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UN funding since 1949, suspended for PA schools & 59 refugee camps

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UN probe proves UNRWA involved in Hamas attack: US & UN pause funding

01.26.24 – Fr - - News Placed in January 26 spot – Friday

ICJ rules genocide; false outrageous shameful exploitation unfounded morally repugnant

02.01.24 – Th

Negotiating deal in 3 phases of six-weeks, civilians, female soldiers, male soldiers

02.01.24 – Th

Hostage release deal in 3 phases, begins with lull in fighting, report

For six weeks IDF to hold fire while Hamas gathers hostages to be freed, first women and children, elderly, wounded, sick, then female soldiers and then male soldiers but not all men who may be held to be human shields for Hamas leaders

Ynet|03:55

More details on the hostage release deal being negotiated, are revealed in a Wall Street Journal report published early on Thursday. The deal will begin with a six-week lull in the fighting and a suspension of drone fights over Gaza, while Hamas gathers the hostages ahead of their release.

The first batch of captives would be civilians, including the elderly, the sick and children. In Gaza, civilians would be free to move around the strip and aid could also reach all parts.

If that phase is successful, the WSJ said, a second phase would be put into motion with the release of female soldiers, and the delivery of more aid into Gaza, that will ensure the operation of hospitals, water services and bakeries. Hamas demands that 50 Palestinian prisoners be freed by Israel for every women in the service.

In the third phase, according to the report, Hamas would release male soldiers and the bodies of dead hostages but not all of the men captive because Hamas considers all men of a certain age to be potential soldiers.

Hamas has also demanded the return of the bodies of Palestinians killed during Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on Israel, the report said, quoting negotiators.

"That final stage of the deal is expected to be the most precarious, as Hamas's leaders in Gaza could hold on to a small group of hostages as bargaining chips and human shields, while Israeli leaders could refuse to release high-profile Palestinian prisoners while Israel

may refuse to release certain prisoners demanded by the Gaza terror faction," The paper wrote.

They also quoted Daniel Levy, a former Israeli negotiator and government official who said "That would allow Netanyahu to avoid the political fallout of agreeing to those high-value releases and of ending the war."

01.31.24 – We

US sanctions Turkey and Lebanon Petrol & Drilling Equipment used by Iran

01.31.24 – We

U.S. targets Iranian Hezbollah financial network with sanctions

Treasury imposes sanctions on three entities and one individual based in Turkey and Lebanon for giving "critical financial support" to a financial network used by Iran's Quds Force and Hezbollah.

Reuters|15:22

On Wednesday, the United States imposed sanctions on three entities and one individual based in Turkey and Lebanon on Wednesday for giving "critical financial support" to a financial network used by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corp's Al-Quds Force (IRGC-QF) and Lebanon's Hezbollah. "These entities have generated hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of revenue from selling Iranian commodities, including to the Syrian government," the U.S. Treasury Department said in a statement.

"These commodity sales provide a key source of funding for the IRGC-QF and Hezbollah's continued terrorist activities and support to other terrorist organizations throughout the region," it added.

The Treasury Department said it had imposed sanctions on Turkey-based Mira Ihracat Ithalat Petrol, which purchases, transports, and sells Iranian commodities on the global market, and its chief executive and owner Ibrahim Talal al-Uwayr, who is also known under the alias Ibrahim Agoglu.

It also targeted two Lebanon-based entities, Yara Offshore SAL, a Hezbollah-affiliated company which has facilitated large sales of Iranian commodities to Syria, and Hydro Company for Drilling Equipment Rental, which is involved in financing the Al-Quds Force by facilitating the shipment of Iranian commodities worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Syria.

As a result of the sanctions, all property of those targeted in the United States or that fall under the control of U.S. persons has been blocked. U.S. regulations generally bar U.S. persons from dealing with property of designated or otherwise blocked persons. Further, non-U.S. financial institutions and others that engage in certain dealings with those sanctioned may expose themselves to sanctions or be subject to an enforcement action.

01.31.24 – We

US pushing deal next week; Hamas demands 100 to 300 prisoners per hostage

01.31.24 – We

The obstacles in the path to a hostage deal with Hamas

Analysis: As talks of a possible hostage deal with Hamas grow, Netanyahu says some of the terror group's demands like the release of thousands of terrorists and the IDF's withdrawal from Gaza won't happen

Itamar Eichner|04:08

Despite the U.S. reporting progress and optimism in Egypt saying a hostage deal and cease-fire agreement with Hamas can be reached by next week, the path to achieve this remains long, and negotiations are expected to be challenging.

Israel, the United States, Qatar, and Egypt have reached a consensus on a deal that entails a 45-day cease-fire for the release of Israeli hostages. The agreement will also involve the release of Palestinian prisoners, with specific details, such as the number of terrorists to be released for each hostage and the identity of the prisoners, to be discussed between the sides. Additionally, the amount of humanitarian aid entering Gaza will be increased.

Once Hamas declares it accepts the initial deal, intensive negotiations will commence on its key points. It's evident Hamas won't accept the previous deal's agreement of releasing three Palestinian prisoners for every Israeli hostage.

In the previous agreement, Israeli women and children up to the age of 19 were released in exchange for the release of female Palestinian prisoners and minors. This time, however, Hamas is expected to demand a more significant number of prisoners.

According to reports, Hamas may demand anywhere between 100 to 300 prisoners for every released hostage. Hamas' conditions for the return of Israeli bodies held in Gaz are still unclear, and it's unknown if the terror group will agree to exchange them for the bodies of Hamas terrorists or whether it will ask for the release of additional prisoners.

Hamas currently holds 136 Israeli hostages, 29 of whom are confirmed deceased, and four individuals who were already held in Gaza before the October 7 attack. If Hamas's demands are met, it could potentially lead to the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners. It's also known Hamas will demand the release of terrorists who carried out attacks against Israelis in exchange for IDF soldiers held in the Strip.

Netanyahu's red line

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drew a line in the sand, saying that "thousands of terrorists won't be released." Reports have indicated the potential release of 5,000 to 4,000 terrorists in the deal, making it the highest number of prisoners ever released by Israel.

However, sources close to National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir view this as a trial balloon from Netanyahu's circle. They believe it to be a strategic move made for the deal to be seen as a success for Netanyahu even if half of the proposed number of Palestinian prisoners would be eventually released.

Nevertheless, the government acknowledges the immense difficulty involved in reaching a deal, even if Israel exerts significant effort to minimize the number and severity of prisoners, while trying to avoid releasing terrorists involved in major terror attacks. Once the key points have been agreed on, additional issues will need to be addressed. For instance, Hamas insists on the IDF's complete withdrawal from Gaza. In the previous agreement, the IDF withdrew to defensive lines and prevented the return of Gazans from the southern to the northern part of the Strip.

Hamas' insurance policy

Another question will need to be discussed in the negotiations: Can Israel prevent Gazans from arriving in Gaza's north for 45 days? And what happens after the 45-day cease-fire? It's reasonable to assume that Hamas will insist on assurances from Israel to prevent a return to the fighting, which is considered a red line from Israel's perspective. Netanyahu emphasized, "The IDF will not withdraw from the Strip. We will not end this war without achieving all of its objectives."

In any case, it's likely Hamas will make every effort to hold hostages and bodies as a form of insurance. Israel will need to introduce ways to ensure that Hamas does not violate the agreement during the negotiations.

In the previous agreement, Hamas violated it by withholding the release of women, allegedly to prevent the exposure of sexual assaults they experienced while in captivity. It can be assumed Israel has learned from this and will take steps to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

As for the timing of the deal, Egyptian reports said Tuesday that an agreement may be reached at the beginning of the week, with an immediate cease-fire taking effect. However, this appears to be wishful thinking. Even if Hamas responds positively, intensive negotiations will commence, and intelligence agency teams are expected to travel to Qatar to pursue them.

Therefore, Israel believes it'll take several days of discussions before a concrete deal is reached. Only then will the document undergo approval in the War Cabinet, Security Cabinet, and the government. Unlike the relatively smooth first deal, it's widely understood this will be a different and more challenging process.

If the reports are even partially correct, involving the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners, changes in the government's composition should be taken into account - something Netanyahu isn't in favor of. Opposition leader Yair Lapid has already announced his intention to deploy a "safety net" for the captive deal. However, Netanyahu is unlikely to rely on him and will step out of his role to persuade Ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich not to dismantle the government.

A deal is likely with Biden's involvement

According to an Israeli source, a deal is very likely because of one reason: U.S. President Joe Biden is determined to end the war and hopes that a captive deal would lead to a long-lasting cease-fire.

To facilitate this, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected to arrive in Israel on Saturday. According to a senior American official, Blinken will discuss the hostage deal, as well as post-war Gaza, and normalization with Saudi Arabia.

U.S. news outlet Bloomberg reported Tuesday that the Saudis have renewed contacts with the United States defense pact for the first time since its suspension at the beginning of the war.

The Americans see an opportunity to leverage the cease-fire to revive negotiations for normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia. These negotiations could serve as an incentive for Netanyahu to prolong the cease-fire.

01.29.24 – Mo

IDF disguised as medics, purge three terrorists using Jenin hospital as hideout

01.29.24 – Mo

Security forces kill three terrorists in Jenin hospital raid

Forces describe operation as surgical targeting the three only, to foil imminent attack planned inside Israel, mimicking Hamas October 7 massacre; troops enter facility disguised as medical teams, Palestinian women

Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi | 23:41

At least three terrorists were killed after escaping into a Jenin hospital, the military said, ahead of a planned terror strike inside Israel mimicking the October 7 Hamas massacre. Anti-terrorist special forces said two of the terrorists were member of Hamas and the third a member of the Islamic Jihad.

A security official said the forces surrounded the hospital and detained a wanted terrorist who was inside an ambulance at the entrance to the Ibn Sina Specialized Hospital. "They thought we would not reach then there," he said. "This is the same method we know of terror groups. They shoot from behind civilians and hide inside hospitals."

"Mohammed Jalamneh, 27, who had been in the Jenin Camp for a long period, had contacts with Hamas headquarters abroad and was even wounded when he tried to promote a car bombing attack," the IDF said in a statement. "In addition, Jalamneh transferred weapons and ammunition to terrorists in order to promote shooting attacks, and planned a raid attack inspired by the October 7th massacre. Along with Jalamneh, two additional terrorists who hid inside the hospital were neutralized. Mohammed Ghazawi from the Jenin Camp, a terrorist operative of the Jenin Battalions who was involved in numerous attacks including firing at IDF soldiers in the area, and Basel Ghazawi from the Jenin Camp, Mohammed's brother, an Islamic Jihad terrorist organization operative involved in terror activities in the area," the military said.

"Jalamneh planned to carry out a terror attack in the immediate future and used the hospital as a hiding place and therefore was neutralized. Israeli security forces will continue to act against any threat that would endanger the security of Israeli civilians."

Witnesses said the soldiers came in disguised as doctors, nurses and Palestinian women and went up to the third floor where they killed the terrorists using handguns with silencers. Later heavy gunfire was heard near the hospital.

The Ibn Sina Specialized Hospital is a large and relatively new facility built outside the refugee camp, near the entrance to Jenin. The IDF has observed it being used by the terrorists as a shelter from Israeli forces.

The operation was described as surgical, targeting the three terrorists only.

01.29.24 – Mo

23% UNRWA male employees had ties to Hamas; a refuge for radical ideologists

01.29.24 – Mo

'10% of all UNRWA staff in Gaza, affiliated with terror groups'

Relying on intelligence reports based on what is described as very sensitive signals intel, phone tracking, interrogation and documents officials say half of all 120,000 workers of the UN agency have close family members among terror operatives

Ynet|07:09

Some 12,000 Gaza residents employed by UNRWA, representing 10% of the total staff, were affiliated to the Islamist terror factions in Gaza, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal, based on what an intelligence official described as very sensitive signals intelligence as well as cellphone tracking data, interrogations of captured Hamas fighters and documents recovered from dead militants, among other things.

The German Foreign Ministry said in a statement that UNRWA was not the only source of humanitarian aid for Palestinians, after the government in Berlin also suspended its funding.

In a document seen by the paper, officials said half of all UNRWA employees in Gaza have members of their families in the terror groups.

"The institution as a whole is a refuge for radical ideologists, a senior Israeli official said. "These are not just some bad apples who took part in the atrocities."

"Two officials familiar with the intelligence said the UNRWA employees considered to have ties with militant groups were deemed to be "operatives," indicating they took active part in the organization's military or political framework," The paper wrote. "The report said 23% of UNRWA's male employees had ties to Hamas, a higher percentage than the average of 15% for adult males in Gaza, indicating a higher politicization of the agency than the population at large."

A report in the New York Times said an UNRWA staff member was accused of abducting a woman, another with assisting in abducting the body of a soldier and of handing out ammunition, a third participated in the massacre in Kibbutz Be'eri where 97 people were murdered. based on the intelligence provided by Israel to the U.S. on the complicity of 12 Palestinian UNRWA workers in the atrocities committed by Hamas on

October 7. According to the report, 10 of the organization's staff were Hamas operatives and one was a member of the Islamic Jihad.

A document presented to American officials shows how military intelligence identified six of the UN agency's staff members inside Israel during the Hamas atrocities committed on October 7, based on their cellphone locations.

Accusations against others are based among other things on phone conversations intercepted inside Gaza, where they discussed their involvement in the massacre. Three others, who in addition to their positions in UNRWA, were members of the military wing of Hamas, received instructions in text messages to report to specific locations where terrorists were to meet, and one was instructed to bring with him anti-tank missiles stored in his home.

The document in the possession of American intelligence agencies also states that of the dozen identified, 10 were active Hamas operatives and one was a member of the Islamic Jihad. Seven of the UNRWA workers were employed as math and Arabic teachers in the agency's schools, two others also worked in the schools but not in teaching positions and the three remaining, were a clerk, a social worker and the manager of the school's storage, whom the New York Times tracked down using social media.

The document details the scope of the actions of some UNRWA staff. One, who was a guidance councilor in a Khan Younis school, is suspected along with his son, of abducting a woman from Israel. The social worker identified, assisted in the abduction of the body of an IDF soldier, handed out ammunition to the terrorists and coordinated traffic inside Israel during the massacre.

Two Western officials were able to verify the intelligence. Although the U.S. has not yet confirmed the Israeli claims, American officials said they were credible enough to announce that funding to UNRWA was suspended.

UNRWA oversees 59 Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Jerusalem the West Bank and Gaza. Most of the organization's funds are directed to running its schools. Its annual budget stands at over a billion dollars, 90% of which comes from countries that have now suspended their contributions. Japan and Austria, on Monday also announced it is suspending its funding to UNRWA.

The U.S. is the largest funder of the UN organization, by some 344 million dollars in 2022, followed by Germany providing 202 million dollars and the EU providing 114 million dollars. The EU said in the past that it would reduce funding due to the incitement against Israel in the UNRWA text books.

Australia, the UK, Canada and Finland combined, supported UNRWA with funds totaling 66 million dollars.

01.29.24 – Mo

Israeli officials, Families of hostages slam coalition members calling to settle in Gaza

01.29.24 – Mo

Israeli officials, Families of hostages slam coalition members calling to settle in Gaza criticism comes after government ministers, members of ruling Likud attend event calling for establishing settlements in Gaza, "voluntary migration" of Palestinians out of Strip; Likud rejects criticism in statement
Moran Azulay, Shron Kidon, Nir (Shoko) Cohen, Sivan Hilaie|05:58

Minister and War Cabinet member Gadi Eisenkot issued a sharp rebuke on Monday of participants of a conference held in Jerusalem on Sunday calling for a voluntary population transfer of Gazans out of the Strip the establishment of Israeli resettlements there.

The conference in Jerusalem under the banner "Return to Gaza," was attended by members of the coalition including cabinet ministers while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refrained from comment on the event although it may have serious ramifications for Israel's position internationally as well as for internal politics.

"While IDF soldiers are fighting shoulder to shoulder in a just war, and while we choose to see what unites us, setting aside disagreements for the sake of common goals, others find time to attend an event that divides Israeli society, increases mistrust in the government and its elected officials, and reintroduces rifts in the public," Eisenkot said.

On Monday, Netanyahu's Likud issued a statement rejecting the criticism of the event claiming it is a democratic party that allows all opinions to be expressed. "As the prime minister had said, policy decision are made by the government only," the statement concluded.

"Everyone who participated in the event in Jerusalem, and especially elected officials – had not learn anything from the events of the past year about the importance of a broad national consensus and solidarity in Israeli society," Eisenkot said.

Welfare Minister Yaakov Margi also distanced himself from the messages coming out of the conference. "This is a very sensitive period; there's a need for restraint. There will be a time for ideological aspirations and opinions made by various people later. At the moment, our soldiers are deep in the Gaza Strip, risking their lives. Please, let's not burden them with disputes. There's a proper time for everything," he said in an interview on an Israeli radio station.

Regarding the ministers and Knesset members who participated in the conference, Margi said, "I don't lecture anyone! Everyone should take responsibility for themselves; people need to understand the importance of current events and understand the significance of their role."

Former Meretz MK Yair Golan talked to Ynet in an interview on Monday saying, "This conference is infuriating. While bereaved families are mourning, while the hostages' families don't know their fate, while IDF soldiers are fighting in the Gaza Strip, these people found time to celebrate. Whoever speaks about Israel's winning through unity,

this is not how it's done, **this is how you weaken the IDF** and weaken the State of Israel," he said.

"Any person with a sound mind understands that Israel needs the support of countries in the region, and the massive support of the United States, **and these people are damaging Israel's image worldwide**. This is a blow to national security."

Deputy **Knesset Speaker** MK Nissim Vaturi, who participated in the conference, **pushed back on the criticism**. "It was a conference about Israel's unity and victory in Gaza. I don't think anyone doesn't want to win," he told Ynet in an interview. **"We won't win without taking territory in Gaza**. We'll have victory only if we take territory, a part of the Strip, so that they understand." He said he **supports rebuilding settlements in Gaza** after Israel pulled out of the Strip and removed its Jewish residents in 2005. "We don't have concrete outlines for this yet."

Harsh criticism by hostages' families

Meanwhile, families of Israeli hostages held captive in Gaza since the October 7 massacre, expressed harsh criticism of the conference and the elected officials who attended it. "We thought the Israeli public stands with us, but we woke up to a stab in the back," said Yizhar Lifshitz, son of Oded and Yocheved Lifshitz. Oded is still held in Gaza.

"There was dancing and cheering in Jerusalem yesterday," Lifshitz said. "We felt as if someone put a knife into us. **We haven't even built one house** in communities that were **destroyed**, we **haven't returned even one Israeli** from the **north and south** who were **evacuated from their home**. Is now the right time? Soldiers are fighting together, and you're dancing?"

Ofri Bibas, sister of Yarden Bibas who was abducted to Gaza along with his wife Shiri and their children Ariel and Kfir, added: "After the meeting of intelligence chiefs in Paris, we had a glimmer of hope that maybe we'd still see them alive, but we woke up to the **feeling that the government gave up on them**. It feels like they're dancing on their blood. They gave up on them because they're dealing with settling in Gaza."

Meirav Leshem Gonen, mother of Romi who was abducted into Gaza, said: "Yesterday evening I felt that **we hadn't learned anything**. The **talk about a population transfer disgusted me**. How **inappropriate it is to talk about it right now**. We experienced a second Holocaust within our own country. Let's **make sure** that we can guarantee our people's security and **bring back our loved ones**."

"I woke up feeling like I've been pranked," said No far, the sister of Yagev Buchshtav who's being held in Gaza. "I trusted you, and yet I woke up to pictures of joy and dancing, while our families are going through hell. How can this be? You need to **apologize for this lack of sensitivity**, **apologize to the bereaved families, to the hostages**, **apologize to my brother**. **We're tired of being nice**."

01.29.24 – Mo

Ammunition usage & readiness for future forces Israel to limit bombings

01.29.24 – Mo

Global ammunition shortage forces Israel to limit bombings

The IDF is contending with dwindling ammunition reserves, carefully managing the intricate equilibrium between fulfilling immediate missions and safeguarding preparedness for unexpected challenges

Yuval Sade, Calcalist | Updated: | 19:42

A surge in ammunition usage during the wars in Gaza and Ukraine has triggered an unprecedented global shortage across all types of ammunition. And while the IDF avoids public discussion of the issue, Major General Eliezer Toledano acknowledged last month a reduction in air attacks, underscoring the imperative to "manage the economy of armaments" in anticipation of a protracted war.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu echoed these concerns, articulating the need for U.S. support with a succinct plea: "We need three things from the U.S.: armaments, armaments, armaments." In a recent press conference, Netanyahu declared Israel's intent to diminish reliance on global sources, a challenging objective that has raised skepticism about its feasibility.

Despite the defense establishment's limited public discourse on the matter, it is actively addressing the ammunition shortage. Last week, Defense Ministry Director General Eyal Zamir finalized a substantial deal with the U.S. government, securing hundreds of millions of dollars for the supply of aerial ammunition. Over 25,000 tons of weapons have been delivered to Israel via approximately 280 aircraft and 40 ships from the U.S. since the onset of the conflict. Simultaneously, the Israeli defense industry is working diligently to replenish the IDF's stocks.

Recent reports from Calcalist reveal that Israeli companies postponed supplying weapons exceeding \$1.5 billion to global customers, redirecting resources to meet the IDF's combat requirements. In the last three months alone, the Defense Ministry has ordered weaponry worth more than 10 billion shekels (\$2.7 billion) from these companies. Importantly, the shortage does not result from budget constraints; rather, it stems from a scarcity of supply. The Treasury does not impose restrictions on the IDF's ability to purchase any type of ammunition.

The heightened demand for armaments is attributed to the IDF's extensive bombing campaigns in Gaza since the war's inception. The military recently announced the targeting of 30,000 sites in Gaza. A security source informed Calcalist that the IDF's firing rate in the ongoing conflict mirrors that of a "superpower," comparable only to the demonstrated capabilities of the U.S. It is speculated that the IDF's armament usage might even surpass that of the Russians in the campaign against Ukraine. Foreign media extensively covers the Gaza campaign, labeling it one of the most intensive in history and drawing comparisons to the scale of bombings witnessed in Germany during World War II.

The significant **increase in targeted bombings** during the war can be attributed to various factors. First, advancements in technological capabilities over the past decade and a half have empowered the IDF to execute **precise attacks on hundreds of targets daily**. The aftermath of the October 7 attack further underscored the utility of such capabilities.

Additionally, the IDF has adopted a **policy** in this current conflict, exercising **restraint** in causing damage to infrastructure and avoiding civilian environments where Hamas operatives may be present. This approach broadens the scope of potential targets.

Furthermore, political and **public pressure** has played a role, with **demands** for increased Israeli Air Force **bombings to minimize risks to ground forces**.

Recent events, such as the tragic incident in Gaza last week resulting in the deaths of 21 IDF soldiers, sparked a heated debate on the necessity of utilizing ground forces for building-leveling tasks. Despite the Air Force's high capabilities, certain missions are better suited for infantry or combat engineering forces.

While justified, the question arises whether this intensified bombing, given the **existing** ammunition **stockpile**, **could compromise the IDF's readiness for future missions**, particularly considering security challenges. There's a **potential** scenario in which the IDF might need to conduct an **attack in southern Lebanon**. To avoid the extreme scenario of an ammunition shortage, the **IDF** may need to communicate its **limitations** more clearly to **politicians**, echoing Toledano's caution that **"There is no infinite army."**

01.28.24 – Su

Arab countries barely donate to UNRWA, and attack the West for giving millions

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Arab countries barely donate to UNRWA, and attack the West for giving millions

After **at least 9 countries** announced that they were suspending funding to the agency following information that some of its **employees participated in the massacre** on October 7, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan attacked the move, even though UNRWA's list of the **10 largest donors includes only one Arab country**

Lior Ben Ari | 15:12

After **several countries** announced that they were **halting** their **funding** to the Palestinian refugee relief agency UNRWA following information that some of the agency's **employees participated** in the October 7 massacre, a **number of Arab countries spoke out against the decision**.

At a press conference held **Sunday** by the foreign **ministers of Egypt and Saudi Arabia**, as part of the **visit to Cairo** by Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry pointed out that **UNRWA provides aid to the Palestinian people**. He added that the words used by the countries that pulled their funding to **accuse** the **UNRWA workers of participating** in the attack on October 7 are **strong words** "that are

not used even in the face of the **killing of more than 26,000 innocents and civilians** in the Gaza Strip, most of them women and children."

Shoukry added that the **cessation of aid** now is surprising, especially since the **agency employs about 30,000 people**. He added that **120 employees of the agency** have been **killed in the war** in the Gaza Strip and emphasized that the timing of the accusations is related to the decision of the International Court of Justice in The Hague and an attempt to divert world attention from the decision that was made.

Later, the Egyptian Al-Cairo news channel reported that the Egyptian foreign minister said in a telephone conversation with UNRWA's Commissioner General, Philippe Lazzarini, that **Egypt fully supports the agency's role** in the challenges it faces. Secretary General of the Arab League Ahmed Aboul Gheit also commented on the funding freeze. "We warn of the consequences of **incitement against UNRWA** and refuse the collective punishment of the Palestinians by **cutting off the agency's funding**. We are surprised that **Western countries are stopping funding** at this **dangerous** stage on the basis of **accusations** against several employees," he said.

The **Jordanian foreign minister**, Ayman al-Safadi, clarified that **UNRWA "plays a necessary role** in providing humanitarian **aid** to more than **2 million Palestinians** who are facing a humanitarian disaster due to the Israeli attacks in Gaza." In a telephone conversation with Lazzarini, Safadi said that "the international community **must** provide the necessary assistance to the agency to allow it to **continue providing** its services in **Gaza**."

It is important to note that **UNRWA's main source of funding** is donor countries - which come mainly **from the West**, and **not from the Muslim world**. In the list of the 20 countries that contributed the highest amounts to the agency in 2022, The **only Muslim countries are Saudi Arabia**, in eighth place, with a donation of \$27 million, **and Qatar** in 20th place, with a contribution of \$10.5 million. Turkey is also on the list, in 10th place, with a contribution of slightly more than \$25 million.

The **U.S.** is the country that **contributed the highest amount**, by a significant margin from the other countries, with almost \$344 million. In second and third place for 2022 are Germany (\$202 million) and the European Union (\$114 million), which each transferred separately and is more than the sum of all Muslim countries combined.

The **halt in funding**, according to the U.S., Great Britain, Italy, Canada and other countries, is very **significant for the agency**, which relies on these donations. These are all countries that have been major donors. For example, in 2022 Italy contributed \$ 18 million, Canada contributed an amount of \$23.7 million and Australia's contribution was \$13.8 million, all three of which were also placed on the agency's 2022 list of the top 20 contributors.

The halt of funding from these countries will significantly harm UNRWA's activities and will force the agency to look for new sources of funding. **Arab countries**, the countries that are now **complaining about the stop of funding**, are not among **UNRWA's major donors** and most of them face severe economic crises themselves.

01.28.24 – Su

Uganda disavows its judge in The Hague for standing with Israel

01.28.24 – Su

Uganda disavows its judge in The Hague for standing with Israel

Julia Sebutinde is one of the 17 judges at the International Court of Justice in the Hague and she opposed all warning orders against Israel; Sebutinde labeled South Africa's genocide lawsuit against Israel 'desperate'

Ynetnews | 10:02

A statement released by the Ugandan government announced that Judge Julia Sebutinde, who concluded in a minority opinion that there was no basis for South Africa's allegations of "war crimes" in the Gaza Strip, is only representing herself and not the government's positions.

"The stance taken by Judge Sebutinde is her personal and independent stance and does not in any way reflect the positions of the Republic of Uganda," the statement said.

The announcement also highlighted that Uganda continues to support the joint declaration issued this month at the end of the Non-Aligned Movement summit; a document criticizing Israel's "military operation against the defenseless Palestinian people" and condemning the killing of unarmed civilians in the strip, which calls for an immediate cease-fire.

Sebutinde, a surprising dissenting voice at the International Court of Justice, opposed all warning orders issued against Israel, diverging from the majority of the 17 judges. Even Israel's representative, Aharon Barak, supported two of the orders. Sebutinde opposed four orders, which were accepted by a majority of 15 judges, and also opposed orders calling for humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza and preventing incitement to commit war crimes, positions Barak supported.

In its ruling, the court refrained from issuing a cease-fire order, a relief for Israel, but allowed the genocide lawsuit to proceed, seen globally as a reputational blow to Israel. In her minority opinion, Sebutinde explained that the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians is fundamentally political, requiring diplomacy and negotiation to establish a lasting arrangement between the parties. She emphasized that it is not a legal dispute and concluded that South Africa failed to prove, even on the surface, that Israel's actions were genocidal.

"South Africa has not demonstrated, even seemingly, that the actions allegedly carried out by Israel were done with genocidal intent and, as a result, they fall short of the threshold for a genocide claim," she wrote.

01.28.24 – Su

Hamas used at least 12 smuggling tunnels connecting Egypt Sinai and Gaza

01.28.24 – Su

Hamas uses unexploded Israeli armament, smuggling from Sinai to arm, report
Terrorists supplied with rifles, grenades stolen from IDF camps, 12 tunnels leading from Sinai active when war began bringing in surplus from wars in Libya, Eritrea and Afghanistan but most weapon production uses Israeli missiles bombs from previous fighting rounds
Ynet|08:24

Israeli intelligence officials have concluded that a large part of the weapons used by Hamas in the October 7 massacre, came from Israeli military armaments, according to a report in the New York times on Sunday. The report also claimed there were 12 tunnels beneath the Gaza border with Egypt up until the war.

The assumption of intelligence services had for years been that Hamas receives its weapons through the tunnels, but the recent analysis made by western intelligence agencies as well as the Israelis, shows that the terror group succeeded in producing many of its rockets using thousands of unexploded anti-tank missiles and bombs dropped on the Strip by the IDF in rounds of fighting. Hamas fighters were also armed with guns stolen from IDF bases.

The Times said much of the intelligence gathered since the start of the war in Gaza showed that like Israel's failure to identify and prepare for the Hamas massacre, it also failed to estimate the terror group's ability to procure arms, the way it had.

A report in the military last year showed that thousands of bullets and hundreds of rifles and grenades were stolen from IDF bases and delivered to Palestinians in the West Bank and to Gaza via smuggling tunnels in the Sinai. "We are arming our enemies with our own weapons," the authors of the report wrote.

Hours after Hamas launched its surprise attack last October, IDF troops found a grenade with Hebrew markings on the body of a dead terrorists. Other Hamas members broke into IDF armaments during the massacre and return to the Strip with their content. Forensic teams examining one of the 5,000 rockets fired at Israel on that day, concluded that they it was likely made using an Israeli missile fired previously at the Strip, that did not explode.

But much of the Hamas arsenal came in from the Sinai which had become a smuggling hub. Weapons and armaments from the wars in Libya, Eritrea and Afghanistan were found there. The intelligence officials said there were at least 12 active tunnels connecting the Sinai and Gaza when the war began. A spokesperson for the Egyptian government said Egypt's military did its part in blocking tunnels on their side of the border adding that a large part of the weapons in Gaza, came from Israel.

Hamas perfected its skill to reuse unexploded Israeli armament fired over the previous rounds of fighting and its forces were able to cut off the warhead of bombs weighing more than 900 kilograms (nearly 2,000 pounds) and use their explosives. " "They have a military industry in Gaza. Some of it is above ground, some of it is below ground, and

they are able to manufacture a lot of what they need,” Former National Security Advisor Eyal Hulata told the paper.

01.28.24 – Su

Egypt military will not cooperate; Southern fighters less willing to hide or flee

01.28.24 – Su

IDF strengthens hold on Khan Younis in hunt for Hamas leaders

Soldiers encounter heavy resistance in terrorists' largest stronghold in the Strip, where weapons, explosives found indicate Hamas better prepared for troops; as in northern Gaza forces see Hamas leaving old and feeble behind to fend for themselves
Yoav Zitun|06:29

The IDF's ground operation in Khan Younis is becoming more extensive than in the northern part of the Strip with Hamas fighters less willing to hide or flee.

More than 400 terrorists were killed in western Khan Younis in less than a week of fighting around the city's al-Muazi refugee camp west of the city, which is surrounded from three flanks.

The fighting in the refugee camp is led by elite IDF commando units given the dense urban nature of the area. Between the refugee camp and the nearby town of Al-Mawasi, lies the largest hospital in the Strip, Nasser Hospital, which the forces are nearing. The IDF's tactical achievements are accumulating. Last week, soldiers located a massive warehouse containing anti-tank explosives and a cache of pest-control chemicals suspected to be for military use. “The ring around Khan Younis' refugee camp is tightening, with Hamas terrorists coming out and fighting, some wearing UNRWA volunteer vests,” IDF commanders in the region said.

For the soldiers, this represents an opportunity to kill many terrorists quickly. However, seeing Hamas's early preparation for the IDF's incursion in the area, evident in the numerous explosive devices and ambushes, the military estimates Khan Younis is a significant location for Hamas.

Forces are attempting to locate information that would bring them closer to the hostages and high-ranking Hamas members, as well as intelligence that would lead help to identify new targets and strategies in the war.

It should be noted that further operations in Rafah or the Philadelphi Corridor, require two challenging prerequisites: the evacuation of over a million Gazans in Rafah and its surroundings and Egyptian consent, needing some political consideration for the Palestinians.

Israeli officials strongly oppose this, making it challenging to envision any Israeli action in the area without approval from the Egyptian military. The harsh Egyptian statements against Israel over the weekend do not indicate that such a coordination would take place. However, discussions with Cairo on the subject are still ongoing.

Equally interesting developments are taking place outside of the camp's western side. There, troops established a checkpoint similar to the two set up at the beginning of the operation and still active in the northern part of the Strip. From this checkpoint, approximately 20,000 Palestinians exited toward the town of Al-Mawasi in recent days. This is a great achievement for the IDF, seeing as several hundred thousand Palestinians remain in Khan Younis, making the fighting much more challenging. Of the thousands of Gazans who passed through the area, at least 70 suspects were detained for interrogation by the Shin Bet and local forces.

Dozens of IDF officers have been attached to combat teams to deal with the significant civilian presence in Khan Younis. Soldiers assisted hundreds of uninvolved Palestinians stranded in the combat zone. Like in the northern areas, soldiers in the south have seen that Hamas leaves behind the old and feeble, alone, exhausted, and thirsty, to fend for themselves. Forces already transferred two old women to Israel after no one was prepared to care for them in Gaza.

Soldiers in Khan Younis are dealing with groups of displaced Palestinians trying to return to their homes in the northern part of the Strip, and are dispersed using riot gear. Similar cases are reported at the border crossings north of Khan Younis and south of Gaza City.

The overall goal of the IDF in Khan Younis is to locate and reach senior Hamas leaders while attempting to locate Israeli hostages. The missions in the northern part of the Strip were also crucial, but different: reaching critical Hamas infrastructure in the area, such as control and main command posts in Rimal's Palestine Square, underground tunnels, and major outposts in Jabaliya and Shati refugee camps.

According to the IDF, Hamas' battalions in the northern part of the Strip were decisively defeated. Many terrorists from these battalions were killed, but similar quantities escaped disguised as civilians or went into hiding.

In the limited scope of the operations in the central Gazan town of Bureij, the mission was similar: reaching Hamas' military-industrial facilities, most of them underground, and destroying them.

The stormy weather in recent days has slowed operations in western Khan Younis. However, even a deal including a cease-fire following negotiations, should they take place, would not hinder the IDF's efforts in Gaza. Many commanders in the field see a distinct operational advantage in a pause to fighting, assuming an agreement made by the government would include a renewal of fighting at some point. They believe a prolonged lull would bring Hamas leaders out of their underground hideouts, give them an opportunity to make mistakes, and create targets for the military to pursue.

01.28.24 – Su

UNRWA staff complicit in crimes, not just a few bad apples; tip of the iceberg

01.28.24 – Su

Israel says UNRWA staff implicate themselves, more complicit in crimes
Government spokesperson says there is a structural relationship between UNRWA and Hamas and not just a few bad apples; says Hamas videos show members of UN organization in atrocities, others, captured, tell interrogators they work for UN
Itamar Eichner|04:39

Israel believes there are more UNRWA staff collaborating with Hamas, after the UN conceded that 12 members of the organization had participated in the October 7 massacre. Officials also said that UNRWA sites were used as terror instillations in the war. Military intelligence was looking for further indications that incriminate more members of the UN refugee organization of taking part in the atrocities.

The military intelligence delivered the information they had collected to the Foreign Ministry and later IDF's intelligence Chief Aharon Haliva, met with the U.S. Ambassador Jacob Lew and with David Satterfield, the U.S. special Mid-East envoy for humanitarian issues, to reveal the findings to them.

Hours later the Biden administration announced it was suspending its funding of UNRWA pending an investigation. Most of the information was still considered confidential although some of it may be declassified and revealed later on Sunday. Government spokesperson Mark Regev said there was a structural relationship between UNRWA and Hamas and not just a matter of a few bad apples. The names provided were just the "tip of the iceberg," he said.

Speaking to Sky News, Regev said the Hamas terrorists themselves posted their atrocities, which revealed others among them official UNRWA employees. Others were identified after being captured by the IDF, during their interrogations, when they were asked who they were working for.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres vowed to hold to account any UNRWA staff member who participated in the massacre. He said of the 12 people identified, nine were dismissed, one was killed in the war and the fate of the remaining two was unclear.

01.27.24 – Sa

Iran built & launched three satellites for communication and geopositioning

01.27.24 – Sa

Iran simultaneously launches three satellites

Launch raising European concerns that such advancement could be used to develop long-range ballistic missile systems; Iran dismisses concerns, claiming technological advancements are country's right

Reuters| | 03:16

Iran simultaneously launched three satellites for the first time on Sunday using the Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite carrier rocket developed by its Ministry of Defense, state

media reported. European countries expressed concern over the Iranian aerospace advancements following previous launches this month, which was dismissed by Iran on Saturday.

One satellite weighing 32 kg (70 pounds) and two nano-satellites of less than 10 kg each were sent to a minimum orbit of 450 km (280 miles), with the two smaller devices aimed at testing narrowband communication and geopositioning technology, the reports said.

The larger satellite, named "Mahda" and built by Iran's Space Agency, is meant to test the accuracy of the Simorgh rocket in delivering multiple cargoes to space. Iran launched its Sorayya satellite into orbit this month with a rocket built by the elite military Revolutionary Guards, raising concerns among European countries that the space launch vehicle's technology could be used for the development of long-range ballistic missile systems.

Iran dismissed the European countries' condemnation of its launch of the Sorayya satellite on Saturday, saying peaceful technological advancement in the aerospace field was the country's legitimate right.

01.27.24 – Sa

Khan Younis hospital fires Hamas rockets; IDF response causes hundreds to flee

01.27.24 – Sa

Khan Younis hospital used to fire rockets evacuated as fighting draws near
IDF tightens grip on Khan Younis, striking near its Nasser Hospital, causing hundreds to flee to Rafah; Red Cross likens it to northern Gaza's situation, noting nearly 1.5 million displaced now in Rafah

Palestinians who left the northern Gaza Strip have begun to evacuate from Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis amid IDF bombings in its vicinity, which according to the Palestinians, have been incessant for days. The IDF aims to tighten control over the city, an operation that began more than a month ago, which forces many displaced Palestinians to move southward yet again.

Gazan influencer Saleh al-Jafarawi documented on Friday hundreds of displaced people who were leaving Khan Younis, picking up their identity cards in order to leave the compound toward Rafah. According to the displaced people, the army tightens the exit from there and checks who leaves. The Palestinian Red Crescent established a fifth shelter camp Friday in the Al-Mawasi area, which is supposed to house about 90 displaced families from Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah.

In an unusual announcement by The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, the IDF liaison to the Palestinians said, "Hamis operates from the Nasser and Al-Amal hospitals in Khan Younis and around them. The systematic use of hospitals by

Hamas throughout Gaza has been documented, including rocket fire from the Nasser hospital."

They added that "Gazans who wish to move from Nasser and Al-Amal hospitals, as many have chosen to do, can go through the IDF corridor on Al-Bahar Street, located on the west side of the hospitals. The IDF transmits this information in Arabic through media channels."

A representative of the International Red Cross told the Saudi Al-Hadath network on Friday that "what is happening in Khan Younis is similar to what happened in northern Gaza, close to one and a half million displaced persons from Gaza currently live in Rafah."

Friday marked the third day in a row of demonstrations of displaced women and children against the continuation of the war holding signs that read: "Where is my father? Where is my home?", "I Want to go home". The demonstration was held at the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the center of the Gaza Strip.

01.27.24 – Sa

UN funding since 1949, suspended for PA schools & 59 refugee camps

01.27.24 – Sa

UNRWA's funding woes deepen as countries react to staff involvement in October 7 massacre

Following US, UK, Italy, Canada and others suspending UNRWA funding, agency fired employees linked to Hamas attack, asserting, 'any involved in terror will face consequences'; FM Katz demands immediate dismissal of UNRWA leadership independent inquiry into 'UNRWA-Hamas Gaza activities' Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi, News Agencies | 10:40

Britain and other countries joined the U.S. on Saturday in withholding funds to UNRWA, the United Nations relief agency for Palestinians, following allegations that agency workers took part in the October 7 massacre.

On Friday, UNRWA announced that it had opened an investigation into allegations that some of its workers were involved in the terrorist attack against Israel, and said that it severed ties with those employees.

UNRWA General Secretary Philippe Lazzarini said that the termination of the workers' contracts came after Israel provided information about their involvement in the terrorist attack. Lazzarini did not reveal exactly how many workers were involved or exactly how they were involved, but added that the law would be met with "Any UNRWA employee who was involved in acts of terror will be held accountable, including through criminal prosecution." The U.S. State Department later reported that 12 employees were suspected to have been involved in the attack.

In a statement concerning the investigation by UNRWA, and the suspension of British funding, the Foreign Office in London said that Britain was shocked by the allegations. "The UK is appalled by allegations that UNRWA staff were involved in the 7 October attack against Israel, a heinous act of terrorism that the UK Government has repeatedly condemned," the statement said.

Italy, Canada, Australia and Finland followed the U.S.'s suit and announced the suspension of funding to UNRWA. "The Italian government has suspended financing of the UNRWA after the atrocious attack on Israel on October 7," Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani posted on X.

Canada joined Italy in criticizing the agency over its alleged involvement in the October 7 massacre. Canadian Minister of International Development Ahmed Hussen, expressed "Canada's alarm about allegations of the agency's staff being involved in Hamas's brutal terrorist attacks against Israel on October 7, 2023." He added that Canada has temporarily paused any additional funding to UNRWA while it undertakes a thorough investigation into these allegations.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz has called on more countries to cease funding UNRWA, stating, "We will not relent, insisting on a thorough investigation of the events. The UN must immediately dismiss UNRWA's leaders and initiate an independent, transparent inquiry into UNRWA-Hamas Gaza activities."

He added, "Many UNRWA employees are Hamas members aiding in terror activities and maintaining its rule. We must ensure that UNRWA does not partake in Gaza's future, replaced by other entities."

Opposition Leader Yair Lapid supported the suspension of funds, saying "The time has come to establish an alternative organization that will not educate generations of Palestinian children in hatred and will not cooperate with Hamas terrorism."

Hamas responded to UNRWA's decision to expel the suspected workers and said that they condemn the decision, which is based on "Zionist accusations". "We condemn referring to our resistance as 'terror.' It is not UNRWA's place to take a political side regarding the conflict. It is clear that UNRWA has been blackmailed by countries that support Zionist terrorism under the pretext of continued financial support."

The PLO called on the countries that announced the cessation of their support for UNRWA to immediately reverse their decision, which entails great political and relief risks.

A billion-dollar budget, 59 refugee camps

UNRWA was established on December 8, 1949, and is the only United Nations agency dedicated to dealing with a specific group of refugees. It was established separately from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, whose goal is to take care of all the refugees in the world. As of 2023, UNRWA employs 30,000 people, who are responsible for direct aid to the Palestinians, nutritional aid, educational aid and financial aid.

UNRWA takes care of 59 Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Its annual budget fluctuates but remains steady at about a billion dollars, and originates mainly from countries that stopped funds to the agency. Most of the organization's funds are intended for the operation of schools.

During the war, the IDF and other organizations revealed that Hamas was using UNRWA clinics, schools and equipment for terrorist purposes. In addition, it was revealed how UNRWA teachers celebrated the massacre against Israel on Telegram.

Israel has been pressing for years to close UNRWA, but the UN General Assembly renews the agency's mandate every three years, which expires on June 30, 2026. The Trump administration stopped U.S. funding for UNRWA, but the Biden administration resumed it, despite Israeli claims of incitement in its textbooks, the employment of terrorist operatives and the perpetuation of the Palestinian refugee problem.

01.26.24 – Fr

UN probe proves UNRWA involved in Hamas attack: US & UN pause funding

01.26.24 – Fr

UNRWA to probe claims saying employees took part in Hamas' October 7 attack
United Nations agency says 'severed ties' with 12 employees suspected of participating in Hamas' massacre; US pauses funding following allegations
Ynet, News Agencies|10:30

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), a UN body providing aid for Palestinian refugees, announced on Friday it has launched an investigation into suspicions alleging some of its employees were involved in Hamas' murderous attack on Israel on October 7.

The agency said in a statement that it has severed ties with those employees. This development has garnered attention worldwide, with the United States announcing it is pausing additional funding for UNRWA at this time while the allegations are under review.

"The Israeli authorities have provided UNRWA with information about the alleged involvement of several UNRWA employees in the horrific attacks on Israel on October 7," said Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General.

"To protect the agency's ability to deliver humanitarian assistance, I have taken the decision to immediately terminate the contracts of these staff members and launch an investigation in order to establish the truth without delay."

Lazzarini did not disclose the number of employees allegedly involved in the attacks, nor the nature of their alleged involvement. He said, however, that "any UNRWA employee who was involved in acts of terror" would be held accountable, including through criminal prosecution.

Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, has been briefed about the allegations, his spokesperson said. "The Secretary-General is horrified by this news," said spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric.

Dujarric added that the UN chief had asked Lazzarini to conduct a probe to ensure that any UNRWA employee shown to have participated or abetted the October 7 attacks be terminated immediately and referred for potential criminal prosecution.

The U.S. State Department said it was extremely troubled by the allegations, which it said pertained to 12 UNRWA employees who allegedly participated in Hamas' massacre. It said it would provide no additional funding to the agency until the allegations were addressed.

"Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on January 25 to emphasize the necessity of a thorough and swift investigation of this matter," the statement read.

"The Department of State has temporarily paused additional funding for UNRWA while we review these allegations and the steps the United Nations is taking to address them," U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell also addressed the allegations against UNRWA, saying in a statement, "We are extremely concerned by allegations of UNRWA staff involvement in the 7th October terrorist attacks in Israel. The EU reiterates its strongest condemnation of the attacks by the Hamas terrorists against Israel, which have no justification."

"UNRWA has been playing a vital role over many years supporting vulnerable Palestinian refugees in accessing vital services such as education and health, and is a crucial partner of the international community, including the EU," the statement added.

"We are in contact with UNRWA, expect it to provide full transparency on the allegations and to take immediate measures against staff involved. The Commission will assess further steps and draw lessons based on the result of the full and comprehensive investigation."

Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan also commented on the allegations, saying, "How symbolic it is that on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, what we've been claiming for years — that UNRWA employees are cooperating with the Hamas terrorist organization and that the UN has become a place where Israel is delegitimized — has been proven true."

01.26.24 – Fr

ICJ rules genocide; false outrageous shameful exploitation unfounded morally repugnant

01.26.24 – Fr

Israeli officials say ICJ ruling best Israel could hope for

Officials say South Africa fails in efforts to stop the war while Israel not ordered to take measures it is not already putting in place; South Africa claims ruling as victory

Itamar Eichner|08:44

Israeli officials said the ruling on Friday by the International Court of Justice was the best result Israel could expect under the circumstances. "South Africa failed in its efforts to

stop the war," an official said. "There is no order to cease the fire or orders to take steps other than those we are already taking," he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was committed to international law and had a right to defend itself. "The vile attempt to deny Israel this fundamental right is blatant discrimination against the Jewish state, and it was justly rejected," he said.

The foreign ministry welcomed the ruling on Friday. Ministry spokesperson Lior Hiait said in a post that the charge of genocide levelled against Israel was false and outrageous and constitutes a shameful exploitation of the Genocide Convention that is not only wholly unfounded in fact and law, but morally repugnant.

"As the Court recognized, on October 7th Hamas and other terrorist groups committed unspeakable atrocities against Israel and its citizens. Like every country, Israel has an inherent and inalienable right to defend itself against the terrorist onslaught it still faces. The vile attempt by South Africa to deny Israel this fundamental right was justly rejected."

South Africa however attempted to present the ruling as a win. "Today marks a decisive victory for the international rule of law and a significant milestone in the search for justice for the Palestinian people," the South African government said in a statement. "South Africa sincerely hopes that Israel will not act to frustrate the application of this Order, as it has publicly threatened to do, but that it will instead act to comply with it fully, as it is bound to do."

South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor said her country was satisfied with the ruling. "The Court has given very very direct instructions. We are satisfied that the provisional measures that we sought to be addressed, would be addressed by the Court," she said.

Hamas also responded to the ICJ ruling. A senior member of the terror group Sami Abu Zuhri said it was an important development that "contributes to isolating the occupation and exposes its crimes in Gaza. We call for compelling the occupation to implement the court's decisions."

Palestinian Foreign minister Riyad al Maliki said the judges assessed the facts and the law and ruled in favor of humanity and international law.

"We call on all states to ensure that all provisional measures ordered by the Court are implemented, including by Israel, the occupying power. This is a binding legal obligation. The ICJ order is an important reminder that no state is above the law. It should serve as a wake-up call for Israel and actors who enabled its entrenched impunity."

"The International Court of Justice ruling is an important development that contributes to isolating the occupation (Israel) and exposing its crimes in Gaza. We call for compelling the occupation to implement the court's decisions."

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Possible Abomination Days are April 7 & June 20, 2024

01.25.24 – Th- - - News Placed in January 25 spot – Thursday
Knesset stops WB-PA entering Israel for work, without public discussions

01.24.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday
US Senate Democrats push two-state in aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan

01.25.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday
Sinwar may be in Egypt; IDF expects he will keep some hostages as insurance

01.24.24 – We- - - News Placed in January 23 spot – Tuesday
PM told hostage families negotiator problems; Qatar supports & finances Hamas

01.24.24 – We- - - News Placed in January 24 spot – Wednesday
Hamas pushing civilians north to evacuated areas as IDF fighting south

01.22.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday
IDF intensifies operations into western Khan Younis, eliminating 50 terrorists

01.22.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Netanyahu to hostages' families: 'We have an initiative in motion'

01.22.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in January 22 spot – Monday
US & Europe to transfer Gaza aid through Ashdod port via Cyprus

01.21.24 – Su- - - News Placed in January 21 spot – Sunday
Security cabinet approves moving garnished PA funds to Norway

01.20.24 – Sa- - - News Placed in January 20 spot – Saturday
Biden set on two-state & PM contradicts: We must have full control of Gaza

01.19.24 – Fr- - - News Placed in January 19 spot – Friday
Egypt & Iran engage in talks amid US-UK strikes in Yemen over war on Gaza