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12.02.22
Gantz warns world to action; Iran can produce nuclear bomb within two weeks

12.02.22
Gantz says Iran can produce nuclear bomb within two weeks
Outgoing defense minister tells 30 military attachés Iran carried out 16 attacks on civilian targets in recent years; says government condemns Russian attacks on Ukraine civilians and is advancing plans to deliver early warning systems to Kyiv
Yoav Zitun|14:49

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Thursday that if a decision is made in Tehran, Iran can be in possession of a nuclear bomb within two weeks.

Speaking to the military attachés of 30 countries, Gantz said Iran had carried out 16 attacks against civilian targets in the Red Sea and the Gulf, in recent years, he said called for the world to take action.

"Just last month we saw a strike carried out on a civilian ship off the coast of Oman," Gantz said. "Iran is a threat to the entire world and not just a challenge for Israel," he said.

The outgoing minister thanked the representatives of the international community for their cooperation in advancing defense cooperation as well as defense industry deals. "We've taken steps to bolster the Palestinian Authority," he said. "We can see the problems the PA has in exerting its authority and will take extensive action against terror gangs that not only target Israelis, but also harm Palestinian residents," Gantz told the diplomats.

He added that Israel was advancing plans to supply Ukraine with early warning systems in their fight against the Russian invasion and repeated the government's position that condemns Russian attacks on the civilian population.

12.01.22

Smotrich over West Bank settlements & judicial reforms in rotation with immigration

12.01.22

Netanyahu's Likud signs coalition deal with Religious Zionism Party

Pro-settler party head Bezalel Smotrich to have control over West Bank settlements and a number of key government ministries; says deal is historic step towards Jewish, Zionist government. Moran Azulay, Agencies|12:35

Israel's Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday reached a long-awaited coalition deal with Religious Zionist Party head Bezalel Smotrich.

Netanyahu's Likud Party said Religious Zionism would have control over the Finance Ministry in rotation with the Shas Party, The immigration and absorption Ministry, and head a new "National Missions Ministry." but details on the rotation were not specified.

A member of Religious Zionism would hold a special ministerial level position in the Defense Ministry in charge of West Bank settlement construction, which the Likud said would be in coordination with Netanyahu.

That minister will have full authority over land disputes in illegal outposts, without having to answer to the defense minister which had authority over the military as well as civilian matters in the territories, since the 1967 Six Day War.

The party will also be given **chairmanship over** the new **Knesset Constitution**, Law and Justice committee which will take on responsibility for services to the religious community and will head a newly established **Reforms** Committee which **will legislate changes in Israel's judicial system**.

"This is an **additional significant step** that brings us **closer to** securing a **right-wing** national government that will look after all Israeli citizens," Netanyahu said after the deal was signed. "I thank the Religious Zionism head for his cooperation, and I am convinced that we will work together for the sake of the Israeli nation," he said.

Smotrich also commemorated the "historic step towards securing a Jewish, Zionist, and nationalistic government." He said that he intends **to "bring back security and governance, promote historic reforms in the judicial system, regulate and develop the settlements, and strengthen the Jewish identity."**

Smotrich also thanked Netanyahu for his loyalty, and promised that **"together we'll do a lot of good to the state of Israel."**

12.01.22

Maoz signed coalition as deputy minister, vows to cancel abominable parades

12.01.22

Netanyahu coalition partner vows to cancel Jerusalem's 'abominable' LGBT parade

Radical right wing Avi Maoz, destined **to be deputy minister** in PMO, says will not hide his **intent to end the 'abomination'** Prime Minister-designate rebuffs statement claiming government will not harm LGBTQ community

Moran Azulai, Gilad Cohen|10:56

Leader of the **far-right Noam party**, **Avi Maoz**, who **will be a member** of the incoming government of Benjamin Netanyahu, said in an interview **published** on Thursday, that he **will not allow the Gay Pride parade to take place in Jerusalem.**

Maoz signed an agreement to join the **coalition as deputy minister** in the Prime Minister's Office with responsibility over **immigration** from Russia, non-governmental **education** programs and **foreign NGOs.**

He **will head the Jewish National Identity** program with an initial budget of NIS 100 million for the first year, and a further NIS 50 million, in the year following.

"This is **a disgrace**," Maoz said of the parade. "I did not raise the matter in my coalition negotiations **but I do not hide my views**," he said.

In the interview, **Maoz** said he believes he is **expressing the opinions of many.** "These parades are an **offence to the sanctity of Jerusalem** and to the public sphere. You can protest if you want to, but not hold **an abominable parade in the public spaces** of the Jewish state. I feel like I'm expressing the opinion of most people living in Israel."

Benjamin Netanyahu was quick to release a response to the Maoz interview. "The Gay Pride parade will take place in Jerusalem as it had in the past.

The radical Maoz had been outspoken about his views in the past, when he served as director general in the Housing Ministry, in the last Netanyahu government.

"We grew up in a family unit, a very simple concept," Maoz said. "A decade go, if you would ask any child what a family was, he would tell you that it was a mother, father and children. We are in the midst of a cultural, spiritual war. Post modernism says that was the truth is now a lie," he said.

"When a man says I am not a man, I am a woman, and when a woman says she is a man, I say fine. So you say but to me that person is weird. There is truth and a lie, good and bad, a family and what is not a family," he said.

He went on to say that he is working against what he believes is threatening Israeli society, including the different concept of family. "I will fight this agenda," he said.

Maoz also talked about the role of women, in his view, claiming women's greatest contribution to Israel, is to marry and have children. "Don't go into the army," he told women.

He had also claimed the Education Ministry was teaching Israeli children "radical feminist perceptions," claiming the ministry was trying to change Hebrew by adjusting male, and female language.

At the Knesset earlier this week, Maoz asked the outgoing education minister if she did not understand what voters had said?

"Parents believe there is a separation between girls and boys on school trips, based on biology and not on how a child defines himself. How long will you hide what you are doing to kids, from their parent?" he asked.

"My government will not harm the LGBTQ community, or any rights of Israeli citizens," Netanyahu said in a statement, after the Maoz interview became public, causing outrage among some.

"We will work with mutual concern for the benefit of all citizens, to improve our lives. That is our mission," Netanyahu said.

This was not the first time that the incoming prime minister contradicted members of his emerging coalition.

In an interview to Bari Weiss on Common Sense on Wednesday, Netanyahu that the overriding policy of the government will be determined by his Likud party, "and frankly, by me," he said.

"Israel is not going to be governed by Talmudic law. We're not going to ban LGBT forums. As you know, my view on that is sharply different [from his coalition partners,] to put it mildly. We're going to remain a country of laws. I govern through the principles that I believe in," he said in response to a question about his far-right partners.

11.29.22

Ben-Gvir squabbles with IDF ethics & policy; Herzog wants no politics in IDF

11.29.22

Ben-Gvir squabbles with IDF chief Kochavi about ethics

Far-right lawmaker's antics draw apparent criticism from chief of staff, who said IDF will not 'allow intervention by any politician in commanders' decisions'; Ben-Gvir criticized punishment for soldier who harassed leftist activists

Reuters , Ynet|05:29

An Israeli far-right politician set to take a key security post in Benjamin Netanyahu's emerging government traded barbs on Wednesday with the military chief over the jailing of a soldier who had taunted leftist activists in the West Bank.

Far-right Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power) leader Itamar Ben-Gvir criticized the 10-day confinement handed down to a soldier who was filmed on Friday warning pro-Palestinian activists in the flashpoint city of Hebron: "Ben-Gvir will sort this place out."

Ben-Gvir, to whom Netanyahu has promised the post of national security minister, with expanded powers over police in the West Bank, said on Twitter on Tuesday that the sentence was too harsh and weakened soldiers' resolve.

He also appeared in a video together with the soldier's father, demanding that the army review the punishment and drawing apparent criticism from Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi. "We will not allow intervention by any politician, left or right, in commanders' decisions, nor use of the military to promote a political agenda," Kohavi told the soldier's battalion and brigade commanders in a telephone call, the military said on Twitter.

In his turn, Ben-Gvir, also on Twitter, accused Kohavi of making inappropriate political statements and said he had no intention of intervening in the commanders' punitive measures but demanded a change in policy.

The criticism drew rebuke from Israeli leaders. President Isaac Herzog at a memorial service said moral debates were important but that "We must not drag the IDF into the political field."

Netanyahu called on Twitter for Israel's conscript military to be "left out of any political argument".

The ascent of Ben-Gvir, a West Bank settler whose record includes 2007 convictions for incitement against Arabs and support for a Jewish militant group on the Israeli and U.S. terrorist watchlists, has stirred concern at home and abroad.

Ben-Gvir, a lawyer, says his positions have become more moderate. They include expulsion for those he deems terrorists or traitors - rather than all Arabs - and looser open-fire regulations for troops facing Palestinian unrest.

11.29.22

Netanyahu to ask Herzog for 2-week extension for details and appointments

11.29.22

Netanyahu to ask Herzog for extension to form government, report says

As deadline of December 11 looms, Herzog is authorized to give the prime minister-designate 14 additional days to finalize coalition deals - extension which is possible under law

i24NEWS|01:23

Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu is set to ask President Isaac Herzog for an extension to form a government, local media reported on Wednesday.

While Netanyahu has until December 11 to form a coalition government, he is still in talks with some of his partner parties, including leader of far-right Religious Zionism Bezalet Smotrich. Herzog is authorized to give the prime minister-designate an extension of 14 days.

According to the report, Netanyahu will use this period to work out the details of the coalition deals with the future ministers.

He is also seeking to give Israel's parliament, the Knesset, more time to approve a law that would allow the leader of Shas party Aryeh Deri, who has a criminal conviction for tax offense, to take a ministerial position.

Deri is set to become Israel's next interior minister. Meanwhile, Smotrich, who aimed to take the defense minister position, is likely to agree to head the Finance Ministry.

The coalition talks between him and Netanyahu are still underway despite Likud and Religious Zionist Party announcing on Tuesday that they are on the verge of sealing the agreement. Reprinted with permission from i24NEWS.

11.28.22

Ben-Gvir protests punishment of soldiers; reexamine troop reactions to anarchists

11.28.22

Ben-Gvir protests punishment of Israeli soldiers

'Our job is to support our fighters. I call on the army to think again... This is a very bad message,' says lawmaker after soldier sentenced to 10 days in military prison for taunting activists

i24NEWS|Yesterday | 14:56

Far-right lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir on Tuesday criticized a decision by Israel's army to sentence a soldier who taunted an activist in the West Bank city of Hebron last week to 10 days in military prison.

On Friday, the soldier was taped confronting an activist and boasting about Ben-Gvir – who is expected to become the Jewish state’s next national security minister.

"Ben-Gvir is going to sort things out in this place," the Givati Brigade soldier said.

"That’s it, you guys have lost... the fun is over."

"Everything you do is illegal. I am the law," the soldier added before ordering the activist to step back.

Another soldier from the same unit was also seen tackling and punching an activist. He was immediately suspended from his service after the incident, and the assaulted activist was placed under house arrest.

The following day, Ben-Gvir insinuated that the activists probably provoked the soldiers, prompting their forceful reaction: "I know these leftists who come to Hebron well. They provoke the soldiers, insult them, and often attack them as well."

In response to the prison sentence, Ben-Gvir took to Twitter to condemn the "incorrect" decision and called on the Israeli army to rethink it.

"It cannot be that anarchists curse, spit, and attack our heroic soldiers," he said. "The warriors respond to these attacks. You can take them aside and reexamine their reaction. But send them to prison for ten days? It is unreasonable, disproportionate, and simply incorrect."

"Our job is to support our fighters. I call on the army to rethink this punishment. This is a very bad message," the firebrand politician urged.

Friday's incident was the third in recent weeks involving troops from the Givati Brigade in Hebron. Last week, an Israeli soldier was suspended for insulting a Breaking the Silence activist. Three other soldiers from the brigade were also suspended last month for allegedly assaulting a Palestinian.

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11.28.22

Zionist party progress toward coalition, voice opposition to women in IDF combat

11.28.22

Members of incoming hardline government voice opposition to women in IDF
Religious Zionist party's Simcha Rotman says women's service 'does not serve [military's] operational needs', joining similar past remarks by right-wing bloc allies
Nina Fox|Yesterday | 10:21

Members of Benjamin Netanyahu's prospective government are upping the rhetoric against the integration of women into combat units in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

MK Simcha Rotman of the ultra-conservative Religious Zionist party was the latest lawmaker to voice his opposition to female soldiers filling combat roles, saying their service "does not serve operational needs."

“We are fooling ourselves. Equality in [military] service causes damage and lowers combat fitness standards,” he said during an Israel Democracy Institute conference. “The considerations are everything but operational needs.”

Rotman also decried mixed-gender combat units, saying “mixing women fighters harms the IDF, the women and the men who serve there.”

The leader of Rotman’s party Bezalet Smotrich also made similar remarks in 2019, claiming that men and women serving together “harms the operational efficiency of the IDF, its competence and its ability to fulfill its tasks.”

Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu, who was also prime minister back then, said in response he was proud of female soldiers and that “women’s service in the IDF does not harm Israel’s security, it contributes to Israel’s security.

Avi Maoz, the head of the far-right homophobic Noam party that signed a coalition agreement with Netanyahu’s Likud party on Sunday, has also spoken out in the past against women serving in the military, saying “the greatest contribution to the country is for the women to marry, God willing, and raise a healthy family” and added that women should consider alternative voluntary national service instead.

Meanwhile, talks to form Israel’s next government are ongoing as the Religious Zionist party and Likud announced Tuesday morning they have made major progress toward the signing of a coalition agreement.

11.29.22

Lapid urges world leaders to prevent UN court rule on Israel-PA matters

11.29.22

Lapid urges world leaders to prevent ICJ opinion on Israel's 'occupation'

In a letter, Lapid asks more than 50 heads of state to pressure Palestinians to prevent it from promoting the resolution at General Assembly; 'This resolution is a concerted effort to delegitimize our very existence,' Lapid writes
Reuters|07:33

Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Tuesday urged world leaders to block a Palestinian bid at the United Nations for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on Israel's alleged occupation, the Prime Minister's Office said.

In a letter, Lapid asked more than 50 heads of state, including those of the UK and France, to pressure the Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited rule in the West Bank, and prevent it from promoting the resolution at the General Assembly.

The resolution, approved by a U.N. committee in early November, asks that the ICJ to "urgently" weigh in on Israel's "prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory", which it said were violating the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem - areas that Palestinians want for a state - in a 1967 Middle East war.

"This resolution is the outcome of a concerted effort to single out Israel, to discredit our legitimate security concerns, and to delegitimize our very existence," Lapid wrote in a copy of the letter shared with the press.

The status of disputed territory should be subject to direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Lapid said, adding that bringing the matter before the ICJ "will only play into the hands of extremists".

U.S.-sponsored negotiations stalled in 2014 and senior members of Israel's likely incoming coalition government have opposed Palestinian statehood.

11.29.22

Female soldier seriously wounded in West Bank car ramming; terrorist killed

11.29.22

Israeli female soldier seriously wounded in car ramming attack in West Bank

After ramming vehicle into soldier, the terrorist was shot dead by police officers on a busy street; suspected terrorist is said to have held an Israeli work permit and was employed at Rami Levy supermarket branch

Elisha Ben Kimon 03:42

An Israeli female soldier was severely wounded in a car ramming attack in the West Bank on Tuesday, the military confirmed.

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit said soldier was run over near the settlement of Kokhav Ya'akov. The terrorist fled the scene, but was eventually shot and killed by Israeli forces after a short manhunt. The forces are sweeping the area for additional suspects.

The suspected terrorist was named as Rani Mamoun Faiz Abu Ali, 45, a father of five children from the Palestinian city of Beitunia near Ramallah.

He said to have held an Israeli work permit and was employed at Rami Levy supermarket branch at Sha'ar Binyamin industrial zone in the West Bank

According to a preliminary investigation, as troops began to chase after him, he reached an obstruction set up by the police.

The chase and neutralization of the terrorist who carried out the car ramming attack in the

He then exited the vehicle, and was shot by the officers in the middle of a busy road.

Medics treated the wounded soldier on site, before Magen David Adom emergency services transported her to the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

"We arrived quickly to the scene, the injured woman was laying on the street, close to a roundabout, while conscious and sustaining bruises on her head and upper body," said an MDA paramedic.

"We were told that a car hit her and fled. We quickly brought her on to the ambulance while giving her medical treatment that included stopping the bleeding and medication against the pain, and we evacuated her to an intensive care ambulance, that took her to the hospital in serious and stable condition."

11.28.22

Maoz, against reform, is Minister of Education, Jewish identity & Immigration

11.28.22

Leader of anti-LGBTQ party rejects critics of his policies after coalition deal

Representative of the radical Noam faction says he has come to serve all Israelis on the basis of his faith; claims issue of Pride Parade was not raised in coalition talks

Moran Azulay|07:20

The leader of a small ultranationalist faction leader known for homophobic rhetoric, which has earlier struck a deal to enter government, on Monday rejected criticism of his his anti-LGBTQ policies.

Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party announced Sunday that the agreement names Noam faction leader Avi Maoz as a deputy minister whose portfolio includes an office bolstering Jewish identity among Israelis.

A day after signing a coalition agreement, Avi Maoz responded to critics of his pending appointment to the post, with responsibility over education, Russian immigration and National Jewish identity.

Speaking to faction members in the Knesset, Maoz said: "I am aware of the criticism and the personal shaming, directed at me as well as the many messages of support I have received.

"My message to all the people of Israel is don't be confused, there is nothing to worry about. I am your brother and have come to serve all of the people of Israel, based on my faith and positions. I will continue to do so in a steadfast and sensitive manner," he said. "I love every person who was created in the image of God, and I did not demand that the gay parades be canceled. This matter did not come up in the negotiations."

The coalition agreement states that a new authority in charge of Jewish national identity will be established in the Prime Minister's Office, to be headed by Maoz who has opposed the service of women in the military, stating that Jewish women's role is to bear children and raise families.

"We work against what we think is a threat to society and the people of Israel. Therefore, I will fight the agenda of alternative families," Maoz once said in an interview.

"Women can contribute to society in many ways, but the most meaningful contribution to the nation is by marriage and with God's help raising a family."

He also vowed to work against reform Judaism, in order to allegedly preserve Israel's Jewish identity, and said the Law of Return had been used to allow non-Jews into the country.

Outgoing Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman, head of the Yisrael Beytenu party, supported by immigrants from the former Soviet Union, slammed the appointment of Maoz to head the organization that facilitates the immigration of Russian Jews to Israel, and his efforts to change the Law of Return.

"At this moment, there are 5,500 soldiers serving in the military, who are not considered Jewish by the religious establishment," Liberman said. "I believe they are more Jewish than all of the active service members from religious seminaries. I suppose Maoz would like to block them from being Israelis as well."

Netanyahu's Likud party has yet to finalize its coalition agreement with all its prospective allies and form a government.

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Ynet-News, November 28, 2022 – Friday

11.28.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in November 28 spot – Monday
IDF soldiers arrested for violent response to PA kidnap-murder of teen

11.28.22 – Mo- - - News Placed – Monday
Netanyahu coalition deals continue; delayed by right-wing coalition

11.27.22 – Su- - - News – Sunday
Ben-Gvir Army Radio interview, move cautious on far-right regulations

11.27.22 – Su- - - News Placed in November 27 spot – Sunday
UN refuses to scrap Pro-PA, anti-Israel exhibit from its New York headquarters

11.26.22 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
Jerusalem police uncovered planted explosive & removed object for investigation

11.25.22 – Fr- - - News – Friday
Ben-Gvir to be National Security Minister, expanded to West Bank, Negev & Galilee

11.24.22 – Th- - - News Placed in November 26 spot – Saturday
Be'er Sheva terror motivated PA car ramming of College student wearing IDF uniform