

Ynet-News, Feb 26, 2024 – Monday
Possible Abomination Days are April 7 & June 20, 2024

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Israel strikes 100 km inside Lebanon; Gallant vowed to step up attacks

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IDF may extend evacuation for 60,000 northern border residents at least until July 7

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2.26. 24 – Mo
Hezbollah fired 60 rockets at Golan Heights Kibbutz; residents took shelter

2.26. 24 – Mo
Watch rocket near-miss of bus carrying Golan Heights school kids
Ninth grader traveling on the bus says there was smoke and fire on both sides of the road, says she had never seen such a strike; Hezbollah claims barrage is in response to Israeli attack on Baalbek and targeting of senior commander in south Lebanon
Yair Kraus, Yoav Zitun, Lior Ben Ari|11:33

Hezbollah launched a barrage of some 50 rockets towards the Golan Heights on Monday targeting a large military base. One rocket barely missed a bus carrying local school kids to their afternoon activities.

The Lebanese terror group said the strike was in response to an Israeli attack on the city of Baalebek some 100 kilometers from the Israel-Lebanon border, in the Beqaa Valley. Israel also killed a brigade commander of the Hezbollah in a strike on south Lebanon. A senior member of Hezbollah said attacks on Israel would increase and expand in response to the strikes

Hassan Hussein Salami commanded Hezbollah forces in the eastern sector of the border and was responsible for a number of attacks against civilian and military targets in northern Israel, the IDF said.

In a statement the Iran-backed terror group said it fired 60 rockets at Israel, attempting to hit the military's regional command. Israeli defenses intercepted some of the rockets while others mostly fell in open areas although at least one rocket hit an "Israeli instillation," according to the military.

Ninth-grade pupil May Agai, a resident of Kibbutz Ortal on the Golan Heights told Ynet wshe was on the bus when they realized our Kibbutz was under attack. "We called our parents and heard the explosions, while more explosions were around us and there was

smoke and fire on both sides of the road. The driver stopped and we quickly got off the bus," she said. It was very scary. Although we sometimes hear sirens, I've never seen anything like this."

2.26. 24 – Mo

Israel strikes 100 km inside Lebanon; Gallant vowed to step up attacks

2.26. 24 – Mo

Israel strikes deep inside Lebanon for first time since start of war

An escalation to the north as Israeli fighter jets Hezbollah's Aerial Defense Array, nearly 100 km from the border; the incursion comes after a Hezbollah surface-to-air missile shot down a UAV, David's Sling intercepted another missile and parts of the interception fell near a synagogue in Kfar Tabor

Yoav Zitun, Lior Ben Ari, Israel Moskowitz, Yair Kraus|06:22

In an escalation on the northern border, the IDF intercepted a surface-to-air missile launched by Hezbollah after Hezbollah intercepted a large Israeli drone, and then the IDF attacked for the first time in the war deep inside Lebanon. An official statement from the IDF said that fighter jets attacked sites near the Lebanese city of Baalbek in the Beqaa Valley that were used by Hezbollah's Aerial Defense Array, in response to the downing of the UAV.

Precision strikes on Iranian, Hezbollah assets in Syria send stark warning to Tehran

To provide security for its citizens, Israel must go to war with Hezbollah

At least two people were killed in the strikes, a Hezbollah official said, according to the Associated Press.

The strikes are the deepest into Lebanon since the start of Israel's war on Hamas in Gaza and come a day after Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant vowed to step up attacks on Lebanon's Hezbollah even if a cease-fire is reached with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

In the Alon Tabor industrial area in the Jezreel Valley, a rocket alert alarm was sounded at 8:43 a.m., and immediately after that parts of an interception fell near a synagogue in Kfar Tabor. About three hours later, the IDF announced that it had begun attacking Hezbollah targets deep in Lebanon. At around noon, sirens were heard in communities in the Upper Galilee, and a man was slightly injured by shrapnel.

In Baalbek, about 100 km north of Metula on the border with Lebanon, three Hezbollah targets were attacked. Lebanese security officials said that Israeli Air Force fighter jets carried out three strikes near the village of Buday, a Hezbollah stronghold. As a result, Hezbollah gas stations, warehouses and centers were evacuated.

According to reports, at least two Hezbollah operatives were killed and others were injured. The Lebanese member of parliament, Kassem Hachem, accused Israel of attempting to foment a regional war. He said that "what we saw today is a dangerous

development that confirms the enemy's intentions to expand its aggression and drag the region into something more inclusive. All options are open."

A little later, as mentioned, alarms were heard in the Upper Galilee, including in Shatula, and a man was slightly injured. "The missile hit Dad's chicken coop while he was in it, and he was injured by shrapnel. I talked to him and he is fine," according to his daughter.

The alarm in Alon Tabor was triggered following the launch of David's Sling air defense system toward a surface-to-air missile. The same Hezbollah missile, which was intercepted by David's Sling, was launched at a remote unmanned aircraft operating in the skies of Lebanon. The IDF confirmed that shortly after the interception of the missile, another missile was launched at the Israeli UAV and hit it. The aircraft fell in Lebanese territory.

Hezbollah claimed responsibility for downing the UAV, and claimed that it was a Hermes-450. It is one of the Air Force's largest UAVs, which is designed for a prolonged stay in the air and for attack, reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering missions.

Hezbollah claimed to have shot down a Hermes 450 some three months ago.

In Tabor, residents were amazed at the sight of the interception and the parts that fell in village. "Who would have thought that there would be interceptions over the most pastoral settlement in Israel," said Hillel Hillman. "We woke up this morning to a new reality. On October 7, we had one alarm and since then everything has been quiet and calm.

2.25. 24 – Su

IDF may extend evacuation for 60,000 northern border residents at least until July 7

2.25. 24 – Su

Government to extend evacuation of north until July

Ynet learns decision is in response to demands of local community leaders and inline with education minister promise to allow school year to end; PMO may extend evacuation further as IDF targets Hezbollah infrastructure ahead of possible war
| 04:13

The government is expected to extend the evacuation order for the 60,000 residents of the northern border area at least until July 7, Ynet has learned on Sunday. The Prime Minister's Office was considering that date to be pushed even further, until August, raising expectations for a war against Hezbollah.

The pending decision is in line with demands by local government heads after the extension of two months at a time only, was suggested by the military. This while diplomatic efforts to avoid a full-scale war were ongoing.

The order takes into consideration the end of the school year after Education Minister Yoav Kisch said he was committed to allowing children to remain in the schools they are

currently attending rather than forcing them again to relocate, while there has been no official government decision made or announced.

A senior official in the PMO said that if security considerations allow, the evacuated residents would be able to return home sooner, and that some certainty could be expected in the coming months. Until then, the government would continue to pay for their stay at hotels or cover the cost of rent for their temporary accommodations.

Security officials understand that a military offensive against Hezbollah cannot be launched because of opposition from the United States and France who are hoping to reach a diplomatic agreement that would remove the Iran-backed terror group from the border with Israel.

The tit-for-tat exchanges of fire across the border have thus far remained within the mutually accepted boundary of no further than 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from the border, an area mostly evacuated on the Israeli side. Meanwhile the IDF has been targeting terror infrastructure in southern Lebanon in order to exact a price from Hezbollah for its fire on Israel and in order to diminish its military capabilities if and when war breaks out.

While Hamas leader is deciding on hostage deal, his niece gave birth in Israeli hospital. The baby was born prematurely at Soroka Hospital, where doctors are fighting for his life; several of Ismail Haniyeh's sisters have Israeli citizenship after marrying Bedouins; His daughter, granddaughter and brother-in-law also came from Gaza to receive medical treatment in Israel.

Ynet News

2.24. 24 – Sa Saturday Purim

Saturday, PM sent Mossad Director & mediators to Paris; to finalize within two weeks

2.24. 24 – Sa

Netanyahu sets stage for Rafah operation amid Israel's hostage deal concessions

'Only combination of military pressure and effective negotiations will bring release of captives,' PM says, as emerging details of potential agreement include releasing female soldiers and permitting civilians to return to northern Gaza

Itamar Eichner|02.24.24 | 14:26

Following reports of cautious optimism among Israeli officials about a potential hostage deal framework, the War Cabinet is set to meet Saturday night to discuss and update members on the negotiation outline's principles as ground incursion into Rafah still looms.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "We are working to achieve another outline for the release of our captives, as well as eliminating Hamas in Rafah. Therefore, I sent a delegation to Paris and will discuss tonight the next steps in the negotiations."

Netanyahu stressed that Israel intends to operate in order to dismantle the remaining military capabilities of Hamas in the southern Gaza Strip city, which hosts over a million Palestinians displaced by fighting elsewhere in the seaside enclave.

"At the beginning of the week, the Cabinet will approve the operational plan for Rafah, including the evacuation of the civilian population from there. Only a combination of military pressure and effective negotiations will bring about the release of our captives, the elimination of Hamas, and the achievement of all war goals," he said.

The Cabinet is expected to authorize Mossad Director David Barnea to progress negotiations with mediators, planning his departure for upcoming meetings. The locations of these meetings remain undecided.

The proposed outline's initial phase will reportedly focus on humanitarian releases, including 35 to 40 children, women, the elderly (over 60) and the sick (young patients included). Israel is pressing for the inclusion of female soldiers in the humanitarian phase.

In return, Israel will agree to a cease-fire lasting several weeks, without committing to end the war. Mediators aim to leverage this cease-fire for broader negotiations, intending to extend the current proposed truce. They hope to finalize the details within two weeks to implement the deal before Ramadan starts on March 10.

During negotiations, discussions will include IDF withdrawal lines and demands for allowing civilians to return from southern to northern Gaza. Israel is expected to show flexibility, possibly permitting the return of women and children to the north. As in the previous hostage deal, Hamas insists on Israel halting drone and aircraft operations over Gaza during the cease-fire.

2.23. 24 – Fr

IDF eliminates Jenin terrorist in precise airstrike, on his way to another attack

2 23

IDF eliminates Jenin terrorist in precise airstrike

Yasser Hanoun believed to be en route to carry out terror attack after opening fire on Israeli towns in recent weeks

Yoav Zitun, Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi|01:15

The IDF eliminated the terrorist Yasser Hanoun in Jenin on Wednesday in an airstrike, which according to Palestinian reports targeted the vehicle he was in. The Palestinian Health Ministry reported that three other people were injured in the attack alongside Hanoun, with one in serious condition.

The eliminated terrorist opened fire toward Kibbutz Meirav near the Gilboa region and Mevo Dotan near the West Bank several times in recent weeks. It's also believed Hanoun was on his way to execute another attack, and It's likely that other terrorists were with him.

Hanoun comes from a "terrorist family": being the brother of the terrorist Amar Hanoun, who was eliminated by the IDF in 2000, and is also the cousin of the two eliminated terrorists Wiam and Wissam Hanoun.

Last week, Hanoun published a post on Facebook which hinted he might've known he was being targeted. "We are nothing but a postponed funeral, so the soul should stand tall, perhaps we'll leave soon," he wrote in Arabic.

It should be noted that targeted airstrikes in the West Bank were extremely rare prior to last year and in fact, had not occurred at all since the Second Intifada and Operation Defensive Shield. A change in the IDF's policy was noted even before the start of the war in Gaza, and targeted airstrikes were carried out during the escalation recorded there last year.

Since the war, however, the use of airstrikes has increased dramatically: according to data released by the Israeli Air Force, over 30 such attacks have already been carried out in the West Bank since the outbreak of the war.

The IDF has been working more intensively to counter terrorism in the West Bank in recent months, and reports on arrests and operations throughout the region have been reported. Since the beginning of the war, about 3,200 wanted individuals have been arrested throughout the West Bank, including more than 1,350 suspects affiliated with Hamas.

2.22. 24 – Th

Gazans increase protests, began distributing leaflets gaining traction in parts of Gaza

2.22. 24 – Th

'You are the one killing us, Sinwar!': Gazans increase their protests against Hamas
Protester in Gaza captured on video: 'Shame on you, Hamas movement, for what you are doing to us! Our children are dying... in the streets... we are lost, we don't know why the guns are pointed at us'
Einav Halabi | 13:46

Gaza citizens who are tired of living in the devastating conditions in the coastal strip have in recent days organized several and growing protest demonstrations against Hamas, despite the fact that they could easily be killed by the terrorist organization.

The Gaza's Liberators organization, which opposes the terrorist group, has been calling for demonstrations and began distributing leaflets against Hamas' policies. The group has recently been gaining traction in various parts of the Gaza Strip.

"This is an uprising of the hungry," one protester says into the camera, as shooting from Hamas guns at protesters are heard in the background. "These are hungry people, people with sick children... broken people, people sleeping in sewage, enduring extremely hard lives, people unable to find rest day or night."

"**Hamas fires on the starving, those in their own homes**. Isn't it a pity? We don't want this war. We seek peace, we want our children to go to school," he said.

"**What's the justification, oh Sinwar**, for your people to open fire like this? **You are the one killing us**, Sinwar! Not the Israeli military, but you are the one killing us," he said, referring to Hamas head in Gaza Yahya Sinwar. "Shame on you! Shame on you, Hamas! Our children are the victims, Hamas."

The protesters also chant: "Shame on you, **Hamas** movement! We are your people, the residents of Gaza. **It's over; we are lost. Shame on you**, Hamas movement, for what you are doing to us! Our children are dying... in the streets... we are lost, we don't know why the guns are pointed at us."

Demonstrations against Hamas in the Gaza Strip **are becoming increasingly vocal**, with protesters **calling for the release of Israeli hostages and an end to the war**. They are also **criticizing the group's leaders, pointing out that these figures and their families are not affected by the ongoing hostilities with Israel**.

As the war drags on, the world will begin to hear about more and more Gazan citizens coming out against Hamas, whose **leadership is abandoning the residents to hunger** and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, along **with mass displacement** that has caused thousands to lose their homes or suffer the deaths of family members. Meanwhile, the suffering Palestinian civilians know that the **Hamas leadership is living in hotels in Doha and Istanbul**, and that the Hamas leaders in Gaza have **taken shelter in tunnels they built underneath the Strip**.

Meanwhile, Hamas police are working to suppress the protests by shooting at civilians.

2.22. 24 – Th

IDF destroyed museum home of former PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza

2.22. 24 – Th

IDF destroys Yasser Arafat's Gaza City home

See photos of the **house in ruins: Former PLO chairman** died in 2004, and **his house has been used as a museum** since then

Einav Halabi | 11:58

The **IDF destroyed the home of former PLO chairman Yasser Arafat** in the center of Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip, which had been **used as a museum since his death** in 2004. **Arafat lived there between 1995 and 2001**. Gaza was where in 1994 Yasser Arafat returned to the Palestinian territories after 27 years in exile, following the Oslo peace accords with Israel.

Eurovision officials say Israel's song is too political - read the lyrics for yourself
Arafat was the founder in the 1950s of the **Fatah Party**, which currently makes up the government of the **Palestinian Authority**, **led by Mahmoud Abbas**. On January 20, 1996, Arafat was elected president of the PA with an 83% majority.

Together with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Shimon Peres, Arafat was awarded the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for his involvement in the 1993 Oslo Peace Accords.

Arafat died in November 2004 in France at the age of 75, where he had been flown two weeks earlier from Ramallah after he became ill.

While Hamas leader is deciding on hostage deal, his niece gave birth in Israeli hospital. The baby was born prematurely at Soroka Hospital, where doctors are fighting for his life; several of Ismail Haniyeh's sisters have Israeli citizenship after marrying Bedouins; His daughter, granddaughter and brother-in-law also came from Gaza to receive medical treatment in Israel.

Ynet News

2.22. 24 – Th

Repeated West Bank bottleneck, three terrorists shot cars stuck in traffic

2.22. 24 – Th

Despite repeated warnings, West Bank traffic choke point turns into death trap

Deadly terrorist attack near Maale Adumim occurred at location long warned by locals to be potential death trap, where congested traffic leaves motorists vulnerable to terrorists armed with machine guns.

Elisha Ben Kimon | 04:12

Over the years, locals have frequently warned about a bottleneck on Highway 1 near the West Bank settlement of Maale Adumim, where traffic congestion is common, but their warnings went unheeded. On Thursday morning, the nightmarish scenario everyone had warned about became reality when three terrorists opened fire at Israeli cars stuck in traffic there.

The attack took place on one of the main thoroughfares leading to Jerusalem, notorious for morning traffic jams and used by both Israelis and Palestinians. Locals have dubbed this traffic choke point a "death trap" due to its vulnerability as opening fire on vehicles there would leave motorists with nowhere to run from a potential attack.

Last year, brothers Hallel and Yagel Yaniv were gunned down by a terrorist while stuck in a traffic jam in the Palestinian town of Huwara.

Local leaders have sounded the alarm about the access route in Huwara and other problematic areas, including the site of Thursday's attack. They also flagged a similar issue at the Meitar crossing in the Hebron Hills, where several robberies and terrorist acts have taken place.

One eyewitness of the attack near Maale Adumim said she "had nowhere to run" when the terrorists opened fire. "If I had left one minute earlier, I would've been smack in the middle of the attack," she said.

"Someone exited his car and began shooting all over. This is unreal. Security forces rushed to the scene in great numbers. IDF, police, helicopters. We're talking about three lanes in the road that saw condensed traffic jams, leaving the terrorists free to shoot wherever they wanted."

Maale Adumim Deputy Mayor Guy Ifrah said "this is an emergency. Driving alongside Palestinians on Highway 1 is a ticking time bomb. The Israeli government must come up with an immediate solution and stop with this dual-national driving lane. I demand a new road to be constructed posthaste. It's time that both the government and the Supreme Court put human lives at the top of their priorities and stop citing puzzling claims of freedom of movement as an excuse to endanger both our lives and the lives of our children.

"On behalf of the city's residents, as well as myself, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to the family of the victim. All of us pray the wounded make a speedy recovery."

Binyamin Regional Council Chairman Yisrael Gantz sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in December warning about the traffic bottleneck being a significant security vulnerability and highlighting the complexity of ensuring safety on a road used by Jews, Arab Israelis and Palestinians, Efrat Regional Council head Oded Ravivi echoed that sentiment on Thursday and called on the defense establishment to provide safe passage for Jewish motorists en route to Jerusalem.

2.21. 24 – We

Saudi claims Sinwar escaped to Egypt, bracing for Ramadan violence Mar 11 – Apr 10

2.21. 24 – We

Where is Yahya Sinwar?

Senior members of the terror group say they are in contact with the Hamas leader while Israel denies reports that he has left Gaza and is in Egypt; as mystery around his whereabouts grows IDF forces continue to hunt Sinwar down in underground tunnels Lior Ben Ari|16:02

Hamas leaders abroad said on Tuesday that they were once again in direct contact with Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar after earlier reports that he had cut off communications while speculations spread that he may have already left Gaza for Egypt.

Speaking to the Saudi Al Arabiya channel, Hussam Badran, a member of the political bureau of the terror group said the leadership is in full coordination with Sinwar.

"Everything the Hamas leaders abroad say is done in coordination with Sinwar," he said.

The Saudi press claims that the mastermind of the October 7 massacre along with his brother, escaped the Strip to Egypt. Israeli security officials denied the report but the mystery surrounding Sinwar's whereabouts is only growing.

Israel had claimed that at least 8 – and by some reports 12 tunnels leading from Gaza to the Sinai Desert in Egypt were still operational and had warned that they could be used by Hamas leaders to escape or to transfer Israeli hostages to locations around the world. But they insist there is no intelligence indicating Sinwar escaped. Israeli officials were trying to decipher whether he would ever accept an offer to save his life by going into exile, despite what is seen as his extreme religious beliefs that would prompt him to welcome a martyr's death.

The officials say Sinwar is on the run and is moving between tunnels to avoid capture by IDF forces. The hunt by the military is mostly conducted underground and according to the IDF, the pressure on him may bring about an agreement for a pause in the fighting and the release of hostages, even if not all of them.

Other officials said that Sinwar sees great importance, more than his personal survival, in the release from Israeli prisons, of convicted terrorists as well as in events at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound on Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Israel is bracing for possible violence there during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan beginning next month.

The belief among security officials is that he had prepared for a months long battle and had many underground locations identified in advance, including in Rafah where he may have escaped Khan Younis for. Rafah which is on the border with Egypt could provide him with safe passage to a Muslim country that would agree to accept him.

Reports in the Qatari Al Araby al Jadeed news paper said many of the Hamas tunnels in the northern part of the Strip were not found by Israeli forces.

2.20. 24 – Tu

Former Mossad, Levi, blames PM on Hamas multi-million dollar portfolio

2.20. 24 – Tu

PM failed to act on Hamas multi-million dollar investment portfolio,' ex-Mossad official says

Udi Levi tells BBC's Panorama that his advise to Netanyahu to hit Hamas financially was ignored, adding that inaction helped terror group build military might leading to October 7 massacre

Ynetnews|15:25

Former senior Mossad official, Udi Levi, said in an interview with the BBC that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu missed an opportunity to disrupt the flow of funds to Hamas, years before the October 7 massacre.

Levi, who served until 2016 as the head of a unit dealing with economic warfare against terrorist organizations, advised Netanyahu to economically weaken Hamas, believing it would hinder the group's military buildup.

He said that he repeatedly told Netanyahu that Israel has the means to undermine Hamas "solely through the use of economic tools." According to Levi, he never received a response from Netanyahu to his proposal.

Levi believed that had Netanyahu acted, a great deal of money would have been prevented from reaching Gaza. "The monster that Hamas built probably [wouldn't be] like the same monster that we faced on October 7th." He said Hamas needed billions and not millions to build the network of tunnels beneath the Strip and to pay for an estimated 30,000 - strong military force.

He said he had discussed a specific funding source with Netanyahu in 2014, which Israeli intelligence purportedly identified as a multi-million-dollar investment portfolio controlled by Hamas and operated from Turkey.

Some 40 companies across the Middle East and north Africa are believed to be in the portfolio, including Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, the Gulf and also Turkey, Panorama said. "The alleged investments include everything from road construction, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment to tourism, mining, gold prospecting and luxury real estate projects."

Billions more had been provided by UN agencies, the EU, the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, and numerous charities. All intended for humanitarian purposes, the BBC said but added that there is no way to verify how much of it was diverted for the Hamas's military purposes.

"We discussed Qatar and Iran as the main sponsoring entities," Levy said regarding Hamas funding sources. He emphasized that "in a certain sense, Turkey is even more crucial, as it represents a central and critical point for Hamas in managing its financial infrastructure." According to the BBC, The Prime Minister's office did not respond to Levy's allegations.

2.20. 24 – Tu

IDF seizing over \$250 million from Hamas in Khan Yunis, placing Sinwar on terror list

2.20. 24 – Tu

IDF seizing over \$250 million from Hamas in Khan Yunis

Troops raid local bank find vast amount of cash kept in 12 safes in operation conducted in recent days; military spokesperson says terror group stole hundreds of millions of dollars from international aid organizations

Matthias Inbar, I24NEWS|08:41

The IDF found over a billion shekels (\$250 million) in an operation in Gaza, security sources told i24NEWS. The operation targeted Hamas funds at the bank in Khan Yunis

and was conducted over the past two days. the money was found in 12 safes that were broken into.

In November, the IDF officially announced the seizure of over \$1 million in various currencies that were found in Hamas strongholds.

The military then assigned a special division to take custody of the money found in private homes of Hamas terrorists or in the group's installations. This latest raid was a more targeted operation in the war on the terrorist organization. An international effort to take hold of Hamas funds was also being carried out by the United States and others including the use of sanctions, such as the "Coordinated Action Against Hamas Leaders and Financiers," announced on November 14.

The European Union added Hamas leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, to their designated terrorist list and froze his assets. While the IDF found envelopes from Iran, that were stuffed with cash addressed to the terror group's leader.
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2.20. 24 – Tu

Ben-Gvir uniting Muslims: Tensions rise to limit Muslim Temple during Ramadan

2.20. 24 – Tu

'Thanks to Ben-Gvir for uniting all Muslims': Tensions rise over decision to limit Muslim prayer on Temple Mount during Ramadan

Defense establishment is voicing concern that the decision will ignite violence on the ground, and also hurt relations with Qatar and Egypt, the countries trying to arrange a hostage deal with Hamas

Liran Tamari|06:08

The countdown to the Muslim holy month Ramadan is underway, and disgruntled voices in Arab society are already being heard after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to agree to National Security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's demand to place limits on the number of Muslim worshippers who will be permitted to ascend to the Temple Mount, where the Al-Aqsa Mosque is located, the third most holy site for Muslims worldwide. The site is the holiest in the world for Jews.

HaGai street in the Old City of Jerusalem is one of the main corridors leading to the entrance of Temple Mount, and one that many traders traverse on a daily basis. This year, they are themselves on high alert, saying this limitation by Netanyahu "will not go smoothly." Massoud, a local resident, said: "This is the holy month of Ramadan for Muslim worshippers. It's one month out of the year. Why can't they get to Al-Aqsa Mosque? Why do Christians get a pass but Muslims don't? This is a bad decision."

Another local, Najib, says this decision will bring together Muslims around the world. "Everyone knows what Ben-Gvir is doing to this government," he said. "The whole country will be a mess. We can work together to get things straightened out gradually, but this decision is too much."

Taysir, a trader who works in the area, said that "Ben-Gvir is not the kind of person we need to be talking about. I work in a church with Christians and Jews. We want peace. We live together. Trying to force things through will not work."

Israeli Police have voiced confidence in front of the National Security Committee, saying they will be able to follow through on the government's directives and swiftly crack down on anyone trying to cause havoc or anarchy. "Ramadan has a religious aspect that Hamas is attempting to capitalize on. We won't play along. We have secured an axis through which law-abiding citizens would be able to worship during Ramadan. We will keep things running smoothly and quietly," according to the police.

Netanyahu's decision, brought about by immense pressure from within his coalition, and Ben-Gvir specifically, puts this decision in judicial crosshairs, made worse by the fact that the defense establishment at large did not support such a move. In fact, they've been clear about how a decision like this will anger Muslims and damage Israeli relations overseas.

In the spring of 2021, during operation Guardian of the Walls, Israel experienced violent demonstrations of an unprecedented scope, where "mixed" cities like Acre and Lod saw massive confrontations between Jews and Muslims. Security officials spoke of how this could compromise an already strained relationship with moderate Muslims nations such as Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan, some of which are trying to arrange another deal that will bring back Israeli hostages.

Not all details have been finalized regarding the limitations. There is still the issue of age cut offs and the number of Muslim worshippers allowed to pray at any one time, but many are suggesting the best course of action, from a long-term perspective, is to remove these limitations entirely.

2.20. 24 – Tu

Hamas terrorists planning to seize Ashkelon prison October 7, turned to Sderot in error

2.20. 24 – Tu

Hamas planned to take over an Israeli prison on October 7

A group of 23 Nukhba terrorists planned to seize control of the Shikma prison near Ashkelon but they had made a navigation error in the execution of their plan, the Saudi newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat reported

Hadar Adij02:23

Hamas allegedly planned to seize control of the Shikma prison near Ashkelon on October 7 in order to free numerous Palestinian security prisoners but the plan failed due to a

navigation error made by the Nukhba terrorists, the London-based pro-Saudi newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat reported.

The sources revealed to the Saudi newspaper that the terrorists from Gaza crossed the border into Israel toward Yad Mordechai, engaged in a confrontation with Israeli forces, but for reasons that remain unclear eventually returned southward, toward Kibbutz Nativ Ha'Asara. Subsequently, the same group of terrorists moved in the direction of Sderot. Another group of terrorists had plans to infiltrate a military outpost in the Ashkelon Coast Regional Council and provide support to the Nukhba members if the mission had been accomplished, according to the report.

The plan reportedly involved launching an attack on the prison's main gate using explosives and anti-tank missiles, as well as firing rockets toward the facility once a signal confirming the terrorists' presence inside was received. Hamas intended for this operation to deliver a significant blow to Israel.

The terrorists expected that the prisoners inside the prison cells would assist them once the attack on the prison began, in an effort to facilitate their release, according to the report. However, subsequent information revealed the same group of terrorists ended up in Sderot, joined by two additional groups, with their primary objective being to maintain their positions for as long as possible.

Furthermore, the sources disclosed to the newspaper that four terrorists who took part in the attacks on Kibbutz Zikim, located south of Ashkelon, were also assigned the task of taking control of the prison but were killed in the process.

Since the start of the conflict, an additional 3,400 security prisoners, including Hamas operatives from Gaza, including hundreds of Nukhba terrorists, and many from the West Bank, have been added to the prison population. As a result, Israel declared a "state of emergency in the prison system." Among the results of this are that thousands of prisoners are sleeping on mattresses placed on the floor in overcrowded cells in prisons across the country.

2.19. 24 – Mo

Hezbollah dug a network of tunnels in Lebanon that is more dangerous than Hamas

2.19. 24 – Mo

Hezbollah dug a network of tunnels in Lebanon that is more dangerous than Hamas' French report cites military sources who served in Lebanon, who say Hezbollah used quiet on the border to construct hundreds of kilometers of complex underground systems for infiltration and defensive purposes

Tamar Sebok, Paris|Yesterday | 15:10

An investigative report in the French newspaper Libération claimed Sunday that Hezbollah has been digging hundreds of kilometers of underground tunnels in Lebanon for over 30 years, some of them reaching depths of 40 meters to 80 meters, using North Korean technology. The report noted that the tunnels are more complex and dangerous than those in Gaza, and the explosion of some of the tunnels could cause earthquakes or landslides.

According to journalist Laurence Defranoux, the digging began in the 1980s but accelerated in the late 1990s to accommodate members of the Shiite terror organization in case of an Israeli operation in Lebanon. The report claims Israel dropped white phosphorus bombs in southern Lebanon after the Hamas attack on October 7 to burn vegetation and expose the entrances to the tunnels. According to reports, 12 such shafts were discovered and destroyed.

A military source told the newspaper that the IDF uses motion detectors, optical fibers connected to the 4G network, robots, drones and other sources of information to map the tunnel network.

"The first tunnels were dug by Palestinian groups in the 1960s, and Hezbollah expanded the network in the 1980s and especially in the late 1990s," General Olivier Fasso, who served as a liaison officer for the UN in southern Lebanon and is now a researcher at the French Institute for Strategic and Operational Education (IFESO), told Defranoux. The tunnels developed mainly after the 2006 war, when Hezbollah sought a way to defend itself against an Israeli ground operation.

Tal Beer, head of the Alma Security Research Center's research department, told the Times of Israel in January the institute exposed civilian companies dealing with agriculture and construction for the Shiite sector in southern Lebanon, under the supervision of a company called Jihad Construction. These tunnels were dug by Hezbollah operatives manually using air hammers or hydraulic equipment, which is quieter to operate.

It is estimated that each worker can dig about 15 meters per month. The Lebanese environmental organization Green Without Borders has also been included on the U.S. sanctions list, accused of providing a "cover" for digging underground warehouses and tunnels for storing weapons.

The report on the tunnels was published by Alma as early as 2021. The report indicates that some of the tunnels pass through strategic points in southern Lebanon and connect them to Beirut and the Beqaa Valley.

The length of the tunnels is estimated to be hundreds of kilometers long, with one of the largest at 45 km in length. Some of the tunnels are very narrow and intended for infiltrating terrorists into Israel, while others are wider and intended for Iranian ballistic missile batteries such as the Fateh-110.

In the report published in 2024, the Alma center reported on tunnels filled with explosives dug beneath strategic points, which have remained intact and unused for several years. An explosion in these tunnels could cause earthquakes and landslides, a tactic used since the early days of World War I.

Israel has already discovered six such tunnels in 2018 along the Blue Line border (running between Rosh Hanikra and Mount Dov), with a depth of 40 meters. According to Fasso, who visited these tunnels, "it's reasonable to assume that Israel located them using acoustic and seismic sensors. It would take weeks to dig through the rock to insert cameras inside."

"They were still in the being constructed then," Fasso also said. "We saw drilling machines, electrical cables, and ventilation systems, and it was possible to walk upright in them. They were destroyed by the military by using either explosives or via sealing them with concrete."

Fasso added that Lebanese authorities deny the existence of the tunnels, the largest of which are located under farms and private factories, allowing heavy digging equipment to be brought in without attracting unwanted attention.

"Hezbollah buys land and turns some of them into so-called nature reserves. We believe they set up training camps or weapon caches in them and probably included shafts leading to these tunnels. Israel, which was present in the area, managed to limit this spread until 2000, but Hezbollah reorganized from 2006 and had another 18 years to arrange this territory," Fasso noted.

An Israeli military source told Libération that the IDF, as well as military experts and strategists, oppose operating in Lebanese territory, as they may "encounter a well-prepared underground army," hence the ultimatum given by the Israelis to Hezbollah in January will likely be postponed to February."

The IDF addressed the worries of residents on the northern border concerning the threat of Hezbollah's tunnels. At the end of December, IDF Northern Command Chief Maj. Gen. Ori Gordin said that IDF soldiers are "conducting extensive searches to locate terrorist infrastructure of all kinds, above and below ground. If a threat is found, we won't keep it secret."

2.18.24 – Su

Netanyahu restricts West Bank Muslims from Temple Mount during Ramadan

2.18.24 – Su

Netanyahu imposes restrictions on Muslim worshippers to Temple Mount during Ramadan

On Ben-Gvir's advice, PM restricts Israeli citizens' access to holy Jerusalem site; criteria for restrictions, including for West Bank residents, still undefined

Moran Azulay, Yuval Karni | 02.18.24 | 15:55

On National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's advice, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has imposed restrictions on the number of Arabs with Israeli citizenship who will be allowed to visit Temple Mount during the holy month of Ramadan.

An Israeli official responded to said **limitation** by saying “Ramadan **can lead to an explosion**. What Ben-Gvir wants is insane, and **could significantly impact** the situation in the **West Bank**. We’re dealing with a Prime Minister who doesn’t understand the magnitude of what’s going on.”

An official close to Prime Minister Netanyahu disputed the criticism, saying “he did not surrender to Ben-Gvir. The prime minister has simply asked to act responsibly.”

Minister Benny **Gantz** has **referred to the decision** by saying “Israel’s stance throughout the years, as well as this year, is **to enable freedom of worship during Ramadan**, and to **enable visiting Temple Mount**. During these sensitive times, **some limitations will have to be implemented**, but they stem from our intentions to look out for the well-being of all those involved.”

Israel police have suggested **limiting** the entrance of **Arabs** from the **age of 50 and up**, while security officials warned any restrictions, regardless of age, would be a mistake. Ramadan is set to take place between March 10 and April 9, during which there will be four separate Fridays when visiting Temple Mount will be enabled.

During the discussion, **Ben-Gvir insisted on allowing police to breach Temple Mount grounds, using massive force in case the Palestinian flag or the banner of Hamas or any other terrorist organization is displayed**. However, **his demand was rejected**.

Knesset Member Waleed Alhwashia of the Islamist Ra'am Party blasted the decision, saying “**Netanyahu has once again surrendered to Ben-Gvir** with another dangerous and racist decision that could further fan the flames of violence. Ben-Gvir is a provocateur who wishes to engulf Jerusalem in violence. Instead of putting him in his place and maintaining the freedom of worship of all Muslim citizens during the holy month of Ramadan, **Netanyahu has decided to enable him**.”

“I call upon all responsible factors within the government, including Gallant, Gantz and Eizenkot, to do all they must in order to cancel this disastrous decision that could have perilous consequences for all of us.”

Netanyahu endangers the safety of Israeli citizens by once again placing political interests above the recommendations of Israeli security officials. **After four months**, in which the **intertwined fabric of life of both Jews and Arabs was tested**, Netanyahu has decided to award those who escalate and divide us, just as he did throughout all of his different terms when it comes to Hamas. Once again, he has proven that he is good for the extremists, but a disaster for the moderates.”

With Hamas labeling the events of October 7 the “Al-Aqsa storm”, dealing with the issue of who is and is not allowed to visit Temple Mount during Ramadan, has become a rather explosive issue this year. Since the onset of the war, **Hamas has done everything it can to inflame the West Bank** and vicariously, all Arab citizens of the State of Israel.

While Arab-Israelis have refrained from making waves since the war began, security officials have expressed their concern **Hamas would be able to radicalize them during** the upcoming **Ramadan**, which is why they believe the **intelligent course** of action would be **to isolate the Gaza Strip**, thus making sure violence does not erupt in other locations throughout the country.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials are also mindful of the Arab world at large and how a decision to limit the amount of Arabs and Muslims capable of visiting Temple Mount would play out geopolitically.

2.18. 24 – Su

IDF locate medicine for hostages at Khan Younis Hospital in 12 hours of fierce fighting

2.18. 24 – Su

IDF locates medicine with names and photos of Israeli hostages at Nasser Hospital
Security forces arrested hundreds of terrorists at the Nasser Hospital vicinity, while also locating large caches of weapons used by Hamas terrorists hiding inside the compound
Yoav Zitun|02.18.24 | 14:48

Three months after beginning ground operations in the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis, the IDF is nearing completion, as declared on Sunday by Defense Minister Gallant. He revealed images of medications intended for captives, found at Nasser Hospital.

The army, led by the Commando Brigade with fighters from the elite Egoz and Maglan, is operating in the hospital located in the refugee camp's center in west Khan Younis. The operation involves searching within the hospital while allowing it to function, alongside filtering out terrorists, many of whom are disguised in medical staff uniforms.

The IDF reported Sunday that during an operation in the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis forces located medicine with the names and pictures of Israeli hostages held by Hamas. Over the weekend, soldiers from the Commando Brigade, Shayetet 13, Shin Bet and other special units within the 98th Division operated in the hospital and engaged in intense combat with terrorists. The forces also faced resistance from terrorists barricaded inside the hospital and came under rocket fire from within the compound grounds. After 12 hours of fierce fighting, soldiers have reportedly eliminated 16 terrorists on hospital grounds.

Two challenging elements for the forces surround the hospital. The first is the dense, low-rise construction of the refugee camp, most of whose residents have been evacuated, alongside shelters for displaced Gazans in the hospital's courtyard, similar to the situation at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City at the operation's start.

These shelters were often exploited by armed terrorists emerging from the hospital and opening fire on the soldiers. In one such incident a few days ago, a platoon commander was severely injured and regained consciousness for the first time on Sunday.

Another pattern identified by the forces is that terrorists would attempt to flee the hospital unarmed, running to nearby homes where they arm themselves with rifles and machine guns to attack Israeli forces. So far, no strategic tunnels like those found under Al Shifa

have been discovered beneath Nasser. However, combat tunnels have been found in the vicinity of the hospital.

Inside the hospital, the soldiers also located large quantities of weapons, some of which were stashed in a vehicle used by Hamas during the October 7 massacre. In addition, a car stolen from Kibbutz Nir Oz was also found in the hospital complex.

Security forces have also detained hundreds of terrorists and terror suspects, including those involved in the October 7 massacre and others linked to the Israeli hostages. Among the detainees are terrorists who hid within hospitals, some masquerading as medical personnel. Notably, several high-ranking Hamas terrorists were also apprehended. The suspects have been transferred to undergo further investigation. The IDF also said that after issuing a prior warning to halt terrorist activity within the hospital, security forces entered the premises. They conducted scans while ensuring the hospital's uninterrupted operation, prioritizing the safety of patients and medical staff.

"The enemy here is determined and more professional, reminiscent of the elite Nukhba forces we encountered on October 7. They engage in battle knowing they will be killed. They have no choice but to fight and die or surrender because we have smartly surrounded the hospital," the military stated.

Soldiers discovered medications sent at the war's onset, marked with the names and even photos of hostages. The IDF released images of medications intended for Eda Sagi (who was released), Yafa Adar (who was released), Tami Metzger (who was released), Chaim Peri and Yousef Al-Ziadna.

A small carton was also found with the name of Oded Lipshitz, who is still being held captive. The medication packages located in the pharmacy of the dialysis department at Nasser Hospital were sealed and not delivered to the hostages.

A Shayetet 13 platoon commander said, "The hospital, which was supposed to serve as a humanitarian shelter, was found to be a battleground filled with weapons, communication infrastructure and Hamas operatives. During the surgical and precise combat, many Hamas terrorists were arrested. The IDF will continue as needed to defeat the Hamas terror organization and ensure its destruction."

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Ynet-News, Feb 13, 2024 – Tuesday

Possible Abomination Days are April 7 & June 20, 2024

02.12.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in February 13 spot – Tuesday

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, impose weapons supply embargo

02.12.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in February 12 spot – Monday

A series of 40 air attacks & a daring battle of heavy fire rescue 2 hostages in Gaza

02.11.24 – Su- - - News Placed in February 11 spot – Sunday
IDF capture 20 terrorists hiding in hospital & hundreds attempting to flee Khan Younis

02.11.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
Galilee Teacher indicted for assisting, promoting and financing terrorist activities

02.11.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
EU sanctions Israel settlers defending from PA attacks; Czech & Hungary veto

02.11.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
UNRWA staff deny knowing Hamas under headquarters, schools & hospitals

02.10.24 – Sa- - - News Placed in February 10 spot – Saturday
UNRWA HQ offices in Gaza City fed tunnel power & Hamas data servers