

Ynet-News, Jan 18, 2024 – Thursday

Possible Abomination Days are April 7 & June 20, 2024

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01.18.24 – Th
Gaza Documents prove school teachers are members of Hamas terrorist wing

01.18.24 – Th

Documents recovered in Gaza prove teachers are members of Hamas' military-terrorist wing

The documents written on official letterhead of the Hamas military wing required schools to allow teachers in certain positions to allocate their time for Hamas training
Einav Halabi | 14:56

The IDF reported Thursday that during a military operation in the Gaza Strip Israeli forces located three official Hamas letters indicating that school teachers play vital roles in Hamas' military-terrorist wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades.

The letters are written on the official letterhead of the military wing and were hand-delivered to the head of the Education and Instruction Administration in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. In the letters, a senior official is required to allow individuals in certain positions to allocate their time for Hamas activities.

In the letters, Hamas demands the head of the Education and Instruction Administration to schedule convenient timetables for teachers due to their roles in the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. In the exposed letters, Hamas requests the release of teachers from their regular classes for training, emphasizing the inflexibility of the schedule.

"We request approval for brother Nur Al-Din Naim Mahmoud Siyam, who works at the Jinan high school as a mathematics teacher, as he is our mission coordinator," is written in one of the appeals from Hamas to the head of the Education Administration. In the other two letters, Hamas demands the release of two education personnel for a military exercise on 28.9.23 - just days before the surprise terror attack against Israel.

During the war, IDF soldiers discovered weapons and ammunition in schools, providing evidence of how Hamas also used Gazan children for military activities, manipulating them for terror. The IDF presented documentation of ways in which Hamas exploits children in the Gaza Strip, showing how they are taught to shoot and capture soldiers. Additionally, certificates of appreciation were presented to children who participated in the "summer camps" organized by the terrorist organization.

01.17.24 – We

Hamas leaders smuggle people from Gaza to Egypt \$11,000 per person

01.17.24 – We

\$11,000 per person for exiting Gaza: Rafah's population surge could affect ties with Egypt

A million people have added to the city's population as its basic services are collapsing, divided into two by the Egyptian border, Rafah becomes a crucial point of interest in the war and Israel-Egypt relations

Einav Halabi, Lior Ben Ari | Yesterday | 15:53

Rafah has become the most densely populated area in the world in recent months. About a million refugees displaced from the northern and central parts of Gaza, have arrived there seeking shelter over only about 151 square kilometers. This is in addition to the 300,000 residents living there before the war.

Rafah's border crossing has served as a central gateway for humanitarian aid entering the Strip since the beginning of the war.

The city is divided into Palestinian and Egyptian parts and is considered relatively safe for the Gazans. However, even here, targeted airstrikes have been carried out. The city offers covert access to Egypt and according to an investigative report in the UK's Guardian newspaper, the cost of smuggling people out from Gaza to Egypt currently stands at \$11,000 per person.

The 14-kilometer (9-mile) stretch along the border dubbed the Philadelphi Route, has become a point of contention between Israel and Egypt since the war. Israel insists it must maintain control of the area which it believes is the source of much of the weapons and military equipment smuggled into the Strip by Hamas and may be used by its leaders to escape the Strip and move hostages to other locations around the world. Egypt rejects such an option, saying it would violate agreements between the two nations and threaten their long-years peace agreement.

Ahmad al-Sofi, the mayor of Rafah, said that the municipality has lost control over basic services, including waste collection, sewage treatment, and garbage disposal, due to the large number of refugees and the ongoing conflict. The UNRWA general commissioner, who recently visited the Gaza Strip, also warned that Rafah's population has nearly quadrupled.

In an article in the French newspaper "Le Monde," a Gazan family was documented on their journey from Jabaliya in the northern part of the Strip to Rafah in the south, covering about 40 kilometers. The family, of mother, father, and seven children, described that they had no escape from the bombardments. Mohammad Oraibi, the father, said, "We don't know if we'll live tomorrow." According to him, even attempts to flee to Rafah were met with bombings.

01.17.24 – We

US Congress demands Biden protect southern border before aid to Israel

01.17.24 – We

US Senate Democrats weigh conditions on Israel aid

Schumer who does not back the initiative from progressive wing of the Democrat Party confirms effort is underway while Republicans demand change in Biden's southern border policies before backing aid to Israel, Ukraine

Itamar Eichner | Yesterday | 15:34

Senate Democrats are discussing possible conditions that could be imposed on U.S. aid for Israel, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told reporters on Wednesday.

The Biden administration had bypassed Congress twice to supply Israel with emergency aid after Republicans in the house refused his budget requests unless he accepted their demands on southern border policies. The president is also opposed by far-left members of his own party who disagree with the staunch support of Israel in its war against Hamas.

Schumer does not support conditioning aid to Israel and earlier in the day, had met with a delegation of family members of hostages abducted from a military base to Gaza on October 7.

Although the initiative to add conditions to the aid is not likely to pass, it can still have serious ramifications because the U.S. does not impose such restrictions on trustworthy allies.

Some, mostly from the progressive wing of the Democratic Party have suggested the U.S. provide aid only after Israel takes concrete steps to reduce civilian casualties in Gaza, but the support for Israel in the party remains high.

On the Republican side, the aid to Israel, as well as to Ukraine, has fallen victim to the fight over the U.S. southern border crisis, and even long-times friends of Israel have said that they would only vote for funding for Israel if the president agrees to their demands to reverse policies there that they say have allowed unprecedented numbers of people, some of whom may pose a security threat to the U.S. especially amid the war in Gaza.

01.16.24 – Tu

Greek ship hit by Yemen; Saudi, Emirate & Egypt will not break Arab alliance

01.16.24 – Tu

Another ship hit by missile in Red Sea, disruption seen pushing up prices
Malta-flagged, Greek-owned bulk carrier was targeted and hit by a missile while northbound in the Red Sea, crew reported unhurt; DP World exec warns of higher cost for European imports

Reuters|08:32

Disruptions to Red Sea shipping caused by Houthi attacks will push up prices of consumer goods, an executive from port and freight operator DP World said on Tuesday as a missile struck another vessel in the region.

The Iran-allied Houthi militia has threatened to expand its attacks to include U.S. ships in response to American and British strikes on its sites in Yemen.

Attacks by the Houthis on ships in the region since November have impacted companies and alarmed major powers - an escalation of Israel's more than three-month-old war with Hamas in Gaza. The Houthis say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians. DP World CFO Yuvraj Narayan said he expected that disruptions would hit European consumers hardest.

"The cost of goods into Europe from Asia will be significantly higher," Narayan told Reuters at the annual World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland. "European consumers will feel the pain ... It will hit developed economies more than it will hit developing economies," the Dubai-based Greek logistics company's finance chief added.

War risk insurance premiums for shipments through the Red Sea are rising, insurance sources said on Tuesday.

A Malta-flagged, Greek-owned bulk carrier was targeted and hit by a missile while northbound in the Red Sea 76 nautical miles northwest of the Yemeni port of Saleef, a security firm and two Greek shipping ministry sources said on Tuesday.

The vessel, the Zografia, was sailing from Vietnam to Israel with 24 crew on board and was empty of cargo when attacked, one of the Greek sources said. "There were no injuries, only material damage," the source added. It was still sailing but would probably reroute for safety checks.

Underlining concerns, Japanese shipping operator Nippon Yusen, also known as NYK Line, instructed its vessels navigating near the Red Sea to wait in safe waters and is considering route changes, a company spokesperson said.

Ocean Network Express, a joint venture between Japan's Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and Nippon Yusen, said last month it would reroute vessels or temporarily pause journeys and move to safe areas.

However, shipping giant Maersk sent two container ships through the Red Sea carrying goods for the U.S. military and government.

Container vessels have been pausing or diverting from the Red Sea that leads to the Suez Canal, the fastest freight route from Asia to Europe. Many ships have been forced to circumnavigate South Africa's Cape of Good Hope instead.

Saudi Arabia calls for cease-fire in Gaza

The U.S.-led coalition meant to safeguard commercial traffic in the Red Sea is weak because regional powerhouses Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt have not taken part, Yemen's vice president said on Tuesday.

"This Bab al-Mandab corridor is of interest to the whole world and to the region, so regional intervention is key," Aidarous al-Zubaidi told Reuters in an interview, referring to the narrow strait at the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

Zubaidi's separatist Southern Transitional Council is part of an alliance that opposes the Houthis in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Houthi attacks on commercial ships were connected to the war in Gaza. Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said the kingdom's priority is finding a path to de-escalation through a cease-fire in Gaza.

Also speaking in Davos, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said it was important to keep global supply chains "stable and smooth".

About 12% of world shipping traffic transits the Suez Canal via the Red Sea. Vessels supplying liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar are among the many ships being forced to sail around Africa via the Cape of Good Hope. That diversion can add about nine days to the normally 18-day trip from Qatar to northwest Europe.

01.16.24 – Tu

IDF carries out most extensive strike on S. Lebanon since war began

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IDF carries out most extensive strike on S. Lebanon since war began

Military confirms reports in Lebanon of an attack on the Suluki Valley, where Hezbollah position, military installations and weapons production infrastructure were targeted; Lebanese security say there were at least 16 airstrikes in quick succession

Yoav Zitun|07:04

The IDF on Tuesday, reports that it had carried out major strikes on the Suluki Valley in South Lebanon, using Air Force and artillery, targeting dozens of Hezbollah "position, military installations and weapons production infrastructure."

The military said the wooded area had been used to hide weapons and infrastructure to be used to target Israeli civilians and soldiers.

"This was a combined air and land strike against many Hezbollah target, a senior officer in the northern command said. "This was one of the more extensive strikes we carried out since the war began and was completed in a matter of a few short minutes," he said. Lebanese security sources told Reuters there were at least 16 airstrikes in quick succession on the Suluki Valley, describing them as the "densest bombardment of a single location" since border-area hostilities began three months ago.

Earlier Hezbollah said it had launched rockets at Israeli troops across the hilly frontier. And in Israel, the IDF said its special forces had carried out a strike in the area of Ayta al-Shaab in south Lebanon "to remove a threat", and that its aircraft also struck a Hezbollah anti-tank missile launcher in the region.

01.16.24 – Tu

Hamas fires 50 rockets from north Gaza, vacated in Troop reduction

01.16.24 – Tu

Hamas fires dozens of rockets from area left by IDF

Barrage targets Netivot and surrounding areas causing damage but no injuries; mayor says residents of city surprised that Hamas was able to launch such an attack even after 102 days of war

Einav , Ilana Curiel, Yoav Zitun|03:50

A heavy barrage of rockets targeted southern Israel on Tuesday, causing damage in the city of Netivot in in surrounding areas. No injuries were reported.

The rockets were fired from an area in the central Gaza Strip soon after IDF troops left the region amid the redeployment of forces in the new phase of the war and occurred shortly before the war cabinet convened in the south with IDF command there to discuss the return of residents to their homes, evacuated in the Hamas massacre of October 7.

The local municipality said some 50 rockets were fired in the massive and unusual barrage, surprising residents of the city who were not aware that Hamas was still able to launch such an attack after 102 days of war.

The rockets fell in the region of the Gaza border but in communities that had not been evacuated following the Hamas massacre of October 7.

"This is a nod from Hamas," Minister Gideon Saar a member of the war cabinet, said. "The objectives have not yet been achieved. We must not stop the fighting before they are. It is wrong to reduce the military pressure on Hamas. It must be increased," he said.

01.15.24 – Mo

IDF 36th Division ends as reduction leaves 98th, 99th and 162nd Divisions

01.15.24 – Mo

IDF's 36th Division ends Gaza deployment in major troop reduction
Military says the division, including the Golani Brigade, will leave for a period of training before deciding whether it should resume operating in Gaza

Yoav Zitun|Yesterday | 12:44

The IDF's 36th Division, which includes the Golani Brigade, withdrew from Gaza on Monday as part of the most significant force reduction in the Strip since the beginning of the ground operation. The move is the clearest part of the IDF's transition to the next phase in the war.

Currently, three IDF combat divisions remain in the Strip, alongside special forces units continuing to operate in various parts of the region. These include the 98th Division in Khan Younis, the 99th Division holding the Netzarim corridor, and the 162nd Division conducting short raids in the northern part of the Strip while being in charge of the northern coastline.

According to the IDF, the 36th Division will leave for a period in order to increase its readiness. The military noted it conducts ongoing situational assessments during the war, aiming to plan the deployment of forces based on the situation in the field, while maintaining operational flexibility and the forces' preparedness.

Furthermore, it was noted the decision for the 36th's exit from Gaza was made for a period of their reorganization, training, and increased readiness. According to the statement, following their leave and based on the situational assessment, a decision will be made regarding the continuation of the division's operational activity as needed.

The 36th Division had a significant role in the fighting in the Gaza Strip in recent months and participated in dismantling the Hamas military structures in the northern part of the Strip.

This marks the most significant reduction of forces by the IDF in Gaza since the beginning of the ground operation two and a half months ago. The 36th Division was the second to enter the Strip after the 162nd Division.

It breached the Netzarim corridor, and its forces, including the Golani and Paratroopers Brigades, fought in neighborhoods in the southern part of Gaza City in the initial phase of the operation. In the last three weeks, the brigade operated in the central part of the Strip.

01.14.24 – Su

Hamas intended to attack Israeli embassy in Sweden, directed by Iran

01.14.24 – Su

Security agencies expose Hamas operatives planning terror attacks in Europe
Mossad, Shin Bet foil Hamas attempted attacks bringing to arrests in some European countries; Israel reveals suspects' identity: 'They planned to attack the embassy in Sweden'

Itamar Eichner|00:02

The Prime Minister's Office, the Mossad and the Shin Bet revealed on Saturday the identities of Hamas operatives in several European countries, after suspects were arrested by local police across the continent.

On December 14, the security authorities in Denmark and Germany announced the mass arrests of suspects in Europe, who have since been subjected to legal proceedings. The suspects worked for Hamas to attack Israeli, Jewish and Western targets. During December the Mossad and the Shin Bet announced that they have thwarted a Hamas attack in Denmark.

The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement that thanks to inter-organizational cooperation, "a comprehensive and in-depth picture of Hamas's terrorist activity was revealed, including details of the locations, the targets of the attacks and those involved in their planning - from Hamas commanders in Lebanon to the last of the perpetrators of the operational infrastructure."

The statement went on to say that information was received about an intention to attack the Israeli embassy in Sweden, and that Hamas purchased drones and employed elements of criminal organizations in Europe to carry out attacks.

Hamas worked to promote attacks against targets in the Middle East, Africa and Europe, under the command of senior members of the organization. Three of them - Saleh al-Aroui, Azzam Akre and Samir Pandi, were killed last week in Dahieh in Beirut. Until their elimination, they were significant key factors in Hamas' terrorist activities around the world.

Hamas' terrorist activity in Europe was led by Khalil Haraz, until his death in Lebanon in November. Kharaz, who was under the command of Azzam Akre in Hamas' operations in the West Bank, served as the deputy commander of the military wing of Hamas in Lebanon. He was in charge of some of the infrastructure that was discovered in Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany last December, and of the procurement of drones in Europe in order to carry out the attack.

The LFT criminal organization, Hamas' accomplices in Europe Kharaz was also involved, through third parties, in building and establishing terrorist infrastructures to enlist Hamas operatives in Europe and gang members from Loyal To Familia (LFT). They acted on behalf of Hamas as its proxies in Europe, especially in Denmark, Germany and Sweden, some of them even operated in more than one front. "LTF" was outlawed in Denmark in 2021, and some of its members currently reside in Lebanon.

Hamas draws inspiration from the terrorist activities of the Iranian terror regime, and quite similarly, targets Israeli, Jewish and Western targets at any cost. "The Mossad, the Shin Bet and the IDF, in partnership with the international security and law enforcement, will continue to work to thwart the terrorist intentions of Hamas and all terrorist organizations, to come to terms with them anywhere in the world for the security of the State of Israel and the Jewish people," the statement read.

The foiling of the attack in Denmark came after dozens of successful missions to foil attempted attacks in recent weeks and months, before and during the war in Gaza, in Brazil, Greece, Cyprus, Africa, and several countries that have yet to be revealed. This is a worldwide terrorist effort directed by Iran and with the involvement of Hezbollah and Hamas.

"In recent years, and even more so after the murderous attack on October 7, Hamas strives to expand its operational capabilities around the world and in Europe in particular in order to realize its ambitions to strike Israeli, Jewish and Western targets at any cost," the Mossad said in a statement last month.

"Hamas works indiscriminately and in any way to expand its deadly activities to Europe, thereby posing a threat to the internal security of these countries. The Mossad and the Shin Bet will continue to operate in a combination of forces and capabilities with their partners in Israel and the world in order to repel Hamas's intentions and eliminate its capabilities."

01.12.24 – Fr

Agreement after 100 days; hostages to receive medication in exchange for Gaza aid

01.12.24 – Fr

After nearly 100 days in captivity, hostages will receive medication 'in the coming days' 98 days after being abducted to Gaza, the PM's Office informed that dozens of Israelis still held hostage will receive medication transferred through the Red Cross; Negotiations with Qatar were led by Mossad chief David Barnea
Ynetnews|01.12.24 | 13:18

The Prime Minister's office reported Friday that following a diplomatic initiative led by Mossad chief David Barnea, instructed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, medications will soon be delivered to captives in Gaza for the first time since the beginning of the war. In exchange, Israel will be required to directly provide humanitarian aid to Gaza, including medications.

In Gaza, there are still 136 Israeli hostages, some suffering from chronic illnesses. The medications to be delivered to the captives, facilitated by the Red Cross, are defined as "life-saving" based on a list provided by families and specialist physicians. These include medications for chronic conditions such as asthma inhalers, heart medications, and blood pressure medication. Hamas has long opposed the transfer of medications and set significant conditions for such actions.

The Mossad chief conducted direct and substantive negotiations with Qatar, successfully narrowing considerable gaps and formulating an agreement allowing the introduction of medications to captives in exchange for Israel providing humanitarian aid to Gaza, including medications. In other words, Israel transfers medications to Gaza, and Hamas, in turn, delivers the medications to the captives.

This development also underscores Israel's direct and effective engagement with Qatar, demonstrating continuous dialogue. However, this doesn't necessarily indicate a breakthrough in negotiations for the release of captives. The negotiations persist, though they are challenging, with no breakthrough apparent.

01.12.24 – Fr

US & UK strike Houthi targets in Yemen; 22 nations guard traffic in the Red Sea

01.12.24 – Fr

US and UK strike Houthi targets in Yemen

US and UK launch air strikes struck more than a dozen Houthi targets inside of Yemen. Arab media report explosions in several cities in Yemen. Biden: I will not hesitate to direct further measures.

Published: Jan 11, 2024, 11:23 PM (GMT+2) Updated: Jan 12, 2024, 2:43 AM

A US official confirmed the strikes to Bloomberg. The strikes were carried out using fighter jets and Tomahawks fired from Navy ships, reported NBC News.

Carla Babb, the Pentagon correspondent for Voice of America, reported that more than a dozen Houthi targets inside of Yemen were struck.

The fighter jets were striking "targets ranging from training facilities to drone storage facilities," Babb reported.

According to Arab media reports, explosions sounded in the Yemeni port city of Hodeida, as well as in the capital Sanaa and in other areas.

In a statement on the strikes, US President Joe Biden said, "Today, at my direction, US military forces—together with the United Kingdom and with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, and the Netherlands—successfully conducted strikes against a number of targets in Yemen used by Houthi rebels to endanger freedom of navigation in one of the world's most vital waterways."

"These strikes are in direct response to unprecedented Houthi attacks against international maritime vessels in the Red Sea—including the use of anti-ship ballistic missiles for the first time in history. These attacks have endangered U.S. personnel, civilian mariners, and our partners, jeopardized trade, and threatened freedom of navigation. More than 50 nations have been affected in 27 attacks on international commercial shipping. Crews from more than 20 countries have been threatened or taken hostage in acts of piracy. More than 2,000 ships have been forced to divert thousands of miles to avoid the Red Sea—which can cause weeks of delays in product shipping times. And on January 9, Houthis launched their largest attack to date—directly targeting American ships," added Biden.

"The response of the international community to these reckless attacks has been united and resolute. Last month, the United States launched Operation Prosperity Guardian—a coalition of more than 20 nations committed to defending international shipping and deterring Houthi attacks in the Red Sea. We also joined more than 40 nations in condemning Houthi threats. Last week, together with 13 allies and partners, we issued an unequivocal warning that Houthi rebels would bear the consequences if their attacks did not cease. And yesterday, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution demanding the Houthis end attacks on merchant and commercial vessels."

"Today's defensive action follows this extensive diplomatic campaign and Houthi rebels' escalating attacks against commercial vessels. These targeted strikes are a clear message that the United States and our partners will not tolerate attacks on our personnel or allow hostile actors to imperil freedom of navigation in one of the world's most critical commercial routes. I will not hesitate to direct further measures to protect our people and the free flow of international commerce as necessary," Biden made clear.

Earlier, The Times newspaper reported that Britain is expected to join the United States in carrying out overnight air strikes on military positions belonging to the Houthis in Yemen.

According to the report, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak briefed his cabinet of ministers on the imminent military intervention.

Sky News reported that Sunak was holding a full cabinet call which is thought to be about UK and US military strikes against the Houthi rebels.

The meeting started at 7:45 p.m. local time, with senior figures including Foreign Secretary David Cameron seen entering Downing Street, the report stated.

It came after an emergency COBRA meeting was held on Thursday morning, followed by a call between Sunak and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Downing Street said the leaders discussed "the concerning rise in Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and the disruptive impact on global shipping, including through the Suez Canal".

"The prime minister said the UK would continue to take action to defend freedom of navigation and protect lives at sea," a spokesperson added.

The attacks by the Iranian-backed Houthis have increased since the start of the war in Gaza on October 7.

On Tuesday, the US and British armies shot down 21 drones and missiles fired by the Houthis towards the Red Sea, in what was one of the biggest attacks by the group to date.

Yahya Sare'e, the military spokesman for the Houthis, claimed last week that the group attacked a ship that refused the Houthis' orders to stop and was on its way to Israel.

22 nations recently agreed to participate in a US-led coalition to safeguard commercial traffic in the Red Sea from Houthi attacks.

01.11.24 – Th

UN South African charges are exaggerated and bizarre; Blind to Hamas actions

01.11.24 – Th

Germany to request join as third party in Hague case: 'Israel is not committing genocide' German government rejects allegations Israel is committing 'genocide' in Gaza, warns against 'political instrumentalization', adding that Israel defends itself after inhuman Hamas attack on October 7

Yael Ciechanover, Nadav Eyal, The Hague|03:23

The German government strongly rejected Friday the accusations made at the UN's top court that Israel is engaged in "genocide" in Gaza and cautions against the "political instrumentalization" of such charges.

Government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit asserted in a statement that Israel is acting in self-defense following "inhuman" attacks by Hamas on October 7. Hebestreit emphasizes Germany's commitment to the UN Genocide Convention, signed in 1948 in response to the Holocaust, considering Germany's history and the crimes against humanity.

In response to South Africa's unfounded allegations against it amid ongoing conflict, Israel's representations are being heard Friday morning at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The case brought against Israel by South Africa accuses it of acts in the Gaza Strip that, according to them, constitute "genocide."

In Thursday's preliminary hearing, South African advocates presented a series of charges, most of which lack evidential foundation or are exaggerated and bizarre. They seek an interim order from the court to halt the war. The South Africans almost completely ignored the massacre committed by Hamas terrorists on October 7.

Representing Israel in the court is former Supreme Court chief justice Aharon Barak.

Israel's lead advocate is Prof. Malcolm Shaw, a British Jewish legal scholar.

Tal Becker, the legal adviser for Israel's Foreign Ministry, spoke at the opening of the second day of hearings and bashed South Africa for what he called a "grossly distorted story" it brought before the court with its accusations that Israel was committing genocide in Gaza.

"Hamas terrorists tortured, burned, raped and abducted Israeli citizens," he said, charging that the applicant neglected to mention Hamas' crimes against Israeli citizens.

Becker decried South Africa's omission of Hamas' longstanding and well-documented practice of embedding its fighters and military infrastructure in civilian sites, arguing that the applicant was not "offering a lense" to Hamas's actions, but rather a "blindfold."

He further said that Israel was committed to complying with international in its military campaign, "but it does so in the face of Hamas's utter contempt for the law."

He said that the "appalling suffering" of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians stems from Hamas' strategy. He also asserted that the court is "trying to stop Israel defending its civilians against an organization which pursues a genocidal agenda against them."

Israel's undeniable right to defend itself

Israel's next legal representative Prof. Malcolm Shaw was handed the floor. The expert in international law at the University of Leicester highlighted the necessity of understanding Israel's actions in Gaza within the context of Hamas's October 7 attack.

Shaw emphasized that while this attack does not permit Israel to violate international law, it does affirm Israel's right to self-defense under humanitarian law. The accusation against Israel is specifically for genocide, a crime that Shaw describes stands "alone among violations of international law as the epitome of evil." He cautioned that misusing the charge of genocide risks diluting its true significance.

In his **opening argument**, Shaw contested South Africa's portrayal of an ongoing dispute with Israel, referencing South African lawyer Prof. Duggard's previous day's assertion of a "dispute" between the nations. Shaw challenged this notion, labeling it not a dispute but a "unispute."

He also questioned South Africa's assertion of attempting dialogue with Israel, countering that it was Israel who sought bilateral talks, while South Africa moved forward with the ICJ case. Shaw suggested that had South Africa accepted Israel's offer for discussion, it might have been determined that there was no dispute warranting court intervention.

Shaw argued that there is scant evidence to suggest Israel has the specific intent to destroy the Palestinian people. He acknowledged Israel's undeniable intention to defend itself and address the threat from Hamas and similar groups.

Shaw mentioned that if Israeli forces have violated any conflict rules, these issues would be addressed by Israel's "robust and independent legal system." He affirmed that Israel's actions align with international humanitarian law and are executed in a proportionate manner, with efforts to minimize civilian harm through warnings via phone calls, leaflets and other methods.

Shaw **emphasized** that Israel's leaders aimed to adhere to legal standards in the face of South Africa's accusations of genocide. He argued that potential violations by individual soldiers should not be seen as reflective of state policy. Citing statements from Israeli army commanders and ministers, Shaw highlighted their directives to concentrate on military targets and reduce civilian casualties.

As the **court was adjourned** to observe a short break, dozens of people, including the **families of Israeli hostages** left in Gaza, **rallied outside the court** in support of Israel and a call for the release of the hostages.

As the session restarted Galit Ragan, acting director of the international justice division at Israel's justice ministry, took the floor. She attributed the high civilian toll in Gaza to Hamas.

She stated that more than **23,000 people have died in Israeli attacks** since October 7, noting that "Urban warfare will always result in civilian harm."

According to Ragan, **these deaths**, while unfortunate, may be a **lawful consequence** of targeting military objectives and **do not equate to genocide**. She further explained that **Hamas exacerbates civilian casualties by operating within civilian areas**, including schools and hospitals.

She further argued that the IDF has so far found **evidence of Hamas military activity in every single hospital in the Gaza Strip**, and has done so in surgical special forces operations rather than indiscriminately bombing medical facilities as claimed by the Palestinians.

Israel's next representative, Omri Sender emphasized Israel's commitment to the rights of Palestinian civilians in Gaza. He said that Israel undoubtedly fulfills the legal criteria of

taking concrete measures to recognize and protect these rights. Sender highlighted that Israel has facilitated the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, ensuring there are no restrictions on water supply. He also mentioned that food trucks have been granted access to the Strip and that the sick and wounded have been permitted to cross into Egypt.

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Ynet-News, Jan 11, 2024 – Thursday

Possible Abomination Days are April 7 & June 20, 2024

01.11.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Shin Bet & police foil ISIS supporters terror plot on east Jerusalem security

01.11.24 – Th- - - News Placed in January 11 spot – Thursday

Hamas Sinwar brothers in Gaza ignore leaders abroad; sending families to Egypt

01.08.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in January 08 spot – Monday

IDF shifts to specific Gaza operations after UN Court accused Israel of genocide

01.07.24 – Su- - - News Placed in January 09 spot – Tuesday

South Korea confirms Gaza is provided with North Korean weapons

01.07.24 – Su- - - News Placed in January 07 spot – Sunday

Israel seeks border security after Egypt allowed weapons into Gaza for 18 years

01.07.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Biden says Netanyahu using Lebanon conflict to remain in power after Gaza war

01.06.24 – Sa- - - News Placed in January 06 spot – Saturday

IDF-US surveillance balloon has dozens of special cameras at Syria-Jordan border

01.06.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

US offers 10 million in reward for information on Hamas finance sources

01.05.24 – Fr- - - News Placed in January 05 spot – Friday

Six Families of Gaza hostages in Qatar with US envoy for hostage negotiation

01.04.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

IDF Chief of Staff names panel to probe failures up to and during October 7

01.04.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Israel destroys booby-trapped kindergarten in 40-hour long West Bank operation