Ynet-News, April 21, 2023 - Friday

4.21.23 – Su- - News Placed in April 22 spot – Saturday UN Humanitarian Affairs has no moral compass; refuse to recognize PA attacks

4.21.23 – Su- - News Placed in April 21 spot – Friday 14 former FM diplomats fear Israel's UN pick as a proud dose of reality to the media

4.20.23 – Sa- - News Placed in April 20 spot – Thursday PM picks May Golan as Consul General in US; enraging critics of judicial overhaul

4.19.23 – We- - - News Placed in April 19 spot – Wednesday Foreign Minister Cohen says Saudi Arabia could join Abraham Accords this year

4.19.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday PA terrorists sentenced to 30 years jail & fine for 2020 car ramming 12 soldiers

4.18.23 – Tu- - News Placed in April 18 spot – Tuesday US & UK sanction Hezbollah network of cash, diamonds, gems, art & luxury goods

4.17.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in April 17 spot – Monday PM & Herzog mark the 80th anniversary of Holocaust & ensure the victory of Israel

4.17.23 – Mo- - News Placed in April 15 spot – Saturday IDF foil Hezbollah, Iran Quds & PA smuggling weapons for West Bank terror

4.16.23 – Su- - - News – Sunday Top Secret Pentagon leak uncovers tense Russian-Iranian relationship

4.16.23 – Su- - - News Placed in April 16 spot – Sunday Pentagon leak suggests Israel training for Iran attack despite declining capability

<mark>4.21.23</mark>

UN Humanitarian Affairs has no moral compass; refuse to recognize PA attacks

<mark>4.21.23</mark>

UN refuses to recognize two killed in Palestinian attacks as terror victims The UN explains that despite the fact Irina Korolova and StaffSgt. Asil Sawaed were killed as a result of a terror attack, they aren't considered to be terror victims according to the UN's guidelines person Itamar Eichner|04:47

The UN recently refused to include the name of Irina Korolova and Staff Sgt. Asil Sawaed, who were killed in separate terror attacks, to the list of terror victims.

Korolova, a 60-year-old foreign worker from Ukraine, was killed in a shooting attack near a synagogue in Jerusalem back in January, won't be recognized by the UN due to her not being an official Israeli national.

Seven victims were killed in the harrowing terror attack, though in the UN's records, the names of only six of them are included. In addition, according to the U's definition, the attack occurred "in occupied Palestinian territory," therefore the victims are considered to be Jewish settlers.

Staff Sgt. Sawaed, an Israeli Border Police cop killed by friendly fire after being stabbed in a terrorist attack at a military checkpoint in East Jerusalem, also won't be recognized by the UN, the reason being that he was killed in a friendly fire incident, and not by his stab wounds.

As was previously reported by Ynet, the UN distorts data regarding the murder of Israeli citizens in terrorist attacks. For example, the UN doesn't include Shulamit Rachel Ovadia, who was killed last year in a terrorist attack in Holon, on the list of victims.

The decision was made by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which monitors international crises around the world and publishes a biweekly report with the names of people killed and injured in terrorist attacks, both Israelis and Palestinians.

While innocent Israelis aren't recognized in the report, the names of terrorists who confronted IDF troops can be seen there. Following the UN's refusal to alter the list, Israel informed OCHA personnel that their visas in the country would not be renewed.

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, and the "Btsalmo" organization wrote scalding letters to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, writing that "It's unacceptable for UN officials to ignore this fact and not take into account the full count of Israeli terror victims."

"Rachel Ovadia's only crime was being in the wrong place at the wrong time. It's enough that the shameful inquiry committee ignores Palestinian terror, and her colleagues openly express antisemitic comments without condemnation from UN officials."

"OCHA's unwillingness to quickly condemn and properly label these Palestinian acts as terrorism only encourages the terrorists to continue their actions. This behavior must stop immediately," the letter added.

"Btsalmo" head Shai Glick added, "The UN's antisemitism is soaring to new heights. To claim that an Israeli soldier wasn't killed in a terrorist attack because a security guard hit him is a severe blow to his grieving family and to all Israeli citizens.

"To dismiss the murder of an Israeli woman because she's a foreign resident is a serious violation of human rights. To say that a terror victim is a Jewish settler is an antisemitic statement. The UN has lost its moral compass."

<mark>4.21.23</mark>

14 former FM diplomats fear Israel's UN pick as a proud dose of reality to the media

<u>4.21.23</u>

U.S. condemns Likud pick for New York Consul General

Firebrand Likud minister May Golan's nomination for the role draws criticism from both U.S. government and the Jewish community, with some saying that she could further harm relations between the countries

Daniel Edelson/New York|04:45

The U.S. State Department's Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel commented Thursday during a White House press conference on the proposal made by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to appoint Likud minister May Golan as the Consul General of Israel in New York in place of Asaf Zamir, who resigned from the position in protest against the judicial reform.

Patel condemned Golan's past remarks, in which she said she's a "proud racist," and refuses to eat with African asylum seekers because she fears she'll contract AIDS. "We would condemn such kind of rhetoric and believe that such kind of language is also particularly damaging when it's amplified in leadership positions," Patel said.

Hours before Petal's comment on her possible appointment, Golan took to Twitter and wrote, "I am very flattetrd [sic] to be considered for the post of Israel's consul general in NY. I want to assure everyone that if I will be appointed, I will represent 100% the mainstream policies of PM Netanyahu and the Likud party to which I belong." "I am completely committed to the unity of the Jewish people, and that is the exact policy that I will follow," Golan added. "If appointed, I will work with the leaders of all the Jewish organizations - as part of the effort to strengthen the great partnership between Israel and the American Jewish communities."

In New York and its Jewish community, however, the winds of change regarding the possible new Israeli consul don't seem auspicious. Jewish leaders and diplomats raised concern that Golan's hawkish opinions may deteriorate relations between Israel and the U.S. even further.

Some in the city recalled the announcement of Dani Dayan as Israel's General Consul to New York back in 2016, who initially also wasn't liked among progressive Jewish leaders, but turned things around during his term and became one of New York's most lauded Consul General.

Union for Reform Judaism President Richard Jacobs, however, doesn't believe this could also be the case for Golan. "We need a considerate, diplomatic, ethically sound Consul

General. May Golan is neither of those. Her Zionism is opposed to those of many in our community. She would do more harm than good to Israel."

Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, said that should Golan's appointment go through, the U.S.'s Jewish community will see the act as a "sign of utmost disrespect."

Meanwhile, 14 former Israeli diplomats in the Foreign Ministry published a statement in which they condemn the possible appointment.

Some in New York, however, do support Golan. Morton Klein, president of the conservative Zionist Organization of America, congratulated Golan on her possible nomination and called her an "extraordinary Israeli patriot."

According to K lein, "She is exactly what's needed here in NY and will become one of the finest Consul Generals we've ever had. She will inject a dose of reality to the media in NY and America as well as to the Jewish organizational and political leaders."

<mark>4.20.23</mark>

PM picks May Golan as Consul General in US; enraging critics of judicial overhaul

<mark>4.20.23</mark>

Ex envoys slam Netanyahu's pick for top diplomatic post

Netanyahu taps far-right firebrand May Golan to be next consul general in New York to liaise with major Jewish organizations, media and economic power centers; former senior diplomats say appointment would be a humiliation for Israel

person

Itamar Eichner|Yesterday | 15:10

Members of the Forum for Foreign Policy, including former senior diplomats, on Thursday, slammed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's pick to serve as Israel's consul general in New York.

Netanyahu reportedly tapped Likud minister May Golan for the high-ranking diplomatic post vacated after Assaf Zamir resigned over the government's Judicial overhaul. The position of consul general has traditionally been a political appointment, but the former members of Israel's Foreign Ministry said the prime minister would be abandoning one of the most important posts for Israeli foreign diplomacy.

The far-right Golan was recently appointed minister attached to the Prime Minister's office and charged with advancing woman's affairs, although her appointment has not yet been confirmed by the Knesset. She is an outspoken supporter of Netanyahu's policies and has repeatedly made controversial statements about his opponents.

"Golan is polarizing and racist and the complete opposite of what Israel needs in such an important area of the United States," the diplomats said in a statement. "It is time for politicians to stop using the foreign service as a pawn in their political games," they said adding that her appointment would be a humiliation for Israel.

The consul general in New York is responsible, in addition to that state, for New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and parts of Connecticut. The consul general is in direct contact with Jewish organizations, the media and major economic players.

Golan who is currently on a visit to the U.S. has not yet decided whether to accept Netanyahu's offer. Sources in the ruling Likud Party said she may be considering a run for Mayor of Tel Aviv in the municipal elections next November.

As a resident of the southern neighborhoods of Israel's largest city, she stood out in her condemnation of asylum seekers living there, often berating them and accusing them of sexual harassment and crimes.

In a tweet she said she would represent the prime minister and the Likud if appointed, further enraging critics who expect Israeli diplomats to represent not only the government but the country.

I am very flattered to be considered for the post of Israel's consul general in NY. I want to assure everyone that if I will be appointed, I will represent 100% the mainstream policies of PM Netanyahu and the Likud party to which I belong.

Some members of Likud said they thought Netanyahu offered Golan the job in order to break up a particularly active group in his party, who are vocal supporters of the Justice Minister Yariv Levin and the judicial overhaul he has advanced, while talks were proceeding to reach an agreement with the opposition on amendments to the legislative initiative.

Officials in the party denied those <mark>claims</mark> saying Netanyahu thinks highly of Golan and trusts her above all others.

<mark>4.19.23</mark>

Foreign Minister Cohen says Saudi Arabia could join Abraham Accords this year

<mark>4.19.23</mark>

Foreign Minister Cohen says visit to Saudi Arabia 'on the table' Top diplomat says at least one more country would join Abraham Accords this year, adds issue of normalizing relations with Riyadh came up during U.S.-Saudi Arabia meeting

Reuters|Yesterday | 14:59

Foreign Minister Eli Cohen on Wednesday held out the prospect of a visit in the future to Saudi Arabia and said at least one more Arab country would normalize ties with Israel this year.

Israel's demographics will settle judicial reform debate, conservative think tank chief says "This (visit to Saudi Arabia) is on the table, there is no date yet," he said, speaking to Israel's Army Radio during a state visit to Azerbaijan.

In 2020, Israel reached accords to normalize ties with Saudi Arabia's Gulf neighbors, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain, and later included Morocco in the so-called Abraham Accords.

It has made no secret of its desire for closer ties with Saudi Arabia, which has held back on formally recognizing Israel in the absence of a resolution to Palestinian statehood goals. Earlier this week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said normalization with Riyadh would be a "giant step" towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Cohen said that this year at least one more country would join the Abraham Accords, without elaborating.

He added that the issue of normalizing relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia came up during U.S. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham's meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman this week.

"The enemy of Saudi Arabia is certainly not Israel. Its enemy is Iran," Cohen said on Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia and Iran ended years of hostility following a China-brokered agreement in March. When asked about the restoration of ties between Riyadh and Tehran, Cohen said that such a development could bode well for Israel.

"It is precisely this thing that can lead to a balancing act of (Saudi Arabia) moving closer to Israel," he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Jeddah where the two discussed the situation in the Palestinian territories, the Palestinian WAFA news agency reported.

<mark>4.19.23</mark>

PA terrorists sentenced to 30 years jail & fine for 2020 car ramming 12 soldiers

<mark>4.19.23</mark>

Palestinian terrorists sentenced to 30 years in jail for 2020 ramming attack al Turman convicted of attempted murder of Golani brigade soldiers when he plowed his car into them in Jerusalem before fleeing and seeking shelter near Hebron; is to also pay fine of NIS 300,000 to be distributed to the injured Gilad Cohen |Yesterday | 03:38

The Jerusalem District Court on Wednesday, sentenced Sant al Turman to 30 years in prison for his 2020 ramming attack that resulted in 12 IDF soldiers wounded.

He was found guilty of attempted murder after he drove his car into a group of Golani Brigade soldiers in Jerusalem and has since claimed the incident was an accident and not a terror attack.

The court accepted the prosecution's request for the decades-long sentence and also fined the convicted terrorist a sum of NIS 300,000 to be divided by the wounded.

According to the indictment al Turman pushed on the gas pedestal and sped into the soldiers who were standing on a sidewalk in an entertainment area of the capital, with the intent to kill them motivated by nationalist and ideological reasons. The attack occurred during increased tension and clashes following the revealing of the Trump peace plan.

The soldiers were in Jerusalem to participate in a swearing-in ceremony at the Western Wall after completing their basic training and were preparing to march to the Old City. Court filings described al Turman as enraged when he saw a group of 38 soldiers together returning for a visit to city sites before beginning their march and began reciting verses from the Quran dealing with the laws of war and distribution of its spoils. At first, he drove alongside the troops at a low speed and considered plowing them with his car but after realizing his way onto the sidewalk was blocked, drove off and searched for other targets.

Later, he saw an opportunity and decided to launch his attack.

After running two over, he accelerated again and ran over those already on the ground wounding 12 who suffered various levels of injury.

He then fled the scene and drove out of the city towards the West Bank. He tossed his phone out of the car on his way before arriving at the checkpoint. He ignored signals from soldiers there to stop and continued on his way, ditching the car near the town of Beit Jala, and making his way on foot to a family home in the village of Nuba near Hebron where he remained in hiding.

<mark>4.18.23</mark>

US & UK sanction Hezbollah network of cash, diamonds, gems, art & luxury goods

<mark>4.18.23</mark>

U.S. slaps sanctions on Hezbollah money laundering network

Treasury Department says network 'facilitated payment, shipment, and delivery of cash, diamonds, precious gems, art, and luxury goods' of financier Nazem Ahmad, whose assets also frozen by UK

Daniel Edelson/New York, Itamar Eichner 14:27

The United States Treasury Department on Tuesday black listed 52 individuals and companies in Lebanon and other countries who were involved in money laundering and evading sanctions to help finance the terrorist group Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, Britain also imposed sanctions on Nazem Ahmad, the head of the network and a financier of Hezbollah who deals in diamonds and art.

According to the Treasury Department's statement, the network "facilitated the payment, shipment, and delivery of cash, diamonds, precious gems, art, and luxury goods" for the benefit of Ahmad and "his luxurious lifestyle."

The British treasury also froze Ahmad's assets in the country after the U.S. did so in late 2019.

According to Ahmad's indictment, which was unsealed on Tuesday by U.S. prosecutors, the financier and eight other suspects have traded in diamonds weighing a total of 1,546 carats since first being sanctioned three and half years ago.

"The firm action we have taken today will clamp down on those who are funding international terrorism," said Joanna Penn, UK treasury minister.

A Beirut art gallery the UK government identified as belonging to Ahmad did not comment on the allegations.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department said on Tuesday that it will offer a reward of up to \$7 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction of Hezbollah leader Ibrahim Aqil, also known as Tahsin, who serves the terrorist group's highest military body, the Jihad Council. The body is blacklisted by the U.S. as a terrorist organization supported by the Iranian regime.

The award was offered on the 40th anniversary of Hezbollah's bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut which claimed the lives of 63 people and in which Aqil played an instrumental part.

Aqil is one of the leaders of a Hezbollah squad that claimed responsibility for a truck bombing near the U.S. embassy in Beirut on April 18, 1983. The attack resulted in the deaths of 63 individuals, including numerous American intelligence personnel. The truck was prepared in Syrian-controlled territory in the Beqaa Valley and covertly transported to the Lebanese capital on the same day.

Aqil was also in charge of the attack on the U.S. Marine Corps base in October of that year, which resulted in the deaths of 241 military personnel. This attack remains a painful scar for the Americans to this day, as it was the highest single-day death toll for U.S. personal abroad since World War II.

Additionally, Aqil was responsible for leading hostage-taking operations targeting Americans and Germans in Lebanon, and his name was frequently mentioned as a potential future Hezbollah chief of staff.

Aqil survived multiple assassination attempts, including one in February 2000 where Apache helicopters fired missiles at his car. He was lightly wounded in the attack. In September 2019, the U.S. State Department put Aqil on its list of wanted terrorists, all of his property under U.S. jurisdiction was confiscated and Americans were prohibited from trading with him.

<mark>4.17.23</mark>

PM & Herzog mark the 80th anniversary of Holocaust & ensure the victory of Israel

<mark>4.17.23</mark>

Netanyahu: Our enemies may think we lack determination to stand up to them, they are greatly mistaken

With son of deposed Iranian Shah in attendance, PM says 'victory of the past alone does not guarantee the victory of the future' and vows to fight any agreement that would allow Tehran to obtain nuclear weapons

Gilad Cohen, Itamar Eichner, Eitan Glickman|Yesterday | 14:37

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog opened Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day Monday evening at a state ceremony at Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum to mark the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Major increase in antisemitic attacks - Haredi Jews are primary targets | Special report "The victory over our enemies cannot erase the impact of our people's tragedy during the Holocaust," Netanyahu said in his speech.

"Entire communities were destroyed, millions of our brothers and sisters died in horrifying deaths, and in addition, millions of other people were killed. Moral values were shattered, human culture was decimated, and the dignity of human life was trampled to the ground. The scars of this pain will remain with us forever.

Despite all of this, we must remember the unique victory of the people of Israel. This victory is evident in the families established by Holocaust survivors, in the upright stature of the participants in the March of the Living, and in the pinnacle of the victory itself - the independence of our 75-year-old state.

Israel is a free, vibrant, democratic country full of achievements. It is a country that we are all building together from generation to generation."

With Reza Koresh Ali Pahlavi, the son of Iran's last Shah Reza Pahlavi, in attendance, the Israeli leader warned of the encroaching threat of the current Islamist regime in Tehran. "Although the world has changed since then, the calls for our destruction have not stopped and today they come from the regime of terror in Tehran," Netanyahu continued. "We must prevent the forces of evil from gaining strength as soon as possible. The Jewish state must ensure that it has the power to defend itself against any enemy and threat. The victory of the past alone does not guarantee the victory of the future. The victory of the future requires constant determination and an uncompromising struggle against those who seek to harm us and any nuclear agreement with Iran that would pave the way for nuclear weapons.

We are vigorously fighting against Iran's terrorist proxies around us. Whoever seeks to harm us will face a determined response. Our enemies will find us standing shoulder-to-shoulder, and they will rediscover the tremendous strength that lies within our people."

Netanyahu further stated that he still has faith in the unity of the Israeli people and their capacity to confront threats, despite the growing divisions within society.

"People of Israel, I have been standing here for many years and I declare before the whole world - 'never again'. This time, I want to emphasize - those who seek to harm us, our enemies, may think that we lack the determination and internal fortitude to stand up to them - but they are greatly mistaken.

The story of the revolt of the Warsaw Ghetto embodies the destiny of heroism and the greatness of heroism that our people possess, and it also obligates us to pass it on to the next generations - spirit, strength, and inner unity. Only in this way will we defeat those who rise up against us to destroy us and only in this way will we continue to ensure the victory of Israel."

<mark>4.17.23</mark>

IDF foil Hezbollah, Iran Quds & PA smuggling weapons for West Bank terror

<mark>4.17.23</mark>

Israel foils plot to enlist Palestinians in the service of Iran Two West Bank residents contacted by members of IRGC's Quds Force online agree to transfer intelligence and tap others to join plot to carry out attacks against Israel; Shin Bet says methods used by Iran and proxies revealed Yoav Zitun|Yesterday | 04:56

The Shin Bet said on Monday that it had uncovered attempts by the Lebanon-based Hezbollah group and Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, Quds Force to enlist Palestinians residing in the West Bank to carry out terror attacks.

The months-long investigation ended with the arrest of two Palestinians - Yussef and Marsil Mansour by the Shin Bet who told investigators that they had been approached online by two men, Huda Mahna and Haj Mohamad Raduan, also known as Mohamed Bashir, both identifying as Hezbollah operatives.

The Palestinian suspects agreed to smuggle weapons into the West Bank for the purposes of trade and with the help of Israeli criminals. Yussef agreed to carry out surveillance of IDF troop movement in the West Bank and elsewhere in Israel and tap others to join their terror plot and was transferred money on a number of occasions with Marsil's help. It was also revealed that in the covert communications with Mohamed Bashir, Yussef used an inscription program for mail addressed to a specific address. After their interrogations, the two were charged with serious security offenses. Shin Bet said their intelligence found that Mohamed Bashir and Huda Mahna were both members of the IRGC's Quds force responsible for assisting Palestinian terror in the West Bank and that their investigation exposed the methods used by both Hezbollah and Iran.

"We view efforts by Iran and its proxies to establish a terror infrastructure in Israel, with gravity," Shin Bet said. "Security forces will continue to work to identify and disrupt any attempts to attack Israel and threaten its security," they said.

<mark>4.16.23</mark>

Top Secret Pentagon leak uncovers tense Russian-Iranian relationship Ynet expose': Documents seen by Ynet correspondent show despite Israeli alarm over Iran-Russia ties, U.S. believes relations only transactional and not true alliance Ron Ben-Yishai, Saar Haas 08:59

Following the leak of top secret U.S. documents that also include information on Israel and Iran, a recently- released file details the challenges faced by the West in light of the tightening relationship between Russia and Iran.

Israel has previously highlighted the danger of the ties between the two countries, but according to the leaked documents, the U.S. government was not as convinced. Despite displeasure in Washington over cooperation in the war in Ukraine officials said the two were not and would not be allies.

As in the document detailing an alleged Israeli drill simulating an attack in Iran, according to this document's heading, it wasn't meant to be shared with foreign countries. The report, composed by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), says that "Iran and Russia have made progress on addressing some longstanding challenges in their relationship – largely due to Moscow's understanding that it requires continued Iranian support for its military operation in Ukraine."

"Both countries continue to place individual interests ahead of mutual goals, which has mostly resulted in nonbinding agreements," the report adds. Enduring points of friction likely will limit Tehran and Moscow to a mostly transactional relationship during the remainder of the conflict."

So far, there have been few areas in which Iran and Russia cooperated fully. One of them was the transfer of Javelin-type anti-tank missiles to Tehran that the Russians confiscated from the Ukrainians, which will help the Iranians to reverse-engineer and improve their own missile production.

Further, a joint factory for Iranian missile production is active in Russia in Russia. Thirdly, which is yet to be made official, is the purchase of Russian Su-34 fighter jets, which Iran seeks.

In the economic field, the two countries seek a workaround for the global financial transaction system SWIFT, which is likely to be implemented between the countries. The leaked document outlines key challenges in the relationship between Iran and Russia, as well as the and updated account, according to the U.S.'s perspective. The Iranian-Russian challenges, as per the leak, include:

Economic issues: Russia and Iran have joined linked banking systems in an attempt to avoid using SWIFT. Iran and Russia also offer discounts for oil, to customers using these systems.

Public perception: Iran and Russia criticize each other in private for negative coverage of sensitive events in each of their respective media, such as the coverage in Russia of the protests in Iran and Iranian coverage of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In talks with

European leaders, and to avoid further sanctions, Iran denied supporting Russia's military industry.

Mutual suspicion: Russia remains suspicious about Iran's attempts to exploit its dependence on Tehran to rake in more profits. Iran is still concerned about whether or not Russia can become a reliable strategic partner.

Nuclear issues: Russian support for nuclear talks with Iran is not as strong as Tehran expects. Iran also criticized Russia for relenting to the new sanctions imposed on it by the resulting agreement. Iran is still in debt to Russia for constructing the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

Regional rivalry: Iran has repeatedly asked Russia to be included in talks with Turkey regarding Syria. In addition, Tehran wishes for more influence in the Caucasus, against Russian interests. Russia is trying to balance its developing ties with Tehran with the alarm sounded by Israel and other Gulf states.

The leaked document also details points of contention between the two countries over the last year.

February 18, 2022: Russian Deputy Foreign Minister criticized an increase in anti-Russian rhetoric in Iranian media.

May 2022: Iranian ambassadors warn of cracks in relations between Russian and Iran regarding interests in Syria, but add that cooperation should continue. Russian Deputy Chairman promises Saudi Arabia it will bar Iran from offering oil at lower prices. October 2022: The Iranian ambassador criticized Russia's weak denial of Iranian suicid

October 2022: The Iranian ambassador criticized Russia's weak denial of Iranian suicide drones being used against Ukraine.

November 2022: Senior Russian intelligence officials estimated that supporting an Iranian nuclear program will lead to an international backlash.

January 1, 2023: Iranian nuclear experts said that Russia has yet to provide them with the resources it has promised.

January 11, 2023: Iran protested being barred from talks between Russia, Syria, and Turkey, it had since rejoined.

On Thursday evening, the United States concluded an extensive manhunt for the suspected leaker of the Pentagon documents with the arrest of Jack Teixeira, a 21-yearold member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard. The FBI apprehended Teixeira at his home after an armed raid and later released aerial footage of the arrest. The New York Times reported that Teixeira was the leader of an online group called Thug Shaker Central, where about 20 to 30 people shared their love of guns, racist

memes, and video games, citing interviews and documents reviewed.

<mark>4.16.23</mark>

Pentagon leak suggests Israel training for Iran attack despite declining capability

<mark>4.16.23</mark>

Pentagon leak suggests Israel preapring for Iran attack despite 'declining military capability'

According to a document uncovered by Ynet, Israel conducted a large-scale drill that simulated an attack on Iran's nuclear program; However, the CIA is uncertain about Israel's plans for the near future and its intentions Ron Ben-Yishai, Saar Haas|05:20

According to a trove of classified documents leaked from the Pentagon and published first by Ynet, the United States believes Israel has held large-scale drills simulating an attack on Iran's nuclear program despite what it considered Israel's "declining military capability."

The newly discovered document, dated February 23 and marked "top secret", Israel conducted a major air exercise on February 20 that simulated an attack on Iran's nuclear program, allegedly to demonstrate Jerusalem's resolve against Tehran.

Although the exercise, which involved dozens of aircraft, had not been revealed before, an American officer had observed a similar one a month earlier. Furthermore, Israel and the United States had conducted a joint exercise at the end of January.

The document also noted that in early February, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) discovered enriched uranium traces at a level close to the threshold required for nuclear weapons, ultimately crossing Israel's declared red line in one of Iran's enrichment facilities.

This document was coded using SIGINT – intelligence derived from electronic signals and systems used by foreign targets - and should not have been shared with foreign countries. Furthermore, it had a FISA classification, meaning it was dealt with by a special court that authorizes sensitive surveillance for the American intelligence community.

The document further notes that the CIA is uncertain about Israel's plans for the near future and its intentions. Israel may await the reaction from the United States and the international community after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported traces of enriched uranium near the level required for nuclear weapons in Iran, and whether Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei approves such enrichment. Only then would Israel decide whether to act.

In the document, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is mistakenly referred to as "President Netanyahu," and it suggests he may believe that Israel will have to attack Iran to foil its nuclear program, despite facing a "declining military capability", probably in reference to threats by Air Force pilots to refuse service in protest of the government's judicial overhaul legislation.

According to sources with knowledge on the matter, the NSA has recently hired dozens of Hebrew speakers, with around 250 translators, analysts, and other experts currently assigned to listen to Hebrew broadcasts, communications, and phone calls. However, the information relayed to the CIA and military intelligence is occasionally unreliable, as evidenced by the revelation in the previous document file of inaccurate claims about Mossad's senior officials encouraging Israelis to participate in protests against the judicial plan.

According to another document also dated February 23, the Quds Force of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and Shiite militias took advantage of the aid shipments to the victims of the earthquake in Syria to smuggle weapons to Iranian proxies in the country. The document stated that Israel targets Iranian arms shipments destined for Lebanon and Syria, while Iran claims that the shipments contain humanitarian equipment. According to a document also dated February 23, Iran's Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force and Shiite militias have exploited aid shipments to earthquake victims in Syria to smuggle weapons to their proxies in the country.

The document reveals that Israel targets Iranian arms shipments intended for Lebanon and Syria, whereas Iran maintains that the shipments only contain humanitarian supplies.

On Thursday evening, the United States concluded an extensive manhunt for the suspected leaker of the Pentagon documents with the arrest of Jack Teixeira, a 21-yearold member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard. The FBI apprehended Teixeira at his home after an armed raid, and later released aerial footage of the arrest. The New York Times reported that Teixeira was the leader of an online group called Thug Shaker Central, an online group where about 20 to 30 people shared their love of guns, racist memes and video games, citing interviews and documents it reviewed.

____ ___ ___ ___

Ynet-News, April 14, 2023 – Friday Passover started Sundown April 4 Tu, & First Fruits April 12 We

4.13.23 – Th- - - News Placed in April 14 spot – Friday Police deploy & disallow Jews for last week of Ramadan expecting 20k Muslims

4.13.23 – Th- - - News Placed in April 13 spot – Thursday Saudi Arabia has resumed relations with Iran & chilled US & Israel agreements

4.12.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday First Frits 8th day Netanyahu greeted by leftist protesters who forgot what it meant to be Jewish

4.12.23 – We- - - News Placed in April 12 spot – Wednesday First Frits 8th day Police curb the number of Orthodox Church crowds in Jerusalem for Easter

4.12.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday First Frits 8th day Iran exploits quake relief to bring weapons & military equipment into Syria

4.12.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday First Frits 8th day PA using Telegram's anonymous feature, to video train terrorists against IDF