

Ynet-News, September 06, 2024 – Friday

9.06. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

Sinwar's written plan ignores suffering & death of Gaza, to rebuild military might

9.06. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in September 06 spot – Friday

US, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi, PA & Qatar claim border corridor; Israel rejects this demand

9.05. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Netanyahu says war would be over yesterday if Hamas released hostages

9.05. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in September 05 spot – Thursday

Egypt military denies arms smuggling from Egypt, Israel lies to cover up failures

9.05. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

US unilateral hostage deal with Hamas includes five Texas donors convicted in 2008

9.05. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Danon calls UN to resolve Hamas barbaric terrorism continuing to hold innocent lives

9.05. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Hamas rejects new cease-fire proposals, but US is not giving up pressuring Israel

9.04. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Court seizes NIS 160 million from PA as part of bereaved families' lawsuit

9.04. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Terrorist leader's death sparks shifts in PA refugee camp dynamics

9.04. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

At least 65 rockets in latest Hezbollah attack on Upper Galilee

9.04. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Execution, mass murder, mutilation, sexual crimes all in US indictment of Hamas

9.04. 24 – We- - - News Placed in September 04 spot – Wednesday

Substantial cuts to IDF reserve salaries proposed by Finance Ministry due to rising costs

9.03. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

IDF continue fight on West Bank labs for Improvised explosives and car bombs

9.03. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in September 03 spot – Tuesday

Netanyahu instructs IDF general Goren to oversee aid in Gaza & secure the border

9.03. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

UK cited aid to Gaza, denial of Red Cross detainee visits, mistreatment of detainees

9.03. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Netanyahu criticizes UK decision to halt 30 arms exports, says it will encourage Hamas

9.02. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in September 02 spot – Monday New Moon 8:56pm

After 3 cases of Polio, 72,000 Gaza kids vaccinated in first day of WHO campaign

9.02. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday New Moon 8:56pm

Protests for hostage deal continue as court orders end to labor strike in Tel Aviv

9.02. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday New Moon 8:56pm

While extremists protest against conscription, more Haredim are joining the IDF

9.02. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday New Moon 8:56pm

Holon high school, new study program, Iran is topic and the teachers are ex-Shin Bet

9.01. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Thousands in Israel protest for hostage deal; bereaved families refuse a Sinwar victory

9.01. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

US pressure to cease-fire deal; hostage murders prove Hamas does not want a deal

9.01. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in September 01 spot – Sunday

In a 65-foot-deep tunnel in Rafah, hostages found recently executed by captors

9.01. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

6 hostage bodies recovered today in tunnels under Rafah, one an Israeli-American

9.01. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Three Israeli police officers killed in a Hebron drive-by shooting Sunday morning

8.31. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in August 31 spot – Saturday

Purging city to city: IDF chief vows no safe haven for terror in West Bank

8.31. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Israel unable to stop arms to Hezbollah, expand in Syria to disrupt the arms flow

8.31. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Iran and Hamas praise West Bank terror efforts where two car bombs exploded

9.06. 24 – Fr

Sinwar's written plan ignores suffering & death of Gaza, to rebuild military might

9.06. 24 – Fr

Sinwar ignores suffering, death of Gazans to rebuild military might, report Document found on terror leader's computer outlines tactics to manipulate world press to blame Israel, use psychological torture on the families of hostages, maneuver Arab nations to act as buffers to prevent IDF from attacking Strip
Itamar Eichner|07:15

Yahya Sinwar intended to prolong the war, and the suffering of civilians in Gaza, in order to improve his position in cease-fire negotiations and ensure his terror group would be able to rebuild its military might.

A document found on the terror leader's computer and seen by the German Bild newspaper also details how the suffering of Israeli hostages held captive in Gaza, should be used to exert pressure on the Israeli public.

According to the report published on Friday, the document also outlines how international public opinion should be manipulated against Israel and how Arab nations should be made to protect Hamas against further IDF incursions into Gaza after the first phase of the cease-fire currently being negotiated, is completed.

The document which was approved by Sinwar personally, reveals that the terror group was not seeking a quick end to the war or was concerned with the suffering of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. "We must improve certain important items in the deal, even if negotiations take longer," the document states. But Hamas also admits that its military capabilities were diminished.

The paper highlights the fact that thousands of Gazans have died in Israeli attacks since the war broke out, but the Hamas document does not mention that fact. It does however detail how psychological terror should continue. "We must continue to put psychological pressure on the families of prisoners, (hostages) now and in the first phase of the cease-fire deal so that public pressure on the enemy's government intensifies.

The Bild describes the cruelty with which Hamas used the hostages, including the release of video clips showing some of the captives who were executed just last week. This is barbaric psychological torture, the paper said, meant to influence the desperate families to do everything to secure the release of their loved ones, even if it means undermining their government.

According to the document, Hamas intended to use the hostages during the cease-fire, to pressure Israel. "In the course of negotiations for the second phase, we will allow the Red Cross to visit some of the hostages, as a goodwill gesture, to relay messages to their families," Bild said the document read so that the pressure on Israel to extend the cease-fire will grow.

In the document, Hamas demands the release of 100 Palestinians serving life sentences in Israeli jails. It outlines how the international community can be manipulated to expedite the rebuilding of Hamas's military power.

According to the document, a political offensive must be launched including the deployment of an Arab force to act as a buffer and prevent the return of Israeli troops to the Strip, "until we are able to replenish our ranks and rebuild our capabilities."

In its conclusion, the document details how to influence world media: Israel alone must be held responsible for the failure of negotiations. Hamas's message to the Israeli press is that their government rejected the American proposal its failure was not because of Hamas, which had accepted the deal, but because of the government's obstinance. "So that Hamas is not seen as responsible for the failure of negotiations."

9.06. 24 – Fr

US, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi, PA & Qatar claim border corridor; Israel rejects this demand

9.06. 24 – Fr

Saudi deal still possible, Blinken says

Secretary tells press in a briefing in Haiti that there remains an opportunity if a cease-fire deal is reached in Gaza; Riyadh joins Arab, Palestinian demands for Israeli withdrawal from the Philadelphi Corridor

Reuters|00:55

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said early on Friday that Saudi Arabian normalization of ties with Israel was still possible. "There remains an opportunity" to do that if a ceasefire was achieved in Gaza," Blinken said in a press briefing in Haiti.

Saudi Arabia told the U.S. its position stands that there will be no diplomatic relations with Israel unless an independent Palestinian state is recognized on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem, and Israeli "aggression" on the Gaza Strip stops, the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement early in July.

The secretary said it was incumbent on both Israel and the Palestinian terror group Hamas to say yes on remaining issues to reach a Gaza ceasefire deal, which has faced obstacles in negotiations across months. "Based on what I have seen, 90% is agreed but there are a few critical issues that remain," he said adding that there were also some gaps in the agreement in how Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners are exchanged.

"I expect in the coming days, we will share with Israel, and they (Qatar and Egypt) will share with Hamas our thoughts, the three of us, on exactly how to resolve remaining outstanding questions," Blinken said, referring to the U.S. and mediators Qatar and Egypt.

The Biden administration was preparing a new bridging proposal to break through the impasse in negotiations. It is expected to be presented in the coming days.

This week, Turkey, five Arab countries including regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia, and the Palestinian Authority joined Egypt in rejecting Israel's demand to keep its troops deployed in the Philadelphi corridor.

9.05.24 – Th

Netanyahu says war would be over yesterday if Hamas released hostages

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'Hamas can smuggle hostages out of Gaza,' Netanyahu says

Prime minister calls Hamas tunnels under Philadelphi Corridor 'gateway to Iran' in his insistence on Israeli presence along border

Itamar Eichner|Yesterday | 11:12

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday said Hamas could smuggle hostages out of Gaza in tunnels under the Philadelphi Corridor, disputing the position of his defense minister who said that the IDF would be able to return there after the completion of the first part of a hostage release and cease-fire deal.

In an interview on Fox News, Netanyahu criticized Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's position. "To ask Israel to make concessions after this murder is to send a message to Hamas 'murder more hostages you'll get more concessions.' That's the wrong thing to do."

Netanyahu described the 14-kilometer (8.6 miles) strip that runs along the Gaza-Egypt border, as the gateway to Iran. "That presses Hamas, that prevents them from rearming, that prevents Gaza from becoming this Iranian terror enclave again which can threaten our existence," he said. "It's the way to prevent them from smuggling hostages that they keep through the cease-fire into Egypt, into the Sinai where they can disappear and they'll end up in Iran or in Yemen and they're lost forever."

When asked what he thinks about the four American hostage families who are pressuring U.S. President Joe Biden to make a deal with Hamas over Israel, Netanyahu responded, "I don't judge the families, they are going through enormous anguish. Some of them went through this horrible anguish of worrying about the fate of their loved ones to grieving about those who were murdered in cold blood. We have a responsibility both to get the hostages out, but also to prevent Gaza from becoming a terror enclave again."

He denied his political interests played a role in his decisions. "I am not interested in my political future, I am interested in my country's future. This war would be over yesterday if Hamas laid down its arms and released all the hostages. I would be over in two seconds. Hamas is refusing to do that. The obstacle to the end of this war is Hamas. The obstacle to the release of hostages is Hamas. The ones who butchered, murdering six people in cold blood, riddling them with bullets and then firing bullets into their heads is Hamas. It's not Israel, it's not me."

After Netanyahu mistakenly referred to the Hamas massacre in October as the "November 7 massacre," which was the second time in recent days that he gave a wrong date for an event etched into the minds of all Israelis, The Hostages and Missing Families Forum which was critical of Netanyahu's position said: "After the prime minister's interview on Fox News and the press conference, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum would like to remind the prime minister that the massacre happened on October 7 and not on November 7 or October 9."

9.05. 24 – Th

Egypt military denies arms smuggling from Egypt, Israel lies to cover up failures

9.05. 24 – Th

Egypt military chief in surprise visit to Gaza border, Rafah crossing

Egyptian military spokesperson says chief of staff Ahmed Fathy Khalifa arrived to examine the security situation and the measures along the border

Lior Ben Ari|Yesterday | 10:45

Egyptian chief of military staff Ahmed Fathy Khalifa arrived at the Egyptian border with Gaza and the Rafah border crossing on a surprise visit on Thursday. "He is visiting to examine the security situation and the measures along the border," the military said in a statement.

The visit began with a meeting of the forces responsible for securing the Rafah border crossing. The chief of staff emphasized that the main mission of these forces is to "secure the nation's borders in all strategic directions." Egyptian television showed Khalifa speaking with soldiers and even staying to eat with them.

A senior official in Cairo was quoted on the same channel as calling Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent statements on the need to maintain Israeli control of the Philadelphi Corridor, unrealistic. "He is trying to shift the blame to other nations for his failure to achieve his objectives in Gaza." The source said, "The past few months have proven that Netanyahu does not care about bringing back the Israeli hostages alive, as long as it conflicts with his personal goals and interests."

Egypt has consistently maintained since the start of the war that it controls its borders and opposes any Israeli presence along the corridor or at the Rafah border crossing. Cairo views any Israeli presence in the area as a violation of the Camp David Accords and the 1979 peace agreement between the two countries.

The visit appears to be another demonstration of Egypt's control over the area, alongside recent harsh rhetoric against Israel and Netanyahu. Lebanon's Al-Akhbar newspaper, which is aligned with Hezbollah, claimed this morning that Egypt's statements against Netanyahu, published a day earlier, were the harshest so far.

They coincide with a gradual diplomatic escalation, coordinated by Egyptian intelligence and the Foreign Ministry. An example of these statements came from a senior Egyptian official yesterday, who told the Al-Qahera Al-Akhbariya channel that Netanyahu's remarks about the Philadelphi Corridor were "a message to Washington" indicating his refusal of any proposed deal, thus "sabotaging efforts for a truce and the release of hostages and prisoners."

The official added, "The Israeli prime minister is spreading lies to cover up his failure in Gaza. Through his claims about arms smuggling from Egypt, Netanyahu is paving the way to declare his security and political failures—failing to locate the hostages and achieving no victory in Gaza or the West Bank. All sides are dissatisfied with his continued failure to reach a ceasefire agreement."

9.05. 24 – Th

US unilateral hostage deal with Hamas includes five Texas donors convicted in 2008

9.05. 24 – Th

US considering unilateral hostage deal with Hamas

Biden administration is considering option amid pressure from families of American hostages and fears Netanyahu won't sign a deal including Gaza cease-fire, according to report

Daniel Edelson, New York, Alexandra Lukash|03:44

Families of American hostages held by Hamas are pressuring the White House to consider a unilateral deal with the terrorist organization to secure the release of their loved ones. Five sources familiar with the matter told NBC on Thursday that U.S. President Joe Biden's administration is weighing the option.

The discussions are taking place amid concerns from the families – and from U.S. officials – that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may not agree to a deal with Hamas which includes a cease-fire in Gaza. Four American nationals who the U.S. believes are still alive remain in Hamas captivity and the administration is also working to secure the return of the bodies of three others.

According to the U.S. news outlet, the motion wasn't advanced the last time it was considered six months ago because some senior administration officials strongly opposed it, and Biden chose to continue pursuing a broader agreement with Israel that would pave the way to ending the fighting.

Two American sources familiar with the details said the Biden administration has prepared a list of prisoners held in the U.S. Hamas might be interested in as part of a deal, strengthening the possibility of a unilateral arrangement. One of the sources told NBC five prisoners are currently on the list.

A U.S. official explained that the idea of a unilateral deal is unrealistic because the U.S. doesn't have enough to offer in exchange for American hostages. "We have considered all possible options to free the hostages and bring them home to their families. Because of

Hamas' demands, there has not been a formal offer for a side deal made because no such deal is possible," the official said.

"Hamas wants two things that only Israel can deliver: a cease-fire and nearly 1,000 Palestinian prisoners currently in Israeli jails. Every other proposal has gone nowhere because that is what Hamas demands for the hostages," the official added.

"President Biden and the rest of the U.S. government remain fully committed to returning the hostages, including Americans, to their families. And we continue to work, day and night, to complete the cease-fire and hostage release deal that is under discussion.

The White House has so far officially denied the possibility of a unilateral deal with Hamas multiple times. U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Wednesday the Biden administration is working to release the American hostages only as part of a comprehensive deal involving all the hostages.

American officials told NBC the list of prisoners that could be released in a unilateral deal includes five leaders of the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, who were convicted in 2008 of transferring over \$12 million to Hamas, which is designated as a terrorist organization in the U.S. Two of the charity leaders were sentenced to 65 years in prison, two others to 15 years and the fifth to 20 years.

9.05. 24 – Th

Danon calls UN to resolve Hamas barbaric terrorism continuing to hold innocent lives

9.05. 24 – Th

'They still wake up terrified': UN holds first discussion on Gaza hostages
UN Security Council session convened at urgent request of Ambassador Danny Danon presents harsh reality of Israeli women and children after returning from captivity;
Official slams council's refusal to condemn Hamas
Itamar Eichner|01:39

The UN Security Council held its first official discussion on the condition of the Israeli hostages in Gaza on Wednesday, with Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon in attendance.

The Israeli delegation requested that Dr. Efrat Baron Harlev from Schneider Children's Medical Center brief the council on the condition of children who had been held captive by Hamas. The Security Council agreed, but only on the condition that, for the sake of "balance," Yuli Novak, CEO of the NGO B'Tselem, also provide a briefing on the condition of the Palestinians in Gaza.

UN Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo opened the session by calling for the immediate release of hostages and condemned Hamas for the murder of six hostages last week. In her briefing, she praised the IDF and the polio vaccination campaign in Gaza, spoke about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and welcomed the negotiations in Doha for a potential deal.

"We never imagined we will have to prepare to treat children that come back from captivity. We searched for literature but none was found, we developed new protocols. It took 50 days in which young children were not allowed to cry, laugh, not even allowed to stand up. They barely ate," Baron Harlev said during the session.

"When they arrived, they did not look like children – they looked like the shadows of children. Nine months after their return, they still wake up terrified in the middle of the night." She added, "One girl, 14-years-old, who was kept almost alone most of her time in Gaza, was told by the terrorists holding her that there was no more Israel, that nobody's looking for her anymore, that nobody loves her."

Baron Harlev also spoke about Sharon Cunio, who was kidnapped to Gaza with her husband David and their two daughters. "They returned skinny, scared, silent. It took them two days to get out of their room. Nine months after their return, definitely [sic] not back to their normal lives." Sharon was released as part of the first hostage deal, but David remains in captivity.

Following her, B'Tselem's CEO Yuli Novak spoke. "Six Israeli hostages were executed by Hamas as Israeli forces came close. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets. They never understood that the Israeli government doesn't want to return the hostages in a deal but to continue the war indefinitely," she said.

"Since Israel was founded, its guiding logic has been to promote Jewish supremacy over the entire territory under its control. Many Israelis I know have been living in deep fear. Our government is cynically exploiting our trauma, committing war crimes almost daily. Israel promoting an ideological agenda making Gaza inhabitable [sic]. The international community did not stop Israel's criminal policies in Gaza and now this cruel policy is spilling over to the West Bank."

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield spoke about Israeli-American hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin during the discussion. "I had the honor of getting to know Hersh through his parents. On October 7, Hamas stole their son's future. Every person kidnapped is a world who wants peace and wants to live. Today, I want to speak to the hostages who remain in the hands of Hamas: We're doing all we can to bring all the hostages home. The U.S. strongly condemns Hamas' brutality. It is long past time this council do the same."

Danon read testimonies of abuse in captivity, recounting the stories of six hostages executed by Hamas and presenting their images. Danon recounted the testimony of Amit Soussana, a hostage who was sexually assaulted in Hamas captivity. "She was held in a child's room, chained to the floor and at the mercy of her guard. He would enter the room, lift her shirt and touch her. One morning, her guard stormed in gun in hand and forced himself on her."

Danon also read the testimony of former hostage Mia Regev, who said: "Every woman experienced some form of sexual harassment. It doesn't matter how you try to change it." He stressed the two were held captive for over 50 days, but that some women have been in captivity for nearly a year.

"[These] women have been forgotten by the international community. Agam Goldstein-Almog was held in a terror tunnel when she was 17 years old after witnessing the murder

of her father and older sister. In that tunnel, she encountered six other female hostages," he said.

"These women told her how they were molested by armed men who entered the room where they were showering. Agam herself was told by a guard that she would spend the rest of her life as a chained slave-wife in Gaza."

Danon also criticized the council. "Many of you have forgotten why we are in Gaza, but we have not forgotten. We remember the faces of the hostages, the families, and the pleas to rescue them.

"Today, I am here to remind you and the world that we will never forget them. We will never abandon our sons, daughters, sisters and brothers who are being tortured by monsters. We will not stop until they are brought home. Let me be clear: Israel is committed to bringing every one of these hostages home."

Danon called on the UN Security Council to "direct its energy where it is most needed: to support Israel. Pressure Hamas and issue a clear and unequivocal condemnation of the barbaric terrorist organization that continues to hold innocent lives. Now is the time for the Security Council to adopt a clear and unequivocal resolution."

9.05. 24 – Th

Hamas rejects new cease-fire proposals, but US is not giving up pressuring Israel

9.05. 24 – Th

Hamas rejects new cease-fire proposals, but US is not giving up and is pressuring Israel. US is considering increasing pressure on Netanyahu and will unveil new proposal over the weekend; Sinwar is not expected to agree to the deal; State Department: "It's going to require flexibility from the Government of Israel, just as it's going to require Hamas to finally find a way to get to yes"

Itamar Eichner, Daniel Edelson, Lior Ben Ari, Einav Halabi and Niv Shaiovich |00:17

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to insist on the Philadelphi corridor and Hamas rejects an official announcement of "new proposals," but the Americans are not giving up, and are expected to present a mediation proposal, the second in less than a month. In Washington, they are considering submitting the proposal this weekend, on Friday or Saturday, but they are no longer defining it as a "final proposal," with the understanding that the difficulties are not likely to be resolved soon.

Meanwhile, Hamas in a statement issued overnight between Wednesday and Thursday rejected any new cease-fire proposals, and claimed that Netanyahu's insistence on staying on the Philadelphi Corridor was intended to thwart a deal. "Pressure must be put on Netanyahu and his government and they must be bound to what was agreed upon," Hamas said in a statement, "We warn against falling into Netanyahu's trap and tricks, as he uses negotiations to prolong the aggression against our people."

The U.S. administration has not yet decided whether President Joe Biden will present the proposal alone, or whether it will be presented jointly by the United States and the mediators Qatar and Egypt. Either way, there is a great deal of pessimism among those involved in the negotiations, and the feeling that the chances of a deal are very low.

The understanding is that there will be no deal as long as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists on remaining in the Philadelphi Corridor, and in the U.S. they are considering increasing the pressure on Netanyahu to be more flexible under the new proposal, and to demand a dramatic decrease in the number of forces in Philadelphia. But even on the other side, it is not clear if there is a willingness for a deal. An American source told Ynet Wednesday night that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar is expected to reject the deal. "But we must continue and try to reach it, we will never give up. We owe it to the hostages," he emphasized. According to him, Netanyahu's statements saying that Israel will not withdraw from the Philadelphi Corridor are only part of a negotiation tactic, but also stem from the prime minister's fear of government ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, who threatened to dissolve the government if he agreed to what they call a "promiscuous deal."

At the same time, senior U.S. officials told the Wall Street Journal that the upcoming proposal is expected to be more detailed than the first "mediation proposal" submitted last month, and will include more precise details regarding the exchange of hostages for prisoners, what may lead to a resumption of fighting, and how long the Israeli forces can stay in the Philadelphia area. Most of the proposed outline has been agreed upon, according to those senior officials, but they emphasize that Hamas remains the party that refuses to approve it. According to them, the proposed deal gives Hamas most of its demands while Israel made many concessions to reach the deal.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller on Wednesday night referred to Netanyahu's second press conference - this time in English - in which he also elaborated at length on his insistence on maintaining a presence on the Philadelphi Corridor, and claimed that his demand does not contradict the Israeli outline that he himself submitted on May 27.

At the press conference, Netanyahu left an opening for a withdrawal from Philadelphia in the second phase of the deal, though the fact is that in order to reach it another negotiation must be completed on the end of the war with Hamas and the chances of reaching it are slim. Netanyahu said that his demand in such future negotiations would be to have some kind of presence on the route in order to make sure that there would be no smuggling.

"We agreed to thin out the number of soldiers along the corridor, we don't need an entire division there," he said, referring to the first phase of the deal. "For 42 days we will stay while drawing down our forces, but we have agreed to start talks on a permanent cease-fire, and our terms must include a situation where the Philadelphi Corridor will be impenetrable. Someone must be there - I don't care who. Bring someone who will show us not on paper or in words but on the ground, day after day, week after week, that they can prevent a repeat of what happened, we are open to considering it."

The chances of an agreement being reached for the second stage and the end of the war are already slim, and Israel insists that it will be able to resume fighting after the first stage, in which dozens of hostages from the humanitarian categories will be released. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller responded to this Wednesday night, saying that in a proposal from May Israel did agree to evacuate from "densely populated areas," and according to him, this also includes the Philadelphi Corridor. Miller said that reaching a deal "is going to require flexibility from the Government of Israel, just as it's going to require Hamas to finally find a reason – a way to get to yes. And so we're going to continue to engage with the Government of Israel on this question. We recognize the very real security needs that Israel has to ensuring that there can't be smuggling across the Philadelphi Corridor. We think that there are ways to address it that, and it's also important that we recognize the very real security imperatives to Israel in reaching a ceasefire that allows us to hopefully reach a diplomatic resolution to the situation on the Israeli-Lebanon border and hopefully helps us calm broader regional tensions, all of which are a threat to Israel's security."

Another spokesman for the U.S. State Department, Samuel Warberg, was interviewed at the same time by Sky News in Arabic and said that he could not reveal the efforts that he said were going on behind the scenes: "We cannot force our will on Israel and Hamas to accept the agreement. We are working to free all of the hostages," he said. He added that both Israel and Hamas do not agree to the agreement so far and that both sides are responsible for this. He also said that the U.S. believes that "Israel is able to defend itself against any attack even without its presence on the Philadelphi Corridor."

In the meantime, a senior Egyptian official harshly attacked Netanyahu for his statements regarding the Philadelphi Corridor - saying that this was a "message to Washington" that he refuses any offer of a deal and "cancels the efforts to release hostages and prisoners". The source, who was quoted by the Egyptian channel Al Qahera News, added: "The Prime Minister of Israel is spreading lies to cover up his failure in Gaza. Netanyahu, through his claims of arms smuggling from Egypt, is paving the way for the announcement of his security and political failure, failure to find the hostages and failure to achieve some kind of victory in Gaza and the West Bank. All parties are not satisfied with the continued failure of the Israeli prime minister to reach a cease-fire agreement."

9.04. 24 – We

Court seizes NIS 160 million from PA as part of bereaved families' lawsuit

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Court orders frozen funds to be seized by state following accusations Palestinian

Authority continues to fund and direct terror against Israelis

Gilad Cohen|09:11

The Jerusalem District Court on Wednesday issued a seizure order for NIS 160 million from funds intended for the Palestinian Authority (PA) as part of a lawsuit filed against it

by the families of victims of Hamas' October 7 attack. If the bereaved families win their lawsuit, the amount will be allocated for their compensation.

Dozens of bereaved families, including those who lost loved ones in the past year, filed a lawsuit against the PA in the Jerusalem District Court back in July demanding NIS 210 million from the authority.

The funds were seized under the 2018 Law on Freezing Revenues Designated for the Palestinian Authority which includes the Payments to Prisoners and Families of Terrorism Offenders clause.

According to the 2018 law, Israel's defense minister submits a report to the Security Cabinet at the end of each year detailing the total amount paid by the Palestinian Authority's Martyrs Fund to terrorists and their families in the previous year. The following year, an amount equal to 1/12 of the reported sum is frozen from the tax revenues Israel transfers to the PA each month.

Currently, NIS 2 billion is frozen in the state's treasury due to this law. The court has now decided to seize money from the fund and allocate it to the plaintiffs who sued the Palestinian Authority.

The lawsuit claims the Palestinian Authority initiates, supports and encourages terrorism against Israeli citizens and financially rewards terrorists through payments to them and their families. The lawsuit argues that the PA uses the "more blood equals more money" paradigm in these payments.

This is the first lawsuit by terror victims filed since the new Fund for Victims of Terror Law was passed in March. The law allows terror victims to sue those who fund terrorism and encourage attacks via payments to terrorists, granting NIS 10 million in compensation to families of those murdered in terrorist attacks and NIS 5 million to those injured.

The PA appealed against the law's constitutionality, but the appeal was dismissed in a highly contentious hearing. The plaintiffs included bereaved families whose relatives were murdered in recent terrorist attacks including infiltrations into settlements, bombings in major cities and the October 7 massacre, including the one at the Nova Music Festival.

The law, along with the shift in approach by Israeli authorities, gains additional significance when considering the vast sums of money seized by the IDF in Gaza and the West Bank which are used by Hamas and other terrorist organizations. Therefore, the law is seen as another step in the state's fight against terror financiers.

Attorneys Barak Kedem and Arie Arbus from the Arbus Kedem Zur law firm said in a statement, "The court's decision to seize significant sums from the Palestinian Authority is an important first step toward delivering terror financing funds to terror victims and a crucial contribution to the fight against terror."

9.04.24 – We

Terrorist leader's death sparks shifts in PA refugee camp dynamics

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Terrorist leader's death sparks shifts in Palestinian refugee camp dynamics

With over 150 homes damaged and 30% of residents leaving, some in Nur Shams welcome elimination of local terror leader, who, despite his symbolic status, caused harm; Palestinians believe Israel close to defeating terror groups, as calls grow for PA control
Elisha Ben Kimon|06:45

Five days have passed since the IDF concluded its latest operation in the Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm, during which several terrorists, including high-profile figures, were killed, and terror infrastructure was destroyed.

According to Israeli security assessments, the operation has been deemed effective, particularly after the elimination of Muhammad Jaber, also known as Abu Shujaa, who led the local terror network in Nur Shams. There now appears to be growing satisfaction within the camp.

Jaber, once seen as a symbol of resistance in the camp, had caused significant harm to its residents. Security officials have observed that, since his death, many in the refugee camp have expressed a desire to reduce hostilities between Israeli forces and local gunmen.

Discussions on Palestinian social media platforms indicate increasing opposition to terrorist activities within the camp, including the planting of explosives and the use of civilian structures for terror purposes.

Within Palestinian society, particularly in the refugee camps, there is a growing perception that the Israeli military is nearing victory over the terror groups in Nur Shams and Tulkarm. This has led to a sense of uncertainty among residents, with many hoping that the Palestinian Authority will regain control and restore governance in the camp.

On Friday, the Palestinians witnessed the extent of the damage inflicted on the camp during the Israeli operation. According to local sources, over 150 homes were damaged, at least 30 significantly. Following the operation, Palestinian media has focused on the widespread damage and the lack of essential supplies. Reports suggest that around 30% of the camp's residents have fled in recent months.

Israeli security officials have highlighted a stark contrast between the popularity of terrorists on social media, particularly in the refugee camps, and the relatively low level of support they receive from the people on the street. For terror organizations, social media plays a key role in glorifying terrorism, aiming to recruit young followers.

However, Abu Shujaa, who was killed last week, was a divisive figure in terms of support within the camp. Known for being relatively quiet, he often relied on spokespeople to deliver speeches at gatherings of armed terrorists.

The disparity between his social media clout and the situation on the ground was evident at his funeral in Tulkarm, which only around 200 people attended, including very few gunmen, likely due to fears of a confrontation with Israeli forces.

Jaber had been involved in numerous attacks, including the June 2023 killing of 67-year-old Amnon Mukhtar in Qalqilya. As the head of the local terror network, he commanded about 30 operatives. Last Wednesday evening, Israeli forces attempted to arrest him in Nur Shams, but the mission was aborted when it was discovered he was not at the target location.

Later that night, new intelligence revealed Jaber's whereabouts in a building near a mosque. Israeli forces surrounded the area, but Jaber refused to surrender and opened fire. The troops fired shoulder-launched missiles at the structure, and Jaber was eventually shot dead as he tried to flee. Two other terrorists were killed nearby, and Jaber's deputy later surrendered to Israeli authorities.

Also killed during the operation was Jibril Jibril, a 20-year-old from Qalqilya affiliated with Hamas' military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. He had been released from Israeli prison in a hostage exchange deal with the terror group in November and became a wanted man shortly after, following several shooting attacks.

9.04. 24 – We

At least 65 rockets in latest Hezbollah attack on Upper Galilee

9.04. 24 – We

At least 65 rockets in latest Hezbollah attack on North

A home in Kiryat Shmona was on fire after rockets hit the city; residents are warned to remain in or near shelters as the Lebanon-based terror group strikes Upper Galilee in response to an IDF drone strike

Yair Kraus|05:30

At least 65 rockets were fired at Israel's north on Wednesday, by the Hezbollah terror group. In Kiryat Shmona, rockets made direct hits on homes and started fires. Police and emergency teams rushed to the area to assist and assess the damages.

One house in the city was set on fire while fires broke out in other areas but no injuries were reported. Many of Kiryat Shmona's residents evacuated to safety away from the fighting when the war broke out in October. Although some returned, at least two thirds of the city remained deserted.

According to the Hezbollah-affiliated Al Mayadeen network, an Israeli drone carried out an attack on a target in south Lebanon and other media outlets reported on further strikes. Hezbollah rocket attack

When the rocket attack began, residents of Upper Galilee were instructed to remain in shelters. "Dear residents, according to the military guidelines we ask you to remain near shelters until we are notified differently," the Kiryat Shmona municipality said in a message to residents. Other municipalities in the area posted similar messages.

9.04. 24 – We

Execution, mass murder, mutilation, sexual crimes all in US indictment of Hamas

9.04. 24 – We

Execution, mass murder, mutilation, sexual crimes all in US indictment of Hamas
Seven atrocities - including execution of Nova festival-goers and abduction of Shiri Bibas and her young sons - are detailed in the 38-page document unsealed by US Attorney General Merrick Garland against six senior Hamas leaders, three killed and three still at large, including Yahya Sinwar

Daniel Edelson, New York|04:07

The systematic execution of Nova music festival goers, the abduction of Shani Louk's body and of Shiri Bibas and her two little boys, firing on an ambulance and abducting elderly Yafa Adar are among the atrocities detailed in the 38-page indictment against Hamas leaders for the October 7 massacre in southern Israel, announced on Tuesday by U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland.

Garland named Hamas' Yahya Sinwar, Ismail Haniyeh and Mohammed Deif, who have already been killed, and Khaled Meshaal, Ali Baraka and Marwan Issa, who are still at large, in the charges brought by the U.S. Department of Justice after the massacre on October 7.

The indictment unsealed on Tuesday by the Justice Department contains seven charges in total including: Conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization resulting in death; Conspiracy to provide material support for acts of terrorism resulting in death; Conspiracy to murder U.S. nationals; Conspiracy to bomb a place of public use resulting in death; Conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction resulting in death; Conspiracy to finance terrorism; Conspiracy to violate the international emergency economic powers act to finance terrorism.

The indictment details the chain of events, background on the Hamas organization and also the atrocities of the October 7 attack, including the massacre in the Nova music festival and the incursion into the communities along the Israel-Gaza border, where civilians, including American citizens, were murdered. It lists at least 43 U.S. citizens murdered and at least 10 missing or abducted.

"On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas committed its most violent, large-scale terrorist attack to date – the October 7 Hamas massacres. Hamas targeted civilian populations with a barrage of rockets, before waves of Hamas terrorists breached the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, infiltrated Israel, and launched attacks on civilians, by land, sea and air. Hamas sent thousands of armed fighters into southern Israel, where they carried out the massacres of over a thousand people and the kidnappings of more than 200 others," the DOJ said.

"Armed Hamas operatives attacked and shot civilians, including children, sometimes with machine guns and sometimes at point blank range, and weaponized sexual violence against Israeli women, including through rape and genital mutilation," according to the indictment.

The section of the indictment pertaining to the Nova music festival described how: "a group of more than 50 Hamas terrorists attacked the festival attendees with machine guns and other weapons. As attendees attempted to escape, Hamas terrorists methodically executed large numbers of them. Large numbers of festival attendees fled from the initial wave of rocket attacks into protective shelters located along a nearby major road. Hamas terrorists systemically assaulted the shelters with machine guns and grenades, killing both those still seeking refuge and those already inside, including multiple American citizens," the indictment read.

"In addition, Hamas terrorists took hostage an unknown number of victims. Videos and images of the attacks, including of individuals being taken hostage, were posted contemporaneously on social media through what appear to be accounts used by Hamas terrorists and through accounts belonging to Hamas' victims themselves, as Hamas terrorists had stolen victims' electronic devices and, using those devices, had taken over victims' social media accounts. In one such video that has been widely circulated, Hamas terrorists paraded an apparently unconscious and largely unclothed woman in the back of a pickup truck, while Hamas terrorists chanted "Allahu Akbar" ("God is great"). Approximately 260 victims have been identified as having been murdered by Hamas terrorists during the Re'im Music Festival attack, including multiple American citizens." It describes the Hamas assault on Kibbutz Be'eri where the terrorists went from house to house killing residents, including the family of Karmel Gat, who was abducted with her sister Rimon and was executed by the terrorists last week.

"Hamas terrorists kidnapped an entire family, including a grandmother, mother, father and three-year-old daughter, from their home in Be'eri. The grandmother and another adult female relative were separated from the mother, father and daughter, who were forced into a vehicle with four armed Hamas terrorists who proceeded to attempt to drive the three victims into Gaza. Shortly before the vehicle reached the Gaza border, the family managed to jump out of the vehicle. Hamas terrorists pursued them firing automatic weapons. The father and daughter managed to evade the attackers and eventually returned to safety, but the mother's whereabouts remain unknown. Hamas terrorists executed the grandmother, together with other older women from the kibbutz. One such victim, an American citizen, was executed after having been abducted from her home and bound by Hamas terrorists."

On Kibbutz Kfar Aza, the indictment reads: "On the morning of October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists broke through a wall of the community. Those terrorists then killed members of the kibbutz's volunteer security force, and spread out in all directions, killing residents and burning homes as they went. Images of deceased victims of the Hamas attack on Kfar Aza showed individuals with their hands bound, appearing to indicate that Hamas terrorists had restrained and then executed them, as well as showing children that Hamas terrorists had murdered in the kibbutz. Hamas terrorists took hostage multiple residents of the kibbutz, including at least one American. In one image that has been widely circulated, an elderly female resident of Kfar Aza is shown being transported into Gaza in a cart-like vehicle driven by a Hamas terrorist, while another terrorist behind the victim brandishes what appears to be an AK47-type machine gun and other terrorists are gathered behind the vehicle."

including Sufa, Kerem Shalom and Zikim.

"The charges unsealed today are just one part of our effort to target every aspect of Hamas' operations. These actions will not be our last," Garland said.

He said Hamas was assisted by the government of Iran and by Hezbollah in their effort to destroy Israel and murder civilians.

9.04. 24 – We

Substantial cuts to IDF reserve salaries proposed by Finance Ministry due to rising costs

9.04. 24 – We

Substantial cuts to IDF reservists' salaries proposed by Finance Ministry

Proposal aims to discard inflated reserve pay, and stipulates that a full reserve day will only be counted if it includes at least 8 hours of service; Finance Ministry estimates these measures will to save the state hundreds of millions of shekels and reduce reserve days by 25% to 33%

Yuval Sade|01:08

The Finance Ministry is advancing a dramatic change in the payment structure for IDF reservists, with the draft of its proposal expected to be discussed in the government soon, according to a report on Tuesday.

The proposal includes stopping inflated reserve pay, eliminating full payment for standby days, and counting a full reserve day only if it includes at least eight hours of service. The Finance Ministry estimates that these measures could save the state budget hundreds of millions of shekels and reduce reserve service days by 25% to 33%.

This proposal comes against the backdrop of the rising costs of reserve service to the state budget. The Defense and Finance ministries initially estimated the payment for reservists in 2024 to be around 20 billion shekels, but it is now expected to reach approximately 30 billion shekels. The Finance Ministry is pushing this decision partly due to allegations of poor manpower management in various IDF units, where there is reportedly a culture of abusing reserve service resources.

In recent months, Calcalist has highlighted the loss of control over the use of reserve service days in the IDF. Besides the enormous budgetary cost, the increased use of these days is leading to growing fatigue among the reservists. The Finance Ministry drafted the proposal independently, with the Defense Ministry receiving it only in recent days.

While this measure is expected to primarily affect soldiers serving in non-combat roles, it may face political challenges, especially in a reality where reservists in combat units will average around 200 reserve days this year. The Defense Ministry estimates that if Israel does not reach a resolution regarding the situation in Gaza and the north, reservists may need to perform an average of 100 reserve days next year as well.

The proposal's explanatory notes state that "economic challenges require fiscal discipline and the reduction of non-essential activities." The first clause demands that the IDF Chief

of Staff "reduce the phenomenon of reservists receiving compensation for days when they are not actually serving." This reduction will be achieved by counting only eight hours of service as a full reserve day, with four hours counted as half a day. Additionally, a standby day will be counted as a quarter of a reserve day, and the number of recovery days granted after service will be limited to a maximum of 10 days.

The proposal also suggests that the IDF chief of staff, or his representative, should provide weekly reports to the Finance Ministry regarding the scope of full reserve service, including a breakdown by unit and the distribution of service duration, as well as the scope of reservists receiving partial compensation. The explanatory notes for this clause state that it is being promoted because "there is a widespread phenomenon of compensation for reserve days even when the reservist is not actually serving. For example, in cases where reservists perform several reserve days in a week but receive compensation for an entire week. In these cases, the reservist receives full wage compensation from the state budget through the employer for days they did not actually serve."

The proposal also seeks to address issues within the National Insurance payment mechanism. In June, Calcalist revealed that reservists in roles that allowed them to work concurrently received inflated reimbursements, reaching up to 49,000 shekels per month, in addition to their regular salary. The proposal aims to change this by modifying the National Insurance reimbursement mechanism so that reserve pay will not be included in the calculation of the reservist's salary, thus preventing "inflation." Additionally, it proposes canceling the option to "carry over" wages, preventing reservists from requesting reimbursement for periods when their monthly salary was higher than their current wage.

Regarding reservists who are also public sector employees, the proposal suggests amending the State Service Regulations so that working during active reserve duty is permitted only in essential cases, with a cap of 40 hours. In "exceptional and special" cases exceeding 40 hours per month, approval would be required from the ministry's director-general and the Civil Service Commissioner. The proposal also suggests allowing work during recovery days granted to reservists after service. The proposed amendments would also apply to employees of government companies and local authorities.

9.03. 24 – Tu

IDF continue fight on West Bank labs for Improvised explosives and car bombs

9.03. 24 – Tu

Improvised explosives and car bombs: The fight against West Bank terrorists and their IEDs

More than 200 terror attacks with explosives were foiled this year, but the threat is growing and there are fears of further escalation fueled by Iran; The IDF and Shin Bet are conducting raids on refugee camps in the West Bank, tearing up roads where bombs have been planted, destroying labs and confiscating materials for bomb making

Elisha Ben Kimon | 16:29

Anyone familiar with intelligence reports or even just monitoring Palestinian social media wouldn't be surprised by the recent surge in explosive attacks across the West Bank. The Shin Bet identified this trend months ago, warning that the nature of attacks in the area was shifting, with the threat of explosives intensifying.

Even before the war erupted, the Shin Bet had flagged a shift in tactics within the West Bank – from the shooting attacks that characterized 2022 to a proliferation of explosives and IED (Improvised Explosive Device) attacks.

This shift is largely due to the large-scale smuggling of weapons across the eastern border and the influx of Iranian weapons and funds into the area. Security officials believe that forces operating in refugee camps may eventually encounter military-grade explosives, which are far more deadly than the improvised bombs currently being made in makeshift labs throughout the West Bank. So far, however, Israeli forces have yet to encounter such standard explosives.

“You can take two gas canisters, attach some wires, put them in a car – and you've got a car bomb. It's not complicated for the terrorists,” said a security official involved in IED-clearing operations in the northern West Bank. He noted that terrorists have also used children to transport materials needed to assemble these bombs.

The threat of explosives can be divided into two distinct, yet equally concerning, categories. The first involves the bombs encountered by IDF soldiers within refugee camps – pipe bombs, improvised explosives weighing tens of kilograms, bombs thrown at soldiers, and those buried in the ground. The IDF's Central Command is responding with aggressive operations deep within these camps, deploying engineering units with heavy equipment to clear paths, uncover IEDs, and neutralize them. Most of these explosives are intended to detonate along routes in Israeli communities, but the IDF's goal is to eliminate them within Palestinian areas before they reach Israel.

Criticism is mounting from the Palestinian side regarding the damage caused in these operations, with accusations that the IDF is deliberately targeting infrastructure, such as water and electricity, within the camps. However, it's important to note that IEDs have been found near sewage lines, electrical cables and other key infrastructure.

Despite the intelligence and heavy machinery, the IDF has also suffered casualties due to IEDs in these camps. For instance, Border Police officer Shai Carmi was killed by an explosive device in a military vehicle during an operation in Jenin in January, and Captain Alon Skagi, a sniper platoon commander in the Haruv Reconnaissance Unit, was killed by an IED during an arrest operation in Jenin in June.

The second category of the explosive threat involves those devices that make it out of the camps and into Israeli communities, roads and cities. A look back over the past few months reveals the full picture – what begins in the West Bank often reaches deep into Israel. Even before the war, IED attacks began to surface in the West Bank, a trend that has escalated since October 7.

A month into the war, IDF soldier Elchanan Klein was killed in a shooting attack near the West Bank settlement of Einav. The attackers rigged the car they fled in with explosives, which detonated on the soldiers pursuing them, injuring several. In February and March, numerous IED attacks occurred on the road leading to the settlement of Homesh in the northern West Bank, injuring several soldiers, with some students at the local yeshiva narrowly escaping harm. In April, a car bomb was defused on Route 55 after the attacker abandoned the vehicle following a shooting.

The recent surge in car bombings and other explosive attacks, including a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, underscores the deadly potential of these improvised devices. These IEDs, though made with dual-use materials like fertilizer and glycerin – normally used for civilian purposes like agriculture – can cause significant destruction and loss of life.

The IDF's Central Command has launched a campaign against these materials, marking their seizure as a key objective. The military has already carried out several operations targeting these substances, which are used by terrorist organizations to make explosives. On Monday night, for example, soldiers from the 7014th Battalion seized around 30 sacks of fertilizer and detained several suspects in the Etzion bloc.

The greatest concern now is the possibility of a large-scale attack involving military-grade explosives smuggled through the eastern border or by other means. The Shin Bet and IDF have been working for months to dismantle the IED infrastructure, destroy bomb-making sites, and arrest the terrorist networks responsible for manufacturing, transporting and detonating these devices.

9.03. 24 – Tu

Netanyahu instructs IDF general Goren to oversee aid in Gaza & secure the border

9.03. 24 – Tu

Netanyahu instructs IDF to prepare to distribute humanitarian aid in Gaza

Hoping to curb international pressure on Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to task the defense establishment with humanitarian aid distribution instead of UN organizations; The IDF is reluctant to take on this mission

Itamar Eichner | 15:35

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructed the defense establishment to prepare to distribute humanitarian aid in Gaza, instead of the international organizations on the ground. The IDF has raised its concerns about the idea, which is intended to curb international pressure against Israel.

In recent months, the Prime Minister's Office examined a series of options to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. One of the possible solutions was to appoint a general to take charge of the humanitarian issue in Gaza for the distribution of humanitarian aid. Either way, this is a very complex decision and not necessarily applicable.

In a series of recent discussions, the defense establishment is trying to find a solution for the humanitarian aid it brings to Gaza every day, which is made up mainly of food and fuel. The government has approved tons of humanitarian aid to be sent to Gaza and it eventually reaches Hamas, which maintains control in Gaza, helping to feed and equip the terror group for a prolonged war.

Appointing an IDF general to oversee the distribution of humanitarian aid in Gaza means that Israel's responsibility in the Gaza Strip will continue and perhaps expand over the next few years. Brigadier General Elad Goren came up through the ranks in Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) and will now be the first IDF officer to fill that role in Gaza, previously considered a civilian administration position. His position will be similar to that of COGAT in the West Bank, which is currently held by Major General Hisham Ibrahim.

Goren will handle daily tactical issues such as the delivery of humanitarian aid in Gaza, repairing local infrastructure destroyed in the war, and maintaining contact with foreign aid organizations. He is expected to lead long-term civilian strategic initiatives to preserve Israel's legitimacy to continue fighting in Gaza, without being hindered by a humanitarian crisis or famine.

If the hostage deal is finalized and they can return home, the general is also expected to play a central role in returning Gazan civilians to their homes. Returning more than a million displaced people home, while manning strategic locations such as the Netzerim Corridor, which divides northern Gaza from southern Gaza, is a serious responsibility. Another possible solution to be implemented is to return international organizations to secure the Israel-Gaza border crossings as was done until Israel's disengagement from Gaza in 2005, with a local Palestinian force near the Philadelphi axis.

9.03. 24 – Tu

UK cited aid to Gaza, denial of Red Cross detainee visits, mistreatment of detainees

9.03. 24 – Tu

Behind the UK's decision to suspend some arms shipments to Israel

London officials cited two main reasons for their decision: Israel's failure to provide enough humanitarian aid to Gaza residents and its denial of visits to Nukhba terrorists in prison; However, British officials said that if these issues are addressed, the suspended arms export licenses could be reinstated

Itamar Eichner | 13:05

The day after the UK announced the suspension of 30 arms export licenses to Israel, new details have emerged about the behind-the-scenes process leading to the decision. Ultimately the British move, though disappointing, is seen as the lesser evil and could have been far more severe.

The UK is a relatively minor arms supplier to Israel, accounting for less than 1% of Israel's total arms imports. Each year, the UK approves around 350 arms licenses for defense companies, with 90 of those for the IDF. The suspension of 30 licenses represents just 8% of the total.

British officials emphasize that this decision will not affect Israel's ability to defend itself – a point confirmed by Israeli sources, who acknowledge that while the decision sends a negative signal to Israel's enemies, it won't cause operational harm to the IDF. The suspended licenses involve parts for F-16 fighter jets, drones, naval systems and targeting equipment. Israel can easily source these parts from other countries.

So, what prompted the UK to make this decision? British authorities concluded there was a risk that the arms they supply to Israel could be used in ways that violate international humanitarian law, imposing a legal obligation on them to halt sales.

The British government's review focused on three key concerns:

Humanitarian access: The UK determined that Israel, as the occupying power, failed to fully ensure the delivery of essential humanitarian aid to Gaza. They believe Israel could have done more to facilitate the access and distribution of humanitarian assistance and recommended that Israel establish a more efficient system to ensure safe entry of aid.

Detainee rights: The British government raised concerns over Israel's denial of Red Cross visits to detainees, including those captured from Hamas' elite Nukhba unit. Reports of alleged mistreatment of detainees were also flagged, with the UK noting that the volume and consistency of these claims suggested some instances of abuse. Although Israel has opened investigations, the UK remains skeptical, partly because Israel continues to block access to detention sites for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). A proposal to allow visits by a retired Israeli judge and two foreign observers is currently being discussed, despite opposition from National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

Civilian casualties in Gaza: Despite the high number of civilian casualties, the UK could not conclusively determine whether Israel violated international law during its military operations in Gaza. The difficulty in obtaining specific, sensitive information from Israel, such as target details and measures taken to avoid civilian harm, complicated the investigation. Additionally, credible reports indicated that Hamas had embedded itself within the civilian population, using civilian infrastructure. As a result, the UK found insufficient evidence to accuse Israel of breaching international law in its Gaza operations. Had the UK concluded that Israel violated international humanitarian law, the suspension could have escalated to a full arms embargo. The British government's review relied on a wide range of sources, including reports from NGOs, media coverage, UN statements and discussions between the UK's attorney general and Israeli counterparts.

In the end, the UK determined there was a clear risk that certain items, if sold to Israel, could be used to commit or facilitate serious breaches of international humanitarian law. Could the licenses be reinstated?

British officials say it's possible. The review process is ongoing, and if Israel improves humanitarian access and allows visits to detainees, the licenses could be restored.

Senior British officials stressed that there is no change in the UK's full support for Israel's right to self-defense. "We sent aircraft to protect Israel from the Iranian attack on

April 14, and publicly stated that **if Iran attacks again, we will protect Israel**. That commitment remains unchanged," an official said.

"After a rigorous process in line with the UK's legal obligations, the government concluded there is a clear risk that military **exports to Israel**, used in operations in Gaza, could be involved in serious violations of international humanitarian law. Continuing such exports would be **inconsistent with our strategic export licensing criteria**," UK Business Secretary **Jonathan Reynolds**, who **signed off on the license suspensions**, said. "While Israel has the capability to comply with international humanitarian law, and its senior officials have affirmed their commitment to do so, significant doubts remain about their track record," Reynolds added. "As a result, I was **advised** that there is a clear risk that some UK exports to Israel **could be used to** commit or **facilitate** serious **violations** of international humanitarian law."

"The **government condemned Hamas' barbaric attack** on October 7 and supports Israel's right to defend itself in line with international law. This is not a blanket ban but is **targeted at specific licenses that could be used in Gaza** operations. The evaluation of Israel's commitment to international humanitarian law will continue, particularly **regarding the provision of food and medical** supplies to civilians in Gaza and the **treatment of detainees**, and could change over time to allow for the reinstatement of these licenses."

The UK emphasizes there is **no comparison between Hamas terrorists and Israel's democratic government**. The UK remains committed to **supporting Israel's self-defense**, but to issue arms export licenses, it **must assess Israel's compliance** with international humanitarian law, **despite the abhorrence of Hamas' tactics and ideology**.

The UK decided to exempt spare parts for F-35 fighter jets from the suspension, **citing contractual obligations and commitments to the U.S.**

"It is not currently possible to suspend F-35 component licenses for Israel without **impacting the entire global F-35 program**, including its **broader** strategic role in **NATO** and our **support for Ukraine**. This government is unwavering in its commitment to security, not just for this country, but for our allies around the world, especially at a time of global insecurity and increased volatility," according to Reynolds.

Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, **Knesset lawmaker Yuli Edelstein**, urged Israel to **"develop a better and more comprehensive domestic capability to produce and develop weapons**. The success of companies like Israel Aerospace Industries, Elbit, Rafael and others demonstrates not only the creativity and innovation **Israel can achieve** but also proves a **clear** economic **benefit**."

9.03. 24 – Tu

Netanyahu criticizes UK decision to halt 30 arms exports, says it will encourage Hamas

9.03. 24 – Tu

Netanyahu criticizes UK's decision to halt arms exports, says it will 'encourage Hamas'

The UK's suspension of 30 arms licenses to Israel, following Hamas' execution of Israeli hostages, has drawn ire from Netanyahu, who insists Israel's effort to destroy Hamas is akin to 'Britain's heroic stance against the Nazis'

Itamar Eichner|09:04

In a move that drew sharp criticism, the British government announced the suspension of 30 arms licenses to Israel, a decision that came on the heels of a brutal act by Hamas, which executed six Israeli hostages. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took to his English-language account on the social media platform X to voice his disapproval.

"This disgraceful decision will not change Israel's determination to defeat Hamas, a terrorist organization that brutally murdered 1,200 people on October 7, including 14 British citizens," Netanyahu said in the post.

"Hamas still holds more than 100 hostages, including 5 British citizens. Instead of standing with Israel, a democracy defending itself from barbarism, the UK's misguided decision will only encourage Hamas. Israel is conducting a just war using moral means, taking unprecedented steps to avoid harming civilians and fully operating according to international law," Netanyahu also said in the post.

His remarks invoked a historical parallel. "Just as Britain's heroic stance against the Nazis is seen today as essential in protecting our shared culture, history will similarly judge Israel's stand against Hamas and Iran's terror axis. With or without British arms, Israel will win this war and secure our shared future," according to the prime minister. In contrast, UK's Defense Secretary John Healy minimized the impact of the suspension. "The suspension of licenses will have no real impact on Israel's security," he said. Healy affirmed Britain's unwavering support, adding: "We remain fully committed to our commitment to defend Israel."

The announcement of the suspension of the arms licenses came from British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, who clarified that London would halt around 30 out of the approximately 350 arms export licenses to Israel. He emphasized that this move did not amount to an arms embargo. The Labor government under Keir Starmer decided on this course of action following discussions held by the UK's new chief prosecutor in Israel. The suspension appeared to target mainly offensive weapons rather than defensive ones. This unusual step, which Israel had been dreading and succeeded in delaying slightly, follows another controversial action that has irked Israel – the withdrawal of its objection to a request by Karim Khan, the chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, to issue arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

9.02. 24 – Mo

After 3 cases of Polio, 72,000 Gaza kids vaccinated in first day of WHO campaign

9.02. 24 – Mo

Over 72,000 Gaza kids vaccinated against polio in first day of campaign
The UN and WHO hope to vaccinate nearly 650,000 Gazan children in the operation's first phase; IDF agrees to pauses in fighting in areas where efforts are focused
News Agencies, Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi|07:59

A large-scale polio vaccination campaign began in the Gaza Strip on Sunday. The Palestinian Health Ministry, controlled by Hamas, reported that 72,600 children were vaccinated on the operation's first day. The UN aims to vaccinate 640,000 children in the first phase.

The vaccination campaign is being held in central Gaza until Wednesday, after which it will continue to the northern and southern parts of the strip.

Israeli sources said the vaccination campaign will continue until September 9, for eight hours each day. To facilitate the campaign, the IDF agreed to temporary humanitarian pauses in the areas where the campaign will focus at each stage, between 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The campaign is divided into three stages, each lasting three days, with the option of extending each stage by an additional day. The campaign will be in central Gaza on Tuesday, then move to the south and finally reach the north. "A situation assessment will be conducted regarding the area at the end of each regional vaccination campaign," the IDF said in a statement.

Therefore, the brief cease-fire in central Gaza ended Sunday afternoon, according to an Israeli statement. The Prime Minister's Office clarified over the weekend that "reports of a general cease-fire to allow polio vaccinations in Gaza are false."

"Israel will only allow a humanitarian corridor for the vaccination teams to pass through and designated safe areas will be established for a few hours to administer the vaccines. Israel considers it important to prevent a polio outbreak in the Gaza Strip, including to avoid the spread of epidemics in the entire region," the statement read.

The vaccination campaign's goal, led by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and UNRWA, is to vaccinate 640,000 children under the age of 10 across the Gaza Strip both inside and outside the humanitarian zones in the Palestinian enclave. Each child will receive two drops in the first dose, and another large-scale vaccination campaign will be needed to give them a second dose four weeks later. A total of 1.3 million vaccines (administered in oral drops) have already been transferred via the Kerem Shalom crossing to a storage facility in the Strip, where they're kept refrigerated, and another shipment of 400,000 additional doses is expected to arrive in the coming days.

According to Gaza's Health Ministry, the vaccinations are being administered at 160 different locations across the Gaza Strip, including hospitals and schools. Most of these sites are in the Khan Younis area in the southern part of the Strip and in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of refugees are currently located and the number of children is the highest. UNICEF noted the vaccines will be transported to the various locations by over 2,000 volunteers.

WHO reported the first case of a type 2 polio patient in the Gaza Strip in 25 years last week. A 10-month-old baby was left paralyzed from the lower part of his left leg as a result of the virus.

Although his condition is stable now, the case raises significant concern given the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. The WHO's statement came a week after the Gaza Health Ministry reported the case. It was also reported two additional Palestinians in Gaza may have contracted the virus.

9.02. 24 – Mo

Protests for hostage deal continue as court orders end to labor strike in Tel Aviv

9.02. 24 – Mo

Protests for hostage deal continue as court orders end to labor strike

Demonstrators block roads and intersections in Tel Aviv and some other areas of the country; Long lines, baggage piles up at Ben Gurion airport; Bereaved and hostage families from Gvura and Tikva forums march in Jerusalem calling strike victory for Sinwar

ynet correspondents|07:42

Thousands protested beginning Monday morning in a number of locations throughout the country and blocked intersections and roads, following the murder of the six hostages whose bodies were rescued by the IDF and returned to Israel, at the same time as a general strike announced by Histadrut Chairman Arnon Bar David kicked off. Protesters briefly blocked the heavily trafficked Ayalon South highway near the HaShalom Interchange, and after they left, they went down to block the road in the northern direction and lit flares.

Demonstrations and blockades were also recorded at intersections on Route 4, as well as in Rehovot, Herzliya, Jerusalem, Beer Sheva, the Kfar Yarok interchange, Namir-Rokach intersection in Tel Aviv, Modi'in, Hod Hasharon and the Matam intersection in Haifa and called for a hostage deal. At the same time, there were significant disruptions and delays in Ben Gurion airport, where long lines and luggage piled up in the check-in area were recorded. Although departures were supposed to return at 10:00 a.m., at the end of a two-hour suspension of operations, they had not yet returned by mid-afternoon, with the exception of a few flights that were not suspended.

On the Ayalon, a confrontation developed between the protesters and a woman who opposed the protesters. "My son is fighting in Gaza," she said. "He is fighting to save the hostages, he is not lying here and doing nothing. You are not doing anything, just shouting."

In the meantime, the Tel Aviv-Yafo Labor Court located in Bat Yam ruled early in the afternoon that the general strike must end by 2:30 p.m., three and a half hours earlier than planned. "After hearing the parties' positions and reviewing the materials submitted to the

case, we hereby grant a **temporary injunction** against the announced strike, in such a way that the strike will end today at 2:30 p.m.," according to the decision.

Court president Judge Hadas Yahlom, added: "The strike is political, **there is no connection between the killing of the hostages and the economy.**"

Petitions also were submitted by the state as well as the Tikva Forum and the G'vura Forum calling for an end to the strike. They claimed that the strike was an "invalid and anti-democratic decision." **They called the strike a "death sentence for the hostages** that remain alive," and a "reward for Sinwar."

As part of the series of protest events, hundreds of people came to protest near the Kirya defense headquarters in Tel Aviv, on Begin Road. **The demonstrators waved Israeli flags** and yellow flags associated with the struggle for the release of the hostages, and carried signs with their pictures.

Long lines and delays at Ben Gurion airport

With the **exception of about seven flights that were not suspended**, most of them long-haul flights to the U.S., some of which have already taken off, most of flights had not taken off by mid-afternoon. The check-in stations opened and closed, mainly to allow passengers to continue into duty free; the luggage conveyors are were activated intermittently, as well as the El Al counters, leading to long lines.

Reut and Liat from Haifa and Eilat said that they were flying to India, Reut on a one-way ticket and Liat for a month. "We are scheduled to fly with Air Uzbekistan at 1:30 p.m. Right now the flight is on time. I'm in favor of bringing them (the hostages) home, I don't know if there's a **strike or not, but we're all already helpless** and it's a cry of helplessness. I don't know if it will help or not and what else can be done," they said.

Nitzan, 26, from Tel Aviv, said that she is flying to Thailand for a month and a half. Her flight was scheduled to take off at 2:45 p.m. "I arrived with friends and they were on a different flight, so I took a ride with them and said I would arrive early with everything that is happening. The strike is necessary, it sucks for me but it is important," she said. "I am flying on Etihad with a connection in Abu Dhabi. I am determined, I will come. I hope I won't be late, but I will come."

9.02. 24 – Mo

While extremists protest against conscription, more Haredim are joining the IDF

9.02. 24 – Mo

While extremists protest against conscription, more Haredim are joining the IDF
Ultra-Orthodox extremists protest near enlistment office against Haredi conscription, calling it a **threat to Torah and Judaism**; At the same time, many are enlisting: 'it was important for me to contribute'

Shilo Freid|06:42

"Torah and Judaism in the Holy Land are on the brink of annihilation," chanted dozens of ultra-Orthodox extremists on Monday morning who were staging a protest near a

recruitment office, where Haredi recruits, summoned for their initial military call-up, were expected to arrive. Protesters, comprising ultra-Orthodox extremists from the Haredi community and the Jerusalem faction, took to the streets and attempted to reach the recruitment office but were blocked by police. Meanwhile, buses carrying additional protesters traveled from Beit Shemesh and Jerusalem.

Approximately 200 ultra-Orthodox recruits, set to serve in combat and intelligence roles tailored for them, were expected to arrive. Protesters aimed to block their entry. Flyers calling for the protest claimed: "Jewish souls are being led to secular destruction, which is worse than death." They also warned: "The fate of all Torah and Judaism in the Holy Land is at risk of annihilation due to this terrible decree."

The IDF prepared for the protests by directing recruits to an alternative location, where dedicated buses awaited to transport them to the recruitment office. Among recruits, about 150 young ultra-Orthodox men completed a training course in preparation for enlistment through a project that recruits Haredim for regular military service. This initiative was launched last November by Haredi activists, including Major (Res.) Moshe Turgeman, CEO of the Future of Israel association, and is supported by IDF and the Jerusalem Municipality. It is currently managed by Major (Res.) Moti Kaminstein, a former Arrow Company commander in the 202nd Paratrooper Battalion. Elia Aharon, a resident of Beit Shemesh who was scheduled to enlist Monday, pursued professional training in recent years and will join the Intelligence Corps. "My brother studies in a strictly ultra-Orthodox yeshiva, and most of my friends don't enlist, but it was important for me to contribute to the country's security," he told Ynet. Recently, warnings against military enlistment have circulated in the ultra-Orthodox media, including alleged testimonies of harm to the service conditions of Haredi recruits. However, Elia remains unfazed. "I believe someone in a place where not everyone is ultra-Orthodox actually grows stronger. They strive to maintain their lifestyle and beliefs. There are also tracks specifically for Haredim, and everyone can choose to serve where it suits them," he said.

Yitzhak from Beit Shemesh also decided to enlist. "I've heard many say, 'Those who don't study should enlist,' so I decided that it's not enough to just say it. If I'm not studying, I should actually enlist. My family is very supportive of my decision, but there might be situations where I can't come home in uniform. I'll request an exemption and won't dress like a soldier in the neighborhood to avoid causing issues for my family," he said.

Yosef Twito, who joined the IDF after studying at a recognized yeshiva in Jerusalem, said that the decision to enlist "wasn't simple, but the support gave me the strength to do it. The staff provided my friends and me with support and assistance throughout the process – offering a general introduction to the army, reducing the fear of the 'unknown,' and helping with the recruitment process, technical details and even physical endurance. Ultimately, they provide everything a Haredi youth wants and needs to enlist in the IDF. I'm excited about enlisting today and look forward to contributing to the defense of the state and the people."

Kaminstein, the program manager, is proud of the new recruits. "Enlistment day marks the culmination of a significant process for these young men who underwent mental and

physical training. The ultra-Orthodox public should look at these young men with admiration for choosing to contribute to the defense of the state." Turgeman said it was important to work with the IDF to bring them in to military service. "We believe that the right way to integrate ultra-Orthodox youth into IDF is by providing tools and assistance to recruits. We see IDF and the security system as full partners in this important endeavor and thank the army commanders for the professional and ethical path we are taking together," he said.

9.02. 24 – Mo

Holon high school, new study program, Iran is topic and the teachers are ex-Shin Bet

9.02. 24 – Mo

Iran is topic of new study program in Holon high school, and the teachers are ex-Shin Bet
The major studies program includes 15 students and a range of former security experts from the Shin Bet, Mossad and Intelligence Unit 8200 to serve as instructors
Shai Segev|02:06

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, "Black Friday," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's policies, and the demographic relationship between Muslim Shiites and Sunnis are just a few of the topics that will be explored in the new Iran studies program launched this school year at Navon High School in Holon.

Fifteen students accepted into the program will also study the Persian language and delve into Iranian culture. Additionally, they will gain a deep understanding of Israeli security and intelligence topics, including intelligence gathering, identifying threats, counterterrorism and source evaluation.

Students in Israeli high schools are required to have a major course of studies, and are tested extensively on it.

Shin Bet and Mossad in the classroom

The Iran Studies program, also known as Security and Research (SR), will begin this school year at the Navon Gymnasium in Kiryat Yitzhak Rabin, making it one of the most relevant and innovative programs today.

Etty Avoda Kazula, the principal of the six-year school, explains that, together with the program coordinator Shai Shoshani, they managed to recruit a range of former security experts - including from the Shin Bet, Mossad and Unit 8200 - to serve as instructors.

"The program is designed for outstanding students. They will study information and data analysis, intelligence gathering, and even the Persian language," she explained.

"This won't be like learning English or French in school. We're teaching 60% of the language and 40% of the culture," she added.

Who can join the program?

"This is not an easy road. We identified a select group of 15 students who are up to the challenge. They must have a high English level (Persian is closely linked to English), be enrolled in 4 or preferably 5 units of mathematics, have unique analytical thinking skills, the ability to analyze situations and presence in front of an audience.

"We want the students to graduate with a comprehensive set of tools. For us, the program is a flagship one which will ultimately benefit the students."

Who will teach in the program?

"We have a teacher from within the school who will teach information and intelligence, another teacher who works with the Defense Ministry and IDF and teaches Persian, and someone else from Israel's intelligence community. We'll provide regular and guest lecturers from the Shin Bet, Mossad and intelligence community."

Guy Konax, Shani Kaner, Hillel Rafaeli and Rotem Ben Tov, four of the program's students, shared their reasons for choosing this field and their aspirations.

"Security and intelligence have always interested me. I really love researching and learning new things, and I felt that this program would fill that gap for me in school," Kaner said. "I want to learn new skills and expand my thinking to new horizons, and the program I chose meets that need. On top that, I really enjoy discovering new cultures and learning foreign languages, so this is perfect for me."

Konax is also interested in the field of intelligence, and his curiosity about intelligence grew even more amid the war. "I want to focus on the field," he said. "This program provides the opportunity to develop my abilities, expand my knowledge and ultimately make an impact and contribute to the country through the critical role of intelligence, which we've seen play a significant part in wartime and especially in the past month." "It's a very unique field and I'm looking forward to the school year starting so we can begin learning and exploring the topic," Ben Tov added.

9.01. 24 – Su

Thousands in Israel protest for hostage deal; bereaved families refuse a Sinwar victory

9.01. 24 – Su

Tens of thousands of Israelis protest for cease-fire deal in response to 6 dead hostages
Many municipalities say they will not participate in general strike called to draw attention to call for cease-fire deal

Ynet, News Agencies|13:04

Tens of thousands of Israelis surged into the streets in some large cities throughout the country Sunday night a day after the bodies of six more hostages were rescued from Gaza, chanting "Now! Now!" as they demanded that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reach a cease-fire deal with Hamas to bring the remaining captives home.

The Tikva Forum of hostage families, which formed as an alternative to the Hostages and Missing Families Forum over conflicting ideas about the best course of action, on Sunday called for an end to negotiations aimed at achieving a cease-fire and hostage release deal

with Hamas. "Our hearts along with all of Israel are torn by the difficult news. We hug the dear families," said the group. "Tonight we got another reminder of who is the bitter enemy we are fighting. Murderers and rapists of the lowest kind. Human animals. In these difficult moments, we strengthen the heroic IDF soldiers who give their lives to rescue the hostages."

Israel's largest trade union, the Histadrut, also pressured the government by calling a general strike for Monday. The strike aims to shut down or disrupt major sectors of the economy, including banking, health care and the country's main airport. Several municipal authorities and cities announced Sunday evening that they will not take part in the strike announced by Histadrut chairman Arnon Bar David for Monday. Among those that say they will not strike are: Jerusalem, Ashdod, Ramla, Holon, Dimona, Petah Tikva, Safed, Kiryat Yam, Ariel, Kiryat Gat, Mitzpe Ramon and Bnei Brak.

The protesters filled the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, though in parts of the country streets and highways were clear. Many protesters blame Netanyahu for failing to reach a cease-fire during nearly 11 months of war as negotiations have dragged on for months. Israel's army has acknowledged the difficulty of rescuing dozens of remaining hostages and said a deal is the only way to bring a large-scale return.

"I'm crying the cry of humanity," said one protester who gave his name as Amos as thousands, some of them weeping, gathered outside Netanyahu's office in Jerusalem. Also on Sunday, a group of Israelis demonstrated for the release of the hostages in front of the White House in Washington. The protesters called for the signing of an immediate deal. Some pro-Palestinian protesters mounted a counter demonstration.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, representing some of the hostage families, has demanded a "complete halt of the country" to push for a cease-fire and hostage release. "Were it not for the delays, sabotage and excuses, those whose deaths we learned about this morning would likely still be alive," it said in a statement.

The Tikva Forum said that the general strike called in response to the murder of the six hostages a "death sentence for the hostages that remain alive," and a "reward for Sinwar," and urged the public not to comply.

Police in Jerusalem arrested five demonstrators during a protest. "The mobs arrived at the entrance to the city near the Strings Bridge, where they violated the public order while blocking the travel lanes at the entrance and the main exit from the city and sprayed graffiti on a police vehicle," a spokeswoman said. The suspects were arrested for disorderly conduct and violence which included, among other things, spraying graffiti and attacking a police officer.

Meanwhile, bereaved family members from the Gvura (Hero's) Forum will march on Monday in Jerusalem to the Knesset to call on the prime minister and government ministers to not give in to Hamas' demands and to not give Sinwar a victory.

9.01. 24 – Su

US pressure to cease-fire deal; hostage murders prove Hamas does not want a deal

9.01. 24 – Su

Pressure from US to achieve hostage-cease-fire deal has intensified, senior official says
Both Hamas and the mediator, Egypt, are opposed to Israeli control of Philadelphia, but some compromise could be found that will allow each side to say that its position has been accepted; At the same time, the majority of the Israeli public is still opposed to a withdrawal that would 'harm the sense of security,' another official says
Moran Azulay|09:49

A senior official in the government who participated in the sensitive meetings regarding the Philadelphia Corridor, explained Sunday that the location of the bodies of the six hostages who were recently murdered may change the equation for cease-fire and hostage exchange deal as outlined in the political-security cabinet on Thursday.

"The great U.S. pressure that was there has intensified many times over. There is a slow understanding that is seeping in that there will probably be no choice but to pursue a deal," said the senior official.

However, it is still unclear whether there is a possibility for Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's call to immediately convene the cabinet and reverse the decision that was made under which Israel will remain in any and scenario control the Philadelphia Corridor in the southern Gaza Strip. Gallant was the only one minister who opposed the cabinet's decision. After that tense and yelling discussion between him and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday night, two days before the discovery of the six dead hostages, Gallant claimed that it was a choice between the Philadelphia Corridor and the return of the hostages.

Despite the assessment that the tide is now tipping in the direction of a deal, another senior official said that opinions in the cabinet are still divided, because in their opinion the Israeli public refuses to give up on the Philadelphia Corridor. Such a concession, he believes, "will once again constitute the same injury to the sense of security and not only to the security of the state." Therefore, claims the Likud Party of of the prime minister, Gallant may be faced with a choice whether to align himself with the opinion of the majority - or resign.

Although both Hamas and a mediator, Egypt, are strongly opposed to Israeli control of Philadelphia, it is possible that some compromise will be found that will allow each side to say that its position has been accepted.

As part of the debate that became public, Gallant wrote Sunday: "The political-security cabinet must convene immediately and reverse the decision made on Thursday. It is too late for the hostages who were murdered in cold blood. We must return home the hostages who remain in the captivity of Hamas."

Cabinet member Bezalel Smotrich, a government minister, replied that "Hamas murdered our hostages in cold blood precisely to make us surrender and accept its demands and allow it to survive and restore its capabilities and attack Israel again as part of the Iranian annihilation plan. The cabinet will not allow a surrender deal that neglects Israel's security, but will instruct the IDF and the security establishment to exact heavier prices

from Hamas and those who give it shelter and cover, and will intensify the war until its destruction and the return of the hostages. This morning the Gaza Strip must shrink. The IDF forces should move 2 km inland from the current border and clear everything in their way."

Netanyahu himself, after a few hours of silence, said in a recorded statement: "Our efforts to free our hostages are continuing constantly. Since December, Hamas has refused to hold genuine negotiations. Three months ago, on May 27, Israel agreed to a hostage release deal with full backing from the US. Hamas refused. Even after the U.S. updated the deal framework on August 16 – we agreed, and Hamas again refused. In recent days, as Israel has been holding intensive negotiations with the mediator in a supreme effort to reach a deal, Hamas is continuing to steadfastly refuse all proposals. Even worse, at the exact same time, it murdered six of our hostages. Whoever murders hostages – does not want a deal."

9.01. 24 – Su

In a 65-foot-deep tunnel in Rafah, hostages found recently executed by captors

9.01. 24 – Su

In a 65-foot-deep tunnel in Rafah, hostages found executed by captors

Forces had no direct confrontation with Hamas terrorists who killed hostages; 'The IDF and security forces are doing everything possible to bring all hostages home as quickly as possible. This news shakes us all,' says army spokesperson Hagari Yoav Zitun|02:40

Israeli forces discovered the bodies of six hostages in a 65-foot-deep tunnel in Rafah, approximately a kilometer from where hostage Farhan Alkadi was recently freed. The IDF had no precise intelligence on the hostages' location in recent months but knew there were captives in the sector, leading to a gradual and cautious operation in Rafah since the ground offensive began.

There was no direct confrontation with the Hamas terrorists who killed the hostages, as they had fled the scene. It is possible they were killed in the ongoing above-ground fighting in the sector. Once the bodies were found, they were brought to the Israeli border, where police and military rabbinical teams confirmed their identities at 4 a.m.

IDF Spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari also announced on Sunday that troops "have located and recovered the bodies of Carmel Gat, Eden Yerushalmi, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Alexander Lobanov, Almog Sarusi and Sgt. 1st Class Ori Danino. They were kidnapped on October 7 and murdered by Hamas terrorists in Gaza. After an identification process conducted by the National Center of Forensic Medicine, the Israel Police, and the Military Rabbinate, the Hostage Recovery Team in the IDF's Personnel Directorate notified the families. The IDF and security forces are doing everything possible to bring all hostages home as quickly as possible. Words cannot describe the suffering endured by these hostages since October 7. This news shakes us all."

When asked by Ynet whether the discovery of the bodies might influence the IDF's recommendation to pursue a deal, the spokesperson responded, "In closed rooms, the political leadership makes decisions, and we will implement them."

It is believed that this is the second instance where Hamas terrorists have killed hostages and fled, as signs of gunfire were also found on the bodies of other hostages previously returned to Israel for burial.

Carmel Gat was kidnapped from Kibbutz Be'eri, while the others were taken from the Nova music festival. Danino was an off-duty soldier attending the festival. An Israeli official familiar with the details of the negotiations commented on the discovery of the bodies, saying, "Three of them were on a list that Hamas had agreed to return. In fact, it could have been approved on July 2. Hersh was agreed upon because he was wounded, as were Carmel and Eden."

9.01. 24 – Su

6 hostage bodies recovered today in tunnels under Rafah, one an Israeli-American

9.01. 24 – Su

'Hamas must be eliminated': Biden, Harris lament murder of Israeli-American hostage
US president addresses news of Hersh Goldberg-Polin's body being retrieved from Gaza and stresses the importance of securing a hostage deal as soon as possible

Daniel Edelson, New York|02:19

U.S. President Joe Biden addressed on Sunday the IDF's report confirming six hostages including Hersh Goldberg-Polin, who was an American citizen, were murdered by Hamas terrorists and their bodies recovered by troops near Rafah.

"I am devastated and outraged," he said. "Make no mistake, Hamas leaders will pay for these crimes. And we will keep working around the clock for a deal to secure the release of the remaining hostages."

"I am heartbroken by the news of his death," Biden added. "Hersh was among the innocents brutally attacked while attending a music festival for peace in Israel on October 7. He lost his arm helping friends and strangers during Hamas' savage massacre. He had just turned 23. He planned to travel the world."

The president also talked about Hersh's parents, Jon and Rachel, saying, "I have gotten to know his parents, they have been courageous, wise, and steadfast, even as they have endured the unimaginable. They have been relentless and irrepressible champions of their son and of all the hostages held in unconscionable conditions."

"I admire them and grieve with them more deeply than words can express. I have worked tirelessly to bring their beloved Hersh safely to them and am heartbroken by the news of his death. It is as tragic as it is reprehensible," he said.

U.S. Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris also released a statement following the news. "On October 7, Hersh Goldberg-Polin—an American citizen—was taken hostage by Hamas terrorists. He was just 23 years old, attending a

music festival with friends. We now know he was murdered by Hamas. His body was recovered today in the tunnels under Rafah, along with five other hostages.”

“Doug and my prayers are with Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg-Polin, Hersh’s parents, and with everyone who knew and loved Hersh,” she added. “When I met with Jon and Rachel earlier this year, I told them: You are not alone. That remains true as they mourn this terrible loss. Americans and people around the world will pray for Jon, Rachel, and their family and send them love and strength. As is said in the Jewish tradition, may Hersh’s memory be a blessing.”

“Hamas is an evil terrorist organization. With these murders, Hamas has even more American blood on its hands. I strongly condemn Hamas’ continued brutality, and so must the entire world,” she said. “From its massacre of 1,200 people to sexual violence, taking of hostages, and these murders, Hamas’ depravity is evident and horrifying.”

“The threat Hamas poses to the people of Israel—and American citizens in Israel—must be eliminated and Hamas cannot control Gaza. The Palestinian people too have suffered under Hamas’ rule for nearly two decades. President Biden and I will never waver in our commitment to free the Americans and all those held hostage in Gaza,” she added.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken also addressed the news, writing on his X account, “Hersh Goldberg-Polin is an American hero who will be remembered for his kindness and selflessness. Our hearts break for Jon, Rachel, and their entire family, as well as the other families who found out today their loved ones won’t be coming home. May their memory be a blessing.”

“The killing of these hostages only further confirms Hamas’s depravity. It should release all the hostages immediately. We will continue to work with our partners in the region to secure an agreement without delay that frees the remaining hostages,” he added.

9.01. 24 – Su

Three Israeli police officers killed in a Hebron drive-by shooting Sunday morning

9.01. 24 – Su

Three Israeli cops killed in drive-by shooting attack near Hebron

Gunfire believed to have come from passing car, which assailants later abandoned before fleeing scene

Yoav Zitun, Elisha Ben Kimon|Yesterday | 23:54

Three Israeli police officers were killed in a shooting attack on Sunday morning targeting a transport vehicle on Route 35, near the Tarqumiya checkpoint, north of Hebron. The gunfire is believed to have come from a passing vehicle, which the assailants later abandoned before fleeing the scene.

NYU declares 'Zionist' a protected class; students threaten mass strike in protest

According to an MDA statement, "It appears that shots were fired at a vehicle with three passengers. MDA medics and paramedics are providing medical care to three injured individuals—a man and a woman in their 30s who are in critical condition, and a man in his 50s who is seriously injured."

The couple were pronounced dead shortly after. The third victim was evacuated to Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva where he later succumbed to his injuries.

Gush Etzion Regional Council head Yaron Rosenthal responded to Sunday morning's attack, which follows recent incidents, including Friday's car bombings and last week's roadside bomb in eastern Gush Etzion. "Unfortunately, we are facing another severe attack this morning, adding to the recent wave of terror in the area. We must act swiftly and launch an operation to root out terrorist strongholds in the Hebron district and surrounding areas. We cannot allow terrorism to gain ground," Rosenthal said. Before any fatalities were confirmed, Rosenthal added: "I wish a full recovery to the injured and send my support to the IDF soldiers and commanders who are bravely fighting."

8.31. 24 – Sa

Purging city to city: IDF chief vows no safe haven for terror in West Bank

8.31. 24 – Sa

'From city to city': IDF chief vows no safe haven for terror in West Bank
Thirty terrorists killed in IDF's ongoing operation in northern West Bank, with reports of heavy clashes in Jenin; army chief says offensive approach 'crucial'; goal: seize 2,000 weapons

Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi|12:57

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi on Saturday evening asserted that he will not let terror take a foothold in the West Bank as the army is engaged in a large-scale counterterrorism operation in the territory.

The operation in the northern West Bank saw hundreds of troops dismantling terror infrastructure and uncovering explosive devices planted along or beneath roads.

Since the operation began on Tuesday, some 30 terrorists have been eliminated, with the focus on the Jenin refugee camp, a key terror hub in the region. Palestinian officials have reported 23 deaths.

The IDF announced that Halevi visited Jenin to conduct a situational assessment alongside Central Command chief Maj. Gen. Avi Blot and other senior officers. "We are dismantling the terror emanating from the refugee camps in the West Bank," Halevi said. According to the IDF, 14 of the terrorists were killed in Jenin alone. Border Police and Shin Bet forces are also involved in the operation, which has seen the destruction of dozens of explosive devices.

Halevi referenced the two car bombs from Hebron that targeted Gush Etzion in a double attack foiled by a combination of luck and quick thinking. "Look at that attack," he said. "What you're doing here—entering the refugee camps—is precisely to prevent terrorists from loading explosives into a car bomb and launching an attack on a settlement, IDF

forces or anywhere else. This offensive approach of penetrating terror hubs, where they build their explosive capabilities, is crucial.”

Halevi emphasized that the IDF has no intention of allowing terrorism in the West Bank to gain momentum. “This is why we’re moving from city to city, refugee camp to refugee camp, with excellent intelligence, strong operational capabilities, robust aerial intelligence support, and, most importantly, highly motivated and determined soldiers and commanders. I see the dedication to the mission clearly, and this is how we will protect Israeli citizens.”

The IDF’s raids have also targeted the Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm and the Jordan Valley. The army released on Saturday new footage from Nur Shams showing forces firing at roadside bombs, triggering their detonation.

The Kfir Brigade, along with Yamam counterterrorism units and the Shin Bet, have been operating in the camp, where they eliminated Mohammed Jaber (call sign Abu Shujaa), a key terrorist leader involved in orchestrating the June attack in Qalqilya that killed Amnon Mukhtar. Six more wanted individuals were arrested in Nur Shams.

Goal: Seize 2,000 weapons in the West Bank

Capt. Roy, a platoon commander in the Haruv Reconnaissance Unit, said, “Over the past 48 hours, the Kfir Brigade has fought against terrorists, explosives, and terror infrastructure in the Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm. During the operation, bomb-making labs, weapon labs and numerous terrorists were eliminated. The Haruv Recon Unit and the Kfir Brigade will continue to combat threats in Nur Shams, across the West Bank, and in any sector necessary to defend the homeland.”

The operation in the northern West Bank comes amid fears of escalating violence in the region—a concern underscored by last night’s foiled car bomb attacks in Gush Etzion. One bomb detonated, likely due to a “work accident,” and the terrorist who exited the vehicle at a gas station in the Gush Etzion junction was killed after lunging at responding forces. The second rigged car exploded after breaching the nearby settlement of Karmeit Tzur, where a security officer rammed the vehicle with his own and opened fire on the terrorist, killing him as well.

Earlier today, Chief of Staff Halevi held a situational assessment regarding the operation in the northern West Bank, noting that its goal is to prevent attacks like those thwarted in Gush Etzion. Security officials have stated that the Central Command aims to seize 2,000 weapons from terrorists in the West Bank this year. The IDF has detected efforts by external forces to incite violence in the West Bank, with Hamas and Iran attempting to smuggle weapons and funds into the region.

8.31. 24 – Sa

Israel unable to stop arms to Hezbollah, expand in Syria to disrupt the arms flow

8.31. 24 – Sa

Israel unable to stop arms flow to Hezbollah, despite efforts

Security experts say Israel may have to decide to expand operations in Syria to disrupt Iranian arms supplies while the Damascus regime and Iran opt not to respond militarily to IDF strikes on its territory
ynet|04:55

Since the start of the war, Israel increased its attacks on terror targets in Syria including targeted killings and airstrikes on fuel depots and arms stores. Despite those efforts, Israel has not succeeded in slowing Hezbollah's military advancements, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal, or its fortification along Lebanon's border with Israel.

According to the paper, this is evidence of that Iran continues to take advantage of countries with weak central governments, as a conduit of its aggressions that now constitute an increased threat of a regional war.

Israel's latest drone strike against a senior member of the Islamic Jihad near the Syria-Lebanon border earlier this week was the latest in over 180 attacks on Syria territory since October.

Israel's efforts to target terrorists are part of its efforts to disrupt the supply of arms to the Lebanese terror group which is now the largest terrorist military force in the region with an estimated 150,000 strong fighting force and powerful missiles and rockets able to target the entire Israeli territory.

According to the IDF, the attack on Wednesday targeted an operative of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) that was responsible for arming the group in Lebanon and Syria and participated in attacks against Israel's north.

Senior Israeli officials told the paper that to limit the repercussions of the Israeli attacks, the IDF did not claim responsibility for some of them especially when Hezbollah operatives were killed.

They said the Syrian regime, which was weakened by the long years of civil war, decided not to respond militarily and both Damascus and Iran have downplayed the damage caused.

The efficacy of Israel's attack in Syria is mixed, the officials said. Syria has been deterred from joining the fighting and is preoccupied with its war against the Kurds and ISIS. But several Israeli security experts told the WSJ that Israel will have to ultimately decide whether to expand its campaign in Syria to disrupt the arms flow to Hezbollah, more efficiently.

"Syria is part of the Iranian axis and most of Hezbollah's arms are transported through it."

8.31. 24 – Sa

Iran and Hamas praise West Bank terror efforts where two car bombs exploded

8.31. 24 – Sa

Hamas praises West Bank terror attack

Terror group says resistance will continue; minute-by-minute account of the failed coordinated attempt at a mass casualty terror attack on the West Bank
Yoav Zitun, Liran Tamari, Einav Halabi|02:38

Hamas on Saturday issued a statement praising the terror attack on Friday in the West Bank when two car bombs exploded in a failed attempt to carry out a mass casualty attack. "The resistance will continue as long as the occupation's aggression does," Hamas said. Three people were injured and two of the terrorists were killed on Friday.

In the Gush Etzion junction outside Bethlehem, one of the car bombs detonated near a gas station, in what is believed to be a malfunction. The driver managed to leave the vehicle before it blew up and attempted to attack troops nearby. He was killed on the scene.

A second terrorist drove his car bomb into the neighboring settlement of Karmeit Tzur, ramming through the gate and wounding the guard posted there. A security guard drove his car into the assailant's vehicle and opened fire. That car also exploded. According to security forces' initial estimation, the two terrorists set out together on route 60 to carry out a coordinated mass casualty attack. One car turned into the gas station and the other drove to the settlement.

At 23:35 local time, the first car blew up. The terrorist who noticed his car was on fire, ran out and attempted to attack the gas station staff and the forces that were present. Images from the scene show him outside his burning car trying to jump toward the soldiers who had their guns cocked.

A 24-year-old man was caught in the gunfire and suffered moderate injuries. He was transported to a Jerusalem hospital for care.

At 23:49, an alarm warned of an infiltration into the Karmeit Tzur settlement, less than a mile away. Residents were instructed to remain indoors under lock and key. "Stay away from windows and doors and avoid any movement or noise," the IDF Homefront Command told them.

A security guard who saw the terrorist force his way into the settlement drove into the truck and opened fire at the terrorist. At 23:55 that car exploded with the driver still inside. The security guard was lightly injured.

Troops began searching the area for any other terrorists who may be in or around the settlement, using flares, at 01:00 they were concerned that there may have been another infiltration and the residents were again warned to shelter in place. The all-clear was given to residents only after seven hours.

The IDF has been dealing with increased terror threats in the West Bank and in the area of Gush Etzion, they have seen a rise in the use of explosives in attempts to launch terror attacks. An explosive device exploded near a public bus there, earlier in the week.

Security officials have warned of increased Iranian and Hamas efforts to smuggle weapons and explosives into the West Bank, primarily across the Jordan border.

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Ynet-News, August 30, 2024 – Friday

8.30. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

Government extends IDF reserve service period as Haredi protest draft

8.30. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

IDF eliminate 20 terrorists, seized weapons and equipment in West Bank operation

8.30. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

Egypt rejects Israeli military presence along the Philadelphi Corridor

8.30. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in August 30 spot – Friday

Cabinet votes to keep IDF forces in Philadelphi Corridor; Gallant was only opposition

8.30. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday

Shin Bet chief warned PM in July 2023 that war is incoming, assessed Gaza as stable

8.29. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Hamas leader in Turkey, calls for suicide attacks in Judea and Samaria to end the siege

8.29. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

15 West Bank terrorists turned themselves in to PA security, fearing IDF operation

8.29. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Hostage families storm Gaza border for 22 minutes in call for release of loved ones

8.29. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Israel eliminates 5 terrorists, including key leader, in major West Bank operation

8.29. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in August 29 spot – Thursday

IDF assigns Brig. Gen. Elad Goren to oversee Gaza relief & repair operations

8.28. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

UNIFIL Lebanon mandate extended another year - despite its peacekeeping failure

8.28. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Hostage families form convoy to Gaza border, demanding a deal to rescue captives

8.28. 24 – We- - - News Placed in August 28 spot – Wednesday

IDF sweep West Bank refugee camps, military has blocked entrances to the city of Jenin

8.27. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Hamas hostage rescued alive after 326 days in captivity, in complex Gaza operation

8.27. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in August 27 spot – Tuesday
Hezbollah rockets to Israel came from mosques, schools, gas stations & UN compounds.

8.27. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
5 terrorists killed in IDF strike on West Bank Jihad Battalion operations room

8.26. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in August 26 spot – Monday Q-3 4:28am
Hezbollah resumes attacks across northern Israel; evacuations extended to September 30

8.26. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Q-3 4:28am
Ben-Gvir says a synagogue should be built on Temple Mount

8.25. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in August 25 spot – Sunday
Shin Bet chief Bar is target of Ben-Gvir's wild and crude attacks by full-page ads

8.25. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
US, Israel join forces on hunt for Sinwar, evading elaborate surveillance

8.25. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
IDF reduced Hezbollah retaliation on Israel; 320 rockets fired instead of thousands

8.25. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
Hezbollah claims 320 rockets fired at Israel in 'first phase' of retaliation

8.24. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in August 24 spot – Saturday
Settlers attack two northern West Bank towns, Palestinian news agency Wafa reported

8.24. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
IDF dismantles tunnel in Khan Younis, eliminates dozens of terrorists