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IDF has not forgotten hostages & to bring northern residents back to their homes

9.18. 24 – We- - - News Placed in September 18 spot – Wednesday  
Explosions in Beirut suburbs and other areas from hand-held radios  
Shortened to; Explosions in Beirut areas from hand-held radios

9.18. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday  
Israel triggered pagers when Hezbollah operatives grew suspicious of the devices

9.18. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday  
IDF potential ground incursion into Lebanon after Hezbollah pager blasts

9.17. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Full Moon 9:36pm  
Mossad placed board inside Hezbollah's 5,000 Taiwan pagers, coded to explode

9.17. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in September 17 spot – Tuesday Full Moon 9:36pm

Pager blasts injured around 3,000 in Lebanon and Syria; PM to address UN next week

9.17. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Full Moon 9:36pm

Eight killed, 2,750 wounded in pager detonations across Lebanon; IDF strike border

9.17. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Full Moon 9:36pm

US to withdrawal from Iraq in 2026 will remove smuggling buffer Iran to Jordan

9.16. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in September 16 spot – Monday

US sanction Intellexa Israel spyware for phone photos, location, messages, & microphone

9.16. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Settlers enter Jericho PA school after Jewish herder attacked; teachers threw stones

9.16. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

PM deal with Gideon Saar to pass bill exempting Haredi from military service

9.15. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Launch by Yemen Houthis, missile intercepted but not destroyed, scattering debris

9.15. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Germany refused Israel requests for arms but sells weapons systems to Qatar

9.15. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Israeli strategy in question as war with Iranian proxies expands

9.15. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in September 15 spot – Sunday

IDF prepare for Lebanon campaign; Qatar & Egypt no longer mediators, demand border

9.14. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in September 14 spot – Saturday

IDF strikes 100 miles into Lebanon, PM pushing to prioritize the northern front

9.14. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Yemen Houthis turn 2023 hijacked Israeli ship into attraction for Muslim holiday

9.14. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Political Police arrest three women for handing hostage pamphlets in synagogue

9.20. 24 – Fr

IDF confirms Hezbollah head of operations & others eliminated in Beirut strike

9.20. 24 – Fr

IDF confirms Hezbollah head of operations Ibrahim Aqil eliminated in Beirut strike  
Key architect of Hezbollah's plan to invade northern Israel assassinated in Israeli strike  
on building in Beirut's Dahieh; army says strike also took out other senior members of  
terror group's operations unit  
Lior Ben Ari|11:20

The IDF confirmed on Friday that it eliminated Ibrahim Aqil, Hezbollah's head of operations, in a strike in Beirut, along with senior members of the group's operations unit and the leadership of its elite Radwan Force.

Prior to the IDF's announcement, Lebanese officials confirmed to foreign news agencies that Aqil was among the dead. Reuters reported that, according to a local security source, the strike occurred during a meeting Aqil held with members of the Radwan Force. The IDF said that Aqil and the commanders killed were key architects of the "Operation to Conquer the Galilee," a plan for Hezbollah to invade Israeli territory and capture northern communities in a future war.

Aqil had served as Hezbollah's operations chief since 2004, overseeing attacks involving explosives, anti-tank missiles and other military operations. Aqil began his career with Hezbollah in the 1980s in its Islamic Jihad wing, responsible for carrying out attacks outside Lebanon, targeting international civilians and organizations. He also commanded the Radwan Force, Hezbollah's elite unit, and was reportedly involved in the 2019 anti-tank missile attack on the Avivim military post, the 2023 bomb attack at the Megiddo junction and recent attempts by Hezbollah fighters to infiltrate Israeli territory during the war to kill civilians and soldiers.

"The IDF will continue to target Hezbollah's capabilities and take action in all arenas to ensure the security of Israel's citizens," the military said.

9.20. 24 – Fr

Owner of Bulgarian company selling pagers to Hezbollah, missing several months

9.20. 24 – Fr

Owner of Bulgarian company selling pagers to Hezbollah goes missing, report says  
Indian-born Rinson Jose, founder of Nortra Global involved in sale of devices to Lebanese  
terror group, unreachable after leaving on 'pre-planned' trip on day pagers detonated  
Ynet|07:05

The Indian-born founder of a Bulgarian company implicated in the alleged sabotage of Hezbollah communication devices has gone missing after reportedly "inadvertently" aiding Israel in the operation, the Daily Mail reported Saturday.

According to a report by Hungarian news outlet Telex, the devices, which were allegedly sold by BAC Consulting KFT, a company in Hungary, were imported into Lebanon from Bulgaria by Norta Global Ltd., a Sofia-based firm owned by a Norwegian national.

Bulgaria's National Security Agency has launched an investigation, saying that there was no approval for the relevant sales. The only documented transaction was a transfer of 1.6 million euros to Hungary.

Rinson Jose, the founder of Norta Global who resides in Oslo, has not been heard from since leaving for a pre-planned trip on Tuesday, according to his employer, Norwegian media conglomerate NHST. Oslo police have opened an investigation into his disappearance.

"Blinds were drawn today at his flat in Mortensrud, an upmarket suburb on the outskirts of Oslo. The grass was overgrown, and neighbors claimed to have not seen him for several months," the Daily Mail reported.

"His profile on Founders Nation, a site connecting entrepreneurs with Israeli start-ups described him as an entrepreneur-minded business developer looking for a co-founder or like-minded people to start a venture."

Norta Global is described as an innovative consulting, outsourcing, recruiting and technology services company.

9.20. 24 – Fr

Hezbollah fired 150 rockets in barrages targeting Galilee, Golan

9.20. 24 – Fr

Some 150 rockets in barrages targeting Galilee, Golan

Hezbollah-affiliated channel says rocket fire is response to 'false' Israeli claim it struck 1,000 launchers overnight; security cabinet to convene

Yair Kraus, Lior Ben Ari, Elisha Ben Kimon, Itamar Eichner|06:05

Israel's north came under heavy fire when Hezbollah launched some 130 hundred rockets in barrages targeting the Galilee and Golan Heights in the early afternoon hours on Saturday. While one man suffered mild injuries, the attack caused damage and several brush fires to ignited.

Lebanon's Hezbollah-affiliated al-Manar channel, said the strike was in response to Israel's "false claims" that it struck some 1,000 rocket launchers in Lebanon since Friday. The outlet said the rockets were aimed at Israeli military bases.

The IDF conducted strikes on Hezbollah targets overnight in dozens of sorties in response to Hezbollah attacks including a barrage of some 50 Iranian falaq missiles at the border communities.

Israel's security cabinet will meet later on Saturday to discuss the ongoing cross border violence.

9.19.24 – Th

Iran-Hezbollah forces in tatters; Lebanon hides death toll from exploding devices

9.19.24 – Th

Hezbollah hides death toll from exploding devices, Radwan force command decimated  
Lebanon reports 26 dead in 2 days of pager and walkie-talkie explosions, with pager attack alone estimated to have killed dozens or more Hezbollah members, while elite Radwan force command structure in tatters

Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari | 09.18.24 | 17:01

According to the official updates from Lebanon, 12 people were killed when thousands of pagers exploded on Tuesday and 20 in the walkie-talkie blasts on Wednesday, but in Israel officials believe that the announced dead and injured from the pager explosions is significantly lower than reality. It is estimated that there are many dozens of dead, if not more.

Significant damage was inflicted on Hezbollah's special operation forces unit Radwan force, which lost large parts of its command structure. At least 450 were injured in the explosion of the hand-held walkie-talkie radios throughout Lebanon, and these join the more than 3,000 Hezbollah operatives who were injured by the pager blasts. Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah is expected to give a speech on Thursday, in his first public remarks since the series of explosions in Lebanon.

U.S. officials publicly expressed anger at not receiving an update on the operation to blow up the pagers and walkie-talkies in Lebanon that could lead to war while conducting diplomatic efforts for a settlement. But three sources familiar with the matter told CNN that Israeli officials had informed the United States of the intention to carry out an operation in Lebanon - including in the conversation this week between Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and his counterpart Lloyd Austin - but did not provide additional details about that operation.

"The fact that no details were given about the operation meant that the United States was left in the dark until the reports of the explosions shortly after," a source said. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was on his way from Washington to Cairo when the stunned American diplomats watched live on their television screens on the plane the news from Lebanon of the operation that was reportedly a joint operation by the Mossad and the IDF.

At the press conference in Egypt, Blinken said that the United States "did not know" and was not involved in these incidents." Another U.S. source said that the Americans also sent a similar message to Iran, asking Tehran not to lead an escalation. Iran's ambassador to Lebanon was injured in the explosion of one of the pagers. According to the Lebanese

MTV network, he was transferred from Beirut to Tehran to complete treatment in Iran. On the same plane were about 90 other wounded people who were flown to Iran to receive treatment, along with their families.

The White House also said its officials were not involved in the explosions. "We believe that there is a diplomatic way to solve the Lebanon issue. It is too early to know how the radio explosions will affect the cease-fire deal," according to the White House, which stressed that "it is still too early to know what effect the events will have on the high level of tension between Israel and Hezbollah at the border."

Sources privy to the details said that if Israel is indeed behind the series of explosions, it is beginning to realize the goal of returning the residents of the north to their homes. A source said that "It is clear that this is not how a military campaign with Lebanon will look and it will require an exchange of rockets and missiles from both sides, but Israel - if it is the one that acted - has already had an effect" though it may not avert war.

9.19. 24 – Th

UN approves PA proposal for arms embargo & Hage sanctions on Israel

9.19. 24 – Th

UN approves proposal for arms embargo on Israel

Palestinian proposal, which calls, among other things, to "return the Palestinians to their land" and to enforce sanctions on senior Israeli officials, was passed by a large majority in the UN General Assembly, while 43 countries abstained. Ambassador Danon: 'Voting in favor of this resolution adds fuel for further violence'

Itamar Eichner|09.18.24 | 11:45

The UN General Assembly on Wednesday evening approved a Palestinian proposal that requires Israel to implement the decisions of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, which calls, among other things, for the end of the Israeli presence "in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" within six months, the withdrawal of the IDF from there, the cessation of "settlements" and "the return of the Palestinians to their land."

The proposal also includes a call to countries not to legally recognize Israel's presence "in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," in addition to enforcing sanctions on senior Israeli officials, end the transfer of weapons to Israel if it is suspected that they will be used in those territories, and avoiding the establishment of diplomatic missions in Jerusalem.

Some 124 countries supported the proposal, 14 opposed and 43 abstained. Along with Israel, Argentina, the Czech Republic, Fiji, Hungary, Malawi, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, Tuvalu and the United States also opposed the proposal. Among those that abstained were Germany, Ukraine, Great Britain, Canada, India and 38 other countries. Greece, Cyprus and France surprised - and disappointed - when they voted in favor of the resolution.

The vote means that monitoring and control mechanisms of the UN will be established to implement the decision of the court in The Hague regarding the withdrawal of Israel from the territories. The decision will harm Israel's image in the world and will give fuel to organizations and countries to pass their own resolutions against Israel. The call for an arms embargo and the imposition of sanctions against Israel could work to convince countries to act on this decision and stop arms sales to the country.

Greece's ambassador to the UN, Evangelos C. Sekeris, said after the vote that "Israel has a right to security and self-defense. The current decision does not concern the need to hold direct negotiations on the two-state solution. However, Greece decided to support the vote. This is due to its broad support for international law and the International Court of Justice, which must be defended even if there are differences of opinion. We call for a political process to advance the two-state solution."

A political official said in response that "Greece and Cyprus have disappointed badly. We will demand clarifications." The vote of the two countries in support of the proposal came as a surprise, especially since Israel supplies weapons to Greece and Cyprus.

British Ambassador Barbara Woodward said that "Britain abstained from today's proposal. Britain did so because the decision does not provide sufficient clarity to advance the common goal of peace based on a two-state solution to be achieved through negotiations. We are committed to the rule of law and respect the court and call on the countries to unite behind the renewed efforts toward an agreed solution in accordance with international law."

She added that "Israel needs to end its presence in the territories as quickly as possible and create the conditions for the establishment of a free Palestine alongside a safe and free Israel - while recognizing the security and self-determination needs of each side. The unification of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza must also be brought about according to the 1967 borders. We condemn the settlers' violence in the West Bank to pressure Palestinian communities to leave their land, and call on Israel to prosecute those responsible."

Before the vote, the diplomatic community held an event of solidarity with the families of hostages, and the ambassador of South Sudan attacked the ambassador of Norway and representatives of other countries: "You should be ashamed of yourselves. To sit in front of the families of hostages on the day you vote against Israel at the UN." He called on the representatives to leave the event and "Run" to call their prime ministers, "beg them to change their vote," he said.

"Each country has a vote, and the world is watching us," Palestinian U.N. Ambassador Riyad Mansour told the General Assembly on Tuesday. "Please stand on the right side of history. With international law. With freedom. With peace."

He also called on the UN and the member states to implement their responsibilities under international law.

In his speech, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, attacked what he called the hypocrisy and bias of the United Nations against Israel, which since the October 7 massacre passed two resolutions in the General Assembly that ignored Hamas and its responsibility for the events of that day.

"Anyone who supports this circus is a collaborator. Anyone who votes in favor of this proposal fuels further violence. This show is an insult to the victims of the massacre, it is an insult to the hostages," he said.

In his speech, Danon presented a photo of the tunnel where the six murdered hostages were held, showing their blood spilled on the floor: "Eden, Hirsh, Alex, Carmel Uri and Almog. These are their names. Six innocent Israelis were murdered in cold blood after months of suffering in the tunnels. Imagine how you would feel if it was your child, your partner or your friend. Would you be silent even then? I tell you clearly: Jewish blood is not worthless. The days when Jewish blood was spilled without any response are over."

9.19. 24 – Th

IDF prepared for response after Lebanon dealt a defeat by pagers and walkie-talkies

9.19. 24 – Th

Gallant says Israel's 'course of action will continue' after Nasrallah's speech

After Hezbollah chief insinuates explosion of communication devices across Lebanon could be considered an 'act of war', defense minister makes clear Israel's actions to change the situation in the north will continue

Elisha Ben Kimon, Lior Ben Ari, Itamar Eichner|15:53

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Thursday said Israel's "course of action will continue," after Hezbollah leader General Hassan Nasrallah's speech in which he said the detonation of communication devices in Lebanon the terror group attributed to Israel "could be considered a declaration of war." Israel has not claimed responsibility for the coordinated attacks.

Gallant held consultations on the various possibilities for continuing the campaign against Hezbollah on the northern border with IDF Chief of Staff LTG Herzi Halevi, senior military officials, Shin Bet and Mossad officials.

"In recent days, we've been holding a series of important discussions. This is a new stage in the war, one that presents significant opportunities, but also substantial risks," Gallant said. "Hezbollah is feeling pressured and our sequence of military actions will continue. Our goal is to return northern residents to their homes safely. Hezbollah will pay a growing price as time goes on. At the same time, we'll continue our efforts to bring the hostages home and dismantle Hamas in Gaza."

"We were dealt a massive blow," Nasrallah said in his first comments since the coordinated detonation of pagers and walkie-talkies used by the terror group in Lebanon, calling it "genocide." However, he said that the fighting would not stop until the war in Gaza ended. "Even a full-scale war won't lead to the return of the northern residents," he said addressing his words to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Gallant.

Nasrallah also threatened that Hezbollah would have a "historic opportunity" if Israel initiated a ground operation in Lebanon, recalling the past guerrilla operations against IDF forces in the buffer zone from which Israel withdrew in 2000. In his speech,



Nasrallah promised a "proper," punishment but didn't elaborate. "it'll come from somewhere either expected or unexpected."

Israel was preparing for a harsh response and is shifting its focus in the war to the northern front, with a commitment to achieving the war's goals of returning the northern residents to their homes — after 11 months of fighting.

Jerusalem was also concerned about possible Iranian involvement — as its ambassador to Lebanon was seriously injured in the pager attack. Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Commander Hossein Salami declared that he informed Nasrallah that Israel would face "a crushing response from the axis of resistance."

Just before Nasrallah began his speech, the IDF announced it had launched a wave of strikes in Lebanon. "The IDF is currently striking Hezbollah targets in Lebanon to degrade Hezbollah's terrorist capabilities and infrastructure," an IDF statement read 15 minutes before the speech began. Reports indicated bombings across southern Lebanese villages.

9.19. 24 – Th

Hezbollah leader Nasrallah Thursday calls coordinated explosions a declaration of war

9.19. 24 – Th

'This can be seen as a declaration of war,' Nasrallah says as Israeli Jets Fly Low Over Beirut

Hezbollah chief calls the coordinated explosions a declaration of war, a massacre and a genocide that broke all rules; during his speech Israeli jets reported flying low over Beirut  
Lior Ben Ari, Elisha Ben Kimon|09:40

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said in a speech on Thursday that the coordinated attack attributed to Israel was the most severe and unprecedented blow in the history of the conflict. "This is a declaration of war," he said. "We know the enemy has technological superiority especially supported by the U.S. and the West. We bet on Jihad, attrition. We've won many times before."

During the terror group's leader's televised speech, the first he has made since the coordinated explosions of Hezbollah's communication devices on Tuesday and Wednesday, Lebanese media reported Israeli fighter jets flying over Beirut, breaking the sound barrier. Earlier media outlets reported jets over the Beqaa Valley and areas in the South.

Nasrallah said Israel broke all rules in the coordinated explosions of the group's communications devices on Tuesday and Wednesday. He said the Israelis did not care if the pagers were among civilians, claiming dozens were killed including women and children and thousands wounded. "This is an act of terror, a massacre, a genocide," he said. The terrorist leader also thanked Lebanon's government, Iran and health officials for their actions in the wake of the explosions.

He said Israel had intended to kill thousands in its coordinated attack on the terror group's communication devices but had failed. He also claimed that the pagers and communication devices that detonated, were not used by senior members of the Iran-backed group. "The enemy tried to destroy Hezbollah's command structure and hurt its leaders and cause chaos in our organization but that has not happened. We are prepared for all eventualities," he said.

Nasrallah said Israel had admitted to losing its north and that forced Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant to find a solution after Israel's first historic defeat that is testimony to the effectiveness of Hezbollah's attacks.

"Israel has been trying from day one to stop the Lebanese support for Gaza," he said adding the conflict on the border is an important player in the Palestinian resistance's efforts to end the attacks in Gaza.

"The Lebanese front would not stop until Israeli aggression in Gaza ends," he said. Nasrallah addressed Netanyahu and Gallant directly in his speech and said they will not be able to return the residents of Israel's north to their homes unless they end the war in Gaza and the West Bank. "No military escalation, no targeted assassinations, no killing or full-blown war, will bring them back," he said.

Nasrallah ended his speech by saying the terror group's response is known and guarded by only a small group of people and he will not reveal its time, place, or character. "We hope to keep positivity among the people of Lebanon. Netanyahu, Gallant Ben-Gvir and Smotrich are leading Israel into the abyss, and to the third destruction."

Shortly before the Iran-backed Hezbollah leader began speaking, the IDF in an unusual move, announced it was conducting strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

9.19. 24 – Th

Israeli businessman indicted in Iranian plot to assassinate 4-Israeli leaders

9.19. 24 – Th

Israeli businessman indicted in Iranian plot to assassinate Israeli leaders

Moti Maman, 72, charged with working with Iranian intelligence; he was smuggled into Iran twice and paid to target senior Israeli officials, including Gallant and Netanyahu; he reportedly sought \$1 million advance

Lior Ohana, Elisha Ben Kimon, Ilana Curiel|03:19

An Israeli businessman based in Turkey was indicted Thursday on serious security charges, accused of being recruited by Iranian intelligence.

Prosecutors say he was smuggled into Iran twice and demanded a \$1 million payment in advance for various missions, including plotting to assassinate top Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar and former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.

The Shin Bet and Israel Police revealed that the suspect, later identified as Moti Maman, a 72-year-old resident of Ashkelon, was arrested in August in a joint anti-terror operation by the Shin Bet and the Israel Police's Lahav 433 serious crimes unit on suspicion of committing security offenses on behalf of the Iranian regime.

The investigation revealed that while living in Turkey, the suspect maintained business and social ties with Turkish and Iranian contacts. In April, through the mediation of two Turkish nationals, identified as Andrey Farouk Aslan and Junayd Aslan, he agreed to meet a wealthy businessman in Iran named Eddy to discuss potential business ventures.

The suspect traveled to the Turkish city of Samandağ, near the Syrian border, where he met with two representatives sent by Eddy, who was unable to leave Iran. They held a phone conversation with Eddy during the meeting.

According to the investigation, the suspect returned to Turkey in May and met again with Andrey, Junayd and Eddy's representatives. When it became clear that Eddy still couldn't leave Iran, the Israeli businessman was smuggled by car across a land border near the city of Van in eastern Turkey into Iran, where he met with Eddy and another individual named Khwaja, who was introduced as an operative for the Iranian security apparatus.

Assassinating top officials and threatening collaborators in Israel

The suspect met with the group at Eddy's home in Iran, where he was introduced as an Israeli citizen. During the meeting, he was asked to carry out various missions in Israel on behalf of the Iranian regime. These included transferring money or a weapon to a designated location, photographing crowded areas and sending the images to Iranian agents and threatening Israeli citizens working for the regime who had failed to complete their assigned tasks. The suspect asked for time to consider the proposal before agreeing.

Last month, the suspect reportedly re-entered Iran, again being smuggled through a border crossing while concealed in a truck. During his stay at Eddy's house, he met with additional Iranian intelligence officials who asked him to carry out terror attacks in Israel, including potential assassination attempts against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar.

They also asked him to explore the possibility of assassinating former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, purportedly in retaliation for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on Iranian soil in July—a killing attributed to Israel.

The suspect demanded a \$1 million advance payment before committing to any action. The following day, he held another meeting with Iranian intelligence officials, during which they reiterated their assassination proposal and discussed other potential activities. These included depositing funds at locations in Israel, identifying Russian and U.S. officials for potential operations against Iranian regime opponents in Europe and the United States and attempting to recruit a Mossad agent as a double agent.

The suspect again requested the advance payment, but the Iranian agents refused, saying they would contact him later. Before leaving Iran, he received €5,000 from Eddy and an Iranian intelligence representative for his participation in the meetings.

A senior Shin Bet official described the case as a “grave incident” that highlights Iran’s persistent efforts to recruit Israeli citizens to carry out terrorist activities in Israel. “Our assessment is that Iranian intelligence will continue its attempts to recruit operatives in Israel for intelligence gathering and terrorism, even reaching out to criminal elements to achieve their goals,” the official said.

“While Israel is at war on multiple fronts, an Israeli citizen traveled to an enemy country twice, met with Iranian intelligence agents and expressed willingness to commit serious acts of terrorism on Israeli soil,” the official added. “His actions have aided Iran and its intelligence agencies in their campaign against Israel.”

'We are only human'

Prosecutors expressed concern over what might have happened if the defendant had received the requested advance payment. During the investigation, the Israeli businessman reportedly said, “I don’t know what I would have done if they had given me \$1 million; we are only human.”

In its request to remand the defendant until the end of the proceedings, the prosecution noted that during his meetings with Iranian agents, after he informed them that assassinating high-level officials was impractical due to their security measures, additional terrorist and espionage operations were discussed, including the possibility of assassinating Bennett or certain mayors.

The Shin Bet has voice WhatsApp messages that were exchanged between the accused and his partner before he entered Iran in May of this year. According to the prosecution, this message corresponds with the data of the accused's version of the nature of the relationship that progressed between him and the Iranian businessman before his entry into the Islamic Republic.

The Shin Bet also has voice WhatsApp messages exchanged between the accused and one of his Turkish acquaintances on July 3, in which the Israeli talks about his entry "there" and describes a route through a mountainous area that corresponds to the route of the area at the border crossing where he crossed into Iran. The Shin Bet also has voice messages that were sent to the defendant by one of his Turkish acquaintances, in which the Iranian businessman is heard saying that he cannot leave his country. It also emerged that, before entering Iran, the accused left his mobile phone on in Turkey.

With reference to Bennett, the indictment states that the Iranian agents emphasized to the Israeli that the former prime minister was not secure. They even asked him: "Do you know Ra'anana?", where Bennett lives. In this case as well, the accused stood by his demand to receive an advance of \$1 million. As a result, the Iranian agents offered the accused an upgraded financial offer, higher than the previous offer, according to which they would pay him between \$300,000 and \$400,000 dollars as a down payment for the assassination of Bennett. The accused refused the offer.

In addition, the Iranian agents discussed with the defendant the possibility of assassinating the mayors of Nahariya or Acre using an explosive device, after the Israeli falsely claimed to the Iranian businessman that he lived in Nahariya. The agents also suggested that the defendant warn Israeli Arabs who received funds from the Iranian regime to carry out hostile missions on Israeli soil but did not carry them out.

The Israeli businessman has a criminal record that includes five previous convictions for demanding property through threats, threats, tax offenses, and other offenses. The investigation was carried out in cooperation with the Shin Bet and the Unit of

According to the indictment, the defendant confessed to the Shin Bet to the charges against him. "His testimony is coherent, detailed and accurately reflects the nature, background, circumstances and execution of the alleged offenses, with precise chronological and geographical data," the prosecution said. The confession was given over the course of 14 Shin Bet interrogations and four additional police interrogations, the indictment noted.

"Throughout these investigations, he revealed more details about his actions and consistently stood by his confession, enriching it with further facts and information," the indictment said.

"We have just received the indictment and the request for detention until the end of the proceedings, We have not yet reviewed the investigation material, so it is difficult to address the specifics of the case at this stage," the defendant's attorney, Eyal Bessraglick, said.

"It is important to note that this is a person who has significantly assisted Israel's security services and whose children serve in the security forces. He made a lapse in judgment in the context of his business dealings. It is notable that the indictment does not include other charges. My client has cooperated fully with the authorities and continues to do so."

9.19.24 – Th

Hezbollah hides numbers killed in attacks, forces lost large parts of its command

9.19.24 – Th

Hezbollah hides numbers killed in attacks, Radwan force loses much of command structure

Lebanon reports 26 killed over two days of pager and walkie talkie explosions, but estimates are that the pager attack alone killed dozens of Hezbollah members and maybe more, while elite Radwan force commanders were decimated

Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari | 17:01

According to the official updates from Lebanon, 12 people were killed when thousands of pagers exploded on Tuesday and 20 in the walkie-talkie blasts on Wednesday, but in Israel officials believe that the announced dead and injured from the pager explosions is significantly lower than reality. It is estimated that there are many dozens of dead, if not more.

Significant damage was inflicted on Hezbollah's special operation forces unit Radwan force, which lost large parts of its command structure. At least 450 were injured in the explosion of the hand-held walkie talkie radios throughout Lebanon, and these join the more than 3,000 Hezbollah operatives who were injured by the pager blasts. Hezbollah

Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah is expected to give a speech on Thursday, in his first public remarks since the series of explosions in Lebanon.

U.S. officials publicly expressed anger at not receiving an update on the operation to blow up the pagers and walkie-talkies in Lebanon that could lead to war while conducting diplomatic efforts for a settlement. But three sources familiar with the matter told CNN that Israeli officials had informed the United States of the intention to carry out an operation in Lebanon - including in the conversation this week between Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and his counterpart Lloyd Austin - but did not provide additional details about that operation.

"The fact that no details were given about the operation meant that the United States was left in the dark until the reports of the explosions shortly after," a source said. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was on his way from Washington to Cairo when the stunned American diplomats watched live on their television screens on the plane the news from Lebanon of the operation that was reportedly a joint operation by the Mossad and the IDF. At the press conference in Egypt, Blinken said that the United States "did not know and was not involved in these incidents." Another U.S. source said that the Americans also sent a similar message to Iran, asking Tehran not to lead an escalation. Iran's ambassador to Lebanon was injured in the explosion of one of the pagers. According to the Lebanese MTV network, he was transferred from Beirut to Tehran to complete treatment in Iran. On the same plane were about 90 other wounded people who were flown to Iran to receive treatment, along with their families.

The White House also said its officials were not involved in the explosions. "We believe that there is a diplomatic way to solve the Lebanon issue. It is too early to know how the radio explosions will affect the cease-fire deal," according to the White House, which stressed that "it is still too early to know what effect the events will have on the high level of tension between Israel and Hezbollah at the border."

Walkie Talkie explosion during a funeral in southern Lebanon

Sources privy to the details said that if Israel is indeed behind the series of explosions, it is beginning to realize the goal of returning the residents of the north to their homes. A source said that "It is clear that this is not how a military campaign with Lebanon will look and it will require an exchange of rockets and missiles from both sides, but Israel - if it is the one that acted - has already had an effect" though it may not avert war.

9.18.24 – We  
IDF has not forgotten hostages & to bring northern residents back to their homes

9.18.24 – We  
Gallant says 'new phase in war' as Netanyahu vows to return northern residents home  
Comments come hours after the explosions of Hezbollah-distributed walkie talkies in Lebanon, which killed at least nine people and injured at least 300

Lior Ben Ari, Elisha Ben Kimon, Yossi Yehoshua, Itamar Eichner|13:04

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Wednesday that Israel "is on the verge of a new phase in the war. This is not Hamas — we're dealing with something different, and we need to prepare accordingly."

At the same time, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi discussed the movement of the war to the north.

The comments of the three leaders came hours after the explosions of Hezbollah-distributed walkie talkies in Lebanon, which killed at least nine people and injured at least 300, and a day after thousands were injured in the explosion of Hezbollah-distributed pagers.

During a visit to the Ramat David Air Force, Gallant addressed the escalating tensions on the northern border with Lebanon. Without directly referencing the recent explosion of beepers and communication devices, he said, "The center of gravity is moving north. We are diverting forces, resources, and energy toward the north. We are entering a new phase of the war — one that demands courage, determination, and perseverance."

"We have not forgotten the hostages and we have not forgotten our tasks in the south. This is our duty and we are performing it at the same time. This operation involves all branches, and the mission is clear and simple: to bring the residents of northern communities back to their homes in safety," Gallant emphasized.

He highlighted the IDF's successes, saying, "When you look at the current situation, the IDF is achieving excellent results, working in tandem with the Shin Bet, Mossad, and all relevant bodies. The outcomes are highly impressive. There is full coordination across the system, and unity in pursuing our goals between the prime minister, the chief of staff, the head of the Shin Bet, the head of Mossad, and myself. Everything is dedicated to one objective: bringing the residents of the north back home."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave a short message on Wednesday evening: "I already said - we will return the residents of the north safely to their homes. And that's exactly what we'll do." Shortly after his announcement, the prime minister's motorcade was spotted near Mossad headquarte

IDF Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Herzi Halevi, held a simultaneous situational assessment in the Northern Command with the members of the General Staff Forum, and confirmed the attack and defense plans for the northern arena.

"We are very determined to create the security conditions that will return the residents to their homes, to the communities, with a high level of security, and we are ready to do all that is required to bring about these things. Throughout the war for almost a year, we have been fighting in Gaza with two main goals, as well as others - dismantling Hamas and returning the hostages. We have achieved a lot, and we still have further forward to go," he said.

"We still have many capabilities that we have not yet activated. We saw some of these things here, and it seems to me that the readiness is good and we are preparing these

plans going forward. The rule is that every time we work on a certain stage, the next two stages are already ready to advance. At each stage, the price for Hezbollah must be high."

9.18. 24 – We

Explosions in Beirut suburbs and other areas from hand-held radios

9.18. 24 – We

Explosions in Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh and other areas, local reports say  
A day after thousands of pagers exploded throughout Lebanon, new reports of explosions in the Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh, which is affiliated with Hezbollah; Some report that hand-held radios used by Hezbollah are the culprit  
Lior Ben Ari|09:19

A day after the unprecedented operation in which thousands of pagers exploded across Lebanon, explosions again are heard in Beirut and in other areas across Lebanon. According to reports from Lebanon, late on Wednesday afternoon hand-held radios or walkie-talkies exploded in several areas of Beirut and southern and eastern Lebanon.

According to the reports, there are casualties in the Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh, and in Saida in southern Lebanon and Baalbeck in eastern Lebanon. The explosions occurred in many houses, as well as in vehicles, according to local reports. A security official told the Reuters news agency that the hand-held radios that exploded Wednesday are different from the pagers that exploded on Tuesday.

The radios were purchased by Hezbollah about five months ago, around the same time as the pagers, a security source told Reuters.

According to Sky News in Arabic, the explosions happened at the same time as the funeral of the son of Hezbollah parliament member, Ali Amar, in Dahiyeh; footage taken at the funeral show panic at the moment of the explosion. Saudi TV channel Al-Hadith reported that about 100 people have been injured so far. Also, sources told the Voice of the Capitol news website, which is affiliated with the Syrian opposition, that "high frequency waves were sent that caused equipment and broadcasting stations to explode."

The Voice of the Capital also reported that the Syrian regime also called on all security forces and military units to turn off wireless devices, disconnect switchboards and use wired communication.

Top Hezbollah official Hashem Safeiddine on Wednesday afternoon said that the group is entering a 'new phase' in the conflict with Israel and that "punishment is certainly coming."

Also on Wednesday, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that the pager blasts targeting Hezbollah indicate "a serious risk of a dramatic escalation in Lebanon and everything must be done to avoid that escalation."



"Obviously the logic of making all these devices explode is to do it as a pre-emptive strike before a major military operation," he told reporters.

Sky News correspondent Alex Crawford was at a funeral in Beirut for four people killed in Tuesday's attacks. She described the "small sound of something popping" when the explosions occurred.

"We came out to try and found out what the sound was and people were running. People were covered in blood," she says. "There was blood on a car."

9.18.24 – We

Israel triggered pagers when Hezbollah operatives grew suspicious of the devices

9.18.24 – We

Hezbollah suspicion prompts Israel to rush Lebanon pager attack, report says  
Al-Monitor reports Israel swiftly detonated thousands of devices in Lebanon for fear the plot could be exposed; remotely activated explosions impacted Lebanon, Syria and Iran, costing Iran's ambassador to Lebanon his eye  
Ynet|05:47

Israel had not initially planned to detonate thousands of pagers in Lebanon, but the operation was carried out after Hezbollah operatives grew suspicious of the devices, Al-Monitor reported Wednesday

Sources indicated that two Hezbollah members questioned the integrity of the pagers, prompting Israel to trigger the explosions as a precautionary measure. The decision was reportedly made at the last minute.

Analysts have raised concerns about why such a valuable asset was used without greater strategic exploitation. The operation, which involved embedding explosives or detonating batteries in thousands of pagers, posed significant risks, with even a single leak potentially compromising the entire mission. This suggests that fears of exposure may have influenced Israel's decision to act.

The New York Times reported that Israel embedded explosives in communication devices that later detonated in Lebanon and Syria. The devices were allegedly produced by Taiwanese company Gold Apollo. American and other informed sources revealed that over 3,000 pagers were ordered to Lebanon, with explosives hidden inside before their arrival.

Reuters cited a senior Lebanese security source who claimed that the Mossad planted explosives in 5,000 pagers ordered from Taiwan months ago. Of those, 3,000 devices exploded after receiving a coded message that simultaneously activated the explosives. Other sources indicated that the pagers entered Lebanon last spring.

The moment it detonated

According to The Times, the explosive material—around one to two ounces—was placed near the battery of each pager, with a remotely activated switch embedded to trigger the

**detonation.** Most of the pagers were the AP924 model from Gold Apollo, with three additional models included in the shipment.

At 3:30 p.m., a message resembling a directive from Hezbollah leadership was sent to the pagers, activating the explosives. The devices reportedly emitted a beep for several seconds before detonating. Hezbollah had distributed the pagers across Lebanon, Iran and Syria. The exact timeline of the order and delivery remains unclear, though the explosions resulted in Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani, losing an eye and suffering severe injuries to the other.

9.18. 24 – We

IDF potential ground incursion into Lebanon after Hezbollah pager blasts

9.18. 24 – We

IDF braces for retaliation after Hezbollah pager blasts

Army prepares for potential ground offensive as Hezbollah official acknowledges operation as demonstration of Israel's technological and intelligence superiority, warning it shattered existing rules of engagement

Elisha Ben Kimon, Lior Ben Ari, Yair Kraus, Daniel Edelson, New York|01:32

Defense and security services are assessing the situation along Israel's northern border following the explosion of thousands of pagers in Lebanon on Tuesday, which left at least 10 dead and over 3,000 wounded.

Hezbollah launched retaliatory strikes targeting the Galilee region, including communities around the Sea of Galilee, such as Tiberias. A hostile projectile was intercepted off the coast of Nahariya, while two others were intercepted over Tiberias.

A Hezbollah spokesperson, speaking to the Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese newspaper Al Akhbar, described the attack as a severe blow to the Iran-backed terror group. "Within a minute, the enemy dealt one of its worst blows to Hezbollah since the conflict began," he said, adding that the operation showcased Israel's technological and intelligence superiority, significantly disrupting Hezbollah's communications.

"The enemy has pushed the resistance beyond the traditional rules of engagement that have held for a year. We are now facing a new reality," he said.

Security experts quoted in The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post suggested the operation had been in the works for months. Emily Harding, deputy director of the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, downplayed the likelihood of a cyberattack, citing the "low-tech" nature of the pagers, which Hezbollah uses to avoid digital surveillance. "Since pagers don't capture sound or have cameras, they pose less surveillance risk than cell phones," she noted.

Meanwhile, The New York Times reported on the dire medical situation in southern Lebanon, with a doctor in Sidon describing a shortage of eye specialists, as many of the wounded suffered eye injuries from the blasts.

Although Israel has not claimed responsibility, officials believe Hezbollah is likely to retaliate, with Israeli leaders vowing a strong response to any further aggression. The IDF's Northern Command has presented operational plans to Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi, including a potential ground incursion into Lebanon if war escalates. Following the Security Cabinet's decision to add the safe return of residents displaced by the conflict to their homes, the IDF is shifting its focus to securing the northern border. Plans include creating a security buffer zone across the border to neutralize the Hezbollah threat to nearby Israeli communities.

International media outlets have reported that the Mossad may have planted explosives in the pagers used by Hezbollah, triggering the blasts when the devices overheated.

"Hezbollah should be deeply concerned about Israel's intelligence capabilities," Israeli officials said, noting that the operation attributed to Israel highlights only a fraction of its operational reach. "Hezbollah has underestimated Israel's resolve. While Israeli leaders may have hesitated at first, they are no longer holding back. Israel has built significant international legitimacy for its actions."

9.17. 24 – Tu

Mossad placed board inside Hezbollah's 5,000 Taiwan pagers, coded to explode

9.17. 24 – Tu

Israel planted explosives in Hezbollah's Taiwan-made pagers, sources say  
Senior Lebanese security source says group ordered 5,000 pagers made by Taiwan-based Gold Apollo, which several sources say brought into country in spring  
Reuters | 22:28

Israel's Mossad spy agency planted a small amount of explosives inside 5000 Taiwan-made pagers ordered by Lebanese group Hezbollah months before Tuesday's detonations, a senior Lebanese security source and another source told Reuters.

The details shed light on an unprecedented Hezbollah security breach that saw thousands of pagers detonate across Lebanon, killing nine people and wounding nearly 3,000 others, including the group's fighters and Iran's envoy to Beirut.

Iran-backed Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate against Israel, whose military declined to comment on the blasts.

The plot appears to have been many months in the making, several sources told Reuters. The senior Lebanese security source said the group had ordered 5,000 pagers made by Taiwan-based Gold Apollo, which several sources say were brought into the country in the spring.

The senior Lebanese security source identified a photograph of the model of the pager, an AP924, which like other pagers wirelessly receive and display text messages but cannot make telephone calls.

Hezbollah fighters have been using pagers as a low-tech means of communication in an attempt to evade Israeli location-tracking, two sources familiar with the group's operations told Reuters this year.

But the senior Lebanese source said the devices had been modified by Israel's spy service "at the production level."

"The Mossad injected a board inside of the device that has explosive material that receives a code. It's very hard to detect it through any means. Even with any device or scanner," the source said.

The source said 3,000 of the pagers exploded when a coded message was sent to them, simultaneously activating the explosives.

Another security source told Reuters that up to three grams of explosives were hidden in the new pagers and had gone "undetected" by Hezbollah for months.

Neither Israel nor Gold Apollo immediately responded to Reuters requests for comment.

Images of destroyed pagers analyzed by Reuters showed a format and stickers on the back that were consistent with pagers made by Gold Apollo, based in Taipei.

Hezbollah was reeling from the attack, which left fighters and others bloodied, hospitalized or dead. One Hezbollah official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the detonation was the group's "biggest security breach" since the Gaza conflict between Israel and Hezbollah ally Hamas erupted on Oct. 7.

"This would easily be the biggest counterintelligence failure that Hezbollah has had in decades," said Jonathan Panikoff, the U.S. government's former deputy national intelligence officer on the Middle East.

9.17. 24 – Tu

Pager blasts injured around 3,000 in Lebanon and Syria; PM to address UN next week

9.17. 24 – Tu

Israel keeps silent, US on alert as Hezbollah vows retaliation for pager blasts

Israel proceeding cautiously after communication device explosions in Lebanon, with leaders instructing security forces to 'prepare for all scenarios'; no changes to Home Front Command guidelines

Itamar Eichner | 14:32

Israel has not taken responsibility for the explosions of Hezbollah communication devices in Lebanon and Syria, which reportedly injured around 3,000 people, including 200 in serious condition, according to Lebanese sources.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's Office has instructed all ministers to maintain silence on the matter. Currently, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and top security officials are holding a security consultation at the Defense Ministry headquarters in Tel Aviv.

However, Israel's working assumption is that Hezbollah will retaliate in response to the significant blow it has suffered, making it unlikely to remain passive. As a result, the political leadership has instructed the defense establishment to prepare for all possible scenarios.

There is ongoing debate among Israeli officials about how to respond if Hezbollah launches a broader attack—whether to seize the unprecedented operational opportunity and exact a heavy toll on Hezbollah, potentially pushing the group toward a cease-fire. Sources familiar with the situation noted that Hezbollah would pay a heavy price if it escalates the conflict. The explosions occurred just hours after White special envoy Amos Hochstein left the region, departing from Ben Gurion Airport to New York. Hochstein, who received considerable skepticism from Israel about the diplomatic efforts he is leading, appeared concerned and may have understood the direction Israel was heading.

The IDF announced that Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi held a situation assessment Tuesday evening with the General Staff Forum, "focusing on readiness for both offensive and defensive operations across all fronts," the army said, emphasizing that no changes have been made to Home Front Command guidelines at this stage but urged continued alertness, assuring that any updates will be communicated immediately.

Meanwhile, the escalation in the north has temporarily frozen Netanyahu's reported plans to replace Gallant with Gideon Sa'ar, head of the New Hope Party.

An Israeli source familiar with the matter said it became immediately clear that amid such a security escalation, Netanyahu would be unable to dismiss his defense minister. "It's just a matter of timing. The dismissal will happen, but for now, the events have bought Gallant more time," the source explained.

Another senior Israeli official said, "Right now, the security situation is paramount. While the future is uncertain, it's clear that at this moment, no one will fire Gallant."

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's decision to visit Israel next Sunday underscores American concerns about the potential for wider escalation. This will be Austin's third visit to Israel since the war began. He spoke with Gallant on Tuesday regarding the situation in Lebanon.

Despite the heightened tensions, the Prime Minister's Office is continuing preparations for Netanyahu's trip to New York next week, where he is scheduled to address the United Nations General Assembly and stay for six days.

Netanyahu is set to depart on the Wing of Zion state plane on Monday night, give his speech Friday morning (New York time), spend the Sabbath in the city, and return to Israel on Saturday night. He is expected to land in Israel on Sunday afternoon.

While the Wing of Zion is equipped with classified communication systems allowing him to stay in contact at 30,000 feet, if Hezbollah launches a barrage of missiles at Israel, Netanyahu may find it difficult to remain out of the country for so many days. For now, his team insists the trip is proceeding as planned.

Behind the scenes, frantic consultations have been taking place in recent days. Senior security officials have been shuttling in and out of the offices of the prime minister and

defense minister, with countless discussions, scenarios, responses and heated debates over the next steps in the northern campaign.

The consensus is that the focus must now shift to Hezbollah. However, Israel appears keen to avoid a full-scale war, which is why it has refrained from taking responsibility for the explosions.

Hezbollah's next moves will determine the course of the conflict. Should the terror group escalate, it will face a more determined Israel. Hezbollah should be deeply concerned about the extent of Israel's intelligence penetration.

**Hezbollah vows retaliation**

After initially holding blame for the blasts, Hezbollah issued a second statement in which it pointed a finger at Israel.

"After reviewing the facts, we hold the Israeli enemy responsible for this attack, which harmed civilians and resulted in deaths and injuries," the statement read.

In its initial response shortly after the incident, the group wrote, "Around 3:30 p.m., several pager devices used by operatives in various Hezbollah units and institutions exploded. A child was killed, and two 'brothers' (operatives) along with many others were seriously injured."

Hezbollah added that its officials are investigating the cause of the simultaneous explosions, and that medical teams are treating the injured at hospitals across Lebanon.

"We pray for mercy for the dead and for the recovery of the injured," the statement said, warning Lebanese citizens to "beware of rumors and false information that serve the enemy's psychological warfare, especially amid threats of changes in the northern region."

The group assured that Hezbollah is "fully prepared to defend Lebanon on all levels."

9.17. 24 – Tu

Eight killed, 2,750 wounded in pager detonations across Lebanon; IDF strike border

9.17. 24 – Tu

Eight killed, 2,750 wounded in pager detonations across Lebanon, health minister says  
Hospitals in Lebanon calling for blood donations amid influx of casualties; Lebanese broadcaster claims Israel remotely detonated Hezbollah's communication devices; Iran's ambassador to Lebanon injured in pager blast

Lior Ben Ari, Reuters | 08:20

Eight people were killed and almost 2,750 wounded - 200 of them critically - in a spree of simultaneous detonations of pagers across Lebanon, Health Minister Firass Abiad said on Tuesday.

A Hezbollah official admitted to Qatari newspaper The New Arab that "Israel breached the organization's communication devices and detonated them." He described the breach as "serious and under investigation," adding that there were casualties but no fatalities.

Iran's Mehr news agency reported that Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani was also injured by a pager explosion.

Saudi news outlet Al Hadath reported that hospitals in Lebanon are calling for blood donations. Sources said Hezbollah affiliates requested that images of the injured not be published to avoid putting them at further risk.

A Reuters journalist reported seeing 10 Hezbollah members bleeding from injuries in Beirut's Dahieh suburb.

According to Sky News Arabia, the simultaneous explosions involved devices used by Hezbollah for encrypted internal communication. The outlet also reported that Israel had managed to hack into Hezbollah's communication network and detonate the devices. Saudi outlet Al Arabiya reported, citing a Lebanese source, that Hezbollah operatives were instructed to discard their communication devices following the explosions.

Videos circulating on social media captured scenes of chaos, with panicked crowds filling the streets and hospitals overwhelmed by casualties. Footage showed injured victims lying in hospital corridors, many suffering from severe wounds. Shortly after the incident, Lebanon's Ministry of Health urged citizens possessing such devices to "immediately dispose of them." The ministry also called on all staff to "report urgently to their workplaces."

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati instructed the health minister to "mobilize all resources to treat the injured."

Opposition-affiliated Syrian news Voice of the Capital reported that a communication device of a similar model to those used by Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon exploded inside a car in Damascus.

Speaking to Lebanese newspaper An-Nahar, Communication consultant Amer Tabesh explained that the devices, dating from the 1990s, are part of Hezbollah's network for transmitting a limited number of encrypted "codes" and messages. He noted that while different countries and organizations use the device, it is distinct from a standard walkie-talkie because it transmits coded written messages rather than voice communications. Tabesh speculated that the explosions were caused by the device's battery, which may have detonated due to overuse beyond its capacity. Meanwhile, the IDF launched a wave of strikes on Hezbollah facilities in the towns of Ayta ash-Shaab and Khiam in southern Lebanon.

9.17. 24 – Tu

US to withdrawal from Iraq in 2026 will remove smuggling buffer Iran to Jordan

9.17. 24 – Tu

Barriers and drones: This is how the IDF plans to secure breached Jordanian border

Iran bolsters efforts to expand its Middle East operations by proliferating weapons through terrorist affiliates and smuggling explosives into the West Bank through Jordan Yoav Zitun|04:53

The deadly attack at the Allenby Crossing last week reminded us of the breached eastern border with Jordan which can supply West Bank terrorists with explosives. The IDF plans to secure the Jordanian border with a new unit, barriers and drones. The army's plan to solidify the border will be presented for the first time in the coming days to senior officials in the Defense Ministry and Finance Ministry.

The operation will include three phases. The first stage will involve the deployment of hundreds of means of surveillance, such as radars and cameras. Then, Israel will place forces that can reach any location quickly in the case of infiltration or smuggling. The IDF will also upgrade its local aerial capabilities and the neglected engineering barrier at the border. The plan will be presented by Deputy IDF Chief of Staff Major General Amir Baram.

At the same time, the IDF will establish a new regional division, the Eastern Brigade, which will be responsible for the Jordanian border. There will be two or three divisions under its command that will specialize in their sector. Currently, the Jordanian border is guarded by several battalions, some of them are familiar with the area but most are rotated in and out. The mixed battalions secure the border near Eilat and the Judea and Samaria forces secure the area close to the West Bank.

Over the years, the IDF tried to correct the situation. For example, the military considered placing the southern Jordanian border units under the Judea and Samaria Division's command. The new initiative also includes an attempt to include a new unit of ultra-Orthodox soldiers that will serve near their yeshiva in the Jordan Valley or in the Jerusalem area. The plan will also strengthen the security of sensitive assets such as the Dead Sea hotels.

The Jordanian border project is expected to cost more than the Sinai border which cost 2.5 billion shekels at the time but less than what is expected to be spent on the underground barrier with Gaza to prevent underground infiltrations through the Hamas terror tunnels which will cost around 4 billion shekels. The government is considering creating a new budgetary clause to not to burden the security budget, similar to the Gaza barrier.

Under the existing situation and the many years of neglect, arms smugglers have succeeded in the last five years, since the civil war in Syria died down and ISIS collapsed in Iraq, to distribute thousands of different weapons in the West Bank, from pistols to IEDs. The smuggling routes are mainly frequented by Turks, Jordanians or Africans who are living in Israel illegally.

In 2021, the Central Command invested much of its attention to thwart the hundreds of attempts to smuggle weapons through the ineffective border. "For every successful



operation to thwart smuggling, there are at least three to five successful smuggling operations and we don't know about them," estimated a security official.

The back of Tehran

In the past year, under the auspices of the war in Gaza, the Iranian Quds Force has slowly taken over smuggling routes into the West Bank to arm local Palestinian terrorist organizations to act against Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Iran has been smuggling explosives made from dual-use materials in recent months as was seen in several attempts. The defense establishment warns that the use of these explosives will only expand in the West Bank along with the knowledge of how to create explosives from fertilizers. Other troubling news in the region comes from the reported American withdrawal from Iraq at the end of 2026 after the U.S. reached an agreement with the Iraqi government. This could help Iran and its proxies consolidate power in the region and remove the buffer between Iran and Jordan.

9.16. 24 – Mo

US sanction Intellexa Israel spyware for phone photos, location, messages, & microphone

9.16. 24 – Mo

US Treasury sanctions Israeli spyware company Intellexa as national security threat  
US imposes sanctions on five executives from a company founded by Tal Dilian, a former Israeli military intelligence officer, over their involvement in developing the notorious 'Predator' spyware, which has been deemed a threat to US national security  
Daniel Edelson, New York | 13:45

The U.S. Treasury Department on Monday announced sanctions against five senior executives of Intellexa, a cyber intelligence firm founded in Israel and owned by Israelis, known for developing commercial spyware, including the notorious "Predator" software.

The sanctions are part of the U.S. government's efforts to counter the misuse of surveillance technologies that threaten national security, privacy rights, and freedom of expression, according to a statement from the State Department.

"The United States will not tolerate the reckless propagation of disruptive technologies that threaten our national security and undermine the privacy and civil liberties of our citizens," said Acting Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Bradley T. Smith. "We will continue to hold accountable those that seek to enable the proliferation of exploitative technologies, while also encouraging the responsible development of technologies that align with international standards," the statement read.

"As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of the designated persons described above that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked and must be reported to OFAC. In addition, any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, individually or in the aggregate, 50% or more by one or more blocked persons are also blocked. Unless authorized by a general or specific license

issued by OFAC, or exempt, OFAC's regulations generally prohibit all transactions by U.S. persons or within (or transiting) the United States that involve any property or interests in property of designated or otherwise blocked persons. Non-U.S. persons are also prohibited from causing or conspiring to cause U.S. persons to wittingly or unwittingly violate U.S. sanctions, as well as engaging in conduct that evades U.S. sanctions. OFAC's Economic Sanctions Enforcement Guidelines provide more information regarding OFAC's enforcement of U.S. sanctions, including the factors that OFAC generally considers when determining an appropriate response to an apparent violation."

Among the executives mentioned in the statement is Merom Harpaz, formerly a key manager at Intellexa S.A., a leading company within the Intellexa Consortium. As part of the sanctions, Harpaz's assets will be frozen, and he will be barred from entering the U.S. or engaging in financial transactions linked to him or other blacklisted executives and companies. Harpaz, who holds degrees from Tel Aviv University and the Technion, has lived in Greece for the past four years, according to his LinkedIn profile.

These sanctions follow earlier actions in March against Tal Dilian, Intellexa's founder and a former Israeli military intelligence officer, who also spearheaded the development of "Predator." According to previous reports, the spyware was distributed to government entities, including countries accused of human rights violations, and was used to surveil U.S. government officials. Imposing personal sanctions for spyware-related offenses is highly unusual – Dilian was the first individual in U.S. history to face such penalties, and now Harpaz and four others have been added in this second round.

Predator spyware can be used to gain access to data stored and transmitted from the target's device, such as a cellphone, through one-click and zero-click attacks that require no user interaction for the spyware to infect the device. Successful Predator spyware attacks can provide the spyware's operators with access to sensitive information on the victim's device, including photos, geolocation data, personal messages, and microphone records. As a part of the growing commercial spyware industry, the Intellexa Consortium maintains operations around the world, and its clients include state-sponsored actors and governments. Past targets of the Intellexa Consortium's spyware products include government officials, journalists, policy experts and opposition politicians.

9.16. 24 – Mo

Settlers enter Jericho PA school after Jewish herder attacked; teachers threw stones

9.16. 24 – Mo

Settlers violently enter Palestinian school near Jericho after Jewish herder attacked. After Jewish goat herder beaten by local Palestinians, settlers retaliate by storming an elementary school and assaulting students and staff; IDF intervened, trying to reduce tensions in a conflict that is almost certain to escalate further.

Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi, Gilad Morag | 11:35

Tensions flared Monday between settlers and Palestinians near the West Bank settlement of Mevo'ot Yericho. Settlers wielding clubs were filmed infiltrating a local Palestinian village school, reportedly attacking students and staff. Both the Civil Administration and IDF are now investigating the incident.

The confrontation was ignited when a Jewish goat herder found himself embroiled in an altercation with several Palestinians while grazing in an area off-limits to Jews near a Palestinian village nestled in the Mu'arrajat region, a landscape dotted with Bedouin settlements northwest of Jericho. Both the shepherd and his companion sustained injuries.

Later, a group of settlers, armed with clubs, stormed an elementary school in the village. The Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that these settlers assaulted students and educational staff. According to Palestinian sources, they not only beat an elderly man but also charged into the school, attacking students and teachers.

Reports also surfaced that the school principal and a teacher were apprehended by IDF, accused of hurling stones at the settlers. Palestinians, however, contend they were merely trying to shield the children and repel the settlers. The Palestinian Red Crescent documented injuries to seven individuals during these clashes, comprising both Palestinians and activists who had arrived to lend support.

An IDF spokesperson commented: "Earlier today, a report was received regarding an Israeli civilian who was assaulted by several Palestinians in the Mevo'ot Yericho area, sustaining a head injury. Shortly thereafter, several Israeli civilians arrived at the location where the suspects, who attacked the Israeli civilian, had fled and hidden. A confrontation ensued, during which several Palestinians were injured. Upon receiving the report, IDF and police forces rushed to the scene, managed the confrontation, and detained several suspects."

In parallel developments, the State Prosecutor's Office filed an indictment in the Central District Court against Yosef Bar Tal, 18, a Bat Yam resident, along with two minors from Hebron and Elon Moreh. Charges stem from their involvement in an attack on Palestinian vehicles in the West Bank last month, driven by nationalist and ideological motives, amounting to offenses under the auspices of a terrorist act.

According to the indictment, laid out by attorney Tomer Steinberg, on the night of August 9, the defendants orchestrated an attack on Palestinian vehicles, motivated by nationalist and ideological fervor. To this end, they altered their vehicle's license plate and armed themselves with a club, an iron rod and stones.

The indictment continues that they targeted three random Palestinian vehicles driving along roads near the villages of Burin and Awarta, both located south of Nablus. Their actions resulted in damage to the vehicles, shattering windows and windshields. Furthermore, they struck one of the drivers with a club aimed at his head, injuring his right shoulder. The driver also suffered an eye injury from a glass shard entering his eye. In the aftermath, as the Palestinian passengers managed to escape, the defendants returned to their vehicle, attempting to drive back home to the settlement of Itamar. On their journey, they were intercepted by an IDF force conducting a search of their vehicle and ordering them to remain at the scene. The defendants disregarded the soldiers'

command, fleeing the scene in a dangerous manner, forcing the military commander to leap back to avoid being struck by their vehicle. Their escape continued until they reached an open area near Itamar, where they abandoned their vehicle and fled on foot. The defendants face charges of conspiracy to commit a felony classified as a terrorist act, altering the identity of a vehicle or vehicle parts collectively, intentional damage to a vehicle collectively under the circumstances of a terrorist act, throwing or firing a stone or other object at a vehicle collectively under the circumstances of a terrorist act, aggravated assault under the circumstances of a terrorist act, obstruction of a public servant, driving without a vehicle license and insurance policy, and reckless or negligent driving.

Alongside the indictment, a detention request until the end of proceedings was filed, with the prosecution expressing "disgust and absolute abhorrence of the grave, wrongful and repugnant acts attributed to the respondents in the indictment, highlighting their danger to individuals, the public and the state. The defendants' threat is further amplified by the nationalist and ideological backdrop to these acts, compounded by the security tension prevailing during this period."

The investigation was spearheaded by the Shin Bet and police, who reported in a statement: "Following a joint investigation, serious indictments were filed in the Central District Court. In their operations, the defendants used non-firearm weapons, hurled stones, attempted to obstruct the investigation through various means, and even endangered IDF soldiers during their escape efforts. Through these actions, the young men endangered themselves and the security forces who had to enter Palestinian villages in pursuit of them."

"These indictments add to other severe charges recently filed against two Givat Ronen residents involved in a serious attack on Israeli Arab women from Rahat last August. Security forces will continue to act to thwart and prevent terrorism of all kinds across all sectors, with further arrests anticipated in the coming days," according to the statement. Attorney Asaf Gonen, representing the defendants, said that "the indictment filed today reflects a very concerning process unfolding here in recent years regarding the prevention of attorney-client meetings. They detain young men without criminal records, some of whom are minors; the young man I represent was about to enlist in the Golan Brigade. They are taken from their homes, deprived of sleep and coerced into making statements. The prevention of meetings is a draconian tool Shin Bet and prosecution wield in cases that, with all due proportions, are not severe, and no one was seriously harmed. Instead of reserving this tool for terrorists and 'ticking time bombs,' they apply it broadly – this is a slippery slope."

Attorney Moshe Polsky, representing the minors said that "the incident did not originate in a vacuum but was a reaction to stone-throwing by Palestinians at Jews seeking those who harmed them. Minors without criminal records were interrogated without legal representation. All the defenders of human rights, if we wish to be in a law-abiding country, must protest against this."

## PM deal with Gideon Saar to pass bill exempting Haredi from military service

9.16. 24 – Mo

Netanyahu set to oust his defense minister during war

PM reportedly closing deal with Gideon Saar's New Hope Party to ensure passage of a new draft bill that is acceptable to Haredi coalition partners and ensures his government's survival; U.S. concerned move would remove 'only adult in the room'

Yuval Karni | 09:03

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was set to oust Defense Minister Yoav Gallant from his position, a senior political official said on Monday. Netanyahu planned to add Gideon Saar's New Hope party to the coalition adding four seats to his Knesset majority.

The move raised concern among the families of hostages currently held in Gaza because of Saar's position opposing a deal with Hamas that would see hostages freed. Stocks fell and gas prices spiked amid expectations of the government reshuffle.

The rift between Netanyahu and Gallant has widened in recent months after the defense minister opposed the prime minister's refusal to agree to a deal that would free hostages. The position of the Defense Ministry, the IDF, Shin Bet and Mossad is that Israel can deal with the security risks that would emerge from such a deal and that the release of hostages must be a priority.

The two men have not met for a long time despite Israel being at war on multiple fronts. Netanyahu's right-wing coalition partners and many in his party have demanded Gallant resign or be ousted for his position calling the prime minister a defeatist who is incapable of winning the war.

Netanyahu also blamed the military and security agencies for the failure leading up to and on October 7, claiming he was kept in the dark and could not be blamed for the catastrophe. His allies in the Likud have echoed and spread that position.

A senior member of Netanyahu's cabinet said Netanyahu and Saar were making a political deal that would enable the prime minister to pass a bill exempting Haredi men from military service. The ultra-Orthodox parties in his coalition have threatened to withhold their backing for a national budget unless a bill amenable to them, which exempts the vast majority of draft-age men from service, is passed, after past bills have expired leaving their flock vulnerable to sanctions if they do not enlist, as well as to economic measures to remove some of the funding that Haredi families receive. If a national budget does not pass, the government is automatically dissolved.

Gallant refused to back such legislation amid war while reservists were being called up time and again to fight in Gaza and in the north and enlisted troops already had months added to their compulsory service after the IDF lost many of its force that was either killed or maimed since the war began nearly a year ago.

He demanded that any such bill should have broad parliamentary success, in effect handing the ultimate power to approve it to the opposition.

Sources with knowledge of the negotiations between Netanyahu and Saar said the two have agreed in principle on the wording of a draft bill that has the approval of the ultra-Orthodox members of the coalition.

Saar denied that he was negotiating with the Haredi parties or anyone else on a draft bill. His allies said he believed any legislation must be based on the needs of the IDF and in coordination with the Defense Ministry and the security agencies.

The last time Netanyahu fired Gallant was in March 2023, after the minister came out against the legislative push to weaken the judiciary. Gallant warned at the time that pushing through the legislation amid the mass public protests was a threat to Israel's security.

Reservists serving in elite IDF units in a volunteer capacity warned that if the laws pass and Israel steps away from being a democracy, they would no longer volunteer for service.

U.S. officials are concerned over the possible Gallant ousting, claiming he is the 'only adult in the room' in Netanyahu's government after the relations between the prime minister and U.S. President Joe Biden have again soured over Netanyahu's refusal to discuss the day after the war and his criticism of the administration, despite the massive military assistance that Biden has and continues to provide Israel and the regional deployment of forces to prevent Iranian aggression.

9.15. 24 – Su

Launch by Yemen Houthis, missile intercepted but not destroyed, scattering debris

9.15. 24 – Su

Israel investigates failure to shoot down Houthi missile

The missile launched from Yemen was tracked by Israel's Arrow system and despite being intercepted, it was not destroyed, scattering debris in the center of the country; Israel considers its response and denies the Houthis claim it fired a hypersonic missile  
Yoav Zitun|16:06

A ground-to-ground missile launched by the Houthis in Yemen was immediately tracked by the Arrow missile defense system's radar. An initial IDF investigation reveals that an intercept was initiated culminating in one of the interceptors striking the target, albeit without completely destroying it. This has become the focal point of the IDF's ongoing inquiry.

The missile broke apart mid-air, and parts of it landed into an open area close to the central Israeli city of Lod, where a crater was formed. Typically, intercepts result in the full destruction of the target, making this incident particularly unusual. The missile's path was a direct line from Yemen to Israel, and according to the IDF, it was launched from the northern coastal sector of Yemen.

Multiple interceptors—including from the Arrow and Iron Dome defense systems were fired at the missile, in line with the doctrine for such a threat, to maximize the chances of a successful intercept. The IDF has indicated that over the past year, the air defense systems have been contending with tens of thousands of rocket and missile threats such as precise missiles, rockets, UAVs, cruise missiles, and drones but adds that the air defenses are never entirely foolproof.

The Air Force has dismissed the Houthis' claim that they fired a hypersonic missile. "To our knowledge, our enemies do not possess a hypersonic missile," they said on Sunday evening. The weapon used is known to the defense forces and has been used in the past, though the Air Force refrained from specifically naming the type.

A hypersonic missile is defined as any missile that can travel five or more times faster than the speed of sound, although many ballistic missiles can also travel at such speed. In military terms, the label typically refers to a missile with maneuvering capabilities at such speed. Ballistic missiles generally lack special maneuvering abilities and follow a predetermined ballistic trajectory, hence their name.

Some hypersonic missiles are cruise missiles, but there are ballistic missiles with maneuvering warheads as well. About a year ago, Iran claimed it had developed a hypersonic missile, which drew significant attention in Israel, especially after Russia first deployed such missiles during the Ukraine conflict.

Following the missile attack, fragments from interceptors rained down in open areas in central Israel and some fell on a train station, causing damage. No one was present at the time of impact. Firefighting teams worked to extinguish a fire caused by the debris.

The missile launch triggered sirens in numerous cities and communities in the center of the country, including in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area. Sirens were also activated at Ben Gurion Airport, which was widely reported in the international media.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would exact a "heavy price" on the Houthis, though the scale and timing of the response remain unclear. The prevailing assessment in Israel is that there will eventually be some form of response, although since no serious damage or injury was caused, it may be measured.

There is concern that failing to respond in force could potentially erode Israel's deterrence. After a Houthi drone managed to bypass aerial defenses in July and explode over Tel Aviv, killing one man and wounding others, Israeli jets struck the Yemeni port of Hudeidah causing serious damage. The hope in Israel was that that attack would dissuade the Houthis from further aggression.

After Sunday's missile attack, some believe failing to respond in a significant way would "invite" further attacks.

The attack is expected to be discussed in a security cabinet meeting on Monday, which will also focus on the northern arena where Hezbollah has been escalating its rocket and drone attacks in recent weeks.

Since the onset of the war in Gaza, the Houthis have launched what they term a "support campaign" for the Palestinians and have also been targeting maritime traffic in the Red Sea.

Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said on Sunday that the attack on Israel was a further stage of escalation in the war. "What will come is greater. Our actions will

continue as long as the attacks and the siege on Gaza persist. We will continue to coordinate with the resistance in Gaza," he said.

9.15. 24 – Su

Germany refused Israel requests for arms but sells weapons systems to Qatar

9.15. 24 – Su

Germany's quiet arms embargo on Israel: most requests for arms remain unanswered, report

While arms sales to Israel drop from 400 million euros to just 14 million in 2024, Berlin approves the sale of weapons systems to Qatar despite expressions of support for Israel's war and diplomatic advocacy

Itamar Eichner|14:06

Germany has refused Israeli requests for arms but agrees to sell weapons systems to Qatar, the Built newspaper reported on Sunday. The paper claims a quiet arms embargo on Israel was in place. Israel asked to purchase thousands of tank shells from the government in Berlin last year but has had no response.

In the report, the Bild said that the German government approved the sale of over 100 million euros worth of weapons to Qatar. "Military procurement abroad is especially important for the Jewish state which is fighting on several fronts against the Hamas and Hezbollah terror groups," Build wrote.

Officials involved in the matter said nearly all of Israel's requests for arms sales since the start of the war, have been delayed and only a fraction have been approved. There has been no decision to refuse arms sales but the requests are being stalled for a long time, giving the sense that there is a de facto embargo in place. The delays stem from internal debate between the German Chancellor's office and the National Security Council, which are in support of the arms sales to Israel and the Foreign Office which opposes them.

Germany still offers diplomatic support for Israel in international forums and has successfully thwarted several anti-Israel initiatives. Senior German officials have also expressed their support and empathy for Israel since the Hamas massacre and the outbreak of war.

Germany's arms sales to Israel have dropped dramatically. In 2023, sales amounted to over 300 million euros and in 2024, they dropped on only 14 million. This comes as international pressure on Israel increases over the civilian casualties in Gaza.

9.15. 24 – Su

Israeli strategy in question as war with Iranian proxies expands



9.15. 24 – Su

Israeli strategy in question as war with Iranian proxies expands

Expert says Houthis have become a strategic, but not existential threat, to Israel and other countries in the region and their removal from a position to threaten Red Sea maritime traffic must be an international effort

Keren Setton/The Media Line |13:39

A missile fired from Yemen landed in central Israel on Sunday morning, causing no major injuries but reminding the country that its multi-front war was still very much active almost a year after it began.

Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels were behind the attack, saying they used an upgraded ballistic missile to attack Israel. Since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war in October of last year, they have repeatedly fired drones and missiles toward Israel, the majority of them intercepted outside of Israeli territory.

The purpose of their attacks is in line with an Iranian directive that it and its allies have been acting against Israel in solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

This is not the only open and active front of the current war, which has spanned from Yemen to Gaza through Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Iran.

Also on Sunday morning, tens of missiles and drones were fired towards northern Israel by another Iranian proxy, the Lebanese-based Hezbollah terrorist organization. There were no injuries in what has become a daily occurrence.

Over the weekend, Israeli military forces operating in the West Bank city of Tul Karem uncovered an "underground complex," sparking fears that the tunnels aimed at attacking Israel in Gaza and Lebanon are also being duplicated in an arena close to central Israel. In another weekend incident, Hamas terrorists fired rockets at the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon after months in which the city had not been targeted.

In late July, after the assassinations of Hezbollah senior military commander Fuad Shukur, for which Israel took responsibility, and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, for which Israel did not take responsibility but is believed to be behind, there was a feeling that an all-out regional war that could possibly see a direct confrontation between Israel and Iran was closer than ever. Israel was on high alert for several weeks, and while the feeling of immanency has since subsided, there is still an open account for settling between the rivals.

The summer was also eventful between Israel and the Houthi rebels. In July, an Iranian-made drone launched by the Houthis killed one Israel in Tel Aviv, wounding 10 others. Israel responded with air strikes on the Houthi-held port of Hodeida. The Houthis vowed revenge, a score it appeared to settle this Sunday morning. Israeli media reported Sunday that an Israeli counter-retaliation was to be expected after the latest incident.

International community must stop Houthi threat in Red Sea

"The Houthis have become a strategic, but not existential threat, to Israel and other countries in the region," Shaul Bartal, a research associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and the Universidade de Lisboa in Portugal said. "The removal of their hold on the Red Sea needs to be an international mission."

There have been countless maritime incidents against dozens of merchant and naval vessels in the region, menacing the global economy.

The weekend reverberations of the almost year-long war put into question Israel's strategy, as it appears to be dragging itself in the mud of an open-ended conflict with Iranian proxies on all of its borders. The lengthy conflict has also led to major discord in the relationship between Israel and the US, with the White House increasingly critical of Israel's handling of the war.

"Without a major breakthrough in Gaza, there will be no breakthrough in the other arenas," Professor Kobi Michael from the Misgav Institute for National Security and Zionist Strategy and the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) said.

According to Michael, Israel needs to cement its presence in Gaza by establishing military rule in the territory as a means of eradicating Hamas.

"As long as Hamas has the responsibility and control over the supply of humanitarian aid to the civilian population, this creates the impression that Hamas is still the governing power and will remain so after the war," he explained. "This can only be changed with a permanent Israeli military presence, making it responsible for the distribution of aid while preventing Hamas from regrouping."

This is a major point of contention between Israel and the US, as the Americans also see Gaza as the path to change in the region but in a very different way.

"The American policy is very problematic for Israel and includes restraining it," said Michael. "This is based on a belief that the most important thing is to reach a cease-fire in Gaza, which they see as the cornerstone to their strategic vision that will placate Iran, bring to a cease-fire with Hezbollah, and facilitate a new regional architecture which includes normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia."

"These are daydreams the Americans are rather enslaved to," he added.

The result is immense American pressure on Israel in recent weeks to reach a cease-fire agreement that will also see at least a partial release of the 101 Israeli hostages still in Hamas captivity since October. There is also increasing public pressure on the Israeli government to agree to a deal, with a heated debate on its price, which would likely include, among other concessions, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.

"Israel has not made the strategic decision yet about whether it is to move forward with a deal, a deal that aside from the release of some of the hostages is somewhat a deal of Israeli capitulation," said Bartal.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists on controlling a critical border crossing between Gaza and Egypt, one that enabled Hamas' armament in recent decades. "It is clear that Egypt, knowingly or not, allowed for a massive amount of arms to enter Gaza," Bartal said. "Israel cannot give this up, and it is clear now it must hold at least some territory as a buffer zone that will give it forewarning of a possible attack. The thought that Israel could rely on its supposedly stellar intelligence to thwart such an attack was shattered in October."

This has reportedly been one of the dealbreakers preventing an agreement with the terrorist organization. However, it is unclear how realistic the prospects of a deal between the warring sides actually were.

Until Israel makes the decision, it pauses at a critical intersection in its war on Hamas, looking at its other enemies.

One of Israel's main tasks is to **re-secure its border with Lebanon**, where Hezbollah is constantly challenging its sovereignty. Hezbollah joined Hamas' effort to attack Israel a day after the Gaza-based terrorist organization carried out its surprise offensive. In an attempt to avoid similar scenes of massive civilian casualties, **Israel** immediately **evacuated tens of thousands of residents from their homes on the border**. They have **yet to return a year later**, and many have already resettled elsewhere. In addition, Hezbollah has widened its scope of missile fire, targeting residential areas deeper in Israel, areas that have not been evacuated.

Israel on cusp of change in strategy in the face of Hezbollah

In the meanwhile, the Israeli Defense Forces (**IDF**) have significantly downsized the **presence of its ground forces in Gaza**, indicating it is **moving focus elsewhere**. The IDF has also conducted numerous exercises in preparation for a larger offensive in Lebanon, with senior defense officials warning such an attack is imminent.

"We are on the cusp of a change in Israel's **strategy** in which it **will shift** the weight **towards the northern border**," said Barta. "Israel is becoming bolder and attacking more, combined with the public growing increasingly impatient."

"The current situation will not continue," said Netanyahu as he opened the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday.

Foreign media reports over the weekend suggested Israeli special forces conducted a rare raid in Syria, which **targeted an Iranian-built underground Hezbollah missile production facility**. According to those reports, at least 18 people were killed, and 40 others were injured.

Until now, Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged limited, but still significant, fire with unwritten and loosely agreed-upon terms to keep the civilian population outside of the conflict. This has left the Israeli government with a major dilemma of how to return its citizens to live in an area under the constant threat of Hezbollah, a far more formidable enemy than Hamas on its southern border.

"The **equation in the north must be changed**," said Michael. "The reality is that Israel is currently unable to exercise its sovereignty there. Only a massive offensive move can change this."

Michael added Israel would need broad support from the US and other Western allies for such an operation, support that would include active military action, perhaps even against Iran directly.

American-led attempts to reach a diplomatic settlement have failed so far.

Israel also continues to battle incessant efforts to attack it from the West Bank, where Hamas and other Palestinian factions are trying hard to challenge the Jewish state from an additional front. **Several car bombs were found earlier this month**, indicating an **escalation in those efforts**.

The Israeli army has operated intensely in recent weeks, conducting daily raids that have killed tens of Palestinians and arresting dozens more. In addition, A Turkish-American **aid worker was shot dead** by Israeli forces last week as she was protesting Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The incident added more tension to the already fraught relations between Washington and Jerusalem.

A look at the map of threats and violence shows that a regional war is already underway. However, its intensity could easily increase and will likely do so before a new order is achieved.

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9.15. 24 – Su

IDF prepare for Lebanon campaign; Qatar & Egypt no longer mediators, demand border

9.15. 24 – Su

Netanyahu orders IDF to prepare for broad Lebanon campaign

More than 11 months into the war, Netanyahu chairs a discussion about the situation in the North and decides it can no longer continue; Israeli officials believe the American diplomatic effort is futile and war is a matter of time

Itamar Eichner|02:32

"The situation in the north cannot continue. We need to change the balance and must return the residents home. This will not be done without changing the balance vis-à-vis Hezbollah. The IDF must prepare for a broad campaign in Lebanon," Netanyahu told his Security Cabinet.

Netanyahu's words at the cabinet' meeting on Thursday night, more than 11 months after Hezbollah joined Hamas in attacking Israel, were said even before Hezbollah launched dozens of rockets into Israel over the weekend. On Saturday night, the IDF attacked Hezbollah's ammunition depots both in southern Lebanon and in the north, more than 150 kilometers from Israel's borders.

The Israeli officials discussing the U.S. diplomatic effort in Lebanon, headed by envoy Amos Hochstein, are not producing any results. Although Israel is giving the American initiative another chance, it has conveyed there might be no choice but to resort to a broad military campaign in the north. According to an Israeli senior official, a military campaign in the north is a matter of time, ranging from a few weeks to a few months. Even before the operation in Rafah, Netanyahu had announced the approval of operational plans for such an operation. However, its start was delayed before the IDF could begin.

Israeli officials at the discussion doubted a diplomatic solution would solve the current conflict and return the displaced northern residents home. "Who will return home because Nasrallah will sign a paper?" security officials wondered. "How likely is it that he will agree to disarm and retreat north of the Litani River? It is a dream, and it will not happen. That is why the defense establishment understands that we will probably have to go to war to bring the people home."

According to the officials, the war is built on two pillars: international legitimacy and arms management. After a major build-up, the IDF's level of armaments is similar to the

levels of before October 7. The IDF stated it is ready with the necessary armaments and plans in the case of an escalation.

Although the government has not decided on whether to launch a military campaign in Lebanon, Netanyahu has accepted the IDF's statement and instructed the army to prepare for a broad campaign. In Israel, they are aiming to change the balance in the conflict against Hezbollah, and at the same time increase the pressure on the U.S. to possibly finalize the settlement.

A senior security official estimated that Iran has not attacked Israel yet due to its fear of the American military presence. However, Iran may choose to act if Israel directly confronts Hezbollah in Lebanon. Thus, according to the source, Iran will be able to engage Israel in three arenas. On Monday, Biden's envoy Amos Hochstein will land in Israel. The Americans fear that war will break out and throw additional countries into a regional war. Washington hopes to postpone the war until after the upcoming U.S. elections, fearing for Vice President Kamala Harris' political campaign.

Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant disagree on a few issues regarding the U.S. attempt to reach a diplomatic settlement. Netanyahu believes that the chances of an agreement are slim, but Gallant believes the U.S. move will succeed. In addition to Hochstein's visit, the cabinet will discuss on Monday adding the safe return of the displaced northern residents to their homes to the war's objectives.

The concern: Neglect of the hostages in Gaza

During the weekly Bring Them Back Home rally, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum expressed their concern that moving the focus of the war to the north will lead to the abandonment of the remaining 101 hostages in Gaza. Security officials also expressed a similar concern in the discussion that took place on Thursday, saying that a campaign in the north means that the hostages in Gaza are negligible. Netanyahu believes that the link between the hostage deal and the northern campaign is false and that Israel should return them regardless of the war in the north, but Gallant believes the opposite.

Israel believes that the U.S. will mediate between the sides only after the administration feels it is possible to bring Hamas to the negotiating table. Israel conveyed to the Americans that they must come to an understanding with Egypt and Qatar. Israel must agree with Egypt on an Israeli presence in the Philadelphi Corridor while it will demand Qatar pressure the Hamas leadership residing in the country in the form of deportation, sanctions and extradition.

At the end of the day, Hamas decides whether to move forward with the deal, but the mediators' role is to get Sinwar to come to the table. According to Israel, that is unlikely at this point.

An Israeli source privy to the details said that if Israel reaches agreements with Egypt on what the Israeli presence in the Philadelphi Corridor will look like, it will be more difficult for Hamas to continue the fight. Currently, the Egyptians are fortifying in their position, which is closer to that of Hamas. The Egyptians essentially became a party to the negotiation, and not just mediators since they refused an Israeli presence. At the same time, Israeli military pressure on Hamas continues. Israel will not give up its military presence to maintain pressure to reach a deal. This pressure should persist and increase.

9.14. 24 – Sa

IDF strikes 100 miles into Lebanon, PM pushing to prioritize the northern front

9.14. 24 – Sa

IDF launches strikes deep in Lebanon, targets 100 miles from Israeli border

Israeli airstrikes hit Hezbollah arms depots deep in Lebanon, with additional strikes targeting seven southern sites in under an hour; Cabinet meeting on northern front postponed as local leaders demand action; Hezbollah vows retaliation

Lior Ben Ari, Yoav Zitun, Yair Kraus|Yesterday | 14:40

Lebanese media reported Saturday evening that the IDF carried out unusual airstrikes in two villages approximately 100 miles from the Israeli border. Additionally, strikes were reported in the Bekaa Valley, around 50 miles from the border.

According to Lebanon's Health Ministry, four people were injured in one of the strikes deep inside Lebanon, including three children.

The Saudi news outlet Al Hadath reported that the remote targets were hit as part of a wave of strikes on 11 locations within an hour. The IDF confirmed the attacks, saying they targeted Hezbollah weapons depots in both the Bekaa region and the Baalbek district, as well as seven other sites in southern Lebanon.

Lebanese reports indicated that the wave of strikes began in the village of Sarafand, where a motorcycle was hit, injuring one person. The village is located between the cities of Tyre and Sidon. Strikes were also reported in the southern Lebanese villages of Khiam, Shaheen and Taybeh.

Later, Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese outlet Al Mayadeen reported that Israeli warplanes targeted the village of Khush al-Sayyad Ali in the Baalbek district, about 100 miles from the Israeli border.

Another strike, according to Al Mayadeen, hit the nearby village of Al-Qawah, where four people were injured, including three children, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. Additional strikes were reported in the village of Sar'een in the Bekaa Valley, about 50 miles from the border.

The wave of airstrikes followed a barrage of 55 rockets fired at northern Israeli communities earlier in the day, triggering alarms as far south as the Sea of Galilee. Two drones exploded north of Kiryat Shmona in the evening, but no casualties were reported. A Cabinet meeting scheduled for Sunday to discuss the northern front was postponed to Monday. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to propose adding the safe return of northern residents to their homes as an official war goal. While symbolic, the decision reflects a shift in focus toward the north as the Gaza campaign nears completion. Israel's defense establishment is pushing to prioritize the northern front, though there are concerns about the impact on efforts to secure the release of hostages still held in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah deputy leader Naim Qassem warned that an Israeli offensive would not bring displaced residents back to their homes, but would instead escalate the conflict. "We have no plans to start a war, but any expansion of Israeli aggression will be met with a broader response," Qassem said. "If they [Israel] think war will return the settlers, they should prepare to receive hundreds of thousands more."

Amid the rising tensions, Amit Sofer, head of the Merom HaGalil Regional Council, which has been under frequent Hezbollah rocket fire, expressed cautious support for Netanyahu's proposed strategy. "After nearly a year of fighting in the north, it's the first time we hear the prime minister proposing to intensify strikes in Lebanon," Sofer said. "We support any strategy that brings security to the north, returns the residents, and pushes Hezbollah away from the border. Only crushing the enemy will bring lasting peace. Now we want to see action, not just words."

9.14. 24 – Sa

Yemen Houthis turn 2023 hijacked Israeli ship into attraction for Muslim holiday

9.14. 24 – Sa

Houthis turn captured Israeli ship into attraction for Muslim holiday

Houthis turn the hijacked Galaxy Leader, which was taken in November, into an attraction for Prophet Muhammad's birthday on September 14 according to the Muslim calendar

Lior Ben Ari|| 08:06

The Houthi rebels, Iran's proxy in Yemen, hijacked the Galaxy Leader cargo ship off the coast of the Gulf in November 2023. On the occasion of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, they decorated the ship with flags and lights and turned it into an attraction.

The holiday falls on the 12th day of the third month of the Muslim calendar. In Arabic, the third month is called Rabi' al-Awwal, which means the beginning of spring. The holiday was not celebrated in the ancient period of Islam, so not all Muslim communities celebrate it on the same day. In the places where the holiday is celebrated, Muslims hold celebrations and sing songs of praise to Allah and Muhammad.

The ship is anchored in front of As-Salif port, and visitors sail to it using small fishing boats. Visitors tour the deck, take selfies, and step on the U.S. and Israeli flags, with speakers playing traditional Houthi songs to boost morale in the background.

The ship is owned by Israeli businessman Abraham Ungar's shipping company "Ray" and at the time of the attack, there were no Israelis on board. The ship was carrying the flag of the Bahamas and was on its way from Port Said in Egypt to India.

In the footage from the takeover of the cargo ship in the Red Sea, the Houthi operatives were seen landing on the ship from a helicopter that landed on the deck. Then, they

started walking around with drawn weapons and chanting against Israel and the Jews. Some of the terrorists entered the main hall and threatened the crew on the command bridge.

The Houthi spokesperson Yahya Sare'e, said at the time: "Our naval forces carried out a military operation in the Red Sea, took control of an Israeli ship and took it to the coast of Yemen. The Houthis are treating the ship's crew in accordance with the values of the religion of Islam. We warn all the ships that belong to the Israeli enemy or work with it because they will become a legitimate target for the Houthi army."

A member of the political bureau of the Houthis in Yemen, Hazam al-Assad, said in November that the Houthis will not allow Israeli ships to pass through the Bab al-Mandab strait that connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean.

The Prime Minister's Office stated after the takeover of the ship that "This is another act of Iranian terrorism, representing a significant escalation in Iran's aggression against the citizens of the free world, and has international implications for the security of global shipping routes."

Since the beginning of the war, Iran's envoys in Yemen have been trying to challenge Israel. The Houthis have launched more than 200 missiles and drones at Israel, even striking Tel Aviv and killing a civilian. Some of the projectiles launched at Eilat were intercepted by American warships in the Red Sea and others were intercepted by Israel's air defense systems.

9.14. 24 – Sa

Political Police arrest three women for handing hostage pamphlets in synagogue

9.14. 24 – Sa

Police arrest three women for handing hostage pamphlets in synagogue

Three women in Herzliya were arrested for conspiracy and breaking and entering for leaving hostage pamphlets in a synagogue and were interrogated for 8 hours: 'I assume this is a directive from above'

Roi Rubinstein, Raanan Ben-Zur, Ran Rimon | Yesterday | 01:13

Three women were arrested on Friday after having placed pamphlets in a synagogue in Herzliya on Thursday. The police called the women on Friday and told them they were under arrest. "They told me that I was under arrest for conspiracy to commit a crime as well as breaking and entering. "They handcuffed my legs and hands and brought me to the station."

Reportedly, the synagogue in which the women placed the pamphlets is the one frequented by MK Yuli Edelstein from the Likud party. After being interrogated for about eight hours, the three women were released to their homes and were forbidden to contact each other or stand 300 meters from Edelstein's house or synagogue for 15 days. The police requested at first house arrest but gave up their demand.



Following the unusual arrest, dozens arrived in front of the Gillot police station on Friday night to protest. According to Idit Alexandrovich, one of the women arrested, the police changed the charges during interrogation from breaking and entering to trespassing. "During the investigation, they changed the charges from breaking and entering to trespassing," she claimed. "The synagogue was open. We put up the pamphlets, talked to people, and left."

She said, "The police officers here were acting fine, but they asked me 'what's going on' and said 'wait for the investigation.' I called my lawyer and it took a lot of time." She said: "It's scary when you enter a synagogue and they persecute you. The fact that I was handcuffed is unpleasant. They could have told me to come to the station and I would have come. I guess it was a directive from above to handcuff me." Alexandrovitz concluded that "this imprisonment will not deter me from coming to protests and doing anything within the limits of the law in the hope that the hostages will be released."

Another detainee who was released said on her way out of the station: "I am ashamed of Edelstein's synagogue. Three normal women entered a wide open synagogue and placed pamphlets that read 'Let my people go' in an orderly manner."

The pamphlets placed in the synagogue featured pictures of the hostages, including the Bibas family and the inscription "Let my people go." The police reported they arrested three suspects, residents of Herzliya, for questioning on suspicion of trespassing into a synagogue and distributing pamphlets there. "During the investigation, the police noticed pamphlets scattered inside the synagogue with pictures of the hostages on them." "The only crime here is entering an open synagogue during a Bar Mitzvah and handing out pamphlets to people," said attorney Ran Tagar. "I have no words to describe the dismay at the police's conduct, it is obvious that this arrest is political. Three women are in the station, handcuffed by the hands and feet, as if they were members of a criminal organization. They received counseling and I very much hope that the Israel Police will get over themselves and at the end of the investigation will release them."

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum said: "We view this incident with deep sorrow that the subject of the hostages is being excluded from the public sphere. We regret that the police are used as a tool by those who not only do nothing to return our 101 brothers and sisters who have been suffering in captivity for 343 days, but are working and doing everything they can to thwart a hostage release deal. We praise every person who devotes his energy and time to support the hostages' families and help their recovery."

Several organizations condemned the unusual arrest, calling it political. The protest movement "Hofshi Beartzenu (Free in our country) said: "A quiet call for the return of the hostages is not trespassing; on the street, in the workplace, and also in the synagogues. We have no doubt that the entire Israeli public participates in the call for the saving of lives and the return of the hostages. The seriousness of the charges and the manner of the arrest raise serious concerns that these are arrests purely political. We must not let the fail of a national security minister take over the police, this is a clear warning sign and we will continue to fight for the rule of law and for the return of all the hostages." Many organizations have warned about the "politicization of the police", and also condemned the recent arrest. "The political police are going off the rails. False arrests of

political activists on a weekly basis cannot happen in a democratic country. There is no democracy with a political police."

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Ynet-News, September 13, 2024 – Friday

9.13. 24 – Fr- - - News   Placed in September 13 spot – Friday  
IDF Unit 8200 chief resigns, takes responsibility for October 7 intelligence breakdown

9.13. 24 – Fr- - - News   – Friday  
Ramla car blast blaze spread to nearby shops, trapping victims inside

9.12. 24 – Th- - - News   – Thursday  
Israel uses Digital warfare to change UNRWA's online credibility as Hamas ally

9.12. 24 – Th- - - News   – Thursday  
Escalation on the Syria & Lebanon as Israel infiltrated Syria's missile production site

9.12. 24 – Th- - - News   Placed in September 12 spot – Thursday  
Israeli unusual airstrikes landed forces on the ground in Syria and captured 2 Iranians

9.11. 24 – We- - - News   – Wednesday Q1 Moon 1:06am  
Nearly 100 rockets fired from Lebanon; kibbutzim to restrict movement, avoid gatherings

9.11. 24 – We- - - News   – Wednesday Q1 Moon 1:06am  
Netanyahu vows to fortify 308 km Jordan barrier, maintaining border of peace

9.11. 24 – We- - - News   – Wednesday Q1 Moon 1:06am  
Gallant reveals Hamas letter; major loss in weapons & fighters, 20% of initial strength

9.11. 24 – We- - - News   Placed in September 11 spot – Wednesday Q1 Moon 1:06am  
40 African lawmakers propose “Queen of Sheba Accords.” to defeat radical Islam

9.11. 24 – We- - - News   – Wednesday Q1 Moon 1:06am  
Brussels municipality halts twin city partnership with northern Israeli town

9.11. 24 – We- - - News   – Wednesday Q1 Moon 1:06am  
IDF says 2 dead, 6 hurt in Gaza chopper crash near Philadelphi Corridor

9.10. 24 – Tu- - - News   – Tuesday  
IDF strike hit a Gaza safe camp, killing 3 top terror operatives, Hamas inflates injuries

9.10. 24 – Tu- - - News   – Tuesday  
Ministers shown video of six hostages deprived of food & hygiene before being executed

9.10. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Police arrest dozens in massive corruption sting at Ashdod Port

9.10. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in September 10 spot – Tuesday

Israeli airstrikes target Hamas commanders in Khan Younis, over 40 reported dead

9.09. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

West Bank terrorists flex muscle as High Holiday tensions reach fever pitch

9.09. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Security forces thwart terror attack in Hebron highway bust

9.09. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in September 09 spot – Monday

IDF seek who revealed Friday Hamas documents to media for international influence

9.09. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Dozens of teens throw illegal rave at Israel-Jordan border; Police detained organizers

9.08. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Six murdered hostages could not stand up, had trouble breathing and were starved

9.08. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in September 08 spot – Sunday

Biden administration should call out Egypt for helping smuggle supplies to Hamas

9.08. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Netanyahu promises 2025 budget to build barrier on Jordanian border & hold back Iran

9.08. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

West Bank border crossing 14,000 Palestinians into Jordan every day

9.08. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Cairo may agree to Israeli presence in the Philadelphi Corridor if it is temporary

9.07. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Jordanian truck driver murdered 3 in shooting attack at Jordan border crossing

9.07. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Israel disappointed Qatar has not expelled Hamas officials & frozen bank accounts

9.07. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in September 07 spot – Saturday

Turkey calls for UAE, Saudi, Egypt, Syria & Lebanon for Islamic alliance against Israel