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Heavy losses, situation in Gaza is terrible - Hamas leadership soften its demands

7.07. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

IDF guides foreign press through Rafah; reporters spotlight devastation

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Netanyahu sets 5-point red line on hostage deal: We will not compromise these demands

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Police find drug lab, weapons and military vehicle in a yard in Golan Heights

7.07. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

West Bank fertilizer used for buried explosives in Jordan war on IDF

7.07. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in July 07 spot – Sunday

Demonstrators plan protests at 30 locations for snap election to rescue 120 hostages

7.06. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in July 06 spot – Saturday

IDF struck 3 UNRWA-run schools in central Gaza launching attacks from Hamas

7.05. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in July 05 spot – Friday N-Moon-4 Tammuz 6pm

Hamas demands cease-fire by Saturday night to talk; Israel Cabinet will vote

7.05. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday N-Moon(4) Tammuz 6pm

Ben-Gvir & Smortich oppose cease-fire to release hostages; we must end Hamas

7.04. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Israel believes Lebanon will reject diplomatic resolution pushed by US

7.04. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Optimistic deal with Hamas within weeks, PM approves delegation to renewed talks

7.04. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in July 04 spot – Thursday

Lebanon launched 20 drones & 200 rockets-missiles at Galilee & Golan Heights

7.03. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Hamas responds to mediators, hostage proposal to stop the war, some issues unresolved

7.03. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Rafah chains buildings with explosives, if one goes off, all buildings on street collapse

7.03. 24 – We- - - News Placed in July 03 spot – Wednesday

West Bank outpost built over a year demolished by Police; no reply from Smotrich

7.02. 24 – Tu - - News – Tuesday

Crime & violence surge in Gaza as Hamas loses grip, houses are targets for looting

7.02. 24 – Tu - - News – Tuesday

IDF intensifies while Gazans flee & Hamas launch 20 rockets at Israel communities

7.02. 24 – Tu - - News Placed in July 02 spot – Tuesday

Israel repairing electric supply to run Gaza basic water, sewage in evacuation zones

7.12. 24 – Fr

Hundreds of Israelis with Ukraine citizenship, facing arrest and forced conscription

7.12. 24 – Fr

Hundreds of Israelis stranded in Ukraine, facing arrest and forced conscription
Ukrainians with Israeli citizenship forced into hiding due to conscription law mandating all men to join military; 'Every time I leave the house, I'm not sure I'll come back'
Edward Doks|05:47

Hundreds of Israeli nationals have been stranded in Ukraine for months due to the ongoing war in Eastern Europe.

The situation began with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which led to changes in Ukraine's conscription law. The amended law stipulates that any man with Ukrainian citizenship who is in the country cannot leave and is required to join the military if he is between the ages of 18 and 60. This law also applies to those with foreign citizenship who live in another country, including hundreds of Israelis.

At the beginning of the month, the Foreign Ministry issued a travel advisory urging Israelis with dual citizenship to avoid traveling to the Eastern European country for fear they will not be allowed to leave.

"Indeed, there are hundreds of Israelis stranded in Ukraine since the war began," Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Michael Brodsky told Ynet and its sister publication Yedioth Ahronoth. "We receive requests from dozens of them, and sometimes their passports are confiscated when they try to leave the country. The authorities send us the passports, and we return them to the Israelis. But beyond that, there's little we can do to help."

Regarding the travel advisory issued on July 1, Brodsky added, "We decided to publish the advisory now for two reasons. First, the U.S. Embassy issued a similar warning a week before us, and second, new regulations in Ukraine that will further tighten the law will take effect on July 16."

Petro, a 29-year-old resident of Kyiv, shared his experience. "My life has changed drastically recently. For a year now, I haven't used public transportation for fear of being detained. In the Kyiv metro, both at the entrance and exit, there are soldiers and police who immediately apprehend you if you're a man and send you to the recruitment office," he said.

"Every officer is required to catch at least three men a day. A man walking openly in the city feels like a criminal, like a drug dealer—he can be arrested at any moment. Every time I leave the house, I'm not sure I'll come back.

"There are Telegram channels where Kyiv residents inform each other about dangerous areas and where authorities have set up ambushes. You caught me in a store; I came to buy food. I get here by going through courtyards and avoiding main streets because even that's dangerous.

"I have friends who were caught at a bus stop and sent straight to basic training. But despite all this, I must admit the situation here in Kyiv is better than in other cities, not to mention the villages, where there are no men left at all."

Sasha, an Israeli living in Kyiv, shared his fear of being caught. "At the beginning of the war, I still went out, but I stopped after they started arresting men in the streets. One day I went to the pharmacy, and right behind me, a group of soldiers and police pounced on a guy walking down the street. Since then, I haven't left the house," he shared.

"I closed my bank account and deleted the app for interacting with the authorities. I live with my girlfriend. Before the war, I worked and she was a homemaker. Now, she works and does the shopping, and I don't leave the apartment.

"I desperately want to reunite with my family in Israel. I'm preparing myself mentally and physically for the journey to escape Ukraine by crossing the border on foot. I do runs, push-ups and train my endurance.

"Men with Ukrainian citizenship, do not come to Ukraine," he implored. "You will get stuck here without an apartment and without means of livelihood. Don't try your luck, you will get into big trouble! The interior services can track name changes; even if your ID says Vladimir, they'll know you were Volodymyr. Don't get yourself in this mess."

7.12. 24 – Fr

Hamas control more brutal, as 40 year family feuds resurface in Gaza

7.12. 24 – Fr

Old feuds resurface in Gaza as Hamas control fades

Report says 35 people murdered over past two months in Gaza due to local criminal conflicts, some dating back almost four decades

Einav Halabi|05:24

Chaos and turmoil are sweeping through Gaza with widespread murders and looting as Hamas loses its grip over the Palestinian enclave during the war.

After 17 years of tight control by the terrorist organization, the territory now faces unprecedented anarchy, with longstanding family feuds resurfacing, including attempts to settle old scores.

Following IDF airstrikes, some exploit the situation to loot destroyed homes, but it doesn't stop there. Medical supplies have also become a target, as recently seen when Gazans stole medical equipment and medicine from the European Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, immediately selling them in the streets amid lawlessness. This compounds on top of widespread looting from humanitarian aid convoys.

Security sources familiar with the situation told the London-based newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat that Gaza is now also beleaguered by the resurgence of old conflicts. "Many people have been killed in incidents related to the First Intifada in 1987, while others have died in family disputes," they said, referring to a sustained series of protests, acts of civil disobedience and riots carried out by Palestinians against Israel.

Semi-official data obtained by the newspaper indicates that at least 14 people were murdered in June, and another 21 in the previous month, in various criminal conflicts across the Gaza Strip. It is alleged that at least three of these incidents are connected to Hamas' 2007 coup and its subsequent declaration of war on the rival Fatah movement which heads the internationally-recognized Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. One victim of such violence in recent months is Mahmoud Nashbat, a resident of the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza, who was a commander of Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades and had been wanted by Israel for 20 years. Nashbat was killed in the Deir al-Balah refugee camp by unidentified assailants, who are confirmed to be affiliated with Hamas.

Hamas operatives inflict corporal punishments on starving Gaza civilians accused of looting humanitarian aid warehouses

The National and Islamic Forces in Gaza, a coalition of the different factions within the territory, issued a statement expressing its opposition to "reopening cases that all Palestinians agreed to close and are not subject to discussion," referring to cases of suspected espionage for Israel during the First Intifada in 1987.

"Such actions sow the seeds of conflict by threatening peaceful individuals under the guise of revenge," the group added, calling on Hamas' Interior Ministry to "deal harshly" with anyone who dares to interfere in civilians' lives.

The "First Intifada portfolio" in Gaza is considered complex and convoluted, as it is filled with hatred among residents who accuse others of killing relatives for various reasons, including collaboration with Israel.

A source from one of the factions in Gaza which is familiar with the details told Asharq Al-Awsat that reopening such a case would jeopardize social security in the enclave, lead to crimes under false pretenses targeting national figures, and allow Israel to exploit the situation to advance its agenda aimed at changing the security reality.

According to reports from Gaza, there are vigorous efforts on the ground to contain these developments, but the chances of success remain unclear. Hamas, for its part, is trying to project governance and control, recently releasing several videos showcasing how its operatives brutally beat residents accused of looting.

7.12. 24 – Fr

Vote to extend military service to 36 months with Orthodox induction, to fill the gap

7.12. 24 – Fr

Ministers vote to extend mandatory military service to three years

Compulsory military service reduced from 36 months to 32 months in 2014; IDF requests return to 36-month service format due to heavy burden caused by war and manpower shortage

Itamar Eichner|04:32

The Security Cabinet voted overnight Friday to extend mandatory military service to 36 months for the next eight years. The decision will be presented for government approval on Sunday and later submitted for Knesset legislation.

After this period, the service length will be reduced to 32 months, with a potential further reduction to 28 months for support units, subject to security situation assessments.

Compulsory military service was reduced from 36 months to 32 months in 2014, and under the current service law, was set to be further reduced to 30 months. The IDF requested a return to the 36-month service format due to the heavy burden caused by the war and a manpower shortage.

Since October 7, hundreds of soldiers have fallen in battle, and thousands more have been injured and are not expected to return to operational readiness, creating a significant gap in the IDF's regular operational order of battle.

Last week, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant emphasized the need for unity in supporting the IDF, saying that soldiers cannot be brought in from abroad, unlike planes or bombs, and highlighting the need for more recruits, including the ultra-Orthodox. He pointed out the necessity of extending regular service and raising the exemption age from reserve duty.

Hours before a Security Cabinet meeting, Gallant's office informed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office of a lack of progress on extending mandatory service and requested a meeting to advance the issue.

Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara stressed the importance of equal burden-sharing in the service extension. Minister Gila Gamliel clarified that the extension also applies to the ultra-Orthodox, requiring them to serve three years.

During the Cabinet discussion, a dispute occurred between Gallant and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who had opposed the service extension since February, delaying the IDF's force organization efforts. Gallant sent a letter to Netanyahu seeking an immediate decision, prompting Netanyahu to bring the issue to the Cabinet.

7.12. 24 – Fr

Turkey rejects NATO bond with Israel; Biden forcing Congress to sell them F-16's

7.12. 24 – Fr

Erdogan says Turkey will not approve NATO attempts to cooperate with Israel
Turkish leader announces Ankara will withhold support for cooperation between military alliance and Israel 'until comprehensive and sustainable peace is established in Palestine'
Reuters|01:09

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday it is not possible for NATO to continue its partnership with the Israeli administration.

"Until comprehensive, sustainable peace is established in Palestine, attempts at cooperation with Israel within NATO will not be approved by Turkey," Erdogan said at a news conference at the NATO summit.

Turkey also continues its diplomatic efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war, he said. Erdogan said as well that he had instructed Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan to meet Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to start to restore relations with Syria. Turkey will extend an invitation to Assad "any time" for possible talks to restore relations between the two neighbors, Erdogan said on Sunday.

Regarding F-16 sales to Turkey, Erdogan said: "I talked to Mr. Biden. 'I will solve this problem in 3-4 weeks' he said".

In March, the U.S. Senate defeated an effort to stop a \$23 billion sale of F-16 jets and modernization kits to Turkey allowed by President Joe Biden's administration after Turkey approved Sweden joining the NATO alliance.

He also said Turkey expects solidarity from NATO allies in its fight against terrorism. "It is not possible for us to accept the crooked relationship that some of our allies have established especially with the PYD/YPG, the extension of the terrorist organization PKK in Syria," he said.

Turkey says the YPG militia is a terrorist organization, closely tied to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group. Turkey's Western allies list the PKK as a terrorist group, but not the YPG.

Turkey's goal is to become a permanent member, not just an observer, of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Erdogan also said.

The SCO is a security, political and economic club launched in 2001 by Russia, China and Central Asian states as a counterweight to Western alliances.

7.11. 24 – Th

Hundreds of Hamas trapped in UNRWA buildings, using complex as weapons factory

7.11. 24 – Th

Senior Hamas member killed, terrorists trapped in blitz raid on UNRWA headquarters

Gaza compound surrounded by tanks after intelligence reveals hundreds of Hamas terrorists rebuild command center; as civilians provided safe passage and after escape routs through tunnels are destroyed, soldiers close in
Yoav Zitun|02:31

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit reported on Thursday that forces in Gaza killed Hassan Abu Kuik, Head of Operational Security in Hamas' Internal Security Forces in the Gaza Central Camps, and conducted a large raid on a UNRWA headquarters in the central part of the Strip.

"Hassan was a military operative, active in Hamas' Emergency Bureau, and led numerous terror attacks against the State of Israel. In addition, the IDF eliminated the terrorist Naser Mehanna, a team commander in Hamas' military intelligence," the statement read.

The military added forces raided a UNRWA headquarters in which, "Troops located large quantities of weapons including explosive drones, grenades, explosive devices, snipers, mortar shells, rockets, and RPGs."

Forces surrounded the compound with armor and conducted its raid after military intelligence indicated hundreds of Hamas terrorists and senior commanders were using the area to reorganize after troops withdrew last January.

The IDF chose an aggressive approach during the operation after reports came in Hamas was using the complex to establish new munitions manufacturing factories including the production of rockets and missiles, prompting forces to encircle the area quickly and efficiently.

Troops surrounded the compound, which serves as a displacement camp housing thousands of Gazans, before creating channels for evacuating the civilians while checking their identities using technological means developed in similar previous raids — managing to detain dozens of Hamas terrorists from the area.

The military earlier identified hundreds of terrorists from Shijaiyah had fled into the complex after troops operated in the eastern Gaza neighborhood two weeks ago aimed at dismantling six terror tunnels leading to the Israeli border.

The dismantling of the extensive underground infrastructures below UNRWA's headquarters and the university adjacent to it prevented terrorists from escaping during the operation. However, some of them opened fire on the forces using light weapons, machine guns, and anti-tank missiles.

Over the last two days, troops noticed terrorists attempting to plant explosives on roads that they thought the military would use in the operation. In response, the military utilized drones to scan the area and buildings for signs of hidden explosives.

7.11. 24 – Th

Acceptance to vetted governance plan agreed, neither Hamas nor Israel would rule Gaza

7.11. 24 – Th

Framework for cease-fire deal agreed, report
Breakthrough reportedly comes after Hamas backs down from demand for the end of the war in written guarantee; both sides agree the Strip to be governed by a US-trained force of 2,500 supporters of PA, already vetted by Israel
ynet|00:42

A framework for a cease-fire in exchange for the hostage release has been agreed by both Israel and Hamas, Washington Post columnist David Ignatius wrote late on Wednesday quoting U.S. officials.

"Israel and Hamas have both signaled their acceptance of an interim governance plan that would begin with Phase 2, in which neither Hamas nor Israel would rule Gaza," Ignatius said adding that a force of some 2,500 supporters of the Palestinians Authority, vetted by Israel would provide security.

But in his report, he noted that obstacles still exist and negotiations over the details in the agreement would take time. According to an official in D.C., Hamas was low on ammunition and supplies and under increasing pressure from civilians in the Strip, who were demanding a cease-fire.

According to the Post, the breakthrough came when Hamas backed down from its demand for a written guarantee that the war would end and agreed to rely on the UN Security Council resolution that accepted the outline of the agreement as it was presented by U.S. President Joe Biden and specified that negotiations would continue past six weeks in the first of the three-phased deal, as long as talks were ongoing. The official also told Ignatius that Hamas indicated to mediators that it was "prepared to relinquish authority to the interim governance arrangement." In effect, both sides agreed that interim governance would begin in phase 2 of the deal, with neither side, ruling the Strip.

The official also said that Saudi Arabia has hinted it would agree to advance normalization of relations with Israel, which was another contributing factor. The Saudis want to see a path to a Palestinian state as part of a final deal.

In his column, Ignatius writes that Qatar has told Hamas that if negotiations failed and the deal was rejected, their senior officials would not be allowed to remain in Doha.

7.10. 24 – We

Nasrallah: 'We have achieved our goals, Israel will have to stop the war'

7.10. 24 – We

Nasrallah: 'We have achieved our goals, Israel will have to stop the war'

Hezbollah chief asserts primary objective of exhausting Israel achieved, reiterates end to fighting in north conditional on Gaza cease-fire; 'What Hamas agrees to in negotiations is enough for us'

Lior Ben Ari|15:27

Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah on Wednesday asserted that his organization had achieved its primary goal of wearing down Israel.

"We have exhausted Israel economically, in terms of manpower, and socially. This will force it to stop the war," Nasrallah said in a speech delivered in memory of senior Hezbollah commander Muhammad Neamah Nasser who was assassinated by Israel last week.

He reiterated four times Hezbollah's long-standing demand: if the fighting in Gaza stops, so will the attacks on Israel from Lebanon. His words suggest an interest in a ceasefire in Gaza to prevent a significant escalation on the northern front.

Nasrallah boasted that "foreign parties" have come to understand that halting the fighting in the north is tied to ending the war in Gaza. "Through our fighting, we distract the enemy from its aggression against Gaza and make it realize that if it wants to stop it, it must stop the aggression in Gaza," he said.

"We are waiting for the results of the negotiations. The whole world recognizes that there must be a ceasefire. Hamas is negotiating on its behalf and on behalf of the resistance factions, and whatever Hamas agrees to is sufficient for all of us."

Regarding the summit in Qatar between the Israeli delegation and mediators aimed at advancing a deal, Nasrallah said, "We did not ask Hamas to coordinate with us regarding the negotiations. We support them in every decision and stand with them until the end."

Nasrallah also addressed Israel's social crisis and the issue of ultra-Orthodox recruitment: "The Israeli army cannot leave the north because it fears Hezbollah cells' infiltration, especially after losing its surveillance equipment. The exhaustion in Gaza and the north leads to a social crisis in Israel, necessitating more soldiers. The Israeli army is forced to extend conscription, which has economic and social impacts on Israel. The army suffers from a manpower shortage, and they are trying to compel the ultra-Orthodox to enlist." He continued to boast, claiming that "the enemy is experiencing its most difficult days historically" and referred to the upcoming investigations into the battles of October 7: "Some of the October 7 investigations revealed weaknesses," he asserted. "Failure' is the title of this battle for Israel. In the tenth month, the army has not achieved any of its declared objectives."

Amid calls in Israel to "defeat" the Lebanese terror organization rather than negotiate with it, Nasrallah added, "Those who threaten to invade south of the Litani should look at what is happening in Rafah. In the narrow area, they did not achieve victory. They said they would finish the battle in 3-4 weeks and failed," he claimed, despite the fact that the IDF achieved significant successes in Rafah, killing over 900 terrorists.

Nasrallah also said that in Israel, "there are no longer threats to eliminate Hezbollah and start a full-scale war. They do not threaten to eliminate Hezbollah because of what happened in Gaza, where they failed to eliminate Hamas."

7.10.24 – We

IDF probes fatal Hezbollah rocket strikes in rare hit of two vehicles in Golan Heights

7.10. 24 – We

IDF probes fatal Hezbollah rocket strikes in Golan Heights

IDF reports rockets targeted military base, prompting investigation into how unguided projectiles resulted in 3 fatalities in less than a week

Yoav Zitun|10:18

The IDF reported Wednesday that it is investigating how Hezbollah managed to hit two vehicles—one civilian and one military—with rockets in the Golan Heights within a week.

The first incident occurred last Thursday when a rocket struck a vehicle, killing Major (Res.) Itay Galea at a base in the area. The second incident happened last night when Noa and Nir Baranes from Kibbutz Ortal were killed by a direct rocket hit on their car.

Both incidents involved unguided rockets rather than precision missiles, making it rare for such occurrences to happen twice in such a short span. The medium-range rockets, currently under examination by the IDF, were part of barrages aimed at military targets. Major (Res.) Galea's death resulted from a rocket aimed at an IDF base in the Golan Heights, while the Baranes' vehicle was hit by a rocket intended for the 210th Regional Brigade Headquarters (Nafah) near Ein Zivan.

The Baranes' car was directly hit by the rocket as they happened to be driving near the base when the alert was sounded. Investigations revealed that Hezbollah is launching these barrages from farther south in Lebanon, such as west of the Ramim Ridge and the eastern sector, crossing from west to east over the Hula Valley and Shia villages near the Naftali Mountains.

Residents and local leaders in the Golan Heights expressed anger and frustration following the rocket strike on the Baranes' vehicle, which Hezbollah carried out in retaliation for the assassination of a former bodyguard of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. The tragic event, against a backdrop of months of continuous shelling causing damage and fires, has raised serious questions about the government's lack of strategy in the north against Hezbollah.

Golan residents know that driving near the many military bases in the area is akin to playing Russian roulette. In recent months, Hezbollah has repeatedly fired rockets and launched drones at IDF outposts and bases in the Golan, endangering civilians on nearby roads. When alerts are sounded—if they are noticed at all—there is often no place for drivers to take cover or find shelter.

7.10. 24 – We

Smotrich sanctions on Shared Taxes reduce PA Security pay 50% and 60%

7.10. 24 – We

Israel fears pay cuts might push Palestinian Authority personnel to terrorism
PA employees have been facing reduced income for years as Israel withholds clearance funds for Palestinians while terrorist can support a family on \$2,200 a month, raising concerns in Israel that they might turn to terrorism to supplement their earnings
Einav Halabi|07:01

Last month, Israel's Cabinet took decisive action by imposing sanctions on the Palestinian Authority, with Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich leading the charge. After weeks of warnings from the Shin Bet and defense establishment about the potential economic collapse of the Palestinian Authority, Smotrich agreed to release clearance funds that Israel collects on its behalf, except for those intended for Gaza, which he froze in May following European countries' recognition of a Palestinian state.

However, despite this compromise, the funds have not yet been transferred, and even when they are, they are not expected to fully resolve the Authority's severe economic crisis. This crisis has led to reduced salaries for its employees, including security personnel who have been crucial in curbing Hamas' influence and presence in the territories, for the past three years. On Thursday, Palestinian Authority employees will receive their salaries for May, with only about half receiving their full pay, which for many does not exceed \$820. The rest will receive between 50% and 60% of their salary, with this ratio varying monthly based on the PA's available funds.

The clearance funds, which Israel collects on behalf of the Authority from taxes on workers and movement of goods, constitute 65% of its annual budget, amounting to \$218 million, with around \$33 million intended for Gaza. Most of these funds are used by the PA President Mahmoud Abbas, to pay salaries, especially for the 32,000 security personnel.

These security personnel are also affected by the economic crisis. Last month, the Shin Bet warned that salary cuts could drive them to join terrorist organizations, especially given the influx of Iranian money into the region, and lead to a decrease in their effectiveness in countering Hamas in the West Bank.

"In the past," one officer told Ynet, "when we went out on the street, people respected us. We had an aura and respect. Today, we are like the last citizens. We walk because we can't afford taxis, and no one pays attention to us. Everyone knows our salary situation is dire." He added that, due to the economic situation, his wife and young child had to open a fast-food stand as a side income.

Another officer from Ramallah said he stopped going to work because he no longer has money for public transportation. "I hold an important and significant role, but I no longer have money to live. It's not logical that I work all month and end up with 40% of a \$1,640 salary. It's not enough for anything. It's disgraceful. We are paying a heavy price," he explained. While a full officer's salary in the security mechanisms can reach about \$1,640, this amount varies by rank, and simple "policemen" receive much less.

Adnan al-Damiri, who served as the spokesperson for the security mechanisms for many years and has two sons in the service, said the crisis also affected his pension funds. "The

clearance funds are Palestinian money," he declared. On the claim that the funds are transferred to the families of terrorists, he said: "Their family members are not terrorists. How are these families supposed to live? Who will pay them to live minimally? You have social security; we live on salaries paid by the Authority."

Al-Damiri added that the crisis also affects the needy who receive welfare assistance and that they too do not receive financial support from the PA. "How they live, I don't know," he said. However, he emphasized that, despite the reduced salaries, security personnel continue their work as usual.

"The preventive security mechanisms protect the lives of everyone, whether they are Jewish or Palestinian. Anyone who enters Palestinian territories – we protect them as if they were Palestinians. We will not agree for them to be attacked or be in any danger. Therefore, any Jew or Israeli who enters the territories, the mechanisms return them to their area securely and protect them," he said.

Indeed, security personnel have helped in the past to return Israelis who found themselves in distress in Palestinian areas, but even al-Damiri acknowledges that the economic crisis could impair their performance. "The fact that many officers no longer have small change to travel home certainly affects them and their performance. It's not easy when there's not enough food at home, and you're in an important role protecting security."

Regarding the fear that security personnel might turn their weapons against Israelis, he says firmly: "In the security mechanisms, there are clear and strict laws. We never teach or ask our subordinates to fight against settlers or Israelis. But does anyone in Israel ask why Ben Gvir gives endless ammunition to settlers? More than once, weapons have been used against Palestinian civilians."

In recent years, there have been instances where security personnel joined terrorist cells in Jenin or Nablus, but the mechanisms are careful not to define these isolated cases as a widespread phenomenon. Nevertheless, Israeli security officials are concerned that the dire economic situation could tempt preventive security officers to turn to terrorism – because that's where the money still flows. A young average terrorist can support his entire family with a monthly salary of around \$2,200 or more.

7.09. 24 – Tu

US intelligence says Iran funds anti-Israel protests to stoke discord in America

7.09. 24 – Tu

U.S. intelligence says Iran supports, funds anti-Israel protests

Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence says Tehran operatives posing as activists online to encourage protests, stoke discord using cyber and influence campaigns on social media

Ynet|15:08

The office of the U.S. Director of National Intelligence on Tuesday warned in a public statement online, that Iran was working to encourage pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel protests and even providing funding for them in their effort to stoke discord in American society.

Iranian government actors have sought to opportunistically take advantage of ongoing protests regarding the war in Gaza, using a playbook we've seen other actors use over the years. We have observed actors tied to Iran's government posing as activists online, seeking to encourage protests, and even providing financial support to protesters," Avril Haines said

"Iran is becoming increasingly aggressive in their foreign influence efforts, seeking to stoke discord and undermine confidence in our democratic institutions, as we have seen them do in the past, including in prior election cycles. They continue to adapt their cyber and influence activities, using social media platforms and issuing threats," she said.

"Americans who are being targeted by this Iranian campaign may not be aware that they are interacting with or receiving support from a foreign government. We urge all Americans to remain vigilant as they engage online with accounts and actors they do not personally know."

7.09. 24 – Tu

Hezbollah aims to counter Israel surveillance, no cell-phones near the battlefield.

7.09. 24 – Tu

How Hezbollah aims to counter Israel's high-tech surveillance

Nasrallah tells operatives that their phones were more dangerous than Israeli spies, saying they should break, bury or lock them in an iron box

Reuters|13:35

Coded messages. Landline phones. Pagers. Following the killing of senior commanders in targeted Israeli airstrikes, the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group, Hezbollah, has been using some low-tech strategies to try to evade its foe's sophisticated surveillance technology, informed sources told Reuters.

It has also been using its own technological abilities and drones, to study and attack Israel's intelligence-gathering capabilities in what Hassan Nasrallah, has described as a strategy of "blinding" Israel.

The sides have been trading fire since Hezbollah's Palestinian ally in the Gaza Strip, Hamas, went to war with Israel in October. While the fighting on Lebanon's southern border has remained relatively contained, stepped-up attacks in recent weeks have intensified concern it could spiral into a full-scale war.

Tens of thousands of people have fled both sides of the border. Israeli strikes have killed more than 330 Hezbollah fighters and around 90 civilians in Lebanon, according to Reuters tallies. Israel says attacks from Lebanon have killed 21 soldiers and 10 civilians.

Many of Hezbollah's casualties were killed while launching rockets and explosive drones into northern Israel. The Iran-backed terror group has also confirmed the deaths of more than 20 operatives - including three top commanders, members of its elite Radwan special forces unit and intelligence operatives - in targeted strikes away from the frontlines.

The IDF said it was responding to an unprovoked attack from Hezbollah, which began firing at Israeli targets the day after the Hamas massacre on Oct. 7. In a statement to Reuters the military said that they were striking military targets and taking precautions in order to mitigate harm to civilians.

"The success of these efforts hinges on the IDF's ability to gather thorough and precise intelligence on Hezbollah's forces, its leaders, the organization's terrorist infrastructure, their whereabouts and operations," the statement said.

The IDF did not answer questions about its intelligence gathering and Hezbollah's countermeasures, citing "reasons of intelligence security".

Electronic surveillance technology plays a vital role in these strikes. The IDF has said it has security cameras and remote sensing systems trained on areas where Hezbollah operates, and it regularly sends surveillance drones over the border to spy on its adversary. Israel's electronic eavesdropping - including hacking into cell phones and computers - is also widely regarded as among the world's most sophisticated.

Hezbollah has learned from its losses and adapted its tactics in response, six sources familiar with the group's operations told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive security matters.

Cell phones, which can be used to track a user's location, have been banned from the battlefield in favor of more old-fashioned communication means, including pagers and couriers who deliver verbal messages in person, two of the sources said. Hezbollah has also been using a private, fixed-line telecommunications network dating back to the early 2000s, three sources said.

In case conversations are overheard, code words are used for weapons and meeting sites, according to another source familiar with the group's logistics. These are updated nearly daily and delivered to units via couriers, the source said.

"We're facing a battle in which information and technology are essential parts," said Qassem Kassir, a Lebanese analyst close to Hezbollah. "But when you face certain technological advances, you need to go back to the old methods - the phones, the in-person communications, whatever method allows you to circumvent the technology." Hezbollah's media office said it had no comment on the source's assertions.

Low-tech countermeasures

Security experts say some low-tech countermeasures can be quite effective against high-tech spying. One of the ways that al Qaeda's late leader, Osama bin Laden, evaded capture for nearly a decade was by disconnecting from the internet and phone services, and using couriers instead.

"The simple act of using a VPN (virtual private network), or better yet, not using a cell phone at all, can make it much harder to find and fix a target," said Emily Harding, a former CIA analyst now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in

Washington. "But these countermeasures also make Hezbollah's leadership far less effective at communicating rapidly with their troops."

Hezbollah and Lebanese security officials believe Israel has also been tapping local informants as it zeroes in on targets. Lebanon's economic crisis and rivalries between political factions have created opportunities for Israeli recruiters, but not all informants realize who they are speaking with, three sources said.

On Nov. 22, a woman from south Lebanon received a call on her cell phone from a person claiming to be a local official, according to two sources with direct knowledge of the incident. Speaking in flawless Arabic, the caller asked whether the family was home, the sources said. No, the woman replied, explaining they had traveled to eastern Lebanon. Minutes later, a missile slammed into the woman's home in the village of Beit Yahoun, killing five Hezbollah fighters including Abbas Raad, the son of a senior Hezbollah lawmaker and a Radwan member, the sources said.

Hezbollah believes Israel had tracked the fighters to the location and placed the call to confirm whether there were civilians present before launching the strike, they told Reuters without disclosing further details. The IDF said at the time that it struck a number of Hezbollah targets that day, including a "terrorist cell".

Within weeks, Hezbollah was publicly warning supporters via the affiliated Al-Nour radio station not to trust cold callers claiming to be local officials or aid workers, saying Israelis were impersonating them to identify houses being used by Hezbollah.

It was the first of a series of strikes targeting key Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon.

Others killed include Wissam al-Tawil, Taleb Abdallah and Mohammed Nasser, commanders who played leading roles directing Hezbollah's operations in the south.

Saleh al-Arouri, deputy head of Hamas, was also killed while attending a meeting in the capital, Beirut.

Hezbollah began suspecting that Israel was targeting its fighters by tracking their cell phones and monitoring video feeds from security cameras installed on buildings in border communities, two sources familiar with the group's thinking and a Lebanese intelligence official told Reuters.

On Dec. 28, Hezbollah urged southern residents in a statement distributed via its Telegram channel to disconnect any security cameras they own from the internet. By early February, another directive had been issued to Hezbollah's fighters: no mobile phones anywhere near the battlefield.

"Today, if anyone is found with their phone on the front, he is kicked out of Hezbollah," said a senior Lebanese source familiar with the group's operations.

Three other sources confirmed the order. Fighters began leaving their phones behind when they carried out operations, one told Reuters. Another, the Lebanese intelligence official, said Hezbollah would sometimes perform surprise checks on field units to see if members had phones on them.

Even in Beirut, senior Hezbollah politicians avoid bringing phones with them to meetings, two other sources said. In a televised speech on Feb. 13, Nasrallah warned supporters that their phones were more dangerous than Israeli spies, saying they should break, bury or lock them in an iron box.

Hezbollah has also taken steps to secure its private telephone network following a suspected breach by Israel, according to a former Lebanese security official and two other sources familiar with Hezbollah's operations.

The vast network, allegedly financed by Iran, was set up around two decades ago with fibre optic cables extending from Hezbollah's strongholds in Beirut's southern suburbs to towns in south Lebanon and east into the Bekaa Valley, according to government officials at the time.

The sources declined to say when or how it had been penetrated. But they said Hezbollah telecommunications specialists were breaking it into smaller networks to limit the damage if it is breached again.

"We often change our landline networks and switch them up, so that we can outrun the hacking and infiltration," the senior source told Reuters.

Drone surveillance

The group has also been touting its ability to collect its own intelligence on enemy targets and attack Israel's surveillance installations using its arsenal of small, homemade, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

On June 18, Hezbollah published a nine-minute excerpt of what it said was video gathered by its surveillance aircraft over the Israeli city of Haifa, including military installations and port facilities. The Israeli Air Force said air defense systems had detected the drone, but a decision was made not to intercept it because it had no offensive capabilities, and doing so could endanger residents.

Another video released by Hezbollah included aerial pictures it said it had collected of a massive Israeli observation balloon known as Sky Dew on the day before it was hit in a May 15 drone attack.

Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the images. But IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari said at the time that the airship, used to detect incoming rockets, was hit while on the ground at a military base in northern Israel. He said there were no casualties and no impact on the military's "aerial situational awareness capability" in the area.

Hezbollah says it has also shot down or taken control of half a dozen Israeli surveillance drones, including Hermes 450, Hermes 900 and SkyLark UAVs. Hezbollah operatives disassemble the drones to study their components, according to two of the sources.

Israel has confirmed that five Air Force drones were downed by surface-to-air missiles while operating over Lebanon. However, the IDF said Hezbollah's declarations "should be noted with reservation," saying the group aims to instill fear in Israelis.

Nicholas Blanford, a Beirut-based security consultant who has written a history of Hezbollah, said the group's "awareness and wariness" of security breaches was at an all-time high. "Hezbollah has had to tighten up its security far more than it needed to do in earlier conflicts," he told Reuters. Israel retains a technological advantage, however, Blanford said.

On the afternoon of July 3, a car driving through a Lebanese coastal village more than 20 km (12 miles) north of the Israeli border burst into flames, witnesses said.

The Israeli military said it had eliminated Nasser, who it said commanded a unit that is attacking Israel from southwestern Lebanon. His death came less than a month after the strike that killed Abdallah, who commanded operations in the central region of the southern border strip.

Hezbollah acknowledged both killings and in response launched some of its biggest barrages to date into northern Israel.

7.09. 24 – Tu

IDF destroy 3.7 mile (6k) Hamas tunnel in Gaza & expect to find three more

7.09. 24 – Tu

Watch: IDF blow up 6 kilometer long Hamas tunnel

IDF uncovers complex underground tunnel system with hideouts and command centers; troops also identified a "'flagship tunnel' of the Islamic Jihad, spanning 2.5 kilometers
Yoav Zitun|10:23

The IDF on Tuesday released video showing the destruction of a 6 kilometer-long (3.7 mile) Hamas tunnel system in Gaza's Shijaiyah neighborhood. Troops located tunnel shafts and significant tunnel routes. The soldiers continue to examine and dismantle the remaining tunnels in the area.

During their inspections, the Yahalom Unit discovered a complex underground tunnel system, featuring branched tunnels with hideouts and command centers. In one of these tunnels, they found additional weapons and intelligence documents.

For more than a week, the Paratroopers Brigade, the 7th Brigade, and the Yahalom Unit have been engaged in intense combat operations in the Shijaiyah area under the command of the 98th Division.

The soldiers fought close-quarters combat with terrorist cells, eliminating more than 150 terrorists and dismantling extensive terrorist infrastructure, the military said. They encountered and destroyed booby-trapped buildings and explosives and recovered dozens of weapons and intelligence documents left behind by the terrorists.

Troops also found the Islamic Jihad's "flagship tunnel" in the neighborhood, spanning 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles). This tunnel contained numerous command and control posts, allowing local terror battalion commanders—known for their strength and as a front-line force against Israel—to survive. The IDF believed that three more underground tunnels would be discovered in the Shijaiyah neighborhood in the coming days.

The raid on the neighborhood began 12 days ago with a rapid ground and air assault on the local Hamas battalion headquarters. This headquarters had been rebuilt since the IDF completed its previous maneuver in Shijaiyah about six months ago. It was established in the western part of the neighborhood, deep within Gaza City, inside a shelter housing approximately 1,000 Gazans. Among them were 150 terrorists, most of whom fled upon the arrival of the forces.

7.09. 24 – Tu

Silent boycott: Europe & US limiting basic munitions & raw material sales to Israel

7.09. 24 – Tu

Silent boycott: European countries limiting 'simple' munitions sales to Israel

Israel requires raw materials that can be converted to ammunition to sustain the war effort, but European countries, normally the source for those materials, are restricting supplies to Israel since October 7; Serbia is lending a hand, but it isn't enough, and the IDF is scrambling for alternatives

Yuval Sade|05:20

"If we have to stand alone, we will stand alone. If necessary, we will fight tooth and nail," declared Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu two months ago in a video filmed against the backdrop of escalating disagreements between the Israeli government and the U.S. administration under President Joe Biden. A month later, Netanyahu upped the ante and made what had been said behind closed doors public.

"It is unacceptable that the U.S. is delaying arms shipments to Israel," he proclaimed in English in a video posted on social media.

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While the complex relations with the Americans regarding aid to Israel are capturing most of the public's attention, the Defense Ministry and the IDF are currently more concerned about a different developing reality: the possibility of a munitions shortage after several countries around the world have informally ceased trading with Israel. Calcalist has learned that weapons suppliers from European countries have simply stopped responding to their Israeli counterparts, and a foreign power that is not the U.S., which previously traded with Israel, has refused to supply Israel with raw materials for ammunition production since October 7.

According to a report by The New York Times, the IDF is facing a shortage of 120mm shells for tanks to the extent that some tanks stationed in Gaza are now on partial alert and carrying fewer shells to reserve them for potential escalation on the northern front. Calcalist has learned from senior IDF officials that a "munitions economy" is indeed being managed. The New York Times reported that the military is also dealing with shortages of spare parts for tanks, D9 bulldozers, armored vehicles and additional light ground ammunition.

The main solution that the defense establishment is promoting concerning the ammunition shortage is the advancement of the local industry and reducing reliance on imported shells and ammunition from foreign countries. This move is expected to positively impact the Israeli defense industry but will also have negative economic consequences: ammunition produced in Israel is considered tens of percents more expensive than what can be imported from abroad, and establishing and maintaining "simple" munitions factories that produce, for example, artillery and tank shells is particularly costly. There are also other implications: among other things, this need is expected to delay the evacuation of the Israel Aerospace Industry site in Ramat Hasharon to allow Elbit to continue producing ammunition there, as reported a month and a half ago in Calcalist.

Despite the understandable effort to strengthen local industry and thereby reduce dependence on the external factors, those who believe that Israel can produce all the ammunition in-house it needs are likely to be disillusioned. First of all, even in the case of a massive increase in Israeli production capacity, a significant portion of the ammunition will still have to come from foreign countries in any scenario due to limited production potential. Even the U.S. is currently struggling to supply itself and its allies, including Israel and Ukraine, with all the shells they need. Secondly, for Israeli defense industries to produce large quantities of weapons materials, a large amount of raw materials is required, which cannot be mined in Israel, so shipments from abroad are not optional, they're mandatory.

Besides the unofficial embargo imposed by some suppliers on the sale of ammunition to Israel, Calcalist has learned that key suppliers of raw materials for bomb production have also stopped selling to Israel since the outbreak of the war. The defense establishment's solution to this embargo is diversifying suppliers, purchasing stocks of raw materials in advance for future bomb production, and creating large reserves of raw materials in Israel. The fact that the IDF and the Defense Ministry are directly involved in this issue is unusual, since in the past, defense industries took care of supplying themselves with raw materials without direct intervention from the military and political echelons. Since the outbreak of the war, there have been increasing reports of countries and companies wanting to reduce or restrict defense trade with Israel. There also have been reports of problems with the supply of F-35 spare parts from Dutch suppliers; the governments of Italy, Canada and Belgium announced a halt to defense exports to Israel (despite reports of shipments continuing and deals still being signed); and the Spanish government even prevented a ship carrying a weapons shipment from India to Israel from docking at its ports.

The shipment, which was prevented from stopping at the Spanish port of Cartagena, contained 27 tons of explosives from India, according to foreign media reports. This case illustrates Israel's strategy of diversifying sources: India, which is the number one importer of Israeli defense exports, has now also become a supplier of defense raw materials and even weapons systems to Israel.

On a more positive note, Calcalist has learned that another country has begun selling raw materials used by the Israeli defense industry and, according to other media reports, it is none other than Serbia that has provided an airlift of military supplies to Israel since the outbreak of the war.

Aside from the political context that complicates the defense establishment's efforts regarding defense imports, there is also a global economic context. The increased use of ammunition in the wars in Gaza and Ukraine has led to an unusual global shortage of ammunition of all types, resulting in rising prices and increased competition among countries for ammunition and raw materials.

As early as January, Calcalist reported that the IDF had to manage the pace of bombings due to the global shortage and the intensive use of ammunition at the beginning of the operation. In late November, less than two months after the war began, the IDF announced that the Artillery Corps had used more than 100,000 shells.

7.08. 24 – Mo

West Bank Civil Administration demolish illegal outpost to prevent settler violence

7.08. 24 – Mo

New West Bank Civil Administration head tasked with preventing settler violence
Brig. Gen. Hisham Ibrahim goes after illegal outposts from which settlers launch raids on
Palestinian villages in order to prevent violence from igniting the West Bank and the
need to divert forces from the war
Elisha Ben Kimon|Updated:08:03

The new head of Israel's civil administration in the West Bank, Brig. Gen. Hisham Ibrahim has put in effect a policy to preempt settler violence toward Palestinians by demolishing illegal outposts that have been used as bases for violent incursions into Palestinian villages and clashes with the local community.

Last week, security forces demolished structures in an outpost built illegally on privately owned Palestinian land. Settlers in the outpost clashed with troops, hurling stones and burning tires to block the roads. The violent clashes continued throughout the day.

The civil administration can avoid having to receive the approval of the political echelon before taking such action and rely on the security services and the Defense Ministry's authority. Thus, it can circumvent any opposition from far-right minister Bezalel Smotrich, who had been given power over the West Bank as a minister in the Defense Ministry.

The civil administration's actions last week were approved by the Shin Bet and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, who said the critical task of the civil administration was to prevent an outbreak of violence on the West Bank, egged on by settlers' rioting or any other action, that would require IDF troops to be deployed to the area in greater numbers, thereby depleting the forces needed in the war.

7.08. 24 – Mo

IDF troops re-enter Gaza City & Rafa as UNRWA Jihad headquarters rebuilt

7.08. 24 – Mo

IDF troops enter Gaza City in counter-terror offensive

Intelligence reveals Hamas command and control centers including in UNRWA headquarters rebuilt since December when forces last operated in parts of the city
Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi, Elisha Ben Kimon|02:39

The IDF said on Monday that its troops launched a counter-terrorism operation in Gaza City, including in the UNRWA headquarters after intelligence indicated the presence of

Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorist infrastructure, operatives, weapons and investigation and detention rooms there.

According to the military, civilians were warned ahead of the start of the operation to evacuate, and were given a defined route that would be opened for them to move to safety.

"The Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorist organizations continue to systematically operate and carry out terrorist activity from inside civilian infrastructure. The IDF will continue to operate against the terrorist organizations in accordance with international law," the IDF said in a statement.

Earlier, Palestinians reported IDF tanks and forces entering the city as civilians fled. The fighting was mostly in the southwestern sections of the city, where IDF forces had not operated in since December.

The operation targeted Hamas command and control centers rebuilt after the early days of fighting. According to the military, its forces located two ready-to-use rocket launch sites in Khan Younis and in Gaza City and destroyed them. The IDF also said its troops killed more than 30 terrorists in the area of Rafah and located additional tunnel shafts and confiscated weapons in the area

7.08. 24 – Mo

Heavy losses, situation in Gaza is terrible - Hamas leadership soften its demands

7.08. 24 – Mo

Hamas leadership's secret correspondence on cease-fire: 'We are suffering heavy losses, situation in Gaza is terrible'

Messages between senior Hamas officials in Gaza and terror group's leadership abroad reveal pressure for cease-fire due to Gaza's destruction since war's start—despite Sinwar's hesitation; Shin Bet head Bar in Cairo for negotiations

Yuval Levi, Nir (Shoko) Cohen, Associated Press|02:08

The level of devastation in the Gaza Strip caused by a nine-month Israeli offensive likely has helped push Hamas to soften its demands for a cease-fire agreement, several officials in the Middle East and the U.S. believe.

Hamas over the weekend appeared to drop its longstanding demand that Israel promise to end the war as part of any cease-fire deal. The sudden shift has raised new hopes for progress in internationally brokered negotiations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday boasted that military pressure – "including Israel's ongoing two-month offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah – is what has led Hamas to enter negotiations"

Hamas, an Islamic terror group that seeks Israel's destruction, is highly secretive and little is known about its inner workings.

But in recent internal communications seen by The Associated Press, messages signed by several senior Hamas figures in Gaza urged the group's exiled political leadership to accept the cease-fire proposal pitched by U.S. President Joe Biden.

The messages, shared by a Middle East official familiar with the ongoing negotiations, described the heavy losses Hamas has suffered on the battlefield and the dire conditions in the war-ravaged territory. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to share the contents of internal Hamas communications.

It was not known if this internal pressure was a factor in Hamas' flexibility. But the messages indicate divisions within the group and a readiness among its top leaders to reach a deal quickly, even if Hamas' top official in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, may not be in a rush. Sinwar has been in hiding since the war erupted last October and is believed to be holed up in a tunnel deep underground.

U.S. officials declined to comment on the communications. But a person familiar with Western intelligence who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter said the group's leadership understands its forces have suffered heavy losses and that has helped Hamas move closer to a cease-fire deal.

Two U.S. officials say the Americans are aware of internal divisions within Hamas and that those divisions, the destruction in Gaza or pressure from mediators Egypt and Qatar could have been factors in the group softening its demands for a deal. The U.S. officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the Biden administration's view of the current situation.

The Middle Eastern official shared details from two internal Hamas communications, both written by senior officials inside Gaza to the group's exiled leadership in Qatar, where Hamas' supreme leader, Ismail Haniyeh, is based. The communication suggested that the war had taken a toll on Hamas fighters, with the senior figures urging Hamas' political wing abroad to accept the deal despite Sinwar's reluctance.

Hamas spokesperson Jihad Taha dismissed any suggestions of divisions within the group. "The movement's position is unified and is crystallized through the organizational framework of the leadership" he said.

The intelligence official showed The Associated Press a transcript of the communications in Arabic, but declined to share specific details about how the information was obtained, or the raw form of the communications. The official said the communications took place in May and June and came from multiple senior officials inside the group's military wing in Gaza.

The messages acknowledged Hamas fighters had been killed and the level of devastation to the Gaza Strip wrought by the Israeli campaign in the enclave. They also suggest that Sinwar either isn't fully aware of the toll of the fighting or isn't fully communicating it to those negotiating outside of the territory. It was not known whether Haniyeh or any other top officials in Qatar had responded.

Egypt and Qatar have been working with the United States to broker a cease-fire and end the devastating nine-month war. After months of fits and starts, talks resumed last week and are scheduled to continue in the coming days.

A deal is still not guaranteed. Netanyahu's office announced over the weekend that "gaps still remain." The U.S. officials said they are cautiously optimistic about the prospects for a cease-fire based on the latest developments, but stressed that numerous efforts had

looked promising only to fall through. Still, the sides appear closer to a deal than they have been in months. Both Hamas and Egyptian officials confirmed Saturday that Hamas has dropped a key demand that Israel commit up front to end the war. Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected this demand.

Meanwhile, Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar left for Cairo Monday morning for discussions on a possible cease-fire deal that will return the hostages. He will also discuss the efforts to build an underground barrier on the Philadelphia route to prevent the smuggling of weapons from Egypt by Hamas in Gaza via the Rafah crossing. On Wednesday, Mossad head Dedi Barna, is expected to leave for Qatar, where he will meet with CIA head Bill Burns, and the Prime Minister of Qatar, Mohammed Al-Thani.

Officials in the political and security system were surprised by Netanyahu's public announcement of red lines for the negotiations for the release of the hostages. The announcement came shortly before Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and military personnel met for a security discussion and situation assessment ahead of the new negotiations.

An Israeli security official called this "improper conduct" that will harm the chance of returning the hostages home. There is also a question of timing here. If you issue the announcement even negotiations have started then why negotiate? If this is the conduct, the hostages will never return."

7.07.24 – Su

IDF guides foreign press through Rafah; reporters spotlight devastation

7.07.24 – Su

IDF guides foreign press through Rafah; reporters spotlight devastation

CNN says although IDF claimed Rafah offensive 'limited,' scenes of destruction no different than Khan Younis; Wall Street Journal reports on once bustling streets now deserted after over a million civilians flee

Ynet| 23:56

For the first time since the onset of the war, foreign media teams were granted access to Rafah on Sunday, escorted by IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari. CNN correspondent Jeremy Diamond described seeing a "startling" amount of destruction.

"Israel has repeatedly described its ground operation in Rafah as 'limited.' But in this neighborhood in southern Rafah, the destruction looks almost identical to what I've seen in northern Gaza, in central Gaza and in Khan Younis," Diamond reported, adding that the neighborhoods he visited were unrecognizable.

Hagari attributed the destruction to Hamas' practice of attaching explosive devices to homes, apartment blocks and tunnels. "When you see destruction, it's because either the houses were booby-trapped, or when we demolished a tunnel the houses fell apart, or that Hamas fired from those houses and risked our forces and we had no other method but to ensure our forces were safe," he explained.

CNN noted that it could not independently verify Hagari's claims as reporters were barred from entering the Palestinian enclave independently.

Dov Leiber of the Wall Street Journal also highlighted the extensive damage. "Even the counterinsurgency phase of the fighting that the Israeli military considers lower-intensity has been highly destructive, leaving many neighborhoods in rubble. This weekend, Israel's military said it continued to find tunnels and fight against squads of militants in Rafah," Leiber wrote.

"Building after building had been reduced to piles of rubble. The military, which controlled the itinerary, said Hamas' extensive use of booby traps made it safer for soldiers to bring the buildings down than to clear them."

The New York Times reported that once bustling streets were now deserted. "More than a million people have fled to avoid an Israeli onslaught that began two months ago. Many have been displaced repeatedly and now live in tent cities that stretch for miles, where they face an uncertain future as they mourn the loss of loved ones," wrote reporter Adam Goldman.

Goldman remarked that the military supervised their visit to Rafah, requiring them to stay with the convoy, although Israeli officials did not review or censor their work. "A representative of Hamas did not respond to text messages seeking comment," he noted. At the end of the tour, the group climbed a hill overlooking the area. Hagari pointed toward Tal al-Sultan, another Rafah neighborhood, stating that hostages were being held there. "A small group of Americans could be among them. Freeing them required rescue operations or military pressure. Hagari said any country would have done the same as Israel after October 7," Goldman reported.

7.07. 24 – Su

Netanyahu sets 5-point red line on hostage deal: We will not compromise these demands

7.07. 24 – Su

Netanyahu sets public red line on hostage deal: 'We will not compromise on these demands'

As security establishment claims Netanyahu is derailing a deal, the prime minister issued a public statement outlining 5 demands that he says he will not compromise on in any negotiations; 'Any deal will allow Israel to resume fighting until all of its war are achieved'; Hamas is expected to oppose it

Yuval Karmi|14:34

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a hawkish announcement as a new round of negotiations to bring home the hostages in Gaza begins. Netanyahu issued a public statement on Sunday night about the negotiations for a hostage-cease-fire deal, and emphasized what are the principles that Israel will not give up on as part of the talks with Hamas.

These are the principles, according to a statement from Netanyahu's office:

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1. Any deal will allow Israel to resume fighting until all of objectives of the war have been achieved.
2. There will be no smuggling of weapons to Hamas from Egypt to the Gaza border.
3. There will be no return of thousands of armed terrorists to the northern Gaza Strip.
4. Israel will maximize the number of living hostages who will be released from Hamas captivity.
5. The plan that has been agreed to by Israel and which has been welcomed by U.S. President Joe Biden will allow Israel to return hostages without infringing on the other objectives of the war.

The condition that "There will be no return of thousands of armed terrorists to the northern Gaza Strip" is a clause that did not exist in the original wording of the agreement. This means, in practice, that the IDF will be the one to oversee the return of Gazans to the northern Gaza Strip, through control of the Netzarim Corridor that separates this area from the rest of the Gaza Strip. Hamas, which demands the return of all displaced persons to their homes, is expected to oppose the IDF's continued control of the corridor during the cease-fire.

Officials in the political and security system received with astonishment Netanyahu's public announcement of red lines for the negotiations for the release of the hostages. The announcement came shortly Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and military personnel, met for a situation assessment ahead of the new negotiations.

A security official called this "improper conduct that will harm the chance of returning the hostages home. There is also a question of timing here. If you issue the announcement even negotiations have started then why negotiate? If this is the conduct, the hostages will never return.

Ynetnews commentator Ron Ben Yishai reports that the public repetition of the red lines is a deliberate hardening of the position toward Hamas, designed to appease Netanyahu's partners in the government. As far as the negotiation teams are concerned, once a public red line has been set, this is a hardening of positions, and the categorical wording makes it difficult to negotiate on these issues and leads to rigidity on the other side. This could sabotage the negotiations, but on the other hand - according to Netanyahu's version - this could be a tough start to the negotiations on the details, in order to reach better conclusions later on.

"The Prime Minister's firm stand against the attempt to stop the IDF operation in Rafah is what brought Hamas to enter into negotiations. The Prime Minister continues to firmly stand by the principles already agreed upon by Israel," according to Netanyahu's office. The deal includes three stages; During the first stage all the women, the sick and the elderly hostages who remained in captivity will be released. These include 33 living and dead hostages, according to the reports, who will be released over six weeks. In the second phase, the rest of the living hostages, mainly the young men and the soldiers, are supposed to be released. This phase involves the most acute dispute in the agreement, since Hamas conditions it taking place on a permanent cease-fire - while Israel currently refuses this. In the third stage, the rest of the bodies of dead hostages are supposed to be

released. At each stage of the deal, Israel is required to release hundreds of terrorists from Israeli prisons.

At the same time as the announcement by Netanyahu's office, a mass demonstration has been taking place with the participation of thousands on Menachem Begin Street in Tel Aviv, demanding elections and the return of the hostages, as part of the "Day of Disruption" initiated by protest organizations to mark nine months since the October 7 attack. Einav Tsengaoker, the mother of kidnapped hostage Matan, was raised in a cage above the protesters next to a sign with the inscription "We will not allow them to be torpedoed."

"Tonight I rose five meters in a cage because we are all captives of Netanyahu and Sinwar," Tsengaoker said. "It's very simple: 'There is a deal on the table that can save lives and all of us. I want Matan at home, I want all the hostages at home now.'" She also addressed Netanyahu directly, saying: "The keys to this cage and other cages are in your hands. For nine months you abandon the hostages. Netanyahu, stop dragging your feet. We want them at home and it's up to you. Bring them home." Many protesters shouted, among other things: "You are not alone, we are with you."

Meanwhile, the contacts between the parties continue. Mossad head Dedi Barnea, is expected to meet on Wednesday in Doha, Qatar with the local prime minister, the head of the CIA and the head of Egyptian intelligence. In Egypt it was reported that the head of the CIA will arrive in Cairo this week, as will an "Israeli delegation" - which will leave for the city on Monday.

Earlier on Sunday, Netanyahu claimed that Gallant's demand for the promotion of the ultra-Orthodox conscription law only with broad agreement gives the opposition the possibility to prevent the conscription of ultra-Orthodox men with the aim of "toppling the government, which will stop the release of hostages and bring defeat in the war." Gallant, on the other hand, attacked Netanyahu and accused: "This is a sensitive time. We need to make an agreement for the return of the hostages - the political attempt to link the release of the hostages with an exemption from conscription for the ultra-Orthodox is dangerous and irresponsible."

And while the defense minister and the prime minister conduct a public exchange of accusations, the "Day of Disruption" took place across the country on Sunday - demanding to replace the government and to carry out the hostage deal.

7.07. 24 – Su

Police find drug lab, weapons and military vehicle in a yard in Golan Heights

7.07. 24 – Su

Police find drugs, weapons and military vehicle in a yard in northern Israel

A 29-year-old resident of the Golan Heights was detained after police found a military vehicle, weapons and marijuana plants in his yard; IDF called to investigate the origin of the vehicle and equipment

Eitan Glickman|10:19

Israel Police found a military vehicle, munitions, a mortar shell and equipment for a drug farm after conducting a search in a yard in the Golan Heights of a 29-year-old suspect on Sunday.

The authorities detained the suspect for questioning at a police station and summoned IDF personnel to the scene to investigate the origin of the vehicle and property that were discovered. Additionally, authorities found several marijuana plants and equipment used for cultivating a drug lab.

7.07. 24 – Su

West Bank fertilizer used for buried explosives in Jordan war on IDF

7.07. 24 – Su

IDF's war on growing use of concealed explosives in West Bank

In special situation assessment, military decides on series of actions against the growing phenomenon, including bolstering intelligence and considering use of APCs

Yoav Zitun|03:17

The IDF Central Command last week discussed a series of steps the military can take following increased terrorist activity in the West Bank and the use of buried explosives which resulted in several Israeli casualties.

These include targeting terrorists setting the explosives, prohibiting the entry of fertilizer into the area out of fear they are used to manufacture explosives, inspecting the viability of using APCs in the area for the first time since the Second Intifada, and issuing warnings for Palestinians should this phenomenon continue. The issues were discussed in a special situation assessment held by IDF Central Command chief MG Yehuda Fox.

One of the significant decisions made in the discussion was to increase intelligence surveillance in the area to locate terrorists planting explosive devices in West Bank refugee camps where the IDF regularly operates. Four terrorists were eliminated by an Israeli drone strike after they were located planting explosives in the Nur Shams camp near Tulkarm.

Although no standard explosives like the "Shawaz" seen in Gaza have been identified in the area - despite Iranian efforts to smuggle them through the Jordanian border - thousands of explosives are still scattered across the West Bank, encountered by soldiers in almost every operation in the area. These devices are high-quality homemade explosives that continue to be improved upon.

The military has located simple Iranian instructions for assembling the explosives and operating them remotely.

Over the past year, the IDF has seized or destroyed over 50 weapon and explosive device manufacturing labs. Over 1,000 homemade explosives and hundreds of belly bombs have been found and defused, and over 150 explosives planted under civilian infrastructure have been dismantled.

MG Fox also instructed authorities to halt or limit the transfer of agricultural fertilizers from Israel to the West Bank, after the security officials discovered many of the terrorists' explosives contained these fertilizers, which increased the blast and destruction they caused.

It was also decided to improve military procedures for exposing deeply planted explosives exposed by bulldozers in the area. The move comes after many of the explosives were hidden at a depth of about one and a half meters deep underground. Aerial intelligence units were also instructed to attempt and identify soil changes along routes leading to military operation targets after seeing fresh planting sites could be located in this manner.

The IDF isn't ruling out the possibility of sending forces into these operations in heavily armored vehicles, such as the Namer or M113 APCs, for the first time since the Second Intifada. This possibility has come up several times in discussions within the Judea and Samaria Division over the past year but has been shelved until now.

This is because the M113 APCs, which are available in large numbers in the military, are considered less protected than the Namer variants, which are highly protected against explosive threats but are prioritized for fighting on the northern border and Gaza.

Moreover, APCs are less maneuverable in the West Bank's narrow alleys compared to the Panther and Tigr military vehicles. Another reason concerns the army's fear the step would further deteriorate the situation in the West Bank, which has so far not joined the violence seen in Gaza and the northern border.

The IDF decided to introduce additional countermeasures, mainly via combat engineering and sapping, to uncover hidden explosives.

A military commented on the military's decisions, saying, "A phenomenon we haven't yet seen in the West Bank is taking place - the use of standard explosives, bombs, and grenades stolen from the military amid the chaos after October 7, reaching criminal elements within Israel.

"Generally, weapons stolen from the military quickly reach terrorist groups in the area. Moreover, we have mainly seen the use of explosives against soldiers in Palestinian territories, but as time goes on, the risk of them being used against civilians increases as well. Therefore, a comprehensive response has been formulated against this phenomenon."

7.07.24 – Su

Demonstrators plan protests at 30 locations for snap election to rescue 120 hostages

7.07.24 – Su

Demonstrators take to the streets en masse on 'Day of Disruption'

Protest organizations gather near homes of lawmakers nationwide, demanding return of hostages and early elections; high-tech companies join calls for change

Roy Rubinstein, Gal Ganot|00:58

Israeli protest organizations took to the streets on Sunday morning in a planned “Day of Disruption” marking nine months since Hamas’ murderous attack on October 7.

The movements have planned several demonstrations and events calling for the release of the hostages and the resignation of the government in a bid for a snap election.

Protestors stood near the homes of 18 lawmakers at 6:29 a.m., the same time when sirens began sounding in Israel on October 7, chanting at them for being a “complete failure.” Some of the lawmakers include Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Transportation Minister Miri Regev, Foreign Minister Israel Katz and others.

Several large-scale protests are expected to take place at 30 locations across the country from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Demonstrations will also be held at nine central intersections in Israel, followed by marches and protests in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv during the evening.

Over 150 of Israel's largest high-tech companies and several venture capital funds are allowing their employees to join the protests during work hours. These include Lemonade, HoneyBook, Monday.com, Redis, AppsFlyer, Papaya Global, Riskified, Kaltura, Bizzabo, Wix, Fiverr, Minute Media, Global-e, Meta, CHEQ, Simply Natural Intelligence, Skai, Tyto, Forter, Windward, Augury, Brigg and more.

Several venture capital funds have also joined the move, including Qumra Capital, Bessemer, Pitango, Disruptive TLV Fund, Viola Group, NFX, Team 8, OFVP, F2, TriVentures, Vertex Ventures Israel, Vintage Investment Partners, Partners and others. Eran Schwartz, CEO of the Hofshi Be’arzenu (Free in Our Land) protest organization said in a statement, “Today, nine months after the disaster, we’re taking to the streets to remind the government that the people demand change. 120 hostages are still being held by Hamas, the north and south are neglected, and the government continues to ignore the public's calls. We’re halting the country in order to save it. It’s time to hold immediate elections.”

7.06. 24 – Sa

IDF struck 3 UNRWA-run schools in central Gaza launching attacks from Hamas

7.06. 24 – Sa

IDF says struck UNRWA-run school in central Gaza used by Hamas terrorists
Military says site in Nuseirat refugee camp used as hideout and operational base for planning and executing attacks against Israeli forces in area
Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi | 14:54

The IDF said Saturday night that it struck a UNRWA-run Al-Jaouni school in central Gaza that was used by Hamas terrorists.

The military said the site in the Nuseirat refugee camp was used as a hideout and operational base for planning and executing attacks against Israeli forces in the area.

"Prior to the strike, numerous steps were taken in order to mitigate the risk of harming civilians, including the use of precise aerial surveillance and additional intelligence," the army said in a statement.

"The Hamas terrorist organization systematically violates international law, exploiting civilian structures and population as human shields for its terror attacks against the State of Israel."

Earlier, Hamas authorities in Gaza reported that at least 14 Palestinians were killed in the strike.

Earlier on Saturday, the General Directorate of Police in the Gaza Strip announced that an airstrike in Rafah, which killed six Palestinians, also eliminated Colonel Fares Abdul Aal, the head of the Tel al-Sultan police station in the western part of the city. Additionally, three other officers were also reportedly killed in the attack.

7.05. 24 – Fr

Hamas demands cease-fire by Saturday night to talk; Israel Cabinet will vote

7.05. 24 – Fr

Hamas demands response by Saturday and Israel refuses unlimited negotiations
 Hamas demands response to cease-fire deal by Saturday night and Israel refuses to a time-limited negotiations; Mossad chief: 'Optimistic Cabinet will agree'
 Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi|Updated:14:27

Following Mossad's optimism that a deal is possible in the next few weeks, sources who are familiar with the details told the Wall Street Journal on Friday that the spy agency informed the mediators that it is optimistic the Cabinet will agree to the terms of the cease-fire deal.

Mossad Chief David Barnea landed in Israel on Friday after a few hours in Qatar during which, he held a meeting with Qatari mediators who are mediating between Israel and Hamas to reach a deal with Egypt and the United States. The Prime Minister's Office also stated that a team would continue negotiations next week in hopes of reaching a deal. "There are still gaps between the parties," the PMO said.

Meanwhile, senior Hamas leader Osama Hamdan told AFP that Hamas is expecting a response from Israel on the cease-fire deal by Saturday night. "If the response is positive, we will discuss the proposal in detail," added Hamdan. "The military capabilities of the movement in the Gaza Strip are still in good shape to continue the war."

Another senior Hamas official, Khalil al-Hayya, met on Friday in Beirut with Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, informing him of " Hamas' agreement to a cease-fire." According to sources familiar with the matter, Nasrallah welcomed this decision. Israeli estimates say that Hamas and Hezbollah show they want a deal but there are still points of contention. Israel opposes Hamas' demand for a commitment that negotiations on extending the cease-fire will be limitless.

Hezbollah stated that Nasrallah and Khalil al-Hayya discussed recent developments in cease-fire talks. One senior Hezbollah official told Reuters that the organization will hold its fire as soon as the cease-fire comes into effect in Gaza, as they have said in previous statements. "If there is an agreement in Gaza, then there will be a cease-fire in Lebanon immediately," he said.

On Thursday, the Cabinet meeting erupted during a discussion regarding the renewal of negotiations in hopes of reaching a possible hostage deal. Prime Minister Netanyahu decided together with Mossad chief Barnea to send a delegation to talks in Qatar. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir opposed negotiations because he was not part of the decision to send the delegation to Qatar and once again threatened to dissolve the government. Netanyahu promised, "When it becomes relevant, the deal will be brought to the Cabinet and government for approval."

First published: 21:54, 07.05.24

7.05.24 – Fr

Ben-Gvir & Smortich oppose cease-fire to release hostages; we must end Hamas

7.05.24 – Fr

Far-right minister threatens Netanyahu's coalition over Hamas deal

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir tells Netanyahu in a meeting of the security cabinet that since he was making decisions on his own and ignoring his coalition partners and their constituents, he would remain on his own

Itamar Eichner|03:29

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, threatened to end Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government if a cease-fire deal in exchange for the release of the hostages, is agreed.

Ben-Gvir had made similar threats when previous agreements were on the table. Netanyahu has been accused of thwarting those deals to preserve his rule.

"You make these decisions on your own so you will remain on your own," Ben-Gvir told the prime minister during Thursday's security cabinet meeting. Netanyahu had scheduled consultations with security officials to discuss the possible deal, after the cabinet's meeting ahead of Mossad chief David Barnea's departure for Qatar for talks.

I understand you will be making the decisions in the real meeting and we are here as props," Ben-Gvir said. "You are ignoring my half a million voters." Netanyahu has a 64 out of 120-seat majority in the Knesset and relies on his partners from the far-right and the ultra-Orthodox parties, to maintain his rule. He has thus far refused to assume responsibility for the failings leading up to the October 7 massacre and ignores calls for his resignation and for elections to be held.

Ben-Gvir along with Finance Minister Bezalet Smortich opposed the cease-fire deal in November, which resulted in the release of some of the women and children abducted by the terrorists. They have said that the release of the hostages cannot be the top priority of the government and that only a complete defeat of Hamas should end the war.

7.04. 24 – Th

Israel believes Lebanon will reject diplomatic resolution pushed by US

7.04. 24 – Th

Israel believes Nasrallah would reject diplomatic resolution pushed by US. Special envoy Amos Hochstein proposes demilitarization of South Lebanon, Radwan forces and heavy weaponry pushed back 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) from border; officials say his refusal would legitimize Israeli offensive to bring safety back to north

| 16:20

Senior Israeli officials have said repeatedly in recent days that they hoped the conflict with Hezbollah would be resolved diplomatically. But security officials and members of the government in Israel believe Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah would reject the agreement currently being advanced by White House special envoy Amos Hochstein.

According to his proposal, South Lebanon would be demilitarized and the Radwan force would be moved back to a distance of at least 10 kilometers from the border with Israel. Hezbollah's heavy weaponry, including rockets, launchers, mortars, drones and missiles would also be removed from the area. In exchange, Israel would agree to some amendments of the border between the two countries.

The officials said that if Hezbollah rejects the diplomatic resolution, Israel would be forced to launch an offensive on Lebanon within two months to remove the terror group from its frontier and return the residents of the Galilee to their homes, safely. They believe Nasrallah's refusal and the time that would elapse, would enable Israel to gain American and international legitimacy for the war. The IDF would also be able to amass the necessary armaments it would need in the event that Hezbollah would attack Israel again after the war ends and some cease-fire agreement is achieved.

The officials also believe Iran does not want the fighting along the border to continue. Western sources have said Tehran made it clear to Nasrallah that it was not seeking an

all-out war with Israel and therefore he could not count on Iranian intervention in the fighting if a war with Israel begins.

7.04. 24 – Th

Optimistic deal with Hamas within weeks, PM approves delegation to renewed talks

7.04. 24 – Th

Israelis optimistic deal with Hamas within reach, PM approves delegation to renewed talks

Agreement can come in the next weeks officials say but note Netanyahu insists only after all objectives are met can the war end says Mediators' pressure brought shift in Hamas's position along with a realization that the offensive would not be dialed down
Itamar Eichner|10:16

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu On Thursday approved the departure of Israel's negotiating team to the talks on a cease-fire for a hostage release deal, an official said. The response from Hamas to the latest Israeli proposal, given on Wednesday, was seen in Jerusalem as the best response from the terror group, yet.

"Netanyahu repeated his position that the war will end only after all of its objectives were reached and not one moment sooner," he said.

There is a measure of optimism in Jerusalem that a deal could be reached within two or three weeks but officials warn that may not ultimately be the case.

According to various reports, the deal is comprised of three phases. In the first, which will last six weeks, all female hostages, the elderly and infirmed would be freed in a total of 33 hostages both dead and alive and Palestinian prisoners would be released from Israeli prisons. Meanwhile, negotiations will be underway for the next phase of the deal. Hamas demands that the second phase include a full withdrawal of IDF troops from the Strip. Israel had rejected that demand. The rest of the live hostages would be freed in the second phase while more Palestinian prisoners would be set free, among them convicted murderers in terror attacks.

The rest of the bodies of hostages, held by Hamas would be released to Israel in the third phase.

"The pending deal allows Israel to resume the fighting if there is no agreement during negotiations for the second phase," the official said adding that without that provision, the chances that the soldiers and the men among the hostages would be released, would be considerably smaller. Hamas had in the past, included female soldiers in the humanitarian release of women and children and there is a similar expectation now although, some warn that that may upend the talks.

This is **not a perfect deal**, the officials in Israel say but others involved in the deliberations say the main points of contention have been agreed and the **negotiations now are over the details and not over principles**.

The **change in trajectory** in the efforts to bring about a cease-fire is the **result of American Egyptian and Qatari pressure** and the **understanding in Hamas** that the **rift between Israel and the Biden administration will not grow**, the officials note. Hamas has also understood that **their hope that the IDF offensive would be dialed down, has not materialized**, they said.

There is **no schedule for the talks to resume** but officials said there **may be a summit meeting** with the participation of CIA director Bill Burns in the coming days.

7.04. 24 – Th

Lebanon launched 20 drones & 200 rockets-missiles at Galilee & Golan Heights

7.04. 24 – Th

IDF: Over 200 rockets and drones fired from Lebanon; direct hits reported
Nonstop alarms wail as far as Nahariya and Acre as **Hezbollah retaliates for assassination of top commander** in single largest attack since October 7, reportedly **igniting several brush fires**

Eitan Glikman, Lior Ben Ari, Yoav Zitun|03:23

The IDF reported on Thursday that roughly 160 **rockets and missiles** were fired toward the **Golan Heights** region in the **heaviest attack** on the north **since the beginning** of the war. **Some** were **intercepted** by air defense fighters and fighter jets. The army later revised the **figure to over 200**.

Additionally, more than **15 drones** were launched toward Israel, with **several intercepted**. According to the military, **targets fired at Mount Dov** were **intercepted**, and an Iron Dome system likely intercepted a drone launched toward the town of Katzrin in the Golan Heights. In response, the **IDF is conducting artillery strikes in Lebanon**.

The **large-scale attack** came nearly **a day after the assassination** of Muhammad Neamah Nasser, **commander of Hezbollah's Aziz Regional Division**, in an Israeli airstrike. Numerous sirens warning of consecutive rocket and drone barrages were activated across northern Israel **Thursday morning**.

A **Hezbollah official** told Al Jazeera that the group has **launched over 20 drones and 200 rockets and missiles**, with some scoring direct impact on targets within Israel. This marks the **single largest attack** Hezbollah has mounted against Israel **since the outset of the war** on October 7.

Sirens warning of a suspected hostile aircraft intrusion were activated in the Akhziv Miluot industrial park and the towns of Shlomi, Hanita, Rosh Hanikra, Matzuva, Betzet, Liman, Kabri, Ein Yaakov, Ga'aton, Yehiam, Gesher HaZiv, Nahariya, Sa'ar, Kabri and Ben Ami in the **Western Galilee**.

A siren warning of rocket and missile fire was activated in Ein HaMifratz and Acre, where fragments of an interceptor missile landed on the roof of a shopping mall. Meanwhile, sirens warning of a suspected hostile aircraft intrusion were activated in the towns of Evron, Mazra'a, Shavei Zion, Regba and Lohamei HaGeta'ot. The first alarms sounded in Kiryat Shmona and several nearby towns, including Amir, Kfar Blum, Sde Nehemia, Beit Hillel, Lehavot HaBashan, Neot Mordechai, Tel Hai and Kfar Giladi. Approximately 15 rockets were fired at the Upper Galilee in the initial salvo, most of which crashed in unpopulated areas, with some intercepted by air defense systems.

Hezbollah-affiliated Al Manar network reported that Israeli artillery fire battered the village of Odaisseh in southern Lebanon, west of the Israeli border town of Misgav Am. Sirens also warned of suspected hostile aircraft intrusions in various locations, including Kibbutz Ayelet HaShahar in the Hula Valley deep within Israeli territory, Ramat Naftali, Yiftach, Bar'am, Avivim, Yiron, Malkia, Dishon, Shlomi, Matzuva and Betzet in the Western Galilee.

The Hezbollah-affiliated Al Mayadeen network claimed that drones had penetrated Israeli airspace.

The alerts continued with warnings in Kiryat Shmona and towns like Snir, Maayan Baruch, Dafna, Metula, Kfar Giladi, HaGoshrim, Margalioth, Beit Hillel, Kfar Yuval, She'ar Yashuv, Misgav Am, Manara, Tel Hai, Kibbutz Dan and Ghajar.

In the Golan Heights, sirens were activated in Moshav Ilania, Neve Ativ, Ein Qiniyye, Nimrod, Majdal Shams, Mas'ade, Sha'al, Kela, Katzrin and Kidmat Tzvi, warning of both aircraft intrusions and rocket fire. The attack reportedly ignited several brush fires. Sirens also sounded in Nahal Oz in the Gaza border area. For 40 minutes, continuous sirens blared across the north as part of a combined barrage of drones and rockets targeting the Galilee and Golan Heights.

7.03. 24 – We

Hamas responds to mediators, hostage proposal to stop the war, some issues unresolved

7.03. 24 – We

'Best offer so far': Israel receives Hamas response to hostage deal proposal

Mossad says Jerusalem 'reviewing response and will reply to mediators in due course'; security officials say proposal 'provides basis to move forward'; however, some issues remain unresolved

Itamar Eichner | 15:19

Mediators have conveyed to the Israeli negotiation team Hamas' response to Jerusalem's hostage deal proposal, the Prime Minister's Office said Wednesday in a statement on behalf of Mossad, adding that Israel was "reviewing the response and will reply to the mediators in due course."

Israeli security officials said, "This is the best offer so far; it is a basis for progress." They noted that several issues have yet to be resolved, such as IDF presence on the Philadelphi Corridor on Gaza's southern end and a veto on the identities of prisoners to be released"

One security official added, " Hamas is moving toward the Biden framework, but the question is whether it will be enough for the Israeli Cabinet."

Hamas commented on the response they provided, claiming, "We exchanged some ideas with the mediators." Hussam Badran, a member of Hamas' political bureau, told Al Jazeera, "We are interested in reaching an agreement to end the war, and our communication with the mediators continues. We exchanged some ideas with the mediators to stop the war and ensure a comprehensive withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. "Our communication with the mediators in Qatar and Egypt is ongoing, and Washington is exerting pressure in its own ways." Senior Hamas official Basem Naim told the Arab-American site Al-Monitor that "we responded with several ideas to bridge the gap and ensure an agreement on Gaza."

Earlier, the Prime Minister's Office issued a statement from a "senior security official" indicating that " Hamas continues to insist on a principle clause in the framework that would prevent Israel from resuming fighting after phase one of the plan, which is unacceptable to Israel. Other gaps still remain unresolved. Israel will continue the negotiations while maintaining military and diplomatic pressure to secure the release of all 120 hostages, both living and deceased." This statement was released after Israel received Hamas' response.

The families of the hostages welcomed the progress of the framework but warned that if the government derails the deal, "millions will take to the streets." The Hostages and Missing Families Forum said, "The families of the hostages commend the prime minister for advancing the 'Netanyahu deal.' However, given the statements from senior ministers, if the government thwarts the Netanyahu deal for the release of the hostages, there will be no choice but for millions of Israelis to take to the streets.

"The people of Israel repeatedly show in every poll that they support a comprehensive deal to bring back all the hostages. We will not allow ministers to sabotage another deal. This is an Israeli ethos and a supreme human value: no one is left behind.

"The government faces the ultimate moral test of its term: continued abandonment or decisive action for rescue and return. Full return of the hostages, or all citizens of Israel will take to the roads and intersections. We will not abandon the 120 hostages a second time."

7.03. 24 – We

Rafah chains buildings with explosives, if one goes off, all buildings on street collapse

7.03. 24 – We

Watch: IDF troops uncover large weapons cache in Rafah

Forces uncover anti-tank missile launchers concealed under floor of residential apartment; officer says Hamas, learning from past experiences, rigged buildings to explode as troops enter

Yoav Zitun|08:12

Footage from a military tactical helmet obtained by Ynet on Wednesday shows how Nahal Brigade soldiers locate a weapons cache including anti-tank missile launchers and munitions hidden under a Gaza apartment's floor.

"I didn't believe I'd find things in the ruins of buildings we attacked before entering them until I saw it with my own eyes," one of the officers involved told Ynet. "We saw an unusual and large number of tunnels in Rafah, operated by Hamas using different techniques this time, with hidden explosives and hidden weapons caches found in children's wardrobes. We found secret passages between rooms through the wardrobes and weapons caches under the floor," he said.

The forces observed how Hamas has learned from their experiences in the war and better fortified themselves and their positions.

"One of the changes Hamas made in Rafah is to chain buildings with explosive devices and weapons so that if one explosion goes off, all of the buildings on the street collapse on the troops," he said.

"We understood this quickly and operated wisely since then, using drones and canines to scan the inside of the edifice first after we attack from the outside. We can't be allowed to miss anything. Hamas also set up many CCTV cameras to remotely monitor our movements, and we dismantle these surveillance devices," he said.

According to IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Herzl Halevi, the IDF has so far eliminated 900 terrorists in Rafah, though the number counts to less than a third of the local brigade's force and the last major target in the military's ground operation. Over 2,000 Hamas terrorists in Rafah managed to flee northward, mainly to Khan Younis, but not before trapping the streets with explosives.

7.03. 24 – We

West Bank outpost built over a year demolished by Police; no reply from Smotrich

7.03. 24 – We

Settlers riot when illegal West Bank outpost dismantled

Forces arrive at an outpost built on private Palestinian land are met by rioters burning tires and setting vehicles on fire; after buildings are demolished, settlers target forces, hurling stones and damaging emergency vehicles

Elisha Ben Kimon|02:25

Security forces on Wednesday demolished an illegal West Bank outpost built on privately owned Palestinian land. According to security officials, the outpost and its inhabitants posed a serious security risk to the area.

Some of the structures demolished by the forces were built over a year ago and others were erected in the past few weeks. An access road leading to the outpost was also destroyed. The decision to remove the illegal settlement was approved by the government.

Some 70 Border Police teams, numbering 500 officers, were dispatched to the outpost out of concern that the settlers would respond violently to the demolition orders. As the force arrived, rioters blocked their path with burning tires and set vehicles on fire, including emergency vehicles. They hurled stones at the troops who responded with riot control measures.

The violence continued after the troops left the site as groups of settlers threw stones at security forces and emergency teams on the roads.

The order to demolish the illegal outpost came amid efforts by far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich to legalize West Bank outposts and expand settlements. Smotrich who was also appointed a minister in the Defense Ministry, with authority over civilian matters on the West Bank, established a directorate with overreaching powers over the area, to offset decisions of the security officials and the civil administration.

The government has come under international criticism for its settler expansion plans and for failing to prosecute violent settlers over their alleged riots and increased violence against Palestinians.

On Tuesday, the State Department issued a statement enforcing the administration's position. "We view the expansion of settlements as inconsistent with international law that weakens Israel's security and detrimental to the two-state solution," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said.

The families who resided in the now-evacuated outpost are expected to demand answers from Smotrich including whether he was aware of the planned demolition and why he did not stop it. "We urge you to immediately exercise your authority and stop the impending destruction," they said.

"Under no circumstances do we intend to give up parts of our land; attempts to tear apart and destroy parts of our sacred land will be met with determined protest by those who love the land and are called to defend it, willing to sacrifice themselves for the sanctity of our ancestral land."

Smotrich has yet to respond to the events.

7.02. 24 – Tu

Crime & violence surge in Gaza as Hamas loses grip, houses are targets for looting

7.02. 24 – Tu

Crime and violence surge in Gaza as Hamas loses grip, report says

Wall Street Journal report details how theft, murder and general crime saw massive rise in enclave since October 7, warning chaos could continue for years if left unhandled
Ynet|10:15

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that crime and disorder in Gaza has reached unprecedented levels since the start of the war in the Strip began shortly after October 7. According to the report, crime, killings, and smuggling operations have been on the rise and pose risks to international aid missions. U.S. sources warned that should the vacuum of power in the area continue Gaza may suffer chaos for years to come.

Israel has managed, amid the war, to break Hamas' grip on public order, but has yet to fill the vacuum by itself and isn't allowing other entities, such as the Palestinian Authority, to do so. The article suggests such a decision could help restore basic services to the Palestinian enclave.

In northern Gaza, from which most of the population already fled, abandoned houses that weren't attacked by the IDF are considered targets for looting. Residents who stayed in the area tried to protect their neighbors' property, but said the looters have become "more brazen," claiming that the "suffering imposed by war" gives them license to steal whatever they require.

Most of Gaza's population is now in displacement camps found mainly in the southern and central parts of the Strip while international criticism continues, alleging these hundreds of thousands of displaced people suffer from a lack of food, water, and medicine. According to some of the individuals, "Violent disputes over basic supplies break out daily, and the Hamas-controlled police force is either absent or powerless." The head of Gaza's government media office, also controlled by the terror organization, claimed Hamas's police are currently operating according to "emergency plans, imposing safety and security in the places where they can." He stressed Hamas' men are "trying to prevent looting, pursue thieves and return stolen goods to their owners," and accused Israel of deliberately causing chaos.

"Israel had targeted dozens of police stations and killed hundreds of police officers since the start of the war, undermining the force's ability to operate at full capacity. The campaign aims to sow chaos, disrupt safety and security in the Gaza Strip and create an administrative and governmental vacuum," he added. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office declined to comment on the report.

The article detailed several recent incidents in the Strip. In one of them, a clash was seen between youths from families in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza which ended in a particularly violent death.

One youth killed another using a concrete block, and the victim's family retaliated by setting the other's residential building on fire. Although firefighters managed to control the blaze and the police dispersed the gathered crowd, the conflict continued.

One eyewitness told the American newspaper he had never supported Hamas but now wants its return. "I hate Hamas and never supported them, but I wish they were back to control Gaza due to the lawlessness we have. It's becoming so scary." The article

described how Hamas' police had patrolled the streets in the area, providing a certain sense of security to residents.

Police presence in Gaza is now sporadic. Some police stations were targeted by the IDF, and prisons were abandoned. Many officers were killed, others moved away from areas they operated in, and others are trying to provide basic necessities for themselves and their families. The report added Hamas' police still operate but suffer from a severe manpower shortage.

The article claimed those still working for the police usually don't wear uniforms out of fear of being attacked. "Hamas' military capabilities have been degraded," an American official involved in the details told the outlet. "So, too, have its capabilities to enforce law and order, so absolutely nobody should be surprised that this is the situation inside of Gaza right now."

Palestinians say residents' insecurity levels, from rising crime to airstrikes and IDF raids, have reached a new high in recent months. Many report no longer feeling safe walking the streets late at night. "The overall breakdown of law and order... is a huge operational constraint for everybody in Gaza," a Red Cross International Committee official said back in June. "We see very high instances of looting, which is at least in part driven by the desperation of civilians."

7.02. 24 – Tu

IDF intensifies while Gazans flee & Hamas launch 20 rockets at Israel communities

7.02. 24 – Tu

Gazans flee as IDF intensifies attacks on Khan Younis

IDF says evacuation necessary for civilians' safety as Israeli forces target terrorists responsible for launching 20 rockets at Israeli border communities; Palestinians report fleeing with only the clothes on their backs

Einav Halabi, Yoav Zitun|07:04

Palestinians have been fleeing Khan Younis after warnings from the IDF on Monday to evacuate the area for safety. The flow of citizens continued overnight and into Tuesday, many saying they had no time to pack or prepare and fled with only the clothes on their backs.

The move westward to the humanitarian zone in the Bedouin town of al-Mawasi. They were seen carrying what belongings they could take on their backs, while others traveled in cars, trucks, and heavily laden motorcycles. Some were aided by donkeys, and one girl was filmed being transported in a wheelbarrow.

"We received a notification on our mobile phone to evacuate," Zineb Abu-Jazar told an AP crew, her voice cracking with emotion. "Look at these children, how they walk. We couldn't find a car to take us."

Another evacuee, Ahmed Al-Bayram, told Reuters that he had been displaced numerous times since the war began. "We came from the eastern area, then moved to the European Hospital, then to Rafah, then back to Bani Suheila. From there, we moved to Nasser Hospital, and just now we arrived at the Sumud camp. Only Allah knows where we will be tomorrow. It's exhausting, exhausting, exhausting. This time we didn't take anything with us. There was no time to take anything. There is practically no transportation. I have children with me, and they are walking."

The IDF warning came hours after Islamic Jihad terrorists, fired a heavy barrage of 20 rockets at Israeli border communities in the morning hours on Monday. Although there were no casualties or damage from the attack, it was highly unusual and represented a show of force by the terrorist factions after nine months of war.

The world is now speculating whether the call for an evacuation signals an intention by the IDF to re-enter Khan Younis after its forces withdrew last April. The IDF has already conducted several raids into areas they had withdrawn from, so far only in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. The military said such raids were necessary to prevent Hamas from re-establishing its control there.

The IDF said on Tuesday that its forces struck targets in the Khan Younis area from which the rockets were launched. It implied that the evacuation order was intended to protect civilians before the airstrikes, and not to re-enter the city, at least not at this time. The military said that Air Force fighter jets, in collaboration with the Southern Command, bombed targets overnight, including a weapons depot, operational apartments, and additional terror infrastructures.

"Prior to the attacks, the IDF took precautions and allowed civilians to evacuate the area to minimize the impact on non-combatants," the statement said. "The Hamas terrorist organization systematically violates international law by cynically exploiting the civilian population as a shield for its terrorist activities against the State of Israel."

According to Hamas, thousands of refugees have responded to the IDF's demand. "Thousands of families have been displaced from Khan Younis and Rafah after the occupation demanded their evacuation. The government's capabilities to meet the population's needs are limited due to the war," said the communication ministry in the Hamas-ruled enclave.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres quickly expressed his dismay over the evacuation announcement of the eastern part of Khan Younis, stating, "It shows that there is no safe place in Gaza" for Palestinian civilians. "This is another step in the deadly circular movement that the population in Gaza is forced to make on a regular basis," Guterres said in a statement, reiterating his call for an immediate cease fire.

The evacuation announcement comes amid assessments that the intensified operation in Rafah, which Khan Younis borders to the north, is nearing its end, transitioning to the less intense phase C of the war – the phase that already exists in northern Gaza with recurring raids for "mowing the grass."

On Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was "progressing toward the end of the phase of eliminating the Hamas terror army" but "there will be continued strikes on its remnants."

7.02. 24 – Tu

Israel repairing electric supply to run Gaza basic water, sewage in evacuation zones

7.02. 24 – Tu

Israel to supply electricity to run Gaza's water, sewage

Gallant signs off on decision to address basic humanitarian needs of displaced Gaza civilians, drawing sharp criticism from Smotrich who calls move 'madness'

Einav Halabi, Moran Azulay|03:29

Gaza's electric company began repairing infrastructure across the Palestinian enclave on Tuesday to prepare for electricity to be provided by Israel for Gaza's water desalination and sewage systems.

The Coordinator for the Government's Activities in the Territories (COGAT), the Israeli military body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs, said that the government's decision to supply power to Gaza was made for humanitarian reasons.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, who approved the move, emphasized its necessity for providing drinking water to civilians in evacuation zones, addressing "basic humanitarian needs."

However, the decision faced significant backlash from within the Cabinet and some opposition members. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich strongly criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, urging him to "stop this madness."

In a post, Smotrich argued that Netanyahu could not feign ignorance about the release of Al Shifa Hospital administrator Muhammed Abu Salmiya, who had been in custody since the IDF raided his facility and discovered it being used as a Hamas base of operations. "We are rehabilitating Gaza with our own hands," Smotrich said.

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Ynet-News, July 01, 2024 – Monday

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

FoW - Exodus 34, Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 16

7.01. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in June 29 spot – Saturday

Israel plans Hamas-free bubbles in Gaza neighborhoods to oversee aid delivery

7.01. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Iran increasing Quds Force to smuggle weapons across Jordan border

7.01. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in July 01 spot – Monday

High Court petition released 55 prisoners chosen by security; PM ordered inquiry

6.30. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in June 30 spot – Sunday
Hamas recruits new terrorists: inside Gaza within 40 minutes of IDF withdraw

6.27. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in June 27 spot – Thursday
Netanyahu to sanction government ministers unauthorized to miss cabinet meetings

6.27. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday
40 rockets fired into Upper Galilee from Lebanon, one home takes direct hit

6.23. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in June 23 spot – Sunday Day 7 FoW - last day
Netanyahu sends Gallant to meet Biden Advisors over US weapon shipment delays

6.23. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Day 7 FoW - last day
IDF push tanks in Rafah near coastal area, moving civilian camp to Khan Younis

6.23. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Day 7 FoW - last day
Tel Aviv Sheraton bans evacuees with homes under attack from guest dining room

6.22. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday Day 6 FoW
India's close relation with Israel supports drones & tons of munitions, yet tied to Iran

6.22. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday Day 6 FoW
Hezbollah missiles hits two homes in north, IDF moving resources north from Gaza

6.22. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in June 22 spot – Saturday Day 6 FoW
Houthi 60th attack on shipping as US carrier Eisenhower may be replaced by Roosevelt