

Ynet-News, Apr 1, 2024 – Monday

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

4.01. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in April 01 spot – Monday

IDF reveals weapons concealed at Al Shifa Hospital maternity ward

3.31. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Sderot college near Gaza border studied remotely, now requires some attendance

3.31. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in March 31 spot – Sunday

Fraud in UN reports claim hunger; fact 80% more food daily than before war

3.31. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Terrorist stabbed IDF officer in Be'er Sheva central bus station

3.30. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in March 30 spot – Saturday

Hamas moves hostages in ambulances, after parading through streets like trophies

3.29. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in March 29 spot – Friday

Islamic world prepared for Rafah invasion, with help from Iran and Hezbollah

3.28. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in March 28 spot – Thursday

Netanyahu will dispatch a delegation next week to Washington on Gaza cease-fire  
Posted; - - - PM delegation next week to Washington on Gaza

3.27. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Israel rely on facial recognition in Gaza to locate terrorists & abducted Israelis

3.27. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

IDF hit Hezbollah on northern border; 40 rockets Wednesday in Galilee

3.27. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Members of Karta deter men from joining IDF; secularists choose to engage in war

3.27. 24 – We- - - News Placed in March 27 spot – Wednesday

Ex-US envoy David Friedman emphasized 'Biden and Democrats betrayed Israel'

3.26. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Maryland Bridge collapse; cargo ship fire disabled vessel, then collided with bridge

3.26. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in March 26 spot – Tuesday

Israeli team recalled from Qatar after Hamas rejected any compromise offer

3.25. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in March 25 spot – Monday  
UN demands immediate cease-fire in Gaza, not imposing hostage release

3.25. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday  
IDF thwart weapons smuggling from Iran Guards destined for West Bank

4.01. 24 – Mo  
IDF reveals weapons concealed at Al Shifa Hospital maternity ward

4.01. 24 – Mo  
Weapons concealed at Al Shifa Hospital maternity ward, IDF reveals  
Soldiers uncover array of weaponry concealed inside pillows, hospital beds, ceilings and walls within Gaza medical center's maternity ward  
Dennis Bihler|16:11

The IDF released on Sunday footage of weapons and explosives concealed in the maternity ward of the Al Shifa Hospital.

As part of an operation led by the 162nd Division at Shifa Hospital, IDF soldiers, including those from the Nahal Reconnaissance Unit, engaged in various buildings, neutralizing terrorists and uncovering an arsenal of hidden weapons.

Within the maternity ward, soldiers uncovered an array of weaponry ingeniously concealed inside pillows, hospital beds, ceilings, and walls. The cache included dozens of mortar shells, explosives, sniper rifles, Kalashnikov rifles, pistols, magazines, mortars, and additional ammunition.

During a search of the compound, the troops encountered armed terrorists and high-ranking members of Hamas in a stairwell. A pursuit ensued, leading to an exchange of gunfire in which the senior terrorists were eliminated.

3.31. 24 – Su  
Sderot college near Gaza border studied remotely, now requires some attendance

3.31. 24 – Su  
Israeli college near Gaza border reopens for first time since Oct. 7

Sapir Academic College, located close to Sderot, opens the second semester and there are mandatory in-person attendance requirements for some classes; students are showing frustration amid tense security situation

Tamar Trabelsi-Hadad, Raz Shechnik, Roni Green Shaulov | 03:01

"Our return comes with no joy. Studying at college in a war zone while hearing constant gunfire isn't simple," says Netta Mashaali, a second-year communications student at Sapir Academic College, located close to Sderot in southern Israel near the border with Gaza. The college reopened on Sunday for its second semester with frontal lessons after students studied remotely since the Hamas massacre on October 7 and the start of the war in Gaza.

The college, located less than four kilometers from the Gaza border, suffered a severe blow on October 7. After several delays, the academic year began on December 24, and students may now attend class physically for the first time. However, their return for the second semester has been met with protests from many students who believe it's too early to return to the area and oppose mandatory attendance in classes.

One of them is Mashaali, who was evacuated from Sderot and then called for reserve duty. "I haven't returned to Sderot yet, and I'm temporarily staying with family and friends," she says. "Even my roommates haven't returned because they're afraid. We still hear loud explosions. The return to the college is premature. I don't feel safe enough. While we received free tuition for the academic year, and there was flexibility in the first semester, now they're trying to throw us back into normalcy and routines that don't exist."

Dan Ezra from Noga, a second-year communication student, also opposes the return to in-class studies. "I'm not happy to return," he says. "They shouldn't have started yet. On the one hand, I can understand the desire to return to a routine, but the war is still ongoing, and we're close to the border. It's really not ideal, and attendance requirements at this time are absurd."

In contrast, Gal Amar, a first-year communication student from Kiryat Gat, is happy to return to frontal learning at the college. "We studied on Zoom throughout the first semester, and it's exhausting," he says.

"I'm tired of it. I want to go to college, meet the students, friends and lecturers. I'm not afraid. I trust the college and the country to provide us with security and protection. I'm really looking forward to going back," he added.

The college notes that, out of an understanding of the pedagogical importance of students' presence in class, a policy of mandatory attendance in both online and physical classes will be implemented in the second semester.

"We see the return to campus as of utmost importance for the region's future and the personal recovery of each of us," said Sapir College President Nir Kedar. "At the same time, we understand the uncertainty many of us face and, therefore, a gradual and measured return to campus has been decided upon."

“Studies in the second semester will mostly be conducted online, alongside frontal study days on campus. We’re aware of the difficulties and challenges in this and will assist as required to ensure the return takes place slowly and cautiously,” he added.

Chairman of the Sapir College Student Union, Adi Shalev, said: "The union welcomes the opportunity to return to campus, but won't stand by when our students are left behind. In our current reality, there's no place to force students to attend classes and demand they choose between their physical and mental safety and their right to receive proper academic education."

Meanwhile, students at the college are demanding the immediate dismissal of Dr. Regev Nathansohn, a lecturer in the college's Communication Department, who signed a petition alleging that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza and calling on U.S. President Joe Biden to stop aiding the country.

"We believe that his presence and political activity fundamentally damage the academic climate and the trust that we students place in our institution. His actions damage the fabric that connects the diverse people in the college. Just taking part in the education of students who were and still are fighting to protect all of us, and him, causes discomfort," the students wrote in a letter to the administration.

Sapir Academic College responded to the petition. "We strongly condemn statements against IDF soldiers and treat the harm experienced by the students with all seriousness. It is important for us to clarify beyond any doubt: the petition and its signatories do not represent Sapir in any way. Many of the students and faculty members at Sapir are survivors of the murderous Shabbat, evacuated from their homes, and serving in the reserves and security forces, and we support them. Along with the basic value of academic freedom and freedom of speech, which the college has been enshrining since its founding, the lecturer unequivocally made clear not to use the college's name in personal and/or political contexts, and he does not represent it in these contexts," according to the college.

3.31. 24 – Su

Fraud in UN reports claim hunger; fact 80% more food daily than before war

3.31. 24 – Su

Israeli report disproves hunger claims in Gaza: 80% increase in aid trucks enter the Strip daily

Defense Ministry body COGAT issues report that notes a higher amount of food trucks are entering the Strip than did before October 7 and points to errors in UN report on food security

Itamar Eichner|01:56

Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) Director Major General Ghassan Alian published a report on Sunday which disproves recent claims against Israel on the state of food security in Gaza, and points to factual and methodological errors made by a United Nations report on the matter.

According to the UN report, which used the IPC index designed to determine the food security situation in countries, in the most likely scenario and assuming the war continues, 50% of Gaza's population (1.1 million residents) could face famine (phase 5 on the index). Some 38% of the population is expected to face an emergency (phase 4 on the index), and 12% of the population is expected to face a crisis (phase 3 on the index).

The COGAT report disproved the accusations of rampant starvation in Gaza and noted that 150-200 aid trucks enter the Strip daily, mostly food trucks, representing an 80% increase compared to the average daily food trucks entering Gaza before October 7. Additionally, Israel has allowed the opening and operation of additional channels for the transfer of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, including maritime routes, airdrops and aid packages, while cooperating with several countries.

According to the COGAT report, UN agencies and aid organizations operating in Gaza are unable to deal with the number of supplies brought in by trucks daily, and hundreds of trucks are waiting on the Gazan side of the Kerem Shalom crossing for UN distribution by aid workers.

The report also shows clear data regarding issues such as food and water quantities and accusations of starvation in northern Gaza, which contradicts the UN report. According to COGAT, the data taken for the UN report was provided by local bodies – such as the Palestinian Health Ministry controlled by Hamas in Gaza – which have a strategic interest in presenting misleading information.

Additionally, images and videos posted on social media and reports in Palestinian media in areas including Rafah, refugee camps, central Gaza and the northern Strip show markets full of a variety of foods.

"We maintain continuous contact with the international community and conduct a thorough examination of every claim that arises," Alian said. "However, it's clear the IPC report has many factual and methodological inaccuracies that undermine its credibility and those of the sources of information it relies on. Furthermore, the report systematically ignores Israel's humanitarian efforts during wartime; therefore, we won't allow any entity to defame the state of Israel in this manner."

However, even Israel's closest friend, the United States, says that there's a "real possibility" that Gazans in the north of the coastal strip could be suffering from hunger.

3.31. 24 – Su

Terrorist stabbed IDF officer in Be'er Sheva central bus station

3.31. 24 – Su

IDF officer stabbed in terror attack at Be'er Sheva central bus station

The attacker, a Bedouin from Rahat, was shot and killed by a soldier at the scene; stabbed soldier slightly injured and a second soldier was slightly injured in the exchange of gunfire

Ilana Curiel, Elisha Ben Kimon|01:00

An IDF officer was stabbed in the central bus station in Be'er Sheva in a suspected terror attack. The attacker, a Bedouin from Rahat, was shot and killed by a soldier at the scene. An eyewitness said that "a terrorist came with a knife and stabbed a soldier. Other soldiers came and shot him."

Video from the scene shows the great panic at the central station, after the stabbing and shooting. A second soldier was slightly injured in the gunfire exchange.

A soldier who witnessed the incident said that "the terrorist got off a bus near a shuttle of soldiers, wearing civilian clothes, then stabbed the young man."

Border Guard soldier Shilo confronted the terrorist. "I disarmed the terrorist's knife," said Shlio. "They told me to move and they shot him with two bullets."

Ahmed, who was an eyewitness to the attack, said: "I saw that the young man wanted to get on the bus, and then the terrorist ran after him and started stabbing him. I ran into the central station, and then I saw that they started shooting at him."

Agam, also an eyewitness to the incident, said: "The terrorist was inside the bus station. Suddenly shots rang out, and everyone started running." Another eyewitness said: "I heard shots and ran into the freezer of a bakery. We were in the freezer for 15 minutes. They didn't know what happened."

The report of the incident was received at the Magen David Adom call center in the Negev region at 8:40 a.m. MDA medics and paramedics began providing medical treatment to the 20-year-old soldier at the scene and then evacuated him to Soroka Hospital.

3.30. 24 – Sa

Hamas moves hostages in ambulances, after parading through streets like trophies

3.30. 24 – Sa

Hamas moves hostages across Gaza in ambulances, released captive reveals Hagar Brodutch, along with her three children and three-year-old neighbor, was held captive for 51 days before being released  
i24NEWS|Yesterday | 11:56

Former hostage Hagar Brodutch has revealed harrowing details of her abduction and captivity by Hamas terrorists in Gaza, including the transportation of hostages in ambulances across the territory.

Brodutch, along with her three children and a three-year-old neighbor, were held captive for 51 days before being released.

The ordeal began on **October 7** when **Brodutch**, residing in Kibbutz Kfar Azza, **found her young neighbor**, Abigail Edan, **covered in her parents' blood** after Hamas terrorists murdered them.

In an interview with the Daily Mail, Brodutch **recounted** the traumatic experience of being **taken hostage by Hamas** terrorists.

According to Brodutch, they were **transported** to a new location **in Gaza wrapped in white sheets inside an ambulance**. During the journey, they **witnessed** the destruction of their village and the celebration of their capture by thousands of Gazans. The terrorists **showcased Brodutch and her daughter to the cheering crowd, boasting of their abduction of an Israeli girl.**

"Hamas's **barbaric act of parading us through the streets like trophies** will forever haunt me," Brodutch stated.

Held in **dire conditions**, Brodutch and her children endured **starvation**, confinement in **dark** and **unsanitary rooms**, and constant fear of airstrikes. Despite being held captive, Brodutch remained hopeful of rescue, believing that Israel would spare no effort to secure their release.

"After enduring days of terror and uncertainty, the moment we were freed was a mix of relief and disbelief," Brodutch shared.

**After 51 days** in captivity, Brodutch and her family were finally **released**, but not without further trauma. They were **driven through streets lined with hostile Gazans, shouting** and attempting to grab them, before reaching safety.

"The cheers of the crowd as we passed through the streets were chilling. It felt like we were **being paraded as prizes in a sick game**," Brodutch recalled.

The impact of the ordeal on Brodutch and her children has been profound, with lasting psychological scars. She **emphasized the urgency of rescuing all remaining hostages** and bringing them back home to safety.

"The **nightmares and trauma** of our captivity **continue to haunt** us. No one should endure what we went through," Brodutch urged.

The revelations from Brodutch shed light on the **brutal tactics** employed by Hamas and **underscore the urgency of efforts to secure the release of all hostages** held in Gaza.

The Israeli government faces mounting pressure to prioritize the safe return of hostages and prevent further tragedies like Brodutch's ordeal.

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**3.29. 24 – Fr**

**Islamic world prepared for Rafah invasion, with help from Iran and Hezbollah**

**3.29. 24 – Fr**

**This is how Hamas has prepared for Rafah invasion, with help from Iran and Hezbollah**  
The **terror group is saving its forces for the day after the war**, and currently are **avoiding direct confrontation with the IDF**; But senior Hamas officials threaten that **entering the southern Gaza** city would be **'an entirely different story'**

Einav Halabi|06:20

Arab media have recently extensively covered what they call " Hamas' change of tactics." With the aim of protecting the organization's remaining operatives and equipment until the end of the war, Hamas has been operating recently using different tactics and is adopting a policy based on launching limited attacks against IDF fighters, according to reports, among others in the London-based, pro-Saudi, Arabic-language newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat.

Sources who spoke with the newspaper in recent days said that adopting this policy allows the terrorist organization to not expose its terrorists to the relative dangers, and allows Hamas to "reserve part of its strength for the day after the war."

The terrorist organization has been using this tactic for a long time, as was reported last month in the New York Times, and is careful to avoid direct confrontations with the IDF. Israel interpreted this in the past as weakness, but Western sources have assessed that it was a strategic move, and claim that Hamas believes that if a significant part of its military force survives the war it will be a victory, even though the Gaza Strip has become a city of ruins.

At the same time, perhaps with the aim of raising morale in Gaza and gaining support for fighting battles outside of the Strip, Hamas recently re-distributed a recording of the head of the organization's military arm, Mohammed Deif, in which he called on the "people of the Arab and Islamic world" to begin the "march toward Palestine, and participate in the liberation of the Al-Aqsa Mosque."

The decision make the recording public was made by the organization after the severe damage it suffered due to the many arrests of Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists at Al Shifa Hospital and the announcement of the assassination of Marwan Issa, Deif's deputy, in an airstrike in the Nuseirat refugee camp.

Even though the terror group is avoiding direct confrontations with IDF troops, a senior Hamas official claimed in an interview with the Qatari newspaper Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that "the resistance has begun to prepare for the Israeli move to invade Rafah," and emphasized that "An operation in Rafah will not be the picnic that Israel thinks." According to the official of the terror group, "all the signs we received, through mediators and on the ground, indicate Israeli insistence on launching an operation in Rafah. The resistance fighters of all factions are fully prepared to inflict heavy losses on the Israeli army."

Another senior member of the organization said that "high-level coordination" was carried out with elements of the so-called Axis of Resistance, including Iran and Hezbollah, and claimed that "Netanyahu is leading the entire region to an explosion, and if it occurs no party will be able to control its consequences." The official added that "in recent consultations between the leadership of the movement and the Axis of Resistance, it was emphasized not to allow the breaking of the resistance in Gaza under any circumstances and regardless of the cost."



3.28. 24 – Th

Netanyahu will dispatch a delegation next week to Washington on Gaza cease-fire

3.28. 24 – Th

After dodging, Netanyahu greenlights delegation to Washington  
PM informs War Cabinet will dispatch team to US early next week after meeting  
scrapped due to US refusal to veto UN Security Council resolution on Gaza cease-fire  
Itamar Eichner|06:22

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu informed the War Cabinet he will dispatch a delegation to Washington next week to discuss the looming Israeli operation in Rafah, diplomatic sources told Ynet.

This comes after Netanyahu ordered the envoys to stay home following the United State's decision to not veto a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza during Ramadan that does not include condemnation of the October 7 massacre and a call for the release of the hostages.

"Most Cabinet ministers believed it was a mistake not to send the delegation at first and thought it necessary to dispatch it as soon as possible," the sources said.

The War Cabinet discussed the hostage deal Wednesday night after Hamas rejected a U.S. proposal laid on the table. Meanwhile, mediators are drafting a new proposal, but Israeli officials say the situation is complex.

The Cabinet's discussion was interrupted and will continue through Thursday, though it is uncertain if decisions will be made. Insiders noted a "serious dilemma" within the Cabinet regarding the expansion of the negotiating team's mandate to prevent Hamas from derailing it.

Minister Gadi Eisenkot and other Cabinet members are keen to widen the mandate to take the initiative and challenge Hamas.

"Israel cares far more about the hostages than Hamas does about prisoners and civilians. On one hand, we don't want to yield too quickly to its dictates - on the other, we're at a deadlock - how do we slightly improve our offer," the sources said.

"After all, you're not dealing with a rational actor. The question is whether Israel will allow the mediators to propose a more favorable deal regarding the return of civilians to northern Gaza."

The White House announced Wednesday night that Prime Minister Netanyahu asked to reschedule the meeting in Washington to discuss the Rafah issue. "The office of the Israeli prime minister agreed to reschedule the meeting on Rafah. The U.S. is working to set a new date for the meeting," the White House said. NBC News reported the Prime Minister's Office denied the claim.

A diplomatic source did not deny the delegation's departure next week. "Washington reached out to the Prime Minister's Office requesting a new date for the delegation's departure, but a meeting date has not yet been set, and the prime minister has not yet

approved the delegation's departure. However, it's not out of the question the team leaves next week," the source said.

3.27. 24 – We

Israel rely on facial recognition in Gaza to locate terrorists & abducted Israelis

3.27. 24 – We

Israel deploys extensive facial recognition in Gaza to locate terrorists

Three Israeli intelligence officials sound alarm on employment of facial recognition technology, raising concerns over potential misuse

Ynetnews | 13:11

Israel is deploying advanced facial recognition technology in Gaza to locate terror suspects, three Israeli intelligence officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed to The New York Times on Wednesday.

According to the report, Mosab Abu Toha, a 31-year-old Palestinian poet residing in the Gaza Strip, claimed that about a month after the onset of the war, he was taken for questioning by Israeli forces who blindfolded him and escorted him for interrogation.

"I had no idea what was happening or how they could suddenly know my full legal name," he said. It later emerged, as alleged, that Abu Toha was identified as a suspect through artificial intelligence facial recognition software.

Abu Toha inadvertently entered the vicinity of cameras equipped with facial recognition technology. Following a scan of his face and subsequent identification, an artificial intelligence program determined that the poet was listed as a suspect by Israel, according to three Israeli intelligence officials.

The technology was initially deployed in Gaza to locate Israelis who were abducted by Hamas during the October 7 terror attack, according to intelligence officials. As Israel launched a ground offensive in Gaza, it increasingly relied on the program to identify suspects affiliated with Hamas or other terror groups. However, there were instances where the technology misidentified civilians as suspected Hamas terrorists, as reported by one officer.

The facial recognition program, operated by Israel's Military Intelligence Directorate, including the cyber-intelligence division Unit 8200, uses technology provided by Corsight, a private Israeli company, according to four intelligence officers. They noted that intelligence services also used Google Photos. Together, these technologies empower Israel to identify suspects from crowds and enhance the clarity of drone footage.

Three sources familiar with the program expressed their concerns, citing worries about its potential misuse of Israel's time and resources.

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit declined to comment on activity in Gaza, but said the military "carries out necessary security and intelligence operations while making

significant efforts to minimize harm to the uninvolved population.” He added, “Naturally, we cannot refer to operational and intelligence capabilities in this context.”

3.27. 24 – We

IDF hit Hezbollah on northern border; 40 rockets Wednesday in Galilee

3.27. 24 – We

IDF pessimistic about settlement with Hezbollah on northern border  
Army officials say significant military operation against Hezbollah clearly needed to allow northern residents to return to home, and decisions regarding northern front, as well as Rafah, nearing resolution

Yoav Zitun | 10:47

The Washington Post reported Wednesday that Israel has indicated it might initiate an operation in Rafah immediately after Ramadan ends in mid-April if efforts to secure a hostage deal fail.

In the northern sector, military officials explain that the conflict is likely to end with some form of agreement rather than the complete dismantlement of Hezbollah, as has been the case with Hamas, but with stronger and more significant enforcement of keeping the terror group’s elite Radwan forces away from the border.

Additionally, the IDF expresses pessimism regarding the likelihood of a near-term settlement through U.S.-French mediation.

IDF officials say that a significant military operation against Hezbollah is clearly needed to allow residents of the north to return to their homes, and decisions regarding the northern front, as well as the issue of Rafah, are nearing resolution.

Hezbollah fired approximately 40 rockets Wednesday morning toward settlements in the Upper Galilee. Zaher Bashara, 32, was killed by a rocket strike at a factory in Kiryat Shmona, and another individual was lightly injured and rescued from a commercial building that suffered a direct hit in the city's industrial park.

Additional rockets caused damage to buildings and vehicles in the city. Sirens were also sounded in other settlements in the Galilee Panhandle, including Tel Hai, Ma'ayan Baruch, Kfar Yuval and Kfar Giladi.

In response to the deadly attack, the IDF struck a series of Hezbollah targets along the border area and two "significant targets" deep inside Lebanon.

Overall, IDF strikes in the past two days have killed 12 terrorists in Lebanon, seven of whom were from the Sunni organization Jama'ah Islamiyah, with the remainder being Hezbollah operatives.

Military analysts suggest that the cell eliminated overnight may have been planning to carry out an attack in Israel, likely involving a ground infiltration into the country,

possibly targeting the Mount Dov area, acting as a Hezbollah proxy, or executing a shooting attack near the border fence.

3.27.24 – We

Members of Karta deter men from joining IDF; secularists choose to engage in war

3.27.24 – We

Hard-line Haredim stand outside IDF recruitment center to dissuade others from joining. Members of the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta faction are standing outside a Jerusalem recruitment center and try to talk other Haredi Jews from joining the IDF; 'The secularists choose to engage in wars, so they should handle the consequences'

Liran Tamari|05:00

Members of Neturei Karta, a religious sect of Haredi Jews that opposes the very idea of Zionism and the state of Israel, maintain a daily presence outside the Jerusalem recruitment office of the Israel Defense Forces. Their mission is to deter young Haredi men who visit the office from joining the IDF.

At a time when the topic of Haredi recruitment to the IDF is a major public talking point, their activities are increasingly noticeable. "We are here every day, two volunteer members, ensuring that any Haredi young man who wants to enter the office to resolve his recruitment status doesn't get entangled," explains Aharon, a Neturei Karta member who was on duty near the recruitment office.

Aharon concisely outlined the stance of his faction. "We believe that it's not only forbidden for Haredim to enlist but also for secular individuals. The military is the worst possible option. Joining the army lowers one's moral standards and leads to corruption. We've seen boys who've entered the army and ended up in a worse state than secular people."

He expressed no concern over security issues or fear of incidents like those of October 7. "There's no need for combat. We coexisted with the Arabs in the land of Israel, without the need for a state and government, and we lived peacefully. There was no necessity for wars to inhabit this place," Aharon asserts.

"Secularists have established a state here with the intent to exercise control over Israel, leading to the expulsion of Arabs and the creation of an army to wage wars. We believe we can coexist with Arabs or any other governance; we are not opposed to living under Gentile rule. The secularists choose to engage in wars, so they should handle the consequences of their wars. We should not be subjected to danger simply because they have chosen to go to war voluntarily," he says.

"The military aims to ensnare them. They want as many Haredim as possible to join, asserting that they have specifically designed programs for them. Their objective is to

convince as many Haredi young men as possible to enlist. Haredim who visit the office usually aim to postpone their recruitment, and we guide them on how to navigate without getting entangled. We do not communicate with those we know who wish to enlist. Our struggle is against the Zionists and the entirety of this nation. If the recruitment law is enacted, our fight will be against the country," he threatened.

3.27. 24 – We

Ex-US envoy David Friedman emphasized 'Biden and Democrats betrayed Israel'

3.27. 24 – We

Ex-US envoy David Friedman tells Ynet Studio 'Biden and Democrats betrayed Israel' Concern about whether the alliance between Israel and the US is still strong is 'a fair question,' says the former US ambassador to Israel under former US President Donald Trump

Nir (Shoko) Cohen|03:49

Former U.S. ambassador to Israel David Friedman, in an interview with Ynet Studio, said that the impact of the United Nations Security Council cease-fire resolution on the Gaza war effort and the effort to return the hostages held by Hamas home are "very, very serious matters." He also called the United States' failure to veto the resolution "a betrayal of Israel, not just by Biden, but by the Democratic Party." "I think that the fact that Ismail Haniyeh was in Tehran today celebrating the UN resolution tells you that Hamas is feeling confident. They think they can survive the war," Friedman said as part of an interview on Tuesday.

"And obviously, that makes it much more difficult to negotiate anything with them with regard to the hostages. You know, in Israel, there are those who severely criticize the Biden administration, wondering if the alliance between Israel and the U.S. is still strong. Look, it's a fair question," Friedman said.

Friedman emphasized that "this was a betrayal of Israel, not just by Biden, by the Democratic Party. I mean, it began with Bernie Sanders, and then it moved on to Chuck Schumer, and now the Biden administration as well. I mean, it's very discouraging and disappointing."

He added that "whatever differences exist with regard to Israel and America on strategy, the war is complicated and people can disagree, but they should be handled privately, especially not with the United Nations, which has never been a friend of Israel."

Friedman said that if the Gaza war ends and Hamas is not completely eradicated, then Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, the architect of the October 7 Hamas attack, will become the leader of the terrorist world. "He becomes the hero for all the worst forces in this world. And if he sees that's a possibility, I think it emboldens him," he said.

Friedman said that the fact that the U.S. is in the throes of an election year provides an explanation of why Biden is "betraying" Israel, but says it can not be used as an excuse.

"I mean, you know, you elect people to do what's right, to lead your country, to do what's in the best interest of the country, and not to just follow what you think is the most politically advantageous path. So, yes, it's part of it. It's not all of it," he said.

He told Ynet Studio that he believes his ex-boss, former President Donald Trump, would have handled the situation differently if he was currently leading the U.S.

"I think it would have been, you know, less likely that we would have gotten to this place. Because, again, I think a lot of what enabled October 7th was an enormous amount of funding that came through Iran into Hamas, into Hezbollah, into the Houthis, into Iraqi Hezbollah," he said. "I mean, Hamas was broke. They were bankrupt when we left office. Qasem Soleimani, who was the chief architect of all their terror efforts, was killed." He added that Iran has become much more influential in recent years.

He said that the Trump administration "sent a very clear message that the United States is not going to interfere with Israel's ability to defend itself, that we trust Israel to defend its citizens in the best way that they can, in the most effective way that they can," which he believes deterred more serious Hamas attacks. Friedman added that Trump would not have pressed for a two-state solution or a cease-fire either.

3.26. 24 – Tu

Maryland Bridge collapse; cargo ship fire disabled vessel, then collided with bridge

3.26. 24 – Tu

Maryland: Ship hits Francis Scott Key Bridge causing it to collapse

The Baltimore Fire Department called the collapse a 'developing mass casualty event'  
Landon Mion By Landon Mion , Anders Hagstrom , Stephen Sorace Fox News  
Published March 26, 2024 3:07am EDT | Updated March 26, 2024 1:06pm EDT

The Francis Scott Key Bridge along I-695 in Maryland collapsed into the Baltimore harbor following a "ship strike" early Tuesday morning, setting off a search and rescue mission for those who plunged into the chilly waters.

A livestream of the bridge at about 1:30 a.m. showed a cargo ship colliding with a support beam, causing the bridge to break apart and fall into the Patapsco River. Multiple vehicles were on the bridge at the time, but no update on casualties has been offered.

Eight members of a construction crew that was doing routine work filling potholes on the bridge fell into the water, Paul Wiedefeld, secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, told reporters. Six of these members were unaccounted for, while two were rescued. One of the rescued members was in the hospital, while the other refused treatment.

When asked about how many vehicles went into the water and the condition of those people that were in the vehicles, Weidefeld said no information was available at this time.

Officials are continuing to respond to the catastrophic collapse as an active search and rescue mission, with the U.S. Coast Guard searching for any survivors in the water. The water below the bridge is about 50 feet deep, and the water temperature was about 47 degrees at the time of the collapse.

President Biden addressed the collapse in prepared remarks on Tuesday afternoon, saying that the federal government is sending "all the federal resources they need" and that "we will rebuild this port together."

"It's my intention that the federal government will pay for the entire cost of reconstructing that bridge, and I expect the Congress to support my effort," the president said, adding that while this effort will take some time, the people of Baltimore "can count on us."

When responding to a reporter's question about whether the company that manages the ship should be held responsible for the costs, Biden said the federal government would not wait for any decisions and would step in to get the bridge rebuilt and opened.

The FBI was on scene investigating what caused the ship to ram into the bridge and said it was not linked to terrorism.

When asked whether the ship lost power before striking the bridge, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said that the ship's crew alerted authorities about a power issue before the impact. The mayday call gave authorities time to limit water traffic under the bridge and vehicle traffic across the span.

Emergency crews including the U.S. Coast Guard, local first responders and the FBI were searching for people believed to be in the water, Kevin Cartwright, director of communications for the Baltimore Fire Department, told The Associated Press around 3 a.m. Officials have described this as a mass casualty event.

"Our focus right now is trying to rescue and recover these people," Cartwright said.

Baltimore Fire Chief James Wallace said at least two people were pulled from the water following the collapse, with one of them in serious condition.

Wallace said authorities "may be looking for upwards of seven people" but he said that number could change.

The cargo ship that hit the bridge was the Dali, a 95,000 GT Singapore-flagged container ship, the Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) of Singapore confirmed. There were 22 crew members onboard at the time of the incident.

The Synergy Group, a Singapore-based company that manages the ship, said in a statement that two pilots piloting the ship through the harbor and all crew members

onboard were accounted for and there are no reports of any injuries. The group also said that no pollution has been reported.

The large vessel appeared to catch fire before becoming disabled. Footage of the incident shows the lights going out multiple times on the vessel in question prior to impact, suggesting the collision may have been due to a power failure.

The Maryland Transportation Authority said on social media that all lanes are closed in both directions and that traffic is being detoured. Later, it urged drivers to avoid the I-695 southeast corridor and to instead use I-95 or I-895.

A White House official says they're actively monitoring the situation but have so far observed "no indication of any nefarious intent," according to ABC News.

"Our hearts go out to the families of those who remain missing as a result of this horrific incident," the White House said in a statement.

Mayor Brandon M. Scott and Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr. confirmed emergency personnel were responding and rescue efforts were underway.

Cartwright said agencies received 911 calls around 1:30 a.m. that a vessel traveling from Baltimore had struck the bridge, causing it to collapse.

The collapse comes just two days after the 47-year anniversary of the bridge's construction, which was completed on March 24, 1977.

He said there are "some cargo or retainers hanging from the bridge" acting as hazards that are creating potentially unsafe and unstable conditions. Emergency responders are operating cautiously as a result.

"[At] 1:35 a.m., Baltimore City police were notified of a partial bridge collapse, with workers possibly in the water, at the Francis Scott Key Bridge," a spokesperson for Baltimore Police said in a statement to Fox News.

The FBI says it has agents at the scene working alongside first responders.

3.26.24 – Tu

Israeli team recalled from Qatar after Hamas rejected any compromise offer

3.26.24 – Tu

Israeli team recalled after hostage talks in Qatar break down

PM office says Hamas intransigence result of UN Security Council cease-fire resolution; after 10 days of negotiations, Mossad and Shin Bet teams to return to Israel

Itamar Eichner|05:17



Mossad Director David Barnea on Monday directed the negotiation team and the Shin Bet delegation to return to Israel from hostage talks in Qatar after Hamas rejected a U.S. proposal.

A senior government official said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu set clear red lines, beyond which it was evident progress couldn't be made, leading to the decision to bring the delegation back home. The teams were in Qatar for ten days of negotiations between the sides.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, "Hamas' stance demonstrates they're not interested in continuing the negotiation and deal-making process. This is a regrettable testament to the damages caused by the UN Security Council's decision." "Hamas once again rejected any compromise offer from the Americans and reiterated its extreme demands: an immediate end to the war, a complete withdrawal of the IDF from the Gaza Strip and leaving its governance capabilities in place to enable it to repeat the massacre of October 7, as promised."

"Israel will not yield to Hamas' outrageous demands and will continue to strive for all the war's objectives: releasing all hostages, destroying Hamas' military and ruling capabilities and ensuring Gaza will no longer pose a threat to Israel."

Hamas announced Monday night to mediators that they "stick to the position and vision presented on March 14", according to which they demand a complete withdrawal of the IDF from the Gaza Strip and a comprehensive cease-fire.

"The occupation's response did not meet any of our basic demands and our resistance - a comprehensive cease-fire, withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the return of hostages and genuine prisoner exchanges," the statement read.

3.25. 24 – Mo

UN demands immediate cease-fire in Gaza, not imposing hostage release

3.25. 24 – Mo

The significance of the historic UN vote: 'Decision in the Security Council is dangerous,' senior officials says

Analysis: Resolution's 'demand' for an immediate cease-fire is non-binding - but it could have worrisome consequences for Israel, and even have an impact on the contacts for the hostage deal; More fighting in Gaza will lead to an international discourse on violation of the resolution, and will strengthen arguments in The Hague

Itamar Eichner|15:22

The "demand" for an immediate cease-fire passed Monday by the United Nations Security Council is not binding and has no immediate meaning; however, it may have worrisome consequences for Israel. The decision was passed by 14 of the UNSC's 15 member countries to the applause of the council members, who even claimed that it was a

"historic decision," because for the first time the Security Council called for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and the United States did not veto it.

Israel fears that the continuation of the fighting now will lead to a discussion in the international community about violating the Security Council's decision to demand a cease-fire with Hamas, while applying no pressure to the terrorist organization. And the fact that it is likely that Israel will not honor the decision strengthens the arguments against the Jewish state at the International Court of Justice in The Hague (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) – which only makes the situation worse.

"This is a very complex and dangerous decision. We claimed that a cease-fire would come as a result of the release of hostages, and the resolution basically says that a cease-fire is a value in itself," a senior political official said.

The source referred to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to stop the Israeli delegation from traveling to Washington in response to the U.S. decision to abstain from voting on the resolution and to not veto it. "His response exacerbates the problem. He puts us further into a corner by canceling the delegation to the United States," the source added.

"As soon as there are condemnations on the other side, then there is a veto by Russia and China. And now we don't have an American veto in our pocket. The decision is not good because the call for a cease-fire is disconnected from any action by the other side, the pressure is put on us, and only us," he said.

Another senior political figure said that "the Security Council's call for an immediate cease-fire is very problematic - because it does not impose anything on Hamas."

"They are actually calling for a cease-fire and the release of the hostages, and this means that they can put pressure on us for a cease-fire, which is exactly what the countries of the world want, and they will not put pressure on Hamas - because they have no way to put pressure on them," he said.

"This invites international pressure on Israel and not on the other side," according to one of the political sources.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz said after the vote that Israel "will destroy Hamas and continue to fight until the last of the hostages returns home."

The U.S.'s abstaining on the cease-fire resolution and the cancellation of travel of the Israeli delegation to Washington has deepened the crisis in relations between Israel and the U.S. The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement following the vote that "the United States has abandoned its policy in the UN today. Just a few days ago, it supported a Security Council resolution that linked a call for a cease-fire to the release of hostages."

"Today's resolution gives Hamas hope that international pressure will force Israel to accept a cease-fire without the release of our hostages, thus harming both the war effort and the effort to release the hostages," the statement said.

However White House spokesman John Kirby, clarified: "Our vote does not reflect a change in our policy. We are consistent in our support for a ceasefire and the release of hostages. The wording does not include condemnation of Hamas, so we did not support it, but the decision reflects our opinion that a ceasefire and the release of hostages are bound together, so we abstained."

Despite the announcement from Netanyahu's office about canceling the delegation, Kirby added: "The talks will continue regardless of the Israeli frustration with our vote today." The crisis between Israel and the United States has many implications for the negotiations for a hostage deal, and it may lead to a **hardening of positions on both sides**. It also **weakens the levers of U.S.** pressure on Israel to be flexible in negotiations for a deal.

The **resolution** passed by the Security Council **affects the negotiations for a hostage deal** and **gives hope to Hamas** that it will be able to get a cease-fire thanks to international pressure even **without agreeing to a hostage deal**. In addition, the decision sends a message to the international community that Israel is more isolated than ever, and it could later be an excuse for countries to take diplomatic measures against Israel or stop arms sales to Israel.

This is the **first proposed resolution** since the outbreak of the war that has been **passed** by the Security Council and calls **for an immediate cease-fire**. The **resolution is non-binding, however**. The Security Council has previously called for additional humanitarian aid to be brought into the Gaza Strip and the **release of the hostages**, but those proposed **resolutions have not passed**.

The proposal was **promoted by the 10 non-permanent-member countries** on the council, and it **received the backing of both Russia and China** - and the **support of the 22 countries of the Arab bloc** at the United Nations. In a statement published by the Arab bloc countries before the vote, **they called on the 15 members** of the Security Council to **"act with unity and urgency"** and **approve the proposal**, "in order to stop the bloodshed, preserve human life and prevent further destruction and human suffering."

**3.25. 24 – Mo**

**IDF thwart weapons smuggling from Iran Guards destined for West Bank**

**3.25. 24 – Mo**

**IDF thwarts major weapons smuggling op from Iran to West Bank**

**Israeli intelligence and military forces exposed an attempt by operatives from the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corp to carry out terrorist attacks against Israeli targets, uncovering dozens of handguns, M4 rifles, explosives and anti-tank missiles**

**Yoav Zitun|13:09**

**Israeli security forces thwarted an attempt to smuggle advanced weaponry from Iran destined for the West Bank, the IDF reported on Monday.**

**In recent months, Iran has been actively trying to smuggle weaponry into the West Bank to carry out terror operations against Israeli targets.**

**During Israeli operations, sophisticated weaponry that originated in Iran was seized, including rockets, explosive devices, mines, RPG launchers and a cache of firearms, including 50 pistols and 33 M4 rifles. Additionally, explosives, 13 anti-tank missiles, and 25 hand grenades were confiscated.**

Shin Bet and military forces uncovered and foiled the activity of Palestinian operatives plotting terror attacks against Israeli targets, and they were apprehended for interrogation. During the investigations, information emerged regarding the ongoing activities of Munir Makdad, a Palestinian resident of Ein al-Hilweh in Lebanon, known for years as an operative working for Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

It was also disclosed that the Iranian security factors responsible for the smuggling attempt belong to the special operations branch of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, led by Javad Ghaffari, a former commander of Iranian forces in Syria. "This disclosure underscores the ongoing threat posed by Iran and its proxies, necessitating continued vigilance and proactive measures by Israeli security forces to safeguard against such attempts at destabilization," the IDF and Shin Bet said in a statement.

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Ynet-News, March 24, 2024 – 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 Mustafā 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