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Ramadan ends; poster raised; Sinwar warns any Israeli on site is a fight with Gaza

05.05.22

74<sup>th</sup> Independence of Israel; holiday wishes by Russia, US, China, France

05.05.22

Putin in a holiday message to Herzog: 'our friendship will grow'

In an Independence Day greeting, Putin says Israel-Russia ties are based on friendship and mutual respect for the benefit of the region; comments come days after seemingly antisemitic statement by his FM, which caused harsh diplomatic exchanges between 2 nations

Ynet| Published: 05.05.22, 16:57

Russian President Vladimir **Putin**, on Thursday said Russian Israeli **friendship will continue to grow**, in a letter to President Issac Herzog, on the occasion of Israel's Independence Day.

"The relations between the two countries, which are based on friendship and mutual respect, will continue to grow **for the benefit of our people** and the security of the Middle East," Putin wrote.

Other world leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and Chinese President Xi Jinping also sent their holiday wishes.

**Putin's letter** comes days after Jerusalem and Moscow spat over comments made by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, claiming Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's Jewish origins do not negate the fact that his government has Nazi elements. **"Hitler also had Jewish blood,"** Lavrov said adding that **some of the greatest anti-Semites were Jews.**

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid both slammed Lavrov for his comments and the Russian Ambassador to Israel was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem for what was described as a meeting of "clarification."

**Biden, in his message to Israel said U.S. Israel ties are unbreakable.**

"The partnership between Israel and the United States has been indispensable for the United States, and I believe for Israel as well," Biden said.

The president said the **U.S. was the first to recognize the independence of Israel** "just **11 minutes after it was founded,**" 74 years ago, and the friendship between the two nations continued since.

**U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken** also sent a **message** congratulating Israel as it celebrates its independence.

**"The bonds between our two countries, based on our shared democratic ideals, are unshakeable,"** Blinken said.

**"the United States looks forward to continuing our work with Israel to create a more peaceful, secure, and prosperous Middle East,** including through building additional bridges **between Israel and its neighbors,"** he said.

**05.05.22**

**Supreme Court paves way for razing eight PA nomad villages of West Bank**

**05.05.22**

**Supreme Court paves way for razing eight Palestinian hamlets**

After two decades of inconclusive legal maneuvering, more than 1,000 Palestinian inhabitants of a rural part of the West Bank in an area that Israel has designated for military exercises face eviction

Reuters| Published: 05.05.22, 15:42

The Supreme Court has rejected a petition against the eviction of more than 1,000 Palestinian inhabitants of a rural part of the West Bank in an area that Israel has designated for military exercises.

After two decades of inconclusive legal maneuvering, the Supreme Court issued its ruling late on Wednesday, paving the way for the demolition of eight small villages in a rocky, arid area near Hebron known to Palestinians as Masafer Yatta and to Israelis as the South Hebron Hills.

In its ruling, the court said it had found the Palestinian dwellers, whose inhabitants have kept a distinct, generations-long nomadic way of life, making a living from farming and herding, had not been permanent residents of the area when the Israeli military first declared it a firing zone in the 1980s.

Masafer Yatta residents and Israeli rights groups say that many of the Palestinian families have been permanently residing in the 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) area since before Israel captured the West Bank, in the 1967 Six-Day War, and that their eviction would constitute a breach of international law.

"This proves that this court is part of the occupation," said Nidal Abu Younis, Masafer Yatta Mayor. "We are not going to leave our homes. We will stay here," he said. The court said the door was still open for the villagers to agree with the military on using parts of the land for agricultural purposes and urged the sides to seek a compromise.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), who along with Masafer Yatta residents petitioned against the expulsion, said the verdict would have "unprecedented consequences."

"The High Court has officially authorized leaving entire families, with their children and their elderly, without a roof over their heads," ACRI said in a statement.

05.06.22

Zionist, Orthodox & Hasidim instructed to carry weapons on Shabbat

05.05.22

Hasidim instructed to carry weapons on Shabbat

Following terror attack in Elad, Karlin hasidim receive instruction to bring weapons to synagogue.

Israel National News; 05.06.22 12:48

Following the horrific terror attack Thursday night in Elad, which left three fathers dead and the haredi sector shaken, one hasidic group has instructed that anyone holding a firearm license carry his weapon on Shabbat.

Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, is a day when many activities are forbidden, as are the tools used to do them. Writing, for instance, is forbidden, and therefore religious Jews will not touch or carry writing implements on Shabbat. Killing or causing injury is also forbidden, and therefore implements used for those purposes - with the exception of kitchen knives used for cooking - may not be touched, used, or carried.

While the Religious Zionist and Modern Orthodox communities often permit weapons to be carried on Shabbat, citing the Torah instruction that it is permitted to desecrate Shabbat to save a life, haredi groups generally do not make such allowances.

But in a Friday morning report, Israel Hayom said that many haredim fear additional attacks and believe they are being targeted, since they are not usually armed and are unprepared for such attacks.

In the Karlin hasidic sect, therefore, the fear was translated into action, and hasidim were instructed to actively defend themselves, by arming themselves even on Shabbat. Karlin hasidim are mostly centered in Jerusalem and Givat Ze'ev, but there are some who live in other areas of Israel, especially in haredi cities.

It is not clear how many, if any, Karlin hasidim live in Elad.

"By holy instruction, due to the security situation in our holy land, all those who hold a licensed weapon are asked to bring it to synagogue and to every place he goes - on weekdays and on Shabbat," a message sent out to the hasidic sect said, according to Israel Hayom.

05.05.22

UN chief calls to disarm Hezbollah ahead of Lebanon elections May 15

05.05.22

UN chief calls to disarm Hezbollah ahead of Lebanon elections

Antonio Guterres says terrorist group's 'capabilities' outside the control of the government of Lebanon remains a matter of grave concern' and calls for 'free, fair, transparent and inclusive' elections for the people of Lebanon

i24NEWS| Published: 05.05.22, 12:27

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres expressed concern about Hezbollah and called for "free, fair, transparent and inclusive" elections for the people of Lebanon.

The country is set to **go to the polls on May 15** for the first time since the 2020 Beirut port explosion, an incident that ignited protests, sectarian violence between members of Lebanon's political factions, and backlash against the government's corruption.

A subsequent investigation into the blast was stymied by Hezbollah after a number of officials accused the probe's leader, Judge Tarek Bitar, of bias and called for his removal after Bitar sought to interrogate the group's allies.

Guterres also said that Hezbollah's hold over "sophisticated military capabilities outside the control of the government of Lebanon remains a matter of grave concern," according to The Washington Post (WaPo).

He urged **Beirut** to "increase its efforts to achieve a monopoly over the **possession of weapons** and the use of force **throughout its territory**" and called for other nations to encourage Hezbollah to transition from an armed faction into "a solely civilian political party," WaPo reported.

"I continue to urge the government and the armed forces of Lebanon to take all measures necessary to **prohibit Hezbollah** and other **armed groups from acquiring weapons** and building paramilitary capacity **outside the authority of the state.**"

**05.03.22**

**Putin may fully mobilize forces May 9; Pope told Russia will end war May 9**

**05.03.22**

**Putin to officially declare war on Ukraine, Western officials say**  
**Moscow's formal declaration of war on May 9, marking 'Victory Day' over the Nazis in WWII, will allow Putin to mobilize more forces to fight in Ukraine, under Russian law; Russia continues to unleash rockets on Mariupol, as EU readies sanctions on Russian oil**  
Reuters, Ynet | Published: **05.03.22, 15:59**

Russian President Vladimir **Putin is preparing to declare war on Ukraine**, after calling his invasion a military operation, CNN reported on Tuesday quoting Western Officials..

The declaration is expected to be made on **May 9**, when Russia marks "Victory Day," over the Nazi Germany in 1945.

By doing so, **Putin would be able to fully mobilization Russia's reserve forces** as invasion efforts in Ukraine continue to falter.

According to the officials, Putin would use the symbolism of Victory Day to either further escalate Russia's hostility towards Ukraine, or declare war since currently Russia's invasion is described as a "special operation".

Such a declaration could potentially strengthen public support for the invasion. It would also allow, under Russian law, to mobilize and draft more reserve forces, which according to officials, Russia is desperately in need of amid the heavy losses The Russian army has already suffered in Ukraine.

According to Ukrainian and Western estimations, at least 10,000 Russian conscripts have been killed since Russia invaded on February 24.

Meanwhile, Russian forces fired rockets at encircled steelworks in Ukraine's southern port city of Mariupol and thick smoke blackened the sky at the plant where officials on Tuesday said 200 civilians were trapped despite evacuations.

Reuters images showed volleys of rockets fired from a Russian truck-mounted launcher towards the sprawling Soviet-era steel complex from the outskirts of Russian-occupied Mariupol on Monday.

The attack followed an UN-brokered ceasefire around the complex that allowed several groups of civilians to escape Mariupol's last holdout of Ukrainian fighters in recent days. It was not immediately clear if new fighting was preventing more evacuations.

Mariupol mayor Vadym Boychenko said he hoped a first column of evacuees would reach the Ukrainian-controlled city of Zaporizhzhia on Tuesday, adding that more civilians were trapped in bunkers and tunnels under the complex and some 100,000 remained in the rest of the city.

"You wake up in the morning and you cry. You cry in the evening. I don't know where to go at all," said Mariupol resident Tatyana Bushlanova, sitting by a blackened apartment block and talking over the sound of shells exploding nearby.

Mariupol is a major target for Russia as it seeks to cut Ukraine off from the Black Sea and connect Russian-controlled territory in the south and east.

Russian bombardments since troops invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 have flattened cities, killed thousands of civilians, and forced more than five million to flee the country.

Russia's offensive to capture the east and south after failing to take the capital of Kyiv has been met with commitments by Western powers to supply heavier weapons to Ukraine.

The war launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin has shifted to the eastern provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk, parts of which were already held by Russian-backed separatists.

Russia's troops are trying to encircle a large Ukrainian force there, attacking from three directions with massive bombardment along the front. Russia calls its actions in Ukraine a "special operation" to disarm Ukraine and protect it from fascists.

Ukraine and the West say the fascist allegation is baseless and that the war is an unprovoked act of aggression.

Western allies of Ukraine have stepped up supplies of increasingly heavy weapons.

Ukraine's First Lady Olena Zelenska asked the West to maintain its support.

"We ask you not to stop, to accelerate the pace of heavy weapons provision," she told British television, adding that she had not seen President Volodymyr Zelensky since the start of the invasion.

The U.S. Congress is considering a \$33 billion military aid package, and the United Kingdom this week vowed an additional \$375 million in defense assistance.

Pope Francis said in an interview published on Tuesday that he had asked for a meeting in Moscow with Putin to try to stop the war but had not received a response. **French President Emmanuel Macron will speak with Putin on Tuesday**, Macron's office said.

Eu set to shun Russian oil

In Brussels, the European Commission is expected to finalize a proposed sixth package of EU sanctions against Russia on Tuesday, including a possible embargo on buying Russian oil. In a major shift, Germany said it was prepared to back an immediate oil embargo.

Kyiv says Russia's energy exports to Europe, so far largely exempt from international sanctions, are funding the Kremlin's war effort.

"This package should include clear steps to block Russia's revenues from energy resources," Zelensky said in his nightly video address.

EU countries have paid more than 47 billion euros (\$47.43 billion) to Russia for gas and oil since it invaded Ukraine, according to research organization the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

Ambassadors from EU countries will discuss the proposed sanctions when they meet on Wednesday. Putin responded with retaliatory economic sanctions against "unfriendly" foreign states on Tuesday.

The **pope told the newspaper** that Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban had told him **Russia planned to end the war on May 9**, which Russia celebrates as "Victory Day", marking Nazi Germany's surrender in 1945.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said earlier this week that Moscow would not rush to meet that symbolic date.

Trail of destruction

**Ukraine's second-biggest city, Kharkiv, was under bombardment**, as it has been since the early days of the invasion, the Ukrainian military said on Tuesday.

Giving an update on the battlefield, Ukraine's general staff said its forces were defending the approach to Kharkiv from Izyum, a town on the Donets river, some 120 km (75 miles) to the southeast, as the enemy left a trail of destruction in Luhansk province.

Some other areas of Donetsk were under constant fire and regional authorities were trying to evacuate civilians from frontline areas, the Ukrainian president's office said.

Russian shelling killed at least three civilians in the town of Vuhledar, the president's office said. Ukraine's military said Russian forces were trying to take the frontline town of Rubizhne.

Reuters could not independently verify Ukraine's battlefield accounts.

Heavy clashes were taking place around Popasna, in Luhansk. **Shelling was so intense it was not possible to collect bodies**, said regional Governor Serhiy Gaidai.

"I don't even want to speak about what's happening with the people living in Popasna, Rubizhne, and Novotoshkiwske right now. These cities simply don't exist anymore. They have completely destroyed them."

05.03.22

Russians use difficult criticism as Israel evaluates condition of Kyiv embassy

05.03.22

Israel believes Russia won't apologize over Lavrov's Hitler comments

Foreign Minister Lapid says his conversation with the Russian ambassador in Israel was difficult; Israel is set to send diplomat delegation to Kyiv in preparation of re-opening of the embassy in Ukraine

Itamar Eichner | Published: 05.03.22, 10:53

Israel believes that Moscow won't apologize for Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's claim that Nazi leader Adolf Hitler had Jewish blood, sources said Tuesday.

The news came hours after the Foreign Ministry summoned the Russian Ambassador to Israel Anatoly Viktorov for talk to elaborate on Russia's stance on the matter.

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said the conversation with the Russian ambassador was "tough" and it is estimated that Russia will not respond to Israel's harsh criticism of Lavrov's remarks.

Moscow's top diplomat told the Italian media on Sunday that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's Jewish origins do not negate the fact that there are Nazi elements in his government.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry mulls the possibility to expand the aid to Ukraine and provide helmets and flak jackets to Kyiv. The decision hasn't yet been approved, and it is doubtful Israel will provide any other offensive means as it might raise tensions with the Russians and harming the Israeli security interests in Syria.

Ynet also learned that the Foreign Ministry is set to send a delegation of diplomats to Kyiv to evaluate the condition of the Israeli embassy in Ukraine and possibly re-open it.

This will be the first time the embassy staff will return to the Ukrainian capital since they were evacuated to Poland at the onset of the war. They are expected to stay in Kyiv for a few days.

The purpose of the structural examination of the embassy is to prepare it for a re-opening after several other states had already announced their intention to resume diplomatic activity in Ukraine.

However, in the past few days, Russia bombarded the Kyiv area a couple of times, even during the visit of UN Secretary-General António Guterres.



05.01.22

Russia missile strike on Odesa weapons & ammunition as Pelosi visits Kyiv

05.01.22

Russia says attacked Western weapon supply to Ukraine

Visiting House speaker Pelosi says U.S. firmly stands with Ukraine, hopes to pass a \$33 billion aid package as soon as possible; Russia says a missile strike on a military airfield near Odesa destroyed a runway and a hangar full of Western weapons and ammunition  
Reuters| Published: 05.01.22, 15:48

Moscow said on Sunday that its military had struck a supply of weapons sent to Ukraine by Western nations near Odessa.

The attack came as U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv and vowed to continued support for that country's fight against Russia.

Footage posted by Zelensky on Twitter on Sunday showed him, flanked by an armed escort and dressed in military fatigues, greeting a congressional delegation led by Pelosi outside his presidential office the previous day.

"Our delegation travelled to Kyiv to send an unmistakable and resounding message to the entire world: America stands firmly with Ukraine," Pelosi, the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Ukraine since Russia invaded on Feb. 24, said in a statement. She condemned Russian President Vladimir Putin's "diabolic invasion".

Moscow calls its actions a "special military operation" to disarm Ukraine and rid it of anti-Russian nationalism fomented by the West. Ukraine and the West say Russia launched an unprovoked war of aggression.

Western nations have imposed broad economic sanctions on Russia and have been shipping increasing quantities of weapons to help Ukraine defend itself.

Pelosi said on Friday she hoped to pass a \$33 billion aid package for Ukraine that President Joe Biden has requested "as soon as possible".

Russia's defense ministry said on Sunday it had carried out a missile strike on a military airfield near the port city of Odesa, destroying a runway and a hangar containing weapons and ammunition supplied to Ukraine by the United States and European countries.

On Saturday, Ukraine said Russian missiles had knocked out a newly constructed runway at Odesa's main airport.

It was unclear if they were referring to the same incident and Reuters could not immediately verify the reports.

Some civilians leave the Mariupol plant

Moscow has turned its focus to Ukraine's south and east after failing to capture Kyiv in the early weeks of a war that has flattened cities, killed thousands of civilians and forced more than 5 million to flee the country.

Russia's defense ministry accused Ukraine's forces of shelling a school, kindergarten and cemetery in villages in the occupied southern Kherson region, the Russian RIA news agency said on Sunday.

The ministry said civilians had been killed and wounded but gave no further details. There was no immediate response from Ukraine and Reuters could not independently verify the report.

Russian forces captured the town of Kherson, 100 km (60 miles) north of Russian-annexed Crimea, in March and since then have mostly occupied Mariupol, a strategic eastern port city on the Azov Sea.

Ukraine's military said in a bulletin on Sunday that Russian forces were fighting to break beyond Kherson's administrative borders and prepare the way for attacks on the cities of Mykolayiv and Kryvyi Rih.

In **Mariupol**, **Russia** declared **victory** on April 21 even as hundreds of holdout Ukrainian troops and civilians took shelter in the city's bombed-out Azovstal steelworks, where they have been **trapped with little food**, water or medicine.

On Saturday, a Ukrainian fighter inside said that **20** women and children had **made it out** of the sprawling plant.

"We are getting civilians **out of the rubble with ropes** - it's the elderly, women and children," said the fighter, Sviatoslav Palamar.

Palamar said Russia and Ukraine were respecting a local **cease fire**. Meanwhile, Russia's defense ministry said on Sunday that **46** civilians had **left the** area around the **steel plant** the previous day.

Speaking to thousands of people in St. Peter's Square for his noon blessing on Sunday, Pope Francis said Mariupol had been "barbarously bombarded and destroyed" in a war he called a "macabre regression of humanity".

### Eastern Push

In the east, Moscow is pushing for complete control of the Donbas region, where Russian-backed separatists already controlled parts of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces before the invasion. Russian forces carried out missile strikes across the south and east on Saturday, Ukrainian officials said.

On Sunday, Kharkiv region governor Oleh Synehubov warned residents in the north and east of the city of Kharkiv to remain in their shelters due to heavy Russian shelling.

Reuters could not immediately verify reports of shelling in the area.

Serhiy Gaidai, the governor of the Luhansk region, in a post on social media on Sunday, urged people to evacuate while it was still possible.

Zelensky said in a late-night video address on Saturday that Russia was "gathering additional forces for new attacks against our military in the east of the country" and "trying to increase pressure in the Donbas".

Despite weeks of peace talks, both sides looked to be as far apart as ever on Saturday.

Ukraine accuses Russian troops of carrying out atrocities in areas near Kyiv from which they have since been pushed back in early April, a claim denied by Moscow. Negotiators last met face-to-face on March 29 and have since spoken by video link.

05.02.22

Hamas claims Saturday West Bank guard shooting, says more to come

05.02.22

Hamas claims Ariel terror shooting, says more to come

In first such statement in years, terrorist group's military wing takes responsibility for attack, running against defense establishment's estimates assailants acted alone  
Elior Levy | Published: 05.02.22, 23:15

Hamas on Monday claimed responsibility for the terror attack outside the West Bank settlement of Ariel over the weekend and vowed that more attacks are to come.

In the first such statement in years, the terrorist group's military wing Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades said that the shooting "comes within a series of responses to the defiling of our al-Aqsa [Mosque] and aggression against it.

Shortly after the announcement, the group shared a poster featuring the two gunmen behind the attack on its social media accounts.

Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip Yahya Sinwar praised the attackers in a speech on Saturday.

Hamas's announcement comes in marked contrast with the findings of a preliminary investigation which ruled that the suspects, identified as 19-year-old Yahyah Maree and 20-year-old Yousef A'ssi, were not sent by any terrorist groups, but one of them had ties to Hamas.

Both men are barred from entering Israel, and one of them has previously served time in an Israeli prison. They were arrested in their homes in the Palestinian town of Qarawat Bani Hassan, along with several relatives suspected of aiding them in carrying out the attack.

IDF troops and counterterrorism officers arrested the two at the end of a 20-hour manhunt and took them in for further questioning by the Shin Bet security agency.

The two did not put up any resistance and both their weapons — Carl Gustav submachine guns — were also seized in the raid.

During the searches, clashes erupted between Israeli forces and Palestinians in the village of Azzun overnight Saturday, during which IDF troops shot dead a rioter who lobbed a firebomb at them.

05.02.22

UN budget gaps & increased costs, de-prioritize UNRWA the Palestinian cause

05.02.22

Palestinians warn against plans to weaken their UN agency

Struggling with resource depletion and funding crunch, UNRWA faces a devastating blow ahead of the proposal to delegate services to other UN agencies; 'An attempt to dismantle UNRWA as a prelude to ending its work', says Hamas senior official  
AFP | Published: 05.02.22, 08:55

A proposal by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees to delegate some services to other United Nations agencies has sparked outrage among Palestinians, who have warned of a plot to "dismantle" the body.

Established in 1949, a year after Israel was created, UNRWA (The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) is the only major UN body dedicated exclusively to one conflict and one people, and holds a symbolic role that experts say matches its importance as provider for Palestinian refugees.

The agency has long been a target of Israeli criticism, with accusations it has fueled the conflict in part by teaching anti-Zionist messages at its schools.

UNRWA is "not just about the delivery of services", said Muhammed Shehada from the Swiss-based Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor.

"As long as UNRWA is there, it's a reminder that the international community has a responsibility to solve the issue of Palestinian refugees," he said.

The agency tasked with assisting Palestinians who were forced from their homes during the war surrounding Israel's creation -- and their descendants -- has faced a funding crunch for years, regularly falling tens of millions of dollars short of its stated needs. At first glance, the announcement last month by agency chief Philippe Lazzarini that UNRWA could ask other UN bodies to help with service delivery may have looked like a bland, bureaucratic cost-sharing plan.

Counting primarily "on voluntary funding from donors would not be reasonable" going forward, he said in a statement.

"One option that is currently being explored is to maximize partnerships within the broader UN system."

Palestinians saw those remarks as a potentially devastating blow to UNRWA's long-term mission.

Minister of the Palestinian Economic Council Mohammad Shtayyeh said the plan would "violate" the UN resolutions that set up UNRWA, while the Palestine Liberation Organization said refugees would be outraged.

Mohammad al-Madhoun, a senior official with the Islamist group Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, described the proposal as "an attempt to dismantle UNRWA as a prelude to ending its work".

Budget gaps

With more than 30,000 employees and a budget of some \$1.6 billion this year, UNRWA is a frontline provider of healthcare, education and other services to some 5.7 million Palestinian refugees spread across the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank as well as in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

Former US president Donald Trump publicly sided with Israel in blasting UNRWA and cut off its funding.

Joe Biden israeli flag Donald Trump U.S. Israel

Israeli flag & Donald Trump, U.S. & Israel (Photos: AFP, Reuters, Shutterstock)

The agency has firmly defended its school curriculum against pro-Israel critics, though Lazzarini told European Union lawmakers last year that problematic issues were being "addressed".

President Joe Biden's administration has since restored funding, but Lazzarini warned in November that UNRWA was facing an "existential threat" over budget gaps.

Agency spokeswoman Tamara Alrifai said that this year would see another \$100 million shortfall that could worsen given "the increased cost of commodities and food that the ongoing Ukraine crisis has provoked".

'Green light'

For Samer Sinijlawi, head of the Jerusalem Development Fund, which specializes in Palestinian humanitarian affairs, Lazzarini's proposal was in part an attempt to test "the Palestinian pulse" ahead of a 2023 UN General Assembly vote on renewing UNRWA's mandate.

But it also gave "a green light" to countries that have been trying "to manipulate this mandate and gradually end the work of UNRWA", Sinijlawi claimed.

He accused Lazzarini of overstepping his authority, arguing the Swiss national's job was not to consider scaling back UNRWA's work but rather to implement UN resolutions on Palestinian refugees, especially on the right of return.

Former agency spokesman Chris Guinness said that "even if UNRWA is dismantled or its services farmed out, Palestine refugees remain human beings with inalienable rights."

He stressed that while any blow to UNRWA's future could be perceived as a win for Israel, it would not mean that "Palestinian refugees and their right of return will magically evaporate".

But Shehada from Euro-Med Monitor argued that any "de-prioritization" of the agency would be seen as diminishing "the Palestinian cause in general".

05.02.22

Ramadan ends; poster raised; Sinwar warns any Israeli on site is a fight with Gaza

05.02.22

Hamas supporters sing its praise during prayers on Temple Mount

A massive poster containing the terror groups blessing for Arabs and Muslim nation raised as tens of thousands participate in end of Ramadan holiday services; no clashes reported

Gilad Cohen, Elior Levy | Published: 05.02.22, 08:37

A massive Hamas poster was exhibited on the Al Aqsa Mosque compound on Monday, when tens of thousands of Muslims prayed during the holiday marking the end of Ramadan.

Several hundred Hamas supporters called out chants praising the terror group and sang songs claiming to be the soldiers of Mohammed Deif, commander of the organizations' military wing. "We will sacrifice our lives for Al Aqsa," they chanted.

No clashes were reported early Monday.

On Saturday, Muslim worshippers clashed with dozens of masked men who attempted to raise Hamas flags and sing in praise of the group.

The worshippers asked Israeli security sources to intervene and remove the supporters of Hamas from the mosque compound.

Hamas has campaigned during the month of Ramadan, to be recognized as the de-facto leader of the holy site, in conflict not only with Israel, but with the Palestinian Authority as well.

"You are ruining the prayer," the worshippers said, "Your actions are only hurting and will ignite violence. Many will be hurt because of you," they said.

On Saturday, Hamas leader Yayah Sinwar warned that any Israeli encroachment on the Muslim site would result in cross border fighting with Gaza.

He said the battle will only begin after the holy month of Ramadan ends and called on Palestinians in Gaza to be prepared.

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Ynet-News, May 01, 2022 – Sunday

05.01.22 – Su- - - News Placed in May 01 spot – Sunday

Israel blocks PA-US activist from travel to World Social Forum in Mexico

05.01.22 – Su- - - News Placed in Apr 30 spot – Saturday

Abbas rejects Hamas leader Sinwar calling Ra'am party to leave coalition

05.01.22 – Su- - - News

Earthquake between Cyprus & Lebanon measured 4.2 rocks northern Israel

04.30.22 – Sa- - - News

West Bank guard killed; suspects & weapons captured in day-long manhunt

04.30.22 – Sa- - - News Placed in Apr 29 spot – Friday

Mossad foils Iran assassin targeting Israel diplomat, US general & French journalist

04.27.22 – We- - - News Placed in Apr 28 spot – Thursday

Hundreds in Mosque wave Hamas flags, hurl rocks & fireworks at West Wall crowd

04.27.22 – We- - - News

Bennett convinced Biden; Iran is largest terrorist in the world & will have a bomb

04.28.22 – Th- - - News

Ben Gurion Airport arrest Jerusalem residents smuggling 1,000 Dubai coins

04.27.22 – We- - - News

US military bans soldiers from visiting Israel on leave; altered response to Covid

04.27.22 – We- - - News

Putin halted gas to Bulgaria and Poland; Dutch gas jumped 19% on Wednesday

04.26.22 – Tu- - - News

Israeli ministers outraged at Bennett death threat letter from within Knesset

04.26.22 – Tu- - - News

IDF says PA willing to 'sacrifice themselves' fired Lebanon rocket

04.26.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Apr 27 spot – Wednesday

Israel aids in 40 NATO countries at German Ramstein Air Base, arming Ukraine

04.26.22 – Tu- - - News

Russia last hope to scare the world warns nuclear war risks now considerable