

Ynet-News, March 07, 2023 – Thursday

Note: Israel LEAP YEAR Adar-2 this year moving Pesach to April 22

Possible Abomination Days are April 7 & June 20, 2024

Ramadan start March 11 – Ends April 10, Pesach Mar 23-31 move Pesach to April 22

3.07. 24 – Th - - - News Placed in March 07 spot – Thursday
US considering banning use of its weapons in IDF Rafah operation

3.06. 24 – We- - - News Placed in March 06 spot – Wednesday
Germany & US disappointed over Israel approval of 3,000 settlement housing units

3.05. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in March 05 spot – Tuesday
No restrictions on Arab visits to Temple during Ramadan; Ben-Gvir demanded a limit

3.05. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
Cost of war: 151 days, 1,469 dead, tens of thousands of victims of terror

3.04. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in March 04 spot – Monday
WB cell planning attacks on IDF, leads to restrict access to Mosque during holiday

3.04. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday
With Sinwar incommunicado, mediators warn hostage deal could be delayed

3.03. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
No Israeli delegation in Cairo; No hostage deal without names of live ones

3.03. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday
Israel, US come to heads over sanctioning a list of Hamas charities

3.03. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in March 03 spot – Sunday
IDF Khan Younis siege of 50 airstrikes in 6 minutes preparing ground troop assault

3.02. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in March 02 spot – Saturday
US C-130 airdrop dropped 66 bundles of aid into Gaza, coordinated with Jordan

3.01. 24 – Fr - - - News – Friday
Gantz pushes hostage deal to Biden without Knesset approval; Israel has only one PM

3.01. 24 – Fr - - - News – Friday
Israel's Knesset approves move to adopt EU sample-based inspection on imports

3.01. 24 – Fr - - - News Placed in March 01 spot – Friday
IDF drone video show Gazans ambush 38 aid trucks, stampede caused 100+ deaths

2.29. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in February 29 – Thursday Calendar Leap Year

2.28. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

At least two Hezbollah operatives killed in Damascus strike

2.28. 24 – We- - - News Placed in February 28 spot – Wednesday

Gazans protest food costs amid Hamas merchants selling aid

2.27. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in February 27 spot – Tuesday

IDF chief says Hezbollah 'will pay very heavy price' after rockets strike strategic base

Passover dates in the coming years

Passover 2024 will begin on April 22nd and end on April 30th

Passover 2025 will begin on April 12th and end on April 20th

Passover 2026: April 1-9

Passover 2027: April 21-29

Passover 2028: April 10-18

Passover 2029: March 30 - April 7

Passover 2030: April 18-26

3.07. 24 – Th

US considering banning use of its weapons in IDF Rafah operation

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US considering banning use of its weapons in IDF Rafah operation

Biden administration delivered 100 weapons shipments to Israel since October 7, report reveals, as officials attempt to pressure Israel into reconsidering offensive; 'Any limit on U.S. arms supplies to Israel would mark a sharp break in the relationship — and cause a political furor'

Itamar Eichner|02:39

Leading news outlets in the United States and around the world are revealing details on American weapons shipments delivered to Israel since October 7, alongside a warning issued by U.S. officials suggesting the United States may prohibit the use of American-made weapons in an Israeli operation in Rafah, should it take place.

In The Washington Post, veteran columnist David Ignatius wrote Thursday that U.S. President Joe Biden's administration is considering ways to prevent Israel from using American weapons if populated areas around Rafah are attacked. Biden and his senior advisers haven't yet decided on the matter, but the fact that senior officials are discussing such steps demonstrates their growing concern about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the disagreement with Israel regarding the operation in Rafah.

Washington's **frustration** with the continuation of the war **is evident**, hence the immense pressure for a cease-fire and a hostage release deal. In any case, a ground operation in Rafah isn't expected to happen anytime soon, so the report seems more like a statement for internal public relations purposes in the U.S. to show the **Biden administration is no longer issuing Israel blank checks.**

U.S. Vice President **Kamala Harris** and National Security Adviser **Jake Sullivan** asked tough **questions about the Rafah operation** plan in their **discussions with** Israel's War Cabinet member Minister **Benny Gantz** during his visit to Washington this week.

According to reports, the **Biden administration fears that the Rafah operation** is "half-baked" and **will worsen** the already **difficult situation in the Strip** without ending the war. Senior officials in the Biden administration said they didn't see a clear plan for **protecting** over a million **Palestinians who have taken refuge in Rafah.**

"Any limit on U.S. arms supplies to Israel would mark a sharp break in the relationship — and cause a political furor," wrote Ignatius. He noted that **if the Biden administration ultimately decides to prohibit** the use of American **weapons in the Rafah operation**, it could say it's acting similarly to its agreement with **Ukraine**, which it **banned** from **using** American **long-range missiles** to attack targets in Russian territory.

The same report noted that, as part of the Biden administration's efforts to reach a hostage release deal before the upcoming Ramadan, and due to **Hamas's refusal to accept** the offered **deal**, Washington is considering pressuring Qatar to deport Hamas representatives from the country if efforts **fail to persuade** their **Gazan** counterparts to agree to the deal. On **Wednesday**, The Washington Post revealed that during a classified briefing given to members of the U.S. Congress, it was reported that the United States has delivered over **100 weapon shipments to Israel** since October 7. Those shipments included **thousands of precision-guided munitions, small-diameter bombs, bunker-busting bombs, light firearms, and additional military equipment.**

So far, the U.S. has officially announced only two military aid shipments to Israel: a shipment of **tank shells worth \$106 million** and a shipment of components for assembling **155mm artillery shells worth \$147.5 million.** These have sparked public criticism in the United States, partly because they were carried out by the Biden administration using **emergency powers to bypass Congress.**

American officials past and present told The Wall Street Journal that tens of thousands of weapons were delivered to Israel in those shipments, using procedures primarily intended to conceal the extent of the Biden administration's military aid to Israel.

Apart from the two reported shipments, most of the weapon transfers were approved through a less public mechanism that allows the White House to do so. Among other things, this **involved taking weapons from American stockpiles**, expediting previously approved shipments, and sending small quantities of weapons that **didn't require congressional notice.**

In total, **23,000 munitions were delivered**, including air-to-ground missiles like **Hellfires**, **drones and "smart" bombs**, alongside similar equipment. Additionally, Israel received

58,000 155mm artillery shells and Iron Dome interceptor missiles. Most of these systems and weapons were delivered from American stockpiles at the beginning of the war.

The flow of arms shipments has slowed in recent months, as the Pentagon had less available munitions it could provide to Israel quickly, while also meeting Ukraine's needs in its war against Russia and ensuring an adequate supply in American stockpiles. However, American officials said that 1,000 precision-guided bombs and artillery shells were delivered in the past month.

According to The Washington Post's report, the arms shipments indicate that although the U.S. government is disappointed with the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of these issues, it continues to defer calls to halt arms shipments as part of pressuring Israel to reduce the number of civilian casualties in Gaza and increase the entry of humanitarian aid.

For Israel, the shipments enable a continued fight in Gaza while maintaining readiness for an attack against Hezbollah. A senior IDF official said the military is "digging deep" into its arsenal to secure the northern border, but not to a level that would compromise its ability to fight Hezbollah. "There is nothing Israel can say it hasn't received. Israel was practically given everything it needed. Looking ahead, it's not certain it will stay this way," the official said.

3.06. 24 – We

Germany & US disappointed over Israel approval of 3,000 settlement housing units

3.06. 24 – We

Germany slams Israel's approval of 3,000 settlement housing units

Government decision to summon planning commission to approve construction in the West Bank comes amid growing criticism of Israel in the United States over the government's policies and the war in Gaza

Roni Green Shaulov, Reuters | 14:04

Germany on Wednesday called on the Israeli government to immediately withdraw the approval of further housing construction in West Bank settlements, saying building settlements in Palestinian territories is a serious violation of international law.

The government's planning commission on Wednesday approved the construction of 3,000 housing units in West Bank settlements despite international condemnation of the right-wing coalition for its intention to increase construction there.

Finance Minister Bezalet Smotrich head of the far-right National Religious Party said that a total of 18,515 units were approved for construction in the West Bank in the past year, adding that in no other year had so many units been approved.

The government's decision to summon the planning commission came after last week's terror attack near the settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim when three terrorists opened fire at cars stuck in traffic on the road to Jerusalem, killing one man and wounding six others.

"Our enemies want to hurt us and our message to them is the exact opposite," Smotrich said.

The **approval** of the housing units comes amid growing **frustration in the Biden** administration over Israel's policies. Speaking at a news conference during a trip to Buenos Aires, U.S. Secretary of State Antony **Blinken** said the United States is "disappointed" in Israel's **announcement** of plans for building **new housing in the West Bank**, saying they are counterproductive to reaching an enduring peace.

Forces identify terrorists attempting to mix among civilians in Khan Younis; troops kill 10 terrorists in northern Gaza and strike cell preparing to attack soldiers with anti-tank missile fire

3.05.24 – Tu

No restrictions on Arab visits to Temple during Ramadan; Ben-Gvir demanded a limit

3.05.24 – Tu

No restrictions on Arab Israeli visits to Temple Mount during Ramadan, Netanyahu decides

National Security Minister Itamar **Ben-Gvir demanded a limit** on the number of Israeli **Arabs** who could pray on the **Temple** Mount on the **holiday**, but the PM accepted the position of the IDF and Shin Bet; Security source: 'Netanyahu finally said no to Ben-Gvir'

Itamar Eichner, Moran Azulay, Meir Turgeman|03.05.24 | 15:57

Despite the insistence of National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on **Tuesday** accepted the **recommendations** of the **IDF and Shin Bet**, and decided **not to impose** significant **restrictions** on Arab citizens of Israel during Ramadan prayers on the Temple Mount.

During a meeting led by Netanyahu, which included representatives of all security agencies, it was decided that **Arab** Israeli worshippers would be **allowed entry** to the Temple Mount during the **first week of Ramadan as they have in previous years**. A weekly security and safety assessment will be conducted and decisions made accordingly.

Ben-Gvir quickly responded to the decision, expressing his disagreement. He said that allowing access to the Temple Mount during Ramadan in line with previous years and **against the position of the police and himself**, indicates that Netanyahu and the **cabinet** are **disregarding the events of October 7**. Ben-Gvir said he believes that this decision puts the citizens of Israel at risk and may give Hamas an opportunity to claim victory.

During the discussion, security officials presented various threats and dangers. As it stands, approximately **50,000 to 60,000 Muslims will be permitted** access to the Temple Mount during Ramadan, similar to previous years. After the first week of Ramadan, a

renewed security assessment will take place to consider the possibility of increasing the number of worshippers at the site.

The chosen number allows the police to ensure the safety of worshippers from all religions coming to the area, including those visiting the Western Wall. However, Ben-Gvir disagrees with this decision and believes that the number of worshippers on the Temple Mount should be limited to a few thousand for security reasons. Police representatives acknowledged their ability to handle the determined number of worshippers but expressed a preference for a lower number to maintain safety on the Temple Mount.

Police Commissioner Yaakov Shabtai aligned himself with the position of the IDF and Shin Bet. Considering the potential for Iran and Hamas to ignite additional conflicts alongside the fighting in Gaza, Palestinians from the West Bank will be granted limited entry to the Temple Mount. The discussion concluded that entry for Palestinians will follow previous years' regulations, including age restrictions and verification by the Shin Bet.

Ben-Gvir and Netanyahu attempted to collaborate on a joint statement for reporters after the discussion, but they were unable to reach an agreement. Ben-Gvir, disappointed with the decision, criticized Netanyahu for repeatedly using the slogan "until absolute victory" during the war. In a post on the X social media platform, Ben-Gvir wrote: "Hamas celebrations on the Temple Mount = absolute victory."

During the discussion, the National Security Minister found himself isolated, with only the police supporting his position. All other participants sided with the positions of the Shin Bet, IDF and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. Shabtai suggested age restrictions during the discussion and said that only in such a scenario could the number of worshippers entering the Temple Mount be genuinely limited. A security official summarized the outcome, stating: "Netanyahu listened to reason and rejected Ben-Gvir's demands."

At the start of the discussion on preparations for Ramadan, Netanyahu emphasized Israel's commitment to preserving freedom of worship for all religions, including during Ramadan. He assured that appropriate security and safety measures would be in place to allow the Muslim public to celebrate the holiday while maintaining law and public order. Knesset member Mansour Abbas commended the Prime minister for the "responsible decision to allow freedom of worship for Muslim worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque." He urged the Arab public to exercise their right to prayers and the fulfillment of religious duties during the holy month while upholding law and public order.

In an internal warning document recently sent by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to the heads of the security system and exposed by Ynet, he explicitly warned against a security deterioration in the West Bank during Ramadan. The document addressed the need to take steps as part of the security system's preparedness for a possible escalation.

The security operation will entail thousands of police officers and roadblocks that will be set up at the entrances to Jerusalem, all with meticulous inspections. Additionally, the Shin Bet and the police will operate around the clock to thwart any intention to carry out an attack, alongside efforts to prevent provocateurs from reaching the Temple Mount and attempting to inflame the atmosphere on-site, according to officials. At the same time,

there will be a strong emphasis on monitoring social networks and countering fake news aimed at agitating young Muslims.

The police will also conduct a massive public and transportation operation to accommodate thousands of buses from across the country that will drop off Muslims at the entrances to the Temple Mount and then divert them onto the capital's roads to prevent massive traffic jams, ensuring that the worshippers reach the Temple Mount via the shortest and fastest route. The heightened preparedness for Ramadan will not only be limited to Jerusalem but will extend throughout the country, particularly in mixed cities, in order to address any breaches of order.

3.05. 24 – Tu

Cost of war: 151 days, 1,469 dead, tens of thousands of victims of terror

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Iron Swords War, ignited by Oct 7 Hamas attack, claimed 839 civilians and 629 security and rescue personnel; National Insurance Institute says families face unprecedented hardships; among 20,000 victims of terrorist acts under 18, 3,557 aged 0-3; 134 held hostage and one missing

Hadar Gil-Ad, Yoav Zitun, Mayan Rodeh | 03.05.24 | 15:48

The Iron Swords War, ignited by Hamas's brutal massacre on October 7, has claimed the lives of 1,468 people in Israel to date, the majority on the day it erupted. These war figures underscore the profound impact on Israel in the 150 days since its onset.

According to Ynet data, the war has so far claimed the lives of 839 civilians, including 36 children under 18 years old—among them a ten-month-old infant, seven aged between two to nine years and 29 teenagers between 10 to 17 years old. Additionally, 629 security and rescue personnel have perished in the war, 586 of them IDF soldiers.

The National Insurance Institute reports that 61,942 individuals have been victims of terrorist acts. The age breakdown of these victims includes 3,557 aged 0-3 years, 3,726 aged 3-6 years, 8,659 aged 6-14 years, 3,586 aged 14-18 years and 42,414 aged 18 years and older.

These individuals have suffered physical and/or psychological injuries and are recognized as victims of hostility and terror. Notably, around 20,000 victims of these hostile acts are under the age of 20.

Cost of war on IDF

Beyond the civilian impact, the war has also imposed a significant and painful cost on IDF soldiers. Since the war began, 586 soldiers have lost their lives, 246 of whom died in the ground offensive in Gaza. Of these, 37 were fatalities in operational accidents: 19 from friendly fire, three from stray bullets and 15 from armament, weapons, and vehicular accidents.

So far, **3,030 IDF soldiers have been injured**: 1,755 lightly, 800 moderately and 475 severely. Currently, 88 of these soldiers are hospitalized with light injuries, 191 with moderate injuries and 37 with severe injuries. Notably, the ground offensive alone resulted in 1,453 injuries to soldiers, 303 of whom suffered severe injuries.

Among the injured, 545 were hurt in operational accidents, including 24 from stray bullets, 54 from friendly fire, 31 from road accidents, 45 under "other" and 391 from accidents involving anti-tank missiles, arms, weapons and machine gun mishaps.

The hostages

Another tragic toll of the war is the hostages held in the Gaza Strip. On October 7, **253 Israelis and foreigners were kidnapped; 123 have been released**—most in a previous deal with Hamas, five before that—and three through heroic IDF, Yamam, and Shin Bet rescue operations (Ori Magidish, Luis Har and Fernando Marman).

Additionally, **11 bodies were recovered**, and **134 individuals remain abducted**—including 33 confirmed deceased (including the bodies of soldiers Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul, abducted before October 7), whose remains are still in Gaza.

Among the 134 remaining captives are civilians Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed, held even before October 7, and the bodies of Goldin and Shaul. Alongside the abducted, there is one missing person - Bilha Yinon, initially determined to have been murdered in Netiv HaAsara, later reclassified by the IDF as missing.

Three hostages - Alon Shamriz, Yotam Haim and Samar Talalqa - were accidentally killed by IDF fire in Shijaiyah. Eight others were murdered by Hamas, but their bodies were recovered by IDF soldiers.

Among the remaining hostages, there are 111 men and 19 women, including two children under the age of 5 (Ariel and Kfir Bibas); 11 foreign nationals (eight from Thailand, one from Nepal, one from Tanzania and one dual French/Mexican citizen); and 119 Israelis. 'Every casualty is a world unto themselves'

The National Insurance Institute said in a statement, "Regrettably, since the disaster on October 7, the number of fatalities and injuries has continued to rise. Beyond the victims themselves, entire families are grappling with challenges unprecedented in the state's history. The National Insurance Institute's staff, especially the departments of hostility and rehabilitation, are working tirelessly to provide support to all those in need, alongside ongoing efforts with legislators to secure broader assistance than currently available by law."

IDF Spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari recently addressed the painful costs of the war following the deaths of Sergeant Dolev Haim Malca, 19, Sergeant Afik Tery, 19, and Sergeant Yinon Yitzhak, 20 in an explosion in a booby-trapped building in Khan Younis.

Hagari highlighted that terrorists from the area where the explosion occurred launched attacks on the kibbutzim of K'issufim, Ein HaShlosha, Nirim and Nir Oz on October 7, carrying out massacres. "We must cleanse this space," he said. "The costs of war are heavy and painful. Every casualty is a world unto themselves."

3.04. 24 – Mo

WB cell planning attacks on IDF, leads to restrict access to Mosque during holiday

3.04. 24 – Mo

Terror cell planning ISIS-style attacks caught with 100 explosive devices, Shin Bet says
Four-member West Bank cell planned to use the bombs for attacks on IDF troops;
members tell interrogators they learned how to make devices from online videos and
instructions from Islamic State operatives

Yoav Zitun, Itamar Eichner|08:04

The Shin Bet said on Monday that it had captured a terror cell planning ISIS-style attacks. The four members of the cell, all residents of the area around the West Bank village of Tarqumiyah, near Hebron, had prepared 100 explosive devices for use, learning the method from videos posted online and instructions from Islamic State members living abroad.

The leader of the cell was in contact with members of the Islamic State. In their interrogations the men, who are all members of the same family, said they planned to use the explosives in attacks against IDF troops.

Upon the arrest of the cell members, the forces found M-16 and Carlo automatic rifles in their possession, also meant to be used in their terror strikes. The guns were confiscated, the explosive devices were detonated in a controlled setting and the men were indicted for serious crimes.

The military and security forces have been on high alert since the outbreak of war and are especially vigilant ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which begins next week. Security officials are concerned over the possible outbreak of violence in the West Bank that may also spread to mixed Arab-Jewish areas in Israel, prompted by efforts of the Hamas terror group in Gaza to foment an escalation of violence.

The government has yet to announce its decision on possible restrictions that may be imposed on Muslim worshipers wishing to pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque during the holiday, after National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said he would restrict access to West Bank Palestinians and to Muslim citizens of Israel under the age of 70.

In consultations held between IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi, Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar and police commissioner Yaakov Shabtai, the commissioner said he was inclined not to agree with the minister and to accept the position of the military and Shin Bet that restrictions could cause violent protests.

In a statement, the three senior officials said they met to ensure close coordination between the forces and to prepare for possible scenarios. "It was also in order to allow freedom of worship for Muslims in Israel and the West Bank, under some security and safety restrictions."

The officials agree that there should be some limitation to the number of people allowed into the mosque compound and in certain cases and locations, there may also be limitations to the age of worshippers.

3.04. 24 – Mo

With Sinwar incommunicado, mediators warn hostage deal could be delayed

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In Hamas leader's last message over a week ago he tells senior members abroad not to rush to reach an agreement; Officials from Qatar and Egypt believe he expects war to spread to West Bank, inside Israel if IDF launches offensive on Rafah during Ramadan
Itamar Eichner, ynet correspondents|02:53

Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar has again been out of reach and has had no communications with officials of his terror group abroad in the past week, Qatari and Egyptian officials said, warning that this could delay negotiations for the freeing of Israeli hostages in exchange for a cease-fire and the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

In his last communication, Sinwar told his cohorts that there was no rush to reach a deal. The mediators said he hoped an Israeli assault on Rafah during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan would prompt Palestinians on the West Bank and Israeli Arabs to respond with violence, thereby spreading the conflict to more fronts.

A Hamas official told the Wall Street Journal, however, that a deal could be agreed before the Muslim holiday, due to begin next week. Negotiators said there was slow progress being made in the talks after Israel accepted the proposal agreed in the Paris summit last week.

But Israeli officials are concerned that Hamas may not be interested in a deal at all at this time and has failed to respond to Israeli demands for the names of the live hostages it holds. Hamas also failed to provide answers to two main points raised by Israel: The number of Palestinian prisoners it demands to release and how many of them must be exchanged for each Israeli hostage.

Hamas demands that all residents of northern Gaza be able to return to their homes. Israel agreed at talks in Paris for a partial return of civilians, so that does not appear to be a sticking point in negotiations.

Aid, which Hamas demands be increased, is also not thought to be an obstacle after Israel agreed to allow 500 trucks carrying supplies into Gaza once a deal is complete, along with 200,000 tents and 60,000 mobile homes, to provide temporary shelter for the displaced, and to permit international organizations to immediately renovate hospitals in the coastal strip and supply them with the necessary equipment to work.

According to some reports, Hamas has backed-down from its demand to permanently end the war as part of the deal being negotiated, and has agreed that a cease-fire be discussed during the pause in the early stages of the agreement.

The Qatari Al-Araby Al-Jadeed newspaper reported on Monday that Egypt considers the Hamas demands to be reasonable and both Cairo and Doha believe a deal can be finalized with some pressure put on both sides.

3.03. 24 – Su

No Israeli delegation in Cairo; No hostage deal without names of live ones

3.03. 24 – Su

No hostage negotiations without names of live ones, official says

According to officials in Jerusalem Hamas provided response to mediators on proposed deal but has not complied with Israel's demand to know who among the Israelis held by the terrorists is still living

Einav Halabi , Agencies, Itamar Eichner|06:11

Israeli officials said on Sunday that Hamas responded to the proposal agreed with mediating countries in Paris last week, but still refuses to provide the names of Israeli hostages who are still alive and state how many Palestinian prisoners they demand would be released from Israeli prison, for each hostage freed.

"There is no Israeli delegation in Cairo," the officials said in reaction to Arab and American media reports that a delegation was making its way from Israel. "Hamas refuses to provide clear answers and therefore there is no reason to dispatch the Israeli delegation to the talks in Cairo," they said adding that position was agreed to by all relevant professional teams and was not exclusively the position of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

A Hamas official said that the terror group has not backed down from its demand that a hostage release deal would include an end to the war. According to a report in the Qatari newspaper Al-Araby al Jadeed, Hamas rejects Israel's demand for names unless there is an agreement on the full withdrawal of IDF forces from Gaza.

Egyptian officials told the Reuters news agency that assurances had been offered to Hamas that the terms of a permanent ceasefire would be worked out in second and third phases of the deal that would include 40 captives being returned to Israel, among them women, the elderly and infirmed, in exchange for a six-week pause in the war.

A U.S. official said Israel has "more or less," agreed with the it is now up to Hamas to agree to it, a senior U.S. administration official said Saturday, a day before talks to reach an agreement were to resume in Egypt.

Mediators are expected to convene in Cairo on Sunday for talks with Israeli and Hamas delegations although Israel has said that there would be no participation in the talks unless Hamas provides the names of the live hostages ahead of time. According to a report in Saudi Arabia's Asharq television channel quoting a Hamas official, the terror group is expected to give its response to the proposal agreed last week by mediators and Israel, "within hours," adding that the response will show the group's willingness to compromise.

A senior American official said late on Saturday that it is now up to Hamas to agree. "Right now, the ball is in the court of Hamas and we are continuing to push this as hard as we possibly can," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House to brief reporters. On Sunday, Israeli troops surrounded the Hemed neighborhood of Khan Younis that was built by Qatar, targeting Hamas forces and infrastructure there.

3.03. 24 – Su

Israel, US come to heads over sanctioning a list of Hamas charities

3.03. 24 – Su

Israel, US come to heads over sanctioning of Hamas charities, report U.S. unconvinced charitable organizations funnel funds to terror group rather than answering needs of civilians while Washington and Jerusalem attempt to cut economic lifeline to Hamas

Ynet|04:46

The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday that although Israel and the United States are working together to block off Hamas funding channels, the countries are at odds after the U.S. refused to impose sanctions on certain organizations detailed by Israel.

According to the report, after Israel has provided a list of numerous "charitable organizations" it claimed operate in service of Hamas or under its management, the Americans have so far refrained from imposing sanctions on many of them - claiming that they were not convinced that these organizations were not genuinely seeking to deliver humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the Strip.

According to the report, a joint Israeli-U.S. task force was established after the terrorist group's attack on October 7 - and its work has already led to sanctions against entities that fund Hamas and money exchange networks. It also offered rewards worth millions of dollars for information that would disrupt the terror organization's money flow. However, Western sources told the American newspaper that the efforts were now facing obstacles. According to these sources, the U.S. has refrained from acting against organizations that have transferred tens of millions of dollars to the Strip since the beginning of the war, allegedly as charity for Gazans.

A senior American official told the paper that the U.S. and other countries have already taken action against some of the charitable organizations flagged by Israel as suspicious. "Allies have been asking for credible evidence for a long time, but are still waiting," the official was quoted as saying adding that the U.S. wouldn't hesitate to impose sanctions should the evidence be provided.

The report also detailed what appears to be another possible point of contention. According to the Wall Street Journal, the American intelligence community believes that some UNRWA employees were involved in Hamas's attack on October 7, but it hasn't accepted the accusations that a large portion of UNRWA relief agency workers were linked to Hamas.

Israel handed its evidence of the involvement of UNRWA employees in the massacre, to the UN and the U.S., along with its estimate that about 10% of agency employees were connected in some way to terror organizations in the Strip.

The WSJ emphasized the importance of funds raised through organizations claiming to be charities, for Hamas: the terror group, Western sources said, receives around \$100 million annually from Iran, its main patron, alongside income from international investment assets and worldwide donations.

However, according to the sources, the IDF's ground operation in the Strip managed to target and disrupt Hamas's main income of \$600 million in tax revenue collection in the Strip annually.

Now, these charitable funds became a critical source of funding. " We are already seeing online grassroots campaigns, linked to so-called charities that we've previously designated, solicit funds under the guise of humanitarianism," Brian Nelson, the U.S. Treasury Department's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence told the American outlet.

3.03. 24 – Su

IDF Khan Younis siege of 50 airstrikes in 6 minutes preparing ground troop assault

3.03. 24 – Su

IDF lays siege on Khan Younis neighborhood in surprise assault

Military says going after Hamas terrorists and infrastructure above and beyond ground in city quarter built by Qatar that includes 3,000 housing units for Gaza's poor; Hamas claims dozens of families trapped in apartment blocks

Yoav Zitun|02:10

The IDF on Sunday surrounded the Hemed neighborhood of Khan Younis in a targeted assault on Hamas operatives there. Some 50 airstrikes had rained on the city quarter in just 6 minutes according to reports.

Zac Efron on antisemitism: 'It's sad it's just going to happen in today's world. It shouldn't' The military said it was going after the remaining Hamas forces in the area as well as the terror infrastructure built by Hamas in and underneath the civilian neighborhood.

"The extensive bombing is to create the optimal conditions for the ground troops in their surprise assault, as they go after Hamas terrorists," the IDF said.

Hamas radio said in the siege, dozens of families were trapped in the apartment blocks while drones and tanks opened fire. The Qatari built section includes 3,000 housing units for impoverished Gazans.

Earlier the IDF said it was entering the next phase of its fighting in the southern part of Gaza with precise operations to eliminate Hamas fighters and infrastructure.

3.02. 24 – Sa

US C-130 airdrop dropped 66 bundles of aid into Gaza, coordinated with Jordan

3.02. 24 – Sa

US carries out first airdrop of aid into Gaza, officials say

Officials say US military planes dropped 66 bundles containing about 38,000 meals into Gaza after White House says airdrops planned to deliver emergency humanitarian assistance in safely

New agencies|Yesterday | 09:14

The U.S. military on Saturday carried out its first airdrop of humanitarian aid into Gaza, two U.S. officials said.

Pious, loyal and mostly out of view: the woman beside Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar
The officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the airdrop was carried out using three C-130 planes. One of the officials said more than 35,000 meals were airdropped.

Three planes from Air Forces Central dropped 66 bundles containing about 38,000 meals into Gaza at 8:30 a.m. EST, according to two of the officials, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity before a public announcement.

The White House has said the airdrops will be a sustained effort, and that Israel was supportive of the airdrops. The aid will be coordinated with Jordan, which has also conducted airdrops to deliver food to Gaza.

The move comes two days after more than 100 Palestinians who had surged to pull goods off an aid convoy were crushed to death in the clutter or run over by aid trucks.

Palestinians swarm humanitarian aid trucks in crush that left over 100 people dead

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said Friday that the airdrops were being planned to deliver emergency humanitarian assistance in a safe way to people on the ground.

Other countries including France, Egypt and Jordan have carried out airdrops of aid into Gaza.

The C-130 cargo plane is a widely used military jet to deliver aid to remote places due to its ability to land in austere environments and cargo capacity.

A C-130 can airlift as much as 42,000 pounds of cargo and its crews know how to rig the cargo, which sometimes can include even vehicles, onto massive pallets that can be safely dropped out of the back of the aircraft.

Air Force loadmasters secure the bundles onto pallets with netting that is rigged for release in the back of a C-130, and then crews release it with a parachute when the aircraft reaches the intended delivery zone.

The Air Force's C-130 has been used in years past to airdrop humanitarian into Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti and other locations and the airframe is used in an annual multi-national "Operation Christmas Drop" that airdrops pallets of toys, supplies, nonperishable food and fishing supplies to remote locations in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau.

3.01. 24 – Fr

Gantz pushes hostage deal to Biden without Knesset approval; Israel has only one PM

3.01. 24 – Fr

A message to Netanyahu? Gantz to travel to Washington next week

Prime Minister's Office expresses anger and clarified that Gantz is flying without the PM's approval, contrary to the government regulations

Itamar Eichner|03.01.24 | 14:56

Benny Gantz, a member of the war cabinet, is set to fly to Washington next Sunday for a series of meetings, without coordinating with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Ynet learned on Friday.

This visit comes at a time when efforts to secure a hostage exchange deal have been ongoing for quite some time, and amidst reports in the U.S. that the American government is losing patience with Netanyahu's conduct in the war - and allegations that he is being restrained by his government partners Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich.

The Prime Minister's Office expressed anger at the publication of Ynet and clarified that Gantz is flying without the Prime Minister's approval, contrary to the government regulations, which "require every minister to coordinate his trip in advance with the Prime Minister, including approval of the travel plan."

According to Netanyahu's associates, "the Prime Minister clarified to Minister Gantz that the State of Israel has only one Prime Minister." From Washington, Gantz is expected to continue to London.

Earlier this week, President Joe Biden emphasized that Israel must pursue peace with the Palestinians for its long-term survival. He cautioned that the country's "incredibly

conservative government" risked losing international support, during an appearance on "Late Night with Seth Meyers."

"Israel has had the overwhelming support of the vast majority of nations. If it keeps this up with this incredibly conservative government they have, and (National Security Minister Itamar) Ben-Gvir and others, they're going to lose support from around the world, and that is not in Israel's interest," he said in the Myers interview.

3.01.24 – Fr

Israel's Knesset approves move to adopt EU sample-based inspection on imports

3.01.24 – Fr

Israel's Knesset approves move to adopt EU import standards

The bill will allow products marketed in Europe to be imported to Israel based solely on the importer's declaration, relying on European or European-approved standards

Meirav Crystal|03.01.24 | 11:26

The Ministerial Committee on the Fight against the Cost of Living has approved the reform "What's good for Europe is good for Israel," which abolishes the requirement for product inspections upon entry to Israel and the need for import approval from the Standards Institute and the Health Ministry.

This decision comes after the Health Ministry agreed for the first time to the plan proposed by Finance Minister Nir Barkat. According to the plan, products marketed in Europe can be imported to Israel based solely on the importer's declaration, relying on European or European-approved standards.

The bill will be presented for public review next week, initiating the legislative process in the Knesset. It is anticipated to be fully enacted by the end of the winter session in April 2024, contingent on the government not dissolving. The legislation requires collaboration from several ministries: Economy, Treasury, Agriculture, and Health.

This shift entails moving from port inspections to market inspections and transitioning from batch inspections to inspecting every product shipment (albeit in a sample-based manner), transferring regulatory responsibility from inspectors to importers and manufacturers.

The idea isn't entirely new; it's a refinement of previous reforms, particularly from past governments, which were either partially implemented or remained on the drawing board. According to the Economy Ministry, importers stand to save between 8% to 12%, although these savings might not necessarily trickle down to consumers. Importers could simply pocket the difference. The Economy Ministry argues that this move will encourage more importers, fostering greater competition. However, competition among importers isn't always solely about pricing.

3.01. 24 – Fr

IDF drone video show Gazans ambush 38 aid trucks, stampede caused 100+ deaths

3.01. 24 – Fr

IDF on deadly Gaza stampede: 'We didn't fire at humanitarian convoy, we secured it' Army spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari unveils drone footage showing Gazans ambushing aid truck carrying food and getting trampled to death during looting; 'Dozens of Gazans killed and injured as result of crush'

Meir Turgeman|02.29.24 | 16:49

IDF spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, in a Thursday evening briefing, discussed the incident in the northern Gaza Strip in which more than 100 Palestinians who swarmed humanitarian aid trucks were killed. "We did not fire at the humanitarian convoy, we secured it," Hagari said.

Arab world calls stampede at aid truck 'deadly massacre' and U.S. is 'concerned' Palestinians claim 'massacre' at aid distribution point but IDF probe shows stampede caused over 100 deaths

Hamas leader Sinwar cites civilian casualties as tactical advantage for terror group, report says

Hagari noted that a convoy of 38 trucks carrying food aid came from Egypt through the Kerem Shalom crossing for the people of northern Gaza.

"As these vital humanitarian supplies made their way toward Gazans in need, thousands of Gazans ambushed the trucks, some began violently pushing and trampling other Gazans to death, looting the humanitarian supplies," he said.

"Dozens of Gazans were killed and injured as a result of the stampede. Unfortunately, the Palestinian trucks ran over them," according to Hagari. He noted that IDF forces only fire when they are in danger of their lives.

"Here are the facts: At 4:40 a.m., the first aid truck in the humanitarian convoy started making its way through the humanitarian corridor that we were securing. Yes, the IDF was securing the humanitarian corridor so that the aid convoy could reach its destination in northern Gaza," he said.

"The tanks that were there to secure the convoy saw the Gazans being trampled and cautiously tried to disperse the mob with a few warning shots," he said. "You can see how cautious they were when they were backing up. They were backing up securely, risking their own lives, not shooting at the mob," he said, referring to video shot from a drone during the incident.

"This humanitarian aid was coordinated by Israel, for the people of Gaza. We want the aid to reach the people of Gaza. We are working around the clock to make this happen," according to Hagari.

The IDF spokesman said that since the beginning of the war, more than 13,000 terrorists have been eliminated in Gaza. He added that Israeli troops have dismantled the military framework in Khan Younis.

Hagari concluded by speaking directly to the hostages who are being held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and said: "If you hear me, 146 days have passed, and every additional day is unbearable. I want you to know that every soldier in Gaza is now fighting for you. This is the most important thing for the soldiers. Your families are fighting for you; we meet them and they tell us this. We will continue to do everything. We are committed to returning you home."

2.28. 24 – We

At least two Hezbollah operatives killed in Damascus strike

2.28. 24 – We

At least two Hezbollah operatives killed in Damascus strike

Opposition group says Israel behind strike targeting three sites in the Syria capital including a building that may have been used as a command center for pro-Iran militias
Lior Ben Ari, Agencies|02.28.24 | 13:30

At least two members of the Lebanese Hezbollah terror group were killed on Wednesday in a strike on Damascus, a Syrian opposition group said. The strike targeted three sites in the Syrian capital including a building that may have been a command center for Iranian militias, the Syrian opposition group Voice of the Capital said on Wednesday evening.

In an official statement the Syrian Defense Ministry said most missiles fired in the attack which it attributed to Israel, were intercepted and that there was damage caused. The UK based Observatory for Human Rights, another opposition group said that Hezbollah operatives were killed in the strike.

A report in the Lebanese Al Mayadeen television channel, which is affiliated with the Hezbollah terror group, said a loud explosion was heard in the Sayeda Zainab neighborhood in the city.

Regional intelligence sources say Iran's Quds Force and militias it backs, whose presence has spread in Syria in recent years, have a strong presence in that neighborhood of southern Damascus where Iranian backed militias have a string of underground bases. Iran has been a major backer of President Bashar al-Assad during Syria's nearly 12-year-old conflict.

2.28. 24 – We

Gazans protest food costs amid Hamas merchants selling aid

2.28. 24 – We

Gazans burn tires in protest of soaring food costs amid allegations Hamas misappropriating aid

Angry mob expells merchants from Rafah market, accusing them of price gouging; terror group accused of redirecting humanitarian aid intended for Gaza to traders for sale, rather than distributing it for free

Einav Halabi | 02.28.24 | 07:35

Large crowds burned tires and forced merchants out of a market in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah in protest of soaring food prices.

Although there were no explicit chants against Hamas, the demonstrations unfolded amid allegations that the terror organization has been diverting part of the humanitarian aid meant for the Gaza Strip and selling it to traders instead of distributing it for free.

Gaza Liberators, an organization that opposes Hamas and organizes protests against it, characterized the Rafah protest as a demonstration against the terrorist group.

The group has recently begun to openly challenge Hamas' rule over the Palestinian enclave as the living conditions in the territory continue to worsen and as the terrorist organization refuses to cede power amid the war against Israel.

Opposing Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar's reign, the group has been disseminating anti-Hamas materials throughout the Gaza Strip, calling for public protests against Hamas. These materials have been primarily distributed in the sprawling displaced persons' encampments scattered around Rafah, where over a million Gazans have sought refuge from fighting elsewhere in the territory.

It is unclear who is behind the "rogue" group. Speculation in Gaza suggests that the orchestrators could be members of Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas' rival Fatah faction remaining in the Strip or other opponents of the terrorist group backed by external forces. The group has recently been gaining traction in various parts of the Gaza Strip.

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.

Gaza's Liberators has published videos of protests in the northern Gaza Strip, with added commentary, such as "May God take revenge on Sinwar, the dog who ravaged Gaza."

In a statement issued last week, the group called to stop the war while jibing at Hamas' leaders who reside outside of the Gaza Strip and are unaffected by the war.

"One word is what we need - help - and climb down the ladder. Save what's left of us from the onslaught of the Jews. Save us, the defenseless and oppressed. We don't have planes to protect us. We have no shelters, no tunnels and no Qatari and Turkish hotels like you do. It's your duty now to not let words and speeches lead you to places you don't want to be in," the statement read.

Another statement read, "A message to the people of Hamas - you have neither the right nor the permission to force the defenseless to die in your place from bombings by planes and tanks. We do not have tanks to protect us or F-35 jets, as we are not in the era of the

Prophet Muhammad. Therefore, for God's sake, stop relying on Quranic verses in places that are not yours."

IDF Arabic Spokesperson Lt. Col. Avichay Adraee also shared clips from the protests on X and quoted chants from one of the demonstrations, saying, "Sinwar tell Haniyeh that the people are the victims. Go away, Sinwar! Listen, listen, Haniyeh, go back to Turkey. Listen, Listen, Hamdan, go back to Lebanon."

"Gazans recognize the reason behind the tragedy in the Gaza Strip and the consequences of the destruction and terror wrought by Sinwar and his gang," Adraee added in the post. Displaced Gazans leaving Khan Younis as IDF forces approach

These aren't the first protests against Hamas in Gaza. In recent weeks, Adraee has been sharing numerous videos depicting similar protests where residents boldly call for the overthrow of Hamas and openly criticize its top officials.

According to Adraee, these are spontaneous demonstrations by residents of the Gaza Strip, expressing their frustration with Hamas leadership, which "has led them to disaster."

2.27. 24 – Tu

IDF chief says Hezbollah 'will pay very heavy price' after rockets strike strategic base

2.27. 24 – Tu

IDF chief says Hezbollah 'will pay very heavy price' after rockets strike strategic base

Following rocket volley on northern Israel and hit on IDF Aerial Control Unit at Meron, army base dubbed 'eyes of the state,' IDF strikes Hezbollah terror targets in southern Lebanon

Yoav Zitun, Lior Ben Ari | 02.27.24 | 15:15

About an hour after the IDF announced Tuesday evening that it had attacked sites in Lebanon, additional artillery attacks in southern Lebanon are being reported in the country.

Focusing on Oct. 7 intelligence oversight only diverts attention from Netanyahu's failure. The IDF spokesman announced late on Tuesday that its forces were currently attacking Hezbollah terrorist targets in Lebanon. The attacks, he said, come after an anti-tank missile launched from Lebanon earlier in the day hit the IDF Aerial Control Unit in Meron - a base known as the "eyes of the state" - and which has already been hit by past Hezbollah barrages.

"A hit was identified in the area of the IDF Aerial Control Unit, and did not harm the site's capabilities," the IDF statement emphasized. In addition, the IDF reported that approximately 20 launches were identified crossing from Lebanon into northern Israel, some of which were successfully intercepted by the IDF Aerial Defense Array and the rest fell in open areas according to IDF protocol.

IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi on Tuesday evening conducted a situational assessment at the northern border, with the Commanding Officer of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Gordin, the Commanding Officer of the 146th Division, Brigadier General Yisrael Shomer, and additional commanders.

The visit came in light of the escalation in the exchange of fire in recent days, including earlier on Tuesday evening when a heavy volley of dozens of rockets was also launched into Western Galilee, the same area that Halevi visited.

"Our forces are positioned here in order to locate the enemy and strike it. We are not waiting for anything. What we are saying is this: on the evening of October 7, Hezbollah decided to join in, and for that, it must pay a heavy price. It's clear that the first thing we need to do is push back the enemy. Then, create a very strong barrier, establish strong intelligence gathering capabilities, position strong forces in the area as well as a strong civilian emergency response unit, and ensure there are bomb shelters and safe areas in homes and communities," Halevi said.

"We'd like to tell you, and I also believe, that there is no Hezbollah presence adjacent to the border fence or near it. People have returned here, and I think that if we operate correctly, more people will return here, thanks first and foremost to the security," he added.

The Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, which is affiliated with Hezbollah, reported on two minor injuries from an Israeli drone attack in Beita al-Sha'ab in southern Lebanon.

At the same time, sources close to Hezbollah told Reuters that the terrorist organization will stop its attacks in the north only if a cease-fire is reached in Gaza.

"The moment Hamas announces its approval of the truce, and the moment the truce is declared, Hezbollah will adhere to the truce and will stop operations in the south immediately, as happened the previous time," one of the two sources said.

But if Israel continued shelling Lebanon, Hezbollah would not hesitate to carry on fighting, both sources said.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said earlier this month the group's attacks on Israel would only end when Israel's "aggression" against Gaza ends.

However, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant is now declaring that Israel planned to increase attacks on Hezbollah in the event of a possible cease-fire in the Gaza conflict. He said the goal was to secure a Hezbollah withdrawal from the border region, either through a diplomatic agreement or by force.

The international community hopes to prevent a war in the north through a political settlement, but the sources noted that the Shiite terrorist organization continues to insist that any negotiations on a political settlement will only begin when a complete cease-fire is reached in the Strip.

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Ynet-News, Feb 26, 2024 – Monday

Possible Abomination Days are April 7 & June 20, 2024

2.26.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in February 26 spot – Monday

Hezbollah fired 60 rockets at Golan Heights Kibbutz; residents took shelter

2.26. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

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

2.25. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in February 25 spot – Sunday

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

2.24. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in February 24 spot – Saturday Purim

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

2.23. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in February 23 spot – Friday

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

2.22. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

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

2.22. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday

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

2.22. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in February 22 spot – Thursday

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

2.21. 24 – We- - - News Placed in February 21 spot – Wednesday

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

2.20. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

2.20. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

2.20. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in February 20 spot – Tuesday

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

2.20. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

2.19. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in February 19 spot – Monday

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

2.18. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in February 18 spot – Sunday

Netanyahu restricts West Bank Muslims from Temple Mount during Ramadan

2.18. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

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