

Ynet-News, June 21, 2024 – Friday

Feast of Weeks, Omer Fiftieth day **Monday** June 17, last day **Sunday** June 23

FoW - Exodus 34, Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 16

6.21. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in June 21 spot – Friday Day 5 FoW Full Moon
IDF close-combat secured east, south, & center, advancing north & west to capture Rafah

6.21. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Day 5 FoW Full Moon
Armenia recognizes Palestine as a state, Israel summons Armenian envoy in protest

6.20. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Day 4 FoW
Hezbollah drones create a complex battlefield in northern Israel

6.20. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in June 20 spot – Thursday Day 4 FoW
FM Israel Katz attacks UN General Guterres for distorting data to sway global opinion

6.19. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Day 3 FoW
Former hostage peace activist; Gaza doesn't want peace, they're paid to keep us

6.19. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Day 3 FoW
Hezbollah threatens Galilee & warns Cyprus allowing Israel in airports and bases

6.19. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Day 3 FoW
Biden stalls F-15 sale to Israel, agreed in October usually takes, at most, a week

6.19. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Day 3 FoW
US to abandon Gaza aid pier amid technical failures in high seas

6.19. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Day 3 FoW
Japanese disgusted by Brazilian managed Kyoto hotel barring Israeli guests

6.19. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Day 3 FoW
US envoy Amos Hochstein baffled by border hostilities; recommends Calm

6.19. 24 – We- - - News Placed in June 19 spot – Wednesday Day 3 FoW
UN wants Gaza run by armed forces of Egypt, Jordan, UAE, Saudi Arabia & Bahrain

6.18. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in June 18 spot – Tuesday Day 2 FoW
Hezbollah drone video of Haifa Port; IDF identified spy drone but did not intercept

6.18. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Day 2 FoW
PM vs. US: Inconceivable withholding weapons to finish the job a lot faster

6.17. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 50 ^ Day 1 FoW
US tout famine in Gaza; UN says not enough evidence; IDF pause 11-hrs daily

6.17. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 50 ^ Day 1 FoW
IDF report September 19, 2-wks before Oct. 7, Hamas plan raid & mass kidnapping

6.17. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 50 ^ Day 1 FoW
After 40 days of Rafah fighting, defeat of battalions will take a few more weeks

6.17. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 50 ^ Day 1 FoW
Defense ministry blank check to industries for invention to stop Hezbollah UAVs

6.17. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 50 ^ Day 1 FoW
US envoy Hochstein meets Israel leaders to defuse Hezbollah in Lebanon

6.17. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in June 17 spot – Monday Omer 50 ^ Day 1 FoW
IDF dismantling Hamas in Rafah & border crossing, not yet entered city core

6.16. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 49
Israeli industry & citizens banned from French-Euro expo, by EU court & PA

6.16. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in June 16 spot – Sunday Omer 49
Israel will not end war before hostage release, as Hamas changes dozens of items

6.21. 24 – Fr
IDF close-combat secured east, south, & center, advancing north & west to capture Rafah

6.21. 24 – Fr
Gaza reports Rafah battles intensify: 'Forces advancing north and west'
IDF forces engage in close-combat encounters with Hamas terrorists, as Gaza residents report tanks are advancing into the western and northern parts of the city
Ynetnews|05:27

The IDF reported Friday that Division 162 forces continue to engage in battle in the Rafah area, eliminating Hamas terrorists in close-combat encounters.

Residents in the Gaza Strip reported that the pace of Israeli advancement has appeared to accelerate over the past two days.

Reuters reported that it seems the IDF is attempting to complete the capture of the city in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, one of the two main focal points of current operations, alongside Deir al-Balah in the central region.

Tanks are reportedly advancing into the western and northern parts of the city, having already secured the east, south, and center. Israeli forces are said to be firing on the city from planes, tanks, and ships positioned off the coast.

Earlier today, the Israeli Air Force destroyed a ready-to-launch site set up by Islamic Jihad in a shelter in the humanitarian zone of Khan Younis. "Extensive efforts were made to minimize the risk to non-combatants" before the strike the IDF Spokesperson's Unit emphasized.

The IDF also reported on Friday that 27-year-old Sgt. first class (res.) Saadia Yaakov Dery from Tel Aviv, and 25-year-old Sgt. first class (res.) Omer Smadga from Ganot Hadar of the Alexandroni Brigade's 9203rd Battalion were killed by a mortar shell in the Netzarim Corridor in Central Gaza.

6.21. 24 – Fr

Armenia recognizes Palestine as a state, Israel summons Armenian envoy in protest

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Armenia recognizes Palestine as a state, Israel summons Armenian envoy in protest
Armenian Foreign Ministry says it is convinced that the only way to ensure the legitimate aspirations of both Palestinians and Israelis is a two-state solution
Itamar Eichner|04:34

Armenia announced on Friday it is joining 147 other UN member states in recognizing a Palestinian state. In protest of the move, the Foreign Ministry has summoned the Armenian ambassador for what was described as a "severe reprimand."

"Armenia has always supported a peaceful resolution to the Palestinian issue and the two-state solution," the Armenian Foreign Ministry stated.

"We are convinced that this is the only way to ensure the legitimate aspirations of both Palestinians and Israelis. Based on our commitment to international law and the principles of equality, sovereignty, and coexistence, Armenia recognizes the State of Palestine."

In the past month, four European countries—Norway, Ireland, Spain, and Slovenia—have also recognized Palestine, despite strong Israeli opposition.

Armenia established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992, shortly after gaining independence from the Soviet Union. It maintains an embassy in Tel Aviv.

Amid deteriorating relations with Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey over the past decade, there was a possibility that Israel might officially recognize the Armenian Genocide, which even led to a Knesset discussion for the first time.

However, relations with Armenia have worsened in recent years due to Israel's tacit support for Armenia's neighbor, Azerbaijan.

Last year, the Associated Press reported that Israel "quietly aided" Azerbaijan's plan to retake the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, providing powerful weaponry ahead of the offensive that led to the historic surrender of Armenian separatists.

6.20. 24 – Th

Hezbollah drones create a complex battlefield in northern Israel

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Since the war's onset, about 20,000 Hezbollah drones, UAVs and rockets have flown through Israel's airspace and the mountainous terrain makes it difficult to know who you're retaliating against; IDF is constantly improving its detection capability, but the Iranian proxy is not resting on its laurels either

Elisha Ben Kimon|06:59

Amid the IDF's tactical maneuvers in Gaza, the Air Force and the Air Defense Division have been locked in a complex, Sisyphean struggle for nearly nine months. The spotlight was cast once again on the issue of air defense on Tuesday when Hezbollah released a high-definition, color video showcasing drone footage of sensitive sites in the Haifa Bay area. This footage not only rattled the public but also fueled the psychological warfare waged by the terrorist organization.

Hezbollah's reconnaissance drone is a minuscule device equipped with a GoPro camera, capable of flying dozens of miles but without the capacity to carry or drop weapons. According to the IDF, it was monitored, and a decision was made not to intercept it since it was not an offensive weapon.

Still, there's no denying that the challenge posed by drones in the northern conflict is intensifying. During the war, Hezbollah's explosive drones inflicted significant casualties and damage in Israel.

The Air Force began grappling with this threat over a decade ago. The first drone interception from the Gaza Strip occurred in 2021 during Operation Guardian of the Walls. Although Iron Dome wasn't originally designed to counter drones, the Air Force has been adapting it to provide an adequate response. The primary issue with drones, especially those from Lebanon, is the short distance to the homes of northern residents, which doesn't allow for early detection.

To detect these threats, the Air Force employs fighter jets that can also perform interceptions. This strategy was employed during the night of the Iranian attack when dozens of fighters were airborne, identifying and intercepting drones with air-to-air

missiles. A similar approach was taken about a week ago following the assassination of a senior Hezbollah leader in Lebanon.

Adding to the complexity is the topography. Unlike the flat terrain of the Gaza Strip, the mountainous north presents significant challenges for sensors trying to locate drones.

About 20,000 aerial targets of various types have been launched at Israel since the war began

Alert management in the face of this threat also requires a different approach. Drones can maneuver unpredictably, stopping or detonating at any given moment and place. Hence, an alert is triggered every time one approaches a specific area, creating a scenario of "chain alerts."

Estimates suggest that about 20,000 aerial targets of various types have been launched at Israel since the war began. This raises the question: why are there so many false alarms? The Air Force has decided to err on the side of caution, meaning that anything can trigger the system. For instance, birds and cranes with flight angles similar to drones can activate the sensitive sensors. Additionally, bullet fire into the air, as often happens in the Gaza border region, also sets off these alerts.

6.20. 24 – Th

FM Israel Katz attacks UN General Guterres for distorting data to sway global opinion

6.20. 24 – Th

Foreign Minister launches scathing attack on UN Secretary General: 'History will judge you'

FM Israel Katz says UN Secretary-General António Guterres presents a distorted image of reality while vilifying Israel, including downplaying the number of aid trucks Israel has allowed into the enclave

Itamar Eichner|02:29

In a bold and unprecedented move, Foreign Minister Israel Katz has launched a scathing critique against UN Secretary-General António Guterres in a letter revealed here for the first time. Katz accuses Guterres of presiding over a UN that intentionally distorts and selectively reports data about the aid Israel delivers to the Gaza Strip, with the aim of misleading global public opinion. "History will judge you for the moral stain that the UN bears under your tenure," Katz wrote emphatically.

In the letter, Katz meticulously outlines the factual discrepancies between the UN's reports and the actual data, demanding that the UN correct the misinformation and issue a formal apology for "disseminating incomplete data that misrepresents the reality on the ground."

For example, the UN's reports have omitted more than 8,999 aid trucks that entered from Israel since the war began. In May alone, the UN excluded 4,880 trucks from its count. It disregards aid entering through the Erez Crossing and the American sea pier, focusing only on the aid entering through Kerem Shalom.

Katz also confronted Guterres with other instances of skewed reporting by UN agencies. One such example includes the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) abruptly halving the reported numbers of Palestinian children and women killed and injured in Gaza without any prior notice, attributing the change to the "fog of war" when questioned.

6.19. 24 – We

Former hostage peace activist; Gaza doesn't want peace, they're paid to keep us

6.19. 24 – We

'I don't believe in peace,' former Hamas hostage and peace activist says

Ada Sagi says she understand that Hamas doesn't want peace, and reveals that her captors in Gaza were paid 70 shekels a day; 'Israel has to do the deal... bring back home all these hostages who are alive and also dead'

Ynetnews|Yesterday | 14:43

Ada Sagi, a former peace activist who was kidnapped by Hamas on October 7 and later released as part of a hostage deal, shared her harrowing experience and profound change in outlook during an interview with the BBC.

Sagi, who had long advocated for peace, now expresses a markedly different view on the prospects for peace with Hamas and the global perception of Jews.

"I don't believe in peace, no. I don't believe, sorry," Sagi stated in the interview. "I understand Hamas don't want it."

Reflecting on the potential for a resolution, she added that "Israel has to do the deal... bring back home all these hostages who are alive and also dead"

Sagi detailed her captivity, revealing that she initially was hidden in a house with children on the first day of her abduction. She was later moved to a different location in Khan Younis. The owner of the apartment, a nurse, had moved his wife and children to his father-in-law's house to make room for the hostages.

"I heard them say 70 shekels a day. It's a lot of money in Gaza because they have no work. And if you have work not with Hamas, it's no more than 20 shekels for a day," she said.

Sagi expressed disillusionment with claims that ordinary Gazans are uninvolved in the conflict. "People say that they are not involved. They're involved... and getting money for each of us," she said.

She described the uncertainty she felt during the five days of hostage releases in November, not knowing if she would be among those released. "Every knocking on the door you think there is somebody coming to take you," she said.

She said that the day before her release she was taken to Khan Younis and held in Nasser Hospital. The BBC reports that other released hostages also said they had been held there, something the hospital director denies.

She is very emotional about the losses she and her community have experienced.

"I lost my home. I lost my freedom - the whole place that I [have] to go back. Our village - kibbutz - is destroyed," she said.

6.19. 24 – We

Hezbollah threatens Galilee & warns Cyprus allowing Israel in airports and bases

6.19. 24 – We

Hezbollah's Nasrallah threatens Galilee invasion, warns Cyprus over ties to Israel

Leader of the Lebanese terror group says Hezbollah doesn't seek a full-scale war with Israel, gloats about number of northern Israeli evacuees; Warns Cypriot government against allowing Israel to use its military bases and airports

Lior Ben Ari|Yesterday | 12:23

Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah addressed Wednesday the war with Israel, stating in a speech that "an invasion of the Galilee remains on the table if the confrontation escalates."

Nasrallah also threatened Cyprus for the first time for allowing Israel to use its airports and bases for military exercises.

"The Cypriot government must be warned that opening Cypriot airports and bases for the Israeli enemy to target Lebanon means that the Cypriot government has become part of the war and the resistance (Hezbollah) will deal with it as part of the war," Nasrallah said. Cyprus is not known to have offered any land or base facilities to the Israeli military, but has in the past allowed Israel to use its vast airspace - its flight information region (FIR) - to occasionally conduct air drills, but never during the war.

Nasrallah also claimed that "The enemy hides its losses on the northern front but has not been able to conceal the number of evacuees. Since the beginning of the war, there has been an attempt to underestimate the support fronts for Gaza. Forty-two settlements have been completely evacuated. We are not seeking a full-scale war with Israel."

Nasrallah referred to senior Hezbollah leader Taleb Abdullah, who was killed last week.

"The loss of Hezbollah leaders strengthens our resolve. We are more determined to continue the campaign against Israel. Abu Taleb was the first field commander to open the support front for Gaza and the resistance," he said, adding: "Our front has a very important role. The battle on the Lebanon front has inflicted significant losses on the enemy. There are attempts to separate the front in Lebanon from Gaza."

Meanwhile, IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi and Israeli Air Force Commander Tomer Bar visited the northern border and spoke to the troops. "The enemy will encounter our

capabilities at the right time. We possess powerful capabilities, of which the enemy knows only a fraction," Halevi said.

"We have been engaged in a prolonged war for over eight months, and you have been engaged in a complex defense for over eight months. This defense provides a great deal of security to the citizens and the IDF, but we are not content with just that," he added. "We have many forces in the IDF focused on attacking Hezbollah. Even today, we have already killed several of their operatives. Yesterday, Hezbollah released a video showcasing a capability we are familiar with, and we are preparing and building solutions to counter such capabilities and others that you will encounter when needed," Halevi said. "We constantly remember that our mission is to return the residents to their communities and homes, with both security and stability, for the long term. The Northern Command and all its forces are working tirelessly to accomplish this mission effectively. What connects learning and the quality of our people is a very strong fighting spirit. We are highly determined and well-prepared today, at a very high level of readiness, and from here we will make the right decisions," he concluded.

6.19. 24 – We

Biden stalls F-15 sale to Israel, agreed in October usually takes, at most, a week

6.19. 24 – We

Biden administration slow-walks F-15 sale to Israel, report says
State Department spokesperson says there is no policy guidance to delay the transfer of 50 planes to Israel, while a former official calls the failure to advance the deal 'highly unusual'

Ynet|06:14

The Biden administration has yet to advance the sale of a fleet of F-15 fighter jets to Israel, even after congressional leaders agreed to allow the major weapons deal to proceed last month, the Wall Street Journal on Tuesday, citing U.S. officials.

Valued at approximately \$18 billion, the sale of the 50 aircraft is one of the largest transactions between the U.S. and Israel in recent years. The deal was initially approved after two top House Democrats removed their objections over concerns about civilian casualties in the Gaza war.

"There is no policy guidance to slow down transfers to Israel," a State Department official told the Journal. However, some within the administration worry that the deal could lead to broader congressional opposition. "We are looking tactically at the timing. It is not a question of whether," the State Department official said. "It is a question of when." The White House declined to comment on the matter.

Josh Paul, a State Department official who resigned in October in protest of the Biden administration's handling of the Gaza war, noted the unusual delay. "The formal notification after Congress has cleared the case usually takes, at most, a week," Paul said in the report.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu posted a video statement on social media criticizing the administration for allegedly delaying military aid to Israel during the war. "It's inconceivable that in the past few months, the administration has been withholding weapons and ammunitions from Israel," Netanyahu said.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre responded, "We generally do not know what he's talking about. We just don't." She acknowledged that the administration had delayed one arms shipment of 2,000-pound bombs out of concern that they would be used in densely populated areas in Rafah during the IDF offensive.

Following Netanyahu's post, a meeting scheduled for Thursday to discuss critical strategic matters with visiting Israeli officials, including Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, was canceled. Israeli officials told Ynet that they had never seen their U.S. counterparts as outraged as they were after Netanyahu's post.

6.19. 24 – We

US to abandon Gaza aid pier amid technical failures in high seas

6.19. 24 – We

US to abandon Gaza aid pier amid technical failures, report says

Despite \$230 million investment, officials say structure failed to provide sufficient humanitarian aid to Gaza, hampered by high seas and logistical problems

Ynet|05:46

The U.S.-built pier intended to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza has failed in its mission and is set for removal, the New York Times reported late Tuesday.

After an investment of approximately \$230 million, officials expressed hope that Israel would open alternative land routes to address the "extreme levels of hunger" in the Palestinian enclave. They acknowledged that the humanitarian situation in Gaza had significantly deteriorated before the pier's construction but emphasized that much more needed to be done.

The pier was designed to supply up to two million meals per day to local residents. While it facilitated the delivery of thousands of tons of humanitarian aid when operational, technical difficulties and high seas led to frequent suspensions of its use. In May, a section of the pier broke off and drifted toward the Israeli port of Ashdod.

Military officials have now informed aid agencies working in Gaza that the pier will be dismantled in early July, ahead of anticipated bad weather conditions in September. According to the Times, U.S. Central Command said, "The decision is not made lightly but is necessary to ensure the temporary pier can continue to deliver aid in the future," adding that it would be towed to Israel.

Biden administration officials expressed frustration and disappointment over the operational challenges but noted that the pier had not come under attack, which they considered a positive outcome.

Concerns about the pier's safety arose after allegations surfaced that it had been used in an IDF operation to extract four Israeli hostages from captivity in central Gaza's Nuseirat, a claim officials quickly denied. Additionally, there were fears of a possible strike following reports that the U.S. had provided intelligence to assist the Israeli operation.
U.S. Central Command Weekly Humanitarian Aid Update

Approximately 2,500 metric tons (5.5 million pounds) have been delivered through the maritime corridor since the temporary pier was re-anchored to the beach in Gaza, June 7.

Since the pier was re-anchored to Gaza's beach on June 7, approximately 2,500 metric tons (5.5 million pounds) of aid have been delivered through the maritime corridor. Since May 17, over 3,500 metric tons (7.7 million pounds) of aid have been delivered for distribution by humanitarian organizations, according to CENTCOM. However, aid organizations have reported that much of the aid has not reached those most in need, citing a combination of security and logistical problems, including looting.

6.19.24 – We
Japanese disgusted by Brazilian managed Kyoto hotel barring Israeli guests

6.19.24 – We
Japanese 'disgusted' by Kyoto hotel barring Israelis, ambassador says
Israeli envoy Gilad Cohen reports embassy received numerous messages condemning actions of Kyoto's Material Hotel, including from lawmakers, journalists and members of public; many note hotel's manager Brazilian, not Japanese
Itamar Eichner|04:12

The Japanese public finds the refusal of a hotel in Kyoto to host an Israeli guest "disgusting," according to Israeli Ambassador to Japan Gilad Cohen.

He reported that the embassy received numerous messages expressing outrage at Kyoto's Material Hotel after its manager informed an Israeli tourist that he would not be accommodated due to allegations of Israeli war crimes in Gaza.

"We are not able to accept reservations from persons we believe might have ties to the Israeli army," hotel manager Jeronimo Gehres wrote in response to the reservation request on Tuesday.

Many who contacted the embassy noted that Gehres, the hotel manager, is Brazilian, not Japanese. They also argued that refusing the reservation violated Japanese law.

"Who is this nut?" a Japanese journalist wrote. Japanese lawmakers also condemned the hotel's actions as unacceptable, with one saying that the hotel's conduct was a disgrace to Japan.

Cohen told Ynet that the incident at the Kyoto hotel did not reflect Japan's overall attitude, which has been welcoming and appreciative of Israeli tourists. "There is no antisemitism in Japan," he said. "There is a strong desire to host Israelis, and the El Al flights to Tokyo are full. This incident is an outlier."

6.19. 24 – We

US envoy Amos Hochstein baffled by border hostilities; recommends Calm

6.19. 24 – We

Hezbollah launches swarm of drones at Metula, IDF strikes southern Lebanon
Metula mayor says 3 drones fell inside Israel's northernmost town, causing damage to cars but no injuries; at least 3 dead in overnight IDF strike on Hezbollah targets, according to local reports

Yair Kraus, Elisha Ben Kimon|03:22

Hezbollah on Wednesday claimed responsibility for launching a swarm of drones at Israel's northernmost town of Metula in retaliation for an Israeli strike north of Lebanon's Tyre the day before. Metula Mayor David Azulay reported that three drones exploded inside the town, damaging cars but causing no injuries.

The Iran-backed terrorist group also fired rockets at the Western Galilee, prompting IDF artillery to strike Hezbollah targets across the border, according to Lebanese media reports. At least three people were killed in an overnight IDF attack on the southern Lebanon town of Yaroun, local sources said, though these reports remain unconfirmed. The Israeli military reported that it targeted a Hezbollah weapons depot in Yaroun and other terror infrastructure in the area.

The renewal of cross-border hostilities began on Tuesday following a 60-hour lull during the Muslim Eid al-Adha festival. The escalation coincides with the visit of White House special Mideast envoy Amos Hochstein, who is attempting to mediate and prevent an all-out regional war. Hochstein returned to Israel late Tuesday after meetings in Beirut and conferred with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The situation on the border between Israel and Lebanon is dangerous. Civilians are being harmed, and their property is being damaged. Calm at the border would allow residents to return to southern Lebanon and northern Israel," Hochstein said on Tuesday after meeting with Lebanon's Shiite Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri.

A Pentagon spokesperson emphasized that the United States seeks to avoid a broader conflict in the Middle East. "I'm not going to get into hypotheticals and speculate on what might happen other than to say no one wants to see a wider regional war," said Major General Patrick Ryder.

The IDF said on Tuesday that it had approved operational plans to attack Lebanon if directed by the political leadership. Maj. Gen Uri Gordin, head of the military's Northern Command, said that forces were accelerating their preparedness.

"As part of the situational assessment, operational plans for an offensive in Lebanon were approved and validated, and decisions were taken on the continuation of increasing the readiness of troops in the field," the IDF said.

On Tuesday, Hezbollah released a nine-minute video from one of its drones, showing potential strategic targets in Haifa, including the port, the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems campus with Iron Dome missile defense batteries, rocket engine depots, David's Sling aerial defense facilities and radar installations.

Sources told Ynet that the drone was under surveillance throughout its flight in Israeli airspace and was not shot down because it was unarmed. Intercepting it could have caused panic and potential injuries.

They added that Hezbollah launched three drones in total: one was intercepted, another disappeared from radar and is believed to have crashed into the sea and the third completed its reconnaissance mission.

6.19. 24 – We

UN wants Gaza run by armed forces of Egypt, Jordan, UAE, Saudi Arabia & Bahrain

6.19. 24 – We

Egypt ready to join UN-led Gaza task force if IDF withdraws, report says
Egyptian army chief reportedly expressed Cairo's willingness to join task force last week in meeting with Israeli counterpart, US CENTCOM commander and top Arab military officials

Lior Ben Ari|02:48

Egypt has shown willingness to participate in a joint Arab task force operating in the Gaza Strip under UN auspices for a limited period, provided that the IDF withdraws from the territory, Qatari newspaper the New Arab reported Wednesday morning.

The report stated that this offer was made during a meeting last week in Bahrain between IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi, U.S. Central Command Commander Gen. Michael Kurilla and representatives from the armed forces of Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The discussions centered on three key issues: ending the war in Gaza, preparing for potential Iranian attacks and restoring calm to the Red Sea.

A diplomatic source revealed that a trilateral meeting took place on the sidelines between Halevi, Kurilla and Egyptian Chief of Staff Osama Askar, where Askar expressed Egypt's readiness to join the task force under the stipulated conditions.

Egypt has played a critical role during the ongoing war in Gaza, balancing humanitarian efforts with diplomatic mediation. The Rafah border crossing, controlled by Egypt, has been intermittently opened to facilitate the passage of medical supplies, aid and the

evacuation of the wounded from Gaza. However, since the IDF captured the strategic point of entry to Gaza's south in early May, Cairo has been refusing to coordinate with Israel on the provision of aid through it.

The IDF's operations along Egypt's border, namely the seizing of the Philadelphi Corridor, have raised tensions between the two neighbors. Egyptian authorities have also voiced concerns over Israeli military operations in Gaza causing significant civilian casualties.

6.18. 24 – Tu

Hezbollah drone video of Haifa Port; IDF identified spy drone but did not intercept

6.18. 24 – Tu

Difficult questions after Hezbollah drone took footage of Haifa Port

Hezbollah's 9-minute-long and high-quality video taken over the city of Haifa raises major issues for the military after Iran-backed terror group unveils new and possibly deadly capabilities; IDF saw and did not intercept drone because it has no offensive capabilities

Elisha Ben Kimon, Itamar Eichner|15:59

The unusual footage Hezbollah released on Tuesday which allegedly shows strategic assets in the Haifa Port area filmed by a drone codenamed "Hudhud" (hoopoe, the national bird of Israel), raises several questions regarding Israel's air defense capabilities.

If, as Hezbollah claims, the footage was indeed captured by a drone that infiltrated Israeli airspace and returned to Lebanon, the main issue is how it managed to do so without tripping any warnings or alarms. The footage is nine minutes long, and another important issue it presents is how the drone managed to produce such high-quality, color images of sensitive sites from a relatively low altitude for such a long period of time.

Further, assuming the drone didn't transmit the material back to Hezbollah in real-time, the question arises as to how it managed to cross back into Lebanon and land intact. It's also unclear when the footage was taken and whether it was filmed by one or several drones. Putting that aside, the IDF will want to examine the drone's capabilities, which were previously unknown to Israel.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz was the first senior official to comment on Hezbollah's video. "Nasrallah brags about filming Haifa's ports, operated by international giants from China and India, and threatens to attack them. We're very close to changing the rules of engagement against Hezbollah and Lebanon," Katz said. "In a full-scale war, Hezbollah will be destroyed, and Lebanon will be severely impacted. Israel will pay a price on the front and at home, but with a strong and united people, and with the full force of the IDF, we'll restore security to northern residents."

Since the beginning of the war in Gaza, the IDF has been dealing with the complex challenge of Hezbollah's drones. The IDF constantly tries to improve, mainly identification and detection capabilities against them, but false alarms often sound in suspected infiltration of such munitions.

During the months of fighting, the kamikaze drones have caused severe damage when they exploded, sometimes without warning, for example near a group of soldiers and caused damage to strategic IDF bases.

The footage appears to show details about the facilities at the Rafael defense company factory - including Iron Dome batteries, rocket engine depots, David's Slingshot facilities and radar. The UAV also photographed the Savioni Yam neighborhood in Kiryat Yam, apartment towers, a commercial center and a supermarket.

In the part where the Haifa port is photographed, ship hangars, a Naval base and structures that support special units, and the logistics aid ship Bat Yam were recorded. Sources cited by Hezbollah-owned news outlet Al-Mayadeen claimed that "the video includes three types of targets: military (the military industries complex and the base in Haifa), civilian (residential areas), and strategic (the Haifa Port and its facilities). All types of targets created a deterrence against Israel. Hezbollah wants to say that action against our military, civilian and strategic locations will be answered in the same manner." The sources added the footage was the first released in a series of video clips.

Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav demanded the government establish a comprehensive defense plan for Haifa and find a solution against Hezbollah's threat. "I wonder why the IDF chief of staff and senior IDF command haven't bothered to visit Haifa since the start of the war and hear from the municipality about our needs and the military's required activities to achieve the best protection for the hundreds of thousands of Haifa's residents," he said.

Hours after the footage was released, the Israeli Air Force reported that air defense systems had identified the drone but decided not to intercept it after recognizing it had no offensive capabilities and fearing a failed interception could endanger residents in the area.

The decision reflects a professional and calculated risk management decision regarding protocols against hostile aircraft.

6.18. 24 – Tu

PM vs. US: Inconceivable withholding weapons to finish the job a lot faster

6.18. 24 – Tu

Netanyahu vs. the US: 'Inconceivable' that US withholding weapons from Israel
PM issues English-language statement meant to spur the Biden administration to action;
'Give us the tools and we'll finish the job a lot faster'

Itamar Eichner, Roi Rubinstein|10:46

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu published a video in English Tuesday evening in which he criticized the Biden administration, a day after a report that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken pledged to him that the United States would lift the restrictions on the supply of arms to Israel in the coming days.

“When Secretary Blinken was recently here in Israel, we had a candid conversation. I said I deeply appreciated the support the U.S. has given Israel from the beginning of the war. But I also said something else. I said it's inconceivable that in the past few months, the administration has been withholding weapons and ammunitions to Israel,” Netanyahu said.

“Secretary Blinken assured me that the administration is working day and night to remove these bottlenecks. I certainly hope that's the case. It should be the case,” he also said.

Also on Tuesday, at the state memorial ceremony for the victims of the Altalena, Netanyahu claimed that Blinken told him that it was appropriate. “How is it possible that weapons and ammunition that we purchased with our money do not arrive?” Netanyahu added at the ceremony.

“We don't need calls to raise our hands. Only strength, courage, self-belief and unity. With these forces we will topple the rule of Hamas, bring back our hostages alive and dead and return our brothers and sisters who were evacuated to their homes,” he said.

The statements of Netanyahu, who is speaking for the first time about the U.S. delaying arms shipments to Israel, appears to be an attempt to spur the administration into action after ongoing delays.

President Joe Biden stated last month that he would not supply bombs and artillery shells to Israel if it decided to launch an operation in Rafah, and in early June, the Wall Street Journal reported that the U.S. has been delaying the transfer of thousands of weapons to Israel, including delaying a shipment worth \$260 million dollars of thousands of kits that turn simple bombs into “smart” bombs, as well as tank ammunition, military vehicles and mortars worth about \$1 billion.

It was later reported that the Biden administration is actually preparing a new supply that includes the potential transfer of tank ammunition worth \$700 million, armored tactical vehicles worth \$500 million and mortars worth \$60 million. US national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said that: “we continue to send military aid. We delayed a shipment of bombs weighing about 900 kilograms because we do not believe they should be dropped in densely populated areas.” On Tuesday it was also reported that, under pressure from President Biden, two Democratic lawmakers agreed to advance a deal to sell 50 F-15 aircraft to Israel.

The issue of delaying the supply of ammunition to Israel is expected to come up Tuesday in the talks between Israel and the White House set to open in Washington. Israel is represented by the Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer and the head of the National Security Council Tzachi Hanegbi, and an Israeli delegation.

In his English-language statement, the prime minister said that “Israel, America's closest ally, fighting for its life, fighting against Iran and our other common enemies.”

He added that: “During World War II, Churchill told the United States, ‘Give us the tools, we'll do the job.’ And I say, give us the tools and we'll finish the job a lot faster.”

Outside the ceremony where Netanyahu gave speeches in Nahalat Yitzhak Cemetery, protesters gathered whose voices were heard during the speech. Netanyahu also referred

to them, saying: "I want to believe that the lessons of the Altalena have been learned and internalized. Division – is weakness. Unity – is strength."

"We are fighting on several fronts; But there is one war that cannot be and must not be – there will be no civil war. There is an extremist, vocal and – I regret – occasionally violent minority, that is organized and financed on an unimaginable scale. But it does not represent the majority of our people. Most of the people are behind our fighters who want, and are striving for, victory over our enemies," Netanyahu said.

Later on Tuesday, Blinken said that Washington was still reviewing one shipment of large bombs for Israel over concerns that they could be used in densely populated areas. Blinken was asked at a news conference about the status of arms shipments after Netanyahu said Blinken assured him last week that the Biden administration was working to remove restrictions on arms shipments.

6.17. 24 – Mo

US tout famine in Gaza; UN says not enough evidence; IDF pause 11-hrs daily

6.17. 24 – Mo

United Nations committee says not enough evidence to declare famine in Gaza Report triggered by U.S. report of famine in Gaza; After its release IDF announced a daily "tactical pause of military activity" to allow more humanitarian aid to reach Palestinian civilians
Ynetnews|17:51

The United Nations Famine Review Committee reported that it does not have enough "supporting evidence" to determine whether there is a famine in the northern Gaza Strip.

The committee released its findings in an 18-page report published on June 4. The committee operates under the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a "multi-partner initiative for improving food security and nutrition analysis and decision-making." Under the classification, a finding of phase 5 would indicate a famine/humanitarian catastrophe in the area being observed.

The Famine Review Committee (FRC) report was triggered by a finding from the U.S.'s Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), which determined under the IPC that, since at least April 1, northern Gaza has been in the midst of a famine (IPC Phase 5) with what it calls reasonable evidence. The FEWS NET, founded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1985, also projected that the famine would persist through at least July 31.

The UN committee said in its report, however, that it "does not find the FEWS NET analysis plausible given the uncertainty and lack of convergence of the supporting evidence employed in the analysis. Therefore, the FRC is unable to make a determination as to whether or not famine thresholds have been passed during April."

The committee noted in its **conclusion** that, even though it has **not determined** that there is famine in the coastal strip, its **residents are experiencing "extreme human suffering."** The committee also called on all parties to **enable humanitarian access** as well as an **opportunity to conduct field surveys in northern Gaza.**

"All stakeholders who use the IPC for high-level decision-making must understand that whether a Famine classification is confirmed does not in any manner change the fact that extreme human **suffering is** without a doubt currently **ongoing in the Gaza Strip** and does not in any manner change the immediate humanitarian imperative to address this civilian suffering by enabling complete, safe, unhindered, and sustained humanitarian access into and throughout the Gaza Strip, including through ceasing hostilities. **All actors should not wait until a famine** classification for the current period is made **to act accordingly,**" the report said.

The report added that "the very fact that we are unable to endorse (or not) FEWS NET's analysis is driven by the lack of essential up-to-date data on human well-being in Northern Gaza, and Gaza at large. Thus, the FRC strongly requests all parties to enable humanitarian access in general, and specifically **to provide a window of opportunity to conduct field surveys in Northern Gaza to have more solid evidence** of the food consumption, nutrition, and mortality situation."

On **Sunday, IDF announced** that it would observe a **daily "tactical pause of military activity" between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the Rafah** area of the southern Gaza Strip **to enable humanitarian aid to be delivered** to Palestinian civilians.

According to the IDF, the purpose of the **daily pause is to "increase the scope of humanitarian aid entering the Gaza Strip"** and was announced "after discussions with the UN and international organizations."

A **Famine Review Committee report** issued in March found that the "thresholds for acute food insecurity had already been surpassed, and **it was likely that the famine thresholds for acute malnutrition had been exceeded."**

"The FRC remains gravely concerned about the situation in the Gaza Strip," the report also said.

According to the report, "there remain **significant data gaps** and uncertainty about the **total number of trucks entering the Gaza Strip** and the level of humanitarian assistance that is being trucked into and **distributed within the different areas of the Gaza Strip.**" It also notes that the FEWS NET investigation leading to a **determination of famine failed to take into consideration** the contributions of food from several other avenues, including from the World Food Kitchen **and other commercial or private ventures.**

6.17. 24 – Mo

IDF report September 19, 2-wks before Oct. 7, Hamas plan raid & mass kidnapping

6.17. 24 – Mo

2 weeks before Oct. 7, IDF had intel of Hamas preparations for 250 hostages

An intelligence report written by the IDF Gaza Division about a Hamas drill three weeks before the massacre indicates that the IDF had prior information about the terrorist organization's plans – but the preparations were only for a raid of dozens of terrorists in 3 locations

Ynetnews|17:16

A document written three weeks before the October 7 Hamas massacre revealed that Israeli intelligence was aware the terror group had plans for mass kidnapping, Israel's public broadcaster Kan reported on Monday.

According to the IDF report from September 19, a series of training drills were conducted by elite Hamas units. In these exercises, the terrorists practiced a raid on Israeli military outposts and kibbutzim, as well as the abduction of soldiers and civilians. They also practiced how to hold the hostages, and to keep them in the Gaza Strip.

The beginning of the IDF document deals with the sequence of the training of the Hamas military wing: "At 11:00 a.m., several companies were observed converging at the beginning of the training session, not before prayer and lunch," it said. "At 12:00, equipment and weapons were distributed to the terrorists, and then an exercise of the company's headquarters took place. At 2 p.m., the raid began."

The first step in the exercise was breaching an IDF-like outpost. The exercise was carried out by four companies, and each company received a different post. The Israeli intelligence officials formulated the next steps after the raid on Israeli territory and the takeover of the outpost and determined that the order was to hand over the captured soldiers to the company commanders. The estimated number of hostages was between 200 and 250 people.

The report noted that the raid targets were also described in the document: Command and control headquarters, base synagogues, squadron headquarters, communications headquarters and soldiers' quarters. According to the document, the Hamas Nukhba units were given an order that was highlighted: Search the area when you leave and leave no documents behind.

The report also stated that the intelligence of the Southern Command and the Gaza Division also detailed the conditions of the hostages' custody, including instructions to the kidnappers on how to handle extreme cases, how to hold the hostages, and under what conditions they could be executed.

But, despite all this, the most extreme scenario for which the Gaza Division was prepared before the massacre was that of the infiltration of dozens of terrorists in only three locations.

In the Military Intelligence Directorate – and separately in the Shin Bet – there were discussions in July before the attack on Israel's political-socio-economic situation regarding Israel's assessment of its enemies. Intelligence officials planned to send decision-makers a letter warning of how Israel's enemies perceive the internal conflict in the country, but then the war broke out.

The IDF said in response: "The IDF is investigating the events of October 7 and what preceded them. The purpose of the investigations is to learn and draw lessons for the

continuation of the war. The investigations are now being carried and when they are finished the findings will be presented transparently to the public.”

6.17. 24 – Mo

After 40 days of Rafah fighting, defeat of battalions will take a few more weeks

6.17. 24 – Mo

After 40 days of Rafah fighting, commanders reject claims that IDF is bogged down there. IDF says some 550 terrorists have been eliminated, as the military continues to advance slowly amid many booby-trapped houses, concealed passageways and surveillance cameras in almost every alley and room; 2 of the 4 Hamas battalions in Rafah are on the verge of collapse.

Elisha Ben Kimon|14:57

For 40 days, the IDF has been fighting in the southern Gaza city of Rafah. The initial phase of the offensive involved seizing the Rafah crossing and attacking the Brazil neighborhood. The IDF established operational control and executed a tactical deception, making the enemy believe that forces were attacking from the southern part of the axis, while the actual attack commenced from the north.

The IDF maintains full operational control from the Kerem Shalom crossing to the sea. Division forces are preventing maritime smuggling along the Egyptian border and maintaining operational control over the Brazil and NPK neighborhoods, the Philadelphi Route, Shaboura, and the area between Philadelphi and the Tel Sultan neighborhood, where a combat team from the 401st Brigade is operating.

Currently, of the four Hamas battalions in Rafah, two are on the verge of collapse, while battles continue against the remaining two.

The Rafah Brigade is in dire straits, having lost many terrorists and assets, including the Philadelphi Route and control of the Rafah crossing. The IDF estimates that it will take several weeks to decisively defeat the Rafah battalions and establish complete control over the area, which currently stands at about 70%.

So far, 550 terrorists have been eliminated in Rafah, as confirmed by IDF soldiers. It is believed that more terrorists were hit, but not all of the bodies have been physically reached. Forces continue to collect weapons along the Philadelphi Route, which is laden with hundreds of long-range rockets.

The rapid initial phase of the assault surprised the enemy, preventing terrorists from rigging the route with explosive charges, allowing for swift troop deployment, and denying Hamas the ability to launch rockets into Israel.

As a result, rocket fire from Rafah toward Israel has significantly decreased. More than 200 tunnel shafts and 35 tunnels, some extending into Egypt, have been discovered.

Preliminary investigations confirm these tunnels reach the Egyptian border, and efforts are underway to determine if they extend further into Egypt.

The IDF is exercising extreme caution along the Egyptian border to avoid unnecessary conflicts. Cooperation with Egypt is good, with no significant incidents aside from an exchange of fire between an Egyptian policeman and IDF soldiers. The coordination along the axis and efforts deep within the territory facilitate effective cooperation with the Egyptians.

In the NPK neighborhood, the IDF has achieved complete operational control both above and below ground. The underground network in this area is the most complex found in Gaza since the war began. During subterranean combat, forces killed dozens of terrorists and discovered explosive devices.

The neighborhood is considered a Hamas stronghold, serving as the key defensive hub for the Rafah battalion commander. Troops encountered booby-trapped houses, concealed passageways and surveillance cameras in almost every alley and room, all designed to aid terrorists in attacking IDF forces.

The fighting is progressing in planned phases, executed by the IDF according to a detailed strategy, with continuous updates from IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi, who closely monitors the combat progress. Commanders reject claims that the IDF is bogged down in Rafah, asserting that they have all the necessary resources to defeat Hamas battalions in the city, which will take a few more weeks.

6.17. 24 – Mo

Defense ministry blank check to industries for invention to stop Hezollah UAVs

6.17. 24 – Mo

Hundreds of millions of shekels allocated to solve Israel's drone problem, but a better solution is 3 months away

Defense ministry gave a blank check to defense industries to figure out how to stop Hezollah's UAVs from penetrating Israel's air defense systems; Cannons will be deployed in the Galilee and improvements have been made to Iron Dome, but the security system emphasizes that some drones will make it through; 'There is no hermitic seal'

Yossi Yehoshua|14:17

More than 150 aircraft have been intercepted by the air defense forces since the beginning of the war, but many others managed to hit their target – causing heavy damage, including casualties. Now, the security establishment estimates that a better technological operational solution for intercepting these aircraft will be available within three months.

The Defense Ministry allocated hundreds of millions of shekels for the invention and development of a solution, and even gave Israel's defense industries a blank check in order to do so. The main improvement is expected to be seen in Iron Dome, which is already operating in the area, and improvements have been introduced that enable additional detection capabilities to identify suspicious aerial targets in Israeli skies.

In addition to this, the IDF is trying to restore the capabilities of cannons such as the Vulcan, the use of which was discontinued after these anti-aircraft battalions were closed years ago. On the northern border, cannons will be deployed in the Galilee, and their main purpose will be to deal with explosive drones. These drones are characterized by flying at low altitude and speed, and are often launched from hidden valleys and at short ranges in a way that makes detection difficult.

Even though the most improvement is expected to be seen in the Iron Dome missile defense system, sources in the defense system said that using it is expensive and that interceptions are sometimes carried out from fighter planes. Therefore, cheaper solutions must be found, such as advanced cannons with new means of detection. Especially because the security apparatus believes that Hezbollah has thousands of UAVs, as well as the UAVs that Iran and the militias in Iraq possess.

And yet, despite everything, the security apparatus also emphasizes that there will be no hermetic seal against infiltration by UAVs, even if the success rate of the interception is increases as expected.

On Sunday, the Defense Ministry reported that Israel set an all-time record in defense exports for the third consecutive year, surpassing \$13 billion in 2023 (about 49 billion shekels). Within five years, the volume of Israeli defense exports is expected to double, despite the war in Gaza and the Defense Ministry's demand to prioritize production for the IDF.

In 2024, according to estimates, the volume of transactions is expected to remain high after the Arrow system was sold by Israel Aerospace Industries to Germany for close to four billion euros. Despite this, the heads of the defense industries fear that Israel's legitimacy crisis in the world will negatively affect exports in 2025, along with France's decision to prevent Israeli representatives and companies from entering the Eurosatory arms exhibition.

6.17. 24 – Mo

US envoy Hochstein meets Israel leaders to defuse Hezbollah in Lebanon

6.17. 24 – Mo

White House envoy to arrive in Israel in bid to defuse Hezbollah tensions
Amos Hochstein scheduled to meet with Netanyahu, Gallant and other officials before traveling to Lebanon; officials assess deescalation on northern front hinges on Gaza cease-fire

Itamar Eichner|03:07

White House special envoy to the Middle East Amos Hochstein will arrive in Israel Monday morning for meetings with Israeli officials in a bid to deescalate tensions with Hezbollah on the northern border.

He is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, former War Cabinet member Benny Gantz, President Isaac Herzog and opposition leader Yair Lapid.

According to assessments, Hochstein is unlikely to prevent an escalation despite his upcoming efforts. His influence on Hezbollah is considered relatively limited. Both Israeli and American officials recognize that his work primarily depends on one factor: a cease-fire in Gaza. Without progress on that front, he can only prepare an arrangement to ease tensions in the northern arena and hope for a hostage deal to halt the violence. Hochstein is also attempting to restrain Israel following a statement by the IDF spokesperson to the foreign press, noting that "Hezbollah's increasing aggression is bringing us to the brink of what could be a wider escalation." He aims to leverage Lebanon's limited influence on Hezbollah. Hochstein is expected to continue to Beirut, where he will meet with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib.

These frequent visits are driven by significant American concerns over a multi-front war. The U.S. warns that even a "limited war" could spiral out of control, potentially involving Iran and Shia militias.

Ahead of his visit, an unusually quiet day passed on the northern border, which has been a focal point for Israel in recent months. The last alarm sounded at 3:21 AM between Saturday and Sunday in Hila, Upper Galilee, with no subsequent alerts and no claims of responsibility from Hezbollah for any incidents. The quiet could be attributed to the Eid al-Adha holiday.

This morning, the IDF spokesperson reported that a suspicious aerial target crossing from Lebanon was successfully intercepted over the maritime area near Acre. No alert was triggered, and there were no casualties. Meanwhile, Israel continued its strikes over the past 24 hours, and Hezbollah's lack of action yesterday does not indicate a change in the organization's stance, as it has vowed to continue fighting as long as Israel attacks in the Gaza Strip.

6.17. 24 – Mo

IDF dismantling Hamas in Rafah & border crossing, not yet entered city core

6.17. 24 – Mo

In wake of APC disaster, IDF pushes for decisive action in Rafah

Army eliminates over 500 terrorists and uncovers around 100 tunnel shafts, entrenching control along Egyptian border and dismantling Hamas battalions; security officials worry leadership stalls on deciding Philadelphi Corridor's future and whether to shift focus to Hezbollah in north

Elisha Ben Kimon | 23:59

Amid fierce fighting in Rafah, the IDF continues its battle against Hamas' Rafah Battalion, which IDF Spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari claimed Saturday night was "very close to dismantling."

The primary operations in Rafah are being conducted by the 162nd Division, alongside the Shin Bet, the Air Force and additional forces such as the 99th Division. Since the onset of the operation, which began with the takeover of the Rafah border crossing, brigade combat teams have been deployed to various sectors and have started capturing the Philadelphi Corridor, which stretches the Gaza-Egypt border, heading north. In some areas, forces have moved into eastern Rafah, although they have not yet entered the city's core.

Currently, the 401st Brigade is operating in the Tel al-Sultan sector, Givati and Nahal Brigade combat teams are active in the Shabora neighborhood and the 12th Brigade is positioned further back in the Dahaniya area.

After securing operational control of the Philadelphi Corridor, forces began locating underground pathways and tunnels used by Hamas for smuggling weapons and hiding its operatives, some of which cross into Egypt. According to IDF data, approximately 500 terrorists have been eliminated in Rafah, and around 100 tunnel shafts have been discovered.

The issue of explosives within Hamas' Rafah Battalions is not new to the IDF. Before forces entered the sector, commanders prepared the maneuvering units for the reality that this Hamas battalion specializes in various types of explosives. Hamas terrorists in Rafah are adept at booby-trapping buildings, attaching explosives to IDF vehicles and burying bombs in the ground to be detonated remotely from observation posts.

Capturing the Philadelphi Corridor has effectively severed Hamas' lifeline, significantly hampering the organization's ability to rearm itself during the fighting. Over time, Israeli forces have achieved operational control in different neighborhoods. Based on the stabilization of attack lines, the forces conduct raids periodically, guided by IDF and Shin Bet intelligence. So far, numerous weapons have been found, including AK-47 rifles, various powerful explosives and dozens of rockets and launchers.

The long wait for the green light from the Israeli leadership to enter Rafah allowed Hamas terrorists to prepare for the arrival of the IDF, and they are now trying to harass the forces by any means possible. They are using tunnel shafts to emerge at specific points and surprise the troops with anti-tank fire or by attaching explosives to military vehicles. Unfortunately, this tactic occasionally results in heavy casualties for the IDF. Southern Command has identified this pattern of operation, and, in coordination with aerial forces, is providing as much protective cover as possible, warning the troops about terrorists emerging from tunnel shafts.

Just last week, the IDF released footage of a terrorist emerging from a tunnel shaft holding a shoulder-mounted missile launcher near an IDF vehicle. He was spotted from the air and subsequently eliminated. The forces are discovering a substantial amount of weaponry hidden in various locations, often in seemingly civilian sites like homes and

schools. Additionally, the troops have encountered instances where Hamas terrorists fired from tents, disguising themselves as displaced Palestinian civilians.

Southern Command chief Major General Yaron Finkelman held a situational assessment in Rafah on Sunday along with 162nd Division Commander Brigadier General Itzik Cohen, 410st Brigade Commander Colonel Benny Aharon and others. "We are here in Tel al-Sultan, Rafah, after a painful incident yesterday," said Finkelman, referring to an attack on an IDF Namer APC which resulted in the death of eight Israeli troops.

"We lost soldiers and commanders during the attack. These are our finest, and our imperative is to keep moving forward, and you are doing just that. You are striking the Rafah Brigade, and we will act and continue until we decisively defeat them. We must continue our offensive toward our objectives, which are the defeat of the Rafah Brigade and the destruction of all enemy infrastructure in this area."

Currently, IDF forces are consolidating control over the Philadelphi Corridor to prevent Hamas terrorists from reclaiming and utilizing it. According to assessments, the operation in Rafah and the dismantling of Hamas battalions in the area are expected to conclude in the coming weeks.

The IDF is deliberately refraining from entering the heart of Rafah, focusing its operations primarily in the city's western sector. Only in specific areas, such as the Shabora neighborhood, has the IDF advanced eastward. This restraint is driven largely by humanitarian considerations, as the central part of Rafah is densely populated.

Additionally, global scrutiny of the IDF's actions is particularly intense during this critical period, with significant decisions pending from international courts in The Hague. The bulk of the work will occur after the IDF completes the dismantling of Hamas battalions. The IDF is currently trying to establish a mechanism to keep the Philadelphi Corridor free of weapons and maintain control until political leaders decide on the next steps. Security officials are concerned that if the dismantling of the battalions is completed without a decision on maintaining control of the route, the IDF could find itself mired in prolonged guerrilla warfare, which could be costly.

The conclusion of the operation in Rafah could signal the beginning of possible action against Hezbollah on the northern front. Throughout recent months, the IDF has rotated units for rest, such as the Commando Brigade, which recently took a break following its activities in Rafah. If the operation in Rafah concludes within two weeks, it will present a significant dilemma for political leaders.

Assuming no deal is reached for the release of hostages, the IDF may have dismantled the Hamas battalions in Rafah, but the hostages remain in Gaza. Political leaders will need to decide on the next steps and whether the north will become the new focal point of war.

6.16. 24 – Su

Israeli industry & citizens banned from French-Euro expo, by EU court & PA

6.16. 24 – Su

'Main damage is to our image!' Israeli defense industry reels from French expo ban
Following French court order banning Israelis from Eurosatory arms exhibition, industry insiders express concerns about significant reputational and financial damage
Alexandra Lukash|14:27

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

Elik Cohen, Vice President of Sales at Cylinx, a company developing communication products for security agencies that planned to attend the exhibition, told Ynet on Sunday that "the damage is enormous - both in terms of reputation and financially."

"This is a very important exhibition in Europe, perhaps the most important one, and we have been exhibiting there regularly for years," according to him. "The main problem is not our absence from the exhibition, as there are other exhibitions, but that we prepared for it and it was canceled for us at the last moment. Preparing for such an exhibition is very expensive, starting with the space rented at the exhibition, booth planning and so on. "Beyond that, there's the issue of reputation, which is hard to assess the extent of the damage. For our company specifically, it's tens of thousands of dollars, but for large companies like Elbit and Rafael, I assume it's millions of dollars. The main damage is to our image, the fact that we are being ostracized in the same category as the Russians or perhaps even the Iranians. This is while 'great human rights defenders' like Qatar, the Emirates and Saudi Arabia are exhibiting there."

Are you concerned that this is the first domino leading to future exhibition bans and affecting your sales?

"Absolutely, and I think the feeble response from the government or the responsible bodies, such as the Defense Ministry and the government as a whole, is simply disgraceful."

Have you received reactions from potential clients or partners following this boycott?

"The French we work with expressed every possible emotion, from deep shame to outrage. Globally, our colleagues were, of course, shocked. People in the industry, unlike the general public, understand the situation much better. Within such an exhibition, support for Israel is very high; these are people who understand what's happening here, what it's about, and many of them see us as a gateway to Europe, as guardians protecting Europe."

"The problem, of course, is that the general public doesn't see it this way. I also believe Macron's decision was primarily for political reasons ahead of the European Parliament elections. It probably didn't help him much, and there may also be a business consideration here. There are many defense businesses in Europe, and Israeli companies compete with French companies, which could be another reason. In any case, I think the main problem is the response from the government and the relevant authorities."

Developments since the cancellation of the Israeli pavilion

France's decision to ban Israel from participating in the fair was made last month, amid allegations of war crimes and genocide in Gaza. As a result, the Israeli pavilion, which

was supposed to include 74 exhibitors from Israel, was canceled. However, the organizers initially announced that Israeli nationals would still be allowed to visit the fair. However, a pro-Palestinian organization thought the decision did not go far enough and filed a petition with the court, arguing that canceling the pavilion did not ensure the absence of Israelis at the fair. The court accepted the claim and ordered the organizing company to also prevent the entry of Israeli nationals who might act as intermediaries for those Israeli defense companies. The court believed that the organizers had left an opening for the participation of Israeli weapons manufacturers or any employee or representative of Israeli defense companies.

The court's decision stated that the ruling prohibits the entry of any individual or legal entity that might act on behalf of Israeli companies as an intermediary. Additionally, the court asserted that the organizers' decision to allow the entry of representatives of Israeli companies was blatantly illegal. The court instructed the organizing company to post the decision at the entrances of the Villepinte Exhibition Center on the outskirts of Paris, where the prestigious arms fair is being held.

The pro-Palestinian organization welcomed the decision, interpreting it unequivocally: to ban the entry of Israelis to the arms fair – in other words, to ensure the fair is free of Israelis.

6.16. 24 – Su

Israel will not end war before hostage release, as Hamas changes dozens of items

6.16. 24 – Su

Israel will not commit to end war before release of hostages, official says
Senior Israeli official says while Israel committed to ending war, Hamas has violated past agreements, emphasizing terror group must release all live hostages and bodies of deceased before any cessation of hostilities can occur

Itamar Eichner|10:19

A senior Israeli official said on Sunday that Israel would not commit to ending the war before the release of hostages in the first and second phases of a proposed cease-fire deal approved by the UN Security Council.

Hamas has introduced numerous amendments to the proposal initially presented by U.S. President Joe Biden late last month, which Jerusalem interprets as an effective rejection. "Hamas made substantial changes to dozens of items in the outline," the official said.

"The mediators should focus on advancing negotiations based on the outline accepted by the UN Security Council and the American president. There can be no negotiations over any other proposal, which Israel has already approved. The proposal includes two critical components: a cease-fire and an end to the war, and they must be agreed upon through this specific proposal."

The official highlighted that Hamas had violated past agreements, leading Israel to refuse to commit to ending the war prematurely. "To ensure the agreement leads to the release

of all hostages, including men and the bodies of the deceased in the second phase, leverage must be maintained on both sides," he said.

Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh said that the terror group's response aligned with the proposal presented by Biden. " Hamas and the (Palestinian) groups are ready for a comprehensive deal that includes a cease-fire, withdrawal from Gaza, reconstruction of what was destroyed and a comprehensive swap deal," Haniyeh said in a televised speech on Sunday.

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Ynet-News, June 15, 2024 – Saturday
Feast of Weeks, Omer Fiftieth day **Monday** June 17, 2024
Possible **Abomination** Day **Thursday** June 20, 2024

6.15. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday Omer 48
Gaza armored personnel carrier APC death of 11 soldiers learned several lessons

6.15. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in June 15 spot – Saturday Omer 48
French court bans all Israelis from Eurosatory arms expo, led by PA petition

6.15. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday Omer 48
Israel's standing in Latin America shaken & criticized amid growing hostility

6.14. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in June 14 spot – Friday Omer 47
US temporarily moving Gaza pier to port of Ashdod until sea conditions improve

6.14. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 47
IDF using 1960s helicopters directly from the Vietnam until budget allows newer models

6.14. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 47
IDF chief Halevi plans to resign when national security is not compromised

6.13. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 46
IDF destroy 800 meter tunnel near Israel border containing blast door chambers

6.13. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 46
Hezbollah massive strike attempted to thwart Iron Dome by dozens of rockets at a time

6.13. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 46
Hamas alters cease-fire & list 100 long sentence PA to release from Israeli jails

6.13. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 46
Lebanon Shiite attack Galilee and Golan Thursday with 30 drones & 150 rockets

6.13. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 46
IDF reserve deploy Roman-era tactics to clear shrubbery on Lebanese border

6.13. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 46
Lebanon aiming swarm attacks on defense industry & air defense sites

6.13. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in June 13 spot – Thursday Omer 46
Northern & Western Galilee on fire after day from incessant Hezbollah rockets

6.13. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 46
UN commission of PA, Turkey & Iran members accuse Israel of crimes against humanity

6.12. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Omer 45
Hamis refused deadline or veto of high-profile prisoners in exchange of truce

6.12. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Omer 45
Moscow's Commissioner appealed to UN to release 5 Russian nationals held by Hamas

6.12. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Omer 45
Hezbollah largest rocket barrage at Galilee, results in several fires

6.12. 24 – We- - - News Placed in June 12 spot – Wednesday Omer 45
IDF strikes four senior Hezbollah commanders meeting in a house near Tyre

6.11. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 44
US propose FM Katz replace Gantz in war cabinet, instead of Ben-Gvir or Smotrich

6.11. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 44
IDF set for swarms of Hezbollah drones & barrages of hundreds of missiles

6.11. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in June 11 spot – Tuesday Omer 44
IDF uncover explosives lab with 80+ devices ready for use in the Jordan valley

6.11. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 44
Sinwar internal message: As long as fighters are still standing, we have not lost the war

6.11. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 44
Knesset approves continuity in vote for Haredi priests exemption from draft

6.10. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 43
UN Security Council adopts US plan for Israel-Hamas cease-fire

6.10. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 43
EU's top diplomat Borrell obsessed with Israel as the source of all global problems

6.10. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 43

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

6.10. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in June 10 spot – Monday Omer 43
US considers discrete hostage deal with Hamas to release five American hostages

6.10. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 43
Defense minister will vote against Haredi draft bill as tensions roil government

6.09. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in June 09 spot – Sunday Omer 42
Gantz leaves war cabinet, calls for elections, wants US partnership to counter Iran

6.09. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 42
IDF disguised as Rafah family claimed they rented a unit in the hostage building

6.09. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 42
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