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7.22. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

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Jericho students planned to kidnap Israelis under the guidance of Hamas in Turkey

7.22. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

1,000 Orthodox Haredi men receive a wave of IDF draft notice Sunday

7.21. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Full Moon 5:19am

Biden drops out of US presidential race, endorsed Kamala Harris to replace him

7.21. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Full Moon 5:19am

Knesset Speaker Ohana enrages Arab world with viral tweet to observe Israel aggression

7.21. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in July 21 spot – Sunday Full Moon 5:19am

PA squad of West Bank University students are paid by Hamas in Turkey, for terror

7.21. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Full Moon 5:19am

Israel's strike on Houthi lethal weapons port will burn in Yemen for days

7.20. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in July 20 spot – Saturday

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

7.20. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

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

7.20. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Israeli officials concerned over diplomatic implications of ICJ leverage

7.26. 24 – Fr

Trump, Netanyahu and Sara at Mar-a-Lago, quenching grudge over PM on Biden side

7.26. 24 – Fr

'Now for the best part': Trump, Netanyahu meet at former US president's Florida resort
PM and former US president hold private meeting at Mar-a-Lago, closed to the press; key
topics on the agenda include the Gaza war and the potential normalization of relations
with Saudi Arabia

Itamar Eichner, Washington|12:12

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with former U.S. president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at his Florida estate on Friday evening.

As Trump welcomed Netanyahu and his wife Sara at his Mar-a-Lago estate, the Israeli leader was heard saying, "Now for the best part."

The meeting at Mar-a-Lago was closed to the press. Reporters accompanying Netanyahu in Washington were not invited, and Netanyahu flew from the capital to Florida on the Wing of Zion plane a few hours before the meeting. Meanwhile, pro-Palestinian protesters gathered in Palm Beach, where the estate is located, to protest against Netanyahu.

In a photo released by the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu is seen standing beside Trump, holding a blue hat with the inscription "Total Victory" in English, a phrase he often uses when addressing the war in Gaza.

Netanyahu faces a challenging diplomatic landscape as he navigates between Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris, both of whom seek a swift resolution to the Gaza war. Trump's Republican candidacy further complicates matters, given his ideological opposition to prolonged wars. This places Netanyahu in a precarious position as he seeks to maintain legitimacy while continuing the war.

A critical task for Netanyahu is to mend his relationship with Trump, who has previously insulted him, calling him a "loser." Earlier this month, Netanyahu made an effort to reconcile by congratulating Trump on the Fourth of July during a phone call. However, tensions remain, with Trump holding grudges over Netanyahu's quick acknowledgment of President Joe Biden's election victory in 2020 and perceived failure to credit Trump for the expedited delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to Israel.

Another significant challenge for Netanyahu is advancing normalization with Saudi Arabia in the remaining months of Biden's presidency. The question remains whether Trump, if reelected, would support this move, given that it aligns with the Abraham Accords initiated during his administration. It might be strategically beneficial for Trump to delay such normalization until his potential return to office.

On Thursday, Trump reiterated his stance, urging for a swift end to the war with Hamas. In an interview with Fox News, he emphasized that "Israel must finish the war with Hamas quickly and bring back the hostages." He also criticized protesters in Washington who opposed Netanyahu's address to Congress, while advising that "Israel needs to manage its public relations better worldwide."

Insults, criticism and calls for ouster

In October last year, Trump sharply criticized Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Israeli intelligence for their handling of the crisis. Just five days after the October 7 attack, Trump remarked that "Israel was not prepared" and expressed his disappointment in Netanyahu.

During a speech in Palm Beach, Trump recalled the 2020 assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, alleging that Netanyahu refused to assist the U.S. in the operation. "I will never forget that Bibi Netanyahu let us down. That was a terrible thing. We were

very disappointed, but we did the job ourselves, and it was a precise, great, wonderful job. And then Bibi tried to take credit for it. That didn't make me feel good, but that's okay."

Trump also targeted Gallant amid rising tensions with Hezbollah, criticizing him for a perceived display of weakness. "Hezbollah is very smart, and they (Israel) have some defense minister or something who says – I hope Hezbollah doesn't attack us from the north. Who ever heard of an idiot saying something like that?"

The next day, Rolling Stone magazine reported that Trump had privately called for Netanyahu's removal. According to the report, Trump advocated for Netanyahu's ouster in multiple phone calls with pro-Israel Republican figures following the Hamas terror attack.

The report, based on two sources familiar with the conversations, claimed that Trump suggested the Knesset should "impeach" Netanyahu because the attack occurred under his leadership. Trump reportedly expressed a preference that Netanyahu not be prime minister if he were to return to office in January 2025.

In December 2021, it was revealed that Trump was furious with Netanyahu for congratulating Joe Biden on his election victory. In an interview with journalist Barak Ravid for the book Trump's Peace, Trump said, "I really liked Bibi Netanyahu. There was no one who did more for Bibi than me. There was no one who did more for Israel than me. But the elections in this country were stolen and rigged. And the first person who ran to congratulate Joe Biden was Netanyahu."

Trump, who even cursed Netanyahu, claimed he hadn't spoken to him since. "I loved Bibi. I still love Bibi. But I also love loyalty," he said, adding, "He made a terrible mistake. I was personally disappointed with him. The elections here were controversial. They are still controversial. So Netanyahu, before the ink was even dry, records a congratulatory message to Joe Biden? It was early. Okay? Let's put it this way - he congratulated him very early. Earlier than most world leaders. I haven't spoken to him since. Fuck him."

7.26. 24 – Fr

Herzog at Paris Olympics as Iran plotting an attack on the Israeli teams

7.26. 24 – Fr

Herzog says has faith in French security, after threats made French paper says investigation underway after suspect posts threats on social media; president tells Israeli delegation the French authorities worked for months to ensure Israelis' safety while allowing them to feel like all others at the Games

Raz Shechnik, Nadav Zenziper|07:03

President Issac Herzog, on Friday, told the Israeli delegation to the 2024 Paris Olympics that French authorities had been working for months to ensure their security.

The French daily L'Équipe reported on Friday that an investigation was underway after threats were made online against the life of President Issac Herzog who is in Paris for the opening of the 2024 Olympic Games.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz also warned that Iran was plotting an attack on the Israeli delegation to the games. In a post on X Katz said the world must take action before it was too late.

Herzog said he had faith in the French security services. "They've worked for months on a security plan for the Israeli delegation, among others," he said in a call with delegation members. "At the same time, they want our athletes not to feel like they are any different to the others at the games.

He told the members that he believed the disruption to the French train services was the result of a cyberattack. "The drama is unfolding before our eyes and is proof of the seriousness of the French security forces. I am convinced that they will solve the problem and withstand all other threats," he said.

"I trust the French security infrastructure and the immense efforts of the International Olympic Committee. There were hostile attempts to harm the committee's offices. If you stand firm you can rebuff anyone trying to attack you," he said.

Herzog said he met with the coach of the Judo team, Oren Smaja, who had recently lost his son in Gaza and decided to travel with the team to the games. "One moment that moved me and Michal most was to see Oren, who is also a friend. He gave me his book and I told him that the fact that he was at the Olympic Games projects strength to the team."

7.26. 24 – Fr

Iran plans attack on Israeli Olympians in Paris, after sabotage of France's fast-rail

7.26. 24 – Fr

Iran plans attack on Israeli delegation to Paris, minister says

Foreign minister says in post on X that the world must take action against Iran before it is too late, says sabotage of French train service is the work of Iran's 'axis of evil'
Ynet|06:14

Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on Friday that Iran was planning an attack on the Israeli delegation to the Olympic Games in Paris, in a post on X.

Katz claimed that the sabotage of France's fast-rail services and the threat at the Basel-Mulhouse Airport in Switzerland were the work of the Iranian "axis of evil." He called on the world to take action to stop Iran, "before it's too late."

A French diplomatic source said he was aware of the threat to Israeli Olympic and Paralympic athletes and that the delegation and Israelis attending the games would receive the best security cover possible.

The sabotage on France's trains was carried out despite a massive security operation for the Games involving some 45,000 police, 10,000 soldiers and 2,000 private security staff.

The coordinated actions by arsonists brought major disruption to some of France's busiest rail lines.

The sabotage of railway infrastructure across France ahead of the @Paris2024 Olympics was planned and executed under the influence of Iran's axis of evil and radical Islam. As I warned my French counterpart @steph_sejourne this week, based on information held by Israel, Iranians...

"This is a massive broad attack meant to disable the fast-rail network," France's train company SNCF said in a statement adding that overnight infrastructure was sabotaged including lines inside France and international lines traveling to the UK and Belgium. According to a report on CNN, some 800,000 people were affected by the disruptions to service.

The Eurostar train connecting France and the UK, advised passengers not to travel on the London-Paris line on Friday and train services from Germany were also delayed or suspended. The official also said an investigation was underway to identify those responsible for the attack on France's rail services.

The German government condemned attacks on French railway infrastructure ahead of the Paris Olympics on Friday, saying that it was awaiting the outcome of a French investigation into the incidents.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz will attend Friday's opening ceremony, a government spokesperson said, adding that the perception was that French authorities had taken all necessary precautions to maintain security at the event.

On Wednesday, French police arrested a 40-year-old Russian man who it said was involved in plots to destabilize the Olympics. In a statement on Friday, the Kremlin said that it had no information about the case and that the Russian embassy in Paris needed to be informed properly about the circumstances.

7.25. 24 – Th

Netanyahu, Biden & Harris meet: doubts regarding Harris' attitude toward Israel & Gaza

7.25. 24 – Th

Netanyahu and Harris meet: 'Committed to Israel's security, but difficult situation in Gaza cannot be ignored'

Both Biden and Harris avoid making joint statements with Netanyahu during meetings at the White House; Prime minister and president met for 1.5 hours and then met with the families of hostages held in Gaza; Netanyahu promises to send new proposal to Hamas in 2 days

Itamar Eichner in Washington | 17:30

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Thursday with U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, a day after his speech to both houses of Congress in Washington. Before the

meeting, the two refrained from making a statement, and the vice president said only said that she "looks forward to the conversation, we have a lot to talk about." Netanyahu met earlier in the evening with President Joe Biden, who also refrained from giving an extensive statement at Netanyahu's side before their meeting, saying that there was "a lot to talk about."

Following their meeting, Harris said in a statement that she and Netanyahu had a "frank and constructive meeting" and reiterated her "unwavering commitment" to Israel's security. Harris added that "the difficult humanitarian situation in Gaza cannot be ignored." She called for a cease-fire and for the release of the hostages, and talked about the meeting with the families of the hostages with U.S. citizenship: "I told them that they are not alone - and I stand by their side. President Biden and I work every day to bring them home."

The meeting with Harris, which takes place after she skipped Netanyahu's speech in Congress, is receiving a lot of attention in the U.S., where it will be her first significant meeting since the political drama caused by Biden's withdrawal from the race, and due to the doubts regarding Harris' attitude toward Israel and the war in Gaza.

The meeting with Harris, which took place shortly after Netanyahu's meeting with Biden, is seen as equally important, since Harris is expected to receive the Democratic Party's nomination in the 2024 elections, and may become the next president of the United States; So it's important to straighten things out in their relationship and create basic trust. Harris is seen as a more critical figure for Israel and Netanyahu in the Biden administration.

Throughout the war, Harris has like Biden expressed firm support for Israel, but she was been more critical of Israel and, according to reports, pressed for a more "tough" attitude toward Netanyahu and called on the administration to work with more determination to advance the two-state solution. On Wednesday night she did not attend the joint session of Congress which Netanyahu addressed for an hour citing scheduling constraints, but it is clear that Netanyahu also understood the message and avoided mentioning her even once in his speech.

Earlier on Thursday, Harris condemned the demonstrations against Netanyahu, saying: "I condemn anyone associated with the brutal terrorist organization Hamas, which has vowed to destroy the State of Israel and kill Jews. Graffiti and pro-Hamas rhetoric are abhorrent and we must not tolerate it in our nation. I condemn the burning of the American flag."

Netanyahu met Thursday evening for an hour and a half with President Joe Biden and his team, after which families of hostages with American citizenship joined another meeting, which lasted about an hour. That meeting was attended by Yael and Adi Alexander, parents of Edan Alexander; Ruby and Hagit Chen, parents of Itai Chen; Ronen and Orna Neutra, the parents of Omer Neutra; Yonatan Dekei-Chen, father of Sagui Dekei-Chen; Liz Naftali, the great aunt of former hostage Abigail Mor Idan; Aviva Siegel and Ilan, the wife and daughter of Keith Siegel, and the parents of Hersh Goldberg-Polin.

Leaving the meeting, Ruby and Hagit Chen, the parents of Itai, whose body is being held in Gaza, said that Biden "gave us hope that something will happen in the coming days." Jon Polin, father of Hersh Goldberg-Polin added: "This is a special moment when

President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and Donald Trump - anyone who can be president - are aligned in saying that the deal needs to be done now."

Yonatan Dekel-Chen, Sagi's father, said that " Hamas should say yes now." Ronen Neutra, Omer's father, added: "We heard that the agreement needs to move forward and that they are working on it, so we are more optimistic. We are waiting for Hamas to accept the offer in the coming days and we can finally move forward with a framework in which our children and parents will start going outside, and peace will come to the entire region." Netanyahu told the families that he is "not delaying a deal," and added: "Within two days, a new proposal will be offered to Hamas."

The Israeli negotiation team for the deal is waiting to receive from Netanyahu an update regarding the amendments that will be included in the outline. Biden is pressuring the prime minister to compromise, and the team is waiting to see if there will be any changes before an answer is forwarded to the mediators. The head of the CIA and the head of the Mossad are even expected to meet next week in Qatar or Paris, to continue discussing the details of the deal outline.

Earlier "Politico" reported that Israel is exerting pressure on the Biden administration and on the lawmakers in Congress to put more pressure on the Biden administration and lawmakers on Capitol Hill to greenlight weapons. It says it needs to protect itself and to approve a "fast track" transfer of arms to Israel which, according to the report, is seeking to defend itself against Iran and its loyal organizations. The Israeli request to increase arms shipments, according to the report, indicates that it is trying to establish the shipments as a fact and fill its reserves before the elections in the U.S. in November, since it is not clear how Kamala Harris or Donald Trump will decide to behave when one of them enters the White House in January. Practically, According to Politico, Israel wants to take advantage of the Biden administration's support for its goals against Hamas and Hezbollah and get the weapons from it.

7.25. 24 – Th

Armenia denies report of signing a huge arms deal with Iran

7.25. 24 – Th

Armenia and Iran said to sign huge arms deal

Against the backdrop of war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Iran and Armenia reportedly sign a \$500 million arms deal which includes drones and air defense missiles as well as intelligence cooperation, joint training and the establishment of bases on Armenian soil

Itamar Eichner|Yesterday | 12:36

Iran will reportedly supply drones and air defense missiles, establish bases and share intelligence as part of a \$500 million deal. The deal's details were reported by the Islamic Republic's opposition television channel Iran International. Armenia denies these claims.

According to a senior military official in the Middle East, the reported agreement was divided into several contracts and signed in recent months. Iran International reported that it obtained an exclusive list of the military items that Iran is supposed to supply to Armenia, which includes several models of drones and air defense missile systems.

Azerbaijan, which buys a large amount of weapons from Israel, has fought two major wars with Armenia since the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. Azerbaijan regained control of large areas in 2020 after the previous round of fighting. In this year, after decades of skirmishes, Azerbaijan launched a 44-day military operation known as the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War. Military analysts concluded that Azerbaijan was able to emerge victorious by breaking the Armenian defenses with drones purchased from Turkey and Israel. Baku's victory forced hundreds of thousands of Armenians to leave the enclave for Armenia.

Armenians escaping to Armenia

The Armenian Finance Ministry reported that defense spending in 2024 increased by 81% compared to 2020. Armenia's defense budget in 2024 was about \$1.4 billion, so the amount allocated to Iran through this deal would be about one third of the budget. It is unknown how Armenia can afford it, but some analysts estimate it is possible through loans.

Meanwhile, from 2016 to 2020, Israel was responsible for 69% of Azerbaijan's arms imports, according to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The Defense Ministry of Armenia rejected the report of an arms deal with Iran, saying that these are fictitious reports, undeserving of a response.

7.25. 24 – Th

Three soldiers shot from a passing car in West Bank terror attack

7.25. 24 – Th

At least three soldiers hurt in West Bank terror attack

The wounded are shot from a passing car near the entrance to the city of Qalqilya; one suffers moderate injuries and the others light wounds; IDF launches manhunt after the assailants

Elisha Ben Kimon | 01:01

At least three Israeli men were hurt on Thursday in a terrorist attack on the West Bank. The three were shot from a passing car near the entrance to the city of Qalqilya. Two of the men suffered light injuries and one was described to have sustained moderate wounds.

They were transported to the Meir Medical Center in Kfar Saba for treatment and a manhunt for underway for the assailant.

The mayor of the nearby settlement of Kedumim said the military must show zero tolerance for any attack. "When you overlook stone-throwing and firebombs, and

consider shooting attacks as local events, things deteriorate and come at a cost," Mayor Uziel Vatik said.

7.25. 24 – Th

Congress alerted; Houthi drone in Tel Aviv was made of US-manufactured components

7.25. 24 – Th

Houthi drone that struck Tel Aviv was made up of US-manufactured components, Sen. Ted Cruz finds

Cruz demanded that the White House brief Congress on how the Iran-backed Houthis gained access to these components despite existing sanctions

Daniel Edelson, New York|18:04

The Houthi drone that struck Tel Aviv, resulting in the death of Yevgeny Perder, was assembled using American-manufactured components, according to Republican Senator Ted Cruz of Texas.

In a letter to U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Cruz demanded that the White House brief Congress on how the Iran-backed Houthis gained access to these components despite existing sanctions.

"U.S. export and trade restrictions are aimed in part to prevent the acquisition of such components by rogue regimes such as Iran; their failure suggests either a lack of will or ability by the Biden administration. I write to request information and a briefing on the administration's actions and engagement with industry to end this deadly supply chain," Cruz, a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, wrote.

According to Cruz, the drones used in the attack are nearly entirely composed of parts produced by U.S. companies. He highlighted that the Biden administration has allowed approximately \$100 billion to flow to Iran, which has facilitated the production of these drones. The National Security Council established a special task force in 2022 to investigate the use of American-made drone parts by Iran and Russia. However, this task force has yet to release any findings.

The use of American components in these drones underscores significant gaps in U.S. sanctions and export controls

The incident in Tel Aviv is part of a broader pattern of escalating drone attacks by Iran and its proxies. Earlier this year, drones were used to attack a U.S. military base in Jordan, resulting in American casualties. Additionally, Iran launched over 170 suicide drones against Israel in April, an attack that was mitigated by U.S. and allied defense systems. The drones are also being used by Iran-controlled Houthi terrorists to launch attacks in the Red Sea.

The use of American components in these drones underscores significant gaps in U.S. sanctions and export controls, says the senator, and despite efforts to restrict access to

such components, the effectiveness of these measures remains in question. Cruz has requested detailed information about the task force's activities and its engagement with American companies whose components have been found in Iranian-made drones. The White House has yet to respond to Cruz's demands, and the situation continues to raise concerns about the efficacy of U.S. policies intended to curb the military capabilities of Iran and its allies.

7.25. 24 – Th

3 bodies of murdered hostages extracted from Gaza by IDF, for burial in Israel

7.25. 24 – Th

Bodies of murdered hostages extracted from Gaza

The bodies of hostages Maya Goren, Oren Goldin and Staff Sgt. Tomer Yaakov Ahimas were returned from Gaza by the IDF

Matan Tzuri|16:13

More than nine months after they were murdered on October 7, the IDF on Wednesday returned to Israel the bodies of hostages Maya Goren and Oren Goldin. After their families were informed, announcements were made by the Nir Oz and Nir Yitzhak kibbutzim.

Nir Oz's announcement states that Maya Goren "will return to the land of the kibbutz she loved and will be buried next to her husband Avner Goren, who was also murdered and abandoned on the Black Shabbat." Goren, 56, a mother of four, worked as a kindergarten teacher and nanny and took care of the kibbutz children for many years. She was murdered and kidnapped from the children's home on the kibbutz on October 7. "The recovery of her body by the security forces is an important closure for the Goren family and the community of Kibbutz Nir Oz," said the kibbutz.

"Bringing her back for burial is a meaningful stage in the rehabilitation of the kibbutz and the country, which will never be complete until all of the hostages are home, the dead to be buried and those alive to be healed," the statement said.

"Dad told us on WhatsApp that the terrorists entered their home and he fought them as they tried to force their way into the shelter," Goren's daughter Dekel told Ynet in an interview.

"My last conversation with my mom was when she said they had entered the nursery and that she was hiding under a bead. Ten minutes later her phone was disconnected," son Bar said.

A week after the massacre they were told officially that their parents were taken hostage and were in Gaza. Days later word came that their father's body was identified and, later still, they were informed that their mother was also murdered.

Oren Goldin left behind two-year-old twins

Goldin, 33, a member of Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak who was identified as a hostage, was murdered in the massacre on October 7, and his body was held by Hamas, his family was updated on November 10, 2023. Goldin, married to Oshrat and father to Aviv and Ilai, two-year-old twins, ran the garage in the kibbutz. He grew up in Nir Yitzhak and chose to raise his family there alongside his parents and brothers.

Goldin was a member of the settlement's emergency security squad, which fought bravely against dozens of terrorists and protected the residents with their own bodies.

Nir Yitzhak's statement read: "Tonight we were informed of the rescue operation of Oren Goldin, a member of the kibbutz's emergency security squad, who fell on October 7.

Oren was the first to go out that terrible morning, even before we knew how serious was the danger lurking outside. In November, after about a month and a half, we were hoping for a sign of life, we were told that Oren was killed on 10/7 and that his body was being held captive. For almost 10 months we wished for the day when his body would be buried in the home he loved so much, Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak. He left behind a large and loving family - we are with you in your heavy sorrow."

Staff Sgt. Tomer Yaakov Ahimas fell on October 7. Some 53 days after the surprise attack by Hamas, the IDF announced that the terrorist organization was holding his body hostage in Gaza. Ahimas, 20, from Lehavim, was a brigade commander's liaison officer.

"You never needed me to protect you, you knew how to manage on your own," his older brother Eyal eulogized him at the time. "Sorry Tomer, for the one moment in your life when you needed it I wasn't there to protect you."

His sister Maya spoke at his funeral about the longing and the attempt to return him home. "We have been going through hell for 54 days. We became a family of a kidnapped person, and yesterday of a fallen soldier. I tried to hold hope with all the people, hold up signs with your face and beautiful eyes, to sit on sidewalks in the Hostages Square, shout with all my might. So many people prayed for you, for us, that the script would end differently."

7.24. 24 – We

Netanyahu addressed Congress: Gaza war is a clash between barbarism and civilization

7.24. 24 – We

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses joint session of Congress: Gaza war 'clash between barbarism and civilization'

Thanks President Joe Biden for half a century of support and visiting Israel after October 7; Prime minister arrives with families of hostages held by Hamas and soldiers killed in war

Itamar Eichner|12:52

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that there is today "a clash between barbarism and civilization." Speaking to a joint session of the U.S. Congress,

Netanyahu said the United States and Israel must stand together and win. "When we stand together, a simple thing happens - we win, they lose," he said.

It was a record fourth speech by a foreign leader to a joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives, surpassing British wartime leader Winston Churchill, who made three. His address was punctuated by applause and standing ovations.

Thousands of demonstrators took to nearby streets amid the tightest security since the Jan. 6, 2021, attack. The Capitol building was surrounded by high fencing, with a heavy police presence.

He described the horror of October 7, then introduced rescued hostage Noa Argamani, who accompanied Netanyahu to Washington and to the Congress. Argamani has been roundly criticized by the families of hostages still held in Gaza for accompanying Netanyahu on his visit.

Netanyahu thanked U.S. President Joe Biden for his "tireless efforts" on behalf of the hostages. In his speech to Congress, Netanyahu thanked the president for his support for Israel in the war and for coming to Israel almost immediately after October 7 "to stand with us in our darkest hour ... it will never be forgotten." He also thanked Biden for being a friend to Israel for half a century, and for calling himself "a proud Irish-Catholic Zionist."

Netanyahu introduced members of his entourage, including the grandfather of the young Bibas brothers who are still being held hostage soldiers and the father of a fallen soldier. He introduced an Ethiopian-Israeli officer who ran eight miles to the southern border to fight on October 7 and Bedouin soldier Ashraf Bahiri who fought and killed terrorists in Kibbutz Be'eri, as well as two soldiers who were injured on October 7.

"For Israel, never again must never be an empty promise ... and after October 7, never again is now," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu accused anti-Israel protesters of "standing with evil" in their support of Hamas; "They refuse to make the distinction between those who target terrorists and those who target civilians," he added. He said they should be ashamed of themselves, adding that Iran is funding the protests including those protesting his speech. "You have officially become Iran's useful idiots," he said in a message to the protesters.

Netanyahu reminded Congress that Israel is the state of the Jewish people. "It is our home, and it has always been our home," he said.

He criticized the college presidents who in a congressional hearing could not condemn antisemitism taking place on their campuses.

Netanyahu condemned the opinion of the International Court of Justice for accusing Israel of starving Gazans and targeting civilians. He said that Israel has allowed 40,000 aid trucks into Gaza, carrying half a million tons of food. "It's not because Israel isn't sending it, it's because Hamas is stealing it," he said.

He said Hamas wanted its civilians to die while Israel took efforts to protect civilian lives in Gaza. Hamas fires on its own civilians, and uses them as human shields he said.

He said the "heroic" Israeli soldiers should be "commended" for how they fight the war, killing as few civilians as possible. He said unlike what some had said, there have been nearly no civilians killed in Rafah during the offensive there.

Netanyahu said the war is part of Iran's war on America. Iran understands that to truly challenge America it must first take control of the Middle East. Israel, he said, is standing in Iran's way. "When we're fighting Hamas, we're fighting Iran. When we're fighting Hezbollah, we're fighting Iran," he said, adding: "We're not only protecting ourselves, we're protecting you. Our enemies are your enemies, our fight is your fight, and our victory will be your victory."

He said he knows America has Israel's back, on both sides of the aisle. Netanyahu told Congress he appreciates the military aid supplied by the U.S. while Israel provides American with critical intelligence. "Give us the tools faster and we will finish the job faster," he said.

Netanyahu addressed the day after the war in Gaza. "The day after we defeat Hamas a new Gaza can emerge," Netanyahu said. Israel does not seek to resettle Gaza, he added. The prime minister said he envisions a civilian administration "run by Palestinians who do not seek to destroy Israel."

He said he seeks a security alliance in the Middle East to counter Iran. "All countries that have made peace and those who will make peace should be invited to join." He suggested it should be called the Abraham Alliance.

Netanyahu thanked former President Donald Trump for brokering the Abraham Accords, as well his support for Israel, including moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and recognizing it as Israel's capital, as well as recognizing Israel's sovereignty on the Golan Heights.

He said that "Israel will always remain the United States' indispensable ally ... loyal friend and steadfast partner." He again thanked the United States for standing with Israel. Netanyahu on Wednesday addressed a joint session of Congress after he was invited by the leaders of the House and Senate; it is the fourth time that Netanyahu has addressed the body. House Speaker Mike Johnson, who greeted the prime minister, said the United States and Israel are united in their mission to bring about the release of all of the hostages.

Netanyahu arrived on Capitol Hill accompanied by families of hostages and members of bereaved families whose sons were killed during the fighting in Gaza. Elon Musk is also in the chamber as a guest of the prime minister.

Vice President Kamala Harris did not preside over the session as is her traditional role as president of the Senate, and was replaced by Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, a Democrat. Netanyahu entered the floor of Congress before the speech to applause from the majority of those present, along with whistles and a demonstrative sit-in by Democratic members of Congress. As he entered, a number of kidnapped family members stood up and revealed a yellow shirt with the inscription "Seal The Deal Now."

7.24.24 – We

Defying status quo, Ben-Gvir endorses Temple Mount prayer, igniting Arabs

7.24. 24 – We

Defying status quo, Ben-Gvir endorses Jewish prayer at flashpoint Temple Mount
National security minister says 'I am the political echelon, and the political echelon permits Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount' at Knesset conference; Gallant: 'Pyromaniac trying to ignite the Middle East'

Shilo Freid, Moran Azulay, Meir Turgeman|Updated:06:30

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir on Wednesday voiced his full-throated endorsement of Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount, defying the long-standing status quo at the sensitive Jerusalem site.

"I am the political echelon, and the political echelon permits Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount," the far-right firebrand said at a Knesset conference he initiated marking Israel's return to the Temple Mount. "I was on the Temple Mount last week. I prayed on the Temple Mount, and we are praying on the Temple Mount."

Ben-Gvir's statement, which may cause friction with the Palestinians due to the site's significance to both Jews and Muslims—known to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif—came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was visiting Washington ahead of his address to Congress.

Any changes to the status quo at the site are perceived as threats to Muslim religious practices and Palestinian national identity, often leading to unrest and violence. The move could also strain Israel's relations with the broader Muslim world and complicate the already tense Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Netanyahu's office said in response to Ben-Gvir's statement that "Israel's policy to maintain the status quo on the Temple Mount has not changed and will not change." Last month, the national security minister declared during the Independence Day Flag March in Jerusalem that "Jews prayed freely on the Temple Mount." Hours later, Netanyahu's office clarified, "The status quo on the Temple Mount has not changed and will not change."

The exchange followed footage of people on the Temple Mount waving Israeli flags and singing Israel's national anthem Hatikvah. If Jews did pray there, it would constitute a violation of the status quo, which allows Jews to visit the site without praying.

"It's no secret I had a disagreement with the prime minister about closing the Temple Mount during the last ten days of Ramadan," Ben-Gvir revealed at Wednesday's Knesset conference. "I believed it shouldn't be closed for even a minute. There's still progress to be made, but I remember the days when people shouted 'Allahu Akbar' at me, and I shouted back 'Shema Yisrael,' and I was arrested.

"Today, it's different. Many people enter the Mount, walk proudly and pray, as it should be. I want to thank the police, outgoing district commander Doron Turgeman and acting commander Amir Arzani for their hard work and demonstration of governance. There will be no discrimination against Jews on the Temple Mount; that's my aim."

The event was also attended by Energy Minister Eli Cohen and Knesset members Yitzhak Kroizer, Nissim Vaturi, Ariel Kallner, Limor Son Har-Melech, Zvi Succot and Ketzi Shitrit - all members of Netanyahu's ruling Likud Party, Ben-Gvir's ultranationalist Otzma Yehudit Party and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich's Religious Zionist Party.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant sharply criticized Ben-Gvir over his statement, dubbing him a "pyromaniac" in the Israeli government "trying to ignite the Middle East," and saying he opposed including the Otzma Yehudit chairman in any significant security forum. Ben-Gvir has been blocking a bill proposed by the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party that would transfer the power to appoint communal rabbis from local authorities to the religious affairs minister and the Chief Rabbinate. He demands inclusion in a forum with the authority to dictate the course of the war, similar to the recently disbanded War Cabinet. Shas leader Arye Deri vetoed Ben-Gvir's inclusion in any such forum, even if it meant the bill would be quashed.

Ben-Gvir responded, saying, "Gallant and Deri represent the left-flank of the narrow [war] forum's approach, promoting containment in the north and stagnation in the south, while pushing for a reckless deal to end the war."

Ben-Gvir added, "This is why they oppose my inclusion in the narrow forum. My view is that we must strive for decisive action in both the south and the north and secure the release of hostages not through surrender, but through military pressure and decisive action."

Interior Minister Moshe Arbel of Shas strongly opposed Ben-Gvir's statements, saying, "All major rabbinic authorities have agreed on a total prohibition against ascending the Temple Mount. The great desecration he caused is a grave sin." MK Tally Gotliv (Likud) responded to Arbel, "Those are your authorities, not mine."

MK Moshe Gafni of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party also condemned Ben-Gvir's statements. "Ascending the Temple Mount carries a severe prohibition," he wrote on X. "I urge the prime minister not to allow changes to the status quo on the Temple Mount, and if any changes are made, it should be closed to Jews."

Last Thursday morning, Ben-Gvir visited the Temple Mount with a police escort.

"During his visit, he prayed for the return of hostages and called for increased military pressure against Hamas," according to a statement on his behalf.

"I came here, to the most important place for Israel and the Jewish people, to pray for the return of the hostages without a reckless deal, without surrender," Ben-Gvir said during his visit. "I pray and work hard to ensure the prime minister has the strength not to fold and to achieve victory—apply military pressure, cut off their fuel—win."

Palestinian media highlighted the visit's sensitive timing during the ongoing war. The Wafa Palestinian news agency reported that Ben-Gvir toured the area with a heavy police presence and claimed that police prevented Muslim worshippers from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque during his visit to the Temple Mount compound.

7.24.24 – We

Trump concern letter from PA leader Abbas, Netanyahu set to meet at Mar-a-Lago estate

7.24. 24 – We

Trump shares letter from Palestinian leader Abbas after assassination attempt
Abbas expresses 'grave concern' over failed attack; 'Mahmoud - So nice - Thank you -
Everything will be good,' former US president responds with sharpie
Itamar Eichner|03:10

In his letter, Abbas expressed "grave concern" over the assassination attempt and noted that he had seen footage of the incident. "Acts of violence must not have a place in a world of law and order," he wrote.

"Despicable acts of attempted or successful assassinations are acts of weakness with failed understanding of peaceful measures to resolve conflicts. Differences must be resolved through communication with freedom of expression. Our thoughts are also with the families of those who lost their life and were injured. Wishing you strength and safety."

Trump posted the letter on his Truth Social platform, adding beneath Abbas's well-wishes with a sharpie: "Mahmoud - So nice - Thank you - Everything will be good. Best Wishes."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden on Thursday, and will then fly to Florida to meet with Trump at his Mar-a-Lago estate. Netanyahu is expected to spend the weekend in the U.S.

Trump initially announced his meeting with Netanyahu would take place on Wednesday, then deleted the post, correcting it to Thursday, and finally said that "at Netanyahu's request," the meeting would be held on Friday at Mar-a-Lago.

Looking forward to welcoming Bibi Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, tomorrow. During my first term, we had Peace and Stability in the Region, even signing the historic Abraham Accords - And we will have it again," Trump wrote in the now-deleted post.

"Just as I have said in discussions with President Zelensky and other World Leaders in recent weeks, my PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH Agenda will demonstrate to the World that these horrible, deadly Wars, and violent Conflicts must end. Millions are dying, and Kamala Harris is in no way capable of stopping it.

7.24. 24 – We

Lebanon strengthens Hezbollah Guardian image by responding to IDF actions

7.24. 24 – We

Hezbollah ups the ante up north by striking communities previously untouched
With at least 16 recent Hezbollah attacks targeting previously unaffected communities,
radius of besieged areas in northern Israel expands significantly; many residents
instructed to stay close to safe rooms and sheltered areas

Yair Kraus|02:18

Hezbollah has ramped up its rocket fire in recent days, extending its range and broadening its targets in retaliation to IDF actions.

Residents of eight kibbutzim near the border, which had not been evacuated by the Northern Command, were instructed on Tuesday night for the first time to stay close to protected areas due to ongoing IDF operations in Lebanon.

Adidas apologizes to Bella Hadid: 'We made an unintentional mistake'
Hezbollah releases drone footage of sensitive Israeli air base
Palestine, Jaffa and Toufan-1: Houthis unveil new arsenal against Israel

The Upper Galilee Regional Council issued this directive to already evacuated communities, but it also included eight communities in the Hula Valley: Kfar Szold, Shamir, Amir, Sde Nehemia, Kfar Blum, Neot Mordechai, Lehavot Habashan and Gonen. These areas were ostensibly under a "normal routine," but residents have recently found themselves in Hezbollah's "legitimate target pool."

The council's security department advised residents to "avoid gatherings and move planned outdoor activities indoors." Children who chose to swim in the pool during their summer break were asked to do so under adult supervision.

Also on Tuesday, Hezbollah launched rockets and drones at additional targets that had not been evacuated in the western Galilee, including Moshav Tzuriel, which sustained direct hits.

The Alma Research and Education Center, which studies Israel's northern security challenges, reported a trend of Hezbollah expanding its rocket fire to a range of over 3 miles in the past week, targeting non-evacuated communities.

Until now, Hezbollah has openly refrained from taking responsibility for firing at these communities. However, following a threat made by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah last week, the Iran-backed terrorist group has started firing at these communities and even noted in its statements that this is "the first time" it was doing so.

"Hezbollah is taking a calculated risk that increasing the range will not lead to a harsher Israeli response, believing Israel will not enter into a war over this," said Tal Be'eri, head of the research department at Alma.

He warned that the risk lies in a rocket causing "particularly painful damage" in Israel, such as striking a kindergarten in a non-evacuated community or a densely populated public area. In such an event, Israel could launch a more intense retaliatory campaign.

According to Alma researchers, between July 16 (the day before Nasrallah's public threat) and July 22, Hezbollah attacked areas more than 3 miles from the border 16 times.

Eleven of these attacks targeted non-evacuated civilian communities, and five additional attacks targeted military bases.

Following an attack in which Hezbollah claimed five Syrian refugees in Lebanon were killed, including three children and two Lebanese civilians who were with their brother, a Hezbollah fighter, the terrorist organization responded with massive rocket fire at Kiryat Shmona and communities more than 3 miles from the border that were not evacuated: Kabri, Kfar Hoshen, Meron, Bar Yohai, Sa'ar and Gesher HaZiv.

Dana Polak, a researcher at Alma, said "Nasrallah threatened Israel with a new equation from his perspective: if the harm to civilians in Lebanon continues, Hezbollah will attack new communities it has not attacked so far."

According to the institute's monitoring, in the days that followed, Hezbollah claimed Lebanese civilians were injured and responded by firing at civilian communities. On July 19, in response to the injury of several civilians, according to Hezbollah, during an attack on Radwan forces buildings in southern Lebanon, they launched dozens of rockets from Lebanon at the communities of Abirim, Neve Ziv and Manot.

On July 22, a girl was injured was reportedly injured in an IDF attack in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah responded by firing dozens of rockets at Tzurial, a non-evacuated area located about 4 miles from the Lebanese border. The rocket fire caused minor injuries to two civilians and significant property damage.

Polak noted that Hezbollah's military infrastructure is entirely integrated into the civilian infrastructure throughout southern Lebanon, using civilians as human shields. "The aim of this equation is mainly toward Hezbollah's internal support base in Lebanon, to show that it is not deterred. This also strengthens Hezbollah's image as 'Lebanon's Guardian' by responding to incidents in which Lebanese civilians are harmed," she said.

7.23. 24 – Tu

Amb. Mike Herzog has problematic statements about VP Harris & American politics

7.23. 24 – Tu

Harris had 'quite a few problematic statements about the war in Gaza', Israel's ambassador to Washington says

Amb. Mike Herzog talks to Ynet about the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate after Biden's withdrawal from the race, against the backdrop of Netanyahu's visit to the US: 'Her position toward Israel will be expressed in who she chooses as her vice president. Some of the names mentioned are very, very pro-Israel'; On Biden: 'The hostage deal is part of his legacy'

Alexandra Lukash|Yesterday | 15:27

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu landed in Washington Monday night, in the midst of a political shake-up in the United States following the announcement by U.S. President Joe Biden that he will not run in the upcoming presidential race. In an interview with Ynet on Tuesday, Israel's ambassador to Washington, Mike Herzog, claimed that, despite the preoccupation with domestic American politics, there will be a lot of attention paid to Netanyahu's visit and the Iranian issue.

"On the bilateral level between Israel and the United States, there is a whole world of issues on the agenda, which do not wait and cannot wait, and these issues will be discussed here during the prime minister's visit," said Herzog from Washington. "The prime minister is coming here when Israel has been in a severe war for over nine months. However, the strategic focus of the visit is the Iranian axis."

Netanyahu's visit drew a lot of criticism from some of the families of the hostages being held in Gaza, who fear that the prime minister's trip to Washington during negotiations for a hostage return and cease-fire deal will harm its chances of being realized. This is alongside the concern that Biden's withdrawal from the race will reduce the pressure he will continue to exert on Netanyahu to reach a deal.

"Biden personally and his administration are very, very interested in the deal and are invested in it," said Israel's ambassador in Washington. "I think Biden also will want this to be part of his legacy, so I think they will continue to focus on it as a high priority. Biden has a strategic interest, and I think also a political one, to promote it, and the interest has not diminished."

During his visit, Netanyahu is expected to meet both with the incumbent president and with the person who is emerging as the Democratic candidate in the race, Biden's vice president, Kamala Harris. Herzog addressed the Israeli concern about her entering the Oval Office.

"First of all, I think there are few Zionists in American politics like Biden. It comes from his heart, from his gut, he proudly defines himself as a Zionist, and I think that throughout his life in American politics, he was a great supporter of the State of Israel," Herzog said.

"As for Kamala Harris, overall her record is positive, and she has often expressed support for the State of Israel, and support for American aid to Israel," he explained. "And at the same time, in recent months she has made quite a few problematic statements in the context of the war in Gaza. I think we also felt the influence of the more progressive camp in the Democratic Party there, and we felt it more as the political season here heated up. Is this something that will continue to follow us in the future as well? We will have to see and of course have a dialogue with her about these things."

Biden's withdrawal from the race also raises concerns about the rise of the progressive camp within the Democratic Party, which is known for its harsh criticism of Israel. "This camp is loud and aggressive, but it is not the majority in the party," Herzog reassured. "It depends on variables such as who she will choose to run with her as vice president. Some of the names mentioned are very, very pro-Israel."

"I will point out that recently the Democratic Party formulated its platform," said the ambassador. "Whoever reads this platform sees that there are no significant changes compared to the party's traditional positions on our affairs. It is a complex picture, it has lights and shadows."

Herzog also addressed the issue of a meeting between Netanyahu and Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump: "I will note that, historically, it has always been acceptable to meet with the two candidates of the rival parties in elections in the United States. This has also been done in past years."

Kamala Harris has a different outlook than Biden on Israel and the Palestinians. It is widely believed that a President Harris won't significantly shift course from Biden's path, but some questions linger in Israel after she expressed solidarity with Palestinian

'plight', though she did express unqualified support for Israel when it came to Iran's regional and nuclear ambitions

7.22. 24 – Mo

Bereaved families challenge PA bid to overturn High Court terror compensation law

7.22. 24 – Mo

Hundreds of bereaved families challenge Palestinian Authority's bid to overturn terror compensation law

PA petitions High Court to annul law allowing terror victims to seek compensation from funders of terrorism; families claim PA's 'pay-for-slay' scheme emboldened attackers of their loved ones

Gilad Cohen|13:01

Nearly 300 bereaved families have requested to join as respondents in the Palestinian Authority's petition against Israel's Victims of Hostile Actions Compensation Law, which permits families to claim up to 10 million shekels per murder victim and 5 million shekels per terror victim from entities funding terrorism.

In May, the Palestinian Authority petitioned the High Court of Justice to annul both the Victims of Hostile Actions Compensation Law and the Terror Victims Compensation Law, passed by the Knesset in March.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the petition on August 4. The Palestinian Authority argues that these laws are "illegal, infringe on its economic sovereignty and will lead to its financial collapse."

This marks the first instance of the Palestinian Authority petitioning the High Court to overturn a law passed by the Knesset. Nearly 300 bereaved families, including members of the Choosing Life forum, have filed to join as respondents.

"We will fight to have this petition dismissed outright," declared Attorney Barak Kedem, who represents the victims and their families. "The Palestinian Authority's attempt to evade compensating terror victims while financing bloodshed will not succeed. There can be no funding for terrorism without compensating its victims."

The first lawsuit by terror victims following the law's enactment was filed earlier this month. Dozens of bereaved families, including those who lost loved ones in the past year, sued the Palestinian Authority for NIS 210 million (\$58.8 million) in the Jerusalem District Court. The lawsuit claims the Palestinian Authority initiates, supports and encourages terrorism against Israeli citizens, rewarding terrorists with substantial financial payments, in a scheme that came to be known as "pay for slay."

Plaintiffs include families of victims from recent attacks, such as the 2022 Independence Day massacre in Elad, the Nova music festival on October 7 and numerous other attacks. "This lawsuit addresses brutal acts of terrorism that resulted in the deaths and injuries of many, solely because they were Jewish and Israeli," the lawsuit reads. "The Palestinian

Authority encouraged, supported, and legitimized these acts of terrorism, including through compensatory payments to the perpetrators and their families."

The lawsuit also claims that the Palestinian Authority operated terrorism through military organizations acting on its behalf, initiated deadly terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians, incited the murder of Israelis, encouraged terrorist actions, imprisoned and tortured informants who helped thwart terrorism and financed, instigated and legitimized terrorist attacks, including by supplying weapons and salaries to terrorists and their families, "thereby encouraging future murderers."

7.22. 24 – Mo

Hamas rocket fire toward Israel moves IDF to Khan Younis at conclusion of Rafah

7.22. 24 – Mo

IDF returns to Khan Younis after 3-month hiatus as terrorism resurfaces

Army instructs residents to evacuate eastern part of city following rocket fire toward Israel; operation aims to prevent reestablishment of Hamas infrastructure; Nahal Brigade concludes Rafah operations

Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi|10:23

IDF forces on Monday entered Khan Younis, the largest city in the Gaza Strip, three months after withdrawing from the area, with the army issuing warnings to displaced Gazans there to evacuate as it targets the reemergence of Hamas strongholds in the city's center.

Palestinian reports indicated IDF tanks entered the eastern outskirts of Khan Younis and that military vehicles entered the town of Abasan and the Zena area, east of Khan Younis, in the southern part of the Palestinian enclave.

Hamas' radio reported that the death toll in Khan Younis had reached 37 since the operation began in the morning. According to the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Civil Defense in Gaza, the IDF instructed over 400,000 people to leave Khan Younis' eastern areas, with tens of thousands fleeing toward the city's center and western neighborhoods.

Displaced Gazans were called to evacuate the eastern neighborhoods close to the Israeli border toward the designated humanitarian zone in Al-Mawasi. Recently, rockets were launched from the city's central neighborhoods toward Israel as Hamas began reestablishing itself in the area. The operation is set to begin in the east and gradually move toward the city's center.

Dozens of bodies and injured were reportedly taken to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis and a hospital in Deir al-Balah. The head nurse at Nasser Hospital said, "We don't have the basic resources and supplies to treat the injured and sick. There aren't enough staff to treat the wounded; dozens of patients are waiting for their turn in the operating rooms. We demand the opening of border crossings to evacuate hundreds of injured needing urgent surgeries."

Gazans in the area were contacted by the IDF prior to the operation and were told to evacuate due to "numerous terrorist activities and rocket fire toward Israel" originating from several neighborhoods in the city's center, considered part of Gaza's humanitarian zone.

"The Hamas terrorist organization has placed terrorist infrastructure in an area defined as a humanitarian zone," the IDF said.

The early warning was given, according to the IDF, to minimize civilian harm and keep them away from combat zones. "The IDF is about to act against terrorist organizations, and therefore calls on the population remaining in the eastern neighborhoods of Khan Younis to temporarily evacuate to the designated humanitarian area in Al Mawasi," the military said.

"Evacuation instructions are given out via text messages, recorded voice messages, phone calls, Arabic media broadcasts and leaflets," it added.

The IDF informed health workers in Gaza and international officials that there was no need to evacuate hospitals in the area. "The IDF will continue to act against the Hamas terrorist organization, which uses Gaza residents as human shields for its terrorist activities and infrastructure," the military said.

Meanwhile, the IDF on Monday announced the conclusion of the Nahal Brigade's operations in Rafah, which lasted for about two months under the command of the 162nd Division.

During this period, the forces completed four brigade-level operations, targeted Hamas objectives, eliminated over 150 terrorists who posed a threat to the soldiers and located approximately 400 different weapons. The brigade's fighters operated in the south and central parts of the Brazil neighborhood, the northern Yibna refugee camp and the Al-Shaboura refugee camp. The forces will be rotated out and replaced by Givati Brigade forces.

7.22. 24 – Mo

Jericho students planned to kidnap Israelis under the guidance of Hamas in Turkey

7.22. 24 – Mo

Israeli forces foil Hamas kidnapping plot near Jericho

Investigators discover cell dug pit to hide hostages, with entrance camouflaged near home of one of 3 suspects arrested in West Bank; firearms and explosives seized
Yoav Zitun|08:46

Israeli security forces on Monday thwarted a kidnapping plot by a Hamas terror cell from the Aqabat Jaber refugee camp near Jericho in the West Bank.

Authorities arrested Mohammad Tariq, 19, and Amin Kattash, 20. Palestinian security forces detained another cell member. According to their interrogation, the suspects had

acquired weapons, recruited operatives and planned to kidnap Israelis. They also intended to carry out shooting and bombing attacks against Israeli forces.

Investigators discovered that the cell had dug a pit to hide the hostages, with the entrance camouflaged near the home of one of the cell members. During the investigation, authorities seized a Carlo submachine gun, an explosive device, a vest, communication devices and military uniforms.

Last week, indictments were filed in a military court charging the suspects with serious security offenses, including conspiracy to commit assault with a deadly weapon, conspiracy to commit kidnapping and providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization.

On Sunday, the Shin Bet internal security agency announced that it thwarted a terrorist plot by a cell composed of students from the Birzeit University north of Ramallah, directed by Hamas in Turkey. "The cell members planned to carry out a significant attack," according to the Shin Bet statement.

The students were affiliated with the Hamas cell at the institution, known as Kutla Islamiya. The Shin Bet investigation revealed that they were engaged in "practical preparations for a significant attack and a series of activities to transfer Hamas funds to operatives in the field, all under the guidance of senior Hamas officials in Turkey."

7.22. 24 – Mo

1,000 Orthodox Haredi men receive a wave of IDF draft notice Sunday

7.22. 24 – Mo

'Torah study is the center of my life': Haredi man surprised to receive IDF draft notice
1,000 ultra-Orthodox men are expected to receive their IDF draft notices this week, and for many, the requirement to leave behind the world of Torah study is leaving them wondering how they'll fit in, if at all; 'This is not something I had planned at this stage of my life'

Shilo Freid|06:09

On Sunday, a wave of initial draft notices started reaching ultra-Orthodox young men, summoning them to report to recruitment offices for their first call-up following the historic ruling from the Supreme Court. The IDF's ambitious goal is to enlist 4,800 Haredi recruits by the end of the year. The first batch of notices, sent via text messages from recruitment offices, targets 1,000 young men out of approximately 66,000 eligible conscripts within the ultra-Orthodox community.

"Receiving the draft notice was surprising," says a 23-year-old yeshiva student. Fully immersed in the ultra-Orthodox lifestyle, he nonetheless owns a smartphone and has a driver's license. Additionally, he works a few hours a day alongside his yeshiva studies, which likely flagged him for early conscription.

"I didn't expect this," he admits. "I feel confused and worried. Torah study is the center of my life, and I don't see myself leaving the yeshiva anytime soon, certainly not for something as unexpected as IDF enlistment." He **plans to consult with his rabbis** and family members about **whether to report** for the initial call-up at the recruitment office.

The yeshiva student is puzzled as to why he was among the first to receive a notice. He criticized ultra-Orthodox Knesset members, arguing they aren't doing enough for yeshiva students. "I **don't understand what our representatives in the Knesset** are doing within a government that is drafting yeshiva students," he said. "Even during the Bennett-Lapid government, there weren't such decrees on Torah students. I hope they act **swiftly to find a solution that allows us to continue our yeshiva studies**. This is a significant responsibility on their shoulders; they are our emissaries, elected to protect our core values, not to sit in committees and offices without addressing the heart of ultra-Orthodox concerns."

Another young man, a 20-year-old studying in a yeshiva for dropouts, also received a notice via text message on Sunday. **Despite not strictly adhering to Orthodox** norms, he too was taken aback by the **draft notice**. "Honestly, the notice really surprised me," he said. "I was even a bit anxious at first. This is not something I had planned at this stage of my life."

Dressed in jeans and a designer shirt, he added that he might consider enlisting in the IDF under certain conditions. "**If the army suited my lifestyle, it might be an option**," he admitted, "but **at this stage, it's not a fit**."

The young man believes he will report for the initial call-up at the recruitment office, but he says the path to IDF service is still very far off. "I'm not in yeshiva all day, that's true, but the **rabbis' instructions** and the letters that have been published **do bind me as an ultra-Orthodox** person, even without studying Torah all day," he said. "So for now, it's distant for me, but it's not out of the question that **if there were a suitable track** for the ultra-Orthodox lifestyle with considerations for my needs, **I would enlist**."

7.21. 24 – Su

Biden drops out of US presidential race, endorsed Kamala Harris to replace him

7.21. 24 – Su

Biden drops out of US presidential race

US President Joe **Biden** announces decision **not to run for re-election in November**, thanking American people and stressing: 'There is nothing America can't do - when we do it together.'

Chana Roberts Jul 21, 2024, 8:52 PM (GMT+3)

US President Joe Biden on Sunday announced his decision to drop out of the US presidential race, allowing his party to select another candidate to face off against former US President Donald Trump in November.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President," Biden wrote in a letter. "And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term."

"I will speak to the Nation later this week in more detail about my decision."

Biden also thanked US Vice President Kamala Harris for "being an extraordinary partner" in his work, and thanked the American people "for the faith and trust" they placed in him.

"I believe today what I always have: that there is nothing America can't do - when we do it together. We just have to remember we are the United States of America."

Following his announcement, Biden endorsed his current Vice President, Kamala Harris, to replace him as the Democratic candidate for presidency.

7.21. 24 – Su

Knesset Speaker Ohana enrages Arab world with viral tweet to observe Israel aggression

7.21. 24 – Su

Israel's Ohana enrages Arab world with viral tweet

Knesset Speaker post Arabic language warning of Israel's wrath after air strike on Yemen; officials around the Middle East respond telling millions of followers to observe Israel's 'aggression' expelling Zionist colonialism'

Itamar Eichner|08:40

On Saturday, an Arabic language post from Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana prompted angry responses around the Middle East. "This is a message to the entire Middle East," Ohana said in his post, accompanied by pictures of the aftermath of Israel's airstrike on Yemen.

Secretary-General Mohamed ElBaradei, an Egyptian national wrote to his 6 million followers. Other popular accounts shared Ohana's tweet, including Mario Nawfal, a Lebanese influencer now living in Dubai with 1.5 million followers, including Elon Musk and Piers Morgan. The tweet was also shared by an account from Saudi Arabia with 721,000 followers.

Joe, an Egyptian satirist living in Qatar and the host of the popular "Joe Show" on Al Arabiya, also shared Ohana's tweet to his 2.1 million followers. The message was read and shared by several accounts in Iran and Turkey as well.

An Egyptian philosopher with 200,000 followers responded to Ohana's tweet: "This Zionist arrogance could not exist in the light of a united Arab force pressing to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Israel isn't as strong as imagined; see, after 9 months, it's still unable to release its hostages or open a front in Lebanon for fear of destroying its major cities if it foolishly attacks Beirut. Today they flex their muscles at a civilian port, and they see it as a deterrent, but it's hatred and a response to a childish mentality.

"In general, this Middle East, which once swallowed European colonialism, the Mongols, and the Crusaders, and expelled the Ottoman occupation, will have no difficulty expelling Zionist colonialism, and those of Ohana's ilk will return to where they came from," he added.

A Yemeni cartoonist mocked Ohana's post, writing, "The fuel consumed by your jets on the way to Yemen was more than what burned at Al Hudaydah's port and add to this the value of the missiles... so the message is that you're losing anyway! And Yemen had hit you hard."

7.21. 24 – Su

PA squad of West Bank University students are paid by Hamas in Turkey, for terror

7.21. 24 – Su

Palestinian students planning 'significant attack' directed by Hamas in Turkey arrested
Students at Birzeit University in the West Bank cooperated with senior officials at the headquarters of the terrorist organization in Turkey, from whom they received tens of thousands of dollars to finance and carry out an attack against Israelis; Entire terror cell arrested

Yoav Zitun|07:12

The Shin Bet thwarted an attack planned by a terror cell made up of students who are members of the Hamas student organization at the Ramallah-based Birzeit University, under the direction of Hamas in Turkey, the security service allowed to be made public on Sunday. The arrest of the Palestinian students was made in a joint operation by the Shin Bet, the IDF and the police's Gideonim unit. The Hamas terror cell was made up of students who are students at Birzeit University known as the "Wall of Islam."

According to a statement issued by the Shin Bet: "Members of the squad were planning to carry out a significant attack." They were suspected of operating through the Hamas mission in Turkey with the aim of providing an infrastructure for Hamas military activity against Israelis. The investigation by the Shin Bet revealed that they were engaged in "practical preparations to carry out a significant attack and also in a series of actions to transfer Hamas funds to operatives in the field, all under the direction of senior officials from the Hamas headquarters in Turkey."

As part of the investigation by the Shin Bet, it emerged that the leader of the cell, Mahmoud Anjatz, a resident of the Palestinian village of Khirbat Bani Harith, recruited a military cell of activists from the university and took advantage of the connections of Baraa Romana, an activist at Abu Dis University and a resident of Al-Bireh in Ramallah, with the Hamas headquarters in Turkey in order to receive funding for the purchase of weapons for the attack.

All the members of the squad who intended to take part in the attack were arrested by the soldiers of Unit 33 (the Gideonim) of the Israel Police. In addition, an M-16-type weapon was seized and tens of thousands of dollars received from Hamas were confiscated, the Shin Bet reported.

The Shin Bet stated that "in recent weeks, many arrests have been made of Hamas cell operatives in institutions of higher education in the West Bank, with the aim of continuing to thwart the Hamas infrastructural activities in the territories which are directed by the Hamas headquarters in Turkey and any attempt by terrorist elements outside to promote terrorist activity against the State of Israel, its citizens and residents and to prosecute those involved in such actions."

7.21. 24 – Su

Israel's strike on Houthi lethal weapons port will burn in Yemen for days

7.21. 24 – Su

Drill in Greece and fire that will burn in Yemen for days: These are the details of Israel's strike on Houthi port

New information on the farthest attack from Israeli territory ever carried out by the military, and its insistence on undertaking the operation without US aid as it carried out specialized drills in Greece

Yoav Zitun|02:53

The last aircraft involved in Operation Outstretched Arm against Houthi rebel targets in Yemen safely landed at an Air Force base around 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, completing a long and dangerous 3,400-kilometer operational flight.

The IDF didn't comment on additional targets hit during the operation in the maritime port area of the city of Al Hudaydah in western Yemen, but according to several sources some 10 targets were attacked in the area.

Dozens of different aircraft participated in the combined attack, including Israeli F-35s (Adir) and Boeing 707s (Ram) responsible for aerial refueling. Israel's main concern was the outbound flight, which was carried out at a low altitude.

The Ram aircraft practiced a similar scenario about a month and a half ago in Greece, in cooperation with the local military. The drill was conducted despite the fighting in Gaza

and Lebanon to maintain this long-range strike capability in case the IDF needs to operate in what's called "third-circle countries."

With the first bombs dropped on Al Hudaydah port, Israeli planes flew over Yemeni soil at low and conspicuous altitudes. Among the participating pilots were veterans and experienced individuals, including senior officers and reservists.

"A capability developed over years, equivalent to striking Iran's furthest eastern point, was realized in a daylight operation, possibly not for the last time," a security official said. "We insisted before our U.S. partners in the region that the IDF would carry out the operation alone, despite prior coordination."

Israel hopes the Houthi regime, although guided by the Iranians, will internalize the cost of the expected damages. There are estimates that the terror group at the very least will reduce its drone launches from Yemen, even if it opts for limited and extensive retaliatory attacks.

The IDF, under the guidance of the Security Cabinet, identified the targets attacked during the early months of the war in Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the IDF the initial green light to prepare for the operation on Friday morning, hours after the Houthi drone strike in Tel Aviv, which killed Yevgeny Ferder.

On Friday morning, the political and security officials made the decision to carry out the operation. Contributing to this decision was the fact that, in addition to the drone that struck Tel Aviv, the Houthis also launched a cruise missile toward Israel, which landed in Jordan.

On Saturday at 2:30 p.m., Security Cabinet ministers were summoned to an unusual meeting, the purpose of which was to approve an operation that had already been decided on.

Between 3:00 p.m. and 03:30 p.m., while the cabinet discussion was still ongoing, Israeli Air Force planes took off and were shortly afterward seen flying at low altitude over Eilat. This indicated that, despite the military censor's efforts, Israel didn't work hard to conceal that the attack had begun. At 6:10 p.m., the first reports of massive explosions in Yemen were received.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant addressed the Israeli strike in Yemen on Saturday, saying "The fire in Yemen is seen across the Middle East."

"The Houthis attacked us over 200 times, and we attacked for the first time once an Israeli citizen was harmed. We'll continue to act wherever needed," he added.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the IDF's attack on Saturday, saying, "I have a message to Israel's enemies: Don't underestimate us. We'll defend ourselves on any front and by any means. Anyone who attacks us will pay the price."

"The port we attacked isn't an innocent one, it was used for military purposes and as an entrance point to lethal weapons provided to the Houthis via Iran," he added.

IDF Spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari also spoke shortly following the attack, saying: "Our pilots attacked Al Hudaydah's port, a route supplying Iranian weapons and equipment. We have no intentions to attack the Yemeni people. The Iran-directed Houthis attacked dozens of ships, their terror is controlled by Iran and harms the Suez Canal and world trade."

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 be 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 fire fight 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

7.20.24 – Sa

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 Strook 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."

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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