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Iran forces in Lebanon and Gaza is a global problem, Israel prepared to act

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Gantz: Iran is a global problem, Israel prepared to act

Defense minister says Israel must be prepared for attacks from multiple fronts by Iran's proxies in Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip; says IAF raid on southern Lebanon overnight was message to rogue Palestinian factions behind the fire that such attacks are unacceptable

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Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Thursday called Iran a threat to the country, the Middle East and the entire world and warned that Israel was prepared to take action to counter it.

"Iran seeks to pose a multi-front challenge to Israel, as such is building up its forces in Lebanon and Gaza, deploying militias in Syria and Iraq and maintaining its supporters in Yemen. Iran is a global and regional problem and an Israeli challenge," Gantz told Ynet.

"We need to continue to develop our abilities to cope with multiple fronts, for this is the future," he said.

"We know that when the Islamic Jihad faction in Gaza launches attacks against Israel, they do so with the support and urging of the Islamic Republic," the defense minister said.

Israel, Gantz said, is "in ongoing discussions with our U.S. allies. We now see the international community reacting to the recent Iranian aggressions and the UN Security Council is set to take up the matter as well."

The defense minister referring to a **drone strike** last week **on** an Israeli-managed **oil tanker** off the coast of Oman in which two British and Romanian crew members were killed. Israel and the West have said that Iran was behind the attack. When pressed if Israel was ready to take military action against Iran, Gantz said: "Yes."

Commenting on an **IAF strike on** launch sites in southern **Lebanon** after **three rockets were fired at** northern **Israel** on **Wednesday**, Gantz said that the military was forced to take action as this was the third incident of rocket fire on Israel in recent months. "Our actions overnight were meant to send a clear message that we will not accept such attacks. I hope we are not forced into further action. Lebanon is in a state of chaos caused in a large extent by the Hezbollah terror group," he said.

Of the three rockets launched from southern Lebanon on Wednesday, one landed inside Lebanese territories and **two fell in the Galilee, igniting brush fires** but causing no injuries.

The minister attributed to rocket fire to rogue Palestinian factions operating in southern Lebanon.

08.04.21

Gantz revealed to UN, two Iranian commanders behind dozens of terror attacks

08.04.21

Gantz unmask Iranian commander behind deadly tanker attack

Briefing ambassadors of UN Security Council countries, DM names head of IRGC's UAV Command Saeed Ara Jani as **directly involved in attack** that killed two crewmen and warns **Iran just '10 weeks away' from nuclear** breakthrough

Itamar Eichner | Published: **08.04.21**, 17:02

Defense Minister Benny **Gantz revealed** on Wednesday the **identity of an Iranian commander** responsible for last week's deadly **strike on** an Israeli-managed **oil tanker** off the coast of Oman.

Briefing ambassadors of countries on the UN Security Council, Gantz and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid named Saeed Ara Jani — the **head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps' (IRGC) UAV Command** — and claimed he was **directly involved** in the attack on the Mercer Street that killed two crewmen, a Briton and a Romanian.

"The **person directly responsible** for these actions is Saeed Ara Jani, **whose name I am revealing for the first time,**" Gantz said. "Ara Jani is the main operator of the Revolutionary Guards' UAV apparatus which attacked the Mercer Street. **He provides the equipment, training, programs and is responsible for many terrorist acts in the region.**" Gantz also called out Amir Ali Hajizadeh, **commander of the IRGC's Air Force**, who he claims **masterminded dozens of terror attacks** in the region employing UAVs and missiles.

Gantz and Lapid told the ambassadors that Israel reserves itself the freedom to respond to any attack and threat on Israeli citizens.

At the same time, the two sent a message to the ambassadors that the attack was not a local or bilateral conflict, but an "attack on the entire world" that must get a response that can only come through a united front in the international community.

Gantz also warned that Iran was just weeks from acquiring enough nuclear material to build a bomb.

"Iran has crossed all the lines set in the last nuclear deal and today is just ten weeks away from acquiring weapons-grade materials necessary for a nuclear weapon," he said. "That is why this is time for action. The world must impose economic sanctions and bring operative action against the Revolutionary Guards. We have no conflict with the Iranian people but with the regime that could lead to a dangerous arms race in the entire Middle East."

Iran and the U.S. have been in indirect talks in Vienna on the latter rejoining the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), widely known as the Iran nuclear deal. The talks have been suspended until Iran's incoming president Ebrahim Raisi takes office on Thursday.

Iran has been openly progressing in its nuclear program since then-U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal and imposed crippling economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

08.06.21

Hezbollah fired at open areas of Golan Heights, Israel has no desire to escalate

08.06.21

Israel: Hezbollah fired at open areas, we have no desire to escalate

IDF spokesman says Iranian-backed group had deliberately avoided populated areas 'in attempt to show that it controls southern Lebanon region after rogue Palestinian faction fired at Israel on Wednesday'; says Lebanese army seized launcher responsible for barrage

Yoav Zitun, Liad Osmo, Ahiva Raved | Published: 08.06.21, 13:34

Israel said Friday that it had no wish for an escalation on the northern border after Hezbollah fired a barrage of rockets from Lebanon in what it called retaliation for an IAF strike in the early hours of Thursday.

Speaking to the media following a meeting between Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Defense Minister Benny Gantz, IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi and other security officials, an army spokesman said that Hezbollah had deliberately fired the rockets at open areas and not populated cities like Kiryat Shmona.

"This is the terror group's attempt to show that it controls the region in southern Lebanon after a rogue Palestinian faction fired rockets at Israel on Wednesday," the spokesman

said, referring to an attack in the Kiryat Shmona area two days earlier that led to the IAF strike.

"We have no interest in intensifying the conflict or in starting a war, but we will not let the border area become an active front line," he said, adding that the IDF will maintain its superiority in the air over southern Lebanon.

The spokesman also said that the Lebanese army had seized the rocket launcher responsible for the barrage.

Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the heavy salvo fired at the Mount Dov area shortly before 11am Friday. The Iron Dome missile defense system knocked many of the rockets out of the sky while several landed in open areas.

There were no injuries or damage reported in the barrage that set off sirens in the areas of Ein Qiniyye, Neve Ativ and Snir. Residents in the area reported smoke rising in the Hermon region and locals caught some of the Iron Dome interceptions on video.

The IDF responded with artillery fire at the sources of the rocket launches. The military said that communities in the area were continuing with their normal routine but bomb shelters that were opened after the first barrage on Wednesday remained open. Residents of the Golan Heights were not issued any specific security instructions.

"Islamic Resistance in Lebanon has launched 122mm rockets at IDF outposts in the Shebaa Farms area," Hezbollah said Friday, referring to itself and the Mount Dov region. "The launch comes in response to Israel Air Force attacks in open areas of southern Lebanon on Thursday," it said.

The UN peacekeeping force deployed along the border said Friday it has detected rocket launches from Lebanon, and return artillery fire by Israel.

"This is a very serious situation and we urge all parties to cease fire," the force known as UNIFIL said.

The barrage on Wednesday saw two rockets strike open areas close to the border city of Kiryat Shmona shortly after noon. A third failed to reach Israeli territory. Security officials said at the time that the rockets had been fired by Palestinian groups in southern Lebanon.

The IDF initially responded with artillery fire and hours later launched the first airstrikes on Lebanese territory in eight years.

An IDF spokesperson said Thursday that "fighter jets struck the launch sites and infrastructure used for terror in Lebanon."

It warned that the strikes would continue and even increase in response to terrorist attacks on Israel and said the Lebanese government would be held responsible.