Palestinian state
Finance minister calls on Netanyahu to take actions against PA while ramping up West Bank settlement construction as Norway, Ireland and Spain move to recognize

Palestinian statehood

Moran Azulay|05:42

Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday to take steps against the Palestinian Authority (PA) following the unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood by Norway, Ireland and Spain and the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s decision to pursue arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

In one of these steps, Smotrich announced that he intends to stop transferring tax revenues to the PA — which Israel collects as part of the Paris Protocol signed between the sides in 1994 — and won't extend the indemnity to correspondent banks that transfer funds to banks in the West Bank.

Israel's Security Cabinet approved in January a framework for transferring the Palestinian Authority's deducted tax revenues to Norway after Smotrich refused to deliver the funds, raising fears of the PA's collapse as a result.

The U.S. offered to transfer the money to a bank account in Norway, where it would accrue interest, while Israel would transfer the remaining funds to the PA.

Until the agreement was reached, the PA refused to withdraw the relative portion Israel was holding. Now, Smotrich has announced he considers the arrangement void and will stop transferring the funds entirely.

In a letter to Netanyahu, Smotrich wrote, "At the previous government meeting, I and many other ministers made an unequivocal demand to take severe measures against the Palestinian Authority for its unilateral actions against Israel, including its pursuit of unilateral recognition of statehood at the UN and through bilateral agreements with several countries, and the legal battle it's waging against the State of Israel in the international court at The Hague to stop the war.

"After the discussion, you tasked a ministerial team, coordinated by the National Security Council (NSC), to formulate a recommended list of measures within 24 hours. As you know, since the government meeting, the antisemitic prosecutor at the ICC has published his decision to issue arrest warrants against you and the defense minister as part of a case filed by the Palestinian Authority.

"Let me remind you that I approached you two weeks ago and demanded the formulation of severe response measures. Unfortunately, the issue has dragged on, and some are apparently trying to sideline it."

"I don't intend to allow officials to dismiss the issue. There's urgency for an immediate response that will impose a significant cost on the Palestinian Authority for its actions and deter it and other countries," Smotrich concluded.

Smotrich also asked the premier to approve the immediate convening of the West Bank's Planning Administration to approve the construction of 10,000 housing units in the territory, including in Area E1; to approve a decision at Thursday's Cabinet meeting on establishing a settlement for every country that unilaterally recognizes a Palestinian state; to pass a decision to cancel the transfer of tax revenues to the Palestinian Authority; to promote a proposal to bolster settlements in the West Bank; and to permanently revoke all VIP permits for senior Palestinian Authority officials at all border crossings and impose additional economic sanctions on them and their families.

5.21. 24 – Tu

AP, an American news agency providing images to Al Jazeera; defended by US

5.21. 24 – Tu

After outcry from US, Israel will return seized AP equipment

Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi walks back decision to confiscate AP equipment broadcasting from Sderot, places blame for seizure on security establishment and Defense Ministry.

Ran Boker|14:46

Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi announced that equipment confiscated by his office personnel will be returned to the Associated Press news agency.

“Since the Defense Ministry wishes to examine the matter of the broadcasts from these locations in Sderot regarding the risk to our forces, I have now ordered a cancellation of the operation and return the equipment to AP, until a different decision is made by the Defense Ministry,” Karhi said in a statement on Tuesday night, hours after the equipment was first seized in the southern Israeli city. The statement appeared to place the blame for the seizure on the security establishment and the Defense Ministry.

Karhi's decision was made in the shadow of heavy American pressure, and after the Biden administration sent messages to the Prime Minister's Office urging Israel to walk back the decision.

The ministry officials seized a camera and broadcasting equipment belonging to The Associated Press after accusing the news organization of violating a new media law by providing images to Al Jazeera.

Al Jazeera network is just one of thousands of media networks in the world that use AP's live broadcasts.

After the particularly unusual step of confiscating the equipment and stopping the broadcasting from Sderot, the Biden administration sent urgent messages to Israel, in which it demanded the cancellation of the move against AP, an American news agency. An appeal was also made to the Prime Minister's Office.

The confiscation of the equipment was not coordinated with the Prime Minister's Office, according to PMO officials. To justify the action, the Communications Ministry published a video in which it appears that the live broadcast seen on Al Jazeera is actually a shot from the house in Sderot.

Shortly before the equipment was seized, it was broadcasting a general view of northern Gaza. The AP complies with Israel's military censorship rules, which prohibit broadcasts of details like troops movements that could endanger soldiers. The live shot has generally shown smoke rising over the territory.

The seizure followed a verbal order Thursday to cease the live transmission — which the news organization refused to do.

The Communications Ministry said that last week "the AP agency was given a warning that according to the law and the government's decision they are prohibited from providing broadcasts to Al Jazeera, however they decided to continue broadcasting on the channel, which causes a real harm to the security of the state."

Earlier this month, the government voted to approve the proposal of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Karhi to close the offices of the Al Jazeera channel in Israel. Under the new law, it was decided to confiscate the channel's broadcasting facilities, ban

its broadcasts and access to its website and cancel the journalist credentials of all its reporters in Israel.

“The Associated Press decries in the strongest terms the actions of the Israeli government to shut down our longstanding live feed showing a view into Gaza and seize AP equipment,” said Lauren Easton, vice president of corporate communications at the news organization. “The shutdown was not based on the content of the feed but rather an abusive use by the Israeli government of the country’s new foreign broadcaster law. We urge the Israeli authorities to return our equipment and enable us to reinstate our live feed immediately so we can continue to provide this important visual journalism to thousands of media outlets around the world.”

Before the announcement of the return of the equipment, the Union of Journalists in Israel said in a statement that “the Communications Ministry must immediately stop the hunt for media outlets and journalists. This is a serious threat to democracy and the freedom of the press. It is a distinct Israeli interest that the professional and free work of media outlets, foreign and Israeli, be allowed here, even if they frame reality differently than the Israeli government.”

5.21. 24 – Tu

Minister Karai seize AP equipment providing live video feeds to Al Jazeera

5.21. 24 – Tu

Israeli officials seize AP equipment and take down live shot of northern Gaza, citing 'Al Jazeera law'

The seizure followed a verbal order last week to cease the longstanding live transmission, which the news organization refused to do; AP says it 'complies with Israel's military censorship rules'; Communications Ministry: 'Inspectors warned them they were breaking the law'

AP, Itamar Eichner, Daniel Edelson, New York|08:30

Israeli officials seized a camera and broadcasting equipment belonging to The Associated Press in southern Israel on Tuesday, accusing the news organization of violating a new media law by providing images to Al Jazeera.

The Qatari satellite channel is among thousands of clients that receive live video feeds from the AP and other news organizations. The AP denounced the move.

“The Associated Press decries in the strongest terms the actions of the Israeli government to shut down our longstanding live feed showing a view into Gaza and seize AP equipment,” said Lauren Easton, vice president of corporate communications at the news organization. “The shutdown was not based on the content of the feed but rather an abusive use by the Israeli government of the country’s new foreign broadcaster law. We urge the Israeli authorities to return our equipment and enable us to reinstate our live feed

immediately so we can continue to provide this important visual journalism to thousands of media outlets around the world.”

Officials from the Communications Ministry arrived at the AP location in the southern town of Sderot on Tuesday afternoon and seized the equipment. They handed the AP a piece of paper, signed by Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi, alleging it was violating the country’s foreign broadcaster law.

Shortly before the equipment was seized, it was broadcasting a general view of northern Gaza. The AP complies with Israel’s military censorship rules, which prohibit broadcasts of details like troops movements that could endanger soldiers. The live shot has generally shown smoke rising over the territory.

The seizure followed a verbal order Thursday to cease the live transmission — which the news organization refused to do.

“In accordance with the government decision and the instruction of the communications minister, the communications ministry will continue to take whatever enforcement action is required to limit broadcasts that harm the security of the state,” the Communications Ministry said in a statement.

Earlier this month, the government voted to approve the proposal of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Communications Minister Karai to close the offices of the Al Jazeera channel in Israel. Under the new law, it was decided to confiscate the channel’s broadcasting facilities, ban its broadcasts and access to its website and cancel the journalist credentials of all its reporters in Israel.

The Communications Ministry responded to its move to confiscate the AP equipment, stating that “the agency’s photographers regularly photographs Gaza from the balcony of a house in Sderot, including focusing on the activities of IDF soldiers and their location. Although the ministry’s inspectors warned them that they were breaking the law and that they should cut off Al-Jazeera from receiving their content, they continued to do so.” Opposition leader Yair Lapid responded: “This is an act of madness. It is a media outlet that has won 53 Pulitzer Prizes. The government makes sure at any cost that Israel will be ostracized all over the world, they have gone crazy.”

The White House said it was “checking the report” about the confiscation of the equipment. “We insist that journalists should have the ability and the right to do their work. Of course, this is worrisome,” White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. The Prime Minister’s Office claims that Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi did not inform Benjamin Netanyahu about the confiscation of the broadcast equipment from the AP news agency.

Israel has long had a rocky relationship with Al Jazeera, accusing it of bias against the country. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called it a “terror channel” that spreads incitement.

Al Jazeera is one of the few international news outlets that has remained in Gaza throughout the war, broadcasting scenes of airstrikes and overcrowded hospitals and accusing Israel of massacres.

5.21. 24 – Tu

IDF use drones in WB & Gaza to detect & eliminate terrorists in structures & tunnels

5.21. 24 – Tu

Watch: IDF drones hunt down terrorists in West Bank operation

Elite IDF unit records precise elimination of terror cell in Nur Shams using drones; one drone identifies cell, second pinpoints location and third delivers explosives; method also used in Gaza

Yoav Zitun|05:50

Footage recently released shows the Israeli military using drones to eliminate a terrorist cell in the West Bank. The clip captures a group of armed terrorists detected in the Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm during a counterterrorism operation conducted by the IDF last April. The army is currently investigating how the footage was made public.

In the video, a drone films four gunmen in an alley within the camp. Upon spotting the drone, the men attempt to bring it down by throwing stones, but the drone operator swiftly removes it from danger.

A second drone is dispatched to confirm their position before a third drone fires five missiles at the group, killing all its members. A fourth drone is then sent to verify the elimination of the terrorists.

The images highlight the IDF's use of drones on the modern battlefield, a strategy also employed in Gaza. Drones are used to detect and eliminate terrorists hiding in structures and tunnels.

5.20. 24 – Mo

Rafah operation coordinated daily with Egypt, to allow locating & clearing tunnels

5.20. 24 – Mo

IDF controls half of Philadelphi Corridor: This is how Israel's operation in Rafah is progressing

IDF's Commando Brigade reaches outskirts of Rafah, marking the westernmost point of IDF operations in the area; military estimates that approximately 950,000 Gazans have evacuated from Rafah, including neighborhoods not required to do so

Yoav Zitun|14:52

About two weeks after the start of the Rafah operation, forces of the 162nd Division are deepening their engagement, and the Commando Brigade has begun operating in the Brazil neighborhood on the outskirts of the city – the westernmost point reached so far by IDF forces.

The military estimates that the Rafah operation will continue for weeks to months and will proceed slowly and deliberately due to the operation's complexity and sensitivities with the United States and Egypt.

The IDF has been pleasantly surprised by the rapid evacuation of residents from the area, including neighborhoods in Rafah that were not required to evacuate. According to estimates, approximately 950,000 residents have moved to designated humanitarian zones prepared in advance, primarily in western Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. "This is a testament to the credible deterrence that has been established, allowing us to operate more efficiently," the IDF said. Additionally, the IDF has repaired water lines to the humanitarian zones as part of preparations for the incoming residents. Field hospitals and supplies of food and medicine also have been transferred to these zones. The IDF estimates that around 300,000 Gazans will remain in the Rafah area, similar to the number of residents who remained in Gaza City after the ground operation there.

Currently, four brigades are operating in the Rafah area: three regular brigades – Commando, Givati and the 401st Armored Brigade – and one reserve brigade, the 12th (Negev) Brigade, operating closer to the Israeli border. The IDF now controls approximately half of the southeastern section of the Philadelphi Corridor bordering Sinai.

"The forces are operating above and below ground, targeting terror infrastructure, locating numerous weapons, including launchers and explosives, and eliminating terrorists in the area," the IDF said in a statement. "So far, the forces have killed over 130 terrorists, located dozens of tunnels, and several significant underground routes that are currently being investigated and destroyed."

Due to the sensitivity of the situation with Cairo, Israel has established a coordination mechanism with the Egyptian military to allow the continued delicate operation. This mechanism has been functioning well on a daily basis despite Egyptian anger over footage from the start of the operation showing IDF soldiers destroying civilian infrastructure at the Rafah crossing with tanks.

The IDF is making significant efforts to avoid explosive incidents with the Egyptian military, which has moved forces closer to the border to prevent Gazans from entering Sinai. Only artillery soldiers with special training and certification for the mission are allowed to participate in this effort. Currently, artillery batteries from Battalion 55 are deployed near the Sands area, south of Kerem Shalom, and along the border with Egypt. These batteries must exercise extreme precision in shelling the Rafah area due to the proximity to Egypt.

Simultaneously, IDF raids continue in the northern and central Gaza Strip. In the last 24 hours, a brigade-level raid was launched in the Sabra neighborhood, one of Gaza City's largest, as part of the ongoing operation in the Jabaliya refugee camp. Reserve Brigade 679, also responsible for missions in the Netzarim corridor, is conducting the raid. "As part of the operation, the forces are clearing enemy infrastructure, locating underground routes, and finding weapons left in the corridor," said the IDF.

5.20. 24 – Mo

Three former Trump advisers met Netanyahu, amid strains between Israel and Biden

5.20. 24 – Mo

Donald Trump foreign policy advisers met Netanyahu, public officials in Israel
Rare case of Trump allies traveling abroad as part of an organized delegation to meet foreign officials; Group was not acting at the former president's request and had no message to deliver to Israeli officials.

Reuters|12:41

Three former U.S. foreign policy officials in Donald Trump's administration met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other public figures in Israel on Monday, according to a person with direct knowledge of the matter.

The delegation was comprised of Robert O'Brien, who served as Trump's fourth and final national security adviser, as well as former Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates John Rakolta and former Ambassador to Switzerland Ed McMullen, said the person, who requested anonymity as the trip's itinerary was not public.

In addition to Netanyahu, the delegation met Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid and several other Israeli officials, the person said.

Among the main goals of the trip was to obtain a better understanding of Israel's complex domestic political situation, said the person familiar with the visit. Netanyahu's coalition is beset by internal disagreements, with many Israelis blaming his government for failing to prevent the Oct. 7 Hamas attack.

It was a rare case of Trump allies traveling abroad as part of an organized delegation to meet foreign officials. It took place amid strains between Israel and the Biden administration about Israel's conduct of the war in Gaza.

It was unclear what the delegation of Trump allies discussed with the Israelis. The person said the group was not acting at the former president's request and had no message to deliver to Israeli officials. But all serve as informal advisers to Trump, and the former president will likely receive a readout of the meetings, the person added.

Trump has occasionally criticized Israel over its operation in Gaza, and he has faulted Netanyahu for failing to prevent the Oct. 7 attack. But Trump, the Republican candidate for president, consistently portrays himself as a more reliable ally to Israel than Democratic President Joe Biden, his rival in the Nov. 5 election.

The White House declined comment when asked about the meeting. The Israeli prime minister's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

During Trump's 2017-2021 White House term, the U.S. moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a long-held conservative goal that delighted Israelis and infuriated Palestinians.

Rakolta, the former ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, played a major role in the Abraham Accords, agreements signed during the Trump years, which normalized bilateral relations between Israel and both Bahrain and the UAE.

O'Brien has emerged as one of Trump's top foreign policy advisers, and he will likely play a significant role in a second Trump term should he return to office, according to several people with knowledge of their relationship.

Foreign officials have regularly talked with Trump or his advisers in recent months to get a better sense of his likely policies should he return to the White House.

Foreign leaders on official visits typically meet with opposition leaders. British Foreign Minister David Cameron met Trump at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida in April, where they discussed the war in Ukraine and the future of NATO.

Hard-right Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban met Trump at Mar-a-Lago in March. Last month, the former president received Polish President Andrzej Duda at Trump Tower in New York.

The 1799 Logan Act permits Americans outside the government to meet foreign officials but it also limits their ability to negotiate U.S. disputes with foreign governments.

On Sunday, Netanyahu met with Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan to discuss the war. The White House said Sullivan proposed measures to ensure more aid was able to flow into the Palestinian enclave.

The Biden administration, while initially steadfast in its support, has expressed misgivings with elements of Israel's war strategy in recent months. This month Biden paused shipments of thousands of bombs to Israel in response to Israel's decision to expand its assault on the city of Rafah in southern Gaza.

That pause prompted Trump to accuse Biden of abandoning an ally.

During the Trump delegation's visit to Israel, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi died in a helicopter crash. That event could set off a succession battle in Iran, a geopolitical foe of Israel and the U.S. It was unclear if the Trump advisers discussed Raisi's death with Israeli officials.

5.20. 24 – Mo

With audacity ICC warrants compare monsters of Hamas to IDF moral soldiers

5.20. 24 – Mo

'Outrageous' and 'shameful': US officials react to ICC prosecutor's request for arrest warrants

President Joe Biden says there is 'no equivalence - none - between Israel and Hamas'; Secretary of State Antony Blinken says warrants 'endanger a hostage deal'; Netanyahu also responds to the warrants: 'Directed against the entire State of Israel, against the IDF soldiers'

Daniel Edelson, New York|12:26

U.S. officials reacted angrily to Monday's request by Karim Khan, the prosecutor general of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, for international arrest warrants

for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, as well as Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar, Hamas Political Bureau Chief Ismail Haniyeh, and Hamas Military Wing Chief Mohammed Deif on charges of war crimes.

US President Joe Biden said in a statement that "the prosecutor's request is outrageous. And let me be clear: whatever this prosecutor might imply, there is no equivalence - none - between Israel and Hamas." He added: "We will always stand by Israel against threats to its security."

"The United States fundamentally rejects the announcement today from the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) that he is applying for arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials, together with warrants for Hamas terrorists.

"We reject the Prosecutor's equivalence of Israel with Hamas. It is shameful. Hamas is a brutal terrorist organization that carried out the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust and is still holding dozens of innocent people hostage, including Americans," the statement from Blinken said.

Moreover, the United States has been clear since well before the current conflict that the ICC has no jurisdiction over this matter. The ICC was established by its state parties as a court of limited jurisdiction. Those limits are rooted in principles of complementarity, which do not appear to have been applied here amid the Prosecutor's rush to seek these arrest warrants rather than allowing the Israeli legal system a full and timely opportunity to proceed. In other situations, the Prosecutor deferred to national investigations and worked with states to allow them time to investigate. The Prosecutor did not afford the same opportunity to Israel, which has ongoing investigations into allegations against its personnel," the statement also said.

"There are also deeply troubling process questions. Despite not being a member of the court, Israel was prepared to cooperate with the Prosecutor. In fact, the Prosecutor himself was scheduled to visit Israel as early as next week to discuss the investigation and hear from the Israeli Government. The Prosecutor's staff was supposed to land in Israel today to coordinate the visit. Israel was informed that they did not board their flight around the same time that the Prosecutor went on cable television to announce the charges. These and other circumstances call into question the legitimacy and credibility of this investigation.

"Fundamentally, this decision does nothing to help, and could jeopardize, ongoing efforts to reach a cease-fire agreement that would get hostages out and surge humanitarian assistance in, which are the goals the United States continues to pursue relentlessly," Blinken's statement concluded.

The Hague Criminal Court responded to Blinken's criticism. The court told CNN that it tried "to improve the dialogue with Israel for three years and to obtain information relevant to our investigations. Despite considerable efforts, the prosecutor's office did not receive any information that testified that real action was taken against the alleged crimes or the suspects themselves."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also condemned the decision of the IDC prosecutor.

"The **absurd and false order of the prosecutor** in The Hague is not only directed against the Prime Minister of Israel and the Minister of Defense - it is **directed against the entire State of Israel**. It is **directed against the IDF soldiers**, who are fighting with supreme heroism against the vile Hamas murderers, who attacked us with terrible cruelty on October 7."

He addressed the prosecutor, Karim Khan, directly: "**With what audacity do you dare compare the monsters of Hamas to the soldiers of the IDF, the most moral army in the world? With what audacity do you compare between the Hamas that murdered, burned, butchered, raped and kidnapped our brothers and sisters, and the soldiers of the IDF who fight a just war that has no equal in morality.**"

"As Prime Minister of Israel, I **reject with disgust the comparison** of the prosecutor in The Hague between democratic Israel and the murderers of Hamas. This is a complete **distortion of reality**. This is **exactly what the new antisemitism looks like**, it has moved from the campuses in the West to the court in The Hague. **What a shame**. Citizens of Israel, I promise you one thing - **the attempt to tie our hands will fail.**"

Some **106 Knesset lawmakers** signed a statement against the ICC: "**The State of Israel is in the midst of a just war against a criminal terrorist organization**. The IDF is the most moral army in the world. Our heroic soldiers fight with unparalleled courage and morality, in accordance with international law, as no other army has ever done. The **scandalous comparison of the prosecutor** in The Hague between the leaders of the terrorist organization Hamas is an indelible historical crime and **a clear expression of antisemitism**. **Eighty years after the Holocaust, no one will tie the hands of the Jewish state to defend itself.**"

5.20. 24 – Mo

ICC warrants jurisdiction of Gaza, E-Jerusalem & WB when PA signed Rome Statute

5.20. 24 – Mo

This is what happens now that ICC requested arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant

ICC's chief prosecutor has asked for arrest warrants against the prime minister and defense minister, but it is not only up to him; Even if they're issued, Netanyahu and Gallant may not end up in handcuffs, but **it could deal a crushing blow to Israel's global standing**

Itamar Eichner, Tova Tzimuki|10:45

Karim Khan, the prosecutor general of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, announced on Monday that he has **requested international arrest** warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, as well as Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar, Hamas Political Bureau Chief Ismail Haniyeh, and Hamas Military Wing Chief Mohammed Deif **on charges of war crimes**.

Once the ICC prosecutor general submitted the significant request for arrest warrants against Netanyahu, Gallant, and senior Hamas officials, the matter was transferred to the

pre-trial chamber responsible for cases related to the Palestinians. The procedure requires the court to review the prosecutor's requests and may involve requesting additional evidence. In Israel, it is anticipated that the pre-trial chamber will approve Khan's request and issue the arrest warrants.

Even if arrest warrants are issued against Netanyahu and Gallant, it does not mean they will be immediately detained – this would only occur if they travel to one of the 123 countries (excluding the Palestinian Authority) that are signatories to the Rome Statute. For example, the United States is not a signatory, but many Western countries are.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has not been arrested despite an outstanding warrant for over a year because he has not visited any of the countries that have signed the Rome Statute. However, the impact on Israel's international standing would be significant, especially at a time when the government is already facing global criticism over its conduct in the Gaza conflict, which has resulted in delays in arms shipments from the United States.

The panel reviewing Khan's request is made up of three judges: Judge Iulia Motoc from Romania, who has been serving in The Hague since March and was appointed for a 10-year term; Judge Reine Alapini-Gansou from Benin, who joined the court in March 2018 for a nine-year term; and Judge Socorro Flores Liera from Mexico, who was appointed in March 2021 for a nine-year term.

Professor Amichai Cohen, a senior fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, says that there are several more steps in the process. "For the prosecutor to issue the arrest warrants as requested, he needs the approval of a panel of three judges (pre-trial chamber), who will assess whether there are reasonable grounds to believe the crimes were committed and whether the arrest warrant is necessary for the judicial process. The suspects do not have the right to representation in the judicial approval process which, based on past experience, may take from several days to a few weeks."

According to Cohen: "The Rome Statute does not provide an option to appeal an issued arrest warrant. Since there is no statute of limitations on crimes under the statute, arrest warrants issued by the court may remain in force for many years, even after the suspect no longer holds the position they held at the time the crimes were committed. The pre-trial chamber is authorized to cancel arrest warrants, but so far this authority has only been exercised after the death of suspects."

(Statement by Karim Khan)

"My office submits that the war crimes alleged in these applications were committed in the context of an international armed conflict between Israel and Palestine, and a non-international armed conflict between Israel and Hamas (together with other Palestinian Armed Groups) running in parallel. We submit that the crimes against humanity charged were committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack against the Palestinian civilian population pursuant to State policy. These crimes, in our assessment, continue to this day."

Khan added regarding the charges against the senior Israeli officials: "The siege also included cutting off cross-border water pipelines from Israel to Gaza – Gazans' principal source of clean water – for a prolonged period beginning 9 October 2023, and cutting off and hindering electricity supplies from at least 8 October 2023 until today. This took

place alongside other attacks on civilians, including those lining up for food; obstruction of aid delivery by humanitarian agencies; and attacks on and killing of aid workers, which forced many agencies to cease or limit their operations in Gaza.

"My office submits that these acts were committed as part of a common plan to use starvation as a method of war and other acts of violence against the Gazan civilian population as a means to (i) eliminate Hamas; (ii) secure the return of the hostages which Hamas has abducted, and (iii) collectively punish the civilian population of Gaza, whom they perceived as a threat to Israel.

"The effects of the use of starvation as a method of warfare, together with other attacks and collective punishment against the civilian population of Gaza are acute, visible and widely known, and have been confirmed by multiple witnesses interviewed by my office, including local and international medical doctors. They include malnutrition, dehydration, profound suffering and an increasing number of deaths among the Palestinian population, including babies, other children, and women."

In Israel, officials have repeatedly claimed in recent months that there is nothing preventing humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip and accuse the UN of being unable to distribute it. The UN rejects these claims and places the responsibility on Israel. Recently, the Rafah crossing, through which significant aid flowed into the Strip, was closed, with Egypt blaming Israel's control over the crossing. Conversely, the temporary pier established by the United States in the Mediterranean Sea began operating and delivering humanitarian aid to the Strip by sea.

In Israel there is strong opposition to the claim that the ICC has jurisdiction over the matter. This is because Israel is not a signatory to the Rome Statute. However, the court itself claims it has jurisdiction over Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank after Palestinian leaders agreed in 2015 to be bound by its foundational principles.

5.20. 24 – Mo

Northern farmers demand compensation for IDF commandeering their lands

5.20. 24 – Mo

Northern farmers demand compensation for IDF commandeering their lands

IDF repurposes agricultural lands in north for conflict with Hezbollah after bringing in vehicles and heavy equipment; since then, the lands have become unusable, leaving Israeli farmers without income or compensation

Yair Kraus|07:17

At the beginning of October, with the outbreak of the war, the IDF requisitioned agricultural lands throughout northern Israel for military purposes. So far, some of the farmers whose fields were commandeered have not been compensated. Months later, they are seeking solutions from the government so they can finally return to farming and make a living.

For example, the IDF repurposed around 1.5 acres of farmable land near Moshav Ahihud. After the IDF left the area, the farmers noticed that the **land was damaged and unusable.**

"A few days after October 7, friends called me," said Chaim Gamliel, a farmer whose land was commandeered by the army. "They saw that the army was in my fields and those of another resident, digging up land. I went there and there were forces there who said they were from Northern Command. They **received orders and had to work there.** For almost three days, they **dug up** all the land and **set up a high six-meter embankment with soil."**

The soldiers asked Gamliel to speak with Northern **Command and assured** him that he would be **compensated** for the losses resulting from the damage to the land and the crops. **"I grow pumpkins and hay for my goats and calves, that's my livelihood," he says.** "The **hay is very expensive this year,** and I have to buy it instead of growing it to feed the animals. In the meantime, I also pay rent for **leasing the land.** If I try to restore the land on my own, without the army's help, it will cost me over 10,000 shekels (\$2,700) to prepare the land for sowing."

For seven months, Gamliel **sought answers but failed to find anyone** who cared. "The ones who took the land are the army and no one else," he said. "They came with military **jeeps and heavy equipment.** I keep **trying to get compensation** and answers, but there's **no one to talk to."**

The Defense Ministry responded, "The issue has been brought to the attention of the Defense Ministry. Immediately upon receiving the request, professional **personnel will contact the farmer** to obtain details **for examination.** The Defense **Ministry will update** upon completion of **his request."**

5.20. 24 – Mo

World Court requests arrest of Israel & Hamas leaders on charges of war crimes

5.20. 24 – Mo

World Court top prosecutor requests arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant and Hamas leaders

Karim Khan accuses PM, DM of **'starvation of civilians as a method of warfare'** and **'Wilfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health'** among other charges; Gantz: **'Accepting prosecutor's stance would be an indelible historical crime'**
Itamar Eichner|06:29

International **Criminal Court (ICC)** Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan announced on Monday that he has **requested arrest warrants for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar, the head of the terror group's military wing Mohammed Deif and the leader of its political bureau Ismail Haniyeh on charges of war crimes.**

In an official statement, Khan accused Netanyahu and Gallant of a flurry of charges, including "starvation of civilians as a method of warfare," "Willfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health... or cruel treatment," "Willful killing... or Murder," "Intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population," "Extermination and/or murder... in the context of deaths caused by starvation," "Persecution" and "Other inhumane acts."

Meanwhile, Khan accused Deif and Sinwar of extermination, murder, taking hostages as a war crime, rape and other acts of sexual violence, torture and other inhumane acts, cruel treatment in the context of captivity and outrages upon personal dignity in the context of captivity.

Khan is currently leading an investigation into alleged war crimes by both sides in the Gaza conflict. The investigation against Israel began before the current war and includes events related to the conflict since 2015. Although Israel has not ratified the Rome Statute, which underpins the ICC, the court's judges determined a few years ago that it has jurisdiction in the Palestinian territories because the Palestinian Authority ratified the Rome Statute last decade.

An Israeli political source condemned Khan's statement as "hypocrisy and an international disgrace."

Minister Benny Gantz slammed the decision as an "indelible historical crime." "The State of Israel embarked on a just war following a massacre committed by a terrorist organization against its citizens. Israel fights with the highest moral standards in history, strictly adhering to international law, and boasts a strong, independent judiciary," he wrote on X.

"Equating the leaders of a nation defending its citizens with bloodthirsty terrorists is a moral blindness that undermines Israel's duty and ability to protect its people. Accepting the prosecutor's stance would be an indelible historical crime."

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir also slammed the decision. In a social media post, the far-right firebrand said that the statement "equates the prime minister and defense minister with Hamas leaders" and "proves that sending Israeli representatives to the court was a grave mistake from the outset."

He urged Netanyahu and Gallant to "ignore the antisemitic prosecutor of the antisemitic court and intensify the offensive against Hamas until its complete defeat."

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official Wasel Abu Youssef said on Monday the ICC prosecutor's request for arrest warrants for Hamas leaders was a "confusion between the victim and the executioner."

"The ICC is required to issue arrest warrants against Israeli officials who continue committing genocide crimes in the Gaza Strip," he added.

5.19.24 – Su

Possible Iran President Raisi death in severe weather helicopter crash

5.19. 24 – Su

Israeli officials suspect Raisi's death in helicopter crash, deny involvement

While Jerusalem refrains from official comment on helicopter crash involving Iran president, Israeli sources deny link to incident; senior officials believe Raisi's death will have no significant impact on Israel

Itamar Eichner|13:39

Israel is closely monitoring reports from Iran Sunday about the helicopter crash involving, among others, President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. As in the West, there is speculation in Israel that Raisi, known as the "Butcher of Tehran," did not survive the crash.

Israeli officials are refraining from commenting on the incident. However, unofficial sources have clarified that the country had no connection or involvement in the helicopter crash, which reportedly occurred due to severe weather conditions near Jolfa, a city close to the Azerbaijani border, approximately 600 kilometers (375 miles) northwest of Iran's capital, Tehran.

Senior Israeli officials said that the possible deaths of Raisi and Amir-Abdollahian are not expected to impact Israel or its policy toward the Islamic Republic.

The only potential consequence depends on who will succeed Iran's president. One possibility mentioned is the return of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who served as Iran's sixth president from 2005 to 2013 and is considered a bitter enemy of Israel.

The senior officials added that aside from changes within Iran, there will be no impact on Israel because the decisions regarding Israel are made by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He is the one who made key decisions about the nuclear program and the campaign of terror against Israel. In this regard, Raisi's death will not change anything for better or worse.

However, the deaths of the Iranian officials could encourage the opposition in Iran, which might exploit the leadership transition to increase instability in the country.

Iranian crowds gather for mass public prayer after President Ibrahim Raisi's helicopter goes missing

News of the helicopter crash reached U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan during a series of meetings in Israel. President Biden reportedly cut his vacation short due to the reports emerging from Iran.

Israeli officials anticipated that some within Iran would try to spread conspiracy theories about purported Israel's involvement in the crash.

The Cyber Army of the Revolutionary Guards, a website affiliated with the powerful ideologically driven branch of the Iranian armed forces, wrote "the crash of the helicopter carrying government officials makes the possibility of assassination and sabotage strong, and the crash of the president's personal helicopter among the three helicopters makes this possibility almost certain. There was a meeting with the Zionist regime of Azerbaijan before the incident. Imam Reza, you are our hope."

5.19. 24 – Su

Settler Activists vandalizing aid trucks & looting convoys with increasing violence

5.19. 24 – Su

Israeli authorities struggle to control aid truck vandalism incidents

Violent incidents against aid trucks making their way to Gaza continues to increase as protests calling to halt delivering aid to the Strip gain traction; Some soldiers are providing information on the trucks' routes

Elisha Ben Kimon|03:37

Recent incidents of vandalism and arson targeting aid trucks heading for Gaza highlight the increasingly violent nature of protests that initially began by blocking humanitarian aid at various border crossings since the start of the war.

On Thursday, dozens of settlers attacked a truck driver in Binyamin, mistakenly believing he was transporting aid to Gaza. An IDF unit dispatched to the scene attempted to shield the driver and provide medical assistance, but the attackers responded violently, lightly injuring three soldiers.

The vandalism of aid trucks significantly harms Israel's international standing and could trigger diplomatic repercussions that might undermine the military's war efforts in Gaza. White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said after the incident that: "It is a total outrage that there are people who are attacking and looting these convoys. We are looking at the tools that we have to respond to this."

"We are also raising our concerns at the highest level of the Israeli government and it's something that we make no bones about – this is completely and utterly unacceptable behavior," he added.

The group associated with blocking the aid trucks is Tsav 9, which was recently established with the main aim of preventing aid from reaching Hamas while Israeli hostages are still held in the Strip. They began with small blockades but gradually gained momentum as they tapped into widespread public sentiment on the matter.

Tsav 9 focused their efforts on the Gaza crossings and achieved success due to the military and police's lack of preparations for such incidents. In one instance, a reservist officer manning a crossing asked if anyone knew a Tsav 9 contact in order to notify them of incoming and passing trucks.

"This protest resonates with everyone, including soldiers providing information on the trucks' routes," a security official familiar with the details explained. However, there's growing concern that the protests are becoming increasingly violent, leading Tsav 9 to suspend activities.

"Our guidelines are clear: only block the way," a Tsav 9 activist explained. "What happened near Hebron was simple – we received a tip about passing aid trucks, dispatched a nearby team to the scene, and established a blockade. Rumors spread, and dozens of youths arrived. The arson took place at night, long after our activity was over."

Security forces are struggling to manage the situation. "There is no coordination or updates between the different bodies on the issue of aid trucks. Sometimes the trucks take different routes and at varying times, and no one informs the police," a law enforcement official explained.

Another security source added: "Beyond the ethical issue, it often feels like anything is permitted right now. It peaked last week when extremists attacked a truck driver transporting goods and then assaulted the officers and soldiers who arrived there. "Such extremist outbursts continue because it's not a priority for those responsible for addressing it. The attacks on the trucks have caused and continue to cause enormous damage to Israel, and especially to the settlements. We're a democratic state; there are proper ways to demonstrate and protest," he said.

5.18. 24 – Sa

Gantz sets June 8 coalition exit deadline; PM tells him to pose ultimatums to Hamas

5.18. 24 – Sa

Gantz calls on PM to deliver war strategy, sets June 8 coalition exit deadline
War Cabinet minister claims 'personal and political considerations have started to infiltrate the holy of holies of Israel's security,' outlines 6 objectives, including post-war Gaza plan and military service blueprint
Moran Azulay, Dan Raban | 13:57

National Unity Party leader Benny Gantz issued an ultimatum to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Saturday evening, stating that his party will leave the government if the Cabinet does not approve a comprehensive war strategy by June 8.

"It is my duty to tell the public the truth after repeatedly stating it behind closed doors - personal and political considerations have started to infiltrate the holy of holies of Israel's security, and a small minority has taken control of the command bridge," Gantz said at a press conference.

"In order for us to fight shoulder to shoulder, the War Cabinet must formulate a comprehensive plan with six objectives: returning our captives, dismantling Hamas and demilitarizing the Gaza Strip, establishing a governmental alternative, returning northern residents by September 1, advancing normalization and adopting an Israeli [military] service framework."

Gantz outlined six objectives, including the return of the hostages; the dismantling of Hamas rule and demilitarization of the Gaza Strip; the establishment of an American-European-Arab-Palestinian administration to manage the Gaza Strip civilly, laying the groundwork for a future alternative to Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, alongside maintaining Israeli security control; return northern residents to their homes by September 1 and rehabilitate the western Negev.

He also called to advance **normalization with Saudi Arabia** as part of a comprehensive initiative to create an **alliance with the Free World** and the Arab world against Iran, as well as adopt a military service framework ensuring that all Israelis serve the state and contribute to the national effort.

Netanyahu answered Gantz's statement, "He should **pose ultimatums to Hamas**, his words are thrown around," to which **Gantz retorted** by saying, "If his war cabinet is important to him, he needs to take decisions and not drag his feet, **fearing the extremists.**"

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Ynet-News, May 17, 2024 – Friday

Possible Abomination Day **May 31 or June 20, 2024**

May 31 = 490 dys = 70 wks to Messiah Arrival

5.17. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 19

Bodies of three hostages recovered from the Gaza Strip in a special operation

5.17. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in May 17 spot – Friday Omer 19

75 rockets fired on Galilee & Golan; MK demands significant damage on Lebanon

5.17. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 19

South Africa at UN court seeks to order IDF halt operations in Rafah

5.16. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in May 16 spot – Thursday Omer 18

Egypt rejects Israeli plans for Rafah crossing, future operation must be PA control

5.16. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 18

IDF cleared Zeitoun by December, Hamas returned with thousands of weapons

5.16. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 18

Hezbollah drone attack hit Tiberias IDF base housing surveillance balloons

5.15. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Omer 17

Gallant stated that Israel will not rule Gaza; opposing Cabinet & PM

5.15. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Omer 17

Arab Teacher suspended after joining Nakba march; 'she is welcome to move to Gaza'

5.15. 24 – We- - - News Placed in May 15 spot – Wednesday Omer 17

Biden weapons package for Israel still paused; may ship without heavy bombs

5.14. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 16

World wishes happy 76th anniversary of Israel's independence

5.14. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 16
13 IDF soldiers injured in Gaza, clearing north & central Gaza schools used by Hamas

5.14. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in May 14 spot – Tuesday Omer 16
Israeli tanks push into built-up, displacing half of east Rafah, 450,000 people

5.13. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 15
WB settlers protested, throwing sacks off aid trucks heading to Gaza

5.13. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 15
Hamas runs internal security service ISS like Stasi, surveilling Gaza citizens

5.13. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in May 13 spot – Monday Omer 15
UN cuts Gaza civilian casualty figures by half, manipulated by the fog of war

5.13. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 15
Tons of watermelon smuggled from PA destroyed for pests, contaminants, pesticide

5.12. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 14
North & South repeated rocket fire as IDF hit 150 terrorist targets in Gaza

5.12. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in May 12 spot – Sunday Omer 14
Ambulance attempts to smuggle eight West Bank people at Jerusalem checkpoint

5.12. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 14
Egypt refuses coordination of aid to Gaza, as vital supplies are getting low

5.11. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in May 11 spot – Saturday Omer 13
Ten fire teams from Galil-Golan station fight fires from Lebanon rocket barrages