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Gantz grants more PA work permits & legal status of 5,500 ahead of Biden visit

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Veterans volunteer to Magen project, civil defense organization to assist police

07.17.22

IDF option against nuclear Iran 'a moral imperative' to acquire weapons

07.17.22

IDF chief says military option against nuclear Iran 'a moral imperative'

Kochavi reiterates opposition to U.S. efforts to revive tattered nuclear deal, says 'IDF provides the military capability for the day the political echelon will seek to make a decision'

Yoav Zitun| Published: 07.17.22, 22:15

IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi said Sunday evening that a military option against Iran's nuclear program was a "moral imperative."

"Blocking Iran from nuclearization through diplomacy is the preferred way, but history has proven many times that diplomacy can fail and succeed for a short period of time before seeing a breach or betrayal," Kochavi said during a handover ceremony of a senior official at the IDF General Staff.

Kochavi is the latest senior figure in the top brass of Israel's defense establishment to throw his hat into the ring on Iran, siding with Mossad Director David Barnea. While Barnea believes that any new nuclear agreement that could be signed with Tehran would be a bad one, senior figures in the IDF's Intelligence Directorate believe Israel must support any prospect to block Iran from attaining military nuclear capabilities, including a return to the tattered 2015 agreement which has many shortcomings, including its sunset close.

"Preparing the home front for war has been an important issue since the inception of the state, but it has become increasingly important over the years," said Kochavi, who will finish his term as IDF chief in the coming months.

"This is a task that must be accelerated in the coming years, especially in view of the possibility that we will be required to act against a nuclear threat, and it should be part of the intensive preparations we are advancing for the moment of truth.

The IDF continues to prepare vigorously for an attack on Iran for two reasons. First, in case there is no agreement and the Iranian nuclear program continues to expand. And the second, in case there is an identical or similar agreement to the previous agreement, which means a bad agreement, which creates conditions for Iran to become a nuclear state shortly after its expiration date.

The IDF must prepare for every development and every scenario. Preparing a military option against the Iranian nuclear program is a moral imperative and a national security obligation.

Preparations for military action against the nuclear program are at the center of preparations in the IDF and include a variety of operational plans, the allocation of resources, the acquisition of appropriate weapons, intelligence and training. The IDF provides the military capability for the day the political echelon will seek to make a decision."

07.17.22

Israel suspends 1,500 Palestinian work permits after rocket attack

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COGAT says ' Hamas terror organization carries responsibility for all activities directed against Israel in and from the Gaza Strip, and it will bear the consequences' after four rockets launched from Gaza on Friday
i24NEWS, Ynet| Published: 07.17.22, 13:45

Israel on Saturday backtracked on expanding the quota of work permits for Gazan Palestinians to 15,500, after terrorists in the Hamas-controlled territory launched a volley of rockets on southern Israel overnight.

Last week, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) announced it was adding 1,500 permits to the present quota of 14,000.

But following the rocket attacks, Defense Minister Benny Gantz decided to freeze the move, COGAT said in a statement.

"Following evaluation of the security situation this evening (Saturday), Defense Minister Benny Gantz decided to suspend his decision from last week to raise the quota of entry permits granted to Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip for purposes of work and commerce. The quota was raised last week by 1500 permits. The decision was made in the wake of a rocket fire directed at the State of Israel."

While there was no immediate claim by any of the Gaza-based terrorist groups, Israel holds Hamas responsible for any attacks emanating from the Palestinian enclave as a matter of policy.

"The Hamas terror organization carries responsibility for all activities directed against Israel in and from the Gaza Strip, and it will bear the consequences," the statement read. On Friday, the Iron Dome air defense system intercepted one rocket while the three others fell in open terrain. Red alert rocket warning sirens sounded off in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon and in the Lachish region, northeast of Gaza.

The IDF on Saturday carried out a strike on Gaza in response. A spokesperson said the aim of the strike on the underground facility was to prevent Hamas from increasing its military strength through its weapon's production.

07.16.22

Four Hamas rockets fired; IDF hit a Gaza rocket manufacturing site

07.16.22

IDF strikes Gaza after rockets fired at Israel

Military says targets include rocket production site and underground facility where rocket material is made; Iron Dome missile defense system intercepts one rocket from Strip as three others fall in open areas

Yoav Zitun, Matan Tzury| Published: 07.16.22, 08:06

The IDF carried out a strike on Gaza on Saturday, after four rockets were launched from the Strip at Israeli communities.

Hours after U.S. President Joe Biden ended his visit to Israel, Palestinian factions fired at southern Israel. One rocket was intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system and three others fell in open areas.

The military said its planes hit a Hamas rocket manufacturing site and an underground facility where rocket material was being made.

A spokesperson said the aim of the strike on the underground facility was to prevent Hamas from increasing its military strength through its weapon's production.

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but the IDF said in a statement that the Gaza ruling Hamas is responsible for any aggression from the Strip.

A Hamas spokesperson said Israel's actions were criminal and causing terror in the hearts of Palestinians everywhere.

The group also condemned the announcement on Friday, that Saudi Arabia will allow Israeli flights to use its airspace.

"We are deeply saddened," the spokesperson said.

"The attempts of the American government to newly fabricate the region through involving the state of Israel, providing it with security by creating alliances between it and the Arab governments, will fail - because the nations' stance in the same countries resists these alliances," Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh said.

"The Palestinian nation will never again fall to the illusions of negotiations that harmed the Palestinian issue. Our choice is to continue resisting until the occupation ends," he said.

Ynet's security analyst Ron Ben Yisahi said that Hamas waited for Biden to arrive in Saudi Arabia before demonstrating their military opposition and avoided attack's while he was in Israel in order not to anger Egypt and suffer the wrath of an Israeli response, that would include suspending workers' permits to enter the country for work.

07.12.22

Nine EU states reject Israeli terrorist designation for PA blacklisted groups

07.12.22

Nine EU states reject Israeli 'terrorist' designation for Palestinian NGOs

In joint statement, states say Israel failed to provide 'substantial information' that would justify reviewing their policy regarding blacklisted groups, will resume financial aid

Reuters| Published: 07.12.22, 22:50

Nine European Union states said on Tuesday they would continue working with the six Palestinian civil society groups that Israel designated terrorist associations last year, citing a lack of evidence for that claim.

Israel designated the Palestinian groups as terrorist organizations and accused them of funneling donor aid to militants, a move that drew criticism from the United Nations and human rights watchdogs.

The groups include Palestinian human rights organizations Addameer and Al-Haq, which document alleged rights violations by both Israel and the Western-backed Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and which reject the charges.

In a joint statement, the foreign ministries of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden said they had not received "substantial information" from Israel that would justify reviewing their policy.

"Should evidence be made available to the contrary, we would act accordingly," they said. "In the absence of such evidence, we will continue our cooperation and strong support for the civil society in the Palestinian territories.

The Israeli foreign ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Israel said last year the six accused groups have close ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which has carried out deadly attacks on Israelis and is on U.S. and EU terrorism blacklists.

UN human rights experts including Michael Lynk, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Palestinian territory, said in April that several funders had delayed their contributions to these NGOs while they investigated the claims, undermining their work. They called on the international community to instead continue or resume their support. "A free and strong civil society is indispensable for promoting democratic values and for the two-state solution," the nine EU states said on Tuesday.

07.12.22

Gantz grants more PA work permits & legal status of 5,500 ahead of Biden visit

07.12.22

Israel grants more Palestinian permits ahead of Biden visit

Jerusalem approves raft of gestures to Palestinians ahead of Biden visit, including adding 1,500 work permits for Gaza laborers and legalizing status of 5,500 undocumented Palestinians and foreigners living on West Bank

Associated Press| Published: 07.12.22, 21:23

Israel said Tuesday it would increase the number of work permits issued to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and allow thousands more Palestinians to gain legal status ahead of President Joe Biden's visit to the region later this week.

Israel portrays such moves as **confidence-building measures** aimed at reducing tensions. Critics say they merely entrench its 55-year military rule over millions of Palestinians **in the absence of any peace process**. The last serious peace talks broke down more than a decade ago.

The latest measures were **approved by** Defense Minister **Benny Gantz**, who met with Palestinian President Mahmoud **Abbas in the West Bank last week** to discuss coordination ahead of Biden's visit. Abbas' Palestinian Authority has limited rule over parts of the West Bank and cooperates with Israel on security matters.

Israel **will allow an additional 5,500 Palestinians** to be added **to the Palestinian population registry** — which it effectively controls — **so they can get ID cards**. Rights groups say tens of thousands of Palestinians in the **West Bank and Gaza lack such status**, **forcing them to live under severe movement restrictions**.

Israel said it would **grant another 1,500 permits for Palestinian laborers in Gaza** to work inside the country, bringing the **total number to 15,500** — the highest since the Islamic militant terror group Hamas seized power in Gaza from Abbas' forces 15 years ago.

Israel and Egypt have imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza since then, Israel says the blockade is needed to keep Hamas — which is opposed to its very existence — from arming itself. The Palestinians and rights groups view the blockade as a form of collective punishment of Gaza's 2 million Palestinian residents.

The Biden administration says **it supports an eventual two-state** solution. But it has largely stood by as Israel expands its **West Bank settlements**, where nearly **500,000 Jewish settlers with special legal status live alongside some 3 million Palestinians**.

07.12.22

UNRWA teaches hate in PA schools with US funding; 30 PA schools, \$400 million

07.12.22

UNRWA inciting violence with U.S. funding, study shows
IMPACT-se study of learning material published by the **UN body shows** includes inciting **violence and is anti-Semitism**; appears **in school books** distributed in dozens of schools despite earlier commitments, crossing what U.S. envoy says are 'red lines'

Itamar Eichner | Published: **07.12.22**, 14:10

A new IMPACT-se study which analyzed **hundreds of pages** of the new United Nations Relief and Works Agency **for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) school books**, shows the agency **continues to incite violence** as well **erase Israel's existence** from maps.

The **new study materials for 2022 were not uploaded to UNRWA's online study portal**, where **the agency claims all materials it produces can be found after meticulous editing** that **comply with the UN values** such as peace and tolerance.

The materials reviewed in the study conducted by the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se), was produced, edited and approved by UNRWA and released to thousands of students, teachers and staff in over 30 schools.

Lessons in the curriculum includes calls to free Jerusalem with blood. Arabic spelling and vocabulary exercises which include words like “Jihad fighters” against the “Occupiers” and an obligation to “free” Palestine.

Arabic is taught through poem that teach the “hobby” of killing Israelis and dying as a martyr in the holy war, and that peace is an unwanted sign of weakness.

In eight grade school books, female students are taught about women who sacrificed themselves and their children for Islam and earned fame as role models to follow, in Palestinian society.

Antisemitic materials are also included in the updated school books published by UNRWA, who had committed not publish any more inciting materials.

In those books, Jews and Jewish traits are described as impure and treacherous and anti-Islam and Muslims. The books teach that Israel was an anti-Arab plan of European colonization set to divide the Arab world.

Israel, which is part of the UN, is wiped from all records in the agency’s maps, presenting Palestine instead and asking students to name cities in areas under Israeli control.

The study showed that content produced previously by UNRWA, which it claims teachers were told to avoid, are still present in the new materials published as well.

IMPACT-se representatives met with UNRWA head, Philippe Lazzarini, in May and said they were worried about the covert production of new materials and their absence from online presence. The study was brought to Lazzarini last week before it was published.

UNRWA committed in 2021 to removing material inciting hate and violence that it produced, as well as to deal harshly with any who may try to teach such content.

The agency had to announce its employees produced and distributed “in error”, “unfit” material which goes against UN guidelines. Their online portal was created shortly after.

In a discussion in the UN congress over the UNRWA study materials in June, U.S. ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the topic is “A red line to all of us.”

She claimed the agency is acting for the removal of such material and that the American government is working “very closely” with it and “overseeing their work.” The U.S. donated close to 400 million dollars to UNRWA since President Joe Biden became president.

UNRWA stated it was reviewing the study in detail.

“After a similar occurrence last years, UNRWA promised to remove any inciteful material it produced. Marcus Sheff, IMPACT-se CEO said. “It seems the agency took this as a removal from the website where such material can be seen but had not removed it entirely,” he said

“The organization was made aware of our concerns two months ago. Unfortunately, it is clear that hateful teaching in UNRWA schools is increasing with the resumption of U.S.

funding. No doubt enforcing policies is a possibility, considering American red lines are crossed so clearly," Sheff said.

07.12.22

Putin will visit Tehran next week preparing Iran UAVs against Ukraine

07.12.22

Putin to visit Iran after U.S. claims Iran to supply Russia with UAVs

Tehran plans to supply hundreds of drones with combat weapon capabilities to Russia for use in Ukraine, says the White House national security advisory - 'We will continue to do our part to help sustain the effective defense of Ukraine'

AFP| Published: 07.12.22, 12:54

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit Tehran next week and meet with President Ebrahim Raisi, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported on Tuesday, one day after U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said that Iran was preparing to supply Russia with attack UAVs to use in their war against Ukraine.

"Economic cooperation between the nations, will be the focus of the visit," the agency quoted an Iranian parliamentarian as saying.

Sullivan said the information received by the United States supported views that the Russian military is facing challenges sustaining its weaponry after significant losses in Ukraine.

"The Iranian government is preparing to provide Russia with up to several hundred UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), including weapons-capable UAVs, on an expedited timeline," Sullivan told reporters.

"Our information further indicates that Iran is preparing to train Russian forces to use these UAVs, with initial training sessions slated to begin as soon as early July," he said. s Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi addressing the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly from Tehran

Sullivan said it was not clear whether Iran had delivered any of the drones to Russia yet. He also noted that Iran's drones have been used by the Houthi rebels in Yemen to attack Saudi Arabia.

Drones have played a crucial role on both sides of the war in Ukraine, for everything from firing missiles from a distance, to dropping small bombs on targets, to conducting reconnaissance for artillery forces and ground troops.

Ukraine's forces have had particular success in using Turkish-made Bayraktar armed combat UAVs, and the United States and other allies have supplied Kyiv with many types of smaller drones.

"From our perspective, we will continue to do our part to help sustain the effective defense of Ukraine and to help the Ukrainians show that the Russian effort to try to wipe Ukraine off the map cannot succeed," Sullivan said.

07.11.22

Veterans volunteer to Magen project, civil defense organization to assist police

07.11.22

Following terror wave, Haredi men volunteer to protect their communities

After serving in the military as combat soldier and receiving training in the use of firearms, veterans are able to provide protection and assist police and first responders in case of an emergency, in areas where such experience is scarce

Kobe Nachshoni | Published: 07.11.22, 18:01

After the terror wave that plagued Israel earlier this year, including in Haredi communities, A group of men who had served in IDF combat units were recruited as volunteers in a local civil defense organization, officials said on Sunday.

The neighborhood watch was organized by the Haredi unit in the military along with the police and the Interior Ministry.

After eight ultra-Orthodox residents of the predominately Haredi cities of Bnei Brak and Elad fell victims to the terror attacks last May, the organization dubbed Magen or protection in Hebrew, planned to train volunteers to respond to any future attack on their communities.

A trial period for the civil defense group will soon begin in Jerusalem, before expanding to other cities.

The units will guard synagogues, and be available to assist first responders in case of emergencies in order to minimize response times.

Members of the "Magen" project will be able to obtain a license to bare arms in an expedited process, undergo special training, be eligible to receive police IDs, legal support as needed, equipment and more.

Some 200 men have already volunteered and 1500 others have signed up for the project. At least 100 ultra-Orthodox men have joined the police as volunteers.

Dubi Lichter, who was discharged from the IDF last year after serving in a combat unit was among the first recruits.

"I saw that there truly aren't many in the Haredi population who carry firearms," he said. "I attended a wedding last week where the security men were unarmed" he said. "So I decided that if I could be a part of a unit to safeguard the community, I want to be a part of it as do many others. Many want to protect their home, neighborhood and synagogue. Even those who did not serve in the IDF want to have a part."

The percentage of ultra-Orthodox men who serve in the IDF is low compared to the general population and many are exempt from the need to serve according to law, if they are studying full-time in religious institutions.

Haim Bar Zakai, father of two, also volunteered. "Once the "Magen" project was announced I knew I needed to take part in it," he said.

"The latest terror attacks in Haredi cities proved that citizens who carry firearms can save lives, and we don't have enough in the Haredi communities. Me and my friends can use the experience we gained in the IDF to keep people safe – and that's what we'll do, that's how we were raised."

The project's founder, who was head the IDF unit where most of the ultra-Orthodox recruits serve, Major (ret.) Yossi Levi, said veterans of the military can help. "We, as a foundation who guides 14,000 veteran Haredi soldiers, can provide ultra-Orthodox cities with a solution using hundreds of volunteers," he said.

"We found support for the project in the Public Security Ministry, the Police force and many local communities who wanted to join this important endeavor."

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Ynet-News, July 18, 2022 – Monday

07.11.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in July 11 spot – Monday

Condolence to Japan PM; Jerusalem illuminated entrance with Israel & Japan flags

07.10.22 – Su- - - News Placed in July 10 spot – Sunday

Sa'ar & Gantz partnership to unite all faiths & prevent Netanyahu power

07.10.22 – Su- - - News

Israel's homeless population growing but response anemic to house only a third

07.08.22 – Fr- - - News Placed in July 08 spot – Friday

Gantz meets PA president Abbas ahead of Biden visit to avoid instability

07.07.22 – Th- - - News Placed in July 07 spot – Thursday

Gantz 150 meetings export arms to Arabs & expects to present Iron Beam to US

07.07.22 – Th- - - News Placed in July 06 spot – Wednesday

Boris Johnson quits as UK prime minister, after lies, scandals and fraud

07.05.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in July 05 spot – Tuesday

Macron urges PM Lapid to make peace with PA West Bank settlements

