

Ynet-News, Oct 14, 2021 – Thursday

10.14.21 – Th- - - News Placed in Oct 14 spot – Thursday
UN issued 95,000 credit cards to Gaza families receiving Qatar aid

10.14.21 – Th- - - News Placed in Oct 15 spot – Friday
IAF air attack over Syria's largest home to Iranian forces training center
Friday night

10.13.21 – We- - - News Placed in Oct 13 spot – Wednesday
250 PA prisoners in Israel go on defiance hunger strike for isolation from escapees

10.13.21 – We- - - News Placed in Oct 12 spot – Tuesday
Guatemala names 27 streets 'Jerusalem the capital of Israel', Costa Rica names 4

10.13.21 – We- - - News
US using Abraham Accords to advance progress on Israeli-Palestinian issue

10.11.21 – Mo- - - News Placed in Oct 11 spot – Monday
Conference hosts carried live on Ynet on immigration in Israel

10.06.21 – Th- - - News Placed in Oct 06 spot – Thursday
Gaza work permits increased to 7,000 in exchange for long-term quiet

09.29.21 – We- - - News Placed in Oct 01 spot – Friday
France shut six Muslim centers, request closing a third of the 89 places of worship

10.14.21
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10.14.21
Qatar resumes distribution of monetary aid to Gaza
After a prolonged debate between Doha, UN, and Israel — Palestinian families will be able to withdraw their designated \$100 allotment via special credit cards, with Jerusalem retaining right to supervise list of eligible recipients
AFP| Published: 10.14.21, 20:04

Tens of thousands of impoverished families in the Gaza Strip began receiving Qatari humanitarian funds on Thursday after Israel agreed to a new distribution mechanism involving the United Nations.

Recipients of the money queued from the early hours outside **300 distribution centers** spread across the Hamas-ruled Palestinian enclave.

Qatari envoy Mohammed al-Emadi said the \$100 handouts would be provided to **"95,000** needy families" in Gaza through the UN.

Qatari support is considered a crucial lifeline for impoverished Palestinians living in Gaza, which has been under Israeli blockade since 2007.

Before the latest flare-up between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in May, the flow of **funds from Qatar was considered vital** to maintaining relative calm between the two sides.

But Israel had objected to a resumption of the funding under the terms that existed before May's hostilities, claiming money was being used by armed groups rather than strictly for humanitarian needs.

The stalemate was resolved in August, when Israel and Qatar announced the approval of a new mechanism to distribute the funds, with money transferred directly to individuals by the UN.

Under the scheme, Israeli-approved recipients in **Gaza** will be **issued UN credit cards** to withdraw the funds.

The UN's special coordinator for the Middle East peace process said the **distribution** would continue "throughout **this week**".

Gazan resident Naseem al-Haddad, 47, said the hundred dollars he received "improved his economic situation" and "his prospects for finding a job."

"At this moment, I need another \$1,000 in light of the difficult economic situation" in the Gaza Strip, he said.

Fayez Nabhan, a 41-year-old taxi driver and father of five, said life was "getting a little **better**" now that he was receiving aid again.

10.14.21

IAF air attack over Syria's largest home to Iranian forces training center

Friday night

10.14.21

Israel strikes targets in Homs, Syrian media says

Syrian soldier reportedly killed and three others wounded in second strike attributed to Israel in less than a week targeting T-4 **airbase, home to Iranian militias**

TPS| Updated: **10.14.21**, 08:56

The Israeli Air Force (IAF) carried out a strike in Palmyra near the city of Homs in Syria on Wednesday night, killing one soldier and wounding three others, the country's state media reported.

Syria's official SANA news network reported that the IAF carried out an air attack from the direction of the Al-Tanf area towards the Palmyra area in the countryside of Homs, targeting a communications tower and other targets surrounding it, causing several casualties and some material damage.

Syrian air defenses go off amid strike near Homs attributed to Israel earlier this year. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported witnesses heard several explosions in the area of T4 military airbase in the eastern countryside of Homs caused by IAF airstrikes carried out from over the Iraq-Syria-Jordan border triangle.

The airstrikes hit several Iranian-backed militias' centers, including a training center and a communications tower located several kilometers east of T4 airbase and west of Palmyra city.

The Tiyas Airbase, Syria's largest, is home to Iranian forces, Lebanese terror group Hezbollah and Syrian regime forces and has been the target of multiple attacks in recent years, most of which are attributed to Israel by foreign media.

The attack comes just days after the IAF reportedly struck the T4 airbase in Syria on Friday night which resulted in the death of two militiamen, members of an Iranian-backed group, and the injuring of several others.

The strike also caused substantial material damage to a training center where militiamen receive training on the use of drones.

The IDF, as in most previous incidents, has remained silent on the reports.

Iran's military build-up in Syria remains a red line for Israel. The Israeli Air Force has reportedly carried out thousands of attacks to foil Iranian entrenchment in the war-torn country.

Israeli leaders have repeatedly declared that they will not tolerate an Iranian threat on its northern border with Syria and will take all necessary measures to ensure p.

10.13.21

250 PA prisoners in Israel go on defiance hunger strike for isolation from escapees

10.13.21

Palestinians: 250 prisoners held by Israel go on hunger strike

The Palestinian Prisoners Club, which represents former and current prisoners, says latest strike is to protest the separation of Islamic Jihad prisoners into designated cells following last month's prison break

Associated Press| Updated: 10.13.21, 22:17

At least 250 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel have begun a hunger strike to protest their relocation to isolated cells, officials said Wednesday.

The hunger strike, led by the militant Islamic Jihad group, comes amid heightened tensions in Israeli detention facilities following the escape of six prisoners from a high-security prison last month.

All six were recaptured within a couple of weeks, but the escape embarrassed Israeli authorities and was hailed as a **stroke of defiance by Palestinians**.

Israel is currently holding more than 4,600 Palestinians in connection with the Mideast conflict. The prisoners range from senior militants convicted of deadly attacks against Israelis to political activists who took part in demonstrations and teenagers detained for throwing stones at Israeli soldiers.

The prisoners organize themselves by political faction and have secured concessions over the years through hunger strikes and other collective action.

The Palestinian Prisoners Club, which represents former and current prisoners, said the latest strike is to protest the separation of Islamic Jihad prisoners into designated cells, isolating them from most other members of the group.

Qadura Fares, the head of the organization, said at least **250** Islamic Jihad prisoners in multiple facilities would take part **in the strike**, and that **100** of them would begin **refusing water** after one week.

He called for protests in support of the prisoners and said other Palestinian factions — including President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement — would also participate in the hunger strike.

Israel's **prison service** said it was **unaware of** any **mass hunger strike**. It said it has not isolated the Islamic Jihad prisoners, but instead has mixed them with the general population.

It said the group was not happy with the move and acknowledged there has been "tension."

Five of the six escapees were Islamic Jihad members, and the militant group was the driving force behind rioting that broke out in some prisons as Israel tightened security and relocated prisoners to prevent other breakouts.

Islamic Jihad has carried out scores of deadly attacks over the years and Israel and other countries consider it a terrorist organization.

Four of the Six escaped prisoners from the Gilboa prison after they were captured. Nearly every Palestinian family has a relative who has spent time in an Israeli prison, and the Palestinians consider all prisoners to be heroes of their national cause.

Israel says it only locks up those who threaten its security and that Palestinians are given due process in its military courts. The **Palestinians** and many rights **groups say** the **trials are inherently unfair**.

Most Palestinian prisoners are **from the West Bank**, which Israel captured in the 1967 Six Day War and which the Palestinians want to form the main part of their future state.

Israeli settlers in the West Bank have full citizenship and are **subject to civilian courts**.

10.13.21

Guatemala names 27 streets 'Jerusalem the capital of Israel', Costa Rica names 4

10.13.21

Guatemala names 27 streets after Jerusalem 'the capital of Israel'

Central American country was the first to follow the U.S. and move its embassy to Jerusalem; since then, 27 cities, including the capital, have streets named 'Jerusalem capital of Israel'

Itamar Eichner | Published: 10.13.21, 11:22

Israeli ambassador in Guatemala earlier this week inaugurated a street named "Jerusalem the capital of Israel," which was the twenty seventh street in the country to be named after the city in the past two years.

The ambassador, Matanya Cohen, attended the ceremony in the city of La Gomera, where he was joined by the mayor and local dignitaries.

The Israeli Embassy in Guatemala launched a new initiative to name streets, squares and parks throughout the country after Jerusalem following Guatemala's decision to recognize the city as Israel's capital in May of 2018 and move its embassy to Jerusalem.

Guatemala became the second country to do so after the United States, a move initiated by former President Donald Trump. Just two days after the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, former Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales inaugurated the embassy of Guatemala in Jerusalem with former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The idea is personal initiative of Ambassador Cohen. "The intention was for the cities of Guatemala to display their friendship with Jerusalem," he said.

"On June 2018, a month after the embassy was relocated to Jerusalem, the first city joined the initiative. Since then, other cities including the capital, Guatemala City -which is the only capital in the world with a street name 'Jerusalem capital of Israel' -joined in," said Cohen.

According to Cohen, he no longer needs to convince the mayors to join the project since more than 50% of Guatemalan residents are evangelical Christians who are very supportive of Israel.

"Former president's decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem did something spiritual to them," said the envoy.

The ambassador also said he received requests from mayors all over Guatemala, and he hopes that by next summer the initiative will have spread to 34 cities, which is 10% of all the cities in the country. "I will arrive personally to each city to inaugurate the new street named after Jerusalem."

Cohen's initiative is now spreading to other countries on the continent, and Israeli Ambassador to Costa Rica Oren Barei has already persuaded four cities in the country to name the streets after Jerusalem.

10.13.21

US using Abraham Accords to advance progress on Israeli-Palestinian issue

10.13.21

U.S. hopes Abraham Accords will help Israeli-Palestinian issue, officials say
Ahead of trilateral meeting between Blinken, Lapid and their Emirati counterpart — senior State Department official says administration hopes to 'leverage' accords to advance progress on peace talks

Reuters| Published: 10.13.21, 08:07

The United States is working to expand normalization agreements between Israel and Arab nations, known as the Abraham Accords, and hopes restoring such ties can be leveraged to advance progress on the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, senior State Department officials said on Tuesday.

In a briefing with reporters previewing U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's meetings on Wednesday with his Israeli and Emirati counterparts, officials repeated that the Abraham Accords were not a substitute for the two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians.

"We continue to welcome the economic cooperation between Israel and all countries in the region. We hope that normalization can be leveraged to advance progress on the Israeli-Palestinian tracks," a senior State Department official, speaking on the condition of anonymity said.

Blinken will first meet with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid and United Arab Emirates' Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan separately at the State Department on Wednesday. He will then host a trilateral meeting with both of them, the first of its kind. The leaders of Israel, the UAE and Bahrain signed the Abraham Accords at the White House last September. The following month, Israel and Sudan announced they would normalize relations, and Morocco established diplomatic ties with Israel in December, after U.S. President Joe Biden defeated his predecessor Donald Trump in the election. Palestinian officials said they felt betrayed by their Arab brethren for reaching deals with Israel without first demanding progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state. Until last year, only two Arab states - Egypt and Jordan - had forged full ties with Israel.

The U.S. officials did not say precisely how Washington aimed to use the normalization agreements as a tool to make progress on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

"Biden administration has started out with a clear commitment to the two-state solution. We continue on with that commitment. We seek to advance as we can, when we can, as best we can," one of the U.S. officials said.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett opposes Palestinian statehood and has ruled out any possibility of talks.

The three countries will also be setting up two new working groups at the meeting, U.S. officials said, with one group focusing on religious coexistence and the other on water and energy issues.

"These working groups will seek to realize that **promise to link** up to important **U.S. partners in the region** and find new ways to solve old problems together, in Israel and the UAE but also across the region," one of the U.S. officials said.

10.11.21

Conference hosts carried live on Ynet on immigration in Israel

10.11.21

Ynet hosts conference on immigration in Israel

A wide-ranging **panel of guests talk** and Aliyah and how it has continued almost uninterrupted since the establishment of the state, and during the coronavirus pandemic despite many difficulties faced by **new immigrants in the country**

Ynet| Published: **10.11.21**, 09:48

Immigration to Israel has continued **uninterrupted since the establishment of the state**. At times of war and even during a pandemic that has been raging all over the world. Along with an abundance of successful Aliyah stories, new immigrants arriving in the country **face many challenges**.

As Israel marks Immigration and Absorption Week, Ynet, Yedioth Ahronoth and Vesty, will host a conference in cooperation with the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption and the Jewish Agency focused immigrants and immigration, that will be **carried live on Ynet** as of 10 am Monday.

The conference will attempt to answer some important questions:

How has immigration continued during the coronavirus **pandemic**?

What is the answer to **excessive policing of the Ethiopian** immigration community?

What are the ongoing battles of **immigrants from the former Soviet Union**?

Is an immigrant **always** to **remain an immigrant**?

The conference is moderated by Yityish "Titi" Aynaw, who's immigration and absorption in Israel is an inspiring tale, and Ynet's Atilla Somfalvi.

It will focus on the triumphs but also on the challenges of **immigration and absorption in Israel** today.

Since the establishment of the state, immigration of Jews, Aliya - or ascent, as it is called, has never stopped, even at the height of the pandemic.

Jews arrived from all corners of the globe just as Theodor Herzl, the father of Zionism, predicted in his book Altneuland, published in 1902. Herzl wrote that a dream can become the reality.

Over the years, those words have come to fruition with Jews gathering to create the state of Israel in their own image, as they assimilated in all aspects of life, although still today, many immigrants are still struggling.

The conference will host President Issac Herzog, Defense Minister Benny Gantz, Minister of immigration and Absorption Pnina Tamano-Shata, Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman, Chairman of the World Zionist Organization - MK Yuli Edelstein, Acting Jewish Agency Chairman - Yaakov, Hagoel, Director General of the ministry of Immigration and Absorption – Ronen Cohen and Director General of the Jewish Agency - Amira Aharonowitz.

Minister Tmano-Shata will answer questions on the health challenges facing immigrants during the pandemic and on the previous government's 2015 commitment to bring to Israel the remaining Jewish community in Ethiopia.

MK Edelstein will speak about the immeasurable sacrifice that he had to make in order to immigrate to Israel, during a time when his efforts to do so, branded him a traitor to his country and made him a prisoner of Zion - a title that had filled him with pride.

The conference will also hear from men and women who will share their own experiences of immigration, among them actress Sandra Sadeh, who immigrated from Romania and settled in Bat Yam; Poet Alex Rif who heads the Million Lobby an advocacy group for immigrants from Russian speaking countries. Alex will speak about the basic rights, still evading some, such as the right to marry.

10.07.21

Over 2,500 doctors resign in protest of 26-hour shifts, thousands more adding theirs

10.07.21

Over 2,500 medical interns resign in protest of 26-hour shifts

Resignation set to take effect within two weeks if issue not resolved after doctors-in-training reject government plan to reduce shifts to 18 hours in select hospitals by 2026

TPS| Published: 10.07.21, 21:19

More than 2,500 medical interns resigned en-masse on Thursday in protest of the 26-hour shifts they are forced to work.

Representatives of the 2,590 young doctors arrived at the Health Ministry's offices in Tel Aviv and submitted their resignations letters which are set to come into effect within two weeks' time if the issue is not resolved.

"This resignation is presented to you, the health minister [Nitzan Horowitz], with a heavy heart and with no choice due to shifts of 26 hours of continuous work," the letters stated. "Without sleep or rest, we are unable to perform medical operations or make fateful decisions regarding the lives of our patients who depend on us. Under this work schedule, we cannot provide the best treatment they need and deserve, as expected of us as doctors

and physicians. These employment conditions also harm our personal health and the lives of our families.

"You [Horowitz] have broken your promises to shorten shifts for all interns without exception... This letter was sent after all our efforts have failed. Therefore, we, the undersigned, each one personally and with heavy heart, have come to the conclusion that we are unable to continue."

Interns are demanding that their shifts be cut from 26 to 18 hours, saying that the long hours and subsequent fatigue are detrimental to their health and that of their patients. The government presented a multi-phased plan to reduce shifts to 18 hours by 2026 but only in 10 hospitals in outlying areas which interns have rejected. Horowitz and other ministry officials tried to dissuade residents from resigning, but talks ultimately fell through. The health minister dubbed the move "unnecessary." Health Ministry officials refused to accept the resignation of the doctors-in-training and closed the doors to the office in fear that such a move could cripple Israel's already overburdened healthcare system. Instead, protest leaders stuck their personal letters to the front door and placed a binder containing thousands more on the building's forecourt.

10.06.21

Gaza work permits increased to 7,000 in exchange for long-term quiet

10.06.21

Thousands of Gazans apply for Israeli work permits

Israel increases total number of permits being granted to Palestinian laborers from Gaza to 7,000 from 5,000, as part of plan to improve living conditions in the poverty stricken enclave following the May conflict

AFP | Published: 10.06.21, 16:58

Thousands of Gazans applied Wednesday for work permits for Israel, which has recently reopened its gates to laborers from the Palestinian enclave following the latest war in May.

Many Palestinians want to work in Israel where the wages are higher than in Gaza, which suffers from an unemployment rate of above 50%.

In Jabalia, a refugee camp in northern Gaza, a crowd of men holding their identity papers lined up hoping to obtain a permit that would allow them to work inside Israeli territory, AFP journalists said.

"There is no work in the Gaza Strip," said Fathi Abu Nur, a 40-year-old father of five from Gaza.

"Yesterday I heard that workers are registering to get permits (for Israel)," Abu Nur added. "I hope things will get better because the current situation is really difficult."

Palestinians gather to apply for Israeli work permits, in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza Strip

The total number of permits being granted by Israel to Palestinian laborers in Gaza is 7,000, an Israeli security official told AFP, up from 5,000 workers and traders allowed in August.

Palestinian economic analyst Omar Shaaban said Israeli work permits could help alleviate "the unemployment crisis and poverty" within the territory, ruled by the Islamist movement Hamas.

According to Shaaban, Gaza's income would increase by three million dollars per day (\$3 million), if Israel granted 20,000 Palestinians work permits.

Meanwhile, the increase in permits was "the result of a political process, including discussions in Cairo between the Hamas and Egyptian officials", a Palestinian official at the chamber of commerce said on condition of anonymity.

In May, Israel and Hamas reached a truce following 11 days of the deadliest fighting between the two long-time foes in years.

Israel has since been easing restrictions on the Palestinian enclave, including reopening crossings, expanding the fishing zone and permitting the entry of certain goods.

In addition, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid has put forth a plan to improve living conditions in Gaza in exchange for a commitment to "long-term quiet" on part of the Hamas terrorist group which controls the Strip.

09.29.21

France shut six Muslim centers, request closing a third of the 89 places of worship

09.29.21

France moves against 'radical' Muslim groups, centers

French authorities would also request dissolution of Islamist publishers Nawa and Black African Defence League, which Interior Minister Darmanin says 'incites extermination of Jews and legitimizes stoning of homosexuals'

AFP| Published: 09.29.21, 11:32

France is moving to shut six mosques and break up several associations suspected of producing radical Islamic propaganda, Interior Minister Gerard Darmanin said on Tuesday.

A third of the 89 places of worship "suspected of being radical" and flagged by the intelligence services had been checked since November 2020, he told Le Figaro newspaper.

Of those, action to shut down six -- in five different departments across France -- had been launched, he said.

The authorities would also request the dissolution of the Islamist publishers Nawa and the Black African Defence League (LDNA).

Nawa, based in the southern French town of Ariege, "incites the extermination of the Jews and legitimizes the stoning of homosexuals", Darmanin said.

The LDNA, the organizers of a protest against police violence in front of the US embassy in Paris in June last year, "calls for hate and discrimination", he said.

"In the coming year, 10 other associations are going to be the object of a dissolution procedure, four them next month," he said.

Last week, the Council of State, France's highest administrative court, approved the government's move to dissolve the Collective against Islamophobia in France (CCIF) and Baraka City.

The government acted after the October 2020 murder of teacher Samuel Paty.

Paty was targeted following an online campaign against him for having shown controversial cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed published by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo during a civics class.

Darmanin also said he had called on regional prefects to refuse any residence permits to imams sent by a foreign country.