

Ynet-News, October 21, 2022 – Friday

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Taliban propaganda faction wants ties to Israel, our main enemy in the world

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Saudi Arabia hails Australia's decision on Jerusalem, frees 12 PA for Hamas

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Iran has up to 50 trainers in Crimea to assist Russians using kamikaze drones

10.20.22
Britain economy shockwaves lead PM Truss to resign when new leader is elected

10.20.22
UK's Truss says she will resign as PM
The prime minister says she will remain in her role until the conservative party elected a new leader, likely next week; most likely successors are Rishi Sunak rival who lost in the last race to lead the party, and Penny Mordaunt who came in third
Reuters| Published: 10.20.22, 16:39

Liz Truss said on Thursday she would resign as prime minister, brought down by her economic program that sent shockwaves through the markets and divided her Conservative Party just six weeks after she was appointed.

A leadership election will be completed within the next week to replace Truss, who is the shortest serving prime minister in Britain's history. George Canning previously held the record, serving 119 days in 1827, when he died.

Speaking outside the door of her Number 10 Downing Street office and residence, Truss accepted that she could not deliver the promises she made when she was running for Conservative leader, having lost the faith of her party.

"I recognize though, given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party. I have therefore spoken to His Majesty the King to notify him that I am resigning as leader of the Conservative Party," she said.

"This morning I met the chairman of the 1922 Committee, Sir Graham Brady. We've agreed that there will be a leadership election to be completed within the next week. This will ensure that we remain on a path to deliver our fiscal plans and maintain our country's economic stability and national security," she said.

"I will remain as prime minister until a successor has been chosen. Thank you," she said. Conservative lawmakers have increasingly called on Truss to step down after she was forced to junk most of her economic program which when delivered on Sept. 23 sent the pound and government bond markets tumbling.

She drafted in former health minister Jeremy Hunt as her new finance minister to try to reset her administration, but on Wednesday her lawmakers turned on each other and another senior minister resigned, leaving Truss's authority in tatters.

Conservative lawmakers say her most likely successors are either her leadership rival, former finance minister Rishi Sunak, or Penny Mordaunt, who came third in the race to become the next prime minister just six weeks ago.

The White House said in statement that the relations between the two countries will remain strong.

"Our country's always had a special relationship with the United Kingdom without regard to the partisan affiliation of our president or the politics of their prime minister. That's going to continue no matter who the UK picks... We're going to work very, very closely with whomever succeeds Prime Minister Truss," White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain said.

Russia's foreign ministry, welcomed the departure of British Prime Minister Liz Truss, saying she was a disgrace of a leader who would be remembered for her "catastrophic illiteracy".

"Britain has never known such a disgrace of a prime minister," Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

The claim of illiteracy appears to refer to Truss' visit to Moscow shortly before Russia invaded Ukraine while she was British foreign minister.

In a meeting with Russia's veteran foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, she appeared to confuse two regions of Russia with Ukraine, triggering mockery by the Russian diplomat and across talk shows on Russian state TV.

10.13.22

Arab summit in Algiers has 14 PA factions for elections, but doubts persist

10.13.22

Palestinian factions agree on elections to end dispute, but doubts persist
Agreement promises to speed up presidential and legislative elections in all of the Palestinian territories including Jerusalem to within a year, but many are skeptical after previous promises of Abbas potentially stepping down failed to materialize
Reuters| Published: 10.13.22, 22:00

Rival Palestinian factions meeting in Algiers for talks mediated by the Algerian government, agreed on Thursday to resolve 15 years of discord through elections that will be held within a year, Palestinian and Algerian officials said.

However, there was skepticism back home that they would deliver any concrete changes after previous such promises of elections failed to materialize.

The leaders of 14 factions, including President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement and the Islamist group Hamas, held two days of talks in the run-up to an Arab summit in Algiers next month.

Under the agreement, to be formally announced later on Thursday, the parties promised to "speed up the holding of presidential and legislative elections in all of the Palestinian territories including Jerusalem" to within a year, according to officials.

It also recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization, of which Abbas is the head, as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, calling for elections for its national council within a year.

Political splits since 2007 have weakened Palestinian aspirations to further their cause of statehood and have prevented presidential and parliamentary elections since ballots were last cast in 2005 and 2006.

Hamas' legislative victory then laid the ground for the political rupture. The Islamist group, which opposes peace with Israel, seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2007 while Abbas' Western-backed Palestinian Authority stayed dominant in the West Bank.

In the Palestinian territories, people have been following the talks in Algeria with little optimism that an agreement will deliver change, and sources familiar with the talks said delegations had failed to agree on forming a unity government.

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune wants to use next month's Arab League summit - the first since before the COVID-19 pandemic - to cement his country's place as a regional heavyweight. It has held talks for months with Palestinian factions to pave the way for a deal.

Renewed demand for Algerian oil and gas, and the end of mass street protests that rocked the country from 2019-20, have bolstered its confidence on the international stage.

However, its ongoing dispute with neighboring Morocco, which has erupted into both countries' relations with major European states, has overshadowed the run-up to the summit.

10.18.22

Taliban propaganda faction wants ties to Israel, our main enemy in the world

10.18.22

Taliban faction open to ties with Israel, Afghan source says

Hundreds of Islamist group's members, including top officials, are 'interested in establishing confidential relations' with Jerusalem in hopes of eventually achieving bilateral agreement

i24NEWS| Published: 10.18.22, 23:26

Afghanistan's Taliban – one of the world's most austere Islamist regimes – may be reconsidering its stance toward the State of Israel, i24NEWS reported Tuesday, citing an Afghan source.

A former Afghan official living in Kabul, and involved in discussions with decision-makers and ministers from within the Taliban government, spoke to i24NEWS on condition of anonymity to ensure his safety to speak freely on how he sees the future of relations between Afghanistan and Israel.

"In the preliminary stages, they are interested in establishing confidential relations with the intension to see these negotiations bear fruit in years or even a decade," the source said. However, the final goal of this effort from within the Taliban is to reach a bilateral agreement between Israel and Afghanistan.

The source stressed that this policy does not represent an official direction from the Taliban government, but is rather an opinion held by individuals within the group.

The Taliban took over Afghanistan in the summer of 2021, marking the end of the nearly 20-year war that started when a U.S.-led military coalition launched an invasion of the country.

The faction that supports this policy direction numbers around 200 individuals at various levels of the Islamist group, including top officials.

"They want to empower and sustain their regime. Therefore, they need to form strong relations with superpowers in the region, and they see Israel as a strong influencer."

Israel is powerful and influential within the Middle East and the wider world, and on the global economic stage, the source continued, admitting that he is in contact with an Israeli activist.

In response to questions about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the source referred to the Abraham Accords signed in recent years between Sunni-Muslim states and Israel, backed by the United States.

"Some Muslim countries made ties with Israel because it is in their national interest, and we also have our own national interest," he noted.

Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Sudan are parties to the Abraham Accords normalizing relations with Israel.

i24NEWS reached out to Israel's Foreign Ministry for its stance on establishing relations with Afghanistan's Taliban government but did not receive a response in time for publication.

A month prior to the interview, Dr. Muhammad Naeem, the spokesperson for the Political Office of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, was asked by Al Jazeera if the Taliban ruled out establishing relations with Israel.

"What problem do we have with Israel? Next thing someone will ask whether we are willing to have a dialogue with Mars," was his response.

Just over a year ago in September 2021, Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's spokesperson, told Russian media outlet Sputnik that the Taliban sought ties with the U.S. and other nations of the world, but ruled out diplomatic relations with Israel.

Since then, however, Mujahid seemed to have softened his rhetoric.

"In the last... 50 years, Arabs and Iranians have intoxicated our peoples' minds against Israel with propaganda that Israel is our main enemy in the world... nobody can dare to speak about Israel and any partnership for fear that it will cost their life, their social standing or political career," he said.

10.20.22

Israeli soldier arrested in West Bank as IDF fails to deescalate PA tensions

10.20.22

Israeli soldier arrested in West Bank settler attack on IDF troops

Suspect shared countless social media posts by prominent right-wing figures; settler leaders claim arrest part of orchestrated IDF campaign to deflect blame for failure to deescalate rising tensions with Palestinians

Yoav Zitun, Elisha Ben Kimon | Published: 10.20.22, 13:20

Israeli security forces on Thursday arrested a 20-year-old IDF soldier from the northern West Bank on suspicion he was involved in a pepper spray attack on fellow troops as they tried to disperse Jewish settlers who rioted in a Palestinian town overnight.

The riot took place near Huwara, a Palestinian town in the northern West Bank near the city of Nablus, where a group of masked rioters threw stones at Palestinian shops and vehicles.

The Jewish settlers protested against near-daily stone-throwing and shooting incidents by local Palestinians. Protest organizers openly stated that each such event will result in a protest in Huwara.

A paratrooper battalion commander and another soldier were slightly injured by pepper spray in the incident. Two other IDF soldiers were pepper sprayed at a nearby junction. Israel Police said the suspect tried to flee by car and was ultimately arrested at the end of an extensive search.

The suspect's name was not allowed to be published because he was not brought before a judge and his remand was yet to be extended.

The suspect has shared on his Facebook page countless posts by prominent right-wing figures, including far-right MK Itamar Ben Gvir and ultranationalist rapper The Shadow, including posts slamming the sitting government and Arab lawmakers and others supporting IDF troops.

The **attack** was widely **condemned** by lawmakers from all across the political spectrum, **including** by opposition leader Benjamin **Netanyahu** and **Ben Gvir** himself who placed the **blame** for the incident on Defense Minister **Benny Gantz** and the **IDF Spokesperson's Unit**, claiming they **tried to conceal any Palestinian involvement**.

Some **settler leaders claimed** the arrest was part of an **orchestrated campaign by the IDF to deflect blame** for its failure to deescalate **rising tensions with Palestinians** in the area. Security officials warned of such events in recent days and argued that instead of engaging in maintaining the security of Israeli residents, the **forces had to deal with violent incidents perpetrated by Jews**.

10.19.22

Kyiv furious after Gantz insists Israel will not provide arms to Ukraine

10.19.22

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Kyiv officials slam defense chief for aid package featuring smart missile alert system, saying requested such system months before Russian invasion; **Gantz to speak to Ukrainian counterpart on Thursday**

Itamar Eichner | Published: **10.19.22**, 20:37

Senior **Ukrainian officials** harshly **criticized** Defense Minister **Benny Gantz** on Wednesday **following** his **statement that Israel will** continue to **refrain** from **supplying weapons** to the Eastern European country in its protracted war with Russia.

Speaking to EU ambassadors earlier Wednesday, **Gantz presented** a fresh **humanitarian aid package for Ukraine** that would **include** the construction of a **smart missile defense alert system** similar to the one that exists in Israel.

“We'll continue to support and stand by Ukraine, NATO and the West, but **we won't send weapons to Kyiv**,” he said.

“We send humanitarian aid to Ukraine and provide lifesaving and defensive systems. We will continue to support Ukraine within our limits as we have done so far.

We called on Ukraine to give us information that would allow us to help build and provide a smart alert system against aerial and other threats. This system will have advantages in saving civilian lives and concentrating the alerts and sirens in relevant areas.”

Kyiv officials dismissed the package as “too little, too late.”

"The Ukrainian delegation that visited Israel last December, even before the outbreak of the war, raised a request for such an alert system," said the officials in Kyiv.

"But to say it now, it seems like a joke that a person asks for a piece of bread and someone offers you a spoon. Unfortunately, this is Gantz's traditional position. We await the Ukrainian foreign minister's call with Prime Minister Yair Lapid and hope for good news from there," they added, referring to a phone call between Kyiv's top diplomat Dymtro Kuleba and the Israeli premier scheduled for Thursday.

The call will be held following an official note that Ukraine sent to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, containing an explicit request to receive Israeli air defense systems as soon as possible.

Gantz's office said on Wednesday that he will hold a call with his Ukrainian counterpart, Oleksiy Reznikov, on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the parliament in Kyiv on Wednesday also called on Israel to supply Ukraine with weapons.

The legislature also called on the government of Ukraine to sever diplomatic relations with Iran for what it dubbed "the Islamic Republic's support for aggression against the country" as Kyiv claims Tehran has provided Moscow with suicide drones that were used against Ukrainian cities.

10.19.22

Saudi Arabia hails Australia's decision on Jerusalem, frees 12 PA for Hamas

10.19.22

Saudi Arabia hails Australia's decision on Jerusalem, frees senior Hamas official
Member of the Hamas political bureau confirms release of Mohammad Al-Khodary after he was detained in 2019 along with dozens of others; meanwhile, Saudi FM praises Australian reversal of recognition of Jerusalem as Israeli capital
Reuters, Ynet| Published: 10.19.22, 14:34

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday released a senior official of the Hamas terror group after over three years in detention, and praised Australia's decision to reverse its recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Ezzat El-Reshiq, a member of the Hamas political bureau, said in a statement the official, Mohammad Al-Khodary, 83, whom Saudi authorities detained in 2019 along with dozens of others, was on board a plane heading to Jordan.

"I spoke to him and he is in good spirit. He hopes and he prays that the rest of his detained brothers be freed," said Reshiq.

There was no immediate reply from Saudi officials on a request for comment.

Hamas was formed in the 1980s as an offshoot of the pan-Arab Muslim Brotherhood but has more recently stressed its basis as a Palestinian liberation movement, in part to defuse Egyptian enmity and draw support from wealthy Arab states.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt have cracked down against the Brotherhood, which they view as a threat to their systems of rule.

The detentions and some trials before Saudi courts of Khodary, Hamas's former envoy to the Kingdom, and others, on ground of their support for Hamas, caused further tensions in relations between the two sides. Reshiq hoped Khodary's release could lead to some improvement.

"We highly appreciate the decision by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia... We pray that the step is an introduction to opening a new chapter and seeing the release of the remaining prisoners," Reshiq added.

In the meantime, the Saudi Arabia Foreign Ministry released a statement earlier on Wednesday, praising Australia's decision to reverse its recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital despite fierce criticism by Israel.

"Saudi Arabia calls on the international community to increase efforts in search of a fair solution to the Palestinian issue, and establishment of a Palestinian state, with east Jerusalem as its capital, according to the Arab peace initiative," the statement read. It added: "Saudi Arabia will continue to support and stand by the Palestinian people."

10.19.22

Iran has up to 50 trainers in Crimea to assist Russians using kamikaze drones

10.19.22

Iran's Revolutionary Guard in Ukraine train Russians on drones, reports say
Iranians said to be on a Russian base in Crimea where the drones are stored; U.S., UK and France plan to raise the issue of Iranian drones at a closed-door UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday

i24NEWS, Ynet | Published: 10.19.22, 08:28

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) is in Ukraine to help Russia use its drones, according to media reports late Tuesday.

Iranian trainers are currently in the Crimean peninsula, The New York Times reported, citing security sources briefed on the matter, despite Iran denying its drones are being used by Russian forces.

The Daily Mirror, which first reported on the IRGC presence, said up to 50 trainers have entered the country. The British tabloid said the Iranian teams are being "hunted down," according to a Ukrainian military official

On Monday, reported Iranian-made Shahed drones killed at least six as the aircraft targeted civilian areas and infrastructure in Kyiv and eastern Ukraine.

The “kamikaze” drones carry an explosive payload that blows up on impact, and have a range of more than 1,000 miles.

Reports last week said that Israel is providing Ukraine intelligence on Iranian-made drones.

The U.S., UK and France plan to raise the issue of Iranian drones at a closed-door UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday.

“The very fact of Russia's appeal to Iran for such assistance is the Kremlin's recognition of its military and political bankruptcy,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said. “It only further proves to the world that Russia is on the path of defeat and is trying to draw someone else into its accomplices in terror,” Zelensky added.

Reuters on Tuesday said that Iran has promised to deliver surface-to-surface missiles and more drones to Russia. Reprinted with permission from i24NEWS.

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Ynet-News, October 18, 2022 – Tuesday

October 17 – Sunday FOW -07
October 09 – Sunday Feast of Weeks -01
October 08 – Saturday FOW preparation
October 06 – Thursday tradition Atonement
October 05 – Wednesday tradition Fast
October 04 – Tuesday Atonement
October 03 – Monday Fast

10.17.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in October 17 spot – Monday
Australia scrubbed government webpage of West Jerusalem as capital of Israel

10.18.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in October 18 spot – Tuesday
Netanyahu associates refuse photo op with MK Ben-Gvir during Sukkot event

10.16.22 – Su- - - News Placed in October 16 spot – Sunday
Israel is 5th-most educated country by Erudera report; OECD placed Israel 3rd

10.13.22 – Th- - - News Placed in October 14 spot – Friday FOW -05
Abbas with Putin summit in Kazakhstan, rule out US role as mediator

10.13.22 – Th- - - News Placed in October 13 spot – Thursday FOW -05
Israel reservists alert as mass riots in east Jerusalem from PA 'day of rage'

10.12.22 – We- - - News Placed in October 12 spot – Wednesday FOW -04
Israeli ministers give preliminary approval for Lebanon maritime border deal

10.09.22 – Su- - - News Placed in October 11 spot – Tuesday Feast of Weeks -01
Egypt & PA work to develop Gaza coast gas field, beginning early 2024

10.06.22 – Th- - - News Placed in October 10 spot – Monday tradition Atonement
 Hamas delegation to visit Syria this month aiming to revive ties, sources say

10.05.22 – We- - - News Placed in October 07 spot – Friday tradition Fast
 Netanyahu hospitalized after falling ill during Yom Kippur service