

Ynet-News, July 19, 2024 – Friday

7.19. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in July 19 spot – Friday  
Russia is arming Yemen Houthis; US is failing to deter attacks on shipping in Red Sea

7.19. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday  
Netanyahu rejects ICJ opinion, a perversion of history to deny Israel its ancestral land

7.19. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday  
Massive global computer glitch shuts down hospitals, banks and emergency hotlines

7.19. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday  
1 dead, 4 hurt in drone strike on east Tel Aviv, without siren or any other warning

7.19. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday  
IDF kills Radwan commander, 6 other Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon in single day

7.18. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday  
Lebanon's President of ICJ accused Israel of ethnic cleansing and organized massacres

7.18. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday  
Overruling Gallant, Netanyahu blocks plan for Gaza children transition hospital

7.18. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in July 18 spot – Thursday  
Knesset vote denies any PA state west of the Jordan River ahead of Netanyahu US Visit

7.18. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday  
 Hamas arsenal depleting, no border crossing, heavy losses, staff need a cease-fire

7.17. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday  
King Charles to secure Middle East peace with a two-state solution

7.17. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday  
Family & former hostages are joining Netanyahu on his July 24 trip to US Congress

7.17. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday  
Hostage deal points in dispute are Israel's withdrawal from Philadelphi corridor

7.17. 24 – We- - - News Placed in July 17 spot – Wednesday  
Again: 19 terrorists released back into Gaza; no name or reason on authorization

7.16. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday  
Wing of Zion first transatlantic flight to US - Netanyahu will arrive later in the week

7.16. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in July 16 spot – Tuesday

IDF to send Haredim draft notices Sunday, all are invited to Wednesday law discussion

7.16. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Families of abducted IDF demand Netanyahu meeting, before US Congress visit

7.16. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Supreme Court ruling, IDF to draft at least 3,000 ultra-Orthodox men immediately

7.15. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in July 15 spot – Monday

Mossad ready for talks on cease-fire hostages deal, awaiting Qatar invitation

7.15. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

EU imposes sanctions on Tzav 9 aid opposition and others for human rights violations

7.15. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Haredim recruits fill voids in Shin Bet, Mossad, Prison, Police, education & others

7.15. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Investigation of October 7 attacks find 400-600 Gazans per Kibbutz on dashcam videos

7.15. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Kibbutz Be'eri set to receive nearly \$100 million reconstruction fund

7.14. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Knesset OKs IDF service extension; attorney general wants to recruit yeshiva students

7.14. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in July 14 spot – Sunday

4 troops at bus stop hit by car-ramming attack as Palestinians escalate resistance

7.14. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Trump assassination attempt parallels incitement against Netanyahu & AG is silent

7.13. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday Q1 5:49pm

IDF strike Gaza shacks, sheds targeted a compound with Salama & Deif commanders

7.13. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in July 13 spot – Saturday Q1 5:49pm

Assassination attempt | several shots fired towards Trump at Pennsylvania rally

7.20. 24 – Sa

IDF strike Houthi power plant, oil facilities & sea port for Iranian weapons

7.20. 24 – Sa

Al Hudaydah burns as Israel prepares for Houthi retaliation

Arab news outlets report at least 80 injured or killed in strike on critical Houthi port allowing Iranian weapons to reach terror group; Israeli officials plan strong counterattack in case of attempted retribution

Itamar Eichner, Yoav Zitun, Lior Ben Ari|15:54

Arab news outlets reported late Saturday that the Israeli attack in Houthi-controlled Al Hudaydah has effectively rendered the significant seaport non-operational, causing dozens of injuries and casualties. Israeli authorities clarified the targeted port serves as a "significant economic source for Houthi terrorism," due to the goods and weaponry passing through it, as well as the energy infrastructure that was also targeted.

Lebanese network Al Mayadeen claimed that the number of injured stands at least 80, some of whom are suffering from severe burns caused by the fire that broke out after the massive explosions. The IDF confirmed this evening that this is the furthest target ever attacked by the Israeli Air Force, 1,800 kilometers away from the country.

The Al Hudaydah port isn't only used for terrorist activities but also for the delivery of civilian goods, including humanitarian aid to Yemen and the famine-stricken Houthi-controlled areas. In practice, however, the Houthis also use it for terrorist purposes, and the city itself serves as a major supply line for Iranian weapons arriving in the country. The strike also hit a power plant and oil facilities, causing widespread panic in Sana'a and Al Hudaydah, reflected in massive queues at gas stations after the attack. Official Houthi spokespersons said that the Israeli attack would answered for and that they "won't stop supporting the Gaza Strip."

Israel doesn't underestimate the Houthi threats, and officials said they're calculating a possible response from Yemen and are therefore preparing to deliver a "stronger blow" to the Houthis in such an event.

Meanwhile, air defense systems have been reinforced, and the Transportation Ministry held an unusual situation assessment meeting led by Transportation Minister Miri Regev and senior officials from the railway, ports and aviation sectors in preparation for a possible Houthi attack against civilian infrastructure.

Israel is also preparing for a battle on the diplomatic front. Foreign Minister Israel Katz instructed Israeli ambassadors worldwide to "demand increased sanctions on Iran, designate the Houthis as a terrorist organization, and divert international aid from Al Hudaydah port to Aden port."

He also asked ambassadors to support the U.S., UK, and France's request to convene an emergency session of the UN Security Council on July 22, alongside the pre-scheduled

session on July 23. The ambassadors were also instructed to demand condemnation of Houthi activities, alongside support for Israel's right to defend itself.

Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the strikes at Al Hudaydah port, saying, "The Yemeni people are paying the price for their courageous support of Palestinian women and children." They also warned of further escalation in the Middle East, saying that "Israel and its supporters, including the U.S., bear responsibility for the dangerous consequences of this attack."

7.20. 24 – Sa

IDF relentless clash in Khan Younis; infantry necessary in every corner of the Gaza Strip

7.20. 24 – Sa

Untold battle: IDF Commando Brigade's relentless clash in Khan Younis

Watch: In one of war's fiercest battles, special forces endured 8 hours of intense combat against cell hiding in reinforced concrete basement withstanding missile strikes, suicide drone ambushes and over 10 grenades; 'We didn't want them to emerge alive from the rubble,' says force commander Major G Yoav Zitun|09:14

It was one of the most complex battles experienced by IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, involving five repeated attempts to eliminate a terrorist cell over half a day and the persistence of a young Maglan unit commander who refused to give up.

February 16 is not remembered as an extraordinary day of combat in the southern Gaza Strip. At that time, the 98th Division's ground operations in Khan Younis were underway, with the Commando Brigade assigned to raid one of Hamas' densely populated and stubborn terror hubs in the city - the seaside refugee camp, relatively far from the Israeli border.

Leading the charge for this mission was Major G, 26, the commander of the Maglan unit's newly formed raiding force during the war. Maj. G aimed to eliminate as many terrorists as possible in the refugee camp, fully aware of Hamas' warfare tactics: the terror army evacuates most of its operatives with the civilian population, thanks to IDF's early evacuation warnings to residents.

As a result, IDF forces raiding another village or neighborhood primarily focus on locating and destroying tunnels and weapon stockpiles, avoiding IEDs and, at best, confronting a few small guerrilla cells left behind. Most of Hamas' combat was defined as a "retreat battle."

"This time, we decided to quietly enter the refugee camp, where no soldier had set foot. We sneaked in, a few dozen fighters from the unit, in the middle of the night, silently without firing a single shot," Maj. G recounted to Ynet. "We then positioned ourselves in hidden spots among the alleys, waiting for dawn to surprise the enemy."

At first light, the commotion began. Hundreds of terrorists from the nearby Nasser Hospital, which the IDF had raided a few days earlier, joined the many terrorists in the

refugee camp. As a result, over 1,000 well-armed terrorists found themselves in a camp not yet captured by the IDF, unaware that Maj. G and his Maglan fighters were now lying in wait right under their noses on their home turf. Maj. G decided to position his fighters at vantage points controlling the camp's main road, intending to trap the many terrorists attempting to flee as the fighting commenced.

In the third watch, just before dawn, Maj. G and his fighters launched small armed tactical drones to secure the refugee camp area. Snipers loaded their silenced rifles, and the elite unit's missiles were assigned targets by ground troops.

In a successful deception operation by the Maglan fighters, hundreds of Hamas terrorists, including operatives of the elite Nukhba force, began to emerge in all directions. Though Maj. G's force was initially outnumbered in the first hours of relentless firefight, sometimes at close range, the element of surprise shocked the local Hamas battalion. "Dozens of terrorists attacked us, and we managed to eliminate at least 30 of them," recounted Maj. G. Meanwhile, reinforcements poured in from every direction, including tanks and APCs, with IDF forces closing in on the terrorists from additional angles. Yet, by evening, the intense and daring day of combat turned into an endless battle. During the late afternoon skirmishes, Maj. G's troops identified a courtyard with an improvised roof in one of the refugee camp's buildings. As they searched building by building for terrorists, additional forces, including armored companies, engineering units and another Maglan platoon, joined the area to adhere to the command principle set by the 98th Division leaders: minimize enemy escapees, maximize terrorist elimination.

"On the first floor, we found a covered courtyard, and suddenly, I heard a wild burst of gunfire from that direction without seeing any terrorists," Maj. G recounted. "One of our soldiers was hit, and we realized the courtyard had a hidden lower level where the shooting originated from."

The team leader engaged in the firefight and threw grenades, but they needed to locate the exact firing point. "We saw many refrigerators on the courtyard floor and started moving them. Then we noticed an opening to a combat basement concealed by the fridges."

Maj. G evacuated the wounded soldier, who was quickly taken to a hospital in Israel. The team leader's force killed one terrorist in the initial clash. Then Maj. G decided to retreat from the building, maintain control over it, and strategize on how to deal with the remaining armed cell hiding in the basement.

"We didn't know how many terrorists were left inside and debated whether to drop a bomb from a fighter jet on the house, but we believed the reinforced concrete roof of the basement would protect the terrorists even from an airstrike, and we weren't sure we would get approval for a penetrating bomb," recalled the platoon commander. "We looked for a creative solution and found a wheelbarrow, on which we rolled an engineering breaching frame toward the basement's outer wall, ensuring penetration with six segments.

"The breaching frame exploded, creating a hole in the basement wall. We hoped the massive blast would also injure the terrorists inside," he recounted. "As the dust settled,

we sent in a small drone. It was still dusty and dark, but then we saw through the drone a terrorist lying with his weapon between his legs, motionless.

"The drone was inches from him; we wanted to confirm he was dead. The team leader was sent to the opening, threw a grenade inside, and then the terrorist, who had been playing dead, fired a burst and wounded a soldier, who was quickly evacuated to a hospital in Israel. We sent the drone back in and saw the terrorist was hit but still alive, hiding behind sandbags. He had already survived 10 grenades thrown at him. The drone drove him crazy, but he didn't move."

Maj. G regrouped his forces outside the building and created a third opening toward the basement, this time from the alley side. Four drones with large flashlights were launched through all openings simultaneously to try to force the terrorist to move or flee. The soldiers also identified discarded combat vests of the terrorists. It was the sixth hour of battle, night had fallen on the refugee camp, and Maj. G did not give up, nor did the terrorist. The team created a fourth opening in the wall where the terrorist was leaning, intending for the breaching frame to blow him away.

"He survived that too," Maj. G shared. "Like a cat, he leaped to another corner of the basement. We then fired a drone from another opening and set up another ambush with drones and soldiers, threw in three grenades and sprayed the basement with gunfire. The dust settled again, and then we saw him through the drones, lying apparently dead. I sent an Oketz attack dog to confirm. The dog dragged him a few meters, and we realized he was dead. We decided to return at first light to ensure there were no more explosives. We found two more terrorists we had killed during those hours, hidden in basement corners equipped for prolonged operational stays."

During the breaks between battles in the nine months of the war, Maj. G often heard claims that these hornet nests should only be dealt with from the air with relentless bombings. "People who don't understand the profession say that. Fighting in Gaza is complex. Here, we used LAW and Matador missiles in a long pressure cooker situation. If we had dropped a bomb on the house, hours after we left, the terrorists would have emerged alive from the rubble because their tunnels and basements are reinforced with concrete," he explained.

" Hamas adapts and changes during the fighting, which is why our infantry operations are necessary in every corner of the Gaza Strip. I didn't want to leave until all the terrorists were eliminated. The two wounded soldiers are now in rehabilitation. They'll be okay."

7.20. 24 – Sa

Israeli officials concerned over diplomatic implications of ICJ leverage

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Israeli officials concerned over diplomatic implications of ICJ ruling

‘Practical implications of decision troubling,’ officials say, arguing ‘significant diplomatic and political efforts are needed’; what comes next, and under what circumstances would Israel have to withdraw from the West Bank?

Elisha Ben Kimon, Itamar Eichner|08:43

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague released an advisory opinion on Friday regarding the "legality of the Israeli occupation" in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in which it criticized Israel's land expropriation, settlement policies and settler violence. The report highlighted an acceleration in settlement construction, the authorization of numerous outposts and rampant settler violence.

The ICJ noted that the Defense Ministry has expropriated land and accelerated settlement construction, approving over 24,000 housing units in the past year, nearly 10,000 of which are in East Jerusalem. This includes strategic areas to prevent Palestinian territorial continuity.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who also serves as a minister in the Defense Ministry, passed a resolution eliminating the need for Cabinet approval to convene the Higher Planning Committee, which approves these housing units. Additionally, illegal outposts have been retroactively legalized across the West Bank, predominantly benefiting the "young settlement" movement.

The ICJ also stated that the expansion of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is based on the expropriation of large areas of land. Recently, Smotrich and his ministry announced the final phase of declaring 5,900 acres in the Jordan Valley as state land.

The first phase, which legalized 860 acres, occurred under the previous government led by Naftali Bennett. Settlers faced difficulties in legalizing additional land, but four months ago, 2,100 more acres were approved. The third phase recently saw another almost 3,000 legalized. This significant move was previously halted several times due to international pressure, primarily from the U.S. and other countries. Settlers plan to develop these areas into industrial, commercial, employment zones and residential units. Additionally, around 5,300 housing units are in the planning stages, with another 600 units ready for marketing across the West Bank. The objective is to approve as many housing units as possible in strategic areas, preventing Palestinian territorial continuity while creating Jewish settlement continuity.

The ICJ stated that "there is evidence that Israel is legalizing outposts in violation of its own laws." This follows a special conference held last month at Shahrat Farm in the northern West Bank, attended by dozens of settlement and outpost leaders. They were briefed on recent legalization moves by Smotrich and National Missions Minister Orit Strock.

Smotrich and Strock have been providing budgets and infrastructure approvals for around 63 illegal outposts undergoing legalization. These outposts were strategically placed to hinder the establishment of a Palestinian state. Essentially, this involves providing services to outposts that are in the process of being legalized but have not yet been formally approved.

The ICJ also criticized Israel's settlement policies, stating they have "enabled settler violence against Palestinians." According to the ICJ, "settler violence and Israel's failure to prevent it or prosecute offenders have created a hostile environment for Palestinians.

Israel's systematic failure to curb or punish settler violence against Palestinians, coupled with its excessive use of force against Palestinians, contradicts its obligations."

The situation on the ground is complex, partly due to internal conflicts and disagreements between various enforcement bodies in the West Bank. Last month, a deep rift between the Shai District Police, responsible for law enforcement in the West Bank, and the IDF Central Command and the Shin Bet's so-called "Jewish Division" regarding the arrest of extreme Jewish youth came to light. There are particularly strained relations and a lack of trust between senior officials of the IDF Central Command and the Shin Bet's "Jewish Division" and the Shai District Police, who are jointly responsible for order and security beyond the Green Line.

Despite the Shin Bet's requests to arrest several Jewish youth suspected of nationalist crimes, and numerous incidents where Palestinians were harmed by Jews, suspects are not being arrested or brought to justice. As a result, many nationalist crime investigations have been transferred from the Shai District Police's Central Unit to the Lahav 433 unit to ensure thorough investigation.

The ICJ also claimed that "there is evidence that Israeli policy incentivizes the relocation of Israelis to the West Bank and the development of industrial zones by settlers." Indeed, the settlers' declared goal is to reach one million residents, with the current population exceeding half a million. To encourage population movement beyond the Green Line, they have been working for years on constructing safer bypass roads and transportation and housing solutions.

Furthermore, in the current government, Smotrich and Strock have promoted bypass roads and invested millions of shekels in a master transportation plan, including the opening of new routes and road expansions.

'Practical implications of Hague decision concerning'

Following the ICJ's advisory opinion, Israeli officials claimed that "the Hague arena has become political." They argued that "Security Council decisions on the conflict are based on direct negotiations. To understand the implications post-decision, it is crucial to note that this is a non-binding advisory opinion. The General Assembly consults on issues like UN budget allocation, significant UN operations funding or UN immunities, and receives basic legal advice."

However, they acknowledged that "the Palestinians might use the advisory opinion for rhetorical or informational purposes or try to bring it to the General Assembly. We've seen this before." They clarified that "the General Assembly cannot make operational decisions, and its power is limited. Many countries, like the U.S., UK and Germany, oppose the Palestinian move."

Yet, the advisory opinion could have practical implications for Israel. Officials emphasized: "These are concerns we need to address. One concern is international public opinion. Billions of people and commercial entities will hear the ICJ's findings and read about Israeli control over the territories. In the realms of BDS and boycotts, we may unfortunately have to confront these issues. Another equally troubling aspect is other international courts, such as the International Criminal Court.

"It's clear the Palestinians and their allies will try to leverage the advisory opinion, but our effort will be to ensure it has no more impact than the 2004 advisory opinion on the



barrier," they added, referencing the security barrier between the West Bank and Israel Proper.

Regarding the possibility of the advisory opinion being presented to the UN Security Council, officials believe Algeria or other countries might attempt it. "Any country can bring the advisory opinion to the Security Council, and we expect it to be rejected by the council."

If the Security Council approves a resolution on the matter, Israel would be required to implement it or face sanctions. However, the U.S. argued that the court should avoid decisions that jeopardize negotiations for a two-state solution based on land-for-peace principles.

Israeli officials also noted that the advisory opinion "has the potential to bolster calls for sanctions. This is an issue we will address extensively, particularly on the diplomatic front. The key question is how the statements will be used and responded to."

7.19. 24 – Fr

Russia is arming Yemen Houthis; US is failing to deter attacks on shipping in Red Sea

7.19. 24 – Fr

U.S. intelligence warns Russia is arming Houthis; CENTCOM commander says US 'failing' to deter attacks on shipping in Red Sea

Commander of the US Central Command, says US 'failing' to deter attacks on shipping in Red Sea and that "U.S. service members will die if we continue going this way." US intelligence fears: Russia will deliver antiship missiles to Houthis in Yemen, as a response to US military aid to Ukraine

Ynet|10:46

U.S. intelligence agencies have warned that Russia might participate in arming the Houthi rebels in Yemen with antiship missiles in retaliation for the Biden administration's support for Ukrainian attacks on Russian territory with U.S. weapons, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

According to the report, this concern comes in the wake of a classified letter in which U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) commander General Michael "Erik" Kurilla warned U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin that current U.S. military operations in the region are "failing" to deter the Houthis' attacks on shipping in the Red Sea. He recommended, according to U.S. officials, a "broader" approach.

Kurilla wrote in his letter that the entire administration must increase the effort against the Houthis: economically, diplomatically and militarily.

"Many people found the tone of the memo to be a bit shocking," a defense official said. It said essentially that "U.S. service members will die if we continue going this way." The White House is working on a diplomatic effort to prevent Moscow from transferring weapons to Yemen by using a third country to convince President Vladimir Putin not to join Iran in supplying weapons to the Houthis. According to the newspaper, the

combination of intelligence that Moscow might be planning to provide military support to Yemen and the warnings from Kurilla has raised the question of whether the White House is doing enough to halt their attacks in the Red Sea and elsewhere, as evidenced by the drone strike overnight between Thursday and Friday in Tel Aviv.

According to a source in the US administration, the US Central Command has already been asked to prepare a "broad list of potential targets", including specific terrorists, for possible strikes on them. Even so, some U.S. officials said it would have been possible to hit the Houthis more significantly - and better protect the ships they attack almost daily. According to the sources cited in the Wall Street Journal, it was possible, for example, to hit other targets including larger weapons storage facilities, the leaders of the Houthis - or targets where the potential for casualties is higher.

The White House authorized the US military to attack Houthi targets - missiles and UAVs - before they are launched, and has taken other "limited steps," including seven planned military operations, according to the report. Another security source in the US defended this policy, and claimed that the U.S. and its allies destroyed "a significant amount of Houthi capability," including hundreds of missiles and launchers, hundreds of attack drones, dozens of weapons and equipment storage facilities and several command and control facilities, air defense systems, radars and helicopters.

Even so, U.S. Central Command officials said their forces could not prevent the Houthis from hitting ships in the Red Sea or the Bab al-Mandab strait, since they had not received approval for large-scale attacks. "If you tell the military to re-establish freedom of navigation and then you tell them to only be defensive, it isn't going to work," said one U.S. official. "It is all about protecting ships without affecting the root cause."

Fears about the transfer of Russian missiles to the Houthis increased last month when Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that Moscow could supply weapons to U.S. enemies because of the White House's policy regarding Ukraine. "The response can be asymmetrical, and we will think about that," Putin told journalists at an international economic forum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Missiles have not been transferred since then, but, according to American sources, representatives from the Houthis have already been seen in Russia. Meanwhile, the missiles could be transferred, according to the report, through the Iran's smuggling routes. Yevgeny Perder, 50, from Tel Aviv, was killed in the drone attack. Following the fatal drone strike, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a telephone security consultation. The possibility of Israeli military action in Yemen is being considered for the first time since the war began.

Israeli officials told Ynet that "Israel will respond to the Houthi drone strike. The option of an attack on Yemeni soil is on the table and we cannot rule out a response in Yemen." The assessment in Israel is that the target of the attack was the U.S. Embassy. "It is being investigated, but it seems that it was not by chance. It was probably their target," they added. An Israeli source told the Saudi network "Al-Hadath": "We will investigate Iran's involvement in launching the drone"

The US Embassy in Israel said in a statement that: "We are aware of the UAV attack for which the Houthis claimed responsibility. There was no damage to the U.S. Embassy building. We have no reports of injuries to U.S. personnel or our local personnel. We are

in close contact with the Israeli authorities to fully investigate the source of the explosion and its intended target."

The U.S. Ambassador in Israel Jack Lew tweeted "Shocked by the brazen Houthi drone attack in Tel Aviv this morning. We offer our condolences to the family members of the individual who passed away. We are thankful our U.S. Embassy Branch Office personnel are all safe."

7.19. 24 – Fr

Netanyahu rejects ICJ opinion, a perversion of history to deny Israel its ancestral land

7.19. 24 – Fr

Netanyahu rejects ICJ opinion, : A perversion of history

PM says Jews are not occupiers in their historic homeland and no decision in the Hague would change that; says there is no dispute over the legality of Jewish settlement anywhere in Israel

Itamar Eichner|10:07

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday that the opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which finds Israel in violation of international law in its occupation and policies in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, is a perversion of historical facts.

"The Jewish people are not occupiers in their own land, including in our eternal capital Jerusalem," Netanyahu said in a post. "Nor in Judea and Samaria, our historical homeland. No absurd opinion in The Hague can deny this historical truth or the legal right of Israelis to live in their own communities in our ancestral home."

Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the ICJ's opinion was foundationally wrong. It ignored the past - the historic right of the Jewish people, and is detached from the present - the threat to Israel's security and the duty to protect its citizens and territory.

Israel's designated ambassador to the UN Danny Danon, who already served in the post said the ICJ was attempting to deny Israel its right to its ancestral land. "The opinion is unfortunate but expected," he said. "The court has long since become a political circus and is today a stronghold of Hamas supporters. Israel will never give up its historic right to its land."

The ICJ said the decision on how to end Israel's "illegal occupation" is up to the UNGA and the Security Council. They must decide on the steps that must be taken and there is an urgent need for the UN to "double its efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and bring a just peace to the region."

The opinion of the ICJ was formulated following the request of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2022. The court held sessions to deliberate the legality of Israel's occupation of the territories including East Jerusalem, in February this

year. Some 60 member states and three international organizations presented the court with verbal declarations regarding their positions.

Among the countries were South Africa, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Cuba, Egypt, UAE, U.S., Russia, France, China, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Qatar, UK, Sudan, Switzerland, Spain and Hungary. Israel boycotted the proceedings and did not appear before the court claiming it was a political use of the court.

A concern for Israel is that the UNGA would refer the opinion of the ICJ to the International Criminal Court under its chief prosecutor Kharim Khan, who has already said he was seeking arrest warrants for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. Khan may then decide to prosecute others in Israel for the crime of settlements.

7.19. 24 – Fr

Massive global computer glitch shuts down hospitals, banks and emergency hotlines

7.19. 24 – Fr

Massive global glitch shuts down systems in hospitals, banks and emergency hotlines  
Global malfunction also impacts Magen David Adom and Israel Electric Corporation call centers, along with disruptions at Israel Post; National Cyber Directorate says outage not result of cyberattack

Adir Yanko|02:32

Public hospitals across Israel, including Sheba, Rambam, and Laniado, are grappling with a major computer malfunction Friday morning, which is believed to be part of a global issue.

The malfunction may impact the operation of surgical rooms and extend waiting times in emergency rooms. Patients are expected to face longer waits for admission or hospitalization. Surgeries and discharges could also be delayed. Additionally, Meuhedet Health Services' computers are affected.

Ynet has learned that some bank customers are unable to access their accounts via apps. Bank Hapoalim employees working remotely are unable to connect to the bank's systems. Some banks are experiencing issues with ATM withdrawals due to connection checks between ATMs and bank accounts. So far, no Friday bank branch closures have been reported. Bank officials clarified that there is no risk of fraudulent activity due to the global malfunction.

Magen David Adom (MDA) ambulance service reported issues with their 101 emergency hotline, advising potential difficulties in dialing. They recommended calling the police's 100 hotline if necessary. The Israel Electric Corporation also reported that their 103 call center could not be reached due to the global computer system malfunction.

Israel Post announced disruptions, stating: "Due to a global software malfunction at an external company affecting many businesses in Israel, postal services, phone centers, and

our website are currently unavailable. We apologize for the inconvenience and are working to restore services as soon as possible."

The malfunction is also affecting flights. In the United States, American airline flights are grounded. A passenger reported that the crew attributed the delays to the software issue. The National Cyber Directorate emphasized that this is not a cyberattack. "A global technical malfunction is currently affecting numerous technology systems worldwide, including in Israel. CrowdStrike issued a technical alert this morning regarding a significant problem affecting Windows systems globally," the Directorate stated. The issue involves a software component installed on computers using CrowdStrike's product, designed to protect against cyber intrusions, virus attacks, and encryption. Reports of widespread computer malfunctions have been received from India, the United Kingdom, France, the United States, Canada, and other countries. CrowdStrike's stock plummeted on the New York Stock Exchange. Such global malfunctions are rare, typically only occurring with cloud services, which usually have extensive backups.

7.19. 24 – Fr

1 dead, 4 hurt in drone strike on east Tel Aviv, without siren or any other warning

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1 dead, 4 hurt in drone strike on Tel Aviv

Residents living near U.S. Embassy building report no siren warning ahead of explosion; homes shake, items break, neighbors say; Houthis say carried out 'high-value attack'; IDF says cause was aerial target  
ynet correspondents|20:35

A 50-year old man was killed and four others hurt in an apparent drone strike on Tel Aviv early on Friday.

A huge blast was heard in central Tel Aviv near the location of the U.S. Consulate. The IDF and the police were investigating whether a drone had crashed on the city. There had been no siren activated before the explosion.

"An initial inquiry indicates that the explosion in Tel Aviv was caused by the falling of an aerial target," the IDF said in a statement. "The IAF increased its air patrols in order to protect Israeli airspace. There is no change in the defensive guidelines of the Home Front Command."

Police were investigating whether a man in his 50s was killed in the blast. A body was found in a nearby building with shrapnel wounds.

Emergency teams reported at least four lightly hurt from shrapnel while others on the scene suffered from shock. At least seven people were taken to area hospitals.

"When our teams arrived they saw a 37-year-old man and a 25-year-old woman hurt. the injured fully conscious with shrapnel wounds to their extremities and shoulders. teams

are also treating people suffering from shock," Magen David Adom, (MDA) emergency response, said.

Residents in the area said the blast broke items in their homes. "The entire building shook," one said. The explosion was heard around the city and in neighboring towns to the south and to the East.

"I was on the beach with friends when we heard this crazy explosion," Aharon, an eye witness told Ynet. "We did not hear a siren or any other warning," he said.

"I live about 30 meters from there. I heard a very loud explosion," Yossi, another man said. "I thought a truck had crashed but then people rushed over and the smell left no doubt about the cause. There are markings on the buildings that were hurt," he said.

Houthi rebels in Yemen said they carried out a high-value attack, in a statement, adding they would provide details in the coming hours.

Earlier the IDF confirmed it had killed a commander of Hezbollah's Radwan force in a strike on South Lebanon.

"During the strike, a Radwan Force's operations unit commander, the terrorist Ali Jaafar Maatuk was eliminated, along with an additional commander responsible for the Radwan Force's operations in the Hajir region. The terrorists promoted numerous terror attacks against the State of Israel. Moreover, additional terrorists belonging to the Radwan Force who operated from the command centers were also eliminated during the strike," the military said in a statement.

According to Lebanese media, five people were killed in an attack targeting a three-story house in southern Lebanon's Safad El Battikh. Ali Jaafar Maatuk, a commander in Hezbollah's elite Radwan force, was killed in the attack, which according to the Saudi channel Al-Hadath targeted a house frequently used by Hezbollah operatives.

7.19. 24 – Fr

IDF kills Radwan commander, 6 other Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon in single day

7.19. 24 – Fr

IDF kills Radwan commander, 6 other Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon in single day

Radwan senior commander Ali Jaafar Maatuk eliminated in southern Lebanon strike

alongside others; US aims to cool flames

Niv Shayovitz, Yoav Zitun, Itamar Eichner|17:11

Lebanese media reported late Thursday that five people were killed in an attack targeting a three-story house in southern Lebanon's Safad El Battikh. Ali Jaafar Maatuk, a commander in Hezbollah's elite Radwan force, was killed in the attack, which according to the Saudi channel Al-Hadath targeted a house frequently used by Hezbollah operatives.

Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, reported 11 people were injured in the strike. Another seven people reportedly were injured in a separate attack on a house in the Jumeirah area. Shortly before the strike, the Hezbollah-owned Lebanese channel Al-Manar reported attacks in Mis Ej Jabal.

Maatuk, who was reportedly eliminated in the strike, had replaced Ali Ahmad Hussein in the Radwan Force. Hussein, a senior commander in the terror group's elite force, was killed in an IDF attack in April and was responsible for planning and executing terror operations against Israel.

Hezbollah, for its part, claimed responsibility for nine launched toward Israel. One of them, according to Al-Manar, targeted an IDF base located about 15 km from the border, which has not yet been attacked in the current conflict.

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit updated Thursday that a drone that infiltrated from Lebanon into Israel in the western Galilee was successfully intercepted. Additionally, the IDF confirmed that another drone was intercepted in the Golan Heights, where no sirens sounded. No casualties were reported in the incidents.

The IDF also said it eliminated a Hezbollah operative named Hassan Ali Mahana in southern Lebanon. The terrorist, according to the report, was involved in the terror group's combat engineering unit and took part in planning and executing various terror activities against Israel. Hezbollah later officially announced his death, marking the 370th casualty reported by the Iran-backed group since the outbreak of the war in Gaza.

Meanwhile, U.S. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby attempted to lower tensions, saying the U.S. is "not seeing signs of all-out war in northern Israel." According to him, "Iran continues its destabilizing activities, including its support for Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Hamas. We were concerned about escalation in the north, so we engaged in diplomatic dialogue to prevent it and will continue to work on it."

7.18. 24 – Th

Lebanon's President of ICJ accused Israel of ethnic cleansing and organized massacres

7.18. 24 – Th

President of ICJ accused Israel of 'ethnic cleansing by terror and organized massacres' Nawaf Salem, who will preside over international court opinion set to be released on Friday about Israel and the West Bank, is biased against Israel, according to an NGO report, and voted to condemn Israel 210 times as Lebanon's ambassador to the UN Itamar Eichner|15:36

Nawaf Salam, the president of the International Court of Justice, which is scheduled to release on Friday an opinion in another politically-motivated case targeting Israel, voted 210 times to condemn the Jewish state when he served as Lebanon's UN ambassador, and delivered inflammatory speeches accusing "terrorist Jewish organizations" of committing "organized massacres," UN Watch, an NGO monitoring the actions of the United Nations and an advocate for Israel, said in a report published on Thursday.

Israel considered appealing against his appointment in light of his past conduct but decided against it because of the anti-Israel sentiment prevailing in the international judicial body, a decision that has raised some questions because of Salam's obvious bias.

Salam first joined the court in 2018 after completing an 11-year term as Lebanon's UN ambassador and was appointed president in February of 2024.

The ICJ will publish an advisory opinion on Friday, that is expected to conclude that Israel occupies the West Bank in violation of international law. The opinion was requested by a Palestinian-sponsored resolution of the UN General Assembly. UN Watch contends in its report that Salam is legally disqualified from sitting in judgment on the two cases related to Israel, under the clear rules of the ICJ Charter.

Among examples cited in the report were statements made by the ambassador in 2008, including accusations that "Jewish terror organizations" carried out "brutal acts of massacre." He also said that "the supreme Zionist regime was pursuing a plan for ethnic cleansing by terror and organized massacres."

In 2009, he told the UN General Assembly that for "far too long the war criminals (in Israel) enjoyed immunity. In 2014, he accused Israel of committing crimes against humanity and, in 2016, accused Israel of apartheid.

UN Watch said Salam as his country's envoy to the UN repeatedly turned his back on the victims of human rights violations and sided with oppressive regimes including in Iran. He voted against all 11 General Assembly resolutions condemning violations by the Iranian regime against its own citizens.

"As civil war was breaking out in Syria in April 2011, Salam used his seat on the Security Council to block a collective press statement from the council that would have condemned the Syrian regime for attacking civilian protesters. Salam expressed support for Syrian dictator Bashar Assad's "reforms," the report said.

"In October 2011, Salam abstained on a Security Council resolution that would have condemned Assad's brutal crackdown on protesters. The abstention provoked Lebanese politicians to call for Salam's resignation. Salam subsequently refused to support seven UN General Assembly resolutions that condemned the Assad regime for atrocities against civilians, instead voting to abstain."

7.18.24 – Th

Overruling Gallant, Netanyahu blocks plan for Gaza children transition hospital

7.18.24 – Th

Overruling Gallant, Netanyahu blocks plan for temporary hospital for Gaza children  
IDF Medical Corps, in coordination with Health Ministry, advances plan to establish hospital in Israel for Gaza children with chronic illnesses, partly tied to future hostage deals; PM blocks move, pending third-country agreements to receive patients

Moran Azulay|06:41



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has blocked a plan to establish a temporary hospital within Israel for Palestinian children from Gaza, his office confirmed Thursday, overruling Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

Netanyahu's military secretary Major General Roman Gofman cited insufficient progress in creating a corridor for transporting sick and injured Gazans to other countries as the reason for halting the project. The National Security Council is working on a plan to fly injured individuals, particularly children, for treatment in other countries via Israel or Egypt.

The disagreement marks another chapter in the strained relationship between Netanyahu and Gallant, who have clashed on various issues. Recent reports suggested that Netanyahu was considering replacing Gallant, though his office denies this. The current dispute began after the IDF Medical Corps requested that the Health Ministry and relevant health officials prepare to set up a medical facility in Israel to treat Palestinian children from Gaza suffering from chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetes and orthopedic injuries.

The initiative was part of future agreements for the release of hostages or to gain international legitimacy amid concerns about rulings from the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Several discussions were held recently between the Medical Corps and senior health officials, with the plan expected to move forward.

Under the proposed plan, Israeli doctors were to work at the hospital, which would serve as a transition point for sending the children to a third country for treatment. However, Netanyahu has now said that the hospital will not be approved until countries willing to receive the injured are identified.

"The Prime Minister's Office poured cold water on the initiative, but from the start, the planning was very tentative," a source familiar with the details told Ynet. "It is still being discussed at professional levels, but it appears to be both a political and logistical issue, likely related to the relationship between Gallant and Netanyahu." The Prime Minister's office confirmed, "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has notified in writing that he does not approve the establishment of a hospital for Gazans within Israel – and therefore it will not be established."

7.18. 24 – Th

Knesset vote denies any PA state west of the Jordan River ahead of Netanyahu US Visit

7.18. 24 – Th

Knesset votes against Palestinian statehood ahead of Netanyahu's US Visit

Resolution passes with decisive 68-9 majority, with opposition from Arab parties; Yesh Atid, Labor and National Unity's Gadi Eisenkot absent from vote

Shilo Freid|05:02

The Knesset voted late Wednesday night to oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state, just days before Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visits Washington, where he is scheduled to address Congress.

Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Shas party leader Aryeh Deri did not participate in the vote, though members of Deri's party supported the resolution introduced by opposition MK Ze'ev Elkin (National Unity Party).

The resolution passed with a decisive majority of 68-9, with opposition from Arab parties. The vote also revealed rifts within the opposition; while Elkin's faction backed the measure, MKs from Yesh Atid, Labor and National Unity's Gadi Eisenkot were absent. Most members of the National Unity Party, led by former defense minister Benny Gantz, supported the declaration, which received broad backing from coalition members across all factions. The resolution cements the Knesset's stance against the creation of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River, reinforcing its long-standing opposition. In February, the Knesset declared its opposition to unilateral international recognition of a Palestinian state. Despite this, several European countries, including Spain, Norway and Ireland, have since officially recognized a Palestinian state.

National Unity MK Gideon Sa'ar, whose party member Elkin introduced the resolution, said, "The decision is intended to express the widespread opposition among the public to the establishment of a Palestinian state that would endanger Israel's security and future. The decision signals to the international community that pressures to impose a Palestinian state on Israel will be futile."

The full text of the proposal read, "The Knesset of Israel firmly opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River. The creation of a Palestinian state in the heart of Israel would pose an existential threat to the State of Israel and its citizens, perpetuate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and destabilize the region.

"It would only be a matter of time before Hamas takes over the Palestinian state and transforms it into a radical Islamic terror base, operating in coordination with the Iran-led axis, to destroy the State of Israel.

"Advancing the idea of a Palestinian state would reward terrorism and only embolden Hamas and its supporters, who would view it as a victory stemming from the massacre of October 7, 2023, and a prelude to jihadist Islam's takeover of the Middle East."

7.18. 24 – Th

Hamas arsenal depleting, no border crossing, heavy losses, staff need a cease-fire

7.18. 24 – Th

Amid heavy losses and public dissent, Hamas is on the ropes

Opinion: No, Hamas is not about to break and surrender, but it is at its lowest point in the war, grappling with significant setbacks: the decimation of its tunnel network, the elimination of senior military leaders and a drastic erosion of its rocket-launching capabilities

Avi Issacharoff|00:18

Extreme caution is required when it comes to Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif. Nonetheless, barring an extraordinary miracle for the arch-terrorist, Deif – or by his full name, Mohammed Diab Ibrahim al-Masri (Abu Khaled) – was killed in the Israeli strike in the Al-Mawasi area on Saturday morning.

The intelligence on his location was precise, and the likelihood of him surviving such an attack is nearly nonexistent. Therefore, it can be surmised that Deif – whose bodyguards have already been identified as casualties – is no longer among the living.

The national security establishment must, of course, be more cautious than the media, and without 100% confirmation, it refrains from definitively declaring his death – especially given that Deif has survived seven previous Israeli assassination attempts.

The strike on Deif and Khan Younis Brigade Commander Rafa Salama occurred when Hamas was at its lowest point militarily since the beginning of the war. While this is not yet a breaking point, and we are unlikely to see Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar emerging from a tunnel waving a white flag anytime soon, there is no doubt that the organization's military wing has faced significant dramatic events in recent weeks. These events have brought it to its weakest point since the coup in June 2007 that brought it to power in Gaza.

Firstly, Hamas' tunnel network is suffering increasingly significant damage with each passing day. There is a clear reason why Deif, Hamas' most wanted man, chose to come above ground and move to that safe house in the Al-Mawasi area.

Deif's health condition might have made it difficult for him to stay in the tunnels, but it is also likely that he was forced to act in a way that proved to be a critical mistake due to the IDF's reach into many strategic tunnels.

The IDF's control over the Philadelphi Corridor and the Rafah crossing deprives Hamas of a strategic asset. In the past, the tunnels were primarily used to smuggle weapons into the Palestinian enclave, and the Rafah crossing held significant economic benefits. He might have also thought that his presence among hundreds of uninvolved civilians would grant him immunity from attack. Ultimately, Deif and Salama made the mistake of abandoning the tunnels.

Secondly, Hamas' rocket arsenal is depleting. According to the IDF, Hamas still possesses long-range rockets capable of reaching Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, but it is uncertain whether it can launch them. It is highly likely that if Hamas had such launch capability after the assassination of its chief of staff, it would have tried to demonstrate its ability to carry out significant rocket fire. It is also likely that Hamas is saving rockets for a moment just before a cease-fire. However, if it had enough rockets and the ability to launch them, it would have done so.

Thirdly, the IDF's control over the Philadelphi Corridor and the Rafah crossing deprives Hamas of a strategic asset. In the past, the tunnels were primarily used to smuggle

weapons into the Palestinian enclave, and the Rafah crossing held significant economic benefits.

Fourthly, the organization's fighting force has sustained heavy losses. According to IDF estimates, approximately 14,000 Hamas terrorists have been killed or captured. Adding the number of wounded fighters who have become incapacitated, it easily accounts for more than half of Hamas' fighting force, estimated at around 30,000 fighters. This also presents an opportunity to finalize a hostage deal, particularly as Hamas needs a cease-fire more than ever – as long as the hostages can be brought home alive. Additionally, another significant reason that underscores the weakness of the military wing is the elimination or disappearance of most of its senior leadership. From company commanders to brigade commanders, and notably two of the top four leaders, Marwan Issa and Deif, who were likely killed. Yahya Sinwar now finds himself with a completely different general staff than the one that started the war on October 7, having lost his closest allies.

Equally important are the signs of public discontent among Gazans toward the war. Some are furious with Hamas and openly express their discontent with the organization's leaders, who found shelter in tunnels while other Gazans remain unprotected. Hamas is aware of these sentiments, which is likely a major reason it has continued talks regarding a hostage deal instead of halting them.

However, it is important to caution that Hamas will not break and surrender soon. Its operatives will continue to fire at IDF soldiers and attempt to harm them as much as possible. While these incidents will become less frequent, they will not disappear entirely. There will be no "total victory" that forces Hamas and its members to surrender their weapons and capitulate, but there may already be significant achievements in the fight against the terrorist organization. This also presents an opportunity to finalize a hostage deal, particularly as Hamas needs a cease-fire more than ever – as long as the hostages can be brought home alive.

7.17. 24 – We

King Charles to secure Middle East peace with a two-state solution

7.17. 24 – We

King Charles sets out Labour's plan to 'play its part' to secure Middle East peace. Among the 35 bills, draft bills unveiled during King's Speech was one to build a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in the controversial Victoria Tower Gardens site, introduced into the Commons under the previous Tory government. Lee Harpin/Jewish News|07:54

The new UK government will "play its part" in trying to secure long-term peace and security in the Middle East, and is "committed" to a two-state solution with "a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state," King Charles III has told parliament.

Delivering the first King's Speech from the Throne under a Labour government in 14 years, King Charles confirmed Prime Minister Keir Starmer's aim to make the UK a central player in efforts to spark a renewed peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Among the 35 bills and draft bills unveiled on Wednesday was a return of the Holocaust Memorial Bill, introduced into the Commons under the previous Tory government. The bill again pledged to build a national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre "in the heart of our democracy" in the controversial Victoria Tower Gardens site.

In the "key fact" notes section accompanying the bill, it is noted that the Metropolitan Police recorded an "over 1,000% rise in antisemitic incidents" following Hamas' attack on Israel last year, compared to the previous year."

The bill will also authorize expenditure on the construction of the long-promised memorial and learning center, and attempts to override restrictions preventing the use of the site, close to parliament. The key facts section also suggests the planned memorial will "take up approximately 7.5% of the park."

As expected the previous government's attempt to prevent local councils from boycotting Israel did not feature in the King's Speech, after the anti-BDS proposals were subjected to challenges from MPs and peers from all parties during the last parliament.

The King's Speech also included Labour's plan to remove VAT exemption on private schools.

Labour will attempt to "take the brakes off Britain," Starmer said ahead of presenting his government's King's Speech.

The new government is set to present a "packed" legislative agenda focused on improving living standards by driving economic growth, the first of the prime minister's five "missions for national renewal," he added.

Speaking ahead of Wednesday's State Opening of Parliament, the prime minister said:

"Now is the time to take the brakes off Britain.

"For too long people have been held back, their paths determined by where they came from, not their talents and hard work.

"I am determined to create wealth for people up and down the country. It is the only way our country can progress, and my Government is focused on supporting that aspiration."

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7.17. 24 – We

Family & former hostages are joining Netanyahu on his July 24 trip to US Congress

7.17. 24 – We

Hostages' families call on Noa Argamani not to travel with Netanyahu: 'He's using you'

Other family members of captive soldiers and civilians are also joining the prime minister on his trip to Washington to address the US Congress

Yael Ciechanover, Alexandra Lukash|06:20

Following Ynet's revelation that Noa and Yaakov Argamani will join Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his upcoming U.S. visit, relatives of some hostages on Wednesday called the on rescued and released hostage not to cooperate. "Noa my dear, he's using you," said Dr. Maayan Sherman, the mother of Ron Sherman, whose body was held in Gaza and later retrieved.

Yifat Calderon, whose cousin Ofer is still being held captive by Hamas and whose children were kidnapped and returned to Israel as part of the hostage deal, tweeted: "Someone please explain to beloved Noa Argamani that he is taking advantage of her. She was kidnapped a second time, by him."

The climax of Netanyahu's visit to the U.S. will be his address to Congress on July 24. Those expected to fly with Netanyahu to Washington include representatives of captive soldiers and civilians, men and women who attended the Nova music festival and those from the affected kibbutzim and cities, Jews and non-Jews. The list also includes families who have been waiting for the past 10 years for their loved ones to be returned from Gaza. The list was created by the Coordinator for the Hostages and Missing, Brigadier General (Ret.) Gal Hirsch.

While some hostages' families take part in the protests and the "First deal, then you can travel," campaign, several families have accepted the prime minister's invitation, including Yaakov and Noa Argamani, Ditza Or, the mother of Noa Argamani's partner Avinatan Or; Ayelet Samerano, the mother of Yonatan Samerano; and Tali Gueli, the mother of the late Ran Gueli.

Ayelet Levy, Naama's mother, has already rejected the prime minister's invitation to join him in Congress. Other families said that Netanyahu's office offered them a place on the flight with the prime minister, but they refused until a full agreement on the captives is reached.

Sasha Arielev, the sister of the captive reconnaissance soldier Karina Ariv, has yet to respond to the invitation. "I want to see progress," she said. "I can't fly in peace until I see a deal is in the works." Alon Gat, the brother of captive Carmel Gat, and Eliyahu Bibas, the father of Yarden Bibas, are also considering whether to accept the invitation. In addition to October 7 families, family members of hostages from 2014 have also received invitations to join Netanyahu's visit.

"They didn't invite soldiers' parents"

Yehuda Cohen, the father of the abducted soldier Nimrod Cohen, commented on Noa Argamani joining Netanyahu's U.S. visit and slammed the Coordinator for the Hostages and Missing Brigadier General (Ret.) Gal Hirsch. "I tried to ask Hirsch why I didn't get an invitation. After all, he wrote that they brought a diverse group, but none of the soldiers' parents. We are working on our visit. I received partial funding from the Defense Ministry as a first-degree relative. They knew that if they refused we would say it was political."

"Our delegation has three destinations: Washington for our meeting with Biden, Los Angeles and then to Boston. Together with me are flying Danny Elgart, Ayala Metzger, Yifat Calderon, and more. Einav Tsangauker decided not to fly in the end."

He said that a goal of the visit is to get closer to reaching a hostage deal. There is an assumption that they will announce that the obstacles to the deal have been removed during their meeting, so we will demand a deal that will be announced and completed. We will pursue him until all the hostages are released. We will not accept things in writing, only tangible things."

Professor Yonatan Dekei-Chen, father of Shai, who was kidnapped to Gaza, said: "Our family did not receive an invitation. We have 35 hostages from Kibbutz Nir Oz. Maybe one family received an invitation from the prime minister, and they politely refused to travel with him to the U.S. There are 120 captives forsaken by the State of Israel and the one leading us. Every word that comes out of Israeli government officials is salt on the deep wounds of the periphery, especially the hostages' families. It's inhumane."

Dekei-Chen added: "We're concerned that he's traveling to the U.S. I'll be in Washington, but I won't be present at the speech. I'm quite disgusted. I'm not a protester, he's my prime minister. I'll demand from him that the issue of the hostages is the most important thing to be addressed. There's no reason in the world for him to travel there without agreeing to a deal."

7.17. 24 – We

Hostage deal points in dispute are Israel's withdrawal from Philadelphi corridor

7.17. 24 – We

PM: No pressure on deal, 'hostages suffering but not dead'; Gallant: without deal, hostages' fate is 'sealed'

Prime minister says in cabinet meeting that progress was made to achieve war goals including eliminating Hamas; Gallant reportedly says Netanyahu delays deal after far-right coalition partners threaten his government

Itamar Eichner, Nir (Shoko) Cohen|05:49

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there is no need to feel pressured to make a deal with Hamas. "Hamas should feel pressured. The hostages are suffering but they are not dead," he told his ministers in a cabinet meeting late on Tuesday.

In the meeting, the ministers received a briefing from Israel's negotiating team about the aspects of a cease-fire deal in exchange for the release of the 120 hostages, dead or alive, still held by Hamas in Gaza. Among the points in dispute are Israel's withdrawal from the Philadelphi corridor on the Egyptian border with Gaza and the return of displaced civilians to the northern areas.

On Tuesday the families of female soldiers held captive in Gaza showed photos of their daughters from a clip filmed by the terrorists soon after they were abducted. Shira Elbag, mother of Liri, one of the girls, told Ynet on Wednesday that the families received a sign of life from the girls in the spring and said they were surviving in the tunnels where they have been held for the past seven months.

During Tuesday's cabinet meeting, the ministers were told that the chances of reaching a deal are "not bad because Hamas is at a difficult point." The officials who spoke said it was important to engage in negotiations immediately because it would take weeks to iron out the details. It is vital to take advantage of the opportunity that is at hand, they said. Meanwhile Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said that if a deal is not struck within the next two weeks, the fate of the hostages would be sealed. Speaking in a closed-door meeting, he accused the prime minister of placing obstacles in the way of an agreement, to protect his coalition.

Far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich told Netanyahu that their parties would leave the government if there is a deal with Hamas, leaving the prime minister without the majority he needs in order to remain in power.

In the Knesset on Wednesday Netanyahu said Israel is making progress toward achieving its goals in the war, which are to eliminate Hamas and ensure that Gaza can pose no security threat to Israel. "Hamas is under pressure because we are destroying its tunnels and killing thousands of its terrorists," he said. "Hamas understands we are not buckling to the immense external and internal pressure."

7.17. 24 – We

Again: 19 terrorists released back into Gaza; no name or reason on authorization

7.17. 24 – We

Again: 19 terrorists released back into Gaza

Soldiers who were charged with securing the terrorists' return are enraged: 'They still have our hostages, yet we return their terrorists for nothing in return?'

Shimon Cohen

Jul 17, 2024, 4:01 PM (GMT+3)

Less than two months after it released the director of the Shifa Hospital along with other terrorists, Israel on Wednesday released another group of 19 terrorists back into the Gaza Strip.

At this time there is no information regarding the identities and threat levels of the released terrorists or the amount of time they have spent in Israeli custody. Still, at 8:20 a.m. they made their way through the Kissufim Check Point back into the Gaza Strip.

Soldiers who were asked to secure the passage of the released detainees to the Gaza Strip expressed severe anger over the task that they were charged with. "Again Israel is giving bargaining chips back to the enemy without receiving anything in return. The hostages are still in Hamas' tunnels, we aren't getting any information about their condition and we are certainly not getting them, yet still, terrorists, members of Hamas, the murderous terror organizations that spared no brutal means against us, are being released."



In an attempt to find the individual who decided to release the terrorists, we contacted the IDF Spokesperson who referred us to the Israel Prison Service (IPS) and the Shin Bet (ISA). The IPS Spokesperson stated that the IDF is the one who orders the release and the one who signs the order is an officer at the rank of Brigadier General or Major General. A source in the IDF estimated that the order came from the political echelon.

In June, when Israel released several dozen terrorists, including Muhammed Abu Salmiya, the director of Shifa Hospital which turned out to be a Hamas headquarters and arms depot, everybody blamed the other and the Prime Minister's Office pledged that the incident would be investigated so that it would not repeat itself.

At the time, it was claimed that the terrorists were released due to a lack of space in the prisons and in accordance with a Supreme Court ruling, but the IPS released footage proving that there was no shortage of space.

On the other side, the ISA blamed National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir for not ensuring ample detention conditions for the terrorists, and in response, Ben-Gvir blamed the ISA Director and claimed that he told him that if the terrorists' conditions would not improve he would release them.

7.16. 24 – Tu

Wing of Zion first transatlantic flight to US - Netanyahu will arrive later in the week

7.16. 24 – Tu

State airplane 'Wing of Zion' leaves for US - without prime minister  
Israel's 'Air Force One' leaves for its first transatlantic flight ahead of Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington with officials citing weight issues as reason for split flight

Itamar Eichner|12:23

Israel's Air Force One equivalent, the Boeing 767 Wing of Zion set off to the U.S. on Tuesday on its inaugural transatlantic flight ahead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned state visit later in the week.

The airliner took off with some of the equipment and crew required for Netanyahu's visit, where he will speak at Congress and meet with U.S. President Joe Biden. The unusual splitting of the flight, which will likely cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, was mainly done due to weight issues.

In February, Wing of Zion made its first operational flight abroad to Athens. The plane was supposed to make its first operational flight in November to the Climate Conference in Dubai, but the flight was ultimately canceled due to the war and Netanyahu's cancellation of his trip to the event.

Wing of Zion first landed in Israel in July 2016 and has since undergone a long process of upgrades, renovations and adaptations, along with numerous debates over whether it would be used or not.

The aircraft is a 20-year-old Boeing 767 containing 120 seats – that can for now only carry 80 passengers. About a third of the plane is dedicated to the prime minister and includes a bedroom, small shower and seats for security personnel and secretaries.

It has previously been reported that an estimated 730 million shekels was invested in the airliner, but the Prime Minister's Office countered that the actual amount was about 400 million shekels. The 2022 State Comptroller's report noted that security modifications to the plane were delayed, partly due to the late integration of the Shin Bet's requirements, which oversees protection for the prime minister.

7.16. 24 – Tu

IDF to send Haredim draft notices Sunday, all are invited to Wednesday law discussion

7.16. 24 – Tu

IDF to send draft notices to Haredim on Sunday

IDF says can no longer rely on ultra-Orthodox volunteers and will send draft notices to thousands of Haredim who are eligible for service and are not currently studying Torah; Haredi movements plan to protest against conscription on major highway

Yossi Yehoshua|10:28

The IDF will send draft notices to thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews on Sunday after the Supreme Court ruled last month that the state is obligated to draft yeshiva students in the absence of a distinction between those who are meant for service and those who are not. The ultra-Orthodox movements who oppose conscription plan to stage a major protest on Tuesday on one of Israel's major highway, Route 4 near Bnei Brak.

The army decided to issue the notices after concluding it cannot reach the necessary numbers solely by relying on voluntary enlistment. The plan was based on significant data analysis to reach those who want to enlist and those who do not study Torah.

On Tuesday, the Movement for Quality Government in Israel and the Magen Forum appealed to the Supreme Court demanding the Defense Ministry and the IDF to immediately draft all 63,000 yeshiva students eligible for conscription under Israel's Security Service Law. According to them, the petition was filed following the IDF's disregard of the court's ruling, which stated that there is no legal basis for exempting ultra-Orthodox Jews from conscription and that the defense establishment must act in accordance with the Security Service Law.

On Monday, dozens of extremist ultra-Orthodox Jews attacked senior IDF officers who entered Bnei Brak to meet with local leaders to discuss accommodating haredim in the IDF. Protesters from the Jerusalem Faction threw objects at the officers – Major General

David Zini, training command commander, and Brigadier General Shai Taieb, head of the Manpower Directorate Planning and Administration Division - and both were lightly injured. Extremist ultra-Orthodox Jews are planning for Tuesday night a major protest in Bnei Brak against conscription, possibly at the Geha Junction, and Highway 4 is expected to be congested.

The officers met with local leaders to find yeshivas with high dropout rates who would "allow" them to draft. The IDF is currently working to persuade rabbis and yeshiva directors to comply with the Draft Bill and to send between dozens and hundreds of their students, especially those who are absent from their studies, hoping to draft at least 3,000 ultra-Orthodox.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claims he has discussed the Draft Bill with the ultra-Orthodox parties and has reached agreements. Netanyahu claims he will have a majority for the bill, despite Gallant's opposition. Yuli Edelstein, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, criticized Netanyahu in his X account: "There is only one place where the conscription law is discussed, and that is in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. We start working on the wording of the clauses on Wednesday, and everyone is invited, all citizens and the prime minister."

On Tuesday, the Finance Ministry warned that the IDF may enlist the working Ultra-Orthodox population which would interfere with their livelihood. To avoid confrontation with the yeshivas, the IDF has decided to examine paychecks to facilitate the process. "I am troubled by the IDF's method, which links between social security employment data and the targeted population," a Finance Ministry official said. "This could mark those who work as potential recruits. This will harm conscription and harm employment."

7.16. 24 – Tu

Families of abducted IDF demand Netanyahu meeting, before US Congress visit

7.16. 24 – Tu

Families of abducted IDF soldiers demand Netanyahu meeting, plan to unveil captivity photos

Parents of Liri Albag, Karina Arieiv, Agam Berger, Daniella Gilboa and Naama Levy, all kidnapped from Nahal Oz base on October 7, seek meeting with PM before trip speech before US Congress next week

Yael Ciechanover, Hadar Gil-Ad|08:01

The families of five abducted IDF lookouts – Liri Albag, Karina Arieiv, Agam Berger, Daniella Gilboa and Naama Levy – are demanding an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before his departure for Washington to speak before a joint session of Congress next week. They plan to reveal new photos of their daughters from the early days of their captivity in Gaza, where they have now been held for 284 days.

The families will hold a press conference in Tel Aviv on Tuesday at 7 p.m. (Israel time), urging the Prime Minister to finalize a deal for their daughters' release before his upcoming address to Congress.

Earlier on Tuesday, Netanyahu met with the families of the IDF lookouts killed at the Nahal Oz base on October 7: Mia Vialobo Polo, Shay Ashram, Noa Price, Roni Eshel, Shirat Yam Amar, Adi Landman, Yael Leibushor, Shirel Mor, Hadar Miriam Cohen and Aviv Hajaj. He also met with the family of Noa Marciano, an IDF lookout who was murdered in captivity.

Relatives of the captives and activists from the Women's Protest blocked the southbound Ayalon Highway near the Shalom Interchange in central Tel Aviv Tuesday morning, ahead of the evening's meeting and Cabinet session.

"While the entire last government meeting focused on the alleged danger to the prime minister's life, we are here this morning to remind everyone that there are 120 captives whose lives are truly in immediate danger," the Women's Protest said in a statement, referring to Sunday's Cabinet meeting, which largely revolved around the soaring incitement against Netanyahu.

"We heard the defense minister say: 'We are closer than ever.' We will not allow the prime minister to torpedo this with various excuses. This evening's Cabinet session should focus on one thing only: a deal – now."

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum released in May a video of the abduction of the IDF lookouts from the Nahal Oz base, recorded by Hamas terrorists' body cameras on October 7.

The video depicts the five IDF lookouts being handcuffed, with one of the terrorists shouting, "You dogs, we will walk all over you," amid background screams. "Film them, film them," said one of the terrorists, as the girls looked on in terror. Naama Levy spoke of "friends in Palestine," and Liri Albag asked, "Does anyone speak English?" The terrorist replied, "Quiet!"

7.16. 24 – Tu

Supreme Court ruling, IDF to draft at least 3,000 ultra-Orthodox men immediately

7.16. 24 – Tu

Haredi mob attacks IDF commanders visiting Bnei Brak

Officers arrive to discuss ultra-Orthodox conscription to the military with local leaders when rioters storm their vehicle, blocking their path and throwing objects at them, causing light injuries

Sheila Fried, Yoav Zitun, Alexandra Lukash|04:20

Senior IDF officers were attacked by a mob in Bnei Brak late on Monday while on a visit to the Haredi city to discuss the conscription of ultra-Orthodox men into military service, with local leaders.

Dozens of men, described as members of an extremist wing from Jerusalem, hurled objects at the officers as they blocked their car. They suffered light injuries as a result.

A yeshiva student spotted the officers' vehicle and alerted the Jerusalem faction to their visit. They quickly mobilized their members in Bnei Brak and within minutes, hundreds of people gathered at the scene, blocking the officers' movement.

"We heard a senior officer is currently in a decisive meeting at the home of Rabbi David Leibel. A spontaneous and intense protest began," a recorded message spread to city residents said. "Their name will rot, the battle is ours, and salvation is in God's hands," the recording said.

"This is not the first time Major General David Zini and Brigadier General Shay Taib have come for meetings with the rabbi to discuss the possibility of recruiting ultra-Orthodox young men," said Asher Fradi, a close associate of Rabbi Leibel who was also present at the meeting.

"The extremist protesters began gathering around the house, shouting 'David Leibel is a murderer,' 'Leave us alone,' and ringing the rabbi's intercom, causing a lot of noise in the house. They woke up the entire neighborhood, which is usually quiet," he said. "We called the police. They were here and did nothing. At a quarter to midnight, when we finished the meeting and went out, they started attacking us with shouts and curses and did not let us move," he added. "After the police saw that the officers couldn't leave for an hour, they intervened and rescued them."

Fradi said that Rabbi Leibel was not intimidated by the mob. "He understands the military is moving in the right direction. The rabbi believes that the world of Torah is the most important thing. He is doing this to save the world of Torah, believing that if those who do not study must enlist in a suitable program, it will be good and right for the world of Torah."

Interior Minister Moshe Arbel from the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party condemned the riots. "A handful of extremists who called Major General David Zini and Brigadier General Shay Taib 'murderers' last night in Bnei Brak after a meeting with an important rabbi in the city, do not even represent themselves. They deserve every condemnation, and we have no part with them."

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant also condemned the event. "The IDF and its commanders have full backing for any mission assigned to them. The attack on Major General David Zini and Brigadier General Shay Taib is despicable. These are outstanding and dedicated officers working to strengthen Israel's security at a time when the IDF needs additional soldiers."

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich the riot was a dangerous act of violence. "It does not represent even a fraction of the ultra-Orthodox community. I want to strengthen the hands of Major General Zini and Brigadier General Taib in their important mission. It is essential to continue the efforts to establish new frameworks tailored to the ultra-Orthodox way of life and increase their participation in the IDF and civilian service." Opposition leader Yair Lapid mocked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who dedicated two hours earlier this week to complain about incitement from opponents of the

government. "I'm still waiting for a two-hour discussion about incitement and violence in the ultra-orthodox community against IDF officers."

The Bnei Brak municipality also condemned the rioters: "The Bnei Brak municipality denounces and condemns in the strongest terms the extreme protest against IDF officers that took place last night by extremists within the city. We call on the Israel Police to take all measures to prevent such incidents. The event does not reflect the spirit and character of the city, a city of Torah and reverence, but first and foremost a city of human dignity and respect."

The officers came to discuss ways to bring Haredi men to serve in the military after the IDF said it needed soldiers to fill the ranks and respond to the security challenges faced by Israel. The IDF is currently working to convince rabbis and yeshiva heads to comply with the Supreme Court ruling that Haredi men like other Israelis, are required to serve. The ruling required the IDF to draft at least 3,000 ultra-Orthodox youths immediately. Netanyahu had committed to the ultra-Orthodox parties in his coalition that he would legislate a law that would exempt Haredis from military service. He has faced opposition within his own party including from Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Yuli Edelstein who said any law would come out of his committee only after it receives the agreement of most lawmakers. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant also said he would support a bill only if it had wide support in the Knesset.

7.15. 24 – Mo

Mossad ready for talks on cease-fire hostages deal, awaiting Qatar invitation

7.15. 24 – Mo

Despite delay cease-fire talks on track, official says

Mossad chief due to travel to Doha awaits an invitation from Qatar; official says prime minister wants military pressure on Hamas to continue and achieve the release of the most hostages for the lowest price that would not endanger Israel's security

Itamar Eichner|12:55

An Israeli official said on Monday that a delegation will leave for talks in Qatar on a cease-fire for hostages deal after Mossad chief David Barnea's trip appeared to be delayed. Barnea was scheduled to depart for Doha this week but was awaiting the Qatari invitation that had not arrived.

Both Qatar and Hamas said there would be no delay in negotiations after the IDF attack on a compound in Khan Younis on Saturday in an attempt to assassinate the head of the Hamas military wing Mohammed Deif. Rafa Salama, The Khan Younis Brigade commander, whose compound was bombed, was confirmed to have been killed in the attack.

The official said that Barnea may not be heading the delegation and talks may not be in Qatar. He said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists on continued military pressure on Hamas and has identified his red lines in negotiations.

He said this is the "money time" to bring as many live hostages as possible for the lowest possible cost that does not endanger Israel's security. "Whether Deif was killed or not, Hamas suffered a severe blow. They did not say talks would be stalled and have not responded to the assassination attempt by attacking Israel with rockets."

7.15. 24 – Mo

EU imposes sanctions on Tzav 9 aid opposition and others for human rights violations

7.15. 24 – Mo

EU imposes sanctions on Tzav 9 and others for human rights violations

Those sanctioned under the union's Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime will have assets frozen, funding either directly or indirectly withheld and will not be allowed to enter the EU

Itamar Eichner|10:41

The EU on Monday said it was imposing sanctions on five Israeli persons and three entities for "serious and systematic human rights abuses against Palestinians in the West Bank," under the union's Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime.

Today the Council approved additional restrictive measures against five persons and three entities under the European Union's Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime.

Among those named was the Tzav 9 activist group of settlers who attempted to block humanitarian aid from reaching Gaza. On Thursday, the U.S. Treasury Department announced sanctions against the group's founder Rerut Ben Haim.

Others sanctioned by the EU include the founder of the extremist Lehava organization, Ben-Zion "Bentzi" Gopstein who was also under American sanctions.

Others named were Moshe Sharvit and his 'Moshe's Farm' in the Jordan Valley which the EU said had engaged in settler violence and threats towards Palestinian residents in shepherding communities close to his outpost, Zvi Bar Yosef and his illegal outpost 'Zvi's Farm' who the EU said repeatedly attacked and committed acts of violence against Palestinians from the villages of Jibya, Kaubar (Kobar), and Umm Safa, causing severe injuries to some of them, Isaschar Manne, founder of the illegal Manne Farm outpost and Baruch Marzel, a former ally of National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and a member with Ben-Gvir in the now outlawed Kach movement. Marzel, the EU said openly called for an ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians.

Those sanctioned are subject to an asset freeze and a ban on direct or indirect funding from the EU. They are also subjected to a travel ban to the EU.

7.15. 24 – Mo

Haredim recruits fill voids in Shin Bet, Mossad, Prison, Police, education & others

7.15. 24 – Mo

Surge in Haredim joining national civil service since October 7

This year, 813 ultra-Orthodox volunteers entered national service compared to 492 last year; Director General of the National Service Authority: 'Every 18-year-old man and woman should serve the state, and if they were exempted from military service, they should join the civilian national service'

Shiloh Frid|06:24

While efforts are being made in the security establishment to examine and adjust military service for ultra-Orthodox youth in preparation for sending thousands of conscription orders, there has been a significant increase in the recruitment of Haredi youth for national civil service, according to data presented at Sunday's Cabinet meeting.

According to the figures, since the beginning of the Iron Swords War, twice as many ultra-Orthodox youth have been drafted into national service than in the corresponding period last year. This year, 813 ultra-Orthodox volunteers joined national service compared to 492 last year. A total of 1,538 members of the ultra-Orthodox community serve in security agencies such as the Shin Bet, Mossad, Israel Prison Service, and the Israel Police, as well as in education, management and other positions.

Some 19,000 Israelis were serving in national civil service as of July 2024. Of these, 12,033 are from the general Jewish community, 5,356 are from the Arab and Druze sector and 1,938 are from special populations.

The presentation discussed the actions that the National Service system took with the outbreak of the war, among them the activation of an emergency regulation in which the Authority's director general has permission to give instructions regarding a change in the way service is performed if he deems it necessary to assist the citizens of the country and its residents. In light of the declaration of a special situation on the home front, the approval of Minister of Settlement and National Missions Orit Strook was given. The activation of the emergency regulation section 20 made it possible to set specific standards for the needs of the home front in combat, including the needs of the evacuees, shifting national service volunteers to relevant positions to strengthen the home front, including assistance to the evacuees, bereaved families and reservists. In addition, the national needs were mapped in cooperation with the Home Front Command and budgetary allocations were made for evacuees at risk. The director general of the authority pointed out dramatic trends: In the past year, and especially since October 7, hundreds more volunteers joined national service than during the same periods in previous years.



During the cabinet meeting, reference was made to the civil service paths for ultra-Orthodox youth, with an emphasis on positions adapted to the ultra-Orthodox lifestyles, looking at the needs of the state, the needs of the national service volunteer and the needs of the employment market. The CEO stated that there is a need to create national planning on the issue of integrating the ultra-Orthodox into national service frameworks, with the IDF prioritizing civil service, expanding the routes and options to serve, as well as providing legitimacy from both the general public and the ultra-Orthodox public. "Immediately after the Simchat Torah (October 7) massacre and the outbreak of the war, I instructed to change the activity in the National Civil Service so that our volunteers would give the maximum significant assistance to the war effort," Strook said. "I thank the Authority's CEO Reuven Pinsky for leading this effort in an optimal way, and salute our volunteers for their exemplary commitment. I am convinced that the service frameworks for the ultra-Orthodox public built by us can be used both as a good model and as a basis for receiving thousands of ultra-Orthodox young people who will contribute through them to the state and its security, and we are prepared to expand them as much as is requested."

Director General of the National Service Authority, Reuven Pinsky, said: "Within the war effort, the National Civil Service was constantly involved in helping to strengthen national resilience on the civilian front. The volunteers of the National Civil Service provided an immediate response to the evacuee communities in the hotels, to the bereaved families, to the injured soldiers and civilians, in the security and rescue agencies, in the hospitals, in education and much more. Every 18-year-old man and woman should serve the country, and if they were exempted from military service, they should join the civilian national service. The State of Israel needs us today more than ever."

7.15. 24 – Mo

Investigation of October 7 attacks find 400-600 Gazans per Kibbutz on dashcam videos

7.15. 24 – Mo

IDF investigation finds 20 units operated in Kibbutz Kfar Aza without command on October 7

As military continues to probe management of Hamas' massacre, upcoming investigation on Kibbutz Kfar Aza suggests chaos confused the units swarming the area to fight terrorists; Kibbutz member watched invasion through video taken by car dashcam  
Matan Tzuri|04:03

Findings of the IDF's investigation into Hamas' attack on southern Israel on October 7 indicate many forces were summoned to Kibbutz Kfar Aza at the start of the assault. At the peak of the fighting, at least 20 different IDF battalions and other elite units were present in the area, fighting without the direction of a commanding officer. Consequently, it now seems that civilians and soldiers were killed by friendly fire, though exact numbers are yet to be established.

"You can save a lot of energy. Just take the investigation on kibbutz Be'eri, copy it over, and write 'Kibbutz Kfar Aza' in the headline," said Batya Holin, a member of the kibbutz who survived the massacre and documented the harsh battles via her vehicle's dashboard camera.

The IDF investigation findings on Be'eri published last week brought haunting memories back for Kfar Aza's members. In the coming weeks, the military is set to release its official investigation regarding the kibbutz.

Holin occasionally visits the kibbutz but leaves quickly as soon as the memories return. Some 64 residents were murdered in Kfar Aza, including seven members of the local alert squad. Nineteen were kidnapped, and only 14 returned. Five members are still being held by Hamas in Gaza.

Report estimations say 400-600 terrorists infiltrated Kfar Aza on October 7. About 100 Nukhba terrorists infiltrated in the first wave, and members of the local alert squads found themselves in a hopeless battle for survival.

While some soldiers engaged the enemy and rescued civilians, the investigation will likely report many of the forces that arrived in Kfar Aza didn't know what to do or where to go, not realizing the importance of rescuing the civilians trapped in their homes. Most of the findings are based on testimonies of kibbutz members, correspondence, documentation and security camera footage.

The investigation team also has footage from Batya Holin's dashboard camera. "My car has a very advanced security system that I installed in it," she said. "Front and rear cameras that activate when someone approaches or touches the car, even when it's not running, and they record everything. I get an alert via an app and can see who's near my car in real time.

"When the terrorists infiltrated the kibbutz and approached my car, the cameras activated, and I saw everything through my phone. I was sitting in the safe room at home, hearing explosions and shouts in Arabic, and I could see the terrorists in the area through the car cameras," she recounted.

She also recalled how she managed to contact a special Israeli Air Force unit and provide them with their location. "I saw armed groups arriving with massive amounts of weapons. I saw the battles near my house in real time. The images don't leave my mind to this day. Even after the battles ended, my car continued to document the bulldozers removing the bodies of terrorists and our dear friends who fell fighting. I handed over all the footage from the car cameras to the Shin Bet at their request."

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit responded in a statement, saying: "We're in the midst of investigations into the events of October 7, including the battle in Kfar Aza. Once the investigation is concluded, it will first be presented to the community and bereaved families, and then transparently published to the public."

7.15.24 – Mo

Kibbutz Be'eri set to receive nearly \$100 million reconstruction fund

7.15. 24 – Mo

Kibbutz Be'eri set to receive nearly \$100 million reconstruction fund  
Largest sum given to Israeli community attacked by Hamas on October 7; Kibbutz members say don't wish to turn community into a memorial; Directorate in charge of reconstruction after Hamas' attack set to provide building plans to government by September

Navit Zomer|01:49

Kibbutz Be'eri will receive a 350 million shekel (about \$100 million) reconstruction fund from the government, the largest sum given to any of the Israeli communities attacked by Hamas on October, Ynet learned on Sunday.

The Tkuma Directorate founded following October 7 to oversee reconstruction efforts in the communities impacted by the attack, is set to deliver its final building plans to the government in two months.

“We learned by seeing other disaster aftermaths across the world to treat this like an opportunity,” the directorate said in a statement. “The neighborhoods damaged in Be'eri are very old with some of the planning no longer being fit for the community's needs. Other disasters showed that reconstruction is inadequate if members of the community aren't involved in it.”

Doron Segev, an architect from the kibbutz, added that its members don't wish to erect a memorial in the community. Some wish to uproot the damaged homes out of the kibbutz to become memorials while others said they wished to return to their original houses, even if they were damaged. The fund therefore will include the construction of a new neighborhood in the kibbutz in which members will live should they wish to part with their previous home.

“Most of the kibbutz members didn't want to return to their previous home nor fix it because of their memories of it. It's clear we won't be able to undo what was done, but we'll have to include memorials in a delicate manner according to the members' wishes,” Segev said.

7.14. 24 – Su

Knesset OKs IDF service extension; attorney general wants to recruit yeshiva students

7.14. 24 – Su

Government OKs IDF service extension; attorney general calls decision 'unconstitutional'  
Mandatory military service extended to 36 months, retroactively applying to those currently serving; decision comes as government continues to take no action on recruiting ultra-Orthodox; reservists with families will receive extra benefits in summer

Itamar Eichner, Tova Zimuky, Yoav Zitun|12:18

The government on Sunday unanimously approved a law extending the mandatory military service of regular soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces. The temporary order sets service for male recruits at 32 months to 36 months and will depend on whether they are serving in combat or non-combat roles.

According to the bill, the mandatory service for men will stand at 32 months. "The length of service of male military recruits will be adjusted to the formations, units and positions in which they serve. The default is that a man will be required to serve a period of 32 months, but the defense minister will determine in a decree with the approval of the Knesset's Foreign and Security Committee the formations, units, professions and positions in which the length of service will be shorter - provided that it is not less than 28 months," it said.

The proposal further states that "those who will be required for a period of service exceeding 28 months, will receive from the 29th month of their service an additional reward, which will be paid in addition to the payments paid due to a serviceman. The extra money is intended for recruits who serve longer, and according to the law "will express special appreciation for their service."

Although the explanatory notes state that the extension of conscription will only begin from the entry into force of the law, there is an intention to apply the law retroactively to those who are already serving, but they are expected to receive extra financial compensation for between 32 months and 36 months of service.

The attorney general's office made it clear to the IDF that the proposed law contained a violation of equality between those recruited for mandatory service in positions where the service period is 28 months (or 32 during the extension period), and those who will be recruited for positions where the service period will exceed 28 months - or 32 months during the extension period.

"This is going to lead to more damage to the basic rights and freedoms of the individual that stems from the fact that regular service is mandatory service for those who will serve a longer time in mandatory service," according to the legal opinion. Apart from that, the opinion stated that "in particular regarding the temporary extension order, it is proposed to increase the burden placed on the serving population, thereby increasing the inequality vis-à-vis groups in the population who do not serve."

Deputy Attorney General Gil Limon wrote in the opinion that "increasing the burden on those serving for years, without simultaneously taking actual actions to recruit yeshiva students and share the burden is unconstitutional."

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said in a cabinet discussion that: "We need to both extend IDF service and recruit the ultra-Orthodox. There are not enough soldiers. Without extending the service and recruiting ultra-Orthodox together we cannot win."

At the same time, Gallant approved the recommendation of the IDF personnel department for a series of additional benefits for reservists with families who are participating in operational activity in combat sectors during summer vacation. Through the aid fund, assistance will be increased for summer camp payments for reservists with children up to the age of 14 who serve on dates that coincide with summer camp.

This is in addition to the existing summer camp grant, which amounts to 1,500 shekels for those who perform five reserve days during the summer vacation months and have children under the age of 16. In addition, the amount of aid for babysitting services will be increased from 2,000 shekels to 3,500 shekels per service member, according to the policy of the aid fund.

At the meeting of the political-security cabinet on Thursday night, the cabinet decided that mandatory service in the IDF should be extended to three years. For almost nine years, mandatory service has been 32 months and, according to the existing service law, it was supposed to be shortened by two months to 30 months. The IDF demanded a return to 36 months of service, due to the heavy burden caused by the war and the lack of soldiers.

About two weeks ago, Gallant said in a debate in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that "the IDF is a body of all of us that does not belong to any one party. Unlike airplanes or bombs, soldiers cannot be brought from abroad, so we need to recruit more. We are going in the opposite direction from everything we need - in recruiting ultra-Orthodox, extending regular service and increasing the age of exemption from reserve service; We must act together, the soldiers are ready to do everything but ask for a tailwind."

7.14. 24 – Su

4 troops at bus stop hit by car-ramming attack as Palestinians escalate resistance

7.14. 24 – Su

4 troops wounded in car-ramming attack, IDF confirms

Officer and soldier severely hurt, one of them in immediate danger; 2 other troops in light and moderate condition; Border Police cops on patrol eliminated assailant

Yoav Zitun, Meir Turgeman|12:07

Four IDF soldiers were wounded in a car-ramming attack at the Nitzanei Oz junction near the Tzrifin military base in central Israel earlier Sunday, the IDF confirmed.

An officer and a soldier were severely wounded, another soldier sustained moderate injuries, and a cadet in the officer training course was lightly hurt. They were transported to the Shamir Medical Center for medical treatment, and their families have been notified.

Shamir Medical Center Director Dr. Osnat Levzion-Korach said that the hospital is fighting to save the life of one of the severely wounded soldiers. A relative of another severely injured soldier said, "We are praying for his recovery. He is a golden boy, 21 years old."

Three Border Police reservists, who were on a routine patrol nearby, eliminated the assailant, a Palestinian resident of East Jerusalem. "We were driving and just before Nitzanei Oz junction, I heard a boom," one of the cops recounted.

"I looked to the left and saw a car at the bus stop with a soldier lying underneath it. At that moment, I turned around and drove there quickly. We got out of the vehicle, went to the back and cocked our weapons. Another officer joined us at that point.

"I heard a shot, and I responded with fire as well. There were a few more shots, then I told everyone to stop. I wanted to make sure the attacker was neutralized so we could attend to the soldier. We lowered our weapons, then I broke the window and saw that the attacker was dead."

Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai arrived at the scene. "Since yesterday, alerts have been piling up, and we have increased our readiness," he said, referring to the assassination attempt on Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif, after which the terrorist organization called on Palestinians to "escalate the resistance."

Shabtai, who arrived at the scene hours before his farewell ceremony from the police force, said that as part of the police preparations, "We deployed additional forces, and the activities you saw on the roads are part of our efforts to provide a quick response."

When asked about the attacker's identity, he said that the police currently believe it was a lone attacker and that "the attacker has no known security background."

7.14. 24 – Su

Trump assassination attempt parallels incitement against Netanyahu & AG is silent

7.14. 24 – Su

Lawmakers link Trump assassination attempt to incitement against Netanyahu  
Cabinet ministers blast attorney general over inaction on threats against premier; 'We asked the attorney general to take basic steps, and it's hard to believe that hasn't been done,' says Justice Minister Levin

Itamar Eichner, Moran Azulay|10:49

Israeli lawmakers on Sunday drew parallels between the assassination attempt on Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and the rising incitement against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with the subject being prominently featured during the Cabinet's weekly meeting.

Cabinet Secretary Tzachi Braverman presented a video featuring a series of inciteful remarks against Netanyahu, prompting ministers to schedule a discussion next week with Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara to outline potential measures to address such Justice Minister Yariv Levin, a close ally of Netanyahu, criticized the attorney general for failing to act on threats against the premier. "It's a miracle that what happened in the United States hasn't happened here yet. We warned that this could happen here. The judicial system has abandoned the prime minister," he said.

"This is not just writing on the wall; it's much more than that. I've had long conversations with the attorney general, repeatedly warning for months that such an event could occur

here. It's **only a matter of time**. We asked the attorney general to take basic steps, and it's hard to believe that hasn't been done.

"Make a clear public statement that the law enforcement system will not tolerate incitement, calls like 'traitor,' and similar remarks. Additionally, **take immediate and strong action against those who incite murder** and certainly against those who **commit violence**. The response we received was silence, which could be **interpreted as consent** that such things are permitted and acceptable."

National Security Minister Itamar **Ben-Gvir** also **criticized** law enforcement agencies, saying, "It's **time to hold hearings** for those who prevent indictments, **block enforcement and allow incitement**. [Labor MK] Naama Lazimi was documented inciting—a serious offense—and the attorney general does not approve an investigation. If it were us, does anyone have any doubt in their mind there would be an investigation the next day?"

"Is saying that **they are preparing a noose** for the prime minister **incitement**? Is **saying** that the **prime minister is the enemy, not Hamas**, incitement?" Ben-Gvir asked Deputy Attorney General Gil Limon during the meeting, referring to a series of incendiary comments made by speakers at recent anti-government protests.

After **Limon responded** affirmatively, **Ben-Gvir asked** again, "So why don't you do anything? You see and hear it; **what are you waiting for?** Why do **you remain silent** when there is **incitement against right-wing public officials?** This is **selective enforcement**." Netanyahu then asserted, "It's very simple. There is selective enforcement here. **When there's incitement against me, it's acceptable**. Everything is allowed."

**Limon responded** to the ministers, "**We strongly condemn any incitement** to violence against the prime minister, his family, government ministers or any other individual. Violence against public officials is an attack on democracy."

"We all watched in shock yesterday at the heinous assassination attempt on **former president** and current U.S. presidential candidate Donald **Trump**. This is not only a heinous crime but also an **attempt to assassinate American democracy**," Netanyahu said at the start of the Cabinet meeting.

"Fortunately, **Trump was miraculously saved**. He is recovering now and seems to be back to his old self. **I want to send him**, on behalf of myself, my wife Sara, the ministers of the Israeli government and the entire people of Israel, our wishes for a **speedy recovery and a full return to strength**."

7.13. 24 – Sa

**IDF strike Gaza shacks, sheds targeted a compound with Salama & Deif commanders**

7.13. 24 – Sa

**IDF: 'Deif's demise will have a profound impact on Hamas'**

Army reports while **fate of Hamas military chief remains unclear**, growing **indications** suggest Khan Younis **Brigade commander eliminated in attack on compound** held by terrorists and collaborators

Yoav Zitun, Yossi Yehoshua, Einav Halabi|12:56

The IDF continues to assess the results of Saturday's strike in Khan Younis which reportedly targeted Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif and Khan Younis Brigade Commander Rafa Salama. "We assume Hamas will try to conceal the outcomes," the IDF said, noting that the strike targeted a compound belonging to Salama and held by terrorists and collaborators.

The military reports growing indications suggest that Salama was eliminated. A highly significant and dominant figure, he coordinated Hamas' war efforts with Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar and oversaw the hostage situation.

The army obtained "strong, precise and corroborated" intelligence about Deif's presence at the compound overnight Saturday, stalling the precision strike until receiving unequivocal indications about his whereabouts and confirmation that no hostages were present at the site.

The IDF said that the effects of that attack were already felt on the streets of Gaza, with some celebrations observed. "We will continue to strike and pursue Hamas leaders wherever they are," the army added, emphasizing that "Deif's demise will have a profound impact on Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Hamas abroad and the Gazan street."

Medical sources in Gaza told Al Jazeera that the death toll from the strike near the displaced persons compound in Al-Mawasi, which is designated by Israel as a humanitarian zone, has risen to 79, alongside dozens of injured. Israeli sources told the Associated Press and The Wall Street Journal that the strike was precise and most of the casualties were terrorists, including Deif and Salama's bodyguards. The precise intelligence leading to the strike relied on technological surveillance and listening capabilities as well as human tracking on the ground, resulting in cross-referencing and final confirmation that Deif was at the targeted site, an open and wooded area with shacks, sheds and palm trees.

7.13. 24 – Sa

Assassination attempt | several shots fired towards Trump at Pennsylvania rally

7.13. 24 – Sa

Assassination attempt | Shots fired towards Trump in Pennsylvania

Incident at Trump rally. Former President led off stage amid what sounded like gunshots. Agents grabbed Trump, who was seen waving his fists in the air.

Israel National News

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Updated: 5:05 AM

Former US President Donald Trump was rushed off the stage by the Secret Service after apparent gunshots were heard at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday.

Trump had just begun to speak when several shots were heard and he fell.



Trump was led away by the Secret Service and he raised his fists towards the audience. It appears that there was **blood on his head as he was evacuated**.

The former President, who was **hit in his ear**, was **discharged from the hospital later** in the evening, and his campaign indicated that he **plans** to take part in the Republican **convention in Milwaukee**.

"President **Trump** looks forward to **joining you all in Milwaukee** as we proceed with our convention to nominate him to serve as the 47th President of the United States. As our party's nominee, President **Trump will continue to share his vision** to Make America Great Again," said a joint statement from Trump's campaign and the Republican National Committee.

According to Mike Valente, a journalist at WTAE-TV Pittsburgh, the Butler County District Attorney says that **one person** is believed to be **dead**, **Trump is okay**, and there is **no information about the shooter**. Valente posted that the district attorney says he **believes the person who died was "someone in the crowd."**

Washington Post's Meryl Kornfield added that according to the district attorney the **shooter is dead**, and **another person is in serious condition**.

The official Pool reporters reported that they "heard a series **of loud explosions or loud bangs before Secret Service agents rushed toward Trump**. The Secret Service went and **immediately covered President Trump**. **Agents grabbed Trump**, who was seen **waving his fists in the air**".

US Secret Service chief of communications Anthony Guglielmi updated that **Trump is safe**.

"An incident occurred the **evening of July 13 at a Trump rally in Pennsylvania**," he said. "The **Secret Service has implemented protective measures** and the former President is safe. This is **now an active Secret Service investigation** and further information will be released when available".

Trump's spokesperson Steven Cheung said: "President **Trump thanks law enforcement and first responders** for their **quick action during this heinous act**. He is fine and is being checked out at a local medical facility. More details will follow".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin **Netanyahu** wrote on social media: "**Sara and I were shocked by the apparent attack on President Trump**. We pray for his safety and **speedy recovery**".

US President Joe **Biden** wrote: "I have been **briefed on the shooting at Donald Trump's rally in Pennsylvania**. I'm grateful to hear that he's safe and doing well. I'm praying for him and his family and for all those who were at the rally, as we await further

information. Jill and I are grateful to the Secret Service for getting him to safety. There's no place for this kind of violence in America. We must unite as one nation to condemn it".

Former Vice President Mike Pence wrote: "Karen and I are praying for President Trump and urge every American to join us."

House Speaker Mike Johnson tweeted: "Praying for President Trump".

Elon Musk responded to the incident by endorsing Trump: "I fully endorse President Trump and hope for his rapid recovery", he wrote on X, and then added: "Last time America had a candidate this tough was Theodore Roosevelt".

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer wrote: "I am horrified by what happened at the Trump rally in Pennsylvania and relieved that former President Trump is safe. Political violence has no place in our country."

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Ynet-News, July 12, 2024 – Friday

7.12. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

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

7.12. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

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

7.12. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

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

7.12. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in July 12 spot – Friday

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

7.11. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in July 11 spot – Thursday

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

7.11. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in July 11 spot – Thursday

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

7.10. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

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

7.10. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

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

7.10. 24 – We- - - News Placed in July 10 spot – Wednesday

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

7.09. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

7.09. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

7.09. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

7.09. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in July 09 spot – Tuesday

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

7.08. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

West Bank Civil Administration demolish illegal outpost to prevent settler violence

7.08. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in July 08 spot – Monday

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

7.08. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

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

7.07. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

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

7.07. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

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 & Smotrich 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