

Ynet-News, Nov 21, 2021 – Sunday

==== **Ynet returned visual appearance of their News site Nov 12, 2021** ====

Headlines and BriefContent have returned as before

11.21.21 – Su- - -

Israel allocates \$50 million to fight domestic spousal violence

11.19.21 – Fr- - - News Placed in Nov 20 spot – Saturday

UK joins EU & US to ban Hamas as Palestinian terrorist organization

11.21.21 – Su- - -

Hamas gunman stopped in Jerusalem Old City, after killing one and wounding four

11.18.21 – Th- - - News Placed in Nov 18 spot – Thursday

Israel offered US Visa Waiver Program if US can access Israel's criminal database

11.18.21 – Th- - - News

Cleaner at Gantz's home attempted to contact Iran-linked hackers, officials say

11.17.21 – We- - - News Placed in Nov 17 spot – Wednesday

IDF force 13 rock-throwing children to be photographed to compile a database

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Gantz official visit to Morocco Nov. 24 to normalize relations with Israel

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PM working to stop surging crime and violence by warrantless weapon searches

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Sa'ar drafted bill & MKs voted in favor to set 8 year term limit for PM

11.21.21

Israel allocates \$50 million to fight domestic spousal violence

11.21.21

Israel allocates \$50 million to fight domestic violence

Ministerial committee on gender equality says 'it is time we moved from words to actions' after report domestic violence complaints in Israel soared 315% in 2020  
i24NEWS| Published: 11.21.21, 20:56

Israel will allocate NIS 155 million (\$50 million) to help fight domestic violence, Transport Minister Merav Michaeli, who also chairs the newly established ministerial committee on gender equality, announced on Sunday.

"We will take steps to prevent it, the time has come to have this in our law book. It is not up to interpretation, it's not a mistake, but simply impermissible violence even if it is done by economic means," she said.

Michaeli asserts that domestic violence must be considered a societal challenge that requires protection and assistance for victims.

"These NIS 155 million that we will spend on care, education... all these things that will stop this terrible violence and allow us to move forward to equality and a life without violence," the 54-year-old said.

Ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which takes place on November 25, the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO) released an annual report which showed that the number of domestic violence complaints between spouses in Israel jumped by 315 percent in 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WIZO's data showed that 26 women were murdered in Israel in 2020, compared to 17 in 2019. There was also a massive uptick in the number of distress calls made to the 118 domestic violence hotline, from 2,286 calls in 2019 to 5,866 calls a year later, a 157% increase. Of these, more than half were instances of spousal violence, also known as intimate partner violence; the number of calls related to spousal violence jumped from 688 calls in 2019 to 2,853 calls in 2020, a 315% spike.

11.19.21

UK joins EU & US to ban Hamas as Palestinian terrorist organization

11.19.21

UK to ban Palestinian militants Hamas as terrorist organization

Britain's Interior Minister Priti Patel says decision stems from fact that Gaza rulers have 'significant terrorist capability, including extensive and sophisticated weaponry'; Hamas says move shows 'absolute bias toward Israeli occupation'

Reuters| Published: 11.19.21, 16:01

Britain's interior minister on Friday said she had banned the Palestinian militant group Hamas in a move that brings the UK's stance on Gaza's rulers in line with the United States and the European Union.

The organization will be **banned under the Terrorism Act** and that anyone expressing support for Hamas, flying its flag or arranging meetings for the organization would be in breach of the law, the interior ministry confirmed. Patel is expected to present the change to parliament next week.

**Hamas** - full name the 'Islamic Resistance Movement' - has political and military wings. **Founded in 1987**, it opposes the existence of Israel and peace talks, instead advocating "armed resistance" against Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Until now Britain had banned only its military arm — the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. Hamas political official Sami Abu Zuhri said Britain's move showed "absolute bias toward the Israeli occupation and is a submission to Israeli blackmail and dictations." "Resisting occupation by all available means, including armed resistance, is a right granted to people under occupation as stated by the international law," said Hamas in a separate statement.

Prime Minister Naftali **Bennett welcomed the decision**, saying in a Twitter post: "Hamas is a terrorist organization, simply put. The 'political arm' enables its military activity." Hamas and Israel clashed most recently in a deadly 11-day conflict in May. 'STRENGTHENING TIES'

Interior minister Patel was forced to resign as Britain's international development secretary in 2017 after she failed to disclose meetings with senior Israeli officials during a private holiday to the country, including then-opposition leader Yair Lapid.

Lapid, now Israel's foreign minister, hailed the decision on Hamas as "part of strengthening ties with Britain."

**Hamas** is **on the U.S. list of designated foreign terrorist** organisations. The European Union also deems it a terrorist movement. Based in Gaza, Hamas won the 2006 Palestinian parliamentary elections, defeating its nationalist rival Fatah. It **seized military control of Gaza** the following year.

**11.21.21**

**Hamas gunman stopped in Jerusalem Old City, after killing one and wounding four**

**11.21.21**

**Hamas gunman opens fire in Jerusalem, killing one and wounding four**  
**Security forces shoot dead attacker, identified as 42-year-old Fadi Abu Shkhaydam from Shuafat — a senior member of Palestinian terrorist group's political wing**  
Ynet| Updated: **11.21.21**, 11:47

A Palestinian gunman opened fire in **Jerusalem's Old City** on Sunday, killing one man and wounding four others, one of them seriously.

The **assailant**, 42-year-old Fadi Abu Shkhaydam **from the Shua'fat refugee camp** in **Jerusalem**, was shot and killed by security forces.

Two Border Police officers were among those hurt in the attack, having sustained light injuries.

Public Security Minister Omer Barlev said on Sunday that the Palestinian gunman behind the attack in Jerusalem's Old City was a senior member of Palestinian terrorist group Hamas' political wing and that his wife fled the country several days prior.

"The terrorist came here every day to pray on the Temple Mount, and today he decided to come here with the weapon," Barlev said.

"The whole incident lasted just over 30 seconds. Two police officers opened fire at the terrorist while another policeman and a Border Police officer shot him from above."

Israeli **forces raided and searched** Abu Shkhaydam's **home but did not find any computers or electronic devices on the premises.**

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett ordered to shore up police presence in the capital for fear of copycat attacks.

The attack came **four days after** a 16-year-old **Palestinian** from East Jerusalem **stabbed** and wounded **two Border Patrol troops** near the Nablus Gate **in the Old City.**

The Palestinian terrorist group **Hamas praised a gunman** attack in Jerusalem that left one Israeli dead and four others wounded on Sunday.

"The Holy City continues to fight against the foreign occupier, and will not surrender to the occupation," Hamas said. "The youth continues their legitimate fight until they achieve their freedom, free their land, and retrieve their holy places."

**The terror organization didn't claim responsibility for the attack.**

**11.18.21**

**Israel offered US Visa Waiver Program if US can access Israel's criminal database**

**11.18.21**

**Israel will join U.S. Visa Waiver Program by 2023, minister says**

Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked says **U.S. committed to the visa exemption** process, following meeting with Secretary of Homeland Security; joint team to be established and begin work **next January**

Itamar Eichner | Published: **11.18.21**, 22:14

Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked said on Thursday that **Israelis** will be **able to travel to** the **United States without** the need for a **pre-issued tourist visa** as of 2023.

Shaked spoke after her meeting with U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and other officials. The minister was accompanied by the new Israeli Ambassador to Washington, Mike Herzog.

The meeting in Washington focused mostly on finding solutions the remaining obstacles remaining before Israel can be added to the Visa Waiver program. The first was the high rate of application refusals for Israeli applicants that must be reduced to under 3% by September 2022.

The decision to refuse a visa request is in the hands of the U.S. Consulate service and a reduction in denials may occur if the newly appointed American Ambassador, Thomas R. Nides, due to arrive at his posting next month, instructs his staff to show leniency when dealing with applications.

During the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. suspended interviews for applicants and had counted interviews turned down, as applications denied. The officials decided to end that practice.

The second obstacle to adding Israel to the Visa Waiver Program was the U.S. demand that they be allowed access to Israel's criminal database and a submission of up to 1,000 queries from the database each year, in accordance with the specifications of the program. This requires a change to Israel's laws.

The parties decided to establish a joint team that will address the various outstanding issues.

The Israeli team will include representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, as well as officials of the Interior Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Public Security Ministry and the Justice Ministry.

The U.S. team is scheduled to visit Israel in January for sessions with their Israeli counterparts, Shaked and Mayorkas agreed to hold monthly talks to review the ongoing process.

"The American government is very committed to the visa exemption process for Israelis and so is the Israeli government," Shaked said. "Like Secretary Mayorkas said in our meeting: there's a window of opportunity here and we have to take advantage of it and move forward."

11.18.21

Cleaner at Gantz's home attempted to contact Iran-linked hackers, officials say

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Cleaner at Gantz's home attempted to contact Iran-linked hackers, officials say

Shin Bet says 37-year-old Omri Goren Gorochofsky - who already served 4 prison sentences in the past - allegedly contacted Black Shadow and offered to install a virus on

the defense chief's personal computer, taking pictures inside the house of various sensitive materials

Yoav Zitun, Elisha Ben Kimon | Published: 11.18.21, 13:39

A cleaner employed by Defense Minister Benny Gantz at his personal was arrested on suspicion of attempting to contact Iran-linked hackers in order to provide them with sensitive information on the security chief, officials said Thursday.

According to the Shin Bet and State Attorney's Office and charges filed to the Lod District Court, 37-year-old Omri Goren Gorochovsky offered the Black Shadow hacker group to install a virus into Gantz's personal computer in exchange for monetary compensation.

Goren allegedly contacted the group after reports in Israeli media last month revealed Black Shadow's hacking attempts on the Israeli government and private targets.

After allegedly making contact with a member of Black Shadow via Telegram under a false identity, Goren took pictures inside Gantz's home. Among the items photographed were the defense minister's work desk, computers, phone, personal tablet, a box imprinted with IDF-related numerals, a router and its IP address and his property tax receipts.

The investigation was carried out by the Shin Bet, police's Lahav 433 special investigations unit and the Attorney General's Office - with Gantz's knowledge.

A search of his cell phone yielded findings that supported his confession, such as searches he made on the internet around about the time he contacted Black Shadow, translation he made from Hebrew to English using Google Translate and the restoration of the photos he took at Gantz's home.

In its announcement, the Shin Bet said that while the suspect posed a potential danger to national security, he "was not exposed to classified material and subsequently none was passed on from him to the elements with whom he made contact".

He has a rich criminal record that includes five convictions and 14 charges between 2002-2013, including two bank robberies, burglary, theft and more. He also was sentenced to four prison terms, the last of which for robbery, was for four years.

Gal Wolf, the attorney representing Goren, implied on Kan public radio that the man had intended to extract money without actually being able to carry out any espionage.

"A person can boast and say he can deliver the goods, (but) the Shin Bet's statement does not stand the test of reality," Wolf said.

Iranian hackers last month posted files allegedly containing private information on hundreds of IDF soldiers.

The files, leaked by a hacker group named "Moses Staff", also contain details of the deployment of an IDF combat brigade, including job descriptions, a full list of names, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and residential addresses of members of the brigade.

Photos of Gantz were also posted by the group, along with a threat that he is being surveyed by the hackers. "We know every decision you make and will hit you where you

least expect it. We have secret Defense Ministry documents, operational military maps and troop deployment information and will publish your crimes to the world," the hackers said in their post.

While campaigning for elections in 2019, the former military chief was warned by the Shin Bet that Iranian intelligence hacked his cellphone, putting "his personal details and addresses in hostile hands."

A statement from Gantz's campaign at the time insinuated his opponents leaked the news to damage his political bid.

11.17.21

IDF force 13 rock-throwing children to be photographed to compile a database

11.17.21

IDF troops force Palestinian kids out of bed to be illegally photographed

Video shows children told to line up, with an officer telling them to say 'cheese', saying picture was taken due to rock-throwing attack on forces; military says incident is a violation of regulations and that those involved will be disciplined

Elior Levy | Published: 11.17.21, 11:05

Video taken by human rights activists and revealed on Wednesday shows IDF soldiers photographing Palestinian children in the middle of the night in Hebron.

The incident took place in September during an IDF operation in an area of the city controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

According to an activist from the B'tselem Human Rights group, soldiers entered a Palestinian family home late at night and demanded that the children be woken and taken out of their beds.

The adults in the residence quickly complied with the demand of the troops and ushered the 13 frightened children to the balcony where they were made to stand in line.

An officer is heard saying that the children are being photographed — a violation of directives as they were all minors — due to a stone-throwing attack in the area but provided no claim that any member of the family was involved.

The officer told the kids to say "cheese", as if documenting a happy event, after which the troops left the residence.

The Washington Post reported earlier this month that the Israeli military was using facial recognition smartphone technology to compile a database of Palestinian residents in the West Bank.

The paper quoted a soldier recounting how his unit was tasked with taking as many pictures as possible in the city of Hebron, using old army smartphones.

In addition, the military-installed face-scanning cameras in Hebron to identify Palestinians, as well as provide real-time monitoring of the city.

IDF spokesperson said in a statement released in response to questions that the family's house was used by stone-throwers.

"Troops entered the residents where suspects were observed in order to identify the stone-throwers. While in the home, they photographed the minors to assist their investigation. The officer on the scene acted in contradiction to regulations," the IDF said adding that disciplinary measures were taken against him.

"The IDF reaffirmed their regulations to the troops in order to prevent similar incidents in the future."

B'tselem said the incident shows the "insane randomness of Palestinian lives under occupation and how easily soldiers violate their rights, even those of elementary school children, seen as potential criminals."

11.16.21

Shin Bet & Gantz meet PA leader frequently to keep two-state solution alive

11.16.21

Shin Bet head met Palestinian leader in Ramallah last week, sources say  
Ronen Bar and Mahmoud Abbas apparently discussed a number of issues in secret meet-up, including PA's deteriorating economic situation and its continued security coordination with Israel

Itamar Eichner | Published: 11.16.21, 12:43

The newly-appointed head of the Shin Bet domestic security agency held a secret meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah last week, sources said Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two discussed a number of issues, including the deteriorating economic situation in the Palestinian Authority and its continued security cooperation with Israel.

Ronen Bar's visit follows a series of meetings between the Palestinian leader and Israeli officials.

In August, Defense Minister Benny Gantz also met with Abbas in Ramallah, making it the highest-level meeting between the Palestinian president and an Israeli minister since 2010. Gantz told Abbas that Israel would take measures to strengthen the Palestinian economy, according to a statement from his office.

"They also discussed shaping the security and economic situations in the West Bank and in Gaza," the statement said. "They agreed to continue communicating further on the issues that were raised during the meeting."

In September, Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz, Regional Cooperation Minister Iswai Frej and Meretz's Knesset faction leader Michal Rozin met with Abbas.



Horowitz said his left-wing party Meretz was working to "keep the two-state solution alive" within the current government.

"Do not let it disappear, and do not sabotage the chance of reaching it in the future, because there is no other solution," he said.

Abbas appeared to acknowledge this, saying he was prepared to meet with all members of the coalition, inviting them to Ramallah.

"We must begin to create confidence-building measures, to prove that we intend to make peace, and to enable me to protect the hope of the Palestinian people. If we lose hope, we lose the future," a statement by Meretz quoted Abbas as saying.

He specifically mentioned his interest in speaking with Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked, who flatly rejected the proposal on Twitter, saying she would not meet with "a Holocaust denier who is suing Israel soldiers at The Hague and paying murderers of Jews."

11.15.21

Gantz official visit to Morocco Nov. 24 to normalize relations with Israel

11.15.21

Gantz to jet off to Morocco next week in first official visit

Defense minister will travel to African nation on Nov. 24 to sign security cooperation agreements with Rabat as rapprochement with Jerusalem further deepens

Reuters| Published: 11.15.21, 19:34

Defense Minister Benny Gantz will pay an official visit to Morocco on Nov. 24 as the former Israeli military chief is set to sign security cooperation agreements with the North African kingdom, the Defense Ministry said on Monday.

Morocco was one of four Arab countries — along with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan — to normalize relations with Israel last year under U.S.-engineered agreements, known as the Abraham Accords.

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid traveled to Morocco in August for the first visit by Israel's top diplomat to that country since 2003.

Lapid officially opened up the Israeli Liaison Office in Rabat as well as met with officials and signed a series of agreements.

Morocco was home to one of the largest and most prosperous Jewish communities in North Africa and the Middle East for centuries until Israel's founding in 1948. An estimated quarter of a million left Morocco for Israel from 1948 to 1964.

Today only about 3,000 Jews remain in Morocco, while hundreds of thousands of Israelis claim some Moroccan ancestry.

Officials in Morocco have described the diplomatic deal with Israel, including the opening of liaison offices and the launching of flights between the two countries, as a **restoration of mid-level ties** that Rabat cooled in 2000 in solidarity with the Palestinians.

**11.15.21**

**PM working to stop surging crime and violence by warrantless weapon searches**

**11.15.21**

**PM says he's working to stop crime wave before Israel turns into 'nightmare'**

Day after the **massive brawl** outside **Be'er Sheva's** main hospital, Bennett says government 'dealing with problems we used to think were inevitable'; adds if solution not found, the **country will be unlivable** by 2030

Itamar Eichner | Published: **11.15.21**, 15:01

Following a massive armed brawl that shocked residents of Israel's south, Prime Minister Naftali **Bennett vowed** Monday **to tackle the surging rates of crime and violence** before the country turns into a 'nightmare'.

"We are now regularly dealing with problems we used to think were inevitable," the prime minister said in a special discussion of the ministerial team heading the effort to stem violence in the Arab sector.

"Our mission now is not to take our foot off the gas, but to continue with all our might until the mission is complete. We are working now, otherwise in 2030 Israel will be a nightmare to live in," Bennett added.

The emergency meeting took place hours after a **massive brawl between two Bedouin families** from Rahat broke out outside Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva, with gunshots reportedly ringing through the air.

The scuffle outside south Israel's biggest and most populated hospital resulted in the injury of four people and the arrest of 20.

The mayor of Be'er Sheva, Rubik Danilovich, meanwhile, dubbed the escalating crime wave in the country nothing less than a "national emergency" and "a real war on democracy".

"This is **civil terrorism** that is slowly beginning **to take over the state**," Danilovich said. "Murder cases have become routine and no one is waking up. Someone has to come and talk to the Israeli public, they are losing their sense of personal security."

The brawl that shook the southern city comes months after the government unveiled a new plan to combat the spiraling violence among the country's Arab population. Among other things, the plan includes collaboration of **efforts** between the **IDF** and the Shin Bet domestic security agency, **meant to stop weapon smuggling**, as well as other **unprecedented means such as warrantless searches**.

11.14.21

Sa'ar drafted bill & MKs voted in favor to set 8 year term limit for PM

11.14.21

Israeli ministers approve draft bill to limit PM terms

Proposed amendment to Israel's quasi-constitutional Basic Laws would force a prime minister to step down after eight years in power; bill will not apply retroactively to Netanyahu if passed into law

Moran Azulay, Tova Zimuky | Published: 11.14.21, 17:12

The Israeli ministers on Sunday unanimously approved a contentious bill that would set term limits for the premiership.

The Ministerial Committee for Legislation voted overwhelmingly in favor of the bill despite many saying it appears to personally target former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu due to his ongoing criminal trial.

The proposed amendment to Israel's quasi-constitutional Basic Laws — tabled by Justice Minister Gideon Sa'ar — would force a prime minister to step down after eight years in power, or, alternately, after serving two terms that followed two elections. Sa'ar took to social media to hail the vote.

"Prolonged rule is a danger to the freedom of the nation and to the morality of its sons. It breeds corruption," Sa'ar opened his Facebook post, evoking Menachem Begin, the former leader of the Likud party of which Sa'ar was a senior member before splintering off to form his New Hope party last year.

"Term limits, in lieu of a limitless term, are an important principle at the foundation of the perception that the government works for the wellbeing of the citizens instead of itself and its survival. We will continue to strengthen Israel as a Jewish and democratic state." The draft bill must clear three Knesset plenum readings before becoming law and will not be retroactive, thus not affecting Opposition Leader Netanyahu — who had served as prime minister for 15 years in total over two non-consecutive terms — if he seeks reelection.

Likud MK David Bitan told Ynet earlier Sunday he favorably viewed backing the bill since it does not apply retroactively to Netanyahu, allaying fears of personal legislation against the Likud chief.

"I don't think we can oppose this law, it won't look good in the eyes of the public," he said. "I am ready for Netanyahu to be prime minister for eight years." However, Bitan reserved he will vote according to the party's position regarding the bill and that Netanyahu was still opposed to it.