

Ynet-News, March 24, 2023 – Sunday

Note: Israel LEAP YEAR Adar-2 this year moves 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

3.24. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in March 24 spot – Sunday

Annual Purim event paused in Golan Heights as sirens warn incoming from Lebanon

3.24. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Defense Minister Gallant & team in US on hostages, Gaza aid, Rafah, Lebanon & Iran

3.24. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in March 23 spot – Saturday

Hamas confiscating food for its own use or to sell, causing hunger in Gaza

3.22. 24 – Fr - - - News Placed in March 22 spot – Friday

Netanyahu tells Blinken Rafah assault to proceed with or without US support

3.20. 24 – We- - - News Placed in March 20 spot – Wednesday

US & Qatar to build Gaza pier, over Israeli objections; a dream come true for Hamas

3.20. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Demonstrations by Gaza residents call for the overthrow of Hamas and top officials

3.20. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Spokesman Eylon Levy suspended after angering David Cameron & Sara Netanyahu

3.19. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in March 19 spot – Tuesday

Office next to hospital director stockpiled weapons & Hamas payroll envelopes

3.19. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Syrian weapons transfers to Hezbollah attacked around Damascus, explosions heard

3.18. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Hamas refuses to give names of live Hostages; demand a week pause before release

3.18. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

IDF found two Hamas hospital rooms with grenades, mortars, bullets, cash

3.18. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Netanyahu 45-minute call to Biden, speaks of falsehoods & obstacles for peace

3.18. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Firefighters rescue 11 Torah scrolls from burning synagogue in central Israel

3.18. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in March 18 spot – Monday

IDF once again raid north Gaza Al Shifa Hospital, arrested 80 Hamas in headquarters

3.17. 24 – Su - - News Placed in March 17 spot – Sunday

Abbas appointed Mustafa to ensure Gaza aid trucks not attacked or hijacked

3.15. 24 – Fr - - News Placed in March 15 spot – Friday

PA gunmen fire on Gaza crowd before aid arrives, Hamas blames Israel forces

3.15. 24 – Fr - - News – Friday

Biden backs New York Senate Leader Schumer call for new elections in Israel

3.15. 24 – Fr - - News Placed in March 16 spot – Saturday

PM approves IDF operation for Rafah invasion; Hamas hostage deal unacceptable

3.24. 24 – Su

Annual Purim event paused in Golan Heights as sirens warn incoming from Lebanon

3.24. 24 – Su

Israeli children take cover as sirens sound during Purim festivities

Rocket sirens sound across communities in the Golan Heights disrupt traditional Purim celebrations forcing children to take cover

Yair Kraus|07:33

Israeli children were forced to lie on the ground and take cover on Sunday as rocket sirens warned of incoming fire from Hezbollah. The children gathered for a traditional Purim event when the sirens began

Seraiah Friedman, one of the event's organizers, told Ynet, "Every year we celebrate Purim with all the community's children with a tractor leading their procession. We asked the children to get down and lie down on the ground quickly, and returned to our routine after a few minutes." His friend Itamar Gur added, "This is outrageous."

After the sirens stopped, the children got up and returned to the celebrations, refusing to let the tense security situation ruin their Purim fair and mass celebrations that are held in the community annually.

While the sirens turned out to be a false alarm as reported by the IDF, Hezbollah fired about 50 rockets at the Golan Heights Sunday overnight, following airstrikes deep in Lebanon, near Baalbek.

According to the IDF, Air Force aircraft attacked the missile launchers that fired toward the Golan Heights. Hezbollah-affiliated news outlet Al Maydeen later claimed that Hezbollah's missile fire at the Golan was aimed at two IDF bases, and included 60 rockets in long volleys.

3.24. 24 – Su

Defense Minister Gallant & team in US on hostages, Gaza aid, Rafah, Lebanon & Iran

3.24. 24 – Su

'Everything that's on the table' in Gallant U.S. trip

Defense Minister, to meet with high-ranking US officials to discuss Rafah offensive, IDF re-entry into al-Shifa hospital, humanitarian aid, Hezbollah and Iran's regional ambitions  
Itamar Eichner|03:02

Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant will travel to Washington D.C. on Sunday afternoon at the invitation of the Biden administration. This visit comes as Israel faces critical political, military, and security decisions regarding a potential hostage-prisoner swap deal.

In Washington, Gallant will meet with key figures like Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, CIA Director Bill Burns, and Special Envoy for Lebanon Amos Hochstein. He will also hold discussions with AIPAC representatives and members of Congress.

Accompanying Gallant is Eyal Zamir, Director-General of the Ministry of Defense, who will continue talks with American officials. Also present will be Dror Shalom, Chief of the Defense Staff, and Col. Elad Goren responsible for Gaza Strip humanitarian aid. They will join discussions on operations in the Strip. The visit aims to strengthen Israeli-American cooperation during a sensitive time for regional security issues. Gallant's perspective provides strategic insights that could impact collaborative policy decisions going forward.

Alongside his counterparts, Gallant is poised to address the agenda concerning Rafah and the matter of humanitarian aid. The discussions will center on Israel's plans for Rafah and its commitment to increasing assistance to Gaza. Additionally, Gallant will emphasize the importance of continued transfers of American weaponry to Israel, despite reports suggesting a potential halt. Strengthening security ties with the United States and garnering ongoing international support for equipment and weaponry will be key objectives.

Furthermore, Gallant will engage in talks regarding efforts to secure the release of captives. A meeting with the head of the CIA, who will be returning from the Middle East with the Israeli delegation, is scheduled. The "day after" issue in the Gaza Strip is expected to be another topic of discussion, with Gallant presenting his plan for a gradual transfer of control to local Palestinian forces. Humanitarian aid, a matter of great concern

to the Americans, will also be a significant focus, particularly in relation to the demand for a credible evacuation plan for the Gazan population in Rafah.

Gallant will present information to his American counterparts highlighting a significant increase in the delivery of humanitarian aid. The data reveals that the average number of trucks per day rose from dozens in January to over 100 in February and 250 in March. Gallant will counter claims of hunger in Gaza, citing Israel's strict calorie measurement, which demonstrates that even if only half of the aid reaches the residents, each Gazan citizen receives an average of 1,600 calories per day, far from hunger.

It is estimated that the figures are even higher in Israel, as Palestinians have their own nutritional auxiliary supplies and additional aid enters the Strip. Gallant has already shared these key research findings with Secretary of State Blinken and is expected to present them to other senior officials in the government as well. Gallant is slated to discuss a range of issues, such as operational data indicating no civilian casualties resulted from recent actions at al-Shifa hospital, while over 100 militants were killed. Coordination with the US on establishing barriers between Gaza and Egypt will also feature in talks. When addressing Lebanon, Gallant will underscore the need to return northern residents and preference for an accord enabling troop withdrawals, like Resolution 1701, though hinges on Lebanon confronting Hezbollah. Should political headway stall, military moves and infrastructure harm may ensue. Continuing to counter Iran as the driver of regional terrorism through proxies such as Hezbollah and arms to Hamas, as well as the Islamic Republic's ongoing nuclear ambitions, are other issues Gallant may raise.

3.24. 24 – Su

Israel aid - Hamas confiscating food for its own use or to sell, causing hunger in Gaza

3.24. 24 – Su

Hunger in Gaza? 'Israel provides humanitarian aid - but Hamas terrorists taking it over' After narrative already spreads and UN, EU echo accusations, Israeli officials say distribution of aid in Strip hampered by inability of human rights groups to operate and by Hamas confiscating food for its own use or to sell at exorbitant prices to local vendors Einav Halabi | Updated: Yesterday | 19:58

Israel has recently provided data refuting accusations it was deliberately causing hunger in Gaza. According to official numbers, Israel has been providing humanitarian aid including food, water, shelter and medicine through two border crossings, in amounts that exceed the delivery from humanitarian groups.

Accusations against Israel were made last week by the EU and UN, feeding into a narrative that has been spread on social media and in reports, by Hamas and its supporters around the world. Israel's delayed response to those accusations have solidified the narrative that the civilians in Gaza were suffering from hunger and that Israel was to blame.

According to Israeli officials, distribution of the aid that is delivered either over land or in airdrops is hampered by an inability of human rights organizations working in the Strip, to organize orderly provisions in some areas due to the ongoing fighting.

They also point to Hamas terrorists taking over the aid in order to provide it to their fighters hiding in the underground tunnel network or to sell it to vendors at exorbitant prices. According to reports, the cost of a tomato in Gaza's markets was as high as NIS 24 (\$6.60)

The Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) said on Thursday that since the start of the war, over 17,400 aid trucks provided humanitarian supplies to the Gaza Strip, including over 10,300 trucks carrying more than 218,000 tons of food. For context, the daily average number of trucks carrying food to the Gaza Strip before the war was around 70, and since the beginning of March, the average has grown to over 125 — marking an 80% rise. However, a large portion of the aid is looted, mainly due to the Gazan crowds swarming the trucks. COGAT was attempting to enlist local Gazans who were not affiliated with Hamas to assist in the distribution of the aid.

Last week, Hamas executed the leader of the local Doghmush clan in northern Gaza after reports alleged that the Israeli authorities contacted him in an attempt to enlist his family to oversee the distribution of aid in the Strip.

First published: 10:22, 03.22.24

3.22. 24 – Fr

Netanyahu tells Blinken Rafah assault to proceed with or without US support

3.22. 24 – Fr

Netanyahu tells Blinken Rafah assault to proceed with or without US support

PM says in post Blinken told the government understands it must ensure the safety of civilians, provide for their humanitarian needs; Secretary attends war cabinet meeting

Itamar Eichner|03.22.24 | 09:29

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday that he informed visiting U.S. secretary that Israel will assault Rafah with or without U.S. support. "I told him that I hope we will do it with the support of the U.S., but if we have to - we will do it alone,"

He went on to say that he told Blinken that he appreciates the fact that for over five months, Israel and the United States were standing together in the war against Hamas and that his government recognizes the need to remove the civilians in Gaza away from the dangers of war and to see to their humanitarian needs, and is working toward that end.

An Israeli official said his visit was in order to advocate for the return of Gaza's to the northern part of the Strip, a central Hamas demand in the negotiations for hostages' release.

His visit took place a short while before Mossad chief David Barnea was scheduled to leave for Qatar where negotiations were taking place through Qatari and Egyptian mediators and where he was expected to meet with CIA chief William Burns. Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar will accompany Barnea.

Blinken also met with the families of the hostages held by Hamas who urged him to use every avenue to secure their release.

Netanyahu's attacks on U.S. and Biden increase as intelligence report says the prime minister's rule is in jeopardy; 'We expect our friends to work to bring down the terror regime of Hamas and not the elected government in Israel,' official says

3.20. 24 – We

US & Qatar to build Gaza pier, over Israeli objections; a dream come true for Hamas

3.20. 24 – We

US invites Qatar to help build Gaza pier, over Israeli objections

Official says a Qatari port in Gaza is a dream come true for Hamas, adding that it is unfortunate Israel failed to see the gravity of the situation in time to prevent Qatari involvement

Itamar Eichner, Yuval Karni|03:58

The United States decided to bring Qatar in to participate in the construction and management of the temporary pier in Gaza, that will bring humanitarian aid into the Strip, despite Israel's objections. "Qatari involvement in a port in Gaza would be a dream come true for Hamas and it is too bad that Israel missed the gravity of the situation in time to stop it," according to an Israeli official.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken participated in a video conference with his counterparts from Cyprus, Qatar, Britain, the UAE, the European Union and the United Nations, to coordinate the maritime corridor to be used to bring humanitarian aid into the Strip. Surprisingly, no Israeli representative participated in the meeting, but Qatari Minister of State Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi attended.

"The Americans are rushing ahead," the senior Israeli official said. "There is coordination between Israel and Cyprus and there is the American initiative to establish the temporary pier and its management and they decided to include Qatar despite our reservations. One can only hope this would be ultimately reversed. Qatar must not have a hold on any port in Gaza."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday that only he can stand up to the Americans. "We have to say 'no' to the U.S., and anyone who is unable to do so cannot be prime minister," he said in a jab at war cabinet member Benny Gantz, who visited Washington recently, and who according to polling is likely to beat Netanyahu with a huge majority if elections were held now.

The prime minister told the lawmakers in the committee that if he would have agreed to discuss a two-state solution and would have backed down from his intentions to launch an offensive on Rafah, he could be enjoying a great relationship with Washington. "Any other prime minister would have done that and would have gained the Americans but lost Israel and the battle against Hamas," he said.

But the United States is not the only country acting against Israel's positions. On Tuesday, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said Ottawa will stop future arms exports to Israel after Canada's parliament passed a non-binding motion to do so. The Canadian Jewish community denounced the decision claiming it undermines Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas.

3.20. 24 – We

Demonstrations by Gaza residents call for the overthrow of Hamas and top officials

3.20. 24 – We

'Go away, Sinwar!' Gaza protests swell as crowds rally against Hamas

During a protest in Jabaliya in northern Gaza, demonstrators voice anger against Hamas' political chief Ismail Haniyeh and terror leader Yahya Sinwar

Hadar Adij|02.21.24 | 05:36

While Palestinian media is trying to hush the growing popular resentment against Hamas and its leader Yahya Sinwar in the Gaza Strip after four and a half months of fighting, more footage of desperate Gazans calling for the downfall of the terrorist organization continues to surface.

Videos circulated overnight Tuesday depicted angry crowds chanting slogans against Hamas and Sinwar in both the northern Gaza Strip city of Jabaliya and the city of Rafah in the territory's south.

In one clip from the protest in Jabaliya, protesters can be heard calling out against Hamas' Political Bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh and Sinwar. "Sinwar, Haniyeh, the people are the victims. Down with Hamas! Down with Hamas!" they shouted.

In Rafah, protesters also voiced opposition against Sinwar and Hamas heavyweight Osama Hamdan, who resides in Lebanon. "Listen, listen, Hamdan, go back to Lebanon!" they chanted, along with, "Listen, listen, Haniyeh, the people are the victims. Gaza will be redeemed through spirit and blood."

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. 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."

Most of Gaza's population has been displaced from their homes due to the war, with around 1.5 million people currently concentrated in the Rafah area, out of a total population of roughly 2.3 million living in the Palestinian enclave. Many suffer from hunger and rely on external aid for survival.

3.20. 24 – We

Spokesman Eylon Levy suspended after angering David Cameron & Sara Netanyahu

3.20. 24 – We

Popular English-language government spokesman Eylon Levy suspended after angering UK

He has become a familiar face through his interviews with global media outlets since the onset of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza; He contradicted British Foreign Secretary David Cameron over the amount of aid reaching Gaza

Itamar Eichner|00:02

Popular English-language government spokesman Eylon Levy has been suspended from his position after a social media post that angered British Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

Levy was suspended more than a week ago by the head of the National Public Diplomacy Directorate, Moshik Aviv. He has become a familiar face in many Israeli households and internationally through his interviews with global media outlets since the onset of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

Levy's post on the X platform on March 7 was in response to a statement by Cameron, in which he stated that he had pressed Israel to increase the flow of aid to Gaza, and that the UK is still "not seeing improvements on the ground."

Levy responded: "It is factually incorrect that the flow of aid has not increased. Last week we had a record 277 trucks. Over the past 2 weeks, there have been nearly 50% MORE food trucks entering compared with before the war. Israel's crossings have excess



capacity and if the UK wants more aid to enter Gaza, it should send it and we'll make sure it gets in."

Levy's on-air appearances have been reduced in recent months amid reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife, Sara, demanded that he be fired after learning that he had posted statements against the government and participated in demonstrations against the judicial reform prior to the start of the war with Hamas in Gaza on October 7.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said that Levy had been in the crosshairs for a long time and that it seems that he is "busy from morning to night promoting himself and running an independent agenda."

It is unclear whether Levy's suspension will turn into a dismissal, and sources familiar with the matter say that if they wanted to fire him they would not be content with just his suspension.

In Levy's most memorable interview, a British journalist questioned him about the disparity between the number of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners released as part of the first hostage release deal. The interviewer suggested that Israel seemingly undervalues Palestinian lives, given the imbalance in the numbers released. Levy quickly dismissed it as an "outrageous accusation." However, it was the visibly shocked look on his face and his raised eyebrows that grabbed headlines and went on to inspire countless Internet memes.

3.19.24 – Tu

Office next to hospital director stockpiled weapons & Hamas payroll envelopes

3.19.24 – Tu

300 terrorists arrested, dozens killed in raid on Gaza's Al Shifa Hospital

RPG launcher found hidden next to hospital director's office alongside stockpiles of weapons on second day of IDF raid; Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists hiding in Gaza's largest medical facility

Yoav Zitun|| 16:31

Dozens of terrorists have been killed and around 300 others arrested by Israeli forces in Gaza City's Al Shifa Hospital since the IDF launched a raid on the Gaza Strip's largest medical facility, the army reported Tuesday evening.

New documentation from the scene reveals weapons including an RPG anti-tank missile launcher, an AK-47 rifle, cartridges and bullets discovered in an office next to the hospital director's.

The raid on the hospital in western Gaza City is being led by a 401st Brigade combat team, in cooperation with Shayetet 13 and Duvdevan Unit forces under the command of the 162nd Division and the Shin Bet.

"During the raid, we identified terrorists hiding in this area. We managed to eliminate several terrorists and find many weapons in the area. We will continue the operation until we finish it well and eliminate all the terrorists in the area," 932nd Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Dotan said.

The forces arrested dozens of prominent Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists at the hospital who were involved in directing terrorist activity in the West Bank, active in propaganda efforts and part of Islamic Jihad's rocket unit, the IDF said.

The suspects are being interrogated on-site by field investigators from Unit 504 of the Intelligence Corps and are subsequently taken for further investigation by the unit and the Shin Bet in Israel.

Meanwhile, the Palestinians reported Tuesday evening that Nuseirat police chief Abu Al-Nour Al-Bayoumi was killed in an Israeli airstrike near the central Gaza Strip refugee camp's UNRWA headquarters alongside several other people.

According to reports, Hamas had tasked the refugee camp's police chief with securing humanitarian aid truck convoys en route to Gaza City in the territory's north.

Additionally, Gaza's Liberators, a group opposing Hamas in Gaza, said that "Hamas police in Nuseirat had seized an aid truck, and the IDF attacked them from the air."

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit reported earlier on Tuesday that Warrant Officer (res.) Sebastian Haion, 51, from Rosh Haayin, a commander in the 401st Brigade, fell in clashes against terrorists in the Al Shifa Hospital.

On Monday, Staff Sergeant Matan Vinogradov, 20, a soldier from the Nahal Brigade's 932nd Battalion, from Jerusalem, was killed in fighting at the hospital.

During the raid on the hospital, many weapons and terrorist funds were found that were intended to be distributed to terrorist operatives from Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The raid revealed envelopes filled with cash, marked "Congratulations on the effort," meant for terrorists.

"The place that Hamas terrorists thought was their hiding place and safe place quickly became a death trap in the Al Shifa area," Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday.

"In this process, we took another step toward dismantling Hamas, another brick, another blow. It will continue and intensify until we eliminate the Hamas organization and everything it represents. There will be no military rule and there will be no capability of a Hamas military force in the Gaza Strip. It will take as long as it takes, we will eliminate this evil."

3.19. 24 – Tu

Syrian weapons transfers to Hezbollah attacked around Damascus, explosions heard

3.19. 24 – Tu

Syria says Israel attacked military targets around Damascus

Strike is second in as many days **targeting Hezbollah assets in Syria**; Saudi paper quotes source saying attack was on base used by military and Hezbollah; warns **Damascus provides Iran-backed group with arms to use against Israel**  
Lior Ben Ari|01:47

**Syria** on **Tuesday confirmed a strike on Damascus** it said was carried out **by Israel**. The Ministry of Defense said that military targets were hit and that the Syrian air defenses **intercepted some of the missiles**.

A security source told Saudi media that **Israel struck** a military **base used by the Syrian forces and Hezbollah**. "The **Syrian military transfers weapons to Hezbollah** to use in their fight against Israel," the source said.

"Continued **arms smuggling from Syria will increase Israeli strikes** on the military stores and the continued Syrian support of Hezbollah and Iran, will prevent it from achieving stability and the Syrian people will pay the price," he said.

The **strike** late on **Monday**, was the **second in as many days**. In the earlier attack, **Hezbollah sites around Damascus** were reportedly the **target** and after **ammunition supplies** were hit, **explosions were heard** in the area.

3.18. 24 – Mo

**Hamas refuses to give names of live Hostages; demand a week pause before release**

3.18. 24 – Mo

**Officials hope to lower expectations in hostage talks, 'they are complicated and would take time'**

Some officials say **mandate given by cabinet to delegation to Qatar** is enough to **move negotiations forward** while others believe ministers, including **Netanyahu** are **missing an opportunity to bring hostages home**

Itamar Eichner|| 16:42

An Israeli official said on **Monday** that **negotiations for a hostage release** deal would be a **long and complicated** process. He spoke soon after the delegation **headed by Mossad Chief David Barnea** left for Qatar. "We must **be patient**. It is important that the families of hostages understand that we are working around the clock, but this will take time," he said.

Israel's cabinet on **Sunday** approved the participation in the **talks in Doha** which will be through the **Qatari and Egyptian mediators**. Barnea is expected to return to Israel overnight, **leaving a team from Mossad, the Shin Bet and military intelligence**, behind, but will oversee the process remotely. He will fly back to Qatar at a later date, as required.

Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar, who was expected to attend the negotiations, remains in Israel likely because of the ongoing operation at the Al Shifa hospital in Gaza. According to the IDF spokesperson, some 200 suspected terrorists were arrested in the facility. Bar's decision to stay in Israel may also be due to the increased security tension during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The Israeli delegation was given red-lines in their mandate to attend the negotiations. According to officials, the cabinet ministers gave the team some leeway, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu set limits on the delegation's ability to negotiate the number of Palestinian prisoners that would be released from Israeli jails in exchange for hostages.

While Barnea believes the mandate given the Israeli delegation is enough to move the process forward, other officials believe the limitations were excessive. General Nitzan Alon, who has been part of Israel's negotiation team, reportedly considered remaining in Israel and indicated that the cabinet was missing an opportunity to bring about the release of hostages held in Gaza since October 7. One senior official said the mandate was "good enough," in order to see how serious Hamas was in its intentions to reach a deal.

In the cabinet meeting, far-right ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich opposed Israel's participation in the negotiations. Ben-Gvir said Israel should not negotiate with Hamas and should launch its assault on Rafah, instead.

Members of the delegations cautioned against the resumption of the talks causing too much optimism among the families of the hostages, who have been demonstrating daily in demand of a hostage release deal.

"This is the first time we are going to hold details negotiations and every dotted I and crossed T is important. Therefore, it would take time," a member of the delegation said. There is Hamas in Gaza, in the tunnels and Hamas outside, with senior members living in Qatar. It takes 24 to 36 hours to get messages from one to the other," he said. "We are negotiating with Sinwar, not with those living outside the Strip, who do not have the power or ability to make decisions. We must lower expectations."

In Washington, officials were optimistic a deal could be reached. A senior administration official said on Monday that the parties would reach an agreement that would include a cease-fire, despite the obstacles. "All sides, including Israel, Hamas, Qatar and Egypt, feel the pressure from Washington. We will not take no for an answer," the official said. U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said in his briefing on Monday that although Hamas has made new demands, some seen as excessive, he was hopeful a solution could be found once the talks begin. Sullivan said the matter was raised in the conversation between U.S. President Joe Biden and Netanyahu earlier on Monday.

The question of how many Palestinian prisoners would be released is one of the main sticking points in the negotiations but a compromise could be reached based on the 2011 deal for the release of IDF soldier Gilad Shalit who was held captive by Hamas for five years. Then Israel was able to veto certain names of convicted murderers demanded by Hamas

The terror group demanded that it be able to name 150 prisoners, including murderers serving multiple life sentences, in exchange for five female soldiers it is holding hostage.

Another demand is to allow the return of Gazans to the northern areas of the Strip after they evacuated to escape the fighting there. Israel rejected the demand claiming it would be a victory for Hamas but would agree to a gradual return of women and children. The negotiations in Doha are to be based on the agreements reached with Israel in Paris last month, outlining a deal that includes a six-week pause in the fighting during which time 40 of the hostages, women, children and the elderly, would be freed, in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

Israel refused at first to attend talks in Cairo after Hamas responded to the Paris outline giving only partial answers. Last week, Hamas gave a new response which according to the New York Times, was a departure from earlier demands for a complete end to the war. The terror group demanded the release of 800 prisoners in exchange for 40 hostages: five female soldiers, seven women, 15 elderly men and 13 others who were injured or sick.

Israel also opposes the Hamas demand to receive assurances from Russia and Turkey for the agreement. Hamas also refuses to provide the names of Hostages who are still alive and are to be included in the first exchange. The terrorists demand a week without fighting before the release, claiming only then it would be able to collect the names of the hostages.

In Israel, this demand is seen as an attempt at a deception, similar to the Hamas behavior during the November hostage release deal, when the terrorists claimed they did not have 10 live women and children among the captives, a claim Israel doubted.

3.18. 24 – Mo

IDF found two Hamas hospital rooms with grenades, mortars, bullets, cash

3.18. 24 – Mo

IDF finds weapons, cash at Al-Shifa, military says

Troops find rooms located near the hospital administrators office, prepared for Hamas terrorists containing grenades, mortar shells and large amounts of cash

Yoav Zitun|13:03

The IDF said on Monday that in the raid on the Al Shifa hospital in Gaza, which began in the early hours of the morning and was still underway, the forces killed at least 20 armed terrorists and arrested dozens of suspects. The military said the forces uncovered envelopes with cash prepared for Hamas and Islamic Jihad operatives with "congratulations for your work," written on them.

The IDF spokesperson also said the forces found large amounts of weapons and two rooms located near the office of the hospital administrator who were prepared for Hamas terrorists and contained grenades, mortars, bullets and large amounts of cash.

"We moved on the Al Shifa hospital after receiving accounts of it being used by senior member of Hamas to coordinate its fighting in the northern part of the Gaza Strip and

also maintain its governance over the population there," a commander of a special operations team said.

"When we entered the compound, we encountered IUDs and heavy fire from the terrorists inside," he said. "We will not let Hamas make cynical use of civilian infrastructure and will pursue its commanders."

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said the fighting will continue and accelerate until Hamas is eliminated. "The place the Hamas thought was a safe hiding place, quickly became a death trap at the Al Shifa," he said. "There will not be a Hamas military rule or military capability in Gaza. However long it takes, we will eliminate this evil."

3.18.24 – Mo

Netanyahu 45-minute call to Biden, speaks of falsehoods & obstacles for peace

3.18.24 – Mo

Biden Netanyahu speak amid growing tension

In the 45-minute call, the first in over a month, leaders discussed the war, Rafah and the need to increase aid deliveries into the Strip; earlier PM tells AIPAC there is deliberate spreading of falsehoods on his motives and the public support he enjoys

Itamar Eichner|12:15

U.S. President Joe Biden held a 45-minute phone conversation on Monday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after the two leaders had not spoken in over a month. The call came soon after Netanyahu pushed back once again, against comment the president had made about his far-right coalition and the prime minister's policies that were described as an obstacle for peace.

In a statement following the call Netanyahu said the two men had discussed Israel's commitment to achieve all the targets it had set out for the war: eliminating Hamas, releasing all the hostages and ensuring Gaza would no longer pose a threat to Israel. This would be done "while providing the necessary humanitarian aid that helps achieve those goals," he said in the statement.

Speaking to the leadership of AIPAC, the pro-Israel lobby in Washington, Netanyahu said Biden referred to political considerations interfering with the interests of the country. "On which side of the pond?" he asked.

He said there was unity among Israelis that victory as he had described it was imperative and within reach. He also said that the picture that is presented in the last days and weeks in the United States is completely different than the reality. "The description is you have an outlier prime minister with some extreme fringe groups and that's what's driving the policy, false," he said. "I would say deliberately false."

But Netanyahu is not only on a collision course with the current administration. Sources who spoke with former U.S. president Donald Trump said he was still angered at Netanyahu not only for congratulating Biden on his win in 2020 but also for "stealing" the credit for the Pfizer COVID vaccines being delivered to Israel. Trump claimed he gave the pharmaceutical giant the green light to deliver vaccines for Israel. The sources said Trump was shocked at the events of October 7 and saw them as the result of Netanyahu's weakness, a trait the Republican presidential candidate does not like. "Based on his past behavior, it can be said with confidence that Trump does not forgive nor forget. If Netanyahu is still prime minister in January of 2025, and Trump is back in the White House, it is doubtful that Netanyahu will receive an invitation to visit," the source said.

Others believe there are enough people in Trump's orbit who are looking out for Israel's interests including his son-in-law Jared Kushner. Trump's comments that the war in Gaza must end shows his desire to convince Muslim voters in Michigan not to vote for Biden in November.

3.18. 24 – Mo

Firefighters rescue 11 Torah scrolls from burning synagogue in central Israel

3.18. 24 – Mo

Firefighters rescue 11 Torah scrolls from burning synagogue in central Israel

No one was hurt when Ohev Tzedek synagogue in Kfar Saba caught fire, but the building was seriously damaged; police say the synagogue may have been broken into and the cause of the fire is being investigated

Raanan Ben-Zur|06:53

Firefighters rescued 11 Torah scrolls early on Monday morning from a synagogue that went up in flames in the central Israel city of Kfar Saba. No one was hurt, but the building suffered serious damage. An investigation was opened into the cause of the fire.

Around 3:30 a.m., a report was received at Israel Fire and Rescue Command about a burning two-story building on Weizman Street in Kfar Saba. Three firefighting teams were dispatched to the scene. When the teams arrived, the firefighters were able to identify a fully developed fire in Ohev Tzedek synagogue.

Thanks to the quick actions and efforts of the firefighters, they managed to reach the holy ark and save the synagogue's 11 Torah scrolls, which were not damaged by the flames. The synagogue building was nearly completely gutted by the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Police suspect that the synagogue was broken into after noticing that bars protecting the building's windows had been cut. Meanwhile, arson investigators and Israel Police

forensics investigators collected various forensic findings at the scene to examine the circumstances and advance the investigation.

3.18. 24 – Mo

IDF once again raid north Gaza Al Shifa Hospital, arrested 80 Hamas in headquarters

3.18. 24 – Mo

IDF troops clash with terrorists at Al Shifa hospital, 80 suspects arrested

Surprise IDF raid on Gaza's largest medical facility follows intelligence on senior Hamas officials using it for terror activities; one soldier lightly wounded, multiple terrorists killed, some via air strikes

Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi|02:16

The IDF's dramatic early morning raid on Al Shifa Hospital, announced by its spokesperson, began at 2:30 AM as part of a surprise operation.

Gaza's largest medical facility was surrounded by the 401st Brigade of the 162nd Division and special forces who entered the facility. This operation followed extensive intelligence gathering by the IDF and Shin Bet, indicating that in recent weeks, senior Hamas commanders and operatives had been using the hospital and its facilities for terrorist activities.

The swift encirclement prevented the terrorists from escaping, initially on foot with special forces arriving secretly, followed by tanks and armored vehicles tightening the siege around the medical institution in western Gaza City. The operation also included air support, resulting in the elimination of some terrorists through airstrikes.

So far, about 80 Palestinians have been arrested in the hospital area as part of the operation, including terrorists. Fighting continues in the hospital vicinity six hours after the operation began, following initial clashes upon the arrival of the troops.

The IDF called for terrorists to leave the hospital and surrender. The army is utilizing drones and specialized technologies to provide units with tactical, intelligence, and operational advantages.

The military said the operation is underway and control over the area has been established. According to the IDF, Hamas is once again attempting to use Al Shifa as a main terror headquarters in the northern Strip. The IDF had previously warned healthcare officials in the Strip, including those at Al Shifa, of Hamas' return to using hospitals for terror purposes.

Forces on the ground are accompanied by Shin Bet investigators and Unit 504 for field interrogations, assisting in screening everyone exiting the hospital and checking them. The forces arrived with ample medical supplies and food to be provided to Al Shifa later, separating the terrorists from the medical teams.

A soldier was lightly injured in the exchange of fire, and several terrorists were killed in the fighting, part of which took place within the medical facility itself. The army believes



the terrorists have been using different rooms inside the hospital but not tunnels, as the IDF had destroyed them earlier in the war.

One person posted a video to Instagram from inside the hospital. "This might be my last video. We are trapped in Al Shifa Hospital and being intensively shot at," he said as explosions can be heard in the background.

A Gazan journalist reports about Al Shifa raid from within hospital premises

"IDF forces entered the medical compound and surprised us inside the hospital. What you're hearing now are confrontations and exchanges of fire around the hospital. At Al Shifa's entrance, you can hear sounds and shrapnel flying. The whole world has turned its back on us, but God is with us, God will help us and we will prevail, God willing." The person, who recorded himself inside the hospital, claimed, "We are trapped here, pray for us, this might be my last video. I have no idea what's happening outside, the situation is catastrophic."

Officials in Gaza's Hamas-controlled health ministry reported fatalities and injuries at the hospital. According to their statements, a fire broke out at the entrance to the facility, and communications were severed. They alleged cases of suffocation among the displaced, including children, in the hospital's Building 8. "We call on all international institutions to immediately stop the massacre," they said.

Hamas also issued a similar accusation in a statement. "The international community and the UN's failure to act against the occupying army has given a green light for the continuation of the genocide war and ethnic cleansing against our people."

3.17. 24 – Su

Abbas appointed Mustafa to ensure Gaza aid trucks not attacked or hijacked

3.17. 24 – Su

PA-affiliated gunmen seen securing Gaza aid trucks

Amid peak tensions and exchanges of accusations between Hamas and Fatah, Palestinian Authority-linked gunmen observed guarding distribution of flour in Gaza City and Jabaliya; 'We'll ensure aid truck not attacked or hijacked'

Einav Halabi | 03:46

Some 15 trucks loaded with flour entered Gaza City and the Jabaliya refugee camp overnight Sunday, guarded by a group mainly consisting of masked gunmen armed with AK-47 rifles.

Saudi channel Asharq News quoted a member of the guard as saying, "The guard unit was established with the approval of the factions and national consensus. It will protect the aid trucks from today onwards, ensuring they are not attacked or hijacked."

These gunmen are believed to be affiliated with Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah movement.

Some members of the guard rode on the trucks, while others walked alongside, preventing residents from approaching Al Nablusi Square in Gaza City. The flour from

the trucks was delivered to the Palestinian Authority-affiliated Welfare Ministry's warehouses in the Al Rimal neighborhood, west of Gaza City. This marks the first arrival of aid trucks to the Jabaliya refugee camp in several months. Before the trucks arrived for distribution, Palestinian Authority security forces issued a leaflet reading, "For your safety and the safe arrival of the trucks, do not go to Al Nablusi Square to receive aid, do not gather on Salah al-Din Road when the aid arrives, those who violate the instructions will be dealt with, and others will receive the aid."

The directive follows multiple fatal incidents where Gaza civilians, in a rush to obtain supplies from aid trucks, caused deadly stampedes that resulted in numerous fatalities. Over the weekend, NBC News reported that Israel is considering using international private security firms to protect humanitarian aid shipments entering the Gaza Strip. According to the report, Israel had approached several security companies about this and suggested that other countries could cover the security costs. This comes as tensions between Hamas and Fatah reach a new peak following Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas's decision to appoint Mohammad Mustafa as the head of the new Palestinian technocrat government. "Forming a government without national consensus is a meaningless step that deepens the division among Palestinians," Hamas said in a statement also endorsed by Palestinian Islamic Jihad. "It demonstrates the depth of the crisis in the Authority's leadership, the disconnect from reality, and the wide gap between it and our people."

Abbas' Fatah movement launched an unprecedented attack on the terrorist groups in response, expressing astonishment at "the exclusion and division in Hamas' discourse." "We wonder, who did Hamas consult within the Palestinian leadership when it decided to embark on the October 7 adventure, leading to a catastrophe far more horrific and brutal than the disaster of 1948?" a statement read. "With whom in the Palestinian leadership did Hamas consult when it is now negotiating with Israel and offering concession after concession, with no other aim than securing guarantees for its leaders' personal security?"

3.15. 24 – Fr

PA gunmen fire on Gaza crowd before aid arrives, Hamas blames Israel forces

3.15. 24 – Fr

Watch: Palestinian gunmen open fire on Gazan civilians before humanitarian aid arrives  
IDF states Palestinian gunmen opened fire about an hour before the entry of the aid  
convoy into the strip

Dennis Bihler|15:54

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit released Friday footage of Palestinian gunmen opening fire on a crowd of Gazan civilians.

About an hour before the entry of the aid convoy, Palestinian gunmen were seen opening fire on a crowd of Gazan civilians in Kuwait Square.

"The IDF is continuing to examine the incident," the IDF said in a statement, adding that it is "making strenuous efforts to bring humanitarian aid to the residents of the Gaza Strip while Hamas terrorists are harming the residents of Gaza and spreading lies to blame the State of Israel."

Earlier on Friday, the IDF denied allegations by Hamas that Israeli forces had fired on civilians awaiting aid in Gaza City, saying that soldiers had not used their weapons at any stage of the incident and pointed to Palestinian gunmen as the cause of the casualties. Meanwhile, also on Friday, several launches were identified from Lebanon toward the areas of Shtula, Har Dov, and Zar'it in northern Israel.

IDF fighter jets struck a Hezbollah military site in the area of Houla, as well as an observation post belonging to the terrorist organization in the area of Marwahin. Furthermore, IDF artillery struck in the area of Wadi Hamoul to remove an imminent threat.

3.15. 24 – Fr

Biden backs New York Senate Leader Schumer call for new elections in Israel

3.15. 24 – Fr

Biden backs Schumer after senator calls for new elections in Israel

Joe Biden says Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer 'made a good speech and expressed serious concerns shared not only by him but by many Americans'

Associated Press|12:45

President Joe Biden expressed support Friday for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer after the senator called for new elections in Israel, the latest sign that the U.S. relationship with its closest Middle East ally is careening toward fracture over the war in Gaza.

Schumer, a Jewish Democrat from New York, sent tremors through both countries this week when he said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has "lost his way" and warned that "Israel cannot survive if it becomes a pariah" as Palestinian casualties continue to grow.

"He made a good speech," Biden said in the Oval Office during a meeting with Ireland's prime minister. "I think he expressed serious concerns shared not only by him but by many Americans."

The Democratic president's backing for Schumer could further frustrate Netanyahu, whose political party has already sharply criticized the U.S. senator.

"One would expect Sen. Schumer to respect Israel's elected government and not undermine it," Netanyahu's political party Likud said in a statement. "This is always true, and even more so in wartime."

After his State of the Union speech earlier this month, Biden said that he needed to have a “come to Jesus” conversation with Netanyahu. He also accused Netanyahu of “hurting Israel more than helping Israel” with his leadership of the war.

The latest challenge to the U.S.-Israeli relationship is Israel’s plan to pursue Hamas into Rafah, a city in southern Gaza where displaced Palestinians have gathered to avoid fighting in the north.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking from Vienna, said “We have to see a clear and implementable plan” to safeguard civilians from an Israeli incursion.

“We have not seen such a plan,” he said. But Blinken said tough conversations between allies do not mean the alliance is fracturing.

“That’s actually the strength of the relationship, to be able to speak clearly, candidly and directly,” he said.

3.15. 24 – Fr

PM approves IDF operation for Rafah invasion; Hamas hostage deal unacceptable

3.15. 24 – Fr

Netanyahu approves plans for Rafah operation

PM office says the IDF is preparing for the invasion and population evacuation in Rafah; adds that Hamas hostage deal demands remain unacceptable

Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi|10:19

The Prime Minister's Office announced on Friday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved the IDF's plans for an operation in Rafah.

The statement, released amid heightened tensions in the War Cabinet, emphasized that the IDF is preparing for the invasion and population evacuation.

Meanwhile, in response to Hamas' mediation proposals regarding a potential hostage exchange, Netanyahu's office stated that "Hamas demands remain unacceptable." An Israeli delegation will depart for Doha after the War Cabinet discusses Israel's stance. "Hamas is sticking to unreasonable demands, leaving little room for progress," a senior official said. "The War Cabinet will soon deliberate on Israel's detailed position, deciding whether to authorize the negotiating team's departure to Doha. Security officials reported to the cabinet regarding the growing evidence of Marwan Issa's elimination. Prime Minister Netanyahu commended this and called it a significant Israeli achievement."

Hamas submitted a three-stage ceasefire proposal on Friday, that includes facilitating aid deliveries and returning displaced Palestinians to their homes, as reported by Al Jazeera.

Each of the three stages would last 42 days. In the first stage, Israeli forces would withdraw beyond Salah al-Din Street near Gaza City in central Gaza to enable some of

the displaced people to return home. Hamas would release a female Israeli reservist held captive in Gaza for every 50 Palestinian prisoners.

The second stage would consist of a permanent ceasefire to be announced before Hamas releases any captive IDF soldiers. In the final stage, the terror group proposed the end of Israel's siege on Gaza and the beginning of reconstruction efforts.

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Ynet-News, March 14, 2023 – Thursday

Note: Israel LEAP YEAR Adar-2 this year moves 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

3.14. 24 – Th- - - News   Placed in March 14 spot – Thursday  
US sanctions two Jewish outposts in West Bank, claiming they undermine stability

3.13. 24 – We- - - News   Placed in March 13 spot – Wednesday  
Israelis agree with Netanyahu's post-war plan but doubt it would work

3.12. 24 – Tu- - - News   Placed in March 12 spot – Tuesday  
4,500 attacks on Hezbollah, Ben-Gvir wants aid to residents evacuated five months

3.11. 24 – Mo- - - News   Placed in March 11 spot – Monday Ramadan start Mar 11  
PM moves 60 Gaza orphans to Bethlehem at Germany's request - no MK approval

3.11. 24 – Mo- - - News   – Monday Ramadan start Mar 11  
Oct. 7 victims' families sue PA and Hamas, as they still have means of funding

3.11. 24 – Mo- - - News   – Monday Ramadan start Mar 11  
IDF commander reprimanded for blowing up Gaza university without approval

3.10. 24 – Su- - - News   Placed in March 10 spot – Sunday Ramadan eve Mar 10  
Chief rabbi threatens Haredi exodus over conscription, critics call for resignation

3.10. 24 – Su- - - News   – Sunday Ramadan eve Mar 10  
Shin Bet arrested Hamas-cell in northern Israel discovered from documents in Gaza

3.10. 24 – Su- - - News   – Sunday Ramadan eve Mar 10  
Dozens of Hezbollah rocket barrages pummel Upper Galilee Sunday morning

3.08. 24 – Fr- - - News   – Friday  
US building a port in Gaza: Israel considers buying Cyprus port as inspection checkpoint

3.08. 24 – Fr- - - News   – Friday

Families of hostages, Oct. 7 survivors file lawsuit against UNRWA-USA's donor

3.08. 24 – Fr - - News – Friday

West Bank settlement shooting & bomb-throwing attack wounded 4 near IDF checkpoint

3.08. 24 – Fr - - News – Friday

Americans in IDF form ' Hamas Hunting Club,' using demeaning photos of detainees

3.08. 24 – Fr - - News Placed in March 08 spot – Friday

US, UK, France circumvent UN chief to submit Patten report on Hamas sex crimes

3.08. 24 – Fr - - News – Friday

Biden “State-of-Union” announced US building a Gaza pier to receive large aid ships