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02.09.24 – Fr
Thousands in Jerusalem to continue war until victory; no releasing of terrorists

02.09.24 – Fr

Thousands rally in Jerusalem in call to continue Gaza war until victory

Parents of fallen IDF soldier Amit Bonzel say he wrote in his journal, 'We must finish it with a resounding victory,' advocating for Israel to persist until achieving total victory, to ensure fallen soldiers did not die in vain

Roni Green Shaulov | Yesterday | 14:08

Several thousand Israelis demonstrated Thursday in Jerusalem, urging the government not to yield to international pressure for a ceasefire, and to continue the Gaza war until Hamas is defeated.

Many demonstrators held up posters featuring images of fallen IDF soldiers alongside messages expressing their belief that they had entrusted Israel to pursue victory.

In their speech at the rally, Itzik and Noa Bonzel, the parents of Staff Sergeant Amit Bonzel, who fell in combat in the Gaza Strip, emphasized that "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the War Cabinet must heed the call and demand for total victory."

"Amit fell on December 6th. Just days before, he wrote in his journal, which was handed to us with his belongings, that he was proud to be a soldier in the IDF, and that 'the feeling is that we are in a historic operation, and we must finish it with a resounding victory.' We are committed to fulfilling Amit's and all the fallen soldiers' will."

The Bonzel couple addressed the families of the captives: "It is difficult for us to imagine the magnitude of pain, anxiety, and suffering you are enduring. We urge you in this tense and difficult time, amid negotiations for the release of the captives, not to see us as enemies but as brothers. Accept us, we fear that releasing more terrorists will harm Israel's deterrence. Do not view us as enemies when we demand to continue the fight and defeat Hamas. We are brothers."

02.08.24 – Th

Sinwar out of contact more than 10 days; not involved in deal for hostages

02.08.24 – Th

Sinwar out of contact with Hamas top brass, Israeli officials say

Sources say prolonged communication breakdown suggests Sinwar not involved in hostage deal proposal presented this week as group's terror leader in Gaza said to be 'running from cave to cave like a mouse'

Itamar Eichner | 13:59

Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar has been out of contact with the terrorist group's leadership abroad for more than 10 days, Israeli sources told Ynet on Thursday.

This suggests that Sinwar might not have been involved in the proposal the organization submitted through intermediaries on Tuesday regarding a deal for the release of hostages.

Senior Israeli officials describe Sinwar as having been "running from cave to cave like a mouse" in recent days. "He is terrified and constantly on the move. The only thing that could lead to a deal is his genuine fear of being eliminated any moment, and only a deal could save him," they said.

"If there is any chance for a deal it would come from military pressure, with the IDF breathing down Sinwar's neck. He has no other reason. He doesn't need fuel, medicine or food. He knows he and his leadership could be eliminated any minute."

In its response submitted on Tuesday to intermediaries, Hamas proposed a three-phase deal with Israel, each lasting 45 days, which includes, among other demands, an IDF withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, alongside the release of 1,500 Palestinian inmates from Israeli prisons, including 500 serving life sentences. The organization insists on selecting these 500 prisoners themselves. The security cabinet convened Thursday evening in Tel Aviv to discuss the response provided.

According to the document, during the first 45-day phase, all Israeli women hostages, males under 19 and the elderly and sick would be released, in exchange for the release of Palestinian women and children from Israeli jails. Israel would also withdraw its troops from populated areas during the first phase.

The second phase would include the release of remaining male hostages and "the withdrawal of Israeli forces outside the borders of all areas of the Gaza Strip." Bodies and remains would be exchanged during the third phase. The truce would also increase the flow of food and other aid to Gaza's desperate civilians, who are facing hunger and dire shortages of basic supplies.

02.08.24 – Th

Hezbollah regional commander killed in drone strike on car in southern Lebanon

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Hezbollah regional commander killed in strike on car in southern Lebanon, report says
Abbas al-Dabs reportedly eliminated in drone strike on car he was driving in central Nabatieh; Al Jazeera provides conflicting report indicating three injuries from attack
Lior Ben Ari|Yesterday | 09:48

Abbas al-Dabs, a regional commander in Hezbollah also known as "Hajj Abdullah," was eliminated in a drone strike on a car he was driving in the center of the town of Nabatieh in southern Lebanon, the Saudi television network Al Arabiya reported Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, Qatari television station Al Jazeera provided a conflicting report indicating three injuries from the attack.

A Lebanese security source told AFP that a Hezbollah military official "was seriously injured and a person who accompanied him was also injured."

The drone strike in Nabatieh came as Hezbollah and Israel continue to trade blows across the border, with the Shi'ite terrorist group having claimed responsibility for at least seven attacks on Israeli soil since Thursday morning.

02.07.24 – We

Hamas proposal calls for 135-day cease-fire, Israeli withdrawal, talks to end war

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Hamas proposal calls for 135-day cease-fire, Israeli withdrawal, talks to end war
 Terror group's counterproposal envisages 3-phased truce, exchanging remaining Israeli hostages for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, at least 500 sentenced to life; reconstruction of Gaza would begin, Israeli forces would withdraw completely, and bodies and remains would be exchanged
 Reuters|03:43

Hamas has proposed a cease-fire plan that would quiet the guns in Gaza for four-and-a-half months, during which all hostages would go free, Israel would withdraw its troops from the Gaza Strip and an agreement would be reached on an end to the war.

The terrorist group's proposal - a response to an offer sent last week by Qatari and Egyptian mediators - comes amid the biggest diplomatic push yet for an extended halt to the fighting, and was met with hope and relief in the Gaza Strip.

According to a draft document seen by Reuters, the Hamas counterproposal envisages three phases of a truce, lasting 45 days each. Terrorists would exchange the remaining Israeli hostages they captured on Oct. 7 for Palestinian prisoners. The reconstruction of Gaza would begin, Israeli forces would withdraw completely, and bodies and remains would be exchanged.

In an annex submitted by Hamas, according to Reuters, it expresses "hope" for the release of 1,500 prisoners, desiring that a third of them be "heavy" prisoners serving life sentences.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived overnight in Israel after meeting the leaders of mediators Qatar and Egypt in the most serious diplomatic push of the war so far aimed at reaching an extended truce.

A source close to the negotiations said the Hamas counterproposal did not require a guarantee of a permanent cease-fire at the outset, but that an end to the war would have to be agreed upon during the truce before the final hostages were freed.

According to the document, during the first 45-day phase, all Israeli women hostages, males under 19 and the elderly and sick would be released, in exchange for the release of Palestinian women and children from Israeli jails. Israel would also withdraw its troops from populated areas during the first phase.

Implementation of the second phase would not begin until the sides conclude "indirect talks over the requirements needed to end the mutual military operations and return to complete calm."

The second phase would include the release of remaining male hostages and "the withdrawal of Israeli forces outside the borders of all areas of the Gaza Strip."

Bodies and remains would be exchanged during the third phase. The truce would also increase the flow of food and other aid to Gaza's desperate civilians, who are facing hunger and dire shortages of basic supplies.

"People are optimistic, at the same time they pray that this hope turns into a real agreement that will end the war," said Yamen Hamad, a father of four, living in a UN school in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

"People are awaiting news of a cease-fire, they are a bit hopeful despite the continued bombardment," he told Reuters via a messaging app.

Israel began its military offensive in Gaza after terrorists from Hamas-ruled Gaza killed 1,200 people and took 253 hostages in southern Israel on Oct. 7. Gaza's Health Ministry says at least 27,585 Palestinians have been confirmed killed in Israel's military campaign, with thousands more feared buried under rubble.

02.06.24 – Tu

Saudi & US push for PA state before Ramadan & to help Biden election

02.06.24 – Tu

Saudi Arabia reiterates no normalization with Israel without Palestinian state Kingdom's message - which also calls for end to Israeli 'aggression' in Gaza - comes after US says Israel and the Saudis would continue discussions on establishing diplomatic relations

Reuters | 23:47

Saudi Arabia has told the U.S. its position stands that there will be no diplomatic relations with Israel unless an independent Palestinian state is recognized on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem, and Israeli "aggression" on the Gaza Strip stops, the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, White House National Security spokesperson John Kirby said that the Biden administration has received positive feedback that Saudi Arabia and Israel are willing to continue to have normalization discussions.

The kingdom issued the statement to affirm its steadfast position to Washington on the Palestinian issue in the light of the comments attributed to Kirby, the ministry said. The idea of Israel and Saudi Arabia formally cementing ties has been under discussion since the Saudis gave their quiet assent to Gulf neighbors United Arab Emirates and Bahrain establishing ties with Israel in 2020 under the so-called Abraham Accords. Saudi Arabia put U.S.-backed plans to normalize ties with Israel on ice, sources familiar with Riyadh's thinking told Reuters in Oct, 2023, as the war between Palestinian terror group Hamas and Israeli forces escalated.

Isaac Herzog also expressed optimism that normalization with Saudi Arabia may be on the table again. He was interviewed in recent days by a student magazine of Harvard

University that deals with international relations, and among other things he referred to the possibility of normalization with Saudi Arabia.

"The war that started following the massacre on October 7 slowed things down, but recently voices were heard from Riyadh offering to get back on track," he said.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry's announcement comes after Reuters reported on Friday that Riyadh would be willing to settle for a mere political promise from Jerusalem to establish a Palestinian state in order to reach a defense alliance agreement with Washington before the US presidential elections in November.

According to the Reuters report, the Saudi officials implored Washington to pressure Israel to end the war in Gaza and commit to a "political horizon" for a Palestinian state, and in return Riyadh would normalize relations with it and help finance the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip.

In the US, Israel's hostage deal with Hamas is linked to normalization with Saudi Arabia. Sources involved in the talks between the two sides have said in recent days that the Americans are putting heavy pressure on Israel to agree to the deal even at a heavy price, as they believe that such a deal will lead to a truce that will allow them to start a domino effect that will include the cessation of hostile actions in the north that will enable a settlement with Hezbollah, as well as the initiation of normalization contacts between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The target that the Americans set for this is the month of April. They believe that normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia will not come without a prolonged truce, and they think that normalization will allow Netanyahu to justify the non-renewal of hostilities and giving up on the goal of killing Hamas. The problem is that Hamas is aware of the American domino plan, and will try - at the behest of Iran - to torpedo the normalization with Saudi Arabia. Therefore, there is no certainty that Hamas will respond positively to the outline of the deal.

Saudi Arabia has recently allowed the passage of ships of Israeli shipping companies, which were looking for a way to bypass the naval blockade imposed by the Houthis on Israel. When the ships arrive at the ports of Bahrain and Dubai, the goods are transported from there by trucks through Saudi Arabia and Jordan to Israel. According to estimates in the industry, in the last month dozens of such trucks made their way to land and brought goods that previously would have arrived by sea via the Red Sea.

The creative bypass will make it possible to bring goods to Israel before Passover.

Following the Houthi blockade, shipping companies began to circumnavigate South Africa and reach Israel via the Mediterranean Sea. The Chinese company Cuzco, for example, announced that it has stopped sailing to Israel, and it is not the only one.

02.06.24 – Tu

National Security paused PA work access & may block Ramadan site visits

02.06.24 – Tu

Shin Bet Chief, NSC head, meet senior PA official in Tel Aviv

Undisclosed meeting takes place ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in efforts to prevent violence while 100,000 Palestinians remain unable to return to their jobs in Israel since the start of the war

Itamar Eichner | 17:27

National Security Council chief Tzachi Hanegbi and Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar met in Tel Aviv on Tuesday with Hussein al-Sheikh, a senior member of the Palestinian Authority. Israel's coordinator for the territories also attended the meeting held ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in efforts to ease tensions on The West Bank.

Israel's channel 12 news broke the story and reported that the matter of allowing Palestinian workers over the age of 45 to return to their jobs in order to ease the economic difficulties in the West Bank and in the PA, compounded by the war and by the government's decision to prevent Palestinians from working in the country.

Security officials have warned that after four months without work, the 100,000 Palestinians on the West Bank were increasingly upset and frustrated that they cannot provide for their families and that could lead to the outbreak of further violence. Only 5,000 are allowed in daily for critical work and 9,000 others work inside West Bank settlements.

The Shin Bet warned the government that continuing to prevent the workers from entering Israel was dangerous. Thus far many in the coalition government, including far right ministers Bezalel Smortich and Itamar Ben-gvir have persisted in their refusal to allow Palestinians into Israel.

Israeli officials are also debating whether to allow West Bank Palestinians into Jerusalem to pray at the al-Aqsa mosque, the third most sacred site in Islam and a hotspot of violent clashes with police. Last year 100,000 residents of the West Bank were allowed to pray at al Aqsa but this year the police has urged ministers not to allow them in.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir who is in charge of the police, was a considerable part of the force's decision but the final word would be the security cabinet that would also have to decide whether the practice of permitting West Bank Palestinians to visit sites inside Israel during the holiday, should be stopped this year as well. "Since the start of the war Hamas has been trying to drag the residents of the West Bank and Arab citizens of Israel into the conflict and has thus far failed. Ramadan, which is a uniting factor for all Muslims, can be an opportunity for Hamas to incite violence if we are not careful," security officials said.

02.05.24 – Mo

Settler outrage to dismiss the commander after IDF drill simulates a ludicrous scenario

02.05.24 – Mo

Outrage after IDF holds drill simulating settlers kidnapping Palestinians

Footage shows soldiers in vests labeled 'enemy force,' simulating settlers abducting Palestinian after terror attack; Ben-Gvir calls drill 'blood libel'; settler leaders call for dismissal 'whoever wrote such a drill at this time'

Elisha Ben Kimon, Yoav Zitun|02.05.24 | 17:46

Far-right ministers and activists lambasted the IDF on Monday for conducting a drill that simulated a scenario of Israeli settlers kidnapping Palestinians in the West Bank.

The IDF Central Command carried out a comprehensive exercise on Monday aimed at ensuring the readiness and proficiency of its forces. Scheduled to conclude on Tuesday, the drill involved collaboration with Shin Bet officials specializing in nationalistic crimes.

The drill encompassed various scenarios, including terrorist infiltrations into settlements and shooting attacks on thoroughfares. It sparked criticism from local leaders for simulating a situation where Palestinians were kidnapped by Jews as a retaliatory act for an attack that killed an Israeli infant. Participants acting as kidnappers donned vests labeled "enemy force."

Settler leaders, such as Yossi Dagan of the Samaria Regional Council, Shlomo Ne'eman of the Yesha and Gush Etzion Councils and Yisrael Gantz of the Binyamin Regional Council, strongly criticized the Central Command and urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to fire "whoever wrote such a drill at this time, rather than focusing on simulating terrorist attacks on Israeli settlements." They argued that "anyone who could dismiss reservists for reciting Psalms in the Jenin mosque should certainly be able to dismiss the commander who planned an exercise that both tarnishes the settlement enterprise and endangers lives by wasting ammunition and manpower on a ludicrous scenario instead of preparing for a real one."

"At a time when 136 Israeli hostages are held hostage by the Nazi-like Hamas, the [Central] Command chief orders an exercise that focuses on shedding settlers' blood and creating demonization. Settlers do not kidnap Arabs. They are not even suspected of planning anything close to this," he said, arguing that "the execution of such an exercise is full cooperation with the blood libel about 'settler violence'." Ben-Gvir called on Defense Minister Gallant "to immediately intervene in the matter and investigate the incident."

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich also excoriated the execution of the exercise. "Someone in IDF high command has completely lost the plot, and sadly, this is not the first time," he said.

"Portraying settlers as a potential enemy, when so many of them are serving on the front lines and paying a high price in blood, is a total loss of moral compass. Whoever is responsible cannot continue in their role and be entrusted with the lives and security of the settlers."

The IDF said in response that forces have practiced "more than 100 different scenarios, including extreme situations" but the army "did not simulate scenarios depicting settlers

as the enemy, and the markings on the vests, intended to distinguish between participants in the exercise, are part of routine safety procedures. The use of such labels was a mistake, and we regret this. The IDF has a strong relationship with the settler community, working around the clock and in collaboration for their protection."

02.05.24 – Mo

Hamas Council manual justifies killing of all Jews – men, women and children

02.05.24 – Mo

Hamas religious scholars: Jewish men, women, children - everyone is fair game
IDF releases booklet of religious rulings found by troops in Khan Younis which justifies attacks on all Israelis, unequivocally contradicting narrative terror group itself seeks to promote it doesn't harm non-combatants
Einav Halabi 15:33

IDF Arabic spokesperson Avichay Adraee posted on Monday photos of a booklet of religious rulings by Hamas-affiliated clerics found by IDF soldiers in the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis which justifies the killing of all Jews – men, women and children.

The booklet, issued by the Shura Council, the institution advising the Islamist terrorist organization on religious matters, was signed by Ahmad Bahar, the chairman of the council who was killed in an IDF strike. The contents of the booklet, distributed among Hamas terrorists, unequivocally contradict the narrative the terror organization itself seeks to promote.

According to the IDF spokesperson, the book compiles articles, religious rulings and guidelines for terrorists on how to act and treat the enemy, hostages, and when they are permitted to kill. Among other things, it says, "There is no difference between men, women, the elderly and children - all can be attacked."

Last month, Hamas released a manifesto in both English and Arabic, purportedly justifying its actions on October 7. In a document, Hamas claimed it had no intention of harming innocent civilians and, contrary to evidence, that the terror organization does not target hostages. Furthermore, it was asserted that the terrorists were not permitted to kill non-combatants during the invasion.

02.05.24 – Mo

US pressure on Israel to end war mounts as Hamas hostage deal stalls

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US pressure on Israel to end war mounts as Hamas hostage deal stalls
Washington believes only prolonged break in fighting would convince Riyadh to restart normalization talks; aware of US plan, Hamas might seek to derail efforts; meanwhile, humanitarian pause appears more feasible than comprehensive agreement

Itamar Eichner|Yesterday | 17:53

The United States is exerting heavy pressure on Israel to agree to a deal with Hamas for the release of Israeli hostages held in the Gaza Strip, even at a high cost, sources involved in the negotiations told Ynet on Sunday.

According to the sources, the Biden administration believes such a deal will lead to an extended cease-fire that could start a domino effect that would culminate in the cessation of Hezbollah aggression along Israel's northern front and help advance normalization talks between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Washington aims for an April deadline, believing that normalization between Jerusalem and Riyadh would be unattainable without an extended cease-fire.

The establishment of diplomatic relations with the oil-rich Gulf kingdom could provide Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with grounds to refrain from restarting the war and pursuing Israel's stated goal of dismantling Hamas's military capabilities.

Israel's war cabinet convened on Sunday evening to receive updates regarding the latest developments in Qatar-mediated talks for the release of Israeli hostages.

Netanyahu faces increasing pressure at home, as consenting to a potential deal risks alienating his government's hawkish wing, led by National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. Conversely, abandoning the prospect of a deal altogether risks losing support from the government's more moderate factions, led by Minister Benny Gantz. Thus, Netanyahu is likely to bide his time as long as possible.

However, Hamas, cognizant of the U.S. diplomatic strategy and acting on behalf of Iran, might try to derail the normalization process with Saudi Arabia. Therefore, it's uncertain whether Hamas will respond positively to the proposed framework.

Hamas has yet to officially respond to a blueprint drawn up by the Qataris, who have clarified to Israel that the negotiations regarding the hostage deal are complex but warrant more time.

There is a pronounced disagreement within Hamas between its leadership outside of Gaza, led by the terrorist organization's politburo head Ismail Haniyeh, and its leadership within Gaza, under terror chief Yahya Sinwar and military commander Mohammed Deif, on whether to accept the offer.

Israel expects Hamas to propose conditions and seek guarantees to end the war, as indicated on Sunday by a spokesperson for the Islamist group.

There is a growing realization among Israeli officials that a temporary humanitarian pause would be the most viable option at this time, doubting the feasibility of its continuation due to the potential release of Palestinian prisoners convicted of serious crimes against Israelis.

This intricate chess game is fraught with uncertainties, but the consensus is that Prime Minister Netanyahu is likely to push forward with the deal, understanding it as the key to

normalization with Saudi Arabia, since the Saudis would not agree to be seen with him in public on the White House lawn while the war rages on.

02.04.24 – Su

US blacklisted & froze bank account of settler leading attacks on PA

02.04.24 – Su

Israeli bank freezes account of settler blacklisted by US

Yinon Levi claims Bank Leumi blocked access to his account after Washington accused him of allegedly leading settler groups attacking Palestinians and Bedouins in West Bank. Moran Azulay, Elisha Ben Kimon, Itamar Eichner | 16:50

Yinon Levi, subject to sanctions along with three others for their alleged involvement in violent attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank, claimed that Bank Leumi froze his account as a result of Biden's order. "These are false accusations," said Levi.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a far-right lawmaker with deep connections to the settler movement in the West Bank, sought answers from Bank of Israel Banking Supervisor Daniel Hahiasvili regarding the legal basis upon which the directive to freeze Levi's bank account was given. "It's unreasonable, and we cannot leave it like this," said Smotrich. Hahiasvili said that he would examine the matter.

According to Biden's executive order, Levi allegedly led a group of settlers engaged in actions that created an atmosphere of fear in the West Bank. He consistently led groups of settlers from an illegal outpost, attacked Palestinian and Bedouin individuals, threatened them with additional violence if they did not leave their homes, set fire to their fields and destroyed their property.

02.04.24 – Su

UN plan will maintain eight to ten kilometer forces by Lebanon Israeli border

02.04.24 – Su

US presents new blueprint to push Hezbollah away from Israeli border

Biden Mideast envoy unveils two-phased plan, including halt to Hezbollah aggression and withdrawal from northern border, deployment of UN peacekeeping forces, followed by land border demarcation talks negotiations; initiative set to run into hurdles. Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Arij | 16:35

U.S. President Joe Biden's Middle East envoy Amos Hochstein outlined the key elements of a political settlement to deescalate tensions between Israel and Hezbollah during his visit to the Jewish state on Sunday.

The plan consists of two phases: In the first, Hezbollah would cease hostilities actions along the border with Israel and will retreat between eight to ten kilometers north from the border.

Israeli residents will return to their homes, and a significant deployment of the Lebanese army and UNIFIL peacekeeping forces will maintain stability in southern Lebanon and along the border.

In the second phase, Israel and Lebanon will begin negotiations to demarcate the land border, including discussions on 13 points on disputes along their shared boundaries. Simultaneously, the U.S. and the international community will explore offering "economic incentives" to Lebanon.

Hochstein received the green light from the Lebanese government for his proposal, though it remains unclear whether Hezbollah agrees with the arrangement.

The envoy, who recently met with President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Minister Benny Gantz urged Israel to give his plan a chance.

Gallant clarified to Hochstein that Israel is committed to improving the security situation in northern Israel, which includes returning northern residents to their homes after eliminating the threat of raids and direct fire from Lebanese territory.

Gallant and Hochstein discussed various options for advancing diplomatic efforts to end the conflict at the northern border. Gallant emphasized Israel's commitment to its northern residents above all else, stating that Israel is prepared to resolve the crisis diplomatically but is ready for any contingency. The defense minister thanked Hochstein for his extensive efforts to achieve a political solution and alter the situation at the northern border.

Minister Gantz expressed his appreciation for the significant efforts and the crucial role the United States plays in addressing current regional challenges during his meeting with Hochstein.

These challenges include efforts to return Israeli hostages held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, combating the aggression of Iran and its proxies and restoring regional stability. Gantz's office further reported that he emphasized to Hochstein that Lebanon bears responsibility for terrorism emanating from its territory and that Israel will expand and intensify its military actions to eliminate the threat unless the international community and Lebanon take steps to do so, regardless of the developments in the war in Gaza. Concurrent with Hochstein's visit, clashes continued along the northern border. Israeli communities in the Upper Galilee region were attacked 18 times throughout Sunday, in addition to four alerts for rocket fire toward open areas. Hezbollah claimed responsibility for six launches toward Israel.

Meanwhile, reports in Lebanon spoke of Israeli strikes in the country's south. The Hezbollah-affiliated Al Mayadeen reported a drone strike on a house in the southern Lebanon town of Blida, along with "artillery strikes." Al Jazeera reported an attack in the southern Lebanon town of Meiss El Jabal.

Shortly after the barrage from Lebanon, Gallant issued a stern warning to Hezbollah. "The deeper we solidify our operational achievements, the greater the chance we avoid

war increases. We will continue to deepen these achievements. And I say from here, the motto I saw at the entrance to the Air Force base, 'No place is too far,' is very apt for the Air Force and the State of Israel," Gallant said during his visit to the Tel Nof Air Force base.

"We will act in every sector and settle accounts with anyone who attacks us, to ensure our security and existence."

02.03.24 – Sa

Qatari summit in Paris delayed for Hamas response on hostage deal

02.03.24 – Sa

Israel holds for answer on hostage deal, Hamas yet unsure

Officials expect the terrorist organization's answer to arrive Sunday amid disagreements between its leaders on how to should respond to the deal's outlines

Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi, Lior Ben Ari | 02.03.24 | 07:45

Israel is still waiting for an update regarding Hamas' position on the hostage release deal outlined at the summit in Paris, amid tensions between Hamas leaders in Gaza and those staying abroad. Israel estimated Hamas' response would come by the end of the week, however, it now seems the terrorist organization may give its answer only on Sunday.

On Friday, Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed Al Thani returned from Washington after receiving a response from Hamas in a personal meeting, which is expected to reach Israel as well. Israel is aware that one of the obstacles to the deal is the significant tension between Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar and Ismail Haniyeh, which has yet to be resolved.

The Wall Street Journal's report on Friday about disagreements within Hamas leadership regarding the deal captured the headlines in Arab media on Saturday, which are now reporting a certain flexibility in the terrorist organization's stance, leaning toward accepting the deal.

According to the Saudi newspaper Elaph, Hamas is no longer insisting on a complete cease-fire in Gaza as a term for it to accept the deal. The report added the terrorist organization may settle for a guarantee for the cease-fire's terms provided by the intermediaries, including an increase in humanitarian aid entering the Gaza Strip. However, Hamas also insists on personally selecting the terrorists to be released from Israeli prisons as part of the deal. The terrorist organization also insists on allowing Gazans to return to their homes throughout the Strip.

According to the Wall Street Journal's report, the organization's internal dynamics experienced a "reversal," with Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar, who's reportedly exhausted after months of fighting, saying he was willing to accept the proposal for an initial pause to hostilities lasting six weeks. Other senior Hamas members in the Gaza Strip share this position.

In contrast, Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas' politburo, argued in recent days that the terror group needs to conduct ongoing negotiations for a permanent cease-fire to be assured by Israel to foreign countries, alongside a plan to rebuild the Gaza Strip. Haniyeh gave a public statement on Friday in which he said that during talks with Islamic Jihad leader Ziyad al-Nakhalah, both parties agreed that any deal must lead to the end of the war, the withdrawal of IDF forces from the Gaza Strip, the lifting of the military blockade, and the reconstruction of Strip. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu clarified that he would not agree to the withdrawal of IDF forces from the Strip, the end of the war, or the release of thousands of terrorists from Israeli prisons — three conditions he defined as his "red lines." According to another report in Elaph, consultations within Hamas are taking place frequently in anticipation of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Israel set to take place next week. A senior member of the terrorist organization said on Friday that the response to the proposal for the deal would be delivered "very soon," but has yet to provide an update.

Israel isn't expecting to receive a straightforward answer from Hamas and believes the terror group will respond with its own conditions to further the deal. Afterward, the ball will be back in Israel's court, and estimations say it will take some time before substantial negotiations begin between the sides.

Details presented to the security cabinet on Friday suggest a draft of the deal has not yet been finalized, with Israel agreeing only to a framework for the deal presented by mediators. According to reports, key details such as the number and identity of the released terrorists have not been agreed on.

The cease-fire, as clarified in the discussion, may last for up to 142 days, according to the following outline: In the first phase, 35 Israeli hostages will be released during a 42-day period — one day per released captive, and an additional seven days for negotiation on the next phase.

After this phase, around 100 hostages will still be held by Hamas, implying that the pause in fighting may continue for an additional 100 days.

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Ynet-News, Feb 01, 2024 – Thursday

Possible Abomination Days are April 7 & June 20, 2024

02.01.24 – Th- - - News Placed in February 01 spot – Thursday

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

01.31.24 – We- - - News Placed in January 31 spot – Wednesday

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

01.31.24 – We- - - News Placed in January 30 spot – Tuesday

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

01.29.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in January 29 spot – Monday

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

01.29.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

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

01.29.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Ammunition usage & readiness for future forces Israel to limit bombings

01.28.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

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

01.28.24 – Su- - - News Placed in January 28 spot – Sunday

Uganda disavows its judge in The Hague for standing with Israel

01.28.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

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

01.28.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

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

01.28.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

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

01.27.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Iran built & launched three satellites for communication and geopositioning

01.27.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

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

01.27.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

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

01.26.24 – Fr- - - News – Saturday

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