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11.05.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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11.05.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Netanyahu may consider further security leadership changes; “We are not there yet”

11.05.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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11.05.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Netanyahu dismisses Gallant, appoints Katz as defense minister; cabinet approved

11.05.24 – Tu- - - News Placed in November 05 spot – Tuesday

Israel offers \$5 million and safe passage for release of Hamas hostages

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Israel lauds new UK opposition leader as she appoints pro-Israel foreign policy chief

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11.05.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

IDF killed two terrorists in West Bank, checkpoint found over a million in cash in car

11.05.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday **

Knesset approves bill: Educators who support terrorism will be fired

11.05.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Hezbollah launches a Tuesday morning rocket attack on Acre, Haifa areas

11.04.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

IDF says 2 female outpost soldiers attacked by armed settlers, US seeks sanctions

11.04.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Israeli Trump vote could determine the US election; Democrat Jews avoid wokeism

11.04.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Netanyahu urges justice minister to find 'solution to 'adversarial' attorney general

11.04.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in November 04 spot – Monday

Katz formally declared Israel's exit from UNRWA pact, voiding 1967 agreement

11.04.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Spokesman for Emergency Center, stayed in PM's office 3 days leaking news

11.04.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Iran plans complex attack on Israel after military losses too significant to ignore

Time changed Sunday – Back one hour

11.03.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Hezbollah mixed tactic to confuse air defenses, far less than IDF braced for

11.03.24 – Su- - - News Placed in November 03 spot – Sunday

IDF split Jabaliya from Gaza City, allowed civilians out with facial recognition

11.03.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

IDF killed Hezbollah responsible for rocket, missile fire on the Upper Galilee.

11.03.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

New details on abduction of Hezbollah operative in Lebanon

11.02.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Israel confirms captured senior Hezbollah operative in northern Lebanon operation

11.02.24 – Sa- - - News Placed in November 02 spot – Saturday

Israeli commandos snatch high-ranking Hezbollah naval officer, north of Beirut

11.02.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

19 wounded in relentless 15 rocket barrage from Lebanon in central & northern Israel

11.08.24 – Fr

Spain blocks docking of 2 US ships 'suspected of carrying arms to Israel'

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Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs says the ships Maersk Denver and Maersk Saltaire, will not be allowed to dock at the country's ports arguing ships' arrival would violate the country's criminal law

Itamar Eichner|15:36

A spokesman for Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced Friday that the ships Maersk Denver, which departed New York on October 31, and Maersk Saltaire, which left New York on November 4, will not be allowed to dock in Spain following suspicions that the ships are carrying weapons destined for Israel or potentially reaching it.

The move came after MP Enrique Santiago requested that the Attorney General take action, arguing that the ships' arrival would violate the country's criminal law.

"We are reviewing the information with the relevant departments that control the entry of goods into the country to clarify what happened," a spokesman for the Spanish Foreign Ministry told the media in response to the investigation. "If the information is confirmed, all necessary measures will be taken. The ministry continues to call for stricter oversight to ensure full compliance with its decisions on this matter."

In May, the Spanish government announced it would ban ships carrying ammunition and military equipment destined for Israel from docking at its ports. However, earlier this week reports from left-wing organizations and pro-Palestinian movements claimed that at least 25 U.S. weapons shipments to Israel stopped at the port of Algeciras between May and September this year.

European Parliament member Irene Montero stated, "We can clearly say that Spain is violating the law. The law on arms trade requires suspending approval for the transfer of weapons and ammunition if there are 'reasonable indications' that the material will be used to exacerbate conflicts, violate human dignity, or cause human rights violations. This means that even if the official destination of the military equipment is not Israel if there are indications that it could end up there and be used in a way that violates human rights, Spain's government must also block its transfer."

Last week, Madrid canceled a contract to purchase ammunition for its Civil Guard from an Israeli security company. "The Spanish government has upheld its commitment not to sell arms to Israel since the outbreak of the Gaza war. Although this was an ammunition purchase, the Interior Ministry initiated the administrative process to cancel the purchase," the Spanish Interior Ministry announced.

11.08.24 – Fr

IDF uncovers Hezbollah training site 650 feet from a UNIFIL base in Lebanon

11.08.24 – Fr

IDF uncovers Hezbollah training site near UN base in southern Lebanon

Military says facility situated approximately 200 meters from UNIFIL base; rocket and drone alerts triggered across northern, central Israel; rocket hits Kfar Yassif home, causing property damage but no injuries

Hassan Shaalan, Yair Kraus, Yoav Zitun|08:47

The IDF reported on Friday that during ground operations in southern Lebanon against Hezbollah infrastructure, 9th Brigade reserve forces uncovered a Hezbollah training base, situated approximately 200 meters (650 feet) from a UNIFIL base.

According to the military, the site was used to train operatives and store weapons. Among the items found were rocket launch sites aimed at Israeli towns, combat training manuals and operational maps of Israel.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah attacks continued to target northern and central Israel on Friday, triggering rocket and drone alerts across multiple regions, including the Galilee, Sharon and Haifa Bay areas, as well as parts of the central Dan region.

Rocket sirens sounded repeatedly in Acre, Tamra, Jullis, Kfar Masaryk, Nahariya and other communities throughout the Western Galilee, with some alerts extending into densely populated areas further south.

According to the IDF, five rockets were launched from Lebanon, most of which were intercepted. However, one rocket hit a house in Kfar Yassif in the Western Galilee, causing property damage but no reported injuries.

In a separate incident, the IDF confirmed approximately 30 rocket launches from Lebanon, most of which landed in open areas. One impact was recorded in a populated area, though no injuries were reported.

The IDF also reported that multiple suspected drones entered from Lebanon, instructing residents in affected areas to remain in sheltered areas and follow updated Home Front Command alerts. The military later reported that the Air Force intercepted all drones that had crossed from Lebanon.

In addition to the rocket fire, several communities in the Upper Galilee, including Kibbutzim Kfar Giladi and Misgav Am, briefly faced concerns over potential ground infiltrations, prompting emergency protocols, local lockdowns and roadblocks along Highway 99. These infiltration alerts were later lifted.

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Israel confirms missing fans accounted for after Amsterdam attacks; IDF bans travel

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Israel confirms all missing fans accounted for after Amsterdam attacks; IDF bans troop travel

Security officials say violence appeared spontaneous rather than coordinated by any foreign entity; Foreign Ministry says Dutch security forces deployed across city to ensure safe passage for Israelis heading to airport
Itamar Eichner, Yoav Zitun|04:10

The Foreign Ministry announced Friday that, as of 2:30 p.m. local time, there are no remaining cases of uncontactable individuals in the Netherlands.

Communication was restored with all Maccabi Tel Aviv fans following the violent attacks in Amsterdam overnight. Earlier, Israeli officials dismissed reports any Israelis were taken hostage.

According to Amsterdam authorities, at least five people were hospitalized due to injuries from the assaults, and police reported 62 arrests. The IDF subsequently barred Israeli military personnel from traveling to Amsterdam until further notice, canceling an earlier plan to dispatch a rescue mission. The National Security Council also advised Israelis in Amsterdam to stay in their hotels.

Israeli security officials said that Amsterdam authorities had received advance warnings of potential violence surrounding the match between Maccabi Tel Aviv and Ajax. Although police initially moved protesters away from the stadium, violence erupted later as Israeli fans moved into central Amsterdam. "They were spontaneously attacked by a mob," officials said.

Security officials further revealed that they had flagged risks based on a protest held before the game, which indicated the possibility of violence. "There was no violence during the game itself, but a day earlier, a Border Police officer was mugged and had his passport taken," officials said. "He was informed of a personal threat and was advised to remain in his hotel."

The Foreign Ministry has not provided updated numbers on how many Israelis are currently unaccounted for. Ministry officials advised any Israeli seeking to travel to Schiphol Airport to use public transport options such as trains and buses, noting that local security forces were actively deployed across the city.

An El Al flight, scheduled to depart from Schiphol Airport at 2 p.m. local time, will transport Israelis free of charge, with booking available by phone at +972-3-9404040. "We recognized from a protest ahead of the match that violence could develop," security officials said. "There was no violence during the game but one day earlier, a man serving in the Border Police was mugged and his passport was taken. He received information that he was personally under threat and he was notified and warned to remain at his hotel. We also had warnings of violent pro-Palestinian protests and some spontaneous incidents occurred before the match. There was no involvement of a foreign country."

Ten missing after lynching of Israeli soccer fans in Amsterdam; IDF bans troop travel

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Israeli officials said Friday there is no evidence that Israeli soccer fans were taken hostage following lynching attacks by pro-Palestinian protesters on the streets of Amsterdam.

Earlier, Amsterdam police had announced an investigation into a possible abduction after multiple Israeli fans went out of contact, raising safety concerns.

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Dutch leader Wilders urges deportation of Muslim rioters; IDF sending rescue

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Dutch politician Wilders urges deportation of 'multicultural scum'; IDF launches rescue mission

Military says preparing to send cargo planes with medical teams to extract Israelis from Amsterdam after at least 10 Israeli soccer fans wounded in lynching

Itamar Eichner, Yoav Zitun|Yesterday | 23:35

Dutch far-right leader Geert Wilders called on Friday for the deportation of Muslim rioters involved in attacks on Israelis in Amsterdam, condemning what he described as a "Jew hunt" on city streets.

"Looks like a Jew hunt in the streets of Amsterdam. Arrest and deport the multicultural scum that attacked Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters in our streets. Ashamed that this can happen in The Netherlands. Totally unacceptable," Wilders wrote on X

Meanwhile, the IDF announced preparations to send planes with medical teams to extract Israelis from Amsterdam following the violence.

"The IDF Homefront Command will lead the rescue mission with the cooperation of various IDF directorates, branches, and Israeli security authorities," the military said in a statement.

The Transportation Ministry said that it has directed Israeli airlines El Al and Israir to add three additional flights to Amsterdam to expedite the evacuation of Israelis. Three regularly scheduled flights are expected to operate as planned.

11.08.24 – Fr

Maccabi Tel Aviv fans targeted in Amsterdam stabbings, car ramming after soccer match

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At least 10 hurt in attacks throughout the city after Europa League game; fans: 'We were attacked, it seemed planned'; PM orders airlift to evacuate Israelis

Ynet sports|Yesterday | 19:15

At least 10 Israelis were injured, and two remain out of contact after Maccabi Tel Aviv soccer fans were violently chased and attacked after attending the match in Amsterdam Thursday night against Ajax. In videos on social networks, Maccabi Tel Aviv fans are

seen being attacked in several locations in the city. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered planes sent to evacuate Israelis in the Netherlands

In several videos posted on social media, masked were seen trying to break into hotels where Israelis were staying. Dutch media reported clashes in several locations throughout the city, and the police were trying to control the violence.

Police reportedly helped escort dozens of Maccabi Tel Aviv fans who were attacked. "Several dozen people dressed in black attacked Maccabi Tel Aviv fans, and several people were arrested," according to local police.

About 30 attackers have been arrested so far, according to the foreign ministry, citing information provided by local police.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was briefed on the details of the serious incident of violence in Amsterdam against Israeli citizens, conducted a situation assessment with the Foreign Minister and his military secretary, and receives regular updates all the time, according to a statement early Friday morning from the Prime Minister's Office.

A 30-year-old Maccabi Tel Aviv fan describes the moments of horror: "I finished a four-month reserve in Gaza, and what I experienced here is no less scary. There is a war out here. They ran over me and pulled a knife on me. I am slightly injured, but I am not ready to receive treatment here, only in Israel. We were ambushed. I'm in the market. I saw with my own eyes children who were caught in explosions. They are everywhere. No police, complete chaos. Everything was pre-planned. The police here abandoned us. Every fourth person walking the street is a Muslim who has come to attack Jews. Me and several hundred other fans are surrounded in the hotel, the police don't allow us to leave. They just want to fly home."

"It's unbelievable that we had to run away from thousands of Muslims on the streets of Amsterdam and get some Israelis into KFC when the police are out there in small numbers and don't know how to handle the event. They didn't bring a doctor to everyone who was injured there because 'there is no way to help you.' The Muslims tried to run over, kidnap, beat and murder. Everyone who is there, catch a flight and return to Israel." Kobi Itzhaki posted on X: "Running away to the hotel, bringing the wounded in with you, hearing about people who can't find them, hearing crazy explosions from all sides. Fuck football, just let everyone return safely from here."

Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said in a statement: "We are dealing with the authorities in the Netherlands over the serious incidents there. Any Israeli or Jew who is currently in distress or has information and about a violent event that is currently taking place, please contact the situation room:

Knesset member Almog Cohen wrote on his X account: "I just spoke with the ambassador of Israel in the Netherlands, Modi Ephraim, and he informed me that he spoke with the mayor, who is sending many police forces to the conflict area. Regarding cases of violence and lynchings directed at Israeli fans, I call on the fans to stay in protected places and avoid risking their lives." He also posted the Israeli embassy's hotline in the Netherlands.

"A shocking pogrom is taking place at this moment in Amsterdam," Knesset member Boaz Bismuth said in a post. "I am receiving calls and messages from people who are in Amsterdam, who say that the Dutch authorities are not helping them at all and are not taking action to control the situation. Jews are forced to barricade themselves and hide while the violence continues to rage in the streets. This event is a reminder that hatred for Jews is alive and kicking in the heart of Europe. The Dutch authorities must act with zero tolerance and stop the rioters - now!"

Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon also called the attacks in Amsterdam a 'pogrom.'

"We are receiving very disturbing reports of extreme violence against Israelis and Jews on the streets of Holland," Danon posted on the X platform. "There is a pogrom currently taking place in Europe in 2024. These are the true faces of the supporters of the radical terrorism we are fighting. The western world needs to wake up now!! This is the time when the UN should immediately and clearly condemn the violence of the Palestinians and their supporters. The Dutch authorities must take decisive action against terrorism now."

Former prime minister Naftali Bennett posted several videos of the violence on the X platform.

"I am receiving videos and evidence of Israeli sports-tourists in Amsterdam being brutally attacked," Bennett posted. "What I see seems to be life-threatening: Innocent people being run-over, beaten, driven into a river and more. I call on the Dutch authorities to act immediately to prevent injuries and worse."

The attacks come a day after violence erupted in Amsterdam ahead of the match. In one incident, Maccabi Tel Aviv fans were attacked in Amsterdam by a group of Dutch citizens of Turkish and Moroccan descent who reportedly waited outside a casino to target them. In another, Dutch nationals of Turkish descent reportedly chased a Maccabi fan after apparently stealing his passport and proceeded to push him into a river.

11.07.24 – Th

IDF destroyed over 100 terror hotbeds in south Lebanon & continue Hezbollah fight

11.07.24 – Th

Destroyed terror tunnels and rocket launch pads in southern Lebanon: IDF forces continue fight against Hezbollah

IDF reserve forces successfully destroy over 100 terror hotbeds across southern Lebanon while facing off against Hezbollah terrorists and tunnels

Yoav Zitun|15:50

IDF reserve forces have eliminated hundreds of Hezbollah assets and strategic targets across southern Lebanon.

The IDF's 6th Reserve Brigade (Etzioni) is expected to be one of the reserve brigades continuing ground operations in southern Lebanon, following the withdrawal of some other reserve brigades for a much-needed leave.

Meanwhile, the brigade combat team under the IDF Northern Command wraps up a successful month-long period of ground operations aimed at removing the threat of Radwan Forces' potential invasion into the Galilee.

The brigade, which was the first reserve brigade to enter southern Lebanon as part of the Northern Command Brigade, has destroyed 154 Hezbollah terror structures near the border. Footage shows the commanders on Lebanese soil dedicating these achievements to all IDF soldiers and to the hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza.

Additionally, reservists have destroyed approximately 20 of Hezbollah's underground combat tunnels and launch pads near the border, cleared around 600 dunams (about 148 acres) of dense terrorist vegetation that concealed launch infrastructure toward the Galilee and killed at least 14 terrorists without any fatalities within the brigade. One video showed how forces identified a Hezbollah terrorist squad in dense, fortified terrain in daylight. The Hezbollah squad included a lookout and combat soldiers, who were only revealed after a few minutes due to their use of the thick vegetation. With the help of tanks and drones, the brigade neutralized the squad.

The soldiers were also surprised to encounter a cynical Hezbollah sign, warning in English against entry, hunting or cutting trees and vegetation at the entrance to one of the "nature reserves" located between Bint Jbeil and the Israeli border.

Over a decade ago, Hezbollah established a front organization called Green Without Borders purportedly to protect the environment with "rangers" who are actually terrorists, preserving these "nature reserves" as combat zones meant to allow the Radwan Force's thousands of fighters from its 12 battalions to invade Israel in the future.

Reserve troops also destroyed hundreds of buildings in southern Lebanese Shiite villages, effectively flattening entire terror-infested neighborhoods that had been transformed into military bases, including the densely populated casbahs of some of these villages. Given the growing need and demand for engineering tools, the brigade used not only bulldozers from its combat engineering battalion, which operated non-stop in Lebanese territory to destroy Hezbollah infrastructure but also engineering teams comprised of civilian tractors leased by the IDF and operated by IDF Home Front Command heavy equipment operators.

"Hezbollah took advantage of both the terrain and the open areas to build itself up," said the brigade's commander, Col. (res.) Sarel Sabag. "We saw the entire area as one unified combat zone – and this is what Hezbollah did as part of its plan to invade the Galilee. "Hezbollah has built itself up over the years, with the ability to study the enemy and observe where it's positioned – I think this has made us more prepared. Ultimately, it's also about the power of maneuvering and the locations we've entered."

He noted that the fighting in urban and dense areas is very complex. "The biggest achievement is ultimately the ability to destroy these infrastructures and create an area that looks entirely different," he explained.

He also described his close encounters with terrorists, saying: "The enemy tried to pull us into the terrain," while dealing with anti-tank fire and rockets. "That didn't stop us. We pushed forward with full force to accomplish the mission," he stressed.

11.07.24 – Th

France furious over diplomat guards detained in Jerusalem during state visit

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France furious over diplomats detained in Jerusalem during state visit

Shin Bet operatives detain two French guards with diplomatic visas after confronting them over request by French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot to enter a Jerusalem church alone; French minister says incident 'liable to weaken ties'

Itamar Eichner, Tamar Shavak, Paris|15:02

An unusual diplomatic incident took place on Thursday during a state visit by French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot in Jerusalem. Upon his arrival at the Eleona Church, also known as the Church of the Pater Noste, on the Mount of Olives, a site Paris claims is under French government control, Barrot refused to allow Shin Bet security guards to enter with him.

A commotion ensued, during which two security guards from the French consulate – both fully recognized diplomats who carry diplomatic visas – were detained.

The two French security guards refused to identify themselves and were taken into custody, though the Foreign Ministry said they were "immediately released" after identifying themselves as diplomats.

Footage of the incident, taken in front of French journalists accompanying Barrot, shows the two men being placed into separate police cars. In partial footage circulated on social media, police officers are seen confronting one of the French guards, attempting to detain him.

The guard, shouting angrily in French and refusing to be touched, yelled: "Take your hands off me." The confrontation escalated, with the French guard shouting "Don't touch me!" in English before officers forced him to the ground.

Israeli officials claimed that the French guards pushed a police officer during the altercation, while French sources denied any use of violence by their guards. The two men – described in the French media as members of the gendarmerie, a French military-police force – were released after presenting their diplomatic IDs.

Barrot himself canceled his visit to the church following the incident, telling accompanying reporters that "I will not enter the Eleona Domain today, because Israeli security forces entered with weapons, without prior French authorization, without agreeing to leave."

The French news agency AFP reported that the foreign minister, calling the incident "unacceptable," expressed anger over the conduct of the Israeli security personnel. "The integrity of the four domains that France is responsible for here in Jerusalem must be respected," he said.

Barrot added that this diplomatic incident was "liable to weaken the ties that I came here to cultivate with Israel, at a time when all of us need to help the region advance on the path toward peace."

The Chapel of the Ascension, located within the larger complex known as the Pater Noster Church, houses a Benedictine monastery and serves as a historic pilgrimage site for Christians. France administers the area and claims ownership of it — as well as several other locations in Jerusalem, which have previously been sites of tense diplomatic incidents due to a refusal to allow Israeli forces entry.

"Every foreign minister visiting Israel on an official visit is accompanied by state security and this security follows the minister throughout all parts of their visit. The French Foreign Minister's visit to the Pater Noster Church was also accompanied by the Personal Security Unit," the Foreign Ministry said following the incident.

"This was done to ensure the safety of the visiting minister and these arrangements were clarified in advance in preparatory discussions with the French Embassy in Israel. During the visit, a dispute arose between the Israeli security forces and two French guards who refused to identify themselves. The two were detained by the police and released immediately after identifying as diplomats."

The French Foreign Ministry expressed outrage over the incident and announced that Israel's ambassador to France would be summoned for clarification in Paris.

A French diplomatic source commented on the objectives of Foreign Minister Barrot's visit, saying that in his meetings with outgoing Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer Barrot held "substantive discussions" regarding Lebanon, Gaza, Iran and the West Bank.

Regarding Lebanon, the source said discussions focused on the "security guarantees Israel expects as part of a diplomatic cease-fire solution, based on efforts led by the U.S. and France."

The source expressed concern over Israeli policy in the West Bank, which, according to them, "undermines the Palestinian Authority, particularly in the economic and financial sectors," as well as the ongoing settlement expansion and what was described as "impunity for violent settlers."

The source added that Barrot also conveyed concern over Israel's decision to sever ties with the UN Palestinian aid agency UNRWA, warning the move would harm humanitarian aid for Palestinians. "France calls for defining a credible and responsible 'post-war' plan, including the return of the Palestinian Authority."

11.07.24 – Th

Hezbollah operates from heritage sites in Lebanon; Israel blamed for targeting them

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Hezbollah operates from heritage sites in Lebanon, but Israel gets blamed for targeting them

Lebanon turns to UNESCO claiming Israel is trying to 'erase' the country's cultural heritage; Hezbollah uses the ancient sites to store weapons and launch rocket attacks on Israel

Lior Ben Arij 13:39

Lebanon blamed Israel for trying to "erase" the country's cultural heritage after several UNESCO World Heritage sites in the country, used by Hezbollah to operate and fire rockets against Israel, were targeted by the Israeli Air Force to combat the terror group's operations.

The recent strikes in the area targeted Hezbollah terrorists. The IDF says it exercises discretion in every strike near sensitive structures, something Lebanon claims is false.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati addressed the issue this week, saying that Lebanese officials "call for an immediate cease-fire to halt the violence and protect our country's cultural heritage and the ancient archaeological sites in Baalbek and Tyre." Lebanon hosts numerous heritage sites that attract tourists, significantly contributing to the national economy.

A few days ago, the Qatari outlet Al-Araby Al-Jadeed published an article about the strikes on the sensitive sites, alleging that Israel intends to destroy antiquities and heritage sites in its strikes on Lebanon. According to the article, one of the sites recently impacted by the strikes is the Dome of Duris in Baalbek.

Reports from Lebanon indicate part of the structure was damaged and the stability of the ancient columns was compromised. This ancient structure holds historical significance, featuring a type of temple supported by eight red granite columns.

There are also claims that the Baalbek temples were subject to strikes within approximately 500 meters (0.3 miles) of their location. Baalbek's temple complex was recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1984.

The strikes have also targeted Tyre's historical legacy, according to reports. Tyre is one of the oldest cities in the Mediterranean region and holds significant historical value. Its antiquities span various historical periods from 5,000 BCE to the 19th century. Al-Araby Al-Jadeed also alleged that Israel struck the famous market in Nabatieh in southern Lebanon, destroying it. The market is part of the city's heritage and cultural and

social identity. The laws of war prohibit actions against cultural assets and use them to support war efforts, the article noted.

It also included a list of numerous religious sites in southern Lebanon that were reportedly attacked by Israel. These included mosques in various border towns and villages. It failed to mention, however, that Hezbollah terrorists had hidden weapons in these locations.

During the war, the IDF revealed that terrorist organizations both in Gaza and Lebanon operate from places that are forbidden to be used in war under international law, such as mosques. Lebanese Culture Minister Mohammad Mortada told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that, since the beginning of the war, "Israel has targeted cultural sites, like the attack on the fortress in the village of Tebnine."

According to him, Israel is attempting to erase the Lebanese people's identity, memory and history. He added that Lebanon has signed numerous international agreements related to the protection of antiquities. "We respect international conventions and hope for reciprocity from all sides," he said.

He called on the international community "to compel Israel to adhere to and respect international conventions."

The minister also issued a letter to UNESCO, demanding the protection of cultural sites in the country, and said that the Lebanese Culture Ministry "has begun developing approaches to restoring and rebuilding cultural heritage alongside friendly nations and a support fund will be established for this purpose." A UNESCO meeting on the matter is scheduled for November 12.

11.07.24 – Th

Hezbollah launches continuous rocket barrages on Israel's north

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Dozens of rockets launched in three barrages over less than two hours Thursday afternoon, striking the Galilee, Haifa, and Haifa Bay area; Rocket scored direct hit on vehicle next to a house in Kiryat Yam, and a kindergarten in Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk was damaged

ynet correspondents|09:31

Dozens of Hezbollah rockets were fired over less than two and a half hours in barrages targeting the Galilee, Haifa and the Haifa Bay area on Thursday.

Around 2 p.m., some 40 rockets were launched at the western Galilee, Haifa Bay and the upper Galilee. Some of the rockets were intercepted, though there were also direct hits. An 85-year-old man sustained minor injuries from shrapnel to his lower limbs, while another person was hospitalized in Nahariya with anxiety.

One rocket hit Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk, where 18-year-old Sivan Sadeh was killed on Wednesday while working in the kibbutz's orchards. This time, the debris – possibly from intercepted fragments – landed near a kindergarten. The children took shelter and were unharmed, though the kindergarten sustained damage.

Shortly after 3:03 p.m., hundreds of thousands of residents again entered protected areas as sirens blared across Haifa and nearby communities. The IDF later confirmed that multiple rockets had crossed from Lebanon, some of which were intercepted, while others landed in open areas.

An hour later, a new wave of sirens sounded in the Haifa Bay area and western Galilee. Videos from Haifa and Acre showed numerous interceptions lighting up the sky.

Meanwhile, the IDF continued its strikes in Lebanon, where three people reportedly were killed in an Israeli drone attack on a vehicle in Sidon.

According to reports, six others were injured, including five UN peacekeeping troops from UNIFIL, whose injuries were described as minor. Al-Akhbar, a Lebanese newspaper, reported that three people were in the vehicle at the time of the strike, saying: "They slowed down at a military checkpoint, and then a drone fired a missile at them."

The Lebanese army issued a statement, saying that "Israel attacked a vehicle at the Al-Awali checkpoint in Sidon. Three civilians in the vehicle were killed, three soldiers at the checkpoint were injured, and four members of UNIFIL's Malaysian unit, which were passing by, also were wounded."

11.06.24 – We

Attorney general to defend Gallant's dismissal as High Court pushes for answers

11.06.24 – We

Attorney general to defend Gallant's dismissal as High Court pushes for answers
Gali Baharav-Miara must articulate legal rationale behind defense minister's ouster, as top court demands response to petitions questioning potential ulterior motives at odds with Netanyahu's conflict of interest arrangement

Tova Tzimukij | 10:37

The High Court of Justice on Wednesday ordered Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to provide a response by noon on Thursday to an interim injunction request challenging his dismissal of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant as petitioners claim the firing was politically motivated

Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara convened a meeting Wednesday to discuss the government's stance on the case. Sources close to the matter suggest she will argue that Israeli law grants the prime minister broad authority to dismiss ministers.

However, the court may examine whether Netanyahu's decision was influenced by factors unrelated to his duties, which could potentially conflict with his legal restrictions due to his ongoing criminal trial.

The petition asserts that Gallant's firing amid an active war is driven by political interests—namely, efforts to advance draft exemptions for ultra-Orthodox scholars and stabilize the coalition—at the expense of national security. The petition argues that replacing Gallant, who has 35 years of military experience, with a less experienced minister endangers Israel at a time of significant security threats.

Justice Minister Yariv Levin criticized Justice Yael Willner, who is overseeing the case, accusing her of overreaching by issuing the injunction. “Justice Willner has taken on the role of justice minister with this unprecedented order, effectively controlling the Judicial Selection Committee. Now, she seems set on stepping into the prime minister's shoes, deciding on ministerial appointments instead of dismissing the petition,” Levin remarked.

With sarcasm, he added, “We look forward to January 20, to see if Justice Willner will also weigh in on the American presidential election.”

11.06.24 – We

Iran sentences 4 people to death over charges of spying for Israel

11.06.24 – We

Iran sentences 4 people to death over charges of spying for Israel, Fars news agency reports

Three of the condemned were said to have assisted Mossad in the assassination of nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh in 2020; no information was given about the charges against the fourth

Reuters|07:12

Four people were sentenced to death by a revolutionary court in northwestern Iran over charges of spying for Israel, the semi-official Fars news agency reported on Wednesday. Fars said three of the defendants - whose nationalities it did not give - were accused of helping Israel's spy agency Mossad move equipment used in the 2020 assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

Fakhrizadeh was viewed by Western intelligence services as the mastermind of a covert Iranian program to develop nuclear weapons capability. The Islamic Republic has long denied any such ambition.

The Jewish Chronicle newspaper reported in February 2021, citing intelligence sources, that Fakhrizadeh was killed by a one-ton gun smuggled into Iran in pieces by Mossad agents, both Israeli and Iranian nationals.

Israel declined to comment at the time of his killing and on Wednesday an Israeli government spokesman said in response to the Fars report: "We never comment on such matters. There has been no change in our position."

Fars said the fourth defendant sentenced to death was linked to another unspecified espionage case.

11.06.24 – We

Opposition Yair Lapid, Benny Gantz, Avigdor Liberman, Yair Golan claim PM unfit

11.06.24 – We

'Netanyahu unfit, endangers Israel'

Leaders of opposition parties slam Netanyahu's ouster of Yoav Gallant, say his motives are political and fear of investigations into misdeeds of his close surrounding

Moran Azulay|05:29

Leaders of most of Israel's opposition parties united on Wednesday in their condemnation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ouster of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, amid war and his replacement with a minister lacking security or meaningful military experience.

Ahead of their statements, the leaders of the parties met to discuss the controversial political move. They all alluded to the apparent connection of Gallant's firing to the scandals being investigated in the Prime Minister's Office and their potential to implicate the prime minister in security and or criminal offenses.

Two matters were under investigation. One relating to serious security breaches, which is being probed by the Shin Bet and another being investigated by the police, is a criminal matter. Both are under gag orders issued by the courts.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid was the first to make a statement. He said the ousting of the defense minister was an act of madness by a prime minister who unfit to rule. "In the midst of war, while Israel is fighting on seven fronts, Netanyahu is weakening the IDF and the fighting forces only to pass a draft dodging bill," referring to legislation that Netanyahu is advancing to exempt Haredi men from military service after his ultra-Orthodox coalition partners threatened to bring down the government.

"Don't let his lies fool you," Lapid said. "Gallant was not fired over professional differences. Just last week Netanyahu stood at the Knesset podium and talks about the assassination of [Hassan] Nasrallah, [Ismail] Haniyeh, [Mohammed] Deif and [Yahya] Sinwar and then he sacked his defense minister, who brought him all those achievements."

Lapid said Gallant was sacked only for political reasons and that Netanyahu chose draft dodgers over those who serve. "What happened yesterday was not normal and illogical. Every Hebrew mother must know she has no one to rely on. She cannot rely on the prime

minister or his cabinet. The only one she could trust, was fired. Netanyahu is unfit, he cannot lead Israel in times of war. He cannot be trusted by the troops. He had a choice and chose a disgrace."

Benny Gantz who was a defense minister in a previous Netanyahu government said Israel has already seen what its enemies do when Israelis are torn apart from within. "What are they troops fighting in Lebanon today, to think when their defense minister is fired, soon after he issues draft notices to 7,000 Haredi men?" he asked. He said Israel must not be in the position it was last October, before the Hamas massacre. "We don't have that privilege in the Middle East." Gantz said Netanyahu has hurt Israel's security and its people's spirit but it will not break it.

Avigdor Liberman who also once served as Netanyahu's defense minister said the only place celebrating Netanyahu's political ousting of Gallant was Iran. "Anyone following Iranian media, and there are many in Israel who do, saw the celebrations and enthusiasm."

Liberman warned that Netanyahu will next move to remove the chair of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Yuli Edelstein who also put obstacles in the path of legislation allowing the Haredi men to dodge the draft. "I expect that will happen in the coming days and then he will go after the Attorney General."

He then appealed directly to members of Netanyahu's ruling Likud party and urged them to oppose the prime minister's legislation and his new pick for defense minister.

Last to speak was Yair Golan, a former IDF deputy chief of staff and head of the left-wing labor alliance. "In my 38 years of military service, I never thought I would see a prime minister will knowingly harm Israel's security. There has never been such a wide gap between the troops who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country and the leader whose heart is cold to bereavement," he said.

"He has never known what it was like to escape sleep because his son is on the frontlines, he does not bow his head in the face of hundreds who were murdered on his watch, he chooses his own interests before those of the citizens of Israel," Golan said. "We have an illegitimate government and prime minister," he said and called on the public to come out and bring the country to a standstill in protest.

11.06.24 – We

Israel cautious of Biden revenge through the UN after Trump won US election

11.06.24 – We

Israel fears Biden's 'revenge' after Trump wins elections

Analysis: Officials worry about several scenarios Biden could take against Jerusalem in his remaining months in office regarding the war in Gaza and issues in the UN

Itamar Eichner|04:31

“There’s room for optimism.” one of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s advisors said on Wednesday after a sleepless night spent monitoring the U.S. election results. Shortly afterward, even before major U.S. networks declared Donald Trump the winner, Netanyahu was already among the first to congratulate him.

It could be said that Netanyahu placed all his bets on Trump’s victory. This was his preferred outcome, despite past tensions and the unflattering remarks Trump made about him. The prime minister believes he can work well with Trump and thinks those who influence him “are on the right side.” Compared to the Democratic administration that despised him and sought his downfall, Netanyahu is convinced Trump is the right choice for Israel.

But what does this mean for Israel? First, it’s essential to recognize that the country is entering a critical period. From now until Trump’s inauguration on January 20, U.S. President Joe Biden holds full authority to act as he wishes. Israel must consider the possibility that Biden will use this time to settle scores with Netanyahu. Officials are concerned about a repeat of the December 23, 2016, UN Security Council resolution, when Barack Obama, in his final days in office — took the unusual step of refraining from using America’s veto power in the Council, allowing a resolution against Jewish settlements to pass. The move complicated Israel legally and opened the door to potential lawsuits in international courts in The Hague. Now, Netanyahu fears a similar scenario.

It seems Biden will use his last two months in office to ramp up pressure for a hostage deal and demand concessions from Netanyahu, such as a withdrawal from the Philadelphi Corridor and similar moves. Biden will likely push to advance the diplomatic agreement between Israel and Lebanon — a direction Netanyahu appears to support, unlike the efforts to end the war in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, Netanyahu will aim to establish full cooperation with Trump and his team regarding postwar Israel on all fronts: Lebanon, Gaza, Iran and the hostages. It’s likely that Netanyahu will also receive an invitation to the White House shortly after the president's inauguration. Until then, he’ll need to navigate some turbulent waters over these two months.

However, no one is thinking life with Trump will be a bed of roses for Netanyahu. Trump, too, wants to end the wars in Lebanon and Gaza. He has said this several times and genuinely believes in ending these conflicts. Therefore, Netanyahu will need to coordinate with him closely to reach this goal with as many achievements — as few concessions — for Israel as possible.

The prime minister will also have to decide on his new ambassador to Washington soon. It’s likely he won’t extend Mike Herzog’s term but will instead choose a new ambassador. Netanyahu wishes to see Ron Dermer return to Washington — but Dermer is unwilling to do so. One of the candidates mentioned for the role is Netanyahu’s political advisor, Ophir Falk.

One of the key questions is who will be in Trump's inner circle. Israel hopes to see someone like Mike Pompeo as defense secretary. Trump’s former ambassador to Israel,

David Friedman, could also take a prominent role, which would greatly please the Jewish settler sector.

Friedman, a staunch pro-Israel and pro-settlement advocate, has published a political plan for Israel's future, a significant part of which involves applying sovereignty over the West Bank. Trump's victory revives the right-wing dream of doing so.

Furthermore, the Republican victory could significantly advance normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia. Biden's chances of securing a normalization deal in the two months he has left are low since it won't happen without a cease-fire — and Netanyahu is more likely to save that achievement for Trump.

Another issue is Iran. On one hand, if it attacks Israel, Tehran risks a harsh response from Biden, who's now free from political pressures. On the other hand, Iran may avoid escalating tensions with Israel just before Trump assumes office, given his aggressive stance against Iran during his previous term. Either way, Trump's victory will factor into Iran's final decision on whether to strike Israel or to refrain from the planned response. Trump's victory may also reduce the likelihood of the International Criminal Court (ICC) issuing arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, as Biden previously blocked sanctions against the ICC — which Trump could now threaten to reimpose.

11.06.24 – We

Settlers euphoric over Trump win; Smotrich plans West Bank annex & outposts in Gaza

11.06.24 – We

Settlers euphoric over Trump win

Settler leaders forged close ties with key republican figures including Trump's former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who has been a frequent visitor to the settlements; Smotrich plans to advance Israeli annexation, legalize West Bank outposts and establish new ones in Gaza

Elisha Ben Kimon|04:11

West Bank settlers cheered on Wednesday after the results of the U.S. presidential race showed Donald Trump heading back to a second term in the White House.

"One Strong Trump – One Jewish State", Israel Gantz, head of the Binyamin regional council, said in a post on X indicating the expectations of the settlers from Trump's next term. "This is a historic opportunity that must not be missed," some said.

The settler movement is poised to legalize outposts under the direction of far-right Bezalel Smotrich who serves as a minister in the Defense Ministry along with his role as Finance Minister.

Smotrich plans to expand settlement constructions, lift restrictions on settlers and begin imposing Israeli sovereignty on some of the areas. He also intends to begin establishing

outposts in the northern parts of the Gaza Strip. With the removal of Yoav Gallant who was fired as defense minister by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday, Smotrich's path is even clearer.

Leaders in the settler community have strengthened ties with key figures in republican circles. Mike Pompeo who served as Trump's Secretary of State during his first term, is a frequent visitor to the West Bank settlement.

Trump's ambassador to Israel David Freidman was a recent guest at the book launch for Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan's new book outlining his position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that he said must be solved by extending Israeli law to the West Bank settlements.

Although Trump has not named his next cabinet, it is clear to the settlers that the doors in Washington will be open to them. Smotrich along with Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer established a system of dealing with the Americans. The obstacles placed in his path by the Biden administration will soon be removed, the settlers hope.

Leaders of the settler community will likely travel to the U.S. shortly. Trump was close to approving Israel's annexation of the West Bank in his last term and refrained from giving Netanyahu the green light only upon the advice of his son-in-law Jared Kushner. There was also intensive construction in the settlements during those years and the administration at the time did not block plans to advance settlements in E1 and Hebron, where democratic administrations blocked them.

But alongside the optimism some worry that Trump's next term will not be the same as his first. He is a businessman after making deals and no one knows now, how he will respond to Israel's ongoing wars and the question of a Palestinian state.

11.06.24 – We

Hezbollah targets Tel Aviv in volley to complete 40 day grieving period

11.06.24 – We

Hezbollah targets Tel Aviv in volley to central Israel

Central residents report hearing loud explosions seconds before alert sirens began blaring; IDF confirms rockets fired from Lebanon; rocket lands in Ben Gurion Airport parking lot Ynet|03:48

Rocket sirens sounded across central and northern Israeli communities in cities including Tel Aviv, Netanya, Ramat Gan, Herzliya and others. Alarms also sounded in cities located in the Upper Galilee region and Nahariya. According to initial reports, one rocket fell inside Ben Gurion Airport's parking lot without injuries.

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit reported shortly after the volley that 10 rockets were seen crossing from Lebanon to Israel with some being intercepted by the Israeli Air Force.

The volley comes some 40 days following the elimination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut, marking the completion of the grieving period under Islamic religious law.

U.S. B-2 stealth bombers strike Yemen in message to Iran
Attack targets Houthi underground weapons stores; 'unique demonstration of the United States' ability to target facilities that our adversaries seek to keep out of reach, no matter how deeply buried underground, hardened, or fortified' Austin says

11.06.24 – We

After election victory, Hezbollah fires rockets at Trump Heights in Golan Heights

11.06.24 – We

After election victory, Hezbollah fires rockets at Israeli town named after Trump
Trump Heights, established in 2019, honors former and future US president for recognizing Israeli sovereignty over Golan Heights

Ynetnews|03:01

Hezbollah rockets on Tuesday targeted the Golan Heights, including Trump Heights, a new settlement named after U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to honor him for recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the territory captured from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then-U.S. ambassador David Freidman were in attendance.

As of 2023, just 24 families lived in Trump Heights in temporary homes.

11.05.24 – Tu

Gallant fired over opposition to draft, hostages and accountability starting the war

11.05.24 – Tu

Gallant says fired over disagreements on draft, hostages and accountability
Outgoing defense minister expresses pride in Israel's recent military achievements but emphasizes need to learn from past mistakes, underscoring his commitment to national security

Yuval Karni|15:08

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, responding to his dismissal earlier Tuesday, said that he was fired due to disagreements with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on key security issues.

In a special statement, Gallant said his firm stance that all Israeli youth must serve in the IDF, his push for the recovery of hostages, and his call for a national inquiry into the security failures that led to the events of the October 7 Hamas attack.

"There is no forgiveness for abandoning the hostages. We can bring them back," Gallant stressed, while also highlighting his responsibility for both successes and failures during his tenure.

"My priorities have always been clear: the State of Israel, the IDF, and the defense establishment—only then comes my personal future," he said.

Gallant emphasized that his dismissal follows what he described as "remarkable achievements" by the defense establishment. "We struck in Gaza and Lebanon, eliminated terrorist leaders across the Middle East, and for the first time ever, delivered a precise, lethal and swift blow to Iran. I am proud of the defense establishment's accomplishments."

He also highlighted the importance of learning from past mistakes. "I am responsible for the successes—but also for the failures and the pain," he said.

Gallant concluded by underscoring his unwavering support for the IDF and other security agencies, stating, "I have not, and will not, allow any harm to come to the IDF, its commanders or its soldiers—from the highest ranks to the last soldier."

He urged political leaders to follow the moral compass of the defense establishment, saying, "In times of darkness and uncertainty, we must navigate by our compass." Gallant ended his statement with a salute to the fallen and their families.

Gallant believed as recently as Monday in private conversations that Netanyahu would hesitate to fire him, not wanting to position himself as the moderate and pragmatic figure in an increasingly hardline Cabinet. Nevertheless, Gallant conveyed to those close to him a sense of satisfaction with how he managed the war, saying that he was at peace with himself and calling it "the most important role of his life."

Netanyahu reportedly informed Gallant of his dismissal just 10 minutes before the public announcement. The meeting lasted only a few minutes, after which Gallant's chief of staff arrived to collect the official dismissal letter.

Gallant's associates were not surprised by the move, acknowledging that the decision to fire him had already been made in principle. However, they were caught off guard by the timing, which they believe is tied to both the daycare funding bill—a derivative of the draft exemption law for Haredi men, which Gallant strongly opposed—and a new security investigation involving events following the October 7 massacre, with a senior Netanyahu aide under scrutiny.

They also believe the timing was influenced by the U.S. elections, claiming that "Netanyahu thought the move would catch the protest movement off guard while everyone's attention was focused on America."

Netanyahu had considered firing Gallant as early as September, intending to replace him with Minister Gideon Sa'ar, but the pager operation in Lebanon, which saw thousands of Hezbollah pagers explode simultaneously, thwarted the plan.

Netanyahu realized that firing a defense minister on the eve of a war would be seen as irresponsible. The dismissal was delayed due to Israel's unprecedented air raid in Iran,

and even now, Netanyahu is taking a calculated risk in removing Gallant ahead of a possible Iranian retaliation.

11.05.24 – Tu

Netanyahu may consider further security leadership changes; “We are not there yet”

11.05.24 – Tu

Netanyahu may consider further security leadership changes after Gallant's dismissal. Sources close to PM suggest IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi and Shin Bet Director Ronen Bar next on the chopping block; Netanyahu's office dismisses reports as 'false and aimed at sowing division'.

Moran Azulay|13:52

Following the dismissal of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and his replacement by Israel Katz, sources close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggested on Tuesday that additional changes in Israel's security leadership could be forthcoming.

Netanyahu is reportedly considering replacing IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi and Shin Bet Director Ronen Bar in the near future.

However, a senior official close to Netanyahu said, "We are not there yet," but did not rule out such moves down the line.

Netanyahu's office dismissed the reports as "false and aimed at sowing division" and also rejected claims that Haredi ministers were aware of the matter in advance. "They learned about it from the media," his office said.

In a statement released shortly after Gallant's firing, Netanyahu said that while there had been productive cooperation in the early months of the war, significant differences in strategy had emerged between him and Gallant in recent months.

"At a time of war, full trust between the prime minister and the defense minister is critical," Netanyahu said. "Unfortunately, this trust has eroded, and attempts to bridge the gaps have failed." He noted that the differences were not only made public in an "unacceptable manner" but had also reached Israel's enemies, who had "derived great benefit" from the situation.

The prime minister announced that Foreign Minister Israel Katz will assume the role of defense minister. Gideon Sa'ar is set to take over as foreign minister.

In response to his dismissal, Gallant issued a brief statement on X, writing, "The security of the State of Israel has been and will always remain my life's mission."

11.05.24 – Tu

IDF shift tactics with limited weapons, skills kill Hamas with fewer munitions

11.05.24 – Tu

IDF shifts tactics in Gaza offensive, causing higher Hamas casualties with fewer munitions

Military says 1,000 Hamas terrorists killed in Jabaliya, with around 500 remaining alongside thousands of civilians; elite Ghost Unit using low-cost tech to target terrorists; 'Hamas booby-trapped 200 buildings, but only detonated two,' officials say

Yoav Zitun, Jabaliya|13:33

Israeli forces have entered the second month of their prolonged operation in Jabaliya, in the northern third of the Gaza Strip, effectively placing the area under siege, the IDF confirmed Tuesday.

During an overnight sniper operation, Givati, Kfir and 401st Brigade units eliminated around 50 Hamas terrorists near the city's refugee camp.

These casualties add to the roughly 1,000 Hamas terrorists killed since the operation began over a month and a half ago, according to figures from the 162nd Division leading the offensive. The IDF estimates that 500-600 terrorists remain entrenched within the core of Jabaliya's refugee camp or in nearby towns such as Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun, with some blending into the civilian population still present in the area.

Meanwhile, of the approximately 70,000 Palestinians originally in the Jabaliya region, the IDF has managed to evacuate around 55,000 southward, mostly to Gaza City. The army continues to apply heavy pressure on those remaining, urging them to move south.

“There is no humanitarian aid reaching the besieged area,” an IDF official said. “Jabaliya is collapsing, and we are neutralizing the remaining hundreds of terrorists. The enemy is on the run and resorting to guerrilla tactics to strike at us.”

The IDF also addressed allegations of civilian casualties and the burning of a school in the area, denying any such incidents. “We’ve investigated claims of mass civilian deaths and the burning of a school—these did not happen,” the army emphasized.

Additionally, the IDF acknowledged the creation of a new cross-Gaza corridor that stretches from the northern border to the sea, effectively cutting the northern part of the Palestinian enclave off from Gaza City. The army is not ruling out maintaining a permanent presence along this corridor.

Hundreds of booby-trapped buildings and elite Ghost Unit at work in Jabaliya. Despite most residents having been evacuated, Israeli forces continue to face numerous challenges in their prolonged operation in Jabaliya, with explosive traps posing the greatest threat. Since the beginning of the raid, IDF forces have discovered over 200 booby-trapped buildings in the area. In two incidents, explosives were triggered inside homes, killing six soldiers—two from the Givati Brigade's Shaked Battalion and four from the elite Ghost Unit.

For the past several months, the Ghost Unit has been operating in Gaza as part of the 162nd Division's special forces. Established in 2019 to develop and implement advanced combat techniques and technologies for IDF ground forces, the unit suffered the loss of

its commander, Lt. Col. Roy Levy, who was killed in battle at Kibbutz Re'im on October 7.

The unit, small in size with just a company and a half crossing into Gaza, faces the challenge of compensating for limited munitions. With resources diverted to the northern front in Lebanon, forces in Jabaliya have fewer munitions, D9 bulldozers and air support compared to earlier operations. To counter these shortages, Ghost fighters deploy large reconnaissance drones when unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are unavailable, providing continuous surveillance of the built-up areas for soldiers on the frontlines.

In a recent operation, the unit identified and eliminated a group of terrorists attempting to ambush Givati forces. "Instead of firing missiles from a Hermes 450 drone, we've killed dozens of terrorists using Iron Ball, a drone that drops simple fragmentation grenades on terrorists and tunnel shafts," said Lt. Col. Y., commander of the Ghost Unit.

According to him, the unit began using this weapon in January, and while it initially presented accuracy and safety challenges, the soldiers' intelligence and professionalism have significantly improved its effectiveness. "Now, IDF brigades are using Iron Ball in southern Lebanon as well," he added.

In recent days, the unit also eliminated 10 terrorists hiding in a building using two precision mortar bombs. "These mortars are cheaper and more available than fighter jet bombs. We provide collection and fire capabilities that replace high-level operations, achieving more for less," Lt. Col. Y. said.

In addition to its impressive offensive capabilities, the Ghost Unit has also been developing methods to avoid triggering explosives, including identifying tripwires that activate traps. The terrorists, it was found, have been using simple pressure plates made of blinds with foam strips. "We're taking extra precautions before soldiers enter for searches, even converting old armored personnel carriers (APCs) for various autonomous uses without soldiers inside," officials added.

As the operation continues with no clear end in sight, commanders in the field are unsure how long they will need to remain in Jabaliya. "In previous operations, we didn't reach Hamas' core areas here, but that's what we're doing now," they explained. "Hamas has surrounded these areas with large rings of booby traps, and in recent days, civilians have been killed by these devices. According to testimonies from hundreds of detainees, Hamas terrorists have also executed civilians who attempted to flee the city."

11.05.24 – Tu

Netanyahu dismisses Gallant, appoints Katz as defense minister; cabinet approved

11.05.24 – Tu

Netanyahu dismisses Gallant, appoints Katz as defense minister

PM cites breakdown in trust as reason behind dismissal; 'At a time of war, full trust between the prime minister and the defense minister is critical,' he says, adding Israel's enemies 'derived great benefit' from situation

Ynetnews|12:04

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed Defense Minister Yoav Gallant Tuesday evening, citing a breakdown in trust during the country's ongoing war.

In a statement, Netanyahu said that while there had been productive cooperation in the early months of the war, significant differences in strategy had emerged between him and Gallant in recent months.

"At a time of war, full trust between the prime minister and the defense minister is critical," Netanyahu said. "Unfortunately, this trust has eroded, and attempts to bridge the gaps have failed." He noted that the differences were not only made public in an "unacceptable manner" but had also reached Israel's enemies, who had "derived great benefit" from the situation.

The prime minister emphasized that while open debate is part of his decision-making process, the public nature of the trust issue had made it impossible to continue the current working relationship. "This crisis has become public knowledge and prevents the proper management of the war effort," Netanyahu said. He added that most members of the government and the Security Cabinet shared the same sentiment.

Netanyahu announced that Israel Katz, the foreign minister and a veteran politician who previously served as finance and intelligence minister, would replace Gallant as defense minister. Describing Katz as a "bulldozer" with a combination of "responsibility and quiet determination," Netanyahu praised his extensive experience and leadership, saying Katz was well-equipped to lead the defense effort during this critical period.

Additionally, Netanyahu revealed that he had invited former Justice Minister Gideon Sa'ar to join the coalition as foreign minister. Sa'ar, a longtime member of Israel's Security Cabinet, is seen as bringing valuable experience in policy and defense matters. Netanyahu expressed confidence that Sa'ar's inclusion would strengthen the government and coalition stability, which he described as essential during wartime.

"I am convinced these steps will reinforce the government and the Cabinet, ensuring they work together in harmony for the security of Israel and the victory of the nation," Netanyahu concluded.

According to a source familiar with the matter, Netanyahu informed Gallant of his dismissal just 10 minutes before the public announcement. The meeting lasted only a few minutes, after which Gallant's chief of staff arrived to collect the official dismissal letter. In response to his dismissal, Gallant issued a brief statement on X, writing, "The security of the State of Israel has been and will always remain my life's mission."

Following the move, Knesset member Ze'ev Elkin of Gideon Sa'ar's New Hope faction is expected to be appointed minister. Additionally, fellow New Hope member Sharren Haskel is expected to be appointed deputy foreign minister.

Haredi parties have privately welcomed the Gallant's dismissal, expressing hope for such a move. Sources within United Torah Judaism indicated they now see an opportunity to advance key legislation, including the draft law, which had faced resistance from Gallant. "Gallant was more rigid on these issues," they explained.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir also praised the decision. "I commend the prime minister for firing Gallant," Ben-Gvir said. "With Gallant, who was still deeply stuck in the old mindset, victory could not be achieved—Netanyahu made the right call by removing him."

11.05.24 – Tu

Israel offers \$5 million and safe passage for release of Hamas hostages

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Israel offers \$5 million and safe passage for release of Hamas hostages

Netanyahu meets with hostage families and sets price for each released captive, offering safe passage for captors to third country as part of deal; sources say communication with mediators ongoing, hoping to reach deal while Biden still in office

person

Itamar Eichner|10:54

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday offered \$5 million for the release of each hostage held by Hamas, along with safe passage for the captors to a third country, in a bid to secure their freedom.

Officials are working to publicize the offer through various channels, hoping to incentivize those holding the hostages.

Israeli officials also believe that a "renewed momentum" for advancing a deal could emerge after the U.S. elections. Sources familiar with the matter said Tuesday that communication with mediators is ongoing, primarily to explore whether Hamas can be persuaded to soften its demands, which currently include ending the war and a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Several options are reportedly on the table, including a limited initial deal (similar to Egypt's proposal), a phased agreement or a single comprehensive deal. However, all options face significant challenges.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held an extended assessment on the hostage situation Sunday night, with more talks expected in the coming days. Netanyahu also met with families of the hostages Monday evening.

Officials anticipate that the U.S. election results will greatly impact negotiations, with President Joe Biden reportedly determined to finalize a deal before his term ends in January. The election outcome could influence mediators—Egypt and Qatar—as well as Hamas, as all parties seek to demonstrate their willingness to reach an agreement and end the war.

'There will be no deal right now'

A senior member of the negotiating team for the hostage deal updated families this week, saying that Israel and Hamas have been unable to reach any agreement or compromise on

ending the war in Gaza. "There is someone to talk to, but nothing to talk about," the official said, describing the current state of negotiations. "There is a clear understanding within the defense establishment that the hostages will not be returned unless the war in Gaza ends, and right now, there is no willingness from the government to end the war." Reports Monday from Jerusalem indicated significant pessimism regarding the negotiations. Hamas informed mediators that it refuses to agree to any deal short of a complete cessation of the war and a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. The terror group has effectively rejected proposals for smaller, more limited deals.

"The truth must be acknowledged—there will be no deal right now. Not a small one, not a big one, not even a partial one," sources familiar with the matter said. "The real question is whether the time has come to save the remaining hostages and end the war in Gaza. That is the entire discussion, and this is what's happening behind the scenes. There will be no deal without a decision to end the war in Gaza. We must face the facts." Despite this, the prevailing understanding in Jerusalem is that if Prime Minister Netanyahu opts for a deal tied to ending the war, his government would likely collapse, making such a scenario highly unlikely. There is speculation that Netanyahu may seek to link a major deal to normalization with Saudi Arabia, but that could take many months to materialize. In the meantime, the hostages, who are in constant danger, may not survive long enough for such an agreement to be reached.

As the parties await the outcome of the U.S. elections—and its impact on the negotiations—former hostage survivor Maya Sham called on the next U.S. president, whether Kamala Harris or Donald Trump, to do everything in their power to secure the hostages' release. "I came here to cry out to the world and to the world's greatest superpower, to demand that whoever is elected in the United States must do everything to release the hostages—not some, not a few. These are our brothers and sisters, suffering every day, every hour, with no one answering their cries," Sham said at the "Shurat HaDin" Conference on Combatting Antisemitism.

The Hope Forum, representing some of the hostage families, welcomed the setting of a financial offer for the release of the hostages. "The value of the hostages' lives outweighs the importance of strict justice, especially when it protects the lives of other Israeli citizens. We support this initiative and want to see all of our children brought home," the forum said.

11.05.24 – Tu

Israel lauds new UK opposition leader as she appoints pro-Israel foreign policy chief

11.05.24 – Tu

Israel lauds new UK opposition leader as she appoints pro-Israel foreign policy chief
Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch criticized the British government for stopping some export licenses to Israel

Kristina Jovanovski/The Media Line|08:20

One day after becoming the head of the UK's opposition Conservative Party, newly elected leader Kemi Badenoch appointed a steadfast backer of the Israeli government, Priti Patel, as the party's foreign affairs chief.

Chris Newton, a former advisor on defense policy to the Conservative Party, stated that Badenoch appointed Patel a "staunch supporter of Israel," which was in line with the Conservative leader's track record of strongly backing the country.

Patel was forced to resign from her post as the international development secretary in 2017 for holding unofficial meetings with Israeli officials without the approval of the UK government.

Newton believed Badenoch would "amplify the party's support for Israel" and expected her to criticize the Labour government for dropping the previous Conservative government's plans to oppose the International Criminal Court's request for arrest warrants for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

Newton, however, cautioned that there would be some internal disputes over the UK's positions on the war in Gaza.

"There's a minority in the parliamentary party who are highly critical of Israel's conduct of the war, and they will no doubt air their disagreements with Badenoch. But I don't think this will affect the party's overall position," Newton warned in a message to The Media Line.

The Israeli government has praised Badenoch, who has accused the Labour government of weak leadership over the war in Gaza and emboldening Iran.

On platform X, formerly known as Twitter, Netanyahu congratulated Badenoch on Sunday, writing, "I am sure she will continue the great tradition of Israeli-British partnership and friendship." Foreign Minister Israel Katz also stated on X that Badenoch was a "true friend of Israel."

After the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in October, Badenoch wrote on X that the world is a better place without him, calling Sinwar a terrorist.

"Israel defended the peace-loving world in ridding humanity of this evil. Let us now work for the release of the remaining hostages and an end to the cycle of violence that has plagued the region. Sinwar's death aids that noble pursuit," her account stated.

In September, she accused the Labour government of "weak leadership" on Israel after the party suspended 30 arms export licenses, writing on X that "it will have emboldened Iran" and undermined British national interests.

She wrote in an op-ed for the British tabloid newspaper The Sun that the UK benefits from its security relationship with Israel, such as Israeli weapons protecting British personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq, and that intelligence from Israel has stopped and fought against Iranian-sponsored attacks and threats in the UK and Europe.

"When I was Business and Trade Secretary, I made a decision to maintain all existing licenses for arms exports to Israel. We had numerous protests outside my department. On one occasion, the building was stormed," she wrote.

Badenoch came under the spotlight in September when she stated that “not all cultures are equally valid” when considering who can immigrate to the UK.

In an article that month for the Sunday installment of The Daily Telegraph, she wrote that she was “struck, for example, by the number of recent immigrants to the UK who hate Israel. That sentiment has no place here.”

When questioned by journalists about who she was referring to, she insisted she did not mean all Muslims and said she had met many Muslims who love Israel.

Following Badenoch’s Conservative Party leadership victory, the Conservative Friends of Israel stated on X: “Thank you for your staunch support for Israel and the UK’s Jewish community during your time in Government and throughout the leadership contest. We look forward to continuing to work together to promote.”

The story is written by Kristina Jovanovski and reprinted with permission from The Media Line.

11.05.24 – Tu

Chaos or martial law: Scenarios for replacing UNRWA in Gaza

11.05.24 – Tu

Chaos or martial law: Scenarios for replacing UNRWA in Gaza

Analysis: Israel's law banning UNRWA in the country leaves several options to replace the UN body in the Strip, including international bodies, Gazan clans and the Palestinian Authority

Einav Halabi|07:47

Following Israel’s legislation banning UNRWA’s activity in the country, replacing the 13,000 employees of the UN organization in delivering humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza will be a challenge. The international community, the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israeli officials in the country are all considering alternatives as the 90-day period until UNRWA's activities become outlawed nears its end.

According to Israel’s Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), over 600 aid trucks are waiting to enter the Gaza Strip. Even now UNRWA is struggling to receive the aid and deliver it where it is needed due to the fighting between the IDF troops and Hamas terrorists, especially in northern Gaza

Who could be an alternative?

UNRWA noted that Israeli authorities have encouraged many aid organizations to assist Gaza since the beginning of the war to take part in aid distribution but only a few have been able to operate.

There’s a significant systemic failure on the ground, officials in UNRWA said. Many organizations distributed aid to their close associates. An example of this is the aid provided by the United Arab Emirates, managed by associates of a senior former Palestinian official Muhammad Dahlan.

“Most of the aid is sold in markets and not distributed properly,” one displaced Gazan told Ynet. “There’s no law; Hamas and Dahlan’s men are enjoying all the aid that enters while we, Gazans who are not affiliated with any faction, only receive leftovers.” The official page of the UAE aid operation in Gaza previously responded to the claims, saying, “We oppose what some of the displaced are doing — selling tents and aid that we distributed to them.”

The World Central Kitchen organization (WCK), whose seven employees were accidentally killed in an unintentional IDF strike in April, is also operating in the Strip in a limited capacity, running two main kitchens in Gaza and 65 additional community kitchens. Its capacity, however, isn’t enough to feed the thousands of refugees in Gaza. Another organization considered smaller is the British Human Appeal, which distributes food packages. Most of its employees are Gaza residents. Another charity is the American Anera, which primarily distributes cooked meals to the displaced in Al-Mawasi and Khan Younis.

Most of its employees are also residents of the Strip. The Turkish Islamic Relief Organization IHH is still operating in Gaza. Turkish volunteers and Gaza residents are involved in food distribution and assistance with shelter supplies throughout the Strip. Hamas criticized these international relief organizations at the beginning of the war, many of which asked their employees to leave the Strip immediately due to the real danger to their lives.

In addition to the continuous aid entering Gaza, a coalition of six countries is regularly providing aid to the Strip via airdrops. Planes from Jordan, Egypt, the U.S., Belgium, the Netherlands and France are dropping aid, usually consisting of foodstuffs and ready-to-eat meals. This method has not proven effective, as a significant number of displaced individuals have been killed by the drops.

Martial law

Lawmakers in Jerusalem have previously instructed security officials to prepare for the possibility that IDF forces will need to distribute humanitarian aid to the residents of the Strip due to difficulties in its distribution.

This option imposes a reality of establishing martial law, which would require purchasing basic food products at a cost of NIS 5 billion (\$1.3 billion) per year while risking IDF soldiers in the process.

Military officials aren’t enthusiastic about this possibility, but it remains as long as Israel doesn’t present an alternative to UNRWA and Hamas. It’s likely that significant international pressure will be exerted on Israel to avoid establishing martial law in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli agreement with Gazan clans

Israel has already developed a plan for postwar Gaza centered on cooperation with large clans and influential local families who will take part in governing the Strip. Contacts between Israel and the Gazan clans were already initiated at the beginning of the war, but they encountered many difficulties including threats from Hamas and the assassination of clan leaders.

The Palestinian Authority

Egypt, as a mediator supporting Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas's rule, has repeatedly invited the Fatah leadership to reach some framework for control over the Strip following the War.

Cairo is counting on a national Palestinian agreement between Fatah and Hamas so that the Palestinian Authority can govern the Strip. Egypt hopes the PA's rule will be able to oversee Gaza's and aid distribution. Fatah and Hamas have yet to reach an agreement thus far.

The Palestinian Authority wishes to regain control over the Strip in all respects, but it seems that Israel isn't interested in this possibility, fearing Hamas might regain control over the area. While the PA is nearly collapsing economically, its leaders don't rule out the possibility of returning to govern the Strip, potentially dismantling Hamas's rule via its security mechanisms currently operating in the West Bank.

11.05.24 – Tu

Iranian cleric reformist call for two-state solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict

11.05.24 – Tu

Iranian clerics spark controversy with call for two-state solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Reformist assembly in Qom says 'Zionist regime' should return to pre-1967 borders and for a Palestinian state to be established alongside it

Ynet|05:50

A Muslim religious group in Iran has sparked outrage after endorsing a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, implicitly recognizing Israel's right to exist.

The Assembly of Lecturers and Scholars in Qom, a reformist group of clerics, issued a statement calling for "the Zionist regime" to return to "the legal borders before the aggressions of 1967, and for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State."

Israel captured the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War, territories the Palestinians seek for a future state.

Iran, which has historically called for Israel's destruction, did not attend a regional summit in Riyadh on the issue.

In August, Iran's deputy president, Mohammad Javad Zarif, reportedly remarked that Iranians were growing weary of a government that appeared "more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves."

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also faced backlash in 2020 after he envisioned a future for Jerusalem with Palestinian and Hezbollah forces guarding the Al-Aqsa Mosque, alongside images of key figures like Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, slain IRGC commander Qassem Soleimani and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

The accompanying slogans read, "Palestine Will Be Free" and "The final solution—armed resistance until referendum."

Following the outrage sparked by the reformist clerics' endorsement of a two-state solution, the group issued a second statement, adding a condemnation of "the despicable crimes of the Zionist state," while standing by their call for the establishment of a Palestinian state to end ongoing violence and bloodshed.

11.05.24 – Tu

IDF killed two terrorists in West Bank, checkpoint found over a million in cash in car

11.05.24 – Tu

IDF says two terrorists killed in West Bank, over a million in cash found in terror suspect car

Border police uncover large sum of money in a routine inspection at a West Bank checkpoint arresting a suspect wanted for funding terror
Einav Halabi, Elisha Ben Kimon, Meir Turgeman|01:17

The IDF said on Tuesday that it killed two armed terrorists in a drone strike near the West Bank city of Jenin.

Forces located explosives produced in the village of Tubas and detonated them while the operation continued.

In a separate incident, Border Police forces found more than one million shekels in cash in a car belonging to a Palestinian resident of Hebron who was wanted on suspicion of funding terrorism.

The man was stopped for a routine check at a checkpoint when the cash was discovered in his car.

11.05.24 – Tu

Knesset approves bill: Educators who support terrorism will be fired

11.05.24 – Tu

Knesset approves: Educators who support terrorism will be fired

A bill has been approved in second and third readings stating that teachers who support terrorism will be fired and institutions supporting terror will lose funding.

Hezki Baruch

2 minutes

Nov 5, 2024, 9:47 AM (GMT+2)

Terrorist who murdered four in synagogue bombing now teaching at Canadian university
by TaboolaPromoted Links

The Knesset plenum has approved, in second and third readings, a bill that sets penalties for educational staff involved in supporting terrorism.

The proposal by MK Tzvika Foghel (Otzma Yehudit) and MK Amit Halevi (Likud) includes a series of amendments that will allow the Ministry of Education and relevant authorities to take significant steps against institutions and educational staff involved in supporting terrorism or identifying with terrorist organizations.

The Minister of Education will be given the authority to revoke, fully or partially, the budget of educational institutions where expressions of support for terrorism are found. In addition, the Director General of the Ministry of Education will be authorized to fire educational staff who express support for terrorism without the need for prior notice.

The amendments will be incorporated into key laws such as the State Education Law, the Civil Service Law, and the Schools Supervision Law.

MK Foghel stated, "A teacher in the education system is one of the most influential [powers] on children and youth in educational institutions in the State of Israel. The bill I initiated is intended to ensure that a teacher does not exploit their influence for terrorist activities among their students and that the school does not support this."

MK Halevi added, "Today, the Knesset is doing the most essential thing in the fight against our enemies: harming the strongest infrastructure of terrorism - education. Supporters of terrorism can no longer be teachers in Israel. Schools that identify with terrorism, will lose their funding. The law will ensure that Israeli students are educated for justice, science, and kindness and not for terror, injustice, and barbarism. It is unfortunate that it took us almost two years too long, but better late than never."

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir added: "Education is a central and significant factor driving many attacks against the State of Israel. This law is an important law for the resolution of terrorism. Even though the Attorney General repeatedly tries to prevent the law, we are bringing it for final approval in the Knesset. We will continue to fight terrorism in every way."

The Im Tirtzu nonprofit commented: "About two years ago, we revealed to the public a list of teachers who expressed support for acts of terrorism during the Guardian of the Walls, promoted discussions in the Education Committee on the subject, and demanded that Knesset members take action. We commend MKs Halevi and Foghel for passing this important law."

11.05.24 – Tu

Hezbollah launches a Tuesday morning rocket attack on Acre, Haifa areas

11.05.24 – Tu

Hezbollah launches a rocket attack on Acre, Haifa and surrounding areas
Sirens activated in the early morning hours sending hundreds of thousands into shelters;
IDF says a soldier suffered serious injuries in South Lebanon fighting
ynet | 23:00

Hezbollah fired a barrage of rockets and missiles at the coastal cities of Acre and Haifa and their surrounding areas on Tuesday, sending hundreds of thousands of Israelis into shelters in the early morning hours.

The attack came after a relatively quiet night with the last barrage targeting the Upper Galilee region including the northern city of Safed. The IDF said it intercepted a drone that crossed into Israeli territory across the Syrian border overnight.

According to the military two projectiles were shot down and emergency services said there were no immediate reports of injuries in the attack.

The military said a soldier was badly hurt in the fighting in South Lebanon as the IDF continued its operation to uproot Hezbollah terrorists from the area, destroy its infrastructure and prevent it from attacking the Galilee.

11.04.24 – Mo

IDF says 2 female outpost soldiers attacked by armed settlers, US seeks sanctions

11.04.24 – Mo

IDF says 2 female soldiers attacked by settlers, US furious over West Bank violence
Security forces launch manhunt against Israeli assailants after targeting troops in West Bank; U.S.'s Miller seeks accountability from Israel on settler violence
Daniel Edelson, New York|15:51

The IDF reported on Monday that "several Israeli settlers attacked two female IDF soldiers at an illegal West Bank outpost. The soldiers received medical attention on the scene and the attackers fled, prompting security forces to launch a manhunt. The IDF condemns any violence against its soldiers and will continue working to maintain order in the West Bank."

Earlier, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller opened his daily briefing with a statement condemning Jewish settler violence in the West Bank. "It is incidents like this in the past that led us to impose sanctions, and we certainly will be looking at this one, as we look at others to see if the government of Israel takes steps to impose accountability and if they don't know [we'll be looking at] what we might do on our end," Miller said.

"It is critical that the government of Israel deter extremist settler violence and take measures to protect all communities from harm in accordance with its international obligations," he added.

During the night, unknown assailants reportedly set fire to at least 19 Palestinian vehicles in the city of al-Bireh, near Ramallah. Two buildings were also damaged and the police and Shin Bet have launched an investigation into the incident. According to local residents, the arson was carried out by "armed settlers," and the Palestinian Authority has called on the international community "to pressure Israel to halt violations against Palestinians."

Miller noted, "I have no new sanctions to announce today but incidents like these have prompted us to impose sanctions in the past. If the Israeli government doesn't take steps to prosecute those responsible, we'll consider what actions we can take on our end and we've made this clear to the Israeli government."

He also mentioned reports of "extremist settlers setting 20 Palestinian cars on fire in the West Bank. When the owners attempted to extinguish the blaze, the settlers fired at them."

Miller added that the U.S. is very concerned by such incidents and similar reports of escalating violence from extremists in the West Bank, including attacks on people, vehicle arson, property damage, siccing dogs on individuals and preventing olive harvesting.

"These violent actions cause immense human suffering for Palestinians, they threaten Israel's security, make the realization of a two-state solution more difficult, and undermine the prospects for peace and stability throughout the region," he said.

The U.S. has already imposed sanctions on settlers and organizations during the ongoing war for violence against Palestinians in the West Bank, citing that Israel hasn't done enough to enforce the law in these areas. The UK and the European Union have also joined in applying these sanctions.

11.04.24 – Mo

Israeli Trump vote could determine the US election; Democrat Jews avoid wokeism

11.04.24 – Mo

'The Israeli vote could determine the US election,' former Israeli envoy says
Speaking to Ynet, former Israeli ambassador Michael Oren discusses upcoming Harris vs. Trump showdown, focusing on Muslim vote in Michigan, Jewish community's growing support for GOP candidate and ongoing challenges American Jews face regarding identity and perception

Ynetnews|13:17

Speaking to Ynet, former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren offered his analysis of the increasingly tight race between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris in Tuesday's U.S. presidential election, predicting it will go down to the wire.

While Trump appears to lead in most battleground states, Oren noted that his margin remains within the margin of error, leaving the contest too close to call and both candidates neck and neck as election day approaches.

According to Oren, voter turnout will play a key role in determining the identity of the next president, with Trump relying on young male voters and Harris banking on female turnout. "If the women come out, Harris has an advantage. If the men come out, Trump has an advantage," Oren said.

When asked about Trump's appearance at a Michigan rally where Arab supporters expressed concerns about the Palestinian issue, Oren downplayed the notion that this represented a policy shift.

"I think it's obvious he's going to go toward these voters," Oren said. "Keep in mind Arab and Muslim Americans are not just Arabs and Muslims, they are people who belong to the middle class. They have small businesses, and they like Trump. As for his economic policies, they also like Trump for his security policies."

He explained that while the Democratic Party has called for defunding the police, Trump has positioned himself as a strong supporter of law enforcement, a stance that resonates with many in these communities.

Oren also pointed to a religious dimension. "Many of these people are religiously observant. They see a Democratic Party which is increasingly atheist [and] in favor of abortion. For example, do you think that people who are religious Muslims are in favor of abortion? They may not be. This is why Trump is gaining, not only among Arab Americans and Muslim Americans. You go by a small margin, but certainly among African Americans, Black Americans and Latino Americans."

Addressing the Jewish vote, Oren acknowledged that American Jews have traditionally supported the Democratic Party based on values rather than economic interests. However, he suggested that this year could be different.

"In the past, close to 80% of American Jews have voted with the Democratic Party. This year, it's going to be less, not only because of Israel. It has to do with wokeism and political correctness and the difficulty Jews have getting ahead today because they're perceived as white and affluent and not as members of a minority," Oren explained. While the Jewish vote may not shift the outcome in Democratic strongholds like New York, he said, it could prove decisive in swing states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Georgia.

"There are as many as 500,000 Israelis who have the right to vote in the U.S. election," he said, highlighting the strong pro-Trump campaign in Israel, including a large billboard urging support for the Republican candidate along Ayalon Highway, one of the nation's main arteries.

He pointed out that many Israeli voters are registered in key swing states such as Pennsylvania and Michigan, and their votes could ultimately determine the election's outcome. "The Israeli vote could determine this election," Oren concluded.

11.04.24 – Mo

Netanyahu urges justice minister to find 'solution to 'adversarial' attorney general

11.04.24 – Mo

Netanyahu urges justice minister to find 'solution to 'adversarial' attorney general
Ministers accuse Gali Baharav-Miara of obstructing government decisions; Ben-Gvir says she opposes 'every good thing'; Communications Minister Karhi calls for her dismissal

Itamar Eichner|06:51

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday called on Justice Minister Yariv Levin to devise a "solution" regarding Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, whom he described as "adversarial" to the government. The request followed a call by Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi during a Cabinet meeting to dismiss the attorney general.

The discussion arose while ministers were debating the appointment of a new Civil Service commissioner. Several ministers criticized the attorney general's legal opinions, accusing her of obstructing government decisions.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir claimed Baharav-Miara opposed "every good thing," citing her stance on prison overcrowding. Minister David Amsalem added that "everything is halted by her."

Karhi suggested firing Baharav-Miara, with Amsalem further blaming her and Deputy Attorney General Gil Limon. "This is adversarial legal advice," Netanyahu then remarked. "We saw what was approved under the previous government—illegal gas agreements, appointments during a transitional government. We can't work like this. I'm asking Yariv to propose a solution."

Netanyahu's comments referenced two key issues from the previous administration. The first was the maritime border agreement with Lebanon in 2022, under then-Prime Minister Yair Lapid. The agreement, which defined gas field rights in the Mediterranean, was criticized by Netanyahu as illegal because it was signed close to elections without full parliamentary approval, though it was sanctioned by the attorney general.

The second issue was the appointment of IDF Chief Herzi Halevi by then-Defense Minister Benny Gantz during a transitional government. Netanyahu argued that such appointments should not be made during an election period, though the legal system permitted it under specific conditions.

Constantly at loggerheads

Netanyahu's government and the attorney general have been clashing for months over various issues. On Monday, Baharav-Miara sent a letter to Cabinet Secretary Yossi Fuchs, accusing him of acting "without authority" regarding legislation to subsidize daycare for ultra-Orthodox families, which she argued effectively circumvents the military draft law for the ultra-Orthodox. Baharav-Miara had previously said that the law would encourage draft evasion and was unconstitutional.

The attorney general's letter, drafted by her deputy Dr. Gil Limon, noted, "We have been informed that you approached the accountant general, requesting he instruct the Labor

Ministry to act contrary to the attorney general's guidelines and the government's position in ongoing court cases related to daycare subsidies." Fuchs responded by accusing Baharav-Miara of creating a "constitutional crisis and anarchy" with her opposition to the government's agenda.

The government meeting also addressed the appointment of the new Civil Service commissioner, a position traditionally filled through a competitive selection process. Baharav-Miara had requested clarification from the government on why no competitive process was being considered, instead of allowing Prime Minister Netanyahu to present a sole candidate to the committee for approval. This comes as the government informed the Supreme Court of its intention to amend the appointment process. Baharav-Miara has also opposed other coalition-backed bills, including one that seeks to expand police use of spyware but excludes bribery offenses, and another that would change television ratings measurement methods, which she criticized for potentially infringing on privacy rights. The latter bill, introduced by Likud MK Shlomo Danino, has been linked to Communications Minister Karhi, who earlier called for Baharav-Miara's dismissal.

11.04.24 – Mo

Katz formally declared Israel's exit from UNRWA pact, voiding 1967 agreement

11.04.24 – Mo

Katz declares Israel's exit from UNRWA pact

After Knesset voted to end UNRWA's activities in Israel, FM Katz voids 1967 agreement, raising potential ICJ disputes; Israel cites UNRWA's alleged terror ties and plans to redirect aid to non-terror-linked organizations

Itamar Eichner|03:44

Following the Knesset's recent enactment of legislation to terminate UNRWA's operations within Israeli territory, Foreign Minister Israel Katz has initiated the annulment of the 1967 agreement between Israel and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

The decision comes amid accusations that some UNRWA personnel were complicit in the October 7 attacks. The agreement had previously served as the legal framework governing relations between the two entities.

"Further to legislation passed by the Knesset of Israel on 28 October 2024, I write this letter to notify the United Nations that the State of Israel withdraws its request issued to UNRWA... The legislation will enter into effect following a three-month period. During this time, and thereafter, Israel will continue to work with international partners, including other United Nations agencies, to ensure the facilitation of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza in a way that does not undermine Israel's security," the letter read.

This strategic move by Israel is anticipated to catalyze a legal confrontation with the Palestinians at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague. Additionally, it is likely to provoke diplomatic maneuvers against Israel within the UN General Assembly, potentially including requests for advisory opinions.

Minister Katz has tasked Foreign Ministry Director-General Yaakov Blitshtein with formally notifying the UN about Israel's termination of the agreement with UNRWA, in compliance with Section 1(b) of the newly enacted law.

"UNRWA, whose employees were involved in the October 7 massacre and many of whom are Hamas operatives, is part of the problem in Gaza, not the solution," Katz said. "Numerous pieces of evidence regarding Hamas operatives employed by UNRWA and the misuse of its facilities for terrorist activities were presented to the UN, yet no action was taken. Furthermore, UNRWA has ignored the UN's own recommendations from the Colonna report.

"Do not be misled by those claiming there is no alternative to UNRWA. Currently, the majority of humanitarian aid is distributed through other organizations, with only 13% channeled through UNRWA. Israel remains committed to international law and will continue to facilitate humanitarian aid into Gaza in a manner that safeguards Israeli citizens' security."

Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon remarked on the communication sent to the President of the General Assembly, stating, "Following the legislation concerning UNRWA, we have formally notified the President about ceasing cooperation with the agency. Despite the substantial evidence we provided to the UN demonstrating Hamas's influence over UNRWA, no measures were taken to acknowledge or alter the situation. As I have repeatedly emphasized, UNRWA is under Hamas's control in Gaza. Israel will continue its cooperation with humanitarian organizations but not with those that serve terrorism against Israel."

Under the legislative proposal by Knesset members Yulia Malinovsky, Dan Illouz and Ron Katz, which passed its second and third readings, UNRWA will no longer operate any offices, provide services or conduct activities, directly or indirectly, within Israel's sovereign territory. This effectively ends UNRWA's operations in East Jerusalem, transferring its responsibilities to Israeli control. The proposal was supported by 92 Knesset members, with 10 opposing.

The legislation's backdrop reveals that the UN agency, tasked with providing services to Palestinian refugees, has employees suspected of involvement in the surprise attack on Israel and affiliations with terrorist organizations Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ).

Following the law's passage, several global governments swiftly condemned the step, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres and UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini. Guterres even communicated to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, warning of "devastating" consequences.

The Palestinians reacted with shock, and the United States indicated that the legislation might invoke repercussions consistent with American law and Washington's policy. The British government is contemplating revoking additional arms export licenses to Israel if the UNRWA legislation is implemented. Reports from Britain suggested that Foreign

Minister Katz assured his British counterpart, David Lammy, that "the contentious measure will not be enforced immediately."

UNRWA is deeply entrenched with Hamas, with its employees involved in the October 7 massacre, and many more are Hamas and PIJ operatives, with new instances of UNRWA employees' involvement in terrorism emerging frequently.

In July, Israel presented the UN with extensive documentation, including a list of 100 Hamas military operatives employed by UNRWA, yet the relief agency took no action. Recently, reports surfaced about UNRWA employee Muhammad Al-Atawi, included on this list, who participated in the massacre at Kibbutz Re'im on October 7, 2023. Despite the information being provided, no action was taken against him by UNRWA. Al-Atawi was killed in an IDF operation and UN chief Guterres expressed regret over his death.

Moreover, numerous terrorist acts during the war were executed from UNRWA facilities, yet the agency did not notify Israel about Hamas' improper use of its facilities during the war, contravening its commitments to maintain neutrality.

UNRWA has also failed to implement the minimal measures required by the UN's own Colonna report: employees affiliated with Hamas and PIJ have not been dismissed, nothing has been done to address the neutrality violations of UNRWA facilities and the agency has not amended the educational materials in its schools despite commitments to donor countries and Israel to immediately remove such content.

The Foreign Ministry echoed Katz's statement. "UNRWA is part of the problem in Gaza—not part of the solution. Claims that there is no alternative to UNRWA are unfounded. The vast majority of humanitarian aid to Gaza is already delivered through other organizations, with only 13% through UNRWA. Israel is committed to international law and will continue cooperating with UN and international organizations free from terrorism to ensure humanitarian aid reaches Gaza without compromising Israeli citizens' security.

"In accordance with the law, the legislation regarding UNRWA will take effect in approximately three months. During this period, the already extensive cooperation with other international organizations free from terrorism will be expanded, preparations will be made to sever ties with UNRWA, and alternatives will be established, all in compliance with international law."

11.04.24 – Mo

Spokesman for Emergency Center, stayed in PM's office 3 days leaking news

11.04.24 – Mo

Suspected leaker recruited as reservist, then shifted to Netanyahu's team
Investigators focus on how highly classified documents leaked from secure repositories, tracking individuals who disregarded protocols; Defense Ministry confirms PM's spokesman recruited to National Emergency Center but failed to report
Itamar Eichner|02:46

The investigation into a sensitive document leak from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, leading to the arrest of several suspects, including his spokesperson Eli Feldstein, originated with the Israeli military. The probe focuses on a breach involving "live secret channels."

The IDF approached the Shin Bet to trace the source of the leak, initially unaware that it would lead to Feldstein, who served as Netanyahu's security affairs spokesperson over the past year. The leak stemmed from a restricted zone where a small group of individuals allegedly provided sensitive information to an unauthorized party. This data eventually reached Feldstein, who, according to the investigation, passed it on to the German newspaper Bild.

Central to the investigation are not the specific documents, known as the "Sinwar Papers" which purportedly lay out Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar's hostage negotiation strategy, but rather the channel through which the information was leaked. A source involved in the case emphasized that this inquiry is different from typical leak probes, as it focuses on understanding the breach in handling top-secret information. Several IDF reservists are also under suspicion for their role in the matter.

The leaked intelligence, reportedly gathered through advanced systems, did not just circulate within Israel—it was seen by Hamas. This breach allowed the terror group to infer what Israeli intelligence knew, jeopardizing ongoing military objectives. The source added that revealing this intelligence compromises Israel's strategic capabilities, potentially endangering its operational advantage in the war with Hamas.

The Shin Bet's primary goal remains shutting down the leak during wartime. Despite claims of selective prosecution, insiders deny such allegations, noting that the Shin Bet has arrested one of its own employees for involvement. Former Shin Bet official Dvir Kariv defended the investigation, rejecting accusations of misconduct and explaining that when leaks occur, the security services must take action, regardless of the source.

Though the investigation continues, initial findings suggest that espionage or financial gain are not the motives behind the leak. The suspects reportedly believed their actions were in Israel's best interest, though knowingly transferring classified information remains a serious offense.

In the early days following the October 7 massacre, Netanyahu's office reportedly sought to appoint a new spokesperson for military and security matters, a role that had not previously existed. Traditionally, the Defense Ministry maintained contact with military correspondents. Although Netanyahu's spokespersons had communicated with the press over the years, a specific and fully defined position had never been created until Eli Feldstein's appointment.

During the second week of the war, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office requested Feldstein's assignment to the National Emergency Command Center, under the Defense Ministry. Feldstein was brought in on a reservist capacity through the National Emergency Authority (known by its Hebrew acronym RAHEL). However, for three days in mid-October, Feldstein worked at Netanyahu's office rather than reporting to the command center, as intended.

Upon realizing that Feldstein was not fulfilling the duties for which he was recruited, the Defense Ministry immediately requested that the IDF's Manpower Directorate (AKA) terminate his reservist service.

A statement from the Defense Ministry confirmed: "At the request of the Prime Minister's Office, Eli Feldstein was recruited on October 15 to reinforce the emergency command center, but after three days, it became clear he was not stationed at his designated role and was promptly released by the National Emergency Authority."

11.04.24 – Mo

Iran plans complex attack on Israel after military losses too significant to ignore

11.04.24 – Mo

Iran plans complex attack on Israel after military losses, report says

Iranian diplomats warn Middle Eastern nations Tehran's response to Israeli strike, which killed 4 soldiers, may involve military and 'additional weapons'; attack expected after US election but before inauguration

Ynet|11.03.24 | 23:36

Iran has conveyed diplomatic messages indicating plans for a complex attack on Israel, using more powerful warheads than previously deployed, alongside other advanced weaponry, The Wall Street Journal reported Monday, citing Iranian and Arab officials familiar with the plans.

Tehran reportedly intends to involve its regular military forces, not just the Revolutionary Guards, following the deaths of four Iranian soldiers in an Israeli strike.

An Egyptian source told The Wall Street Journal that Iran personally warned Cairo of a "strong and complex" retaliation. "Our military lost personnel; they need to respond," an Iranian official said, adding that Iraq could be used as part of the operation. The attack is expected to target Israeli military sites but "in a more aggressive manner" than before, the official noted.

The report claims Iran's response will likely go beyond missiles and drones, potentially involving more powerful warheads. In previous attacks on Israel, Iran used four types of medium-range missiles, including Emad, Raad, Kheibar Shekan and Fateh, according to the report.

The Iranian official, amid Israeli intelligence reports suggesting an imminent attack, stated that Tehran does not want to influence the U.S. elections with its retaliation. As a result, the response is expected after Election Day but before the next U.S. president's inauguration.

Diplomatic sources from Bahrain and Oman were also briefed by Iranian diplomats on the planned response. Western officials cited by The Wall Street Journal believe Iran's leadership is debating the scope and nature of the attack—whether it should be directly from Iran or via its proxies to maintain plausible deniability. Israel, meanwhile, is

preparing for a serious response, with military officials warning that any Iranian strike will be met with even greater force.

Three days ago, The New York Times reported that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered the country's Supreme National Security Council to prepare for an attack on Israel. The decision followed a detailed briefing from top military commanders on the damage caused by the Israeli strike to Iran's missile production capabilities, air defense systems around Tehran, energy infrastructure, and a key southern port.

According to the report, Khamenei stated that the scale of the Israeli attack and the death of at least four regular army soldiers were too significant to ignore, adding that failing to respond would be perceived as admitting defeat.

11.03.24 – Su

Hezbollah mixed tactic to confuse air defenses, far less than IDF braced for

11.03.24 – Su

Hezbollah's new tactic to confuse air defenses

Terror group launches barrages made up of different projectiles, with a variety of ranges targeting different distances from the border at the same time, often adding drones into the mix

Yoav Zitun|06:28

Hezbollah implemented a new tactic to challenge Israel's air defenses in recent days, combining barrages of different-range rockets some precise and some "stupid," and launching at the same time, swarms of drones, all along the Israel-Lebanon border.

The aim was to make it harder for the Iron Dome missile defense system and for radars, to detect and respond to specific threats.

Since the morning hours, rocket attacks on the Western Galilee, Upper Galilee and Golan Heights came minutes apart. In one attack, The Iran-backed terror group targeted Western Galilee with a barrage of 10 rockets while 25 projectiles were fired at the Golan Heights. Rockets intercepted over Western Galilee

In an earlier attack, two longer-range missiles were fired at the Haifa Bay area and minutes later, a barrage targeted the Western Galilee communities closer to the border.

IDF officials said they expected Hezbollah to launch more significant barrages in the war. They said they had braced for at least 150 different types of rockets and 10 drones in each attack.

They attribute Hezbollah's limited strikes to the successes of the forces on the ground in South Lebanon, and the attacks on the terror group's arsenal of weapons along with the severe blow to the group's senior command after its leadership was assassinated and lower-level commanders were also killed in targeted strikes.

11.03.24 – Su

IDF split Jabaliya from Gaza City, allowed civilians out with facial recognition

11.03.24 – Su

IDF cuts Jabaliya off from Gaza City in prolonged operation

The military says most civilians have already left leaving hundreds of Hamas terrorists and the remaining civilians surrounded by troops; IDF officials say at least six months are needed to clear northern Gaza from Hamas

Yoav Zitun|03:34

The IDF cut off Jabaliya from Gaza City in its weeks-long assault. The forces took control of the area and allowed civilians out through dedicated passages where they were monitored with facial recognition technology to prevent terrorists from escaping.

Thus far some 600 suspected Hamas terrorists have been captured and detained for interrogation by security forces.

The forces in effect implemented part of a plan devised by former high-ranking members of the military, to prevent humanitarian aid from reaching areas under Hamas control and thereby undermine its rule.

In the first week of the assault, Jabaliya was surrounded, while the military urged civilians to leave but after American pressure, aid was once again allowed in, straight to the hands of Hamas.

Tens of thousands of civilians, no longer fearful of the terrorists, chose to leave but thousands remain. The military increased the use of artillery fire after the risk of civilian casualties was reduced.

Jabaliya was considered a Hamas stronghold in the northern part of the Strip and many of the terrorists returned there after the IDF withdrew its forces earlier in the year. The forces said they found the entrance to the city laced with explosives that caused casualties to the troops but said they were less sophisticated than in other areas.

Hamas, having studied the movements of the forces, began booby-trapping the upper floors of buildings, believing the soldiers shelled lower floors only, before entering the structures. Hamas opted to use their explosive material on booby traps which were more effective than directing them at the troops maneuvering outside.

"We found an exhausted population, hungry and weak, arriving at our ports of passage and without civilians, Hamas cannot exist," IDF officials said. "Interrogations of terrorists have been useful and provide intelligence on where the Hamas planted explosives and where they keep their weapons." The IDF said several hundred terrorists still remain in Jabaliya, behind their fortifications, requiring the military to continue operating there for at least a few more days.

The ongoing operation was made possible after more aid was delivered. Medical equipment has also been brought into the local Kamal Adwan hospital. The IDF said the terrorists and civilians have enough supplies to last them a month although more aid is making its way into the besieged areas.

Some officials in the military said it would take at least six months to clear northern Gaza of Hamas forces.

11.03.24 – Su

IDF killed Hezbollah responsible for rocket, missile fire on the Upper Galilee.

11.03.24 – Su

Hezbollah targets northern Israel with rockets, drones

Military says two Hezbollah terrorists killed in a targeted strike on South Lebanese town of El Kham ; earlier drones launched at Golan Heights

Yoav Zitun, Eitan Glickman, Lior Ben Ari|01:45

The IDF said on Sunday morning that aerial defenses shot down a hostile drone fired from Lebanon. Sirens warned of incoming rocket fire in and around the coastal city of Acre and the Haifa Bay area. ten projectiles were seen entering Israeli territory some were intercepted and others fell in open areas.

Earlier sirens warned of a drone strike on the southern Golan Heights and rockets targeting the Upper Galilee. No injuries were reported.

The military said its forces killed a commander in the Hezbollah terror group in the South Lebanon town of El Kham. According to the IDF, Farouk Elashi was responsible for rocket and missile fire on the Upper Galilee.

The IDF said another Hezbollah terrorist, Yousef Ahmed Noun, a commander in the Radwan forces was also killed in the strike.

11.03.24 – Su

New details on abduction of Hezbollah operative in Lebanon

11.03.24 – Su

New details on abduction of Hezbollah operative in Lebanon

According to reports in the Lebanese press, the raid lasts no more than four minutes carried out by a 20-man team including 2 in civilian wear; IDF remotely erases some CCTV footage to mask details

Lior Ben Ari|00:48

The abduction by Israeli commando forces, of a senior Hezbollah operative from a coastal town in north Lebanon, continued to fascinate local media after new reporting added details of the operation.

Lebanon's al-Jadeed channel reported that the raid in Batrun, lasted only four minutes and was carried out by 20 people including soldiers and 2 civilians, like soldiers in civilian clothes.

The senior operative's wife reported the abduction. In his apartment, the Lebanese forces found 10 SIM cards with foreign numbers, a phone and foreign passports. Pictures showed one of the passports with PANAMA written on it in English.

The abduction of Imad Amhaz, described by the military as a naval expert, took place early on Friday and was carried out by IDF naval commandos and military intelligence forces.

Israeli sources confirmed its forces had carried out the operation some 140 kilometers (85 miles) north of the border.

11.02.24 – Sa

Israel confirms captured senior Hezbollah operative in northern Lebanon operation

11.02.24 – Sa

Israel confirms captured senior Hezbollah operative in high-stakes northern Lebanon operation

Israeli sources acknowledge commando raid on Batroun's coast, capturing Hezbollah operative identified as 'key figure in weaponry capabilities used by Hezbollah during Second Lebanon War,' and say mission demonstrates 'bold operational capability' Yoav Zitun, Itamar Eichner|11:54

Israeli authorities confirmed Saturday that an elite naval commando operation by Shayetet 13 captured a senior Hezbollah operative in Batroun, northern Lebanon.

The individual, described as an expert in weaponry crucial to Hezbollah's capabilities, was transferred to Israel and is currently being interrogated by Unit 504, Israel's military intelligence division.

According to earlier reports from Arabic media, a team of more than 25 suspected Israeli commandos landed on the shores of Batroun, approximately 85 miles from Israel's border, and apprehended the Hezbollah operative in a building in the sector. Israeli sources hailed the operation as a show of "bold operational capability," with one official remarking, "They just reached in and extracted someone from deep within Lebanon."

Sources said that the detained operative was "an individual with significant operational expertise in weaponry capabilities, akin to those Hezbollah used during the Second Lebanon War."

Sky News Arabia quoted an Israeli security source confirming the capture, identifying the detainee as Imad Amahaz.

Hezbollah has reportedly denied any connection to the individual, while Lebanon's Al Jadeed network claimed Amahaz is an officer in the Lebanese Navy, potentially tied to Hezbollah.

However, Al Arabiya, citing additional sources, reported that he is not affiliated with Lebanon's official military forces.

The Associated Press reported that the raid took place early Friday in the coastal town of Batroun, about 20 miles north of Beirut. The man allegedly abducted had rented an apartment on the first floor of a multi-story building in the town.

Lebanon's National News Agency reported that locals observed an unidentified military force conducting an amphibious landing on the beach. The force reportedly moved with weapons and equipment to a nearby cabin, later capturing the Lebanese national, taking him to the shore and departing on motorboats to the open sea.

Security footage distributed from the area shows around 20 armed individuals in military uniform escorting a person with his face covered by a shirt.

11.02.24 – Sa

Israeli commandos snatch high-ranking Hezbollah naval officer, north of Beirut

11.02.24 – Sa

Israeli naval commandos snatch Hezbollah official north of Beirut, Arab media reports
Several Lebanese and Arab outlets have report Israeli commandos, making landfall from Mediterranean to coastal city of Batroun in northern Lebanon, capture Imad Amhaz, reportedly senior Hezbollah operative, in operation they report conducted jointly with UNIFIL, who deny involvement

Lior Ben Ari, Itamar Eichner|Updated:08:33

On Saturday, Arab media buzzed with reports of a clandestine naval operation. A sizable force, suspected to be Israeli, stealthily touched down on the shores of Batroun in northern Lebanon, roughly 87 miles from the Israeli border, with the intent of snatching a high-ranking terrorist operative from his hideaway in a cabin. This daring raid, involving over 25 operatives, was said to have been coordinated with UN forces stationed in Lebanon (UNIFIL). On their end, UNIFIL have denied any involvement in the matter.

Confirming the whispers, an Israeli security source revealed to Sky News in Arabic the capture deep within Lebanese territory. Saudi channel "Al-Hadath" named the captured figure as Imad Fadel Amhaz. While Hezbollah distanced itself from him, Lebanon's "Al-Jadid" painted Amhaz as a naval officer, possibly linked to Hezbollah. Contrarily, Saudi "Al-Arabiya" cited sources claiming he wasn't part of Lebanon's military ranks.

The Lebanese National News Agency added more color, describing local accounts of an unidentified military force executing an amphibious landing. Armed and ready, they reportedly seized a Lebanese individual, whisked him to the beach, and vanished into the sea aboard motorboats.

"Al-Hadath" sources labeled the operation as an Israeli commando landing in Batroun. Initially, Lebanese Transport Minister Ali Hamieh dismissed these reports as internal disruptions. Yet, he later confirmed the capture, identifying the individual as a captain of civilian and commercial ships, corroborating the operation with a video, while security services conducted inquiries.

Hamieh further commented on efforts to verify with UNIFIL whether the operation was coordinated with them, questioning the implementation of UN Resolution 1701. UNIFIL's deputy spokesperson, Kandice Ardiel, denied any involvement in the capture or sovereignty breach.

Meanwhile, Israeli sources noted a significant uptick in strikes against Hezbollah's aerial unit over the past week. "The road ahead is long, and it continues to challenge us, but we've shifted from defense to offense with the Air Force in this domain, and we will not relent," they stated.

This isn't the first instance of Israeli special forces making waves in enemy territories. Last September, "Syrian Television," an opposition outlet to Assad's regime based in Turkey, reported an Israeli raid in Masyaf, Hama, involving ground forces rappelling into action. The broadcast detailed skirmishes resulting in the deaths of three Syrians, with several others injured. Reports claimed that up to four Iranians were captured by Israeli forces, who executed the attack with drones, securing the area from external access.

11.02.24 – Sa

19 wounded in relentless 15 rocket barrage from Lebanon in central & northern Israel

11.02.24 – Sa

19 wounded in relentless rocket barrage from Lebanon in central and northern Israel
In rocket strike aimed at the village of Tira, 19 were wounded and evacuated to surrounding hospitals, with four moderately hurt, others mildly; IDF reports multiple rocket launches from Lebanon targeting the Upper Galilee region, with successful interceptions and no casualties otherwise
ynet correspondents|01:30

A turbulent night for residents of central and northern Israel: 19 people were injured and evacuated from the rocket impact site in Tira, with four in moderate condition and the rest in mild condition. The injured were taken to Meir Medical Center, Rabin Medical Center and Sheba Medical Center. In response to the incident, Deputy Commissioner Nati Gur, the Sharon District Commander, held a special situation assessment at the impact site. This meeting included district and station command, alongside representatives from emergency, rescue, and municipal bodies.

Earlier in the evening, IDF reported that 10 rockets were launched from Lebanon toward the greater Haifa area and Western Galilee, with an additional five rockets targeting Upper Galilee. Some of these rockets were successfully intercepted, while others detonated in open areas. Interceptions were notably observed in Safed and Rosh Pina following the earlier rocket fire from Lebanon, with no direct hits or casualties reported.

As a precaution, alarms were activated in several areas, including Kiryat Bialik, Kiryat Motzkin, Kiryat Yam, Nahariya, Shefa-Amr, Shlomi, and other nearby communities. Magen David Adom stated that, as of now, there have been no reports of further casualties.

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

11.01.24 – Fr – New Moon
Authorities launch probe into classified document leak from Netanyahu's inner circle

11.01.24 – Fr - - News – Friday New Moon 7:48am
Iran braces for Trump victory, fearing more Israeli strikes, Western sanctions

11.01.24 – Fr - - News – Friday New Moon 7:48am
At least nine injured, one seriously, in Galilee rocket attack, despite US solution

11.01.24 – Fr - - News – Friday New Moon 7:48am
Knesset approves Israel's 2025 state budget; most of the budget passed as written

11.01.24 – Fr - - News Placed in November 01 spot – Friday New Moon 7:48am
Lebanon denies US proposal for cease-fire equated as Israel enforced surrender

11.01.24 – Fr - - News – Friday New Moon 7:48am
IDF strikes 200 terror targets in Gaza and Lebanon in one day

10.31.24 – Th - - News Placed in October 31 spot – Thursday
US, Israel & UN draft Resolution 1701 deal, despite Hezbollah & Lebanon rejection

10.31.24 – Th - - News – Thursday
 Hamas entered UNRWA and took everything, as the official government

10.31.24 – Th - - News – Thursday
PM spokesperson given full access despite being denied security clearance

10.31.24 – Th - - News – Thursday
Negotiations continue despite Hamas rejecting partial deal to end to the war

10.31.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

IDF destroys Hezbollah terror command center in Lebanese border town

10.31.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Iran minimized Israel attack damage; Guard commander promised painful revenge

10.30.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

French court rules Israel can participate in November Paris Euronaval exhibition

10.30.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

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

10.30.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Italy rocked by espionage scandal in which implicated Mossad & Vatican

10.30.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Mass evacuations from south Lebanese towns amid explosions from IDF attack

10.30.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

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

10.30.24 – We- - - News Placed in October 30 spot – Wednesday

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

10.30.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Palestinian Authority reels at bill banning UNRWA in Israel

10.30.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

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

10.29.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

10.29.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

10.29.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

10.29.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

10.28.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

'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