

Ynet-News, August 22, 2022 – Monday

08.22.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in August 22 spot – Monday  
Bank of Israel raises interest rate to 2% in steepest one-time hike in 20 years

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EU & US have three remaining issues to Iran sanctions; Israel focus on reply

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During Gaza campaign, IDF missiles strike Iran militias near port of Tartus, Syria

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Israel closed seven PA terrorist institutions and seized their property in raid

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Gantz defends meetings with Abbas as apparatus for regional stability

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PA general in Moscow allies conference on advanced weapons & technology

08.22.22  
Bank of Israel raises interest rate to 2% in steepest one-time hike in 20 years

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In a bid to tackle racing inflation, rate hike brings central bank's key rate to its highest level since December 2012, dealing particularly painful wallop to mortgage and loan holders  
Gad Lior| Published: 08.22.22, 17:55

Coming off another alarming inflation report in July, the Bank of Israel announced on Monday it will raise its benchmark interest rate by 0.75% to a full 2%, the steepest one-time hike in 20 years, in a bid to blunt fast-rising inflation that has reached 5.2% over the past 12 months.

This hike, which brings the central bank's interest rate to its highest level since December 2012, deals a particularly painful wallop to mortgage and loan holders as the prime lending rate will jump to 3.5% starting Thursday, more than double its level in April.

It is the fourth rate jump in as many months, increasing the key rate twentyfold in total from an all-time low of 0.1% in April.

"The Israeli economy is seeing strong economic activity, accompanied by a tight labor market in a rising inflationary environment," a statement issued by the central bank read.

"That is why the [Monetary C]ommittee decided to continue the process of raising the interest rate. The scale of the interest rate increase will be determined according to the activity data and the development of inflation, this in order to continue and support the achievement of policy goals."

With these successive rate increases, the Bank of Israel is seeking to restrict the economy's money supply by making borrowing less attractive and cutting high consumer demand.

Last week, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) reported that the consumer price index in Israel rose by 1.1% in the month of July, bringing the country's annual inflation rate to 5.2%, well over the central bank's upper inflation target of 3%.

Housing prices increased by 2% between May and June 2022, completing a whopping 17.8% increase compared to the same time last year.

08.16.22

EU & US have three remaining issues to Iran sanctions; Israel focus on reply

08.16.22

EU says studying Iran's response to nuclear proposal, consulting with U.S. Failure to reach an agreement would carry the risk of a fresh regional war with Israel threatening military action, and Iran saying it would retaliate to any aggression with a 'crushing' response

Reuters| Published: 08.16.22, 14:07

The European Union is assessing Iran's response to what the bloc has called its "final" proposal to save a 2015 nuclear deal, and consulting with the United States, an EU spokesperson said on Tuesday.

"For the moment, we are studying it and we are consulting with the other JCPOA participants and the U.S. on the way forward," the spokesperson told reporters in Brussels, referring to the nuclear deal by the official abbreviation JCPOA.

She declined to give a time frame for any reaction by the EU who is coordinating the negotiations in Vienna.

After 16 months of fitful, indirect U.S.-Iranian talks, with the EU shuttling between the parties, a senior EU official said on Aug. 8 the bloc had laid down a "final" offer and expected a response within a "very, very few weeks."

Iran responded to the proposal late on Monday but neither Tehran nor the EU provided any details on the content of the reply.

Earlier on Monday, Iran's foreign minister had called on the U.S. to show flexibility to resolve three remaining issues, suggesting Tehran's response would not be a final acceptance or rejection.

Washington has said it is ready to quickly seal a deal to restore the 2015 accord on the basis of the EU proposals.

Diplomats and officials said that whether or not Tehran and Washington accept the EU's "final" offer, neither is likely to declare the pact dead because keeping it alive serves both sides' interests.

The stakes are high, since failure in the nuclear negotiations would carry the risk of a fresh regional war with Israel threatening military action against Iran if diplomacy fails to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapons capability.

Iran, which has long denied having such ambition, has warned of a "crushing" response to any Israeli attack.

In 2018, then-President Donald Trump reneged on the nuclear deal reached before he took office, calling it too soft on Iran, and re-imposed harsh U.S. sanctions, spurring the Islamic Republic to begin breaching its limits on uranium enrichment.

08.18.22

During Gaza campaign, IDF missiles strike Iran militias near port of Tartus, Syria

08.18.22

IDF chief says Israel struck 'third country' during latest Gaza campaign

Kochavi says during 55-hour Operation Breaking Dawn, Israeli Air Force also attacked in an unnamed country "to maintain security stability along the rest of Israel's borders"

Korin Elbaz Alush, Yoav Zitun | Published: 08.18.22, 17:06

Israel's chief of staff revealed Thursday that the military carried out an attack in "a third unnamed country" during the operation in Gaza against Islamic Jihad earlier this month.

"Ten days ago, in 55 hours of operational activity, Israel carried out the targeted killing of Islamic Jihad commander Tayseer Jabari with great precision," he said, referring to the targeted killing that kickstarted Operation Breaking Dawn, which in turn was sparked by the arrest of the Islamic Jihad chief in the West Bank, Bassam al-Saadi.

"While security forces were carrying out arrest raids in the West Bank, the military also performed strikes in a third country to maintain security stability along the rest of Israel's borders," Lieutenant-General Aviv Kochavi said.

The IDF chief likely referred to an attack in Syria, which is not uncommon. In past IDF operations in the Strip, the military always maintained its maneuverability along its northern border.

Earlier this week, Syria reported an Israeli missile strike near the port city of Tartus, which was aimed at several military sites of the Syrian regime that also housed Iran-backed militias.

During the strike, three soldiers were killed and three others were wounded, and the attack caused material damage.

08.18.22

Israel closed seven PA terrorist institutions and seized their property in raid

08.18.22

Israel closes Palestinian rights groups it labeled terrorist  
Troops raid offices of organizations alleged to work with outlawed terrorist group  
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, sealing entrance doors and leaving notices  
declaring them closed

Associated Press | Published: 08.18.22, 13:04

Israel raided the offices of several Palestinian advocacy groups it had previously designated as terrorist organizations, sealing entrance doors and leaving notices declaring them closed, the groups said Thursday.

Israel has claimed some of these groups had ties to the militant Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a secular, left-wing movement with a political party as well as an armed wing that has carried out deadly attacks against Israelis. The groups deny Israel's claim.

Shawan Jabarin, director of al-Haq, one of the targeted groups, confirmed that forces raided the office. He said his staffers are still examining whether any document had been confiscated.

Israeli troops "came, blew up the door, got inside, and messed with the files," he told The Associated Press.

Rights defenders have described Israel's moves against the groups as part of a decades-long crackdown on political activists in contested territories. In July, nine EU member states said Israel hasn't backed up its allegations and that they will continue working with the targeted groups.

"These accusations are not new and Israel failed to convince even its friends," Jabarin said.

On Wednesday, Defense Minister Benny Gantz's office reiterated its claim that the groups "operate under the guise of performing humanitarian activities to further the goals

of the PFLP terrorist organization, to strengthen the organization and to recruit operatives."

Most of the targeted organizations document alleged human rights violations by Israel as well as the Palestinian Authority, both of which routinely detain Palestinian activists.

The groups reportedly raided include al-Haq, a veteran, internationally respected Palestinian rights group; Addameer, which advocates for Palestinian prisoners; the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees; the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, and the Bisan Center for Research and Development.

Jabarin said "neighbors and strangers" who were nearby during Thursday's raid had opened the office in Ramallah as soon as the Israeli forces left, and that al-Haq's staff were inside and resuming their work.

"We don't take permission from any Israeli military or political official. We are proceeding, encouraged by our belief in the accountability and the international law," he said.

Thursday's raids come seven months after Israel outlawed Al-Haq, Addameer, Bisan and others.

The Israeli military said it closed seven institutions and seized their property in Thursday's raid. The military did not immediately claim the discrepancy in the numbers, between groups designated and groups raided.

The Palestinian Authority government in the West Bank described the closure of the organizations as a "dangerous escalation and an attempt to silence the voice of truth and justice." Hussein al-Sheikh, a senior Palestinian official, said the PA will appeal to the international community to reopen the institutions.

Israel and Western countries consider the PFLP a terrorist organization.

A Defense Ministry statement last year said some of the outlawed groups are "controlled by senior leaders of the PFLP and employ its members, including some who have participated in terror activity."

It said the groups serve as a "central source" of financing for the PFLP and had received "large sums of money from European countries and international organizations," without elaborating.

Israel has long accused human rights groups and international bodies of being biased against it and of singling it out while ignoring graver violations by other countries.

08.18.22

Gantz defends meetings with Abbas as apparatus for regional stability

08.18.22

Gantz defends meeting with Abbas after outcry over offhand Holocaust comment

Defense chief **condemns 'outrageous, delusional and false' remarks** but underlines importance **of security cooperation with Palestinians**; 'I'm not working with Mother Teresa, I'm working with whomever I have to,' he says  
Alexandra Lukash, Nir Cohen | Published: **08.18.22**, 12:44

Defense Minister Benny **Gantz** on Thursday **defended a series of meetings he held with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas** over the past year after the latter accused Israel of committing "50 holocausts" against the Palestinians, a comment that **drew wide condemnation in Israel and abroad.**

"This is a very serious incident," **Gantz** told Ynet in an interview, **referencing the remarks the Palestinian leader made** earlier this week during a press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz **in Berlin.**

"**The very denial of the Holocaust, in Germany** no less, is **outrageous, delusional** and **false** and has no place."  
Abbas walked back on the accusations **the following morning after the backlash and pressure from Gantz** himself.

"**Nothing compares to the Holocaust** that European Jews and Jews in general went through **during the Second World War**, you can't obfuscate that. I demanded, through my office, he walk back on his remarks and it is good that he did so."  
**Gantz** underlined the importance of maintaining the security **cooperation with Abbas** and the Palestinian security **apparatus for regional stability.**

"I want to tell you one thing, ultimately, we live in the Middle East," the defense chief said. "I have to send soldiers to the battlefield and I have to make every effort to prevent this battle from happening in the first place. We need to maintain stability, we need to be careful about **security coordination**. I'm not working with Mother Teresa, I'm working with whomever I have to. That's the nature of things."  
"I hereby announce that we're here to stay as are the Palestinians and **we must maintain our communications with them. I met with Abbas, once at his own home, once at mine and once at his office** in Ramallah. There is no love lost here."

**08.17.22**

**PA general in Moscow allies conference on advanced weapons & technology**

**08.17.22**

**Palestinian general discusses military co-operation at talks in Moscow**  
Meeting on margins of **security conference** comes as **Russia** seeks **allies** around the world to **counter** what Putin described as **Western** hegemony and neo-**colonialism** amid Ukraine war

Reuters | Published: **08.17.22**, 16:21

A senior Russian official met the commander of Palestinian security forces to discuss military and intelligence co-operation, Moscow's defense ministry said on Wednesday.

Without providing details, it said that Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin held talks with Major General Nidal Abu Dukhan from the Palestinian National Authority on the margins of a security conference held alongside Russia's Army-2022 forum.

The talks, which took place on Tuesday, came as Moscow, nearly six months into its invasion of Ukraine, seeks allies around the world to counter what President Vladimir Putin described in a speech this week as Western hegemony and neo-colonialism. Russia has traditionally maintained good relations with the Palestinians and supported their drive for statehood, while stopping short of steps it believes could threaten its status as a neutral intermediary between them and Israel. Ties between Moscow and Israel have also been historically strong, but have recently become strained due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which Israel has condemned.

Russia has been keen to offer support to countries it considers allies in Latin America, Africa and Asia since its invasion, including through selling advanced weapons and military technology.

In a separate statement on Wednesday, the defense ministry said it held talks with the West African nation of Mali on strengthening its defense capabilities.

Al Qaeda's affiliate in Mali claimed on Monday it had killed four mercenaries from Russia's private military firm Wagner Group in an ambush around Bandiagara in the center of the country.

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Ynet-News, August 17, 2022 – Wednesday

08.17.22 – We- - - News   Wednesday

Two Israelis arrested for allegedly selling sensitive information to foreign agent

08.17.22 – We- - - News   Placed in August 17 spot – Wednesday

Abbas walks back Holocaust remarks & Knesset eyes Gantz frequent Arab favors

08.16.22 – Tu- - - News   Placed in August 16 spot – Tuesday

Hamas blames Israel; 200 PA rockets fell short & killed 5 minors in Gaza

08.16.22 – Tu- - - News   Placed in August 15 spot – Monday

In Berlin, Abbas had no regret for Munich attack by PA at the Munich Olympics

08.14.22 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Israel week on record with 19 road deaths; bus drivers longer hours, less rest

08.09.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in August 12 spot – Friday

Russia launched Iran satellite into space to monitor Israel & Middle East

08.09.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in August 09 spot – Tuesday

Trump Florida home under FBI raid; dozens of boxes taken by agents