

Ynet-News, June 07, 2022 – Tuesday

Theory in Shavuot Thursday evening June 9 to Thursday evening June 16

Traditional Shavuot Friday evening June 3 to Friday evening June 10

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Ukraine envoy says his country needs Iron Dome; Israel 'not supportive enough'

06.07.22 – Tu- - - News

New strategy on Iran & Gaza threats; Israel will not allow them to amass strength

06.07.22 – Tu- - - News

Syria intercepted several Israeli missiles in Damascus hostile target strike

06.07.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in June 07 spot – Tuesday

IAEA governors to vote on Iran to impose UN world powers security sanctions

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Israel 1967 West Bank Settlements law expires June 30, if it fails 2nd vote

06.06.22 – Mo- - - News

Knesset convened Monday to vote on regulating West Bank settlements

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Hezbollah ready if Lebanon & US mediator says Israel violating water rights

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Legal status of West Bank may place PA & settlers under Military & Courts

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Huffy US Congresswoman argues Israel visa discriminates entry into West Bank

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Lebanon warns gas ship activity 50 miles west of Haifa, in UN disputed waters

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Police lock PA in mosque, throwing stones & furniture, as Jews visit compound

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WB PA lost flocks until vaccinated by Israel; land vacated 3-years can be settled

06.04.22 – Sa- - - News

Biden moves Israel, Saudi Arabia visits to July, after Germany & Spain this month

06.05.22 – Su - - News

Russia strikes railway network in Ukraine's capital Kyiv on 100th day of war

06.07.22

Ukraine envoy says his country needs Iron Dome; Israel 'not supportive enough'

06.07.22

Ukraine envoy says his country needs Iron Dome; Israel 'not supportive enough'  
Yevgen Korniychuk tells press conference Ukraine wishes to defend its population, just as Israel defends its citizens against Hamas; claims Israeli officials need to step out of comfort zone and decide if they are on the side of justice  
Adam Kutub | Published: 06.07.22, 14:57

Ukraine's ambassador to Israel on Tuesday said his government has requested from Israel the supply of an Iron Dome missile defense system and other defensive weapons needed to defend against the Russian invasion.

Russia invaded Ukraine late last February in the biggest military offensive in Europe since World War II.

Speaking at a press conference, Yevgen Korniychuk said Ukraine wants to "defend our citizens just as Israel defends its own against the Hamas."

Korniychuk said his government estimates some 40,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed in the war thus far, and that 12 million have left their homes in total, of whom five million have left the country and seven million were displaced despite remaining inside the country.

Korniychuk complained that only 10% of the protected gear, which Israel committed to supply Ukraine with, have been delivered, and that Jerusalem has refused to allow wounded Ukrainian soldiers in need of prothesis were waiting to enter Israel for treatment.

"Israel remains inside its comfort zone," he said. "Jerusalem must decide if it will stand with the just and democratic countries of the world."

"The people of Israel show much love and admiration for Ukraine and the government is also empathetic in its rhetoric but not in its actions," Korniychuk said.

He told reporters that after returning from a visit to Ukraine he found Israeli media was no longer reporting on the war. "This war is still continuing in full force and is no where near its end," Korniychuck said.

"The Russians are bombing our cities daily and slaughtering our people. Russian soldiers are committing war crimes on a daily basis, shooting at civilians, looting, torturing and raping our women and children," he said.

The ambassador said despite all that, he would like to thank Israeli individuals, as well as companies and organizations, who have been helping Ukraine since the war began.

06.07.22

New strategy on Iran & Gaza threats; Israel will not allow them to amass strength

06.07.22

Bennett: Israel adopts new strategy on Iran threats

Speaking to Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense committee, PM says Iran can no longer get away with aggression towards Israel and terror by proxies without consequence; expects IAEA to warn Tehran of high price on defiant nuclear policies

Moran Azulay | Published: 06.07.22, 12:43

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Monday that Israel had recently changed its strategy on Iran.

Bennett's comments came after a number of Iranian officials were reported to have died in the past month, under suspicious circumstances.

"The past year has seen a strategic change in Israeli policy on Iran, Bennett said during a session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense committee. "Israel is operating against the many tentacles of Iranian terror, not only as it has done in past decades. The days of Iran having immunity when it strikes against Israel and spreads its terrorism via proxies, are gone. We are operating everywhere and all the time, and will continue to do so," he said.

"In recent years Iran has crossed red lines, especially last April, months before this government came to power, when it began enriching uranium to 60% with no international response," the prime minister said. "Israel cannot and will not accept such a situation," he said.

Bennett told members of the committee that in his meeting with International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi who was in Israel briefly last week, he made Israel's position clear.

"We maintain the freedom to act against Iran at all times, and as is necessary, with or without a resumption of the 2015 nuclear deal," Bennett said. "What we say, we back up with action, he said.

"We expect the Board of Governors will issue a clear warning sign before the regime in Tehran and make clear that if they continue their defiant nuclear policy, they will pay a heavy price," Bennett said at the parliamentary committee meeting which was televised. A draft resolution by the United States, Britain, Germany and France criticizing Iran for not fully answering the U.N. nuclear watchdog's questions on uranium traces at undeclared sites was sent to the watchdog's Board overnight, three diplomats said.

The formal submission of the text, seen by Reuters and very similar to a draft circulated last week, means it will be debated and voted on at this week's meeting of the 35-nation Board of Governors. Several diplomats said the resolution was likely to pass despite warnings by Iran of consequences including for talks on rescuing the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

At the Knesset, Bennett also spoke about Israel's policy towards the Gaza ruling Hamas terror group and said there too, a change was made.

"We did not buckle in face of the Hamas threats of attack, and held our Jerusalem Day Flag March according to plan," he said.

"We've attacked our enemies and will not allow them to amass strength. Our security forces are prepared for any eventuality," he said.

"The events of last year, when riots broke out in the mixed Jewish and Arab cities were a wake up call to the understanding of threats from within. The government has taken actions against Arab criminal gangs and the violence from nationalist militants including the deployment of the Shin Bet Security Agency, inside Israel.

The prime minister said the benefits are felt first of all by Arab citizens who have suffered greatly from the violence on their streets.

"I was told that no amount of money would matter if children are in danger of being shot, he said. "The government took action and we can see a drop in murder rates and shooting incidents," he said.

06.07.22

Syria intercepted several Israeli missiles in Damascus hostile target strike

06.07.22

Syria reports Israeli missile strike in Damascus

Syrian TV says air defense systems activated in the southern part of the capital against hostile targets, claiming most of the missiles intercepted; Iran backed militias present in targeted areas

Liad Osmo| Published: 06.07.22, 09:06

Israel fired several missiles toward the southern part of Syria's capital Damascus early Tuesday, causing material damage but no casualties, state media reported.

The state TV quoted an unnamed military official as saying that Israeli jets fired several missiles while flying over Syrian airspace. It added that air defense systems were

activated in the capital against "hostile targets" and most of the Israeli **missiles** were **shot down**.

The **last** time Syria reported an Israeli attack **was two weeks ago**, when three people were killed near Damascus in a surface-to-surface missile attack, but the media did not say if they were soldiers.

As a result of the attack, a fire broke out and at least two flights were postponed. The targeted locations were Jamraya and Al-Kiswah - areas that were repeatedly attacked over the past few years, areas **where pro-Iranian militias were located**.

The Syrian army's announcement stated then that "the Israeli enemy carried out an attack using surface-to-surface missile barrage from the captured Syrian Golan region, on several targets in southern Damascus. Air defense systems were activated and intercepted most of the missiles."

**Israel** has been mounting **attacks** on its northern neighbor **for several years**, mainly on what it has described as **Iranian-linked targets in Syria**, where Tehran-backed forces, including Lebanon's **Hezbollah**, have **built up** a presence **since** deploying to help President Bashar al-Assad in the **Syrian civil war** which broke out in **2011**.

**06.07.22**

**IAEA governors to vote on Iran to impose UN world powers security sanctions**

**06.07.22**

Iran accumulates enough **enriched uranium to make 3 bombs**, Israeli official **IAEA** board of **governors** to vote on decision **calling Iran to live up to its commitments** but official hopes **vote will be followed by UN** security Council **imposing sanctions** on Tehran

Itamar Eichner | Published: **06.07.22**, 08:53

An Israeli official said late on Monday that **Iran** has already accumulated enriched uranium in sufficient **quantity to make three nuclear bombs**.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in its latest report on Iran's nuclear program published last week, that it **estimated** that, **as of May 15, 2022**, Iran's total enriched stockpile was **3,809.3 kilograms**."

The UN watchdog also reiterated that it still had questions that were "not clarified" regarding previous **undeclared** nuclear **material at three sites** named Marivan, Varamin and Turqzabad.

"The IAEA board of governors will vote on a decision to call on Iran to live up to its commitments but will not criticize the Iranian regime," the official said.

If the vote will pass, Iran will face political pressure for the first time since negotiations between world powers and the Islamic Republic, on a return to the 2015 nuclear deal, began.

"Judging by public statements, it seems Iran is beginning to feel pressured by the pending IAEA decision," the official said.

He expressed his hope that following the IAEA vote, the UN security council will then consider sanctions on Iran, if not immediately – "then in the long run," the official said. The outline proposed by the IAEA to close the case against Iran for violating the JCPOA has failed, the official said.

"Iran has not been able to answer the UN watch dog's questions," he said adding that there were insufficient explanations given by Tehran and the Iranian government was "caught in lies" while attempting to explain its actions."

The officials also said that there is concern over large amounts of enriched uranium of up to 60%, which could produce three atomic bombs.

In a background briefing, the official said U.S. President Joe Biden gave a clear commitment to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps will not be taken off the list of terror affiliated organizations by the administration. "We and the Americans are heading towards a coordinated policy," he said.

"As part of the shift in the U.S. policy on Iran, decisions were made in the past week, regarding oil smuggling and the IRGC, meant to finance terrorism by Iran and its proxies. We believe this is just one step that will be followed by others," the official said. IAEA chief Rafael Grossi met with Bennett in Jerusalem over the weekend.

In their meeting, Bennett emphasized the danger of continuing Iranian advancement toward a nuclear weapon, while misleading the international community by using false information and lies. He also emphasized the "urgent need" for the international community to move against Iran by any means to prevent it from achieving weapon capabilities."

06.06.22

Israel 1967 West Bank Settlements law expires June 30, if it fails 2nd vote

06.06.22

Coalition bill to renew Israeli law over West Bank Settlements, fails in Knesset

With a majority of votes from the right-wing opposition parties and the predominately Arab Joint list and with the support of one legislator from the Islamist Ra'am party - a member of the coalition, government fails in critical vote.

Moran Azulay | Published: 06.06.22, 23:04

The coalition on Monday failed to renew the bill extending Israeli law under emergency regulations, over West Bank settlements.

The bill in place since the 1967 Six Day War and renewed every five years by the Knesset will expire at the end of the month.

With a 58 to 52 majority the opposition foiled the legislation although it can directly and adversely effect the West Bank settlers.

The government will bring the bill to a vote again in the coming weeks.

Justice Minister Gideon Saar who tabled the bill had said that any member of the coalition who does not support it, will be responsible for the demise of the coalition.

One member of the Islamist Ra'am party voted no on extending Israeli law to the West Bank while the remainder of his party was absent from the vote.

Absent too was former coalition whip Idit Silman who had defected to the opposition. A no vote on her part could have resulted in her being named a renegade, which would have prevented her from joining any existing Knesset faction in the next elections.

Silman was promised a ministerial position in a Netanyahu – led government and a secure Knesset seat.

Bennett and his ministers slammed the Likud party for refusing to back the bill at the expense of the settlers. Likud said Bennett cannot rule and should resign.

06.06.22

Knesset convened Monday to vote on regulating West Bank settlements

06.06.22

Knesset begins deliberations on West Bank bill

Bill extending Israeli law to West Bank settlements lacks support from right-wing opposition and Arab parties; Bennett expresses optimism despite majority against him  
Moran Azulay | Published: 06.06.22, 19:16

Knesset convened on Monday afternoon to vote on extending the bill regulating Israeli law over the settlements.

Failure to pass the bill before it expires at the end of June, would mean that settlers will have no social benefits and the government and its agencies including the police, will have no authority in the West Bank.

Bennett expressed optimism that the coalition bill will pass despite not having secured a majority.

"We are continuing to build our country. Some said we would not survive the first week of our coalition, but we've now marked the first year and it has been one of growth, low unemployment and security on our southern border," Bennett said. "With God's help we will survive this as well," he said.

Since former coalition whip Idit Silman, announced she was crossing the lines and would be part of the opposition, Bennett's government does not have the support of a parliamentary majority. Silman said on Monday that she will not support the bill.

A vote against the bill could prompt her being named a renegade, which would prevent her from joining an existing Knesset faction in the next elections.

Silman was promised a ministerial position in a Netanyahu – led government and a secure Knesset seat.

Bennett and his ministers slammed the Likud party for refusing to back the bill at the expense of the settlers. Likud said Bennett cannot rule and should resign.

06.06.22

Hezbollah ready if Lebanon & US mediator says Israel violating water rights

06.06.22

Hezbollah 'ready' to act forcefully if Lebanon says Israel violating water rights

After months of deadlock in U.S.-mediated talks over territorial waters, Beirut warns against any drilling in the disputed area, while Hezbollah threatens forceful action if Beirut confirms Israeli violation

Reuters| Published: 06.06.22, 18:22

Hezbollah is ready to take action "including force" against Israeli gas operations in disputed waters once the Lebanese government adopts a clearer policy, the heavily armed movement's deputy leader said on Monday.

Sheikh Naim Qassem's comments came a day after a vessel operated by London-based Energean arrived off the coast to develop a gas field known as Karish, for Israel.

Israel rejects Lebanon's claims that the field lies within its territory, saying it is part of its exclusive economic zone.

"This is very far from reality," Energy Minister Karin Elharrar told Tel Aviv radio 103 FM, adding that there was "unequivocally no" encroachment by Israel.

Lebanon's president and premier in statements, both warned Israel against operations in Karish, prompting fears of a violent escalation.

Nonetheless, Elharrar stated that conflict with Lebanon regarding the disputed waters in unlikely: "We are not there at all. Really, such is the disconnect (between rhetoric and reality) that I do not believe they would take action."



Still, she reminded that "Israel is making preparations (and) I recommend that no one try to surprise Israel."

The Iran backed Hezbollah, which possesses an arsenal which some experts say rivals that of the Lebanese army, said on Monday it would act only if Lebanon's government formally accuses Israel of violating maritime rights.

"When the Lebanese state says that the Israelis are assaulting our waters and our oil, then we are ready to do our part in terms of pressure, deterrence and use of appropriate means - including force," Qassem said.

"The issue requires a decisive decision from the Lebanese state," he said adding that Hezbollah "urged the government to hurry up, to set a deadline for itself".

Qassem said the Iran-backed group would act "no matter the responses" even if it led to a broader conflict.

Lebanon's president and caretaker prime minister said on Monday they would invite U.S. mediator Amos Hochstein to discuss "completing the negotiations to demarcate the southern maritime border and to work on concluding the issue as fast as possible to prevent any escalation that would not serve the state of stability in the region", caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said on his Twitter feed.

He said Lebanon would contact major powers and the United Nations to affirm its position, confirming that any Israeli drilling or exploration in the disputed area would be "a provocation and an act of aggression" that threatens peace and security.

Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz said that the dispute would be resolved diplomatically. "Everything to do with the dispute will be resolved in the framework of negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, mediated by the United States," he said in televised remarks.

Beirut is hoping to reach an agreement that could then help it unlock valuable gas reserves to ease its worst-ever financial crisis.

In late May, Lebanon's cabinet passed a long-awaited recovery roadmap, despite objections by Hezbollah ministers.

On Monday, Qassem hinted that a fresh plan would have to be negotiated since Lebanon's parliamentary elections last month had triggered a new government formation process.

Hezbollah and its allies lost the parliamentary majority in the vote, but have retained control over the roles of parliament speaker and deputy speaker.

"The most important step that we must take as soon as possible is forming a government, because the country without a government will collapse towards an even worse situation," he said.

He declined to comment on whether Hezbollah would approve a new term for caretaker premier Najib Mikati or if it had suggested names as a successor to President Michel Aoun, a key ally of Hezbollah whose term ends in late October.

Qassem said the next priority would be focusing on financial recovery. While Hezbollah has expressed skepticism about Lebanon's preliminary relief agreement with the International Monetary Fund, he said such a deal was a "necessary bridge" to access other funding.

06.06.22

West Bank PA protest hike in prices & prepare strike on unpaid May salaries

06.06.22

Palestinians protest against soaring prices ahead of strike

As the war in Ukraine has sent commodities prices surging, the surge in cost of basic food items hits the West Bank hard, sparking protests and demands from tax exemptions from the Palestinian Authority government

Reuters| Published: 06.06.22, 17:06

Palestinian police made a number of arrests on Monday as protests against soaring prices for food and other necessities spread a day ahead of a planned strike to demand action from the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority.

Lawyers said at least nine people had been detained and police removed a number of tents set up in the street by protesters, who are calling for a general strike in Hebron, a city in the West Bank.

A spokesman for the Palestinian security services did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

"We urge the government to intervene to put an end to this mad hike in prices," said Rami Al-Jnaidi, one of the organizers of the protest.

"If the government is unable or is unwilling to intervene, we will be calling for its departure."

The surge in food and energy prices seen across the world in recent weeks has hit the West Bank hard, adding to tensions in an area which has seen weeks of violent clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians.

As the war in Ukraine has sent commodities prices surging, the cost of basic food items such as flour, sugar, and cooking oil has gone up by as much as 30% since March, according to merchants and protesters.

Official figures released by the Palestinian Central Statistics Bureau put the increase at between 15 and 18 percent.

The Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank, already exempted wheat from tax rises introduced in February and says it has been monitoring markets closely to prevent manipulation of market prices.

Protesters have demanded that tax exemptions be extended to other basic staples but the Authority's room for maneuver is limited by budget constraints. It has yet to pay the May salaries of tens of thousands of civil servants.

06.06.22

Legal status of West Bank may place PA & settlers under Military & Courts

06.06.22

Israeli coalition could crumble over settler laws vote

Ruling government is facing collapse if vote on soon-to-expire rule over status of Jewish West Bank settlers fails to pass; if not renewed, settlers will automatically fall under military rule, and everyday relations with the state will crumble

Reuters| Published: 06.06.22, 13:43

Israel's ruling coalition is gearing up for a major test, with a vote expected Monday on the legal status of Jewish settlers in the West Bank. The fragile union could collapse if the vote fails to pass.

Emergency regulations in place for decades have created a separate legal system for Jewish settlers in the West Bank, applying parts of Israeli law to them - even though they live in contested territory.

These regulations expire at the end of the month and if they are not renewed, that legal system, which Israel has cultivated for its settlers in the West Bank since it captured the territory from Jordan in 1967, will be thrown into question. It could also change the legal status of the 500,000 settlers living there.

Proponents of extending the law say they are merely seeking to maintain a status quo and preserve the government's shelf life. Opponents say extending the regulations would deepen an unfair system that pits Israelis and Palestinians in the same territory under separate legal systems, which rights groups have equated to apartheid.

The coalition, made up of eight ideologically distinct parties, came together last year and pledged to sidestep divisive issues that could threaten its survival. Now, one of those very issues - Palestinian statehood and Israel's presence in the West Bank - risks toppling it. One of the coalition's members, the nationalist New Hope, has threatened to bolt if the coalition cannot pass the measure. Legislators and party leaders were scrambling to rally votes and even parties that support Palestinian independence and criticize Israel's settlement enterprise were expected to vote in favor - just to save the coalition.

"It's not simple or easy for us either but we understand there is an overarching goal and that overarching goal is the survival of this government," Yair Golan of the dovish Meretz party told Army Radio.

He said **if the law** was allowed to **expire**, it would cause **chaos in the West Bank** and urged all coalition members to vote in favor for the sake of the coalition, even if it defies their politics.

One of the parties deliberating over its vote is **Ra'am**, an **Arab Islamist group** that made history as the first Arab party to join an Israeli coalition. **Voting in favor of** extending the law will likely anger its constituents. The **opposition**, meanwhile, made up mainly of nationalist parties, appears **ready to forsake its ideology and will vote against** extending the regulations to try to **bring down the coalition**.

If New Hope leaves, it could give the opposition the votes it needs to trigger new elections or form a new government.

The government of Prime Minister Naftali **Bennett** has faced **hurdles** before. **Idit Silman**, the coalition whip from Bennett's small, nationalist party, **quit the coalition** earlier this year, leaving the government with 60 seats in the 120-seat Knesset - surviving immediate defeat but struggling to govern. **Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi**, another legislator from **Meretz** **also quit, but later rejoined after** being **promised a raft of benefits** for her Israeli Arab constituents.

Bennett's government came together last year amid two years of political mayhem, with four elections producing no clear winner. The **eight coalition members** were **united** by their goal of **ousting** former leader Benjamin **Netanyahu** - who now heads the opposition, from where he is battling corruption charges - and have sought to **work** around their **issues to keep him out of power**.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. It later annexed East Jerusalem in a move that is not recognized internationally and pulled out troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005. But hundreds of thousands of Israelis reside in a patchwork of more than 120 settlements in the West Bank, along with more than 2.5 million Palestinians.

Since **Israel** has **never annexed the territory**, it technically **remains under military rule**, creating a bewildering legal reality. For Jewish settlers in the **West Bank**, most of **Israel's** criminal and civilian laws apply. They **vote in Israeli elections**, **enlist** for compulsory military service **and pay their taxes to the state**.

But these **core laws are applied** on a personal rather than a geographic basis, meaning they apply to **Israelis** because of their **citizenship** and **regardless of their location**.

To get around accusations of de facto annexation, **Israel** relies heavily **on military decrees**, rather than parliament, to **enforce laws on settlers**. **Israel's Supreme Court** steps in **when loopholes** in this patchwork arrangement emerge.

**Palestinians**, meanwhile, are **subject to a different set of laws**, adding to the confusion - and often inequality.

This legal status will remain if the law in question on Monday passes. **If it fails to pass**, **settlers** will automatically **fall under military rule, like Palestinians** in the West Bank, according to Emmanuel Gross, an Israeli expert on criminal and international law and a former military judge.

Basic, everyday relations between settlers and the state will crumble: Israel won't be able to levy taxes and police won't be able to investigate criminal offenses, among other things, Gross said.

"The entire legal basis of what happens with the settlers today will be canceled. This can cause chaos," he said, adding that he expected the government would find a way to ensure the regulations are extended.

06.05.22

Huffy US Congresswoman argues Israel visa discriminates entry into West Bank

06.05.22

U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib fights Israel visa waiver inclusion

Michigan Democrat argues Israel's 'discriminatory policies make it ineligible for inclusion', claims discrimination at points of entry against Palestinian, Muslim U.S. citizens, among others

i24NEWS | Published: 06.05.22, 21:17

U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib is lobbying against Israel's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program.

The Michigan Democrat is arguing that Israel's "discriminatory policies make it ineligible for inclusion."

The Visa Waiver Program allows foreign citizens to enter the U.S. for 90 days without applying for a visa.

Israel has long sought to be part of that program but has not hit the required benchmarks.

The letter sent by Tlaib says Israel practices "flagrant discrimination against Palestinian, Middle Eastern and North African, Muslim and pro-Palestinian American citizens at its points of entry."

The congressional letter was addressed to Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas.

It has been co-signed by several other members of Congress, including Congresswoman Betty McCollum and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez.

The letter goes on to argue that new Israeli procedures published in February "represent a clear Israeli intention to restrict the entry of certain American travelers seeking entry into the occupied West Bank."

The Department of Homeland Security is saying that Israel will have to meet all the requirements for the program to be in participation, but said the issue is not of high priority.

Back in January, the Interior Ministry said it was working on a media campaign that would teach Israelis how to properly fill out an application for a U.S. visa as the Jewish nation tries to secure a spot on the Visa Waiver Program.

According to the ministry, 150,000 Israelis apply for U.S. visas on average each year, but 6-7% of them end up being rejected, mostly due to administrative-technical reasons. The campaign — led by Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked and the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem — aims to more than halve the rejection rate to meet the U.S.'s 3% threshold by 2023.

The U.S. says that a relatively large number of visa applications are rejected due to technicalities, such as an out-of-date passport picture or a damaged passport. Other frequent issues include submitting visa applications for children under 14 without the pertinent parental documents, as well as failing to submit a fingerprint or show up to a personal interview with the consul.

06.05.22

Lebanon warns gas ship activity 50 miles west of Haifa, in UN disputed waters

06.05.22

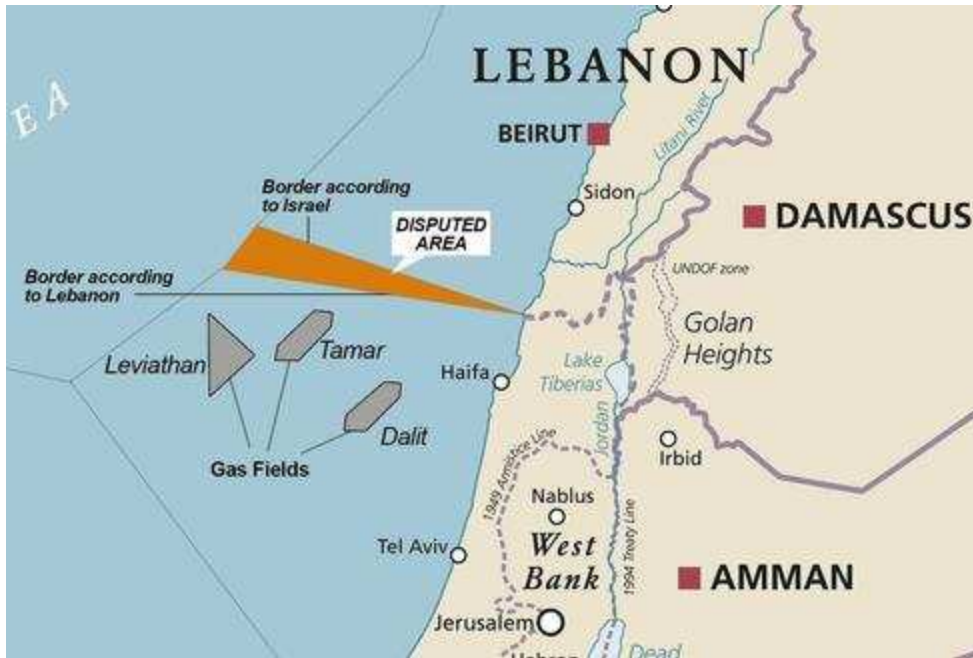
Lebanon warns against any Israeli 'aggression' in disputed waters

Amid protracted maritime border talks between countries, Beirut raises a hue and a cry as Israel prepares to begin extracting natural gas from field Jerusalem claims lies within its exclusive economic zone

Reuters| Published: 06.05.22, 16:59

Lebanon warned Israel on Sunday against any "aggressive action" in disputed waters where both states hope to develop offshore energy after a ship arrived off the coast to produce gas for Israel.

President Michel Aoun said any activity in the disputed area would amount to an act of aggression and a provocation, after the arrival of the natural gas storage and production ship operated by London-based Energean.



A map showing the territorial maritime dispute between Israel and Lebanon (Photo: Shutterstock)

Israel says the field in question is within its exclusive economic zone, not in disputed waters.

But in a statement, the Lebanese presidency said Aoun discussed with caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati the vessel's entry into the disputed maritime area with Israel, and asked the Army Command to provide him with accurate and official data to build upon the matter".

Aoun said negotiations to delineate the southern maritime border continued and "any action or activity in the disputed area represents a provocation and an aggressive action". There was no immediate response from the Israeli government to Aoun's statement. Energy Minister Karine Elaharrar welcomed the vessel's arrival and said she hoped it would be brought online quickly.

"We will continue to work to diversify the energy market and maintain stability and reliability," she said.

Energiean said its floating production storage and offloading vessel arrived on Sunday at the Karish field, about 80 km (50 miles) west of the city of Haifa, in Israel's exclusive economic zone. The company said it planned to bring it online in the third quarter.

Mikati said Israel was "encroaching on Lebanon's maritime wealth, and imposing a fait accompli in a disputed area", calling this "extremely dangerous".

The United States began mediating indirect talks between the sides in 2000 to settle a long-running dispute between old foes that has obstructed energy exploration in the eastern Mediterranean. Lebanon is home to the heavily armed, Iran-backed Hezbollah group, which has fought numerous wars with Israel.

Hezbollah has previously warned Israel against drilling for oil and gas in the disputed area until the issue is resolved, and said the group would take action if it did so. Both Israel and Lebanon have made claims at the United Nations regarding about their maritime border. Lebanon says its border cuts into the sea at an angle farther south and Israel's claim runs farther north, creating a triangle of disputed waters.

06.05.22

Police lock PA in mosque, throwing stones & furniture, as Jews visit compound

06.05.22

Israel police lock Palestinian protesters in Temple Mount mosque as Jews visit. Palestinians hurled stones and furniture at force, out of windows at mosque in protest of Jews entering holy compound during the Shavuot holiday; Police say action meant to prevent clashes and rioting.

Elior Levy | Updated: 06.05.22, 10:46

Police locked a group of Palestinians in a mosque on the Temple Mount complex on Sunday after they were suspected of violence against Jews visiting the site, on the occasion of Shavuot.

The protesters threw stones and furniture at the force, out of the mosque windows. No injuries were reported.

The police have used the same tactic of locking protesters in one of the buildings on the holy site, to separate them from visiting Jews and prevent clashes.

During last week's Jerusalem Day, a record 2,600 Jews entered the Temple Mount compound, but despite the Jewish visitors violating the terms allowing their access to the Moslem controlled site – by waving Israeli flags, bowing in prayer and singing Israel's national anthem, rioting was avoided for the most part, the police said.

Shavuot, in the Jewish tradition, was in ancient times, one of the three holidays when all ancient Israelites who were able, would make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem, as commanded by the Torah.

Right wing religious groups have been increasing their visits to the religious compound demanding a right to pray at what was where the location of the great temple 2,000 years ago and is considered the holiest site in Judaism.

Their demands have fed Muslim Palestinian concerns that Jews were encroaching on their shrine in violation of the historic status quo agreement.

Under the status quo agreed between Israel and the Jordan immediately after the 1967 Six Day War and again in the peace agreement signed between the two countries in 1994,



religious worship on the compound is restricted to Muslims, while Jews pray at the Western Wall nearby.

06.05.22

WB PA lost flocks until vaccinated by Israel; land vacated 3-years can be settled

06.05.22

Palestinian farmers sound alarm over foot-and-mouth outbreak

Farmer Bashir says Palestinian Authority provides no help after halting animal vaccination program while others warn settlers might attempt to grab land vacated by flocks to set up illegal outposts

AFP| Published: 06.05.22, 09:14

An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the West Bank early this year has killed thousands of livestock, pushing Palestinian farmers already living under occupation to the brink of bankruptcy.

Mohammed Basheer said he had to incinerate hundreds of his dead lambs after the outbreak devastated livestock across the West Bank, leaving him with more than just a stinging financial loss.

For Basheer, the ordeal underlines the unique challenges facing farmers in the Palestinian territory, who complain that they are underserved by the Palestinian Authority and face constant threats from Jewish settlers.

"I got no help from the PA, not even a telephone call," Basheer, who owns thousands of livestock near the city of Nablus, told AFP, voicing frustration over what he described as inaction from the Palestinian agriculture ministry.

Palestinian farmers blamed the PA for halting a vaccinations program that had proven essential in protecting livestock against an endemic disease.

And with animals absent from large stretches of grazing land, farmers fear land grabs from Jewish settlers who have repeatedly set up illegal outposts on West Bank land they claim is unused.

The PA "should protect us because we protect the land," Basheer said. "The farms protect the land... If you remove the farmers, Israel takes the land."

A new strain of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), which causes potentially lethal fevers and blisters in young animals, was detected in livestock last November in Jordan.

It soon spread across the West Bank, a territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and heavily reliant on agriculture.

But the PA's agriculture ministry has not carried out a regular vaccination drive since 2019.

A ministry official, who requested anonymity, told AFP that a normal year sees 60 to 70 percent of goats and sheep in the West Bank vaccinated against FMD.

That figure dropped to 20 percent in 2020 and 2021, the official said.

The ministry blamed the coronavirus pandemic, saying FMD vaccines were harder to source as vaccine-makers worldwide pivoted operations to meet demand for COVID jabs. The ministry also blamed Israel, claiming it obstructed the PA from procuring sufficient supply.

The defense ministry body responsible for civil affairs in the Palestinian territories (COGAT) told AFP that the allegation was false.

"There has been no formal request from the Palestinian Authority for the import of such vaccines," a COGAT statement said.

"Nonetheless, considering the health requirement that has arisen, the State of Israel has transferred vaccine doses that were in its possession to the Palestinian Authority."

The Palestinian ministry has officially confirmed around 2,000 animal deaths as a result of the FMD strain this year.

But farmers and the agriculture ministry official said livestock deaths were likely far higher than the acknowledged toll.

Basheer said FMD losses had cost him \$150,000 and accused Israel of hoarding vaccines.

"Our occupiers had continuous vaccines for all farmers, but we haven't had anything in three years," he said.

"They've destroyed the farmers."

In the West Bank's Area C, which remains under full Israeli control, vacant agricultural land is a prime target for Jewish settlement expansion, according to experts.

Eyal Hareuveni, a researcher at the anti-settlement watchdog B'Tselem, told AFP that settler land grabs are often backed by Israel's "twisted interpretation" of an Ottoman-era law that says land not cultivated for three consecutive years can be claimed.

"Israel can designate this as state land and take it for their own use, even if it's land that is registered as private Palestinian land," Hareuveni said.

More than 475,000 Jewish settlers live in the West Bank in communities widely regarded as illegal under international law. Israel's governing coalition has continued to approve new settler homes across the territory, while acting sporadically against new outposts.

With no new cases detected since April, PA officials say the FMD outbreak is now under control.

Abbas Milhem, executive director of the Palestinian farmer's union, told AFP that by faltering on vaccinations, the PA had effectively given a boost to the settler movement.

"The real fight against occupation and annexation is in the land, but the farmers can't stand alone," he said. "We need some accountability for this."

06.04.22

Biden moves Israel, Saudi Arabia visits to July, after Germany & Spain this month

06.04.22

Biden postpones Israel, Saudi Arabia visits until July, NBC reports

Senior administration official says White House planning a 'broader trip to the Middle East' for next month and working on summit Gulf Cooperation Council and other regional partners

i24NEWS| Published: 06.04.22, 09:11

U.S. President Joe Biden is postponing his scheduled visits to Israel and Saudi Arabia until July, NBC News reports.

Previous reporting indicated that the 79-year-old's trip to the Middle East was being organized for late June, but the White House has yet to officially confirm specific dates for a presidential swing to the region.

It would have taken place after Biden's scheduled visit to Germany and Spain later this month.

However, the White House is now planning a "broader trip to the Middle East," a senior Biden administration official told NBC News.

"We are working on a trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia for a GCC+3 Summit," the source said, referring to the Gulf Cooperation Council which features Israel's allies Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. "We are working to confirm dates. When we have something to announce, we will."

Biden on Friday confirmed that he was visiting Saudi Arabia as part of a wider tour of the region but did not specify the dates.

A visit to Saudi Arabia would be a stark about-face for the American leader after calling for the kingdom to be made a pariah state over the 2018 assassination of journalist Jamal Khashoggi which has been tied to the Saudi leadership and in light of his strained ties with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

"I'm not sure when I'm going," Biden said when asked about reports of an imminent visit. "There is a possibility that I would be going to meet with both the Israelis and some Arab countries at the time."

06.05.22

Russia strikes railway network in Ukraine's capital Kyiv on 100th day of war

06.05.22

Explosions rock Ukraine's capital Kyiv, battle rages on in east

Capital comes under fire after weeks of relative calm while city officials say at least one person hospitalized in apparent Russian strike of railway network; Ukraine presidential aid says no point in negotiation with Russia

Reuters| Published: 06.05.22, 12:33

Kyiv was rocked by several explosions early on Sunday, the mayor of the Ukrainian capital said, a day after officials said its troops had recaptured a swath of the eastern battlefield city of Sievierodonetsk in a counter-offensive against Russia.

"Several explosions in Darnytskyi and Dniprovskyi districts of the capital," Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on the Telegram messaging app. "Services are already working on site."

A Reuters witness saw smoke in the city after the explosions.

At least one person was hospitalized but no deaths had been reported as of early Sunday, Klitschko said. Other officials said the Russian bombardment appeared to be targeting the railway network.

Despite continuing Russian attacks on Ukraine and the widespread destruction, Kyiv has been relatively calm in recent weeks after Moscow turned its military focus to the east and south, especially an intense battle for Sievierodonetsk.

Russia has concentrated its forces on the factory city for one of the biggest ground battles of the war, with Moscow appearing to bet its campaign on capturing one of the two eastern provinces it claims on behalf of separatist proxies.

Serhiy Gaidai, the governor of the Luhansk region that includes Sievierodonetsk, said on Sunday Ukrainian forces controlled about half the city after recapturing a large chunk from Russian troops.

"It had been a difficult situation, the Russians controlled 70% of the city, but over the past two days they have been pushed back," Gaidai said on Ukraine's television. "The city is now, more or less, divided in half."

The claims could not be independently verified.

Britain's defense ministry said on Sunday that Ukrainian counter-attacks there over the past 24 hours were likely to blunt any operational momentum that Russian forces had previously gained.

Moscow said its own forces were making gains in the city. Ukraine's army said Russian forces continued to mount assault operations with the aid of artillery and controlled the eastern part of Sievierodonetsk.

"The situation is tense, complicated," Mayor Oleksandr Stryuk told national television on Saturday, saying there was a shortage of food, fuel and medicine. "Our military is doing everything it can to drive the enemy out of the city."

Both sides claim to have inflicted huge casualties in the fighting, a battle that military experts say could determine which side has the momentum for a prolonged war of attrition in coming months.

Ukrainian officials said at least eight people were killed and 11 injured in Russian shelling in the neighbouring Donetsk region. Donetsk and Luhansk make up the wider Donbas region where Russia hopes to take control.

"No point in negotiations"

In the diplomatic sphere, Kyiv rebuked French President Emmanuel Macron for saying it was important not to "humiliate" Moscow.

"We must not humiliate Russia so that the day when the fighting stops we can build an exit ramp through diplomatic means," Macron said in an interview published on Saturday, adding he was "convinced that it is France's role to be a mediating power."

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted in response: "Calls to avoid humiliation of Russia can only humiliate France and every other country that would call for it."

"Because it is Russia that humiliates itself. We all better focus on how to put Russia in its place. This will bring peace and save lives."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky offered a stark message: "The terrible consequences of this war can be stopped at any moment... if one person in Moscow simply gives the order," he said, in an apparent reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The fact that there is still no such order is obviously a humiliation for the whole world."

Putin will discuss the war in an interview due to be broadcast on national television on Sunday. In a brief excerpt aired on Saturday he said Russian anti-aircraft forces have shot down dozens of Ukrainian weapons and are "cracking them like nuts".

Ukraine says it aims to push Russian forces back as far as possible on the battlefield, counting on advanced missile systems pledged in recent days by the United States and Britain to swing the war in its favor.

Asked about Macron's mediation offer on national television, Zelensky adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said there was "no point in holding negotiations" until Ukraine received all the pledged weapons, strengthened its position and pushed Russian forces "back as far as possible to the borders of Ukraine".

Moscow has said the Western weapons will pour "fuel on the fire" but will not change the course of what it calls a "special military operation" to disarm Ukraine and rid it of nationalists.

In the war, marked its 100th day on Friday, tens of thousands are believed to have died, millions have been uprooted from their homes, and the global economy has been disrupted.

Ukraine is one of the world's leading sources of grain and cooking oil, but those supplies were largely cut off by Russia's closure of its Black Sea ports, with more than 20 million tons of grain stuck in silos.

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Ynet-News, June 03, 2022 – Friday

Traditional Shavuot begins sundown Friday

06.03.22 – Fr- - - News

Bennett appeal; he saved Israel from Netanyahu & needs support before US visit

06.02.22 – Th- - - News Placed in June 02 spot – Thursday  
IAEA chief convenes with Bennett files; report Iran is over 18 times the limit

06.02.22 – Th- - - News  
Gantz meets Indian PM Modi, on drone production capabilities and joint R&D

06.02.22 – Th- - - News Placed in June 02 spot – Thursday  
Biden visit for Abbas relief, stirs calm tactic to nix PLO from US terror list

06.01.22 – We- - - News  
Bill to ban Palestinian flag in state-funded institutions passes in first reading

06.01.22 – We- - - News  
Massive PA flag on Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, removed after public outcry

06.01.22 – We- - - News  
Litzman is second ultra-Orthodox member of Knesset to resign over crimes

06.01.22 – We- - - News  
300 of Ethiopia to leave for Israel this week, ultimately leaving none behind

06.01.22 – We- - - News Placed in June 01 spot – Wednesday  
PA premier may resign as scapegoat, for US & EU concerns blocking financial aid

06.01.22 – We- - - News  
Saar faction failing four seat minimum, may join Likud under Netanyahu