

Ynet-News, Sep 17, 2021 – Friday

09.15.21 – We- - - News Placed in Sept 11 spot – Saturday  
Gantz says Israel cannot sway Iran nuclear deal; only US plan or military

09.14.21 – Tu- - - News Placed in Sept 14 spot – Tuesday  
Israel withheld NIS 600+ million in PA taxes to pay West Bank protest damages

09.14.21 – Tu- - - News Placed in Sept 13 spot – Monday  
Gilboa prison break a series of warning ignored & a guard blocking witnesses

09.14.21 – Tu- - -  
Jihad will resume rocket fire from Gaza into Israel if two convicts at large are shot

09.12.21 – Su- - - News Placed in Sept 12 spot – Sunday  
Biden orders FBI declassify 9/11 documents, proving Saudis' supported the plot

09.15.21  
Gantz says Israel cannot sway Iran nuclear deal; only US plan or military

09.15.21  
Gantz says Israel can live with new Iran nuclear deal, report  
Gantz tells Foreign Policy magazine in an interview that Israel wants to see the American plan should diplomacy fail to stop Iran's race to obtain nuclear weapons, claiming the necessary pressure on Tehran must be in actions led by the U.S.  
Ynet| Published: 09.15.21, 13:19

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Israel can live with a new Iran nuclear deal in an interview published on Wednesday.

“The current U.S. approach of putting the Iran nuclear program back in a box, I’d accept that,” the Defense Minister said speaking to Foreign Policy Magazine.

Gantz said he was doubtful that the diplomatic tract will succeed in reversing Iran's progress in its nuclear ambitions  
Gantz said Israel was keen to see what he called "a viable U.S.- led plan B," that would include political, diplomatic, and economic pressure imposed on Tehran by the United States, Europe, Russia, and China, should the nuclear talks fail.

“Israel has no ability to lead a real plan B, we can’t put together an international economic sanctions regime. This has to be led by the U.S.,” he said. “Iran has to fear that the U.S. and its partners are serious.”

He claimed Israel has a plan C but that would involve military action. “If push comes to shove, we’ll get there,” he said adding that although Israel does not equal the power of the United States, “we have our capabilities.”

When asked about Israel's ongoing conflict with the Palestinians and the possible resolutions of it, Gantz said that Jewish settlements will not be removed from the West Bank. However, he said, “we need two political entities here.”

The Biden administration repeated its position that the conflict must be resolved by a two-state solution, in his meeting with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett last month.

Gantz met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas last week during which a number of initiatives were decided upon to improve the lives of West Bank residents. The defense minister called the improvement of a dialogue with the Palestinians, “a value of the highest importance.”

“Abbas is still dreaming of the 1967 lines [as the basis for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and an end to the conflict]—this won’t happen,” Gantz said in the interview.

09.14.21

Israel withheld NIS 600+ million in PA taxes to pay West Bank protest damages

09.14.21

Court orders Hamas to pay NIS 38 million to families of three murdered teens  
Families of victims murdered in West Bank protest damages ruled, which are a fraction of the sum sought in the original lawsuit, and claim it will not deter terrorist groups from carrying out similar acts in the future

Elisha Ben Kimon | Published: 09.14.21, 18:06

The Jerusalem District Court ruled Monday that the Gaza Strip-based terrorist group Hamas must pay NIS 38 million (\$11.8 million) to the families of three teenagers kidnapped and murdered in the West Bank in June 2014.

The court ordered the Islamist organization, and Hussam Qawasmeh — a Palestinian from the West Bank city of Hebron, convicted of orchestrating the attack — to compensate the families of Gilad Shaar, Eyal Yifrach, and Naftali Fraenkel.

The families of the victims originally sought NIS 520 million (\$162 million) in compensation, citing tremendous damage done to them during the two and a half week-long searches after their loved ones.

The families won the case by default in the absence of defense from the Hamas defendants, noting that the amount of punitive damages is based on a past Supreme Court ruling that significantly reduced the amounts of damages in terrorist claims. Representatives of the slain teenagers' families expressed dissatisfaction with the ruling and claimed it will not deter future terrorists from carrying out similar acts.

"The ruling is not sufficient, because the State of Israel must crack down on terrorism against as hard as possible," said Eyal Yifrach's father, Uri.

"This is a sum that won't deter Hamas and similar groups who continue their activities at all times. Our goal is to undermine the economic and legal tools of the terrorist organizations, to teach them a lesson and, God willing, to prevent the next incidence."

"An organization that is based on a billion-dollar budget will not be deterred by any \$10 million lawsuit. The purpose of the lawsuits is to bring down terrorism, and this cannot be done with such sums that are insignificant to them," said Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, a human rights activist and the founder of Israeli lawfare organization Shurat HaDin who represents the families.

"It is unthinkable for an Israeli court to would show such clemency toward the terrorist organization that financed, planned and carried out the horrific attack that the entire nation still carries in its heart."

The families of the victims said they will appeal the verdict to the Supreme Court in a bid to stop the flow of funding from the Palestinian Authority (PA) to Hamas.

The lawsuit indicated that Israel could deduct the compensation from garnished tax revenue that Israel collects on behalf of the PA.

Israel has reportedly withheld north of NIS 600 million in Palestinian taxes in a bid to disincentivize the PA from paying stipends to Palestinians hurt or killed in clashes with Israeli forces, including avowed terrorists and their families.

Israel has in the past deducted sums from the tax money it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority.

09.14.21

Gilboa prison break a series of warning ignored & a guard blocking witnesses

09.14.21

10 other inmates knew about Gilboa prison break plan, security officials believe  
Police also find new blunders in the case after truck driver said he had warned about sand in the sewage, but was ignored by a prison guard, who is set to be questioned on suspicion of negligence and obstruction of justice

Eli Senior| Published: 09.14.21, 16:28

At least 10 more inmates knew about the plan to escape from Gilboa maximum security prison that last week led to a massive manhunt for the six fugitives and uncovered a series of systemic errors within the prison system.

Their Hollywood-style escape last Monday through a **hole in their cell floor** at Gilboa Prison in northern Israel, delighted Palestinians and embarrassed Israel. Four out of six prisoners have been captured over the weekend, while the other two remain at large.

After initial suspicions, investigators from the Prison Officers Investigation Unit now believe that **10 other prisoners knew about the plan**, and some of them were already interrogated, while others will face questioning in the next few days.

If these suspicions turn out to be true, the intelligence **personal at the prison** would **face** even more **scrutiny** since they **missed the warning signs** of the escaped being planned. In addition, the investigators found that a **vacuum truck driver**, who **empties the sewage** at the prison, **reported** to one of the guards that there is a **huge amount of sand in the sewer, but was ignored.**

Other prisoners working near the sewage also apparently knew about the sand and when the **guard** found out about the escape, he apparently **attempted to get them to change their stories.**

The guard is set to be interrogated on suspicion of negligence and obstruction of justice. In the meantime, the manhunt for the other two fugitives continues and it is estimated that at least one of them managed to make his way to the West Bank. Deputy A, commander of the unmanned vehicle squadron, said that they feel they are getting closer to capturing the fugitives.

"The chances of one of these prisoners being moving around without us noticing are very slim," said the deputy. "Moreover, we can also see any movement during the night and point all the forces in that direction in real time."

On Monday, High Commissioner of the Israel Prison Service Katy Perry, participated in a discussion regarding the escape and said that all **accusations of negligence** will be **examined.** "Alongside this incident, **300** escape **attempts** **have been prevented** over the **past decade,**" she said.

Furthermore, she stated a special **team of engineers** was formed in order **to go through every cell in the prison,** check their engineering structure and to see what's underneath it.

09.14.21

Greece probes crash that killed one of 300+ witness in Netanyahu trial

09.14.21

Greece probes crash that killed witness in Netanyahu trial

Air Accident Investigation and **Aviation** Board is investigating causes of the **crash** of single-engine **Cessna 182** - carrying former Communications Ministry deputy director Haim Garon - which **took off from Haifa** and **lost contact near Samos Airport**

Reuters| Published: **09.14.21**, 13:02

Authorities in Greece Tuesday opened an investigation into the crash of a private plane from Israel that killed a prosecution witness in the corruption trial of former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Haim Geron, a former senior official at Communications Ministry, and his wife Esther were killed in the crash late Monday off the island of Samos.

The Foreign Ministry identified the victims, both aged 69, adding that consular officials and the ministry were working with the family to return the bodies.

Geron was one of more than 300 witnesses that prosecutors listed for Netanyahu's trial on corruption charges.

He is on trial for allegedly accepting expensive gifts from wealthy associates, allegations he denies.

Greece's Air Accident Investigation and Aviation Board is investigating the causes of the crash, officials said Tuesday.

The single-engine Cessna 182 took off from Haifa, Israel, and crashed near Samos Airport.

"Shortly before landing, communication with the control tower on Samos was lost and the Civil Aviation Authority informed the search and rescue center about the loss of communication," the authority said in a statement.

The bodies of the two Israeli occupants were recovered by the Coast Guard several hours later with the help of divers.

Netanyahu, now the opposition leader, has denied all the accusations and mocked the size of the witness list.

09.14.21

Jihad will resume rocket fire from Gaza into Israel if two convicts at large are shot

09.14.21

Israeli security on high alert, fearing escalation in West Bank, Gaza

After stabbing attack in Jerusalem and reported foiling of major undisclosed terror plot, police deployment in capital bolstered by thousands, while manhunt for two remaining fugitives of Gilboa prison break continues

Ynet, TPS| Updated: 09.14.21, 11:14

Israel's security forces stepped up their level of alert across the country on Tuesday, following several terror attacks over the past few days and ahead of a possible escalation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Tensions have been stirred by last week's breakout by six Palestinian militants from the maximum-security Gilboa Prison in northern Israel. Four of the men have since been recaptured.

On Monday, two young Haredi teens were stabbed and moderately wounded by an alleged lone wolf terrorist in Jerusalem. The assailant was shot and wounded by Border Police troops

The Israel Police said they had dispatched reinforcements of 2,000 policemen to Jerusalem after the attack.

The deployment of security forces, including Shin Bet personnel, allegedly led to the thwarting of a "major" terrorist attack on Monday, the details of which were placed under a gag order.

In the meantime, IDF forces were still searching for the remaining two Palestinian prisoners who escaped from Gilboa Prison last Monday.

Israeli security officials said they were concerned that if the two convicted terrorists who remain at large are shot in the course of their capture, the Islamic Jihad terror group will resume rocket fire from Gaza into Israel.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad had urged Palestinians in the West Bank to carry out attacks in response to what they called "collective punishment" of the PIJ prisoners incarcerated in Israeli jails following the prison break and the rioting that followed.

After three nights of rocket attacks from Gaza, Israel's southern border remained relatively calm on Monday night.

However, the IDF's Gaza Division was put on high alert and senior officers were quoted as saying that another military operation in the Strip is not a question of if, but when.

Egyptian officials reportedly told Hamas leaders following Monday's summit meeting of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, that if the rocket fire does not stop, Israel will launch another broad operation in the Strip.

A delegation of the Egyptian Intelligence is expected to visit the Gaza Strip in the coming days in search for a solution to the question of Qatari money earmarked for salaries for Hamas officials, after the Palestinian Authority backed out of its agreement to transfer the funds.

09.12.21

Biden orders FBI declassify 9/11 documents, proving Saudis' supported the plot

09.12.21

FBI releases declassified 9/11 document after Biden order

Following a demand by the relatives of nearly 3,000 victims that perished in the terrorist attack, president orders publication of a partially redacted document outlining ties between Saudi government and the hijackers

Reuters| Published: 09.12.21, 10:41

The FBI on Saturday released the first document related to its investigation of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States and allegations of Saudi government support for the hijackers, following an executive order by President Joe Biden.

Relatives of the victims had called on Biden to skip memorial events to mark Saturday's 20th anniversary if he did not declassify documents that they have contended will show Saudi Arabian authorities supported the plot.

The partially redacted 16-page document released by the FBI outlined contacts between the hijackers and Saudi associates, but no evidence the government in Riyadh was complicit in the attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people. Saudi Arabia has long said it had no role in the attacks. The Saudi embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment sent out of hours late on Saturday.

In a statement issued on Sept. 8, the embassy said Saudi Arabia has always advocated for transparency around the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and welcomes the release by the United States of classified documents relating to the attacks.

"As past investigations have revealed, including the 9/11 Commission and the release of the so-called '28 Pages,' no evidence has ever emerged to indicate that the Saudi government or its officials had previous knowledge of the terrorist attack or were in any way involved," the embassy's statement said.

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia. A U.S. government commission found no evidence that Saudi Arabia directly funded al Qaeda, the group given safe haven by the Taliban in Afghanistan at the time. It left open whether individual Saudi officials might have.

The families of roughly 2,500 of those killed, and more than 20,000 people who suffered injuries, businesses and various insurers, have sued Saudi Arabia seeking billions of dollars.

In a statement on behalf of the organization 9/11 Families United, Terry Strada, whose husband Tom was killed on Sept. 11, said the document released by the FBI on Saturday put to bed any doubts about Saudi complicity in the attacks.

"Now the Saudis' secrets are exposed and it is well past time for the Kingdom to own up to its officials' roles in murdering thousands on American soil," the statement said.