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Golan Heights deployed artillery in old outposts manned by reserves to prevent invasion

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8.12. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Q1 10:19am 9-Av
Police, Shin Bet arrest 2 settlers suspected of attacking Bedouin women

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Hamis document shows October 7 invasion plans exploited paragliders

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PM says Gallant adopts narrative; objective of war must be the release of hostages

8.12. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Q1 10:19am 9-Av
Northern communities launch emergency plan to deliver food to homes under fire

8.12. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in August 12 spot – Monday Q1 10:19am 9-Av
Hezbollah fires 30 rockets into Galilee, IDF injured 12 terrorist in response strike

8.11. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
PA move UN Sept 10 against Israel; ruling West Bank & Jerusalem violate law

8.11. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
 Hamas won't attend Thursday cease-fire summit; negotiate document to be passed on

8.11. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
 Hamas continues to use Gaza schools as refuge, exploiting citizens as human shields

8.11. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
Route 90, terrorists fire from a passing vehicle at vehicles in the Jordan Valley area

8.11. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
After delay, police probe breaching of IDF bases by right-wing protesters

8.11. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
 Hamas using Khan Younis safe zone to fire rockets at Israel, an IDF attack is imminent

8.11. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in August 11 spot – Sunday
Norway has lost Israel's trust as one-sided behind Palestine and anti-Israeli

8.10. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in August 10 spot – Saturday
With F-22; F-15E, F-16, A-10 jets & aircraft carrier to flex US muscle against Iran

8.10. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
US pledges arms to Israel approved last April as Iran weighs its next move

8.16. 24 – Fr
 Hamas refused Qatar hostage proposal, talks reconvene in Cairo next week

8.16. 24 – Fr
 Hamas turns down American hostage deal proposal after talks
 US brings forth new outline of hostage deal which is based on the agreed issues; Prime Minister's Office: 'We hope the mediators will lead Hamas to accept'; Biden: 'closer than we've ever been'

Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari, Einav Halabi|13:21

The two-day summit in Qatar ended on Friday, and according to the mediators, the talks between the working groups will continue. In the coming days, the sides will discuss to summarize the details of the implementation of the deal, and another summit will be held in Cairo, where the parties will arrive to finalize the deal. U.S. President Joe Biden said "closer than we've ever been."

Despite the optimism, the Hamas delegation made it clear to foreign news agencies that they do not accept the new conditions. After the terror organization stated it would not send a delegation to the summit, a senior Hamas official told Reuters they were informed about the results of the summit and wished for the July 2 outline. Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri turned down the American proposal and claimed "The American administration is trying to create a false optimistic atmosphere, and it has no intention of ending the war."

The Hamas-affiliated Quds network stated that the terrorist organization rejects the "new conditions". According to AFP, one of the Hamas officials was quoted demanding "a complete cease-fire, a complete withdrawal from the Strip, a normal return of the displaced and a (prisoner) exchange deal."

The Prime Minister's Office said this evening that "Israel appreciates the efforts of the U.S. and the mediators to dissuade Hamas from its refusal to accept the hostage release deal. Israel hopes the mediators' pressure will lead Hamas to accept the May 27 outline (the Israeli proposal presented by Biden) so the agreements' details can be implemented." Although each side talks about a different date of outline, the differences in practice remain the demand for a military presence in the Philadelphi route, and the establishment of a mechanism to ensure that no armed operatives cross into northern Gaza through the Netzer Corridor. The Israeli delegation said the talks were positive, and that the working groups will continue.

The United States, Qatar, and Egypt issued a joint statement at the end of the summit, in which they confirmed that the United States presented a new outline in the discussions. This outline closes the gaps between the parties. According to the mediators, the U.S., Qatar, and Egypt presented both sides with a bridging proposal based on the outline presented by President Biden on May 31 and approved by the Security Council. The new proposal builds on the agreements reached and bridges the remaining gaps, allowing for a rapid implementation of the agreement.

The goal: to finalize a deal

The mediators stated that the working groups will continue to work on the technical aspects of the agreement in the coming days, including arrangements for its implementation, covering the humanitarian issues, and the details concerning the hostages and prisoners.

The announcement emphasized that even before the end of next week, "senior officials from our governments will reconvene in Cairo before the end of next week with the aim to conclude the deal under the terms put forward today." There is no further time to waste

nor excuses for any party for further delay.' It is time to release the hostages and detainees, begin the cease-fire, and implement the agreement."

Israel was outraged last week at the comparison made by the mediators between the Israeli hostages and the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons, who were convicted of murderous acts of terrorism.

Meanwhile, the working groups' talks will continue and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected to arrive on a two-day visit to Israel on Sunday night. He also intends to meet with hostages' families who have American citizenship. Blinken is later expected to visit other countries in the Middle East, amid regional tensions and additional talks to conclude the deal.

He was supposed to visit Israel this week but postponed due to the threat of Hezbollah and Iran to respond to attacks attributed to Israel. On Thursday, Qatar urged Iran not to attack Israel as it can hinder the progress of the hostage release deal.

8.16. 24 – Fr

Earthquake of 4.8 strikes Jordan-Syria border, near where 4.8 quake struck Monday

8.16. 24 – Fr

Earthquake of magnitude 4.8 strikes Jordan-Syria border, GFZ says

Quake felt in Israel as well as resident of Ramat Gan high-rise describes, calling her home shaking a scary experience; another Israeli living in a high floor says his dog was first to notice something was wrong

07:22

A magnitude 4.8 earthquake struck the Jordan-Syria border on Friday, the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) said. The quake was at a depth of 10 km (6 miles), it said.

Syria's National Earthquake Centre said the tremor was felt by residents of Salamiyah city in western Syria, near where a 4.8 magnitude earthquake struck late on Monday, causing panic and dozens of injuries but no casualties.

The earthquake, felt by residents across Syria and Lebanon was also felt in Israel where people said furniture and light fixtures shook.

"It is a very scary feeling," said Miri who lives on the 9th floor of a Ramat Gan apartment block. "I always feel the earthquakes here, she said. "I was sitting in my chair and it suddenly began to shake. nothing was harmed and it thankfully took a short time."

Oren who lives in Hod Hasharon said his entire apartment was shaking. "I live on a high floor," he said. "To make sure I was feeling a quake, I looked at my hanging lamps and saw they were moving. I understood what was going on but as long as nothing fell on my head, I was fine. My dog felt something was wrong, though," he said.

8.16. 24 – Fr

Qatar summit talks will continue for an additional day in an attempt to reach a deal

8.16. 24 – Fr

Sides still not budging in Qatar summit

Families of hostages protest in Tel Aviv calling on Netanyahu to ensure the immediate release of the captives; Hamas spokesperson says deal must include Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza and return of residents to the north of the Strip

Itamar Eichner|Yesterday | 16:22

Egyptian officials said on Thursday that there are still fundamental differences in the negotiations in Doha in what had been dubbed the Final Chance Summit to secure a cease-fire and hostage release deal, according to a report in the AlQahera channel in Egypt. They said talks will continue for an additional day in an attempt to reach a deal.

A Hamas spokesperson said any agreement must include a complete withdrawal of IDF troops from the Gaza Strip and the return of evacuated residents to the northern areas.

Hamas politburo member Hossam Badran said the Palestinian terror group sees that any negotiations must be based on a clear plan to implement what was agreed on previously. Meanwhile, in Tel Aviv, families of hostages demonstrated calling on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to agree to a deal that would free the remaining 115 hostages, some dead, who have been held by Hamas since October 7.

The protesters blocked a main city road lighting flares, some sitting tied up and blindfolded to show the condition that hostages were being held in.

"The fate of the hostages is being decided now. Their lives and the lives of their families are in the hands of politicians who have personal interests and only seek to hold on to their seats," Einav Zangauker, mother of Matan who is held in captivity, said. "We will not let them. We will keep fighting for our loved ones."

8.15. 24 – Th

Abbas plans to visit Gaza & Jerusalem to stop this barbaric aggression of Israel

8.15. 24 – Th

Abbas says will visit Gaza, in Turkish parliament speech

Palestinian Authority president in visit to Turkey meets Erdogan and accuses the US of prolonging 'catastrophe' in Gaza amid its support of Israel

Reuters|10:57

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday told Turkey's parliament he had decided to visit Gaza and Jerusalem to protest Israel's war on the enclave, adding that he saw no end to the conflict unless Israel withdrew from Palestinian lands.

Abbas, who met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on Wednesday to discuss the war and cease-fire efforts, addressed an extraordinary session of Turkey's parliament general assembly at the invitation of the Turkish government.

In a 46-minute speech attended by Erdogan, his ministers and lawmakers from all political parties, Abbas accused the United States of prolonging the "catastrophe" by supporting Israel and vetoing resolutions at the United Nations Security Council. He also called on the world to legally punish Israel for its war crimes and violations of international law.

"I have decided to head with the Palestinian Authority (PA) members to the Gaza Strip. I will exert every effort so we can all be with our people to stop this barbaric aggression even if it costs us our lives," Abbas said, adding that he would also go to Jerusalem. He did not specify when he would visit.

Abbas heads the PA, which exercises limited self-rule in parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. He received a standing ovation before and after his speech, which was also interrupted repeatedly by applause.

Turkey's invitation to Abbas came after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the U.S. Congress in July.

"On July 24, a war criminal gave a speech which was full of lies in the U.S. Congress. Here today, Mahmoud Abbas stated the truth and the Palestinian cause in every sentence," Turkish parliament speaker Numan Kurtulmus said, speaking after Abbas. Turkey has denounced the war and halted all trade with Israel. It submitted a request to join South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice accusing Israel of genocide. Erdogan, who has been a staunch supporter of Hamas, said Turkey had also planned to invite the political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Tehran.

8.15. 24 – Th

Doha summit begins with demand; US & Israel must agreed to former Hamas July deal

8.15. 24 – Th

Doha summit begins, 'vital work' to bring process to a close, US says

White House National Security Spokesperson John Kirby says talks to continue into the weekend and that remaining obstacles can be overcome; Hamas official says terror group committed to process

Itamar Eichner, News Agencies|10:25

Talks began on Thursday afternoon in Doha, Qatar, in what has been billed the "Last Chance Summit," to secure a cease-fire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas.

U.S. National Security Spokesperson John Kirby said the talks would continue into the weekend. "This is vital work. Remaining obstacles can be overcome, and we must bring this process to a close," he said. "We need to see the hostages released, relief for Palestinian civilians in Gaza, security for Israel and lower tensions in the region, and we need to see those things as soon as possible."

Israel's delegation includes spy chief David Barnea, head of the domestic security service Ronen Bar, and the military's hostages chief Nitzan Alon, defense officials said on Wednesday.

CIA Director Bill Burns and U.S. Middle East envoy Brett McGurk represented Washington at the talks, convened by Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, with Egypt's intelligence chief Abbas Kamel also in Doha. A source in the Israeli negotiating team said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has allowed significant leeway on a few of the substantial disputes. Gaps include the presence of Israeli troops in Gaza, the sequencing of a hostage release and restrictions on access to northern Gaza.

In the lead-up to Thursday's talks, Hamas, which rejects any U.S. or Israeli intervention in shaping the "day after" the war in Gaza, told mediators that if Israel made a "serious" proposal that is in line with Hamas' previous proposals the group would continue to engage in negotiations.

Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters on Thursday that the group is committed to the negotiation process and urged mediators to secure Israel's commitment to a proposal Hamas agreed to in early July, which he said would end the war and required a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza.

8.15. 24 – Th

Hamas leader assassinations spur panic and fears of Israel collaborators in Gaza

8.15. 24 – Th

Escalating Hamas assassinations spur panic and fears of collaborators in Gaza

Terror group grappling with internal security breaches that have led to a series of high-profile assassinations; Hamas Interior Ministry alleges Israelis posing as aid workers to gather intelligence; 'Anyone suspected will find themselves abducted and tortured underground,' Gaza resident tells Ynet

Einav Halabi|03:57

A series of targeted killings of Hamas terrorists, including senior figures like military leader Mohammed Deif, has sparked panic within the organization.

On Wednesday, Hamas's Interior Ministry took the unusual step of issuing a statement through the pro-Hamas Al Jazeera channel, expressing concern about a possible surge in Gazans being recruited as collaborators with Israel.

“Israel has intensified efforts to recruit Palestinians for its intelligence services to gather information on the resistance,” the statement said. “Security forces have arrested several individuals involved in collaboration with Israel, and they are now under investigation.” The statement also alleged that Israeli agents were posing as representatives of aid organizations to gather intelligence and extort civilians. Some of those contacted by Israel, it claimed, were threatened with the bombing of their homes and the killing of their families if they refused to cooperate.

Hamas’ security forces are actively combating Israeli intelligence efforts and warning Gaza residents to be wary of such “deception.” For weeks, Hamas operatives have been questioning how Israel has been able to successfully target key figures, revealing potential internal weaknesses within the organization.

The atmosphere of fear among local residents is growing. “Anyone even slightly suspected will find themselves abducted and tortured underground with little chance of returning home,” a Gaza resident told Ynet.

Hamas’ Al Majd security unit, established by the terrorist group's leader Yahya Sinwar, continues to function, focusing on capturing collaborators with Israel and preventing intelligence breaches by other factions. Recently, the unit called on West Bank Palestinians to “storm settlements,” similar to the October 7 attacks, and circulated videos with tips on avoiding drone strikes and surveillance.

On Monday, Saudi network Al Arabiya reported that a Hamas courier responsible for relaying messages between operatives allegedly revealed the location of Mohammed Deif, enabling Israel to kill him in an airstrike last month.

According to sources cited in the Saudi report, Hamas’ investigation after the July 13 Khan Younis strike revealed that the informant was a member of Hamas’ military wing, responsible for conveying messages from Rafah Brigade Commander Mohammed Shabana—who remains at large—to various Hamas operatives.

The informant, reportedly from a large family in Rafah, is also said to have provided Israel with detailed maps of Rafah, including tunnels and weapons caches. It is unclear what ultimately happened to the courier, but the report stated that he remains “under investigation.”

8.15. 24 – Th

IDF used discrete tactics in Jordan Valley to lure smugglers for major terror sweep

8.15. 24 – Th

IDF uses deceptive tactics, conducts first airstrike in Jordan Valley in major West Bank terror sweep

At 4:30 a.m., the signal was given: terrorists lured out, and around 400 troops raided the northern Jordan Valley and Samaria; Ynet joined the forces on the ground

Elisha Ben Kimon|00:06

IDF forces successfully completed a large-scale counterterrorism operation in the West Bank's Jordan Valley region on Wednesday. The 12-hour operation, dubbed Operation Jonathan's Bow in memory of Yonatan Deutsch, who was killed in a recent terror attack in the area, focused on the "Pentagon of Villages" located in the northern Jordan Valley and the northern Samaria region.

Led by Jordan Valley Brigade Commander Col. Aviv Amir, the operation involved 400 troops and had been planned for several days. The operation's command center included the newly appointed Central Command chief Maj. Gen. Avi Blot who closely monitored the events.

The combined forces, which included soldiers from the Duvdevan special forces unit, Kfir Brigade, the Prison Service's Metzada tactical unit, the Border Police's Matilan counterterrorism unit and the 636th Reconnaissance Battalion, were assigned specific objectives for raids and arrests.

"We have identified significant terrorist activity in the Pentagon of Villages, including areas like Tammun and Tubas. Their proximity to Jenin and Nablus enables them to replicate terrorist tactics from those areas," a senior security official told Ynet.

The operation commenced at 4:30 a.m. with a series of deceptive maneuvers designed to lure armed terrorists out of hiding, allowing heavier forces to close in. The tactics were successful, resulting in the elimination of five terrorists, some in direct engagements and others via airstrikes—marking the first use of Air Force strikes in the Jordan Valley. The operation targeted 20 locations across several villages, including Tammun, Tayasir, Tubas and the Far'a refugee camp. The forces seized significant quantities of weapons, including M-16 rifles, Carlo submachine guns and various other military equipment.

The IDF also arrested three terrorists and discovered explosives, including improvised explosive devices (IEDs), some of which were hidden along roads. During the operation, four soldiers were moderately to lightly injured when their military vehicle struck an IED. This marked the 20th major operation conducted by the brigade in the past year, involving around 400 troops.

The operation follows a recent escalation of violence in the Jordan Valley, including a shooting attack on the settlement of Beka'ot and the deadly shooting of Yonatan Deutsch earlier this week. The Jordan Valley, once considered a symbol of security and calm, has increasingly become a hotspot for terrorism. In response, Central Command has doubled its forces in the region and implemented a defense plan for the eastern border, which has become a major smuggling route for weapons.

"The Jordan Valley, once a quiet area, is now facing significant security challenges. The recent surge in terrorist activities, particularly the smuggling of standard weapons, poses a serious threat to the region's stability," a senior security official highlighted the gravity of the situation.

8.14. 24 – We

Senior Jerusalem rabbis urge Ben-Gvir is strictly forbidden to enter the Temple Mount

8.14. 24 – We

Senior Jerusalem rabbis urge in Hebrew, Arabic not to visit Temple Mount

Five prominent rabbis addressed the public aiming to calm tensions, particularly in the Arab community, following Itamar Ben-Gvir's visit and prayer on the Temple Mount; Video also meant for Western audience; 'We must not let extremist fringes lead us'
Shilo Freid|14:50

Five senior rabbis from Jerusalem, regarded as leading halachic (Jewish legal) authorities in the Jewish world, made an unusual public appearance to sharply condemn the visit by government ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Yitzhak Wasserlauf, both from the right-wing Otzma Yehudit party, to the Temple Mount.

The rabbis harshly criticized the politicians who visited the site and denounced the dozens who prostrated themselves there in direct violation of the status quo. Many Orthodox Jews believe that Jews should not enter the site so that they do not step in the areas of great holiness.

The request for this unusual video, which was released with Arabic subtitles, came from Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion, following a plea from security officials. The security authorities, it is claimed, asked the mayor to enlist religious leaders to deliver a clear message regarding the Temple Mount, amid strong condemnations from both neighboring and distant Arab nations, as well as Western countries. The video has already been published on PANET, a website aimed at the Arab-Israeli audience. Two of the senior rabbis are considered the most prominent in the Old City, and their decision to speak out carries significant weight and broad public implications. Rabbi Avigdor Nebenzahl, the elder halachic authority in Israel and the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem's Old City, delivered a stern warning: "All the leading rabbis have signed – do not ascend the Temple Mount. It is strictly forbidden to enter the Temple Mount." Rabbi Shmuel Betzalel, a member of the Council of Torah Sages and head of the Porat Yosef Yeshiva in the Old City, also spoke decisively. "The majority of the leading halachic authorities of our generation forbid this, and no one should ascend the Temple Mount," he declared. Rabbi David Cohen, a member of the Council of Torah Sages, condemned those who ascend the Mount, calling them hooligans. "We have an obligation to protest. This is something that cannot be ignored. These hooligans have desecrated the Temple publicly," Rabbi Cohen stated.

Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, appealed to the nations of the world, emphasizing that the majority of the Jewish public has no connection to these provocations. "I call on the nations of the world not to see these government ministers as representatives of the Jewish people. They do not represent Israel. Most Jews in Israel and around the world do not ascend the Temple Mount. Please work to calm the situation; we all believe in one God and seek peace among nations. We must not let extremist fringes lead us."

Rabbi Simcha Rabinowitz, a prominent Haredi halachic authority, also expressed strong opposition and hinted at the politicians who ascend the Temple Mount. "This is a clear prohibition that applies to everyone. Certainly, we must protest against all those who disregard this prohibition, no matter how great or famous they may be."

Ben-Gvir's ascent to the Temple Mount on Tisha B'Av continued to draw harsh condemnations. The Haredi press criticized Ben-Gvir and other Jews who ascended the Mount on the day of mourning. The front page of Yated Ne'eman, a publication associated with the ultra-Orthodox Degel HaTorah party, stated: "Those desecrating the Temple Mount are endangering Jewish lives." The headline also noted that the rabbis are demanding a reevaluation of the coalition partnership with the Otzma Yehudit party.

About 1,500 Jews visited the Temple Mount Tuesday, with dozens recorded praying and prostrating themselves in the compound in violation of the status quo – all under the watchful eye of Ben-Gvir and Wasserlauf, both government ministers from the far-right Otzma Yehudit party. "There has been significant progress here in terms of governance and sovereignty; Our policy is to allow prayer," Ben-Gvir boasted.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office distanced itself from the event. "There is no private policy of any minister on the Temple Mount – not of the National Security Minister nor of any other minister. This has always been the case in all Israeli governments. This morning's event on the Temple Mount is a deviation from the status quo," read a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

Ben-Gvir's actions, in the midst of a war and during preparations for a potential conflict with Iran and Hezbollah, sparked outrage in Israel's political system and also in a number of countries around the world. The Haredi factions in the Knesset also joined in the condemnations.

8.14. 24 – We

US to present new Gaza cease-fire and hostage-release deal proposal at Doha summit

8.14. 24 – We

US to present new Gaza cease-fire proposal at Doha summit

Billed as the last chance for an agreement, the summit will review proposed changes to the cease-fire and hostage-release deal, addressing the remaining concerns of both sides
Itamar Eichner|01:05

The United States is set to unveil a new proposal for a cease-fire and hostage release deal at a summit in Doha on Thursday, marking what is being billed as a last-ditch effort to reach an agreement.

The Biden administration is expected to exert significant pressure on all parties to immediately approve the proposed framework, though both the White House and mediators are bracing for the possibility of its failure. Details of the new proposal, and how it differs from previous ones, remain unclear.

Last week, the White House issued a statement on behalf of the mediators, saying, "As mediators, if necessary, we are prepared to present a final bridging proposal that resolves the remaining implementation issues in a manner that meets the expectations of all parties."

The proposal is anticipated to address key issues raised by both sides, but is not expected to deviate significantly from prior offers.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office denied a New York Times report claiming he had toughened his stance in hostage release talks. The report cited documents outlining five new Israeli demands made in late July, including a stipulation that Israeli troops remain along the Philadelphi Corridor on the Gaza-Egypt border.

"Israel neither changed nor added any conditions to the outline. On the contrary, as of now, it is Hamas that has demanded 29 changes and has not responded to the original outline," Netanyahu's office said in a statement. "Israel stands firm on its principles according to the original outline: Maximizing the number of living hostages, maintaining Israeli control over the Philadelphi Corridor and preventing the passage of terrorists, weapons and ammunition to northern Gaza."

White House Special Envoy for the Middle East Brett McGurk is scheduled to travel to Egypt for talks on the border situation before joining CIA Director William Burns in Doha for the summit.

Prime Minister Netanyahu is expected to meet on Wednesday with members of Israel's negotiating team, with observers closely watching to see if Mossad Director David Barnea will be granted greater latitude in the negotiations.

8.13. 24 – Tu

Intense battles in Rafah as IDF eliminates 100 armed Hamas terrorists

8.13. 24 – Tu

Intense battles in Rafah as IDF eliminates 100 Hamas terrorists

Givati Brigade soldiers engaged in intense urban combat, where they have reportedly eliminated dozens of terrorists and dismantled hundreds of terrorist infrastructures

Yoav Zitun|14:52

The IDF reported on Tuesday that Givati Brigade forces, operating under the command of the 162nd Division, are continuing their operations in the Shabora neighborhood of Rafah in southern Gaza.

According to the army, numerous weapons and hundreds of "terrorist infrastructures" have been destroyed during the operation. Over the past few days, approximately 100 Hamas terrorists have been eliminated.

Footage released by the IDF shows the elimination of an armed terrorist squad walking near a donkey pulling a cart. The donkey appeared unharmed but was visibly startled by the nearby explosions. The airstrike was directed by forces from the 932nd Battalion. "During the searches, the forces identified an armed terrorist squad and, in a precise strike, eliminated the terrorists. The soldiers also discovered and destroyed booby-trapped buildings and hidden weapons caches," the IDF said.

Additionally, forces from the Tzabar Battalion engaged in a fire fight with a terrorist squad holed up in an apartment in a residential neighborhood, killing the terrorists. "After the encounter, the forces raided the building, where they found weapons, vests and an operational tunnel," the IDF reported.

Last week, the IDF also released footage from the fighting in Rafah, showing a tunnel discovered in the bathroom of a residential home and secret passageways in the walls intended for planning ambushes. The IDF stated yesterday that Nahal Brigade soldiers are also fighting in Rafah under the command of the 162nd Division.

As part of the operation in Rafah, the IDF is also operating along the Philadelphi Corridor, which runs along the border between Gaza and Egypt. The issue of Israeli presence along this route, as well as at the Rafah crossing, is a significant obstacle in the ongoing negotiations with Hamas over hostages. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has demanded that Israel maintain a presence in this area, a condition that Hamas has rejected.

8.13. 24 – Tu

Golan Heights deployed artillery in old outposts manned by reserves to prevent invasion

8.13. 24 – Tu

Inside the IDF's defense plans for the Golan Heights

Following October 7 and on the precipice of war with Hezbollah, the military resurrects old outposts, builds new defense lines and employs new technologies to prevent an invasion from the northern border

Yoav Zitun|10:43

The deadly attack in Majdal Shams has become yet another reminder of how the Golan Heights and the Galilee have been unified into a single war zone for Hezbollah's fight against Israel on the northern border. This was the second time in two weeks that a large, Iranian rocket successfully evaded the IDF's Iron Dome defense systems and killed civilians in the area.

On the ground, the reality is different. Not only are IDF outposts and bases in the Golan attacked by daily rocket barrages and drones, but terrorists, under the cover of the Syrian army, are attempting to get closer to Israeli communities, potentially opening up a front that could engage the IDF and drive more Israelis deeper into the country in the event of a widespread military confrontation.

Meanwhile, everything is changing: the IDF is re-manning 50- and 60-year-old outposts that have become historical sites along the border; it's restoring old anti-tank ditches that will slightly delay the entry of enemy militias and Hezbollah terrorists from the east; and, most importantly, it's shifting its approach.

Every structure in the demilitarized zone used for military purposes against Israel is bombed, every suspect approaching the border is either arrested or neutralized, and every centimeter in the "Alpha Line" beyond the border fence but within Israeli territory is seeing daily IDF presence.

Every soldier and officer here in the 210th Division, which oversees the 80 kilometers between Hamat Gader and Majdal Shams, is preparing for one mission: to prevent another October 7 in the Golan Heights.

According to IDF assessments, there are tens of thousands of "unemployed" pro-Iranian militia operatives across Syria and Iraq who still receive salaries, training, and weaponry from Tehran standing within a minimum range of about 40 kilometers away from the Golan.

But, since the end of the civil war in the region in 2019, they have mostly been on standby, waiting for orders, like experienced mercenaries. The IDF assures that they're far enough from the border with Israel, with Russian police forces and the Syrian army in between them, and, most importantly, with Israel's capability to monitor and track should they start rushing westward toward the Golan Heights.

Such a scenario could come as a surprise, initiated by Iran, or in a regional war, the early signs of which have already been felt in Israel in recent months.

Meanwhile, those militias are content with launching drones and occasionally rockets toward Israel, though still in small numbers. The Syria border fortification began with the start of the civil war about a decade ago, with the construction of a new, tall fence, the same type that was easily breached on October 7. As a result, combat engineering soldiers are working around the clock in the area.

"We have a plan to prevent masses of terrorists from reaching here by exploiting the Golan's terrain, which is mostly flat and under constant surveillance," one of the officers here tells me. "Ultimately, it's about ground analysis. There are essential passages and natural obstacles here like the rugged wadis in the southern Golan, which any enemy must take into account — and so do we."

The present buffer zone, based on the 1974 cease-fire agreement, stretches between several dozen meters to about a kilometer on average, from the border fence to the demilitarized zone marked by a line of barrels on poles. Beyond this "Alpha Line," there's the "Bravo Line," another narrow strip where no heavy military force is allowed to stay.

During the civil war, Israel turned a blind eye to the arrival of Syrian armored forces in the area near the border, including into adjacent villages, to allow the Syrian army to fight the rebels, including Jabhat al-Nusra, the ISIS proxy facing Israel.

Now, some movement of armored vehicles from the Syrian army near the border can be seen, but not in a way that violates the cease-fire agreement and not within direct sight or binocular range, though it does indicate some tension in the area. The IDF is confident

that this long and wide perimeter will prove sufficient against an invasion without prior intelligence warning.

Present and constant operations

Alongside the IDF's activities and the new artillery batteries deployed in the area over the past six months, the 210th Division stresses that forces are sent beyond the border fence daily in a visible manner to assert Israeli sovereignty in the area.

However, the division is fundamentally defensive, especially after the trauma of October 7 and the desire to keep the Israeli population inside of their homes. The IDF is building defense lines to prevent an enemy invasion: the forward line described above, with the re-manning of old outposts mainly by reserve battalions; and a second defensive line based inside the communities, with highly skilled and heavily armed local alert squads alongside smaller outposts.

"We're already practicing the new defensive approach, transitioning from routine to emergency, alongside the communities and based on the existing forces even before reinforcements arrive," the IDF explains. "We haven't conducted an evacuation drill for the communities in the Golan yet, but it's being discussed."

Recently, IDF lookouts identified weapons and surveillance equipment being delivered inside a building in the village of Ahmadiyya, and not for the first time. According to the IDF, this is part of Hezbollah's preparations in the Syrian part of the Golan, infrastructures that were first constructed here about a decade ago with the aim of expanding operations from Lebanon to the Golan in the event of war with Israel. However, these have been attacked from time to time and have not yet succeeded in carrying out an infiltration or effective shooting at Israel from the Syrian side.

The IDF has also bolstered intelligence-gathering efforts in the area and recently equipped forces with more lethal explosives. In November, under the cover of the war in the south and the fighting in the Galilee, a new divisional drone unit was established for a variety of missions: from documenting and detecting the enemy to eliminating terrorists.

8.13. 24 – Tu

Ben-Gvir disregards status quo and joins worshippers on Temple Mount on Tisha B'Av

8.13. 24 – Tu

Ben-Gvir disregards status quo and joins worshippers on Temple Mount

About 1,500 Jews visited the Temple Mount and dozens bowed in prayer at the site, which is a violation of the regulations under the status quo policy; Ben-Gvir later says 'our policy is to allow prayer', leading the Prime Minister's Office to reprimand him Roni Green Shaulov, Liran Tamari, Shilo Freid|06:22

About 1,500 Jews visited the Temple Mount on Tuesday, as part of their commemoration of the fast of Tisha B'Av, and dozens of them were recorded praying and bowing in a violation of the status quo of the holy site. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir,

who is responsible for the enforcement of these rules, was also seen on Temple Mount. The police detained 11 worshippers.

Ben-Gvir arrived at the Temple Mount on Tuesday morning together with the Development of the Periphery, the Negev and the Galilee Minister Yitzhak Wasserlauf. Just last week, on August 5, the police responded to an inquiry on the subject and stated that "the rules in the Temple Mount have not been changed."

Ben-Gvir referred to the incident where worshippers bowed on the Temple Mount against the holy site's rules, saying, "Our policy is to allow prayer." According to him, "We come on Tisha B'Av to commemorate the destruction of the Temple. We must say honestly there is great progress here in exercising our sovereignty." He added: "We must win this war, and not go to conferences in Doha or Cairo, but defeat them, bring them to their knees. This is the message. We can defeat Hamas."

At first, Jewish worshippers entered in groups of a hundred at a time but quickly deviated from the status quo concerning the prayer guidelines. Shortly after, only groups of 50 were allowed to enter at a time. Joining Ben-Gvir, Knesset member Amit Halevi from the Likud Party also wished to join the worshippers but was instructed to enter alone. The Jordanian Foreign Ministry published an official condemnation for the mass visit of Jewish worshippers including ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Yitzhak Wasserlauf to the Temple Mount, along with hundreds of other worshippers. According to the statement, "the assault of two extremist ministers from the Israeli government on the Temple Mount, under the auspices of the police, is a blatant violation of international law, the historical and legal situation in Jerusalem and the holy places."

The chairman of the ultra-Orthodox Degel HaTorah Party, lawmaker Moshe Gafni, commented on Ben-Gvir's visit to the Temple Mount saying that "the damage to the sanctity of the Temple Mount and the status quo is not of interest to the minister, who goes against the great men of Israel and the chief rabbis throughout the generations." According to him, "The damage he is causing to the Jewish people is unbearably great, and this adds to the hatred on the day of the destruction of the Temple. We will have to check with our rabbis if we can be partners with him in the government, and we will make this clear to the prime minister as well."

Tisha B'Av marks the destruction of both Holy Temples, which stood on the Temple Mount. Many haredim believe that Jews should not enter the site so that they do not enter the areas of great holiness.

Police's response to the Temple Mount visits

Assaf Fried from the Temple Mount administration said that "1,500 Jews went up to the Temple Mount in an hour and a half. The Temple Mount is quiet and peaceful, we did not see the Waqf here, Jews went up to the Temple Mount freely. The Temple Mount is in an amazing condition like we haven't seen in many, many years. Thank you to everyone who worked for this event, to the police, the district commander, the national security minister, and his wife."

Jacob Heiman, chairman of the Beyadenu organization, which advocates 'Jewish sovereignty' on the Temple Mount said: "Historical sights on the Temple Mount. Jews bowing, singing and praying without interruption. It is exciting to see Jews praying, singing and bowing on Tisha B'Av on the Temple Mount. Those who wanted to see the 'Al-Aqsa flood' received over 40,000 Jews this year who are strengthening Jewish sovereignty on the Temple Mount."

Last month, Ben-Gvir stated in the Knesset that "I am the political echelon, and the political echelon permits Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount," completely disregarding the status quo during the "Return of Israel to the Temple Mount" conference in the Knesset. "I was on the Temple Mount last week. I prayed on the Temple Mount and we pray on the Temple Mount," he added. In June, Ben-Gvir proudly reported his violation of the status quo on the Temple Mount and the Prime Minister's Office was quick to contradict his words.

Meanwhile, seven Jewish men were arrested early on Tuesday in the Old City of Jerusalem on suspicion of attacking two Arab bystanders in the street. The suspects who attacked the couple are ages 15 to 20 and most of them are residents of the Mateh Binyamin Regional Council in the West Bank. They were taken for questioning by the Jerusalem Police District, which will request to extend their detention.

The arrests followed an incident in which about a hundred boys and young men identifying themselves as the "Youth of Jewish Truth" clashed with Arabs in the Old City of Jerusalem on Monday and vandalized property, after they had finished praying at the gates of the Temple Mount on the eve of Tisha B'Av and its traditional prayer at the Western Wall. During the clashes, the Jewish assailants sprayed pepper spray in the Arabs' faces from point-blank range, and the Border Police cleared the riot with batons and tear gas.

"As part of the police's extensive preparation on Monday and Tuesday to maintain security and order, the officers noticed what was happening, and the police forces of the Jerusalem District and the Border Police soldiers quickly arrived at the scene and pushed back the rioters, stopped the attack and arrested seven suspects for questioning," the police said. "According to the authorities, "the police investigation continues with the aim of bringing those involved to justice."

8.13. 24 – Tu

Hamas interrogated courier; finding he gave Israel a map of Rafah tunnels & leaders

8.13. 24 – Tu

Hamas operative reveals Deif location leading to his killing

According to Saudi Al Arabiya, a member of the Hamas military wing who was a courier relaying messages from Rafah Brigade commander to senior members of the terror group, provided military with a map of Rafah and its underground tunnel system

Einav Halabi|15:33

A Hamas operative who relayed messages between leaders of the terror group in Gaza, gave Israel the location of the group's military leader Mohammed Deif ahead of his targeted killing, the Saudi Al Arabiya Network reported on Monday.

Sources told the outlet that in his interrogation by the Hamas, the courier who was a member of the Hamas military wing, had been passing messages from the commander of the Rafah brigade to various other members of the group and that the Israeli attack on the compound in Khan Younis on July 13, came soon after he told his handler where Deif was.

The unnamed sources who spoke to Al Arabiya, said the courier was from a large Rafah family and provided detailed maps of the city and its underground tunnel system including what weapons were stored there.

The man's fate was unclear but according to the report, he was still being interrogated. The IDF said after the attack in July that it had acted on reliable intelligence and that Deif, one of the top Hamas leaders and a high valued target, could not have survived the strike that also killed Rafa Salama, the commander of the terrorist group's Khan Younis Brigade.

His death was confirmed by the IDF only two weeks later after Hamas claimed he was alive and well.

8.12. 24 – Mo

Police, Shin Bet arrest 2 settlers suspected of attacking Bedouin women

8.12. 24 – Mo

Police, Shin Bet arrest 2 settlers suspected of attacking Bedouin women

Suspects linked previously to violent attacks; outpost says they were local security team ensuring the women were not involved in terrorism

Elisha Ben Kimon|12:00

The IDF and Shin Bet on Monday said they arrested two men, residents of the illegal West Bank outpost Givat Ronen, on suspicion that they attacked four Bedouin women and a small child, who entered the settlement.

The women from the Bedouin city of Rahat were attacked on Friday when they attempted to reach Nablus and took a wrong turn. The suspects are extreme-right activists who were suspected of carrying out violent attacks in the past and are known to security authorities.

They were approached by the suspects and others who according to the police allegedly threw stones and them, threatened them with guns and set their car on fire.

The women managed to reach soldiers who were in the area and were taken to hospital, suffering injuries, some to the head and some to the arms.

"They threw stones and blocks and broke the car windows and asked us if we were from the West Bank or Gaza," one of the women told Ynet. "They sprayed us with tear gas and pointed guns at us and said they would kill us. We were sure we were going to die," she said.

The Givat Ronen outpost said the women were approached by a security team because of the security tension in the West Bank and to ensure that they were not involved in terrorism. They claimed the car came under attack from stone-throwing youth and that their car was set aflame when the women were no longer in it.

Far-right lawmakers from the Otzma Yehudith Party, led by Itamar Ben-Gvir, said the settlers were not at fault. Limor Son Har-Melech said the women could have been spies passing information on to terrorists and the settlers were only protecting their home. She said the women were driving a car that did not have Israeli license plates, a claim that was refuted.

Radwan al Jawar, the husband of one of the women said Son Har-Melech should apologize. "We were in the South during the October 7 massacre and we protected and saved people there, at risk to our own lives."

The Al-Ja'ar family said in a statement that the lawmaker was lying. "It's clear she is trying to twist things, but it has become evident that this attack was racially motivated and the racists who committed the assault should be arrested."

8.12. 24 – Mo

Hamas document shows October 7 invasion plans exploited paragliders

8.12. 24 – Mo

Document shows Hamas invasion plans by paragliders

The plan uncovered by the IDF in Gaza details how paragliding sport can be used to throw the Israeli military off the scent as the terror group weaponizes the aerial craft
Ynet|11:06

Hamas had a detailed plan to develop paragliders as an alternative Air Force, according to a document received by Fox News and published on Monday. On October 7, Hamas terrorists used paragliders to infiltrate Israeli communities and massacre them. Fox News did not specify when the document was prepared, where or when it was seized.

The Hamas document, originally in Arabic and translated into English shows how the terror group was looking to exploit its wider use. "The sport should be developed so that the paragliders become motorized. Areas where the sport can be exploited from a military aspect: Landing behind enemy lines, as part of a silent infiltration across the border using paragliders," it read.

The document continued, "This can be done using silent launch positions. Camouflage of military experiments and training. Reducing costs through the dual use as civilian experiments. Opening the possibility of utilizing civilian activity in other sports that can

benefit military activities. Gaining benefits from foreign information obtained through civilian activities."

"Vision: Establishing a military and civilian aviation force in service of the liberation project. Problem: The occupation is working to prevent the establishment of this force and is fighting against it with all means. One of the solutions: Expose this pattern and work towards integrating it into society in a way that prevents the enemy from ending it. Create a reality that forces the enemy to accept it in some form," the document reads

According to the Hamas plan of action, the "steps" necessary to mainstream the paraglider array in Gaza involved several actions. "Conduct personal civilian experiments with paragliders, and publish them on social networks and in the global press. Work to attract the attention of adventurous young people to engage in such sports. Establish a special club for this sport in the Strip and encourage a spirit of competition to spread the sport more widely. Create groups and pages on social networks to showcase the beauty and fundamentals of this sport. The Ministry of Youth and Sports must support the sport. The sport should be connected to the global paragliding association, FAI."

Hamas terrorists infiltrated Kfar Aza on October 7 as part of the wide-scale massacre by foot, car, and paragliders. One of the victims of the Hamas paraglider force was Ynet photographer Roy Edan who was killed along with his wife Smadar. Their daughter, Abigail, was kidnapped into Gaza and later was released in a hostage release deal.

At the end of October last year, the IDF said they had killed the head of the Hamas Aerial Unit, Asem Abu Raffa, in an airstrike. Abu Raffa was known as the man responsible for the Hamas paragliding array. He took part in the terrorist attack on October 7, and directed the terrorists who infiltrated the Gaza border communities, as well as the drone attacks directed at the IDF outposts.

8.12. 24 – Mo

PM says Gallant adopts narrative; objective of war must be the release of hostages

8.12. 24 – Mo

PM says Gallant adopts anti-Israel narrative

Defense Minister mocks Netanyahu's claim Israel will achieve 'total victory'; tells Knesset Foreign Affairs & Defense Committee members objective of war must be the release of hostages

Itamar Eichner|09:10

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said his defense minister was harming chances for a hostage release deal and was adopting the anti-Israel narrative.

While Israel entered its 10th month of war and as it was bracing for an attack from Iran and its proxies, the prime minister and defense minister took what has become their

public feud a step further. They exchanged jabs over Israel's war objectives and the fate of the hostages.

"He should have attacked Sinwar, who is refusing to send a delegation to the negotiations, who has been – and remains – the only obstacle to a hostage deal," Netanyahu said of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, in a statement.

"Israel has only one choice: To achieve total victory, which means eliminating Hamas's military and governing capabilities and releasing our hostages. This victory will be achieved. This is the clear directive of Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Security Cabinet, and it obligates everyone – including Gallant."

Netanyahu's comments came after Gallant ridiculed Netanyahu's claim that Israel was on its way to achieving "total victory" over Hamas in Gaza. The defense minister hosted the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense committee in the ministry in Tel Aviv to brief them on the 10-month-long war and the threat of an Iranian attack on Israel.

Gallant said Israel's primary objective must be the release of hostages. "Our objective as it was defined, despite our battles on seven fronts, was the elimination of Hamas and the return of the hostages," he said. "that is our stated mission and I think our military operations have given us the freedom to act."

The two men have been sparing over Netanyahu's perceived refusal to accept the hostage release deal out of political considerations. His far-right coalition partners threatened to bring down the government if the prime minister agreed to a withdrawal of troops from Gaza as Hamas has demanded or to end the war.

Netanyahu's office said there was no intent to fire Gallant despite many in the ruling Likud and in the coalition demanding his ouster. The last time the prime minister attempted to fire his defense minister was during the protests of the government's legislative initiative to weaken the power of the Supreme Court, in March 2023.

Gallant warned that the legislative push was harmful to Israel's defense after many in critical IDF reserve units said they would no longer volunteer to serve a government that was attacking Israel's democracy. Netanyahu said he was ousting Gallant and was met with mass protests forcing him to retract.

8.12. 24 – Mo

Northern communities launch emergency plan to deliver food to homes under fire

8.12. 24 – Mo

Northern communities launch emergency plan to deliver food to homes under fire

Amid preparations for a potential response from Iran and its proxies, municipalities in Israel's north are gearing up, in collaboration with the National Food Security Initiative, to establish an emergency system tasked with delivering cooked meals, food packages, and baby food to tens of thousands of families; Gallant: 'The enemy is trying to sow fear, but the public is resilient'

Municipalities in northern Israel are preparing for all types of wartime scenarios: Amid security tensions and threats from Iran and its proxies, preparations have been completed in the northern border communities for the establishment of an emergency system, primarily focused on delivering food.

This system will operate initially in the areas of Safed, Nahariya, Hatzor HaGlilit, Acre, Tiberias, Karmiel and Ma'alot.
ynetnews

Earlier this week, tens of thousands of dry food packages were transferred to emergency warehouses in the north, where they will be distributed if the war intensifies. An additional tens of thousands of packages will be delivered as needed, depending on how the situation develops.

Ensuring food security during emergencies involves significant challenges, including a shortage of manpower due to widespread reserve duty, the closure of educational institutions, citizens who may fear going to work, the evacuation of residents from their homes and the declaration of war zones as closed military areas. Additionally, in wartime, there is expected to be a shortage of food products, which could result in an inability to supply goods, particularly fresh products, for various reasons: limited emergency stock intended for combat forces, reduced production capacity, and damage to food factories. Transportation issues may also arise due to road blockages and disturbances due to the needs of combat forces and a decline in independent agricultural production capacity.

In emergencies, communication is critical, but here too there are obstacles. Difficulties in reaching local authority offices can affect citizens' ability to seek help and receive basic needs. This situation requires the renewal and upgrading of existing means to ensure that help reaches everyone. The system will be operated by Colel Chabad in cooperation with the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, which operates the National Food Security Initiative of the Ministry of Welfare in routine times. These agencies will coordinate food security responses in the north during the emergencies, with oversight from the local authorities.

The broad and comprehensive response is designed to allow local authorities to face these challenges. It will include the purchase of food products, preparation for delivery, transportation and direct supply to local authorities. Colel Chabad, with its extensive experience, particularly in the Second Lebanon War and throughout the current war, will manage the operation through a dedicated platform designed to improve communication with the civilian population.

The initiative is intended for families who will need the response in accordance with various scenarios, such as the evacuation of families to centers, extended blackouts and transportation difficulties. Emphasis will be placed on assisting the elderly and disabled, who will receive daily prepared meals and food packages. Additionally, there will be an option to receive baby food to ensure that infants are not left without anything to eat.

As part of the system, the National Food Security Initiative is expected to provide a broad and comprehensive response to **needs during emergencies and ease the burden on local authorities** that will require assistance, in **full coordination** and reliance on local authority resources.

The **criteria for receiving aid** will be **determined in each regional** authority, based on the situation and the changing circumstances, and the various responses (dry food packages, cooked meals and baby food) will be provided.

"In this time of uncertainty, the National Food Security Initiative symbolizes our hope and commitment to care for everyone, even in the most difficult times," said Mendy Blau, Israel director of Colel Chabad, the country's **longest running social services organization founded** by the first Chabad Rebbe **in 1788**. "We all pray that we won't need to activate the emergency system and will only know peace and be able to preserve a healthy routine."

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on **Monday** held a special situation **assessment on home front readiness**. The discussion, which took place at the Home Front Command headquarters, dealt with the **population's readiness to transition** to an emergency state and the necessary **expectation** management given the security developments.

"The public's resilience allows us to make appropriate operational decisions. In the face of the enemy's attempt to sow fear, we must continue with normal life. We are working to **provide the public with sufficient warning in real time**," Gallant said at the end of the assessment.

"We are in a level of **high readiness in defense**, in all the parameters at our disposal, some of which are hidden, and some are visible to the public," he added. "We must focus on the right things, the main things, and **provide a response to the public**, and ensure the public listens to the Home Front Command's instructions. That is the authority, and that is how the public should be reached."

The situation assessment was attended by the Director General of the Ministry of Defense, Major General (res.) Eyal Zamir; Deputy Chief of Staff, Major General Amir Baram; Commander of the Home Front Command, Major General Rafi Milo; Head of the Planning Directorate, Major General Eyal Harel; Chairman of the Federation of Local Authorities in Israel Haim Bibas; Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Defense Mordechai Benita; Head of the National Emergency Management Authority Yoram Lardo; and other security officials.

8.12. 24 – Mo

Hezbollah fires 30 rockets into Galilee, IDF injured 12 terrorist in response strike

8.12. 24 – Mo

Hezbollah fires rockets, IDF strikes terrorist sites in overnight attacks

IDF says **30 Hezbollah rockets** were fired **from southern Lebanon** at northern Israel communities which landed in open areas **setting fields ablaze**; Israeli forces responded by attacking several terror installations in southern Lebanon, injuring 12

Yair Kraus, Lior Ben Ari|02:07

Hezbollah escalated tensions by launching a salvo of rockets toward the Nahariya region of northern Israel on Sunday night, igniting fires in open areas near Moshav Avdon in the Western Galilee. The IDF later reported that 30 rockets had crossed from Lebanon, with some exploding in open fields. No casualties have been reported, and the IDF responded by targeting the rocket launch sites.

The Fire and Rescue Services said in a statement that four fire fighting teams were deployed to control the fires in several locations following the rocket launches from Lebanon into the Kabri area. Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the barrage, asserting that it targeted a military base in Ga'aton in retaliation for an earlier attack in southern Lebanon.

Reports from Lebanon indicated that 12 individuals were injured in that attack, including 11 Syrian civilians and one Lebanese. The assault on a residential building near Tyre followed the elimination of two Hezbollah operatives on a motorcycle in Taybeh in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese news agency noted serious injuries to at least one person from the attack.

Earlier, the IDF announced that the Israeli Air Force had targeted a Hezbollah terrorist cell identified in the Taybeh area. Subsequently, Hezbollah confirmed that two of its operatives, Mohammad Hani Haidar and Ali Samir Hajjaj, were killed in southern Lebanon. Since the conflict's onset, Hezbollah has reported the deaths of 406 operatives.

Additionally, the IDF disclosed that fighter jets attacked a military structure in the Dardara area, where secondary explosions revealed the presence of weaponry. Other military buildings used by Hezbollah in Kafir Kila and Al-Jibeen in southern Lebanon also were struck.

These IDF announcements followed an activation of rocket and missile fire alarms in the Arab al-Aramsha area of the Western Galilee, where five rockets exploded in open areas without causing any casualties.

8.11. 24 – Su

PA move UN Sept 10 against Israel; ruling West Bank & Jerusalem violate law

8.11. 24 – Su

The Palestinians' next move against Israel in the UN

The Palestinian Authority plans to present a resolution at the upcoming UN General Assembly calling on countries to stop trading in the West Bank and to impose an arms embargo on Israel, aiming to enforce the ICJ ruling that settlements are illegal

Itamar Eichner|16:32

The Palestinian Authority is gearing up to present a resolution at the United Nations urging countries worldwide to "distinguish their dealings with Israel from their actions in

the occupied territories," specifically referring to the West Bank. This proposal, set to be introduced during the first week of the 70th UN General Assembly, which starts on September 10, aims to put into practice the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling that settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem violate international law.

The Palestinian proposal will call for the cessation of trade relations with Israel in the West Bank and an embargo on the sale of weapons to Israeli security forces operating in these areas. Additionally, it will address the recognition of a Palestinian state and seek to ensure that the establishment of Israeli diplomatic buildings in these "occupied territories" does not equate to international recognition of Israeli sovereignty over them.

Palestinians will request that the UN ensure that Israel "acts in accordance with international law, including humanitarian law." The PA also plans to ask Switzerland to convene the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions (HCP) to "determine collective actions to ensure its implementation."

The proposal is expected to include a "timeline for ending the occupation" and models for a two-state solution. The Palestinian Authority is also considering adding a clause to establish a mechanism that would obligate Israel to pay compensation to Palestinians.

The assessment in Jerusalem is that the proposal will be brought to a vote between September 10 and September 24, with a higher likelihood that it will come in the second week of September. The proposal is expected to pass with a majority vote; however, in its initial stage, it will have limited significance or consequences against Israel.

Last month, the International Court of Justice in The Hague published its advisory opinion on the legality of the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The president of the International Court of Justice, Lebanese Judge Nawaf Salam, who has previously spoken extensively against Israel, read out the main points of the advisory opinion for about an hour and a half, stating that "the settlements are illegal and Israeli actions in the West Bank amount to annexation."

8.11. 24 – Su

Hamas won't attend Thursday cease-fire summit; negotiate document to be passed on

8.11. 24 – Su

Hamas says it won't send representatives to cease-fire summit

Terror group says further rounds of negotiations provide Israel with legitimacy to continue with the war; Israeli negotiators are not overly concerned by Hamas' announcement, understanding it as a tactic to gain leverage

Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi|16:18

Hamas announced Sunday that it has decided not to send representatives to the summit scheduled to take place later in the week, arguing that further rounds of negotiations only prolong the war and provide Israel with legitimacy.

Israeli negotiators are not overly concerned by Hamas' announcement, understanding it as a tactic to gain leverage. They expect psychological warfare to continue up until the summit, set to be held on Thursday in Doha, Qatar or potentially Cairo.

"We call on mediators to present a plan for implementing what was agreed upon on July 2, rather than engaging in new negotiations," Hamas said in a statement. "Additional rounds of talks or new proposals only serve to cover up the occupation's aggression and give it time to win its war of extermination."

Hamas official Osama Hamdan told Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV that: "There are ideas presented by the mediators that we have accepted, and we are ready to implement them immediately. It is unacceptable to give the enemy more time. Our position is clear, and we are not waiting for discussions on new frameworks or headlines."

Last week, Israel sent a clarification document to the mediators, which was passed on to Hamas. Both sides are now working around the clock with the mediators to close all gaps – such as the status of the Philadelphi Route, the Rafah crossing, troop movements and the cease-fire – aiming to reach Thursday with a framework that could lead to a deal within a few days.

Israel insists on the release of 33 specific hostages. In the clarifications sent by Hamas, the terror group asked Israel to drop its veto to allow Hamas more flexibility in deciding which Palestinian prisoners would be freed from Israeli jails. However, Israel has made it clear that it will insist on receiving a list of hostages to be released in advance.

The clarification document is critical, and progress cannot be made without it. Additionally, there is no way to reach a hostage deal without resolving issues related to the Philadelphi Route and Rafah, as well as confirming the list of hostages. The goal is to address these key issues before the summit to ensure the talks are productive and a deal can be implemented within a few days.

Before Hamas' announcement that it would not attend the summit, Israeli officials believed there was a rare and unique opportunity to reach an agreement. They viewed this as a critical window of time that could lead to a desirable outcome for all parties involved. There is strong motivation and support from the mediators to achieve an agreement, and both Israel and Hamas face immense pressure to seize this momentum, which could bring about a cease-fire and the release of hostages. If this opportunity is missed, it could close the door to another deal in the near future.

"This is the first and last opportunity, and it is now," said a senior Israeli security official before Hamas' announcement. "We can reach an agreement. This is our last chance to bring the hostages back alive." CIA Director Bill Burns and President Joe Biden's special envoy, Brett McGurk, are expected to arrive in the region by Thursday, likely visiting Israel before heading to the summit in Doha or Cairo.

8.11. 24 – Su

Hamas continues to use Gaza schools as refuge, exploiting citizens as human shields

8.11. 24 – Su

Hamas terrorists use Gaza schools as refuges, and refugees as human shields. Thousands of Palestinians have found refuge in Gaza's schools, despite poor conditions and severe overcrowding; however, the increasing use of UN facilities by Hamas operatives for terror activities has led to a corresponding rise in IDF airstrikes. Ynet|14:46

The IDF reported Sunday that Hamas terrorists are increasingly using schools to hide and conduct terror activity, exploiting the presence of refugees as human shields. Since the onset of the war, schools in Gaza have become shelters for thousands of Palestinian refugees who fled their destroyed homes.

In recent weeks, a notable increase in IDF airstrikes on these facilities has been recorded, and these attacks carry a heightened risk of civilian casualties, which was underscored by a recent strike that has sparked global outrage amid Palestinian claims of dozens of deaths.

Palestinian officials assert that at least 80 people were killed in Saturday's strike on the Al-Ta'been School in Gaza City's Daraj Tuffah neighborhood. Images circulating from the scene show widespread destruction, bloodstains and even body parts.

The IDF, however, says that Hamas has exaggerated the death toll, insisting that the strike was carried out with three "highly precise munitions" and that, according to military intelligence, the damage was not as extensive as Hamas is claiming. The IDF also emphasized that, as in previous school strikes, it took measures to ensure that no civilians were at risk, including aerial and intelligence surveillance prior to the attack. In response to Western condemnation and international media coverage of the incident, IDF spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari accused Hamas of increasingly and cynically using Gaza's schools. "In recent months, Hamas has focused on exploiting school buildings, often housing civilians, using them as military installations, command and control centers, weapon storage facilities, and for launching terrorist activities," Hagari said.

Regarding the Al-Ta'been School strike, Hagari said that there had been close monitoring of an "active military installation" of Hamas and Islamic Jihad within the school complex in recent weeks and that the IDF confirmed the elimination of at least 19 terrorists operating there. "We have intelligence indications that Ashraf Judeh, the commander of Islamic Jihad's Central Camps Brigade, was present at the site," he said, but did not confirm whether the senior terrorist was killed.

"After receiving clear intelligence on the threat posed by the terrorists, and in accordance with international law, we took numerous steps to minimize the risk to citizens, including the use of aerial surveillance before the strike and the selection of very precise munitions to avoid civilian casualties," Hagari added, stressing that, according to IDF intelligence, no women or children were present in the specific building that was targeted within the school compound. The IDF also released footage of the strike, claiming it demonstrates that the compound remains intact with no significant craters or damage to the main building.

Hagari reiterated that Hamas inflates casualty figures and criticized global media outlets for echoing these claims. "These figures do not differentiate between terrorists and civilians and do not match the information available to the IDF," he said, though he did not deny that any civilians were killed in the strike. "Israel views civilian casualties as a tragedy, while Hamas sees them as a strategy. The IDF will continue to operate within the bounds of international law, aiming to dismantle Hamas' military capabilities and to bring home all 115 of our hostages – men, women, children, and the elderly – who have been held in Gaza for over 300 days under horrific conditions. We are working to create the conditions to bring them home."

8.11. 24 – Su

Route 90, terrorists fire from a passing vehicle at vehicles in the Jordan Valley area

8.11. 24 – Su

1 dead, 1 seriously hurt in West Bank shooting attack

IDF launches manhunt after terrorists shoot at vehicles on Route 90; One of the injured reaches troops to alert of attack and receives medical care; Two cars come under fire in attack

Ynet|Updated:09:19

A 20-year-old man was murdered on Sunday afternoon and a 33-year-old man was moderately wounded by shots fired from a passing vehicle at two vehicles on Route 90 in the Jordan Valley. Magen David Adom medics and paramedics in collaboration with an IDF medical force provided initial treatment to the injured, but had to pronounce the death of the critically injured young man. The moderately injured man was taken by helicopter to the Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The security forces launched a hunt for the terrorists who carried out the shooting.

According to initial reports, one of the wounded drove himself to a military checkpoint where he received emergency medical treatment. The second person who was hurt was found in another car that was shot at in a different location.

The IDF reported the attack in a statement: "Following the initial report regarding the shooting attack in the area of the Mehola Junction on Route 90, terrorists opened fire from a passing vehicle at a number of vehicles in the area. As a result of the attack, an Israeli civilian was killed, and an additional Israeli civilian was injured and is currently receiving treatment from medical teams. IDF soldiers have begun pursuing the terrorists, blocking routes, and conducting thorough searches in the area."

8.11. 24 – Su

After delay, police probe breaching of IDF bases by right-wing protesters

8.11. 24 – Su

After delay, police probe breaching of IDF bases by right-wing protesters

The decision to investigate comes after police fails to respond to breach including from ministers and law-makers, over the arrest of suspects in the sexual assault of a Hamas prisoner

Meir Turgeman, Yoav Zitun|Updated:02:01

The Israeli Police and Military Police Criminal Investigation Division on Sunday launched an investigation into the breach of IDF bases by protesters attempting to prevent the arrest of reservists suspected of sexual assault of a Hamas prisoner.

The military police detained soldiers in the reserve after suspicions of the assault arose based on medical records and prisoners' claims. Protesters accompanied by ministers in the government and right-wing lawmakers, responded to calls on social media to prevent their arrests.

After protesters besieged the Sde Teiman detention center in the Negev, they attempted to do the same at the Beit Lid military base, home of the criminal prosecution and military courts. In both locations, the police arrived after the bases were breached. In Beit Lid, the military deployed troops from the West Bank to protect their facility.

Right-wing politicians accused the IDF's chief prosecutor Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, of pandering to Hamas terrorists, calling for her ouster while demonstrations took place outside her home.

Zvi Suktot, from the far-right Otzma Yehudit party who breached the bases with protesters, said he had the right to do so as a lawmaker. He said the police do not investigate when antigovernmental protesters block roads.

The police faced harsh criticism for their inaction from politicians and the military. Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi who arrived at Beit Lid, said the behavior of the protesters, bordered on anarchy and was harmful to the war effort.

The police rejected the accusations, saying, "No reports were received by the police about threats and the incident was handled professionally and decisively, with order being restored quickly."

8.11. 24 – Su

Hamas using Khan Younis safe zone to fire rockets at Israel, an IDF attack is imminent

8.11. 24 – Su

IDF warns Khan Younis residents to flee

Military uses phone, text, voice mail and social media to tell residents that Hamas fires rockets from the humanitarian zone and will be attacked; Palestinians report heavy fire in the area

Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi|00:45

Residents of neighborhoods in the northern part of Khan Younis were told late on Saturday, to evacuate to safety immediately. The Arabic language military spokesperson said Hamas was using the humanitarian zone there, to fire rockets at Israel and an attack was imminent.

The IDF said it was calling residents, sending them text messages and voice mail and using social media to urge an immediate evacuation of civilians to prevent casualties. The military added that they informed the local health officials and international organizations that the hospitals in the humanitarian zone, need not evacuate.

IDF Spokesperson Read Admiral Daniel Hagari said on Thursday, that according to intelligence, terrorists returned to the area and rebuilt their infrastructure there.

8.11. 24 – Su

Norway has lost Israel's trust as one-sided behind Palestine and anti-Israeli

8.11. 24 – Su

Israel slams Norway's 'smear campaign' amid US criticism

Several Western countries condemn Israel's decision to bar Norwegian diplomats from Palestinian affairs, prompting Foreign Ministry to explain rationale behind move;

'Norway has lost Israel's trust and its special role since the Oslo Accords'

Itamar Eichner | 17:07

The Foreign Ministry issued an extraordinarily blunt statement on Saturday criticizing Norway's government for its perceived negative role in the Middle East, clarifying the reasoning behind recent steps taken by Jerusalem against Oslo.

The statement, shared with Ynet, responded to what Israel described as Norway's "smear campaign" following the decision and the international criticism Israel faced as a result.

Katz on Thursday revoked the status of eight Norwegian diplomats stationed in the Norwegian embassy in Tel Aviv, who were responsible for relations with the Palestinian Authority.

This action was taken as a punitive measure against Norway's unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state and its submission of a legal opinion to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

In response, Norway warned that this "extreme measure" would affect its relationship with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. Norway has been lobbying behind the scenes for other countries to condemn Israel's decision and has been successful, prompting the unusual statement from Israel's Foreign Ministry.

"Israel operates according to interim agreements regarding representation with the Palestinian Authority," the ministry said. "Norway's government policy toward Israel,

since the brutal attacks by Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, the Houthis and others, is extreme, one-sided and anti-Israeli.

“The Norwegian government, which just last week chose to support the baseless legal proceedings against Israel in The Hague, recognized a Palestinian state and still, ten months after the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, refuses to declare Hamas a terrorist organization, has lost Israel's trust and its special role since the Oslo Accords.

"This extreme policy by Norway's government prevents it from continuing to engage in dialogue or activity with Israel regarding the Palestinian issue. One-sidedness is not the way to influence events in our region, and it is certainly not the way to promote the chance for genuine peace negotiations.

“Israel will continue to respect international law and its legal obligations, continue to defend itself, and work toward a future where all children can live in peace.”

The ministry explained that the statement was released to make it clear to the world that Norway has crossed a line and cannot remain relevant with such a policy. "Everything done was in accordance with the interim agreements," ministry officials added.

Since Thursday, Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide has contacted foreign ministers worldwide, urging them to condemn Israel's actions. This led to condemnations from several Western countries, including the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters that Norway has an "important role in the Middle East."

"Norway has a long history of playing a productive role regarding engagement with the Israeli government in partnership with the Palestinian Authority. We do not believe actions that prevent them from playing that role are particularly helpful," he said.

As expected, European Union foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell, a vocal critic of Israel throughout the conflict, also criticized the decision, issuing a statement that the move "contradicts the spirit of the Oslo Accords and disproportionately disrupts normal relations and cooperation with the Palestinian Authority."

Upon my instructions, the Head of the EU Delegation in Tel Aviv has conveyed our position to the Israeli Government. This is not a bilateral question between Israel and Norway, but one of interest for all those working for peace and stability in the Middle East," he wrote.

“As Chair of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, involving both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Norway has played a major role on the Middle East Peace Process and in support of the Palestinian population.

The EU stands in full solidarity with Norway, an invaluable partner in our efforts to promote peace, security and prosperity in the region.”

8.10. 24 – Sa

With F-22; F-15E, F-16, A-10 jets & aircraft carrier to flex US muscle against Iran

8.10. 24 – Sa

With F-22s and 'mini aircraft carrier,' US flexes muscle against Iranian threats
'While war is not inevitable, US will defend Israel if it were attacked,' Pentagon vows
amid fears of Iranian attack; Biden sends military reinforcements to region, including
stealth jets, amphibious assault ship and carrier near Iran; Red Sea also covered
Elyasaf Kosman|15:47

In a move reminiscent of the aftermath of the October 7 terror attack and the Iranian strike on Israel last April, the United States is once again significantly increasing its military presence in the Middle East.

The goal is clear: to deter Iran and its proxies from retaliating for the recent assassinations of top Hamas and Hezbollah officials in Tehran and Beirut, protect American forces already in the region who are also targeted by the Iranian axis, and assist Israel in defending against potential attacks, as it did in April.

"The changes in our force posture will enhance our already extensive capabilities in the region," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said after speaking with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant about Washington's troop reinforcements. "We are prepared to act on short notice to address emerging threats to our security, our partners, and our interests."

Pentagon Press Secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder noted that Austin assured Gallant that "while war is not inevitable and de-escalation is the preferred course of action, the U.S. will defend Israel if it were attacked."

The last time Israel was attacked by Iran and its allies, on the night of April 13-14, over 300 missiles and drones were launched from multiple directions. According to reports, the U.S. Air Force alone helped intercept 80 of the drones.

The IDF said that almost all the munitions launched during that attack were intercepted, with only five breaching the defense shield of Israel and its regional and international coalition allies. However, there is now concern that Iran or Hezbollah might attempt a broader, more complex assault that could pose a greater challenge to these defense capabilities.

Although reports suggest that Iran is deliberating over its response, with voices in Tehran warning against the repercussions of a direct, extensive attack that could ignite a regional war, the ultimate decision rests with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a hardliner in the Islamic Republic. Consequently, Israel, the U.S. and their allies are taking no risks and are preparing for the worst-case scenario.

Below is a summary of the newly deployed U.S. forces in the region, according to various reports, though it should be noted that for obvious reasons, the U.S. does not disclose the exact locations of its forces, which have recently been targeted by pro-Iranian militias.

The Pentagon's latest announcement regarding troop reinforcements, deemed significant by military analysts for deterring Iran, involved the deployment of F-22 Raptor fighter jets. The announcement about their arrival in the U.S. Central Command operating

theater did not specify the number of aircraft or the base they were sent to, noting only that the aim is to help prevent a regional war with Iran or its proxies.

American officials told Air & Space Forces Magazine that the deployed F-22 squadron consists of approximately 12 jets from a base in Alaska. The officials noted that the jets covered over 10,000 kilometers, stopping halfway at a UK base and relying on aerial refueling. They crossed the Mediterranean Sea and landed at a base in the region—whose location remains classified. The Pentagon told the magazine that the positioning of the fighter jets in the Middle East would remain confidential to ensure troop safety.

The magazine reports that the F-22s are now the most advanced fighter jets in the region. These fifth-generation fighters were developed for air superiority, and the Pentagon emphasizes that they can also support defensive missions.

"They can be a very invaluable defensive platform," said Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh. "They add maneuverability [and] additional systems that allow the commander to have more versatile options. And I think it sends a very clear signal to the region that we want to see tensions de-escalate. And it sends a really powerful message of deterrence."

According to Air & Space Forces Magazine, the U.S. Air Force already has fighter jets from three other models in the region: F-15E fighters from the 335th Squadron based in North Carolina, which assisted in intercepting drones during the April attack; F-16s from the 510th Squadron deployed from a base in Italy; and A-10 jets from the 107th Squadron based in Michigan. The magazine notes that while the A-10s have limited air-to-air capabilities, likely referring to drone interception, they can pose a threat to ground and naval forces.

Navy squadron moved to land base 'closer to Israel'

The U.S. Navy also has air power, with the magazine reporting that about 12 F/A-18 Super Hornets—normally stationed on the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt—were relocated amid tensions to an air base in the region, closer to Israel and U.S. forces operating in Iraq, Syria and Jordan. However, their exact location remains confidential. The report suggests that moving the squadron to a land base in the region allows for quicker operations, as the Roosevelt is currently much farther away, in the Gulf of Oman. Another advantage is that while carrier-based air operations are typically limited to 12 hours a day, a land base allows for 24/7 activity.

American officials told the magazine that the squadron's move from the carrier is temporary and that they are expected to return to the Roosevelt when it departs the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) operating theater—meaning the Middle East—in about a week.

To ensure the region does not remain without a carrier, the U.S. announced that the Abraham Lincoln would replace the Roosevelt. The Lincoln is currently en route from the Pacific, though its exact deployment in the Middle East remains unclear.

The Roosevelt's current location in the Gulf of Oman is likely strategic, enabling the U.S. to monitor Iranian activity in the Persian Gulf. Reports indicate the carrier is situated close to Bandar Abbas, Iran's largest naval port. An aircraft carrier is accompanied by a strike group, including destroyers, additional warships and submarines.

Even if the new carrier doesn't reach the Mediterranean, a large warship nicknamed a "mini-aircraft carrier" has been operating in the eastern part for weeks. The amphibious assault ship USS Wasp arrived in the region at the end of June and docked in Limassol, Cyprus, last Wednesday.

It's dubbed a "mini-carrier" because it carries AV-8B Harrier jets capable of vertical takeoff and landing, alongside combat helicopters. Reports indicate it also carries a Marine unit, though their number is unclear.

As an amphibious ship, the USS Wasp can evacuate civilians from Lebanon if a full-blown war erupts between Israel and Hezbollah, though Washington clarified in late June that its primary purpose is deterrence.

The UK also seems to be preparing for a potential evacuation from Lebanon, with reports in Cyprus of two British warships anchored there—RFA Mounts Bay and RFA Cardigan Bay. These support ships, also capable of amphibious landings, can each carry 700 people in an emergency.

The U.S. Navy has Arleigh Burke-class destroyers in the region, armed with guided missiles and previously assisting in intercepting ballistic missiles in the region. The New York Times reported last week that, as part of the force buildup, cruisers capable of intercepting ballistic missiles were sent to the region, and that, if necessary, the U.S. would send additional ground-based missile defense systems. It's unclear if such systems have been deployed since.

The U.S. is not neglecting the Red Sea theater, where repeated missile and drone attacks by Yemen's Houthis threaten commercial shipping and Israel. While the Pentagon has not released official statements about its force deployment there, a report on an American naval site this week said the USS Laboon and USS Cole destroyers entered the Red Sea, having split from the carrier group accompanying the Roosevelt. The Houthis claimed on Wednesday they launched missiles and drones at the ships in the Gulf of Aden, the waterway connecting the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea.

\$3.5 billion; Biden is prepared to do 'everything' to defend Israel

In addition to the new forces sent by the U.S., it maintains a constant regional presence, with about 2,500 U.S. troops in Iraq and another 900 in Syria. It also has a small force in Jordan, three of whose soldiers were killed in a drone attack this past January, prompting retaliatory airstrikes. As a result, pro-Iranian militias in Iraq and Syria avoided attacking U.S. forces for several months.

However, in recent weeks, this lull has ended: two rockets hit the Ain al-Assad base in Iraq last Monday, injuring five U.S. soldiers and two contractors. The U.S. described this as a "dangerous escalation" by Iran.

Tehran said that the U.S. bears responsibility for the operation in which Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed in Tehran, an act attributed to Israel. These claims have sparked concern in Washington that U.S. forces might also be targeted in the promised Iranian retaliation. The force buildup is thus unsurprising, but the U.S. emphasizes that it is also aimed at deterring Iran and protecting Israel.

In another show of support for Israel, despite tensions between President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding the hostage deal talks—which

Washington hopes will end the war in Gaza and reduce regional tensions—it was announced on Friday that the U.S. would transfer \$3.5 billion to Israel for purchasing U.S. weapons and military equipment. This is part of a massive \$14 billion package that the U.S. Congress approved for Israel back in April.

White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said Biden "is prepared to do everything" to defend Israel and has allocated significant resources for this purpose. "When we hear such rhetoric, we must take it seriously, and we do."

8.10. 24 – Sa

US pledges arms to Israel approved last April as Iran weighs its next move

8.10. 24 – Sa

US pledges \$3.5 billion in arms to Israel as Iran weighs its next move

Iran's Revolutionary Guards vow to follow Khamenei's orders, while Iran's UN delegation prioritizes a Gaza cease-fire; Hezbollah vows to respond to top commander's assassination regardless of truce

Lior Ben Ari|06:31

The United States is set to transfer \$3.5 billion to Israel for the procurement of U.S. weapons and military equipment, as announced by the State Department on Friday night. CNN reported that against the backdrop of heightened tensions with Iran, the White House will release these funds months after Congress allocated them to Israel. This amount is part of a larger \$14.1 billion package approved last April.

Meanwhile, Iran continues to issue severe threats against Israel following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. As Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah stated this week, from the perspective of the Shiite axis, "Israel's waiting time is part of the response."

Ali Fadavi, the Deputy Commander of the Revolutionary Guards, joined the chorus of threats, asserting that Iran is ready to launch the attack. "The Supreme Leader's orders regarding severe punishment for Israel and revenge for the blood of Ismail Haniyeh were clear and explicit. They will be carried out in the best possible way," Fadavi said. Simultaneously, the Iranian delegation to the UN addressed the possibility of delaying Tehran's anticipated response against Israel until after the negotiation talks between Israel and Hamas, mediated and scheduled for next Thursday.

The delegation stated, "We hope our response will be timed and executed in a way that does not harm the possibility of a cease-fire." They further added, "Our priority is to establish a lasting cease-fire in Gaza, and any agreement accepted by Hamas will also be recognized by us. The Israeli regime violated our national security and autonomy with its latest act of terrorism, and we have the legitimate right to self-defense - a matter that is not related at all to the cease-fire in Gaza. However, we hope our response will be timed and executed in a way that does not harm the potential cease-fire."

In Israel, there is heightened alertness in anticipation of a possible response. During a cabinet discussion held on Thursday in central Tel Aviv, it was reiterated that Hezbollah would likely be the first to respond to the assassination of its senior military commander, Fuad Shukur, who was killed in an Israeli attack in Beirut. One of the assessments heard in the cabinet discussion, and confirmed on Friday in a report by the British Telegraph, was that the response might focus on military targets.

Amid peak readiness, with the U.S. also preparing to assist Israel in intercepting an attack from Iran if it materializes, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Washington is ready to defend Israel with "substantial resources in the region."

"When we hear such rhetoric - we must take it seriously, and we do," Kirby emphasized. "President Biden is prepared to do everything to defend Israel. This marks the second time in four months." The U.S. has reinforced its military presence in the Middle East, and just two days ago, the U.S. Central Command announced that F-22 stealth fighter jets were sent to the region.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant spoke last night by phone with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken regarding "ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region," according to a statement from the U.S. State Department. "Blinken reiterated the U.S. commitment to Israel's security and told Gallant that escalation is not in anyone's interest," the statement said.

It was reported on Friday that one reason for the delay in Tehran's response is an internal Iranian dispute between the new president, Masoud Pzeshkian, and members of the Revolutionary Guards. According to the Telegraph, Pzeshkian fears the consequences of a direct Iranian attack on Israel and suggested targeting Israeli assets in neighboring countries. However, this is not acceptable to the Revolutionary Guards, who insist on targeting military objectives in the Tel Aviv area and other central cities in Israel.

The British Guardian reported in the last 24 hours that amid heavy international pressure on Iran to show restraint in its response and avoid dramatic escalation, it is possible that Iran might target those allegedly responsible for the assassination of Haniyeh: Mossad, or entities related to it. The Guardian report aligns with Pzeshkian's stance. Those close to the Iranian President even accused the Revolutionary Guards of trying to undermine him. Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar holds the child of an Al-Qassam Brigades fighter, who was

However, a source in the organization told the Telegraph they believe Pzeshkian is "concerned about his status." According to the source, "Few members of the Revolutionary Guards listen to him. The only consideration is whether to attack Tel Aviv with Hezbollah and others at the same time."

Meanwhile, amid the U.S.-Egyptian-Qatari declaration calling for the promotion of a hostages deal and a cease-fire, a Hezbollah parliamentary source told the Qatari newspaper The New Arab on Thursday that "we are waiting for the results of the negotiations regarding the cease-fire in Gaza and monitoring developments. We hope it succeeds, although we do not trust the enemy. Hezbollah's position is clear - when the war stops in Gaza, it stops in Lebanon."

Nevertheless, the source clarified Hezbollah would respond to the attack that killed Shukr. "No matter where the negotiations lead, it will not apply to the response to the attack in Beirut. This is a separate issue," he said.

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Ynet-News, August 09, 2024 – Friday

8.09. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

IDF, Shin Bet eliminate Lebanon commander responsible for attacks & launches

8.09. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

IRGC want to attack Tel Aviv, new president seeks to improve relations with the West

8.09. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

Hezbollah total 30 rockets in 2 barrages at northern Israeli city without casualties

8.09. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

Air Force struck more than 30 Khan Younis targets including weapons facilities

8.09. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in August 09 spot – Friday

Israel prepares Negev tent city to house thousands of evacuees in Hezbollah war

8.08. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Israeli officials pessimistic of cease-fire, Sinwar has no incentive to stop the war

8.08. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

IDF ambush spots tunnels in home showers & command / control centers in schools

8.08. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Brazilian motion & 2/3 vote suspends Israel Med. students from International association

8.08. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Israel bars Norway Embassy, viewed as the most hostile UN country toward Israel

8.08. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in August 08 spot – Thursday

Israeli jets circled Dahieh three times, breaking sound barrier & panic in Lebanon capital

8.07. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Police raid Foreign Ministry over diplomatic passports issued as VIP perks

8.07. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Settler council wants banking laws to circumvent US sanctions imposed on some settlers

8.07. 24 – We- - - News Placed in August 07 spot – Wednesday

55 Rockets from Gaza in July, kibbutz members must return by middle of August

8.06. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
Yahya Sinwar hiding in tunnels under Gaza, named leader of Hamas to replace Haniyeh

8.06. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in August 06 spot – Tuesday
Iran is actively working to get Kamala Harris as the worst president for Israel

8.06. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
Hezbollah barrage of drones injured 18 in Western Galilee

8.06. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
IDF thwarting West Bank squads, struck twice from the air; 9 PA dead in Jenin

8.05. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in August 05 spot – Monday
UN confirms 9 UNRWA of the 450 accused, were involved in October 7 attack

8.05. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in August 05 spot – Monday
One Jewish state plan secure Israel's future; Two plans require opposition live elsewhere

8.04. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday New Moon 6:14am
EU & Arab countries urging their citizens to leave Lebanon immediately, over Israel war

8.04. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday New Moon 6:14am
Iran rejects pleas to moderate sparks of war; US to intercept Iranian attack and retaliate

8.04. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in August 04 spot – Sunday New Moon 6:14am
600 Haredim summoned for Monday, 500 for Tuesday as extremists plan demonstrations

8.04. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday New Moon 6:14am
IDF uncovers Philadelphi Corridor tunnel big enough for cars, on Gaza-Egypt border

8.04. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday New Moon 6:14am
Barrage of 5 Gaza rockets target Ashdod area on Sunday

8.03. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
Israel girds for 'inevitable' multi-front assault amid emergency talks with US

8.03. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in August 03 spot – Saturday
IDF forces in West Bank raids kill 9 terrorists en route to carry out an attack.

8.03. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
Minister Katz's tensions with Turkey after Erdogan sold Turkey out to Arabs