

Ynet-News February 9, 2020 – Sunday –

02.09.20 – Su - - News

Supreme Court allows Arab lawmaker & terrorist advocate in March 2 MK elections

02.09.20 – Su - - - News Placed in Feb 8 spot - Saturday

Netanyahu, Bennett warn Hamas to cease, or terrorists in Gaza face targeted killings

02.09.20 – Su - - News

Cult Rabbi conned 200 people, giving Mints as medicine for money & property

02.09.20 – Su -

New book reveals how Osama Bin Laden hid in Mossad resort in Sudan

02.09.20 – Su - - - News Placed in Feb 9 spot - Sunday

Ambassador Friedman urges Netanyahu adhere to process & annex soon

02.09.20 – Su -

Israel drawing maps for West Bank annex with three weeks to elections

02.09.20 – Su -

Supreme Court allows Arab lawmaker & terrorist advocate in March 2 MK elections

02.09.20

Supreme Court okays candidacy of MK Yazbak

Court verdict overturns decision to bar Arab lawmaker from running to Knesset due to controversial posts shared on social media; Joint List MK praises ruling, blames Central Elections Committee of political persecution

i24NEWS| Published: 02.09.20 , 22:09

The Supreme Court on Sunday overturned the decision to ban Arab Israeli Joint List MK Heba Yazbak from running in the March 2 elections.

The Central Elections Committee disqualified Yazbak last month from running to parliament after the lawmaker came under for several Facebook posts she shared back in 2015 and 2013.

Her 2015 Facebook post featured a photo of Lebanese terrorist Samir Kuntar, who took part in a 1979 terror attack in Nahariya, killing Danny Haran and slashing the skull of his four-year-old daughter, Einat Haran.

She shared the post following Kuntar's death in Syria, calling him the "martyr."

In addition, she shared a post in 2013 with a picture of female terrorist Dalal Mughrabi, who led the terrorist squad that carried out the attack on Highway 2 in 1978, in which 35 Israelis were killed, including 12 children.

Yazbak added to the picture of Mograbi the words "Dalal Mograbi lived 20 years and did it all. Blessed be the women of the resistance."

She also made statements that were interpreted by critics as supporting violence against IDF personnel.

In the final verdict, the Justices, who voted 5-4 in favor of overturning Yazbak's barring, wrote that "the narrow result we reached illustrates how close Yazbak would be to finding herself outside Knesset. There is no place to 'celebrate' the end result. There is room for introspection if this is the way to advance the cause of Israeli Arabs."

Yazbak praised the court's decision to annul her barring and blamed the Central Elections Committee of political persecution.

"Supreme Court's decision shows yet again that disqualification requests are part of the circus of incitement against me and against the Arab community and its representatives," Yazbak said in a statement. "The Central Elections Committee's decision to disqualify me was a political decision by a political entity."

Joint List leader MK Ayman Odeh welcomed the court ruling.

"The campaign of political incitement by the far-right has crashed against the legal reality," Odeh said. "MK Yazbak will continue to the next Knesset and fight for peace, equality, and democracy for everyone."

02.09.20 – Su -

Netanyahu, Bennett warn Hamas to cease, or terrorists in Gaza face targeted killings

02.09.20

Netanyahu, Bennett threaten Hamas with targeted killings

PM says leaders of the terror group should refresh their memories regarding Islamic Jihad commander assassination, while the defense minister claims 'no one is immune' and Israel would have to take a 'different kind of action' if the attacks from Gaza don't cease

Yoav Zitun | Published: 02.09.20 , 15:19

Both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday issued a thinly-veiled threat against Hamas, warning Israel might have to resort to targeted killings if the terror group continues to launch attacks on Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip.

Tensions on the southern border have risen over the past several weeks, with militants in the Hamas-controlled enclave sporadically firing rockets launching explosives attached to balloons at Israeli cities and towns.

Netanyahu kicked off the weekly cabinet meeting by warning Hamas that its leaders might face the same fate as the military leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Baha Abu Al Atta, killed in an Israeli raid three months ago.

“Only a few weeks ago, we targeted the senior Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza, and I suggest that both Islamic Jihad and Hamas should refresh their memories,” said the prime minister. “I will not go into detail about all of our plans in front of the media, but we are prepared to take devastating action against the terrorist organizations in Gaza.”

Bennett, meanwhile, toured the IDF’s Gaza Division and met with high-profile military officials. He also went on to imply that Israel will go back to targeted killings if the attacks originating in Gaza won’t cease.

“No one is immune,” said Bennett. “The lawless conduct of Hamas leaders is bringing us closer to taking a decisive action against them. We won’t reveal when or where it will happen, but the action we would take will be very different from any previous ones,” he added.

“The State of Israel does not want a war with Hamas, but we have a commitment to the residents of the south.”

The exchanges of fire between the militants in Gaza and the Israeli military have become a near-daily occurrence. On Saturday evening a rocket from Gaza landed in a nearby Israeli community with a rocket alert siren being sounded prior.

The army responded by striking a series of Hamas targets in the enclave.

02.09.20 – Su -

Cult Rabbi conned 200 people, giving Mints as medicine for money & property

02.09.20

Mints as medicine and prayers instead of chemo - how sex pest Berland conned the weak Rabbi arrested in predawn raid had hundreds of victims, police say; mother of cancer patient who died after she was told not to accept treatment says she is 'waging war' against 'cult that needs to be disbanded'

Nina Fuchs, Gilad Cohen | Published: 02.09.20 , 14:13

Rabbi Eliezer Berland and his suspected co-conspirators are suspected of conning more than 200 victims, including disabled people who were promised they would be able to walk again and patients given "miracle cures" that were really Mentos candies.

Months of investigation led to the predawn arrests of Rabbi Eliezer Berland, his wife and five major fundraisers for his yeshiva. Berland has a previously served a 10-month sentence for sexually abusing his female acolytes.

All seven people arrested in Jerusalem on Sunday morning are suspected of receiving money through fraud, extortion and money laundering. During the arrests, supporters of the rabbi hurled stones at the arresting officers, leaving two with minor head injuries. The rioters were dispersed with stun grenades.

According to the investigation, Berland charged a tariff for each boon he dispensed, in accordance with the severity of the supplicant's suffering.

Some people even took out loans or handed their property over to Berland in return for his blessings.

A relative of one of the people who turned to Berland complained to him that despite his blessing their relative had passed away. Berland responded by asking for more money to ensure that the departed relative "will rise first when the resurrection comes."

In some cases, the people who turned to Berland had incurable diseases. According to the police, predawn raid revealed dozens of boxes of drops and pills, which are believed to have been distributed as miracle cures.

Tests conducted by the police showed that some of the drops were in fact antibiotics; the police called the drugs given to Berland's supplicants "false god drugs." To date, testimonies have been gathered from 200 people believed to have been conned by Berland and his associates.

The arrests were welcomed by Nurit Ben Moshe, whose daughter Shoshi died of cancer after Berland banned her from receiving chemotherapy and promised her longevity in return for tens of thousands of shekels.

The arrest of the rabbi was a "bittersweet" moment, Ben Moshe told Ynet.

"I hope everyone pays the price for what they did," she said. "What goes on in that cult is just horrendous."

Last year, Israeli TV revealed that the rabbi received thousands of shekels from Shoshi, and in return told her not to have the chemotherapy she needed after a tumor in her gallbladder was removed in January 2019. Berland was documented taking the money and promising her a long life in return.

Shoshi underwent a successful operation, but Berland ordered her to refrain from receiving the supplementary treatments. Her mother was torn between the desire to please her daughter and pay the money demanded by the rabbi, and the knowledge that it was extortion that threatened her daughter's life. Finally, she raised the funds demanded by the rabbi.

Ben Moshe said: "This cult needs to be disbanded, it is cruel. Berland asked my son-in-law [one of his followers – NF] to stop me from seeing my grandchildren. That's all I

have left of my darling girl and they know how I connected I am to the children. These kids are my life and they wanted to get revenge on me because I sued their rabbi, Berland. His gurus simply decided that I could only see my grandchildren for an hour each month. Now I'm waging war."

She added: "Our story opened Pandora's box for the cult, which led to the arrests. Our story is difficult and we have still not heard the end of it. There are other shocking stories that I will soon be coming out with, so people can hear what a cult [the yeshiva] is. There are many more victims, my daughter is not the only one."

According to the police, "Berland's organization was managed in a very sophisticated way that makes it difficult to find the evidence."

Over the past two years, the Jerusalem District Police has investigated dozens of cases of alleged violence by Berland's followers, who are battling the Braslav Hasidic movement for more status and power.

Dozens of cases and dozens of suspects were investigated for felony, fraud, and violence.

Chief Superintendent Doron Ben-Amo said: "Dozens of investigators from the Jerusalem District, the Tax Authority and the National Insurance Institute participated in the investigation. The investigative team worked covertly and managed to acquire documents and evidence on a very large scale. This morning we entered the visible stage and arrested seven suspects. During the searches, cash was also seized, and we now begin the open phase of the investigation. "

Regarding the rabbi himself, Ben-Amo said: "According to suspicions, the central suspect used multiple methods, and his associates dispensed blessings for recovery and promises of health, finding a partner and more. There was a fee defined by the severity of an illness, and there were those who handed over property worth hundreds of thousands of shekels.

They targeted hundreds of innocent people who were brutally and cynically exploited in a time of distress. We have more than 200 victims and expect there will be more. They lured in patients with false promises, pledged to free people from detention centers and vowed that the disabled would be able to walk again."

02.09.20 – Su -

New book reveals how Osama Bin Laden hid in Mossad resort in Sudan

02.09.20

New book reveals how Osama Bin Laden hid in Mossad resort in Sudan

The author Raffi Berg tells the Daily Mail the fake Red Sea resort set up by Israeli intelligence to smuggle Ethiopian Jews from the war-torn country, was years later used by Al Qaeda chief as his headquarters

Ynet| Published: 02.09.20 , 13:29

The author of a new book "Red Sea spies" that sheds light on an operation conducted by Israeli secret service to smuggle Ethiopian Jews from inhospitable Sudan, claims the leader of Al Qaeda terror group used the site as his headquarters in the country some years later.

In an interview published in the Daily Mail on Saturday, Raffi Berg said a Sudanese businessman who invested in the resort confirmed that Osama Bin Laden stayed at the location for at least two weeks sometime in 1991, at least six years after the secret Mossad operation was completed.

Bin Laden apparently moved to Sudan after being kicked out of Saudi Arabia criticizing the government and needed refuge. The officials in the impoverished African state, welcomed the young entrepreneur, unaware of his intentions to set up residence in order to expand his terror network.

"The fact he moved in to a secret base once used by Mossad only adds to the intrigue," Berg told the Daily Mail.

The "Arous" resort was set up in 1981 by a group of Mossad agents, posing as diving instructors, on orders from then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Their mission was to retrieve Ethiopian Jews from Sudan, an enemy of the Jewish state at the time, including members of a reclusive sect called Beta Israel.

Over the span of nearly four years, the agents smuggled at least 7,054 Ethiopian Jews to Israel. In 1985, a military coup in the country prompted Israelis to leave the area out of fear of getting caught.

During the time the resort was active, it hosted members of Egyptian and British military.

A film inspired by the events of the secret mission, titled "The Red Sea Diving Resort," was released last year on the Netflix streaming platform. It stars Greg Kinnear, Ben Kingsley and the Captain America star Chris Evans.

02.09.20 – Su -

Ambassador Friedman urges Netanyahu adhere to process & annex soon

02.09.20

U.S. envoy stalls on annexation amid Netanyahu rhetoric

David Friedman, a staunch settlement supporter, says applying Israeli sovereignty is subject to 'mapping process by joint Israeli-American committee'; the remarks appear to be a rebuke to comments made by Netanyahu just hours earlier
Ynet| Published: 02.09.20 , 11:29

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, a staunch supporter of the settlement project, appeared to stall Sunday on the issue of Israeli annexation of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank, apparently directly contradicting the prime minister's claims that Israel has already kicked off the controversial process

According to President Donald Trump's recently unveiled Middle East peace plan Israel is allowed to annex all existing Jewish settlements in the disputed territories, while the Palestinians will in the future receive land in Israel's Negev Desert.

President Trump's Vision for Peace is the product of more than three years of close consultations among the President, PM Netanyahu and their respective senior staff. As we have stated, the application of Israeli law to the territory which the Plan provides to be part of

Israel is subject to the completion a mapping process by a joint Israeli-American committee. Any unilateral action in advance of the completion of the committee process endangers the Plan & American recognition.

2:22 AM - Feb 9, 2020 Twitter Ads info and privacy 109 people are talking about this

"As we have stated, the application of Israeli law to the territory which the plan provides to be part of Israel is subject to the completion a mapping process by a joint Israeli-American committee," wrote David Friedman on his Twitter account. "Any unilateral action in advance of the completion of the committee process endangers the plan and American recognition."

The remarks come just hours after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel began mapping the area ahead of the annexation. "We are already at the height of the process of mapping the area that, according to the Trump plan, will become part of the State of Israel. It won't take too long."

Netanyahu said the area would include all Israeli settlements and of the Jordan Valley in the West Bank.

Prospects for annexations, which have already been widely condemned, are unclear. Friedman's latest comments suggest the U.S. officials directly involved with the peace initiative appear to be backtracking on a rush toward annexation.

In the remarks made by Friedman shortly after Trump's peace plan rollout, the ambassador said that Israel can "annex settlements at any time."

Friedman, a staunch supporter of the settlements, told reporters at the White House two weeks ago that "Israel should not wait at all for annexation of the settlements."

A senior presidential adviser and chief architect of the peace plan, Jared Kushner, also cast doubt on the immediate viability of annexation. "I don't believe this is going to happen this weekend, at least not as far as I know," Kushner told CNN's Christiane Amanpour.

Following the release of the Mideast initiative, which the Palestinians say favors Israel and was largely rejected by the Arab world, the tensions in the region have soared.

Several Palestinians have been killed in clashes with the IDF forces in the West Bank over the past few days. In addition, a number of Israeli security officials have been hurt in attacks perpetrated by Palestinians in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

02.09.20 – Su -

Israel drawing maps for West Bank annex with three weeks to elections

02.09.20

Netanyahu: Israel drawing up map for West Bank annexations

With elections just three weeks away, caretaker prime minister tells campaign rally in Ma'ale Adumim: 'We are already at the height of the process of mapping the area that, according to the Trump plan, will become part of the State of Israel. It won't take too long'

Reuters| Published: 02.09.20 , 08:38

Israel has begun to draw up maps of land in the West Bank that will be annexed in accordance with U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed peace plan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday.

"We are already at the height of the process of mapping the area that, according to the Trump plan, will become part of the State of Israel. It won't take too long," Netanyahu said at an election campaign rally in the Ma'ale Adumim settlement.

Netanyahu said the area would include all Israeli settlements and the Jordan Valley in the West Bank, an area that Israel captured in the 1967 Six-Day War, which Palestinians want for their future state.

"The only map that can be accepted as the map of Palestine is the map of the Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Prospects for annexations, which have already been widely condemned, are unclear.

Israel will hold a national election on March 2 - its third in a 12-month period - and Netanyahu, who has been indicted for criminal corruption, is hoping to win a fifth term in office. He presently heads a caretaker government, whose legal authority to annex territory is still undecided by judicial authorities.

Settlers make up part of Netanyahu's right-wing voter base and many members of his coalition cabinet view the West Bank as the biblical heartland of the Jewish people. Most countries consider Israeli settlements on land captured in war to be a violation of international law. Trump has changed U.S. policy to withdraw such objections. Palestinians say the settlements make a future state non-viable. Israel cites security needs as well as biblical and historical ties to the land on which they are built. Trump's plan envisages a two-state solution with Israel and a future Palestinian state living alongside each other, but it includes strict conditions that Palestinians reject.

The blueprint gives Israel much of what it has long sought, including U.S. recognition of settlements and Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan Valley.

A redrawn, demilitarized Palestinian state would be subject to Israeli control over its security, and would receive tracts of desert in return for arable land settled by Israelis.

Right after Trump presented the plan on Jan. 28, Netanyahu said his government would begin extending Israeli sovereignty to the settlements and the Jordan Valley within days.

But Washington then appeared to put the breaks on that and Netanyahu has since faced pressure from settler leaders to annex territory despite any U.S. objections.