

Ynet-News, Apr 11, 2022 – Monday

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Israel to expand law & deny benefits to families & those of close ties with terrorist

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PA rioters shatter & set fire to Joseph's Tomb; IDF to take guardianship from PA

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IDF nab 15 in West Bank for Tel Aviv attack; terrorist is son of a high ranking PA officer

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04.10.22  
Israel to expand law & deny benefits to families & those of close ties with terrorist

04.10.22  
Israel mulls stripping benefits off terror families with citizenship  
Cabinet says within 60 days of establishment of dedicated team, a policy will be formulated and is going to include proposals for amendments to current legislation; PM says Israel holds families of terrorists with Israeli IDs accountable  
Itamar Eichner| Published: 04.10.22, 20:58

Israel approved Sunday the establishment of a team that would formulate a policy to deny benefits to families of terrorists who hold an Israeli citizenship

According to the decision approved by the cabinet during the weekly meeting, within 60 days of the dedicated team's establishment, recommendations will be formulated and presented to the government, which are going to include amendment proposals to the current legislation.

The outline was approved personally by Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Social Affairs Minister Meir Cohen, and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, and includes the relinquishing of pensions, allowances, and other benefits from state bodies.

"We are determined to repair and address everything that has been neglected for years and change the equation. We hold the terrorists responsible, but also those who had close ties with them," said Bennett.

The dedicated team will be composed of director generals from the Prime Minister's Office, Alternate Prime Minister Office, Public Security Ministry, Justice Ministry, Social Affairs Ministry, National Insurance Institute of Israel, and representatives of the Defense Ministry, Intelligence Ministry, Attorney General's Office and the National Security Council.

"Giving state benefits to families of terrorists is utterly absurd and it is time to right the wrong. The Israeli government will continue to fight terrorism with all the means at its disposal, as there are no limitations on this issue. The State of Israel will come settle scores with anyone who has a direct or indirect connection to terrorism."

Lapid added that "terrorists and their families need to know that there is a price for hurting innocent people. It is impossible for the state to continue to pay allowances to families of terrorists who could prevent attacks and loss of human life."

Cohen said: "This reality, in which citizens and residents of Israel turn against other residents of the state, requires examination of the means available to the state, both in the deterrent and in the punitive aspect. We can't sit back while we face this unthinkable wave of terror in which Israeli citizens are going on killing sprees. We will battle with determination and with all the tools at our disposal to prevent terrorism."

The proposal was presented following the recent terror attacks in Be'er Sheva and Hadera, carried out by Arab citizens of Israel who identified themselves as supporters of the Islamic State.

Currently, Israel's National Insurance Law takes the benefits away from perpetrators with Israeli citizenship who were convicted for nationalistic or terrorist acts. The new amendment would see the law being expanded to include the families of the assailants as well.

If an Israeli national is sentenced to life for a murder as a result of terror activity - he or she will not be eligible for benefits even after the sentence is served. Also, if someone is sentenced to at least ten years in prison for a serious terror offense, 50% of his or her benefits will be taken away.

04.10.22

PA rioters shatter & set fire to Joseph's Tomb; IDF to take guardianship from PA

04.10.22

Palestinians vandalize Joseph's Tomb amid security tensions

Rioters shatter and set fire to the holy Jewish monument, winning condemnation from Israeli officials across the board; Gantz calls attack 'a hit to the freedom of worship,' while Netanyahu says it must be immediately restored  
Elisha Ben Kimon | Published: 04.10.22, 11:17

Palestinians vandalized Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, one of the holiest sites in the Jewish religion, in an attack pre-dawn Sunday amid heightened security tensions in the area.

About 100 Palestinians rioters stormed the site, shattering the tombstone and lit fire to rooms in the monument.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz denounced the vandalization of the tomb, calling it "extremely serious".

"This is an assault on freedom of worship in one of the holiest places for every Jew, and to the Israeli people in general, especially during the holy Muslim holiday [Ramadan].

"Israel will make sure to fix the monument, return it to its previous condition as soon as possible, and act with all means necessary, so that an event like this doesn't happen again."

Gantz added that he "passed along a stern message to the Palestinian Authority that it must boost its forces at the site immediately, and act against the rioters and terrorists that harm the stability, safety, and the holy sites".

Head of the Shomron Regional Council Yossi Dagan was in close contact with security officials and criticized Israel for neglecting to properly protect the Jewish holy site.

"This is an act that no Jew will not be appalled by. They ruined one of the holiest places for the Jewish people, only because the Israeli state left the place to 'guardianship' of the PA."

Dagan, in delineating the event, compared the Palestinians to Islamic State, and called on the IDF to take on the guardianship of the holy monument.

"We're horrified by the event and demand condemnation from all state officials. The IDF must return to the Joseph's Tomb and guard the holy site."

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid also condemned the rioters. "A hit to the holy places is a hit to the peoples' hearts. Harming Joseph's Tomb, amid a holiday of brotherhood and sanctity, is horrifying.

"This is an insult not only to the tomb itself, but also to the deep emotions of the Jewish nation," Lapid added. "We'll bring justice to the vandalizers."

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu also condemned the attack, urging Israel to restore the site as soon as possible.

04.10.22

IDF nab 15 in West Bank for Tel Aviv attack; terrorist is son of a high ranking PA officer

04.10.22

Israeli forces nab 15 terror suspects in 2nd Jenin raid in as many days

Troops enter Jenin area focused on members of the family of the terrorist responsible for the attack in Tel Aviv; IDF kills one Jihad activist, injures 13 more, and confiscates weapons; Chief of Staff says military must stop infiltration of terrorists

Elior Levy, Yoav Zeitun | Updated: 04.10.22, 09:00

The IDF carried out an operation and arrested detaining at least 15 terror suspects in the village of Ya'bed and the refugee camp near the West Bank city of Jenin on Sunday morning, following the deadly terror attack in Tel Aviv that claimed the lives of two young victims.

Clashes with local Palestinian youth broke out as the troops entered the village. No injuries have been reported to any of the troops thus far.

Local militants, opened fire on the troops as they entered the area.

According to Palestinian sources, an Islamic Jihad activists was killed, and an additional 13 injured.

This operation marks the second morning in a row that the IDF carries out a mission in this area, resulting in exchanges of gunfire.

The military said that special forces of the IDF and Border Police, along with Shin Bet security agents, entered the Jenin refugee camp, where the terrorist responsible for the murderous terror attack in Tel Aviv - Ra'ad Hazem - had lived.

"During special forces operations, the IDF used riot control measures to disperse demonstrators including the use of fire. The IDF also apprehended a local Palestinian after he hurled an explosive device at the troops," the military said.

Though Hazem himself was killed several hours after the attack, the soldiers sought to detain members of his family for investigation, including his father, who fled the scene and refused to turn himself in. Meanwhile, the IDF mapped the home for future demolition.

The terrorists' father was a retired high ranking officer of the Palestinian Authority security forces.

In the operation on Sunday, the IDF also confiscated weapons from an identified Islamic Jihad activists, and after he was wounded, evacuated him to the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa.

The IDF also said that their forces late on Saturday identified a suspicious car attempting to cross over into Israel, after a bag containing weapons, was thrown out of it.

IDF chief of staff Aviv Kochavi on Friday, said the IDF was responsible for the terrorist succeeding in breaching the partition fence and reaching Tel Aviv. Kochavi was addressing troops deployed to the area.

"The event didn't need to happen. Our mission is very simple - we need to stop the terror and return security and a feeling of safety. We will do everything we can and must, when and where it is needed," Kochavi said.

04.09.22

Palestinian support 33% for one-state solution highest in years; as a PA state

04.09.22

Palestinian support for one-state solution highest in years

Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research shows 33% of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip support one state for both nations after 'losing trust in the possibility of the two-state solution'

The Media Line| Published: 04.09.22, 19:00

The one-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, once a nonstarter for most Israelis and Palestinians, is regaining popularity.

Some 33% of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip support one state for both Israelis and Palestinians, according to a recent poll conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR).

This marks an unusual rise in the popularity of the one-state solution, which only three months ago had the support of less than 24% of Palestinians. Such a state would include an almost equal number of Jews and Palestinians, who together would amount to a population of nearly 14 million citizens living in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

This change in Palestinian public opinion could have several reasons. Khalil Shikaki, director of PSR, explains that "after the clashes last May and June, and the escalation between Israel and Hamas, we noticed a sharp drop of support to the idea. What we see now could be the effect of time passing, and people going back to the stance they had before the escalation, which may have caused them to lose trust in the idea."

"Supporters of the one-state solution are usually younger Palestinians, nationalist and secular. In the long run, one of the causes for this idea becoming popular is them losing trust in the possibility of the two-state solution. However, this doesn't seem to be the case this time," said Shikaki, who has been monitoring Palestinian public opinion for almost 30 years.

PLO member and former minister of prisoner affairs for the Palestinian Authority, Ashraf al-Ajrami, believes uncertainty about the viability of a two-state solution has led to the rise in support.

"I think Palestinians support the one-state solution because of their disappointment in the current situation," Ajrami said. "People don't believe there is a situation in which the Israeli government will negotiate for a two-state solution."

A vocal supporter of the two-state solution, Ajrami thinks the support for a single state stems from a **misunderstanding of what it would mean in practice**. “I think there is confusion, especially among young Palestinians. **They believe they will have equal political rights**, which is something the **Israeli right-wing would never agree to**,” he said.

The numbers back Ajrami up. In a poll conducted in 2020 by Tel Aviv University and the PSR, 42% of Israeli right-wing voters openly supported “an apartheid state” as a solution to the conflict, while only 13% supported one democratic state, with equal rights for all.

A surprising advocate for a single democratic state as a solution to the conflict is David Elhayani, head of the Jordan Valley Regional Council, and one of the leaders of the settler movement in Israel. “This is where things are headed, whether we like it or not. **The two-state solution is dead, and you can’t annex the West Bank and Jordan Valley without giving the Palestinians full civil equality**. Anyone who says otherwise is in denial of reality,” he said.

While Elhayani preaches for improving the quality of life of Palestinians living under his council’s jurisdiction, his stance is quite controversial among other settler leaders. “I can tell you more or less who among my counterparts would support my views, and who won’t. It’s far from a consensus,” he said. “The **idea of a binational, Arab-Jewish state** was first **proposed** back in the **1920s** and was widely **rejected by both sides**,” according to historian Benny Morris, an expert on the Israel-Palestinian conflict. “After the 1967 war, no one talked about it seriously, until the 1990s. But, even then, the **one man who offered** it seriously on the **Palestinian** side was **asked by the PLO to stop advocating for it**, and he did, very quickly.”

The official stance of the Palestinian Authority is still a complete rejection of the idea of one state for both peoples.

“Three years ago, I went to a convention discussing the one-state concept,” a member of the PA said on condition of anonymity. “There were people from all around the West Bank, and we **talked about how this one democratic state might work. But there was absolutely no backing from above**, and we never met again. The message was clear.”

Ajrami seems to take the same hard line as the rest of the PLO. “The leadership understands that the **two-state** solution is the only viable solution, **supported by the international community**.” He adds, however, that if the one-state solution becomes more popular, we might see Palestinian leaders supporting it publicly.

“If, a few years from now, it will be impossible to arrive at a two-state solution, the **only way [forward] for Palestinians will be the one-state solution**. This was the original plan of the PLO: one democratic state across all of historic Palestine, with Jews, Christians, and Muslims living as equals,” Ajrami said.

This doesn’t surprise Morris, who claims that **one state “from the river to the sea,” the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, has always been the PLO’s real plan, though many say this slogan means a Palestinian state**.

But Morris is far from believing that one state could ever be a peaceful solution. "There will always be extremists, from both sides, who would interfere. Either Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad activists will carry out attacks, and destroy any chance for it to work," he adds.

The story is written by Adi Koplewitz and reprinted with permission from The Media Line

04.07.22

UN bars Russia from speaking and voting in Human Rights Council

04.07.22

United Nations suspends Russia from human rights body over Ukraine  
U.S.-led push garners 93 votes in favor, while 24 countries vote no and 58 countries abstain; Russia denies attacking civilians, warns countries in support of suspension of 'consequences for bilateral ties'

Reuters| Published: 04.07.22, 20:46

The United Nations General Assembly on Thursday suspended Russia from the U.N. Human Rights Council over reports of "gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights" by invading Russian troops in Ukraine.

The U.S.-led push garnered 93 votes in favor, while 24 countries voted no and 58 countries abstained. A two-thirds majority of voting members in the 193-member General Assembly in New York - abstentions do not count - was needed to suspend Russia from the 47-member Geneva-based Human Rights Council.

Suspensions are rare. Libya was suspended in 2011 because of violence against protesters by forces loyal to then-leader Muammar Gaddafi.

It was the third resolution adopted by the 193-member General Assembly since Russia invaded neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24. The two previous General Assembly resolutions denouncing Russia were adopted with 141 and 140 votes in favor. The resolution adopted on Thursday expresses "grave concern at the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine," particularly at reports of rights abuses by Russia.

Russia says it is carrying out a "special military operation" that aims to destroy Ukraine's military infrastructure and denies attacking civilians. Ukraine and allies say Moscow invaded without provocation.

Russia had warned countries that a yes vote or abstention will be viewed as an "unfriendly gesture" with consequences for bilateral ties, according to a note seen by Reuters.

Pulling a trigger

Russia was in its second year of a three-year term on the Geneva-based council, which cannot make legally binding decisions. Its decisions send important political messages, however, and it can authorize investigations.

Moscow is one of the most vocal members on the council and its suspension bars it from speaking and voting, officials say, although its diplomats could still attend debates. "They would probably still try to influence the Council through proxies," said a Geneva-based diplomat.

Last month the council opened an investigation into allegations of rights violations, including possible war crimes, in Ukraine since Russia's attack.

Speaking before the vote, Ukraine's U.N. Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya said a yes vote would "save the Human Rights Council and many lives around the world and in Ukraine," but a no vote was "pulling a trigger, and means a red dot on the screen - red as the blood of the innocent lives lost."

The United States announced it would seek Russia's suspension after Ukraine accused Russian troops of killing hundreds of civilians in the town of Bucha.

Russia's deputy U.N. Ambassador Gennady Kuzmin said now was not the time for "theatrical performances" and accused Western countries and allies of trying to "destroy existing human rights architecture."

"We reject the untruthful allegations against us based on staged events and widely circulated fakes," Kuzmin told the General Assembly before the vote, defending Russia's record as a Human Rights Council member.

After abstaining on the previous two General Assembly votes, Russia's partner China opposed the resolution Thursday.

"Such a hasty move at the General Assembly, which forces countries to choose sides, will aggravate the division among member states, intensify the confrontation between the parties concerned - it is like adding fuel to the fire," China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun said before the vote.

04.08.22

Bennett says Tel Aviv shooting spree accomplices will pay a heavy price

04.08.22

Bennett says Tel Aviv terrorist's accomplices will pay a heavy price

In a televised address after deadly shooting spree that claimed the lives of two Israelis, premier says security forces granted full freedom of action to eradicate terrorism; 'There are and won't be any restrictions to this war'

Ynet| Published: 04.08.22, 12:34

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Friday that anyone who aided and abetted the Palestinian gunman who went on a shooting spree in Tel Aviv the night before will pay a heavy price.



"Someone aided the terrorist in organizing [the attack] and obtaining the ammunition. Every murderer must know that we will get them, anyone who aids terrorists should know that the price they will pay will be unbearable," he said in a televised address to the public alongside Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Public Security Minister Omer Barlev.

Ra'ad Hazem, a 28-year-old Palestinian from the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank, arrived at a bar in the coastal financial hub and opened fire at a crowd of customers, killing two of them and wounding several others. He was ultimately eliminated by Israeli security forces after an hours-long manhunt. Hazem was staying in Israel illegally after being denied an entry permit under security considerations due to his affiliation with the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades.

Hazem's father, Fathi — a key figure in Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement in Jenin and a former officer in the Palestinian security forces — praised his son's actions in a video that circulated online Friday morning.

"[Palestinians] will see victory with the help of Allah, you will get liberty and independence. I pray that Allah would free al-Aqsa from the sullied occupiers," said Fathi Hazem.

Bennett condemned both the attack and Fathi senior's revelry over his son's actions and said that Israeli forces will stay on maximum alert.

"I watched the terrorist's father incite further violence and take pride in the actions of his murderer son, we've all seen the celebrations in Jenin," he said. "They wish to break our spirit and our grip over the land but they will not succeed. We will never break. The attack in Tel Aviv is over but will not let our guard down within Tel Aviv and the rest of the country."

He also stated that "we grant full freedom of action to the IDF, the Shin Bet and all security forces in order to eradicate terrorism. There are and won't be any restrictions to this war."

Bennett also extended his condolences to the families of the two victims — Tomer Morad and Eitam Magini, both 27-year-old students at Tel Aviv University — and wished a speedy recovery to those wounded in the attack.

Taking the rostrum after the prime minister, Gantz said that Israel would mobilize "all the required defensive and offensive systems" to stem the recent spate of Islamist terror attacks.

"We're in the midst of challenging times, facing a series of terrorist acts within the country," he said.

"The State of Israel is the most powerful nation in the region. Our enemies know it and feel it. The IDF and the rest of the security forces will keep employing all their intelligence capabilities as well as all the required defensive and offensive systems to stem this wave and exact a heavy toll on its perpetrators."

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Ynet-News, Apr 07, 2022 – Thursday

04.07.22 – Th- - - News Placed in Apr 08 spot – Friday

Bennett to oust MK Chikli to deny him to resign & form a separate faction

04.07.22 – Th- - - News

MK Orbach to quit Bennett coalition unless West Bank construction agreed

Arcturus Culminates at Midnight April 6 - 1st Month (Job 9:9, 38:31, Amos 5:8)

04.06.22 – We- - - News

Bennett says Silman was subjected to 'verbal violence' from opponents

04.06.22 – We- - - News Placed in Apr 07 spot – Thursday

MK Silman left Meretz party shunning Passover; Joined Likud at 60 seat tie

04.05.22 – Tu- - - News

EU & UN sanctions propose; bar Russian imports, exports & shipping in EU ports

04.05.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Apr 05 spot – Tuesday

Gantz & Abbas ease restrictions on PA & West Bank residents during Ramadan