

Ynet-News, May 22, 2023 – Monday

5.22.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in May 22 spot – Monday

MK Gallant reveals Iran converts merchant ships to military vessels, like pirates

5.22.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday

IDF forces kill 3 terrorists in clashes during West Bank raid

5.21.23 – Su- - - News Placed in May 21 spot – Sunday

Shield and Arrow utilized F-35 stealth with direct link to a spotter

5.21.23 – Su- - - News Placed in May 21 spot – Sunday

Aliyah immigrants arriving at Ben Gurion Airport will receive biometric ID cards

5.21.23 – Su- - - News – Sunday

Netanyahu must pass budget & Settlements Law; opponents must stop hypocrisy

5.21.23 – Su- - - News Placed in May 20 spot – Saturday

US Foreign Affairs expect Israeli security could soon train in FBI Academy

5.21.23 – Su- - - News Placed in May 21 spot – Sunday

'We are in charge here': Ben-Gvir visits Temple Mount

5.18.23 – Th- - - News Placed in May 18 spot – Thursday

NY bill by Bernie Sanders, seeks to revoke tax-deductible status of charity to Israel

5.17.23 – We- - - News Placed in May 16 spot – Tuesday

9 Ministers flock to New York for annual 'Salute to Israel parade' next month

5.17.23 – We- - - News Placed in May 17 spot – Wednesday

Ombudsman sounds alarm on Israel's shoddy cybersecurity infrastructure

5.15.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in May 15 spot – Monday

Talks on Judicial legislation to resume; deadline to appoint new judges by June 15

5.15.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Palestinians prefer Russia, China or EU to mediate with Israel, not US

5.15.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in May 14 spot – Sunday

UN: Abbas claims five Arab armies were victims of May 15, 1948 Israel independence

====  
====

5.22.23

MK Gallant reveals Iran converts merchant ships to military vessels, like pirates

5.22.23

Gallant reveals new threat: Iran establishes 'floating terror bases'

Israeli defense minister says the vessels have combat capabilities, including aircraft, missiles, offensive systems and advanced intelligence, as Iran intends to create a constant threat in the maritime domain

Nina Fox|12:56

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant revealed Monday a new threat Israel may have to face - Iran converts civilian merchant ships into military vessels to serve as "floating terror bases."

Speaking at Reichman University at the annual Herzliya Conference on the topic Policy and Strategy in an Age of Uncertainty, the minister said that "these vessels are of considerable size, ranging from tens to sometimes hundreds of thousands of tons. They are intended to carry various types of combat capabilities, including aircraft, missiles, offensive systems and advanced intelligence, in order to serve as forward terror bases in areas located far from the Iranian border."

Gallant noted that the coastal terrorist bases are already operational in a practical manner. "Only recently, one of these ships was observed when it sailed to the Gulf of Aden. This is a direct continuation of Iran's maritime terrorism, which it controls in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea. It aims to expand its operations to the Indian Ocean, followed by the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. It is a well-coordinated and planned policy: to threaten maritime routes, both military and civilian, and to create a constant threat in the maritime domain. This is a troubling policy of maritime terrorism. Iran conducts itself in this context more like a collection of pirates than a civilized nation," he said.

In the opening of his speech, Gallant said: "In recent times, we have witnessed a prominent trend connecting our fronts. Behind the threats we currently face in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank, exists a connecting and tight link that binds them. That link is Iran, which poses the most significant threat to regional and global stability. Iran is waging a multi-front war against us through its proxies on the borders while simultaneously exploiting the time it gains to strengthen its economic power and, most notably, to develop military nuclear weapons."

Gallant emphasized: "The Iranian nuclear program is in its most advanced stage. Iran, with nuclear weapons, would pose a severe strategic threat to the entire world, including Israel and other countries in the Middle East, with the potential for existential threats. Enriching uranium to 90% would be a grave mistake on Iran's part, and the regime in Tehran should understand that this would come at a heavy price and have severe consequences for the Middle East. When it comes to Iran's intention to acquire nuclear weapons, all options are on the table."

The defense minister added that the Iranian issue has been his main focus since taking office.

"In recent years, Iran has been engaging in a process of the geographical and ideological takeover of the region's countries. Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and even the Gaza Strip. The Iranian intentions go far beyond that. With the changes in the Middle East, Iran is moving westward and attempting to create a land bridge from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea through its proxies, aiming to dominate the extremist Shiite ideology and the Iranian regime of darkness," he said.

"Since I took office, the number of Israeli attacks against Iranians in Syria has doubled. As part of this campaign, we systematically work to target Iranian intelligence capabilities in Syria, and these attacks cause significant damage to the consolidation efforts of the Revolutionary Guards, just a few kilometers from the Israeli border," Gallant added.

"I want to make it clear tonight that Syria's rejoining of the Arab League will be inconsequential for Israel as long as Syria remains fertile ground for Shiite terrorism and allows Iran and its proxies to operate from its territory. As long as this is the situation, Syria will encounter the strength of our security system. However, it is important to emphasize that our target is Iranian activity, not the Syrian state," he said.

5.22.23

IDF forces kill 3 terrorists in clashes during West Bank raid

5.22.23

IDF forces kill 3 terrorists in clashes during West Bank raid

Palestinians report several individuals injured and evacuated to a hospital following clashes with security forces; IDF says troops seized weapons, arrested terror suspects and dismantled explosives plant

Einav Halabi, Elisha Ben Kimon|01:00

The IDF operated Monday overnight in Nablus' Balata refugee camp located in the West Bank, during which Palestinian terrorists confronted the forces, who returned fire and killed 3 of the assailants, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

IDF strikes in Gaza after dozens of rockets fired into southern Israel

Palestinian reports added that the three were identified as 30-year-old Fathi Rizk, 24-year-old Abdullah Abu Hamdan, and 34-year-old Mohammed Zeitoun.

The Palestinians added that three others involved in the clashes were injured, with one in critical condition and the other two being seriously injured.

During the operation, which lasted for 4 hours, forces arrested Palestinian terror suspects, seized illegal weapons, and dismantled an explosives manufacturing plant located in the city.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades reported their members are exchanging fire with IDF forces with Palestinian reports saying at least one of the killed terrorists was affiliated with the terrorist organization.

The Palestinian reports also stated that military forces raided more than 25 houses in the refugee camp and arrested five individuals.

The Palestinians added that IDF forces positioned snipers on rooftops and prevented ambulances from entering the refugee camp and evacuating the injured. According to the reports, three empty houses and a coffee shop in the refugee camp were bombed in the operation.

Palestinian media reported that over 200 soldiers and 70 military vehicles entered the camp and conducted searches in dozens of homes in the area.

The Red Crescent reported that five injured Palestinians, including a child who was injured by shrapnel, were evacuated to a Hospital in Nablus, and alleged that IDF forces prevented access to the area despite the Red Crescent coordinating their arrival with the military.

Hussein Ash-Sheikh, the Secretary-General of the Palestinian Authority's Executive Committee, accused Israel of declaring an open war against Palestinians following the operation.

"The occupation's government declares a war against Palestinians through killing, demolishing houses, founding Jewish settlements, and desecrating holy places, which requires all Palestinians to unite, resist, and develop a policy to confront this dangerous escalation," he said.

"The Israeli government declares that the price of its coalition's survival is Palestinian blood," he added.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, the Palestinian Deputy Prime Minister, commented on the operation, saying that "It continues the war against the Palestinian people."

According to Abu Rudeineh, "The targeting of Nablus and its villages is a war crime and a collective punishment that must be immediately stopped. The Israeli government is responsible for this ongoing dangerous escalation."

"The silence of the U.S. government on the occupation's crimes encouraged this aggression. It's up to the U.S. to intervene and stop Israel," he added.

5.21.23

Shield and Arrow utilized F-35 stealth with direct link to a spotter

5.21.23

Ground and air forces cooperation yields results in latest Gaza war  
IDF's Operation 'Shield and Arrow' showcases advanced capabilities and precise coordination in a condensed war exercise; Rapid elimination of Islamic Jihad leaders underscores how clinical Israel's elimination efforts have become

Yoav Zitun|Yesterday | 15:56

In the realm of IDF operations, Operation "Shield and Arrow" can be defined as a concise and strategic war exercise, serving as a condensed version of the originally planned exercise for this month.

Like the fighting in 2021, the recent round presented an opportunity to test and refine various capabilities that have previously seen limited use. Notably, it showcased the effective utilization of advanced aircraft such as the formidable F-35, as well as fostering direct communication between a young spotter and a skilled fighter pilot, moments before launching an attack.

With a duration of 116 hours, "Shield and Arrow" commenced with a meticulously coordinated strike that swiftly eliminated three high-ranking members of the Islamic Jihad, their deaths occurring mere moments apart.

Despite its relatively compact scale, the operation proved notably successful, largely attributed to Israel's proactive approach, which allowed for thorough preparation and minimized reactionary measures.

Beyond the initial stunning blow dealt to the Islamic Jihad within the first 35 hours, the IDF introduced novel capabilities that enhanced the effectiveness of the campaign, particularly through coordination between ground and aerial forces that transpired like a well-oiled machine.

This integration involved the deployment of cutting-edge stealth aircraft, typically reserved for specialized targets in northern conflicts or clandestine missions conducted beyond national borders.

Utilizing advanced detection and tracking technologies integrated within these aircraft, the Southern Command efficiently established rapid response circuits. The extensive arsenal of 400 bombs and missiles deployed during "Shield and Arrow" often originated from the successful identification of the stealth planes soaring high above the Gaza Strip. At the receiving end, both aerial and ground forces, including specialized units, stood ready to engage designated targets, not unlike a taxi standing by a street corner, waiting for a nearby fare to be announced. In that regard, the process was ensuring a multifaceted approach to precision strikes.

To minimize response times in the face of enemy detection, the Air Force officer responsible for collaboration with ground forces elucidated the exhaustive utilization of a myriad of resources, including manned intelligence planes equipped with scouting capabilities.

Their aim was to maximize efficiency and expedite the execution of attacks, leaving no stone unturned in the pursuit of swift and effective operations.

A notable transformation occurred during the operation, facilitating swifter attacks for the forces involved.

Unlike previous rounds characterized by a rigid and uniform policy regarding the use of firepower, where requests for modifications faced lengthy processes that hindered effectiveness, this time witnessed a more dynamic and expedited approach.

Adjustments were made with greater frequency, responding directly to the evolving ground situation and the exigencies expressed by the forces, enabling more timely and tailored responses.

At approximately 22:00 on the initial night of the operation, a Seraf combat helicopter emerged in the sky above the central Gaza Strip. It traversed the western Negev region, approaching the town of Khan Yunis from the eastern direction.

The distinct sound of Apache rotor blades resonated at the Kissuf outpost, where Private M, recently enlisted as a spotter, commenced her duty.

Within the helicopter, the crew readied themselves to unleash a missile upon the Islamic Jihad position. However, their plans were halted by the presence of low-lying clouds that obscured their visibility.

The target, an unassuming and somewhat secluded structure, required a thorough visual assessment to ensure the absence of uninvolved civilians in close proximity.

Within a span of less than a minute, the seasoned pilot engaged in direct communication with the officers of the Gaza Division, promptly establishing a connection with M via the communication network.

Private M assumed the crucial role of overseeing the collection and subsequent actions within the helicopter's designated sector, which she had been diligently monitoring in recent weeks.

"Engaging in direct communication with the pilot, we established a shared language, using tangible landmarks within the area," she explained. "I inquired about his observations, discerning both the elements he perceived and those he might have missed, as we were essentially watching identical areas from distinct vantage points.

"To ensure absolute accuracy, I deliberately posed a misleading question concerning a separate location, thus making sure we were absolutely positive about our shared observations," she said.

### 5.21.23

Aliyah immigrants arriving at Ben Gurion Airport will receive biometric ID cards

### 5.21.23

Israel eases bureaucracy for immigrants in new regulations

In response to the recent passport marathon woes, interior and absorption ministers decide new immigrants can now receive ID cards upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, bypassing Interior Ministry hurdles and ensuring a smoother absorption process  
Gilad Meiri | Yesterday | 14:18

To make things smoother for new Olim settling in Israel, the Ministry of Immigration and Integration has come up with a clever plan. Instead of going through the usual hassle of dealing with the Interior Ministry, new immigrants will now be issued identity cards right at the Aliyah and Integration Ministry branches across the country.

This change aims to tackle the overcrowding and appointment scheduling woes that have plagued the Interior Ministry in the past.

Minister Ofir Sofer of Immigration and Integration, along with Minister Moshe Arbel of the Interior, conversed this Sunday and came up with a new strategy.

They aim to kickstart the process of issuing Identity Cards (Teudat Zehut) to new Olim as soon as they touch down at Ben Gurion Airport. This move comes as a response to the recent passport marathon fiasco that left the Interior Ministry in disarray.

During their joint meeting, held at the Interior Ministry, Minister Sofer, Minister Arbel, along with Eyal Siso, the Director General of the Interior Ministry reached an agreement. They pledged to recruit extra personnel at Ben Gurion Airport to ensure that new immigrants can get their ID cards right upon arrival, removing unnecessary delays from the equation.

Starting from next month, when new immigrants step foot in Israel, they'll be handed their ID cards at the Aliyah and Integration Ministry branch situated within Ben Gurion Airport, thus rendering the usual struggle to schedule appointments at the Interior Ministry irrelevant.

The ministers also resolved to collaborate on an additional front, namely aiming to make the ID cards issued by the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration biometric, thus eliminating the need for tens of thousands of Olim to visit the Interior Ministry offices.

To accomplish that aim, they plan to amend the existing legislation, which currently restricts ID card issuance solely to Interior Ministry employees. The goal is to empower Ministry of Aliyah staff to issue biometric identity cards to new immigrants, ensuring a smooth transition for everyone involved.

Minister Moshe Arbel expressed his thoughts on the matter. He stated, "Amidst the ongoing 'Passport Marathon' extravaganza, where we're sprinting to issue passports left and right, rest assured that we haven't forgotten about our new Olim.

"As promised during the kickoff of the 'Passport Marathon', we're adapting and learning along the way. We're doing our utmost to strike a balance between meeting the population's needs and what the Interior Ministry can deliver.

"I extend my congratulations to my esteemed colleague, Minister Ofir Sofer of Immigration and Absorption, for his unwavering partnership and dedication to our new Olim."

Minister of Aliyah and Integration, MK Ofir Sofer: "I express my sincere appreciation to Minister Moshe Arbel for accepting my request to swiftly address the concerns of new immigrants awaiting their ID cards.

"Minister Arbel recognizes the challenges faced by Olim in integrating and becoming Israeli citizens, and together with his dedicated team, we have implemented an expedient and effective solution.

"With the immediate issuance of Identity cards, new Olim can now embark on their journey towards a fulfilling life in Israel. This is truly remarkable news for the enterprise that is Aliyah, and I am personally committed to providing every possible assistance to ensure the comfort and well-being of our Olim in their new homeland."

### 5.21.23

Netanyahu must pass budget & Settlements Law; opponents must stop hypocrisy

5.21.23

Netanyahu: 'For the sake of the unity of Jerusalem, this government must survive'  
After Itamar Ben-Gvir visited the Temple Mount, the government gathered for a meeting in the Western Wall tunnels. Netanyahu called on the coalition to overcome the crisis surrounding passing the state budget and also attacked the opposition  
Gilad Cohen, Einav Halabi, Moran Azulay|07:52

Just hours after National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited the Temple Mount, the government on Sunday held its weekly in the tunnels of the Western Wall in Jerusalem in honor of Jerusalem Day.

"For the sake of the unity of Jerusalem, we must continue to maintain this government," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the start of the meeting.

"Only a year ago we saw a shameful scene here, two Jewish women rushed to take down the Israeli flags from their car – they were afraid that a procession of Palestinians in Jerusalem would harm them. Like many others, we were also shocked by this. We promised to restore the national honor, and with Operation Shield and Arrow, which changed the equation against the Islamic Jihad, we did it," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu referred to the crisis in the coalition government surrounding the passage of the state budget, saying: "In order to continue to maintain our national government, we must pass the budget. I have experience in this, and I can say that arguments always arise at the last minute - I believe we will overcome them."

If a budget is not passed by the end of the month, it triggers the automatic dissolution of the government.

Netanyahu also criticized the opposition. "I say to the political opponents - don't get your hopes up and you should stop the hypocrisy. You are the ones who distributed funds every week to the Arab Joint List and other parties just to sustain your failed government. Of course, you didn't call them 'coalition funds' or 'looting' because you are on the side of the enlightened. What hypocrisy, what arrogance, what a lie," he said.

Netanyahu sent a conciliatory message to the chairman of the Torah Judaism party, Yitzhak Goldknopf, who is demanding an additional half a billion shekels for his movement's educational institutions, which are exempt from teaching the core curriculum.

"Unlike them (the opposition), we will pass a responsible budget because an ultra-Orthodox child should not receive less than a secular or religious child. He is not half a child. No Jew should hear antisemitic incitement or see the cartoons that are literally a 'copy-paste' of what we knew in the darkest times. The fact is that we have succeeded in integrating the ultra-Orthodox into the labor market more than any other government. No amount of your false propaganda will prevent us from passing the budget and the Settlements Law," Netanyahu said.

The chairman of National Unity party, Benny Gantz, responded that "Netanyahu is right, an ultra-Orthodox child should not receive less than a secular child. He deserves, along



with his Torah studies, to also study core subjects. For his sake, for his future and for the future of all of us."

The spokesman for the Fatah movement Munther al-Haik criticized the government for holding its meeting in the heart of the Jerusalem. "The meeting of the occupation government will not change the historical and religious reality of Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the State of Palestine," he said.

Al-Haik also referred to Ben-Gvir's visit to the Temple Mount. "The terrorist's attack on the Al Aqsa Mosque, alongside a handful of settlers and under heavy security, is a provocation and a blatant violation of the status quo on the Temple Mount. The courtyards of Al Aqsa and the holy city will remain the property of the Palestinians only, and to the Zionists there will be no room here," he said.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasem also commented on the holding of the government meeting in the tunnels of the Western Wall, saying: "This is a dangerous escalation of the religious war waged by the occupation against the holy city. These Judaizing measures, which the Zionist government intends to approve at the meeting today, are an attempt to falsify the identity of the city of Jerusalem, which is blatant aggression against our people." He clarified: "The Palestinian people will continue their struggle to preserve the Arab and Islamic identity of Jerusalem."

With the knowledge of Netanyahu, who was informed about the move on Thursday, Ben-Gvir went up to the Temple Mount – after he had avoided doing so on Jerusalem Day itself, as he had done in previous years.

"I am happy to go up to the Temple Mount, the most important place for the people of Israel. We are the owners of the house here," he said during the visit. "All the threats of Hamas will not help, we are the owners of Jerusalem and the whole Land of Israel." Jordan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the move: "The Israeli Minister of National Security's ascension to the Temple Mount and Al Aqsa compound is a violation of the sanctity of the site, it is a provocative step that must be condemned. It is a dangerous escalation that is a blatant violation of international law and the status quo in Jerusalem and the holy places."

The Jordanian statement also said that: "The repeated and ongoing violations against the holy sites in Jerusalem, both Muslim and Christian, alongside the continuation of unilateral steps to expand the settlements and the invasion of occupied Palestinian lands, may escalate the situation and constitute a dangerous direction that the international community should act to stop immediately."

The ministry appealed to Israel, "demanding an immediate end to all violations and actions against the Al Aqsa Mosque and to respect the sanctity of the site, including ceasing all measures that attempt to change the existing status quo."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt also condemned Ben-Gvir's visit to the Temple Mount: "These provocative actions are contrary to the responsibility and understanding expected of senior officials in the Israeli government. The consecutive ascents to the Al Aqsa Mosque, which aim to formulate a policy of temporal and spatial division, will not change the existing legal and historical status quo according to which Al Aqsa is a holy place for Islam. Egypt calls on Israel to stop acting in ways of escalation that add to the existing tensions in the city."

At the same time, Nabil Abu Radina, **spokesman** for the chairman of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas, also known by his nom de guerre, Abu Mazen, **threatened**: "The attack of the **extremist Israeli minister Itamar Ben-Gvir** on the courtyards of the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque, for the second time, is a blatant attack, and there will be serious **consequences**. The **attempts** of Ben-Gvir and his ilk to change the status quo in the mosque are attempts that **will end in failure**."

Hamas **spokesman** in Jerusalem Mohammed Hamada **added**: "**We will not leave Al Aqsa alone**, the occupation will bear responsibility for the barbaric invasions of its ministers and settlers. The barbaric assault carried out by Ben-Gvir – accompanied by a group of extremist settlers – into the courtyards of the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque this morning, confirms the depth of the danger faced from the extreme right."

He noted: "In the face of this relentless **aggression against** our purest places and the holy **mosques**, we confirm that our people have determination and a longer breath than the occupation, and our people **will not surrender in the face of this aggression**. We call on our people in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the **Arabs** of Israel **to strengthen the presence at Al Aqsa**."

#### 5.21.23

US Foreign Affairs expect Israeli security could soon train in FBI Academy

#### 5.21.23

Israeli security personnel could soon train in FBI Academy

A bill, **pending Senate approval**, supports Israel's inclusion in the coalition of countries that send their police forces for **training at the prestigious U.S. International Law Enforcement Academy** – which teaches **how to combat terrorism and drug trafficking, detect fraudulent documents and audit procedures**

Daniel Edelson, New York|06:45

The **Foreign Affairs** Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives is expected to give its **initial approval** to a new bill that **would send Israeli security forces to train at the FBI Academy**.

The **U.S.-Israel Cooperation Expansion Act** was **introduced by Republican Rep. Carlos Jimenez**, who was previously a **Miami-Dade County Commissioner in Florida**, actually includes two pro-Israel clauses.

The **first section condemns** the "**terrorist acts** carried out by Iranian military emissaries, including Hamas, Hezbollah and the **Palestinian Islamic Jihad** against the residents of the State of Israel."

The section states that "the Jewish-Democratic State of **Israel is a key ally** and strategic **partner** of the United States," which for its part should continue to support its security. This section of the proposed law also states that the **US recognizes Jerusalem as** the "**legitimate capital city of the State of Israel**," supports Israel's "self-determination efforts

and collective security against external forces" and "initiatives that combat anti-Semitic behavior around the world."

The second section – the more intriguing and practical aspects of the law – supports Israel's inclusion in the coalition of countries that send their police forces for training at the U.S. International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs).

This is a prestigious police academic institution managed by the US State Department, where lecturers from the various law enforcement agencies in the U.S. teach police forces from around the world about combating terrorism and drug trafficking, detecting fraudulent documents and border control procedures.

The academy was established in 1995 by then-President Bill Clinton as a means of connecting, sharing knowledge and training between law enforcement agencies around the world to reduce cross-border crime.

Currently, there are five ILEA branches around the world: El Salvador, Hungary, Thailand, Botswana and Ghana. A sixth branch, in Roswell, New Mexico focuses on high-level leadership skills and the policies necessary to facilitate effective law enforcement – particularly as it relates to human and civil rights, cybercrime, money laundering and more.

Besides the FBI instructors who make up a large part of the academy, about 12 American law enforcement agencies send representatives there on their behalf to teach the international police officers. This includes the IRS (Internal Revenue Service), the Immigration Authority (ICE), the Department of the Interior, the Diplomatic Security Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The instructors and agents conduct courses at the academy on topics such as facility security, international investigations, investigations at terrorist sites, the fight against human and wildlife trafficking, the fight against corruption, drug trafficking, money laundering and financial crimes. To date, more than 70,000 people from 100 countries around the world have graduated from the academy program, so ILEAs also provide a fertile ground for future cooperation between security forces around the world and improve the practical capabilities of criminal justice institutions to eradicate cross-border crime.

"Since joint military exercises between Israel and the United States have proven to be a great success, the bill aims to bring the same approach to share best practices and help law enforcement better protect American communities," reads the explanation accompanying the bill.

The bill, which still needs the Senate's approval to pass, has already received the support of 12 Republican lawmakers. Israel's consul general in Miami, Maor Elbaz, was quick to thank Jimenez for the initiative in a tweet.

Ynet News

5.21.23

'We are in charge here': Ben-Gvir visits Temple Mount

5.21.23

### 'We are in charge here': Ben-Gvir visits Temple Mount

Police minister visits sensitive site after refraining from doing so on Jerusalem Day as he had done in previous years; 'All of Hamas' threats won't help, we are in charge in Jerusalem and the entire land of Israel,' he says; Jordan condemns move as 'provocative' Liran Tamari, Moran Azulay|Updated:01:51

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited Jerusalem's Temple Mount Sunday morning after he avoided doing so on last week's Jerusalem Day as he used to do in years past.

"We are in charge here," he said at the Temple Mount Plaza. "All of Hamas' threats won't help, we are in charge in Jerusalem and the entire land of Israel."

Ben-Gvir praised the police for "doing a wonderful job" in securing Thursday's controversial Jerusalem Day Flag March, an annual nationalist parade celebrating the reunification of the city in the 1967 Six-Day War that in recent years has become a point of contention with the Palestinians.

He also referred to his ultranationalist Otzma Yehudit Party's weeklong boycott of Knesset votes as the far-right faction is at loggerheads with Finance Ministry officials over extra funds for the development of rural areas in the Negev and Galilee regions where a large part of his constituency resides.

"I'm happy to visit the Temple Mount, the most important place for the people of Israel, but we also have to remember our brothers in the Negev and Galilee," he said.

"In the upcoming budget, we must invest there. Jerusalem is our soul, the Negev and Galilee are our spirit. We must invest there and assert ourselves there, be the landlords of the Negev and Galilee. The foundation for that is the budget.

On Thursday, before the Flag March, Development of the Periphery, the Negev and the Galilee Minister Yitzhak Wasserlauf of Ben-Gvir's party, along with the police minister's wife Ayala Ben Gvir, ascended to the Temple Mount. Several members of the ruling Likud Party also arrived at the site, including Ariel Kalner, Amit Halevi, and Dan Illouz, who sang the national anthem "Hatikvah" during their visit to the mountain. The act was condemned as a provocation by Jordan's foreign ministry.

The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned Ben-Gvir's visit to the Temple Mount, stating that "the ascent of the Israeli Minister of National Security to the Temple Mount and the Al Aqsa compound is a violation of the sanctity of the place – it is a provocative step that must be condemned."

The Jordanian statement says that "this is a dangerous escalation that constitutes a blatant violation of international law and the status quo in Jerusalem. The ministry appeals to Israel with the demand to respect the sanctity of the place."

First published: 08:38, 05.21.23

### 5.18.23

NY bill by Bernie Sanders, seeks to revoke tax-deductible status of charity to Israel

### 5.18.23

New York bill seeks to sever funding of Israeli settlements

Legislation aims to prohibit donations to Israelis living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; among charities affected are Central Fund of Israel, which funds Kohelet Forum chief's salary, and Regavim movement founded by Smotrich Daniel Edelson, New York|03:33

The state of New York is home to some of Israel's top donors, giving away billions of dollars every year. However, new legislation introduced at New York's state assembly seeks to stop registered charities from transferring funds to any Israeli living in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and beyond the 1949 armistice lines, known as the Green Line.

The new legislation, named "Not on our dime!: Ending New York funding of Israeli settler violence act" will essentially revoke the tax-deductible status of charitable organizations and "prohibit not-for-profit corporations from engaging in unauthorized support of Israeli settlement activity."

It highlights the activities of The Central Fund of Israel, an American organization that serves as a channel for anonymous donations from the United States to right-wing organizations in Israel. Among other things, the charity funds the salary of Moshe Koppel, chairman and founder of the Kohelet Policy Forum, who receives one million shekels annually.

Other associations mentioned in the proposed law include the Israel Land Fund, which funds construction in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem, and the Friends of Ir David Association, the main funder of the Elad Association, which manages the City of David site in Jerusalem. The legislation also refers to the Ateret Cohanim Association, which owns property in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem, the Regavim Movement, whose founder is Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich, and more.

According to estimates, New York-based charities send approximately \$60 million per year to the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The legislation will also allow the attorney general of the State of New York to sue organizations that transfer funds beyond the 1967 lines (referring to territories beyond the Green Line). This provision would grant Palestinians who have been affected by donation funds the right to seek compensation in American courts.

The legislation is led by assembly member for the New York State Assembly Zohran Mamdani, a Democratic representative from Queens who openly supports the BDS movement and is closely associated with veteran Senator Bernie Sanders. The proposal is also supported by the Jewish organization Jewish Voice for Peace.

Mamdani clarified that the law would not apply to Jewish organizations that provide food for the poor, provide emergency medical treatment, and clothe orphans or engage in noble purposes, but only to organizations that support activities such as aiding the

demolition and incitement of Palestinian schools, homes, and agricultural lands. However, he did not specify how the determinations would be made and by whom.

This illumination did not convince a group of 25 assembly members, most of whom are Jewish, who released a letter on Wednesday against the proposed law, claiming that it would punish Jewish organizations that provide assistance to those in need and emergency care to victims of terrorism, many of whom live beyond the Green Line.

“This bill is a ploy to demonize Jewish charities with connections to Israel,” the letter written by the group led by Democrat Daniel Rosenthal of Queens said. “It was only introduced to antagonize pro-Israel New Yorkers and further sow divisions within the Democratic party.”

“We look forward to seeing the supporters of this legislation condemn last week’s attack from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad targeting civilians and recognizing Israel’s right to exist,” it said.

5.17.23

9 Ministers flock to New York for annual 'Salute to Israel parade' next month

5.17.23

Ministers flock to New York for annual 'Salute to Israel parade'

NY consulate under pressure to deal with large contingency of Israeli officials with their entourages all in need of accommodation, travel and most of all security person

Itamar Eichner|03:35

A sizable delegation of Israeli government officials will travel to New York at the start of the coming month to take part in the yearly "Salute to Israel Parade." This is the highest number of government officials to participate in the event, which is a show of support from the local Jewish community with the backing of many Jewish and Israeli organizations.

The parade, which is organized by the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) of New York and Greater New Jersey, is a major event on the Jewish calendar and draws crowds in the hundreds of thousands each year.

Participating ministers set to include Minister of Economy and Industry Nir Barkat, Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology Nir Akunis, Minister of Intelligence Gila Gamliel, Labor Minister Yoav Ben-Tzur, Minister of Diaspora Affairs and Social Equality Amichai Chikli, Minister of Information Galit Distel Atbaryan, Minister of Immigration and Absorption Ofir Sofer, Minister of Heritage Amihai Eliyahu and Minister of Jerusalem Affairs and Jewish Tradition Meir Parush.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant had originally planned to take part as well, appears to have decided to cancel his trip.

The Israeli consulate in New York faces significant challenges in hosting nine ministers due to security and logistical complexities. Arranging accommodations, transportation, and security measures for the ministers and their assistants will be a demanding task. Moreover, there is a potential for protests by the judicial overhaul protest movement targeting the visiting ministers.

5.17.23

Ombudsman sounds alarm on Israel's shoddy cybersecurity infrastructure

5.17.23

Ombudsman sounds alarm on Israel's shoddy cybersecurity infrastructure

Through services of white-hat hackers, State Comptroller Engman's office was able to map out vulnerabilities at Israel's main airport and one Israeli hospital, as well as myriad of cybersecurity shortfalls that put numerous state institutions at risk of falling prey to hackers

Yaron Drukman|Yesterday | 14:30

State Comptroller Matanyahu Engman on Tuesday released a special report listing a myriad of cybersecurity shortfalls that put numerous state institutions at risk of falling prey to hackers.

Through the services of white-hat hackers, Engman's office was able to map out vulnerabilities at Israel's main airport and one Israeli hospital.

According to the findings, the Population and Immigration Authority has failed to properly implement a security protocol designed to prevent criminal and terrorist elements, both foreign and domestic, from entering or leaving the country.

The report presents several cases where different groups exploited the weakness in border controls to either enter or exit the country. The ombudsman further noted that the examples do not represent the full extent of the phenomenon and that it is impossible to ascertain how many times, by whom and for what purpose the weakness was exploited.

Old non-biometric passports and ID cards

The state comptroller dedicated a whole chapter to the issue of biometric ID cards and passports, parts of which were redacted due to national security concerns.

According to the report, almost half of Israelis did not make the switch to biometric ID cards despite the state sinking NIS 430 million (\$115 million) into the move.

About 45% of Israeli ID card holders still possess the old, easily forgeable version despite the biometric version having been available for almost a decade and becoming mandatory in 2017. Additionally, some 2.9 million Israelis, comprising 37% of all passport holders, still possess non-biometric passports.

Engman warned that the continued use of old documents has criminal and security implications. For example, in the first half of 2022, there were approximately 400 attempts to enter the country using fake identification documents at border crossings.

He also noted that there is a clear correlation between the number of times citizens reported losing their biometric ID cards and requesting a new one and having a criminal record.

Since the introduction of smart ID cards began in June 2013, 3,834 citizens have reported losing or having their smart cards stolen at least three times, with 70% of them having a criminal record. Of those who have made at least eight requests, 100% had a criminal record.

Englman also noted that massive backlogs in the issuance of biometric passports post-pandemic pushed back the schedule for the completion of the transition to the new version by an additional two years.

Millions of attacks a day

The report also found that Israel's National Insurance Institute (Bituach Leumi) is targeted by millions of cyberattacks on a daily basis.

The institution—which provides a wide range of services including pensions, health insurance, unemployment payments, etc.—employs only 20 people, six of whom are students, in charge of fending off 2.9 million attacks on a daily average.

Given the volume of residents' personal information stored in the National Insurance Institute's servers and the risks of data leaks, Englman recommended classifying the body as part of Israel's critical infrastructure and shoring up its defenses.

The report also pointed out severe vulnerabilities in the servers of an Israeli hospital. The report withheld the name of the hospital out of security concerns.

The revelations are reminiscent of the conditions that led to a 2021 cyberattack that almost completely shut down a northern Israel hospital for days.

Following the audit, the management of the medical center fixed several issues and updated the security of certain systems. According to an estimate, the total cost of fixing the vulnerabilities could amount to over NIS 10 million (\$3 million) per year.

The ombudsman also recommended that the Health Ministry as the regulator take action to implement the recommendations across all medical institutions.

### 5.15.23

Talks on Judicial legislation to resume; deadline to appoint new judges by June 15

### 5.15.23

Compromise talks on Judicial legislation to resume amid political spats

Parties exchange jabs on Twitter prompting president to issue statement warning Israel will pay heavily if talks to reach compromise over the coalition's push for judicial overhaul, fail

Moran Azuly, Tova Tzimuki, Itamar Eichner|04:37

Talks to find a compromise over the coalition's Judicial overhaul legislation that has brought hundreds of thousands of protesters into the streets will resume on Tuesday after halting during the 5-day military operation in Gaza.



The talks began last April after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paused legislation and said he would seek wide consensus for laws that would alter the judicial system after condemnation from economists and world leaders.

As a deadline to appoint new judges by June 15, looms, and Justice Minister Yariv Levin is obligated by law to summon the panel selecting judges and must also name new Supreme Court justices to replace Chief Justice Esther Hayut and Justice Anat Baron, who will be retiring in October.

Levin has been unwilling to convene the panel until he succeeds in changing the law so as to give politicians a majority on the committee, a major point of contention, among others in the coalition's legislative push.

For the panel to be convened Levin must name a minister in addition to himself and the Knesset must select two lawmakers. Both would likely be from the coalition in light of their absolute parliamentary majority, granting the government power to name judges to the lower courts but not enough to seat justices to the Supreme Court.

After a Twitter brawl between opposition members and Netanyahu ally and cabinet secretary Yossi Fox, bringing the controversy back to public discourse, President Issac Herzog issued a statement calling on the sides to remain focused on finding a compromise.

"The President clarifies as he has done repeatedly, that if there will be winners and losers in the talks, the country will end up the loser," A statement released by the President's Residence read. "The coalition accepted the president's request not to postpone the scheduled date to elect representatives to the Judges Selection Panel in order to allow dialogue to continue and has clarified that the authority to summon the panel is in the hands of the justice minister."

The statement went on to say, "Israel is at a critical point and the slightest action could bring an end to the talks at an unbearable price. It is challenging to reach agreements, but it is in the favor of the country, that in a joint effort, understanding can be reached."

5.15.23

Palestinians prefer Russia, China or EU to mediate with Israel, not US

5.15.23

Palestinians prefer Russia, China to mediate with Israel, don't trust US

Disillusioned by what they perceive as tacit American approval of Israel following a long series of West Bank raids by Israeli forces, Palestinians now prefer Moscow and Beijing as fair mediators in the long-standing conflict; 'The U.S. overtly states that it is pro-Israel,' says official

i24NEWS|03:54

A new survey published on Monday showed that Palestinians prefer Russia and China as potential peace mediators with Israel, while the U.S. is seen as the least favorable option.

The majority of respondents to the survey, conducted this month by YouGov at the request of Arab News, said that they would like Moscow to be a potential peace broker. In the meantime, 80% pointed to China – which has strengthened its position in the region after mediating the Saudi-Iranian rapprochement in March.

Later in April, Beijing offered to facilitate peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians amid tensions in Jerusalem during the holy month of Ramadan. The third possible option, according to the survey, is the European Union.

Meanwhile, nearly 60% of respondents said they did not trust the U.S. to mediate negotiations, with 86% claiming that Washington has significant influence over Jerusalem.

“Palestinians have never seen the U.S. as a neutral or fair broker,” director of the London-based Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU), Chris Doyle, told Arab News.

He added that “the (Palestinian) leadership has tolerated the U.S. because, quite simply, as the world’s sole superpower for many years, (they) have had no choice.”

“The U.S. overtly states that it is pro-Israel, that it has a strategic alliance with the State of Israel, it routinely passes pro-Israel resolutions in Congress, and, of course, vetoes attempts to pass Security Council resolutions critical of the State of Israel and its conduct,” the expert added.

### 5.15.23

UN: Abbas claims five Arab armies were victims of May 15, 1948 Israel independence

### 5.15.23

Abbas demands UN ban Israel

PA chairman claims on 'Nakba Day' that Israel's membership in the UN was contingent on fulfilling 1947, 1949 resolutions.

Gary Willig May 15, 2023, 6:45 PM (GMT+3)

Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas demanded that the United Nations suspend Israel's membership in the organization if it does not give in to his demands to create a Palestinian Arab state and to accept millions of descendants of refugees from the 1948 War of Independence.

Addressing the 'Nakba Day' event held at the UN today, Abbas claimed that Israel's acceptance as a UN member was contingent on its fulfillment of the 1947 UN Partition Plan and General Assembly Resolution 194, which called for refugees who were willing to live in peace to be allowed to return to their former homes following the war. “Forcing Israel to implement these two resolutions was a condition, a prerequisite for their membership in the UN at the time. However, sadly, certain countries — we all know we are talking about, we will mention them later — in this organization have deliberately

obstructed the implementation of these resolutions in a practice that undermines justice, ethics and human values.”

“We demand today, officially, in accordance with international law and international resolutions, to make sure that Israel respects these resolutions, or suspend Israel’s membership in the UN, particularly since Israel never fulfilled its obligations and the prerequisites for its membership in this organization that they committed to implementing,” he said.

The PA chairman further accused the British and American governments of creating the State of Israel in order to "get rid of their Jews."

“Britain and the United States specifically bear political and ethical responsibility directly for the Nakba of the Palestinian people, because they took part in rendering our people a victim when they decided to establish and plant another entity in our historic homeland for their own colonial goals. These countries wanted to get rid of their Jews and benefit from their presence in Palestine," Abbas said.

The Zionist movement accepted the 1947 Partition Plan, Resolution 181, while the Arab side rejected it and immediately launched attacks against the Jewish population of what would become the State of Israel in an effort to prevent the establishment of a Jewish State. Both the Partition Plan and Resolution 194 were General Assembly resolutions, which are legally non-binding and irrelevant to Israel's acceptance as a member of the UN, contrary to Abbas' claims.

"On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel declared its establishment in line with the United Nations’ 1947 Partition Plan. The Arab states, including the Palestinians who lived in Israel, rejected the Partition Plan, and immediately following Israel’s declaration of independence, five Arab armies invaded Israel in order to obliterate the nascent state," the letter opened, adding: "75 years later, on Monday, May 15, the United Nations will commemorate the momentous occasion of Israel’s independence, not by celebrating Israel and its accomplishments, but rather by holding a special event in the General Assembly branding Israel’s establishment as the Nakba – the catastrophe in Arabic."

The letter continues: "The thought that an international organization could mark the establishment of one of its member states as a catastrophe or disaster is both appalling and repulsive. This event is a blatant attempt to distort history, neglecting the fact that those who paint themselves as the victims were actually the aggressors who initiated a five-front war on the newly established State of Israel. This horrifying falsification must not be condoned in any way, shape, or form."

Erdan turned to his fellow ambassadors and said: "Those who attend one-sided hypocritical initiatives, such as the abominable event taking place on May 15, only serve to promote the antisemitic practice of holding the Jewish state to a different standard than any other member state. Not only does this condone Jew-hatred, but it also gives a green light to the Palestinians to continue exploiting international organs to promote their

libelous narrative. Attending one-sided Palestinian initiatives that falsely brand Israel as the source of all evil does not bring the conflict closer to an end but only serves to inflame tensions."

====   ====   ====   ====  
====   ====   ====   ====

Ynet-News, May 14, 2023 – Sunday

5.14.23 – Su- - - News       Placed in May 14 spot – Sunday  
IDF changed Gaza & fulfilled the mission; border tensions high for Old City march

5.14.23 – Su- - - News       Placed in May 13 spot – Saturday  
Calm after five-day 1.469 Jihad rockets and mortar fight & 422 IDF strikes

5.12.23 – Fr- - - News       – Friday  
Jihad not agreed to Egypt cease-fire; Hamas enjoys seeing his opposition pummeled

5.12.23 – Fr- - - News       – Friday  
866 Gaza rockets, 260 intercepted, 215 IDF targets attacked as PA seeks a victory

5.11.23 – Th- - - News       Placed in May 12 spot – Friday  
Iran invested millions in Gaza fight; 18000 barred work permits stops terror

5.11.23 – Th- - - News       Placed in May 11 spot – Thursday  
After 507 rockets; Gaza wants IDF to stop killing leaders & cancel flag march

5.10.23 – We- - - News       – Wednesday  
Sderot residents caught in two rapid missile strikes as they flee north

5.10.23 – We- - - News       – Wednesday  
Tel Aviv, central Israel and South under missile attack, by dozens of Gaza rockets

5.09.23 – Tu- - - News       Placed in May 10 spot – Wednesday  
All border cities residents near Gaza being evacuated by plan to northern hotels

5.09.23 – Tu- - - News       – Tuesday  
'No terrorist is immune': Netanyahu says Gaza fighting could last days

5.09.23 – Tu- - - News       – Tuesday  
Iran pressures Gaza respond against Israel; Hamas leaders aware of becoming targets