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Israeli airstrike kills 10, including top Jihad commander, in northern West Bank

01.29.25 – We- - - News Placed in January 29 spot – Wednesday New Moon 6:37am

IDF closely monitoring WB online activity to combat online incitement

01.28.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

UNRWA, following decades of betrayal; ends Thursday, January 30

01.28.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Palestinians return to Gaza City: Kiss the ground, search through rubble

01.28.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Israel attacks southern Lebanon, despite cease-fire extended until February 18

01.28.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Israel proposes south Lebanon buffer zone as border violence erupts

01.28.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

100 armed Americans, dogs, ensure no weapons flow to northern Gaza

01.28.25 – Tu- - - News Placed in January 28 spot – Tuesday

Trump speaks with Egypt & Jordan to take in Gaza refugees

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

IDF forces continue destruction clearing pathways in Jenin

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Espionage Scandal: Iranians saw Iron Dome information as a Goldmine

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Dozens of Hezbollah motorcycles breach Lebanon border to provoke incidents

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Hamas commander killed in Jenin airstrike on vehicle

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Two IDF reservists arrested spying for Iran: sending Iron Dome information

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Hundreds of thousands return to northern Gaza, terrorists welcome them

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Lebanese army spills location information to Hezbollah during cease-fire

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News Placed in January 27 spot – Monday

Cease-fire extended in north: IDF to remain in Lebanon for another 3 weeks

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

List received, Netzarim Corridor opens, crowds of Gazans move north

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Brussels, capital of Europe, has become an unsafe place for Jews and Israelis

01.27.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Agreement by Qatar: 6 hostage release this week, corridor will be opened

01.26.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Crowds of Gazans gather at passages waiting to return to northern areas

01.26.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Lebanese killed & hurt by mines while moving south; IDF pull-out delayed

01.26.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Abbas calls prisoners released; Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Qatar & Algeria celebrate

01.26.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Trump, Netanyahu to meet in February over Saudi deal & Gaza & Arab nations

01.26.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Gazans sleep outdoors as passage north delayed | Israel asks Trump to intervene

01.26.25 – Su- - - News Placed in January 26 spot – Sunday

Trump calls Jordan, Egypt to take Gazans; will build housing at a different location

01.25.25 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

IDF blocks return to northern Gaza over withholding one civilian hostage

01.25.25 – Sa- - - News Placed in January 25 spot – Saturday

4 returned hostages were held in apartments, tunnels, & forced to cook for terrorists

01.25.25 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Hamas paraded hostages in a cynical show, as terrorists staged unity display

01.25.25 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Israel demands UNRWA's removal from Jerusalem by Thursday, January 30

01.31.25 – Fr

Freed Thai hostages talk about Hamas captivity: Struggled to breath, little to no food

01.31.25 – Fr

Freed Thai hostages talk about Hamas captivity: 'Struggled to breath, spoke in Arabic'
A day after arriving in Israel following more than 15 months in Hamas captivity, five
Thai nationals freed from Gaza described enduring relentless bombings and frequent
hunger; 'Sometimes there was food, sometimes there wasn't' one of them says

Itamar Eichner|14:55

A day after arriving in Israel following more than 15 months in Hamas captivity, five Thai nationals freed from Gaza are sharing new details about their time in captivity.

In a meeting Friday with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, the former hostages described enduring relentless bombings and frequent hunger. "Sometimes there was food, sometimes there wasn't," one of them said.

The men—Sathian Suwannakham, 34; Pongsak Thenna, 35; Bannawat Seathao, 27; Watchara Sriaoun, 32; and Surasak Lamnau, 30—confirmed they were held underground in tunnels for the entire 482 days of their captivity. They struggled to breathe in the cramped conditions and were separated into two groups—two held together and the other three elsewhere.

They said they communicated with their captors mainly in English but also learned some Arabic during their imprisonment. Since their release, they have spent hours on the phone reconnecting with their families in Thailand, who are expected to arrive in Israel soon at the government's expense.

Thailand's ambassador to Israel, Pannabha Chandramya, who accompanied Sa'ar on the visit, called their release "the happiest day of my life," adding, "This is a day of good news for me, my country, and the world."

Dr. Osnat Levztion-Korach, director of the hospital where the men are receiving care, said their condition is stable despite the severe hardships they endured. "They suffered from extreme hunger, spending long periods with little to no food. Some were held in tunnels, while others were kept in dark rooms above ground," she said. "Our main goal now is to help them regain control over their lives."

01.31.25 – Fr

Emily Damari held in UNRWA facilities, denied medical care, she tells British PM

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Emily told Keir Starmer she was held in UNRWA facilities for some time but was denied medical treatment, despite losing two fingers on her left hand and suffering an unhealed leg wound; 'Only aid she received was an expired bottle of medication' she added
Ynetnews|09:43

Emily Damari spoke on Friday with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. She told him that she was held in some United Nations facilities belonging to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) but was denied access to medical care even though she was shot twice on October 7.

During the call with her mother, Mandy, Emily told Starmer she had been held for some time in the UNRWA facilities but was denied any medical treatment despite losing two fingers on her left hand and suffering an unhealed leg wound, adding that the only medical aid she received was an expired bottle of medication.

Emily and her mother urged Starmer to apply maximum pressure on Hamas and UNRWA to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to the 82 hostages still held in Gaza.

After the phone call, her mother Mandy Damari wrote on X: "Hamas held Emily in UNRWA facilities and denied her access to medical treatment after shooting her twice. It's a miracle that she survived, and we need to get aid to remaining hostages now."

Emily Damari was released from Hamas captivity in Gaza last Sunday, as part of the first wave of hostage releases under the current deal. She was freed alongside Romi Gonen and Doron Steinbacher.

A British citizen, Emily quickly became a symbol of courage. Upon her release, she was seen pushing away one of the Hamas terrorists as she exited the vehicle that brought her to the Red Cross transfer point. In a striking moment of defiance, she also held up her hand during a phone call with her brother, showing him her severed fingers.

Emily was the only British citizen held captive in Gaza, and no signs of life had been received from her throughout her time in captivity.

On October 7, Hamas terrorists stormed her home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, killed her dog, and abducted her. Her mother, Mandy, survived the attack by hiding in a room as terrorists entered the house. A bullet fired by them jammed the door's lock, preventing them from breaking in.

About a week and a half before Emily's release, Mandy made a desperate plea: "Emily, Lulu, if you can hear me somehow, know this—we all love you to the moon and back. Not a second goes by that we're not thinking of you, praying for you, fighting to bring you home alive."

01.31.25 – Fr

Yarden Bibas to be released while wife and children remain in Gaza captivity

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Yarden Bibas is included in the latest list of hostages set to be freed, however, his wife, Shiri, and their two young children are still in captivity with no information about their well-being; IDF says there are 'grave concerns' for Shiri and the children's safety

Yael Ciechanover|09:10

Yarden Bibas is set to be released Saturday in the fourth round of hostage releases, alongside Keith Siegel, and Ofer Calderon. But his wife, Shiri, and their two young children, Kfir and Ariel, remain in captivity in Gaza.

"Our Yarden is supposed to come home, and we are so emotional," the Bibas family said in a statement. "But Shiri and the children have not returned yet. We have mixed emotions and are facing very difficult days ahead."

The family also urged the public to respect their privacy during this challenging time. "Please, take care of Yarden's heart and honor his and our privacy in the coming days," they said. Israel has demanded clear answers from Hamas regarding Shiri and the children, who were supposed to be among the first hostages released under the deal prioritizing women and children. However, their release never happened. Last Saturday, the IDF said they had "grave concerns" for their safety. The image of the Bibas family's abduction has since become a symbol of Hamas' brutality.

A video from the October 7 attack shows Hamas terrorists beating Yarden Bibas as they abducted him from Kibbutz Nir Oz. In a later video released by Hamas, he spoke about his wife and children—who were taken separately from him—but his words appeared to have been dictated by his captors.

Bibas turned 35 in captivity. His sister, Ofri Bibas-Levy, spoke on his birthday with heartbreaking uncertainty. "I don't know their condition. I don't know if they're alive or dead. I don't know where they are. I know nothing," she said. "So I'll just say this: Dodgee, we love you so much and miss you terribly. There isn't much to wish for other than freedom and for you to come back to us." She expressed hope that he would soon embrace Shiri, kiss Kfir and Ariel, and be reunited with his family. "That we'll be able to celebrate your next birthday—and much sooner than that—together, here. Just air to breathe, freedom, daylight—the most basic things we all take for granted. I hope he gets even that."

01.31.25 – Fr

Hezbollah seeks prisoner swap for ship captain, captured by IDF in March 2023

01.31.25 – Fr

Terror group seeks Hezbollah prisoner swap for Elizabeth Tsurkov, report
Iraqi and Lebanese sources say Kata'ib Hezbollah offers Israel to release terror group operatives and ship captain for Israeli researcher's return two years after her abduction
Lior Ben Ari, Itamar Eichner|07:50

Iraqi and Lebanese sources told UK-based outlet Amwaj Media on Friday that a proposal has been issued for Israel to release Hezbollah terrorists and a Lebanese ship captain —

described by the IDF as a senior Hezbollah operative — in exchange for Elizabeth Tsurkov, a 36-year-old Israeli-Russian academic kidnapped in Baghdad in March 2023.

Pro-Iranian militia Kata'ib Hezbollah, which holds Tsurkov, has reportedly expressed willingness to proceed, but Israel has not yet greenlit the deal, per sources close to the Shia militia.

Under the terms, Israel would release seven Hezbollah members captured between September 27 and November 27, along with naval captain Imad Amhaz, seized during a rare IDF commando raid in Batroun, northern Lebanon—100 miles (160 km) from the border.

The IDF previously called Amhaz a “senior Hezbollah operative with maritime expertise.” Lebanon’s Al-Jadeed outlet reported the 4-minute raid involved 20 troops.

“Efforts to secure Tsurkov’s release are ongoing through various channels,” an Israeli official said following the report.

Tsurkov, a Princeton doctoral student residing in the U.S., was abducted in Baghdad on March 26, 2023. Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein confirmed she was alive last week, adding that Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani is working to free her. This followed a senior Israeli official telling The Washington Post that Israel recently intensified efforts with allies to secure her release.

“We’re relieved Iraq’s government acknowledges what we know — Elizabeth is alive, held by Kata’ib Hezbollah, a terror militia with deep ties to Iraq’s prime minister,” Tsurkov’s sister Emma said. Every hostage deal gives me hope, showing such agreements are possible even in bitter conflicts. I followed Gaza releases breathlessly—I’m thrilled for those families and pray our nightmare ends the same way.”

01.31.25 – Fr

Court charges & holds two reservists spying Iron Dome for Iran

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\$10,000 for Iron Dome video: Court charges two reservists for spying for Iran
Yuri Eliasfov and Georgi Andreyev face significant espionage charges with intent to harm national security; details reveal close cooperation with Iranian handler
Lior El-Hai|06:01

Two IDF reservists Yuri Eliasfov, 22, and Georgi Andreyev, 21, were charged on Friday with collaborating with an Iranian foreign agent known as "Boaz" and carrying out actions intended to harm Israel’s national security.

Eliasfov is accused of aiding an enemy in war, providing information that could benefit the enemy, contact with a foreign agent, aggravated forgery and other offenses. Andreyev

is charged with contact with a foreign agent, vandalism and tampering with evidence. Neither has a previous criminal record.

According to the indictment filed in Haifa District Court, Eliasfov served as a technician in the Iron Dome air defense system and later during his reserve service, while Andreyev was a technician at the Israeli Air Force's operations center and also served in reserves. The two have been friends for years.

The two spray-painted pro-Iranian graffiti in public places across Israel in exchange for \$100 in cryptocurrency, photographed the creation and sent the images to "Boaz" before erasing part of the text.

Eliasfov allegedly sent "Boaz" blurred images of sites he claimed were military locations, receiving payment. He later offered to sell him weapons.

Between November 1-3 last year, while on reserve duty, Eliasfov recorded the Iron Dome radar screen, capturing classified data on the system's location. He sent "Boaz" an edited clip containing highly classified information and offered the full video for \$10,000, demanding an \$800 advance payment.

During his compulsory service, Eliasfov allegedly took eight photos of Iron Dome's computer systems containing classified data and stored them on his phone, knowing they were highly confidential.

"Boaz" reportedly believed Eliasfov was a commander in the IDF's elite Egoz unit with military connections. The Iranian agent expressed interest in Israeli Air Force bases, aircraft and specifically Nevatim Airbase, targeted in an Iranian attack last October.

Eliasfov falsely claimed he knew a soldier at Nevatim and could obtain information.

"Boaz" asked him to verify how many aircraft were damaged in the attack, photograph the base and obtain flight speed and altitude data. Eliasfov agreed, knowing "Boaz" was an Iranian agent.

He asked a reservist friend about Israeli Air Force flight times to Iran and damage from the attack. The friend, unaware, directed him to search online. Eliasfov later found public data, calculated flight times, and sent "Boaz" the results.

Unable to confirm Nevatim's damage, he fabricated information and received \$146 in cryptocurrency. He also sent blurred images, falsely claiming they were of Nevatim, for which he received \$94.

Eliasfov further claimed to know a female soldier who had access to classified information. He then forged a document with the IDF emblem and "classified" label, making it appear to be a summary of a planned ground incursion into Lebanon last November. He received \$296 and another \$90 in cryptocurrency for it.

He also sent "Boaz" images of a drone and the IDF's headquarters base in Tel Aviv, downloaded from the internet. Additionally, he offered to sell "Boaz" an M16 rifle, three magazines and 50 rounds but the agent declined.

The prosecution has requested the court extend their detention until the end of legal proceedings against them.

01.31.25 – Fr

IDF strike Hezbollah underground weapons factory on the Syria-Lebanon border

01.31.25 – Fr

IDF strikes Hezbollah deep in Lebanon for first time since cease-fire extension
Air Force fighter jets targets Hezbollah weapons factory and smuggling routes after
intercepting drone approaching Israeli territory
Lior Ben Ari, Yoav Zitun|02:31

Israeli Air Force fighter jets struck Hezbollah targets in Lebanon's Beqaa Valley Friday overnight, which posed a threat to Israel and its forces according to the IDF. The targets included an underground weapons factory and smuggling infrastructure on the Syria-Lebanon border utilized by Hezbollah.

The strike followed Hezbollah's launch of a reconnaissance drone into Israeli airspace, which the IDF intercepted. "This is a violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon," the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said.

On Sunday, minutes before midnight, the White House announced an extension of the cease-fire between Israel and Lebanon until February 18. As part of the deal, Israel and the U.S. will begin negotiations on the return of Lebanese terrorists captured by the IDF in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati confirmed his country would abide by the cease-fire and that Beirut had requested the prisoners' release.

Less than two days later, the IDF carried out an unusual strike in Nabatieh in southern Lebanon. The military said it targeted a truck and another vehicle transporting Hezbollah weapons in response to the cease-fire violation. According to Hezbollah-affiliated outlet Al Mayadeen, the attack was carried out by a drone.

On Thursday, the IDF intercepted a Hezbollah drone heading toward Israel for the first time since the cease-fire took effect on November 27. "The Israeli Air Force intercepted a Hezbollah reconnaissance drone," the IDF said in a statement. "We will not allow Hezbollah terrorist activity in Lebanon and will act to remove any threat to Israel and its citizens."

01.30.25 – Th

Palestinian Authority and EU to operate Rafah Crossing in February

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Palestinian Authority and EU to operate Rafah Crossing in February
Critical border crossing to Egypt set to open, with EU sending local force to oversee
Palestinians leaving enclave; Netanyahu says PA's role at border symbolic

Itamar Eichner|14:22

Hundreds of thousands of Gazans began returning to northern Gaza via the Netzarim Corridor on Monday, with a U.S. security firm responsible for preventing weapons smuggling using vehicles.

The firm consists of about 100 former elite unit members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, security measures are being prepared at the Rafah crossing, set to reopen in February, to prevent terrorists and weapons from being smuggled into Egypt.

EU foreign ministers agreed to redeploy a European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) mission at the Rafah Crossing in February. Under the cease-fire agreement with Hamas, 200 Palestinians — mostly wounded individuals and their escorts — will leave Gaza daily through the crossing.

EUBAM was established in 2005 as an EU civilian mission to assist the Palestinian Authority (PA) in managing Rafah. In 2007, after Hamas seized Gaza, the mission was suspended, relocating first to Ashkelon and later to Ramat Gan.

A senior EU official said Israel recently asked how the EU could help reestablish EUBAM, with the request coming from Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) and the Foreign Ministry.

"The European force will play an important role in the cease-fire," he said. "The idea is to reopen the crossing during the first phase to allow people to leave Gaza."

Talks on redeployment involved Egypt and the U.S. "From Israel, Egypt and the U.S. perspective, the EU force is a reliable body to oversee that terrorists and weapons don't pass through," the official said.

"The EU wants to reestablish the mission to show support for the cease-fire and cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Israel wants a trustworthy partner to work with," he added.

The Rafah crossing will reopen in February, with Palestinians vetted by Shin Bet. The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement last week that these individuals will not be affiliated with the PA.

However, a senior EU official said, "The PA will provide mission personnel. European border officers from several countries will oversee operations. The crossing will be managed by PA border officers, while the IDF remains stationed around the perimeter." Upon arrival, Palestinians will undergo security checks, including ID verification and weapons screening, before entering Egypt. The EU is expected to deploy up to 100 border officers with security arrangements in place. Most of those crossing will be wounded individuals, children and critically ill patients seeking treatment abroad.

EUBAM has begun recruiting personnel ahead of redeployment. "There's good cooperation and mutual interest going on with Israel," the EU official said. "Israel wants a trusted presence at the crossing."

"The PA is trying to create a false impression that it controls the crossing. Under the agreement, the IDF secures the crossing, and no one passes without its supervision and prior approval from the IDF and Shin Bet," The Prime Minister's Office stated last week.

"The technical operation inside the crossing is handled by non-Hamas Gazans vetted by Shin Bet who have been managing essential services in Gaza since the war began. EUBAM oversees their work.

The PA's only practical role is stamping passports, as it is the internationally recognized authority for Palestinian travel documentation. This arrangement applies to the first phase of the hostage deal and will be reviewed at a later date."

01.30.25 – Th

US security firm in Gaza search fake UN vehicle at checkpoint; no exceptions

01.30.25 – Th

US security firm in Gaza stops fake UN vehicle at checkpoint

American security personnel at Netzarim Corridor stop Palestinian vehicle disguised as UN car, conducting X-ray scans and manual inspections; source says US team thorough and won't allow UNRWA or others to game the system

Itamar Eichner|14:20

A U.S. security firm overseeing inspections at the Netzarim Corridor in central Gaza intercepted a Palestinian car attempting to disguise itself as a United Nations vehicle, officials said Thursday.

Despite bearing "UN" markings, security personnel immediately identified the vehicle as fraudulent and conducted a thorough inspection, including X-ray scanning and manual searches of all bags inside. No weapons or explosives were found.

The U.S. security team, staffed by former elite military personnel, including ex-CIA operatives, is tasked with preventing weapons smuggling into northern Gaza. They operate state-of-the-art scanning systems provided by Leidos, using AI-enhanced technology to examine vehicles from multiple angles simultaneously. All images are stored in a secured system.

Sources familiar with the process said the American team is rigorous in its screening, adding, "They are taking no risks, especially with UNRWA, and won't tolerate any deception."

Under the hostage release and cease-fire agreement, only vehicles heading north are subject to inspection, with no checks for individuals crossing on foot. The U.S. security personnel, numbering around 100 contractors, operate under a mandate from the mediators—the U.S., Qatar and Egypt, who also finance the operation.

The Egyptian security company stationed at the outer perimeter conducts initial screenings and interviews with Gazans approaching the crossing. Meanwhile, Israeli engineering units and bomb-sniffing dogs sweep the area for unexploded ordnance.

The security oversight is managed by a multinational consortium comprising strategic and logistics planning firm Safe Reach Solutions (SRS), global integrated security solutions provider UG Solutions and an Egyptian security and screening company. The consortium was selected by mediators to ensure vehicle screenings and facilitate the safe return of Gazans to northern Gaza.

With extensive experience in high-risk zones and counterterrorism operations, the security firms dismissed concerns that 100 personnel were insufficient for the mission, emphasizing that security measures and staffing levels were carefully evaluated in response to potential threats.

01.30.25 – Th

Freed Thai hostages pose triumphantly with national flag at Israeli hospital

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Freed Thai hostages pose triumphantly with national flag at Israeli hospital

Thai military doctor arrives in Israel to assist 5 Thai nationals freed from Hamas captivity; medical staff prepares Thai-language signs, flags and private rooms; Sriaoun's mother weeps upon hearing news

Ran Azar, Roy Rubinstein, Itamar Eichner|11:16

Five Thai nationals held hostage in Gaza since October 7 were released on Thursday and transferred to Israel under a behind-the-scenes agreement between Thailand, Hamas and Iran, Thai officials confirmed.

The freed hostages—Sathian Suwannakham, 34, Pongsak Thenna, 35, Bannawat Seathao, 27, Watchara Sriaoun, 32, and Surasak Lamnau, 30—were handed over to the Red Cross before being transported to Shamir Medical Center in Be'er Ya'akov.

Shamir Medical Center prepared a dedicated reception area for the Thai hostages, where they will receive medical and psychological care. A Thai military doctor, sent by the Royal Thai Army, met them at the reception center and accompanied them to the hospital.

Each survivor was assigned a private room with two beds, following a request made during a previous prisoner exchange in November 2023, where Thai hostages preferred to stay together. Hospital staff placed signs in both Hebrew and Thai, and medical personnel wore name tags in both languages.

To mark their arrival, hospital workers prepared a ceremonial display of Thai flags. "Their return is an emotional moment for all of us," said Dr. Yuval Levy, head of Israel's public hospital division at the Health Ministry. "The fate of these hostages has been intertwined with ours. They are now undergoing initial medical assessments, and we are

fully prepared for any situation. This is a complex event, not just for their families but for all of Israel. We hope to see the safe return of all remaining hostages."

Following the release, Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra expressed relief and joy, while Thailand's Foreign Ministry issued a statement welcoming the hostages' return and confirming their safe arrival in Israel.

"Thailand thanks Israel and all involved parties for facilitating the release of the Thai hostages from Gaza," the statement read. "We extend our heartfelt congratulations to their families and express deep appreciation to Qatar, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, the United States and other friendly nations, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, for their instrumental roles in securing their release."

The ministry also called for the immediate release of all remaining hostages, including one Thai national, Pinta Nattapong, still held in Gaza.

Among Thailand's migrant worker community in Israel, the news was met with relief and celebration. Peng Ruwikit Grossi, director at the Thai employment company Nima, said, "This is a deeply emotional day for the Thai community in Israel. It is a moment of joy for them and for all Thai workers in the country."

However, she acknowledged the pain endured by hostage families throughout the ordeal. "Our happiness is mixed with sorrow," she said. "Beyond their release, we know how difficult it was for their families to wait so long, receiving updates only from afar. The extensive coverage in Thailand is not just about their personal stories, but also a message to the entire Thai community—reminding them that there are people in Israel who care for them beyond their work."

Grossi emphasized that Nima, which serves over 60% of Thailand's migrant workers in Israel, sees its role as extending beyond employment.

"This is not just about work; it's about family, trust, support, and a real community that we've built here," she said. "Today, we are overjoyed to welcome our friends back."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar spoke with his Thai counterpart, Maris Sangiampongsa, following the release, assuring him that "their condition is good."

"Minister Sa'ar updated the Thai foreign minister on the details of their release, their current medical status—which is classified as good following initial assessments—and the plan to transport them shortly by helicopter to a hospital," the Israeli Foreign Ministry said.

Sa'ar thanked Thailand for its cooperation in negotiations and noted that the two ministers had spoken two weeks earlier regarding the hostages. They agreed to meet in Israel this weekend when Sangiampongsa visits.

Before the hostages' release, Thai Ambassador to Israel Pannabha Chandramanya expressed overwhelming emotion at the prospect of seeing them freed.

"This is a day of great news for me, for my country, and for the entire world," she said. "I have waited so long for this moment. I can barely breathe. Thai citizens, our government—everyone has been anxiously waiting to see our five hostages again. I want to thank Israel for taking care of them."

However, she urged continued efforts to secure the release of Nattapong. Two other Thai hostages, Sudthisak Rinthalak, 43, and Sonthaya Oakkharasri, 30, have been declared by Israel to be dead, with their bodies held captive.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists killed 49 Thai workers in Israel, including 11 murdered at Kibbutz Nir Oz, where five others were kidnapped. Two of them were freed in a previous exchange deal in November, which saw the release of 24 foreign hostages.

01.30.25 – Th

Trump insists: Egypt and Jordan will do it, they will take in Gazans

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Trump insists: Egypt and Jordan will do it, they will take in Gazans

US President unfazed by Egypt and Jordan rejecting his plan which would see them taking in Palestinian Arabs from Gaza: They're going to do it. We do a lot for them, and they're going to do it.

Elad Benari Jan 30, 2025, 11:23 PM (GMT+2)

US President Donald Trump on Thursday once again talked about the idea he floated of Egypt and Jordan taking in Palestinian Arabs from Gaza.

Speaking with reporters in the Oval Office, Trump expressed confidence that Egypt and Jordan would indeed cooperate with the idea, even though both countries' leaders have already rejected it.

"They will do it, they will do it. They're going to do it. We do a lot for them, and they're going to do it," Trump stated.

Trump first brought up the idea of relocating Gazans this past weekend, telling reporters he had discussed the idea with King Abdullah II of Jordan.

"I'd like him to take people. I'd like Egypt to take people," said Trump of the Jordanian King. "You're talking about, probably a million and a half people, and we just clean out that whole thing and say, 'You know it's, over.'"

The President added he considered the potential relocation of Palestinian Arabs from Gaza as something that "could be temporary or long term," noting the historical context of conflicts in the region over centuries.

On Monday, Trump doubled down on the idea, telling reporters he had brought it up in a conversation with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

"I'd like to get them living in an area where they can live without disruption, revolution ... when you look at the Gaza Strip it's been hell for so many years," said Trump.

"I wish [Sisi] would take some [Gazans]. We helped them a lot, and I'm sure he'd help us. He's a friend of mine. He's in a very rough part of the world, to be honest. As they say, It's a rough neighborhood. But I think he would do it, and I think the King of Jordan would do it too," continued Trump.

On Wednesday, Sisi responded publicly for the first time to Trump's proposal, stating that Egypt will not take part in the displacement of Palestinian Arabs, an action he described as an "act of injustice" that could endanger Egyptian security.

01.30.25 – Th

Two Israeli & five Thai hostages marched through crowds of Gazans during release

01.30.25 – Th

Horror during release in Khan Younis: Hostages marched through crowds of Gazans; Arbel, Gad, Thais on way to IDF| Live broadcast
Gadi Mozes, 80, Arbel Yehoud, 29, and Agam Berger, 20, and 5 foreign workers are being released Thursday morning from captivity in Gaza; Agam is on Israeli soil and reunites with her parents; Watch the hostage release live
Ynetnews|Updated:03:32

After 482 days, Gadi Mozes, 80, Arbel Yehoud, 29, and Agam Berger, 20, and 5 foreign workers are being released Thursday morning from captivity in Gaza. Ynetnews is broadcasting their return live.

Islamic Jihad vehicles have arrived meeting point with the Red Cross in Khan Younis, where the kidnapped Gadi Mozes and Arbel Yehoud are to be handed over; earlier, Red Cross vehicles arrived there. At the site, near the home of former Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, many Jihad and Hamas terrorists have gathered. The Thai hostages also will be released at the same time in the same place, the Lebanese Al-Mayadeen network, affiliated with Hezbollah, reported.

Crowds of Gazans swarmed the vehicles carrying the hostages, near the ruins of the home of killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. Arbel and Gadi got out of the cars and walked through the chaotic crowd to the waiting Red Cross vehicles. The Red Cross cars remain in place, unable to move due to the violent crowds. Other Red Cross vehicles awaited the release of the Thai workers. Five were released, though there currently are six in captivity. Their names were not released.

Israel sent a strong message to the mediators following the horrific images from Khan Younis at the moment of the release. A Gazan crowd was seen surrounding the vehicles, and the hostages were ordered to march to the Red Cross vehicles amid the chaos. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also reacted to the chaos during the handover of two Israeli hostages and five Thai workers.

"I view with great severity the shocking scenes during the release of our hostages. This is further proof of the unimaginable cruelty of the Hamas terrorist organization. I demand that the mediators ensure that such threatening scenes do not occur again, and to guarantee the safety of our hostages. Whoever dares to harm our captives - his blood will be on his head," Netanyahu said in a statement.

The Red Cross has previously emphasized, in light of previous attacks, that they are in contact with all parties involved in an attempt to make the transition as safe as possible, first and foremost for the returning hostages and also for the crew. They added that they do not control what happens during the release, place and time.

Earlier, Islamic Jihad organization released a short video of Gadi Mozes and Arbel Yehoud in which they embrace prior to their release from captivity. The exact date of the recording is unclear, but the organization noted that it was filmed "during the final procedures for their handover."

Earlier, Agam Berger emerged from an Islamic Jihad vehicle on her feet and mounts a stage in Jabaliya after Red Cross vehicles arrive at the collection point. Following the handover she was taken to IDF troops near the Gaza border; shortly after, the IDF and Shin Bet confirmed that she had arrived on Israeli soil.

She was reunited with her parents at the initial reception point in the Gaza Strip accompanied by officials from the IDF's Human Resources and Medical Branch, and will undergo an initial medical evaluation. Agam's violin was also brought to the scene.

Following the meeting, Agam's family released a statement: "Thank God that we have reached this moment and that our heroine Agam has returned to us after 482 days in the hands of the enemy. Our girl is strong, believing and courageous. We would like to thank the security forces and the entire people of Israel for all the support and prayers. Now Agam and we can begin the rehabilitation process, but the rehabilitation will not be complete until all the hostages return to their homes."

Following her release, the Prime Minister's Office releases a statement on the freeing of Agam Berger: "The Government of Israel embraces IDF soldier Agam Berger. Her family has been updated by the responsible authorities that she is with our forces. The Government, together with all of the security officials, will accompany her and her family. The Government of Israel is committed to returning all of the hostages and the missing. "And I will return the captivity of My people Israel." (Amos 9:14).

Dozens of Agam's friends and family members gathered in her apartment building in Holon Thursday morning to watch the release; they read a chapter of Psalms and took out a Torah scroll. "I didn't sleep all night," her friend said. Later, Agam was seen emerging from the rubble of houses in Jabaliya, and her friends shouted: "This is it - this is happening." Her friends added: "Our champion. She looks fine. This is her - this is exactly her. Our heroine, our fighter, we are so proud of her."

Mozes was abducted from his home in Kibbutz Nir Oz, where his partner, Efrat Katz, was murdered. His ex-wife, Margalit Mozes, was also kidnapped but was freed in the first hostage release in November 2023.

Born in Hadera, Mozes moved to Kibbutz Nir Oz near the Gaza Strip about 60 years ago as part of a youth movement program. He worked in agriculture, eventually becoming a

renowned agronomist who trained generations of farmers in the kibbutz and taught irrigation and crop cultivation courses worldwide, particularly in developing countries.

Berger, a resident of Holon, was abducted from the Nahal Oz outpost just two months after enlisting in the IDF, where she served as a military lookout. In footage from the October 7 attack, Berger is seen with blood-stained face, though it remains unclear whether she was injured or if the blood belonged to fellow soldiers who were murdered in the shelter beside her.

She is the last Nahal Oz lookout still in captivity, following the November 2023 rescue of Ori Magidish and the recovery of Noa Marciano's body, after she was executed by her captors. This past Saturday, four additional lookouts—Liri Albag, Naama Levy, Karina Ariev and Daniella Gilboa—were freed.

Yehoud was abducted from her home in Kibbutz Nir Oz along with her partner, Ariel Cunio, during the October 7 attack. Her brother, Dolev, left his home that morning to help treat the wounded. After eight months of uncertainty, his body was finally discovered in the kibbutz.

Under the original terms of the hostage deal, the first groups to be released were female civilian captives. Yehoud was initially slated to be freed in the first or second phase, but due to what Hamas called "technical issues," her release was postponed. Instead, Hamas prioritized the release of the four female military lookouts.

In response, Israel refused to open the Netzarim Corridor for humanitarian movement. Following mediation efforts, an agreement was reached to secure Yehoud's release on Thursday. As part of the deal, the Netzarim Corridor was reopened, allowing hundreds of thousands of Gazans to return to northern Gaza.

The freed hostages will have a basic medical examination at the border before being taken to one of four Israeli hospitals.

01.30.25 – Th

Wichita plane carrying 64 struck an Army helicopter three miles south of White House

01.30.25 – Th

Passenger plane carrying 64 crashes after colliding with an Army helicopter in Washington

American Airlines plane crashed into the Potomac River; Multiple bodies pulled from the water but no survivors had so far been found; 3 soldiers were in the Black Hawk helicopter which was on a training mission

News Agencies | 23:25

A jet carrying 60 passengers and four crew members collided Wednesday with an Army helicopter while landing at Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington, prompting a large search-and-rescue operation in the nearby Potomac River.

The Washington Post, citing sources, said multiple bodies had been pulled from the water. No survivors had so far been found, the newspaper reported. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas said on social media that "we know there are fatalities," though he did not say how many.

All takeoffs and landings from the airport were halted as helicopters from law enforcement agencies across the region flew over the scene in search of survivors. Inflatable rescue boats were launched into the Potomac River from a point along the George Washington Parkway, just north of the airport, and first responders set up light towers from the shore to illuminate the area near the site of the collision.

President Donald Trump said he had been "fully briefed on this terrible accident" and, referring to the passengers, added, "May God Bless their souls." Some friends, family and relatives of passengers gathered at Reagan Washington National seeking more information. Police said multiple agencies were involved in a search and rescue operation in the Potomac River, which borders the airport.

Dozens of police, ambulance and rescue units, some ferrying boats, staged along the river and raced to positions along the tarmac of Reagan airport. Live TV images showed several boats in the water, flashing blue and red lights.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the midair crash occurred around 9 p.m. EST when a regional jet that had departed from Wichita, Kansas, collided with a military helicopter on a training flight while on approach to an airport runway. It occurred in some of the most tightly controlled and monitored airspace in the world, just over three miles south of the White House and the Capitol.

Investigators will try to piece together the aircrafts' final moments before their collision, including contact with air traffic controllers as well as a loss of altitude by the passenger jet.

American Airlines Flight 5342 was inbound to Reagan National at an altitude of about 400 feet and a speed of about 140 miles per hour when it suffered a rapid loss of altitude over the Potomac River, according to data from its radio transponder. The Canadian-made Bombardier CRJ-701 twin-engine jet, manufactured in 2004, can be configured to carry up to 70 passengers.

A few minutes before landing, air traffic controllers asked the arriving commercial jet if it could land on the shorter Runway 33 at Reagan National and the pilots said they were able. Controllers then cleared the plane to land on Runway 33. Flight tracking sites showed the plane adjust its approach to the new runway.

Less than 30 seconds before the crash, an air traffic controller asked the helicopter if it had the arriving plane in sight. The controller made another radio call to the helicopter moments later: "PAT 25 pass behind the CRJ." Seconds after that, the two aircraft collided.

The plane's radio transponder stopped transmitting about 2,400 feet short of the runway, roughly over the middle of the river.

Video from an observation camera at the nearby Kennedy Center showed two sets of lights consistent with aircraft appearing to join in a fireball.

The collision occurred on a warm winter evening in Washington, with temperatures registering as high as 60 degrees Fahrenheit, following a stretch days earlier of intense cold and ice. On Wednesday, the Potomac River was 36 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The National Weather Service reported that wind gusts of up to 25 mph were possible in the area throughout the evening. The U.S. Army described the helicopter as a UH-60 Blackhawk based at Fort Belvoir in Virginia. A crew of three soldiers were onboard the helicopter, an Army official said. The helicopter was on a training flight.

The crash is serving as a major test for two of the Trump administration's newest agency leaders. Pete Hegseth, sworn in days ago as defense secretary, posted on social media that his department was "actively monitoring" the situation that involved an Army helicopter. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, just sworn in earlier this week, said in a social media post that he was "at the FAA HQ and closely monitoring the situation." Search and rescue at the scene of the collision between a passenger plane and a military helicopter near the airport in Washington, D.C.

Located along the Potomac River, just southwest of the city. Reagan National is a popular choice because it's much closer than the larger Dulles International Airport, which is deeper in Virginia.

Depending on the runway being used, flights into Reagan can offer passengers spectacular views of landmarks like the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the National Mall and the U.S. Capitol. It's a postcard-worthy welcome for tourists visiting the city.

The incident recalled the crash of an Air Florida flight that plummeted into the Potomac on January 13, 1982, that killed 78 people. That crash was attributed to bad weather. The last fatal crash involving a U.S. commercial airline occurred in 2009 near Buffalo, New York. Everyone aboard the Bombardier DHC-8 propeller plane was killed, including 45 passengers, 2 pilots and 2 flight attendants. Another person on the ground also died, bringing the total death toll to 50. An investigation determined that the captain accidentally caused the plane to stall as it approached the airport in Buffalo.

01.30.25 – Th

Israeli airstrike kills 10, including top Jihad commander, in northern West Bank

01.30.25 – Th

Israeli airstrike kills 10, including top terrorist commander, in northern West Bank
Military says attacked armed terrorist cell in Tamun as part of anti-terror crackdown;
commander of Islamic Jihad's Tamun Battalion named among dead
Einav Halabi, Elisha Ben Kimon, Yoav Zitun|16:06

An Israeli airstrike in the northern West Bank killed at least 10 people, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Wednesday. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported four others were seriously wounded.

The IDF confirmed that its aircraft struck an armed terrorist cell in the village of Tamun as part of an ongoing security operation in the area.

Palestinian sources identified several of those killed, including Osama Bani Odeh, Montaser Bani Odeh and Omar Basharat, commander of the Tamun Battalion of Palestinian Islamic Jihad. According to Palestinian reports, the Palestinian Authority's security forces had detained Osama Bani Odeh's father the previous day, attempting to pressure him into surrendering.

On Monday, Israeli jets struck a vehicle in the Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm as part of a joint anti-terror crackdown by the military and Shin Bet. The Palestinian Health Ministry said the strike killed Iyad Abu Atiyeh, commander of Hamas' Al-Qassam Brigades in the camp, and left three others wounded, with moderate to light injuries. Footage from the scene showed the vehicle engulfed in flames.

Israeli officials later confirmed Abu Atiyeh was killed alongside another terrorist. "He was involved in multiple shooting attacks, including one at the Ramin Junction in July last year that wounded three Israeli civilians," the military and Shin Bet said in a joint statement.

"His elimination is part of an ongoing intensive counterterrorism effort against terrorist infrastructure in the northern West Bank."

01.29.25 – We

IDF closely monitoring WB online activity to combat online incitement

01.29.25 – We

How the IDF cracks down on online incitement

Established after Oct. 7 massacre, counter-incitement unit tracks social media activity, flags suspicious Facebook accounts and employs legal experts to prosecute offenders;

'We're seeing impact, but there's still a lot of work to do'

Elisha Ben Kimon|15:49

As part of the planned hostage deal, Israel is set to release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners by the end of the week, many of whom will return to the West Bank. Despite efforts by the IDF's Central Command to curb celebrations, images of terrorists rejoicing continue to circulate online.

A specialized counter-incitement unit, formed within Central Command at the outset of the war, has been at the forefront of efforts to combat public and online incitement. Led by military prosecutors in the West Bank Division, the unit operates in coordination with intelligence officers and operational teams under the command of Maj. Gen. Avi Bluth. Palestinians in the West Bank celebrate release of prisoners

In 2024, the unit has filed 303 indictments for incitement offenses. In comparison, the West Bank Military Prosecution typically filed 60 to 70 such cases per year in the past. During the 2015 wave of lone-wolf attacks, that number peaked at around 150.

"There is no doubt we've seen a surge," a senior official in the West Bank prosecution said. "Before the war, this issue fell through the cracks. It requires coordination between multiple agencies. Immediately after Oct. 7, we saw a sharp rise in online incitement, particularly among women, with people praising martyrs and glorifying Hamas' attack."

The official outlined the challenges of enforcement, explaining that legal complexities often make it difficult to define incitement. "For example, someone wrote after Oct. 7, 'a great and glorious act.' On the surface, it looks like incitement, but it could be interpreted differently. We have to consider context and the use of certain phrases rather than just their literal meaning."

Investigators employ technological tools to track incitement but must go beyond simple screenshots. "Once we detect incitement on a Facebook post, for instance, we need to 'capture' the entire page," the official said. "We scroll through past posts, gather as much evidence as possible to establish a pattern of incitement and link the page to a specific suspect. Then, we build an indictment under a defined legal provision."

To aid prosecutions, the military commander of Central Command issued a minimum sentencing order after the war began, mandating at least one year in prison for incitement, with at least six months served behind bars.

Among those arrested by the counter-incitement unit were members of a Palestinian band called Al-Ibaa, which performed at various venues in the West Bank. According to an indictment, after Oct. 7, the student council at An-Najah University in Nablus invited one of the band's singers to perform at an event.

The singer agreed to a payment of 4,000 shekels. When the band arrived in early May, they realized the event was a memorial for "martyrs" and was decorated with Hamas flags. During the performance, the musicians sang, "Advance, O Hamas, you strike fear into everyone. May God grant you victory."

In another case, prosecutors indicted a 50-year-old Palestinian woman from the village of Sanur in the northern West Bank for multiple inciting posts on social media. She allegedly shared an illustration of Hamas terrorists with the caption "Al-Aqsa Flood"—the name Hamas gave to its Oct. 7 attack. In a separate post, she wrote, "Tel Aviv is burning. Praise be to God. May God guide our army's fire," accompanied by a green heart—Hamas' signature color.

Israel's counter-incitement efforts are expected to intensify as the war continues, with authorities closely monitoring online activity and taking legal action against those suspected of encouraging violence.

01.28.25 – Tu

UNWRA, following decades of betrayal; ends Thursday, January 30

01.28.25 – Tu

Israel announces UNRWA ban to take effect in 48 hours

Israel's UN Ambassador announced officially that Palestinian aid agency UNRWA must leave Jerusalem by Thursday; 'The decision was not made lightly, nor was it made quickly. It was not a political decision, it was simply a necessary one' he says
Itamar Eichner|13:51

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, announced officially on Tuesday that Jerusalem will sever all ties with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and anyone operating on its behalf. The decision will take effect on Thursday, January 30, as stipulated by the law passed by Israel's government.

"I hereby inform the United Nations and the Security Council that the legislation concerning UNRWA's activities in Israel will officially come into force in 48 hours," Danon stated.

"In accordance with applicable Israeli law and following the termination of the provisional agreement, UNRWA must cease its operations and evacuate all premises it operates in Jerusalem. The legislation forbids UNRWA from operating within the sovereign territory of the state of Israel and forbids any contact between Israeli officials and UNRWA," Danon said.

"Furthermore, UNRWA will be prohibited from maintaining any representative office, service or activity within our territory, and will terminate all collaboration, communication and contact with UNRWA or anyone acting on its behalf. This decision was not made lightly, nor was it made quickly. It was not a political decision. It was simply a necessary one," he also said.

Danon added that the severing of ties "follows decades of betrayal by an agency that has placed political agendas, neglect and cover-ups over humanitarian principles. This decision reflects years of efforts to address the grave accusations raised against it. This decision also reflects the reality of the situation that UNRWA has miserably failed in its mandate, and it has failed the people who were supposed to benefit from its services. More precisely, this decision was driven by UNRWA's constant refusal to address the widespread infiltration of its ranks by Hamas and other terrorist organizations."

"No sovereign state should facilitate the operation of an agency that threatens its national security and blatantly violates its laws. Israel remains committed to its obligations under international law, and we reaffirm our readiness to cooperate with other UN agencies that are not tainted by terror," he concluded.

Senior Israeli officials claim that the United Nations has already come to terms with the decision to cease UNRWA's operations, recognizing it as a done deal. Talks are now underway to minimize fallout and explore ways to maintain cooperation in the post-UNRWA era.

The United Nations humanitarian aid coordinator (OCHA), British diplomat Tom Fletcher, is expected to arrive in Israel soon. He is set to coordinate with Israel the continuation of humanitarian aid efforts. From Israel's perspective, he is expected to assume some of UNRWA's responsibilities. Israel holds Fletcher in high regard, considering him a expert who works in a practical and focused manner.

01.28.25 – Tu

Palestinians return to Gaza City: Kiss the ground, search through rubble

01.28.25 – Tu

Palestinians return to Gaza City: Kiss the ground, clean up rubble

Some 300,000 refugees returned to northern Gaza, reuniting with family members they had been separated from for 15 months; Families gathered to celebrate their reunions, marking the moment with both joy and determination; 'We will not leave again,' one returning refugee says, 'not even Trump will make us emigrate' Einav Halabi, Reuters|12:40

Displaced Palestinians returning to their homes in Gaza City this week found a city in ruins after 15 months of fighting, with many seeking shelter among the rubble and searching for relatives lost in the chaotic return march.

Gaza City, in the north of the enclave, is a shell of the bustling urban center it was before the war, with swathes of buildings destroyed by bombardments and piles of rubble and torn-up concrete on every side.

"Look at this scene, there is nothing to say," said a man who gave his name as Abu Mohammad as he searched for a place to settle. "People will sleep on the ground. There is nothing left."

Many of those returning, often laden with what personal possessions they still have after months of being moved around as the battlegrounds shifted, had trekked 20 km (12 miles) or more along the coastal highway north.

"I am waiting for my father, mother and brother. We lost them on the way," said Jameel Abed, who walked up from the central area of the Gaza Strip. "We found some lights here and we are waiting for them," he said.

"There is no car, no motorized rickshaw, no donkey cart, no vehicle, nothing that could move on this road."

By late on Monday, Gaza's Hamas authorities said more than 300,000 people, or almost half of those displaced from the north during the war, had crossed into Gaza City and the north edge of the enclave from areas in the south.

Even as those who arrived in Gaza looked around for somewhere to settle down, tens of thousands were still moving north as mediators began preliminary work on the second stage of cease-fire negotiations due to begin next week.

Three more Israeli hostages are due to be handed over on Thursday by Hamas, the terror group still in control of Gaza, with another three expected on Saturday, in exchange for scores of Palestinian prisoners set for release from Israeli jails, some of whom will go into exile.

In Cairo, a high-level Hamas team led by Mohammad Darwish, head of the group's leading council, held talks with Egyptian mediators and welcomed 70 Palestinian prisoners who arrived in Cairo prior to being moved to third countries who would be willing to host them, a Hamas statement said.

These include Qatar, Turkey and Algeria, according to Hamas and other sources. Later on Tuesday, Hamas said the delegation has also discussed with Cairo officials alleged Israeli violations of the truce and ideas to achieve national unity with the rival Palestinian Authority of President Mahmoud Abbas, including an Egyptian proposal to form a committee to run post-war Gaza.

Hamas, which has run Gaza since 2007, and Abbas' authority, which has a sway in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, have so far failed to end political splits that weakened Palestinian aspirations for statehood.

Negotiations for the second phase of the cease-fire

Under the terms of the cease-fire, agreed this month with Egyptian and Qatari mediation and U.S. support, 33 hostages are due to be released during a six-week cease-fire, in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, many of them serving life sentences in Israeli jails. Seven hostages and 290 prisoners have so far been exchanged.

A second stage, which will decide what happens to more than 60 other hostages, including men of military age as well as a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, is due to begin by next Tuesday.

But Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official, said the group believed the talks would go ahead.

"We are ready to begin negotiations for the second phase at the specified time and are confident that Netanyahu has no choice but to proceed with the second phase," he said. What would follow full implementation of the cease-fire remains unclear after Israel's repeated declarations that Hamas will not be allowed to remain in power in Gaza. U.S. President Donald Trump's call for Palestinians in Gaza to be taken to Egypt or Jordan, though strongly rejected in the region and by Palestinian officials and residents, has further complicated the outlook.

01.28.25 – Tu

Israel attacks southern Lebanon, despite cease-fire extended until February 18

01.28.25 – Tu

Israel attacks southern Lebanon, despite cease-fire | Watch the video

Casualties reported in UAV attack in Nabatieh that led to a large fire and billowing smoke in the area; IDF says it attacked Hezbollah weapons in the area; Comes days after cease-fire was extended, allowing the IDF to remain in Lebanon for more than two more weeks.

Lior Ben Ari|12:09

An unusual attack in the Nabatieh area in southern Lebanon was reported on Tuesday evening, less than two days after cease-fire between Israel and Lebanon was extended, allowing the IDF to remain in Lebanon for more than two more weeks.

According to the Al-Mayadeen channel, which is affiliated with Hezbollah, this was an attack by a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle).

The attack led to a large fire and smoke rising in the area. It is the most significant attack in a long period of time in southern Lebanon.

The IDF confirmed later Tuesday night that the Israeli Air Force attacked Hezbollah weapons in southern Lebanon following a cease-fire violation. Meanwhile, the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, affiliated with Hezbollah, reported another explosion in the Nabatieh area, and the Lebanese Ministry of Health updated that the number of injured has risen to 14.

Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati condemned the attack on Tuesday night, calling for a firm stance to guarantee Israel's implementation of its commitments during a phone call with U.S. General Jasper Jeffers, who chairs the monitoring committee, according to a statement from the PM's office.

Earlier, the Lebanese army claimed that the IDF opened fire on military personnel and civilians on the Yaron-Maroun al-Ras road, and that a soldier and three civilians were injured. This happened while Lebanese army soldiers were escorting residents returning to villages in the south of the country.

The White House announced earlier this week that the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Lebanon has been extended until February 18. The Americans issued the announcement in light of the fact that the IDF had not yet withdrawn from southern Lebanon, and due to crowds of Lebanese rioters, most of them acting at the behest of Hezbollah. The IDF fired distance shots at many of them, and according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health, 22 civilians were killed.

01.28.25 – Tu

Israel proposes south Lebanon buffer zone as border violence erupts

01.28.25 – Tu

Israel proposes south Lebanon buffer zone as border violence erupts

Renewed clashes highlight long-standing disputes over troop presence and Hezbollah's influence in southern Lebanon

Giorgia Valente/The Media Line|10:58

Clashes between the IDF and Lebanese civilians on Sunday have raised alarms over the fragile cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hezbollah, brokered to halt last year's war. At least 22 people were killed and over 120 injured, including women and children, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. The violence unfolded in southern Lebanon as thousands of displaced residents attempted to return to their homes, defying Israeli military orders and Lebanese army warnings.

The IDF said in a statement that its forces fired warning shots to deter "imminent threats" from groups approaching Israeli positions.

"On Sunday, IDF troops operating in southern Lebanon fired warning shots to remove threats in a number of areas where suspects were identified approaching the troops. Additionally, a number of suspects in proximity to IDF troops that posed an imminent threat to the troops were apprehended and are currently being questioned at the scene," according to the IDF.

Avraham Levine, speaker, and digital content manager at the Alma Center, justified the IDF's response, saying: "We were faced with an overwhelming number of people approaching our positions, and our forces fired in response to what was perceived as a direct threat. Retaliation is not what we wanted, but soldiers saw people carrying Hezbollah flags coming their way and had no time to check everyone's IDs. The Lebanese army should have avoided this circumstance in the first place."

Lebanese officials strongly condemned the incident, calling it a violation of the cease-fire agreement signed three months ago.

"The cease-fire was meant to protect the people of Lebanon, but Israel continues to violate it," said Faisal Mosleh, a professor of international relations in Beirut. "Shooting unarmed civilians is not an act of self-defense; it's an act of aggression. Israel's forces are once again showing their disregard for the safety of Lebanese citizens and the terms of the cease-fire."

Imad Harb, director of research and analysis at the Arab Center Washington DC, questioned Israel's intentions. "The cease-fire agreement was supposed to lead to a full withdrawal, but Israel aims to extend its stay. I doubt this deadline will be met," according to Harb.

The U.S. confirmed on Sunday that the cease-fire agreement will remain in effect until February 18, 2025. "The arrangement between Lebanon and Israel, monitored by the United States, will continue to be in effect until February 18, 2025," the White House said.

The delays have fueled frustrations in Lebanon, where the new government, led by President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, faces immense challenges in

restoring stability. “The new government is trying to move the country forward, but Israel’s failure to meet its obligations makes this task nearly impossible,” Mosleh said. In Beirut, Hezbollah supporters held demonstrations to showcase their resilience. While far from the violence in the south, the gatherings highlighted the group’s enduring role in Lebanese society. Harb described the demonstrations as “a display of resilience, but it also signals how vulnerable they really are.” Levine criticized Hezbollah’s role. “Hezbollah is exploiting this situation to build their narrative as defenders of Lebanon. Their goal is to provoke tensions and delay the full implementation of the cease-fire agreement,” he said. Critics argue that such a measure would exacerbate tensions rather than bring stability. Harb dismissed the idea. “This isn’t new. Israel had a buffer zone in Lebanon from 1978 to 2000, and it failed to provide the security it sought. Why would this strategy work now? It’s destruction for the sake of control, but it won’t bring peace or stability to anyone,” Harb said.

Future negotiations and challenges

In a related development, the U.S. announced that Israel, Lebanon, and the U.S. would begin negotiations for the return of Lebanese prisoners captured after October 7, 2023. That date marked Hezbollah’s attack on Israel in support of Hamas, as violence erupted in Gaza.

The ongoing presence of Israeli forces in southern Lebanon remains a contentious issue. Lebanese leaders face the dual challenge of addressing external conflicts and managing internal divisions. Harb observed, “Lebanon’s leadership has no choice but to engage with groups like Amal and Hezbollah. These forces are a powerful part of the political landscape, and while their influence is controversial, the government cannot afford to ignore them.”

Despite skepticism, Harb expressed cautious hope for Lebanon’s future. “Lebanon has faced immense challenges in the past, and we have always managed to rebuild. I believe in our people, in our resilience. If our government can find a way to unite and address both our internal divisions and external pressures, there is still hope for a brighter future,” he said.

Whether Lebanon’s fragile cease-fire can hold and the region can avoid further escalation remains to be seen. The coming months will test the resilience of Lebanon’s government and the effectiveness of international efforts to stabilize the region.

This article is written by Giorgia Valente and published with permission of The Media Line

01.28.25 – Tu

100 armed Americans, dogs, ensure no weapons flow to northern Gaza

01.28.25 – Tu

100 armed Americans, dogs, ensure no weapons flow to northern Gaza

Consortium of defense contractors inspects vehicles for arms' transfers north; companies say dedicated to highest professional standards and implementation of the cease-fire terms

Itamar Eichner|03:02

Thousands of Gazans continue to head to northern Gaza on Tuesday after their passage was permitted on Monday. Convoys of cars have been crossing through the A-Rashid road while others make their way on foot.

According to the cease-fire agreement there is not security check for the people walking north and only vehicles are inspected by the consortium of American defense contractors set up to carry out that task. These are highly-skilled, ex-military, ex-CIA personnel who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and have vast fighting experience. Some of them speak Arabic. They are armed and their mission is to prevent the flow of weapons and terrorists, north.

In all, 100 employees of the consortium have been sent to Gaza, using a hotel in southern Israel as their home base. All are working under the mandate given by the mediators in the cease-fire deal – the U.S., Qatar and Egypt, who also pay their wages.

A second line of defense is manned by an Egyptian security fence that participates in the initial questioning and secures the site.

Inspections are carrying out using X-ray equipment and other technologies in addition to hand searchers. The Americans travel in white pick-up trucks or blue armored vehicles, reminiscent of those used by UN peace keeper, but unlike them, the American defense contractors do not intend to turn a blind eye. Hamas would likely be disappointed if the terror group attempts to test them.

When a car approaches the checkpoint all of its passengers, but the driver, must exit the vehicle while the driver and his car are inspected for explosives. The entire process takes only minutes. Along the road, on both sides of the checkpoint at Netzarim, Hamas police are deployed to maintain order and IDF troops deploy dogs to sniff out any weapons. The consortium includes Safe Reach Solutions (SRS) and UG Solutions who provide comprehensive security solutions globally. It also includes the Egyptian SRS security firm. The consortium was selected by the mediators, with the agreement of the parties to the cease-fire deal.

The legality of the consortium's work has not yet been clarified. For example it is not clear who would investigate a fatal shooting incident if one occurs. Would it be Israel

The consortium highlights its neutrality, its commitment to the highest professional standards and says it would be a trusted partner to the implementation of the terms of the deal. Its establishment could be an important factor in determining the future rule of Gaza, after the war, as it enjoys the support of the international community.

But it would not be the only foreign presence in the Strip. The EU's policing body EUBAM will be deployed in the Rafah border crossing and is already in the process of hiring personnel for that mission.

01.28.25 – Tu

Trump speaks with Egypt & Jordan to take in Gaza refugees

01.28.25 – Tu

Trump pressures Egypt to take in Gaza Palestinians

President tells reporters he hoped el-Sisi who is a 'friend' would agree to his idea to remove Gazans to neighboring countries during rebuilding in the Strip as the U.S. provides Egypt with much aid; says will discuss two-state solution with Netanyahu soon
Daniel Edelson, New York, Reuters|00:51

U.S. President Donald Trump said he had spoken to Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi about his suggestion to move Palestinians from Gaza to neighboring countries while the Strip was being rebuilt.

"I'd like to get them living in an area where they can live without disruption and revolution and violence," Trump said.

Top Videos

"When you look at the Gaza Strip, it's been hell for so many years... There have been various civilizations on that strip. It didn't start here. It started thousands of years before, and there's always been violence associated with it. You could get people living in areas that are a lot safer and maybe a lot better and maybe a lot more comfortable," he said.

The president told reporters on Air Force One that he hoped the Egyptian president would agree to take the Gazans in and said the United States provided Egypt with much aid and he was sure el-Sisi, whom he called a friend, could help. "It's a tough neighborhood but I think he can do that," Trump said.

The president also said he would be discussing the issue as well as a two-state solution for the Middle East conflict, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On Sunday, the Prime Minister's Office said Netanyahu would be meeting Trump next week at the White House.

On Saturday, Trump told the reporters traveling with him that Jordan and Egypt should take more Palestinians from Gaza and had spoken about it with Jordan's King Abdullah. "I said to him I'd love you to take on more because I'm looking at the whole Gaza strip right now and it's a mess, it's a real mess. I'd like him to take people," Trump said about his call on Saturday with Jordan's King Abdullah. "I'd like Egypt to take people," Trump told reporters, adding he would speak to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Sunday. "You're talking about a million and half people, and we just clean out that whole thing," Trump said.

01.27.25 – Mo

IDF forces continue destruction clearing pathways in Jenin

01.27.25 – Mo

Closet leading to tunnel shaft: Ynet joins IDF forces in Jenin

Military continues its West Bank counterterror operation in Jenin, now expanding to Tulkarm and exposing dangerous terror infrastructure in the area

Elisha Ben Kimon | 15:30

Security forces expanded their West Bank counterterror operations on Monday to the Palestinian town of Tulkarm, where Hamas terror cell leader Ihab Abu Atiyya was killed in an airstrike.

In a tour of the Jenin refugee camp, the extensive destruction from the operation is evident. The camp is now in ruins, with D9 bulldozers visible from afar. Most residents have left and security officials stressed the military allowed them to leave via designated routes.

"Large forces are currently operating in the camp during the initial stages of the operation, which will continue indefinitely," the IDF said in a statement. "This comes after dozens of operations in Tulkarm, Nur al-Shams and Jenin since the start of the war, aimed at dismantling terror infrastructures."

So far, 15 terrorists have been killed, over 40 injured and more than 35 Palestinians have been detained for questioning. Forces have destroyed several booby-trapped apartments and command centers and continue to search for weapons, explosives labs and terror hideouts. IDF Combat Engineering Corps units are clearing pathways around the camp.

A security source said that approximately 60 buildings in the camp were demolished in the past week. "Opening a 450-meter route in such dense terrain takes nearly two days," they explained, noting the challenges of operating in such conditions.

Col. A, a brigade commander who was moderately injured last month in an explosion in Tulkarm, said, "The difference in this operation lies in the mission: completely neutralizing the Jenin battalion. We have the resources, forces and firepower needed, as well as the time it requires."

"We started the operation with tactical ingenuity, applying pressure on terrorists in the camp's center, eliminating those who remain and intercepting escapees with intelligence-backed special forces," he added.

Senior IDF Central Command officials suggested the operation might last months to fully dismantle the battalion, which has become a symbol in the West Bank, drawing both fleeing terrorists and significant funding from Iran and other sources via Hamas.

During the tour, Lt. Col. D, commander of an IDF reconnaissance Unit, presented a room containing weapons and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) connected to gas canisters.

"Something that looks like a child's wardrobe conceals a hole leading to a hidden shaft where terrorists stored arms," he explained.

"The room also contained a surveillance command center equipped with computers monitoring our forces' movements through cameras installed in the camp," he added.

Outside another room, forces discovered additional ready-to-use explosives and a vehicle rigged as a car bomb. A soldier described these IEDs as "dangerously unstable but highly lethal," adding they are often transported to other areas and used on roads near settlements.

The operation involves units from various IDF combat infantry units, Border Police units, UAV operators and attack helicopters when needed. However, the mission has not been without cost. A recent incident saw three Egoz Brigade soldiers injured, one critically, in a shooting incident still under investigation.

01.27.25 – Mo

Espionage Scandal: Iranians saw Iron Dome information as a Goldmine

01.27.25 – Mo

Espionage Scandal: 'The Iranians Have Identified a Goldmine'

Yuri Eliasfov and Georgi Andreyev tell police they knew they were speaking with an Iranian handler who wanted information on fighter jets and military bases in the country
Lior Ohana, Lior El-Hai | 14:03

After 21-year-old IDF reserve soldiers Yuri Eliasfov and Georgi Andreyev were arrested on suspicion of spying and providing classified information to Iran on Monday, their claims during their interrogation showed a worrying picture about Tehran's incessant efforts to obtain information on Israel.

"The Iranian agent asked me in messages where I served. I replied, 'The Iron Dome.' He wrote, 'Prove it,' so I sent him a video from the base," Eliasfov said during his interrogation.

Eliasfov revealed the Iranian agent questioned how his friends reacted when he told them about spraying graffiti for him. "They told me to be careful and called me a spy," he said. He added that his partner asked him to cut ties with the agent, saying, "Please block him." "This was early on, so I blocked him," Eliasfov said. "Later, when media reports about agents emerged, she sent me the articles and said, 'See? It's a good thing you stopped.'"

Superintendent Sarit Peretz of Israel Police's Lahav 433's National Unit for Serious and International Crime Investigations explained, "Initially, we thought they were active-duty soldiers but we later realized they were reservists and involved the Shin Bet and Military Police. This case exposed us to classified materials, requiring us to collaborate with military investigators."

Peretz said the suspects were arrested at home, where they were "shocked" but quickly connected their detention to activities for Iran. "Initially, they downplayed the incident, but as the investigation deepened, they acknowledged their awareness of the agent, the damage their actions caused and the potential consequences," Peretz noted. The suspects admitted they knew they were communicating with a foreign agent but tried to claim uncertainty. Evidence, including a Ynet article they discussed about Iranian espionage, tied them directly to their actions. "The graffiti spraying was a starting point for more significant operations," Peretz said.

Andreyev reportedly decided to stop cooperating after realizing the implications, but not before assisting Eliasfov in coordinating with the agent. Eliasfov allegedly filmed classified information from the Iron Dome base and sent it to Iranian handlers. "He claimed he only sent part of the video, but the full footage is in Iranian hands," Peretz said.

Iranian requests included technical data on Air Force fighter jets, information on military bases and aerial footage of IDF facilities such as Nevatim Airbase and military headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Eliasfov also forged operational orders about an IDF raid in Lebanon and offered to sell ammunition. "The Iranian handler saw the potential there — a connection to someone in Iron Dome and another in the IDF HQ. That's a goldmine," Peretz added.

When asked if their families were aware, Peretz said, "One of Yuri's family members knew and warned him against it. Friends and coworkers suspected something but dismissed it as just graffiti." She stressed, "Even graffiti can create fear and signals Iranian infiltration into Israel."

Regarding national security risks, Peretz concluded, "In the right hands, this information is very dangerous and will move to someone who can use it. I hope the military addresses the vulnerabilities."

01.27.25 – Mo

Dozens of Hezbollah motorcycles breach Lebanon border to provoke incidents

01.27.25 – Mo

'All those on motorbikes, are Hezbollah': Lebanon border once again exposed
Hezbollah operatives parade in villages of South Lebanon, once again posing a threat despite an agreement that should keep them far away

Yair Kraus | 12:22

Dozens of Lebanese roamed freely in the ruins of Al-Matmura village, near the border fence facing the western Galilee on Sunday. The area was vacated by IDF forces on January 11, and the Lebanese army was expected to secure it and prevent residents from returning.

However, no Lebanese army presence was visible in the area overlooking Israel. IDF troops looked on, wary of possible anti-tank missile or gunfire that could escalate tensions and reignite the war with Hezbollah after the cease-fire in southern Lebanon ended overnight without an Israeli withdrawal.

Nearby, sporadic gunfire echoed as the military worked to prevent the return of Hezbollah terrorists, disguised as civilians, to restricted areas. Earlier, a senior correspondent for the Hezbollah-affiliated al-Mayadeen network, Ali Mortada broadcast from the village ruins. "Israel is having a very bad day," he mocked.

Meanwhile, locals hoisted Hezbollah flags and fixed them into the ground, while motorcycles and vehicles moved freely through the streets, with some riders approaching the Israeli border fence. "Anyone riding a motorcycle there is a Hezbollah operative," a young local said, requesting anonymity because he had family across the border.

Israel "can't stop the Sunni villagers from returning," he added, "These are their homes." A nearby shepherd, reflecting on the conflict. "War is bad. What's happening there isn't good," he said.

Over the past year, most of the 2,000 residents of Arab Al-Aramshe located near the border with Lebanon, remained in their homes despite frequent Hezbollah drone and missile attacks targeting Israeli military positions in the village.

In October 2023, a Hezbollah terror cell infiltrated the village, killing three soldiers, including Col. Alim Saad. The attackers arrived from Al-Matmura, which housed vast stockpiles of advanced weapons and fortified combat positions, later seized by Israeli forces.

The area was handed over to the Lebanese army two weeks ago. Recent social media footage shows Hezbollah operatives, including civilians, attempting to reclaim destroyed border villages, taunting nearby Israeli forces who responded with warning shots.

"The Lebanese army isn't preventing Hezbollah's return to these areas, as Israel feared," Retired Lt. Col. Sarit Zehavi, head of the Israeli Alma Research Center think tank, said. Eitan Davidi, head of Margaliot's local council, added, "We can't accept breaches or allow residents to return under these conditions."

"The situation requires maintaining strategic positions to ensure northern residents' safety. If Lebanon objects, Israel should be prepared to resume the conflict," he said, addressing the agreement seeking to implement UN Resolution 1701 from 2006 which Israeli residents now fear is not enough to prevent Hezbollah from recuperating its strength in Lebanon and ensure their safety.

IDF units remain on high alert, under political directives not to vacate key villages. Analysts at the Alma Research Center warned that Hezbollah was exploiting the situation to bolster its narrative as Lebanon's defender while undermining Lebanese sovereignty. The terror organization seeks to provoke incidents that could escalate tensions, portraying itself as a protector of displaced Lebanese civilians.

01.27.25 – Mo

Hamas commander killed in Jenin airstrike on vehicle

01.27.25 – Mo

IAF launches airstrike on vehicle in Tulkarm in West Bank, killing Hamas commander

See video from scene

Seventh day of Operation Iron Wall in the West Bank: According to reports, the car hit by IDF aircraft fire carried al-Qassam Brigades Tulkarm commander Ihab Abu Atiwa; Earlier, a fatality was also reported from IDF fire near Qalandiya Einav Halabi, Elisha Ben Kimon|06:20

In a targeted counter-terrorism operation in West Bank, an Israeli Air Force aircraft attacked a vehicle in the Nur a-Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm at noon on Monday. The strike was part of a joint operation by the IDF and Shin Bet, according to the military.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health reported that al-Qassam Brigades Tulkarm commander Ihab Abu Atiwa, who was killed, was in the vehicle. Three other people were moderately and lightly injured and were evacuated to the government hospital in Tulkarm. Footage from the scene shows the vehicle engulfed in flames.

Since the start of Operation Iron Wall at the beginning of last week, two commanders of the Al-Qassam Brigades in the camp have been reported killed, including Abu Atiwa, as well as the commander of the Jenin Brigade affiliated with Islamic Jihad.

Earlier Monday, the Palestinian Ministry of Health announced one man was dead and two moderately injured as a result of IDF gunfire near the Qalandiya camp. At the same time, the IDF's Iron Wall operation in Jenin continued, and the Palestinians published footage of terrorist houses that were set on fire or destroyed as a result of the forces' activities.

This is the seventh day of the IDF and Central Command operation in the Jenin refugee camp and surrounding villages, and so far 16 people have been killed and about 50 injured. According to the IDF, the forces have destroyed about 20 IEDs and dozens of pipe bombs, including using D9 engineering tools that exposed axes around the camp.

On Saturday night, the Palestinian Ministry of Health reported that a two-and-a-half-year-old toddler, Layla al-Khatib was killed by IDF fire in Mutlat al-Shuhada, south of Jenin. An IDF spokesman said in response that, during the operation, the forces fired at terrorists who had barricaded themselves in a building.

Explosions in Jenin

On Monday, IDF forces continue to search houses in the heart of the Jenin refugee camp in order to locate weapons, explosives laboratories, bomb storage, and hideout apartments used for terrorist meetings. In recent days, the IDF has destroyed several explosive sites and bomb shelters used by terrorists. At the same time, about 35 people were arrested and taken for questioning by the IDF and Shin Bet. In addition to the detainees, dozens of Palestinians are being interrogated in the area by intelligence personnel.

01.27.25 – Mo

Two IDF reservists arrested spying for Iran: sending Iron Dome information

01.27.25 – Mo

IDF reservists arrested for spying for Iran: 'Very sensitive information about Iron Dome transferred'

Yuri Eliasfov and Georgi Andreyev are suspected of contact with a foreign agent, passing classified information, and aiding the enemy in war; Eliasfov admitted that he sent his Iranian handler a video he recorded of the Iron Dome system, saying 'I got into a difficult financial situation'; they were first asked to spray pro-Iranian graffiti in Tel Aviv
Lior Ohana|05:09

Yuri Eliasfov and Georgi Andreyev, 21-year-old IDF reserve soldiers from the Kiryat Shmona area, are at the center of another Iranian espionage case. A prosecutor's statement has been filed against the two in preparation for an indictment for contact with a foreign agent, passing classified information to a foreign entity, and aiding the enemy in wartime, the Rishon LeZion Magistrate Yuval Kedar allowed to be made public, despite the opposition of the defense attorneys who requested that the names of the two remain confidential at this stage. Their detention will be extended until Friday for the filing of an indictment in the Haifa District Court.

Eliasfov is the main suspect and, according to the investigation, as part of his job search, he contacted an Iranian operator on social media. To begin with, he sprayed graffiti in Tel Aviv, after his handler asked him to spray the inscription "Children of Ruhollah" - the first leader of Iran after the Islamic Revolution. He recruited his friend Andreyev, by convincing him that it was easy money.

At one point, they exchanged Israeli media articles about Iranian espionage over the past year, including one about the previous spy who was caught. They talked about the possible punishments, and Andreyev - who was serving as a reservist in the Kirya defense department headquarters at the time - got scared and stopped cooperating.

Eliasfov began his career as a spy as a soldier in regular service and continued in the reserves. He served in Iron Dome, and was exposed to classified information. At the request of his handlers, he filmed and transmitted a video of the system, which contains information at the highest classification level.

By the time he was caught, Eliasfov had managed to receive \$2,500, while Andreyev only \$50. Both admitted to the accusations during the interrogations, and talked about the tasks they were assigned, the information they passed on, and the payments they received.

In a joint statement, the police and Shin Bet stated that the investigation revealed that the two "understood that they were in contact with an Iranian operator, based, among other things, on their media publications, which revealed at the time the arrest and interrogation

of Israeli citizens who were in contact with Iranian intelligence elements and carried out similar missions for them. It also emerged that the Iranian elements are trying to recruit Israelis through social media appeals."

01.27.25 – Mo

Hundreds of thousands return to northern Gaza, terrorists welcome them

01.27.25 – Mo

'Even Trump couldn't force us to emigrate': Hundreds of thousands return to northern Gaza, terrorists welcome them

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians return to northern Gaza after months of displacement, with 650,000 expected to make their way back through the Netzarim Corridor despite destroyed homes and ongoing challenges; Masked men waving Hamas and Islamic Jihad flags welcomed them

Einav Halabi, Elisha Ben Kimon|03:29

Following the IDF's reopening of the Netzarim Corridor Monday after an agreement was reached for Arbel Yehoud to be returned on Thursday, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have begun returning to northern Gaza, with reports estimating around 650,000 people making their way back after months of displacement.

The displacement followed Israeli evacuation orders and military activities in the region during the war. Palestinians were forced to live in temporary tent camps, but with the corridor reopened many are now heading back to their destroyed homes. While the Israeli military warned against the transfer of weapons or terrorists to the north, enforcement efforts have varied. Vehicles traveling through Salah al-Din Street are being inspected by an American company, while those walking along al-Rashid Street near the coast face no screening.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have taken advantage of the return for propaganda purposes. Masked terrorists with headbands bearing their organizations' insignias greeted returning residents, shaking hands with some and waving to others. In one widely shared photograph, a man holding a child stands beside a Hamas terrorist, both making victory signs for the cameras. Welcome banners were also posted on the remaining structures in the area.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians had waited for two days at checkpoints, hoping to return to their homes. Many slept on the streets after Israel delayed reopening the corridor due to unresolved issues regarding Arbel Yehoud's release. This morning, with the matter resolved, masses of people began their journey north.

Ismail Abu Matar, a father of four, described the scene as "a sea of people" moving northward. He and his family waited three days to return to their home in Gaza City. "These were three days of hell. We feared the cease-fire would collapse, and we wouldn't be able to return," he said.

Another Palestinian, who walked from Deir al-Balah to the north, said, "Two months ago, I cried in the shameful tent camps, and today I'm returning to my family and my people, back home. I will rebuild my house from the ruins. Without the resilience of the people in the north, we wouldn't have seen this day."

One man declared, "We will die here; we will not uproot ourselves again. Even Trump couldn't force us to emigrate. I'm happy to be back and will never leave again."

Moving north

A man who returned to Gaza City after over a year expressed his relief, saying, "We've been waiting for this moment for a year and four months. Today, I'd rather die than uproot myself again." Another Palestinian from the Zaytoun neighborhood added, "I've been sleeping in the street for five days, waiting to return. I regret the moment we left. It would have been better to die in my house. We were humiliated."

A laborer who was in Israel on October 7 had been sent directly to southern Gaza through the Kerem Shalom Crossing while his family remained in Beit Lahia. "Now I will walk about five kilometers to reunite with my family in the north. I've been waiting for this moment," he said.

Hamas released a statement declaring, "The return of the displaced is a victory for our people and a declaration of the failure and defeat of the occupation and its plans for displacement. The sight of the massive crowds of our people returning to the areas they were forced to flee, despite the destruction of their homes, confirms the greatness of our people and their steadfastness in their land despite the pain and tragedy."

Islamic Jihad issued its own statement, saying, "In a legendary scene, hundreds of thousands of our displaced people are returning to northern Gaza, which Israel destroyed. This return is a response to anyone who dreams of uprooting our people."

01.27.25 – Mo

Lebanese army spills location information to Hezbollah during cease-fire

01.27.25 – Mo

Lebanese army spills 'sensitive information' to Hezbollah during cease-fire, report says
Lebanese military intelligence leaked sensitive information to Hezbollah during a fragile cease-fire with Israel, Britain's The Times reports; The leaks exposed Hezbollah's ties to the Lebanese army, raising concerns about its ability to control southern Lebanon effectively

ynet|02:28

The head of military intelligence in southern Lebanon, Suhil Bahij Gharb, leaked secrets to Hezbollah during the cease-fire agreement with Israel, the British newspaper, The Times, reported on Monday. The report stated that "sensitive information" was leaked to the terrorist organization from a security control room managed by the United States, France, and the UN peacekeeping force (UNIFIL).

The Times indicated that the information passed by Gharb to Hezbollah jeopardized the cease-fire, which was achieved after more than a year of efforts. According to an international intelligence report obtained by the newspaper, Gharb is just one of dozens of officers in the Lebanese army who leaked information to Hezbollah terrorists, warning them of planned raids or patrols. These leaks allowed Hezbollah to hide weapons and evade exposure.

According to an intelligence document obtained by The Times, "Hezbollah is using internal and sensitive information regarding the Lebanese army to conceal its operations from international bodies tasked with regional security." The document also raised concerns about the Lebanese army's ability to effectively control southern Lebanon, where Hezbollah has been building its military and political power for years.

Irish president attacks Israel during ceremony, Jews who protested were forcibly removed. Israeli security officials stated that, while the Lebanese army "does its job" and has confiscated some weapon stockpiles in areas vacated by Israeli forces, the leaks from its officers enabled Hezbollah terrorists and their weapons to remain near the Israeli border.

Gharb, a Shiite Muslim residing in southern Lebanon, was present in the international operations room due to the insistence of Wafiq Safa, a senior Hezbollah commander who survived an Israeli assassination attempt in Beirut last October.

In an interview with The Times, Hilal Khashan, a professor of political science at the American University of Beirut, noted that Hezbollah's survival does not depend on maintaining a military presence in southern Lebanon but rather on preserving the political power it has accumulated in recent years. He also pointed out that, as Israel has previously stated, given that Hezbollah terrorists in the southern region are essentially Shiite residents of villages near the border, completely eliminating the presence of the terrorist organization south of the Litani River would be challenging.

On Sunday night, the White House announced, minutes before midnight, that the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Lebanon has been extended until February 18. The U.S. announcement came as the IDF had not yet withdrawn from southern Lebanon, and in the shadow of the riots there Sunday, in which crowds of Lebanese people rioted, most acting on behalf of Hezbollah, causing disturbances. IDF troops fired warning shots at many of them, and according to data from the Lebanese Ministry of Health, 22 people were killed.

The White House's announcement, which implies the IDF will be required to withdraw from Lebanon in about three weeks, also mentioned that Israel and the U.S. will begin negotiations to return Lebanese terrorists captured during IDF's ground operations in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese prime minister confirmed that his country would comply with the extended cease-fire and added that Beirut had submitted the request for the release of Lebanese detainees captured by Israeli troops.

The Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, which serves as a mouthpiece for Hezbollah, reported this morning that "the Lebanese army has begun redeploying in Aitaroun, Mis al-Jabal, and Houla" in southern Lebanon.

Earlier, the newspaper reported that Hezbollah rejects the agreements reached between Israel, Lebanon, and the U.S. Official sources told the newspaper that the terrorist organization is unwilling to enter any new negotiations and that the mediators must compel "the enemy" to implement the agreement. According to Al-Akhbar, "What was yesterday will continue today with the masses. The people will not wait for approval. What happens today could be a turning point in the confrontation. More people might be killed, but the people's decision is to persist."

01.27.25 – Mo

Cease-fire extended in north: IDF to remain in Lebanon for another 3 weeks

01.27.25 – Mo

Cease-fire extended in north: IDF to remain in Lebanon for another 3 weeks

Following day of riots and the deaths of 22 Lebanese civilians by military gunfire, the White House announced the IDF would have 3 more weeks to withdraw, extending the agreement until February 18; Hezbollah rejects this; Israel, Lebanon and the U.S. will begin negotiations for the return of Lebanese who were arrested during the ground operation, including Hezbollah terrorists

Daniel Edelson, New York, Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari|00:24

The cease-fire agreement between Israel and Lebanon has been extended until February 18, the White House announced on Sunday night, minutes before midnight. The U.S. announcement came as the IDF had not yet withdrawn from southern Lebanon, and in the shadow of the riots there Sunday, in which crowds of Lebanese people rioted, most of them at the behest of Hezbollah. The IDF fired at them from a distance and, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health, 22 people were killed.

According to the White House announcement, which states that the IDF will be required to withdraw from Lebanon in only about three weeks, Israel and the U.S. will also begin negotiations for the return of Lebanese terrorists captured during the IDF's ground operations in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese prime minister confirmed that his country would abide by the extended cease-fire, adding that he had forwarded the request for the release of the Lebanese detained by the IDF to Beirut.

However, the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, which serves as Hezbollah's mouthpiece, reported Monday that the terrorist organization rejects the agreements reached by Israel, Lebanon and the U.S. Official sources told the newspaper that Hezbollah is not willing to enter into any new negotiations, and that the mediators must force the "enemy" to implement the agreement.

"What happened yesterday will continue today with additional displaced people," it said.

"The people will not wait for approval. This could be a turning point in the conflict, and more people could die today. The people's decision is to continue." It also said that the incidents captured on video Sunday "confirm" the need for Hezbollah south of the Litani,

as the U.S. "does not want the Lebanese army to hold the south" - otherwise it would put pressure on the enemy."

Steve Witkoff, President Donald Trump's envoy to the Middle East, also addressed the extension of the cease-fire Sunday night. "We announced the extension of the cease-fire. The Israeli government was wonderful. They are a wonderful partner. They did a pretty good job in Lebanon." An Israeli political source said, "We are in constant dialogue with the Americans, and we explain to them the security importance to Israel of Lebanon's full implementation of the agreement."

Defense Minister Israel Katz said that Israel "will continue to firmly enforce the cease-fires in the north and south. Anyone who violates the rules or threatens IDF forces will pay the full price. We will not allow a return to the reality of October 7."

IDF troops operate in southern Lebanon

The cease-fire in southern Lebanon effectively ended on the night between Saturday and Sunday, without the IDF withdrawing from all areas. Still, in recent days, residents of southern Lebanon began to move en masse, in vehicles and on foot, toward the border villages and also to those from which the IDF had not yet fully withdrawn, precisely on the date on which the deadline was set. Within a short time, the clashes also began.

Despite calls and warnings from the Lebanese army - which is supposed to implement the cease-fire agreement in the south of the country and demonstrate control over the area - residents of southern Lebanon crossed the army's checkpoints Sunday morning with almost no resistance. The Lebanese army placed fences at the entrances to several border towns to prevent the residents from passing, but they trampled the fence and passed without any interference. The bigger problem that the residents encountered, according to publications in Lebanon, were the IDF's embankments that blocked several roads, but the residents also crossed these.

The Lebanese army, which failed to block residents of southern Lebanon from reaching the villages, changed its tone Sunday. Instead of requesting that they not approach the villages, it reported that "army units are escorting residents' entry into the towns, in light of the Israeli enemy's insistence on violating Lebanon's sovereignty, its attacks against civilians, which have resulted in deaths and injuries, and its refusal to abide by the cease-fire and withdraw from the Lebanese territories it has occupied." The army command also renewed its call for citizens "to exercise restraint and act according to the instructions of the military units."

Hezbollah praised in an official statement the Lebanese who tried to return to their villages, despite the IDF's announcement that for now it would not completely withdraw from southern Lebanon. "This is a glorious day. The great resistance has proven once again that they are a people rooted in their land and clinging to every grain of soil. The sights of the returnees to the villages, with the flags of the dead and the flags of Hezbollah, embody the highest meanings of steadfastness and victory. This confirms that this people, in its steadfastness, is the most powerful weapon of the resistance," the terrorist organization said. "The international community, led by the countries sponsoring the agreement, must take responsibility for the violations and crimes of the Israeli enemy and force it to withdraw from our lands."

The IDF emphasized Sunday that the army continues to operate in southern Lebanon in accordance with the directives of the political echelon and within the framework of the cease-fire agreement between the parties. IDF forces, the army said, are deployed in several areas while maintaining frontal defense and preventing the return of enemy elements or civilians beyond the agreed line.

A military source said Sunday that IDF forces responded with dispersal gunfire to riots in the southern villages in order to remove threats and prevent anyone from approaching the border fence area. During the operation, several suspects who approached the forces and posed a real threat were arrested, and they were taken for questioning in the field. The IDF confirmed reports that a Lebanese army soldier was injured.

"According to the agreement, the withdrawal of forces does not have to take place at the end of the 60 days, and the discussion about extending the period and the temporary location of the forces is taking place between the political echelon, the US and Lebanon," the military source clarified. The Lebanese army, the IDF said, also did not sufficiently "clean up" the areas controlled by Hezbollah, mainly in the eastern sector.

01.27.25 – Mo

List received, Netzarim Corridor opens, crowds of Gazans move north

01.27.25 – Mo

Netzarim Corridor opens, crowds of Gazans move north

After release of Arbel Yehoud arranged and list of hostages' statuses handed over by Hamas, displaced Gazans were allowed to start moving to northern Gaza; IDF warns 'entry of armed men or transfer of weapons prohibited, violates agreement'

Einav Halabi, Itamar Eichner, Elisha Ben Kimon | 23:56

After the crisis that threatened the continuation of the hostage deal was resolved, the IDF opened the Netzarim route at 7:00 a.m. on Monday morning, allowing masses of displaced Palestinians to begin to cross and return to their homes in the northern Gaza Strip.

The crossing was supposed to open on Saturday, but Israel decided to keep it closed until the release of Arbel Yehoud, a civilian woman who was supposed to be freed in the second release of the hostage deal on Saturday, was arranged. Hamas did not honor the agreement and released the IDF observers Karina Ariev, Naama Levy, Daniella Gilboa and Liri Albag, leading Israel to postpone the opening of the crossing.

The IDF spokesman in Arabic, Lieutenant Colonel Avichai Adraee, informed residents of the Gaza Strip Sunday night that their passage to the northern Strip on foot would be allowed starting at 7:00 a.m., via a-Rashid Street, known as the sea route. Adraee announced that "vehicles will be allowed to move to the northern Strip via the Salah a-Din Road after inspection (from 9:00 a.m.). The entry of armed men or the transfer of

weapons to the northern Strip will be considered a violation of the agreement." He added: "It is prohibited to approach the Rafah Crossing area or the Philadelphi Corridor, it is prohibited to swim in the maritime area, and it is prohibited to approach Israeli territory or the buffer zone."

The Gaza Interior Ministry issued instructions to residents Sunday morning, saying that vehicles will be able to enter Salah a-Din Street starting at 9:00 a.m. "However, the entry of vehicles will not begin until after contact has been made with the Egyptian security authorities," it said. Regarding al-Rashid Street, "Israel will not accept any attempt to pass a vehicle, truck, tuk-tuk or donkey-drawn cart through the street without inspection, and it may shoot at the vehicle on the grounds that it is carrying a weapon. Therefore, do not violate the instructions. There is a complete ban on transportation on the street and everyone must adhere to the instructions."

The vehicle crossing on Salah ad-Din Street in Netzarim will be secured by an American company, whose purpose is to prevent the return of armed men and weapons in cars. The company includes about 100 armed security personnel, most of whom are Americans and some of whom speak Arabic. The security personnel are veterans of elite units or former CIA personnel.

The crisis that was resolved with the release of 6 hostages

Starting on Saturday, crowds of Gazans gathered near the closed Netzarim Corridor, and since Sunday night, Palestinian media have released footage from the Gaza Strip, showing thousands of Gazans waiting on the sides of the a-Rashid highway, which is a main crossing from the south to the north of the Gaza Strip. Many Gazans even stayed overnight near the axis, hoping that the crossing would open early in the morning, but it remained closed. At the same time, the Palestinians reported that four Gazans were injured by IDF gunfire in the Nuseirat area, where displaced people were waiting to return to the northern Gaza Strip.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasim addressed this, claiming in an interview with the Qatari channel Al Araby that "Israel's preventing the return of displaced people to the north is a clear violation of the cease-fire agreement." According to him, "Israel is delaying and delaying, even though we have sent confirmation that the hostage Arbel Yahoud is alive. We demand that the mediators put pressure on Israel and force it to allow the return of the displaced people. Direct contacts are taking place with the mediators in order to find a solution and open the Netzarim Corridor."

The crisis in implementing the agreement, came to an end Sunday night when Qatar, followed by the Prime Minister's Office, announced the two rounds of hostage releases expected to take place this week, which include the release of six hostages. Israel announced that an agreement had been reached under which Arbel Yehoud would be released on Thursday, along with IDF lookout Agam Berger and another hostage - and that three additional men would be released alive on Saturday. Israel estimates that the hostage to be released on Thursday is American-Israeli Keith Siegel. Hamas also submitted the list containing the status of the hostages who are to be released in phase one of the deal, which it had also been supposed to submit on Saturday.

The Prime Minister's Office announced Sunday night that "Following the conducting of vigorous and determined negotiations led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Hamas has backtracked and will carry out an additional phase of releasing hostages this Thursday. In this phase, the civilian Arbel Yehud, the soldier Agam Berger and an additional hostage will be released."

The statement added that, "in parallel, Israel has received from Hamas a list that includes the status of all of the hostages due to be released in the first stage. Under these agreements, Israel will – from tomorrow morning – allow the passage of Gazans to the northern Strip. The Prime Minister reiterates that Israel will not tolerate any violation of the agreement. We will continue to act for the return of all of our hostages, the living and the deceased."

01.27.25 – Mo

Brussels, capital of Europe, has become an unsafe place for Jews and Israelis

01.27.25 – Mo

After 'concrete warnings', Government Minister Amichai Chikli cancels flight to Brussels. In an unusual announcement, the Prime Minister's Office reported that the Minister of Diaspora Affairs was forced to cancel a planned visit to the European Parliament 'in light of concrete warnings, and according to the guidance of security officials'; The concern that led to the decision was not disclosed.

Itamar Eichner|17:22

In an unusual announcement, the Prime Minister's Office reported that Diaspora Minister Amichai Chikli was required to cancel his trip to Brussels "in light of concrete warnings, and in accordance with the guidance of security officials." The Prime Minister's Office did not disclose the specific suspicion that led to the dramatic decision to prevent Chikli from flying to an event at the European Parliament in the Belgian capital, where he was also expected to meet with the city's Jewish community.

"I regretted receiving instructions from security officials this evening to cancel my participation in the International Holocaust Remembrance Day events at the European Parliament. Unfortunately, the capital of Europe has become an unsafe place for Jews and Israelis," Chikli said Sunday night.

However, the Hind Rajab Foundation, which repeatedly files complaints against IDF soldiers around the world, claimed that Chikli avoided the visit because he was "evading prosecution." A post on the X platform published by the foundation read: "The minister who threatened HRF chairman Dyab Aboujahjah canceled a visit to Brussels, citing 'security concerns.' We are convinced that this decision has more to do with avoiding justice and legal action. The Hind Rajab Foundation will continue its efforts to End Impunity."

Recently, the foundation has targeted soldiers and filed counter-complaints claiming that "crimes against humanity" were committed in the war in Gaza. Two weeks ago, the same

pro-Palestinian organization made its first attempt to arrest an IDF general, when it submitted a request to the International Criminal Court in The Hague for the arrest of Major General Ghassan Alian, the coordinator of government activities in the territories (COGAT).

At the same time, there was no significant fear that the minister would be arrested, so it could be that this is a security threat. Nor is anyone known to have threatened to file a lawsuit against the minister, since he is not a commander in the army and there is no arrest warrant against him from The Hague - unlike Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. In addition, a lawsuit filed in Belgium against the IDF attaché did not progress due to his immunity.

The chairman of the European Jewish Organizations Association (EJA), Rabbi Menachem Margolin, said in response: "The fact that even today, 80 years after the Holocaust, an Israeli minister is forced to cancel a visit to a Western country for security reasons indicates more than anything that all the leaders' 'Never Again' declarations are empty of serious commitment. This year's International Holocaust Remembrance Day will be the saddest since the Holocaust."

01.27.25 – Mo

Agreement by Qatar: 6 hostage release this week, corridor will be opened

01.27.25 – Mo

Agreement reached: Arbel Yehoud, Agam Berger and 4 other hostages will be released this week; ' Hamas has provided status of 26 hostages'

Qatari mediators announced that civilian Arbel Yehoud, soldier Agam Berger and one other hostage will be released Thursday, with three additional hostages freed Saturday; Hamas has provided status updates on 26 hostages to be released in first stage, as soon as Monday morning Israel will open Netzarim Corridor, allowing displaced to return to northern Gaza

Noa Lutsky, Lior Ben Ari, Itamar Eichner|16:56

The crisis that threatened the hostage deal has been resolved. According to Qatari mediators, understandings have been reached between the parties stipulating that civilian Arbel Yehoud, lookout Agam Berger and one other hostage will be released on Thursday, followed by the release of three additional hostages on Saturday.

Additionally, Hamas has provided a list detailing the condition of the 26 hostages who are supposed to be released during the first stage of the deal, as it committed to in the agreement. In return, Israel will open the Netzarim Corridor starting on Monday morning, allowing displaced Gazans to return to northern Gaza, the Prime Minister's Office announced.

"Israel has received from Hamas a list that includes the status of all of the hostages due to be released in the first stage. Under these agreements, Israel will – from tomorrow morning – allow the passage of Gazans to the northern Strip," according to the statement.

"The Prime Minister reiterates that Israel will not tolerate any violation of the agreement. We will continue to act for the return of all of our hostages, the living and the deceased," the statement concluded.

A statement by Majed Al-Ansari, spokesperson for Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, noted that "Israel will provide, every Sunday during the first phase of the deal, a list of 400 Gazans who have been detained since October 7."

Steve Witkoff, U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy, on Sunday night said he was pleased about the resolution of the crisis between Israel and Hamas. "It's wonderful, I spoke to the president about it. He was happy," he said. "Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed al-Thani did an amazing job. I thank the Israeli government and those who were involved. It's a good day for the hostages."

Islamic Jihad had previously announced that an agreement had been reached to secure the release of Arbel Yehoud – who was initially supposed to be included in the second phase of the deal but was kept in captivity by Hamas in violation of the agreement. However, Israel denied this claim.

Israel believed that internal disputes within Gaza – particularly between Islamic Jihad and the Resistance Committees, including disagreements over credit – were causing Islamic Jihad to complicate her release.

During negotiations, Islamic Jihad claimed Arbel was a soldier and demanded the release of 30 prisoners serving life sentences in exchange. Israel strongly objected, and it was reportedly agreed that she would be classified as a civilian, not a soldier, for the purposes of the deal. The dispute also revolved around the timing of her release, with Israel insisting that she be freed by Wednesday.

Arbel is not held solely by Islamic Jihad but — according to their own statements — also by the Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades, which is the military wing of the Popular Resistance Committees, considered the third-largest terrorist organization in Gaza. The group has a jihadist-Salafist ideological orientation, and its operatives participated in the abduction of Gilad Shalit alongside Hamas operatives in June of 2006. The organization was also responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Eliyahu Asheri on the same day.

Over the years, the organization has carried out numerous attacks, including bombings in Gaza targeting both military and civilian locations before the implementation of the Disengagement Plan, as well as attacks inside Israel. The group has claimed responsibility for launching rockets at Israel during several rounds of escalation. Over time, Israel has eliminated several of its leaders, the most recent being Raafat Abu al-Halal, whose killing in Rafah was announced by IDF on October 19, 2023.

On October 7, the terrorist organization participated in the massacre and also abducted Ohad Yahalomi, who is still being held in Gaza and is expected to be released as part of the first stage of the deal. His 13-year-old son, Eitan, was abducted along with his father but was released in the first deal conducted between Israel and Hamas in late 2023.

01.26.25 – Su

Crowds of Gazans gather at passages waiting to return to northern areas

01.26.25 – Su

Crowds of Gazans gather at passages waiting to return to northern areas

Israel and Gaza factions exchange blame over delay in allowing displaced residents of northern Gaza to move back while Hamas fails to release Arbel Yhoud or deliver details on the condition of the remaining hostages to be freed in the first phase of the deal

Niv Shaiovich, Itamar Eichner|05:35

A large crowd of displaced Gazans on Sunday gathered near the Netzarim Corridor waiting to cross to the northern parts of the Gaza Strip. Their passage had been delayed after Hamas failed to comply with its commitment to release Arbel Yahoud, a 28-year-old Israeli civilian on Saturday under the terms of the cease-fire agreement.

Israel announced that until the release of Yahoud was clarified, and Hamas delivers a report on the condition of the remaining hostages, as it had committed to do, the IDF would not allow Gazans to return north.

Images in the Palestinian media showed Gazans spending the night outdoors on the side of the A-Rashid road, waiting for their passage to be allowed and in the crowds that continue to gather there in the morning hours. They also reported that four people were wounded in IDF fire near the Nuseirat refugee camp.

Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qasim told the Qatari Al Araby network that Israel was in violation of the agreement. "Israel is delaying and postponing although we sent the certainty that Arbel Yahoud was alive. We demand that the mediators pressure Israel to allow displaced Gazans to return home," he said. "There are discussions underway with the mediators to find a solution and for the roads to be opened."

Trump's envoy, to intervene. According to an official, Israel's message to Witkoff read "Push Hamas to comply with the terms and free Arbel."

The directorate for the families of hostages in the Prime Minister's Office (MPO) said on Sunday that they were informed of the recent events around the implementation of the cease-fire and hostage release deal. "Hamas violated the agreement twice on Saturday. Arbel Yahoud was not released and the list detailing the conditions of the other hostages to be freed in phase one of the deal, was not delivered," the directorate said.

"Therefore, it was decided not to allow the passage of Gazans to the northern areas. Since Saturday efforts were underway with the United States and the mediators to arrange the return of Arbel. Hamas was expected to raise obstacles along the way. We are determined to return all of the hostages both those living and the dead."

01.26.25 – Su

Lebanese killed & hurt by mines while moving south; IDF pull-out delayed

01.26.25 – Su

Some killed, hurt after villages head to south while IDF withdrawal delayed

Israel says Lebanon army, Hezbollah have yet to implement the deal fully; Lebanese army, IDF warn against a return to areas still controlled by Israel

Lior Ben Ari, News Agencies|Updated:03:38

At least three people were killed and dozens more wounded, according to Lebanese media reports, when people returned to South Lebanon on Sunday despite warnings that the IDF would remain beyond the agreed deadline for withdrawal.

Israel announced last week that it would not pull out its forces until the Lebanese army complies with the terms of the cease-fire deal that was signed in November and is deployed to the South and Hezbollah is removed from the area to north of the Litani River.

The Lebanese army accused Israel of "delaying" its withdrawal and said in a statement it's "ready to deploy immediately once the IDF withdraws." It also warned residents near the southern border to "exercise caution due to mines and dangerous objects left by the Israeli army."

IDF spokesperson in Arabic Col. Avichay Adraee posted a statement urging residents not to move south of the marked villages on the map provided by the military. "The IDF has no intention of attacking you, but for now, movement south of this line is prohibited until further notice. Anyone crossing south does so at their own risk," he wrote, listing over 60 villages off-limits to returnees.

French President Emmanuel Macron called on both sides to honor their commitments "as soon as possible to restore Lebanon's sovereignty." In a conversation with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, Macron stressed compliance with the agreement, to which Aoun responded, "Israel must be forced to uphold the terms of the agreement to preserve regional stability."

Last Friday, the Prime Minister's Office said that the cease-fire agreement allows for the IDF's phased withdrawal, which depends on Lebanon's enforcement of the deal, including Hezbollah's retreat north of the Litani River.

"As the agreement has not been fully implemented by Lebanon, the phased withdrawal will continue in coordination with the U.S. Israel will not endanger its residents and will ensure the safe return of citizens to their homes," the statement read.

The IDF said on Friday that its troops located Hezbollah weapons and underground fortifications in the area.

On Thursday, Hezbollah threatened that any presence of Israeli forces in Lebanon beyond the 60-day deadline would be considered a "blatant violation" and an "attack on Lebanon's sovereignty." The terror group warned it might use "all means necessary" to reclaim the land.

While Hezbollah has largely refrained from responding to Israeli actions in Lebanon, its messaging consistently warns that failure to withdraw could reignite conflict. Following Israel's announcement that its withdrawal would extend beyond 60 days, the U.S. expressed support for the actions.

U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Brian Hughes called for an "urgent" extension of the cease-fire. "We're pleased the IDF has begun withdrawing from central areas of southern Lebanon. All sides share the goal of preventing Hezbollah from threatening Lebanon or its neighbors," he said.

01.26.25 – Su

Abbas calls prisoners released; Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Qatar & Algeria celebrate

01.26.25 – Su

PA's Abbas congratulates terrorist released in hostage deal

IDF continues to act trying to prevent celebrations following release of dozens of Palestinian prisoners after the release of additional Hamas hostages

Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi|02:02

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas called on Saturday to congratulate Yasser Abu Bakr, a senior operative of Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade after he was released from prison as part of the cease-fire agreement with Hamas. "This is for the homeland, but they've [Israel] crossed the line with you," Abbas told Abu Bakr, who replied, "I think there's no need to celebrate when thousands died in Gaza." Abu Bakr was responsible for a 2002 terror attack in Netanya that killed two Israelis, including a 9-month-old baby, and was involved in other deadly strikes. Reports indicated that Fatah named a training program after him.

Abbas's call sparked outrage in Israel. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "Mahmoud Abbas remains a terror supporter and the Palestinian Authority is nothing more than a terrorist organization. His call to a murderer of Jews should be a wake-up call to those who still see the PA as an alternative to Hamas after the war."

Otzma Yehudit party leader Itamar Ben-Gvir added, "You close your eyes to the PA rewarding murderers and teaching terror, release thousands of terrorists, stop the war in Gaza and retreat from Netzarim and northern Gaza. Give bulldozers to Hamas and don't forget to tell us they're deterred. It's time to change the system."

Yisrael Beiteinu party leader Avigdor Lieberman wrote, "Holocaust denier Abbas shows his true face again — a terror supporter congratulating vile murderers. Anyone embracing terrorists with blood on their hands is a terrorist and cannot be part of any process, let alone supervise the Rafah crossing."

The IDF worked to prevent celebratory events for released terrorists in the West Bank after 200 Palestinian prisoners were freed following the return of four IDF lookouts held in Gaza on Saturday. Celebrations took place in several areas, including Qalandiya near East Jerusalem.

In Qalandiya, Hamas leader Ashraf Zaghir, sentenced to six life terms for aiding a suicide bomber in a 2002 Tel Aviv attack, criticized Israel's "brutality" toward prisoners during a Qatari TV interview. Shortly after, security forces arrested him and a family member. Palestinian celebrations in Ramallah

In Egypt, Hamas held a ceremony for 70 freed prisoners deported there. The event, led by senior Hamas official Mousa Abu Marzouk, included Palestinian delegations, Egypt's Palestinian ambassador and Qadura Fares, chairman of the PA's prisoners' affairs commission. Countries like Iran, Turkey, Qatar and Algeria have welcomed the released prisoners.

01.26.25 – Su

Trump, Netanyahu to meet in February over Saudi deal & Gaza & Arab nations

01.26.25 – Su

Trump, Netanyahu expected to meet, discuss Saudi deal

Prime minister expected to travel to D.C. early in February when negotiations on the second phase of the Gaza deal, begin; officials say Trump to use potential of normalization with Saudis and other Muslim nations to push PM not to resume war
Itamar Eichner|01:43

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet U.S. President Donald Trump early in February although a date has not yet been set. Israeli officials say the meeting is important and the two nations would attempt to agree on a number of burning issues including the threat from Iran.

Trump does not want to see an Israeli military strike but is willing to impose severe sanctions on Tehran while in Jerusalem, the officials said the sanctions must come with a credible threat of military action.

Netanyahu's visit will coincide with the start of negotiations for the second phase of the cease-fire deal in Gaza. Trump has said he agrees that Hamas must not remain as the rulers in the Strip but had also said he wants to see the agreement fulfilled in full rather than a resumption of the war if the talks fail.

The officials said Trump would urge Netanyahu to continue talks, using the Saudi deal as an incentive. Trump envoy Steve Witkoff is expected to visit Riyadh in the near future to finalize the details of the normalization deal.

The United States is working on a normalization package that includes other Muslim states as well, such as Malaysia and Oman. The Americans believe that normalization of

ties with the Saudis would make it easier for Netanyahu to convince the more extremist elements in his government to agree to the second phase of the cease-fire deal.

Trump and Netanyahu are also expected to discuss a new defense memorandum of understanding to come into effect after 2028 when the current one expires, the cease-fire in Lebanon and the new Syrian regime.

01.26.25 – Su

Gazans sleep outdoors as passage north delayed | Israel asks Trump to intervene

01.26.25 – Su

Thousands sleep outdoors as passage to the north delayed | Israel asks Trump to intervene

Israeli officials say the sooner Arbel Yahoud is released the sooner Gazans would be allowed to return to the northern parts of the Strip; IDF Arabic language spokesperson posts urgent warning to stay away from Netzarim until further notice
ynet|00:46

Thousands of displaced Gazans spent the night outside, sleeping on the streets, as they waited for the IDF to open the Netzarim Corridor and allow them to move back to the northern areas of the Strip.

Israel announced on Saturday that the passage would remain closed after Hamas failed to release Arbel Yhoud from captivity on Saturday, as it had committed in the cease-fire deal.

According to a report on CNN, officials asked Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff to intervene and "push Hamas to comply with the terms of the agreement and release Arbel." Gazans waiting for the passage north to be opened

IDF Arabic Language spokesperson Avichai Adraee posted an urgent warning to Gazans not to approach the Netzarim Corridor. "In light of the violations of the cease-fire by Hamas and to avoid friction and misunderstandings there has been no change to the instructions as they were in place. The Netzarim Corridor will not open for passage until an agreement is reached with the mediators to release an Israeli citizen," he said in his post. "follow the instructions and ensure your safety."

"The displaced are sleeping on the ground despite the extreme cold," the Palestinian Shehab news agency wrote. "They are waiting for a-Rashid street to open and return north." One man told the agency that he wants to hold the sand in northern Gaza and kiss it. "May god protect us from the war," he said.

Earlier on Sunday, Saudi Arabia's alHadath channel said the discussions over the release of Arbel ended without agreement. The position of officials in Israel is that the sooner she

is released, the sooner the passage of Gazans north, would be allowed. "Israel does not want to create a situation where it agrees to violations of the deal. This is not a decision taken lightly but and insistence that comes after serious deliberations."

01.26.25 – Su

Trump calls Jordan, Egypt to take Gazans; will build housing at a different location

01.26.25 – Su

Trump says Jordan, Egypt should take in Palestinians from Gaza

U.S. president says he is looking at Gaza and seeing a demolition site 'its a real mess' adding that a removal of 1.5 million people to neighboring Arab nations would 'clean up the whole mess'

Daniel Edelson, New York, Reuters|Yesterday | 23:10

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that Jordan and Egypt should take more Palestinians from Gaza, Speaking to reporters on Air Force 1, when asked if this was a temporary or long-term suggestion, Trump said: "Could be either."

Washington had said last year it opposed the forcible displacement of Palestinians. Rights groups and humanitarian agencies have for months raised concerns over the situation in Gaza. Washington has also faced criticism for backing Israel but has maintained support for its ally, saying it is helping Israel defend against Iran-backed militant groups like Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen.

"I said to him I'd love you to take on more because I'm looking at the whole Gaza strip right now and it's a mess, it's a real mess. I'd like him to take people," Trump said about his call on Saturday with Jordan's King Abdullah. "I'd like Egypt to take people," Trump told reporters, adding he would speak to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Sunday. "You're talking about a million and half people, and we just clean out that whole thing," Trump said.

"It's literally a demolition site, almost everything is demolished and people are dying there, so I'd rather get involved with some of the Arab nations and build housing at a different location where they can maybe live in peace for a change," Trump said.

Trump said he would prefer other Arab nations to get in involved so that those people "could live in peace for a change."

01.25.25 – Sa

IDF blocks return to northern Gaza over withholding one civilian hostage

01.25.25 – Sa

IDF blocks passage of displaced to northern Gaza over withholding civilian hostage
Israel refuses to allow displaced Gazans to return to northern Gaza Strip without
guarantees for Arbel Yehoud's release; Shots reportedly fired at displaced people
attempting to return with one person killed by IDF fire
Itamar Eichner, Einav Halabi, Daniel Edelson, New York|15:54

Israel is trying to resolve the crisis of civilian Israeli Arbel Yehoud's prolonged captivity
in Gaza despite the hostage return agreement. Arbel, who senior Hamas and Islamic Jihad
officials have said is alive, was not released so far in the deal even though the agreement
stipulated that civilians would be released before soldiers. It had been expected that she
would be released Saturday in the second release of hostages in the first phase of the
current agreement.

The Prime Minister's Office announced that until her release is arranged, the Netzarim
Corridor to the northern Gaza Strip will not be opened as stipulated in the cease-fire
agreement. At the same time, Israel is working with the Americans to pressure Qatar to
expedite Arbel's release.

On Saturday afternoon, Palestinians reported that the IDF fired at displaced people who
were trying to return to northern Gaza. At another location, on Salah a-Din Street, there
was also IDF fire, reportedly killing one Gazan and wounding another.
According to the IDF spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari: "Over the past day,
IDF troops operated against threats posed to them in the Gaza Strip. IDF troops identified
several gatherings of dozens of suspects that posed a threat to the forces. The troops fired
warning shots to address the threat. Contrary to the reports made over the past several
hours, the IDF only fired warning shots to distance the suspects, and did not aim to shoot
the suspects or to cause harm."

"We emphasize that, as of now, we are unaware of any harm caused to the suspects as a
result of the shooting. The IDF is determined to fully maintain the terms of the agreement
to return the hostages. The IDF is prepared for any scenario and will take any necessary
actions to thwart any immediate threat to IDF soldiers. The IDF calls the residents of
Gaza to follow its announcements and avoid approaching the troops deployed in the
area," he added.

A senior figure in one of the Palestinian terrorist organizations told the Al-Mayadeen
network that "Israel's lack of commitment to withdraw from the Netzarim Corridor in
Gaza threatens to halt the implementation of the remaining terms of the agreement."
Meanwhile, an Egyptian source earlier told the AP that the issue of Arbel Yehoud's
release and the withdrawal from Netzarim is a "minor matter" that the mediators are
working to resolve.

The talks to resolve the issue are taking place behind the scenes, with Hamas claiming
that the terror group has pledged to release Arbel next Saturday, while Israel is
demanding guarantees for this. Israel is making it clear that the sooner Arbel is returned,
the sooner the withdrawal from the Netzarim axis will begin. According to a source in the
terrorist organizations, Arbel is a "soldier" linked to the "Israeli space program," but these
are unfounded claims.

Israel has made it clear that Arbel Yehoud is alive and being held by another terror organization, but difficulties have arisen in transferring her to Hamas. Sources familiar with the details emphasized: "Israel did not want to create a situation where it agrees to a violation. This is not frivolity, but insisting the agreement is upheld after consultations." The prime minister's spokesman denied Hamas' claims Saturday evening that Israel received a sign of life from Arbel. Israel also asked the Americans to pressure the Qataris to promote a solution to the crisis. Mossad chief David Barnea is also holding intensive talks with the Qatari prime minister to find a solution. A White House spokesperson said that they continue to push for Arbel Yehoud's release through negotiation channels. One of the options being considered is that Hamas will give Israel a clear sign of life, or release her before the next time on Saturday. At the same time, there is concern that Hamas will further delay the list it was supposed to deliver on Saturday, which is supposed to list the number of living hostages.

In Hamas' view, Israel is also currently violating the agreement, and therefore there is no certainty that they will agree to hand over this list. The Qataris are making an effort to find a solution that will prevent the deal from collapsing.

Hamas has made accusations against Israel, claiming that "the occupation is still delaying the implementation of the cease-fire and prisoner exchange conditions, by continuing to close al-Rashid Street and preventing the return of displaced persons from the south to the north. We hold the occupation responsible for any disruption in the implementation of the agreement and its implications for the other stations."

Meanwhile, and in parallel with these reports, Arbel Yehoud's family said earlier that "our hearts are filled with joy over the return of Karina Arie, Daniella Gilboa, Liri Albag and Naama Levy. We are waiting and looking forward to the moment when we can hug our Arbel as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, NBC reported that Keith Siegel who holds American citizenship will be released in one week on Saturday as well as Sagui Dekel-Chen. The remaining freed American citizens are scheduled to be released in a second phase. In Israel, however, they say that both are on the list, but there is still no certainty that this will happen. "There is no list yet," an Israeli source said in response to the report.

01.25.25 – Sa

4 returned hostages were held in apartments, tunnels, & forced to cook for terrorists

01.25.25 – Sa

4 returned hostages were held in apartments and tunnels, and forced to cook for the terrorists

Daniela, Liri, Naama and Karina were held together for much of the time and were often forced to look after their captors' children and cook for the terrorists while receiving very little food for themselves. They are said to have met very serious Hamas figures during their captivity and heard their parents interviewed on the radio and saw their pictures on signs in Israel

Daniela Gilboa, Liri Albag, Naama Levy and Karina Arielev, who returned to Israel on Saturday after 477 days in Hamas captivity, were held throughout the period in civilian apartments and tunnels, in poor sanitary conditions, and often did not shower for long periods. They were forced to cook and clean for their captors, sometimes even while receiving little food for themselves.

In addition, the four returned hostages were exposed to the media at times, when they were able to listen to the radio and heard their families on it. Therefore, when they met with their parents and siblings for the first time after their release, the young soldiers told them what heroes they were.

"You were truly my strength. I heard you so much, and you are truly the only ones who gave me hope," Liri told her parents, after telling her family that she had heard them while she was in captivity. In addition, they also knew about the hostage release deal that took place in November 2023, and one of them heard her family members wishing her well on the radio on her birthday. At times, the four were held together, and at times they were forced to babysit the children of some of their captors. During their captivity, as could be seen in the psychological terror video released by Hamas after their release, they learned to speak Arabic.

The Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation reported that all four female observers who returned Saturday were held together in captivity with Agam Berger, who is due to be released in the third round next Saturday, and that in recent days they were separated from her - a separation that was very difficult for them. It also noted that during the first days of captivity, an adult was with them who took care of their food and showering, and mediated between them and the terrorists. They were moved from place to place within Gaza City disguised as Palestinian women, and were held both in tunnels and in buildings.

The public broadcaster reported that the main media outlet to which they were exposed while in captivity was Al-Jazeera, and Hamas terrorists told them about the IDF's fighting in the Gaza Strip. Thus, they knew about the incident in which 21 fighters were killed in a building explosion, and said that they felt that December 2023 was the month with the most significant fighting.

The public broadcaster's report also noted that Liri Abag was the one who took care of the group, spoke to the terrorists, and was the "leader." Regarding Hamas' attempt to humiliate them by releasing them by putting them on stage, an attempt that failed, they said: "We showed them on stage, it didn't move us. We are stronger than that." In the helicopter, they joked with the families, asking them to speak Arabic and saying that otherwise they wouldn't understand.

According to a report on the Keshet network, some of the kidnapped women met "very senior Hamas officials" during their captivity. It was also reported that they told their

families that "there were times when there was no food, and when the IDF attacked nearby places, it was scary. We supported each other and held each other." On the helicopter on the way to the hospital

In addition, according to the report, they told the families that the fight for them gave them hope, and also that "we saw our pictures on the signs in Israel, we even laughed about the choice of pictures." Liri said that she saw the hat her family took out, with the inscription "Hope" like her tattoo. The same report also noted that Naama Levy was in captivity with Doron Steinbrecher, who was released last week, and they did sports exercises together to keep themselves fit.

01.25.25 – Sa

Hamas paraded hostages in a cynical show, as terrorists staged unity display

01.25.25 – Sa

Hamas parades hostages in cynical show as terrorists stage unity display
In Gaza City's Palestine Square, where 4 hostages handed to Red Cross, armed terrorists and civilians gather in 'display of unity'; despite calls to avoid endangering them, women paraded onstage to wave; Israel says timing served Hamas propaganda
Einav Halabi, Itamar Eichner|06:29

Dozens of armed terrorists from Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and other factions gathered Saturday at Gaza City's Palestine Square alongside hundreds of civilians in a display of force before the release of four IDF female hostages.

The captives—Liri Albag, Naama Levy, Karina Arielev and Daniella Gilboa—were paraded on stage in uniforms, waving and smiling at the crowd in what Israeli officials called a cynical Hamas spectacle.

The hostages were handed over to Red Cross vehicles in the square, surrounded by heavily armed terrorists and banners declaring "Zionism will not win" in Hebrew. Photos of Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi, were trampled on by attendees.
The gathering sought to showcase unity among terrorist factions amid the ongoing phased prisoner exchange deal. Hamas terrorists, arriving in trucks and motorcycles, underscored their control by blasting propaganda songs and displaying banners supporting Jenin, where Israel continues operations targeting terror hubs.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had reportedly urged Hamas to avoid such displays, warning they endangered the hostages. ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric said this week, "We continue discussions to improve safety and security at every stage. Mechanisms must prevent unnecessary exposure of those returning to their families."

Hamas reportedly pushed for the early release of the four captives to showcase the prisoner swap as a victory. However, disagreements over the list of Palestinian detainees to be freed led to last-minute delays. A Hamas official told Qatar's Al-Arabi station that Israel initially sought to alter the prisoner list but later retracted the changes.

The Palestinian Authority's Prisoner Information Office claimed errors in the submitted list and said efforts were underway to correct them. Hamas claimed facilities at Khan Younis' European Hospital had been prepared to receive freed detainees. Red Cross teams have also been stationed at the site.

The IDF issued warnings to Gaza residents attempting to return north, citing the potential for friction with Israeli forces along the Netzarim Corridor and other areas. "All existing directives remain in effect. Approaching IDF forces in Gaza poses significant danger," the IDF said.

The statement highlighted risks in southern Gaza near Rafah and the Philadelphi Corridor, warning against fishing or diving in coastal waters. Movement along the Netzarim Corridor remains contingent on Hamas adhering fully to the agreement.

Hamas' Interior Ministry called on its officials to facilitate the safe return of displaced civilians to their homes. Interior Ministry Chair Mahmoud Abu Watfa issued a statement praising staff efforts throughout the war while instructing readiness for the return process. "We salute those who sacrificed and suffered throughout the 15-month war," Abu Watfa said, adding that authorities would work to support returning residents and ensure their reintegration into Gaza's communities.

01.25.25 – Sa

Israel demands UNRWA's removal from Jerusalem by Thursday, January 30

01.25.25 – Sa

Israel demands UNRWA's removal from Jerusalem within days

UN Palestinian relief agency ordered to halt all operations in Jerusalem by Jan. 30, citing ties to terror groups; UNRWA pledges to continue operations in Palestinian areas despite legal and logistical hurdles

Itamar Eichner|04:44

As the freshly-minted law banning the United Nations Palestinian relief agency UNRWA goes into effect, Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon informed UN Secretary-General António Guterres Friday night that the agency must cease all activities in Jerusalem by Thursday, January 30, as mandated by the new legislation, and vacate all buildings from which it operates.

The proposed legislation, which passed with an overwhelming majority in the Knesset with 92 votes in favor and 10 against, was introduced following suspicions that some UNRWA operatives in Gaza were involved in the October 7 massacres.

Under the new law, UNRWA will no longer be allowed to operate any offices, provide any services or conduct any activities—directly or otherwise—within Israel's sovereign territory. This effectively ends UNRWA's operations in East Jerusalem, with its responsibilities and control transitioning to Israel.

" Hamas and other terrorist organizations infiltrated UNRWA long ago," Danon said. "The secretary-general's persistent and principled refusal to deny or even acknowledge the evidence provided by Israel regarding the organization's lack of neutrality and involvement in terrorism has forced Israel to act responsibly toward its citizens, respond and end its cooperation with the organization."

"These developments are a direct response to the severe security risks posed by the infiltration of Hamas and other terrorist organizations into UNRWA, as well as the agency's refusal to address the serious and material concerns raised by Israel and correct the situation," Danon emphasized in his letter. He argued that UNRWA has "irreversibly compromised its fundamental obligation of impartiality and neutrality."

Danon did not address in his letter another law passed by the Knesset, which prohibits Israeli entities from collaborating with UNRWA or its employees, effective from the same date, January 30. This legislation could also jeopardize UNRWA's operations in Gaza and the West Bank.

Earlier this week, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said that once the law comes into effect, "the agency intends to remain and continue its work in the Palestinian territories." However, he added, "If there is no bureaucratic or administrative relationship, it makes the operational environment far more complicated."

An Israeli Foreign Ministry campaign against UNRWA in New York Israel pushes for other UN agencies to take over UNRWA's responsibilities, but the international body maintains that the agency is "irreplaceable," particularly in its mission to provide essential services to Palestinians, such as healthcare and education.

Earlier this month, UN Secretary-General Guterres emphasized in a letter that, in the event of a forced cessation of UNRWA's activities in the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, Israel, as "the occupying power," is obligated to ensure that the services provided by the agency continue uninterrupted.

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Ynet-News, January 24, 2025 – Friday Tevet 10th Month

01.24.25 – Fr - - News – Friday

West Bank OP tactics go house-to-house, sweep camp & surrounding areas

01.24.25 – Fr - - News Placed in January 24 spot – Friday

Lebanon army stalls; Israel finds weapons cache & cancels exit

01.24.25 – Fr - - News – Friday

Trump placed envoy, Steve Witkoff to solve Iran issue without an Israeli strike

01.23.25 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Hamas is trying to rebuild, rearm, and run Gaza, making peace difficult

01.23.25 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Gaza prepares for mass return north on Saturday after hostage release

01.23.25 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Trump appointed Mideast envoy Witkoff to handle the Iran portfolio

01.23.25 – Th- - - News – Thursday

PA reporter ambushes IDF general in London with genocide questions

01.23.25 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Israel ambassador to Moscow working to get release of 4 Russia-connected hostages

01.23.25 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Huge 4 hr traffic jams in West Bank as IDF prepare for next prisoner release

01.23.25 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Security officials warn against delaying IDF withdrawal from Lebanon Sunday

01.23.25 – Th- - - News Placed in January 23 spot – Thursday

US security firm readies to inspect Gazans returning to north amid cease-fire

01.23.25 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Dolls resembling Hamas terrorists set up in a pickup truck in Jenin

01.23.25 – Th- - - News – Thursday

IDF gun battle kills terrorists behind West Bank car shooting vehicles and buses

01.22.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Hamas celebration in Istanbul drew silence & sharp questions from Turkish intelligence

01.22.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Shin Bet blunders investigated after Tel Aviv terror attack by Moroccan

01.22.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Aid trucks flood Gaza amid cease-fire, sharply cutting local prices

01.22.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday

West Bank settlers pepper-sprayed police officer, who fired in all directions

01.22.25 – We- - - News Placed in January 22 spot – Wednesday

PA to manage Rafah crossing under UN, US & Israel supervision in phase two

01.22.25 – We- - - News – Wednesday

IDF must withdraw from Lebanon Blue Line border, by Sunday, January 26

01.21.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Q3 Moon 2:32pm

5 injured in stabbing attack in central Tel Aviv, terrorist eliminated

01.21.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Q3 Moon 2:32pm

Israel's Iron Wall operation in West Bank: IDF strikes terrorists planting IEDs in Jenin

01.21.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Q3 Moon 2:32pm

Axis is weak; but Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen & Gaza claim victory over Israel

01.21.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Q3 Moon 2:32pm

IDF chief & Maj-Gen resign; haunted by Oct. 7, finished by hostage deal

01.21.25 – Tu- - - News Placed in January 21 spot – Tuesday Q3 Moon 2:32pm

PA security launch different approach in Jenin; homes used for shooting are torched

01.21.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Q3 Moon 2:32pm

Hamas sends a message: chaos shows elite force at Gaza's hostage released

01.21.25 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Q3 Moon 2:32pm

Masked settlers riot in West Bank PA villages, set fires; two hurt in shooting

01.20.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Trump lifts Biden sanctions on West Bank settlers; time to annex Judea & Samaria

01.20.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Hostage advocate champion vows to continue efforts after daughters' return

01.20.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Trump takes a jab as Biden claims all credit for hostage deal

01.20.25 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Gazans shocked at devastation to northern homes; nothing but rubble

01.20.25 – Mo- - - News Placed in January 20 spot – Monday

Red Cross medical checks delayed prisoner release seven hours past agreed time

01.19.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

The moment Israel waited for: Emily, Doron and Romi reunite with their families

01.19.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Cynical and psychological exploitation: Hamas monsters deprived freedom

01.19.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

90 prisoners, 30 each exchanged for every living hostage, released in West Bank

01.19.25 – Su- - - News Placed in January 19 spot – Sunday

Three women released to Red Cross, amid thousands of armed terrorists

01.19.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

IDF release WB PA prisoners & bolster forces to quell armed marches

01.19.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Ben-Gvir resigns from coalition, will return if fighting in Gaza resumes

01.19.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Trump envoy mulls relocation for Gazans to help rebuild the Strip

01.19.25 – Su- - - News – Sunday

IDF carries out strikes on Hamas targets ahead of 8.30 am cease-fire

01.18.25 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Hamas missed 4:30 hostage list deadline; first three hostages are expected 4 p.m. Sunday

01.18.25 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

IDF on high alert as cease-fire with Hamas implements a sensitive arrangement

01.18.25 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Man severely wounded in Tel Aviv stabbing attack; terrorist killed

01.18.25 – Sa- - - News Placed in January 18 spot – Saturday

Houthi's second launch on Israel in hours, intercepted near south city of Eilat

01.18.25 – Sa- - - News – Saturday

Trump envoy Witkoff told urged, make hostage deal or we pack up and leave