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The government coalition can hold until next Passover and beyond, Lapid says

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Police arrest 4 Jews planning to sacrifice Passover offering on Temple Mount

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Senior Turk says Iran threatens Israel & Turkey; we should forge cooperation

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IDF deploys two battalions & two companies to reinforce West Bank 40 km barrier

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Manhunt underway for gunman who shoots 10 in New York City subway car

04.18.22,

Jordan summons Israel envoy & praise the PA Waqf who guard mosque from Zionists

04.18.22,

Jordan summons Israeli envoy over Jerusalem riots

Amman condemnation joins Arab countries across the board slamming Israeli actions in the recent Temple Mount clashes; in letter, Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warns Israel responsibility for violence will be on its head

Itamar Eichner| Updated: 04.18.22, 15:42

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi on Monday summoned Israel's Charge d'Affairs in Amman- Sami Abu Janeb, to the ministry, to discuss "Israel's recent steps in the Temple Mount".

According to Safadi, Israel's official ambassador wasn't summoned because he is not currently located in Amman.

The Jordanian foreign ministry also delivered a written condemnation of Israel's actions around the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

"If Israel does not cease its illegal actions, it will bare the responsibility for the violence that will ensue," the minister said.

In the Jordanian parliament on Monday, Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh praised those hurling stones at Israeli forces in Jerusalem.

"I praise the Palestinians and the members of the Jordanian Islamic Waqf who stand guard proudly, and those who throw stones and the Zionists who desecrate the Al Aqsa mosque with the support of the Israeli government," the prime minister said.

"Israel's efforts to change the legal and historic situation in the mosques leads to a dangerous escalation of violence and a violation of international law," he said.

Over the weekend, Israel's actions, especially those amid Friday's clashes in the Temple Mount, were condemned by Arab leaders across the board.

Amongst them were some, who have worked towards strengthening ties with Israel including the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco.

The clashes that began on Friday morning, led to the arrest of 476 people. Police forces entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque after being assaulted by stone-throwing and fireworks, leading to three injured officers.

Less severe clashes ensued on Sunday as hundred of Jews were allowed access to the Temple Mount. Rioters attempted to block the entrance of Jews to the holy site with makeshift barriers, which led the police forces to pave an alternative route for the non-Muslim visitors.

Prime minister Naftali Bennett made a statement on Sunday in response to the security situation in Jerusalem, announcing that the government supports the security forces with a "free hand" and that efforts are being made to bring about an end to the violence.

"We shall continue making every effort to allow people of all religions to celebrate and observe their religious holidays in Jerusalem," said Bennett.

"We shall take care of the rioters who violate the public order and try to disrupt the holiday, and an order has been given to bolster the security on buses to the Western Wall and the Old City," he added. The order was given following the attack in which Palestinians threw stones on three buses on their way to the Western Wall, injuring seven people.

Bennett also insisted on "an order to continue measures against those who incite and spread fake news and edited videos depicting violence against Muslims, in order to ignite violence."

The prime minister emphasized that "the most important task was providing security for Israeli citizens nationwide."

A meeting was assembled to assess the current situation, including high-ranking security officials such as defense minister Benny Gantz, foreign minister Yair Lapid, public security minister Omer Bar-Lev, and Shin Bet director Ronen Bar.

Meanwhile, Israel's foreign ministry criticized the Palestinian foreign ministry for "joining extremists in spreading fake news, with the purpose of escalation and violence". The ministry made sure to continue advocating for freedom of worship in this sensitive time.

"Israel is maintaining freedom of religion and worship in Jerusalem, in the places sacred to all three religions, which are commemorating their holidays in this period. Every attempt to present an alternative, false image, is working to advance Palestinian terror organizations and criminals. They, in their actions, chasten the Islamic spirit itself."

04.17.22

Egyptian Intelligence Directorate Mahmoud el-Sisi to mediate Israel and Hamas

04.17.22

Son of Egyptian president hopes to mediate between Israel and Hamas
Mahmoud el-Sisi, deputy head of the Egyptian General Intelligence Directorate arrives with other officials to prevent an escalation of violence in Jerusalem and prevent security deterioration along the Gaza border

Einav Halabi, Eyal Arbid | Published: 04.17.22, 10:44

The Son of Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Mahmoud arrived with two other Egyptian officials, as part of a delegation attempting to mediate between Israel and the Palestinian factions amid the increased violence on Temple Mount.

Violent clashes on the holy site, for both Jews and Muslims on Friday, resulted in 476 arrested, marking the highest number in years.

The "Al-Araby Al-Jadeed" newspaper reported that Egypt hoped to prevent further escalation of violence and reach a compromise that would bring about the release of the detainees.

The papers said that the Egyptians instructed a company working on the rebuilding in the Gaza strip, to put their projects on hold in case the mediation efforts fail.

Mahmoud el-Sisi graduated from the Egyptian Military Academy in 1997. He is married to Noha Al-Tohami, the daughter of Farid Al-Tohamy, the former head of the General Intelligence and Administrative Control Authority.

In 2018, el-Sisi was appointed deputy head of the Egyptian General Intelligence Directorate, and is destined to be assigned to a diplomatic posting in Moscow.

Of the 476 detainees from Friday's clashes, 130 have been imprisoned, and the rest have either been released or put in extended detention. 65 minors were banned from entering Temple Mount, and were to be released under certain restrictions, like many of the others taken into custody.

On Sunday, Palestinians clashed with police forces on Temple Mount after the forces entered the mosque compound to remove makeshift barriers and piles of stones prepared for riots. At least two were arrested and at least nine others were injured.

04.18.22,

Putin demands ownership of Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, in Jerusalem Old City

04.18.22,

Putin demands ownership of Jerusalem landmark in angry letter to Bennett

Revival of the dispute over the Alexander Nevsky Church, promised by former Prime Minister Netanyahu to Putin after the release of an Israeli from Russian prison in 2020, comes as Russia expresses anger at Israel's position over its invasion of Ukraine
Itamar Eichner | Published: 04.18.22, 09:51

Russian President Vladimir Putin demanded late on Sunday in a letter to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, that the Alexander Nevsky Church, in the Old City of Jerusalem, be immediately transferred into Russian hands, after it was promised by former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Putin's persistence over this impressive landmark could not only ignite a diplomatic clash between Israel and Russia, but also risks a wave of criticism from the whole international community.

It comes at a time when Russia has expressed its displeasure at Israel's statements on the alleged massacre of civilians in Ukraine.

On Sunday, Ambassador Alexander Ben Zvi received a summon to the Foreign Ministry in Moscow to clarify statements made by Foreign Minister Yair Lapid.

“There was a poorly camouflaged attempt to take advantage of the situation in Ukraine to distract the international community’s attention from one of the oldest unresolved conflicts – the Palestinian-Israeli one,” the Russian ministry said.

The Alexander Nevsky Church, also known as the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity is a significant asset of the Russian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem, located in the heart of the Christian Quarter.

The holy site originally hit the headlines in 2019, after Naama Issachar was imprisoned in Moscow due to possession of cannabis on Russian territory. In order to release the young Israeli, Netanyahu promised Putin the Alexander Nevsky Church.

Russia has been under de facto ownership of the OPS since 1890, and because it was originally claimed by the Ottoman Empire, it was recognized as belonging to "the glorious Russian kingdom", a name for the Russian empire, which no longer exists today. Regardless, Moscow requested in 2017 that Israel recognize the Ottoman designation of the site.

In 2020, Netanyahu decided that the dispute of ownership on the Christian landmark fell into the category of "holy sites" and thus could not be resolved in a court of law. Shortly afterwards Israel's Land Registry Commissioner indeed registered the Russian government as the owner of Alexander's Courtyard.

However, under the new Bennett administration, the ruling was handed back to the Supreme Court, which placed the final recognition on hold. A committee was set up in 2021 to determine ownership, but it had not yet convened.

Russian impatience is emerging to the surface, and the letter Putin sent to Bennett on the matter was brought to public attention by Sergei Stepashin- former Russian prime minister and head of the association in charge of Russian assets in the Middle East.

Stepashin, amid his visit in Israel, criticized Israel for stalling on the Alexander Nevsky Church dispute due to the war in Ukraine.

"Now we are fighting for the return of the Compound, and it is very difficult: we were almost there, we worked for five years, we found all the historical documents, but the situation with Ukraine occurred, and Israel behaved as it often does – playing with both sides, playing ping pong with everyone," said the Russian diplomat.

Alex Tanzer, a commentator on Russian affairs, claims that the war in Ukraine and the West's sanctions has turned the dispute over the the Alexander Nevsky Church, from a small-scale local conflict to an international one. Transferring the landmark to Russian hands could lead to harsh diplomatic consequences for Israel.

04.17.22

Moscow summons Israel envoy over Lapid & Bennett suspending Russia from UN

04.17.22

Moscow summons Israel's envoy to Russia over Ukraine remarks

The move comes a little over a week after Foreign Minister Yair Lapid voiced his support of the UN General Assembly's decision to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council over its invasion of Ukraine

Itamar Eichner | Published: 04.17.22, 21:19

Moscow on Sunday summoned the Israeli envoy to Russia to clarify statements of Israel's senior official, condemning the ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

Israel's Ambassador to Russia Alexander Ben Zvi was summoned to Russia's Foreign Ministry days after Kremlin lambasted Foreign Minister Yair Lapid for his vocal support of the UN General Assembly's decision to suspend the Russian Federation from the UN Human Rights Council for its apparent war crimes in Ukraine.

In its statement, Moscow's Foreign Ministry said that Lapid's condemnation on April 7 was "a thinly-disguised attempt to exploit the situation in Ukraine in order to divert the attention of the international community from one of the longest-running unresolved conflicts - the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Moscow further added it "regrets" Lapid's "aggressive statement" in which he voiced his support of the UN General Assembly's decision and in which he called Russia's invasion of Ukraine "unjustified," accusing Russian forces for "killing innocent civilians".

"The Israeli government continues to illegally occupy and slowly annex Palestinian territories, resulting in more than 2.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank living in scattered enclaves cut off from the outside world," said Russia's Foreign Ministry in a statement.

Lapid's office said it will not respond to Moscow's condemnation.

Unlike Lapid - who over the past few weeks issued several condemnations of Russia - Prime Minister Naftali Bennett took a much more cautious approach, which saw him effectively refrain from condemning Moscow for its hostility toward its neighbor.

Bennett also took part in the mediation efforts between Moscow and Kyiv, before taking a markedly firmer stance against Russia.

Following the atrocities uncovered in the Ukrainian city of Bucha - where hundreds of civilians were apparently massacred by Russian forces - Bennett said: "There is a war in Europe. Again a large and powerful country invades without any justification the territory of a smaller and weaker country. Once again the land is soaked in the blood of innocent people."

04.17.22

Ra'am party temporarily halts coalition partnership; Knesset on recess until May

04.17.22

Islamist Ra'am party 'temporarily' halts coalition partnership

Party leader Mansour Abbas' move meant to satisfy more extreme elements in his party, who have been calling to quit government in wake of clashes on Temple Mount; move to set to have been coordinated with Bennett and Lapid

Einav Halabi, Moran Azulay | Published: 04.17.22, 20:34

The Islamist Ra'am party announced Sunday evening it is suspending its partnership in the current coalition government over recent violent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces on Temple Mount.

The party has been under pressure to quit the coalition from its more extreme elements and supporters over religious tensions, holding an emergency meeting earlier, with some fearing the faction may resign from the government.

Party leader Mansour Abbas, however, appears to prefer to stay in the coalition, thus opting to temporarily freeze its participation as part of the majority bloc, which only recently lost one of its MKs.

The move, however, will have no practical effect since the Knesset is currently on its winter recess until May. The decision looks to have been made in order to calm the tensions on the one hand, but not severely damage the coalition ties on the other.

The decision is set to have been made with full knowledge of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, who held talks with Abbas in an effort to persuade him not to quit the coalition.

The decision was announced after being approved by the Shura Council (advisory or consultative council in Arab culture), which is part of the Islamic Movement in Israel and has a great influence on decision-making of the Arab parties.

The council also had called for all Arab parties in Israel to call for boycott of the Knesset, but the proposal was rejected by the Joint List.

The Islamic Movement earlier issued a statement, condemning what they said was an **attack on Al Aqsa Mosque worshippers**. "It is **barbaric behavior** and a **heinous crime** against one of the holiest places to all Muslims in the world. And it could also generate more violence for which the occupation forces will bear responsibility."

Earlier on Sunday, the Muslim cleric of the Islamist Ra'am party, Sheikh Mohammad Salameh Hassan, **called** his party **to resign from the coalition**, "for the sake of Al-Aqsa."

Hassan's call comes in the midst of the holy month of Ramadan - a time of exacerbated tensions and religious sensitivity - and in the wake of violent clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinian rioters near the Al Aqsa Mosque compound.

Also on Sunday, Bennett said that Israel is **working to maintain peace** and religious freedom, though security **forces "are free" to act as they see fit to stop incitement and rioting**.

04.17.22

Mofti blames Bennett of fake news escalating violence; calls for UN to intervene

04.17.22

Bennett: religious freedom must be maintained along with security

Prime Minister announces that his main **mission is** to provide **security** for Israeli citizens across the country, says security forces continue to have free hand to act and calm tensions

Itamar Eichner | Published: **04.17.22**, 17:46

Israel is working to maintain peace and religious freedom, though security **forces "are free" to act as they see fit to stop incitement and rioting**, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Sunday.

The prime minister's statement follows an **emergency security assessment**, which itself comes **in the wake of violent clashes** between Palestinian rioters and police officers tasked with **protecting Jewish worshippers on their way to the Western Wall**.

In addition to Bennett, the security **assessment was attended by** Defense Minister Benny **Gantz**, Public Security Minister Omer Bar-Lev, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kochavi, Shin Bet Director Ronen Bar, **and other security** and government **officials**.

He also **instructed** the security forces **to act against those** seen as **responsible for incitement** by spreading **fake news** and edited videos showing alleged violent acts against Muslim worshippers with the purpose of **adding more fuel to** an already **volatile situation**. "Our main **mission is** to provide **security** for Israeli citizens across all the country, Bennett said.

"The security forces have a free hand from the political leadership. The forces are working to calm the situation on the one hand and to thwart any attempt of violence on the other. The security forces are prepared for any scenario," he said. During the meeting, security officials presented the main points of interest according to intelligence gathered, and the operational activity in the various locations.

Bennett's statement drew criticism from both the right side of the political map which blames him for alleged incompetence in the face of riots, and from the Islamist Ra'am party a vital member of his coalition.

The Mufti – the Moslem cleric of the Islamist Ra'am party, Sheikh Mohammad Salameh Hassan, on Sunday, called on his party to resign from its membership in the coalition, 'for the sake of al-Aqsa.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministry criticized the Palestinian Authority, claiming that instead of helping to calm the situation, it "joins extremists and helps them to spread the fakes news and create further escalation and violence."

In a statement on Saturday, An aid to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that the international community should intervene immediately to "stop the Israeli aggression against Al-Aqsa mosque and prevent things from going out of control."

"Israel maintains religious freedom for all the worshippers in Jerusalem, in all the holy places for the three main religions, that are celebrating their holidays at this time. Any attempt to present a different false image only supports the Palestinian terror organizations and those who wish to disrupt order. And these elements only demean the Islam with their behavior," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

04.17.22

Ra'am party told by Mufti to leave coalition; if coalition resigns, Bennett will fall

04.17.22

Israeli Islamist Ra'am party told by Mufti to leave coalition

Sheikh Mohammad Salameh Hassan, the religious authority of the party says the Bennett coalition threatening the sanctity of the al-Aqsa mosque; Abbas slams police incursions on the holy site but refrains from threats to resign from the government

Einav Halabi, Hassan Shaalan | Published: 04.17.22, 15:20

The Mufti – the Moslem cleric of the Islamist Ra'am party, Sheikh Mohammad Salameh Hassan, on Sunday, called on his party to resign from its membership in the coalition, 'for the sake of al-Aqsa.'

"This coalition attacks our holiest of holly sites in Palestine," he said. "God does not answer to a government that attacks children, woman, old and young people, journalist and others, using its police force," The sheikh said.

"If we don't speak out, we have no good in us, and if you refuse to hear us, you have no good in you," he concluded.

His statements added to the pressure, Ra'am leader Mansour Abbas, leader of Ra'am, is contending with after violent clashes between Muslim worshippers and Police forces, erupted outside the al Aqsa Mosque on Friday and the arrests of more than 400 Palestinians by the police.

He had been attempting to bring about an end to the violence after his political rival, leader of the predominately Arab Joint List last week, called on Arab citizens of Israel to refuse to serve in the country's security forces.

Sources in the party said the members were debating whether or not to remain in the coalition or resign from it, a move that would cause the government of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, to fall.

Abbas spoke out forcefully against the police conduct in Jerusalem but did not raise the possibility of his party's resignation.

"We condemn any attack on the al Aqsa mosque and are doing all we can to prevent any offense against its sanctity," Abbas said.

"Following the events on Friday, Ra'am confirms its members have been working since before the holy month of Ramadan, to prevent any attack on the mosque and on worshippers," he said.

"Our representatives stress that the real solution, is in the banning of any non-Muslim from the site which belongs to Muslims. Daily incursions on it, offend our rights for purity and evoke anger. We will fulfill our duty to the al- Aqsa mosque and protect it from harm, because it is a place of faith and cannot be part of politics," Abbas said in a statement.

Riots resumed on Sunday on Temple Mount and in the Old city resulting in 18 Palestinians arrested.

Bennett has lost his parliamentary majority earlier this month when his own party member, former coalition whip Idit Silman said she would no longer vote with the coalition which she claims is endangering the Jewish character of the nation.

04.17.22

Palestinians riot on Temple Mount, buses hit in stone throwing attack

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Palestinians riot on Temple Mount, buses hit in stone throwing attack

Police enter al Aqsa compound, remove makeshift barriers, arrest two; nine rioters reported wounded in clashes breaking out as worshippers leave the mosque; 5 slightly injured from stone throwing on buses approaching Old City

EInav Halabi,Haim Golditch| Updated: 04.17.22, 09:25

Palestinians rioted on Temple Mount on **Sunday**, following prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque.

Police forcer entered the compound and arrested at least two of the rioters.

Palestinian medical sources said nine others were injured.

The Jerusalem police reported earlier that **three buses came under attack from stone throwers** breaking windows and causing minor injuries to five passengers.

"Police forces apprehended two suspects and are searching for others," the police said. As of Sunday, Jews were allowed to enter the Temple Mount under police protection.

Some, who were waiting to enter, were delayed for one hour after the police broke up the rioting and removed makeshift **barriers prepared by the Palestinian youth** where they found **stones had been collected for later use against the troops.**

The police said they would continue to prevent violence and enable worshipers from all faiths the freedom to pray in the holy sites, in safety.

On **Friday**, during riots, Jerusalem Police forces **clashed** with Palestinians and **arrested hundreds.** **Most were released soon after** and **400** were **ordered to stay away** from the site.

Their conduct was **criticized by** members of the Islamist **Ra'am party** which is part of the governing coalition and by the **Hamas** terror group in Gaza, which **threatened Israel** that **violence against Muslim worshippers** would be **answered by violence from the Gaza Strip.** Israeli security forces remained on high alert in Jerusalem and elsewhere around the country, while Jews, Muslims and Christians celebrate their holidays. Sunday marks Easter Sunday.

04.17.22

PA rioters on Temple Mount, throwing stones at three buses injured five passengers

04.17.22

Palestinians riot on Temple Mount, Buses hit in stone throwing

Police enter al Aqsa compound, remove makeshift barriers and arrest two; nine rioters reported wounded in clashes braking out as worshipers leave the mosque; **5** slightly **injured from stone throwing on buses** approaching Old City

EInav Halabi,Haim Golditch| Updated: 04.17.22, 09:25

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04.15.22

Police clash at Temple Mount; PA throwing fireworks & stones toward Western Wall

04.15.22

Police forces, Palestinians clash at Temple Mount

Police says forces entered the compound after the Ramadan morning prayer to break up a violent crowd that started rioting at the holy site and threw stones toward the nearby Jewish prayer space of the Western Wall; Police adds 3 officers lightly injured, as were 59 rioters.

Ynet, Reuters | Published: 04.15.22, 09:21

Police forces clashed with masked, stone-throwing Palestinians near al-Aqsa mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem when violence erupted after Friday's Ramadan morning prayers.

Security forces have been on high alert amid simmering tensions due to the holy month of Ramadan, and the series of deadly Arab street attacks throughout the country earlier this month in which 14 Israelis were murdered. Additionally confrontations at the holy site carry the risk of sparking wider conflict between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in Gaza.

Police said that around 4:00 AM, dozens of young Arabs, some of them masked, started a procession at the Temple Mount area while some held Hamas and Palestinian flags. After the prayer, a violent riot broke out that saw the rioters fire fireworks and throw stones toward the nearby Jewish prayer space of the Western Wall.

The police added that forces entered the compound, revered by both Jews and by Muslim, to break up a violent crowd that barricaded itself inside the mosque at the end of the morning prayers. They did not enter Al-Aqsa mosque - Islam's third-holiest site.

"This situation does not allow Muslim worshipers to hold the second Friday prayers of Ramadan, thereby harming a large public of Muslims seeking to attend prayers on the Temple Mount during the day," the Jerusalem District Police said.

"This is a violent and prolonged riot.. The police are working with means to disperse riots to repel any lawbreakers and rioters. At the same time... many warnings were given as were opportunities for the rioters to disperse independently, though all efforts have thus far been in vain."

The police further denied Palestinian reports according to which the officers were the ones who initiated the clashes, adding that three policemen have so far been lightly injured by stone-throwing.

Sheikh Ekrima Sa'id Sabri, the former Mufti of Jerusalem and now a senior sheikh in the Al-Aqsa Mosque, said: "The occupation used the method of treason and attacked defenseless worshipers using military methods and firearms."

"The occupation is trying to empty the worshipers from the mosque in order to allow the settlers to make sacrifices," added Sabri in reference to the Jewish "Returning to the Mountain" extremist movement -- which announced earlier this week that its members will attempt to enter Temple Mount on Friday in order to offer a Passover sacrifice, according to biblical practices.

The Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance service said 59 people were injured, some by tear gas and rubber bullets.

Hamas, the Islamist group that controls Gaza, condemned the Israeli police and said Israel "bears responsibility for the consequences."

04.14.22

Iran warns Israel; too small to confront us; Gaza calls escalation to defend Mosque

04.14.22

Iran will harshly confront Israel 'wherever it feels necessary', commander warns

Quds Force chief says **Iran will attack 'wherever** we identify a Zionist threat', vows to support any group that fights the 'Zionist regime', whose destruction he says is 'gaining ground'

Reuters| Published: **04.14.22**, 13:45

Iran will harshly confront Israel "wherever it feels necessary", Esmail Qaani, the head of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, said on Thursday, according to the semi-official Nour News agency.

In March, Tehran **targeted** what it called "**secret Israeli bases**" during a missile attack on Iraq's northern Kurdish regional capital of Erbil. The assault was meant to **avenge** an alleged **Israeli airstrike** that killed Iranian military personnel in Syria.

"Wherever we identify a Zionist threat, we will harshly confront them, **they are too small to confront us,**" said **Qaani**, whose unit is in control of the Revolutionary Guards' foreign operations.

The commander pledged to support any group that fights the "Zionist regime" and added that "the destruction of this regime is gaining ground."

Tensions deepened at a time when Iran and world powers were engaged in talks on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, which Israel opposes.

While not a party to the nuclear negotiations between Iran and world powers in Vienna, Israel has conferred with the **U.S.** administration **in hope of** wielding more clout over any **revival of a deal with Tehran** that was reached over its objections.

On its part, Israel has repeatedly vowed to act against its arch-nemesis, reiterating that it will "not be bound" by any sort of nuclear agreement between Teheran and World powers. Qaani's threat comes hours after authorities in the West Bank cities of Ramallah and Bethlehem declared a general strike in all public institutions coupled with calls to the Palestinian public to "intensify confrontations with Israel" in protest of the death of three Palestinians during an IDF counterterrorism crackdown in the territory the day before.

On **Wednesday**, **Gaza's** various **terror groups announced a** meeting in the strip to discuss **potential escalation against Israel**, which culminated in a call to their followers **to "defend the al-Aqsa Mosque"** against what they deem as Israeli aggression.

The meeting itself comes amid **heightened security** tension in Israel, exacerbated by both the Holy month of Ramadan as well as Jerusalem's own string of counterterrorism operations in the West Bank, carried out in response to the **murder of 14 Israelis** earlier **this month**.

04.14.22

The government coalition can hold until next Passover and beyond, Lapid says

04.14.22

The government can hold until next Passover and beyond, Lapid says

Despite the coalition going into a tailspin since losing its majority in Knesset last week, foreign minister believes rickety government can hold if its constituent parties work in tandem

Sivan Hilaie, Moran Azulay | Published: 04.14.22, 12:59

Israel's coalition can withstand losing its majority in the Knesset if its constituents work in tandem, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid asserted on Thursday in his public address on the issue.

"The current political crisis is not simple, but it is being managed," he said at the opening of a meeting of his Yesh Atid faction in Tel Aviv.

"If we work correctly, this government will also be here next Passover and the one after. It won't be simple, but it will happen. This is an excellent government, and we will do everything to make sure it continues."

The coalition went into a tailspin last week after Yamina MK and coalition whip Idit Silman announced she was defecting to the opposition, leaving the coalition with just 60 representatives in parliament, effectively erasing its majority in the 120-seat legislature. The rickety rainbow coalition government is comprised of eight factions with disparate world views from all over the political spectrum, with the only adhesive between them being their disdain for Opposition Leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who they ousted last summer after 12 years in power.

Lapid, who is slated to take the premiership next year under a power-sharing deal with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, commended the current government for bringing together moderate political actors under one umbrella against extremist forces.

"The greatest thing this government has achieved is bringing back the idea of a greater good, of Israeli unity. Make the right, left and center work together for the people of Israel and the State of Israel," he said.

"This government is the answer to the unholy, dangerous alliance between [Religious Zionist Party Chairman] Bezael Smotrich and [Joint List leader] Ayman Odeh. Two people working together in close cooperation in the Knesset to destabilize the government and the country."

04.14.22

Police arrest 4 Jews planning to sacrifice Passover offering on Temple Mount

04.14.22

Police arrest 4 Jews planning to sacrifice Passover offering on Temple Mount

Cops find young goat — believed to be the intended offering — at the home of one of the suspects, foiling an alleged plan to disturb the site's delicate status quo during the holiday Haim Goldich | Published: 04.14.22, 11:40

Israel Police on Wednesday arrested four Jewish residents of Jerusalem and the West Bank who allegedly intended to enter the Temple Mount illegally on Passover in order to offer a sacrifice and disturb the site's delicate status quo.

According to the police, the four suspects — all in their 20s — were influenced by the Returning to the Mountain movement, which announced last week it is offering monetary rewards to all Jews arrested while attempting to offer a sacrifice on the Temple Mount — according to biblical practices — during the holy month of Ramadan.

The police added that a young goat — believed to be the intended offering — was found at the home of one of the suspects, who were all taken in for questioning at the Jerusalem District Police Station.

"In recent days, false publications have been circulating on social media about the Temple Mount and the holy places, as well as posts encouraging extremists to be arrested by the police in an attempt to reach the Temple Mount and act illegally," the police said in a statement.

"Israel Police is operating in Jerusalem and other districts alongside all security bodies, around the clock, overtly and covertly, against anyone who tries to disturb the order and act in violation of the status quo on the Temple Mount and other holy places around the city."

The police further called on the public "not to give a stage... to extreme fringes that try or call for disturbing order and law. The status quo on the Temple Mount and in other holy places in the city of Jerusalem has been and will continue to be preserved at all times."

The Returning to the Mountain movement issued a statement in response to the police's preventive arrests: "The police boasts it is granting freedom of worship to all religions but the reality is shameful."

"The police dance to the sounds of Hamas' flute and brutally arrest any Jew who thinks of observing the holiday — the Passover sacrifice. Any efforts by the police will be in vain. We will arrive [to the Temple Mount] on the eve of Passover in order to offer a Passover sacrifice."

On Wednesday, President Isaac Herzog refuted claims that Jews were planning to offer a sacrifice on the Temple Mount.

"In recent days, false publications have been circulating on social media about the Temple Mount and the holy places. I want to take the stage and make it clear — these are lies," said Herzog at the Iftar dinner breaking the Ramadan fast held at his residence in Jerusalem.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, on his part, issued a warning last week, according to which any such act by Jews on the Temple Mount will lead to "a severe escalation that cannot be controlled."

At the same time, the Gaza Strip's Hamas terrorist group announced that it was monitoring the matter closely, adding that "offering a sacrifice and harming the al-Aqsa Mosque is crossing a red line."

04.13.22

IDF nab West Bank fugitive on his way to attack Israel; PA plan Passover conflict

04.13.22

IDF captures Palestinian fugitive who planned attack in Israel

Troops nab Hamas terrorist after escaping from Palestinian prison in northern West Bank; forces surround Silwad home and arrest three suspected accomplices in planning of attack Elior Levy, Yoav Zitun, Elisha Ben Kimon | Published: 04.13.22, 23:20

Israeli forces arrested a Palestinian security prisoner in the West Bank village of Kobar after he escaped from a Palestinian prison and was reportedly planning to carry out an attack in Israel, the Shin Bet internal security service announced Wednesday evening.

The suspect was identified as 33-year-old Mu'ad Hamed who was part of a Hamas terrorist cell that killed Malachi Rosenfeld, a Jewish settler, in 2015.

According to a statement, the Shin Bet received earlier on Wednesday information about Hamed's escape from prison, and according to the suspicion, he may have been involved in promoting a terrorist attack against Israeli targets in the immediate term.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces also surrounded a home in the West Bank town of Silwad Wednesday evening and arrested several Palestinians suspected of planning to help Hamed carry out the attack.

The troops and encountered dozens of Palestinians who threw stones at them. Three Palestinians were arrested in the operation.

Multiple terrorists who carried out attacks in Israel hailed from Silwad, which is situated next to Ramallah and the Jewish settlement of Ofra.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett commended the forces for Hamed's successful arrest.

"Seven years ago, this vile terrorist Mu'ad Hamed shot a vehicle near the settlement of Kida and murdered Malachi Rosenfeld and wounded three of his friends who were on their way home from a basketball game," he wrote on Twitter.

"He recently escaped prison in the Palestinian Authority and was on his way to carry out a terrorist attack against Israelis. Our forces — the Shin Bet, [police counterterrorism unit] Yamam and the IDF — jumped into action and captured him, thus preventing a horrible attack. Our forces also arrested other suspects involved in the attack. Israel's long arm will reach out to anyone who raises a hand against us. It has no expiration date."

Overnight **Wednesday**, Israeli forces also **clashed with** Palestinian **rioters in Nablus** outside a Jewish shrine as settlers, protected by troops, began renovating the place after it was vandalized a number of days earlier by Palestinians.

One man was killed in the clashes and at least 17 others were injured when Palestinian gunmen and Israeli troops exchanged fire.

A few hours earlier, **IDF forces made extensive arrests across the West Bank**, arresting suspects around Jenin and in the **cities of Tulkarm and Nablus** among other locations. During their incursion into Jenin, Palestinian gunmen opened fire at Israeli forces. There were no casualties on the Israeli side.

Meanwhile, **a collective of the Gaza Strip's terrorist factions met to draw up "rules of engagement with Israel"** in the wake of recent, near-daily raids in the West Bank following a series of terror attacks on Israeli soil and **calls by Israeli right-wing activists to offer an animal sacrifice on the Temple Mount**, where the al-Aqsa Mosque is located, during Passover.

Although the statement did not include an explicit threat or an ultimatum, the **collective agreed to gear up for a potential conflict with Israel.**

04.12.22

Senior Turk says Iran threatens Israel & Turkey; we should forge cooperation

04.12.22

Senior Turkish diplomat says Iran a threat to Israel and Turkey

Turkey's Ambassador to Washington Hasan Murat Mercan publishes **article** in Israeli thinktank journal, **calling for cooperation** between the two states in fields of security and energy

Itamar Eichner| Updated: **04.12.22**, 23:06

A senior Turkish diplomat said in an article published on Tuesday **that his country**, just like Israel, **is threatened by Iran** and its **nuclear** ambitions.

Turkey's Ambassador to Washington Hasan Murat Mercan in an essay for Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Strategic Studies journal, Turkyscope, writes that Israel and Turkey should be able to build on their commonalities and foster a sustainable dialogue, while setting aside their diverging opinions.

The ambassador, who is considered one of Turkey's leading diplomats, called to transform Turkish-Israeli relations based onto **rebuild mutual trust** and explained why in his view the two **countries should forge a cooperation** in many fields.

Israeli-**Turkish relations deteriorated** over the years **since** President Recep Tayyip **Erdoğan came to power in 2003**, with due to his hostile policies and rhetoric towards Israel.

The breakdown in ties culminated in the Mavi Marmara incident, a Turkish vessel which was part of a peace flotilla on its way to Gaza, which was boarded by IDF troops and resulted in the deaths and injuries of activists as well as Israeli soldiers.

The bilateral ties remained in place, but were strained, and Turkey even opposed the Abraham Accord, normalizing some Muslim states' relations with Israel, calling them a "betrayal of the Palestinian people."

The ambassador said in his article there can be no expectation that Israel and Turkey will see eye to eye on all things, including the Palestinian question, after the recent visit by President Issac Herzog. But, added that even if not all disagreements are solved, "Turkish and Israeli geostrategic interests dictate a close and multi-layered partnership".

Though he did not mention Iran by name, Mercant alluded to its nuclear ambitions. He called for cooperation on security threats and energy supply routes, and called for "promotion of inter-cultural synergy as a bulwark against Islamophobia and antisemitism and all sorts of hate crimes".

Mercant said the two countries should cooperate in the fight against terrorism.

"Turkish-Israeli interaction offers more than a conventional regional partnership in the face of malign actors and trends. Conventional partnerships are for a particular issue, be it against a threat or for an objective. Conventional partnerships have expiration dates. Turkey and Israel, on the other hand, share a common neighborhood, heritage, and not least, a common future," he said.

"Transparent Turkish-Israeli engagement on regional affairs would lead by example in terms of prioritizing dialogue and diplomacy. In addition, we should not lose sight over the potential gains a structured Turkish-Israeli partnership would bring about to the regions beyond MENA, such as the Caucasus, Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa," he added.

He added the contribution of Jews to Turkey's heritage and his country's kindness towards its Jewish citizens as he hoped the efforts to improve relations are supported. "The Turkish and Israeli peoples should support their presidents to realize this vision and to seize the opportunity to constructively transform Turkish-Israeli relations, based on mutual trust and interdependence," the ambassador wrote.

04.12.22

IDF deploys two battalions & two companies to reinforce West Bank 40 km barrier

04.12.22

IDF reinforcing W. Bank barrier amid heightened security tensions

Military says deploying two battalions and two companies to the West Bank to aid in a NIS 360 million plan to reinforce and mend the tattered security barrier Israel deems as a vital tool in its fight against Palestinian terrorism

Ynet| Published: 04.12.22, 22:14

The IDF announced Tuesday that it has deployed additional forces to the West Bank security barrier as part of Israel's overall plan to increase security in the highly volatile region.

The move follows the murder of 14 Israelis at the hands of four different Palestinian terrorists -- three of which hail from the West Bank -- and amid heightened Israeli-Palestinian tensions exacerbated by Israel's consequent counterterrorism operations in the region, as well as by the holy month of Ramadan.

The decision to send additional reinforcements to the flashpoint area was made after the Security Cabinet approved a NIS 360 million plan to reinforce and mend the tattered security barrier, which runs along parts of the Green Line -- the demarcation line set out in the 1949 -- and inside the West Bank itself, and which Israel deems as a necessary tool to fend off terror attacks by Palestinians.

The military said it has sent two battalions and two companies of both infantry and combat engineering soldiers to the West Bank, where they are expected to remain until the 40 kilometer construction project is complete.

The threat of a flare up in the West Bank was made all too real recently due both the Muslim Ramadan - a time of heightened religious sensitivity usually accompanied by an uptick in Palestinian violence -- as well as by what some describe as provocation by the far-right "Returning to the Mountain" movement, which announced Tuesday it is offering a monetary reward to Jews who will attempt to offer a sacrifice on the Temple Mount, according to biblical practice, during the Muslim holiday.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas issues a warning, according to which any such act by Jews on the Temple Mount will lead to "a severe escalation that cannot be controlled."

At the same time, the Hamas terrorist group announced that it was following the matter closely, adding that "offering a sacrifice and harming the Al-Aqsa Mosque is crossing a red line."

Public Security Minister Amar Bar-Lev also referred to the recent threat of escalation, as well as to the military's counterterrorism operations in the West Bank.

"[Israel] will not hesitate to embark on more extensive military operations, in Jenin and other places that constitute fertile ground for terrorism, said Bar-Lev, who also lauded the police, as well as the policemen who was injured in Ashkelon Tuesday in an attempted terror attack.

" [The Israel Police] is currently at the forefront of the fight against terrorism, which is once again raising its head with utter contempt and cruelty. The last few weeks have emphasized more and more the importance of the police," he said.

"This is also the place to make clear to our enemies: the State of Israel and its security forces, including the Israel Police, will chase you down everywhere, day and night, and

reach you. **Anyone who seeks to harm** us must know that **their days are numbered**," the minister said.

04.12.22

Manhunt underway for gunman who shoots 10 in New York City subway car

04.12.22

Manhunt underway for gunman who shoots 10 in New York City subway car
Perpetrator described as a **Black male with a heavy build**, wearing a green **construction-type vest and a hooded sweatshirt**; he **set off a smoke bomb and shot people during morning commute** prompting fresh vows by officials to reverse a surge in violence
Reuters, Ynet | Updated: **04.12.22**, 22:12

A manhunt was underway on Tuesday after a **gunman threw smoke bombs and opened fire in a New York City subway car**, **wounding 16 people** and throwing the morning commute into chaos in the latest violence in the city's transit system, officials said.

The perpetrator described as a Black male with a heavy build, wearing a green construction-type vest and a hooded sweatshirt.

New York City police commissioner said the **incident** was **not** being **investigated as an act of terrorism**.

At least 10 people were shot in the incident, a New York Fire Department spokeswoman told Reuters, without saying how the other injuries occurred. The **whereabouts** of the perpetrator were **unclear**.

Smoke billowed out as the train car pulled into the 36th Street station in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood and opened its doors, WABC-TV video showed. Riders trapped inside poured out, some collapsing to the ground. Images showed streaks of blood on the platform.

Outside the station, in an **area known for its thriving Chinatown** and views of the Statue of Liberty, authorities shut down a dozen or so blocks and closed off the immediate area with yellow crime scene tape.

Tacho Ramos, who was working in a deli near the station, said he initially thought a fight had broken out on the train when he noticed a commotion.

"But then I saw all the police. ... This country is like that. It's crazy. Today it's New York, tomorrow it's Washington, then it's Chicago," he said.

WABC and NBC New York, citing law enforcement officials reported that the gunman had set off smoke canisters in the train. Reuters could not immediately confirm those reports. The New York Police Department was holding a press conference on Tuesday afternoon.

President Joe Biden and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland were briefed on the latest developments in the shooting, the White House and the Department of Justice said. White House staff were in touch with New York City Mayor Eric Adams and the police commissioner to offer any assistance, the White House said.

Juliana Fonda, a broadcast engineer at radio station WNYC, told local news website Gothamist that she heard shots while in an adjoining subway car.

"The reaction of the passengers was terrifying because they were trying to get into our car away from something that **was happening in the back of the train**," she said.

In recent months New York has experienced a rise in gun violence in general and a spate of attacks in the city's transit system, one of the world's oldest and most extensive.

Local and federal law enforcement officials gathered at the scene, watched by small crowds of people on sidewalks huddled against buildings in a drizzle. **Many officers could be seen donning heavy-duty armor and helmets.**

Konrad Aderer, a commuter, was in the stairwell about to enter the 36th Street station when he saw a man with bleeding legs explaining what had happened to a worker at the station booth.

"He just said that there was a lot of people bleeding," Aderer told Fox News in a phone interview. "He took it upon himself to make sure that people were alerted, despite being injured."

Video footage showed a massive law enforcement presence around the subway station, including heavily armed officers and dozens of police cruisers and emergency vehicles.

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Ynet-News, Apr 11, 2022 – Monday

04.10.22 – Su- - - News Placed in Apr 11 spot – Monday

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

04.10.22 – Su- - - News Placed in Apr 10 spot – Sunday

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

04.10.22 – Su- - - News Placed in Apr 09 spot – Saturday

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

04.09.22 – Sa- - - News

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

04.07.22 – Th- - - News

UN bars Russia from speaking and voting in Human Rights Council

04.08.22 – Fr- - - News

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