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1.12.23

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EU deliberates funding for PA as terror victim's family speaks out

Abigail Horgen pleads with members to stop killing, saying EU financial support being used to fund the murder of Jews; members visibly shaken say discussion important
Elisha Ben Kimon | 10:00

The European Parliament in Brussels held a special session on Wednesday to discuss the funding provided to the Palestinian Authority, much of which, Israel said, was used to finance monthly stipends convicted terrorists or their families.

The session began with a memorial service to honor Esther Horgen, a French-Israeli woman who was brutally murdered two years ago, near her home on the West Bank.

The ceremony was attended by Horgen's family and the head of the Samaria Regional Council of settlements Yossi Dagan and Israel's ambassador to the EU, Haim Regev. Dagan called for an immediate halt of the E.U.'s financial support to the PA. "Your money, the taxes collected from hundreds of millions of EU's citizens, was used to encourage the murder of Jews in the State of Israel," he said.

"The Palestinian Authority transfers half a billion shekels annually to terrorists in Israeli prisons. The more they had killed, the higher the reward, Dagan said. "The despicable terrorist Muhammad Mruh Kabha, who murdered Esther Horgan, receives from you, the European taxpayer, NIS 12,000 (\$3,490) per month, six times the average salary in the PA. So I ask you. Does it not pay to kill Jews? Look into the eyes of these orphans. And promise them that you will do everything to stop the madness," he said.

Horgen's daughter Abigail plead with the parliament to stop the cycle of killing. and her sister, Odelya said her mother had taught her that people are either motivated by love or by fear.

The latter, she said "would do nothing including murdering others. Don't fund these people - don't encourage them to resort to violence."

Binyamin Horgen, Esther's husband said he was aware that many in the EU parliament support the Palestinians. "But you must see reality for what it is. There are Israelis and Palestinians who work and live together, peacefully. However, some of the Palestinians do not. They are guided and supported by their leaders in the PA," he said.

European parliamentarians seemed shaken by the notion that they are funding terrorists' salaries.

"We want to express our solidarity with the people of Israel and we condemn in clear terms all forms of terrorism... I am shocked to hear that his murderer will receive, during his lifetime, some four million shekel, from the Palestinian Authority for committing this heinous crime," Dutch MEP, Bert-Jan Ruissen, said
" This is incredibly important, Tomáš Zdechovský, from the Czech Republic said. "We must not tolerate any terror."

1.12.23

Seven ex-top Israeli legal officials oppose Netanyahu's judicial reforms

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Former attorneys general who have served in the post throughout the last five decades sign a letter of protest, denouncing the proposed changes, and saying they will be 'destructive' to the country's legal system

Associated Press , Ynet|Updated:04:10

Former Israeli top legal officials spoke out Thursday against sweeping reforms to the country's justice system planned by the new Benjamin Netanyahu government, lending their voices to a growing outcry against the proposed overhaul.

Seven former attorneys general who have served in the post throughout the last five decades — including two appointed by Netanyahu, whose justice minister is spearheading the reforms — signed a letter of protest, along with four other former senior legal officials. The letter denounced the proposed changes, saying they are destructive to the country's legal system.

"We call on the government to withdraw the proposed plan and prevent serious harm to the justice system and the rule of law," the letter said.

The former officials said the reforms would turn the Supreme Court, often the last recourse for Israelis and Palestinians seeking to challenge what they see as discriminatory policies, into a "pseudo-political body that would be suspected of bending the law in favor of the government."

Israel's new government has made overhauling the country's legal system a centerpiece of its agenda. It wants to weaken the Supreme Court, allowing lawmakers to pass laws the court has struck down with a simple majority in parliament. Other reforms include politicizing the appointment of judges, reducing the independence of government legal advisors or ignoring their counsel.

The reforms could help Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption, evade conviction, or even make his trial disappear entirely. Since being indicted in 2019, Netanyahu has railed publicly against the justice system, calling it biased against him. He says the legal reforms will be carried out responsibly.

The reforms have prompted an uproar over what critics say is a major threat to the country's democratic fundamentals. The country's current attorney general has already fiercely criticized the reforms and a protest against them last week drew thousands. Alan Dershowitz, a staunch Israel defender, has also come out against the plan, saying that were he in Israel, he would be joining the demonstrations.

Critics accuse the government of declaring war against the legal system, saying the plan will upend Israel's system of checks and balances and undermine its democratic institutions by giving absolute power to the most right-wing coalition in the country's history. The government says the reforms are a necessary step to streamline governance and correct an imbalance that has granted the legal system too much sway. Supporters of Netanyahu's conservative Likud party held a demonstration outside the Tel Aviv home of former Supreme Court chief justice Aharon Barak after the ex-top litigator railed the proposed reforms, chanting "you're corrupt" and "you head a criminal organization."

In response, a counter-protest was held outside Justice Minister Yariv Levin's home in Modi'in, with demonstrators evoking the Nazis, a move that raised ire from more hard-line members of the government.

First published: 11:37, 01.12.23

1.12.23

Brazil's new leader Lula ousts Israel envoy appointed by predecessor Bolsonaro

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Brazil's new leader Lula ousts Israel envoy appointed by predecessor Bolsonaro
General Gerson Menandro's removal might indicate a shift in policy toward Israel by Latin American country's incoming left-wing government

Itamar Eichner|15:48

Brazil's Ambassador to Israel General Gerson Menandro Garcia de Freitas was booted from his post on Tuesday in one of the first moves by the Latin American country's newly minted president Luiz Inácio "Lula" da Silva since taking office.

Menandro was appointed by Lula's right-wing predecessor Jair Bolsonaro as a political appointee in early 2021, now his removal might indicate a shift in policy toward Israel.

During Bolsonaro's term, Brazil bucked its traditional voting patterns and supported Israel in international institutions, contrary to the traditional position of the country's foreign ministry.

New Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira stated upon the establishment of the new government that under Lula's left-wing government, which took office at the beginning of the month, Brazil "will cooperate with Arab countries, primarily Palestine." In addition, Brazil also removed its ambassador in Washington.

Bolsonaro appointed General Menandro in a bid to deepen military ties with Israel. He then also stated his intention to move the Brazilian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a move that did not materialize due to pressure from Arab countries. Brazil opened a trade office in the capital instead.

Shortly before leaving office, Israeli Foreign Ministry officials managed to convince Bolsonaro to pressure the Brazilian foreign ministry so that the country's representatives at the United Nations would not vote in favor of the Palestinians' proposal to receive an opinion from the International Court of Justice in The Hague regarding the "legality of the occupation." Brazil ended up abstaining.

In 2014, Brazil recalled its ambassador in protest of Israel's war with Gaza Strip terrorist factions. Then-Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff called Israel's action in Gaza "disproportionate".

The Israeli Foreign Ministry responded with choice words, accusing Brazil of "adopting a double standard" and "becoming part of the problem" while calling it "irrelevant in the political arena."

In 2016, Brasília refused to approve Israel's appointment of Danny Dayan as ambassador to the country because he resided in a settlement and was a former leader of a powerful settler lobby.

Earlier this week, supporters of former president Bolsonaro, refusing to accept his election defeat to Lula, broke into the Congress building in the capital, rioting and clashing with the security forces. They also stormed the Supreme Court and the Presidential Palace which are located within a short distance from Congress. Over 1,500 people were arrested for the unrest.

Bolsonaro is currently in Florida where he has been staying since December 30, two days before Lula's swearing-in.

Hours after the riots in Brasília, Bolsonaro issued a statement from Florida condemning the actions of his supporters in rather measured language while also comparing the events to rowdy protests by Lula's supporters over the last decade.

"Non-violent demonstrations are part of democracy, but acts of looting and invasion of public buildings like those that happened today, and like those carried out by leftists in 2013 and 2017, are a violation of the law," Bolsonaro wrote on Twitter.

In his tweet, Bolsonaro dismissed Lula's accusations that he was responsible for the riot, saying they were made "without any evidence".

1.12.23

Rancher attacked by Palestinian at West Bank settlement, assailant killed by passerby

1.12.23

Israeli moderately wounded in West Bank stabbing attack, assailant killed
Rancher attacked by Palestinian at a settlement in territory's south; attacker shot and killed by passerby; victim hospitalized for upper-body penetrating trauma
Einav Halabi, Elisha Ben Kimon|10:48

A stabbing attack in the south of Mount Hebron on Wednesday saw a 29-year-old man moderately wounded and the assailant shot and killed by Israeli security forces.

The attack was called in just before 17:00 local time, and upon arriving at the scene paramedics saw the stabbing victim on a ranch in the settlement of Shi'ma with stabbing wounds to his upper torso. He was given emergency care on-site and then evacuated to the Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva.

The paramedic who tended to the victim, Elyashiv Amati, said: "When we arrived we found the stabbing victim sitting upright, fully conscious, with blood pouring from his upper torso. We administered medical treatment to stop the bleeding and apply bandages, after which he was evacuated to the hospital. The assailant was neutralized." The ranch has several pastures in area C of the West Bank, where the victim lives with his family. Apparently, it was he who shot and killed the assailant, but details are still being discovered.

Earlier Wednesday, Palestinian security forces reported that Ahmed abu-Junayyed was killed in an armed clashes with Israeli forces in the Balata refugee camp on the eastern edge of Nablus.

1.11.23

Report: Iran building air defenses in Syria in wake of Israeli strikes

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Newsweek Magazine quotes unnamed intelligence from U.S.-allied country, saying project that may enable independent Iranian operations from within Syria, has been targeted seven times, killing air defense engineers

Ynet|Updated:05:56

Iran is building aerial defense capabilities in Syria to deal with Israeli airstrikes, which have been increasing in numbers, Newsweek Magazine reported on Tuesday.

The magazine quoted an unnamed intelligence sources from a country allied with the United States, who estimated the cost to Iran at millions of dollars.

The decision to promote such defenses was made after repeated strikes attributed to Israel, on Iranian assets in Syria since the Islamic Republic began its entrenchment efforts in that country, according to the report.

"The promotion of these capabilities is carried out as a project shared with the Syrian army and possibly even with the aim of enabling independent Iranian operation of the aerial defense systems from within parts of Syria," the source said. "In addition, the

Iranians assisted the Syrians in upgrading their radar array, designed to aid in detection and prevention of Israeli attacks—mainly against the Iranian establishment in Syria." According to the source Iran has transferred Sayyad (Hunter) 4B solid-propellant surface to air missiles, with a range of more than 186 miles, (300 kilometers) and a radar range of more than 280 miles (450 kilometers.)

The unnamed source named seven strikes over the past two years targeting the Iranian network, including in Palmyra and Tartus in October 2021, Latakia in December 2021, Damascus in March 2022, an additional strike in Tartus in July 2022, and two strikes in Homs in November and December of 2022.

The reports quotes the source saying that 10 Iranians had been killed by Israeli strikes over the past few years, including air defense engineers, whose deaths were confirmed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps which vowed revenge.

The source told Newsweek that IRGC Aerospace Force deputy commander Brigadier General Fereydoun Mohammadi Saghaei serves as commander of the air defense project. The magazine asked the Iranian mission to the UN for comment but were denied.
First published: 13:46, 01.11.23

1.11.23

Lapid & Gantz ignited the streets with insurrection; Ben-Gvir held back arrest

1.11.23

Ben-Gvir says disagrees with calls to arrest Israel's Opposition leaders
In interview, far-right minister says faction members react to incitement by Yair Lapid and Benny Gantz; denies instructing heavy hand from police against left-wing protesters
Ynet|00:59

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said Wednesday he does not support a call to arrest leaders of Israel's Opposition for "insurrection."

On Tuesday Tzvika Foghel, a member of Ben-Gvir's Otzma Yehudit faction, said the former Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Defense Minister Benny Gantz should be arrested. Ben-Gvir agreed, however, that Lapid and Gantz were igniting the streets and must act responsibly.

"Foghel heard them inciting against the government and calling for civil dissent, calling us Nazis. That is why he reacted the way he did," Ben-Gvir said.

The far-right minister said that contrary to reports, he did not instruct the police to use a heavy hand against anti-government demonstrators.

"This is another example of the demagoguery and unfair media conduct. I said there must be the same treatment of all demonstrators," he said. "I have demonstrated hundreds or thousands of times in my life, and support the maximum free expression, but under my leadership, there will be a different police response to farmers, ultra-Orthodox and settlers, to the treatment of protesters on the Left. The law is the law."

Although the police force was heavy handed in its response to anti-Netanyahu protesters in Jerusalem in recent years, Ben-Gvir claimed they were treated with kid gloves. He also said he did not instruct the force to use riot control measures. "That is a decision of the force," he said, but claimed police officers told him that not all demonstrations are treated the same.

1.11.23

All flight departures grounded in the US for 3 hrs Wednesday morning by FAA

1.11.23

FAA System Outage Grounds All Departures Nationwide

Spencer Brown, Charles Dharapak

January 11, 2023 8:45 AM

All domestic flight departures in the United States were grounded by the Federal Aviation Administration Wednesday morning following an overnight outage that took its Notice to Air Missions System out of service. It's also the latest in a chain of federal transportation issues that have plagued the Biden administration and DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Around 6:30 a.m. ET, the FAA announced that it was "working to restore " the system including "performing final validation checks and reloading the system" in efforts that led to "[o]perations across the National Airspace System" being affected. As in, no planes on the ground in the United States were allowed to take off.

A second update just before 7:00 a.m. ET from the FAA said that they were "still working to fully restore the Notice to Air Missions system following an outage" and that "some functions are beginning to come back on line" but "National Airspace System operations remain limited."

Then around 7:20 a.m. ET, the FAA announced that it had "ordered airlines to pause all domestic departures until 9 a.m. Eastern Time to allow the agency to validate the integrity of flight and safety information."

By 8:15 a.m., the FAA said it was "making progress" on restoring the vital system and allowing departures to resume at Newark Liberty International Airport and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport "due to air congestion in those areas." The FAA added that it expects departures at other airports to resume at 9:00 a.m. ET.

So, what went wrong and why were all domestic departures grounded for hours on Wednesday morning? And what's being done to prevent this from happening again to the NOTAM system or other critical FAA infrastructure?

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that President Biden had "been briefed by the Secretary of Transportation" and added there "is no evidence of a cyberattack at this point."

That's good news on one hand, but also means that if no outside actor maliciously took out the NOTAM system it was yet another failure by the federal transportation bureaucracy. The White House said Biden has directed Buttigieg's DOT to "conduct a full investigation into the causes" of the outage.

Americans stranded waiting on ramps and tarmacs across the country can take solace in the fact that Secretary Pete Buttigieg was "in touch" with the FAA about the situation:

1.10.23

Herzog dubs Netanyahu's judicial reforms 'violation' of Israel's 'moral compass'

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Herzog dubs Netanyahu's judicial reforms 'violation' of Israel's 'moral compass'

In response to criticism of long-lasting silence on the matter, the president says he is doing everything in his ability 'to bring about a respectful dialogue'; calls on 'elected officials and citizens of Israel to practice restraint, put out the flames'

Itamar Eichner, Moran Azulay|15:23

President Isaac Herzog on Tuesday spoke on the judicial reforms presented by Justice Minister Yariv Levin last week, expressing concerns that they could violate the "moral compass of the country."

"The values of the Israeli Declaration of Independence act as the moral compass of our country - I will not let them be harmed," Herzog said.

The president's remarks came after widespread criticism, which has recently been leveled at him on social media towards him over his remaining silent on recent controversial decisions by the new government.

"This is a sensitive time among the Israeli public. I hear the concerns being voiced from all directions, the cries, the worries and the fears," the president continued. "In recent days, I have been acting and holding discussions with many officials and doing everything in my ability to bring about a respectful dialogue, in hopes of reaching the broadest possible understandings.

"I turn to you, the elected officials and citizens of Israel from all ranges of the public and political spectrum – practice restraint and responsibility. We need to calm the spirits and put out the flames."

As part of Levin's reforms, the Israeli Bar Association would lose its representation in the Judicial Selection Committee, which appoints judges to Israeli courts, to two "public servants".

He also vowed to pass a law that would allow the legislature to override Supreme Court rulings, with a 61-vote majority in the 120-seat Knesset. Lastly, the justice minister previewed moves to forbid the court from using a test of “reasonableness” against which to judge government decisions, arguing “there is no such thing as reasonableness.” According to Levin's plan, the Supreme Court would mainly deal with settling disputes and criminal and civil appeals.

These reforms will be discussed in the Knesset on Wednesday at 10am. Herzog and Levin apparently held a long meeting last Thursday, one day after Levin presented his proposals. The President's Office declined to comment on the matter.

1.10.23

Man detained after attempting to drive into crowd of protesters

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Man detained after attempting to drive into crowd of protesters

Group demonstrating against government's policies say car stopped short of protesters as driver disembarks shouting slurs; 'I was genuinely frightened' says protester

Ilana Curie | 06:02

A 26-year old man is in police custody after he attempted to drive his car into a group of anti government protesters in Beer Sheva on Tuesday.

According to the protesters, the driver had two wheels already on the sidewalk where they were standing, when he was stopped.

He then emerged from his car shouting at the group calling them anarchists and Ashkenazis. Police officers who were witness to the event, detained the driver and took him away for questioning.

Dozens of supporters of former prime minister Yair Lapid's Yesh Atid party participated in the protest.

One of them said they believed the driver intended to ram into them and he had been genuinely frightened.

Since the establishment of the new government, protesters have come out against the policies announced including what is seen as an assault against the judicial system. In a meeting with senior police officers on Monday, newly appointed minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said he demands a strong hand against protesters who violate the law. It was later reported that he urged the force to use measures of crowd dispersal against left-wing demonstrators in Tel Aviv.

On Monday, a Jerusalem resident was arrested after former diaspora minister Elazar Stern reported that he received a call from an unidentified number with threats on his life.

"You are inciting against the government. If you persist, you will receive a grenade to your home," the caller said.

"This and other such incidents are proof of the real dangers of inciteful and violent rhetoric," Stern said. "I call on my friends from the coalition to lower the flames and condemn any violent expression," he said.

1.10.23

Netanyahu tells AIPAC the world now sees Iran as a repressive, terrorist regime

1.10.23

Netanyahu tells AIPAC the world now sees Iran for what it is

Prime minister speaks to lobby leadership telling them Israel and U.S. more aligned than ever on Islamic Republic, says intends to expand 'circle of peace' with nations in region
i24NEWS|00:40

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with executives and senior activists within the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, known by its acronym AIPAC, on Monday, primarily about the struggle with Iran.

Netanyahu said that people globally are now seeing the regime's internal repression of Iranian citizens, as well as the executions of those demonstrating for freedom.

Demonstrations are taking place in cities all over Iran, a continuation of more than three months of unrest in the country following the September 16 death of 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman Mahsa Amini who died in the custody of the so-called morality police. She was arrested for allegedly violating Iran's strict dress code for women.

"So now, because of the brave men and women of Iran, the entire world sees what we've been talking about, that this is a terrible, repressive, terrorist regime," Netanyahu said, according to a statement from his office, referring to the suppression of protests in the country.

"It's time to close ranks between Israel and the United States – and others. And I look forward to discussing this issue with President Biden and his team. I think there is more of a meeting of the minds today than there has ever been."

Netanyahu also thanked AIPAC - a pro-Israel lobbying group - for supporting the State of Israel and strengthening ties with the U.S.

Additionally, Netanyahu noted that he is working on expanding the "circle of peace," used to describe diplomacy between Israel and its Arab neighbors. According to a press release, the prime minister explained that he is "optimistic" because Arab leaders have changed their views regarding Israel and now see the Jewish state as a partner, not an enemy.

Story reprinted with the permission of i24NEWS

1.09.23

Israel vote in two weeks to revoke citizenship and residency of convicted terrorists

1.09.23

Israel to fast-track legislation revoking citizenship of convicted terrorists

Legislators say recently freed terrorist, who murdered an Israeli in 1980, should have citizenship revoked under new law; Arab MK asks why Jewish terrorists not treated the same

Sivan Hilaie|Yesterday | 10:16

A parliamentary committee voted Monday to expedite legislation to revoke the citizenship of Israeli nationals convicted of terrorism.

The Knesset Committee decided to shorten the waiting time before the bill can be tabled for a final vote, scraping the need to go through other committees. It is expected to come up for a vote in two weeks.

The current Israeli law allows to revoke citizenship from those convicted of terror, but replaces it with the right to reside in the country. The new law would see that right removed as well.

The expedited process was supported by members of the coalition and some in the opposition with a 10-2 majority, with lawmakers claiming that recently released Karim Younis, who murdered an IDF soldier in 1980, should be subject to the new law.

"The bare minimum we can do as a moral country is to revoke their citizenship and residency," said Religious Zionism legislator Simcha Rothman, who assisted in the drafting the bill. "The Palestinian Authority is trying to recruit terrorists from among Israeli citizens because it is easier for them to carry out terror attacks."

Hadash-Ta'al MK Ahmad Tibi and United Arab List's Walid al-Huashla, who oppose the proposed law, said it "only addresses Arab terror convicts and not Jews."

"I suggest you add, for example, revoking citizenship from the prime minister's murderer," Tibi said, referring to right-wing extremist Yigal Amir, who assassinated Yitzhak Rabin in 1995.

"Has anyone in the Knesset considered revoking the murderer's citizenship? Has anyone considered denying citizenship of Ami Popper who murdered and massacred seven Palestinian workers in 1990? You have the right to commit the worst crimes when you are Jewish," Tibi said.

1.09.23

Israel security minister Ben-Gvir bans any PLO terrorist flags flying in public

1.09.23

Israel's Ben-Gvir bans Palestinian flag-flying in public

National security minister directs Israel Police to enforce prohibition of flying any PLO flags he claims show identification with terrorist organization; new law does not disallow use

Associated Press|Yesterday | 04:01

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has ordered police to ban Palestinian flags from public places in the latest crackdown by the country's new hardline government.

Ben-Gvir's order follows a series of other punitive steps against the Palestinians since taking office late last month.

"Today I directed the Israel Police to enforce the prohibition of flying any PLO flag that shows identification with a terrorist organization from the public sphere and to stop any incitement against the State of Israel," Ben-Gvir announced on Twitter.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government has moved quickly against the Palestinians in retaliation for a Palestinian push for the U.N.'s highest judicial body to give its opinion on Israel's 55-year military occupation of the West Bank. It has withheld nearly \$40 million in Palestinian tax revenues and said it will transfer the money to victims of Palestinian militant attacks, stripped Palestinian officials of VIP privileges and even broke up a meeting of Palestinian parents discussing their children's education, claiming it was unlawfully funded by the Palestinian Authority.

The repeated moves have the potential to increase tensions after the deadliest year of the Israel-Palestinian conflict in nearly two decades, according to a report by the Israeli rights group B'Tselem.

Ben-Gvir's latest order is not the first battle over flying the Palestinian flag.

The red, green and white Palestinian flag carries great symbolism in the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Last May, Israeli riot police beat pallbearers at the funeral for slain Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, causing them to nearly drop the casket. Police ripped Palestinian flags out of people's hands and fired stun grenades to disperse the crowd. Israel once considered the Palestinian flag that of a militant group akin to the Palestinian Hamas or the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah. But after Israel and the Palestinians signed a series of interim peace agreements known as the Oslo Accords, the flag was recognized as that of the Palestinian Authority, which was created to administer Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

Israel opposes any official business being carried out by the PA in east Jerusalem, and police have in the past broken up events they alleged were linked to the PA.

Netanyahu told his Cabinet on Sunday the measures against the Palestinians were aimed at what he called "an extreme anti-Israel" step at the U.N.

Israel's Palestinian citizens make up 20% of the population and they've had a turbulent relationship with the state since its creation in 1948, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced to flee in the events surrounding the establishment of the state of Israel.

Those who remained became citizens, but have long been viewed with suspicion by some Israelis because of their ties to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

The Palestinians seek all three areas for a future independent state. Netanyahu's new government is dominated by hard-liners who oppose Palestinian statehood.

1.09.23

Israel need of 24,000 new teachers brings unqualified staff to class

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Israel's shortage of teachers brings unqualified staff to class

Knesset Research and Information Center report warns lack of adequately trained personnel set to increase, impacting learning; principals report cutting study hours, deferring subjects and hiring no better than 'babysitters'

Tamar Hadad Trabelsi | Yesterday | 03:34

A new report published Sunday revealed the ongoing shortage of teachers in Israel's education system was only due to increase, likely resulting in unqualified staff being recruited.

The Knesset Research and Information Center report said 58% of all school principals reported lacking skilled teachers, which ultimately negatively impacts students. Some 42% say they have reduced study hours, and 33% say they have suspended certain subjects, hoping to offer them to students in the following year.

"We are dealing with the shortage by trying to find creative ways to solve the problem, including hiring underqualified teachers, reducing study time or compromising on standards," Iris Doron, head of high-school principals' department in Israel Teachers Union, said.

A principal of a central Israeli high-school said she has had to hire unqualified teachers to teach English and civic studies. "I had no choice," she said. "In other subjects we reduced the number of hours in class so that at least some of the material is taught to students. I am aware of the consequences of my decision, but I had no option," she said.

Another principle said her colleagues complain about the problem daily. "They hire people who do not have training or a teacher's certificate just so that students are supervised by an adult," she said.

"This is the most basic form of babysitting, which is harmful to students," she said. "Principals are abandoned by the ministry. They are forced to fill the classrooms anyway they can. This increases violence among the kids who are missing out on learning or picking up bad learning habits. The education system cannot remain as it is, and claim to be educating."

The Central Bureau of Statistics found that by 2026, Israel will need 24,000 new teachers.

MK Ofer Cassif, who serves on the Knesset's Committee on Education, said the shortage of teachers is a result of a failed government policy. "Teachers and students have been neglected, their pay is low, as is their social status, and classes are overcrowded. Without a drastic change in pay for teachers and in policy, we will all pay the price."

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Ynet-News, January 07, 2023 – Saturday

1.06.23 – Fr- - - News – Friday
Responding to PA using World Court; PA tax money will compensate Israel victims

1.06.23 – Fr- - - News Placed in January 07 spot – Saturday
Israel slams absurd double standard for UN session on Ben-Gvir's Temple Mount visit

1.04.23 – We- - - News Placed in January 06 spot – Friday
Oman flips; criminalizes relations with Israel, to avoid Iran anger

1.04.23 – We- - - News Placed in January 05 spot – Thursday
Levin & PM intend Court ruling reform override to balance the three branches

1.04.23 – We- - - News Placed in January 04 spot – Wednesday
Jordan response to Ben-Gvir visit will become suicide bombers for Gaza

1.04.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday
Poll: 70% of secular Israelis worry about their future under new government

1.04.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday
India honors civic award to restaurant with authentic Indian cuisine in Israel

1.04.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday
UN Security Council to meet over Ben-Gvir's Temple Mount visit