

Ynet-News, June 18, 2022 – Saturday

Traditional Shavuot began sundown Friday June 03 to sundown June 10
Theory in Shavuot began sundown Thursday June 09 to sundown June 16

06.18.22 – Sa- - - News Placed in June 18 spot – Saturday
IDF strikes Gaza Hamas weapons productions after rocket fired at Ashkelon

06.15.22 – We- - - News Placed in June 17 spot – Friday Shavuot 6
Russia concerned, damage to Damascus Airport disrupted Iran & Hezbollah travel

06.15.22 – We- - - News Placed in June 16 spot – Thursday Shavuot 6
World Vision Christian charity, 100 countries \$2.5 billion annual Hamas PA aid

06.15.22 – We- - - News Shavuot 6
Ukraine taps Israel for \$500M, Japan 600, Germany 300, Canada 800, & weapons

06.15.22 – We- - - News Placed in June 15 spot – Wednesday Shavuot 6
Gantz adds 20,000 work permits to West Bank PA & expunges minor offences

06.15.22 – We- - - News Placed in June 14 spot – Tuesday Shavuot 6
Argentina holds 17 man 747 cargo crew & plane affiliated with Iran terror groups

06.12.22 – Su- - - News Shavuot 3
Israel joins EU Creative business program that excludes West Bank settlements

06.18.22
IDF strikes Gaza Hamas weapons productions after rocket fired at Ashkelon

06.18.22
IDF strikes Gaza after rocket fired at Ashkelon
Military says targeted Hamas weapons productions and positions hours after rocket
intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system; Israeli observation balloon crashes
within Gaza

Yoav Zitun, Elior Levy, Matan Tzuri | Published: 06.18.22, 07:28

The IDF struck Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip on Saturday in response to a rocket fired
at the southern city of Ashkelon hours earlier.

Among the targets were weapons production sites and Hamas positions along the border with Israel.

The rocket was intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system.

This was the first time in about two months that a rocket has been fired into Israel from the Palestinian enclave.

This came less than 24 hours after three Palestinians were killed by IDF troops during a raid in the northern West Bank city of Jenin.

According to the Palestinian news agency Wafa, three men were killed, and eight others were wounded in the incident.

The military said in a statement that soldiers identified a suspicious vehicle standing at the side of a road when gunmen started firing at troops from inside the vehicle. The soldiers responded with live fire.

In a separate incident, an Israeli surveillance balloon crashed over the Gaza Strip Friday afternoon.

Palestinian media reported that Hamas got a hold of the balloon and that the IDF fired two missiles at a target in an open area near the Erez Border Crossing in Gaza, purportedly to prevent sensitive technology from falling into the wrong hands. The military denied it has opened fire.

06.15.22

Russia concerned, damage to Damascus Airport disrupted Iran & Hezbollah travel

06.15.22

Russia summons Israeli envoy on Damascus airport strike

Moscow expresses 'deep concern' regarding attack, says explanations provided by Jerusalem so far did not satisfy Kremlin and that it would not allow Syria to become 'battlefield' for other countries

Itamar Eichner | Published: 06.15.22, 21:33

Israeli Ambassador to Russia Alexander Ben Zvi was summoned on Wednesday by the country's foreign ministry to provide clarifications on a strike on Damascus International Airport last week that was widely attributed to the Jewish state.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov had expressed to Ben-Zvi Moscow's deep concern regarding the attack, which the Russians said had damaged the airport's runway, navigation systems, and buildings, and caused damage to international air traffic.

The ministry also stated that the attack had disrupted the inflow of humanitarian aid from the United Nations to millions of Syrians in the country ravaged by over a decade of civil war.

Bogdanov told Ben-Zvi that the explanations Jerusalem provided so far did not satisfy the Kremlin and that **Moscow would not allow Syria to become a "battlefield"** for other countries as it helps in fighting terrorism across the region.

Syrian state media reported Wednesday that Transport Minister Zouhair Khazim had visited the airport in the Syrian capital and inspected its reconstruction works. It is not yet clear when flights to or from the airport will resume.

Before Ben-Zvi's summoning, **Moscow issued a strong condemnation of the attack** that Syria has attributed to Israel.

In a statement published last Friday by Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, **Moscow called on Israel to "stop this vicious practice" of targeting civilian infrastructure.**

"We are compelled to reiterate that the **ongoing Israeli shelling of the territory** of the Syrian Arab Republic, in **violation of the basic norms of international law**, is absolutely unacceptable. We strongly condemn Israel's provocative attack on the most important object of the Syrian civilian infrastructure," the statement read.

"Such **irresponsible actions create serious risks** for international air traffic and put the lives of **innocent people in real danger**. **We demand the Israeli side to stop this vicious practice.**"

Satellite images published last week by Israeli intelligence and imagery firm ImageSat International (ISI) shed light on the extent of the damage, with three craters visible on each of the airport's two runways.

Satellite images show extent of damage to Damascus International Airport's runways after strike attributed to Israel (Photo: ImageSat International (ISI))

According to a report by the firm, one runway serves the civilian section of the airport, while the other serves its military section.

Last Sunday, **Syria released new images from the Damascus airport** as part of Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous's visit to the site to inspect the reconstruction work. The images show showed heavy machinery near the runways, as well as damage inside one of the buildings serving the airport.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Syrian opposition group based in the **United Kingdom**, reported the **damaged building was a terminal used by senior military personnel from Iran and Hezbollah traveling to Syria.**

06.15.22

World Vision Christian charity, 100 countries \$2.5 billion annual Hamas PA aid

06.15.22

Israeli court finds Gaza aid worker guilty on terror charges

Mohammed el-Halabi accused of diverting tens of millions of dollars to Hamas; Christian charity denies any wrongdoing; lawyer says he has rejected multiple plea deals

Associated Press| Published: 06.15.22, 16:45

An Israeli court on Wednesday found a Gaza aid worker guilty of several terrorism charges.

Mohammed el-Halabi, who was the Gaza director for the international Christian charity World Vision from 2014 until his arrest in 2016, was accused of diverting tens of millions of dollars to the Islamist militant group Hamas that rules the territory.

Both he and World Vision have denied any wrongdoing, and an independent audit in 2017 also found no evidence of support for Hamas.

He has been held in Israeli detention since 2016. He has not yet been sentenced.

The district court in the southern city of Be'er Sheva read the verdict Wednesday, saying el-Halabi was guilty of several charges, including membership in a terrorist organization, providing information to a terror group, taking part in forbidden military exercises and carrying a weapon.

The judges referred to Shin Bet investigations in which el-Halabi admitted to the extensive aid he provided Hamas with and the way in which he disguised his actions. "We're talking about a confession that presents a coherent story with many details and individuals with different roles, with a linkage to the security events that took place, and impossible to have been fabricated given the events that took place. We're talking about a very reliable confession supported by many outside witnesses and impossible to have been made up by the Shin Ben or by false confession."

World Vision, a Christian charity that operates in nearly 100 countries and annually distributes some \$2.5 billion in aid, has fully supported el-Halabi and says it has seen no evidence of wrongdoing.

An independent forensic audit and investigation carried out nearly five years ago also turned up no evidence against him, and instead found that he had actively worked to prevent funds from falling into the hands of Hamas. The Australian government, a major donor to World Vision, also said it found no evidence of wrongdoing.

El-Halabi's lawyer, Maher Hanna, has said his client was offered multiple plea bargains in which he could have walked free - a common tactic in Israeli trials involving Palestinians - but refused on principle to admit to things he said he didn't do.

Israeli authorities stuck to the allegations, repeatedly saying they had proof that Hamas had infiltrated the aid group and was diverting funds from needy Gazans. Then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu trumpeted the charges in an online video shortly after el-Halabi's arrest.

Critics say Israel often relies on questionable informants. They allege that Israel smears groups that provide aid or other support to Palestinians in order to shore up its 55-year hold on lands the Palestinians want for a future state.

06.15.22

Ukraine taps Israel for \$500M, Japan 600, Germany 300, Canada 800, & weapons

06.15.22

Ukraine taps Israel for a \$500M loan

Coping with severe financial problems brought on by the war, Ukraine calls on Israel to provide cash claiming it is a small sum; Bennett's office says will respond after consideration; Some 50 nations to meet for 3rd time to discuss supply of weapons for Kyiv

Itamar Eichner | Published: 06.15.22, 15:26

Ukraine submitted a request for a half a billion-dollar loan from Israel, to help deal with its struggling economy amid the ongoing war with Russia.

Ukraine's Ambassador to Israel Yevgen Korniychuk presented the request in a letter to the office of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, on behalf of Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

Several other countries have received similar appeals. Japan allocated 600 million dollars, Germany 300 million euros, and Canada 800 million dollars, respectively.

Korniychuk, in a conversation with Ynet's sister publication Yedioth Ahronot, confirmed that he submitted the letter and said he hoped Israel comes through.

"It is not a big amount for the state of Israel, I hope Prime Minister Naftali Bennett will consider the request, positively."

The Ukrainian ambassador's letter was received, and we will respond after we consider the matter, "the PMO said in response to a query.

Aside from pleas for financial aid, Ukraine was also asking countries, for more weapons to help hold off Russian troops in eastern Ukraine. Presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said on Monday that Ukraine was in need of 1,000 howitzers, 500 tanks and 1,000 drones among other heavy weapons, .

Defense ministers from NATO and other countries, are expected to discuss weapon deliveries to Ukraine in Brussels, on Wednesday.

The meeting is being led by U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, marking it the third time the group from nearly 50 countries, is meeting to discuss and coordinate assistance to Ukraine, the last having taken place at the Ramstein Air Base in Germany in April, where an Israeli representative was also present.

06.15.22

Gantz adds 20,000 work permits to West Bank PA & expunges minor offences

06.15.22

Israel issues 20,000 additional work permits to West Bank Palestinians

Security officials say additional permits stand to improve financial conditions for Palestinians, thereby reducing the incentive for and risk of terror attacks; criteria changed to allow more West Bank residents to apply for permits
Yossi Yehoshua | Published: 06.15.22, 09:25

Israel on Wednesday increased by 20,000, the number of work permits issued to West Bank Palestinians wishing to work inside Israel, to 120,000.

Security officials said the move, which would improve the financial situation of many more residents of the Palestinian Authority, would reduce the risk of a terror strike.

"The more Palestinians with permits there are, the less chances of terror attacks," an official said.

After the latest wave of attacks, which claimed the lives of 19 Israelis security authorities identified the illegal entry of Palestinians across the partition fence, and through gaps in it, as the primary point of entry of terrorists on their way to strike inside Israel. The military allotted nearly one billion shekels and manpower, including reserve units, to close gaps, bolster the fence and prevent workers who do not hold permits, from entering.

After a review, the civil administration of the West Bank, opted to increase the number of permits and change some of the criteria limiting potential workers, to reduce the incentive of Palestinians to enter Israel illegally, with the approval of Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

They even named their effort: "From a danger to a worker."

Palestinians will be given work permits after a security background check, allowing security forces to monitor their movements.

The plan is said to have three central points:

- Expanding the employment quota, and the pool of potential Palestinian workers in Israel
- Implementing sanctions and increased enforcement around the fence, to deter illegal entry
- Making Israel more accessible through improving the crossing in official border crossings

Israel has increased the number of Palestinians employed in the construction industry from 74,000 to 80,000, a move hailed by Israeli contractors.

Permits that were offered until Wednesday, only to married men over the age of 22, are now available for unmarried men aged 27 and older.

With the approval of the Shin Bet, Security Service, Palestinians who were previously bared from entry because of minor security offences made decades ago, would now be allowed to apply for permits and their records expunged.

06.15.22

Argentina holds 17 man 747 cargo crew & plane affiliated with Iran terror groups

06.15.22

Argentina holds crew in probe of Quds Force affiliation to grounded plane

Local authorities confiscate phones and computers of plane's crew after information received by 'foreign organizations' alerts police to presence of possible terror actors on board

News agencies| Published: 06.15.22, 12:13

A court in Argentina late on Tuesday, instructed authorities to prevent 14 crew members of a grounded Iranian plane, from leaving the country.

The ruling came hours after Argentinian security forces raided the hotel rooms of crew members and confiscated phones and computers in efforts to determine whether they were affiliated with terror groups.

According to the authorities, five Iranian crew members on the cargo plane, which has been grounded in Argentina since last week, have had their passports temporarily seized, pending a probe into possible links to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Argentinian officials said Monday.

A routine check found "things that were not logical," Security Minister Anibal Fernandez told Perfil radio on Monday.

"They had declared a crew that was smaller than the one that traveled," he said. "The matter was still under investigation."

Fernandes said that the authorities' actions were prompted by information from "foreign organizations," indicating that some among the crew may be linked to companies with ties to the Guards.

The Venezuelan owned Boeing 747 cargo plane reportedly carrying car parts, first landed in Cordoba, Argentina arriving from Mexico on June 6, with an intent to continue to neighboring Uruguay.

But Montevideo authorities refused to grant the plane a landing permit, after information received by security officials, perhaps from a foreign intelligence agency or the U.S. Treasury which has been enforcing sanctions against Iranian entities.

The plane was directed to return to Argentina and landed at an airport outside Buenos Aires.

Upon its return on June 8, its was grounded because of the suspicions raised by the inconsistency in its paperwork.

Argentinian congressman Jorge Milman, a member of the parliament's intelligence committee claimed the plane was on some kind of intelligence mission and demanded that crew members submit to finger printing and that his country's federal intelligence agency be brought into the investigation.

Milman said the plane was traveling with its transponder shut off, which could indicate an attempt to avoid detection by air traffic control.

The plane, which is registered with the Emtrasur company in Venezuela, was purchased in the past year, from Iran's Mahan Air, which has been under U.S. sanctions since 2011 due to affiliations with the IRGC, which the U.S. has classified as a terror organization.

Washington has imposed severe sanctions on both Iran and Venezuela, who are in close ties and have signed a 20-year cooperation agreement, during the visit of Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro in Tehran, last week.

Argentinian police did not give a reason for its hours-long raid on the rooms occupied by the plane's crew members at the Plaza Canning Hotel.

Latest reports revealed the investigation has now spread to Paraguay after local authorities confirmed that two officials who cleared the the plane for landing there last May, had been fired and an investigation into agents of the local drug enforcement agency was opened.

Paraguay's Interior Minister Federico Gonzales said the landing permit was issued due to a commerce license but authorities there were also suspicious of the large number of crew members.

The plane had 18 members of crew, seven of them Iranian nationals, while the expected number of crew on similar planes was only six of seven.

Gonzales said the plane remained in Paraguay, near the borders with Argentina and Brazil, for three days and took off on May 16 to the Caribbean island of Aruba, carrying a shipment of cigarettes.

"After the plane's departure, we received word that it was under U.S. Treasury sanctions and that seven members of the crew were members of the IRGC Quds force and named on the American terror list," he said.

The minister said he briefed intelligence agencies of other countries in the area, of events. Iran on Monday claimed the apprehension of the plane was part of an anti-Iran campaign conducted because of the failing efforts by the West, to return to the 2015 nuclear deal. Not all Argentinian officials are cooperating with the probe and the assertions of Congressman Milman.

The recently named head of the Federal Intelligence Agency Augustin Rossi, who was appointed after Vice-President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner's involvement - according to media reports, criticized opposition members for attempting to tie the plane to international terror and said it had been granted all necessary permits to land in Argentina. Rossi claimed the plane was carrying car parts for Argentinian companies.

Argentina suffered two major terror attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets in the 1990's carried out allegedly by Iran and its proxy the Lebanon-based Hezbollah terror group.

Some 85 people were killed and 300 others wounded when a car bomb exploded at the Jewish community center AMIA in 1994 and 29 died and a further 200 were wounded in an attack on the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, two years earlier.

06.12.22

Israel joins EU Creative business program that excludes West Bank settlements

06.12.22

Israel joins EU cultural program excluding settlements

Cabinet unanimously approves joining Creative Europe program which will provide millions in support to creators, say will indemnify Israeli nationals ineligible for funding; settler leader decries 'discriminatory' agreement

Itamar Eichner | Published: 06.12.22, 20:44

Israel's Cabinet on Sunday unanimously approved joining the European Union's Creative Europe program which offers creators financial assistance for their endeavors despite the initiative excluding the country's settlements.

The program will provide millions of euros in broad financial support to artists collaborating with artists from European countries in order to promote cultural development at the international level.

However, the ambit of the program leaves out projects beyond the June 1967 lines — in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. The government said it would indemnify Israeli nationals who were ineligible for funding due to their place of work or residence.

Creative Europe is one of the EU's flagship programs, and Israel's entry is a significant step forward in promoting cooperation with the continent, opening up new opportunities for Israeli artists and creators who will receive support to promote their work at the local and international level.

Support will be doled out to creators and cross-border projects in a plethora of different cultural fields, including theater, dance and choreography and plastic arts, providing creative workshops, professional training, promotion of European and Israeli film festivals and translation of Hebrew literature into European languages.

Some settler leaders decried what they considered discrimination against Israelis living in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan Heights.

"I demand that the Israeli government annul this decision and announce that it will not sign with any country in the world or with the European Union an agreement that humiliates the State of Israel, undermines its sovereignty and discriminates against and excludes its creators and filmmakers," said Yossi Dagan, head of the Shomron Regional Council in the West Bank.

"Any decent person will agree that [the government] cannot sign discriminatory agreements that humiliate the State of Israel."

====

Ynet-News, June 12, 2022 – Monday

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

Traditional Shavuot Friday evening June 3 to Friday evening June 10

06.12.22 – Su- - - News

Iran assassination of high-rank officers in recent weeks, link to leaked information

06.12.22 – Su- - - News

Cabinet unanimous on West Bank bill, Knesset vote tabled before end of June

06.12.22 – Su- - - News Placed in June 12 spot – Sunday Shavuot 3

Abbas Office of PA Affairs (OPA) reports to Assistant Secretary of State Barbara Leaf

06.09.22 – Th- - - News

Biden upgrades ties, with US Office of Palestinian Affairs in Jerusalem

06.09.22 – Th- - - News Placed in June 10 spot – Friday

UN watchdog in Vienna tense, as Iran pulls 27 cameras leaving 40

06.11.22 – Sa- - - News Placed in June 11 spot – Saturday Shavuot 2

IDF strike Damascus Airport runway, terminal building & three arms depots

06.09.22 – Th- - - News

Hezbollah chief Nasrallah warned aggressive action can stop Israel gas extraction

06.09.22 – Th- - - News

Bennett arrives in UAE for talks with leaders on Iran after IAEA vote

06.09.22 – Th- - - News Placed in June 09 spot – Thursday

MK Shaked, Hirsch, and police will closely monitor Arab funds in monthly stipends

06.08.22 – We- - - News

Netanyahu courts MK Orbach from PM's party to join Lukid next week

06.08.22 – We- - - News

Settler leader says Netanyahu and allies 'spitting on West Bank settlers'

06.08.22 – We- - - News Placed in June 08 spot – Wednesday

Abbas says Bennett coalition unites Arab & Zionist, if it fails, Lapid will be PM

06.08.22 – We- - - News

Syrian and Russian aircraft conduct joint drill at night along the Golan Heights

06.08.22 – We- - - News

Iran disabled 2 UN nuclear watchdog cameras monitoring levels & flowmeters

06.07.22 – Tu- - - News

UN biased report in Geneva next week rebukes Israel for control of PA