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08.11.22,

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08.11.22,

In Gaza, denial and doubt over misfiring rocket claims

Islamic Jihad and Hamas claim Israel responsible for deaths of civilians despite IDF footage it says shows rockets in failed launches as they fall on populated areas but say investigation ongoing

Reuters| Published: 08.11.22, 19:09

As the cleanup in Gaza continues from last weekend's brief conflict with Israel, another battle has continued over which side caused the casualties, after Israel said misfiring rockets from the Palestinian side killed 15 people in the enclave.

According to Israeli military, a fifth of the more than 1,000 rockets fired towards Israel failed, many plunging to earth in Gaza where they caused a third of the 44 deaths recorded there during the 56-hour battle, when Israeli jets pounded the narrow coastal strip.

The Israeli military supplied videos and radar images which it said showed an Islamic Jihad rocket veering off course soon after being launched on Saturday, heading to the ground where they said it killed five people including four children.

Both Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, and Islamic Jihad, the Iranian-backed militant group that Israel targeted with its air strikes, denied the those accounts and blamed Israel for all the deaths in Gaza. But an Islamic Jihad spokesman said it was conducting an investigation.

"Israel began the military round and therefore it bears responsibility for all the results of that military round," said spokesman Daoud Shehab.

"We are investigating all the reports and all the cases that are being cited by media outlets," he said. He added that some claims had already been proved incorrect but gave no details.

Hamas briefly issued an order instructing freelance journalists not to report claims that casualties may have been caused by Palestinian rockets. It soon rescinded that order.

In the Jabalya refugee camp in northern Gaza, damaged cars and buildings left little doubt of the force of the blasts that hit the area for the first time on Saturday, when many people were outside, enjoying the cool of the evening while a power blackout shut off lights and air conditioners.

"Suddenly there was an explosion in the middle of the children and women in the street," said Farid Al-Khatib, whose son was wounded in the blast.

Both Islamic Jihad and Hamas, which took no part in the weekend fighting, have developed rockets with the help of Iran but they remain relatively crude devices compared with the sophisticated weaponry used by Israel.

Although more than 1,000 were launched towards Israel, most were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome air defense system and caused no significant damage or casualties.

In all, the Israeli military said **at least three failed** Islamic Jihad rockets, one in Jabalya, one in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza and one in al Bureij in central Gaza, killed around 15 people before an Egyptian-brokered truce ended the fighting late on Sunday.

"Their disregard for human life was tragic, as multiple failed rocket launches led to the deaths of innocent Palestinian children in Gaza," Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz said.

The **U.S. ambassador to the United Nations**, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, **called for an investigation** into civilian casualties and said: "We should refrain from jumping to conclusions until we can determine the facts".

Many people on the ground in Jabalya refused to credit the account by Israel, which they insisted bore responsibility for the deaths.

"The martyrs in Jabalya camp, the **catastrophe** of Jabalya camp, were **caused by the occupation**," said Mohammad Al-Nairab, 38, who lost his sons Ahmed, 12 and Moamen, 6, in the blasts.

Others preferred to wait for an investigation.

"I don't know whether it was an Israeli strike. What happened was that a rocket fell and Israeli planes were there in the sky," said Al-Khatib.

"To say it was an Arab rocket, or an Israeli rocket, we don't know," he said. "We can't judge. This has to be done by the relative parties, the international institutions, human rights groups, they need to come here, watch and examine."

08.11.22,

Netanyahu diehards take top spots in Likud primaries, after all votes counted

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Netanyahu diehards take top spots in Likud primaries, after all votes counted

Likud party members award candidates who express complete **loyalty to the leader** and slam Israel's legal establishment after **Netanyahu's** criminal indictment while long-serving senior members of the party were pushed down or out

Moran Azulay,Sivan Hilaie,Roe Rubinstein,i24NEWS| Published: **08.11.22**, 18:39

After all votes were counted in the Likud primary elections, the **party's top tier** was seen to have **shifted**.

Long serving members of Knesset and former ministers, have been pushed from their previous positions by the most vocal and loyal supporters of party leader, Benjamin Netanyahu.

These Netanyahu advocates claim that the criminal indictment against him was trumped up and that the legal system, including the state prosecution and the police, were out to get him.

Since his indictment, Netanyahu had changed his previously held positions to defend Israel's legal establishment from right-wing claims that it was too far to the left, and had unleashed accusations that his legal troubles were politically motivated.

That message was picked up and magnified by his supporters and had become the focus of the four election cycles in three years.

Among those who were rewarded by Likud voters, was Yariv Levin, a long time loyalist and critic of the court, David Amsalem who had gone so far as to claim from the Knesset podium that Chief Justice Esther Hayut was racist.

Yariv Levin expressed his gratitude to primary voters. "I feel that I have a great responsibility to continue to act resolutely in our common path, and do everything in my power to ensure the victory of the Likud in the elections," he said. "I love you all, my dear Likud members, and I am grateful for the great honor that you have bestowed on me to continue to represent the Likud movement," he said.

The rest of the top ten positions also went to candidates who had exhibited their support of Netanyahu's claim and their total loyalty to him.

Long-serving senior party members who were regarded as possible contenders to head Likud after Netanyahu's departure, among them former minister Israel Katz and former speaker of the Knesset Yuli Edelstein, were pushed down the list.

Although they had expressed their support for Netanyahu in the months leading up to the primary vote, they did not join in the choir and did not threaten to destroy the existing order, only to reform it.

Edelstein, who had won first place in the last primary elections four years ago, was hit hardest blow, placing him in no. 18.

Political analysts say the primary results may be of some concern to Netanyahu who had indicated that he would like to attract the more liberal right-wing voters who had cast their ballots for other parties in the 2020 election. Those voters, polls showed, were deterred by the Likud position as it was expressed by the diehards.

Still, some of those who appear now not to have been placed in realistic positions on the list of candidates for the next elections, may ultimately serve.

Should Netanyahu succeed in forming a new government and if he deploys the so called Norwegian law - that allows cabinet ministers to resign their parliamentary position while they head their ministries, and others, to take their place - the ultimate list of legislators would change.

Some 58 percent of the 140,000 registered Likud party members submitted ballots on Wednesday, the same participation numbers seen in 2019. A total of 79,735 eligible members of Israel's right-wing party cast their votes.

08.10.22

Immigration from Russia, Ukraine jumps amid conflict, data show

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According to Central Bureau of Statistics, 31,066 people made Aliyah from both countries combined since Russian forces marched into ex-Soviet neighbor, topping pre-pandemic numbers

Yaron Druckman | Published: 08.10.22, 18:37

Since the outset of the Russo-Ukrainian war, the number of immigrants who made Aliyah from both countries jumped significantly, according to data published by the Central Bureau of Statistics on Wednesday.

The report compared the latest figures with the same period in 2019, before two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent travel restrictions slashed immigration to Israel.

According to data, 31,066 people made Aliyah from Russia and Ukraine combined since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces into its ex-Soviet neighbor. The figure stood at 9,744 in 2019.

The report reveals that in 2022, 12,175 out of all immigrants are from Ukraine, and 18,891 are from Russia. In the same period in 2019, 2,651 came from Ukraine and 7,123 came from Russia.

The number of Ukrainian immigrants during wartime soared to 12,175 new arrivals compared with 2,651 during the same period in 2019 while immigration from Russia more than doubled, going from 7,123 to 18,891 Olim Chadashim.

Half of Ukrainian immigrants arrived between the beginning of March and the beginning of April. Arrivals from Russia surpassed their Ukrainian peers since end of April.

Most Olim Chadashim from Ukraine are women (63%) whereas immigration from Russia has seen an almost even split between men and women at 49.2% and 50.8%, respectively.

Among the 16-80 age group, women comprise 73.9% of all immigrants coming from Ukraine. The report ties this figure to a ban on fighting-age men from leaving the country during wartime.

Meanwhile, the Central Bureau of Statistics also published immigration data for 2021, during which 25,497 people made Aliyah, a 29.6% increase compared with 2020.

According to data, the lion's share of last year's immigration arrived from Russia (7,640 Olim, constituting 30% of total immigration), followed by France (3,594, 14.1%), the United States, (3,480, 13.6%), Ukraine (3,059, 12%), and Belarus (1,014, 4%).

08.08.22

In 55 hours, 1100+ rockets, 170 targets, two senior Jihad commanders killed in Gaza

08.08.22

55 hours, 1,000 rockets, 170 targets: Israel's campaign in Gaza by the numbers

Brig. Gen. Ran Kochav said some 200 rockets land inside Strip, killing 15 uninvolved civilians; says 11 innocent people were killed by IDF strikes, including wives of senior PIJ commanders

Yoav Zitun| Updated: 08.08.22, 10:24

The IDF on Monday said that more than 1,000 projectiles were launched from Gaza in the 55-hour offensive against the Islamic Jihad in Gaza, and 170 military targets were attacked.

Security officials will meet to discuss lifting security restrictions imposed on residents of the south and the re-opening of the border crossings into the Strip.

"What is needed is a careful and gradual return to the normal routine," IDF spokesperson Brig. Gen. Ran Kochav said. "The ceasefire was negotiated by Egypt and we have an interest to highlight that point," he said.

Kochav said that in the last few minutes before the truce came into effect, the IDF struck weapons depots, launching positions and other Islamic Jihad targets.

"We remain on high alert," he said. "The population's commendable conduct throughout the offensive, and the successful missile defenses resulted in zero casualties on the Israeli side," he said.

The spokesperson said that two senior PIJ commanders were killed by Israeli raids and more than 10 militants were struck while attempting to fire rockets.

While 1,100 projectiles were fired from the Strip, 200 landed inside Gaza. Kochav said more Palestinians died from the failed launch of rockets than from IDF fire but said the military would probe the reported deaths of un-involved civilians including children.

"We targeted an operative responsible for firing anti-tank missiles and there were explosives nearby. As a result of the secondary explosion, a 20 year old man who was a few hundred yards away, was killed." Kochav said.

"According to the information available to us, there were 35 Palestinians killed in the offensive, 11 of them were uninvolved civilian casualties, including the wives of the terror group's commanders in the south - victims of the IDF attacks, and that is the best result we've had compared to previous rounds of fighting," Kochav said. "Another 15 civilians were killed by PIJ fire," he said.

The spokesman said the Iron Dome missile defense system intercepted 380, the IDF said adding that 170 targets of the PIJ were struck.

Kochav would not comment on the Islamic Jihad's demands that its senior operative, Bassem al Saadi, who was arrested last week in Jenin, be released. His detention sparked the PIJ's intent to carry out an attack across the border from Gaza but said that if the truce is maintained, workers from the Strip will be allowed to enter Israel and necessary supplies will be cleared to enter the besieged enclave.

08.08.22

IDF bulldozed homes of Elad terrorists & arrest 40 PA since start of Gaza offensive

08.08.22

IDF demolishes homes of terrorists who carried out Elad attack

Forces enter northern West Bank village of Rumana near Jenin late on Sunday to demolish homes of As'ad Alrafa'ani and Sabhi Abu Shakir who kill 3, wound 4 in Haredi city; assailants say attack their own initiative and not affiliated to terror organization Yoav Zitun | Published: 08.08.22, 09:32

The IDF said on Monday that it had completed the demolition of two homes belonging to the terrorists who carried out a deadly attack in Elad last May.

Three civilians died and four others were injured when As'ad Alrafa'ani (19) and Sabhi Abu Shakir (20), both from the village of Rumana near Jenin, stabbed them to death with axes.

Forces entered the village late on Sunday shortly after a cease fire came into effect in the South, with bulldozers.

The two assailants were captured after a 62-hours manhunt, in a field near the ultra-Orthodox city and did not resist their arrest.

Their interrogation revealed they had not been members of any terror organization and had decided to attack Israelis on their own accord, choosing Elad as their target after working in the city and knowing the lay of the land.

They first murdered 35-year old Oren Ben Yiftach, who gave them a ride into Elad and then proceeded to the city park where they stabbed Yonatan Havakuk, 44, and Boaz Gol, 49.

IDF forces arrested some 40 Palestinians suspected of terror activities since the start of the Gaza offensive, most of them in the northern part of the West Bank and four in overnight raids on Sunday.

08.07.22

Palestinians fire over 50 rockets on Tel Aviv just minutes before a cease fire

08.07.22

Palestinians fire over 50 rockets in pre-ceasefire salvo, including on Tel Aviv

Ahead of truce that was supposed to be in effect at 8pm, Gaza militants intensify fire, targeting center of the country, while IDF strikes rocket launching cells in Gaza; Lapid says Israeli offensive objectives met and operation winding down

Ynet| Published: 08.07.22, 19:57

The Islamic Jihad fired over 50 rockets on Sunday evening, including toward Tel Aviv, in a salvo that came just minutes before a ceasefire was set to take effect at 8pm.

Sirens also blared in Holon, Bat Yam, and Rishon Lezion. Residents in communities near the Gaza border were instructed to stay in bomb shelters until further notice. The Iron Dome missile defense system was activated and no injuries were reported. An interception was also recorded above Ben Gurion Airport.

One person was lightly hurt when a rocket fell near a factory in Ashkelon, while another projectile hit a home in Sderot, but no injuries were reported.

Palestinians, meanwhile, said that a number of people were killed in an IDF strike on a vehicle the Gaza City and at least five people died in a strike in Jaljulia. The Israeli military, however, said the deaths in Jaljulia were caused by an errant rocket fired by Islamic Jihad, similarly to the incident that occurred a day earlier.

The IDF said it was bracing for extensive fire from Gaza to continue up until the ceasefire, expecting the Islamist group to attempt to cause the maximum amount of damage while they still can.

Foreign media reports said the truce, negotiated by Egypt, had the approval of the Gaza ruling Hamas group and Israel and was supposed to go into effect at 8am. The rocket fire, however, continued way past the dedicated hour.

According to reports in Arab media, Israel rejected a demand of the PIJ to release its operatives arrested during West Bank raids in recent months.

The Al Jazeera Network said Egypt will commit to continue attempts to bring about the release of two Islamic Jihad operatives, including Khalil Awawdeh, who has been held under administrative detention and has been on hunger strike for the past months.

The truce negotiated will reportedly see the Kerem Shalom and Erez border passages opened and fuel delivered to the Gaza power plant, which was forced to suspend services. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Yair Lapid told mayors of southern communities that the objectives of Israel's offensive in Gaza were met and that the military operation was winding down.

08.06.22

Sirens blare in Tel Aviv as Gaza militants launch more than 350 rockets

08.06.22

Sirens blare in Tel Aviv as Gaza militants launch more than 350 rockets

Rocket hits parking lot in Ashkelon, causing damage but no reports of injuries; Gantz says offensive to continue during visit to Iron Dome missile defense battery; military chief says IDF aim is to deal critical blow to Islamic Jihad

Ynet| Published: 08.06.22, 18:35

Sirens were heard in Tel Aviv on Saturday for the first time since the start of Israel's offensive against Islamic Jihad in Gaza a day earlier. So far, terror groups in Gaza have launched more than 350 rockets at Israeli cities and communities, the military said.

Israel launched an operation against Islamic Jihad on Friday, dubbed 'Breaking Dawn,' killing one of the group's senior commanders, Tayseer al-Jabari, in a surprise daytime air strike on a high-rise building in Gaza City and drawing rocket salvos in response.

Rockets were also launched at other cities in central Israel after hours of shelling towards communities along the border and cities in the south.

One rocket landed in a residential parking area in the early evening hours in Ashkelon, but no injuries were reported.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Saturday that Israel's offensive in Gaza will continue.

"We have already and will continue to foil attempts to fire rockets at Israel," Gantz said during a visit to an Iron Dome missile defense battery in the south.

"We hit dozens of the Islamic Jihad's military installations for the production and launching of rockets, and the Iron Dome missile defense teams continue to intercept rockets fired," he said.

"The leadership of the Islamic Jihad, currently sitting in a hotel in Tehran, or in Syria or Lebanon, is detached from its people in Gaza who are struggling to make ends meet," Gantz said. "Tehran does not pay the salaries of Gazans," he said.

The military said earlier in the afternoon that it attacked two weapons storage facilities inside the homes of operatives in the Islamic Jihad's naval force.

Military posts used by the Islamist faction were also hit and destroyed.

Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi said the goal of the IDF's offensive was to provide residents of the south with security and to inflict critical harm on the Islamic Jihad both in Gaza and on the West Bank.

"This faction is now on the run, under attack. We have plans and have trained, and will not allow any assault on Israel's sovereignty," Kochavi said visiting troops in the southern command.

Palestinians reported an international effort to bring about an end to the fighting.

According to Arab media, the Islamic Jihad rejected a proposal for a ceasefire from Egypt.

Turkey condemned Israel's actions in Gaza. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry in Ankara said it was unacceptable that civilians including children were killed by IDF strikes.

"We are very concerned over the escalating tensions in the area. These must stop before a new round of violence begins. We call for reason," the ministry said.

08.04.22

Israel border closure may force Gaza power plant shut with 3-day fuel supply from Egypt

08.04.22

Israel border closure may force Gaza power plant shutdown

Fears of reprisals following the IDF arrest of Islamic Jihad member yields consequences to Gazan residents; WHO says the closure affects 50 patients per day, due to leave Gaza for treatment

AFP | Published: 08.04.22, 22:36

Gaza's only power station is at risk of imminent shutdown due to a lack of fuel, its manager warned Thursday as Israel's complete closure on the territory reached a third day.

Israel shut the goods and people crossings along its frontier with Gaza on Tuesday, citing fears of reprisals following the arrest of two senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad members in the West Bank.

The military has also imposed restrictions of movement on Israeli communities adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

The rare measures have halted deliveries through Israel of diesel, which is needed to fuel Gaza's sole power plant.

"If industrial diesel needed for the plant to generate electricity does not enter today or tomorrow, the plant will stop generating electricity because there's not enough (fuel) to run it," said Rafiq Maliha, the station's general manager.

Gaza's 2.3 million residents experience regular power shortages and last week received only an average of 10 hours of electricity per day, according to data from the U.N.'s humanitarian agency OCHA.

Diesel for the power plant is usually trucked in from Egypt or Israel, which has maintained a blockade of the enclave since the militant group Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007.

As well as shuttering the key supply line with Israel, this week's measures have also prevented Gazans from leaving the territory.

The World Health Organization said the closure was affecting 50 patients per day who had been due to leave Gaza for treatment.

Thousands of Gazans with permits to work in Israel have also been unable to travel across the checkpoint.

The Israeli defense ministry unit responsible for Palestinian civil affairs, COGAT, did not immediately respond to a request to comment on the impact of the Gaza closure.

The shutdown has frustrated and confused Israeli residents living near Gaza, according to Gadi Yarkoni who heads the local Eshkol regional council.

Although he understands the security considerations, Yarkoni told public broadcaster Kan that residents "unfortunately suffer sometimes".

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid held consultations with security officials and senior members of the IDF regarding the security measures, which were imposed following a raid by security forces in the northern West Bank district of Jenin.

Israeli forces detained Bassem al-Saadi and a fellow senior member of Islamic Jihad, which has a strong presence in Gaza. A 17-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by Israeli forces during the raid.

Lapid said Israel's primary concern was the safety of its residents along the border but that Israel would not hesitate from taking action against the Islamic Jihad.

08.04.22

Lapid increases IDF troops, & road closures will remain as is needed on Gaza border

08.04.22

Lapid says Israel may act to end security crisis in south, IDF increases troop deployment

After security briefing PM says safety of residents along Gaza border priority concern and disruption to lives must not continue for long; military suspends leave in some combat units and calls up reserves in case of violent conflict

Yoav Zitun, Itamar Eichner | Published: 08.04.22, 19:49

Prime Minister Yair Lapid said on Thursday that Israel would not hesitate to take action against terrorists who threaten civilians, as the IDF bolstered its troop deployment along the Gaza border.

Speaking after a briefing by security officials on the tension in the south, Lapid said Israel will continue to operate against terror suspects.

"We fully understand the difficulty of residents along the border," Lapid said. "We will not allow their lives to be disrupted for long, but our first concern is for their safety. " The IDF has imposed travel restrictions on the border area for a third straight day, after intelligence information suggested the Islamic Jihad faction in Gaza, was planning to launch attacks against Israelis, in retaliation for the arrest earlier in the week, of a senior member of the group in Jenin.

Bassam al Saadi was arrested by the IDF in the Jenin refugee camp. He was suspected of arranging funds and weapons to enlist Palestinians to carry out attacks against Israelis. Al Saadi was said to have paid \$300 for a successful terror attack and \$100 for strikes that were not successful.

In a video message to local residents, Brig. General Nimrod Aloni, the commander of the Gaza division said the military observed preparations made by the Islamic Jihad to launch attacks across the border, to target civilians and troops.

"Road closures will remain in place as long as is needed as the security of civilians is of primary concern," he said.

"The forces are on high alert and along with our defensive measures, the military is deploying more troops to the area, in case of an armed conflict," he said.

In addition to calling up reserves, the IDF has also suspended leave in some of the combat units, which may be sent to the South.

According to a report in the Palestinian al Quds news paper in Jerusalem, the Islamist faction told an Egyptian delegation in Gaza, there to bring about an end to the security crisis, that they demand to see proof that al Saadi was unharmed by his Israeli captors as well as a resolution of the 144 day hunger strike of another member of the Islamic Jihad held in prison in Israel.

The terror group told the visiting Egyptians that they were not interested in a violent conflict but reserved the right to respond to the "the crimes perpetrated by the enemy occupiers," the paper reported.

08.03.22

Security blocks on Gaza border to stay as Egypt mediates Gaza restraints

08.03.22

Security curbs along Gaza border to stay put as Egypt tries to calm tensions

Israel also appeals to Qatar in an effort to convey messages to Islamic Jihad, which have threatened retaliation following the arrest of terror group's West Bank chief. IDF says security situation will be assessed yet again in 24 hours

Itamar Eichner, Matan Tzurij | Published: 08.03.22, 23:34

Israelis living in communities near the Gaza border have been told the security restrictions in area will remain in place throughout Thursday over fears of attacks from the Palestinian enclave following an arrest of a known terrorist. Egypt, meanwhile, has been trying to mediate between Israel and Gaza in an effort to calm the tensions.

Security officials reviewing situation hourly, said they saw fit to leave restrictions in place in order to avoid Israelis being targeted by the Islamic Jihad after its chief in the West Bank was arrested in a high-profile security operation earlier in the week.

Egyptian officials were in Gaza in efforts to convince the Islamist faction to refrain from retaliating, after the group said they would avenge the detention of their member.

According to the military intelligence, the group would not launch a major attack without the approval of Hamas, which rules Gaza. Israel has also approached Qatar to ask for their intervention to dissuade the Islamic Jihad from their intent to attack.

“We hope the tension will die down soon,” a senior official told Ynet. “Israeli are clear about that,” said an Israeli official. “Report from Gaza say they understand the situation and take it into account.” The IDF commented that “the road blocks prevented terrorist attacks.”

Defense Minister Benny Gantz earlier toured the West Bank together with Chief of General Staff Major General Aviv Kochavi, and Chief of IDF Central Command General Yehudah Fox.

“Our policy is clear: those who wish to work and live as our neighbor will have our support. Those who wish to harm Israel and its people will not be tolerated,” Gantz said. “The IDF, Shin Bet and Border Police will continue with their operations wherever needed. Every threat to Israel will meet a powerful response from us.”

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Ynet-News, August 03, 2022 – Wednesday

08.03.22 – We- - - News Placed in August 03 spot – Wednesday
Iranian head of nuclear warhead project calls on US to provide treaty decisions

08.03.22 – We- - - News
Netanyahu November campaign with promise of economic reform

08.02.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in August 02 spot – Tuesday
Roads along Gaza border to remain closed after IDF capture WB Jihad Leader

08.02.22 – Tu- - - News
Lapid meets US mediator Hochstein in Israel-Lebanon border dispute

08.01.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in August 01 spot – Monday
Chaos across Israel with public transport tariff reform; age discount not recognized