

Ynet-News, November 01, 2024 – Friday New Moon 8th Month

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Authorities launch probe into classified document leak from Netanyahu's inner circle

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Iran braces for Trump victory, fearing more Israeli strikes, Western sanctions

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Lebanon denies US proposal for cease-fire equated as Israel enforced surrender

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Over 40 phones found under Israeli prison; fishing rods retrieve magnetic phone pouches

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Italy rocked by espionage scandal in which implicated Mossad & Vatican

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Mass evacuations from south Lebanese towns amid explosions from IDF attack

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Israel disabled most of Iran's air & space defenses, in Saturday attack

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US, Egypt & Qatari envoys arrive to restructure UNIFIL for Lebanon cease-fire

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Palestinian Authority reels at bill banning UNRWA in Israel

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Qatari proposes up to 14 hostages for 30-day lull: 2 Russians within that deal

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IDF 12,000 soldiers injured since Gaza war; 2025 Law freezes compensation for injuries

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Israel barred from Paris tradeshow as 233 French companies licensed suppliers of IRGC

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Iran threatens Israel in UN, US warns Tehran against further aggression

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Guterres says UNRWA indispensable, after Israel bans agency

10.28.24 – Mo- - - News *** Placed in October 29 spot – Tuesday

Knesset passes law banning UNRWA activity in Israel, despite US & UN opposition

10.28.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Hostage negotiations summit in Doha concludes; expect progress within the week

10.28.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

IDF raids 60 Hamas with weapons, funds & documents, in north Gaza hospital

10.28.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Satellite images being analyzed of Israeli strike on 2 Iranian bases southeast of Tehran

10.28.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in October 28 spot – Monday

Israel approves Rafael-Elbit defense deal for ground-based laser interception systems

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'We're negotiating with ourselves': Israeli officials pessimistic as hostage talks resume

10.27.24 – Su - - News – Sunday

Battered and cornered: How Hamas clings on after major losses

10.27.24 – Su - - News – Sunday

Smotrich urges US & Western allies to remove Iran mullah regime & nuclear program

11.01.24 – Fr New Moon

Authorities launch probe into classified document leak from Netanyahu's inner circle

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Authorities launch probe into classified document leak from Netanyahu's inner circle
Security agencies focusing on spokesperson suspected of leaking manipulated Hamas documents to international media; despite lacking clearance, he joined sensitive talks; associates say he is a 'scapegoat'

Itamar Eichner|16:06

The investigation centers on suspicions of exposing sensitive intelligence and methods, potentially compromising Israeli military operations and strategic aims in Gaza.

The leaks reportedly involve a former spokesman who, despite lacking full security clearance, regularly accompanied Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to secure meetings, including military briefings at the Defense Ministry headquarters in Tel Aviv.

He is suspected of sharing classified information with the German newspaper Bild and other Israeli journalists, allegedly disclosing in September a document supposedly written by Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

The document purportedly detailed Hamas' negotiation strategy with Israel, advising on how to manipulate the international community while aiming to rebuild military capabilities and intensify pressure on Israel. A parallel report in The Jewish Chronicle quoted another Hamas document, later deemed fraudulent, which claimed Hamas aimed to transfer hostages via the Philadelphi Corridor to Iran or Yemen.

Within days of the publication of these reports, both Bild and The Jewish Chronicle faced backlash. IDF investigators determined the so-called "Sinwar Document" had been manipulated, suggesting it was not authored by Sinwar himself, as initially reported.

The Chronicle retracted its story after confirming that the cited document had no basis, and that the author's name was fabricated. This revelation has prompted additional

scrutiny of how seized Hamas materials were potentially altered to influence public opinion in Israel regarding the Gaza war.

While Netanyahu's office denied the detained individuals were officially employed, insiders confirmed the suspect maintained close ties to Netanyahu's inner circle, conducting public relations and diplomatic assignments under the direction of Netanyahu's Chief of Staff Tzachi Braverman. Despite failing an initial security clearance check, he continued to attend high-level discussions, reportedly acting as an ardent supporter and unofficial advisor.

The classified leaks investigation has intensified tensions between Netanyahu's office and Israel's defense establishment, highlighting growing divisions over Gaza policy and hostage negotiations. Sources familiar with the case view the detained suspect as a "scapegoat," suggesting that other officials may have played larger roles in the series of leaks.

In an ongoing security and legal effort, authorities continue to examine if senior officials might have indirectly sanctioned the unauthorized release of classified documents to foreign media.

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Iran braces for Trump victory, fearing more Israeli strikes, Western sanctions

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Tehran faces diminished leverage if Trump wins Nov. 5 US election, fearing he could grant Israel green light to hit nuclear sites and finalize US-Saudi defense pact to shift regional balance of power

Reuters|13:47

Iran's leadership and allies are bracing for what they would regard as a dreadful outcome of the imminent U.S. presidential election: A return to power of Donald Trump.

Opinion polls suggest the Republican Trump and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris remain locked in a close contest. But Iranian leaders and their regional allies in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen are concerned that Trump could well triumph on Nov. 5 and this could spell more trouble for them.

Iran's main concern is the potential for Trump to empower Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to strike Iran's nuclear sites, conduct targeted assassinations and reimpose his "maximum pressure policy" through heightened sanctions on their oil industry, according to Iranian, Arab and Western officials.

They anticipate that Trump, who was president in 2017-21, will exert utmost pressure on Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to cave in by accepting a nuclear containment deal on terms set by himself and Israel.

This potential change in U.S. leadership could have far-reaching implications for the Middle East balance of power, and might reshape Iran's foreign policy and economic prospects.

Analysts argue that whether the next U.S. administration is led by Harris or Trump, Iran will lack the leverage it once held - largely due to Israel's year-old military campaign aimed at degrading the Islamic Republic's armed proxies, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. However, Trump's stance is perceived as more detrimental to Iran due to his more automatic support for Israel, they added.

"Trump will either put very tough conditions on Iran or let Israel carry out targeted strikes on its nuclear facilities. He is fully endorsing a military action against Iran," Abdelaziz al-Sagher, head of the Gulf Research Center think-tank, said.

"It's Netanyahu's dream day to have Trump back in the White House," he told Reuters. Poison chalice?

A senior Iranian official who declined to be named told Reuters Tehran was "prepared for all scenarios. We have (for decades) consistently found ways to export oil, bypassing harsh U.S. sanctions..., and have strengthened our ties with the rest of the world no matter who was in the White House."

But another Iranian official said a Trump victory would be "a nightmare. He will raise pressure on Iran to please Israel... make sure oil sanctions are fully enforced. If so, (our) establishment will be economically paralyzed."

In an election speech in October, Trump stated his unwillingness to go to war with Iran, but said Israel should "hit the Iranian nuclear first and worry about the rest later", in response to Iran's missile attack on Israel on Oct. 1.

Israel retaliated with airstrikes on Iranian military targets, especially missile production sites, on Oct. 26. Iran's choices are limited going forward, analysts say.

"The reality is: Trump is going to support Netanyahu and give him the green light to do whatever he wants," said Hassan Hassan, an author and researcher on Islamic groups.

"Trump is much worse (than Harris) for Iran."

Hassan noted that Washington has delegated a substantial share of responsibility to Israel in the conflict with Iran and its proxies, with Israel leading the way. "The U.S. is involved enough in that it's backing Israel, may be more so than before."

"This time it's just things are really bad for Iran. Iran is seen as a problem by both Republicans and Democrats."

During her campaign, Harris called Iran a "dangerous" and "destabilizing" force in the Middle East and said the U.S. was committed to Israel's security. She said the U.S. would work with allies to disrupt Iran's "aggressive behavior."

But Trump's re-election would be a "poisoned chalice", for Khamenei, according to two regional officials.

If he were to reinstate stringent sanctions, Khamenei may be forced to negotiate and accept a nuclear pact more favorable to U.S. and Israeli terms to preserve theocratic rule in Iran, which is facing growing foreign pressure and has been buffeted by bouts of mass protest at home in recent years.

A U.S.-Saudi defense pact tied to Riyadh's establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, now in its final negotiating stages, poses a significant challenge to Khamenei too.

This alliance threatens to shift the regional balance of power by creating a more unified front against Iran, impacting its geopolitical standing and strategy in the Middle East.

New architecture

Hassan said recent attacks on Iran and its allies have been widely perceived as a significant success for Israel. They offered insights into what a limited strike on Iran might look like, setting a precedent and altering assumptions that military action on Iran would inevitably spark a wider Middle East war.

A senior Arab security official said that Tehran could "no longer brandish its influence through its armed proxies" in the wake of Israel's deadly strikes on Hezbollah and Hamas leaders.

For its own part, Iran has every reason to fear another Trump term.

It was Trump who in 2018 unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and ordered the killing of Qassem Soleimani, Khamenei's right-hand man and mastermind of overseas attacks on U.S. and allied interests.

Trump also imposed punitive sanctions targeting Iran's oil export revenues and international banking transactions, which led to extreme economic hardship and exacerbated public discontent in the Islamic Republic.

He frequently said during his presidential campaign that President Joe Biden's policy of not rigorously enforcing oil export sanctions has weakened Washington and emboldened Tehran, allowing it to sell oil, accumulate cash and expand its nuclear pursuits and influence through armed militias.

In March, he told Israel's Hayom newspaper in an interview that Iran could have a nuclear weapon in 35 days and that Israel - which deems Iran's nuclear activity an existential threat though is widely thought to have the region's only nuclear arms - was in a "very treacherous and dangerous neighborhood".

An Arab government adviser noted that Tehran recognizes there is a "new architecture in the making", but also that Trump despite his tough rhetoric realizes there is no alternative to a deal with Iran given its accelerated uranium enrichment program.

"Trump might aim for a new nuclear agreement, he could say I tore up the 2015 agreement because it was incomplete and replace it with a long-lasting agreement, touting it to 'make America great again' and preserve U.S. interests," the adviser said. As the 2015 deal has eroded over the years, Iran has escalated the level of fissile purity in enriched uranium, cutting the time it would need to build an atom bomb if it chose to, though it denies wanting to.

Iran Online, a state-run news website, stated that when Trump left office, Iran was capping enrichment at 3.67 percent under the deal, far below the 90 percent of weapons grade.

Now, Iran has "enriched uranium to 60% with IR-6 advanced centrifuges" and could achieve nuclear weapons capability "within a few weeks ... Completing the nuclear deterrence cycle is Iran's greatest trump card against Trump," it said.

Arab and Western officials warn that the more Iran hints it is nearing development of an atomic bomb, the more they incite the need for Israel to strike.

"If Trump reassumes power, he will support Israeli plans to strike Iranian nuclear facilities," a Western official said.

11.01.24 – Fr New Moon

At least nine injured, one seriously, in Galilee rocket attack, despite US solution

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At least nine injured, one seriously, in Galilee rocket attack

Emergency services paramedics arrive on scene in olive orchard in Arab town of Sha'ab where the rocket hit, injuring residents in the area

Hassan Shaalan|08:43

The Hian Medical Services emergency service reported on Friday at least nine people were injured, one seriously, after a rocket landed in an olive orchard in Sha'ab located in the Galilee following a rocket barrage from Lebanon toward the area earlier.

Magen David Adom Director Eli Bin added paramedics who arrived on the scene treated one individual in minor to moderate condition following the impact.

According to the IDF Spokesperson's Unit, "approximately 30 projectiles were identified crossing from Lebanon into Israel. Some of the projectiles were intercepted and others fell in the area."

Hezbollah and Israel continue to trade blows amid the Gaza war, now ongoing for over a year, despite efforts by the U.S. to reach a diplomatic solution for a cease-fire.

Officials familiar with the talks between U.S. President Joe Biden's Middle East envoys Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior officials said on Thursday that the administration's envoys are expected to return to Israel to finalize a deal, after meeting Biden and U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

"More important than the agreement will be an American document that will authorize Israel to act," they said. Jerusalem understands that there will most certainly be violations of the deal until the Lebanese military takes over responsibility for South Lebanon.

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Knesset approves Israel's 2025 state budget; most of the budget passed as written

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Government approves Israel's 2025 state budget

Ministers pass new budget marked at NIS 607.4 billion in a 23-7 majority vote following hours of intense discussions; opposition criticizes budget as selective and harmful

Gad Lior, Itamar Eichner, Moran Azulay|08:07

Israel government approved the country's 2025 state budget on Friday in a 23-7 majority vote. Ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir, Amichai Eliyahu, Yitzhak Wasserlauf, Miki Zohar, Gila Gamliel, Avi Dichter and Idit Silman opposed it. Yitzhak Goldknopf and Gideon Sa'ar didn't participate in the vote.

"The 2025 state budget will stand at approximately NIS 607.4 billion (\$160 billion)," Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said following the budget's approval. "Alongside the budget, the government approved budgetary adjustment measures totaling approximately 37 billion shekels (\$9.8 billion)."

"The current budget is a stabilizing one designed to serve the needs of the war and the major challenges facing the Israeli economy," he added. "It's a war-supportive budget that also promotes growth: we're offering reservists an additional care package worth 9 billion shekels (\$2.4 billion) and a comprehensive recovery and development plan for the north amounting to approximately 15 billion shekels (\$4 billion)."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu concluded the cabinet meeting, saying, "I want to thank the finance minister, ministers and the office staff who worked very hard for this. We gathered to vote for an important, difficult budget but one that's essential in a wartime year."

Opposition Leader Yair Lapid sharply criticized the budget, saying, "The Netanyahu government just passed a reckless budget. It'll increase every Israeli family's expense by 20,000 shekels (\$5,300) a year, while simultaneously distributing billions to 10 unnecessary government ministries. They've lost all shame," he wrote.

National Unity party leader Benny Gantz added, "4.1 billion shekels (\$1.1 billion) – that's the amount the Israeli government just approved."

"No, it's not for reservists who experience the heavy load, not for active-duty soldiers, nor for evacuees from the north and south, nor for economic recovery after a significant hit, nor for at-risk populations, education or welfare. 4.1 billion shekels is for them — for the politicians. Whoever supported this budget will carry this shame for life. Shame on you," he added.

The marathon of discussions for the budget's approval began on Thursday, with the scheduling designed by the Prime Minister's Office and the finance ministry to press ministers into ending discussions as the hours approached the early start of Shabbat. Consequently, disputes over certain budget items diminished, allowing most of the Finance Ministry's proposed budget items to pass as written.

11.01.24 – Fr New Moon

Lebanon denies US proposal for cease-fire equated as Israel enforced surrender

11.01.24 – Fr New Moon

'Akin to surrender': Lebanon denies US proposal for unilateral cease-fire

Top Lebanese diplomat says U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein asked Prime Minister Najib Mikati for a unilateral cease-fire with Israel to allow and advance deal with Hezbollah
Reuters, Lior Ben Ari|07:13

A U.S. envoy this week asked Lebanon to declare a unilateral cease-fire with Israel as part of an effort to help negotiations to reach a resolution for the more than year-long conflict, a senior Lebanese political source and a senior diplomat told Reuters on Friday.

The sources say the effort was communicated by U.S. Lebanon Envoy Amos Hochstein to Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati. But such an announcement was seen as a non-starter in Lebanon, the sources say, where it would likely be equated with a surrender.

In a statement to Reuters, Mikati's office denies the claim and says the government's stance was clear on seeking a ceasefire from both sides and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the last round of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006.

On Thursday, U.S. President Joe Biden's Middle East envoys Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Shin Bet Chief Ronen Bar, Mossad Director David Barnea and other senior Israeli officials.

"The two focused on efforts to secure a cease-fire agreement in Lebanon, allowing people on both sides of the Blue Line to return home safely, as well as new initiatives to secure the release of hostages which Hamas must address without delay," an Israeli official said.

"We have made progress toward implementing Resolution 1701, which will serve as the basis for a political agreement between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. It's important to make sure we have clarity, both from Lebanon and from Israel, about what would be required under 1701 to get its effective implementation," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

A senior American official said that Thursday's meetings in Israel were "substantial and constructive, focusing on a range of issues in depth including Iran, Lebanon, Gaza and securing the hostages' release."

The Wall Street Journal also revealed on Thursday a draft of the pending agreement, which includes a clause allowing Israel to strike in Lebanon during a 60-day interim period in response to "imminent threats."

According to the report, Israel would enforce the agreement and relevant UN resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution 1701 which concluded the Second Lebanon War in 2006.

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IDF strikes 200 terror targets in Gaza and Lebanon in one day

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IDF strikes 200 terror targets in Gaza and Lebanon in one day

Military spokesperson says troops eliminated terrorists alongside precise airstrikes on Hezbollah and Hamas military complexes

Yoav Zitun|03:15

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit reported on Friday that the Israeli Air Force struck "over 200 terror targets belonging to Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon," throughout Thursday.

According to the military, the targets included "command and control centers, launchers and terrorist infrastructure sites."

"Over the past day, IDF troops continued their limited, localized, and targeted activity in southern Lebanon, eliminating terrorists, locating weapons, and dismantling terrorist infrastructure sites and launchers. Simultaneously, IDF operational activity continues throughout the Gaza Strip," it added.

The military also detailed the forces' operation in the Gaza Strip, saying troops in Jabaliya "eliminated dozens of terrorists from the air and ground and conducted targeted raids on military structures."

"In central Gaza, the troops identified and eliminated several armed terrorists who were operating in the area. In the Rafah area, the troops identified terrorists operating within a military structure that had an underground tunnel shaft. The IAF then struck and eliminated the terrorists," the IDF said.

10.31.24 – Th

US, Israel & UN draft Resolution 1701 deal, despite Hezbollah & Lebanon rejection

10.31.24 – Th

Officials optimistic Lebanon deal possible despite Hezbollah's rejection

Israel is most anxious to receive U.S. assurances that the IDF will be authorized to enforce the terms of the agreement until the Lebanon army takes responsibility for South Lebanon

Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari|Yesterday | 15:55

Officials familiar with the talks between U.S. President Joe Biden's Middle East envoys Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior officials said on Thursday that the administration's envoys are expected to return to Israel to finalize a deal, after meeting Biden and U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

"More important than the agreement will be an American document that will authorize Israel to act," they said. Jerusalem understands that there will most certainly be violations of the deal until the Lebanese military takes over responsibility for South Lebanon.

Saudi outlet Al-Hadath reported the two will return directly to the U.S. from Israel, without visiting Lebanon. Israeli officials denied that this was an indication of a lack of progress. "We didn't deceive ourselves into thinking this would be resolved today or within a few days," they said.

"We have made progress toward implementing Resolution 1701, which will serve as the basis for a political agreement between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. It's important to make sure we have clarity, both from Lebanon and from Israel, about what would be required under 1701 to get its effective implementation," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

A senior American official said that Thursday's meetings in Israel were "substantial and constructive, focusing on a range of issues in depth including Iran, Lebanon, Gaza and securing the hostages' release."

McGurk and Hochstein met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Shin Bet Chief Ronen Bar, Mossad Director David Barnea and other senior Israeli officials.

"The two focused on efforts to secure a cease-fire agreement in Lebanon, allowing people on both sides of the Blue Line to return home safely, as well as new initiatives to secure the release of hostages which Hamas must address without delay," the official added.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu made it clear that the main point is not this or that agreement on paper but Israel's ability and determination to enforce the agreement and thwart any threat to its security from Lebanon, in a manner that will return our residents securely to their homes," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Al-Hadath cited Hezbollah sources saying the terror group refused to withdraw beyond the Litani River as part of the agreement.

The Wall Street Journal also revealed on Thursday a draft of the pending agreement, which includes a clause allowing Israel to strike in Lebanon during a 60-day interim period in response to "imminent threats."

According to the report, Israel would enforce the agreement and relevant UN resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution 1701 which concluded the Second Lebanon War in 2006.

The proposal was expected to face strong opposition from both Hezbollah and the Lebanese government due to concerns over violations of Lebanese sovereignty. As per the draft, Israel would need to withdraw its forces from Lebanon after a week, after which the Lebanese army would deploy in the country's south to help dismantle military infrastructure linked to Hezbollah and other militias.

According to the journal, neither Hezbollah nor the Lebanese government has accepted the proposal, which they argue "gives Israel too much leeway to continue attacking over the border," according to Lebanese and Arab officials familiar with the talks.

Lebanese officials said they were reluctant to reject the deal publicly as the document leaves room for continued negotiations that could ultimately bring the conflict to an end, according to Arab sources.

10.31.24 – Th

Hamas entered UNRWA and took everything, as the official government

10.31.24 – Th

' Hamas entered UNRWA and took everything,' Gazan staffer says

IDF releases interrogation with UNRWA worker in Gaza describing how terror group operatives took over UNRWA facilities and vehicles and looted aid meant for civilians for their personal use

Yoav Zitun|13:44

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit on Thursday released a video clip from the interrogation of a Gazan staffer of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees UNRWA who described how Hamas used the organization's facilities as their own. "They see UNRWA vehicles as a form of protection," he said.

" Hamas entered the place [UNRWA facilities] and took everything. Hamas is, after all, the government. They took it in their way (by force), it happened before everybody's eyes. It's no secret. Because they [UNRWA vehicles] have supplies, they started taking the supplies out of them and distributing them using private supply lines," he said in his interrogation.

On Tuesday, the Knesset voted to pass a bill banning UNRWA's activities in Israel after employees of the agency took part in the Hamas massacre last year. The legislation caused the outrage of UN and international bodies. The law passed by a vote of 92-10. European Council President warned on Thursday that Israel's decision to ban the key U.N. aid agency for Gaza could result in the annulment of a deal establishing Israeli trade relations with Brussels.

"The decision made by parliament in Israel, if implemented, to ban UNRWA in Israel is absolutely not acceptable and I cannot imagine that there would be no consequences on the EU side," Charles Michel told reporters in Geneva.

View gallery Gaza UNRWA employee says Hamas used facilities as their own
Gaza UNRWA employee says Hamas used facilities as their own (Photo: Screenshot)
re voices, including at the political level, the highest political level of the EU, are considering that the time will come to put on the table the Association Agreement between Israel and the EU," he said.

The deal, which entered into force in 2000, provides the legal basis for trade between the two parties. An EU website showed that the EU is Israel's biggest trade partner,

accounting for 28.8% of its trade in goods in 2022, while Israel is the EU's 25th biggest trade partner.

Under the new law, UNRWA will not "operate any institution, provide any service, or conduct any activity, whether directly or indirectly," in the sovereign territory of Israel. In effect, UNRWA's activities in East Jerusalem will be terminated and the body's powers will be transferred to Israel's responsibility and control.

10.31.24 – Th

PM spokesperson given full access despite being denied security clearance

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PM spokesperson given full access despite being denied security clearance

Spokesperson closely allied to Netanyahu sits in on confidential meetings, calls with U.S. officials, enters secure sites; IDF probes leak of confidential material to press
Itamar Eichner|12:48

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office allowed access to classified and sensitive information to a spokesperson who failed his security clearance review held by the Shin Bet, Ynet learned on Thursday.

The spokesperson accompanied Netanyahu on visits to sensitive security facilities during the war, including the Air Force command bunker at the IDF's Tel Aviv military headquarters and was even exposed to classified transcripts from meetings held by the Security Cabinet.

According to sources close to the matter, the spokesperson was initially hired to work for Prime Minister's Office's Director General Yossi Shelley's office. He was promoted at the request of Netanyahu's Chief of Staff Tzachi Braverman and left the Director General's office to serve as a spokesperson in the "Aquarium" — a nickname for the Prime Minister's office, one of the country's most sensitive facilities, dealing with security issues.

For this role, he was required to receive a high-level security clearance. However, as reported by Israeli public broadcast channel Kan 11, the spokesperson failed the security screening. According to insiders, his position with the director general ended after this came to light, but he continued to act as a spokesperson on security issues despite not having clearance.

After leaving the director general's staff, he was no longer a full-time employee but this didn't prevent him from continuing to represent the prime minister on sensitive security matters.

Throughout this period, he worked under Braverman and stayed in contact with Netanyahu's various spokespeople. He was involved in sensitive political and security

discussions, participated in consultations and even joined several security-related conference calls, including some with U.S. officials.

Since his official employment at the Prime Minister's Office ended on April 1, efforts were made to hire him as a paid external consultant, though no contract was finalized. In recent months, Netanyahu's office has tried to officially hire him as an external consultant and pay him for his services.

Ynet reported last month that the IDF was investigating how classified material was leaked to certain international publications for perceived political motivation. Senior officials close to Netanyahu on Wednesday distanced themselves from the spokesperson, who was known as close to the Prime Minister over the past year. Ynet couldn't obtain his comment. The Shin Bet and the Prime Minister's Office declined to comment on the matter.

10.31.24 – Th

Negotiations continue despite Hamas rejecting partial deal to end to the war

10.31.24 – Th

Negotiations continue despite Hamas rejecting partial Terror group rejects proposals by Egypt and the U.S. to facilitate a partial hostage and cease-fire deal they hope would lead to a preminent end to fighting in the Strip; Sources say talks still advancing behind the scenes
Einav Halabi, Itamar Eichner | 11:25

Intense negotiations are ongoing to facilitate a hostage and cease-fire deal with Hamas despite the terror group's rejection of Egypt and the U.S.'s proposals, Ynet has learned. Hamas was now demanding guarantees before any "small deal" that it will eventually lead to a halt in fighting and a full withdrawal.

Senior Hamas official Taher al-Nunu said in an interview that the terror group opposed a temporary cease-fire. "The idea of a temporary pause in the war, only to resume aggression later, is something we have already expressed our position on. Hamas supports a permanent end to the war, not a temporary one," he told AFP.

Meanwhile, the Hamas-affiliated Quds network revealed new details regarding proposals for a partial deal. According to the report, the Egyptian proposal involves a 10-day cease-fire, during which 150 aid trucks would enter Gaza daily, in exchange for the release of four hostages, including two women.

The American proposal, according to sources cited by Quds, involves a 30-day cease-fire and the entry of 600 aid trucks per day in exchange for the release of all female and IDF soldier hostages. "Both proposals concern a partial deal that doesn't end the war, nor does it include returning displaced residents to their homes or an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza," the report added. "All proposals are Israeli, based on Netanyahu's desire for a partial deal."

As mediators await Hamas's official response regarding its willingness to enter negotiations on a hostage deal based on the proposals presented at the Doha summit earlier this week, a source close to the talks in Qatar said on Wednesday that the terror group would be offered a cease-fire lasting "less than a month."

The source added that discussions between Mossad chief David Barnea, CIA Director William Burns and Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed Al Thani focused on a proposal for a several-week pause.

The source noted that the proposal to be conveyed to Hamas includes the release of hostages held in Gaza in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails and an increase in humanitarian aid delivery to the Strip. "Senior U.S. officials believe that if a short-term agreement can be reached, it could lead to a more permanent agreement," he added.

Qatari officials are expected to meet with Hamas leaders in the coming days to relay the proposals from the Doha summit and check whether the terror group is willing to sit at the negotiation table for a smaller deal. In addition to the American and Egyptian plans, a Russian proposal is also on the table which involves the release of two hostages with dual citizenship.

10.31.24 – Th

IDF destroys Hezbollah terror command center in Lebanese border town

10.31.24 – Th

'Not on our watch': IDF destroys Hezbollah terror command center in Lebanese border town

'The entire village was a staging ground; we found weaponry and evidence of terror operations in almost every house,' says soldier involved in operation
Yair Kraus|01:03

The IDF announced Wednesday that it had completed a large-scale demolition operation targeting southern Lebanon's Matmoura, located close to Israel's northern border near Kibbutz Adamit and the village of Arab al-Aramshe in the Western Galilee.

The operation was led by the 5067th Engineering Battalion, part of the 646th Brigade under the 146th Division, and marked the culmination of an intensive brigade-level exercise in the sector.

According to an IDF soldier involved, the village functioned as a Hezbollah "terror hub," where caches of weapons and ammunition were found in nearly every building. "The entire village was a staging ground; we found weaponry and evidence of terror operations in almost every house," he reported.

Footage released by the IDF shows 466th Battalion Commander Lt. Col. (res.) Nimrod Ziv addressing troops, saying, "After a year of war on the southern front, in the West

Bank and now in Lebanon, we, the reservist paratroopers of the 646th Brigade's 446th Battalion, destroy this Hezbollah staging ground. We will not allow the enemy to threaten our freedom in this country on our watch. We honor those who sacrificed everything, and we will continue to fight forever and defend our land."

The IDF's operations last week led to the discovery of underground bunkers designed for Hezbollah's elite Radwan forces, with long-term living supplies, military gear and ammunition.

Among the equipment seized were combat vests packed with grenades, full ammunition magazines, tactical helmets, winter gear, rocket launchers and advanced night vision systems. Several weapons reportedly bore markings linking them to sources in Moscow, Russia.

Lt. Col. Shushan, who previously led tours in the village, explained, "Even in our emergency depots, we don't have the level of readiness we found here in this small Sunni village."

He added that heavily fortified combat positions were constructed by Hezbollah mere feet from the border. "They had dug trenches and planted mines, intending to breach the wall along the border and infiltrate Israel in civilian clothing to strike quickly," he said.

The IDF emphasized that this operation is part of a broader mission to neutralize Hezbollah's offensive capabilities near the border, aiming to restore security and assure the safety of Israel's northern residents.

10.31.24 – Th

Iran minimized Israel attack damage; Guard commander promised painful revenge

10.31.24 – Th

Report: Iran will attack Israel, likely before US election

Now that extent of damage caused by Israel is known, 'senior source' claims to CNN that Iran will attack Israel in a 'definitive and painful' response even before the US presidential elections; White House warns: 'Iran should not respond'

Itamar Eichner|Yesterday | 17:39

A "senior source" familiar with the Iranian discussions, told CNN Wednesday night that there will be a "definitive and painful" response to Israel's recent attack on its territory, likely before the U.S. presidential election on November 5.

CNN did not specify where the source came from, but it is implied from his words that he is Iranian. "The response of the Islamic Republic to the aggression of the Zionist regime will be definitive and painful," said the source.

In the first days after the attack in Iran, which took place overnight Saturday, Iran tried to minimize and downplay the damage caused to the country's military infrastructure. In

Tehran, they even claimed that the IDF's announcements after the attack, which said that it was successful and its goals were achieved, constitute "psychological warfare."

The elections in the United States will be held this Tuesday - November 5 - so if the source's words are to be believed, Iran may attack Israel in less than a week. An Israeli official responded to this Wednesday, and issued a warning: "If they give a response - they will receive back double."

Knesset member Avigdor Liberman called on the political and military ranks "not to wait until the Iranians carry out their threats," and added: "We must move from waiting for a preemptive strike, from a proportional response to a clear decision. On October 26, we proved our ability, and now the order of the day is to exercise this ability in full force".

The White House once again called upon Iran not to attack Israel. White House spokeswoman Karin Jean-Pierre was asked at a press briefing about a report about a possible attack and replied: Iran should not respond to Israel's retaliation. They should not. ... If they do, we will support Israel in defending itself, but they should not," she said at a news briefing.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller also addressed the issue. He said that he could not give an assessment regarding what Iran might do, but he also noted that Iran "doesn't need to respond." He did not answer when asked if Iran had conveyed a message to Washington regarding a possible attack before the elections, saying "I will not talk about the communication between the two governments, whether it is real or imaginary. But as we have stated publicly, and Iran clearly knows this, they must not escalate this conflict."

Israel estimated shortly after the attack that Iran would respond - but it was not clear how. At the same time, the Israeli attacks targeted, among other things, missile production facilities, and the air defense batteries that protect Tehran were damaged, so that Iran remains exposed to future attacks.

The report on the escalation in Iranian rhetoric comes following the publication by the Associated Press, which on Tuesday revealed new satellite images from Iran, which indicate damage to another site in the Israeli attack - damage that the regime in Tehran has not reported so far. The photos show damage to several buildings at the Shahrud Space Center in the north of the country. The center, which is located about 370 km northeast of Tehran, is managed by the Revolutionary Guards, from which they launch satellites into space, but according to the Associated Press, it is also used by the Revolutionary Guards to manufacture ballistic missiles.

Iran publicly admitted that the attack caused damage to sites in the Tehran area and in the provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan in the west of the country, but it did not report any damage at all in Samnan. Experts emphasized that it is not possible to absolutely determine that the damage to the site was not caused by another reason, but they noted that the photos from before the attack did not show any damage to the site. The Planet Labs satellite images taken Tuesday show a "central" structure in the center was destroyed, with only its skeleton left standing. Near it are seen vehicles, probably belonging to Iranian officials who were sent to examine the extent of the damage. In a previous photo taken in March of this year, the building can be seen before it was destroyed, with a high blue roof.

On Wednesday morning, Iranian Defense Minister Aziz Nasir Zadeh issued several statements about the attack and threats: "There was no disruption in the pace of missile production," he claimed, noting that "Iran can launch dozens of counterattacks such as 'The Real Promise' (the Iranian name for the two attacks carried out in Israel) We will respond to any attack on our lands, even if it is a single bullet."

In addition, an Iranian lawmaker attributed the following quotes to Zada, which appeared, among others, in the "Tehran Times" and included another threat: "When the airspace is violated, the country has the right to respond to any act of aggression. Even if the Zionist regime fires an arrow at our country, Iran will not forgive. That's how you will respond." The minister later claimed that "no fighter jet entered Iran during the Israeli attack. Israel's latest aggression caused partial damage - and it was repaired immediately."

Operation Days of Repentance, conducted in response to the barrage of ballistic missiles on Israel from Iran at the beginning of the month, was Israel's first-ever declared attack on Iran. Dozens of fighter jets participated in the attack, which significantly damaged - according to foreign reports and also according to the official Israeli statements - the air defense system of the Islamic Republic and its ability to produce ballistic missiles.

In the days after the attack, senior Iranian officials stated that Tehran reserved the right to respond "at the appropriate time" to the attack, and several of them, including

Revolutionary Guard commander Hossein Salami, promised "painful revenge."

Meanwhile, and despite various reports on the extent of the damage, Tehran is careful to claim that the results of the attack were limited and that the damage from them will be repaired quickly, in a way that was interpreted internationally, at least until Wednesday evening, as a possible attempt to "contain" the attack.

The final decision on a retaliatory attack will be made by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei - with the estimate that he also prefers to avoid an all-out war. A few days ago, Khamenei himself issued a non-committal statement regarding revenge: "Israel made a miscalculation and must understand the will of the Iranian people," he said. "Israel's step should not be exaggerated - nor should it be underestimated."

10.30.24 – We

French court rules Israel can participate in November Paris Euronaval exhibition

10.30.24 – We

French court rules Israel can participate in Paris Euronaval exhibition

Paris Commercial Court ruled against President Emmanuel Macron and the French government, allowing Israeli companies to participate in the Euronaval exhibition
Itamar Eichner|15:21

The Paris Commercial Court ruled Wednesday in favor of a petition by the Manufacturers Association of Israel, Israel Shipyards and the France-Israel Chamber of Commerce, allowing Israeli companies to participate in the Euronaval maritime defense exhibition, set to take place in Paris in early November.

The judge's decision effectively overturns a previous ruling by French President Emmanuel Macron, the French government, and event organizers to bar Israeli companies from the exhibition — a move the court deemed inconsistent with the European Union's free-market principles and in violation of equality and non-discrimination policies.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz welcomed the decision, saying, "Congratulations to the Israeli petitioners on their victory against the undemocratic and unjust decision by President Macron to exclude Israeli companies from the exhibition. This success, achieved in part through legal and diplomatic efforts by the Foreign Ministry, is a win for justice and a clear statement against attempts to weaken Israel in its struggle against forces of evil."

Ron Tomer, president of the Manufacturers Association of Israel, added: "The court made clear that political-based discrimination in business has no place in the international market. Israeli industry will continue to be open to global business and lead in innovation and advanced technology. No government or organizing body will hold us back, and if attempts like this arise in the future, we will make it known that 'Made in Israel' will proudly stand at international exhibitions and conferences. This is a victory for the State of Israel and Israeli businesses, reaffirming that all are bound by the principles of equality and fair trade to which we are committed."

Despite the limited time left until the exhibition begins, Israel Shipyards will manage to set up its booth. Eitan Zucker, CEO of Israel Shipyards, praised the ruling, noting it would allow the company to showcase some of the world's most advanced naval vessels made in Israel.

However, he also urged caution for policymakers. "While the court ruled in our favor, we must remember that France effectively imposed a security embargo on Israel by trying to block Israeli companies from the exhibition. This should serve as a wake-up call for Israeli decision-makers to recognize, as we have seen in other instances during the war, that Israel must not be dependent on other countries. We need to rely on our own high-level capabilities and the strength of Israel's defense industry, especially when it comes to key platforms," he said.

The petition, filed through the French law firm GKA, argued that France's decision violated EU principles of equality and fair trade, which require member states to maintain open, competitive and non-discriminatory markets. The petition emphasized the EU's obligation to uphold fair, unbiased trade practices, ensuring that Israeli companies can participate and compete in the European defense market.

10.30.24 – We

Over 40 phones found under Israeli prison; fishing rods retrieve magnetic phone pouches

10.30.24 – We

An 'underground city' of cellphones exposed: This is how prisoners hid devices in the bowels of the earth

Over 40 mobile devices found in underground spaces and sewage pipes under an Israeli prison; Israel Prison Service warns possible upcoming budget cuts could hinder efforts to prevent future smuggling operations

Liran Tamari|12:33

In September 2021, six prisoners escaped from Gilboa Prison, which until then was considered one of Israel's most secure facilities. Following the escape and the ensuing investigative committee, the Israel Prison Service underwent a significant reform, introducing a computerized management system and reinforcing prison security.

As part of these measures, concrete was poured into the underground spaces beneath Gilboa Prison, which had been constructed with foundational piles. The project was expanded to other prisons, including Ganot Prison in southern Israel, where approximately 2,500 inmates are held. At the peak of these efforts, it was revealed that prisoners found another use for these “dead spaces” beneath the cells: hiding mobile phones to maintain contact with the outside world.

Currently led by Israel Prison Service chief Kobi Yaakobi, this extensive effort to fortify cells and fill underground spaces with concrete aims to implement recommendations from the government's inquiry following the Gilboa escape. The committee discovered that some prisons have open spaces beneath the cells – created when the structures were raised on piles – leaving gaps of several dozen centimeters between the ground and the floor.

The latest security operations uncovered a particularly clever tactic: Prisoners sawed through toilet pipes to stash magnetic pouches containing mobile phones. Using improvised “fishing rods” with magnets on the ends, they would retrieve the phones to communicate outside the prison.

Despite concerns about budget cuts, the Israel Prison Service warns that the proposed reductions could severely hinder their ability to prevent smuggling operations and implement the Gilboa Prison escape committee's recommendations.

During recent security operations in Ganot Prison, prison staff uncovered over 40 mobile phones hidden under cell floors. Using the new method, prisoners sawed into plumbing pipes, creating hidden compartments for phones and retrieving them with magnetic fishing rods when needed.

Chief Warden Hatem Azam, who leads the project, highlighted the sophistication displayed by the prisoners. “We are facing elaborate tactics, and our actions aim to thwart these attempts and prevent illegal communications. Additionally, we've deployed cellular jammers to disrupt any communication. We will continue to detect and seal off these ‘underground cities.’”

Southern District Commander Chief Warden Eran Peer expressed concern over possible budget cuts. “Right at the peak of our fight, the Finance Ministry is considering budget reductions, while we're uncovering methods that enable security prisoners to

communicate from behind bars. National security depends on preventing these smuggling operations. Lives and state security cannot be reduced to a matter of budget.”

10.30.24 – We

Italy rocked by espionage scandal in which implicated Mossad & Vatican

10.30.24 – We

Italy rocked by espionage scandal in which Mossad implicated Private security firm alleged to steal information on leaders, public figures in years of hacking to sell to customers; Mossad agents reportedly seek to trade information on illegal deals with Iran for info on Russian hackers, Wagner Group
Daniel Bettini|Updated:10:48

An internal espionage scandal is rocking Italy after a private investigation firm made up of current and former senior members of the security services was alleged to have stolen personal information on politicians, including Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and public figures, to be used for extortion.

Israel's Mossad was alleged to have been involved in deals with the Milan-based investigative firm.

Meloni described the alleged plot as "unacceptable" and "a threat to democracy." Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto demanded an urgent parliamentary probe, out of concern that state secrets may have been compromised. He said the personal information that was exposed is the tip of the iceberg.

Italian media described the affair as a conspiracy of the highest level that involves members of the mafia and officials in the intelligence services along with foreign intelligence services including the Mossad.

A former senior member of the police who heads Equalize, a private business intelligence firm, is the primary suspect in the investigation and is accused of breaching the servers of government ministries and the police since 2019 and until 2024, to build massive files, packed with secrets and sensitive information which he sold or planned to sell to his clients.

Most of the firm's clients are large companies or major law firms which were interested in access either to gain an advantage over competitors, to succeed in court cases or for extortion.

According to a report in the Italian newspaper Corriere Della Sera on Wednesday, investigators intercepted a visit to the investigation firm by two unidentified Israelis who were described as intelligence agents, who wanted to deal in information regarding Iranian gas that may be of interest to Italy's government gas company, ENI and pertained to illegal trade in gas with Iran.

The newspaper also said that the visit was coordinated by a senior member of the police who worked for Italian intelligence, the Mossad's counterpart, a man identified as Lorezo De Marcio, and that the Israeli agents asked for help in identifying the actions of Russian hackers and Russian bank transactions connected to the notorious Wagner Group, led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, Putin's former ally who was reportedly assassinated after he led a mutiny against the Russian military.

The Open website claimed the Israelis asked to stop funding of Prigozhin by Russian oligarchs and offered the Italian firm classified information on illegal purchases of gas from Iran and a payment of one million euros. According to the website, the Vatican was involved in assisting the action against Russia.

10.30.24 – We

Mass evacuations from south Lebanese towns amid explosions from IDF attack

10.30.24 – We

Mass evacuations from Lebanese towns amid explosions from IDF attack

Two farmers injured by rocket from Lebanon targeting Metula, as Israeli forces warned Lebanese towns of imminent danger, urging evacuation; From an environmental standpoint, there is significant damage to forests throughout northern Israel, with long-term recovery needed for affected wildlife and vegetation

Yair Kraus, Lior Ben Ari, Alexandra Lukash, Yoav Zitun|09:15

Huge explosions and large amounts of smoke were seen and heard in the Lebanese town of Baalbek on Wednesday afternoon. The attacks in Baalbek came during the maiden speech by new Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem, as news channels in Lebanon switched from the speech to the attacks.

The attacks followed an evacuation warning issued to residents of Baalbek, Ain Borday and Dours in eastern Lebanon by the IDF's Arabic spokesperson, Lt. Col. Avichay Adraee, prompting a massive exodus.

Adraee's message stated: "Urgent notice to the residents of Baalbek, Ain Borday, and Dours. IDF is taking strong action against Hezbollah interests in your towns and villages and does not wish to harm you. To ensure your safety, you must immediately evacuate your homes and move beyond the towns and villages via the following routes: Zahle-Baalbek Road; Nahla-Baalbek Road; Al-Arz-Baalbek Road, as outlined on the map. Proximity to Hezbollah operatives, its facilities, or weaponry may expose you to danger." Following the evacuation announcement, Sky News in Arabic reported on the mass departures from the Baalbek area and other regions identified in Adraee's notice. The governor of Baalbek said in an interview with Sky News in Arabic that "there is no military presence of Hezbollah" within Baalbek and urged residents to head toward the northern district, adding that "panic has spread among the residents after the evacuation warnings."

In the afternoon, IDF spokesperson reported that Air Force fighter jets, guided by intelligence from Military Intelligence, the Air Force, and Northern Command, attacked the Nabatieh area and eliminated Mostafa Ahmed Shhadi, the deputy commander of Hezbollah's Radwan Force. In his former roles, he was responsible for operations in Radwan during the Syrian conflict from 2012 to 2017 and managed the unit's combat plans in southern Lebanon.

"Mustafa Ahmad Shihadi advanced terror plots against the State of Israel. This elimination further cripples the operational capabilities of Hezbollah's Radwan Force to execute terror activities against Israeli forces and the Israeli home front on the northern border, particularly the plan to conquer the Galilee," the report stated.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese "Al-Mayadeen" network, affiliated with Hezbollah, reported an aerial strike on a vehicle on the Al-Kahhala Araya road in the Mount Lebanon area.

According to the Lebanese "Al-Jadid" channel, one person was killed in the vehicle attack. Minutes earlier, a separate report in Lebanon detailed another vehicle attack using a drone in the nearby village of Shamoun.

Earlier in the morning, minor damage was reported at a factory building in Nahariya, where aviation components are manufactured, after a drone exploded nearby. The IDF is investigating why no alert was triggered at the site.

Prior to this, IDF spokesperson updated that the Air Force intercepted three drones that penetrated from Lebanon after sirens activated in Nahariya and communities in the western Galilee. It was further reported that there were no casualties in the incident, although a fire broke out near the Gesher HaZiv area.

In the meantime, the Jewish National Fund (KKL) released data on Wednesday indicating the extent of damage caused by Hezbollah fire since the war began.

Approximately 43,243 acres of natural land were burned in the Upper Galilee-Golan Heights region, which suffered the most damage. They estimate that rehabilitation will take between five to seven years.

In the Lower Galilee-Gilboa, slightly more than 6,100 acres of open and forested areas were burned, according to KKL data. In the Western Galilee-Carmel region, approximately 2,224 acres were burned, and in the Hula Valley, approximately 178 acres.

"KKL emergency teams, alongside firefighting and rescue crews, continue to lead the fight against fires in the north, even under fire," said KKL Chairperson Yifat Ovadia-Luski. "The war has caused severe damage to the residents of the north, and unfortunately also to wildlife and vegetation. Our primary mission for the new year is to rejuvenate the affected areas and the entire State of Israel."

KKL also noted that the fires impacted a wide variety of wildlife: many bird nesting sites were destroyed, habitats of mammals and reptiles living on the ground were burned, and a large number of arthropods could not escape the flames.

The damage to vegetation, they noted, is severe. All forest and woodland trees, including conifers like pine, cypress, and cedar, as well as broadleaf trees such as oak, terebinth, Judas tree, eucalyptus, carob, and almond, were affected by the fires. Additionally, public spaces like parking lots, lookout points, scenic viewpoints, forest entrances, and scenic routes were also burned.

'They want to make a "lame" agreement'

Northern municipal leaders addressed the potential settlement in the north, as revealed on Tuesday by Ynet and "Yedioth Ahronoth." Eitan Davidi, chairman of Moshav Margalioth, said: "We want the war to end, but this is not the way. Israel is attempting to reach an agreement that would allow residents in southern Lebanon to return to their homes, and at some point, we could live amicably with our neighbors, but that's not the situation." He stated, "This neighborhood doesn't work, the concept doesn't work. The State of Israel needs to change its approach." Davidi warned that if such a settlement is implemented, "we will protest." He added: "I suggest to the Chief of Staff and the Northern Command Commander to focus on restoring security and achieving results within Lebanon. They want to make a 'lame' agreement."

Shimon Guetta, head of the Ma'ale Yosef Regional Council, said in an interview with Ynet: "We need to end this once and for all. We are eager to return to our homes, but to return safely. The residents will not return easily. People have been outside their homes for a year."

10.30.24 – We

Israel disabled most of Iran's air & space defenses, in Saturday attack

10.30.24 – We

Israel disables most of Iran's air defenses, official says

Israel destroys key S-300 missile systems and radar sites; Satellite images reveal extensive damage to the Shahrud Space Center, a pivotal Revolutionary Guards facility used for satellite launches and missile production

ynet correspondents|04:38

Israel succeeded in taking out most of Iran's air defenses during its attack last Saturday, an official said in an interview with Fox News late on Tuesday. According to the network's sources, Israel destroyed three of Iran's S-300 systems, after a fourth was targeted in the first Israeli strike last April

Satellite imagery has revealed significant damage to the Shahrud Space Center, a key launch site for Iran's Revolutionary Guards located in the Semnan province in northeastern Iran, allegedly inflicted by Israel. The operation reportedly also targeted multiple radar systems critical to Iran's ballistic missile capabilities.

In a message to Tehran, IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi warned that any further Iranian missile barrages would be met with unprecedented Israeli military responses. Visiting the squadrons responsible for the Iran strike at Ramon Air Force Base, Halevi said, "We will know how to hit very, very hard in both capabilities and locations that we left aside this time."

The Associated Press unveiled new satellite images showing additional damage at another site targeted by the Israeli assault, a fact unreported by Tehran. Images reveal

destruction at several buildings within the Shahrud Space Center. Although Iran has acknowledged damage in Tehran and the provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan, it remains silent about Semnan. Expert analysis suggests that while there is no definitive evidence the damage was not caused by other means, pre-strike imagery shows no such destruction.

Fires at an Iranian missile site after Israel's strike

Captured by Planet Labs, the satellite images from Tuesday depict a central structure at the space center, now a skeletal ruin. Nearby vehicles, likely belonging to Iranian officials, survey the wreckage. Pre-strike images from March show the building intact, topped by a high blue roof. Further images reveal three smaller structures demolished south of the main building, with additional damage to a hangar to the northeast, indicating precise targeting by the Israeli military. Iran is presumably still assessing the full extent of the damage from this calculated strike.

10.30.24 – We

US, Egypt & Qatari envoys arrive to restructure UNIFIL for Lebanon cease-fire

10.30.24 – We

US envoys arrive to advance Lebanon cease-fire

Israeli terms include freedom to operate in South Lebanon if UNIFIL fails to prevent Hezbollah's return to areas south of the Litani; Hezbollah says will not disarm and is prepared to fight on

Lior Ben Ari, Itamar Eichner|04:25

U.S. envoys Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk will arrive on Thursday as efforts to secure a cease-fire deal in Lebanon, advance. Hochstein was in the region last week and will now return as both sides show serious intentions to finalize a deal.

Israeli officials said an agreement in Lebanon is tied to the discussions held between CIA chief William Burns and Egyptian and Qatari mediators attempting to reach a hostage release and cease-fire deal for Gaza.

Officials in Jerusalem said that some of Israel's conditions could prove difficult for Lebanon to accept, including the demand that the IDF be able to operate freely in South Lebanon to ensure compliance with the terms agreed.

Israel insists that if the UNIFIL force is unable to enforce the deal, the IDF be able to take action to ensure the safety of the residents in the north, after the peacekeepers failed to enforce UN resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 Second Lebanon War and allowed Hezbollah terrorists to return to the border with Israel and build fortifications there in advance of their planned invasion of the Galilee.

Israel also demands that the Lebanon army complete the destruction of all Hezbollah infrastructure in South Lebanon, after the IDF withdraws, and ensures no members of the

terror group remain south of the Litani River. Jerusalem also demands that measures be in place to prevent Hezbollah from re-arming with weapons smuggled across Lebanon's border with Syria, provided by Iran.

The Hezbollah-affiliated Al Khbar newspaper published on Tuesday, the demands of the terror group for the cease-fire including maintaining the link between the war with Israel and Hamas's war in Gaza.

"Hezbollah hopes all Lebanese understand that disarming is not an option," the paper wrote. Hezbollah also rejects changing the makeup of UNIFIL troops except for the removal of Germans "because they are partners with the enemy." Israel has asked that its European allies dedicate troops to the peacekeeping mission.

"Israel wants to continue the war," Hezbollah officials told the paper. "We must be prepared for a prolonged fight." The terror group also said they were not affected by the wave of assassinations of leaders.

10.30.24 – We

Palestinian Authority reels at bill banning UNRWA in Israel

10.30.24 – We

Palestinian Authority reels at bill banning UNRWA in Israel

International and Palestinian bodies harshly condemn Jerusalem for passing controversial law banning UN aid organization activities in the country; repercussions expected in ICJ case against Israel

Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi|03:24

Palestinian Authority officials condemned the legislation of the bill to ban UNRWA activities in the country on Monday.

"The Israeli decision regarding UNRWA's work requires an Arab and international stance dedicated to protecting and supporting the agency's role," Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee Secretary-General Hussein al-Sheikh said in a posted on X.

"The UN Security Council must compel Israel to implement international decisions. Silence on the massacres committed against Palestinians and on what UNRWA has been exposed to is a disgrace for those who agreed to restrict their position to statements, condemnations and denunciations only," he wrote.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) has been in severe economic straits since the beginning of the Gaza war, teetering on the brink of collapse after Israel was withholding clearing funds which make up 65% of its annual budget.

Palestinian officials noted that without an immediate solution for the “void that UNRWA will leave behind, specifically in the education system,” the PA would struggle to meet the needs of students and teachers.

“Israel is tying our hands and feet,” a senior PA official said. “We have no way to address all the issues UNRWA handled and supported without UN funding and aid unless Israel intends to fill that void through financing.”

Fatah Deputy Chairman Mahmoud al-Aloul stressed the international community’s need to take “urgent action” to force Israel to repeal the law and warned of its “negative consequences.”

“The law reflects Israel’s systematic intent to end UNRWA’s role and replace it with other agencies, in a move aimed at eliminating the Palestinian refugee issue and revoking their right to return,” he said.

“Refugees’ right to return is guaranteed by international law and can’t be circumvented by Israeli methods.” Al-Aloul accused the Israeli law of “blatantly violating the UN Charter and contradicting international resolutions — foremost among them Resolution 302 which mandates the establishment of UNRWA, as well as the recent Security Council resolution calling for the protection of humanitarian institutions and their staff.”

UNRWA was established by a UN General Assembly resolution in 1949 and is authorized to provide aid and protection to Palestinian refugees in its five operational areas: Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

“We provide assistance, protection and support for over 5.9 million Palestinian refugees,” UNRWA wrote on its main Arabic website alongside a statement from the agency’s Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, calling to “stop Israel’s violent campaign against us.”

The laws halting UNRWA’s operations in Israel were approved partly due to the involvement of some agency members in the October 7 massacre. “There is no question that individuals accused of criminal acts, including the deplorable assault on Israel, must be investigated,” Lazzarini said. “This is exactly what the United Nations is doing. Those individuals must be held accountable through criminal prosecution and, if found guilty, punished.”

He said the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the top investigative body in the U.N. system, is overseeing this inquiry. “It is looking into allegations against 19 out of 13,000 UNRWA staff members in Gaza. To date, one case was closed because there was no evidence. Four cases were suspended because the information was insufficient to proceed. Another 14 cases remain under investigation. But we must distinguish the behavior of individuals from the agency’s mandate to serve Palestinian refugees. It is unjust and dishonest to attack UNRWA’s mission on the basis of these allegations.”

Several governments worldwide, including France, were quick to condemn the legislation. “Paris deeply regrets the approval of laws aimed at banning UNRWA’s operations in Israel. The implementation of these laws would have severe consequences for the already catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza and throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories, depriving hundreds of thousands of civilians of essential aid, including shelter, healthcare, education and food,” France’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“For more than 70 years, UNRWA has been playing a vital, indispensable role in providing essential goods and services to Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza, but also in the countries that have taken them in – Lebanon, Jordan and Syria,” it added.

“France reaffirmed its support for UNRWA, pledging that it will “continue to ensure the implementation of the necessary reforms to guarantee its neutrality, specifically the recommendations contained in the Colonna Report.”

Repercussions at The Hague

The new legislation mandates Israel’s complete severance of ties with UNRWA. The immediate effect means that should UNRWA staff request visas, Israel’s Foreign Ministry won’t cooperate, indirectly impacting their immunity. Israeli officials estimate Palestinian officials will leverage this legislation against UNRWA in the genocide lawsuit South Africa filed against Israel at the Hague.

The legislation has triggered a serious crisis in Israel’s relations with the UN, though it’s important to note the UN consists of many bodies. Israel maintains reasonably good relations with UNICEF, the International Red Cross and the UN World Food Program. Bodies with which it has friction include UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who has one more year in office, UNRWA and UN Women.

Guterres will likely use the legislation as a lever against Israel. He and Lazzarini framed the legislation as a blow to the multilateral system and a dangerous precedent — but this is misleading, as there’s no other organization in the world similar to UNRWA that perpetuates refugee status indefinitely.

10.30.24 – We

Qatari proposes up to 14 hostages for 30-day lull: 2 Russians within that deal

10.30.24 – We

Up to 14 hostages freed, 30-day lull: latest cease-fire proposal

Deal being discussed by Mossad chief and Qatari mediators says all women held hostage to be freed along with elderly; Egypt proposes a smaller deal to jumpstart the process with Hamas after Sinwar’s killing

Itamar Eichner|02:35

Mossad Chief David Barnea and Qatari mediators drafted a proposed deal to be negotiated with Hamas that would see the release of all women held by Hamas in Gaza and the elderly hostages in exchange for a 30-day lull in the fighting and the freeing from Israeli jails of an undisclosed number of Palestinian prisoners.

The offer does not include an Israeli withdrawal from the Strip. The U.S. and Qatar were considering a guarantee to Hamas that the IDF troops would pull out after all hostages were freed, despite Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s insistence on maintaining troops along the border with Egypt.

Efforts were underway to bring Hamas back to the negotiating table even for a "small deal" to test the terror group's position after the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar earlier this month. Proposals on offer involve four hostages released in exchange for a two-week ceasefire, followed by a temporary pause to ponder peace. Prime Minister Netanyahu, however, claimed no such offer was made adding that he would have accepted such a proposal.

Hamas, meanwhile, eyes Egypt not merely as a neighbor but as a gateway—a portal to renewed diplomatic ties under the watchful eyes of newly minted intelligence chief Hassan Rashad. This rapprochement comes after a frosty chapter with Rashad's predecessor, Kamal Abbas.

And then there is the Russian proposal—two hostages with dual citizenship, Alexander Trofenov and Maxim Harkin, become the focal point of Moscow's diplomatic efforts. Hamas number 2, Mousa Abu Marzook was in Moscow, but it remains unclear—whether this would be part of a broader agreement.

With the U.S. presidential elections taking place next week, there's doubt whether any deal can be agreed before Americans go to the polls. After the elections, the pressure on Netanyahu promises to be relentless, regardless of who the next president will be.

10.29.24 – Tu

IDF 12,000 soldiers injured since Gaza war; 2025 Law freezes compensation for injuries

10.29.24 – Tu

Defense Ministry reports 12,000 soldiers injured since start of Gaza war

Ministry's Rehabilitation Division reports at least 900 of injuries took place in Lebanon since start of IDF ground operation in region; Male reservist soldiers highest injured demographic

Korin Elbaz-Alush|11:22

Approximately 12,000 IDF soldiers and security force personnel wounded since the start of the Gaza war have been admitted to the Defense Ministry's Rehabilitation Division, including 910 injured who were evacuated to hospitals in the north since the beginning of the military's ground operation in Lebanon on October 1.

Of these, 140 have already been registered to the Rehabilitation Division, marking a 50% increase compared to security forces personnel wounded in the north last month who requested continued treatment. The remaining wounded, classified as lightly injured, returned to service after receiving medical care. Around 1,500 individuals have been wounded twice over the course of the year-long ongoing war.

Notably, IDF statistics record 5,184 wounded since the start of the war, though they don't account for non-military security personnel, such as Shin Bet operatives, police officers,

alert squad members and those wounded in routine incidents. The average annual cost for treatment and financial support for a wounded soldier is estimated at approximately 150,000 shekels (\$40,000) per person.

The Rehabilitation Division's budget, which stood at 5.4 billion shekels (about \$1.5 billion) before October 7, 2023, has increased to 7.3 billion shekels (about \$2 billion). However, division head Limor Luria warns that further budget increases are needed to provide adequate care.

"We need budgetary support," she said on Tuesday. "We've reached out to the Finance Ministry to help us address the high number of casualties, which is expected to grow in the coming years, and provide them with optimal care."

Men comprise 93% of the wounded; the percentage of women in the division remains at 7%, but the nature of injuries has evolved and the number of female combatants has increased. Of the wounded, 66% are reservists, 51% are aged 18-30 and approximately 8,500 (66%) face physical injuries.

Among them, 14% are classified with moderate-to-severe injuries, including 377 with head injuries, of which 23 required skull reconstruction using a 3D printer. Eye injuries impacted 308 individuals, with 12 losing vision and needing prosthetics. Additionally, 104 suffered spinal injuries and roughly 60 had limb amputations requiring advanced prosthetic adaptations, five of whom required fittings abroad.

A total of 5,200 (43%) developed psychological response conditions including anxiety, depression, adjustment issues and PTSD. The division anticipates the number will rise. "It's still early to gauge the extent of psychological injuries as these effects solidify over time," Luria added.

Each month, the division admits around 1,000 new wounded personnel, alongside roughly 500 additional recognition requests for past incidents. The number of individuals treated by the division has grown by 20% in a year, reaching approximately 74,000. The Rehabilitation Division estimates there will be around 100,000 disabled IDF veterans by 2030, 50% of whom will be dealing with psychological trauma.

As of October 6, 2023, elderly disabled IDF veterans constituted about 50% of all disabled veterans. This dynamic has shifted considerably with the intake of younger wounded personnel, prompting the division to tailor support for educational reintegration, vocational training and occupational rehabilitation for the wounded.

The Rehabilitation Division said it is continuing its "rehabilitation before bureaucracy" policy, providing immediate medical and psychological care for all injured personnel while postponing medical evaluations for a year.

Currently, 22,000 individuals dealing with psychological challenges are receiving support through various frameworks: 500 therapists have been recruited and 10 rehabilitation facilities have been established across the country. These offer body-mind workshops, discussion circles and varied agricultural activities. In the future, family-oriented activities will also be held at these locations.

Additionally, PPS (primary psychological support) mobile units have been set up to provide immediate mental health aid and three care homes have been opened specifically for war-wounded personnel.

IDF Disabled Veterans Organization Chairman Idan Kliman commented on the latest data, saying: "At this time, when the State of Israel has a moral and ethical debt to wounded IDF soldiers who have sacrificed, and continue to sacrifice, their bodies and minds for the country's survival, the Israeli government has decided to harm these soldiers in the 2025 Economic Arrangements Law by freezing their compensation for injuries sustained in service."

"This decision continues the government's total disregard for wounded IDF veterans, severely violating agreements with the IDF Disabled Veterans Organization and government resolutions, directly hindering the rehabilitation of our heroes and undermining national resilience," he added.

10.29.24 – Tu

Israel barred from Paris tradeshow as 233 French companies licensed suppliers of IRGC

10.29.24 – Tu

While Israel barred from Paris tradeshow French companies supply IRGC

One company provides a radar with a range of 170 kilometers (105 miles) to Guard's naval vessel while nine others supply Iran's energy sector

Itamar Eichner|06:40

While France banned Israeli security industry companies from participating in the Euronaval tradeshow in Paris in June, some of the 233 French companies that will take part in the event, were known to be licensed suppliers of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) naval vessels and the country's coast guard and nine companies were listed by Iran as authorized suppliers of its oil and energy industries.

Some of the Iranian companies the French firms were doing business with, were under U.S.-imposed sanctions.

The annual exhibition features hundreds of international companies that develop naval vessels and weapons and has always included numerous representatives of Israel's defense industries. Although the event is scheduled for June, preparations start many months in advance.

An Israeli source said that France has become a symbol of left-wing embargoes on Israel, noting that French companies had asked President Emmanuel Macron to ban Israeli companies for commercial reasons behind the scenes.

One French company provided a radar with a maximum range of over 170 kilometers (105 miles) that was installed on an IRGC ship.

France said there was never any intention to ban Israeli companies from attending French tradeshows and the French government's position cannot be seen as a boycott of Israeli firms. "Our support of Israel and its right to defend itself has always been unequivocal,"

the Elysee Palace said. "Proof if that is evident in our decision to continue to make components for the Iron Dome missile defense system."

The palace went on to say that while France has called for a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon because it is the only way to stop the escalation and achieve regional stability and peace, it would be "inconsistent to allow the promotion of weapons" used in those fronts, that was harming civilians."

Twelve Israeli companies were interested in exhibiting at the naval fair, and local participation will almost certainly be blocked from the Paris Air Show at Le Bourget, the crown jewel of such exhibitions, should this negative trend continue.

10.29.24 – Tu

Iran threatens Israel in UN, US warns Tehran against further aggression

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Iran threatens Israel in UN, US warns Tehran against further aggression

Emergency UN Security Council session sees Iranian representative reiterating Tehran's right to act against Israel's retaliatory strike; U.S. says further Iranian aggression will have 'severe consequences'

Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari 02:28

Iran's UN Ambassador Amir Saied said in an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on Monday that his country reserves the "inherent right to respond" at a time of its choosing, to what he called "this act of aggression." The session was held to discuss Israel's retaliatory attack in Tehran on Saturday.

"Israel's attack constitutes a breach of international law. The U.S.'s support of Israel encouraged it to continue its aggression in Gaza and Lebanon," Saied said.

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the council there would be "severe consequences" should Tehran take any further aggressive action against Jerusalem. "We will not hesitate to act in self-defense. Let there be no confusion. The United States does not want to see further escalation. We believe this should be the end of the direct exchange of fire between Israel and Iran," she said.

"As we have stated time and time again, we have the right and duty to defend ourselves and will use all the means at our disposal to protect the citizens of Israel," Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon told the council.

He also demanded the international body recognize the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization, impose "immediate, paralyzing sanctions against Iran's military and economic infrastructure," and implored the council to "take every step necessary to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear state."

Meanwhile, members of Israel's Security Cabinet discussed three main issues Sunday overnight including the Hezbollah drone strike on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence in Caesarea and deliberated on how to respond to Iran over the attack.

Military representatives presented several options in the meeting; however, some ministers present were "carried away" with their proposals and no decision was agreed on.

10.28.24 – Mo

Guterres says UNRWA indispensable, after Israel bans agency

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Guterres says UNRWA indispensable, after Israel bans agency

UN secretary-general says bill passed by Knesset could have devastating consequences for Palestinian refugees and will be detrimental for the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Sivan Hilaie, Reuters | 23:55

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that the implementation of a law banning the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) from operating in Israel "could have devastating consequences for Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is unacceptable."

The Knesset passed a law to cut official ties with and halt the activity of the UNRWA, some of whose operators are suspected of participating in the massacres on October 7. The law passed by a vote of 92-10.

"There is no alternative to UNRWA," Guterres said in a statement. "The implementation of these laws would be detrimental for the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for peace and security in the region as a whole. As I said before, UNRWA is indispensable," adding he would bring the matter to the attention of the 193-member U.N. General Assembly.

Under the new law, UNRWA will not "operate any institution, provide any service, or conduct any activity, whether directly or indirectly," in the sovereign territory of Israel. In effect, UNRWA's activities in East Jerusalem will be terminated and the body's powers will be transferred to Israel's responsibility and control.

Israel revealed the involvement of UNRWA employees in the Hamas atrocities of Oct. 7, 2023 and the identity of another member of the organization who was a Hamas operative in Lebanon. Others are active in both Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

10.28.24 – Mo

Knesset passes law banning UNRWA activity in Israel, despite US & UN opposition

10.28.24 – Mo

Knesset passes law banning UNRWA activity in Israel, despite opposition from US Under the law which passed overwhelmingly, an agreement from 1967 that allowed the United Nations Palestinian refugee agency to work in Israel will be canceled, and UNRWA activities in the country will cease. Some of the agency's employees are suspected of participating in the massacres on October 7. US is "very concerned" Sivan Hilaie | 15:25

The Knesset plenum approved Monday evening in its second and third readings a law to cut official ties with and halt the activity of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, UNRWA, some of whose operators are suspected of participating in the massacres on October 7. The law passed by a vote of 92-10.

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Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Yuli Edelstein said at the beginning of the debate in the plenary: "As part of the committee's discussions on the law, a video was shown that proves the involvement of UNRWA personnel in kidnapping a body to the Gaza Strip and other evidence of their activity in Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza. In addition, the person who commanded the massacre in the Be'eri bomb shelter, where 16 Israelis were murdered and from which four were kidnapped to Gaza, was a UNRWA terrorist."

"In light of this, and since it has been proven to the State of Israel that UNRWA and its employees acted against the State of Israel, the State must determine that UNRWA's activities in its territory will be stopped," Edelstein also said. "The State of Israel will provide every service it is obligated to provide to its citizens and residents in all those places where UNRWA operated, coordinated by the Jerusalem Municipality. There is no place for enemies in the heart of the capital of the Jewish people."

One of the law's author's, Likud lawmaker Boaz Bismuth, said UNRWA's work has been counterproductive for years. "If you really want stability, if you really want security, if you want real peace in the Middle East, organizations like UNRWA won't bring you there," said Bismuth.

"If the United Nations is not willing to clean this organization from terrorism, from Hamas activists, then we have to take measures to make sure that they cannot harm our people ever again," lawmaker Sharren Haskel, another author of the law, said. "The

international community could have taken responsibility and made sure that they used the proper organizations to facilitate humanitarian aid, like the World Food Organization, like UNICEF, and many others who work all around the world."

During the voting, Kobi Samerano, the father of Jonathan Samerano, who was murdered on October 7 and whose body was kidnapped into Gaza by a UNRWA worker, was present in the plenum.

Despite the broad support for the legislation, both the coalition and the opposition voiced concern among that the vote or implementation would be delayed because Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been under great pressure in recent weeks from both the United Nations and the United States, due to the lack of an alternative body that would provide a humanitarian response for the Palestinians in Gaza.

On Sunday, senior officials in the Foreign Ministry warned that if the legislation stating that ties with UNRWA must be severed is passed in the second and third readings in the Knesset Israel would be suspended from the United Nations, since this is a violation of the organization's charter.

The foreign ministers of Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea and Great Britain issued a joint statement Monday before the vote calling on Israel to stop the legislation, expressing "grave concern," especially in light of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. "UNRWA provides vital and life-saving humanitarian assistance and basic services to Palestinian refugees in Gaza, East Jerusalem, the West Bank and throughout the region," the statement reads. "This will have devastating consequences on an already difficult humanitarian situation, which is rapidly deteriorating, especially in northern Gaza."

U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said that Washington "has made it clear to Israel that it is very concerned about the legislation that could ban the agency's activities in the Gaza Strip, because it plays a role in providing irreplaceable humanitarian aid. The humanitarian aid does not reach the residents of Jabaliya, where the IDF has increased its activity, and the U.S. will not agree to that."

In recent days, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel Jack Lew and officials at the embassy have appealed to Yesh Atid Chairman and Opposition Leader Yair Lapid, Yisrael Beitenu Party head Avigdor Liberman, and National Unity party head Benny Gantz, with a request that they agree to postpone the advancement of the legislation at least until after the U.S. presidential elections. Lapid reportedly told U.S. officials that he disagreed with them and that the law is correct and appropriate, leading Liberman and Gantz to also reject the U.S officials' request.

Knesset members from the Arab Hadash-Ta'al party objected, and Knesset member Ahmed Tibi said: "Those who support this bill are those who do not recognize the Palestinian people. It is not new that people here in the Knesset ask to stop the activities of UNRWA. There will be no need for UNRWA when the occupation ends and a Palestinian state is established."

Hostage negotiations summit in Doha concludes; expect progress within the week

10.28.24 – Mo

Hostage negotiations summit in Doha concludes with progress reported

Talks cover several proposals by mediators, with sources indicating momentum toward aligning these frameworks within the week; officials aim to convene follow-up summit, potentially engaging Hamas directly

Itamar Eichner|08:44

A negotiation summit in Doha concluded on Monday with reported progress toward a unified framework for a hostage release plan, following intensive discussions between Mossad Director David Barnea, CIA Director William Burns and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani.

The talks, which saw Barnea remain overnight in Qatar, reportedly covered Egyptian, American and Qatari proposals, with sources indicating momentum toward aligning these frameworks within the week.

Officials aim to convene a follow-up summit with top intelligence leaders, including Egypt's new intelligence chief Hassan Rashad, potentially engaging Hamas directly. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on Sunday floated a proposal involving a 48-hour cease-fire to facilitate the release of four hostages in exchange for some Palestinian prisoners, describing it as a trust-building measure.

Hamas welcomed the Egyptian proposal but expressed concern over the lack of Israeli guarantees and reiterated its stance that no deal could be finalized without a comprehensive cease-fire and full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, including the strategic Philadelphi and Netzarim corridors.

Israeli and Qatari sources familiar with the discussions at the summit noted reluctance from both sides on smaller deals, as both parties are focused on a more comprehensive agreement that could potentially involve both Gaza and Lebanon.

Negotiators also considered the broader regional context, with some Israeli officials insisting that any truce in Lebanon would depend on Iran and Hezbollah pressuring Hamas toward an agreement.

A diplomatic source quoted by Lebanon's LBCI said the Doha talks had shown incremental progress on Gaza and noted genuine interest in a future prisoner exchange between Hamas and Israel.

10.28.24 – Mo

IDF raids 60 Hamas with weapons, funds & documents, in north Gaza hospital

10.28.24 – Mo

IDF clears out Hamas terror base in northern Gaza hospital

Army says completed raid on Kamal Adwan Hospital in Jabaliya, used as Hamas command center, seizing weapons, funds and documents tied to terror group, with 60 suspects arrested inside, including some linked to October 7 attacks
Yoav Zitun|07:29

The IDF announced Monday that it had completed a high-stakes raid on Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza's Jabaliya, which the army said served as a "terror command center" for Hamas terrorists.

The raid, led by the 162nd Division, uncovered weapons, terror funds and Hamas documents, with 60 terrorists reportedly apprehended within the hospital itself, including some linked to the October 7 attacks. These detainees were questioned on-site by Unit 504 intelligence operatives before being transferred to Israel for further investigation.

During the raid, IDF commandos from the elite Shayetet 13 unit were captured on film searching hospital grounds and questioning an ambulance driver, who claimed that Hamas used hospital premises and ambulances to transport wounded fighters. "Hamas operatives are everywhere—yards, gates, offices, schools, hospitals. They even use ambulances to move their fighters," the driver reportedly said, expressing frustration at the situation.

The military noted that the operation would continue in Jabaliya with two brigades remaining while a third unit would be rotated out. The IDF estimates a few hundred Hamas fighters are still present in the city, while around 600 terrorists surrendered in the broader campaign, including many who reportedly passed through new checkpoints around Jabaliya's refugee camp.

The IDF's larger effort across northern Gaza has also seen significant challenges, with Hamas employing extensive guerrilla tactics, explosive devices and fortified positions. The operation revealed what the military says is Hamas' reliance on explosive devices fashioned from unexploded Israeli ordnance scattered across the sector, which IDF forces neutralized via controlled detonations to prevent future use.

10.28.24 – Mo

Satellite images being analyzed of Israeli strike on 2 Iranian bases southeast of Tehran

10.28.24 – Mo

Satellite images show extent of Israeli strike at 2 Iranian bases

Additional satellite images from Parchin base, previously linked to nuclear development, reveal destroyed building and damage to others; significant damage also visible at K hojir production site

Associated Press|04:12

An Israeli strike on Iran damaged facilities at two military bases southeast of Tehran, previously linked by experts to Iran's former nuclear weapons program and its ballistic missile efforts, according to satellite images analyzed on Sunday.

Some damaged structures were at Iran's Parchin military base, where the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) suspects high-explosive tests connected to nuclear weapons were conducted in the past. Iran maintains its nuclear program is peaceful, though the IAEA and Western intelligence agencies say Tehran had an active weapons program until 2003.

Further damage was visible at the nearby Khojir military base, believed by analysts to house an underground tunnel network and missile production facilities.

Iran's military has not acknowledged damage at either Khojir or Parchin from Israel's attack early Saturday, though it has said the assault killed four Iranian soldiers working in the country's air defense systems. Iran announced Sunday a civilian also had been killed, but provided no details.

Satellite images reveal damage to facilities used for combining solid fuel for missiles.

Researcher David Albright noted that images from Parchin show damage to three buildings, including two used for integrating solid fuel into ballistic missiles. Another researcher stated that Planet Labs satellite photos from Parchin indicate Israel destroyed three buildings used for ballistic missile production with solid fuel, along with a warehouse. Images from Khojir show two similar buildings were also destroyed.

It remains unclear how many sites in total were targeted in the Israeli attack. There have been no images of damage so far released by Iran's military.

Iranian officials have identified affected areas as being in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces. Burned fields could be seen in satellite images from Planet Labs PBC around Iran's Tange Bijar natural gas production site in Ilam province on Saturday, though it wasn't immediately clear if it was related to the attack. Ilam province sits on the Iran-Iraq border in western Iran.

10.28.24 – Mo

Israel approves Rafael-Elbit defense deal for ground-based laser interception systems

10.28.24 – Mo

Israel inks \$500 million defense deal for expanded laser interception systems

'This deal heralds a new era—the era of laser defense,' Defense Ministry says after signing massive deal; first operational deployment of ground-based laser system expected next year

Yoav Zitun|03:40

The Defense Ministry announced Monday a major deal worth approximately NIS 2 billion (around \$500 million) to boost its acquisition of advanced Iron Beam laser interception systems.

Defense Ministry Director-General Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eyal Zamir, who signed the agreement Sunday, said, "This deal heralds a new era—the era of laser defense," adding that the first operational capability of the ground-based laser system is expected to be deployed within the next year.

The multi-billion-shekel agreement, reached between the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D) and primary contractors Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Elbit Systems, marks a significant increase in production pace to ensure timely, high-volume delivery of laser units.

The Iron Beam system, designed to intercept various aerial threats such as rockets, mortar shells, drones and cruise missiles, has demonstrated its capabilities in recent trials and is set to join Israel's multi-tiered defense network as a cost-effective addition to the Iron Dome.

"Since the outbreak of the war, the Defense Ministry has signed hundreds of procurement orders worth billions to bolster Israeli-manufactured defense capabilities and ensure Israel's self-reliance," said Zamir.

The ministry's statement noted that the integration of Iron Beam will significantly enhance Israel's defensive capacity against current and future threats at a fraction of conventional interception costs.

'Global superiority'

"The Iron Beam is yet another testament to the professionalism, creativity and innovative prowess of our defense industries, supported by partnerships between defense companies and startups," DDR&D head Brig. Gen. (res.) Dr. Danny Gold said.

He noted that Israel's capability to develop and deploy advanced laser interception technology on the battlefield is a reflection of both technical mastery and effective project management.

Rafael CEO Yoav Turgeman highlighted that after years of research, the Iron Beam laser system—the first of its kind worldwide—is set for deployment. "Rafael is proud to lead the development of this high-powered, versatile laser interception system. Following a series of rigorous tests, the Iron Beam will soon reach operational maturity," Turgeman said.

Elbit President and CEO Bezhalel Machlis (Butzi) Machlis called the development "a significant leap forward in defense against diverse threats."

Elbit, known as Israel's "laser powerhouse," collaborated closely on Iron Beam's development. "Our teams at Elbit have played a critical role in advancing this groundbreaking defense capability, which we believe will set a new standard in strategic defense for Israel," Machlis said.

10.28.24 – Mo

‘We’re negotiating with ourselves’: Israeli officials pessimistic as hostage talks resume

10.28.24 – Mo

‘We’re negotiating with ourselves’: Israeli officials pessimistic as hostage talks resume

In first summit since Sinwar’s death, Israel remains skeptical of Egypt’s proposal, while officials stress any cease-fire requires Hezbollah and Iran to pressure Hamas toward negotiations

Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari, Einav Halabi 00:45

Mossad Director David Barnea began talks in Doha on Sunday with CIA Director Bill Burns and Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed Al Thani in an effort to renew negotiations on possible frameworks for a deal to secure the release of 101 hostages held by Hamas.

This marks the first high-level meeting between the parties in two months and the first since the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

The primary goal of this meeting is to advance a new plan that takes into account recent proposals brought forward by the negotiating teams. Officials have indicated that a broader, four-party summit, potentially involving Egypt and Hamas representatives, could take place in the coming days to advance these efforts. Positive developments for Israel in Gaza and Lebanon are seen as creating significant momentum for returning to intensive negotiations.

The Egyptian proposal

Meanwhile, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi publicly presented Cairo’s proposal, which involves a 48-hour cease-fire in exchange for the release of four hostages in return for some Palestinian prisoners. The proposal, aimed at "moving the situation forward," would allow for a 10-day negotiation period to discuss terms for a long-term cease-fire. According to sources cited by Al Arabiya, Hamas has welcomed Egypt’s proposal but expressed reservations about the lack of Israeli guarantees. Hamas reportedly opposes a cease-fire without a full Israeli withdrawal from northern Gaza and the Netzarim and Philadelphi corridors.

“Our demands are clear and transparent, and an agreement is within reach if [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu commits to the terms discussed,” Hamas official Hossam Badran told Al Jazeera.

‘We’re negotiating with ourselves’

Israeli officials expressed skepticism about any potential breakthroughs in negotiations with Hamas, citing the upcoming U.S. presidential election on November 5 as a significant factor likely to delay progress. Officials in Jerusalem remain unconvinced of the viability of a proposal from Egypt’s intelligence chief, Hasan Rashad, according to sources familiar with the discussions.

“It’s been like this since January,” said an official close to the talks. “We’re negotiating with ourselves, or at best with intermediaries. At no point has there been a real negotiation with Hamas. They’ve set a demand and haven’t moved an inch from it: a

complete end to the fighting and full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, and that's not happening."

This pessimism is rooted in a widespread belief in Israel that Hamas will settle for nothing less than a full withdrawal from Gaza, including from the Philadelphi Corridor and the Rafah crossing. Netanyahu is seen as unlikely to agree to such terms, fearing it could destabilize his coalition due to opposition from ministers like Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich.

Still, Mossad Director Barnea has been developing a new negotiation framework over the past three weeks. On Thursday, Barnea met with Rashad in Cairo to update him on the plan, which will likely incorporate elements of both the Egyptian proposal and other options. Barnea remains hopeful that the intimate setting of Doha could restart direct negotiations for a hostage deal.

The discussions in Doha are also expected to touch on the Lebanese front. According to a source quoted by The Wall Street Journal, Barnea does not believe Israel should agree to a cease-fire in Lebanon unless Hezbollah and Iran pressure Hamas to release the hostages in Gaza.

Separately, Lebanese network LBCI cited a diplomatic source who said, "The meeting in Doha has opened a door. There's been slight progress on Gaza, and there's genuine interest in a prisoner exchange between Hamas and Israel."

The diplomatic source added that Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri had informed Qatar and Egypt that Hezbollah is willing to separate the fronts and accept UN Resolution 1701 as part of a combined package, meaning the Lebanon issue will be included in the ongoing negotiations. A Qatari-Egyptian meeting with Hamas is expected, and a high-ranking Qatari security envoy is set to visit Beirut to address Lebanon's concerns and demands.

In response, Berri's office said, "The recent media reports on Speaker Berri's remarks regarding the negotiations are inaccurate."

10.27.24 – Su

Battered and cornered: How Hamas clings on after major losses

10.27.24 – Su

Battered and cornered: How Hamas clings on after major losses

Since Oct. 27, 2023, the IDF has swept through Gaza to dismantle Hamas and retrieve hostages; a year on, Hamas' tunnel network and arsenal are mostly destroyed and 117 hostages have returned; however, Hamas persists in the military's dead zones
Yoav Zitun, Alexandra Lukash, Einav Halabi | 17:27

Hamas' deadly surprise attack, which catalyzed the now more-than-year-long war, proved that the perennial Gaza problem won't resolve itself. In a single strike, the terrorist organization shattered the previous notion that maintaining its rule in Gaza, along with cash infusions into the Palestinian enclave, could serve as a sufficient deterrent or smokescreen.

Hamas terrorists brutally attacked Israeli territory in what many see as one of Israel's worst security, political and intelligence failures.

Yet, even more than a year after the massacre, the Security Cabinet has not defined a strategic policy for Gaza's future. Questions remain unresolved about what should take shape "the day after"—whether weakened Hamas control, Palestinian Authority governance, moderate Arab states' involvement or even Jewish settlement—all possibilities that have yet to be formally decided.

The focus has largely shifted to distant fronts in Lebanon and Iran, leaving Gaza's fate uncertain. Nonetheless, there is consensus on one point: the IDF must maintain operational freedom in Gaza to prevent the rebuilding of terrorist organizations' power, a priority that contrasts starkly with the approach before October 7. This is the situation on the one-year anniversary of the ground offensive in Gaza.

Fighting in circles

On October 7, faced with an unprecedented assault, Israel saw no alternative but to initiate a full-scale war with two core objectives: dismantling Hamas' military and governance capabilities and securing the return of hostages taken during the attack. In response, the Israeli Air Force launched extensive airstrikes across Gaza, which began after several hours when forces were unable to counter the onslaught effectively. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of reservists reported for duty, with an unprecedented mobilization rate, preparing for action across multiple fronts.

This marked the initial phase of operations in Gaza, during which a ground offensive was delayed for nearly three weeks as plans were finalized and political leaders evaluated potential consequences.

After initial hesitations, Israel entered Gaza on October 27, aiming to exert military pressure on Hamas to secure the hostages' release and ultimately weaken the organization's grip on Gaza. However, it soon became clear that achieving the second objective could drag on indefinitely.

Following a brief month of ground operations, fighting paused for a week-long hostage exchange during which Hamas released 80 women and children. Israel resumed its offensive thereafter, pushing into Khan Younis and later, under renewed diplomatic pressures, advancing into Rafah as well. The guiding belief—"military pressure would coerce Hamas into a hostage deal"—proved ineffective.

Currently, though a formal cease-fire was not declared, combat operations in much of Gaza have concluded without Israel fully achieving its strategic goals. This final phase unfolded unevenly; by early 2024, Israel had ceased its ground offensive in 70% of Gaza's territory, and by August, 20% more—including Rafah—was similarly quiet. In the remaining areas, the presence of hostages led to a halt in direct military action, especially following the execution of six hostages in a Rafah tunnel.

The IDF is currently concentrated along the Philadelphi Corridor and in the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as along the Netzarim Corridor, which divides northern Gaza from the rest of the territory. From these key positions, forces conduct targeted raids, including those in Jabaliya and Beit Lahia.

The IDF has prepared extensively for this prolonged deployment, establishing outposts along the Netzarim Corridor and constructing operational roads in both Netzarim and the Philadelphi Corridor, where forces are able to navigate even with light, unarmored vehicles.

IDF officers note that fighting in Gaza has become cyclical. The buildings where soldiers are now engaging in Jabaliya and its refugee camp are the same areas where the 98th Division previously operated and cleared in May, and the 162nd Division did so again during the height of the ground offensive last November and December.

In these zones, Hamas has managed to reactivate some of its tunnels that were previously destroyed by the IDF and has rigged many areas with explosives, some of which are reportedly made from unexploded IDF munitions left on the battlefield in recent months. Effectively, Hamas has reestablished its presence within these zones, using the cover of the local population.

In Rafah, the IDF continues to target sites where Hamas is attempting to re-operate or where it still retains certain capabilities, especially underground assets. However, these operations are primarily localized, carried out at the battalion and brigade levels, and are focused on securing and maintaining control of the nearby Philadelphi Corridor.

As time passes, the IDF increasingly acknowledges that a full withdrawal from Gaza's Philadelphi and Netzarim corridors, where Israeli forces maintain a continuous presence, remains unlikely in the near future. As a result, reserve brigades are being informed of continued deployment rotations in these areas through 2025.

"Hamas rule won't collapse unless an alternative governance structure is established," military officials say. Meanwhile, the government has delayed settling on a clear long-term strategy, instead considering local solutions with uncertain effectiveness, such as distributing aid to Gaza residents through American contractors. This approach, say officials, effectively leaves Hamas in power, weakened but still present.

Without an official directive for a "post-Hamas" Gaza, the military cannot plan effectively beyond conducting limited, targeted operations.

The IDF has not operated across most of Gaza's territory for over six months. In large cities such as Khan Younis, signs of Hamas' resurgence are apparent, even more so than in northern Gaza.

Israel's "maintenance tax" to the U.S. for humanitarian supplies—fuel, electricity and medicine—often ends up in the hands of Hamas or local militias, underscoring the instability in areas without Hamas' control. Ironically, some residents are reported to prefer the group's return for the relative order it once imposed, as street safety has deteriorated in its absence.

As a military force, Hamas has sustained significant losses. Estimates indicate that 80-90% of its mid- to long-range rocket stockpile has been destroyed, and roughly 15,000-20,000 Hamas fighters have been killed or incapacitated out of an original 30,000, though some consider these figures high. Despite this, Hamas continues to recruit, while thousands of additional fighters come from other factions, such as Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The IDF estimates that large portions of Hamas' tunnel network remain, particularly as disconnected local structures rather than the integrated "metro network." Many are

located in areas where the IDF has refrained from operating in, such as central Gaza towns, due to fears that these sites may be holding hostages.

‘Force is not the answer to everything’

On October 7, Palestinian terror groups kidnapped 251 people, both alive and deceased; of these, 117 have been returned—most through negotiations—along with the bodies of 37. Yet, 97 remain captive, among them long-held detainees Hadar Goldin, Oron Shaul, Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed. Current estimates indicate roughly 50 captives remain alive, surviving in harsh conditions.

Talks for their release resumed on Sunday, with a summit in Qatar following prior attempts that failed over Hamas’ demand to end the war and Israel’s insistence on maintaining a military presence in Gaza. However, a new dilemma complicates this round: who holds decision-making power on the other side?

Following the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, high-ranking commanders remain in Gaza, including Rafah brigade commander Muhammad Shabana, northern Gaza’s Az al-Din al-Haddad, and Sinwar’s brother Muhammad.

Yet, some hostages are held by other groups, including Palestinian Islamic Jihad and rogue factions. Thus, while Sinwar’s elimination may have created new negotiating opportunities, it also presents new complexities.

“Not every objective can be achieved solely through military action,” Defense Minister Yoav Gallant emphasized in his address at the state memorial ceremony for war casualties at Mount Herzl, facing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

“Force is not the answer to everything. To fulfill our moral duty—to bring the captives home—we may need to make painful compromises. We must do this for them, for their families, for the soldiers who fell for this cause, for the legacy of the IDF and for our Jewish and national ethos.

“This is our responsibility—my responsibility as defense minister, just as it was on the morning of October 7, throughout the entire year of war, encompassing both achievements and failures, the heavy costs, and the national challenges we are committed to addressing.”

In a letter to the Cabinet, Gallant noted that the war’s goals require a strategic shift.

A well-known point of contention is that the prime minister is unwilling to make the same concessions as the defense minister to secure the release of Israelis still held captive—a disagreement that nearly cost Gallant his position. In recent weeks, both sides have even discussed a “small deal,” a step that could pave the way for a broader agreement, one that many families continue to hope for.

Against this backdrop, Osnat Sharabi Matalon, whose brothers Yossi Sharabi and Eli Sharabi remain captive in Gaza, described the emotions felt by families amid renewed talks following prior dashed hopes. “We’ve learned not to hope,” she said.

“We’re always hopeful for negotiations and an agreement to bring back all the hostages, and we’ll keep rising each day with that hope in our hearts. But we’ve also learned not to listen to the noise around us. Until I see Eli, until I see the hostages in a Red Cross vehicle, I won’t believe it’s real.”

Osnat added that the last sign of life from her brother Eli arrived many months ago but explained that “it doesn’t mean much. He’s in a war zone. We’re very worried. The last

six hostages were alive just moments before they were killed, so proof of life doesn't tell us anything, even if there's some tiny piece of information. Just bring them back." Her brother Yossi has been confirmed to have been killed in captivity.

"I wish decision-makers could walk in our shoes," she added. "I wish they could feel what it means. Our loved ones are there. If it were their loved ones, they'd be talking differently; I'm sure of it. If there's a way to save someone who is still down there in those tunnels, without food, air or water, and in the worst physical and mental condition, then they must do everything possible. Don't forget why we went to war and why we're still at war."

Dedicated heroes amid the high costs of war

Since October 7, the war has claimed the lives of 771 Israeli soldiers, including 360 who fell in Gaza. The ground offensive across the Gaza Strip has also left 2,368 soldiers wounded, with 452 seriously injured, 726 sustaining moderate injuries and 1,190 with minor injuries.

"He talked about the fact that there was a real price to be paid within this war but that they were willing to pay it," said Marcy and Howard Oster, the parents of Sergeant First Class (res.) Amichai Yisrael Yehoshua Oster who was killed on January 1 by an explosive device on the outskirts of the Daraj Tuffah sector in northern Gaza. When the war broke out, he had been in the United States but quickly returned to Israel. "He felt that he needed to be fighting for his country. He felt he needed to be part of it."

His mother shared a poignant memory: "A couple of weeks before he fell, we had this conversation, where I told him that I felt terrible that he was fighting this war, that we brought him here. We knew he would have to serve in the army. And he looked at me and said, 'what makes you think that if we hadn't made Aliyah, I wouldn't be here fighting anyway?' And that has given me a lot of comfort over the last few months."

Gideon Abbas, the brother of Maj. Jamal Abbas who fell on November 18 in Sheikh Ajlin in northern Gaza, described his brother as one of the first forces to enter the hostile territory. "This was always his way," he said.

"Even as a child during the Second Lebanon War, he wouldn't go to the shelter. He'd say, 'If everyone is fighting, we're with them.' The longing for him, the pain—it's indescribable. You think life goes on, but the emptiness remains the same, and you try to build around it, which isn't easy."

Gideon noted that, on October 7, Jamal "rushed forward, feeling that this was his moment." He added that he believes the bravery of soldiers like his brother deserves more recognition in Israeli society.

"People did things you only see in movies. Look at Yom Kippur War; what we accomplished was remarkable, yet all people remember is the failure. We want them to remember the courage, to know there's a generation here that hasn't forgotten the essence of Israel, the reason it was established, and ran into the fire for the hope that we could live better."

Abbas also referenced the Nation-State Law, which alienated many of Israel's minorities, including the Druze community, and a recent tense meeting with Interior Minister Moshe Arbel, saying, "We're not mercenaries, here just to die for the state. That's not how it

works. There's talk of creating separate legislation for the Druze community, and my grandfather was outraged by this. Twelve of our best Druze sons have fallen in this war alone, leaving aside the 432 who've fallen over the years—and even more if we count before Israel's establishment. The feeling of second-class status isn't felt in the streets; Israeli society embraces us, and everyone shares the burden. But that's not how the state treats us. We want equality for the Druze, without being separated from the Jewish people.”

10.27.24 – Su

Smotrich urges US & Western allies to remove Iran mullah regime & nuclear program

10.27.24 – Su

Smotrich: 'Palestinians are part of Iran's axis of evil'

Finance minister calls for US and Western allies to seize 'rare opportunity' to remove Iranian regime and its proxies and eliminate Tehran's nuclear program

Itamar Eichner|Yesterday | 16:06

Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich said on Sunday that the "Palestinians are part of the axis of evil," urging the next U.S. administration, along with Western allies, to topple the mullah regime in Iran.

Smotrich added that "Iran's nuclear program, which threatens the State of Israel and the entire Western world must be terminated."

Speaking at a local conference, Smotrich declared that "once in several generations, a rare opportunity arises to reshape history, alter global power structures and redefine the future. In the near future, we will face crucial decisions that could lead to a new, right Middle East."

Smotrich outlined two main pillars supporting this vision: a shift in Israeli and international perspectives and dismantling the axis of evil.

"The awakening in Israel and globally is a historic opportunity we must not miss to establish a new Middle East, where west of the Jordan River there exists one and only national definition—the state of the Jewish people," Smotrich said.

"The world has witnessed the horror and brutality that emerged from Gaza, and, like Israeli society, it now understands that if there is an Iranian axis of evil and a bloc of moderate states signing the Abraham Accords, the Palestinians are deeply embedded within Iran's axis of evil."

"The vast majority of Gaza's residents supported Hamas and its massacre, as did the Palestinian Authority and much of the Arab public in the West Bank," he added. "Those who back such acts and have not condemned them to this day are on the wrong side of

history. They are deeply part of the Iranian axis of evil, 'the problem,' and cannot be part of the solution."

Smotrich falsely claimed that the PLO Executive Committee convened to hold a memorial for Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. Instead, Palestinian officials held a memorial for all those killed in Gaza.

"The axis of evil has been metastasizing for many years and poses a threat not only to Israel but to the entire Western world," he said.

"We are eliminating Hamas, defeating Hezbollah, destabilizing the Iranian regime and acting beyond that. In one month, Israel has taken out Sinwar, Nasrallah and top terrorist figures, some of whom the U.S. has been pursuing for years. We can and must continue to join forces, work to bring down the Iranian mullah regime, and dismantle their nuclear program, which threatens global peace."

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Ynet-News, October 27, 2024 – Sunday

10.27.24 – Su- - - News Placed in October 27 spot – Sunday

Truck rams a bus letting off passengers, 37 hurt near base north of Tel Aviv

10.27.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Russian plane lands in Israel, Hezbollah halted rockets briefly, a possible mediation

10.27.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Israel's attack left Iran serious economic consequences & vulnerability to attack

10.26.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Israel struck Iran's solid-fuel missile plant, disrupting production for years

10.26.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Israel strike hit Iran secret military base, possibly conducting nuclear experiments

10.26.24 – Sa- - - News Placed in October 26 spot – Saturday

IDF safely targeted around 20 Iran missile assembly & defense arrays & eye future sites

10.25.24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Q-3 3:05am Camp

IDF inside Lebanon do what we did in Gaza, removing failed model of Resolution 1701

10.25.24 – Fr- - - News Placed in October 25 spot – Friday Q-3 3:05am Camp

Macron's billion-dollar corruption with Hezbollah, disgrace the French & UNIFIL

10.25.24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Q-3 3:05am Camp

Russia helps Houthis attack vessels in Red Sea for world's attention from Ukraine

10.24.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Camp

IDF evidence Qatari-Hamas-Al Jazeera news prohibiting criticism on crimes & failures

10.24.24 – Th- - - News Placed in October 24 spot – Thursday Camp
Macron rejects Israel vs. barbarism as Hezbollah hostilities, reinforcing UNIFIL

10.24.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Camp
Israel's retaliatory strike on Iran delayed due to Pentagon preparation document leak

10.24.24 – Th- - - News Placed in October 24 spot – Thursday Camp
Intense barrage of 50 rockets from Lebanon wounds 4 in northern Israel

10.23.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Sukkot 08
IDF targets Beirut's Dahieh & broadcaster after rocket volley to central Israel

10.23.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Sukkot 08
Hezbollah fires 25 rockets toward Nahariya, man seriously injured by shrapnel

10.23.24 – We- - - News Placed in October 23 spot – Wednesday Sukkot 08
IDF strikes Tyre & Lebanese capital & weapons cache hidden in a mosque

10.23.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Sukkot 08
25 rockets & 4 UAVs intercepted in Galilee Panhandle, one UAV downed at Eilat

10.22.24 – Tu Sukkot 07

10.21.24 – Mo Sukkot 06

10.20.24 – Su Sukkot 05

10.19.24 – Sa Sukkot 04

10.18.24 – Fr Sukkot 03

10.17.24 – Th- - - News Placed in October 17 spot – Thursday Sukkot 02
Sinwar kill confirmed as IDF soldiers purged 3 terrorists in a booby-trapped building