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IDF downs Houthi attack drone after missile intercepted, 12 hurt seeking cover

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He discovered rifles, pistols and grenades from Israel's wars in his parents' attic

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Despite cease-fire, IDF destroys Hezbollah rocket launchers in southern Lebanon

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Hezbollah launches 'reconstruction campaign' with Iranian backing

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Iran's shadow: 12 spy rings busted in weeks, rocking Israel

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High Court limits Ben-Gvir's police authority to suppress anti-war protests

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Iran urging UN to resist Israel propaganda of Houthis terror

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New Orleans Islamic attacker drove truck into a crowd, 15 killed, over 30 injured

01.01.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 08

PA Security suspends Al Jazeera broadcasting, accusing channel of incitement

01.01.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 08

Hamas tactics rely on family bonds to defeat Israel intelligence agents

01.01.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 08

Shadow students: Training the next generation of Mossad and Shin Bet

01.01.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 08

One of the risky operations: Commando raid on Syria missile production site

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More people leave Israel than ever, some choose to make it their home

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UNIFIL complicit as Lebanon village built Hezbollah terror base & staged weapons

01.01.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 08

Since Oct. 7 the US has transferred to Israel, \$22 billion in military aid

01.01.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 08

Knesset considers bill to favor victims opinion before early release of offenders

12.31.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Hanukkah 07

Cease-fire talks stall, Katz to discuss alternatives to Hamas rule of Gaza

12.31.24 – Tu- - - News Placed in December 31 spot – Tuesday Hanukkah 07

IDF sealed hospital terror base from sharp criticism, denying global newspapers

12.30.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday New Moon 4:27pm

Missile fired from Yemen after US-British coalition attack on port city

12.30.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday New Moon 4:27pm

Soldiers stationed on Mount Hermon endure harsh winter conditions

12.30.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday New Moon 4:27pm

Israeli arrested earlier this month, operating for Iran in arson & filming MKs

12.30.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in December 30 spot – Monday New Moon 4:27pm

MKs push to change Hamas brutal control in Gaza, silencing dissent with violence

12.29.24 – Su - - News – Sunday Hanukkah 05

AI undermines IDF intelligence, in struggle to realize encrypted messages

12.29.24 – Su - - News – Sunday Hanukkah 05

Turks expand into Kurds area of north Syria, helping Iran stir chaos

12.29.24 – Su - - News – Sunday Hanukkah 05

240 Hamas & Jihad terrorists captured in Jabaliya Hospital, in northern Gaza

12.29.24 – Su - - News Placed in December 29 spot – Sunday Hanukkah 05

Fearing spy CIA & Mossad infiltration, Houthis in a state of panic, arrest threats

12.28.24 – Sa - - News – Saturday Hanukkah 04

Terrorists posing as patients inside hospital; IDF's largest Gaza raid yet

12.28.24 – Sa - - News Placed in December 28 spot – Saturday Hanukkah 04

IDF arrests over 240 Hamas & Jihad in raid on north Gaza hospital operation

12.28.24 – Sa - - News – Saturday Hanukkah 04

IDF intercepted 2 Gaza rockets over Jerusalem area, Judean Foothills

12.28.24 – Sa - - News – Saturday Hanukkah 04

Cease-fire overreach by Israel, threaten Hezbollah plans to return

01.03.25 – Fr

US General approves Lebanon Army professionalism in cease-fire

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US General Jasper Jeffers praises LAF professionalism in cease-fire mechanism

General Jeffers, who heads the cease-fire mechanism in Lebanon, praised the Lebanese army's dedication; Hezbollah announces it would refrain from escalation

Lior Ben Ari|15:41

American General Jasper Jeffers, who heads the mechanism for supervising the cease-fire agreement in Lebanon, visited the south of the country on Friday and expressed satisfaction with the conduct of the Lebanese army.

"I am incredibly impressed by the professionalism and dedication of the LAF. They are working around the clock to provide security and dismantle unexploded ordnance so

Lebanese citizens can safely return home." In the last few weeks, the LAF cleared over 9800 pieces of explosive ordnance from more than 80 locations," he said.

Meanwhile, Lebanese media outlets reported an expected visit by the American envoy, Amos Hochstein, to Beirut on Monday. According to the Qatari newspaper "Al-Arabi Al-Jadeed", Hochstein will be engaged in a dual mission: monitoring the implementation of the cease-fire agreement alongside discussions regarding the presidential elections in Lebanon.

According to the Lebanese newspaper Al-Jumhuriya, an important meeting of the committee supervising the cease-fire agreement will be held this coming Monday in Naqoura. Sources said that the meeting will be chaired by Hochstein which may send a message of seriousness regarding the implementation of the agreement.

At the same time, parliamentary sources told the Saudi newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat that Hezbollah will continue to maintain self-restraint and will not be drawn into a military escalation against Israel. On Thursday, Air Force fighter jets destroyed Hezbollah medium-range rocket launchers in Lebanese territory. Arab media outlets reported three attacks in southern Lebanon.

Earlier, an Iranian plane was reported to have landed at Beirut airport with money intended for Hezbollah and was detained by local authorities. In addition, the IDF reportedly attacked security facilities in Aleppo, Syria.

After the incident in which the Iranian plane was detained, a wave of protests erupted in Beirut's Dahiyeh district. However, things have returned to relative normalcy. During the afternoon, the Lebanese channel Al-Jadeed reported that another Iranian plane had landed in Beirut, with an Iranian diplomat on board. His suitcase, according to the report, was checked at the airport. The channel added that a US diplomat who landed in Beirut today was similarly checked.

Lebanese Interior Minister Bassam Molawi later clarified in a conversation with the channel that the activities of the Interior Ministry and the airport security apparatus are intended to protect Lebanon. According to the minister, it was decided to carry out a check on all diplomats landing in the country, in a routine procedure. "We are implementing the law and protecting the airport and Lebanon as a whole, it cannot bear new aggression," he said.

01.03.25 – Fr

How & why Hamas uses hospitals for its benefit and the ensuing criticism

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How Hamas uses hospitals for its benefit and the ensuing criticism

Hamas uses Gaza hospitals as base of operations and interrogations as a tactic, "They can suddenly take over a ward," testifies a Gazan resident; Gazan reporter criticized Hamas

Einav Halabi | 11:55

Recently, Hamas' use of hospitals in the Gaza Strip has made headlines after the IDF exposed the terror organization. During the operation at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Jabaliya, about 240 terrorists were arrested, the largest arrest throughout the war, including the hospital director, Hussam Abu Safiya, who according to the IDF is suspected of being a Hamas operative. In a particularly unusual step, Israel decided to seal the hospital after the operation and put it out of use, preventing it from being used again by Hamas.

On previous occasions when the IDF raided hospitals in Gaza, it allowed the continuation of operations there afterward. For example, on November 15, 2023, the IDF raided Shifa for the first time and found weapons, a tunnel shaft, explosives, and evidence that hostages were held there in the first days of the war. After the IDF withdrew from the site, the hospital returned to being used by Hamas and Islamic Jihad members.

Immediately after the IDF withdrew for the first time, sources in the Gaza Strip say, Hamas called on a very large number of civilians to return to the hospital buildings and its courtyards, promising to distribute aid. During this time, hundreds of weapons were brought in under the assumption that IDF forces would not return to the complex.

"Specific rooms in the hospital buildings became military and security management centers," sources in the Gaza Strip said. "Daily meetings were held for Hamas and Jihad members in the hospital corridors. The Israeli forces monitored all these movements from the air, but Hamas continued military activity from the hospital."

On March 18 2024, IDF forces returned to Shifa in a surprise raid, in which more than 200 terrorists were eliminated and hundreds more were arrested. According to the IDF spokesperson, weapons were found hidden between patient beds in the maternity ward, along with mortar bombs, IEDs and sniper weapons.

Since then, Hamas has reportedly restored the hospital which has resumed operations. Hussam Yahya, a presenter for the Qatari Al Jazeera network, admitted that Hamas used Shifa, but claimed that it emboldens the population.

"It is a living nightmare for Israel's goal of emptying Gaza and the north. The hospital miraculously returned to work after its destruction. A meeting of clan leaders was held there, which resulted in a 'statement rejecting cooperation with Israel.' In short, the very presence of Shifa is a defeat for Israel," Yahya stated. In the comments, some wondered: "Why gather in a hospital? You idiots."

There are currently 23 hospitals operating in the Gaza Strip, including 13 field hospitals established by the international community, in coordination with the COGAT unit. Also, 10 additional hospitals in the Strip receive supplies from Israel, including equipment and food. Hamas's use of hospitals was not limited to medical treatment. Throughout the war, the terror organization has repeated the transgression, without regard for the population that increasingly needs medical treatments that have been reduced in response to IDF raids. In Gaza, this fact is well known, but there is no one to rise up, for now.

"There are medical personnel who are related to terrorists. These are Hamas' key people in all the hospitals. On any day they can arrive, take over an entire ward without anyone objecting to it. They arrive, close a ward, and the doctor is one of their own," a Gazan resident told Ynet. "Before the war, everything was open to them, but the takeover of the hospitals was noticeable. At any given moment, it was possible to shut down an entire hospital without regard for mothers, the sick or the wounded. This is how a terrorist organization behaves, and there is no one to stop it."

"Most government institutions have been destroyed and the hospitals are used for meetings of police, security and aid personnel. "Everything is done there, it's the safest place."

Recently, the IDF disclosed Hamas has used Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. About a year ago, Hamas police summoned a man who heads an aid-smuggling gang in the Al-Qararah area of Khan Yunis for questioning. The summons was issued on October 16, and it was clearly stated that the place of questioning was the hospital. On social media, Fatah supporters wondered: "Why does the enemy bomb hospitals or schools that house refugees? There are people in the Gaza Strip who give them an opportunity and an excuse."

These days, the use of hospitals has become more necessary for Hamas which has lost government infrastructure one after another. "From Hamas' perspective, the air force will not bomb a hospital full of displaced and sick people. The population inside must first be evacuated, and Hamas knows this very well," said sources in Gaza. "Now that most of the government institutions that Hamas used before the war have been demolished, it is also using them for meetings of police officers, security personnel, and for aid matters. Everything is conducted there. This is the safest place for them."

Israeli security sources commented. "The terrorist organizations, led by Hamas, are trying to deflect public criticism of the organization's cynical exploitation of civilian institutions and hospitals onto IDF forces," they said, and claimed: "Hamas fears public criticism and protests against it, and therefore it is spreading misleading and false narratives on social media to pressure Israel through the international community."

Unprecedented criticism from a journalist: "People are dying of cold in tents"

The IDF's activity at the Kamal Adwan Hospital began to sway Hamas supporters in the past week. In a recording published on social media, Al-Jazeera journalist Anas al-Sharif, who is considered one of Hamas's top aides, criticized the organization's negotiators, saying: "The public could have prevented what is happening in the northern Gaza Strip and prevented the destruction and damage to the hospitals. But Hamas, which is conducting the talks, is not interested in the public, and the organization continues to use slogans."

Sharif criticized the ongoing rounds of negotiations, and mentioned the suffering of the residents of the Gaza Strip. "Hamas' claims about being flexible in the talks are not at all interesting to the public. It is impossible to continue dragging out the ceasefire talks. The public is suffering, stop haggling over the terms of the deal. We express opposition and protest against Hamas, which is making cynical use of the situation leading to the invasion of the IDF forces into the region."

In a tweet he later published, Sharif wrote: "The war must end immediately. We do not want what happened in the north of the Gaza Strip to be repeated in Gaza City. Gaza is

drowning in sadness, loss, oppression, and pain in the face of the world's abandonment. I swear, we are dying from the cold and the winds when we are in tents."

Approximately 350 patients and staff members were evacuated from the Kamal Adwan Hospital, which the IDF raided this week. During the operation, 95 patients and staff members were evacuated to the Indonesian hospital in the area, along with 5,000 liters of fuel, two generators and medical equipment to maintain the Indonesian hospital's operations.

01.03.25 – Fr

UNRWA ceases activities in Gaza & West Bank, in effect this month

01.03.25 – Fr

UNRWA reportedly preparing to cease activities in Gaza, West Bank
'U.N. officials say they are preparing to shutter UNRWA operations,' the New York Times reports Friday; Decision comes after Knesset passed two pieces of legislation that bars the agency's activities on Israeli territory, such as coordinating with the IDF; UNRWA supports say this will deal a fatal blow to the Palestinians
Itamar Eichner|07:24

UN officials told The New York Times that UNRWA, the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, is preparing to cease its activities in Gaza and the West Bank. The report comes about two months after the Knesset passed two pieces of legislation banning the organization's activities in its territory, and which went into effect this month.

After the Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023, there was criticism in Israel against UNRWA over the involvement of some of its employees in the deadly attack. A UN investigation confirmed that nine of the organization's employees did indeed take an active part in the events and cooperated with Hamas. In light of the findings, the Knesset approved laws prohibiting UNRWA from operating in its territory. These laws, which will come into effect this month, prevent any cooperation with the organization. This will limit the organization's ability to continue its activities in the West Bank and Gaza, which require coordination with the IDF.

"It would be a massive impact on an already catastrophic situation," Jamie McGoldrick, who oversaw the U.N. humanitarian operation across Gaza and the West Bank until April, told the New York Times. "If that is what the Israeli intention is — to remove any ability for us to save lives — you have to question what is the thinking and what is the end goal?"

UNRWA supporters claim that the cessation of operations would be a fatal blow to the Palestinian population. "The world has abandoned us. We have nothing but the aid we get from UNRWA to survive," Sami Abu Darweesh, 30, who lives in a refugee camp in southern Gaza run by UNRWA, told the newspaper. "If that stops, what will we do?"

“We gave the government 90 days, and, actually, the entire world 90 days,” said Yuli Edelstein, the chairman of the parliamentary committee that drafted the UNRWA bills. “Whoever truly cares about the population, let them bring about the groups that would help.”

Knesset lawmaker Dan Illouz of the Likud, who was one of the initiators of the law against UNRWA, said: “We succeeded! The historic law that I initiated to disconnect UNRWA from Israel is proving itself. The world is beginning to understand that UNRWA is an arm of Hamas and not an aid organization. Its employees were complicit in the October 7 massacre, its institutions hid weapons, and it educated generations of terrorists. Now, with its collapse, we are striking at the heart of the terror apparatus.” “Israel has taken the first step – now the world must complete it. UNRWA must not only be reduced, it must disappear. This is a huge achievement for Israel’s security and the fight against terrorism!” said Illouz.

01.03.25 – Fr

Gaza terrorists fire shoulder-launched missile at Israeli Air Force helicopter over Gaza

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Gaza terrorists fire shoulder-launched missile at Israeli Air Force helicopter over Gaza

The attack, which missed the helicopter, set off sirens at Kibbutz Be'eri for the first time in 10 months; 2 rockets also were launched from Gaza at Sderot and the vicinity; It is the eighth day in a row that sirens warning of rocket attacks have sounded in the Gaza envelope

Yoav Zitun, Roni Green Shaulov, Einav Halabi|06:58

Rocket alert sirens sounded in Kibbutz Be'eri for the first time in 10 months on Friday following surface-to-air missile fired from Gaza; the shoulder-launched missile was fired at an Israeli Air Force helicopter over Gaza. This was followed Friday morning by two rockets launched at Sderot around noon. One of them exploded near Kibbutz Nir Am, the other fell in an open area.

The Sderot municipality said that residents reported shrapnel on a local streets, and noted that there were no reports of any injuries or property damage. Footage from the municipal soccer stadium shows the explosions as many people watch the match there.

An hour and a half before the sirens in Sderot, the alarms were sounded in Be'eri. They were triggered by a shoulder-launched missile fired by Hamas terrorists in the northern Gaza Strip at an Israeli Air Force helicopter. The missile did not hit or endanger the aircraft, which continued its operations, but since the missile was fired toward Israeli territory the alarm was sounded in Be'eri.

This is the eighth consecutive day that an alert siren has sounded in the enclave. The last time there was a siren in Be'eri following rocket fire from Gaza was in March, almost 10

months ago. Since then, an alarm has sounded in the evacuated kibbutz only once, during the Iranian attack in early October.

Following that attack, the IDF spokesman in Arabic, Col. Avichay Adraee, issued an evacuation alert to residents of the Al-Bureij refugee camp. "This is an early warning before an attack. For your safety, move immediately to the humanitarian zone," he wrote. In the Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023, 101 members of Kibbutz Be'eri were murdered and 31 were kidnapped to the Gaza Strip. Four members of the kibbutz's alert squad, including the rabbi, 19 IDF soldiers, and eight police officers were killed in the battle.

01.03.25 – Fr

IDF destroyed at least a dozen Planetary mixers in Syria commando raid October 26

01.03.25 – Fr

\$2 Million each: Israel's fight against Iran's mixers, producing solid rocket fuel, and the image exposed

Planetary mixers critical for Iran's missile production, averts the need for on-site fueling of projectiles, enhances precision and range of missiles; IDF images of mixers in destroyed facility in Syria reveals them for the first time to the public

ynet|02:59

The IDF's revelation of the Israeli commando raid on the Iranian missile production facility used by Hezbollah in Masyaf, located in Syria's Hama province, was the first time an image of a planetary mixer, a vital component used to blend solid rocket fuel components together, was exposed to the public.

Solid rocket fuel enables missiles to be launched without the need for on-site fueling, a process requiring them to be removed from underground shelters and raised upright for nearly an hour—making them easily detectable by satellites and other intelligence tools.

Solid fuel also significantly enhances a missile's range and precision. The planetary mixers precisely combine materials into a homogeneous compound for solid rocket fuel production.

In the raid involving 100 commando special forces, the facility that was intended for the production of hundreds of precision missiles a year, was destroyed and with it, industrial mixers. Initially the forces did not plan to completely destroy the facility but only the planetary mixers without which solid fuel could not be produced.

Israel has been on the hunt to destroy Iran's planetary mixers since 2019, when a drone attack was carried out on the Dahieh, Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut where it was awaiting transportation to one of the missile production sites the terror group had built in the area. According to Lebanese reports, a year later, the IDF navy attacked a vessel that was delivering an alternative planetary mixer to replace the one that was destroyed.

Planetary mixers, that were almost exclusively in the possession of superpowers – have become some of Israel's main targets in its war against the Shiite axis. After Israel's strike on Iran on October 26, at least a dozen of them were destroyed, pushing Iran's missile production back at least two years. Each planetary mixer costs in the area of \$2 million. Currently there are one or two planetary mixers estimated to be in use by members of the Shiite axis and are in the possession of the Houthi rebels.

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01.03.25 – Fr

IDF downs Houthi attack drone after missile intercepted, 12 hurt seeking cover

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IDF shoots down Houthi attack drone after missile intercepted

Military says drone downed outside Israel airspace hours after Houthis launch a missile at central Israel including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem areas; at least 12 people hurt running for cover

ynet correspondents|01:16

The IDF shot down a Houthi attack drone on Friday, hours after a missile launched in Yemen at central Israel including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, was intercepted by aerial defenses.

Earlier sirens blared across central Israel from the Sharon Plains, through the Metropolitan Tel Aviv area, the Central Plains, the metropolitan Jerusalem area and parts of the West Bank, sending millions into shelters in the pre-dawn hours.

"A missile that was launched from Yemen and crossed into Israeli territory was intercepted. A report was received regarding shrapnel from the interception that fell in the area of Modi'in in central Israel. The details are under review," the military said in a statement.

01.03.25 – Fr

He discovered rifles, pistols and grenades from Israel's wars in his parents' attic

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Rehovot resident told police who arrived at the apartment that dozens of weapons were apparently collected over many years by his father and grandfather; They were discovered during renovations

Meir Turgeman|16:23

Central District police officers who arrived Thursday at an apartment in Rehovot following a report received from a man who was renovating his parents' house were shocked to learn that he had found in the attic a huge amount of weapons and ammunition collected over the years from many of Israel's wars.

He told the Rehovot police and a police sapper who arrived at the apartment that the numerous weapons were apparently collected by his father and grandfather over many years.

Among the items found were dozens of rifles and pistols of various types, 17 old British Mills bomb hand grenades, a defense grenade, 16 grenade detonators, 30 different explosive detonators, 20 flares, weapon parts and cartridges of various types, and thousands of small arms bullets of various types.

The police sapper examined the weapons and other means of warfare to ensure that they did not pose a danger. At the end of the examination, the explosives were taken and transferred to the police station.

01.02.25 – Th

IDF details commando raid in Syria September 8; The ground trembled

01.02.25 – Th

'The ground trembled': IDF reveals details of heroic commando raid in Syria
With heavy aerial cover and amid intense danger, 100 IDF commandos landed in Syria in order to dismantle an Iranian missile production facility that was on the verge of becoming operational

Yoav Zitun|14:55

The IDF's daring commando operation to destroy a newly constructed underground missile production facility in Syria was revealed in full detail on Thursday. The IDF disclosed new and extensive information about the heroic operation carried out on the night of September 8.

In a rare ground raid, Israeli Air Force (IAF) commandos from the Shaldag Unit targeted the massive facility built by Iran near the town of Masyaf, about 200 kilometers (124 miles) from Israel, deep inside Syria.

The facility was on the verge of full industrial production, capable of manufacturing 150 to 300 large, precision-guided missiles annually for Hezbollah, Bashar Assad's regime and pro-Iranian forces in Syria.

This development aimed to bypass the weapon smuggling routes from Iran through Iraq and Syria to Lebanon, which the IDF frequently targeted. Commandos discovered eight preliminary rocket engines already produced on-site but, as the facility had yet to begin full operations, its destruction at this stage was critical to prevent it from becoming a fortified and much harder target.

On the night of the strike, approximately 30 Syrian soldiers guarded the facility. Most were eliminated in preliminary airstrikes by IAF fighter jets and helicopters seven minutes before the Shaldag commandos landed.

Four more soldiers were neutralized at close range by the commandos on the ground. None of the IDF operatives were injured and the mission was deemed a resounding success.

The mission was personally presented by Lt. Col. B., the Shaldag Unit's commander, to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then-Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. After approval from IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi and IAF Commander Maj. Gen. Tomer Bar, the operation was launched.

Lasting three hours under the cover of night, the takeover of the underground complex was executed in precisely 18 minutes from the moment the helicopters touched down in Syria.

Dozens of additional Syrian soldiers were deployed to the site an hour later but were either attacked or fled after realizing the area was secured by a formidable force.

Reinforcements included motorbike riders and troops in jeeps.

Hundreds of additional Syrian soldiers arrived approximately an hour after the Israeli forces had withdrawn. That same night, the IAF carried out additional strikes on multiple targets across Syria including at nearby Syrian military industry sites.

The IDF assessed that it took several days for the Syrian army and Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) to realize the magnitude of the attack on this strategic site, codenamed "Deep Layer" by the IDF.

Its construction began in 2017 as a safer alternative to similar above-ground industrial sites targeted by the IDF over the past decade. The fall of the Assad regime in the last month likely contributed to the IDF's decision to declassify and share the operation's details.

The mission was meticulously planned over a year of war in which Shaldag commandos executed over 800 operations in Gaza and Lebanon, even during the war's first month, suffering the loss of 13 operatives and officers.

Preparations and modeling were accelerated in the three months preceding September after senior military and political officials were convinced of the mission's importance, despite the risks involved — such as helicopters flying at dangerously low altitudes over Lebanon and Syria — sometimes as low as 60 feet — carrying over 100 Israeli soldiers.

In recent years, the IDF Intelligence Directorate monitored Iran's construction of the "Deep Layer" facility. Last year, as attacks on Hezbollah intensified, the unit concluded that the facility would be central to restoring Hezbollah's firepower capabilities post-war. Left operational, it could have enabled Hezbollah to produce advanced precision missiles with ranges of 40 to 300 kilometers (25 to 186 miles), capable of accurately targeting central Israel in significant numbers.

The intelligence team accurately predicted the facility's layout, which included 16 production rooms, laboratories, an assembly hall, offices and storage units. Constructed in a horseshoe shape, with raw materials entering from one side and completed missiles exiting the other, it maximized security and efficiency.

Eight fuel mixers for rocket engines have already been installed in the production halls, but the plant has yet to be declared operational. Consequently, security was relatively low, with only dozens of guards stationed at various posts. At night, when the underground facility was empty, the entrances were locked.

Only a simple rope marked the entrance at the compound's shabby gate, still under construction. This weapons factory was unique in Syria, as it was built underground, shielded by natural concrete and layers of 60 meters to 120 meters (197 feet to 394 feet) of rocky soil. Excavation work was completed in 2021 under the close supervision of Israeli military intelligence.

The IAF waited weeks for favorable weather conditions to carry out the operation, as even a minute of low cloud cover could jeopardize the mission. The Masyaf area is one of the most heavily fortified in Syria after Damascus, protected by advanced Russian-made SA-22 air defense systems and other anti-aircraft measures, including shoulder-launched missiles.

Helicopters nearly touched water

The helicopters flew extremely low, along carefully chosen routes, with diversions and close escort by two Apache attack helicopters, allowing them to evade the Syrian radar systems deployed in the area to protect the site.

"The entire Air Force was on high alert that night, but it wasn't enough — intelligence personnel and the Navy provided operational support, fire cover and the most precise intelligence possible for every phase of the mission," according to the IDF.

The IAF skillfully coordinated the operation with the Russians, who are stationed at their major base in Syria and with their nearby S-400 missile batteries, ensuring there were no misunderstandings or early detection that could disrupt the mission.

The helicopters carrying the troops flew very low over the Mediterranean Sea, almost skimming the water, and maintained this altitude over enemy territory en route to the target.

"We practiced numerous scenarios and responses, dealt with the topography and used the area's valleys to our advantage, despite the risks of flying through them," the military described.

"We knew a full Syrian division might respond, so speed was essential. The most critical aspect was breaching the facility's locked doors quickly. The IDF Chief of Staff constantly stressed reducing the operation's duration," according to the IDF. The operation was directed on the ground by Lt. Col. B. and the highest-ranking officer to set foot in Syria that night — Col. G., commander of the IAF's 7th Squadron. The Israeli Air Force allocated four control rooms to manage the operation and synchronize all its components.

"Scenarios like a drone failing to secure an infiltration route for a few minutes require immediate backup," the IDF noted. "Every extreme scenario was rehearsed in advance." Shaldag operatives landed at two preplanned temporary landing zones, 700 meters and 1.5 kilometers (0.4 miles and 0.9 miles) from the target. Just minutes before their landing, they saw explosions resulting from fighter jet strikes that isolated the compound and eliminated dozens of its guards. Inside the facility, they found weapons-casting machinery, rocket fuel imported from Iran, Iranian avionics equipment and materials that reinforced assessments that the plant was on the verge of becoming operational.

According to the IDF, a former officer who headed a Military Intelligence unit had advocated to take action against the facility for years. In the years leading up to the operation, the target became a high priority for decision makers.

"We avoided opening a front against Assad for strategic reasons for a long time," the IDF said. "But it was clear this was part of Iran's vision — encircling Israel with a ring of fire supported by advanced manufacturing capabilities in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria." Initially, the mission seemed impossible: flying into a missile-laden, heavily fortified area, landing troops and safely extracting them. "The critical phase was the extraction," the IDF noted. In preparation, daily intelligence reviews were conducted on the site and its surroundings for months before the operation.

When the ground shook

In the nearby town of Masyaf, residents remained unaware, assuming the events were routine Israeli airstrikes elsewhere, as the IDF had conducted during the war. Four attack helicopters deployed no fewer than 100 Shaldag soldiers on the ground, equipped with heavy gear, explosives and a utility ATV left behind to facilitate the force's extraction at the mission's end.

Additionally, 20 operatives from 669th Unit were deployed near the target, accompanied by an intensive care team and a mobile field operating room. This ensured immediate treatment for severe injuries without the need to evacuate troops to Israel mid-operation. The rescue unit's medics were prepared to stabilize the wounded on-site, enabling the mission to continue without jeopardizing its success.

Within 90 minutes of covert, low-altitude flight, 100 Shaldag soldiers, most of them reservists, landed at the two sites. The first group swiftly breached the compound, clearing the remaining Syrian soldiers and breaking through the armored doors to the underground facility, while the second group simultaneously deployed explosives inside the factory.

The first team sprinted 700 meters from the landing zone to the locked gates leading into the underground compound. "Fifty minutes after landing, the forces were already inside," the IDF described.

"The troops used Syrian forklifts found inside to expedite the placement of explosives. This was pre-planned and practiced back in Israel, knowing those forklifts were there," the statement added.

IDF combat engineers had meticulously prepared a special demolition plan to ensure the site's complete destruction: a quarter-ton of Israeli explosives was strategically placed, augmented by roughly 700 tons of local rocket fuel that completed the task.

As the demolition expert, S., activated the trigger, the troops took cover and say they could swear that "the ground beneath them trembled at that moment."

The operation involved 120 commandos, six helicopters, 14 transport planes, 21 fighter jets and five UAVs. In total, 49 munitions were fired, with 70 aircraft in the air for over three hours, supported by thousands of officers and soldiers on the ground in Israel.

Upon the mission's completion, IAF Commander Maj. Gen. Tomer Bar said: "Amid this justified war, this was a crucial event for the nation's security. As we return safely, we can take pride and tell future generations about the significant step we took for Israel's security."

"The Shaldag Unit's operation deep inside Syrian territory joins a series of courageous missions the IDF has conducted over the past few months in Gaza, the Dahieh in Beirut and Iran, with the goal of destroying the Iranian Axis' missile manufacturing capabilities," IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi said.

"For years, Iran formed a ring of rocket and missile fire around Israel's borders, and we have struck both the ring and its head."

01.02.25 – Th

Syrian television crew scuffles with IDF paratroopers in Quneitra

01.02.25 – Th

Syrian television crew scuffles with IDF paratroopers in Quneitra | Watch

Soldiers were filmed pushing away a tv crew in Quneitra, in scenes reminiscent of Ramallah or Hebron; The IDF claimed that "the crew got too close" to an IDF position, and had to be moved without using force; Incident shared on social media, creating a stir in Syria.

Yoav Zitun|14:39

Soldiers from the 202nd Paratroopers' Brigade were filmed yesterday (Wednesday) pushing away a broadcast television crew from the Egyptian Al-Rad channel, during an argument that lasted for several minutes in Quneitra, Syria. The chaos that ensued was more reminiscent of scenes from districts in the West Bank, such as Ramallah or Hebron.

The team of journalists demanded that the IDF soldiers not touch the video camera, but ultimately complied with the Israeli officers' demand and moved away from the scene. The IDF says that the broadcast team got too close to an IDF position and was therefore forced to move away, without the use of force and without casualties. The incident was publicized in Syria and on social media among residents of the Syrian Golan.

01.02.25 – Th

Israeli delegation to leave for Doha to continue hostage deal negotiations

01.02.25 – Th

Israeli delegation to leave for Doha to continue hostage deal negotiations

Israeli officials express careful optimism following Netanyahu's approval to send the team to Qatar; Arab media reports Hamas willing to complete 'one-phase' deal

Itamar Eichner, Yael Ciechanover, Lior Ben Ari, Einav Halabi|13:34

Israel is set to send a delegation to Doha, Qatar, on Friday to continue negotiations on a hostage deal with Hamas. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement Thursday evening that he approved dispatching "a professional delegation from the Mossad, Shin Bet and the IDF to continue the negotiations."

Earlier, Israel's envoy for hostages and missing citizens Gal Hirsch told the hostages' families in a meeting that reports of an alleged "deadlock" in the talks were inaccurate and that negotiations were ongoing under strict confidentiality and extensive efforts.

Hirsch, who left the room during the conversation to take an urgent call regarding the negotiations, stressed that the current agreement being worked on aims to bring all the hostages home, despite Israel's refusal to meet Hamas' demand to end the war in Gaza. Senior Israeli officials reported slow progress in the talks but clarified that "there's no breakthrough yet and gaps still remain." They noted that mediators are increasing pressure on both sides and are pushing for an Israeli delegation to attend talks in Doha or Cairo. However, Hamas continued to refuse to provide lists with the names of the living hostages.

Earlier on Thursday, Qatari newspaper Al-Araby Al-Jadeed reported that a Hamas delegation arrived in Cairo on Wednesday, met with senior Egyptian intelligence official Major General Ahmed Abdel Khalek and discussed the negotiations for the hostages' release and "the new conditions set by the Israeli government."

According to the report, these conditions allegedly include replacing the names of 12 elderly, ill civilian hostages with those of 12 soldiers. Israel consistently claimed that Arab media reports regarding the negotiations are distorted.

The Qatari newspaper further reported that the Hamas delegation's meeting with Egyptian officials included discussions on deferring contentious points to a later stage after the first phase of the agreement.

The proposal will reportedly be presented to the Israeli side in an attempt to reach a resolution before U.S. President-elect Donald Trump takes office on January 20. Egyptian sources told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that Hamas is open to a "one-phase" agreement for all hostages on the condition that Israel withdraws from Gaza and ends the war within an agreed timeframe.

According to these sources, Egyptian mediators aim to implement the first phase of the agreement, believing that "the opening move" is the most challenging, after which remaining obstacles can be addressed and the war could conclude.

The outlet also noted that a Hamas delegation traveled to Doha on Thursday to discuss recent developments in the negotiations. Hamas politburo deputy head Moussa Abu Marzouk told the newspaper that "there's a significant opportunity for the negotiations to succeed this time."

"The delegation's visit aims to overcome obstacles and conditions recently set by the Israeli side to continue its aggression in Gaza," Hamas spokesperson Jihad Taha added. "Hamas approaches all matters positively and openly, prioritizing the needs of the Palestinian people and will spare no effort to halt the aggression in the Strip. We hope for an agreement but Israel refuses to compromise on its recently imposed conditions."

The remaining gaps in the negotiations mainly concern the number of hostages to be released. Hamas is willing to release a double-digit number of live hostages, while Israel is pushing to increase the figure.

The terror organization is receptive to closing the gap by returning hostages already declared dead in the first phase. Sources familiar with the details estimated that if a deal is reached, fallen Israeli soldiers and murdered civilians also will be returned early in the process.

Territorial disagreements concerning the IDF's positioning along the Philadelphi and Netzarim corridors also were discussed. Hamas demanded a more significant Israeli withdrawal in the initial phase, while Israel is only willing to consider withdrawal in subsequent negotiation stages.

Further disagreements revolve around Hamas' hopes to end the war versus Netanyahu's conflicting statements.

01.02.25 – Th

Despite cease-fire, IDF destroys Hezbollah rocket launchers in southern Lebanon

01.02.25 – Th

Despite cease-fire, IDF destroys Hezbollah rocket launchers in southern Lebanon | Watch

IDF said the attack on the medium-range rocket launchers was carried out by the Israeli Air Force under the direction of the Intelligence Directorate only after the Lebanese Army did not respond to a request to neutralize the weapons
Yoav Zitun, Lior Ben Ari | 12:54

Israeli Air Force fighter jets destroyed Hezbollah medium-range rocket launchers in Lebanese territory Thursday evening, with the direction of the Intelligence Directorate. Arab media outlets reported three attacks in the Jbaa area and Jabal ar-Rihan in southern Lebanon.

There have been reports coming out of Lebanon in recent days of IDF attacks that are being carried out intermittently in the south of the country, but the footage from Thursday evening seems unusual compared to those attacks in recent weeks.

An IDF spokesman said in a statement that "The Israeli Air Force, with the direction of the Intelligence Directorate, struck Hezbollah medium-range rocket launchers at a military site belonging to the terrorist organization. Hezbollah rocket launchers adjacent to an additional military site in the area of Nabatieh were also struck.."

The IDF Spokesperson's Office also stated: "As part of the enforcement of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon, prior to the strike a request was sent to the Lebanese Armed Forces to neutralize the launchers that posed a threat to Israeli civilians and IDF troops. The launchers were struck only after the request was not addressed by the Lebanese Armed Forces. The IDF continues to act to remove any threat to the State of Israel in accordance with the ceasefire understandings."

Even after the cease-fire began in late November, the IDF continued its ground operations to remove terrorist infrastructure from villages in southern Lebanon. On Saturday, the IDF announced that the 300th Brigade Combat Team, under the command of the 146th Division, together with engineering forces, destroyed a 100-meter-long underground tunnel leading to a Radwan force position.

"With the assistance of the Yahalom Unit, who investigated and cleared the tunnel route of explosives and threats, the troops located rifles, machine guns, anti-tank missiles, and observation systems inside the tunnel. All the equipment was confiscated and destroyed, as well as the underground tunnel route itself. An anti-tank missile stockpile and heavy machine gun positions aimed at IDF posts were also found in the vicinity of the tunnel," according to the IDF.

"The underground tunnel route also led to a Hezbollah command center containing rocket launchers which had been used to fire at Israel during the war, along with a large number of explosives," the tunnel also said.

Hezbollah's representative in the Lebanese parliament, Hassan Fadlallah, said a week ago that "after the cease-fire, the Israeli enemy is trying to take advantage of the opportunity and implement some of its plans in the border villages through destruction and attacks.

The responsibility lies with the State of Lebanon, the Monitoring Committee (established after the cease-fire agreement), UNIFIL, the Lebanese Army, and the countries that took part in the agreement. We are monitoring this every day with the authorities. We, the

people of the south, the resistance, the dahieh, the Al-Baqaa region, and Hezbollah's surroundings - we have never needed proof that the resistance is nationally necessary."

01.02.25 – Th

Hezbollah launches 'reconstruction campaign' with Iranian backing

01.02.25 – Th

Hezbollah launches 'reconstruction campaign' with Iranian backing

Terror group announces start of official efforts to fix war damages of in southern Lebanon while thanking Tehran for its extensive funding of the project; Iraq and Yemen also provided support; Among the benefits: \$400 for each displaced family, \$8,000 for furniture, and an annual allowance for rent

Lior Ben Ari|11:13

On December 5, Hezbollah's Secretary-General Naim Qassem delivered a relatively brief televised speech lasting about half an hour that was meant to give hope to the average Lebanese citizen suffering from the latest war with Israel.

Behind him, on a blue backdrop, was a portrait of the terror group's former leader Hassan Nasrallah, accompanied by the slogan "Promise and Commitment - The Reconstruction Campaign," a campaign aimed at assisting Lebanese residents whose homes were destroyed by Israeli airstrikes.

During the speech, which followed the implementation of the cease-fire on the Lebanon border, Qassem expressed gratitude to those who hosted displaced Lebanese individuals during the conflict and to various parties that supported the government and citizens. "We thank Iran, under [Ali] Khamenei's leadership, its government, its people and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) for providing this generous aid," he said.

He announced Hezbollah's decision to grant displaced families financial aid ranging between \$300 and \$400 and elaborated on the reconstruction campaign.

"If a home was completely destroyed and served as the primary residence, the owner will receive \$8,000 for furnishing a new home and \$6,000 for one year's rent if they reside in Beirut or the Dahieh district. Outside Beirut, the rental aid amounts to \$4,000 annually." Qassem thanked Tehran, "as most of this funding was provided by them," as well as support from Iraq and Yemen. He called on "Arab brothers and friendly countries to assist in the reconstruction." According to a Lebanese report, however, only Iran appeared to have answered his call.

Lebanese outlet Al-Diyar reported on Wednesday that Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati informed the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea that Iran was the only country offering reconstruction aid.

According to the report, he advised the ambassador not to obstruct the process, asserting that the funds would reach Hezbollah via other channels if they weren't processed by the state. Shea reportedly promised to present the matter to American officials.

In recent months, numerous reports have surfaced about aid shipments arriving in Lebanon from various countries, though these don't appear to involve reconstruction efforts. It seems that Iran, despite its own need for donations, is the primary donor to the reconstruction efforts which Hezbollah officials claim are progressing.

Diplomats commented on the reconstruction issue, telling Lebanon's Al-Jadeed outlet that Arab countries including Saudi Arabia have expressed interest in aiding reconstruction efforts but won't transfer funds without oversight or control.

Hezbollah's Deputy Executive Council Chair Ali Daamouh addressed the stages of the reconstruction campaign this week, saying: "The secretary-general established a committee tasked with supervising the reconstruction."

"Technical teams are conducting surveys in affected areas, prioritizing families whose homes were completely or partially destroyed and allowing them to return as quickly as possible," he added. "To our people along the border, we say: We will rebuild the villages. Aid will promptly reach everyone in need."

"I assure the people that the funds for the reconstruction are secured," he promised.

"Misleading campaigns will not shake public trust in the resistance — the funding is guaranteed by the Iranian people, who extended a helping hand to the Lebanese people. Thanks to Khamenei for his love and affection for Lebanon. Thanks to Iran, its citizens and its leadership, as well as to Iraq's leadership and people and to all nations willing to assist in reconstruction."

"The project has begun and we will complete it. We'll return to our homes with our heads held high. We're demonstrating the victory of reconstruction over destruction and the triumph of resistance over aggression. Those who doubted Hezbollah's ability to compensate the victims were mistaken," he concluded.

Hezbollah's Deputy Political Council Chair Mahmoud Komati also addressed the reconstruction campaign this week, stressing the terror organization's dedication to it.

"There are red lines we won't allow to be crossed, including the resistance's weapons, finances, reconstruction and shelter," he said.

"We don't want the help of anyone offering aid to Lebanon with conditions that affect the resistance. The residents of southern Lebanon will return to their homes and no one will stop them. We pledged patience for 60 days. The 61st day will be different," he warned.

"The situation will change, existing forces will be treated as occupiers and we will address them accordingly."

Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese outlet Al-Manar has been covering the reconstruction campaign extensively, documenting the distribution of funds and providing updates on its progress. Over the weekend, the channel's website reported that Hezbollah's real estate organization, Jihad al-Binaa ("Jihad of Construction"), identified 185,000 damaged housing units.

"The Jihad al-Binaa Development Fund, in line with Hezbollah and Nasrallah's promise, continued its efforts to identify structures damaged by Israeli aggression through its teams, swiftly working to restore residents to their homes," the report read. An

accompanying graphic shared on the channel's X account detailed the affected buildings' locations.

Even before Naim Qassem's speech earlier this month, the UK-based Saudi newspaper Asharq al-Awsat reported on Iranian support for reconstruction. The report mentioned the reopening of Hezbollah's bank, Al-Qard al-Hassan, while a Hezbollah source clarified that reconstruction and housing subsidies would not come from the bank's funds, but from Iranian money recently delivered to Hezbollah.

According to the source, Iran transferred \$1 billion to Hezbollah via a regional state on the first day of the cease-fire with Israel, which then began assessing damages in preparation for compensation payments.

01.02.25 – Th

Iran's shadow: 12 spy rings busted in weeks, rocking Israel

01.02.25 – Th

Iran's shadow: 12 spy rings busted in weeks, rocking Israel

Twenty-eight suspects across Israel are implicated in 12 espionage cases tied to Tehran; allegations include photographing bases, torching cars, tracking officials for assassination and passing intel to hostile entities; one suspect even visited Iran multiple times

Lior Ohana|Updated:07:57

They stormed into our lives a few months ago and, like mushrooms after the rain, spies of all ages from all sectors of society have been popping up the length and breadth of the country. Collaborating primarily with Iranian agents, they've become weekly Israeli news items.

A judicial system source tells Ynet that, due to the suspected spies' danger to the public, as soon as the interrogations become public, indictments are filed so as to keep them in judicial custody until the conclusion of legal proceedings. The police then spend months gathering further evidence to build a legal case for sentencing which, for serious espionage offenses, ranges from six to 12 years.

Ynet's examination reveals that the exceedingly high fees charged by lawyers for espionage cases mean defendants from lower socio-economic backgrounds have been unable to obtain lawyers to represent them and their families are still trying to raise money for their defense.

In recent weeks, judges have requested that, for cases that need to move forward, lawyers from the Public Defense should be appointed to represent suspects and defendants. Like Eli Feldstein and the NCO, arrested as part of the classified documents affair, the detainees are currently being held in solitary confinement in harsh conditions, unable to talk to their families.

Espionage Cells exposed in Israel So Far

An espionage cell uncovered this year in its full glory, included a 72-year-old father of four from Ashkelon named Motti Maman, who had always earned his living by questionable means. The affair publicized September 19 of this year, and a spy like Motti Maman, took entire nation by surprise.

The same day, the State Attorney filed an indictment against Maman at the Beersheva District Court, charging him with offenses against state security by contacting a foreign agent and entering an enemy country without permission.

According to the indictment, Maman communicated, on Iranian soil, with local agents operating on behalf of the Islamic Republic's intelligence agencies. He entered Iran twice and, in meetings with the Iranian agents, discussed the possibility of carrying out terrorist attacks in Israeli territory, partly amid the Ayatollah's regimes desire to avenge the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Maman is currently held at Shikma Prison in particularly harsh conditions, "like those of the Nukhba terrorists" according to his lawyer, Eyal Besserglick who, in recent months, has repeatedly appealed to the court to alleviate Maman's conditions due to his poor health ensuing from his prolonged detainment.

In the second case, revealed on October 14, indictments were filed against Ramat Gan residents Vladislav Victorsson, 30, and his partner, Anna Bernstein, 18. Victorsson communicated with an Iranian official and, at the Iranian's instruction, carried out various missions such as interring money and burning cars for which he even recruited another person alongside his partner Anna.

According to the interrogation, at the instruction of the Iranian official, and while aware of his identity, Vladislav carried out various missions including spray-painting graffiti, putting up posters, and burying money. Vladislav even agreed to carry out a mission to assassinate an Israeli public figure by throwing a hand grenade at his house, and made efforts to procure weapons including a sniper rifle, pistols and pepper spray grenades. Victorsson and Bernstein are accused of offenses of contact with a foreign agent, vandalism, arson and conspiracy to cause malicious damage. Victorsson is also charged with committing a terrorist act and conspiracy to commit murder.

The third case, revealed a week later on October 11, involved seven Israelis who had made Aliya from Azerbaijan, including a father and son, suspected of communicating for two years with Islamic Republic officials. The seven suspects photographed army bases that were also targeted in the ballistic missile attack from Iran last month.

Some of the seven suspects were caught in the act of following an Israeli official they are suspected of planning to kill. Four days following their arrests, an indictment was filed against the seven suspects from Haifa and the north who include a deserted soldier and two teenage boys. The suspects are: Aziz Nisanov, 43, who was the cell leader, his son Yigal Nisan, 20, Alexander Sadykov, 58, Vyacheslav Gushchin, 48, and Yevgeny Yoffe, 47, and two 16- and 17-year-old teenagers whose names cannot be published. The seven are accused of a series of serious national security offenses.

The fourth case, made public October 22, involved the arrest of seven young men aged 19-23 from Beit Zafafa, Jerusalem, on suspicion of carrying out espionage activities for Iran over a several-month period. Their chief mission was to assassinate an Israeli nuclear scientist and an Israeli mayor.

The prime suspect is 23-year-old Rami Alian, who admitted that he knew the operator was Iranian, and that he was proud to have been contacted by the agent. Alian was in contact with a foreign agent and was asked to carry out various missions in Israel. He then recruited further members to the cell. The seven suspects claim to have acted for nationalist reasons, but also received money for their deeds. The day after their arrest, they were indicted under the “aiding the enemy in wartime” clause.

The fifth incident, for which an indictment was filed against Asher Binyamin Wiess from Bnei Brak, on October 11, for following an Israeli nuclear scientist with the intention of assassinating him at the direction of Iranian agents. He is accused of offenses of contact with a foreign agent, conveying information to the enemy and obstruction of justice.

According to the indictment, Wiess, at the instruction of the Iranian agent, used a GoPro camera to photograph the scientist’s car and home. The Iranian agent then sent the picture to a young man from East Jerusalem assigned to the assassination. Wiess was indicted two weeks ago. In the detention extension hearing, Wiess said that he was being held in solitary confinement in substandard conditions and that he was not permitted to talk to his family or conduct his prayers as a religious man.

Wiess’s family haven’t found him private legal representation at this time. As mentioned, lawyers demand vast sums to represent suspects involved in such incidents, that the family cannot afford. The court extended Wiess’s detention by two weeks and instructed appointing a lawyer from the Public Defense.

The sixth incident, also exposed on October 31, involves Rafael, 32, and Lala Guliyeve, 29, from Lod, allegedly conducting missions on behalf of the Iranians and recruiting “Israelis in Israel from Caucasus countries.” GSS and police investigations reveal that Guliyeve was recruited by Elshan (Elkhan) Agayev (56), an Azerbaijani-born operator working for Iranian intelligence.

The incitement against the Lod couple charges the two with communicating with Iranian agents since 2021 with the purpose of aiding the enemy in a war against Israel and harming state security. According to the indictment, the couple received a cumulative sum of \$26,000 and were charged on the day of their arrest.

The seventh incident was publicized on December 6, over a month later. Tahrir Safadi, 21, from Mas’ade on the Golan Heights was charged with serious espionage offenses. His father, Bassem Safadi who connected his son with the spies, was also arrested and questioned.

Software Engineering student Tahrir was, in recent years, involved in gathering intelligence regarding IDF activities, which was then handed over to Hussam as-Salam Tawfiq Zidan, a Damascus-based journalist working with the Iranian state-owned Al-Alam News Network, who has been working in recent years for the Iranian Quds Force’s Palestine Branch, designed to assist Palestinian organizations promote terrorist activity against Israeli citizens.

Artium Zolotrav, 33, from Nof Hagalil was arrested as part of the eighth incident on suspicion of committing security offenses involving contact with Iranian security officials and carrying out security missions in exchange for money. The Nazareth District Court later indicted him for offenses of contact with a foreign agent, arson and vandalism. The security agencies’ investigation reveals that a connection was made as early as this October between Zolotrav and a character known as “Eliad” who suggested Zolotrav

carry out graffiti anti-government spray-painting missions so as to change public perception in Israeli civilian life.

During the ninth incident, exposed on December 1, Erdler Israel Amoyal, 23, from Jerusalem was arrested for allegedly communicating with Iranian intelligence officials and conducting security missions in Israel at their instruction, in exchange for money. GSS investigations reveal that Amoyal had been communicating with Iranian intelligence officials over social media. It was further learned that he was communicating with a profile using the handle “Arianna,” who later transferred him to “John,” who became his handler.

The investigation also reveals that, despite Amoyal realizing at the outset of communication that the “John” was an Iranian agent, he agreed, at his direction, to carry out intelligence-gathering missions that included photographing an address and pray-painting graffiti. Amoyal took photographs of a pamphlet reading “Making Peace” at various Jerusalem and Tel Aviv locations. He is expected to be indicted at the Jerusalem District Court.

In the tenth incident, Mohammed Saadi, 19, from Nazareth was indicted on charges of contact with a foreign agent. Saadi was arrested on suspicion of conveying information to Hezbollah officials in wartime. Police and GSS investigations reveal that he had approached Hezbollah several times in recent years and even asked to join its ranks in combat. Saadi also contacted Hezbollah-affiliated Al Manar TV Lebanon, and asked if could provide them with pictures and videos, including during the war. The investigation further reveals that Saada conveyed information regarding the locations of missile landings, aircraft movement, and the location of IDF forces.

The eleventh incident was made public on December 22. Abed Al-Salam, 33, and Taar Asili, 35, were indicted by the State Attorney on charges of contact with a Hezbollah operative and transferring information to a terrorist organization in wartime.

According to the indictment filed at the Jerusalem District Court, the accused made contact with a woman named Dianna through a WhatsApp group, and shared with her information about Israel, even after they knew she was a Hezbollah operative. The indictment charges the two with offenses of contact with a foreign agent and conveying information to the enemy. Al-Salam was also charged with carrying a firearm without a permit. The State Attorney requested the court extend the detention of the two accused men until the conclusion of legal procedures.

The 12th case that was revealed this week, involved suspicions that Alexander Granovsky, 29, from Petah Tikva, conducted espionage and sabotage for Iran. Authorities allege he burned vehicles, photographed sensitive sites, filmed the home of MK Benny Gantz and sent images to his Iranian handlers.

01.02.25 – Th

High Court limits Ben-Gvir’s police authority to suppress anti-war protests

01.02.25 – Th

High Court curtails Ben-Gvir's police oversight powers
Justices uphold law expanding national security minister's authority over police but issue restrictive interpretation, effectively hollowing it out; 'Once again, the court positions itself as the sovereign, trampling on the will of the voter,' Ben-Gvir protests
Netael Bandel|05:24

The High Court of Justice unanimously upheld on Thursday a law that expands National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's authority over police operations but struck down, in a narrow 5-4 decision, a key provision allowing him to delineate general policy on police investigations, ruling it unconstitutional.

The majority of justices ruled the clause posed a significant risk to suspects' rights and failed to meet the legal standards for restricting fundamental rights. A minority dissented, arguing the clause did not violate constitutional principles.

The broader legislation, which places police under the government's authority and requires the police commissioner to follow the minister's policy guidelines, was upheld. However, the court imposed strict limits, clarifying that the law permits only general policy directives and prohibits any operational interference by the minister. The court emphasized that its interpretation ensures no shift in the balance of power between the government and the police, effectively maintaining the status quo before the law's enactment.

Critics have argued that the law, a cornerstone of the coalition agreements forming the current government, undermines police autonomy and risks politicization. The court's decision represents a compromise, preserving most of the law while addressing concerns over excessive government control in police investigations.

Ben-Gvir sharply criticized the ruling, accusing the court of overstepping its authority. "Once again, the court positions itself as the sovereign, trampling on the will of the voter. This grave decision to neuter the Police Ordinance is designed to strip the minister of his authority and give control of the police to the attorney general and state prosecutor. In a democratic state, the minister in charge sets policy for the police, but the court obviously doesn't care about that," he said.

Justice Minister Yariv Levin also condemned the ruling, describing it as undemocratic. "In what other country can judges, who appoint themselves, strike down a law passed by parliament in three readings by a single-vote margin? Only in Israel is democracy being replaced by the rule of a handful of judges," he said, calling for urgent judicial reforms. The law has faced legal challenges since its passage. A coalition of organizations and Knesset members petitioned the court in January 2023. The petitioners, backed by Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, warned that the law effectively turned Ben-Gvir into a "super commissioner," allowing undue political interference in police decision-making. They warned that a politically controlled police force is a hallmark of authoritarian regimes.

In June 2023, the court issued a conditional order requiring the government to justify the amendments. Baharav-Miara said in January 2024 that Ben-Gvir had overstepped his

authority, including directing police actions during public protests. The court later issued an interim injunction barring him from giving operational directives to the police, particularly regarding protest management. Despite these rulings, petitioners alleged that Ben-Gvir continued to interfere in police operations, including efforts to suppress anti-war protests.

01.02.25 – Th

Iran urging UN to resist Israel propaganda of Houthis terror

01.02.25 – Th

Iran rejects claims of supporting Houthis as Israeli propaganda

Iranian UN ambassador denies accusations of Iranian involvement in Yemen and accuses Israel, US and UK of destabilizing region; he criticizes alleged support for attacks on Yemen and calls for accountability, urging UN to resist 'Israeli propaganda'

Itamar Eichner|02:28

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, submitted a letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the president of the Security Council this week, rejecting accusations of Iranian involvement in Yemen and accusing Israel, the United States and the United Kingdom of destabilizing the region.

“The unsubstantiated allegations made by the representative of the Israeli regime and supported by its closest ally, the United States, are an obvious attempt to scapegoat Iran to justify their own illegal actions and malicious activities in the region,” Iravani wrote ahead of a Security Council hearing on Yemen's Houthi rebels' recurring attacks on Israel.

“It is not Iran but the belligerent regime of Israel that has relentlessly pursued a policy of provocation and destabilizing activities, which poses a grave threat to peace and security in the region and beyond.”

Iravani denied any violation of arms embargoes or involvement in fueling Yemen's civil war, saying that Iran has “always adhered to its obligations under international law and the United Nations Charter.”

The ambassador accused Israel of targeting Yemen's sovereignty and infrastructure, including Sanaa airport and the Hodeidah port, which are critical for humanitarian aid delivery. “These illegal actions, carried out with the direct backing and complicity of the United States and the United Kingdom, constitute egregious violations of the UN Charter and international law, including international humanitarian law,” he said.

He further criticized the U.S. and UK for providing “political cover and military support for Israel's reckless actions,” adding that such complicity “has emboldened Israel to act with impunity, fueling regional conflicts and undermining any prospects for lasting peace in Yemen under UN leadership.”

Iravani reiterated Iran's longstanding support for a political resolution to the Yemen conflict, calling for a comprehensive ceasefire, inclusive dialogue, and respect for Yemen's sovereignty. He also rejected claims of Iranian interference in the Red Sea, calling them "baseless fabrications" designed to inflame tensions and serve as a pretext for further destabilization of the region by the United States and its allies."

The ambassador urged the Security Council not to be influenced by "Israel's propaganda," which he said aims to distract from "ongoing atrocities and ethnic cleansing" in Gaza. He accused Israel of illegal occupation, aggression and territorial expansion, including "its recent occupation of over 500 square kilometers of Syrian territory and ongoing illegal occupation of the Syrian Golan."

Iravani concluded by calling on the Security Council to "act decisively to hold the occupying regime of Israel and its enablers accountable for these grave violations of international law," warning that failure to do so would undermine trust in the UN's ability to maintain peace and security.

Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon said in response "I'm not surprised the Iranian representative is under pressure after we exposed Iran's terror machine operating in Yemen. Iran is the last regime that can preach morality—it funds, arms and operates terrorist organizations that ignite the Middle East. We will not be deterred by threats or remain silent in the face of Iranian incitement and lies. While Iran creates chaos and operates terror puppets, we will continue to protect our citizens and confront every threat with determination and strength."

The Houthis consider themselves an integral part of Iran's so-called "Axis of Resistance," alongside Hamas and Hezbollah. Their ideology is encapsulated in the slogan on their flag: "Allah is the Greatest, Death to America, Death to Israel, Curse on the Jews and Victory to Islam."

In recent years, Iran has significantly increased its support for the Houthi rebels. While the Houthis previously had a modest arsenal, they now possess cruise missiles, ballistic missiles and long-range drones. Estimates suggest the group has around 20,000 fighters.

01.02.25 – Th

New Orleans Islamic attacker drove truck into a crowd, 15 killed, over 30 injured

01.02.25 – Th

Israeli victims of New Orleans attack remain on ventilators, consul says

Consul to Southwest Elad Shoshan says one in stable condition, other in moderate to serious condition; 'We hope to speak with them tomorrow,' he tells Ynet

Sharon Kidon|01:35

Two Israeli nationals remain hospitalized and on ventilators following a deadly ramming and shooting attack in New Orleans' French Quarter on New Year's Eve, Elad Shoshan, Israel's consul to the U.S. Southwest and deputy consul general, told Ynet on Thursday.

One victim is stable and not in life-threatening condition, while the other is in moderate to serious condition. Both remain unable to communicate. "We hope to speak with them tomorrow," Shoshan said.

The Foreign Ministry said it is in contact with the victims' families and the hospitals, with the Israeli Consulate General in Houston dispatching a representative to assist.

The attack, now being investigated as an act of terrorism by the FBI, has claimed the lives of 15 people and left over 30 others injured. The suspect, identified as Shamsud Din Jabbar, 42, reportedly drove a pickup truck into a crowd on Bourbon Street around 3:15 a.m., then opened fire on police before being fatally shot. Officials found an Islamic State flag in the vehicle, and investigators are examining possible ties to foreign terror groups.

Witnesses described chaotic scenes as the truck plowed through revelers, followed by gunfire. Two officers were injured before police neutralized the attacker. Explosive devices were later found at the scene, prompting further investigation and detonation efforts.

Most victims were local residents celebrating New Year's Eve, with the Sugar Bowl set to take place hours later. Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry condemned the attack, and outgoing President Joe Biden offered federal assistance in a call with Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

01.01.25 – We

PA Security suspends Al Jazeera broadcasting, accusing channel of incitement

01.01.25 – We

Palestinian Authority suspends Al Jazeera operations, accusing channel of incitement
PA bans Qatari network's broadcasts, citing 'incitement and interference in internal affairs,' and freezes its operations following coverage of terror crackdown in Jenin, which PA calls 'incendiary'
Einav Halabi | 15:01

The Palestinian Authority (PA) officially announced Wednesday its decision to suspend Al Jazeera's broadcasts and freeze the network's operations in PA-controlled territories.

A ministerial committee comprising the Palestinian Ministries of Culture, Interior and Communications said that the suspension will remain in effect until Al Jazeera rectifies its legal standing.

The PA accused the channel of violating Palestinian laws by broadcasting "provocative content" characterized by "deception, incitement to rebellion, sabotage and interference in internal Palestinian affairs."

The move follows the Qatari network's critical coverage of PA security forces, particularly during its counterterrorism operation against Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) operatives in the Jenin refugee camp.

The channel alleged that PA forces were responsible for the death of a journalism student during clashes, a claim the PA denied, asserting its forces were not present in the area. The PA noted that the student's brother was a wanted Hamas operative, and she had ties to PIJ and Hamas-affiliated groups.

Hamas condemned the PA's decision, calling it "a blatant violation of press freedom" and accusing the PA of silencing dissent. "This oppressive move is part of a series of arbitrary measures the Palestinian Authority has lately adopted to restrict public rights and freedoms and strengthen its security hold over the Palestinian people," Hamas said. Clashes between Palestinian security forces and armed terrorists

Last month, PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement banned Al Jazeera's activities in the West Bank, citing its "incitement" during coverage of Jenin's events, particularly against PA security forces. Fatah officials also called on Al Jazeera journalists to resign, accusing the channel of "destroying the Arab world."

Under the new directive, Al Jazeera staff caught broadcasting from PA territories could face arrest and legal penalties.

This decision echoes a similar move by the Israeli government, which previously banned Al Jazeera operations in Israel, citing its broadcasts as a direct threat to national security.

01.01.25 – We

Hamas tactics rely on family bonds to defeat Israel intelligence agents

01.01.25 – We

Experts warn of Israeli intelligence lapses after seized documents show Hamas' tactical depth

Captured Hamas documents reveal years of meticulous intelligence gathering on Israeli border towns, exposing blind spots in Israel's security and intelligence efforts that experts say were exploited during the Oct. 7 attack

Keren Setton / The Media Line | 11:56

In a recent reveal, Israel's Channel 12 News exposed documents that were found during the ground operation that showed years of effort on Hamas' part to gather intelligence about border towns and villages in Israel, including the movements and habits of leading local figures and security officers. Through meticulous information-gathering, Hamas was not only able to execute a surprise offensive but a precise one.

"It was clear for a long time that with the aid of Iran, Hamas had been collecting intelligence methodically and doing so in a professional manner," Prof. Kobi Michael, a researcher at the Institute of National Security Studies and the Misgav Institute for

National Security and Zionist Strategy, told The Media Line. “This also shows Israel’s great permeability; it wasn’t too hard of a job.”

Top Videos

On Oct. 7, 2023, thousands of Hamas terrorists stormed Israel’s border with Gaza and carried out the largest single-day terrorist attack against the Jewish state. Approximately 1,200 Israelis were killed and thousands more were injured. Hamas took 250 people into captivity, 100 of whom are still being held in Gaza, though many are presumed dead. The attack stunned Israel, and as the shock subsided, many questions were raised about Israel’s preparedness, the extent of the intelligence it had, and what could have been done to prevent such a tragedy.

According to the Channel 12 News report, documents and sensitive information were collected for years. Hamas hacked surveillance cameras throughout southern Israel, and the organization managed to infiltrate sensitive systems, allowing them to diligently monitor the movements of critical security figures in the border area.

Hamas did an excellent job using OSINT (open-source intelligence) and gained access to CCTV cameras, which are so prevalent today. Together, this was an endless source of intelligence.

Since the attack, Israel launched a massive war against Hamas in Gaza. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed while the Israeli army has conducted thousands of airstrikes and a massive ground operation. Israeli troops are still on the ground in Gaza, though to a lesser extent than at the beginning of the war.

“In order for Israel to prevent a terrorist army to exist on its border, it needs full security control in Gaza,” Brig. Gen. (Res.) Amir Avivi, founder of the Israel Defense and Security Forum (IDSF), told The Media Line. “These abilities, developed by Hamas, grew as a result of Israel’s lack of control on the territory.”

Michael added that the Israeli army and its soldiers also lack operational discipline, often disregarding directives about information safety and the usage of social media.

The defense establishment was indifferent in a sense. The local authorities also didn’t attach much importance to this issue, and it became a blind spot that widened.

Hamas took advantage of the growing blind spot for years.

Israel unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005, 38 years after it captured the territory from Egyptian hands during the 1967 Six-Day War. Israel maintained control of the border crossings it shared with Gaza and also its airspace and territorial waters through a strict naval blockade. Egyptian soldiers and Hamas operatives manned Gaza’s border with Egypt until Israel took control of the border town of Rafah and the crossing several months ago.

“From 2005 until October 7, with the absence of Israeli presence on the ground, there was an exponential growth of Hamas’ abilities, including its intelligence capabilities,” said Avivi. “They developed very advanced surveillance systems which are akin to systems the Israeli intelligence holds and also operated human intelligence operations, while significantly hindering Israel’s ability to use human sources to gather intelligence.” Over the decades, the number of work permits fluctuated, often symbiotic with the rise and ease of tensions between Israelis and Palestinians.

These circumstances demonstrate the complexity of Israel's relationship with Gaza and the Palestinians.

Gaza residents have entered Israel to work since 1967. More work opportunities and higher wages made Israel a lucrative work destination for Palestinians. This trend continued even when Israel disengaged from the territory. This arrangement, together with Israel's hold on most of Gaza's borders, meant Israel and the Gaza Strip were still deeply connected, both dependent on each other. For Israel, Palestinians provided cheap labor in certain fields, such as agriculture, in which most Israelis no longer work. For Palestinians, employment in Israel was the key to improving their standard of living in one of the world's most impoverished territories.

Over the decades, the number of work permits fluctuated, often symbiotic with the rise and ease of tensions between Israelis and Palestinians. One clear example of this fluctuation was in the days leading up to Hamas's stunning attack. Days before the war, Gaza residents approached the security fence with Israel, demonstrating against the blockade. In response, Israel barred the entrance of Gaza laborers into the country for a short period. In an attempt to diffuse the tension, Israel then lifted the sanction, allowing Palestinian workers in. However, tensions were not diffused. Instead, war broke out that would change the face of the region.

The economic interdependence also exists in the West Bank territories which Israel also captured in 1967 and refers to as Judea and Samaria. Some of the territories are fully controlled by the Palestinian Authority (PA), Israel fully controls others, and some are under Palestinian civil control and Israeli military hold.

In response to the war in Gaza, Israel also drastically reduced the number of Palestinian workers allowed to enter from the West Bank. From over 100,000 workers a day, the number has been lowered to a few thousand, citing Israeli security concerns and the potential for further tensions between Israelis and Palestinians. From Gaza, where the war is ongoing, there has been no entrance of workers since the fighting began.

Before Oct. 7, 2023, the Israeli defense establishment and much of the political echelon believed that the entrance of Palestinians to work in Israel, both from Gaza and the West Bank, defused tensions and decreased motivation to engage in terrorism while creating an incentive to maintain the quiet between Israel and the Palestinians.

"This presumption was wrong," said Michael. "In Gaza, it didn't cause Hamas to change its ideology or reduce its motivation to carry out such an attack; it didn't create a positive impact but also created an intelligence platform for Hamas."

It was clear that work permits for Palestinians would create extensive intelligence for Hamas.

According to Avivi, "It was clear that work permits for Palestinians would create extensive intelligence for Hamas."

Throughout Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank are Palestinians who share familial connections, another vulnerability that is believed to have been used by Hamas in Gaza to collect intelligence in and on Israel.

Israeli forces carry out daily raids in the West Bank against terrorist activity, detaining tens of suspects every day, making for a clearer intelligence outlook. Consequently, Israel's ability to thwart attacks from those territories has been consistently better, and the

chances of an attack similar to Oct. 7 being carried out from the West Bank are slimmer, though not non-existent. This is due to the existing familial connections and the current flow of workers into Israel.

One cannot rely on technology alone for intelligence, and in the disengagement, Israel lost the critical ability to gather intelligence through human sources. While in Judea and Samaria, Israel has complete freedom to operate and control the arena through massive settlements, in Gaza, this was not possible, making the ability to generate quality intelligence non-existent.

Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 made it almost impossible for Israel's secret service to recruit Palestinian agents. The withdrawal also saw an Israeli commando unit charged with recruiting agents unable to operate from within Gaza. While Israel's security grip on the West Bank is much stronger than it has been in Gaza, it is not immune from a similar Oct. 7 scenario.

"Israel must presume that the Palestinians are capable of gathering such intelligence on Israel from the West Bank as they did from Gaza, even though Hamas's capabilities there are much more limited," said Michael. "But in the end, geography has little significance in such cases where surveillance cameras can be accessed remotely."

For now, Israel remains in Gaza, with the government vowing to retain control over security matters in the territory indefinitely. With 100 remaining hostages waiting to be released from the hands of Hamas terrorists, making up for years of little intelligence is critical.

Israeli intelligence control is therefore increasing, but there are still gaps. There is a lot of intelligence about the hostages, but in order to release them, that is not enough. It is very rare that the operational conditions that allow for rescue operations exist.

The story is written by Keren Setton and reprinted with permission from The Media Line.

01.01.25 – We

Shadow students: Training the next generation of Mossad and Shin Bet

01.01.25 – We

'Shadow students': Training the next generation of Israeli spies

Using code letters instead of full names, students from across Israel converge at a high school in Katzrin, preparing for future roles in Mossad and Shin Bet—the country's elite intelligence agencies

Tamar Trabelsi-Hadad|11:52

As early as ninth grade, students destined for Israel's primary intelligence agencies Mossad and Shin Bet are identified and enrolled in the elite Odem program, where they adopt code letters in place of full names.

Jointly run by the Defense Ministry, Education Ministry, IDF, Mossad and Shin Bet, the program is described as "the jewel of leadership in the technological arena," created by the architects of other elite initiatives for future military recruits like Talpiot and Psagot.

The first cohort in the specialized high school that was established in the town of Katzrin in the Golan Heights is now completing matriculation exams, and registration for the next class has begun. Graduates will pursue electrical engineering degrees at the Technion, alongside specialized training, exposure to security forces and participation in cutting-edge technological projects. Following this, they will undertake six years of military service, preparing for leadership roles in technology within the Shin Bet and Mossad. The program aims for gender and geographical equity, with 38% female participants and 40% from northern and southern Israel. The defense establishment seeks to raise both figures to 50%.

Roy Shefer, head of the elite programs division, said the Odem program addresses a critical shortage of technological and managerial talent in Israel's top security units. "Instead of waiting until the end of 12th grade for students to reach the required level, Odem begins training in 10th grade, focusing on academics like math, physics and English, as well as leadership skills," he said.

"The goal," he explained, "is to give boys and girls the chance to close gaps, expand technological knowledge and develop personally during a formative stage—before decisions are made and opportunities are closed off."

A., a 12th grader from Kiryat Shmona and a member of Odem's first graduating class, said the program aligns with his aspirations. "I want to serve in a meaningful role where my skills can contribute to my country. After October 7, it's clear how essential this program is. In the Shin Bet and Mossad, you rarely get credit for your actions, and no one may ever know it was you who acted. To me, that's the beauty of it."

S., a 12th-grade student from a Gaza-border community, echoed those sentiments, tying her ambitions to her upbringing centered on service and Zionism. "The people behind technological developments saved my life," she said. "Even in the current war, the critical role of technology is undeniable. I've always wanted to understand the work of those in the shadows and find where I can contribute. My ambition is to be one of them—protecting others quietly, ensuring no one even realizes there was ever a threat."

01.01.25 – We

One of the risky operations: Commando raid on Syria missile production site

01.01.25 – We

'One of the riskiest operations': Inside Israel's high-stakes commando raid in Syria
In September, Israeli commandos raided an advanced Iranian underground missile facility near Masyaf, used for precision missile production; troops eliminated guards and retrieved key documents before destroying site with explosives

Yoav Zitun|09:42

This past September, reports emerged worldwide about an extraordinary IDF commando operation in Syria. During the mission, commando troops raided and destroyed an Iranian missile production facility used by Hezbollah in Masyaf, located in Syria's Hama province.

The world marveled at the operation, which involved landing Israeli forces deep inside Syrian territory, dozens of miles from the border. The commandos not only demolished the facility but also extracted significant intelligence material from it. However, the operation was met with official silence in Israel.

Now, nearly four months later, the IDF has detailed the sequence of events during the raid. "This was one of the most daring and riskiest commando operations the IDF has conducted outside the country in recent years — heroic, high-risk and meticulously planned by the Israeli Air Force," an official said. "The operation achieved its objective: neutralizing a critical strategic capability of Iran in Syria, located dozens of kilometers from Israel."

The elite Shaldag unit of the Israeli Air Force carried out the high-risk operation targeting an advanced underground missile facility near Masyaf used by Iranian forces to produce precision missiles for Hezbollah. Supported by dozens of fighter jets, helicopters and drones, the commandos neutralized guards at the facility, known as "Deep Layer," before rigging it with explosives and detonating it remotely.

The operation, which deployed ground forces deep in enemy territory, incurred no Israeli casualties. Troops also retrieved key documents from the site. American and Western officials later confirmed to The New York Times that Israeli special forces had rappelled from helicopters during the raid to gather intelligence.

The use of ground troops was reportedly necessary due to the mission's complexity and the need to secure materials from the secret facility. Israel had briefed senior U.S. officials ahead of the operation, which included airstrikes on the facility.

On Sunday, U.S. Central Command chief General Michael Kurilla visited the IDF's Northern Command, where he reviewed Israeli operational plans for Lebanon.

01.01.25 – We

More people leave Israel than ever, some choose to make it their home

01.01.25 – We

As more people leave Israel than ever, some choose to make it their home. Citing security concerns, cost of living and frustration with growing entanglement of religion and state, one woman chose New Zealand for safety and stability; another left a comfortable life in the Netherlands, saying her heart still belongs in Israel.

Nina Fox, Alexandra Lukash|07:49

A record-breaking number of Israeli citizens left the country in 2024. Of the 82,700 who have left, only 23,800 returned. Some cited security concerns and the high cost of living as reasons for their decision to leave. At the same time, others have decided to move to Israel and build their lives here.

Yael Eltzur, 24, who moved to the Netherlands with her family when she was 13, says she always knew she would be back. "I came to volunteer last year and that motivated me to move back and work in Israel," she tells Ynet. "I had just broken up with my Dutch partner a couple of months earlier and felt our cultural differences played a large part in that. I decided the best thing for me was to build a home in Israel although my parents were less enthusiastic about the idea."

She says the Hamas-led October 7 massacre strengthened her resolve. "I've always felt that Israel would ultimately be my home but did not have the chance to leave. After October 7, that feeling intensified," she said. "I was single, between jobs so the timing was perfect to begin the process."

Eltzur says antisemitism also played a role in her decision. "Europe feels unsafe for me. Antisemitism is growing and Europeans are not prepared for it. At least in Israel, the IDF is protecting us," she says, adding that she had missed the local food, culture and society.

She has family in Israel as well. "I am sure I will miss everyone in the Netherlands, but I feel in my heart that here is where I should be. I grew up here and would want to give my children the same childhood."

On the other hand, Natali Della, 31, a former career soldier in the Israeli Air Force, decided to leave Israel in October for New Zealand, citing religious extremism, the high cost of living and security concerns as her reasons.

"After the October 7 massacre, I understood that war and terrorism are an inseparable part of life in Israel," she says. "My faith in the government that has abandoned the hostages in Gaza was broken and the IDF took eight hours to stop the terrorist attack. I served as a career soldier for nearly 10 years and had been out of service for a year when the war broke out."

Natalie cites the disregard for women—exemplified by ignored warnings from female surveillance soldiers before October 7—as a major factor in her decision to leave the Air Force, alongside frustrations with a growing lack of separation between religion and state. Economic reasons also played a role in her decision. "I was living paycheck to paycheck and unable to advance economically. I rented a tiny apartment and paid a fortune in rent and bills and on top of that there were the sirens, rocket attacks and fear on a daily basis."

01.01.25 – We

UNIFIL complicit as Lebanon village built Hezbollah terror base & staged weapons

01.01.25 – We

Under UNIFIL's nose, village in Lebanon becomes terror base for Hezbollah's weapons
Picturesque coastal village of An-Naqoura, home to UNIFIL HQ, was staging ground for
Radwan's planned invasion of the Galilee; Each home had munitions, explosives, rockets
and its orchards hid launchers aimed at Israel; 'It is impossible to believe peacekeepers
saw nothing'

Yair Kraus|03:57

IDF forces on Tuesday continued to work to uncover Hezbollah terror infrastructure in
the picturesque Shiite village of An-Naqoura on the Israel-Lebanon border, and adjacent
to the large UN peacekeepers' base in South Lebanon.

There just next to the base, in the village that was home to 5,000 residents before the war,
the troops uncovered a trove of armaments. It is a staging ground for what was to be the
invasion of the Galilee by Hezbollah's Radwan forces, and the occupation of Nahariya
and the surrounding communities.

An-Naqoura is a symbol of the failure to implement the 2006 UN Security Council
resolution 1701 that ended the Second Lebanon War and that states that UNIFIL
peacekeepers were responsible to ensure Hezbollah forces remained north of the Litani
River.

For years, the Israeli governments and the IDF failed to prevent what had come to light in
the recent conflict, all along the frontier, from the shores of the Mediterranean Sea in the
west to the mountains in the east.

"It is impossible to believe that the UN forces did not prevent Hezbollah from amassing
so many arms and munitions," Col. (Res.) Nir Shimri, whose paratroopers have been
operating in the village, said. What the military found was no less than incredible.

Hezbollah set up one of its largest logistical and strategic bases on the coastal road
leading from the border to Tyre and Sidon. The terror group operated alongside the
UNIFIL forces that were there to protect the border and maintain stability but did nothing
to stop Hezbollah. It is clearly evident that the international force was complicit in its
silence, given the scope of Hezbollah's military might, revealed in An-Naqoura and
dozens of other villages.

"Nearly every home had storages of military equipment and positions. These were
Hezbollah's auxiliary supplies," Shimri said.

The IDF left operations in the village to the later stages of the fighting and after the
cease-fire agreement came into effect because of its proximity to the UNIFIL
headquarters, where the international committee established to oversee compliance with
the agreement has been meeting.

In November, eight UNIFIL troops were hurt from a Hezbollah rocket launch and the
IDF could not allow such a mishap to be repeated.

"We had to ensure that the fighting against Hezbollah did not pose a danger to the UNIFIL camp," an IDF commander said. "He explained that his forces were limited in their use of firepower and had to operate with surgical precision under the gaze of the international forces. "We had observed significant movement of UNIFIL troops along the coastal road but it appeared that they did nothing to prevent Hezbollah from doing as they will in the village."

In the village orchards, the troops found rocket launchers aimed at Israel. Nearby they found notebooks with markings of targets in northern Israel that they planned to attack. "The launchers were under cover of the trees and we would not have been able to find them had we not entered the orchards on foot," one soldier said. He added that the entire area between the villages was dug up with underground tunnels, command centers, weapons storages and trucks loaded with rocket launchers.

"The closer you move toward the UN base and the border, the more ammunition you find and the feeling is that UNIFIL provided cover for Hezbollah," he said.

Inside the village, the troops found explosive devices, RPG rockets and AK47 rifles in homes and yards along with Iranian missiles, anti-tank mortar shells and other weapons ready for use.

"In another world, this village could have been a tourist attraction like villages in Cyprus or Greece," the commander said. "You step into a well-to-do home, with expensive marble that you might see in any affluent Israeli neighborhood, and you ask yourself, why use this as infrastructure for terror? It's all so surreal."

On the eve of the cease-fire coming into effect, some in the village believed the residents could return and warned them of undetonated bombs and explosives spread on the ground. But less than three weeks later, the Abbas Awada, the municipal engineer published an angry post on the village's Facebook page, blaming Israel for carrying out a systematic destruction. He said 70% of the village, was destroyed since the cease-fire came into effect after only 35% was damaged before.

Awada wrote that he was amazed at the lack of action from UNIFIL to force compliance with the cease-fire and criticized the UN troops for not preventing the damage to his village where their headquarters is located.

01.01.25 – We

Since Oct. 7 the US has transferred to Israel, \$22 billion in military aid

01.01.25 – We

Since Oct. 7 the US has given Israel \$22 billion in military aid

Missiles, precision bombs, attack helicopters and armored vehicles: According to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, from the outbreak of the war until August, the US transferred more than 50,000 tons of weapons to Israel.

Daniel Edelson, New York|00:29

The US has provided Israel with military aid totaling approximately \$22 billion since October 7 2023, which the IDF has used for its operations in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria during the war, according to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

According to the institute's data, between 2019 and 2023, the US supplied about 69% of Israel's weapons, a figure that rose to 78% in the subsequent period. By December 2023, the US had transferred more than 10,000 tons of weapons worth \$2.4 billion to Israel, and this number jumped to 50,000 tons by August 2024, carried by hundreds of aircraft and ships.

The U.S. has provided Israel with a variety of advanced military equipment, including missiles for the Iron Dome system, precision-guided bombs, CH-53 heavy transport helicopters, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, 155mm artillery shells, bunker-penetrating bombs, and armored vehicles.

The institute's data also shows that the revenues of the three Israeli arms manufacturers ranked in the world's top 100 arms companies reached unprecedented levels in 2023 following the war in Gaza, and that their total revenues increased by 15%, totaling \$13.6 billion. Revenues for Elbit Systems (ranked 27 in the world), for example, increased by 14%, reaching \$5.4 billion. The company reported that between October 2023 and December 2023, it secured contracts worth about \$900 million related to the IDF.

Defense Ministry and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) signed contract worth billions to expand the supply of Arrow-3 missile interceptors (Photo: Houthi military media/Reuters, Spokesperson and Public Relations Division at the Ministry of Defense)

Israel Aerospace Industries (ranked 34) reported that 2023 was a record year for the company, with weapons revenues of \$4.5 billion - a 15% increase compared to 2022. It increased the production rate to meet the IDF's demand for armaments, and accelerated the development of new systems.

Rafael (ranked 42) also reported record sales and orders. In 2023, the company's arms revenue reached \$3.7 billion, a 16% increase compared to the previous year. The company produces weapons essential to Israel's military strategy, such as missiles for the Iron Dome and David's Sling air defense systems.

01.01.25 – We

Knesset considers bill to favor victims opinion before early release of offenders

01.01.25 – We

Knesset considers bill favoring crime victims' rehabilitation needs

Proposed law allows victims to voice their position in person before the early release of offenders, requires parole boards to weigh the impact of release on victims' recovery alongside offenders' rehabilitation

Tova Tzimuk | Yesterday | 23:28

The Knesset's Constitution, Law, Justice Committee began preparing on Tuesday for the first reading of a proposed law that would allow crime victims to express their opinions orally before the early release of the offender who harmed them. According to the proposal, initiated by opposition lawmaker Cheli Tropper, the parole board would be required to consider the impact of the release on the victim's rehabilitation process.

"This law is intended to improve the current situation," Tropper explained during the committee discussion. "Today, the parole board is required to consider the rehabilitation prospects of the inmate but is not required to take into account the rehabilitation of the victim, who, from their perspective, carries scars that do not fade over time. It is important to consider the state of the victims even after the offender has served their sentence in prison and before their release, as part of the significant considerations the committee must weigh when making its decision."

"There is an anomaly in the law, as until now, victims could send a letter detailing the implications of the early release, but the board was not required to consider it," committee chair Simcha Rotman said.

Adv. Noa Brodsky Levi, from the legal advisory team to the committee said the bill would outline the considerations that the parole board must weigh, including risks to the public, the inmate's family, and the behavior of the inmate in prison. "Under certain circumstances, the board is allowed to consider additional factors," he said. "The Crime Victims' Rights Law allows the victim to submit a written statement to the parole board, and in practice, the board sometimes permits the victim to appear in person, but the law does not mandate this. The proposed law would add the impact of early release on the victim to the board's considerations and allow the victim to express their opinion orally as well."

A harrowing testimony was heard in the committee from Shari Golan, one of the victims of sex offender Alon Kastiel: "Every time I wanted to speak at the parole board, I went through a difficult ordeal. The inmate's position is automatically heard orally, but we, the victims, are not heard." Golan described how she was required to submit letters from psychological and medical professionals and how her ability to speak was dependent on the inmate's consent to leave the hearing.

"In 2022, with the final release of the serial offender, all the victims were given only 22 hours' notice to appear," she said. "They couldn't submit their opinions or come to speak. I fought to speak, and even then, they asked the man who raped me and locked me in a storeroom for his permission to leave the hearing. I feel it's important to express the victim's outcry, whose cries are not heard during the first offense."

The Public Defender's Office expressed reservations about the proposal, with Adv. Gil Shapira pointing to implementation difficulties and budgetary implications, while also raising the issue of overcrowding in prisons. "We've been in a state of prison emergency for over a year, exceeding the maximum incarceration capacity," Shapira said. "Early release is one of the mechanisms that helps relieve this situation."

Adv. Nili Finkelstein from the Ministry of Justice noted that following challenges raised in the field, an inter-ministerial team led by the judiciary administration was established.

"The Ministerial Committee for Legislation decided to support the component of the proposal concerning the victim's right to express their opinion orally," she said.

"Expressing this position does not make the victim a party to the process but recognizes them as a significant factor with rights at various stages of the process."

"The issue of overcrowding and its harm to other inmates is not currently considered a factor, which is strange," said MK Rothman. In response, MK Tropper stated, "There's no problem adding the issue of prison overcrowding during wartime as a consideration—it stands as no contradiction to the impact on the victim."

12.31.24 – Tu

Cease-fire talks stall, Katz to discuss alternatives to Hamas rule of Gaza

12.31.24 – Tu

Cease-fire talks stall, Katz to discuss alternatives to Hamas rule of Gaza

Netanyahu insists neither Hamas nor Palestinian Authority have governing role in Gaza including distribution of humanitarian aid; official says Israel considering options for governing body

Itamar Eichner|15:04

Amid the stalemate in negotiations for a cease-fire and hostage release deal, the security cabinet scheduled to meet this week has been postponed until Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recovers from surgery to remove his prostate gland. Defense Minister Israel Katz will convene a meeting with members of the government on Thursday and will discuss the day after the war and an alternative rule of the Strip to Hamas.

The obstacles to the talks remain the number of hostages that would be released in the first phase of the deal, with Israel demanding twice as many Israeli captives than Hamas has agreed to free.

The terror group claims Israel is demanding the release of soldiers and wounded men although they do not comply with the criteria for the humanitarian exchange. They would agree to hand over bodies of dead hostages if a deal is made.

Another major obstacle is the demand to end the war. Security officials warned the government that Hamas was rebuilding its control of Gaza. Hours later a "senior official" said that according to Netanyahu, even if a deal is made, Israel would return to the fighting in Gaza until it achieves its declared goals.

That statement was an Israel admission from the senior official that Israel was heading toward a partial release of hostages that would not include an end to the war as Hamas demands, before all the hostages would be released.

Protesters demand the release of hostages

The prime minister is in the opinion that there can be no plan for the day after the war until all of Hamas's capabilities are destroyed," the official said adding that there have been discussions in the appropriate forums on the matter.

"The policy of the prime minister in Gaza is that neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority (PA) would govern Gaza, including having responsibility over distribution of humanitarian aid. The security agencies are considering alternatives and would continue to do so. Cutting Hamas off from aid distribution is meant to prevent the terror group from controlling the civilian population and to bring about the release of hostages."

12.31.24 – Tu

IDF sealed hospital terror base from sharp criticism, denying global newspapers

12.31.24 – Tu

IDF says it has sealed off hospital used as 'terror base'

Forces say Adwan Hospital in Jabaliya, used as a Hamas terror hub; Over 600 civilians, 240 militants arrested, and 20 killed, on top of weapons, explosives and tunnels found at al-Shifa Hospital during similar operations; world press claims forceful evacuation of innocents

Yoav Zitun|12:27

The IDF has sealed off the Adwan Hospital in Jabaliya on Tuesday, in an unusual move and amid international criticism after concluding its military operation there over the weekend. In previous instances when Israeli forces raided hospitals in the Gaza Strip, operations were allowed to resume and in the Al Shifa Hospital, Hamas recently carried out extensive renovations.

IDF evacuated hundreds of patients and staff from the large medical facility to the Indonesian Hospital, also located in northern Gaza. "The hospital had become a Hamas terror base. We precisely and carefully evacuated about 600 civilians while thoroughly screening for militants," said an IDF spokesperson following the takeover of the site last weekend. "Combat soldiers from the 401st Brigade, operating under the 162nd Brigade and Unit 504, completed a focused counterterrorism operation at Kamal Adwan Hospital, arresting more than 240 militants, eliminated 20, and neutralized powerful explosives planted at the site."

The forces conducting the operation launched a swift and covert raid, surrounding the building located in the heart of the camp in less than an hour. As expected, the operation drew sharp international criticism, with major global newspapers and news outlets extensively covering the event.

For example, the BBC headline read: "Israel forcefully evacuates Gaza Hospital and arrests medical staff." The report emphasized that the hospital director, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, was arrested by Israel on suspicion of being a Hamas operative, "without providing evidence" against him. The British broadcaster also cited the Hamas-run

Palestinian Ministry of Health regarding the number of fatalities in the hospital area as of Friday: "50 people, including hospital staff, were killed in airstrikes."

The New York Times reported under the headline: "IDF forces patients and medical staff to leave hospital in Northern Gaza." A nurse working at the hospital told the American newspaper that Israeli soldiers instructed female staff and patients to leave the hospital, without immediately giving the same order to the men.

Al-Shifa Medical Center, Gaza's main hospital, which was recently renovated, underwent the most extensive raid during the war. In its vicinity, more than 200 militants were killed, and hundreds more were arrested. In September, five months after Israeli forces left the hospital, the emergency department at the medical center reopened, where hostages had been held and even murdered. The hospital is currently operating partially. Buildings at al-Shifa Hospital were used as emergency assets for the operations headquarters of Hamas' Gaza City Brigade. Additionally, during the fighting, weapons and other equipment were moved to the hospital's underground floors. As part of the IDF's activities in the hospital area, numerous weapons were discovered in the MRI building within the hospital complex, as well as an operational tunnel shaft next to a weapons-laden pickup truck. Furthermore, in the cardiology department, a weapons storage room, ammunition, and an interrogation room were found. In the physiotherapy department, explosive devices were discovered, and in the Qatari building, another explosive device and communication equipment were found.

12.30.24 – Mo

Missile fired from Yemen after US-British coalition attack on port city

12.30.24 – Mo

Missile fired from Yemen sends thousands to shelters in central Israel, successfully intercepted

Alert sirens come minutes after reports of a US-British attack on the port city of Hodeidah in Yemen

Ynet|15:20

Sirens were heard across the central region, following a missile launched from Yemen. The missile was successfully intercepted before crossing into Israeli territory, according to the IDF.

The sirens, which sent millions into shelters, sounded just minutes after reports of a US-British attack on the port city of Hodeidah, Yemen. The Houthi-affiliated Al-Masirah channel reported two strikes by the international coalition targeting a Houthi weapons depot in southern Hodeidah.

Following the alarms, takeoffs and landings at Ben Gurion Airport were halted, and permission to land was withheld from a plane that was on its way from Rome, and from an El Al flight from Krakow.

The alarm sounded during a well-attended show at the Menorah Hall in Tel Aviv, as performer Moshe Peretz sang to the thousands: "Houthis, let's buy you some Houthis." Magen David Adom reported that several people were injured on their way to their shelters, and several others were described as victims of panic.

Among the places where sirens were sounded was: Tel Aviv, Rehovot, Nes Ziona, Rishon LeZion, Lod, Ramat Gan, Bat Yam, Be'er Yaakov, Mikveh Israel, Ramla, Petah Tikva, Givatayim, Kiryat Ono, Bnei Brak, Yehud-Monosson, Ramat Hasharon, Holon, Herzliya, Shoham, Or Yehuda, Saviyon, Givat Shmuel, Ashdod, Gedera, Yavne, Gan Yavne, Kiryat Malachi, Beit Shemesh and Modi'in-Maccabim-Reut.

Last week, the Houthis launched five missiles into Israel in the middle of the night, the last time on the night between Friday and Saturday, when at 2:11 a.m., sirens were activated in Jerusalem, and in communities in the Judea region, the Dead Sea and the northern Negev, due to a missile launch from Yemen. The IDF announced that the missile was intercepted outside the country.

Despite the attacks in Yemen by Israel and the coalition countries, the Houthis continue to threaten and promise to attack Israel again and again as a sign of "support for the Palestinians," until "the siege is lifted and the attacks against Gaza are stopped." Despite the increasing price the Houthis are paying as the conflict escalates, Israel estimates that the war of attrition against the terrorist organization will continue, at least until the rebel leadership is eliminated.

12.30.24 – Mo

Soldiers stationed on Mount Hermon endure harsh winter conditions

12.30.24 – Mo

Soldiers stationed on Mount Hermon face dangerous conditions

IDF soldiers on the Syrian Golan face unclear strategic goals as rising tensions with local residents sparks concern; Commanders question the mission's necessity as troops balance defense, humanitarian efforts, and extreme conditions in a volatile and complex environment; A blizzard could put them in mortal danger

Yoav Zitun|11:29

Amid criticism from Northern Command officers regarding the futility of stationing hundreds of IDF troops on the Syrian side of the border on the Golan Heights, the daily routine of the soldiers is becoming clearer under the shadow of potential danger that may approach from the east. On Sunday, Ynet revealed voices from within the IDF questioning the presence of two brigades in the Syrian territories beyond the border over the past two weeks, following the fall of Bashar Assad's regime to the rebels.

The IDF is not ruling out the possibility of withdrawing from populated areas where forces have entrenched themselves over the past week, near Syrian residents, and instead consolidating in open spaces.

IDF reservations stem from the fact that there is no visible enemy, nor any intelligence indicating one. Soldiers are primarily engaged in self-defense under very low operational tension, alongside violent friction that has begun to develop with local Syrian residents protesting the IDF's incursion into their territory. According to warnings, this could lead to a terror effect from cells approaching the area and attempting to harm the soldiers. Two days ago, additional officers noted that, unlike the borders with the Gaza Strip or Lebanon, most of the Golan Heights is flat and easier to control through observation and firepower. Additionally, the perimeter is much larger than other borders: The tall security fence is not the actual border, and in some areas Israeli territory stretches one to two kilometers eastward, up to the barrel line marking the boundary between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the daily routine of paratroopers and armored corps soldiers in the area is becoming clearer. All of them, until recently, were engaged in intense offensive missions against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. Now the soldiers are primarily defending themselves in temporary outposts or abandoned Assad army posts, but also on the outskirts of the villages themselves. They patrol between five to six locations the IDF has seized in the Syrian Golan. They attempt to cover each other through ambushes and reconnaissance missions and occasionally undertake less formal tasks.

For example, troops have repaired infrastructure they accidentally damaged for Syrian residents, such as water pumps and a local power line. In at least two cases, Syrian residents approached IDF soldiers requesting medical assistance for their ailments, and their requests were granted by an IDF paramedic.

In accordance with the political echelon's decision, the gates to Israel have not yet been opened for them, but the IDF promises that efforts to create opportunities for cooperation with at least some of the 70,000 Syrians living opposite Israel are ongoing.

Officers currently most engaged beyond the border are from the Northern Command's Population Unit, many of whom are Druze reservists. They are trying to understand the Syrians, and the Syrians are trying to understand the IDF through them.

"The officers from this unit have prevented further incidents thanks to dialogue with the local Syrians. We've also learned lessons from the two cases where we had to shoot the knees of key agitators during protests against us after they got too close to our forces," the military said. "We haven't conducted weapons searches in their villages, even though not all of them have handed over their weapons. It's doubtful we'll be able to collect all their weapons because it's part of their culture – to be armed for self-defense after what they've experienced in the past decade."

The IDF also emphasized that not all sectors in the Golan have a wide perimeter and there are still dead zones in the region. "Our presence allows us to continue fortifying the

barrier – a large and critical project for defense against an invasion of Israel," the IDF said in a statement. "There are still Assad army outposts, slightly deeper in, that we won't reach. We're not there for unnecessary adventures."

Another potentially dangerous point, though not for operational reasons, is the summit of the Syrian Hermon, which Israeli forces also captured this month without a fight. Despite a swift operation by the Technology and Logistics Directorate (Atal) to prepare or establish durable outposts for soldiers at altitudes of 1.49 miles and 1.74 miles, as revealed by Ynet last week, some still point to the dangers of staying there during a snowstorm or under harsher extreme conditions than those at older outposts like Israeli and Snow Observatory, located at around 1.37 miles.

The IDF is preparing for the possibility of very long days without the ability to evacuate soldiers from there if necessary, and they will have to survive on their own with emergency equipment and food now being supplied to them.

12.30.24 – Mo

Israeli arrested earlier this month, operating for Iran in arson & filming MKs

12.30.24 – Mo

Israeli man arrested for allegedly operating on behalf of Iran, including arson and photographing Gantz's home

Alexander Granovsky is accused of setting fire to eight vehicles in various locations, photographing infrastructure facilities in central Israel, and also capturing images of former Defense Minister Benny Gantz's neighborhood; Granovsky was reportedly operated via Telegram by Iranian agents

Lior Ohana, Yoav Zitun|08:17

Israel Police and the Shin Bet security agency announced Monday the arrest of Alexander Granovsky, a 29-year-old Petah Tikva resident, accused of carrying out missions on behalf of Iran. Granovsky, with a criminal history of property offenses, drug-related crimes and violence, allegedly operated under Iranian directives, targeting locations in Ra'anana, Hadera, and Ashdod.

Authorities claim Granovsky conducted various acts, including photographing a sensitive Israeli infrastructure site and the residential neighborhood of former IDF Chief of Staff and Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

Granovsky allegedly sent these images to his Iranian handlers. Granovsky also reportedly set fire to eight vehicles, purchased military uniforms to film himself burning them, and shared details of another Israeli citizen for potential recruitment.

Granovsky was arrested earlier this month at his partner's home. Police have requested his detention be extended ahead of an indictment at the Central District Court.

Superintendent Sarit Peretz, an officer in the International Investigations Unit, said Granovsky acted under explicit instructions, including burning vehicles, for which he received payments ranging from hundreds to thousands of shekels. In some instances, he was unpaid but claimed he needed the money. "He told us, 'They pay me, and I do it,'" Peretz said.

She added, "Granovsky communicated with Iranian operatives via Telegram. They instructed him to act against the government and the prime minister by spraying graffiti, committing arson, and gathering intelligence. He provided details about a security officer and collected information on IDF officials, with plans to expand these efforts. He was stopped before completing all his assignments."

The investigation revealed that Granovsky had requested additional tasks before his arrest but refused certain instructions, such as burning an ambulance or a police vehicle. While he was directed to acquire firearms and grenades, he only proposed creating Molotov cocktails.

"He knew exactly who he was dealing with. He is a very dangerous individual," Peretz concluded.

12.30.24 – Mo

MKs push to change Hamas brutal control in Gaza, silencing dissent with violence

12.30.24 – Mo

IDF officials: 'Find Hamas alternative before any deal or we'll return to October 6'
Senior military officials warn that the lack of a clear policy for Gaza could allow the terror group, severely weakened in combat, to regain political control; 'We will lose the achievements of the war,' they caution

Yossi Yehoshua|05:06

Senior IDF officials warned Monday that failure to plan for Gaza's future governance could lead to a relapse of conditions that existed before the October 7 terror attack. "It's that simple," one official said.

These warnings have been repeatedly delivered to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Security officials emphasize that without decisive action on post-war governance, Hamas could rebuild its political power and regain control of Gaza. "In the absence of an alternative, Hamas will inevitably return to power. Decisions must be made now, before any hostage deals or cease-fire agreements," officials said.

This concern resonates within both the IDF and the Shin Bet. While Hamas' military capabilities have been decimated, officials caution that the group's political infrastructure remains intact.

Approximately 1.9 million residents, about 90% of Gaza's population, are concentrated in humanitarian zones in central and southern Gaza. The IDF has a limited presence in these

areas, focusing primarily on targeted airstrikes. Meanwhile, Hamas operatives continue to exert brutal control over the local population, silencing dissent with violence.

"When families try to resist, Hamas suppresses them ruthlessly. But the larger issue is the absence of leadership or energy for rebellion," one military official explained.

Security officials outline three potential paths forward

Restoring Palestinian Authority control: This would involve significant international investment, primarily from the U.S. and Gulf nations, to bolster the Palestinian Authority (PA). Such a move, coupled with normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia, could reshape the region. However, Netanyahu has dismissed this option, citing political constraints within his coalition.

Establishing military rule in Gaza: Under this scenario, Israel would assume responsibility for Gaza's civilian infrastructure, from food distribution to healthcare. This would come with enormous financial and diplomatic costs, which Netanyahu is reluctant to bear.

Defaulting to the status quo: This would allow Hamas to gradually reclaim power, undermining one of the primary objectives of the war—dismantling the group.

Lessons from the West Bank

The lack of strategic planning in Gaza mirrors Israel's approach in the West Bank. While some voices on the political right call to dismantle the PA, Netanyahu has avoided making a decision. Security forces loyal to Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas continue to fight Hamas, preventing its rise in areas near Israeli cities.

"Just last week, five PA security personnel were killed fighting Hamas," a senior official noted. "They tell us, 'If we're not strong, Hamas will take over, and it'll be your problem too.' Yet, Israel neither supports the PA nor dismantles it, effectively leaving it to collapse slowly."

If the PA were to fall, security officials warn, Israel would need to double its troop presence in the West Bank, a logistical nightmare.

Israeli security officials stress they are not advocating for a Palestinian state or territorial concessions. Instead, they seek pragmatic solutions to safeguard national security.

"The lesson from October 7 is not just to stop turning a blind eye but to stop deferring critical decisions," one official said. "Difficult steps must be taken now. Hoping for quiet hasn't worked—it's time to face reality and act decisively."

12.30.24 – Mo

AI undermines IDF intelligence, in struggle to realize encrypted messages

12.30.24 – Mo

'Man replaced by machine': Is the use of AI undermining the IDF's intelligence capabilities?

Unit 8200 served as a testing ground for advanced AI systems, shaping its military strategy for years before October 7; a Washington Post report raises concerns about

increased civilian casualties and weakened human intelligence under the unit's AI-driven approach

Ynet|00:40

Following Hamas' surprise attack on October 7 last year, the IDF launched an extensive aerial campaign in Gaza, leveraging years of meticulously gathered intelligence on addresses, tunnels and critical infrastructure tied to the terrorist group. However, as the target bank began to dwindle, the military turned to an artificial intelligence system known as "The Gospel" to rapidly generate hundreds of new targets, according to a detailed Washington Post investigation.

The report examines how the use of AI technologies impacted the prolonged war, including its influence on civilian casualties and the quality of Israeli intelligence. According to two individuals familiar with the intelligence-gathering operation, the deployment of AI allowed the IDF to maintain a relentless pace of airstrikes.

The Post describes the software as one of the most advanced applications of military AI to date, central to Israel's ongoing operations. It also sheds light on internal debates within the IDF over whether reliance on AI weakened traditional intelligence capabilities and if the technology's recommendations received sufficient scrutiny. Discussions on the use of AI began years before the October 7 attack, according to the investigation. Critics within the military have argued that the AI system contributed to a significant rise in civilian casualties in Gaza. The Post bases its findings on interviews with over a dozen individuals familiar with the system, most of whom spoke anonymously due to national security concerns, as well as on internal documents obtained during its investigation.

"What's happening in Gaza is a forerunner of a broader shift in how war is being fought," said Steven Feldstein, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment, who researches the use of AI in war. He noted that the IDF appeared to have lowered its threshold for the acceptable civilian casualty rate during the Gaza war. "Combine that with the acceleration these systems offer — as well as the questions of accuracy — and the end result is a higher death count than was previously imagined in war."

The IDF said claims that its use of AI endangers lives are "off the mark."

"The more ability you have to compile pieces of information effectively, the more accurate the process is," the IDF said in a statement to The Post. "If anything, these tools have minimized collateral damage and raised the accuracy of the human-led process."

A week's work in 30 minutes

A major transformation within Unit 8200, Israel's elite intelligence division, has been revealed, showing a dramatic shift toward engineering and technology roles under the leadership of Yossi Sarel.

According to a Washington Post investigation, by October 7, 2023, 60% of Unit 8200 personnel worked in engineering and technological capacities—double the percentage from a decade ago. This shift came at the expense of traditional roles, including experts in Arabic language, and involved the dismissal of officers critical of adopting artificial intelligence.

The report highlights the integration of AI tools like “The Gospel,” a system developed using hundreds of predictive algorithms designed to process vast quantities of data—referred to by the IDF as “the pool.” The software generates recommendations for military targets, including tunnels, rockets and other infrastructure, which are reviewed by analysts and ultimately approved by senior officers for inclusion in the target database. A military source familiar with the systems told the Post that the AI’s image recognition capabilities allow soldiers to identify subtle patterns in satellite imagery, such as minor terrain changes indicating newly buried rocket launchers or tunnels. This level of analysis compressed work that previously took a week into just 30 minutes.

However, the rapid adoption of AI has raised concerns among some officers. Critics argue the technology’s speed conceals its limitations, such as inaccuracies in Arabic-language processing, where slang and keywords were reportedly misunderstood.

A former senior military official noted that intelligence reports presented to commanders often did not clarify whether data was derived from human sources or AI, complicating the evaluation process. “Everything was treated as the same,” another former senior official said. “I’m not even sure the person preparing the report knew the difference between the pieces of information.”

The Israeli military utilizes advanced AI systems, including “The Gospel” and “Lavender,” to predict potential civilian casualties during operations. These tools rely on data mining software that combines image recognition from drone footage with tracking data from smartphones connected to cellular antennas to estimate the number of civilians in a targeted area.

In 2014, the IDF’s accepted civilian-to-combatant casualty ratio was one civilian per senior terrorist, said Tal Mimran, a former legal advisor to the military. According to Breaking the Silence, a group citing testimonies from IDF soldiers, that ratio has risen during the current war to 15 civilians per low-ranking terrorist and exponentially higher for mid- and senior-level operatives. The New York Times recently reported the figure may be closer to 20 civilians per terrorist.

The IDF has maintained that its assessments of collateral damage comply with international law, which requires distinguishing between civilians and combatants and taking precautions to minimize harm to non-combatants.

Internal debate: Man vs. machine

Supporters of these technologies argue that aggressive implementation of AI innovations is essential for the survival of a small nation facing determined and powerful adversaries. “Technological superiority is what keeps Israel safe,” said Blaise Misztal, vice president for policy at the Jewish Institute for National Security of America, who was briefed by the IDF’s intelligence division on its AI capabilities in 2021. “The faster Israel is able to identify enemy capabilities and take them off the battlefield, the shorter a war is going to be, and it will have fewer casualties.”

However, concerns about the quality of AI-generated intelligence have sparked internal divisions within the IDF. According to three sources, the reliance on such technology has shifted priorities, favoring technical capabilities over traditional practices.

For example, Unit 8200 has long allowed junior analysts to bypass their immediate commanders and relay warnings directly to senior officials. Some worry that the reliance on AI systems may have undermined this practice, potentially weakening the IDF's decision-making processes.

Sariel has resigned from the military, citing his responsibility for the intelligence failures leading to Hamas' surprise attack on October 7. The resignation was submitted to IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi and Military Intelligence Chief Maj. Gen. Shlomi Binder.

According to two former senior officers interviewed by the Post, the unit's growing reliance on AI was a key factor in Israel's lack of preparedness. They claim an overemphasis on technological findings hindered analysts from effectively conveying warnings to top commanders. "This was an AI factory," said one former military leader, speaking on the condition of anonymity to describe national security topics. "The man was replaced by the machine."

Sariel's name surfaced after a security breach reported by The Guardian. A book he authored, *The Human Machine*, published on Amazon, revealed a digital trail linked to a personal Google account under his name. The account contained unique identifiers and maps tied to his work. The book outlines Sariel's vision of integrating AI into defense, emphasizing how it could revolutionize the relationship between humans and machines in military operations.

Before taking command of Unit 8200, Sariel spent a sabbatical year at the Pentagon-funded National Defense University in Washington. A professor from the institution described Sariel's radical vision for AI on the battlefield, which he shared in his book. Sariel proposed that AI would transform all aspects of defense, including border security, turning Israel's borders into "smart borders" using advanced surveillance technologies. He also predicted that within five years, AI could replace 80% of intelligence analysts specializing in foreign languages.

When Sariel returned to Israel, he implemented his vision. Appointed commander of Unit 8200 by then-IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi in the summer of 2020, Sariel faced internal concerns from former commanders who privately expressed worries about what they described as a "religious attitude toward AI" developing under his leadership.

Unit 8200, renowned for its cutting-edge cyber technologies and online intelligence gathering, has long held a reputation for technological excellence. However, the sheer volume of information often overwhelmed analysts.

For instance, Hamas operatives frequently used the word "watermelon" as code for a bomb, but the system struggled to differentiate between discussions about actual watermelons and encrypted messages. "If you pick up a thousand conversations a day, do I really want to hear about every watermelon in Gaza?" one insider told the Washington Post.

Under Sariel, the unit intensified its data mining efforts and restructured intelligence operations. New technologies were introduced to rapidly process algorithms in anticipation of a potential war with Hezbollah. One such innovation was an app called

"Hunter," which allowed soldiers in the field to directly access intelligence data in real time.

Long before Hamas' surprise attack, Unit 8200 had been meticulously constructing a target bank, requiring analysts to verify findings with at least two independent sources and to continuously refresh the data, according to three individuals familiar with the program.

Before a target could be added to the "bank," it had to be "validated" by a senior officer and a military lawyer to ensure compliance with international law. Senior intelligence officials, including Sariel, believed machine learning could dramatically accelerate this process.

"They really did believe with all the sensors they had all around and above Gaza, I won't say total informational awareness, but that they had a very good picture of what was happening inside," said Misztal, who leads an organization focused on security cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Following the events of October 7, Unit 8200 has reportedly increased efforts to recruit additional Arabic-speaking analysts, including those tasked with evaluating and critiquing AI systems, according to three sources cited by the Post. Meanwhile, Israeli officials are notably more restrained in their public remarks about the use of artificial intelligence.

12.29.24 – Su

Turks expand into Kurds area of north Syria, helping Iran stir chaos

12.29.24 – Su

Turkish officials say Israel 'betting on wrong horse in Syria'

Ankara stressed Jerusalem's skepticism of de facto Syrian leader Ahmad al-Sharaa (formerly Abu Mohammed al-Golani) is 'beneficial to the Iranian snake' and that cooperation in the region could better both country's positions
Itamar Eichner|14:13

Senior Turkish officials warned on Sunday that Israel was "betting on the wrong horse in Syria" for its skepticism toward Ahmad al-Sharaa (formerly Abu Mohammed al-Golani) and risks missing a rare opportunity to collaborate with the new regime that "seeks to maintain stability in the country."

"Chaos in Syria is beneficial to the Iranian snake; the Iranians have an interest in reigniting the civil war. Peace in Syria is bad for the Ayatollahs," Ankara officials said. They assert that Israel is making a mistake by dismissing al-Golani.

"Israel ignores his positive overtures and actions, such as seizing weapons and his statements against Iran and Hezbollah. Israel and Turkey share mutual interests in Syria and both should cooperate to advance them," the officials said.

The officials added that, contrary to various reports, it was Israel that approached Turkey with a proposal for a military coordination mechanism between the two nations. Israel

suggested dividing Syria into three geographic zones reflecting each side's interests: Turkey would have interests in the northern sector, requiring Israeli pre-approval for operations there.

Israel would have freedom of action in the south, while both sides would need to notify each other before operating in the central region. According to the officials, Turkey agreed to dialogue but rejected the geographic division proposal.

Turkish officials highlighted that the coordination mechanism between Jerusalem and Ankara worked effectively during the war in Lebanon, citing instances where Turkey shared coordinates of Turkish evacuation convoys and Israel refrained from striking areas they were located in. "There's no reason it shouldn't work just as effectively in Syria just as coordination worked well in Lebanon," they said.

Ankara expressed anger over Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar's statements in favor of Israeli cooperation with the Kurdish minority in Syria. "Israel is once again betting on the wrong horse and doesn't understand that the Kurds controlling the Iraq-Syria border are the ones enabling Iran to smuggle weapons into Syria and Hezbollah in exchange for money," they said.

According to them, the "Iranian snake" benefits from Syria's instability as Tehran has an interest in prolonging the conflict. "Israel and Turkey should have a shared interest in achieving stability as quickly as possible," they added.

Since Bashar Assad's fall and the end of the war, a significant escalation has been taking place in northern Syria between Turkish-backed rebel groups and local Kurdish forces, some of which are supported by the U.S. Turkish air force jets.

Turkish forces have been striking Kurdish targets in the region and reports indicate that Ankara is amassing forces near the Syrian border in preparation for a possible ground invasion.

The conflict between Turkey and the Kurds has persisted for over 40 years. The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) issued an intriguing statement on Sunday quoting its imprisoned leader Abdullah Ocalan.

In the statement, Ocalan hinted at a willingness to lay down arms and end the Kurdish struggle against Turkey. Ankara has repeatedly stressed in recent weeks that it won't allow the People's Defense Units (YPG) Kurdish militia, which it considers the PKK's military arm, to operate in the "new Turkey."

Turkey has conducted several operations against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an umbrella organization led by the Kurdish YPG militia in Syria since 2016. Turkey-backed rebel groups have captured Kurdish villages near the border in recent weeks. Ankara views the current situation in Syria as an opportunity to expand its influence in the country and push the Kurds away from the border — after the Kurds established a significant degree of autonomy in northern Syria during the civil war, close to Turkey's southern border.

12.29.24 – Su

240 Hamas & Jihad terrorists captured in Jabaliya Hospital, in northern Gaza

12.29.24 – Su

Hundreds of terrorists captured: Massive IDF operation ending in northern Gaza yields impressive results

IDF troops captured over 240 Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists in Jabaliya while neutralizing terrorist strongholds; The Kamal Adwan Hospital, used as a terror base, was cleared of civilians and secured; Fighting continued in Beit Hanoun from where rockets were fired at Israel

Yoav Zitun|13:23

For the 162nd Division, which has been leading the offensive operation in the northern Gaza Strip for the past three months, the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Jabaliya was the last major Hamas stronghold in the city. Its fall this past weekend marked the conclusion of the operation in Jabaliya, although a few remaining tasks will continue this week. Over 240 terrorists were arrested during the operation, and approximately 20 were killed.

Meanwhile, fighting continued on Sunday in Beit Hanoun, the primary target of IDF attacks in the northern Gaza Strip. In the afternoon, five rockets were launched from the area toward Sderot and its surroundings. IDF reports stated that three of the rockets were intercepted, while the others likely exploded in open areas.

Shayetet 13 amphibious commandos found a small cache of weapons at the hospital in Jabaliya but encountered a massive concentration of terrorists – the largest found in a single location in the Gaza Strip – who were arrested simultaneously. Commanders from the 401st Armored Brigade, which led the operation, said some Hamas terrorists wore fake bandages to disguise themselves as patients. IDF ensured the safe evacuation of medical teams, hundreds of patients, as well as displaced women and children who had taken refuge in the hospital, transferring them to the Indonesian Hospital located on the outskirts of Jabaliya's refugee camp.

The raid on the hospital began about a week ago with an aerial pursuit of the facility, starting at 3:00 a.m. on Friday. Infantry fighters from the Shaked Battalion of the Givati Brigade, alongside armored forces from the 401st Brigade, identified two terror squads attempting to flee the hospital as forces arrived and encircled the compound within an hour. Squads were eliminated from the air, and it became apparent to the forces that most of the surrounding "civilian" buildings housed combat positions, booby traps, and hundreds of weapons. These were prepared for terrorists who were meant to emerge "innocently" from the hospital, arm themselves in these nearby buildings, and mobilize for combat.

A D9 bulldozer operator from the 401st Brigade, a career soldier with prior experience in operations at the hospital, led the route into the compound. His alertness prevented a major disaster. From the protected cabin of his massive bulldozer, he spotted a cable stretched across the road near the hospital entrance. He halted all forces and reported that

he hadn't seen the cable before. Specialized engineering units cautiously advanced to the location and identified the cable as part of a large explosive device, which was safely neutralized.

"Kamal Adwan Hospital had become a Hamas terror base. We carefully and precisely evacuated about 600 civilians from it, while thoroughly screening for terrorists," said IDF officials. "During the fighting on the outskirts of the hospital, forces eliminated 19 militants without any injuries among our soldiers. Hamas had heavily fortified its stronghold at the hospital. We still have follow-up tasks to complete at the site, and for now, no one will be allowed to return to it."

"The 401st Brigade completed a targeted operation against a Hamas command center located inside the Kamal Adwan Hospital on Saturday," a message from the IDF Spokesperson said. "The forces launched a swift and covert operation, encircling the area of Kamal Adwan Hospital. As part of the operation, the forces carried out the safe evacuation of civilians from the area of the hospital. The area near the hospital is an active combat zone and rigged by terrorists with booby traps and explosives. During the operation, approximately 20 terrorists were eliminated, and powerful explosive devices planted by the terrorists were neutralized."

The spokesperson added: "The operation was conducted following extensive intelligence-gathering efforts and based on various sources from the Intelligence Directorate and the ISA, which indicated the presence of hundreds of terrorists in the vicinity of the hospital. Field investigators from Unit 504 directed the apprehension process and conducted hundreds of field interrogations to transfer 240 terrorists belonging to the Islamic Jihad and Hamas terrorist organizations for further investigation in Israeli territory. The terrorists apprehended are expected to provide valuable intelligence to aid in the ongoing war efforts."

According to IDF officials, this was one of the largest terrorist arrest operations conducted in a single location since the start of the war. "During the arrests, some terrorists attempted to disguise themselves as patients, and others even hid in ambulances, but they were identified by the forces and detained. Among those arrested were 15 terrorists who participated in Hamas' surprise attack on Israel on October 7 last year," IDF stated.

While Israeli forces operated near the hospital, terrorists fired anti-tank missiles and RPGs at the troops and attempted additional terror attacks, with no resulting casualties on the Israeli side. terrorist gunmen were eliminated in swift counterattacks. Additionally, Air Force targeted and killed militants attempting to flee the area. More than ten investigators from Unit 504 operated on the ground, utilizing advanced intelligence systems and technologies. Most of the interrogated militants were active members of the military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Some field interrogations led, in real time, to the identification of additional operatives in the area.

Humanitarian efforts

Prior to the operation, according to IDF reports, 350 patients, escorts and staff were evacuated from the hospital in recent weeks in coordination with the Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration. Tens of thousands of gallons of fuel, along with hundreds of food and medical supply packages, were delivered to the hospital. During the operation,

in coordination with the Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration and health officials, 95 patients, escorts and staff were evacuated to the Indonesian Hospital. Additionally, 1,320 gallons of fuel, two generators, and medical equipment were delivered to maintain essential services and operate the Indonesian Hospital. Hundreds of civilians were also safely evacuated from the area through organized routes to protect their safety.

IDF identified Jabaliya as the core Hamas stronghold in the northern Gaza Strip, where hundreds of terrorists, including senior Hamas commanders, had concentrated. Despite earlier operations in the city—including a ground maneuver about a year ago and a raid by the 98th Division on its refugee camp in May—the military began operating in the area again approximately three months ago.

12.29.24 – Su

Fearing spy CIA & Mossad infiltration, Houthis in a state of panic, arrest threats

12.29.24 – Su

Houthis make arrests fearing 'Israeli infiltration', report says

Arabic-language news outlet claims Iran-backed terror group fears Israeli intelligence operations that could lead to targeted assassinations against its leadership; Arrests come days after Houthis claimed to have uncovered a spy network in Yemen led by the CIA and Mossad

Lior Ben Ari|11:15

UK-based Arabic-language outlet Asharq Al-Awsat on Sunday reported that Yemen's Houthis carried out arrests in the provinces of Saada, Sanaa and Hodeidah over fears of "Israeli infiltration" into their ranks. According to the report, the Houthis are concerned that the terror organization's senior leaders could be targeted as Hezbollah leaders were in Lebanon.

The report noted that the arrests came only days after the Houthis claimed to have uncovered a spy network in Yemen allegedly led by international intelligence agencies including the CIA and Mossad.

"The enemy tasked the spies with conducting intelligence operations, including surveillance and pinpointing the locations of missiles, drones, naval forces and other military sites," according to the Houthis. They also alleged the "spies" were instructed to track and locate military, political and security leaders, as well as prominent social figures.

Sources told the outlet that the Houthis are in a state of panic due to the collapse of the Iranian axis and that the arrests are meant to "spread terror" in Yemen to suppress opposition activity and prevent the possibility of a coup, similar to events in Syria with the fall of Bashar Assad's regime. According to these sources, the Houthis are using "Israeli threats" as a pretext to detain civilians.

The arrests come amid threats against the Houthis by Defense Minister Israel Katz following his statement last week. "We will strike the strategic infrastructure of the Houthi terror organization and eliminate its leaders — just as we did to [Ismail] Haniyeh, [Yahya] Sinwar and [Hassan] Nasrallah — in Tehran, Gaza and Lebanon. We'll do the same in Hodeidah and Sanaa," Katz said at the time.

One example of the Houthis' concerns can be seen in a post by senior Houthi figure Hazam al-Assad, who shared images of the terror organization's senior members featured in the report, saying: "They're the ones who should be worried and afraid. We will not stop supporting our people in Gaza."

The arrests align with the routine detentions the Houthis carry out against their opponents in the country. Reports indicated the Houthis also operate clandestine prisons where they incarcerate dissenters.

12.28.24 – Sa

Terrorists posing as patients inside hospital; IDF's largest Gaza raid yet

12.28.24 – Sa

'Terrorists posing as patients': Inside the IDF's largest Gaza raid yet

401st Brigade encircles Kamal Adwan Hospital in an hour, arresting over 240 terrorists, including hospital director; some suspects try fleeing in ambulances; Unit 504 interrogations on-site leads to capture of additional Hamas and PIJ operatives
Yoav Zitun|13:02

The IDF reported on Saturday that it completed a focused operation targeting a Hamas command center within the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Jabaliya, northern Gaza. Over 240 suspects were reportedly apprehended.

Among those detained were members of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), including 15 individuals connected to the October 7 attacks on Israel, as well as engineering and anti-tank missile specialists and the hospital director, suspected of Hamas ties. Some suspects reportedly attempted to disguise themselves as patients or escape using ambulances.

The IDF said that the 401st Armored Brigade secured the hospital's surroundings while Shayetet 13 special forces conducted precise actions inside, seizing weapons such as grenades, firearms and other military equipment. Troops encountered resistance, including anti-tank fire, but successfully neutralized the attackers.

Alongside Shayetet 13 commandos, combat teams from the 401st Armored Brigade, Unit 504 field investigators and Shin Bet forces, all under the command of the 162nd Division

and guided by intelligence from the IDF Intelligence Directorate (AMAN) and the Shin Bet.

At the outset, 401st Brigade combat teams encircled the hospital, arresting terrorists hiding in the area and eliminating others. The encirclement was completed within an hour. During the operation, an anti-tank missile was fired at a 52nd Battalion force, but no injuries were reported.

Initial interrogations conducted on-site by Unit 504 investigators and Shin Bet operatives revealed that many of the terrorists exiting the hospital had participated in terror activities in the area. This marked a significant achievement for Unit 504, which handled the largest single-day concentration of detainees since the start of the war.

Over ten investigators employed advanced intelligence systems and technologies, with most of the terrorists identified as members of the military wings of Hamas and PIJ. Real-time interrogations also led to the identification of additional terrorists in the vicinity.

During the operation, terrorists fired anti-tank missiles at forces near the hospital and attempted additional terror attacks. IDF and Shin Bet personnel sustained no injuries, and the attackers were swiftly neutralized. Israeli Air Force aircraft also struck and killed terrorists attempting to flee the area.

In the weeks leading up to the operation, the IDF coordinated with COGAT to evacuate 350 patients, caregivers and medical staff from the Kamal Adwan Hospital. Additionally, tens of thousands of liters of fuel and hundreds of food and medical supply packages were delivered to the hospital.

During the operation, 95 more patients and staff were transferred to the Indonesian Hospital, accompanied by 5,000 liters of fuel, two generators and additional medical supplies to ensure its essential functionality. Hundreds of civilians were also evacuated safely via designated routes.

In a parallel operation in Jabaliya, Multi-Dimensional Unit commandos identified and eliminated terrorists from the air, while Kfir Brigade soldiers located and dismantled explosive devices in the area.

Over the weekend, a fourth IDF brigade, Nahal, joined the northern operations, moving from its previous position in southern Gaza near the Philadelphi Corridor, where it was replaced by the 4th Reserve Brigade. Nahal forces are now operating in Beit Hanoun alongside the Kfir Brigade.

Jabaliya has been identified by the IDF as a Hamas stronghold in northern Gaza, hosting hundreds of terrorists, including senior commanders. Despite prior IDF operations in the city, including a ground maneuver last year and a 98th Division raid on its refugee camp in May, the area remains a critical focus for military activity. IDF forces have been conducting operations there for the past three months to address persistent threats.

12.28.24 – Sa

IDF arrests over 240 Hamas & Jihad in raid on north Gaza hospital operation

12.28.24 – Sa

IDF arrests over 240 terror suspects in raid on northern Gaza hospital

Military says forces encountered resistance, including anti-tank fire from terrorists, during targeted operation against Hamas command center located inside Kamal Adwan Hospital in Jabaliya

Einav Halabi, Roni Green Shaulov, Yoav Zitun|10:29

The IDF announced Saturday that it had arrested more than 240 suspects during a targeted operation against a Hamas command center located inside the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Jabaliya, northern Gaza.

The military said the operation, coordinated with the Shin Bet, was based on intelligence indicating the hospital was being used for military activities in violation of international law.

The detainees included members of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), as well as 15 individuals implicated in the October 7 attacks on Israel. Among those arrested were engineering and anti-tank missile operatives and the hospital's director, who is suspected of being a Hamas operative. Some detainees reportedly attempted to evade capture by posing as patients or fleeing in ambulances.

The IDF said that prior to the operation, 350 patients, medical staff and caregivers were evacuated from the hospital in coordination with the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT). The hospital had been supplied with tens of thousands of liters of fuel, food and medical supplies in recent weeks to ensure its functionality.

During the operation, another 95 patients and staff were relocated to the Indonesian Hospital, which received additional fuel, generators and medical equipment. Civilians in the vicinity were also evacuated through designated routes for safety. According to the IDF, the 401st Armored Brigade secured the hospital perimeter, while Shayetet 13 special forces conducted precision operations inside the facility, confiscating weapons, including grenades, guns and other military equipment.

Troops faced resistance during the operation, including anti-tank fire from terrorists. IDF forces neutralized the attackers, and the Israeli Air Force struck terrorists attempting to flee. No Israeli casualties were reported.

The IDF said that intelligence gathered during the initial questioning of detainees confirmed their involvement in terrorist activities.

12.28.24 – Sa

IDF intercepted 2 Gaza rockets over Jerusalem area, Judean Foothills

12.28.24 – Sa

IDF shoots down 2 Gaza rockets over Jerusalem area, Judean Foothills
Hamis fired rockets from Beit Hanoun toward Jerusalem as IDF forces advanced 300 meters from site; IDF urges residents to evacuate, warning of ongoing military activity; strikes follow, as Hamas retains long-range rocket capabilities
Ynet|08:28

Two rockets fired Saturday evening from Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza toward the Jerusalem area were successfully intercepted by Israeli Air Force defense systems, the IDF.

The launch occurred as IDF troops from the Nahal Brigade conducted an operation in Beit Hanoun, targeting terrorists and terror infrastructure based on intelligence reports. Gaza rockets intercepted over Bethlehem and Rishon Lezion

The rockets were fired from a location approximately 300 meters from IDF forces. Following the rocket fire, IDF Arabic-language spokesperson Lt. Col. Avichay Adraee issued an evacuation warning to Beit Hanoun residents via social media. "This area has been repeatedly warned in the past," Adraee wrote. "The IDF is operating there with force. You must evacuate immediately."

The IDF said that before ground forces entered, the air force and artillery units struck multiple Hamas targets, including terrorist gathering points and terror infrastructure. Evacuation corridors were opened to allow civilians to leave the conflict zone safely.

Sirens were triggered around 4:15 p.m. in dozens of localities across the Jerusalem, Lachish and Shephelah regions, including Tzova, Kiryat Anavim, Neve Ilan, Tzur Hadassah, Latrun, Beit Shemesh and Beitar Illit.

The IDF estimates Hamas still possesses long-range rockets capable of reaching Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Beit Hanoun, located near the Israeli city of Sderot, has been a frequent site for rocket storage and launches. Despite repeated military operations in the area, long-range rockets continue to be uncovered.

The IDF described Saturday's rocket fire as a "clearance sale" in response to the ground operation launched overnight.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian reported unusual IDF activity at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Jabaliya. The IDF said that the hospital has been used by Hamas operatives. The Gaza Health Ministry, however, accused Israeli forces of setting fires in hospital buildings, a claim amplified by international media. The IDF responded, saying a fire was observed in one building, but the cause remains unknown.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 60 hospital staff members and 65 patients were severely injured during the incident. Earlier reports from Gaza claimed hundreds of detainees held at the hospital were released, including the hospital's director, Dr. Hossam Abu-Safieh.

Reports from Gaza also stated that Talat Judeh, the police chief at the Shati refugee camp, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City.

Shortly earlier, air raid sirens sounded in the Gaza border communities of Nir Am and Mefalsim, but the military ruled it to be a false alarm.

The IDF confirmed the alerts and said that "details are under investigation." No immediate reports of injuries or damage were available as authorities assessed the situation.

12.28.24 – Sa

Cease-fire overreach by Israel, threaten Hezbollah plans to return

12.28.24 – Sa

Cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah on verge of collapse?

Hezbollah accuses Israel of exploiting the fragile ceasefire as Israeli forces continue targeting southern Lebanon's terror infrastructure; Amid rising tensions, Lebanon warns of the agreement's collapse while Hezbollah hints it may intervene if Israeli operations persist, threatening renewed conflict in the region

Lior Ben Ari|03:59

Lebanese network Al-Akhbar, closely aligned with Hezbollah, reported on Saturday morning that concerns over the fragility of the ceasefire are growing as it enters its second month, citing Israeli military activities in border villages as a potential tipping point.

Serving as a mouthpiece for the Lebanese militant group, the network stated that while Hezbollah remains committed to the ceasefire, it has begun signaling that it will not hesitate to act on Lebanon's "right to self-defense" as stipulated in the agreement. According to Al-Akhbar, Hezbollah has warned that if Lebanon's official security forces fail to curb what it describes as Israeli "attacks," the group will intervene directly. Hezbollah's representative in the Lebanese parliament, Hassan Fadlallah, accused Israel of exploiting the ceasefire to implement plans for destruction and aggression in the border villages. He placed responsibility on the Lebanese state, the international monitoring committee established after the ceasefire, UNIFIL, the Lebanese Army, and the various countries involved in the agreement. "We, the people of southern Lebanon, the resistance, Hezbollah's supporters across Dahieh and the Bekaa, have never needed proof that resistance is a national necessity," Fadlallah declared.

In a morning editorial, Al-Akhbar's editor, Ibrahim Al-Amin, argued for the necessity of resisting what he called Israeli violations. He claimed that a loophole in the ceasefire allows Israel to act with impunity while the monitoring forces lack the authority to stop its actions in border areas. Al-Amin further alleged that while the Lebanese Army has expressed concern to the Americans over Israel's actions, the U.S. has dismissed these complaints. Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati reportedly told the U.S. that Israeli operations threaten the agreement but received no meaningful response. Similarly, Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri conveyed concerns to Washington, warning Israel's actions could legitimize military responses from Hezbollah.

According to Al-Amin, Israel has destroyed twice as much in border villages over the past month as it did during 14 months of prior conflict, preventing residents from returning to their homes and restricting ambulance and civil defense teams from recovering bodies. He asserted that Israel's actions are restoring the legitimacy of resistance, whether by Hezbollah or other groups, adding that while people are weary of war, the cost of confrontation with Israeli forces would be less than the cost of continued Israeli actions.

IDF operations continue across the border

Hezbollah's grievances arise from the fact that, despite the ceasefire, IDF has continued ground operations aimed at clearing southern Lebanese villages of terrorist infrastructure. IDF announced on Friday that the 226th Brigade, under the command of the 146th Division, remains active in the area while adhering to the understandings reached between Israel and Lebanon.

Forces are currently operating in the westernmost village of Al-Naqoura, where dozens of Hezbollah terror infrastructures used for attacks against Israel have been uncovered. Troops discovered military equipment and weapons stored in civilian buildings, including a building disguised as a pharmacy that contained explosives, RPG missiles, and AK-47s. Additional finds included rockets, mortars, and launchers aimed at Israeli territory, as well as a truck carrying 40 rocket tubes. All the equipment was confiscated and destroyed.

Al-Akhbar regularly reports on Israeli operations in southern Lebanon, where, under the ceasefire agreement, armed forces not officially affiliated with Lebanon's military are not permitted to operate. Nonetheless, IDF continues to identify and target terror-related sites in the region, with occasional airstrikes resulting in casualties. Recent strikes have targeted rocket launchers, significant weapons caches, smuggling routes, and armed militants.

A delicate agreement on shaky ground

Hezbollah has largely refrained from responding to Israeli strikes since the ceasefire, with the exception of one mortar attack on Mount Dov earlier this month. The group suffered significant losses during the conflict, particularly in its final months, which included the elimination of senior leadership and IDF ground maneuvers in southern Lebanon. While IDF operations have continued post-ceasefire, their intensity has decreased substantially, likely contributing to Hezbollah's apparent interest in preserving the current status quo to avoid reigniting the conflict.

The Lebanese Army, now deployed in villages across southern Lebanon, claims to have dismantled terrorist infrastructure in recent days. Meanwhile, IDF remains in border areas, actively targeting Hezbollah operatives who violate the ceasefire. In the past month alone, over 40 Hezbollah operatives have reportedly been killed, adding to the approximately 3,000 militants killed and 7,000 wounded over the past year—roughly a third of Hezbollah's estimated 30,000 combatants.

In areas where the Lebanese Army has established control, IDF has withdrawn back to Israeli territory. However, Israeli forces continue engineering operations to destroy Hezbollah bunkers and internal combat tunnels. IDF clarified this week that the initial 60-day ceasefire period is not a "sacred deadline" and that implementation of the

agreement's stages will proceed gradually under U.S. oversight. For the first time, the United States is leading the enforcement mechanism for the cease fire, described as operating under an "American umbrella."

The fragile ceasefire remains precariously balanced, with both sides closely monitoring each other's actions. While Hezbollah appears to be avoiding direct confrontation, its rhetoric and warnings suggest that any perceived overreach by Israel could risk pulling the region back into conflict.

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Ynet-News, December 27, 2024 – Friday 9th Month

12.27.24 – Fr- - - News Placed in December 27 spot – Friday Hanukkah 03
THAAD system operated by US soldiers in Israel, intercepted Yemen missile

12.27.24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Hanukkah 03
Israel remains vigilant with US on Lebanon border cleansing; withdraw in a month

12.27.24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Hanukkah 03
Damascus governor wants peace with Israel; true intent or calculated manipulation?

12.27.24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Hanukkah 03
Sirens sound Friday morning as missile from Yemen intercepted over Mediterranean

12.26.24 – Th- - - News Placed in December 26 spot – Thursday Hanukkah 02
Israel's largest Yemen hit: Control tower, power stations amid US coordination

12.26.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Hanukkah 02
Yemen air raid; 100 aircraft strike Sanaa Airport, power stations, aircraft & port

12.26.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Hanukkah 02
York Times reports excessive civilian death by IDF & ignore initial Hamas attack

12.26.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Hanukkah 02
Hamas official says situation in Gaza makes compiling hostage list difficult

12.26.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Hanukkah 02
Ben-Gvir Temple Mount visit & prayer for troops, hostages & complete victory

12.26.24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Hanukkah 02
Israel met Vatican ambassador Tuesday over Pope's criticism of Israel war in Gaza

12.25.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 01
Hezbollah Lebanon documents reveal guidelines & tactics, fearing Israel

12.25.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 01
IDF unveils Hezbollah's massive seized weapons arsenal to media

12.25.24 – We- - - News Placed in December 25 spot – Wednesday Hanukkah 01
Hamis claims Israel imposes new conditions on cease-fire; Netanyahu calls it a lie

12.25.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 01
Israel expands rocket alert zones as Houthi missile attacks persist

12.25.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 01
Houthi leaders in Israel's sights, as some push for action on Iran

12.25.24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Hanukkah 01
Syria charm is fooling the West; a unified rebel mirrors extremist leadership

12.24.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
Negotiating team returns from Qatar: Israel struggles to understand Hamas' angle

12.24.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
Israel signs deal to buy more Arrow-3 interceptors to counter Houthi threat

12.24.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
Raid on hospital in Jabaliya north Gaza: Terrorists eliminated, arrested

12.24.24 – Tu- - - News Placed in December 24 spot – Tuesday
IDF cleared a third corridor in northern Gaza, creating a pathway to the sea

12.24.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
PA security bans Al Jazeera broadcasts, presenting hostile mercenaries as heroes

12.24.24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
West Bank attack statistics decline in 2024 amid IDF operations & PA security

12.23.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Yemen Houthi leadership decapitation and precision attacks could shift the balance

12.23.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Images of RPG use by PA security in Jenin, terrorists confident to brandish weapons

12.23.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Desalination plant, café resort: prepares IDF for extended stay in Gaza

12.23.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Huge deal: Israel sells air defense system to Slovakia for 2 billion shekels

12.23.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday

48 injured, 3 seriously, in fire at boarding school in Jerusalem

12.23.24 – Mo- - - News Placed in December 23 spot – Monday
IDF building two bases on Mount Hermon, prepared for winter isolation

12.23.24 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Israel won't accept Jihadist presence in buffer zone west of Damascus

12.22.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Q3 Moon 4:19pm
Mossad chief urges strike on Iran over Yemen Houthi attacks on US & Israel

12.22.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Q3 Moon 4:19pm
Houthi missile attack on central Israel school results in 40 million shekels in damage

12.22.24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Q3 Moon 4:19pm
Gunmen in the streets, snipers on rooftops, shooting all the time: PA fight in Jenin

12.22.24 – Su- - - News Placed in December 22 spot – Sunday Q3 Moon 4:19pm
US F/A-18 shot down over Red Sea, by missile cruiser of the Carrier Group

12.21.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
US & Britain struck Yemen this week, on threat that impacts global shipping lanes

12.21.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
Druze mayor flying Syrian flag, says Israel should take Damascus

12.21.24 – Sa- - - News Placed in December 21 spot – Saturday
Coalition airstrikes rock Yemen's capital Sanaa, removing fuel depots & power plants

12.21.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
Pope calls Gaza airstrikes cruelty, after Israeli minister's criticism

12.21.24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
Second Yemen missile maneuvering at Mach 5, evaded interception