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09.28.22
Two blasts Tuesday on Russian gas pipelines in Baltic Sea; suspected sabotage

09.28.22
EU vows to protect energy network after 'sabotage' of Russian gas pipeline
By Paul Carrel and Stine Jacobsen

EU diplomat believes sabotage probably caused leaks

Danish defence minister worried over Baltic Sea security
Danish defence minister met with NATO chief in Brussels

BERLIN/COPENHAGEN, Sept 28 (Reuters) - The European Union on Wednesday promised a "robust" response to any intentional disruption of its energy infrastructure after saying it suspected sabotage was behind gas leaks discovered this week on subsea Russian pipelines to Europe.

As gas spewed out under the Baltic Sea for a third day after first being detected, it remained far from clear who might be responsible for any sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines that Russia and European partners spent billions of dollars building.

Russia, which slashed gas deliveries to Europe after the West imposed sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, has also said sabotage was a possibility.

"Any deliberate disruption of European energy infrastructure is utterly unacceptable and will be met with a robust and united response," the EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

Echoing the views of Germany, Denmark and Sweden, he said sabotage was likely, although the EU has not named a potential perpetrator or suggested a motive. Washington, which has led efforts to punish Moscow over the war, believes it's too soon to conclude there was sabotage, a senior U.S. military official said.

The U.N. Security Council will convene on Friday at the request of Russia to discuss damage to the pipelines, the French U.N. mission, which holds the presidency of the 15-member council for September, said.

Russia's embassy in Denmark said any sabotage on Nord Stream's pipelines was an attack on both Russia's and Europe's energy security.

The Nord Stream pipelines have been flashpoints in an escalating energy war between capitals in Europe and Moscow that has damaged major Western economies and sent gas prices soaring.

SECURITY ALERT

Denmark's defence minister said after a meeting with NATO General Secretary Jens Stoltenberg there was reason to be concerned about the security situation in the region.

"Russia has a significant military presence in the Baltic Sea region and we expect them to continue their sabre-rattling," Morten Bødskov said in a statement.

Norway's prime minister said on Wednesday that its military will be deployed near oil and gas installations, while Denmark is raising its level of preparedness.

"The military will be more visible at Norwegian oil and gas installations," Norway's Jonas Gahr Støre told a news briefing.

In the Baltic Sea, gas was still bubbling from the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, the Swedish Coast Guard said in an email.

The Danish Energy Agency said more than half the gas in the damaged pipelines had left the pipes and the remaining volume was expected to be gone by Sunday.

Jens Schumann, managing director of gas pipeline grid company Gasunie Deutschland, said he was "relatively optimistic" that the damage could be repaired.

Pipes at the landfall facilities of the 'Nord Stream 1' gas pipeline in Lubmin
Gas bubbles from the Nord Stream 2 leak reaching surface of the Baltic sea in the area shows disturbance of well over one kilometre diameter near Bornholm
Gas leak at Nord Stream 2 as seen from the Danish F-16 interceptor on Bornholm

Gas bubbles from the Nord Stream 2 leak reaching surface of the Baltic Sea in the area shows disturbance of well over one kilometre diameter near Bornholm, Denmark, September 27, 2022. Danish Defence Command/Handout via REUTERS

"There are good teams in place to handle pipeline accidents, there are emergency pipe inventories and experts for onshore and offshore," Schuman said.

But German security agencies fear that Nord Stream 1 will become unusable if large volumes of salt water flow into the pipes and cause corrosion, German newspaper Tagesspiegel reported, citing government sources.

The Danish armed forces said the largest gas leak caused a surface disturbance of more than 1 kilometre (0.6 mile) in diameter, as agencies issued warnings to shipping.

Sweden's Prosecution Authority said it will review material from a police investigation and decide on further action, after Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said on Tuesday that two blasts had been detected.

Although this did not represent an attack on Sweden, Stockholm was in close contact with partners such as NATO and neighbours such as Denmark and Germany, Andersson said.

Seismologists in Denmark and Sweden said they had registered two powerful blasts on Monday in the vicinity of the leaks and the explosions were in the water, not under the seabed.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin offered Washington's support in a call with his Danish counterpart on Wednesday, a senior U.S. defense official said. The State Department said it was sharing information on the blasts with its allies.

Operator Nord Stream has called the damage "unprecedented", while Russian-controlled Gazprom (GAZP.MM), which has a monopoly on gas exports by pipeline, declined to comment.

While neither pipeline was delivering gas to Europe at the time, the incidents scupper any remaining expectations that Europe could receive fuel via Nord Stream 1 before winter.

"A development that could have a more immediate impact on gas supplies to Europe was a warning from Gazprom that Russia could impose sanctions on Ukraine's Naftogaz due to ongoing arbitration," analysts at ING Research said.

Naftogaz's CEO said on Wednesday the Ukrainian energy firm will continue with arbitration proceedings against Gazprom over Russian natural gas which transits the country.

Gazprom said earlier in the week that while rejecting all Naftogaz's claims in arbitration, it may introduce sanctions against the company in case it presses ahead with the case.

European gas prices rose following news of the leaks. The benchmark October Dutch price was up by 11% at 204.50 euros/megawatt hour on Wednesday. Although prices are still below this year's peaks, they remain more than 200% higher than in early September 2021.

Russia reduced gas supplies to Europe via Nord Stream 1 before suspending flows altogether in August, blaming Western sanctions for causing technical difficulties. European politicians say that was a pretext to stop supplying gas.

The new Nord Stream 2 pipeline had yet to enter commercial operations. The plan to use it to supply gas was scrapped by Germany days before Russia began what it calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine in late February.

09.22.22

High Court unanimous to freeze appointments made by interim government

09.22.22

Next IDF chief's appointment on ice after High Court bombshell
Judges' panel unanimously annuls retired Supreme Court Justice Mazuz's appointment to powerful vetting board, leaving Halevi's appointment in purgatory; 'temporary appointment must be preferred over permanent, except in special cases,' justices say
Gilad Morag | Published: 09.22.22, 22:13

The appointment of Herzl (Herzi) Halevi as the next IDF chief will be delayed after the High Court for Justice ruled on Thursday to freeze appointments made by Israel's currently serving interim government.

The justices unanimously annulled the appointment of former Supreme Court Justice Menachem Mazuz to the powerful Senior Appointments Advisory Committee which vets the appointments of senior Israeli office holders.

The panel allowed Mazuz to hold office only for Halevi's vetting instead of a full eight-year term. Mazuz rejected the offer.

Mazuz blasted the ruling, saying that "I respect the court's decision, although I believe the decision is erroneous and does not reflect the nature of the committee and its purpose. Under these circumstances, I can't accept the position of chairman of the Senior Appointments Advisory Committee in the manner set forth."

The judges ruled that a permanent appointment for Mazuz would be inappropriate during an election campaign, despite receiving the nod from Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara in July amid protests from opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu who called to avoid naming a new military chief in the midst of an election campaign.

Surprisingly, Baharav-Miara's representatives supported the High Court's decision. The judges determined that while a temporary appointment for the position is reasonable, they had no other option than to strike the appointment down once Baharav-Miara called to make it permanent.

"Although in principle, according to the law, and in accordance with the directive of the attorney general, there is a possibility to order a permanent appointment even during an election period - it should be remembered that the starting point in this context is to avoid making appointments as much as possible", the panel wrote in its ruling.

"Even when a specific need for a mandatory appointment is formed, a temporary appointment must be preferred over a permanent appointment, except in exceptional cases."

09.22.22

On UN stage, Lapid expresses support for two-state solution, bashes Iran

09.22.22

On UN stage, Lapid expresses support for two-state solution, bashes Iran

In first speech as PM before international community, Lapid hails diverse Israeli society which 'decided not to be a victim'; warns global powers of bad Iran nuclear deal and repercussions for world

Itamar Eichner | Published: 09.22.22, 20:43

Speaking to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Prime Minister Yair Lapid expressed his support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and slammed arch-foe Iran for "conducting an orchestra of hate."

Lapid opened his address to the international forum by hailing the achievements of the Jewish State in its 74 years of existence.

"In November 1947 this General Assembly gathered and decided upon the creation of a Jewish State. Only a few hundred thousand Jews lived in Israel at the time, in hostile surroundings, shocked and devastated after the Holocaust in which six million of our people were murdered," he said.

"75 years later, Israel is a strong liberal democracy. Proud and prosperous. The Start-Up Nation that invented Waze and Iron Dome, medicines for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and a robot which can perform spinal surgery. A world leader in water and food-tech, cyber defense and renewable energy. With 13 Nobel prize winners in literature and chemistry, economics and peace.

How did this happen? It happened because we decided not to be a victim. We chose not to dwell on the pain of the past. But rather to focus on the hope of the future. We chose to invest our energies into building a nation. Into building a happy society, optimistic and creative. We didn't only reach the Promised Land, we are building the Promised Land. History is determined by people. We need to understand history, respect it and learn from it. But also to be willing and able to change it. To choose the future over the past. Peace over war. Partnership over seclusion and isolation."

He continued his speech by praising the country's diversity, which he described as an "incredible, cultural mosaic."

"In the government which I lead, there are Arab Ministers. There is an Arab party as a member of our coalition. We have Arab judges in our Supreme Court. Arab doctors saving lives in our hospitals. Israeli Arabs are not our enemies, they are our partners in life. Come and visit us," he said.

"You will discover that Israel is an incredible, cultural mosaic. From the white snowy mountains of the Golan to the white desert sand of the Negev. From Tel Aviv, the high-tech capital, a non-stop party on the Mediterranean Sea. To Jerusalem, our eternal capital, the holy city for three religions, in whose beautiful streets the past meets the future every single day."

He went on to chide Iran for "conducting an orchestra of hate" against Israel, and called to prevent Tehran from laying its hands on nuclear arms.

"Conducting this orchestra of hate, is Iran. For more than forty years now, in the town squares and on the streets of Iran, demonstrators have been photographed burning Israeli and American flags. Ask yourselves: Where are the flags coming from? How did they get so many of our flags? The answer is: They are manufacturing them especially. Just so they can burn them. This is what an industry of hate looks like. This is a regime that systematically deals with hatred," he said.

"If the Iranian regime gets a nuclear weapon, they will use it. The only way to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, is to put a credible military threat on the table. And then – and only then – to negotiate a Longer and Stronger deal with them. It needs to be made clear to Iran, that if it advances its nuclear program, the world will not respond with words, but with military force. Every time a threat like that was put on the table in the past, Iran stopped, and retreated. Today, the world is choosing the easy option. It chooses

not to believe the worst, despite all the evidence to the contrary. Israel does not have this privilege. This time we are not standing empty-handed against those who want to destroy us."

Lapid then expressed his support for a two-state solution to the more-than-a-century-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Israel's economic and military strength allows us to protect ourselves but it also allows us something else: To strive for peace with the entire Arab world. And with our closest neighbors – the Palestinians," he said.

"An agreement with the Palestinians, based on two states for two peoples, is the right thing for Israel's security, for Israel's economy and for the future of our children. Peace is not a compromise. It is the most courageous decision we can make. Peace is not weakness. It embodies within it the entire might of human spirit. War is surrender to all that is bad within us. Peace is the victory of all that is good.

Despite all the obstacles, still today a large majority of Israelis support the vision of this two-state solution. I am one of them. We have only one condition: That a future Palestinian state will be a peaceful one. That it will not become another terror base from which to threaten the well-being, and the very existence of Israel. That we will have the ability to protect the security of all the citizens of Israel, at all times."

09.22.22

Gantz dangles 1,500 PA work permits for a peaceful Rosh Hashanah

09.22.22

Despite West Bank tensions, Israel announces 1,500 new work permits for Gazans
Defense Ministry says latest hike to come into effect after Rosh Hashanah, brings work
and trade permits to a total of 17,000; quota planned to be raised up to 20,000
Elisha Ben Kimon | Published: 09.22.22, 18:26

Despite simmering tensions throughout the West Bank, Defense Minister Benny Gantz announced on Thursday an increase in work and trade permit quotas for Gaza Strip Palestinians by 1,500 starting next week, after Rosh Hashanah.

According to the Defense Ministry, this raises the number of permits to a total of 17,000, but the increase in permits will be carried out in accordance with a situation assessment after the holiday and on the condition that peace is maintained across the southern border. The ministry plans to hike the quota up to 20,000.

COGAT, the Israeli defense body in charge of Palestinian civilian affairs, has taken precedential steps on the subject in the past year.
Shin Bet Director Ronen Bar also hinted last week to the leader of Hamas in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, that promoting incitement against Israel will lead to adversarial measures from Jerusalem. "Either words or workers," he said.

A Palestinian laborer in the Gaza Strip earns about NIS 60 (\$17) per day as the Palestinian enclave grapples with a 50% unemployment rate. However, the same worker would earn NIS 400 a day working in Israel (\$115).

Along with bringing in Gazan workers and increasing quotas for workers from the West Bank, Palestinians receive their wages online and the Israeli defense establishment has improved the accessibility of work permits digitally.

The permit policy as a tool to tamper down terrorism was successfully utilized by Israel during last month's flareup in Gaza against Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and defense officials believe this was one of the reasons Gaza-rulers Hamas opted to stay out of the fighting.

"At the end of the day, Hamas has to provide an economic horizon [to its people]," a security official told Ynet.

"Furthermore, it will have to explain to workers who were earning thousands of shekels in Israel why they are forced to give it up because of missiles or terrorism. Hamas in this regard is different from Palestinian Islamic Jihad which does not have any responsibility over Gaza's residents. It is a lever created by the system."

09.22.22

Security tells on public radio; will not limit Jewish visits to Jerusalem holy site

09.22.22

Hamas threatens violence over contested Jerusalem holy site

The Gaza Strip-based terror group says Israel violates the religious and Islamic status of Jerusalem and Temple Mount; says will 'defend' the rights and sanctities of our people by all possible means'

Associated Press| Published: 09.22.22, 17:10

The Palestinian terror group Hamas on Thursday threatened hostile actions against Israel over what it called "violations against Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque" ahead of the upcoming Jewish High Holidays.

Hamas's threats came just ahead of Sunday's Jewish new year, and a day after a group of Jewish religious extremists visited a contested holy site revered by both Jews and Muslims and blew the shofar — a ram's horn that's trumpeted in the run-up to and during the Jewish High Holidays.

The Jewish new year, Rosh Hashanah, begins at sundown on Sunday, and in the succeeding weeks thousands of Israelis are expected to visit Jerusalem.

Public Security Minister Omer Bar-Lev told Kan public radio on Wednesday that Israeli authorities would not limit Jewish visits to the contested Jerusalem holy site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Visitations and prayers by hard-line Jewish radicals at the site have triggered previous rounds of violence between Israel and the Palestinians.

For Jews, the site is the holiest on earth, the location of two ancient Temples. For Muslims, it is the home of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the third holiest place after Mecca and Medina. The shrine is the emotional epicenter of the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Officially, under a loose set of rules known as the "status quo," Jews are allowed to visit, but not pray at the site, which is managed by a Jordanian-run trust. But in recent years, the number of Jewish visitors to the site has steadily grown, and some hold Jewish prayer at the site under police protection.

Addressing reporters in the city of Gaza, Hamas leader Mahmoud al-Zahar decried what he called a "blatant attack on the religious and Islamic status of the city and the mosque," saying Israel bore full responsibility for "the possibility of dragging the entire region into an open religious war."

He said the terror group, which rules the Gaza Strip, would "defend the rights and sanctities of our people by all possible means."

09.22.22

Russian authorities organize annex region votes to defend with nuclear weapons

09.22.22

Russia's Medvedev: new regions can be defended with strategic nuclear weapons
Deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council says Donbas republics and other territories will be accepted into Russia, as Ukrainian counteroffensives gather pace; 'there is no going back'

Reuters| Published: 09.22.22, 16:33

Former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday that any weapons in Moscow's arsenal, including strategic nuclear weapons, could be used to defend territories incorporated in Russia from Ukraine.

Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said that referenda being organized by Russian-installed and separatist authorities in large swathes of Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory will take place, and that "there is no going back."

"The Donbas (Donetsk and Luhansk) republics and other territories will be accepted into Russia."

Medvedev said the protection of all the territories would be significantly strengthened by the Russian armed forces, adding:

"Russia has announced that not only mobilization capabilities, but also any Russian weapons, including strategic nuclear weapons and weapons based on new principles, could be used for such protection."

The referenda due to take place in the Russian-held parts of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces, as well as part of Mykolaiv province, from Friday are widely **expected to** produce results overwhelmingly **endorsing joining Russia.**

The **votes**, being organized at a few days' notice under military occupation, have been **labeled shams** by Kyiv and its Western allies.

If formally admitted to the Russian Federation, the occupied territories, where Ukrainian counteroffensives have gathered pace in recent weeks, will be entitled to protection from Russian nuclear weapons under Moscow's nuclear doctrine.

Moscow does not fully control any of the four regions it is expected to try to annex, with **only** around **60%** of Donetsk and **66%** of Zaporizhzhia regions held by the Russian army. Medvedev has regularly issued aggressive statements on the West and Ukraine in recent months, underlining his transformation from apparently Western-minded liberalizer as president from 2008-2012 to strident geopolitical hawk.

09.21.22

Putin losing ground, mobilizes 300,000 draft troops to counter the West

09.21.22

Putin mobilizes 300,000 troops, touts 'means of destruction'

"It's not a bluff," Russian leaders says in televised address, vowing to counter the West's "nuclear blackmail."

By AP and ILH Staff Published on **09-21-2022** 10:13 Last modified: 09-21-2022 13:44
Putin mobilizes 300,000 troops, touts 'means of destruction'

Russian President Vladimir **Putin addresses** the nation in **Moscow**, Russia, **Wednesday**, Sept. 21, 2022 | Photo: AP/Russian Presidential Press Service

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday announced a **partial mobilization** in Russia as the war in **Ukraine** reaches nearly **seven months** and **Moscow loses ground on the battlefield**. Putin also warned the West that "it's not a bluff" that **Russia would use all the means** at its disposal **to protect its territory**. The total number of **reservists drafted** in the partial mobilization is **300,000**, officials said.

The Russian leader's televised address to the nation comes a day after Russian-controlled regions in eastern and **southern Ukraine announced** plans to hold **votes on becoming integral parts of Russia**. The Kremlin-backed efforts to swallow up four regions could set the stage for **Moscow to escalate the war** following Ukrainian successes.

The **referendums**, which have been **expected** to take place since the first months of the war that began on Feb. 24, will start Friday in the Luhansk, Kherson and partly Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions.

Putin accused the West in engaging in "nuclear blackmail" and noted "statements of some high-ranking representatives of the leading NATO states about the possibility of using nuclear weapons of mass destruction against Russia." "To those who allow themselves such statements regarding Russia, I want to remind you that our country also has various means of destruction, and for separate components and more modern than those of NATO countries and when the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, to protect Russia and our people, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal," Putin said.

He added: "It's not a bluff." Putin said he has signed a decree on the partial mobilization, which is due to start on Wednesday. "We are talking about partial mobilization, that is, only citizens who are currently in the reserve will be subject to conscription, and above all, those who served in the armed forces have a certain military specialty and relevant experience," Putin said. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said in a televised interview Wednesday that conscripts and students won't be mobilized – only those with relevant combat and service experience will be.

He said that 5,937 Russian troops have been killed in Ukraine so far. Western estimates of Russian military losses stand at tens of thousands. Shoigu's update on Russian losses is the third time the Russian military offered death toll numbers to the public. The last update came in late March, when the Defense Ministry claimed 1,351 Russian soldiers were killed in Ukraine.

Putin said the decision to partially mobilize was "fully adequate to the threats we face, namely to protect our homeland, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, to ensure the security of our people and people in the liberated territories." Earlier Wednesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dismissed Russian plans to stage referendums in occupied regions in eastern and southern Ukraine as a "noise" and thanked Ukraine's allies for condemning the votes scheduled to start Friday.

Four Russian-controlled regions announced plans Tuesday to start voting this week to become integral parts of Russia, which could set the stage for Moscow to escalate the war following Ukrainian successes on the battlefield. Former President Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by Putin, said referendums that fold regions into Russia itself would make redrawn frontiers "irreversible" and enable Moscow to use "any means" to defend them.

In his nightly address Zelenskyy said there were lots of questions surrounding the announcements but stressed that they would not change Ukraine's commitment to retake areas occupied by Russian forces. "The situation on the front line clearly indicates that the initiative belongs to Ukraine," he said. "Our positions do not change because of the noise or any announcements somewhere. And we enjoy the full support of our partners in this."

The upcoming votes, in the Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions are all but certain to go Moscow's way. But they were quickly dismissed as illegitimate by

Western leaders who are backing Kyiv with military and other support that has helped its forces seize momentum on battlefields in the east and south. "I thank all friends and partners of Ukraine for today's mass principled firm condemnation of Russia's attempts to stage new sham referenda," Zelenskyy said.

In another signal that Russia is digging in for a protracted and possibly ramped-up conflict, the Kremlin-controlled lower house of parliament voted Tuesday to toughen laws against desertion, surrender and looting by Russian troops. Lawmakers also voted to introduce possible 10-year prison terms for soldiers refusing to fight. If approved, as expected, by the upper house and then signed by Putin, the legislation would strengthen commanders' hands against failing morale reported among soldiers.

In the Russian-occupied city of Enerhodar, shelling continued around Europe's largest nuclear power plant. Ukrainian energy operator Energoatom said Russian shelling again damaged infrastructure at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and briefly forced workers to start two diesel generators for emergency power to the cooling pumps for one of the reactors. Such pumps are essential for avoiding a meltdown at a nuclear facility even though all six of the plant's reactors have been shut down. Energoatom said the generators were later switched off as main power was restored.

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has been a focus for concern for months because of fears that shelling could lead to a radiation leak. Russia and Ukraine blame each other for the shelling.

09.21.22

West Bank PA militants agreed to truce Wednesday if forces cease raids

09.21.22

Palestinians reach truce to end West Bank clashes

Despite skirmishes dying down and tensions eased, round of deadly fighting reflects deep disenchantment among locals with the PA and its security ties with Israel

Associated Press | Published: 09.21.22, 13:31

Palestinian security forces and militants agreed to a truce on Wednesday to end violent clashes in a flashpoint West Bank city, local officials said.

The violence highlighted deep disenchantment with the internationally backed Palestinian leadership.

For now, the deal to end the clashes eases tensions in the area, which on Tuesday was gripped by some of the fiercest antagonism directed at the Palestinian Authority in years. The clashes erupted after an arrest raid by Palestinian security against local militants. The two sides exchanged fire as angry residents pelted an armored jeep with objects and

chased it away. One man was reported dead. The violence was reminiscent of the way **Palestinians typically protest against Israeli troops.**

The unrest in Nablus reflected the deep unpopularity of the Palestinian leadership, which is widely seen because of its security ties with Israel as entrenching Israel's 55-year military presence in the West Bank overlooking its nearly 3 million residents. It has also been **beset by corruption** and has **repeatedly delayed elections.**

A **semblance of normal life returned on Wednesday to Nablus**, known as the West Bank's business capital. Shoppers walked around the debris from the clashes as firefighters atop cranes smashed broken glass out of storefront windows bordering the city's main Martyrs Square. Palestinian **security forces were deployed in armored vehicles** in the city center. A committee of Palestinian factions and other prominent figures said that under the **truce**, Palestinian security **forces would cease to arrest suspects** wanted by Israel in the city, unless they broke Palestinian law. Authorities would discuss the release of **one of the men arrested** in the recent raid. They **would also release** Palestinians detained in Tuesday's clashes, unless they damaged property or looted.

The Palestinian Authority maintains close security ties with Israel and the two often collaborate against Islamic militants in the West Bank. Israel has prodded the Palestinian Authority to **do more to contain militancy**, especially in the months following a spate of deadly attacks against Israelis in the spring, which killed 19 people.

Israel has instead **intensified its own activity in the area, sending troops on nightly arrest incursions** into villages, cities and towns, **rounding up hundreds of Palestinians and killing some 90 during that time.** Israel says the vast **majority of those killed were militants**, while **others have been local youths killed while throwing stones or firebombs at Israeli troops.**

Some civilians have been killed in the violence, among them a veteran Al Jazeera journalist and a lawyer who inadvertently drove into a battle zone.

The northern West Bank, including the areas around Nablus and Jenin, a city that has long been a bastion of armed struggle against Israel, have been focal points in the raids. The **Palestinian Authority has less of a foothold** there and is **viewed with deep suspicion** because of its security ties to Israel.

That disenchantment, coupled with the soaring tensions driven up by the nightly Israeli raids, boiled over with the clashes on Tuesday.

Israel says the **raids are aimed at dismantling militant networks** that threaten its citizens, and that it makes every effort to avoid harming civilians. Palestinians say the incursions are meant to maintain Israel's military rule over territories they want for a future state - a dream that appears as remote as ever, with **no serious peace negotiations held in over a decade.**

09.21.22

Putin mobilizes more troops for Ukraine, says West wants to destroy Russia

09.21.22

Putin mobilizes more troops for Ukraine, says West wants to destroy Russia
Russian President says mobilization meant to 'defend homeland and its territories',
accuses West of engaging in 'nuclear blackmail' but Russia has 'lots of weapons to reply'
Reuters| Published: 09.21.22, 09:50

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday announced a partial military mobilization, as Russian forces battle a Ukrainian counter-offensive that has regained some occupied territory.

In a televised address, Putin said the partial mobilization of its 2 million-strong military reserves was to defend Russia and its territories, claiming the West wants to destroy Russia and did not want peace in Ukraine.

"To protect the homeland, its sovereignty, I consider it necessary to support the decision of the General Staff on partial mobilization," he said.

Putin restated his aim was to "liberate" east Ukraine's Donbas industrial heartland region and that most people in the region did not want to return to what he called the "yoke" of Ukraine.

Putin said the West had engaged in nuclear blackmail, but Russia had "lots of weapons to reply" and that he was not bluffing.

Russia already considers Luhansk and Donetsk, which together make up the Donbas region Moscow partially occupied in 2014, to be independent states. Ukraine and the West consider all parts of Ukraine held by Russian forces to be illegally occupied.

Russia now holds about 60% of Donetsk and had captured nearly all of Luhansk by July after slow advances during months of intense fighting.

Those gains are now under threat after Russian forces were driven from neighboring Kharkiv province this month, losing control of their main supply lines for much of the Donetsk and Luhansk front lines.

In an apparently coordinated move, pro-Russian figures on Tuesday announced referenda for Sept. 23-27 in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces, representing around 15% of Ukrainian territory, or an area about the size of Hungary.

09.20.22

Israel population near 10 million, 7,069,000 are Jews, 74% at end of 5782 in 2022

09.20.22

Israel's population nears 10 million, report

Central Bureau of **Statistic's annual report** released on eve of the Jewish New Year, shows population expected to reach 15 million by late 2048; finds 91.5%, of Jewish Israelis are **satisfied** with life compared to 70.7% among Arab citizens
Yaron Druckman| Published: **09.20.22**, 15:24

Israel's **population** reached **9,593,000 on the eve** of the Jewish holiday of **Rosh Hashanah** - and as the **year 5782** according to the Jewish calendar - **ends**, a report published on Tuesday says.

In its annual report, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) says that the country's population is on course to reach 10 million by the end of 2024, will be 15 million by late 2048, and 20 million by 2065.

The Israeli **population grew by 187,000** (about **2%**) over the past year. According to the CBS **7,069,000 residents** of the state are **Jews** (about **74%** of the population), **2,026,000 are Arabs** (about **21%**), and the rest are defined as other - i.e Christians who are not Arabs, other religions, and people without religious classification in the Interior Ministry.

Some **177,000 babies** were born in Israel this year, **49,000** people made **Aliyah - or immigrated**, and **2,000** Israelis **returned from living abroad**, according to the CBS records. Meanwhile, 53,000 Israelis passed away this year, some 4,400 of them due to COVID-19 complications. In addition, thousands left the country, some for a short periods of time, such as education.

An Israeli male's **life expectancy is 80.5 years**, while a female in Israel lives an average of **84.6 years**, one of the world's highest.

CBS data also shows that 45.3% of Jews in the country define themselves as secular, 19.2% consider themselves marginally observant, 13.9% are partially religious, 10.7% are religious and 10% are ultra-Orthodox.

Figures show that 89.3% of Israelis are satisfied with their lives. Among Jews that percentage has reached 91.5% , compared to 70.7% among Arabs. The report also found that 70.4% of Jews are satisfied with their economic situation, compared to 51.1% of Arabs.

The CBS said that **74% of Israelis live in cities**, **15% in local councils**, **10.4% in regional councils**, and the rest in communities without municipal status.

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Ynet-News, September 19, 2022 – Monday

08.23.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in August 25 spot – Thursday
08.23.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in September 29 spot – Thursday

Pope Francis instructs all entities to move all funds to Vatican bank by Sept 30

09.14.22 – We- - - News Placed in September 14 spot – Wednesday
Netanyahu presents final Likud list of candidates including former Bennett allies

09.15.22 – Th- - - News Placed in September 15 spot – Thursday
Vienna talks threaten military action if Iran deems UN diplomacy at a dead end

09.15.22 – Th- - - News Placed in September 16 spot – Friday
Parties submit Knesset 40 list slate for elections expecting reduced Arab voters

09.12.22 – Mo- - - News – Monday
MK Bezalel Smotrich argues Arab legislators like Ra'am party seek to destroy Israel

09.12.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in September 13 spot – Tuesday
US toughened stance on dishonest Iran thanks to Israel Mossad evidence

09.12.22 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Lapid presented chancellor Scholz intelligence & strategy on Iran nuclear program

09.12.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in September 12 spot – Monday
West Bank IDF in overnight raids arrest 12 PA in Jenin with weapons and explosives

09.11.22 – Su- - - News – Sunday
Two hours apart: Israeli sisters give birth in adjacent hospital rooms

09.10.22 – Sa- - - News Placed in September 10 spot – Saturday
Charles officially king of Britain and 14 other countries at royal ceremony

09.08.22 – Th- - - News Placed in September 08 spot – Thursday
Israeli leaders expressed their condolences & salute Queen Elizabeth II 70 year legacy