

Ynet-News, June 15, 2024 – Saturday  
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Hezbollah largest rocket barrage at Galilee, results in several fires

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IDF strikes four senior Hezbollah commanders meeting in a house near Tyre

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US propose FM Katz replace Gantz in war cabinet, instead of Ben-Gvir or Smotrich

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IDF set for swarms of Hezbollah drones & barrages of hundreds of missiles

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IDF uncover explosives lab with 80+ devices ready for use in the Jordan valley

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Sinwar internal message: As long as fighters are still standing, we have not lost the war

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UN Security Council adopts US plan for Israel-Hamas cease-fire

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EU's top diplomat Borrell obsessed with Israel as the source of all global problems

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Data on Gaza aid to is skewed to ignore trucks UNRWA did not physically see

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Defense minister will vote against Haredi draft bill as tensions roil government

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Gantz leaves war cabinet, calls for elections, wants US partnership to counter Iran

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IDF disguised as Rafah family claimed they rented a unit in the hostage building

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IDF officers reveal intense dramatic moments of hostage rescue

6.08. 24 – Sa - - News – Saturday Omer 41

Hostages brainwashed with Quran study, one kept a journal of a line each day

6.08. 24 – Sa - - News – Saturday Omer 41

Hezbollah fired Iranian-made Falaq-2 rockets for first time into northern Israel

6.08. 24 – Sa - - News Placed in June 08 spot – Saturday Omer 41

IDF breach two buildings in complex 4-hostage rescue, losing lead commander

6.15. 24 – Sa

Gaza armored personnel carrier APC death of 11 soldiers learned several lessons

6.15. 24 – Sa

Gaza war's third APC disaster raises critical questions

In previous incidents, Namer armored vehicles exploded due to anti-tank fire, while Rafah disaster likely caused by underbelly charge; each vehicle, carrying substantial explosives, became death trap; IDF to review if lessons learned applied

Yoav Zitun|12:41

The massive explosion in a Namer armored personnel carrier (APC) Saturday morning, which killed eight soldiers, follows two similar previous tragic incidents during ground operations in the Gaza Strip.

The first occurred at the beginning of the war when a Givati Brigade Namer was hit by an anti-tank missile near Gaza City, resulting in the deaths of 11 soldiers. The second happened in December in Khan Younis when an anti-tank missile struck another Namer, killing four engineering soldiers.

In these incidents, as in Saturday's, soldiers traveling in the armored vehicle were killed by the powerful explosion of dozens or hundreds of kilograms of explosives or other explosive materials carried on board, turning the advanced APC into a death trap. These explosives, including liquids, are designed to be stable under certain conditions and strict safety regulations. While previous explosions were caused by anti-tank missiles, Saturday's explosion was likely triggered by an underbelly charge.

In response to past disasters, the army learned several lessons, including transporting explosive materials and demolition tools in unmanned vehicles or minimizing the number of soldiers in armored vehicles carrying such materials on the front lines. The IDF will now investigate whether the Namer was transporting explosives in compliance with these lessons, with an emphasis on maximizing separation between soldiers and containers of explosives and mines.

The engineering Namer that caught fire Saturday morning, known as Namera, is an upgraded version of the Merkava-based APC. Developed in Israel, it entered service in 2016, replacing the Puma (Engineering Obstacle Breacher). It is based on a regular infantry Namer but includes several enhancements and adaptations, capable of carrying 10 soldiers. The Namera also has engineering capabilities, such as minefield breaching tools, bridging capabilities and explosive ordnance disposal tools.

6.15. 24 – Sa

French court bans all Israelis from Eurosatory arms expo, led by PA petition

6.15. 24 – Sa

French court bans Israeli nationals from major arms expo

After barring Israeli companies from participating in Eurosatory 2024, French district court rules to exclude all Israelis on the grounds they might act as intermediaries for Israeli arms firms

Itamar Eichner|09:22

Following the decision to bar Israeli companies from the major arms exhibition Eurosatory, a French district court on Saturday banned all Israeli nationals from participating in the event.

France's initial decision last month to exclude Israel from the fair was driven by suspicions of war crimes and genocide in Gaza. This led to the cancellation of the Israeli pavilion, which was set to feature 74 exhibitors. At first, the organizers indicated that Israeli citizens could still attend the fair.

However, a pro-Palestinian organization challenged this concession, filing a petition that argued canceling the pavilion did not guarantee the absence of Israelis at the event. The court sided with this argument, ordering the fair organizers to block Israeli citizens from entering, on the grounds that they might act as intermediaries for Israeli arms companies. The court maintained that the organizers had left a loophole allowing the potential participation of Israeli weapons manufacturers or any representatives of Israeli arms companies.

The court's decision prohibits entry to any individual or legal entity that could act as an intermediary for Israeli companies. It also stated that the organizers' decision to allow the entry of Israeli company representatives was blatantly illegal. The court ordered the organizing company to post the decision at the entrances of the Villepinte Exhibition

Centre on the outskirts of Paris, where the prestigious arms fair is held. The pro-Palestinian organization welcomed the decision, interpreting it unequivocally: to ban Israelis from the arms fair and, in other words, ensure the fair is free of Israelis. Israeli defense industry representatives who planned to attend the fair announced they would withdraw due to the ruling. This decision deals a significant blow to Israel's arms industry, casting it as ostracized on the international stage. Additionally, Israeli companies had invested substantial funds in preparing for the fair, rendering their efforts futile.

Sources familiar with the matter said the organizing company had filed an appeal against the decision, noting that the ruling would be made Monday, on the fair's opening day. Senior French officials said that the fair's organizers appealed the decision, supported by the Élysée Palace, arguing that the judge's interpretation of the president's decision was entirely mistaken. It remains unclear if Israeli citizens will be allowed to enter the fair until the appeal results are known.

"This is a disgrace. It's like 'No Jews and dogs allowed.' This will snowball. We are being treated like lepers in France. What's next? Will they want us to come to the Paris Olympics in disguise so they don't know there are competitors from Israel?" a source in the Israeli arms industry said.

"The Foreign Ministry must raise hell. Ambassadors have been recalled for lesser issues. This is an unprecedented escalation following the decision to bar defense industries from the exhibition. There are concerns about further cancellations of both exhibitions and procurements."

6.15. 24 – Sa

Israel's standing in Latin America shaken & criticized amid growing hostility

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Israel's standing in Latin America shaken amid growing hostility

While Brazil, Colombia and Chile's leaders openly criticize Israel's military campaign in Gaza and take actions against it, general public across continent remains largely supportive; several governments maintain distinctly pro-Israel stance; here is a country-by-country breakdown of the situation

Itamar Eichner|09:01

Historically, Latin America has always supported Israel, both politically and in terms of public opinion. Even today, following the events of October 7, there is admiration for Israel on the continent. However, a series of government changes has led to the emergence of anti-Israel stances among leaders in several key countries, most notably Brazil.

Recent discouraging signs include Brazil recalling its ambassador, Chile joining South Africa's petition at The Hague and Colombia announcing the suspension of coal exports to Israel. However, not everything is bleak. There are positive aspects for Israel on the

continent, particularly with the **attitude of Argentina's new president**. This is the current landscape in Latin America.

Latin American countries played a decisive role in supporting the 1947 United Nations partition plan that led to the establishment of Israel, with 13 of them voting in favor. Streets in Jerusalem, such as Guatemala Street, Brazil Street, Costa Rica Street and Mexico Street, are named after these countries for a reason.

Soccer, coffee and backpackers – there is much in common between Israel and the continent, fostering mutual affinity. Over the years, there have always been relations between Latin American countries and Israel, except for Venezuela, which severed ties in 2009. Unlike **Africa, Latin American countries did not cut relations with Israel after the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the oil embargo**.

Currently, the continent is experiencing a pendulum effect – countries are less ideological than in the past and are undergoing frequent government changes due to public discontent. For example, **Brazilian** President Lula da Silva, while leading a **leftist government**, is less ideological than before. This phenomenon has created a dichotomy between pro-Israel and anti-Israel governments, though this division is not reflected in public opinion. Chile is a classic example of this dynamic. Gabriel Boric, a radical left-wing president, is anti-Israel but rational, in contrast to Colombian President Gustavo Petro. For years, Chile has grappled with the presence of a Palestinian community of 200,000 to 300,000 people – the largest outside the Palestinian territories – which is mostly Christian and not composed of refugees. This community is highly vocal against Israel.

The **Palestinian Christians have a strong lobby in Chilean politics**, even having their own soccer team, Palestino. With their support, President Boric has forged an anti-Israel front since taking office two years ago. The most notable incident occurred in September 2022 when Boric refused to accept the credentials of Israeli Ambassador to Chile Gil Artzyeli. This decision stemmed from misinformation, fueled by Chilean outrage over the "killing of a Palestinian teenager by IDF fire," which was later found to be incorrect.

Since then, **Chile** has been **marked as a problematic country by Israel**, but this does not hinder security, economic and scientific relations. There is support for Israel within parts of the Chilean Congress, but the vocal Palestinian community has managed to thwart attempts to sign a free trade agreement. This difficulty persisted even during the tenure of former president Sebastián Piñera, who died in a helicopter crash in February. Piñera visited Israel twice and during the COVID-19 pandemic received briefings from Israel on how to help Chile overcome the crisis.

In Chile, many voices, including politicians and journalists, call for the expulsion of Ambassador Artzyeli. The country has witnessed large anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian demonstrations, as well as university boycotts. Overall, the situation for the Jewish community in Chile is very uncomfortable. Moreover, Chile has joined South Africa's opinion in its petition against Israel at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, accusing Israel of genocide.

For the first time in 200 years, **Colombia** has a **leftist government** led by Gustavo Petro, a 64-year-old former guerrilla activist elected in a protest vote. The Colombian people

wanted change but ended up with a **president who is causing them endless problems**. The country's growth is stagnant, stadiums echo with chants of "Petro, go away," and in his dire situation, Petro seeks scapegoats, with Israel being a prime target for his animosity.

On May 1, Petro announced the severance of relations with Israel, catching even his own Foreign Ministry off guard. However, despite this declaration, the embassies remain open. This impulsive move was later clarified by **Colombia**, stating that they would maintain a consular presence in Israel. There was talk of **downgrading the diplomatic relations** between the two countries, but Colombia values its embassy due to the presence of many Colombian expatriate workers and a Colombian-Palestinian community that it supports. Additionally, Israel sells a significant amount of arms to Colombia.

President Petro also announced a **suspension of coal exports to Israel** "as long as it commits genocide against Palestinians," but this **threat is likely to backfire**. It turns out that the **coal trade is** not conducted directly between the two countries but **through international agreements**. Israel is exploring other sources for coal, **purchasing from** other problematic countries like **South Africa and Russia**.

In Israel, Petro's threat to suspend coal exports is viewed with skepticism, as it could harm Colombia's credit rating due to the breach of international contracts, exposing the country to legal action. Israel is considering retaliatory measures, including delaying defense exports to Colombia. However, the **Colombian military has paid advances** on many deals, leading Israel **to avoid giving them an excuse to breach contracts**. Israeli officials say Petro "lives in a glass house and throws stones, continuing with terrible anti-Israel and antisemitic rhetoric."

Another country with seemingly deteriorating relations with Israel is **Honduras**, considered an underdeveloped nation. While it has recalled its ambassador for consultations, it continues to maintain an embassy in Jerusalem, **funded by Israel** as per their agreement. **Despite rhetorical statements against Israel from Honduras**, there doesn't appear to be a significant change in the actual relations.

Among Latin American countries, **Brazil** is the most important and **largest**, **making Israel** very **cautious not to damage its relations** with it. Since the outbreak of the war, Brazil has frequently criticized Israel, with President Lula making several unfortunate remarks, including a comparison between Israel and Adolf Hitler. This led to the Brazilian ambassador being reprimanded and humiliated at Yad Vashem. Following a stern conversation with Foreign Minister Israel Katz, **Brazil recalled its ambassador for consultations**. **Late last month**, the ambassador packed up his things in Israel and was appointed Brazil's envoy to Geneva.

Currently, there are **four Latin American countries without ambassadors in Israel**: **Colombia, Chile, Honduras and Brazil**. Their ambassadors were recalled for consultations and have not returned. Bolivia also severed relations with Israel shortly after October 7, but there were almost no relations between the two countries even before that.

In the Caribbean, three countries have recognized a Palestinian state: the **Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago**. **Mexico recognized the State of Palestine** a long time ago. Belize announced it was severing honorary consular relations; the certificate of its

honorary consul in Israel was revoked, and the title of Israel's honorary consul in Belize was also withdrawn.

Mexico consistently maintains a policy of neutrality and non-interference in other nations' conflicts, adhering to a doctrine of neutrality and non-intervention. However, its government is not particularly friendly toward Israel. Initially condemning the events of October 7, Mexico later retracted its statement.

While it rarely comments on the war in Gaza, it decided last month to send an opinion supporting the International Criminal Court. In Mexico, there have been violent protests against Israel, and a few weeks ago, demonstrators vandalized the Israeli embassy. Although the situation is unpleasant, the government is not as hostile as in some other countries.

President-Elect Claudia Sheinbaum, of Jewish descent, is expected to continue the current policy. There was much hype when she was elected as the mayor of Mexico City, and she was immediately invited to Israel, but she has never visited and is unlikely to do so soon. In summary, while Mexico is not supportive, it cannot be placed in the hostile camp.

Argentina, Paraguay, Costa Rica and Panama are bright spots for Israel, and these countries have also experienced changes in government. In Argentina, outsider Javier Milei was elected in a protest vote. He is very pro-Israel and connected to the Jewish community. He appointed Rabbi Axel Wahnish as ambassador to Israel, who is expected to arrive next month.

Although Milei will not move Argentina's embassy to Jerusalem despite his promise, Argentina supports Israel in international forums and was the only country on the continent to vote against granting rights to Palestinians at the UN General Assembly.

Paraguay is a friend of Israel and more coherent than others. President Santiago Peña said during his campaign that he wants to return the embassy to Jerusalem, and he is expected to follow through. Israel intends to reopen its embassy in Asunción.

Israel is negotiating a free trade agreement with Costa Rica, which now has a friendly government after many years of leftist administrations uninterested in relations with Israel. The agreement is that upon completing negotiations, a new innovation office will open in Jerusalem.

In Panama, a pro-Israel president won the election, and the country will take Ecuador's seat on the UN Security Council on January 1. Panama is a positive and supportive country. Until recently, Guatemala was Israel's most important friend on the continent. It maintains an embassy in Jerusalem and enjoys broad support from both evangelicals and trade unions.

Overall, Israel's relations with Latin America are polarized – countries either strongly criticize or warmly support Israel.

6.15. 24 – Sa

US temporarily moving Gaza pier to port of Ashdod until sea conditions improve



6.15. 24 – Sa

US preparing to temporarily remove Gaza pier due to sea conditions, official says  
Citing poor weather conditions and the need to conduct structural repairs, the United States has suspended operations on the pier in Gaza, which has already facilitated the transfer of well over 100 trucks full of aid  
Reuters|01:30

The U.S. military is preparing to temporarily remove its humanitarian pier off the coast of Gaza because of anticipated sea conditions, a U.S. official said on Friday, the latest challenge to the effort that has been hampered by bad weather since it was put into place in May.

The floating U.S. military pier off Gaza had just resumed bringing humanitarian aid into the enclave after being suspended over the weekend.

The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that the pier would likely be moved to the Israeli port of Ashdod until sea conditions improve.  
Aid began arriving via the U.S.-built pier on May 17, and the U.N. said it transported 137 trucks of aid to warehouses, some 900 metric tons, before the U.S. announced on May 28 that it had suspended operations so repairs could be made.  
The United Nations said on Friday it had still not resumed transportation of aid from the pier to U.N. World Food Program warehouses.

"Our security colleagues are still working to ensure that secure conditions for humanitarian work can be re-established," said deputy U.N. spokesperson Farhan Haq.

U.S. President Joe Biden announced in March the plan to put the pier in place for aid deliveries as famine loomed in Gaza, a Hamas-run enclave of 2.3 million people, during the war between Israel and the Palestinian militants.

The pier is estimated to cost hundreds of millions of dollars for the first 90 days and involve about 1,000 U.S. service members.

6.14. 24 – Fr

IDF using 1960s helicopters directly from the Vietnam until budget allows newer models

6.14. 24 – Fr

IDF upgrades old helicopters, utilizes them for war amid lack of newer models  
Despite being slated for retirement, the Yasur helicopters operated continuously throughout the war, and for the first time since 2006, authorization has been renewed for machine gun fire from helicopter windows

Yoav Zitun|Yesterday | 15:45

During the war, Israeli helicopters flew for several hours towards a distant target in what was the longest operation since October 7. The operation was carried out by the IDF's

veteran Yasur helicopters, whose operational capabilities were stretched to the limit by the Israeli Air Force (IAF) during the war.

On October 7, they were urgently dispatched to assist in the intense operations around Gaza. The workload was so overwhelming that airborne mechanics and pilots themselves helped load injured individuals from the battlefields.

In one instance, a pilot had to assist a child and her exhausted father onto the helicopter, exiting the cockpit to help. "We flew at low altitudes of 15-60 meters despite the danger, to locate casualties and support ground forces, while beneath us Hamas motorcycles crossed the fields," one pilot described.

The intense fighting in the early days of the war led to significant changes in the use of the Yasur helicopters. The number of soldiers the helicopter could carry was increased to about 35. The IAF reinstated a procedure, previously banned after the Second Lebanon War, allowing soldiers, particularly those from Unit 669 who are accustomed to flying in helicopters, to fire machine guns through the windows during flight if they spotted threats on the ground. This decision came after several helicopters were hit by small-arms fire from terrorists.

Additionally, the squadron modified the method for evacuating casualties, reducing the time needed to load injured individuals to just one minute, even during mass casualty events, and eliminating redundant medical personnel on the helicopter. So far, over 300 evacuations of injured soldiers from the battlefield to hospitals have been conducted during the war.

The Yasur helicopters were originally scheduled for decommissioning at the beginning of the decade, with plans to replace them with the new CH-53K model from Lockheed Martin-Sikorsky. However, political crises and the lack of a state budget delayed the deal, forcing the Air Force to extend the operational life of the helicopters.

"We monitor the flight duration of each helicopter down to the hour, the details of the chassis, and align this with combat needs," said an IAF official. "We must maintain operational readiness for the personnel, which cannot be fully achieved with simulators, so training on the Yasur helicopters continues. It takes six hours to prepare a Yasur for flight, compared to two hours for a Black Hawk and one hour for a fighter jet."

These helicopters, which arrived in Israel in the late 1960s directly from the Vietnam War, have seen extensive use. Since the tragic 1997 Israeli helicopter disaster, which resulted in the loss of two helicopters and their crew, the IDF has lost three more Yasurs, the most recent on October 7, due to terrorist rocket fire near Kibbutz Alumim.

The life-extending maintenance has somewhat limited their use but has never completely halted it. The IDF remains the only Western military still using this outdated model operationally. Maintaining these helicopters has become increasingly challenging, as spare parts are now sourced monthly from surplus U.S. military supplies.

Before October 7, the Israeli Air Force had already requested the development of an active missile defense system. In light of the war and the increased missile threats from

the ground, it was decided to finally equip the helicopters with an interception system for added protection, especially with a focus on the northern front—Lebanon, which poses a greater threat than Gaza.

The new defense system, "BrightNite" by Elbit Systems, has already been installed on one helicopter, and more units are expected soon. This system is primarily effective against shoulder-fired missiles, but its development continues to protect against additional threats. It is essentially a miniaturized version of the "Flight Guard" system, a national project designed to protect civilian aircraft using laser and signal jamming to neutralize ground-based missile attacks.

6.14. 24 – Fr

IDF chief Halevi plans to resign when national security is not compromised

6.14. 24 – Fr

IDF chief says a lot more work to be done before he resigns

IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi says only when he can guarantee the military is well prepared, and the border residents can return to their homes safely, he will be ready to step down

Ron Ben-Yishai|11:48

IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi said to senior IDF commanders and his colleagues that he intends to resign due to his role in the failures of October 7, but only once he is confident that the threats from both the north and south to Israeli civilians have been neutralized.

Speaking during the summary of the hostage rescue Arnon operation with security officials, Halevi said he wants to ensure preparations are in place for changes in IDF operations, structure, and equipment. Additionally, he wants to guarantee that residents of the border areas can begin returning home safely, which he estimates will be in the coming months. Only then will he feel ready to step down.

While the Chief of Staff does not publicly discuss a hostage deal, his close associates reveal he believes that, given the achievements of the war, it might be possible to halt operations temporarily to secure the release of all or most of the hostages without compromising Israel's national security.

Critics of Halevi point to several missteps they believe he made. These include not involving senior Military Intelligence officials in discussions about Hamas preparations on the night of October 6-7, failing to ensure further examination of additional intelligence from the Shin Bet, not reinforcing border troops sufficiently, and being part of the misguided belief that Hamas was deterred and that Yahya Sinwar was focused on improving the welfare of Gaza residents. Halevi had been a proponent of this belief since his days as head of the Southern Command.

However, those close to him argue that for this very reason, he felt compelled to personally ensure—starting in the early days of the war—that the IDF quickly recovered, prepared for defense, and prevented another potential attack from Hezbollah in the north. After stabilizing both fronts, Halevi began preparing the military for an offensive to eliminate the Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad threats in the south and to push Hezbollah away from border communities in the north following the war of attrition the group initiated.

Halevi firmly believes in maneuver warfare in Gaza. Despite its time-consuming nature, he thinks it has a chance to succeed, unlike other armies that have failed in similar combat scenarios. Those present in the discussions agree with him.

6.13. 24 – Th

IDF destroy 800 meter tunnel near Israel border containing blast door chambers

6.13. 24 – Th

IDF destroys tunnel in uncovered near Gaza-Israel border

Military says the tunnel extended to some 800 meters and was 30 meters deep, contained several operational chambers used by Hamas terrorists

Yoav Zitun|14:19

The IDF reported Thursday that it destroyed a Hamas tunnel uncovered in Gaza, approximately one kilometer from the Israeli border

According to the IDF spokesperson, the tunnel extended approximately 800 meters and reached a depth of about 30 meters underground. The tunnel contained several operational chambers and blast doors.

The Multidimensional Unit, along with the "Carmeli" (2) and 679 Brigade combat teams, conducted a divisional operation in the Zeitoun area and Sabra neighborhood. During the operation, dozens of Hamas terrorists were killed, and some 50 terrorist infrastructures in the area were destroyed.

According to the IDF spokesperson, the "Alexandroni" (3) and "HaZaken" Brigade combat teams have been engaged in the Corridor area for a week.

Additionally, as part of the divisional operation, the "Carmeli" Brigade combat team located and destroyed rocket launch pits ready for firing into Israel within the Zeitoun neighborhood. The soldiers, in coordination with the Israeli Air Force, also destroyed a Hamas rocket and weapons storage facility.

6.13. 24 – Th

Hezbollah massive strike attempted to thwart Iron Dome by dozens of rockets at a time

6.13. 24 – Th

Hezbollah's most massive strike since October 7 | How many drones intercepted?  
IDF says of a swarm of nine attack UAVs targeting Israel within minutes, seven were downed; says Hezbollah launches dozens of rockets per barrage aimed at disrupting the ability of the Iron Dome missile defense system to respond  
Yoav Zitun|13:56

The IDF said on Thursday that Hezbollah launched nine drones at the Galilee within one minute, in their attack on northern Israel that included more than 100 rockets, missiles and drones. Seven of the nine were intercepted by the aerial defenses. The military said two soldiers suffered light and moderate injuries.

Israel was prepared for the increased barrages on its territory after the targeted killing of Taleb Sami Abdallah, a senior commander in the terror group, on Tuesday.

The Iran-backed group attempted to thwart the Iron Dome missile defense system by launching barrages of dozens of rockets at a time, in what Hezbollah claimed was the most extensive attack on Israel since the war began.

According to the military, some of the rockets fired from Lebanon were not intercepted and landed in open areas causing fires to break out. In response, the air force struck Hezbollah infrastructure in South Lebanon.

During the attack high school students were taking their matriculation exams in schools all over the country, but in the north, the students had to rush into shelters twice during the test, adding an extra challenge to an already stressful situation.

6.13. 24 – Th

Hamas alters cease-fire & list 100 long sentence PA to release from Israeli jails

6.13. 24 – Th

Hamas changes to cease-fire proposal, not minor, official says

The official says Hamas has made substantial changes to dozens of items in the proposal introduced by U.S. President Joe Biden adding U.S., Qatar and Egypt continue to put pressure on the terror group to accept the deal as outlined by President Biden  
Itamar Eichner, Reuters|11:11

A senior Israeli official said on Thursday that the changes demanded by Hamas to the proposed hostage release negotiations, were far from minor, as the terror group had claimed. "Hamas rejected the deal outlined by U.S. President Joe Biden and that is how it must be viewed, the official said adding that the terror group demanded many substantial changes altering dozens of items in the proposal.

"Their conditions change the proposal entirely and do not allow the sides to advance toward an agreement," he said. "As Jake Sullivan said many of their demands prevent progress. Now the U.S. Qatar and Egypt continue to put pressure on Hamas to accept the proposal as outlined by the president."

Earlier a senior member of the terror group told Reuters that the changes were "not significant" and include the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip. He said Hamas had demanded to choose a list of 100 Palestinians with long sentences to be released from Israeli jails.

The Israeli document had excluded 100 prisoners with long sentences and restricted releases to only prisoners with sentences of less than 15 years remaining, the Hamas official said.

Senior Israeli officials said on Wednesday that Israel agreed to compromise and allow Hamas to name 100 prisoners out of the 200 that would be released if a deal was made, a condition Hamas appears to accept. Israel was also informed that the rehabilitation of the Gaza Strip would be agreed upon in the third phase of the deal and not earlier.

Hamas also demanded that the humanitarian corridor be removed during the first phase of the deal and insisted that there would be no deadline for ending the cease-fire if no agreement was reached for a second phase of the deal to come into effect. Hamas also rejects Israel's demand that convicted terrorists who would be released from prison would not return to their homes in the West Bank or in Gaza and would be expelled.

The terrorists demand not only the American guarantees that the war would end but guarantees from China, Russia and Turkey as well, which is something Israel would not accept.

6.13. 24 – Th

Lebanon Shiite attack Galilee and Golan Thursday with 30 drones & 150 rockets

6.13. 24 – Th

Over 100 rockets rain from Lebanon as sirens wail incessantly across northern Israel. Air defenses shoot down several rockets, while others land in fields, igniting brush fires in at least 15 locations; fighter jets seen pursuing drones; 2 lightly injured by shrapnel in Katzrin; Hezbollah claims targeted 15 military sites in Galilee and Golan, launching 30 drones and 150 rockets at Israel since morning hours in 'largest attack' since war ynet correspondents|07:14

Over 100 rockets and multiple drones were launched from Lebanon on Thursday afternoon, triggering continuous air raid sirens across northern Israel.

Air defenses intercepted several rockets, while others landed in fields, igniting brush fires in at least 15 locations. Firefighting teams have been dispatched to contain the blazes.

In Safed, residents reported seeing Air Force fighter jets pursuing **drones** infiltrating **from Lebanon**. Amid the ongoing sirens, the municipality announced the suspension of classes and the closure of the city market.

Buildings in **several areas sustained direct hits**, and damage has been reported. The Magen David Adom ambulance service reported that **two men in their 20s were lightly injured by shrapnel** in the town of Katzrin **in the Golan Heights**. The IDF said that "approximately **40 projectiles**" were launched toward the **Galilee and Golan Heights area**, many of them successfully **intercepted by air defenses**. It added that "five suspicious aerial targets" were identified crossing into Israeli airspace from Lebanon, three of which were intercepted.

**Al Jazeera**, citing a Hezbollah source, **reported** that the **Shiite terrorist group targeted 15 military sites in the Galilee and the Golan**, launching **30 drones and 150 rockets** at Israel since the morning hours.

According to the source, this marks **Hezbollah's most extensive assault since joining the conflict** on October 8 and added that the attack aimed to deter Israel and was in retaliation for the assassination of senior commander Taleb Abdallah.

**6.13. 24 – Th**

**IDF reserve deploy Roman-era tactics to clear shrubbery on Lebanese border**

**6.13. 24 – Th**

**IDF reservists deploy Roman-era tactics against Hezbollah on Lebanese border**

**Online footage shows IDF troops launching burning projectiles into Lebanon using trebuchets to ignite thousands of acres of shrubbery suspected of concealing Hezbollah positions; senior officers in sector not fully supportive of tactic**

**Yoav Zitun|04:37**

Amid **escalating tensions** between Israel and Hezbollah, footage has surfaced on **social media** appearing to show IDF reservists launching burning projectiles using trebuchets in an attempt to spark brush fires on the Lebanese side of the border, **reminiscent of ancient Roman tactics**.

The reservists **improvised** the **trebuchets** during the first months of the conflict **to clear** the dense vegetation in Lebanon, **suspected of concealing Hezbollah positions**. While this primitive siege tactic aids in their mission, it has **drawn criticism** from some senior officers in the Northern Command.

This **IDF improvisation** on the northern front **echoes a similar approach used by reservists in Gaza**. When explosives ran out, they **resorted to setting designated structures on fire to demolish buildings and tunnel shafts**. This **practice was swiftly condemned** and **prohibited by IDF senior commanders** before it became widespread.

In response to recent rocket barrages targeting Israel's northern communities, the IDF reported Thursday morning that Air Force fighter jets attacked Hezbollah buildings in southern Lebanon.

6.13. 24 – Th

Lebanon aiming swarm attacks on defense industry & air defense sites

6.13. 24 – Th

In Hezbollah's crosshairs: Israeli defense industries and Iron Dome  
Terror group continues to strike weapons manufacturing plants in northern Israel; IDF bracing for war scenario where Hezbollah will prioritize attacks on defense industry facilities and air defense sites using hundreds of precision missiles and swarms of kamikaze drones

Yossi Yehoshua|02:27

In recent months, and particularly over the last weekend, Hezbollah has not only demonstrated the strength of the precision weaponry it has amassed since the 2006 Lebanon War, but also its calculated priorities in choosing targets in Israel: military objectives before civilian ones.

Reports from Lebanon indicate that alongside direct hits on several buildings in the Upper Galilee, following the assassination of a senior Hezbollah field commander, Hezbollah also targeted the Plasan plant in Kibbutz Sasa. The plant is known for manufacturing armor for IDF operational vehicles, as well as for foreign militaries. Hezbollah has periodically attempted to strike significant defense industries in the north, such as the David Institute in Kiryat Yam, part of Israeli defense giant Rafael, and other facilities producing weaponry throughout the Galilee.

Northern Israel is home to large manufacturing and development complexes that are part of the country's defense industries. The location and size details of many of these facilities, including strategic ones like those of Elbit and Rafael, are well-known and publicly available online, making them relatively easy targets.

However, so far, there have been no reports of significant damage to these facilities, though successful interceptions of attempts to hit them have been reported. These plants are considered vital, and thus continue to operate even during the conflict. In these northern facilities, various types of missiles for the Air Force and ground forces, smart bombs, reconnaissance and attack drones, and active defense systems (including the Trophy system for armored vehicles) are developed and produced. It can be assumed that Hezbollah aims its most significant weaponry, which it has accumulated over the last decade and has yet to use, at these facilities: hundreds of precision missiles with warheads capable of carrying up to a metric ton of explosives.



According to IDF estimates, Hezbollah also possesses Russian Yakhont cruise missiles, primarily intended for targeting coastal or maritime assets such as Israeli gas platforms and the Haifa naval base. The Yakhont is effective over a range of several hundred kilometers, capable of reaching as far as the Ashdod port and the nearby naval base. Over the past decade, foreign media have reported several instances of the IDF targeting Yakhont stockpiles in Lebanon and Syria.

The IDF is preparing for the threat of precise and heavy missiles, as well as swarms of kamikaze drones—each attack potentially involving dozens of drones (a tactic Hezbollah has yet to deploy). These drones carry a relatively small payload, limiting their overall damage. Additionally, they are more effective at close ranges near the border, similar to the incident in Hurfeish where IDF soldiers were wounded, and one was killed.

The longer the drones fly, the greater the chances of detecting and intercepting them, as has happened several times off the coast of Israel and in the skies over Haifa, Acre and Nahariya. In early April, Iran launched a large number of drones from a range of thousands of kilometers, most of which were intercepted far from Israel.

The IDF aims to maintain the operation of factories and bases even in scenarios where Hezbollah launches a swarm of drones at Israel, to preserve functional continuity. This also applies to Air Force bases preparing for potential attacks, especially air defense installations such as Iron Dome, Arrow and David's Sling batteries, which are likely to be key targets in any extensive precision attack by Hezbollah.

The IDF's response to these threats is two fold: First, an offensive approach. In any significant military operation against Hezbollah, it is likely that the initial targets will be the stockpiles of rockets, missiles and drones, or at least the majority of them. This would be similar to Operation Density, which launched the military campaign against Hezbollah during the Second Lebanon War, targeting Hezbollah's primary threat at the time—Fajr rockets. The success of a similar operation in the summer of 2024 will depend on the quality of IDF intelligence and Hezbollah's ability to conceal and protect these stockpiles and launchers throughout Lebanon.

The second aspect of the IDF's response is defensive: the munitions that survive Israeli attacks and are launched at strategic targets in Israel will encounter the defensive barriers the IDF has established around its key bases, particularly those of the Air Force, Military Intelligence and the air defense network itself. These defensive measures include active defense systems like Iron Dome batteries and passive protections such as reinforced rooms, shelters and bunkers.

In recent years, some of these strategic facilities, such as power stations and defense factories, have fortified themselves with layers of reinforced concrete to maintain operational continuity and minimize damage. These facilities and factories are critical for the IDF's supply of weaponry, especially in the event of increased international isolation against Israel.

6.13. 24 – Th

Northern & Western Galilee on fire after day from incessant Hezbollah rockets

6.13. 24 – Th

Northern Israel on fire after day with over 200 Hezbollah rocket

Thousands of acres catch fire from massive rocket and missile attacks while more reprisals expected over assassination of senior field commander; IDF responds with air strikes in Lebanon

Eitan Glickman, Yair Kraus, Lior El-Hai, Ilana Curriel |01:13

More than 200 rockets and missiles were fired at northern Israel. Fires erupt in many places. Thousands of acres catch fire and burn. And the fear is that this is very far from over. Hezbollah's response on Wednesday to the killing of Taleb Abdullah, dubbed "the most senior commander to be killed since the beginning of the war," was the heaviest shooting in recent months, and it is believed that this is not the end of that response.

The IDF spokesman announced in a statement early Thursday morning that overnight IDF fighter jets struck Hezbollah military structures in the area of Ayta ash Shab, as well as additional terrorist infrastructure in the area of Aynata in southern Lebanon. Rocket alert alarms were activated at around 5:00 a.m. in Western Galilee communities, and later the IDF announced that an interceptor was launched at a suspicious target which turned out to be a false identification. The alert was triggered following fear of falling interceptor fragments. After about an hour, alarms were activated in Moshav Shatula as well.

"It was a day of escalation, of incessant shooting, enemy aircraft infiltrating," the head of the Upper Galilee Council Giora Zaltz told Ynet Wednesday night. "I run with my friends between the kibbutzim whose members stayed here in this unbearable situation, because if I don't go and take care of them who will take care of them," he said.

Israeli retaliatory attacks in Lebanon; senior Hezbollah commander Taleb Abdallah Saltz addressed the government: "We, the residents of the north, are strong. We ask the Israeli government - put out the fire, don't put out our hope."

After a day of non-stop shooting at the council's communities, which also included the interruption of Shavuot celebrations Wednesday at Kibbutz Amir, Naot Mordechai and others – even before the assassination in Lebanon – Saltz added: "No one in this government really cares about us. None of the ministers and members of the Knesset are ringing the bell and will not ring the bell. The Shavuot holiday of kibbutzim whose residents were not evacuated because it is not far enough from the border was ruined - and no one is calling. Does anyone in the government even understand what kind of Shavuot we had here?"

In the Marom HaGalil Council, whose communities were also under attack throughout the day, it was decided after a situation assessment with the army that the educational frameworks that operate in the center of the regional council and the educational frameworks in communities including Sapsofa, Or Haganuz, Bar Yohai and Meron will not operate Thursday morning.

"The feeling of the holiday was replaced by a feeling of fear and anxiety," said the head of the Marom HaGalil Council, Amit Sofer. "Almost half of the enemy's missiles were launched toward the Galilee, and fires broke out in many places. We are in full coordination with the army, and trust the IDF to know how to deal with the existential threat that stands to our north. The council's emergency units together with the emergency forces in the localities stood strong and determined in the face of the challenge and we were up to it, but complex days are ahead of us."

Sources claimed in the Saudi Al-Hadth newspaper that Israel expects Hezbollah to attack Haifa as part of the revenge attacks for the assassination. The Haifa Municipality clarified that "there is no change in the defensive instructions of the Home Front Command in Haifa. The public shelters in Haifa are opened automatically by remote activation if necessary."

In Ma'alot-Tarshiha, where an alarm was sounded Wednesday night at around 8:00 p.m., officials said that they would conduct a situation assessment in the morning regarding the holding of classes.

In Avivim in the Upper Galilee, a fire raged for about two hours; it broke out following Hezbollah rocket fire in the afternoon, and the fire endangered a poultry farm. Stand-by crews from nearby communities were called in to help. Although the fire did not finally reach the poultry farm, the heavy smoke endangered the birds.

Due to the fires that broke out on Wednesday, about 3,500 dunams caught fire in the Birya and Meron forests. Since the beginning of the war, about 16,000 dunams have been burned in the KKL-JNF forests.

Shelli Ben Yishai, director of the Northern Region of KKL-JNF, said that "as a result of the barrage in the Upper Galilee in the morning, there were four main fire hotspots - in the Meron Forest, Biriya Forest, Kadita and in the Kahal-Amiad Junction area. When we realized the intensity of the rocket impacts, we began to send many forces and KKL teams from the center. We brought out bulldozers and water tankers. When I arrived in the area, everything was shrouded in smoke. We did not know what was happening. After two hours of extinguishing efforts, we realized the magnitude of the incident."

Fires in the Upper Galilee area, Biriya forest, Meron forest and near the settlement of Kadita

Close to 60 KKL-JNF workers assisted in dealing with the large fire, together with firefighting forces in the field. "For the past month, we have been called to fires almost every day. The summer is in full swing and the weather is not in our favor. The dry vegetation is a combustible material and the fires are powerful. We are fighting and working in the river beds, and this morning it may catch fire again. Today there will be about 100 KKL members ready for action from the morning. It's sad to see a forest that we restored from the Second Lebanon War once again burned."

The head of the Metula Council, David Azoulai, said Thursday morning on Army Radio: "The Israeli government continues to be silent. does not do anything. I hear a lot of talk, but zero action. ... No one tells us when, how and why. The Israeli government made a decision to give up on the Galilee."

When asked if anyone from the government spoke to them during the holiday, especially Wednesday when more than 200 rockets were fired, Azoulai answered: "Do you really

think they will disturb their own holiday rest, and even before the holiday? There are no conversations here. Even when the prime minister arrives in Kiryat Shmona, he comes to the fire department, to rescuers. There is a disconnection here. Did the prime minister once come to sit with us? It's sad how disconnected he is."

6.13. 24 – Th

UN commission of PA, Turkey & Iran members accuse Israel of crimes against humanity

6.13. 24 – Th

UN report accuses Israel of 'committing crimes against humanity' in Gaza

Report details 'war crimes committed by Israel, including murder and starvation' and alleges sexual violence 'part of operational pattern'; Hamas accused of war crimes, including sexual violence; Foreign Ministry condemns report as 'blood libel'

Itamar Eichner|16:03

A United Nations-sanctioned commission of inquiry released a new report Wednesday on the "Occupied Palestinian Territory," alleging that "Israeli authorities are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during military operations and attacks in the Gaza Strip since October 7." According to the commission, which was established in May 2021, Israel is also responsible for sexual violence during the war.

Additionally, the commission claimed that Israeli authorities are accountable for using starvation as a war tactic, intentional killings, directing attacks against civilians and civilian targets, forced transfers, torture and inhumane treatment, arbitrary detention and outrages upon personal dignity. Conversely, the commission noted that Palestinian armed groups are also responsible for war crimes committed in Israel.

The commission's investigation into the events of October 7 and their aftermath is based on interviews with victims and witnesses, some conducted remotely and others during visits to Turkey and Egypt. The inquiry also involved thousands of items collected from open sources and verified through advanced forensic analysis, hundreds of submissions to a call for evidence, satellite imagery and forensic medical reports.

Israel boycotted the commission and refused to cooperate, citing the backgrounds of the commission's head and members. Consequently, the commission accused Israel of "obstructing investigations and preventing access to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory."

The report asserted that "the massive number of civilian casualties in the Gaza Strip and the extensive destruction of civilian objects and infrastructure are the inevitable results of a strategy deliberately aimed at causing maximum damage, disregarding principles of distinction, proportionality and the provision of adequate precautions."

"The deliberate use of heavy weaponry with large destructive capabilities in densely populated areas constitutes a direct and intentional attack on the civilian population," the report said. It noted that statements by Israeli officials, including those reflecting policies

of widespread destruction and civilian casualties, amount to incitement and could constitute serious international crimes.

The commission added that direct and public incitement to genocide is a crime under international law, even when carried out by individuals without direct authority over hostilities. Incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence is a severe violation of international human rights law and may constitute an international crime.

Despite Israel issuing hundreds of evacuation orders to people in the northern Gaza Strip and other areas, the commission claimed that "the orders were often inadequate, unclear and contradictory, failing to allow sufficient time for safe evacuation."

Furthermore, the commission added, "evacuation routes and designated safe areas were consistently attacked by Israeli forces." The commission determined that these actions collectively constitute forced transfer.

The commission also concluded that Israel imposed a "total blockade" amounting to collective punishment against the civilian population. It argued that Israeli authorities used the blockade and the supply of essential survival goods as a weapon to achieve strategic and political gains, including cutting off water, food, electricity, fuel and humanitarian aid. "The blockade disproportionately affected pregnant women and people with disabilities, including severe harm to children that led to preventable deaths from starvation, including infants," the report stated.

The report noted that certain forms of sexual and gender-based violence are part of the operational patterns of Israeli security forces. "Due to their frequency, prevalence and severity, these violations, including public stripping and nudity intended to humiliate the entire community and emphasize the subjugation of the occupied people," the report stated.

Regarding the West Bank, the commission claimed that Israeli forces committed acts of sexual violence, torture, inhumane or cruel treatment and outrages upon personal dignity. "These all constitute war crimes," the commission asserted, adding that "the Israeli government and forces permitted, encouraged and incited a campaign of violence by settlers against Palestinian communities in the West Bank."

The commission also addressed Hamas' crimes, stating that during the October 7 attack, the military wing of the terror organization and six other armed groups "are responsible for war crimes including deliberate attacks on civilian targets, intentional killing, torture, inhumane or cruel treatment, destruction or seizure of enemy property, and taking hostages, including children."

Additionally, the commission noted that "the indiscriminate firing of thousands of rockets towards Israeli cities and towns, causing civilian deaths and injuries, also constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law."

According to the report, "members of Palestinian armed groups, sometimes assisted by Palestinians in civilian clothing, deliberately killed, injured, tortured, and took hostages, including children, and committed sexual and gender-based violence against civilians and Israeli security personnel, some of whom were no longer participating in hostilities and should not have been targeted."

The commission identified patterns indicative of sexual violence and concluded that these were not isolated incidents but similar events occurring in several locations, primarily against Israeli women.

As part of its recommendations, the commission called on the Israeli government to "implement an immediate cease fire, end the blockade of Gaza, ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid, and stop harming civilians and civilian infrastructure."

Additionally, it urged Israel to fulfill its legal obligations as mandated by the International Court of Justice orders regarding provisional measures issued on January 26, March 28, and May 24, particularly by allowing the commission access to Gaza to conduct investigations. Furthermore, it recommended that all states party to the Rome Statute fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court.

The commission also appealed to Palestinian leaders and the de facto authorities in Gaza, urging them to immediately cease all rocket fire toward Israel, release all hostages unconditionally and conduct thorough and impartial investigations, prosecuting individuals suspected of violations, including those committed in Israel from October 7 onwards by members of non-state Palestinian armed groups.

The commission's full report will be presented to the 56th session of the Human Rights Council next Wednesday in Geneva. Two additional detailed reports, providing a breakdown of the findings, will accompany the publication of the main report. The first report outlines the commission's findings regarding the October 7 attack in Israel, while the second report details the findings concerning Israel's military operations and attacks in Gaza up to the end of 2023.

Commission chair Navi Pillay said, "It is essential that all those who committed crimes are held accountable. The only way to stop the recurring cycles of violence, including aggression and retaliatory actions from both sides, is to ensure strict adherence to international law."

She added, "Israel must immediately cease its military actions and attacks in Gaza, including the assault on Rafah, which has claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians and displaced hundreds of thousands more to unsafe areas without basic services and humanitarian aid.

" Hamas and Palestinian armed groups must immediately stop launching rockets and release all hostages. Holding hostages is a war crime," she said.

Pillay served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2008 to 2014 and was responsible for establishing four inquiry commissions focused solely on Israel. She oversaw the publication of the Goldstone Report, appointed the notorious anti-Israel activist Richard Falk as the special rapporteur on Palestinian issues, and approved the Durban II Conference attended by former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The other members of the commission also have highly questionable backgrounds concerning their work on Israel.

In response, the Israeli Embassy to the United Nations in Geneva said, " Hamas terrorists attacked Israel on October 7 during an Israeli holiday. Today, on the holiday of Shavuot, the Pillay inquiry commission chooses to release its latest biased reports, attacking Israel. This decision reflects the systematic anti-Israel discrimination of this inquiry commission, which was born in sin in 2021 while Hamas was raining rockets on Israeli civilians.

"The inquiry commission attempts to justify the heinous terror attack of October 7 by contextualizing it through the Palestinian narrative," the embassy added. "It does not mention decades of terrorism or the ongoing rocket fire over Israeli territory. The reports ignore Hamas's despicable use of human shields and its deliberate strategy of placing civilians in the line of fire. Yet, concerning Israel, the report has no problem blaming it for supposedly failing to protect its population on October 7."

Moreover, the embassy noted, "The report outrageously and repulsively tries to draw a false equivalence between IDF soldiers and Hamas terrorists concerning acts of sexual violence. Israel rejects the vile and immoral accusations leveled against the IDF regarding both its military operation in Gaza and its initial response to Hamas terrorists in Israel. Hamas is a lawless terrorist organization. Israel is a democratic state committed to the rule of law. The IDF operates in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and has robust and independent mechanisms to monitor and investigate its actions."

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Meirav Eilon Shahar, said, "The inquiry commission has once again demonstrated that all its actions serve a narrow political agenda against Israel. Today's reports confirm what we have repeatedly stated: the Pillay Commission will never do justice to the Israeli victims of terror."

The Foreign Ministry condemned the report as "full of false accusations and blood libels against IDF soldiers."

"The report describes a fictional reality where decades of terrorist attacks have disappeared, there are no ongoing rocket attacks on Israeli civilians, and there is no democratic state defending itself against a terror attack. This is yet another example of the low point the organization has reached under UN Secretary-General António Guterres," the ministry said.

6.12. 24 – We

Hamas refused deadline or veto of high-profile prisoners in exchange of truce

6.12. 24 – We

Israel pessimistic, deems Hamas' cease-fire response 'one of most extreme possible'

Officials say terror group's list of demands amounts to effective rejection of truce

proposal, chances of deal under such conditions negligible

Itamar Eichner|14:22

Israeli officials voiced pessimism Wednesday night after Hamas presented its response to its cease-fire proposal, dubbing it "one of the most extreme possible."

Israeli officials who analyzed Hamas' response concluded that the chances of a deal under these conditions are negligible. Israeli sources described Hamas' reply to U.S. President Joe Biden's proposal as a "non-starter" and criticized Washington's involvement.

On Wednesday evening, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a phone consultation with top security officials following Hamas' response. Senior Israeli officials said that

Hamas perceives Israel as being in a difficult position, allowing them to set unrealistic conditions.

For instance, Hamas opposes giving Israel veto power over the release of prisoners in exchange for abducted soldiers, even though Israel agreed to compromise by retaining veto power over only half of the 200 high-profile prisoners expected to be included in the deal.

Additionally, Hamas demands to advance the timeline for Gaza's reconstruction from phase three of the agreement to phase one, insists on the immediate removal of the Israeli-established Netzarim Corridor—which bisects the northern and southern parts of the Palestinian enclave—and refuses to agree to a deadline for renewing hostilities if no agreement is reached on phase two. Hamas firmly rejects Israel's demand to deport freed Palestinian prisoners, insisting they be released to their places of origin, including the West Bank.

Hamas also demands guarantees from China, Russia and Turkey for ending the conflict, in addition to U.S. assurances, a condition Israel deems unacceptable. Senior Israeli officials indicated that Hamas in Gaza leader Yahya Sinwar distrusts Israel and believes Israel will sabotage the agreement over minor issues. Thus, Sinwar insists on resolving everything before the first phase, ensuring Israel enters the humanitarian phase knowing the war is over with no exit strategy.

Unlike in the past, where the ball was in Israel's or Hamas's court, officials noted that it is now in Washington's court. While the Americans also reject Hamas's demands, Israeli officials believe the U.S. lacks leverage over Qatar, which has not imposed any sanctions on Hamas, such as expelling its members or seizing bank accounts.

"It's hard to see how a deal will be made. From the Israeli side, Hamas' response is a rejection of the agreement," sources told Ynet.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken addresses changes proposed by Hamas to cease-fire deal

On Wednesday evening, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Hamas has presented a counterproposal describing some of the amendments as "workable" while others are not. He added that Washington would present in the coming weeks a plan for governing post-war Gaza, saying that Hamas "must not be allowed" to dictate the future of the Palestinian enclave.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum said that Hamas's announcement is "an integral part of the negotiation process."

"This is another stage in the path toward the Netanyahu deal, which is the first Israeli initiative put on the table since October 7," a statement read.

"The Families Forum supports U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's statement today that it is possible to bridge the gaps. In his meeting with representatives of the hostage families yesterday, Blinken emphasized his commitment and that of the United States to advancing a deal for the return of the hostages.

"All parties must immediately and intensively continue negotiations to bridge the remaining gaps. The Netanyahu deal is very good for Israel. It allows the country to maximize its military achievements and achieve significant political gains."



6.12. 24 – We

Moscow's Commissioner appealed to UN to release 5 Russian nationals held by Hamas

6.12. 24 – We

Russia calls for swift release of its nationals held by Hamas

Moscow's human rights commissioner appeals to UN official to secure release of Russian nationals remaining in Hamas' captivity in Gaza

i24NEWS|Yesterday| 12:13

Russia's Human Rights Commissioner Tatyana Moskalkova on Tuesday announced that she appealed to senior United Nations (UN) and other officials to take action to secure the release of Russian nationals held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip eight months after their kidnapping.

According to a post on the Telegram messaging app, Moskalkova launched the appeal after meeting in Moscow with relatives of those still being held. "In one conversation, one of the mothers told me details of the hostages' situation," she wrote.

Moskalkova said she had appealed to the UN High Commissioner For Human Rights, Volker Turk, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spoljaric, and other officials "for the rapid return home of our compatriots." There are 120 hostages left in Gaza, including at least 40 whom Israeli authorities have declared dead in absentia. News reports have put at eight the number of hostages holding Russian passports, including three who were released.

An Israeli-Russian dual national Andrey Kozlov was among the four hostages the IDF rescued in an operation on Saturday.

Earlier in May, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), a Gazan terrorist group, released a propaganda video of Alexander (Sasha) Trufanov, another Russian-Israeli dual national held hostage in the Palestinian territory.

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6.12. 24 – We

Hezbollah largest rocket barrage at Galilee, results in several fires

6.12. 24 – We

Hezbollah fires largest rocket barrage at Galilee since beginning of war

In largest rocket attack since October 7, terror group launches approximately 160 projectiles toward the Galilee in response to assassination of senior commander, setting off sirens in Tiberias in first since October

Lior Ben Ari, Eitan Glickman, Israel Moshkovitz|02:34

Following the assassination of its most senior commander to date overnight, Hezbollah on Wednesday launched its largest rocket barrage since October 7, setting off sirens in Tiberias for the first time since October.

Hezbollah has fired thousands of rockets at northern Israel since the war's outbreak in October, primarily focusing on the Israel-Lebanon border region. In an unprecedented escalation, the group retaliated against Israel by targeting multiple sectors of the Galilee region.

Second drone exploded moments after rescue forces arrived: 'You can't live like this' Throughout Wednesday morning, Hezbollah launched dozens of rockets at Israeli towns and cities including Meron, Safed, Rosh Pinna and Tiberias. The latter has been home to approximately 12,000 displaced Israelis from the border region over the past eight months.

The Lebanese Hezbollah-owned network Al Manar reported rocket launches at Mount Dov, while the Hezbollah-affiliated newspaper Al Akhbar reported Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon.

Reports in Israel claim that Hezbollah fired more than 160 rockets on Wednesday morning, resulting in fires in several locations.

6.12. 24 – We

IDF strikes four senior Hezbollah commanders meeting in a house near Tyre

6.12. 24 – We

IDF kills most senior Hezbollah commander since October 7

Senior Hezbollah commander Abu Talib, responsible for southern Lebanon until the Litani river, reportedly dies with three other senior members after the IDF attacked a house near Tyre

Lior Ben Ari, Yoav Zitun, Eitan Glickman|01:30

Lebanon reported on Wednesday an Israeli attack in the village of Jouaiyya, in southern Lebanon, near Tyre. According to reports, four Hezbollah commanders were killed there, including the most senior Hezbollah commander killed since the outbreak of war.

According to the Saudi channel "Al-Hadath," the attack resulted in the death of the commander of Hezbollah's "Al-Nasr" unit, known as "Abu Talib." According to the report, he is the most senior commander in Hezbollah to be killed since the beginning of the war. "The attack in southern Lebanon was aimed at the Hezbollah leaders' security meeting. This is the strongest blow since the beginning of the war," it was claimed.

Reuters also quoted a Lebanese official who said that **this is the most senior Hezbollah operative killed in eight months of war**. Lebanese security sources stressed that Abu Talib outranks Wissam al-Tawil, the commander of the Radwan Force, who was killed by Israel in January.

According to past reports, the "Al-Nasr" unit **commanded** by Abu Talib operates in **southern Lebanon, from the Israeli border to the Litani River**. Sources who spoke to Reuters said that he commanded the **central sector in the border area**. **Hezbollah** did not confirm the various reports but **did announce his death on Tuesday**.

Sky News reported that **three missiles hit a house in the village** of Jouaiyya and that **four senior Hezbollah commanders were killed in the attack**. According to Arab media reports, the **names** of the other commanders killed are Mustafa Soufan, Hasin Hamid (nicknamed Sajid), and Mohammad Sabra.

The **attack** on the Hezbollah leaders **followed another intense day of fighting** in the north on Shavuot Eve. **Hezbollah fired 15 rockets at the Galilee region**, with no casualties reported. The **IDF intercepted** some of the rockets, and the rest fell in open areas. The **barrage** of rockets fired at the Galilee also **disrupted the Shavuot celebration in Kibbutz Neot Mordechai**.

Hezbollah claimed on Tuesday that the rocket **fire at the Galilee was in response to previous attacks by the IDF in southern Lebanon**. The IDF stated that fighter jets **attacked** Hezbollah targets including a military **structure**, a **launch site**, and terrorist **infrastructure**. Lebanon also reported three wounded in an airstrike on a car in Kafra in southern Lebanon.

The **IDF also eliminated a Hezbollah operative** in Naqoura on **Tuesday**. In the Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese newspaper "Al-Akhbar," it was claimed that he was an **employee of a water company who was blown up** by an explosive device **while riding a motorcycle**, "while **supplying water to the town**."

The reported assassination followed another Hezbollah rocket barrage on the Golan, resulting in **several areas catching fire**. The barrage followed the Air Force's **Monday attack 150 kilometers deep in Lebanese territory**, the farthest Israel has attacked in Lebanon since the war began.

**6.11. 24 – Tu**

**US propose FM Katz replace Gantz in war cabinet, instead of Ben-Gvir or Smotrich**

**6.11. 24 – Tu**

**With new hostage deal possible, US wary of Ben-Gvir and Smotrich's influence**  
**With 120 hostages still in Hamas captivity, President Biden is hoping to finalize a new deal that will end the war and bring back all the hostages, but is circumspect about Netanyahu's coalition ruining any chance of an agreement with Hamas and wishes to keep Ben-Gvir and Smotrich out of war cabinet**

Itamar Eichner|13:16

For the umpteenth time since the war began, Israel is anxiously awaiting Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar's response to a proposal for a hostage deal and ceasefire. Senior members of Hamas abroad have shown positive signs after the UN Security Council approved the American resolution urging Hamas to accept Israel's framework. However, Hamas continues to demand guarantees for ending the war, leaving the final decision in Sinwar's hands, who has yet to respond.

Hamas indicated yesterday that they welcome the move and are "ready to cooperate with mediators on implementing ceasefire principles" after the American proposal passed with 14 supporters and no opponents in the Security Council, though Russia abstained. However, no official response from Hamas has been provided, and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken clarified during his visit to Israel today that the final word rests with Sinwar, whom he described as being "buried ten floors underground."

Blinken emphasized the U.S. commitment to eliminating Hamas: "President Biden is committed to Israel's security and defense. He is the first American president to visit Israel during a war, the first to deploy American forces to help defend Israel when attacked by Iran in April—and we are committed to defeating Hamas to ensure it cannot control Gaza again. Military measures are necessary but not sufficient; there needs to be a clear political and humanitarian plan to ensure Hamas cannot consolidate control in Gaza, and that Israel can move towards lasting security."

Blinken stressed Hamas is the current obstacle to a deal, while Israel remains committed to the proposed framework. "I met with Prime Minister Netanyahu last night, and he confirmed his commitment to the proposal. I also spoke with Defense Minister Gallant and other senior Israeli officials. There is a strong consensus to advance the proposal, but it depends on one person at this stage. We will see what comes from them, and from him," he added, referring to Sinwar.

**Biden apprehensive of Hawkish coalition members torpedoing deal**

Despite continuous emphasis from Blinken and President Biden that Hamas must agree to the deal, there are concerns that Netanyahu might ultimately reject it—amid threats from ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich to dissolve the government.

During his brief visit to Israel, Blinken met privately with Foreign Minister Israel Katz, immediately after his meeting with Netanyahu. A diplomatic source indicated the meeting was coordinated following Benny Gantz's resignation from the government. The Americans see Katz as a key figure after Gantz's resignation.

The source added that Washington conveyed a message urging Netanyahu not to dissolve the war cabinet after Gantz and Eizenkot's resignation, and to include Katz, who is viewed as a responsible figure. The Americans are very concerned Netanyahu might include hawkish ministers like Ben-Gvir and Smotrich in the war cabinet, concerns raised by Blinken in his meeting with Netanyahu.

## IDF set for swarms of Hezbollah drones & barrages of hundreds of missiles

6.11. 24 – Tu

IDF prepares to defend against 'swarms' of Hezbollah drones, barrages of hundreds of missiles

Military estimates Hezbollah has yet to present its full aerial arsenal since the war began; efforts are underway to ensure a defense against extremely challenging scenarios

Yoav Zitun|07:47

The recent demonstration of Hezbollah's capabilities, which have intensified in recent weeks, still represents only a small fraction of the Iran-backed terror group's aerial arsenal which the IDF believes to include an array of precision munitions supplied mainly by Iran over the past decade, or weapons that have undergone upgrade and modifications based on lessons learned in the conflict.

According to the IDF's Air Defense Command's data, Hezbollah launched fewer projectiles at Israel than Hamas had fired from Gaza since October 7.

Israel was attacked by a total of some 19,000 rockets, missiles and drones fired from Lebanon Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen and Gaza. Around 150 of the thousands of suicide drones launched at Israel from all fronts have been intercepted by the Air Defense Command, mainly via Iron Dome batteries.

Unlike previous rounds of fighting, before the current war, the IDF did not release its rate of successful interceptions. The military did not want the information to be used by the enemy to improve its accuracy. But there is little doubt that a full-blown war against Hezbollah would result in significant damage to strategic targets in Israel.

Hezbollah has yet to utilize its hundreds of precision missiles, each capable of carrying up to a ton of explosives; nor has it launched swarms made of dozens or more suicide drones, settling instead for two or three UAVs at a time.

The Lebanon-based terror group has also thus far avoided launching barrages of hundreds of missiles at once at one given target, to overwhelm the missile defense systems at IDF's disposal.

The IDF is most concerned about the terror group's precision missiles, and accordingly, the Air Defense Command has expanded dramatically. A new Iron Dome battalion was established with soldiers brought on from other units; there has been a roughly 50% increase in dedicated recruitments in recent military induction cycles, and more radars have been deployed in the north — the most sought-after resource due to many instances where detecting drones and activating sirens has been difficult. One such example was the fatal incident in Hurfeish last week, where one reserve officer was killed and others wounded.

The IDF also restored old Vulcano rockets that had been put out of use, that were deployed mainly in the Galilee in an attempt to deal with Hezbollah's low-flying and slow drones, that cover a range of only a few kilometers, making them hard to detect —

let alone intercept. These drones are launched from the cover of brush in South Lebanon's valleys and fly along carefully chosen paths to evade IDF detection.

"We understand that Hezbollah will try to strike our air defense sites in a broad military conflict, to clear the way for attacks on Israel. Therefore, we're preparing accordingly to protect our air defense systems with various means and methods," military officials said. "We are prepared and our soldiers trained for such an event and have alternative defensive sites to operate from should any be struck. "

The officials said that if and when swarms of drones would target valuable assets deep within Israel, defenses would be able to detect them and respond more effectively than they had closer to the border, because of the longer range.

Air Defense forces have been on high alert since October 7. They have contended with false alarms activating sirens, especially over possible drone attacks. The military has also had to cut down training time for forces because of operational needs.

"The intensity with which we operated against Gaza will be different in the north, and we don't have the technologies needed to train our troops while they are already operational," the officials said. "Even forces such as the U.S. or Ukrainian militaries which are much larger than the IDF - struggle to respond adequately to drone attacks. There's no magical solution. "

6.11. 24 – Tu

IDF uncover explosives lab with 80+ devices ready for use in the Jordan valley

6.11. 24 – Tu

Security forces uncover explosives lab with 80+ devices ready for use

In the 18-hour-long West Bank raid the troops encounter terrorists' fire and claim at least one terrorist was killed and others wounded

Yoav Zitun|05:48

The IDF said on Tuesday that its forces uncovered and destroyed an explosive production lab in a West Bank raid. The troops found over 80 devices and additional barrels filled with explosives material in the lab located in the Jordan valley. They also confiscated other weapons that were kept in a car driven by a suspect in the area of the lab.

In their 18-hour-long operation, the forces encountered armed terrorists' fire and said at least one of them was killed and others likely wounded. Two other armed terrorists were killed in a drone attack after they were observed endangering the troops.

Some eight terror suspects were arrested, and their weapons confiscated, the IDF said adding none of their force suffered injuries.

6.11. 24 – Tu

Sinwar internal message: As long as fighters are still standing, we have not lost the war

6.11. 24 – Tu

Sinwar in internal correspondence: civilian deaths help Hamas, report

Hamas leader in Gaza's correspondences with members of the terror group since October 7 and throughout the ongoing war come to light including his description of civilian casualties as 'necessary sacrifices' in his war

Ynet|02:44

Some correspondence of Hamas Leader Yahya Sinwar with senior members of the terror group since October 7 and throughout the war, have come to light showing his indifference to the suffering of the Gaza civilians in the wake of the atrocities. In a report in The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday the messages also related to the negotiations for the release of Israeli hostages in exchange for a cease-fire.

After three of Hamas's political leader Ismail Haniyeh's sons were killed in an airstrike last April, Sinwar wrote that their deaths and those of other Palestinians would "infuse life into the veins of this nation, prompting it to rise to its glory and honor," according to texts seen by the news outlet – further demonstrating Sinwar's cold and calculative stance on the suffering in Gaza and his disregard for his people's lives.

Since the start of the war in Gaza, Israel had been criticized for its military offensive in the Strip both in the Arab world and in Western countries over the widespread coverage of the extensive destruction in Gaza by prominent Western media outlets, citing the death toll provided by the Hamas Health Ministry.

"We have the Israelis right where we want them," Sinwar recently wrote to senior Hamas officials involved in negotiations for a hostage deal, mediated by Qatar and Egypt.

The American outlet's report claimed it had obtained dozens of messages sent by Sinwar to members of the negotiation team, including his Hamas colleagues. The newspaper noted the messages were received from several people "with differing views on Sinwar."

Hamas currently claims over 37,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the war, most of them civilians. However, in a message sent to one of Hamas's leaders in Doha, Sinwar referred to civilian casualties in wars such as Algeria's War of Independence against France, saying, "hundreds of thousands were killed there—these are necessary sacrifices."

The Wall Street Journal noted Sinwar's ultimate goal appears to be securing a permanent cease-fire, which would allow Hamas to declare a historic victory — having "survived" Israel's efforts to destroy it — and thereby claim leadership over the entire Palestinian people.

Even without a long-term cease-fire, it seems that Sinwar believes Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has few options other than occupying the entire Gaza Strip — with

its over two million residents — and becoming mired in months and years of dealing with Hamas's guerrilla warfare.

The American newspaper also quoted Sinwar from an interview he gave in 2018 to Italian journalist Francesca Borri, in which he said that for Netanyahu, a victory over Hamas would be "even worse than a defeat."

According to the report, although Sinwar planned and executed the surprise attack on October 7, early messages he sent to those involved in the negotiations indicated he was surprised by the brutality of his organization's terrorists and the Palestinian looters who also infiltrated Israel, and by the ease with which they committed atrocities against civilians.

"Things went out of control," Sinwar wrote in one of those messages regarding the "gangs" that kidnapped Israeli women and children. "People got caught up in this, and that should not have happened," he wrote.

While the IDF was effectively dismantling the terror group's military infrastructure, Hamas's political leadership began meeting with other Palestinian factions at the start of December 2023 to discuss reconciliation and their plans for post-war Gaza. However, according to the report, Sinwar wasn't included in these consultations.

In response, he sent a message to the heads of Hamas's politburo, denouncing the move as "shameful and outrageous." "As long as fighters are still standing and we have not lost the war, such contacts should be immediately terminated," Sinwar wrote, adding, "We have the capabilities to continue fighting for months."

Near the end of January, the IDF's rapid progress in the Gaza Strip slowed, and the military was engaged in defeating Hamas brigades in Khan Younis, Sinwar's hometown. At the same time, the number of fallen soldiers saw an increase as well.

On February 19, Israel set a deadline for Hamas to agree to a deal before the month of Ramadan and before ordering a ground operation in Rafah. Sinwar urged his colleagues in Hamas not to agree to concessions in the negotiations and instead to insist on ending the war. "The high number of civilian casualties would create worldwide pressure on Israel," Sinwar wrote.

In another message to Hamas leaders in Qatar, Sinwar said that "Israel's journey in Rafah won't be a walk in the park."

Although the IDF has since begun ground operations in Rafah, as Sinwar anticipated, the fighting in the area has brought with it a heavy humanitarian and diplomatic toll to Israel. Meanwhile, Sinwar's messages indicate he's prepared to die in battle.

In a message he recently sent to his allies, Sinwar compared the war in Gaza to the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE, in which the Sunni faction defeated the Shia and established the Islamic caliphate as Sunni rather than Shia. "We have to move forward on the same path we started," Sinwar wrote. "Or let it be a new Karbala."

6.11. 24 – Tu

Knesset approves continuity in vote for Haredi priests exemption from draft



6.11. 24 – Tu

Knesset approves 'continuity' in exemption of Haredi's from service

Defense Minister is only nay vote in coalition, criticizing 'small politics on the backs of soldiers' as IDF calls up reserve troops repeatedly to fill the ranks amid war; vote ensures immediate survival of Netanyahu coalition

Yesterday | 23:33

The Knesset approved an extension to the bill exempting Haredi men from military service in a 63 to 57 majority vote overnight. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant was the only nay vote in the coalition, despite many in the ruling Likud Party saying they would oppose the move.

The exemption comes as the IDF continues to call up reserve forces to fill the ranks during the war. The bill is now sent to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee where chairman Yuli Edelstein, also of the Likud said he would consider the needs of the military. Edelstein initially said he would not support the extension but ultimately fell in line.

"It is not too late not to play politics on the backs of soldiers," Gallant said before the vote that ensures the survival of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right and religious coalition.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid slammed the coalition calling their vote a despicable moment of "humiliation" of the Knesset.

"In the midst of another day of hard fighting in the Gaza Strip, the reckless government passes a law of evasion and insubordination. It's all politics. Zero values," Lapid said.

6.10. 24 – Mo

UN Security Council adopts US plan for Israel-Hamas cease-fire

6.10. 24 – Mo

UN Security Council adopts US plan for Israel-Hamas cease-fire

Russia abstains from vote, while remaining 14 council members vote in favor of proposal outlined by Biden; Hamas welcomes resolution; decision 'restricts Israel's freedom of action,' senior Israeli official says

Itamar Eichner, news agencies | 14:57

The United Nations Security Council on Monday adopted a U.S.-drafted resolution backing a proposal outlined by President Joe Biden for a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Russia abstained from the vote, while the remaining 14 council members voted in favor. The U.S. finalized its text on Sunday after six days of negotiations among the council.

Biden laid out a three-phase cease-fire plan on May 31 that he described as an Israeli initiative. Some Security Council members questioned whether Israel had accepted the plan to end the fighting in Gaza.

The resolution welcomes the new cease-fire proposal, "which Israel accepted, calls upon Hamas to also accept it, and urges both parties to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition."

"We're waiting on Hamas to agree to the cease-fire deal it claims to want," U.S.

Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the council before the vote. "With every passing day, needless suffering continues."

The resolution also goes into detail about the proposal, and spells out that "if the negotiations take longer than six weeks for phase one, the cease-fire will still continue as long as negotiations continue."

In addition to the joint call that effectively equates Israel and Hamas, Israel has informed Washington that the current wording of the proposal does not reflect Israel's deal framework. The approved text stated that Israel agreed to end the war and completely withdraw its forces from Gaza in exchange for the return of all hostages. However, Israeli officials emphasize that their agreement to end the war was conditional on Hamas no longer being the ruling power in Gaza, and they claim that they did not consent to the wording presented to the Security Council.

Hamas welcomed the resolution, saying it is ready to cooperate with mediators over implementing the principles of the plan.

A senior Israeli official told Ynet that the resolution "restricts Israel's freedom of action." According to him, "The U.S. accepted very problematic formulations to prevent the Russians from vetoing, and the fact that Algeria supported the proposal tells the whole story."

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is visiting Israel for the eighth time since the outbreak of the war. During his visit, Blinken is holding a series of meetings to push for an agreement between Israel and Hamas, including talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and opposition members Benny Gantz and Yair Lapid. Blinken also met with Foreign Minister Israel Katz, who described their conversation as positive, noting they discussed the war in Gaza, the release of hostages and the Iranian threat.

The meeting between Blinken and Netanyahu was attended by Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi and Blinken's advisor Derek Chollet. According to a U.S. State Department spokesperson, Blinken reiterated that Washington and other world leaders support President Biden's comprehensive proposal, which aims to achieve an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and a significant and sustained increase in humanitarian aid distribution across Gaza. Blinken emphasized the U.S. commitment to Israel's security, ensuring that the events of October 7 will never be repeated.

The spokesperson added that Blinken stressed the proposal's potential to secure peace along Israel's northern border and continued integration with regional countries. He updated Netanyahu on ongoing diplomatic efforts to plan for the post-war period, highlighting the importance of these efforts in providing long-term peace, security and

stability for both Israelis and Palestinians. **Blinken** also underscored the importance of **preventing the war from spilling over**.

Earlier, Blinken said that Hamas is the **obstacle** to achieving a **cease-fire** and **urged** all regional governments to **"press Hamas to agree to a deal."** In response, **Hamas accused Blinken of being biased** in favor of Israel and claimed that he was an impediment to a future agreement between the parties.

Despite Blinken's remarks, recent messages from Washington suggest that although President **Biden's proposal was supposedly an Israeli initiative**, it is unclear whether Netanyahu is actually willing to accept it. The **prime minister has repeatedly emphasized**, including as recently as Sunday, that **he will not agree to commit to ending the war** in exchange **for the release of the hostages**. This stance is echoed by ministers Itamar **Ben-Gvir** and Bezalel **Smotrich**.

In contrast, in his resignation speech, Benny **Gantz called on Netanyahu to accept the proposed framework**, pledging his support even from outside the government, a stance also **backed by Yair Lapid**.

Meanwhile, senior **Biden administration officials** have discussed the possibility of **negotiating a unilateral deal with Hamas for the release of the five Israeli American hostages** still held in Gaza if the current talks don't result in a deal, NBC News reported on Monday, citing two current and two former U.S. officials.

According to these officials, such talks would not include Israel and would be conducted through Qatari mediators. The White House declined to comment on the dramatic report.

6.10. 24 – Mo

**EU's top diplomat Borrell obsessed with Israel as the source of all global problems**

6.10. 24 – Mo

**EU's top diplomat obsessed with Israel: a policy fixation**

As antisemitism surges in Europe, Ukraine collapses under Putin's aggression and far-right gains ground across continent, **EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell seems preoccupied with only one issue: Israel and its war against Hamas**; until his term ends in October, Borrell expected to continue **using his position to hinder Jerusalem's efforts**  
Itamar Eichner|13:01

The **European Union's foreign policy chief**, Spaniard Josep **Borrell**, has an **obsession**: the State of Israel. Despite **Europe's own challenges**, **Borrell** seems almost **exclusively** Since March of this year, Borrell has tweeted **127 times about the Israeli-Palestinian issue—twice as many as** on the war in **Ukraine** (67), an issue **directly affecting Europe**. On the rise of the pro-Putin regime in Georgia, Borrell has tweeted only seven times. Concerning the rest of the world, he's posted 71 tweets—nearly as many as those on Israel alone.

A quick glance at his X (formerly Twitter) account Sunday shows **his lack of engagement with European matters**. While far-right parties in several countries made significant gains in the European Parliament, **creating real upheaval in Europe**, Borrell remained silent.

Instead, he dedicated two separate tweets to the rescue operation and what he called "another massacre" in Gaza.

There is a consensus in Jerusalem that Borrell currently spearheads all anti-Israel decisions within the European Union and calls for sanctions against Israel. Nearly every day, he condemns Israel or attempts to pass resolutions against it in EU institutions. Without the opposition from Israel's friends in the EU, such as Hungary, the Czech Republic, Austria and Germany, the EU might have already passed sanctions against Israel. Foreign policy decisions in the EU require consensus, which Israel's allies prevent. For example, Borrell managed to pass a decision to impose sanctions on violent settlers after heavy pressure. He is now trying to convene the Association Council following proposals from several countries to suspend agreements with Israel due to human rights violations. Fortunately, Borrell stands no chance of overcoming the consensus barrier, as it requires unanimous agreement, and Israel has strong allies.

Borrell is pressing European countries to recognize a Palestinian state. To claim credit, he was the first to announce that Norway, Spain, Ireland and Slovenia would recognize a Palestinian state. This behavior has angered many EU countries that disapprove of his actions and his divergence from the Union's official stance. Reports in Europe indicate that Borrell was reprimanded by the German and Austrian chancellors for not representing the EU's position on Israel.

Israeli officials believe that the relationship with the EU is greater than the relationship with Borrell. Time and again, it has been shown that Borrell does not represent the EU's views. Often, the European official has had to issue statements in his own name, not the union's, as the EU does not endorse his positions.

A review of Borrell's recent post on X reveals an obsession with Israel: he seems to view it as the source of all global problems. Empathy for Israeli suffering is hardly present in his posts. The "nightmare" of Borrell's tenure is set to end this October when his term concludes.

Last week, over a hundred Jewish community leaders in Europe sharply criticized Borrell at an emergency conference of the European Jewish Association (EJA), accusing his clear and repeated anti-Israel bias of significantly contributing to current waves of anti-Semitism and the defamation of Israel among the European public.

In response, European Commission spokesperson Peter Stano said, "I firmly reject any accusation against High Representative Borrell of antisemitism or contributing to the wave of antisemitism. Borrell is not biased against Israel.

Borrell "is not biased against Israel.. He is concerned about the loss of human life," the spokesperson stressed. A concern that extends both to the deaths of Israeli citizens that occurred "during the Hamas terrorist attacks of October 7", and "to the loss of innocent lives of hostages" in the hands of Hamas and, of course also, "to the lives of innocent civilians who are perishing in the continued hostilities in Gaza," he recalled.

"Talking about this and trying to find solutions to break the cycle of violence once and for all is not antisemitism," Stano said, emphasizing that Borrell's role is "to seek consensus on the positions and actions of the EU in important events that are part of the domain of European foreign policy, and this also includes the conflict in Gaza."

Borrell condemns hostage rescue as 'another massacre'

His last post on Saturday night, following the rescue operation of four hostages, criticized Israel for the civilian casualties in the operation in Nuseirat, writing, "Reports from Gaza of another massacre of civilians are appalling. We condemn this in the strongest terms. The bloodbath must end immediately." He added that U.S. President Joe Biden's "3-stage plan is the way forward" for an enduring ceasefire and to end the killing."

On April 13, Borrell expressed shock at the ongoing violence in the West Bank. "Settlers resorted to mob violence in several villages causing Palestinian casualties after a 14-year old [sic] Israeli was found dead. I strongly condemn this murder and the ongoing escalation of violence, he wrote.

On April 17, Borrell, together with the EU Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič, issued a statement. "It is essential to avoid any further escalation in the Middle East, in particular following the attacks from Iran targeting Israel. At this crucial time, we yet again call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2728, demanding an urgent and unfettered expansion of the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza to prevent further escalation of this humanitarian crisis and the catastrophic, predictable and avoidable outcome for its population," they wrote. "It is with the gravest dismay that we acknowledge the mounting evidence of unfolding famine in Gaza and the escalation of the humanitarian situation to a catastrophic level... Famine threatens 1.1 million Palestinians, with 210 000 in North Gaza alone facing imminent starvation, as indicated by the latest reports... Since 7 October, only a fraction of the minimum required food has entered Gaza, significantly contributing to the looming famine and acute food insecurity... There is no shortage of aid supplies as they are abundant, waiting at the border with neighbouring countries and ready to be channelled into Gaza. It is imperative to let them reach those who need them."

Borrell added, "We call on all parties to fulfil their obligations under international law, particularly emphasising Israel's responsibility as the occupying power to ensure that the basic needs of Palestinians in Gaza are met. This entails ensuring that the humanitarian community has unimpeded and safe access, first and foremost by land, to assist the population with adequate relief supplies. These obligations are not discretionary but mandated by international humanitarian law, as set out by the Fourth Geneva Convention. They are also reinforced by the International Court of Justice's provisional measures, resolutions from the United Nations Security Council, and European Council conclusions. "Moreover," he noted, "the persistent instability within Gaza, including attacks on aid workers and medical personnel, contributes to the shrinking of the humanitarian space. The loss of 7 staff members from World Central Kitchen is just one among many other appalling attacks on humanitarians which has claimed the lives of more than 200 aid workers. All humanitarian and medical personnel, as well as hospitals and aid facilities, must be protected as per international humanitarian law.

"We also urge Israel to address the rapidly escalating violence across the West Bank. We strongly condemn extremist settler violence and demand that all perpetrators be held accountable. Immediate action is needed to de-escalate the situation and end the cycle of bloodshed and revenge."

Needless to say, Borrell did not mention that Hamas steals food from supply convoys, nor did he acknowledge that Israel allows unrestricted aid entry, with the issues stemming from the UN's dysfunction in food distribution.

Opposing Rafah ground operations, pushing Gaza famine allegations

On April 23, Borrell spoke at the European Parliament during a discussion on the situation in Gaza. He paid lip service to condemning Hamas and calling for the release of hostages, only mentioning these points toward the end of his speech.

He referenced Iran's unprecedented attack on Israel in April without condemning it, focusing instead on the destruction in Gaza and claiming that 249 aid workers were killed during the fighting, though Israel acknowledged responsibility for only seven of those deaths. He also expressed concern over the so-called Al Jazeera law to shut down the Qatari-owned channel's operations in Israel, mentioned the report by French former foreign minister Catherine Colonna exonerating UNRWA and emphasized the need to resume cooperation with the organization.

On May 1, Borrell posted against the operation in Rafah, writing, "Israel's partners and neighbours are speaking with one voice: Rafah must not be attacked. We all demand the immediate release of all hostages. The elimination of Hamas cannot come at the unbearable cost of thousands of civilian deaths. Further displacement of over a million vulnerable persons would be devastating. We urge the government of Israel to heed the calls of the international community and constructively engage in a political peace process."

On May 3, he strongly condemned an attack by settlers on a Jordanian convoy bringing aid to Gaza. On May 6, he posted, "The much feared scenario has come true: according to @WFPChiefCindyMcCain, there's full-blown famine in the north of Gaza, moving to the south. The so far unheard demands by the international community must be listened to: UNSCR 2728 must be implemented fully & immediately. A ceasefire is urgent, to get to the liberation of the hostages and bring relief to those starving."

On the same day, he also spoke out against the evacuation of civilians from Rafah. "Israel's evacuation orders to civilians in Rafah portend the worst: more war and famine. It is unacceptable. Israel must renounce to [sic] a ground offensive and implement UNSCR 2728. The EU, with the International Community, can and must act to prevent such scenario," he wrote.

Days later, he condemned an "attack against the UNRWA premises in East Jerusalem, saying, "Perpetrators must be held to account. It is Israel's responsibility to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers. UNRWA is an irreplaceable lifeline to millions in Gaza and the region."

Encouraging ICC prosecution of Israeli officials

Later in the month, Borrell also addressed the decision by the International Criminal Court chief prosecutor to submit a request for an arrest warrant against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

"I take note of the decision of the ICC Prosecutor to apply for warrants of arrest before Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, Ismail Haniyeh, Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant," he wrote.

"The mandate of the ICC, as an independent international institution, is to prosecute the most serious crimes under international law. All States that have ratified the ICC statutes are bound to execute the Court's decisions.

Borrell's message is clear: if arrest warrants are issued against Netanyahu and Gallant, he expects EU member states to arrest them if they enter their jurisdictions.

Finally, on May 22, Borrell posted: "I take note of today's announcement by 2 EU Member States -Ireland and Spain- and by Norway on the recognition of the State of Palestine. Within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, I will relentlessly work with all Member States to promote a common EU position based on a 2-state solution."

6.10. 24 – Mo

Data on Gaza aid is skewed to ignore trucks UNRWA did not physically see

6.10. 24 – Mo

The lie behind claims Israel is 'starving Gaza': UN data on Israeli aid to strip is unreliable. Israeli body coordinating aid into Gaza reports UN officials in charge of distributing aid from trucks being allowed into Gaza only count entries from specific border crossings and only while staff members present.

Itamar Eichner|03:35

Israeli officials from the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), led by Maj. Gen. Ghasan Alyan, present the extent of aid being delivered to the Gaza Strip in daily reports distributed to government offices and other bodies around the world.

However, the international community, especially the United Nations and UNRWA - the Palestinian refugee relief agency, report the amount of aid is often significantly lower than the figures presented by Israel, leading to accusations of dishonesty and delays in aid delivery.

According to findings presented by UNRWA and the UN, the amount of aid counted by the organizations since the outbreak of the war and until June 5 totals 26,684 aid trucks entering Gaza. COGAT's records show 34,199 trucks.

An in-depth investigation conducted by the COGAT's Humanitarian Information Center, headed by Lt. Col. (res.) Or Elrom, reveals the reasons behind the data discrepancies and significant differences regarding the extent of aid entering Gaza.

The document indicates the main reason for the data gaps is the UN and UNRWA's flawed data collection methods. Until October 6, the office responsible for the issue on behalf of the UN was the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which relied mainly on Palestinian Authority personnel for data collection from the Kerem Shalom and Rafah border crossings.

Since the start of the war, data collection has been placed on UNRWA, which, according to the UN decision, leads aid distribution and manages tracking and registration.

However, as the aid increased, UNRWA struggled to collect the data. And UNRWA records only what enters from Kerem Shalom and Rafah.

The Erez crossing isn't included in its records, although aid from the UN World Food Program enters via that crossing as well. Aid also enters via the U.S. Army's temporary port and airdrops, but these don't appear in the UN's data. This is because UNRWA's registration officer isn't present there, and UNRWA only reports what it distributes itself. The bottom line is the international community relies on incomplete information. The month of May serves as a good example of the data gaps. COGAT counts all the aid trucks being transferred to Gaza. These often include hundreds of trucks waiting for collection by UN aid agencies on the Gazan side of the aid routes.

These trucks are included in the count while they wait for collection and distribution by the international community. In May, COGAT reported 6,359 trucks, but the UN only collected and distributed aid from 1,479 trucks – about a quarter of the trucks Israel sent in. Therefore, the international community accused Israel of not delivering enough aid that month.

Israel claims UNRWA is doing this in order to depict Israel as an entity starving Gazans. The world maintains the agency's status and ignores aid entering through other UN agencies, which isn't counted in the international body's reports.

"If UNRWA's logistics officer saw a convoy from the UAE, he would count it," a COGAT official said. "He wouldn't count those he didn't see. There's an officer at Kerem Shalom who only records data when he's physically present."

6.10. 24 – Mo

US considers discrete hostage deal with Hamas to release five American hostages

6.10. 24 – Mo

'Real option': US is considering unilateral hostage deal with Hamas, NBC reports  
News outlet citing administration officials said US government has mulled over offering Hamas a deal should current talks with Israel reach a dead end  
Itamar Eichner|06:03

Senior officials in U.S. President Joe Biden's administration have discussed the possibility of negotiating a unilateral deal with Hamas for the release of the five Israeli-American hostages still held in Gaza if the current talks don't result in a deal, NBC News reported on Monday, citing two current and two former U.S. officials.

According to these officials, such talks would not include Israel and would be conducted through Qatari mediators. The White House declined to comment on the dramatic report.

The Biden administration believes Hamas is holding five U.S. citizens hostage: Edan Alexander, Sagui Dekel-Chen, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Omer Neutra and Keith Siegel. Hamas is also holding the bodies of three other American citizens who were murdered on October 7.

The sources said they don't know what the United States would offer in return for the release of the hostages. However, they suggested Hamas might have an incentive to reach



a deal with the United States, as it could further strain relations between Washington and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

One of the former officials said that internal discussions have taken place regarding whether such a unilateral deal would increase pressure on Netanyahu to agree to some version of the currently proposed deal. A current senior U.S. official noted that the possibility of a unilateral deal remains a "very real option" if the ongoing talks don't end up in an agreement.

Another NBC report said the operation to rescue the four Israeli hostages from the Nuseirat refugee camp could complicate U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's efforts to promote a hostage deal.

A U.S. administration official told the network that "the freeing of the hostages has strengthened Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's determination to continue pursuing military operations, rather than agreeing to a cease-fire." This comes ahead of Blinken's arrival in Israel from Cairo later on Monday.

The senior official also noted Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar might harden his stance following the high number of civilian casualties during the rescue operation. According to the official, some Palestinians were killed after being caught in the crossfire between Hamas terrorists and IDF forces.

Another Biden administration official said Hamas was ultimately responsible for the deaths of Palestinians because it hid hostages in densely populated areas. He added that, while the rescue was welcome, it wasn't going to change the status quo since a high number of hostages are still being held by the terror group, including the American hostages.

6.10. 24 – Mo

Defense minister will vote against Haredi draft bill as tensions roil government

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Defense minister will vote against Haredi draft bill as tensions roil government

Opposition stands united in opposing current bill which would draft only 3,000 Haredi men to the IDF, Netanyahu's coalition is fragmented and the bill could fail when it comes to a vote Monday; Unclear what the consequences will be for Yoav Gallant  
Moran Azulay|02:32

The Knesset plenum will vote on Monday on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to apply the continuity clause - which allows laws that have passed in first readings in the past to be put up for additional voting - to the ultra-Orthodox draft law from the previous Knesset pushed at the time by National Unity party head Benny Gantz, amid heightened tension in both the opposition and coalition.

Senior political sources say there is uncertainty regarding the votes of some Likud members who have already expressed opposition to the law and clarified that they would find it difficult to support it in its current form.

ynetnews

Defense Minister Yoav Galant will vote against the bill, his associates say. Gallant decided to take the rather drastic protest step of appearing in the Knesset plenum and publicly oppose the promotion of the conscription exemption, after already making clear his opposition in previous public statements. The consequences of Gallant's dramatic move are not yet clear, including what punishment he may receive - such as dismissal from his position.

Another uncertainty were the votes of the Arab Knesset members; however, the United Arab List (Ra'am) and Hadash-Ta'al parties officially announced Sunday that they would vote against the proposal.

The vote is mainly technical but has broad implications for the future of Israeli society. The issue of drafting the ultra-Orthodox sector is currently one of the biggest threats to Netanyahu's coalition, even after Gantz's resignation from the emergency government announced on Sunday. However, the Likud party refuses to close ranks and align for now, and Knesset lawmakers and ministers recently declined to commit to voting in favor of the law.

Gallant has often spoken out against passing the law unilaterally and without broad agreement. He noted before Gantz's resignation that at least one major opposition party needs to support the law, which doesn't appear to be the case so far.

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Yuli Edelstein said the current bill's draft is unacceptable to him because it doesn't meet the military's needs.

"The IDF is short 7,000 soldiers, and supporting the law endangers the lives of Israeli citizens," an Israeli activism forum working to promote the enlistment of all sectors in the Israeli public said on Monday.

On the other hand, the opposition is seen cooperating ahead of the vote, which has been marked as dramatic, and full attendance of its members in the Knesset is expected.

Gantz is expected to oppose the law, warning its approval could lead to a schism in Israeli society. He also noted at the time the bill was initially drafted in the previous Knesset that it was only a temporary solution. "It's a first step toward the comprehensive service plan I intend to promote, which will address the State of Israel's security and social needs for decades to come," he said.

The law being presented on Monday is essentially the same draft bill that passed its first reading in the previous Knesset, initiated by Gantz, in a maneuver by Netanyahu against his former War Cabinet partner. A statement from the Prime Minister's Office said that the decision was made "to bridge disagreements and bring about broad agreement."

Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara opposed the law in a legal opinion, saying the proposal could not be subject to the continuity clause because the legal framework is "not up-to-date." Despite her opposition, the Ministerial Committee approved the proceeding of the legislation unanimously, while representatives of the ultra-Orthodox parties were absent from the vote.

Last week, the Supreme Court convened with a panel of nine judges to discuss appeals demanding the conscription of yeshiva students. The government representative, attorney

Doron Taubman, said the government would not agree to conscript 3,000 yeshiva students.

Presiding Judge Noam Sohlberg responded: "It's impossible to meet these targets in the middle of a war? This is a first, basic and minimal step." The Attorney General's representative clarified the conscription of 3,000 students is only an "immediate step." Ultra-Orthodox protesters angry at the ongoing discussion protested in the streets and blocked roads in Bnei Brak and Jerusalem.

6.09. 24 – Su

Gantz leaves war cabinet, calls for elections, wants US partnership to counter Iran

6.09. 24 – Su

Gantz leaves war cabinet, calls for elections

Former military chief says prime minister avoids decisions or makes them based on political considerations; says Israel's victory is in the return of the hostages and in regional alliance in the face of Iran; Netanyahu says this is not the time to leave Yuval Karni, Moran Azulay | 13:59

Benny Gantz said on Sunday that he was leaving the war cabinet after joining it five days after the October 7 massacre to support the war effort, called for elections and a national commission of inquiry into the failings leading up to and on the fateful day.

"Like many Israeli patriots, my party and I showed up although we knew this was a bad government," Gantz said referring to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right and religious coalition. "We did it because this was a bad government," he said.

In a press conference, Gantz said the emergency cabinet that was then formed, was out of a shared fate and was not a political partnership. "Months after the disaster, the situation in Israel and in the room where decisions are made, has changed. Netanyahu and his partners have transformed the call for unity to an empty term in reality. Critical strategic decisions are met with hesitation, procrastination and rejection out of political considerations."

He said Netanyahu was preventing Israel from advancing to real victory. "That is why we are leaving the cabinet with a heavy heart but with resolve," he said calling on elections to be held in the fall. "I call on Netanyahu to agree on a date. Don't let our people be torn apart."

Gantz said Israel's real victory would be when the hostages return home and that must come ahead of the efforts to remain in power. "Real victory is one that combines a military triumph with political and social initiative and will result in the elimination of Hamas and its replacement [as Gaza's rulers] and the return of Israeli residents from the north to their homes with security," he said.

"Real victory would be to form a regional alliance led by the U.S. and supported by the West, to counter Iran. It would be to change national priorities, expand enlistment of all Israeli sectors in the military and ensure Israel would be able to deal with the challenges

it faces," he said calling on the coalition not to advance their intention to extend exemption for Haredi men from military service which he said is an assault on national security in the time of war.

During Gant's speech, Netanyahu posted a call for him to back down. "Benny, this is not the time," he said.

6.09. 24 – Su

IDF disguised as Rafah family claimed they rented a unit in the hostage building

6.09. 24 – Su

Israelis were disguised as displaced Palestinians, eyewitnesses say  
Forces come into Nuseirat in camp in a truck packed full of home furnishings, clothes telling locals they have left Rafah because of heavy bombings to rent lodging near the camp's market, Saudi media reports  
Einav Halabi, Lior Ben Ari, Itamar Eichner|09:30

Palestinian eyewitnesses said the Israeli special forces who extracted four hostages on Saturday came into the Nuseirat camp disguised as displaced Palestinian families, eyewitnesses told Saudi media.

According to a report in Asharq News, when Nuseirat residents spoke to them they said they had escaped Rafah because of the heavy bombing there and decided to look for a rental near the camp's market.

The eyewitnesses said they pointed out the building where Noa Argamani was being held, claiming they had rented a unit in the building. The Gazans also told the Saudi channel that the 'families' arrived with a vehicle full of furnishings and belongings typically carried by people who were displaced, such as mattresses and clothes.  
According to the report, the force split into two groups that headed toward the Al-Awda Hospital and a house located 200 meters from it. Witnesses said Argamani's rescue was relatively easy compared to that of Andrey Kozlov, Almog Meir Jan, and Shlomi Ziv, and were all carried out under heavy fire cover from the ground, sea, and air.

The operation reached its peak at 12:00 p.m. when the hostages were extracted and additional forces also in civilian trucks, provided cover. According to the eyewitnesses, the Israeli forces then returned the same way they had come, heading northwest.

6.09. 24 – Su

IDF officers reveal intense dramatic moments of hostage rescue

6.09. 24 – Su

IDF officers reveal dramatic moments of hostage rescue

Kfir and Paratroopers brigades' officers who participated in the successful rescue say they knew little about their true objectives and acted aggressively in order to achieve their missions; 'When I heard them saying through our comms '1 recovered,' then '3 recovered' my heart pounded loudly  
Yoav Zitun|04:49

For five days of intense ground operations in central Gaza, hundreds of IDF soldiers from the Kfir, 7th and Paratroopers brigades fought Hamas terrorists from the Deir al-Balah Brigade while carrying out special preparatory objectives. The significant preparations ahead of Operation Arnon to rescue four Israeli hostages from Hamas captivity were heavily concealed. Only a few dozen Israelis were privy to the planned operation.

The IDF's top brass managed to keep the planned operation secret from the battalion soldiers who had started the operation six days prior, officially defined as targeting "east of Deir al-Balah and Nuseirat." This was likely to avoid arousing the enemy's suspicion, knowing the hostages were held in Nuseirat south of Gaza City.

In fact, the hundreds of infantry and armor brigade soldiers who were mobilized on Saturday around 11:00 a.m. to assist in the Border Police's National Counter-Terrorism Unit (Yamam) forces' rescue had been in position close to Nuseirat for hours and were only informed of their mission during the initial encounter between Yamam officers and terrorists. Only the forces' battalion commanders were briefed in advance and, even then, only a day or two before the operation was executed.

"The Kfir Brigade was the hinge on which the operation rested. Through deceptive and unique actions we carried out on the routes and paths around Nuseirat and nearby Deir al-Balah, aboveground and underground," said Major Eliav, the Kfir Brigade's operations officer.

"We prepared for this operation after taking action around several buildings, securing entry routes, and setting up ambushes to ensure the operation's success and deceive the enemy, using the brigade's firepower to mislead Hamas," he added.

The young officer was also briefed on the operation at the last moment - in a combat zone - and struggled to contain his excitement. "I have no words to describe the tension, especially after the rescue vehicle got stuck and the operation was set back. We were the first to see the Yamam unit and witnessed their incredible capabilities."

"Being there and under fire, it felt like a Hollywood movie for several tense minutes. When I heard them saying through our communication '1 recovered,' then '3 recovered,' my heart pounded loudly. The stuck vehicle was a scenario we had anticipated, which is why we got it quickly and aggressively to mislead the enemy."

Now, the brigade - having participated in maneuvers for the first time at the start of the war and having operated in Shijaiyah, Beit Hanoun, and Khan Younis - intends to remain in Nuseirat and Deir al-Balah to complete their mission: defeat the final local Hamas brigade still functioning, alongside operations against Hamas's Rafah Brigade in southern Gaza.

Major Eliav added: "We're operating accurately and professionally against the Hamas battalion we encountered, which is booby-trapping buildings and fighting against us. Kfir soldiers have recently eliminated 20 terrorists in these clashes, and we still have a lot of work to do here."

The Paratroopers Brigade's Reconnaissance Unit commander, Major Roie, led the operation to rescue the stuck vehicle. His soldiers quickly took over a building teeming with terrorists that overlooked the intersection through which the vehicle carrying the hostages and wounded was supposed to pass, ensuring the road was safe for it. So far, the unit, like other IDF brigades maneuvering in the Strip, has been used to clear enemy buildings after artillery fire, airstrikes and other removal methods. This time, the soldiers had to storm an untouched neighborhood, while facing the corresponding risk of doing so.

Major Roie recounted, "We were on standby as a reserve for the special forces' operation from the early morning hours and were exposed to their objective hours before it happened – in case things got complicated."

"When we understood that one of their vehicles got stuck in the field, we drove as fast as possible, reached the area where the Yamam forces were operating, and were responsible for rescue under fire to enable their access to the landing zones," he said. "The Israeli Air Force acted against Hamas targets throughout. You feel like you're in the heart of a ring of smoke and fire that surrounds you."

Major Roie added: "The soldiers didn't even know what they were acting for until we got on the vehicles. We only heard four hostages had been rescued alive in this operation, and in fact, we were the last to disengage from the area, after it was all done."

6.08. 24 – Sa

Hostages brainwashed with Quran study, one kept a journal of a line each day

6.08. 24 – Sa

Rescued hostages say subjected to brainwashing, emotional abuse in captivity  
Captives share with medical teams terrorists forced them to read the Quran and study Islamic rulings

Adir Yanko, Hagar Kochavi|16:28

The hostages rescued Saturday in the operation in Gaza's Nuseirat reported to medical teams that during their captivity, they were subjected to what they described as "brainwashing" and emotional abuse, with the terrorists forcing them to read the Quran and study Islamic rulings.

Hebrew-language Channel 13 reported that Noa Argamani told her family she was held captive with Yossi Sharabi and Itay Svirsky, who were killed in Hamas captivity. The IDF later confirmed Sharabi likely died during an airstrike on a building near where he was held, and Svirsky was murdered days later.

"I saw the missile hit the house, I thought I was going to die. I thought it was over – but I survived," Argamani recounted. She also said that she was moved between several apartments and was not held in tunnels. Occasionally, she was allowed to go outside disguised as an Arab woman and rarely had the chance to shower.

Argamani was rescued Saturday morning in a daring operation by the IDF, Shin Bet and Yamam in the heart of Nuseirat, central Gaza. She was held in an apartment on the first floor of a building, just a few hundred yards away from where the other three hostages,

She recounted to her family that she heard loud knocks that morning. "Out of nowhere, they told her it was the IDF, 'We have come to rescue you.' She was in shock," said her relative, Assaf Shaheebi, at Sheba Medical Center outside Tel Aviv, where the four freed hostages were taken.

After her release, Argamani was tearfully embraced by her father Yaakov. She later reunited with her mother, who is battling cancer and hospitalized at Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv. In conversations with President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, she said, "I am very excited; I haven't spoken Hebrew for so long."

Meanwhile, a relative of Almog Meir Jan told Ynet that a few weeks ago, when he celebrated his birthday in captivity, Hamas terrorists filmed him and said they would send the video to Israel.

"He even asked us, 'Did you see the video?'" she recounted. The video, however, was never released by Hamas and therefore never circulated in Israel. She added that during the dramatic rescue operation, Almog was asleep and does not remember all the details.

Andrey Kozlov shared some of his experiences in captivity during a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. According to Netanyahu, Kozlov, who immigrated from Russia, kept a journal. "Andrey told me he had a notebook in captivity and wrote one line each day. Every day a gift. Every day - podarok (in Russian), a gift," he said.

Later, Kozlov spoke with President Isaac Herzog by phone, revealing that he actually learned Hebrew during his captivity. "I started learning Hebrew exactly a year ago, so I had a lot of practice with my fellow captives," said Kozlov, who was abducted from the Nova music festival where he worked as a security guard, a year after immigrating to Israel alone. Herzog responded, "Indeed, you learned Hebrew there."

The operation was preceded by weeks of meticulous planning, drills and advanced intelligence tracking. The hostages were held in civilian areas, above ground, in buildings with three to four floors. The forces stormed two separate locations where the hostages were kept: Argamani was held on the first floor of one building, while Kozlov, Ziv and Meir Jan were held on the third floor of another building, hundreds of yards apart, alongside Gazan families.

During the operation, Yamam fighter Chief Inspector Arnon Zamora, who "led the force" according to the IDF, was killed in the apartment where the three men were held. It was later decided that the operation would be renamed from Summer Seeds to Operation Arnon.

The rescue operation was approved by senior political leadership on Thursday evening during a classified discussion held under strict confidentiality. It was carried out in an area where IDF ground forces had not maneuvered against Hamas battalions until now, only operating on its outskirts.

In recent weeks, it was decided to intensify intelligence efforts to focus on the locations where the four hostages were being held by terrorists of Hamas' elite Nukhba force. Accordingly, the 98th Division began raiding the eastern parts of Nuseirat, while special forces were simultaneously deployed for covert and intelligence surveillance of two locations where the four hostages were held.

In recent weeks, Hamas had fortified its positions in Nuseirat in anticipation of a major IDF operation. The rescue mission, involving strategic diversions and deceptions, commenced at 11:00 AM when the joint command center, led by Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi, gave the green light with the "Go" command.

Yamam and Shin Bet operatives simultaneously stormed the two targets, engaging in firefights with the terrorists and successfully rescuing the four hostages alive. The hostages were transferred to Air Force helicopters, which took them to hospitals for examinations, with their condition reported as good. Palestinian sources reported dozens of casualties in their ranks from IDF fire in central Gaza.

6.08. 24 – Sa

Hezbollah fired Iranian-made Falaq-2 rockets for first time into northern Israel

6.08. 24 – Sa

Hezbollah says fired Iranian-made Falaq-2 rockets for first time

Rocket fire persists along northern front as terror group claims added advanced Iranian rocket to arsenal; anti-tank missiles strike buildings in border towns, igniting fires; 3 Hezbollah terrorists killed in IDF strikes  
Lior Ben Ari|15:08

Hezbollah claimed Saturday evening that it fired a volley of Falaq-2 rockets at a military base in Beit Hillel. If verified, this would mark the first use of the weapon by the terrorist organization, following the addition of the Falaq-1, which has a smaller warhead, to its arsenal just six months ago.

The Falaq-2, manufactured in Iran, features a 60 kg warhead, compared to the Falaq-1's 50 kg, and has a range of 11 kilometers.

Prior to Hezbollah's announcement, the Saudi channel Al Haddad cited anonymous sources saying that Hezbollah claimed it was "forced" to escalate its response against Israel due to violations of confrontation rules.



It is unclear if this report is connected to the use of the Falaq-2, but it follows a tumultuous week in northern Israel, marked by rockets fired from Lebanon and the death of Staff Sergeant (res.) Refael Kauders in a drone attack in Hurfeish.

On Friday, an explosives-laden drone infiltrated Israeli airspace to a depth of approximately 40 kilometers, detonating in the Jezreel Valley area. This incident forced residents to seek shelter for the first time since December. In response, the Israeli government and the IDF have renewed threats of war against Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Naim Qassem said that the organization has decided not to expand the conflict but warned it is prepared to do so if Israel initiates a large-scale attack.

Earlier Saturday evening, at 7:15 p.m., rocket warning sirens blared in Kiryat Shmona, Tel Hai, Ma'ayan Baruch, Kfar Yuval, HaGoshrim and Beit Hillel. According to the IDF, five rockets were fired in the barrage, landing in unpopulated areas. The Upper Galilee Regional Council reported impacts in agricultural areas in the Ma'ayan Baruch sector, igniting a fire. Fire crews, assisted by standby soldiers, managed to control the flames. No injuries were reported.

Minutes later, at 7:26 p.m., several anti-tank missiles targeted Kibbutz Misgav Am and Kibbutz Malkia, with buildings hit in both communities, according to the IDF. A fire broke out in Misgav Am, prompting a response from fire crews and standby units from the kibbutz and Kfar Giladi. The fire was brought under control after a complex operation, with no injuries reported. The IDF responded with artillery fire targeting the sources of the launches.

Earlier, at 5:29 p.m., alarms sounded in Ramot Naftali and Yiftach, near the Lebanese border and Kiryat Shmona. Additionally, at 4:15 p.m., a UAV was intercepted off the coastal northern city of Nahariya.

Since the beginning of the war, Hezbollah has reported 334 deaths within its ranks, including three on Saturday. Meanwhile, the IDF continued its strikes on targets and terrorists associated with the group.

On Saturday afternoon, IDF soldiers identified a Hezbollah terrorist in Aitaroun, southern Lebanon, and shortly afterward, an Israeli Air Force aircraft struck the terrorist, the IDF said. IDF fighter jets also targeted terrorist infrastructure in Khiam.

Earlier on Saturday, IDF tanks fired at a Hezbollah military structure in Kfar Kela identified as terrorist infrastructure. Over the past day, IDF artillery and mortars targeted threats in Kfar Chouba, Kfar Kela, Houla and Kfar Hamam.

In addition, warplanes bombed four Hezbollah launchers in southern Lebanon.

6.08.24 – Sa

IDF breach two buildings in complex 4-hostage rescue, losing lead commander

6.08.24 – Sa

Hostages held alongside families in adjacent buildings | new details and first footage

Captives held in two separate buildings hundreds of yards apart; forces simultaneously breach both in 'one of most complex operations ever'; vehicle carrying hostages breaks down and comes under heavy fire, prompting IDF forces to storm in for rescue; here's what can be shared about the heroic rescue operation in Nuseirat  
Yoav Zitun|11:38

Saturday's operation to rescue hostages from central Gaza's Nuseirat was named "Summer Seeds" and is considered one of the most complex hostage rescue missions ever by the IDF.

The hostages were held in civilian areas, above ground, in buildings with three to four floors. The forces stormed two separate locations where the hostages were kept: Noa Argamani was held on the first floor of one building, while Andrey Kozlov, Shlomi Ziv and Almog Meir Jan were held on the third floor of another building, hundreds of yards apart, alongside Gazan families.

Hamas frequently moved the four hostages from one apartment to another. The concern was that if the forces only stormed one building, terrorists might escape with the hostages from the other. The Air Force gathered intelligence from the air in recent days, and the IDF and Shin Bet created conditions that allowed reaching the targets without the terrorists shooting the hostages first, which was key to the operation's success. The models built by Israel Police's Yamam counterterrorism unit reminded military officials of the models used for the Entebbe Operation, complete with buildings, streets, and small areas for training.  
Palestinian documentation of daylight hostage rescue operation in Nuseirat, Gaza

The 1976 counter-terrorist mission was launched in response to the hijacking of an international civilian passenger flight operated by Air France between Tel Aviv and Paris. The key challenge emerged in the apartment where the three men were held. It was here that Yamam fighter Chief Inspector Arnon Zamora, who "led the force" according to the IDF, was killed. The rescue unfolded under intense fire, and during the withdrawal, dozens of terrorists armed with anti-tank missiles and machine guns surged through the alleys toward the targets. As a result, uninvolved Gazan civilians were also killed in the densely populated area.

"The margin between success and failure in such an operation is razor-thin," the military said, emphasizing the reliance on exceptional technology from Military Intelligence and Shin Bet. "Without ground activity and maneuvering in Gazan territory, such operations could not succeed."

The IDF also noted that Chief Inspector Zamora's bravery enabled the successful rescue. "Shin Bet and Military Intelligence operatives entered the lion's den, dismantling houses in areas where no ground operations had occurred," they said. "This is courage on the level of Judah Maccabee. The operation was planned for many weeks with drills, rescue plans, and coordinated firepower, alongside various scenarios and responses."

The forces simultaneously breached both buildings using specialized weapons developed for the operation. Immediately after extracting the hostages, they began to retreat while engaging dozens of terrorists.

However, the vehicle carrying the three hostages became stuck and came under heavy fire, nearly complicating the mission. Forces from the 98th Division rushed to assist in the vehicle rescue, and evacuation helicopters entered deep into Gaza in broad daylight.

Three brigades participated in the rescue battle, during which Zamora was evacuated to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The participating brigades included the 7th Armored Brigade, the Paratroopers Brigade and the Kfir Brigade, in collaboration with Shayetet 13 and other special forces.

"The firepower plan executed was focused but extremely powerful," the IDF noted. "The cooperation with Shin Bet and Yamam was elevated to a single operational system under the leadership of the Shin Bet chief and the chief of General Staff. Four keys to the operation were: deception, surprise, determination and power."

As in previous rescue missions, the hostages were again designated as "diamonds" in the operational communication network. To maintain secrecy, thousands of soldiers in the participating brigades were unaware of the mission's nature until it occurred, preserving the element of surprise. Only a small number of commanders were briefed on the operation Friday at various levels. These forces were positioned at the correct launch points without revealing the mission's details.

Several soldiers were also lightly injured, mainly from shrapnel. The Air Force struck from the air during the rescue battle just a few dozen feet from the forces.

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Ynet-News, June 07, 2024 – Friday

Possible Abomination Day Thursday June 20, 2024

Feast of Weeks, Omer Fiftieth day Monday June 17, 2024

6.07. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 40  
UN puts Israel on blacklist of countries harming children in conflict zones

6.07. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 40  
Belgian theater cancels Jewish school graduation; Rabbi orders theater to close

6.07. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 40  
IDF push west with fierce gun battles overnight to seize entire Gaza-Egypt border

6.07. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in June 07 spot – Friday Omer 40  
Egypt & Qatar threaten to expel Hamas & freeze accounts if cease-fire deal rejected

6.07. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 40  
Gaza terrorists kill border Sergeant, residents fear walls and fences are not real security

6.06. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 39  
Statistic facts and credible data show adequate nutritional aid to the population of Gaza

6.06. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 39  
Hamis will not surrender its guns, Sinwar reportedly tells mediators

6.06. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 39  
PA workers from West Bank losing work permits, driving them to criminal activities

6.06. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in June 06 spot – Thursday Omer 39  
IDF strikes Hamas terrorists operating inside central Gaza Strip UNRWA school

6.06. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 39  
Hamis kills IDF dog in Gaza & hid bomb under body, troops cleared & buried the canine

6.05. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Omer 38  
Border Defense Corps reserve & veterans will shield communities near Gaza

6.05. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Omer 38  
Ben-Gvir & 1,500 waved flags & sang anthem on Temple Mount, Jerusalem Day

6.05. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Omer 38  
Gaza war prisoner temporary facility to close & transfer to new detention facility

6.05. 24 – We- - - News Placed in June 05 spot – Wednesday Omer 38  
Biden claims Netanyahu intentionally prolonging the war for political purposes

6.04. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 37  
Carlebach family food factory volunteers to feed soldiers with a band and a barbecue

6.04. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 37  
Border fires surpasses damage of entire Second Lebanon War; a very, very high price

6.04. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 37  
IDF raid deep in Gaza, shredding Hamas brigades in UNRWA clinic & school complexes

6.04. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 37  
Coalition proposes bill to halt university funds over antisemitic professors

6.04. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in June 04 spot – Tuesday Omer 37  
1 billion shekels donation from American to Bar-Ilan University Deep Tech fields

6.04. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 37  
US seeks UN backing for proposed Gaza ceasefire deal

6.03. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in June 03 spot – Monday Omer 36  
Gaza seeks to join South Africa case at World Court with PA judge on the ICJ panel

6.03. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 36  
PM did not agree to reckless Biden proposition that ignores Israel's objectives

6.03. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 36  
Shin Bet foiled PA suicide bomber & 26.5 lb device planned by Turkey for WB chaos

6.03. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 36  
PA security frees car-ramming murderer of two soldiers; no alliance with Israel

6.03. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 36  
Hezbollah burns 2,500 acres of land in northern Israel: 'It will take years to recover'

6.03. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 36  
Cairo views hostage deal positively, waiting for Israel & Hamas response

6.03. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 36  
Arson suspected in Israel Museum fire that started in 3 different locations

6.03. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 36  
Alleged Israeli airstrike near Aleppo Syria kills 12 pro-Iranian terrorists,

6.02. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 35  
Twice the drones, twice the missiles: 120,000 more Israelis now within Hezbollah's range

6.02. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 35  
Biden forcing Israel to shelve plan for Rafah; focus now on Gaza & Egypt border

6.02. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in June 02 spot – Sunday Omer 35  
Details & complications of proposed hostage deal have not been discussed with Hamas

6.02. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 35  
Israel deals to release hundreds of PA prisoners for all hostages, ceasefire & rebuild

6.01. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in June 01 spot – Saturday Omer 34  
Hezbollah fires Burkan ballistic missile at north city & Upper Galilee