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04.05.22

Zelensky says Ukraine will become 'big Israel,' with security top priority

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Zelensky says Ukraine will become 'big Israel,' with security top priority

in an interview with Ukrainian journalists, Ukraine's president also calls events in Bucha 'unforgivable' as satellite new images appear to rebuff Russian claims dead bodies in liberated city were planted recently to discredit Kremlin

Reuters,AFP, Ynet| Published: 04.05.22, 15:10

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Tuesday on state television that amid the Russian invasion, Ukraine will become "big Israel", with security being the top priority for the country over the next 10 years.

In an interview with Ukrainian journalists broadcast on national television, Zelensky also said that "Ukraine had no option but to negotiate with Russia to end fighting," but him and Russian President Vladimir Putin might not talk in person.

Zelensky was speaking after accusing Russian troops of carrying out extra-judicial killings in the town of Bucha west of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

"All of us, including myself, will perceive even the possibility of negotiations as a challenge," Zelensky said. "The challenge is internal, first of all, one's own, human challenge. Then, when you pull yourself together, and you have to do it, I think that we have no other choice."

He said the events in Bucha were unforgivable and signaled that Moscow should recognize what its troops were alleged to have done.

The Russian news agency Interfax cited a deputy Russian foreign minister as saying talks between the two sides were continuing via video link.

Meanwhile, satellite images released on Monday appear to refute Russian assertions that dead bodies in civilian clothing found in Bucha had appeared there after Russian forces retreated from the devastated Ukrainian town.

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said the reports of civilian killings in Bucha were "fakes" aimed at discrediting Russia. Moscow said it would present "empirical evidence" to a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday proving its forces were not involved.

Mid-March satellite imagery of a Bucha street showed several bodies of civilians lying dead in or just off the roadway where Ukrainian officials recently said they found multiple corpses after Russian troops withdrew.

Russia's Defense Ministry also denied responsibility, saying that all its units "withdrew completely from Bucha as early as March 30," while the Kremlin has dismissed the graphic images emerging from the town as "fakes" concocted by Ukraine.

That claim was repeated at the United Nations on Monday, where Moscow's envoy Vassily Nebenzia reiterated at a press conference the corpses pictured in Bucha were not there before Russian troops left the city.

"Suddenly they appear on the streets lying on the road, one by one, left and right, some of them are moving, some of them showing the signs of life," he said, claiming the scenes were "arranged by the Ukrainian information, information warfare machine." But Maxar satellite images dated March 19 and March 21 show that multiple bodies were on Bucha's Yablonska street at that time.

And according to the Times analysis, Maxar images show dark objects of similar size to human bodies appearing on the street between March 9 and 11. Many of the bodies pictured in the satellite images appeared in the precise position on the ground as seen in video footage from the same street filmed by a Ukrainian local council member, and in photographs by international news outlets.

04.04.22

Police raid find massive arms cache buried under a home after boasting videos

04.04.22

Police uncover hundreds of weapons underground in Negev raid

Intelligence leads officers to massive arms cache buried underneath a home in Bedouin town of Laqiya in one of the most significant weapon seizures in the area; 45-year-old homeowner arrested

Ilana Curie | Published: 04.04.22, 22:38

The police on Monday have uncovered hundreds of weapons hidden underground in a raid in the Bedouin town of Laqiya in the Negev.

Among the arms that were found buried under a home in the town was a pistol that was reported to have been stolen 15 years ago. A 45-year-old woman who is living there was arrested.

Border Police Superintendent Shahaf Aharon told Ynet that officers found the arms cache thanks to intelligence they received. He confirmed that the police dug up gunstocks, barrels, and a pistol that was stolen in 2005.

"This is actually part of our routine activity that we carry out on a daily basis in the framework of the violent conflicts in the area," Aharon said. "This is one of the most significant seizures in the area."

It was not immediately clear whether the weaponry was intended for terror or criminal purposes, however, some of it would have most probably ended up in the hands of terrorist elements due to wide overlapping between the two.

Since last May's Gaza war and inter-communal riots in Israel, the police have called upon residents of the Negev to aid them in their efforts to confiscate illegal weaponry within the Bedouin population. A common phenomenon amongst this population is posting videos boasting their illegal firearms on TikTok.

Locals' calls for police raids on illegal arms have become intensified following the recent terror attack in Be'er Sheva, in which an ISIS-affiliated Bedouin Israeli killed four people. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett addressed the issue during a visit to the Bedouin city of Rahat last December.

"I heard your cries for help," he said. "From the day the government was established, we set tackling the raging violence in the Arab sector as a national goal. It's not just words. We're talking about human lives. The personal safety of the south's residents that has been lost.

"We've got militias that act as if they're in the Wild West, and the message to people of the south is that we won't relent. The law in Rahat is the same as in Be'er Sheva and the same as in Tel Aviv."

04.03.22

Police arrest ten PA in violent clashes near Damascus Gate Sunday night.

04.03.22

Police arrest at least ten Palestinians in violent Jerusalem clashes

In footage from the scene, members of the crowd could be seen hurling objects at law enforcement and even attacking them with their bare hands; officers use riot control measures on crowd

Gilad Cohen, Hassan Shaa'an | Published: 04.03.22, 23:48

Israeli security forces arrested at least ten Palestinians as the two parties clashed violently near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City Sunday night.

Law enforcement prepared for riots and arrived in large numbers in the Old City and the Nablus Gate, where prayers for Ramadan are held, and used riot control measures.

In footage from the scene, members of the crowd could be seen hurling objects at law enforcement and even attacking them with their bare hands.

In the video, an iron bar was seen thrown at the police officers, who responded by pulling out their pistols in front of the civilian population that had gathered on the bustling street. Later documentation featured a crowd forming around police officers who responded with batons.

One of the policemen at the scene was lightly injured by a bottle thrown at him and hit him in the face.

"Uniformed and undercover police forces worked to remove agitators and rioters, and have so far **arrested three** suspects for throwing objects and rocks at police officers and passersby and disturbing public order," a police statement read.

Whoever chooses to disturb the peace, riot and use violence of any kind, harms first and foremost a large public of worshippers, merchants and visitors — the vast majority of whom wanted to celebrate Ramadan safely and peacefully while maintaining freedom of worship.

We will not allow those agitators on the violent margins to disturb the peace. We call on the public to mark the month of Ramadan lawfully, to heed police instructions and avoid violence and disturbances of any kind."

Earlier Sunday, Prime Minister Naftali **Bennett and Jordan's King Abdullah II** **spoke** by phone with the advent of the holy month of Ramadan and amid rising tensions between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Royal Palace said that the Jordanian monarch **asked Bennett to avoid** imposing measures that could **restrict access** of Muslim worshippers **to** Jerusalem's al-Aqsa **Mosque during Ramadan** for fear it could further exacerbate tensions.

04.03.22

**Bracing for worst-case scenario on Temple Mt., Police recruit more officers**

04.03.22

**Bracing for worst-case scenario on Temple Mt., says senior police officer**

Jerusalem District Police commander pours cold water on reports likening situation **around** sensitive **religious site** to a powder keg as law enforcement **expect record turnout** **after two years of pandemic-induced curbs** on gatherings

Haim Goldich | Published: **04.03.22**, 20:15

Israel Police is preparing for a "worst-case scenario" on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, Jerusalem District Police Commander Nati Gur told Ynet on **Sunday** as the Muslim world welcomes the month of **Ramadan** — **a time of heightened religious fervor.**

This would be Gur's third year filling one of the most stressful positions in the Israeli police force, but during a tour of the capital's historical Old City, he confidently said: "We will know how to respond to any incident."

"Saying that the situation on the ground is like a powder keg within an ace from a blowing up would be an exaggeration, but we are definitely facing challenging times ahead," he said with strong conviction.

"We have very high-quality **officers** here, and there are excellent commanders who can **get the job done** best. We are **vigilant** and we have unprecedented operational **readiness**. The combination of all this together will allow us to pass this period safely. We have been preparing for terrorist attacks, mass rioting, manpower crunch, and handling

multiple locations at once. We know how to respond, our forces are strong and well trained, but I hope it won't have to come to this. If it does happen ultimately, we are ready for it."

This year, the police are expecting a record number of worshipers to ascend the Temple Mount after two years of COVID-19 pandemic-induced curbs on gatherings at the religious site. "The number of people will be higher, and accordingly, we bolstered the number of police officers around the Old City," the commander said.

As Israel grapples with a spate of Islamist terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of 11 Israelis, tensions are running high around Jerusalem, but Commander Gur says that the terror threat in the capital is always present. "In March, we experienced two attacks in the Old City, at the gates of the Temple Mount. The terror threat is very real. We witnessed it in the past few weeks, and we prepared for Ramadan by learning the lessons from last May's Palestinian riots."

Another challenge bedeviling law enforcement is disinformation circulating online that plays a key role in stoking the simmering tensions.

"We are dealing with a lot of disinformation by people who want to incite and disseminate a false image of what is happening on Temple Mount. We have established a task force that knows how to respond and deal with such cases and answer for them before things get out of hand."

Gur further says that Israel Police is pushing to recruit more officers to backfill understaffed sectors. "I'm not familiar with the exact numbers, but I think there is a shortage of officers, at least in my sector, and the Israel Police is doing what it can to recruit more officers."

"We recruit more personnel all the time and we are trying to carry out mass recruitment campaigns. I think now is a good time to join the force, and to serve with a sense of confidence and pride in the Israeli police. I have been on the force for almost 30 years with great pride to serve the State of Israel through police service, in such complex places, and to deal with such tremendous challenges."

"We see what is happening all over the country and I think it is really a privilege to come and serve with the Israeli police, and we would love for good people to come and join us."

"I feel that Jerusalem District Police in particular and Israel Police as a whole are well prepared for Ramadan. I hope Ramadan, which is a jovial festival, will be full of holiday spirit, and everyone will enjoy it. Nevertheless, we are ready to respond to any incident in our sector," Gur concluded.

04.03.22

IDF prepared for terror wave, including military in Gaza, if terror factions escalate

04.03.22

IDF prepared for any terror challenge, including new campaign in Gaza' Gen. Ran Kochav tells Ynet that IDF keeping its eye on southern border, as well as on threats from Lebanon and Syria; says anti-terror op in West Bank aiming to differentiate between terrorists and Palestinians crossing into Israel for work  
Attila Somfalvi | Updated: 04.03.22, 11:03

The Israeli military said Sunday they are prepared for any scenario as part of the latest terror wave engulfing the country, including a new military campaign in Gaza, if terror factions in the enclave escalate their stance.

IDF Spokesperson Lt. Gen. Ran Kochav told Ynet the military was prepared for any eventuality of the current wave, including attacks from across the borders of Lebanon and Syria, as well as from the south.

He said that despite the relatively quiet year since the events of last May, when in addition to riots inside Israel in mixed Arab-Jewish cities, Hamas launched rocket attacks resulting in 11 days of cross-border fighting with Gaza - the IDF has remained prepared for similar events.

Kochav also praised the security forces, who over the weekend they neutralized a suspected terror group preparing to carry out an attack in Israel. "This must be a message to our enemies, and I think it was delivered," Kochav said.

On Saturday, forces engaged with the four-man squad killing three in exchanges of fire. In their vehicle the troops found weapons indicating they were on route to carry out a terror strike.

He said the challenges in the West Bank are different from the ones the troops are accustomed to in Gaza.

"The partition fence along the West Bank is unlike the borders with Gaza or Egypt," Kochav said.

"Hundreds of farmers and workers cross over from the West Bank daily and in some areas, the fence is not complete and requires an investment in infrastructure. The gunman who carried out the deadly attack in Bnei Brak last week, used an opening for farmers and abused our desire to allow a good quality of life for innocent Palestinians," he said.

"Upwards of 100,000 Palestinians enter Israel each day for work and Jewish settlers travel back and forth to the West Bank settlements," Kochav said.

"This is not a border and is certainly not hermetically sealed. There is a joint life and economy. If the government decides that there must be a sealed border there, the IDF will rise to the challenge but for now, our mission is to differentiate between infiltrating terrorists and working civilians," he said.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett held security consultations on Saturday with the heads of the Shin Bet and other senior officials.

"We are in the midst of a joint effort by all security agencies to stop the wave of terror and return the security to the citizens of Israel," Bennett said. "Our forces prevented a terror attack by militants who were already on their way and are working to stop any more that may follow with determination and bravery," he said.

Bennett said the recent wave of terror is not unprecedented.

"Once it is the Hamas, which is trying to instigate attacks, other times it is the Islamic Jihad and now we see the involvement of IS. Terror and violence have always united us and made us more resolute to hold on to our land and protect it," he said.

"We will overcome this difficult time. We have the best security forces in the world."

04.01.22

Troops eliminated PA terrorist throwing firebomb at them in West Bank

04.01.22

Palestinian terrorist lobbed firebomb at Israeli troops in West Bank, eliminated. Forces open fire at assailant who put them in immediate danger during a violent riot in Hebron; 'We'll lay our hands on those who seek to harm Israeli citizens,' Gantz says at the end of a West Bank tour

Elior Levy, Yoav Zitun, Elisha Ben Kimon, Haim Goldich | Published: 04.01.22, 19:04

A Palestinian assailant was shot dead by Israeli forces after he threw a Molotov cocktail at them during a violent riot near the southern West Bank city of Hebron, putting them at immediate risk, the IDF said on Friday. There were no casualties on the Israeli side.

The terrorist was identified as Ahmad al-Atrash, 29, who was imprisoned in Israel three times between 2010 and 2020 for a slew of security offenses.

He was previously convicted of throwing Molotov cocktails, manufacturing weapons and selling them.

A crowd of Palestinians that carried his body from the scene shouted "Allah Akbar," and "in spirit and blood we will redeem Palestine."

Al-Atrash is the fourth Palestinian terrorist eliminated by Israeli throughout the West Bank in over 24 hours. Two Palestinian gunmen were killed in a fire exchange with Israeli forces during a counterterrorism operation in the northern West Bank city of Jenin Thursday morning and another was shot dead by an armed civilian in Gush Etzion after stabbing an Israeli multiple times with a screwdriver on a bus, severely wounding him.

Earlier Friday, Defense Minister Benny Gantz toured the West Bank as forces were placed on high alert after a series of Islamist terrorist attacks by both Palestinians and Arab Israeli nationals that claimed the lives of 11 Israelis in one week.



"We will continue to make arrests and initiate defensive and offensive actions, and we will lay our hands on those who seek to harm the citizens of Israel. Everywhere and at any time," he said at the end of a situational assessment with senior military officials. Gantz urged the Palestinians to maintain the calm ahead of the month of Ramadan — a time of heightened religious fervor that is characterized by a spike in nationalistic-driven terrorist acts.

Meanwhile, the Friday prayers on the Temple Mount's al-Aqsa Mosque, which were attended by more than 20,000 Muslim worshippers, have concluded without any unusual incidents.

The mass prayer session at the Jerusalem flashpoint often devolves into anti-Jewish incitement and clashes with security forces during times of heightened tensions.

03.31.22

Russia demands rouble gas payments, Europe may cut a third of its supplies

03.31.22

Russia sets deadline for rouble gas payments, Europe calls it 'blackmail'

Putin's move leaves Europe facing the prospect of losing more than a third of its gas supply as energy exports are Putin's most powerful lever as he tries to hit back against sweeping Western sanctions

Reuters| Published: 03.31.22, 22:50

Russian President Vladimir Putin is demanding foreign buyers pay for Russian gas in roubles from Friday or else have their supplies cut, a move European capitals rejected and which Berlin said amounted to "blackmail".

Putin's move, via a decree signed on Thursday, leaves Europe facing the prospect of losing more than a third of its gas supply. Germany, the most heavily reliant on Russia, has already activated an emergency plan that could lead to rationing in Europe's biggest economy.

Energy exports are Putin's most powerful lever as he tries to hit back against sweeping Western sanctions imposed on Russian banks, companies, businessmen, and associates of the Kremlin in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Moscow calls its Ukraine action a "special military operation".

In televised remarks, Putin said buyers of Russian gas "must open rouble accounts in Russian banks. It is from these accounts that payments will be made for gas delivered starting from tomorrow," or April 1.

"If such payments are not made, we will consider this a default on the part of buyers, with all the ensuing consequences. Nobody sells us anything for free, and we are not going to do charity either - that is, existing contracts will be stopped," he said.

It was not immediately clear whether in practice there might still be a way for foreign firms to continue payment without using roubles, which the European Union and G7 group of states have ruled out.

His decision to enforce rouble payments has boosted the Russian currency, which fell to historic lows after the Feb. 24 invasion. The rouble has since recovered much-lost ground.

Western companies and governments have rejected any move to change their gas supply contracts to change the payment currency. Most European buyers use euros. Executives say it would take months or longer to renegotiate terms.

Payment in roubles would also blunt the impact of Western curbs on Moscow's access to its foreign exchange reserves.

Meanwhile, European states have been racing to secure alternative supplies, but with the global market already tight, they have few options. The United States has offered more of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) but not enough to replace Russia.

Germany Economy Minister Robert Habeck said Russia had not been able to divide Europe and said Western allies were determined to not be "blackmailed" by Russia.

Berlin said it would continue paying for Russian energy imports in euros.

France's economy minister Bruno Le Maire said France and Germany were preparing for a possible scenario in that Russian gas flows could be halted.

Le Maire declined to comment on technical details linked to the latest Russian demands for rouble payment.

The order signed by Putin creates a mechanism for payments to be made via special foreign currency and rouble accounts at Gazprombank, with the foreign money to be converted into roubles via currency auctions on a Moscow exchange.

Putin said the switch would strengthen Russia's sovereignty, saying the Western countries were using the financial system as a weapon, and it made no sense for Russia to trade in dollars and euros when assets in those currencies were being frozen.

"What is actually happening, what has already happened? We have supplied European consumers with our resources, in this case, gas. They received it, paid us in euros, which they then froze themselves. In this regard, there is every reason to believe that we delivered part of the gas provided to Europe practically free of charge. That, of course, cannot continue," he said.

Putin also said Russia still valued its business reputation. "We comply and will continue to comply with obligations under all contracts, including gas contracts, we will continue to supply gas in the prescribed volumes – I want to emphasize this – and at prices specified in existing, long-term contracts," he said.

Several European companies with Russian contracts had no immediate comment or did not immediately respond as Putin's announcement sent further shivers through the market. European gas prices have rocketed higher in recent months on mounting tension with Russia raising the risk of recession. Soaring energy prices have already forced companies, including makers of steel and chemicals, to curtail production. read more

Poland's PGNiG, which has a long-term contract with Russia's gas pipeline export monopoly Gazprom that expires at the end of this year, had no immediate comment. The Polish Climate Ministry also had no immediate comment. The Polish contract with Gazprom is for 10.2 billion cubic meters of gas a year and is denominated in dollars. Italian energy firm Eni, another major European buyer of Russian gas, also had no comment. It bought around 22.5 bcm of Russian gas in 2020. Its contracts with Gazprom expire in 2035.

German buyers of Russian gas - Uniper (UN01.DE), RWE (RWEG.DE) and EnBW's (EBKG.DE) and VNG (VNG.UL) - did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

03.31.22

Turkey would discuss gas pipeline with Israel mid-May after Ramadan

03.31.22

Turkey says gas pipeline with Israel not possible in short term

Turkish president claims if subject discussed after Ramadan and steps taken immediately, process will accelerate for Israel-Turkey cooperation east Mediterranean crude oil, and natural gas

Reuters| Published: 03.31.22, 17:22

A potential gas pipeline project between Turkey and Israel is not possible in the short-term and building an alternative system to cut dependence on Russia will not happen quickly, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday.

Turkey and Israel have in recent weeks been working to mend their long-strained ties, and energy has emerged as a potential area of cooperation.

Turkish media on Thursday reported President Tayyip Erdogan as saying he was "very, very hopeful" for energy cooperation with Israel, and he hoped to discuss the issue with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.

"If we discuss this subject with Bennett after Ramadan and we take steps immediately, the process will accelerate for Israel-Turkey cooperation, east Mediterranean crude oil, and natural gas," he told reporters on his plane returning from a trip to Uzbekistan. The Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins on April 2.

The regional rivals expelled ambassadors in 2018 and have often traded barbs over the Palestinian conflict, Turkish support of the Hamas militant group, which runs Gaza, and other issues.

Speaking to broadcaster A Haber, Cavusoglu said he would travel to Israel and Palestine with Energy Minister Fatih Donmez in mid-May and would discuss the appointment of ambassadors with his Israeli counterpart during the visit.

03.31.22

Daylight IDF raid & shootout in Jenin, 30 PA of 31 detained with weapon stash

03.31.22

Shootouts in broad daylight: Inside IDF's terror raid in Jenin

Over 30 Palestinians detained after troops enter West Bank and its refugee camp to arrest accomplices of Bnei Brak terrorist, confiscate guns, flak jackets, M-16 rifles, and ammunition in first day of 'Operation Breakwater'

Yoav Zitun | Published: 03.31.22, 16:38

Fire exchanges were heard in the streets of Jenin early Thursday as hundreds of IDF soldiers raided the West Bank city at dawn on the first day of "Operation Breakwater," meant to thwart the latest terror wave that have so far claimed the lives of 11 people.

IDF soldiers from several elite units participated in the extensive raid in the West Bank, with a focus on the Jenin area, where the gunman of the deadly Bnei Brak terror attack lived.

A total of 31 suspects were detained, some of whom alleged to have ties with the Islamic State members in Hebron.

Contrary to its past practices and under increased risk, the IDF chose to conduct the mission in an overt fashion and in broad daylight. By doing so, the forces were sending a message to potential terrorists and to the local population.

A few hours prior to the raid, elite snipers were strategically stationed throughout the city of Jenin and in its refugee camp. Only later, at around 7-8am, a green light for the raid to begin, was given.

Within minutes, IDF forces entered the city and the refugee camp and detained two Palestinians suspected of providing the Bnei Brak terrorist with weaponry and a vehicle. Gunshots were fired at the soldiers, who responded, killing three. According to initial debriefings, some of the confrontations were at point blank range.

After only one hour, the forces left the area with a suspect, alleged to have been planning further attacks, unrelated to the Bnei Brak shooting, in the custody.

One IDF sniper was lightly wounded and was later evacuated to hospital. An M-16 rifle used in the exchanges of fire was later found in a neighboring building. In the course of the operation, forces uncovered and confiscated guns, flak jackets, M-16 rifles, and ammunition.

03.31.22

Ben Gvir visits Temple Mt. snubs terrorists, citing; 'We are the owners here'

03.31.22

Far-right lawmaker Ben Gvir visits Temple Mt. amid terror wave

Disregarding excited warnings tour may spark widespread violence, firebrand politician strolls through religious site surrounded by large police forces; 'We are the owners here,' he says

Haim Goldich, Hassan Shaalan, Liran Levi | Published: 03.31.22, 13:39

Far-right lawmaker Itamar Ben Gvir on Thursday ascended to Jerusalem's Temple Mount — a frequent boiling pot of religious and nationalist tensions between Jews and Muslims — as a fear of widespread violence looms over the country amid a spate of terrorist attacks against Israelis.

Ben Gvir's visit was preceded by excited warnings from both Israelis and Palestinians that it may provoke Muslims and serve to spark a fresh round of violence.

Public Security Minister Omer Barlev urged the police to block the visit, but law enforcement ultimately cleared the tour after a situational assessment.

Early Thursday, a spokesperson for the Hamas terrorist group which rules the Gaza Strip issued a warning of the "consequences of this dangerous provocative move." In a video circulating online, the firebrand politician can be seen strolling through the religious site surrounded by large police forces.

He is heard addressing Hamas's threat, saying he was unmoved by it and wondered why Israel doesn't eliminate the spokesperson in a targeted killing — a long-held Israeli policy targeting senior Palestinian terrorist figures in order to deter further belligerence.

"He threatens me? I am the owners in the State of Israel. Giving in to terrorists and all those who threaten us only invites more terror," Ben Gvir said.

"The terror of the past week, two weeks started before [my visit of the Temple Mount], so the solution is do not bat an eye and tell them we are the owners here. Giving up the Temple Mount conveys a message to Hamas it can target the entire Land of Israel." Ben Gvir also criticized the Israeli defense establishment for restricting access of Jewish worshippers to the site — which is the most sacred place in Judaism as it was once home to the First and Second Temples — for fear it could stoke tensions with Muslim worshippers there.

03.31.22

Israeli troops kill three terrorists in West Bank counter terror op

03.31.22

Israeli troops kill three terrorists in West Bank counterterror op

Hundreds of Israeli troops take part in large-scale crackdown on Palestinian militants in the city of Jenin suspected of planning terrorist activity in Israel; one Israeli soldier wounded in fire exchange

Yoav Zitun, Elinor Levy | Published: 03.31.22, 10:12

Three Palestinian terrorists were killed in a fire exchange with Israeli forces during an extensive raid on the northern West Bank city of Jenin as part of a wider crackdown on Islamist terrorist activity.

An Israeli commando was lightly wounded in the firefight and evacuated by helicopter to Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa for treatment.

Security forces are still in the city and closing in on a compound of several buildings where terrorist operatives are hiding.

Additional forces in the area were covering for them with gunfire against additional belligerents. The operation started overnight Thursday and continued throughout the morning hours with the siege on the building.

Videos circulated online showed smoke rising from the center of Jenin as gunfire echoed in the background. Others appeared to show Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen moving through the narrow streets.

The raid came as part of a wider operation across the northern West Bank involving hundreds of Israeli troops and is aimed at arresting Palestinian militants suspected of planning terrorist attacks, as well as those suspected of aiding and abetting the terrorist behind the deadly shooting spree in Bnei Brak.

The Jenin refugee camp was the scene of one of the deadliest battles of the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising. In April 2002, Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants in the camp, leading to the deaths of 23 Israeli soldiers and more than 50 Palestinians. In recent years the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank, has appeared to have little control over Jenin. Israeli forces operating in and around the city and refugee camp often come under fire.

The raid came two days after a 27-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank village of Yabad, near Jenin, methodically gunned down five people in Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv, part of a spate of terror attacks in recent days that have left a total of 11 Israelis dead.

On Sunday night, a shooting attack by two Islamic State sympathizers in the northern city of Hadera killed two police officers. Last week, a combined car-ramming and stabbing attack in the southern city of Be'er Sheva — also by an attacker inspired by IS — killed four. The two attacks claimed by IS were carried out by Arab citizens of Israel.

On Wednesday evening, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett told Israelis who have a license for a firearm, "this is the time to carry a weapon," amid the ongoing terror wave. At the opening of a meeting of the high-level State Security Cabinet, Bennett announced the establishment of a new Border Police brigade to help tackle the emerging terror threat.

He then said he had ordered the defense forces to "look into anyone who ever had anything to do with the Islamic State."

The premier issued the call in a video statement from his home in Ra'anana where he is quarantined due to coronavirus infection.

Ministers discussed whether to freeze lifting some restrictions on Palestinians ahead of Ramadan but ultimately decided against the move. They also floated the idea of enacting a lockdown, which was soundly rejected by defense officials.

A government source has told Ynet that the panel decided to beef up police and Shin Bet presence and operations nationwide.

3.30.22

Police permit Ben Gvir to ascend Temple Mount on Thursday Rosh Chodesh eve

3.30.22

Police to permit Ben Gvir to enter Temple Mount

Jerusalem District Police Commander decides to allow Otzma Yehudit chairman to ascend Temple Mount. Bennett not expected to intervene.

Orli Harari | 30.03.22 23:56

Jerusalem District Police Commander Doron Turgeman decided on Wednesday, following an assessment of the situation, that the chairman of the Otzma Yehudit Party, MK Itamar Ben Gvir, will be permitted to ascend the Temple Mount on Thursday.

However, there will be another assessment of the situation on Thursday morning. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett can use his authority and prevent Ben Gvir from ascending the Temple Mount, but it appears as though Bennett is not expected to intervene in the police decision.



Ben Gvir normally ascends the Temple Mount on the eve of every Rosh Chodesh. He plans to enter through one of the other entrances to the compound in case he is not given a permit, and hand over to the police the responsibility for the situation in the event of clashes.

In a recorded conversation with an activist of Otzma Yehudit published on Wednesday, Ben Gvir is heard saying: "Every Rosh Chodesh eve I go up to the Temple Mount. Do you want to set conditions? I am willing to accept your conditions and I will arrive in a coordinated manner. But I'm afraid they're waiting and waiting so I cannot file an appeal with the Supreme Court against such an illegal decision. That is why I think they're trying to trick me. There are ten active gates on the Temple Mount and they will find me there. If things get out of hand, it will only be Bennett and Barlev's fault."

Wednesday's decision comes a day after Kan 11 News reported that Public Security Minister Omer Barlev had asked the head of the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) to provide an opinion that would prevent Knesset members from ascending the Temple Mount during the month of Ramadan.

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Ynet-News, Mar 30, 2022 – Wednesday

03.30.22 – We- - - News Placed in Mar 30 spot – Wednesday  
Bennett to Israel: Time to carry a weapon; 12 Police battalions in WB & 2 in Gaza

03.29.22 – Tu- - - News  
West Bank adds four battalions as terror rose to highest threat amid Ramadan attacks

03.29.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Mar 29 spot – Tuesday



Gantz met Jordan's King in Amman, to enable PA worship during Ramadan

03.29.22 – Tu- - - News

Israel nabs 12 Arabs having ties with terror group of Hadera shooting spree

03.29.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Mar 28 spot – Monday

Israel-Turkey gas pipeline an option for Europe, if Turkey helps 1.5 billion build

03.28.22 – Mo- - - News

Israel welcomed 10,000 fleeing Ukraine, with more expected in weeks and months

03.28.22 – Mo- - - News

Israel offers support to Morocco from Algeria demanding Western Sahara

03.28.22 – Mo- - - News

Putin not compromising ahead of peace talks in Istanbul Tuesday

03.28.22 – Mo- - - News

Two Ukrainian negotiators suffered poison symptoms of after meeting in Kyiv

03.28.22 – Mo- - - News

March 13, Iran 12 missile attack on Iraq Kurdish villa of a pipeline meeting spot

03.28.22 – Mo- - - News

In wake of terror wave, Israel launches manhunt for domestic Islamic State members

03.28.22 – Mo- - - News

Blinken joins rare Israel-Arab summit as Iran deal looms

03.27.22 – Su- - - News Placed in Mar 27 spot – Sunday

Top diplomats of Bahrain, UAE, Egypt begin Negev Summit on Iran sanctions

03.27.22 – Su- - - News Placed in Mar 27 spot – Sunday

Settlers argue; Gantz froze West bank construction in violation of coalition

03.27.22 – Su- - - News

Israel's Ben-Gurion University warns modesty patrol stalking female Bedouin students

03.27.22 – Su- - - News

Israel/Arab Negev summit on US removal of Iran from the terror list & sanctions

03.27.22 – Su- - - News

Ukraine says Russia wants to split nation; Separatists encircled southern ports