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5.30.23

Calls to cut funds at University of New York after antisemitic graduation speech

5.30.23

Calls to cut funding at CUNY after antisemitic graduation speech

Fatima Mohammed, an anti-Israel activist who previously called for 'zionist free' spaces for students, delivers a controversial 12-minute speech bashing Israel during her keynote address to CUNY Law School; The response on social media has led to demands from lawmakers and activists to cut public funding to the university

Emily Schrader | 12:26

The City University of New York (CUNY) is under fire once again for antisemitism following a controversial commencement ceremony at the CUNY law school earlier this month.

Fatima Mousa Mohammed, a law school student of Yemenite origin and an activist with Students for Justice in Palestine, was selected to represent the class of 2023. Mohammed gave a 12-minute commencement speech in which she dedicated a considerable amount of time to accusing Israel of "indiscriminate" murder of children, applauding CUNY for endorsing BDS, and bashing Zionism.

Mohammed also condemned CUNY for the fact they continue to "train and cooperate with the fascist NYPD, the military...[and] to train Israeli soldiers to carry out that violence globally."

"We are the student body and faculty that fought back when the investor-focused administration attempted to cross the BDS picket line, saying loud and clear that Palestine can no longer be the exception to our pursuit of justice, that our morality will not be purchased by investors," said Mohammed, insinuating that Jewish or pro-Israel "investors" are involved.

Mohammed closed her speech by calling on her classmates to conduct a "revolution" against the American legal system which "upholds white supremacy" and to use their anger as "fuel for the fight against capitalism, racism, imperialism and Zionism around the world."

Shortly after the speech went viral on social media, additional footage of Mohammed surfaced at an anti-Israel rally in which she urged attendees to "demand that Zionist professors are not welcomed on your campus. Demand that Zionist students are not present in spaces when Palestinian students are."

Her commencement speech was originally uploaded by CUNY to YouTube last week, but after uproar on social media over the antisemitic undertones of Mohammed's speech, the university removed the video. For social media, however, it was too late.

Here in its entirety is the vitriolic, evil, antisemitic @CUNYLaw commencement address from Jew hater Fatima Mohammed. Unimaginably, it is even worse than last year's hate spewed by Nerdeen Kiswani. No wonder CUNY Law, under state investigation, tried to hide this video. pic.twitter.com/nKCe1Kx2sc

Mohammed's speech went viral, drawing harsh condemnation from elected officials, Jewish organizations and activists around the world, who are now calling on the government to cut funding to the public university.

Gerard Filitti, senior counsel at the Lawfare Project, stated that "the Jew-hatred at CUNY is systemic, all the more so at the law school. A reporting portal is a necessary first step, and having the foresight to withhold funding is one way to bring CUNY to the table." Congressman Mike Lawler (R-NY) echoed the same, "This is exactly why I am passing legislation to defund universities for practicing and promoting anti-Semitism... CUNY should be ashamed – and lose all federal funding it currently receives."

On the other side of the political aisle, the condemnation on social media was just as severe. Democratic Congressman Ritchie Torres wrote, "Imagine being so crazed by hatred for Israel as a Jewish State that you make it the subject of your commencement speech at a law school graduation. Anti-Israel derangement syndrome at work."

New York City Councilwoman Inna Vernikov similarly condemned the speech, writing, "If anyone had doubts on what's going on at CUNY, and if the hearing we held did not convince you, here it is: Vile, unabashed hatred for America, Israel, NYPD, & democracy."

Jewish organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY) also condemned Mohammed's speech, with ADL stating, "We are appalled to see such an egregious display of hostility toward "Zionists" (which is how many Jews see themselves) and Israel in CUNY Law's commencement address."

CUNY has a budget for 2023 of approximately \$4.3 billion USD, the majority of which comes from the state, and has 25 colleges in New York with approximately 260,000 students.

In recent years, it's become a hotbed of antisemitism, and last year a similar speech by anti-Israel activist Nerdeen Kiswani took place at the CUNY law school, prompting a cut in funding to CUNY from the state. Kiswani is also the co-founder of Within Our Lifetime, the organization responsible for protesting outside Jewish institutions in New York City calling for "intifada."

CUNY is currently under federal investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice for an ongoing trend of antisemitic incidents.

5.30.23

PA terror group runs student exchange program with Europe to spread its agenda

5.30.23

Palestinian terror group runs student exchange program with Europe Union of Agricultural Work Committees, blacklisted by Israel in 2021, claims to 'strengthen young people' with trips across Europe for Palestinian students arriving from the West Bank

TPS| 11:53

A designated terrorist organization is running an international student exchange program for Palestinian students in cooperation with France and the United Kingdom, according to an Israeli NGO.

The exchange program, run by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, claims to “strengthen young people in relation to agricultural and environmental activities.” Scheduled for July, it includes visits to Marseille, Berlin, and Hebron.

According to the admission criteria, priority will be given to residents of Area C, an administrative zone in the West Bank controlled by Israel.

After discovering the program, Israeli NGO Regavim wrote a letter to the Israeli Defense Ministry and Israel Defense Forces last week demanding that immediate steps be taken. “Israel must act immediately to block the UAWC’s ability to operate on the local and international stage to spread its terrorist agenda, and to cut off the UAWC’s ability to maintain international contacts that funnel European money to the PFLP,” the letter states. “The Israeli government’s failure to act against the activities of this terrorist organization constitutes abandonment of territory under Israeli jurisdiction,” he said, expressing surprise that the UAWC continues to operate “openly among Palestinian students and in cooperation with foreign countries.”

Knesset member Sharren Haskel (National Unity Party) also submitted a request to the Defense Minister for an explanation of why a terrorist organization is being allowed to operate freely, according to Regavim.

The Defense Ministry designated the UAWC a terrorist group along with five other organizations in 2021.

The UAWC is tied to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), designated by the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. UAWC’s administrative manager was charged with aiding in the murder of Rina Shnerb, 17, in the summer of 2019.

In October 2022, Israel’s designation of the UAWC as a terrorist group was rejected by nine European countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden.

However, the Netherlands ended its donations to the UAWC in January 2022, following an external investigation into the NGO’s links with the PFLP. Some 21.5 million euros (\$24.3 million) had been donated to the UAWC before the Netherlands put funding on hold in August 2020 pending the outcome of the investigation.

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5.30.23

Delegation of 20 UK House of Lords arrived in Israel for a four-day visit

5.30.23

Building bridges: Largest-ever UK House of Lords delegation arrives in Israel

Members of upper house of **British Parliament** land in Holy Land in bid **to strengthen** bilateral **ties** between London and Jerusalem; 'There are so many ways in which Israel and the UK can work together, from healthcare and technology to agriculture and cyber security,' says Lord Turnberg
Hadas Bar-Ad| 11:48

The largest-ever official **delegation from** the **UK House of Lords arrived** in Israel this week for a **four-day visit**.

The delegation, organized and facilitated by The European Leadership Network (ELNET) - an NGO whose mission is to strengthen relations between Europe and Israel, and the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Britain-Israel, **consists of** cross-party lords from all three main parties in the **upper chamber of Parliament**.

Accompanied by ELNET UK's CEO Joan Ryan and the Lords Chair of the APPG Lord Turnberg, the **delegation of 20 Lords** kicked off their trip with a **tour** of the **Old City of Jerusalem**, in which they visited the **Western Wall, Lutheran Church** of the Redeemer, and the Church of the **Holy Sepulcher**. They then proceeded to the **Knesset**, where they met with Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana and other lawmakers.

"Today I met with a delegation of 19 members of the British House of Lords, led by Lord Turnberg," Ohana tweeted on Monday. "Alongside longstanding supporters of Israel, I was pleased to greet lords who are visiting the country for the first time. Inter-parliamentary relations have an influence on the quality of the relationship between Israel and Britain, a connection that we attribute great importance to and continuously work to strengthen. Thanks to ELNET for organizing the delegation, and welcome to Israel."

On **Tuesday**, the **delegation visited** Yad Vashem. Lord Leslie Turnberg, as Co-Chair of the APPG and member of the Labour Party, and Lord Michael Howard, as a former UK Home Secretary and Conservative Party Leader, **laid wreaths and lit the flame** of remembrance at Yad Vashem.

The itinerary for **Wednesday includes a visit** to Israel's border regions and to the **Iron Dome air defense system**, where they will receive briefings on the regional security and diplomatic landscape by ministers and high-level officials, and learn about the many projects across Israel that facilitate coexistence within and between Israel and its regional neighbors. They will then have dinner with British Ambassador Neil Wigan.

Joan Ryan, former chair of Labour Friends of Israel, said "ELNET UK is delighted to be working with our partners at the APPG on Britain-Israel and to be taking one of the largest-ever Parliamentary delegations to Israel. This trip will provide a unique opportunity for British Parliamentarians to learn about Israel in the round – its successes, its challenges, and the opportunities to enhance and build on the already extensive UK-Israel relationship”.

Lord Turnberg, co-chair of the APPG, said “As co-chair of the APPG for Israel, I am delighted to partner with ELNET UK, in bringing so many cross-party colleagues to Israel to deepen the bilateral relationship between our countries.

There are so many ways in which Israel and the UK can work together, from healthcare and technology to agriculture and cyber security. The Lords on this delegation have an impressive plethora of experience and interest and we are looking forward to being inspired on how we can take the UK-Israel relationship forward during this delegation.”

5.30.23

Israeli murdered in a West Bank drive-by attack; PA remove camera footage

5.30.23

Israeli murdered in a West Bank drive-by terror attack

The Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa brigade terror group claims responsibility for the attack and calls on Palestinians to remove camera footage from security cameras to disrupt the IDF's attempts to locate the assailants

Elisha Ben Kimon | 04:21

An Israeli in his 40s was shot and killed on Tuesday, in a drive-by terror attack near the West Bank settlement of Hermesh. He arrived at the gate of his own volition and received initial medical care on the site and was transported to hospital, as the IDF began searches and setting up roadblocks.

Preliminary investigations of the murderous attack reveal the terrorists fired at least seven shots from an M16 rifle before escaping the scene and heading north toward the city of Jenin.

Palestinians reported heavy troop movements in the area of Tul Karm where searches were underway and CCT camera footage was retrieved.

The Al Aqsa Brigade Tul Karm branch - a militant group affiliated with the Fatah movement assumed responsibility for the attack and said "The warriors retreated safely."

The terrorists also called on Palestinians in the area to erase security camera footage to disrupt the military's efforts to apprehend the assailants.

Some of their members are employed by the Palestinian Authority security agencies and have been leading terror activity in Tul Karm, Nablus and Jenin, according to the military, and are believed to be in greater numbers than groups affiliated with Hamas or the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Hamas praised the attack and said it was a statement to the resistance of the Palestinians. Regional Council head Yossi Dagan said the attack took place after a military checkpoint that had been deployed to the area had been removed by the IDF. I will not let my residents be like sitting ducks, he said "I call on the government to bring roadblocks back and bring security to our roads," he said.

Earlier troops mapped the home of the terrorist who murdered Lucy Dee and her two daughters Maya and Rina in April in a drive-by shooting attack.

As the troops entered the Nablus camp, they encountered explosive devices and stones hurled at them and responded using riot control means. They also fired shots at a suspect who they observed hurling a fire bomb and explosive devices.

5.30.23

IAEA to issue quarterly reports on Iran this week of three sites investigated

5.30.23

IAEA resolves nuclear issues with Iran - Iranian Media

According to the report investigations of three sites investigated for the presence of uranium particles were closed after inspectors had been attempting to clarify how enriched uranium to near military grade had been found

Ynet| 03:53

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has resolved nuclear issues with Iran relating to one of three sites being investigated over the presence of uranium particles, Iranian media reported on Tuesday.

The agency's alleged case regarding the findings of uranium particles with 83.7 purity has also been closed, a source told the semi-official Mehr news agency.

International atomic monitors detected uranium enriched to levels just below that needed for a nuclear weapon, in Iran last February according to a report in Bloomberg, citing two senior diplomats

The IAEA was trying to clarify how Iran accumulated uranium enriched to 84% purity — the highest level found by inspectors in the country to date, and a concentration just 6% below what's needed for a weapon. Iran had previously told the IAEA that its centrifuges were configured to enrich uranium to a 60% level of purity.

Last year the UN atomic watchdog said Iran had accumulated enriched uranium in sufficient quantity to make three nuclear bombs.

The IAEA is due to issue quarterly reports on Iran this week, ahead of a regular meeting of its 35-nation Board of Governors next week.

Reuters contributed to this report

5.25.23

Israel nabs suspect in 2022 shooting & firebomb attack on bus carrying IDF soldiers

5.25.23

Israel nabs suspect in West Bank shooting attack on bus carrying IDF soldiers

After months in hiding, security forces apprehend Maher al-Said Turkman for involvement in September 2022 attack in Jordan Valley that wounded seven people Yoav Zitun, Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi|00:59

Israeli security forces arrested overnight Thursday a Palestinian terrorist fugitive involved in a September 2022 shooting and firebomb attack on a bus carrying IDF soldiers in the West Bank's Jordan Valley region.

Maher al-Said Turkman, a 50-year-old farmer from the Palestinian village of al-Jiftlik in the heart of the Jordan Valley, carried out the attack together with his son Mohammad Turkman and nephew Walid Turkman, using a vehicle with an Israeli license plate which was registered in the name of his wife, who is an Israeli citizen.

Turkman, who was arrested in the Palestinian town of Al-Yamun by IDF and Border Police forces based on Shin Bet intelligence, is suspected of planning and carrying out the shooting attack - in which six soldiers and the bus driver were wounded. "Security forces will continue to act to locate, arrest, and bring to justice those who carry out attacks against Israeli civilians and security forces, even long time has passed since the attack," a joint statement from the IDF, Shin Bet, and Border Police read.

Turkman was known to authorities in the Jordan Valley even before the attack for his involvement in occasional provocations in the area, mainly related to water theft with his family members.

"We know him well. He builds illegally here and does whatever he wants. To generate sympathy, he sometimes brings out his 80-year-old father to complain about the water. And there is not much to do against an elderly man," a security source told Ynet. The terrorist, who had been at large for almost nine months, was arrested just three weeks before the attack when he tried to divert water to his crops. He was also involved in the construction of illegal buildings in the Jordan Valley, some of which were built on state land.

Another son of his, Ahmed Turkman, was arrested last month at the Jenin refugee camp as part of a series of arrests planned by the Shin Bet due to suspicion of an imminent terrorist attack.

The terrorist cell was arrested for questioning by the Shin Bet, while exchanges of fire took place between the forces and the gunmen, some of whom were injured. No soldiers were injured, and they seized large amounts of weapons and ammunition from the suspects. Ahmed Turkman is also suspected of aiding the attack in the Jordan Valley his relatives took part in, among other things.

5.24.23

Judicial overhaul is back on the table; Gantz & Lapid vow to destroy negotiations

5.24.23

It's back! Netanyahu turns to judicial overhaul

Prime minister says judicial reform legislation is back on the agenda after approval of budget gives Israeli government stability; He says he hopes compromise talks are

successful, but that he will press ahead with the overhaul no matter what; Gantz calls him power drunk

Moran Azulay|02:15

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday morning that the judicial overhaul will now return to the agenda after passing his 2023, 2024 budget. Netanyahu was asked if the plan that the government under his leadership tried to promote "will come back," and he replied: "Certainly". Immediately afterward he emphasized: "But we are trying to reach an understanding, and I hope we will succeed in this." Blue and White leader Benny Gantz said in response that the "power drunk" prime minister will bring the country to a boil.

Gantz who is considered moderate among negotiators from the opposition seeking broad agreement on legislation concerning Israel's judiciary said "I would remind the prime minister it is stupid to repeat the same action and expect a different outcome. If the judicial revolution is back on the table, we will shake this country to its core and stop it," Gantz said.

Netanyahu made it clear in an interview with Channel 14 that his next goal is to address the cost of living, even though the parts related to the fight against monopolies were removed from the regulations law accompanying the new budget.

Recall that Netanyahu froze the advancement of judicial reform legislation at the end of March in the shadow of the widespread protest that broke out in Israel – and reached its peak in the "Night of Rage" that broke out when Netanyahu announced that he would fire Defense Minister Yoav Gallant after Gallant warned of "tangible dangers to the security of the state" and called for a halt to the legislation.

The Knesset then entered the Spring recess during which reconciliation talks between representatives of the coalition and the opposition began at the President's Residence. But the talks are proceeding at a relatively slow pace and no significant progress has been made – with an impasse remaining about proposed changes to the committee for selecting judges that are a red line for Justice Minister Yariv Levin and Constitution Committee Chair Simcha Rotman. A majority of the coalition representatives on the committee want to allow the appointment of some Supreme Court justices – while the opposition insists on preventing any politicization of the process.

Levin and Rotman insist that the government approve at least parts of the judicial reform in case the talks collapse, and the chairman of the Constitutional Committee charged just last week in an interview with the Ynet Studio that the opposition is "determined to blow up" the negotiations. As he has already stated several times, Rotman insists: "If there are no agreements, If there is an explosion, we will move forward unilaterally in the Knesset plenum."

According to Rotman, "the distances between the parties are not great, and if the opposition wants to reach agreements – it can happen tomorrow morning."

Rothman also warned this month that not advancing the judicial reform legislation could harm the stability of the government itself. "A coalition that does not keep its promises does not survive," he said.

The opposition, on the other hand, has warned against dragging out the compromise talks – with the purpose of taking the wind out of the sails of the protest movement.

Opposition head Yair Lapid has already indicated the next main target: next month's Knesset election of its representatives to the judicial selection committee. According to Lapid, a sign of the coalition's seriousness would be if it allowed, as has been traditional, to elect a representative of the opposition to the committee alongside the coalition representative – although the government could also appoint two coalition representatives; this possibility was recently brought up by Cabinet Secretary Yossi Fox. Netanyahu's statement about the return of judicial reform came shortly after the approval of the 2023-2024 biennial budget by his government, after a discussion that lasted 35 hours.

Voting in the Knesset began on Tuesday night on the budget legislation - which also includes the Arrangements law under which a number of reforms were approved such as the establishment of the controversial property tax fund –and the last vote on the budget came on Wednesday morning at around 6:10 a.m.

The budget passed with a majority of 64 Knesset members in favor and 56 voted against. No lawmakers were absent from the coalition or the opposition.

The state budget for 2023 will be 484 billion shekels (\$130.7 billion) and in 2024 it will be 514 billion shekels (\$138.9 billion). This is the largest budget in the country's history, and next year it will be more than half a trillion shekels for the first time. About 14 billion shekels (\$3.8 billion) of this money will be awarded to the coalition parties that caused an uproar.

Plenum

The Arrangements Law that also was approved, according to Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich, "includes measures to accelerate growth and raise the standard of living and focuses on five main goals: accelerating infrastructure and handling the housing market, increasing competition and reducing centralization, strengthening human capital, reducing regulation and bureaucracy for the business sector and citizens, and streamlining the public sector."

The announcement did not mention that most of the sections of the chapter that was supposed to fight the cost of living, while imposing restrictions on large importers, were removed from the Arrangements Law. In fact, despite the government's promises, the law does not contain any legislation that would impose restrictions on the large monopolies in the economy and therefore does not herald any moves to combat the cost of living.

Smotrich said Wednesday morning that the budget "reflects the government's stability" and claimed that it is an "excellent" budget that is "biased toward growth" – despite warnings from senior officials in his ministry that the large amounts of money that will be poured into ultra-Orthodox institutions that do not teach the core curriculum or teach it only partially may harm future growth.

The opposition strongly attacked the passing of the budget, and Opposition Leader Yair Lapid tweeted: "While you were sleeping, the worst and most destructive budget in the history of the country was passed. There is no good news in it, there is no fight against the cost of living, there is only endless extortion. This budget is a violation of the contract with the citizens of Israel. All of us and our children and our children's children will pay for it."

The chairman of the National Unity party Benny Gantz said: "This is a sad day for the State of Israel. The man who denied the citizens of Israel a budget for political reasons, today turned the budget once again into a tool in the political game. The State of Israel fell into the hands of an extremist coalition that put the Israeli economy and Israeli society on the altar of politics. Instead of bringing good news to many old people, children, people with disabilities, young couples, and residents of the Negev and the Galilee, a budget has now been passed that takes care of political dealings and is based on the feel of silence. This evening we call on the generations. Just as reality shattered in front of Netanyahu in the coup d'état, it will also shatter in front of him in the budget. Until then, unfortunately, the citizens of Israel will pay the price."

5.24.23

Knesset passes budget 64 to 56 for 2023 & 2024; Opposition calling it destructive

5.24.23

Knesset passes budget for 2023, 2024 with clear majority

Netanyahu says government now cleared for four years of good work while opposition calls budget the most destructive in country's history; finance minister says bill includes a fight over rising cost of living

Sivan Hilai, Liran Tamari, Einav Halabi, Meir Turgeman, Moran Azulay |00:05

The Knesset passed Israel's Budget Bill for the years 2023 and 2024, early on Wednesday giving the coalition a clear majority of 64 to 56 votes.

After the overnight vote, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his government was now prepared to spend the next four years doing good work.

The budget for 2023 stands at 484 billion shekel and in 2024 it will be 514 billion shekel, the largest in the country's history. 14 billion were allotted to meet commitments made in the coalition agreements, which were criticized by the opposition and include funding for ultra-Orthodox education at double the amount of previous years.

After the vote, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said funds were allocated to fighting the rising cost of living and would focus on infrastructure, housing, and deregulation to bolster the market economy, although critics claim there are no allocations to limit monopolies.

"Passing a budget will allow us stability in government," Smotrich said. He claimed there would be massive investments in hi-tech and allow funding for the health system, and education.

"The Israeli economy is strong," he said. "It is one of the best and most stable in the world. We've had crisis before and were the first to emerge from them and that is what we will do with this bill," he said.

Israel's economy came under threat after the government announced its intentions to overhaul the judiciary with laws seen by many as an assault on democracy.

Economists in Israel and abroad warned of the dangers and credit companies considered lowering their projections if the laws were not removed from consideration.

The opposition slammed the bill past with Opposition Leader Yair Lapid calling it the most destructive in the country's history.

5.23.23

IDF soldier arrested for racially motivated attack on 2 Arab minors

5.23.23

IDF soldier arrested for racially motivated attack on Arab minors

Israeli soldier held by Shin Bet for alleged hate crime against Arab minors, two other suspects arrested; Family and lawyer express dismay after he was prohibited from meeting with legal counsel

Elisha Ben-Kimon|14:19

An IDF soldier has been arrested by Shin Bet on suspicion of committing a racially motivated hate crime against two Arab minors. Two additional suspects were also arrested in connection with the case. A comprehensive gag order has been imposed, preventing the disclosure of any investigation details.

During a hearing Monday at the Hadera Magistrate's Court, the soldier's detention was extended until next Sunday. In an unusual move, the soldier has been prohibited from meeting with legal counsel. Attorney Assaf Gonen, who represents the soldier, promptly lodged an urgent appeal with the District Court in Haifa to challenge this restriction.

In response to the situation, the soldier's family expressed their dismay, saying: "It is a shame that this is how soldiers are treated in the State of Israel."

Gonen voiced his disappointment, stating: "We are very sorry that the Israel Police and the Shin Bet chose to take a soldier on regular duty and prevent him from meeting with a lawyer in a relatively minor case, in a single incident that allegedly occurred more than a month ago.

"It is still not clear what the nature of the event is, and I am sure that the truth will come out. We will do everything in order to preserve all the rights of the soldier," the attorney said.

Thus far, Shin Bet have declined to respond.

5.23.23

Iranian official threatens war if nuclear sites attacked

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Iranian official threatens war if nuclear sites attacked

Official quoted by Al Jazeera says there would be no red lines in Iran's response to Israel, after comments made by IDF chief Herzi Halevi earlier; claims threats on Iran are result of internal Israeli strife
Daniel Salami|14:19

An Iranian official said on Tuesday that an attack on nuclear facilities would mean a widespread war that Israel would bear responsibility for. Speaking to the Qatari-based Al Jazeera network the official said Israeli threats would not change the course of things.

During Halevi's speech, nine people were injured in a fire at Isfahan's Eshtehard industrial town in central Iran, according to Iran's semi-official Young Journalists' Club news agency.

"The fire was caused by the explosion of a chemicals reactor," the news agency said, adding that the Red Crescent was dispatched to the area.

The official spoke in response to earlier comments by IDF chief Herzi Halevi who said "There are negative developments that could lead to action against Iran and Israel has the capabilities to do so if needed.

He said Israel's declarations are official terrorism that is tolerated by the international community. "They reflect the depth of Israel's internal problems," he said. "We do not seek war, but the world must understand we have lines that there are no red lines when it comes to our response to Israel."

He went on to say that Israel was trying to justify its attacks in Syria out of concern that Damascus would improve its air defenses with the help of Tehran.

Iran's nuclear energy agency also responded to Halevi's comments. "There is no significance to the threats on Iranian nuclear facilities. The enemy is beginning to understand that our nuclear capabilities cannot be removed," the agency told Al Jazeera. "Our enemies have managed to inflate unimportant matters concerning our nuclear program, for political reasons," they said.

5.23.23

Turkish election favors Erdogan by arrest of 11 Mossad spys in Istanbul

5.23.23

Turkish intelligence uncovers alleged Mossad spy network

Turkish intelligence arrest 11 members of what it says is a Mossad-linked spy network operating within Turkey, who trained in Israel and has two operatives still at large; The network's focus was espionage against individuals with connections to Iran

Itamar Eichner|09:37

Turkish intelligence (MIT) says it has uncovered a spy network linked to the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, according to Turkish media reports on Tuesday. The network allegedly operated within Turkey and consisted of 15 individuals.

The investigation led to the arrest of 11 members, who reportedly were trained in Israel and sent to Turkey with the aim of establishing a company involved in trading with Iran.

Reports from Turkey suggest that the network's activities, carried out over a period of 18 months, focused on espionage against 23 individuals who had commercial ties to Iran. Furthermore, it has been disclosed that a manhunt is currently underway in Turkey to locate two additional suspects believed to be associated with the network.

Reports from Turkey indicate that the Mossad, in collaboration with security personnel associated with exiled Turkish cleric Fethullah Gülen, allegedly played a role in establishing the recently exposed spy network.

What makes this accusation noteworthy is that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has accused Gülen of orchestrating the failed coup attempt against him in 2016.

Reports suggest the head of the spy network operating in Turkey received direct instructions from Mossad operatives. The head of the network engaged in face-to-face meetings with Mossad officials in various European countries, according to reports. These meetings included several tests administered by the operatives to assess his capabilities.

The report suggests that, after the fifth meeting, the Mossad approached the head of the network with an offer to serve as a spy. Subsequently, he established communication with the Mossad through a clandestine communication system.

It is alleged that he provided the Mossad with collected information regarding individuals under surveillance, including details such as entry and exit records to Turkey, phone numbers, bank accounts and more.

The head of the spy network, along with another suspect, was apprehended by authorities two months ago. The remaining members of the network were reportedly arrested by Istanbul police on Monday.

In December, a report in the Turkish newspaper Daily Sabah disclosed that 44 individuals were interrogated based on suspicions of spying on Palestinian exiles on behalf of the Mossad.

Four individuals were subsequently arrested. The operation in Istanbul involved the active participation of the local police and Turkey's National Intelligence Organization. The detainees underwent questioning over allegations that they divulged information about the Palestinian exiles.

According to the report, the apprehended individuals were associated with "consulting companies" located in Istanbul. These entities purportedly provided private investigation services to clients and had established communication with the Mossad over a period of time.

The Turkish sources claim that the Mossad paid the suspects for monitoring activities concerning Palestinians and non-governmental organizations.

The decisive second round of the Turkish presidential elections looms. Recent developments have brought favorable news to incumbent Erdogan, positioning him strongly for another five year term in office.

Sinan Ogan, who secured the third position in the initial round and subsequently withdrew from the race, on Monday declared his support for Erdogan in the upcoming

vote, dealing a significant blow to the prospects of the opposition leader, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu.

This endorsement carries substantial implications for the electoral landscape and significantly impacts the dynamics of the race.

5.23.23

Policy and Strategy Conference by IDF Chief Halevi outlined enemies & goals

5.23.23

Iran developments 'could lead to Israeli action,' IDF chief warns

Lt.-Gen. Herzl Halevi says Iran 'advanced in uranium enrichment like never before' but army has the capabilities to act if necessary, cites Hezbollah military buildup in Lebanon as one of Israel's major challenges

Yoav Zitun|07:54

IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Herzl Halevi warned on Tuesday that "there are negative developments that could lead to action" against Iran and Israel has the capabilities to do so if needed.

Light unto the nations: How Kherson's synagogue became a massive outreach center
Speaking at Reichman University at the annual Herzliya Conference on the topic of Policy and Strategy in an Age of Uncertainty, Halevi said, "Iran has advanced in uranium enrichment like never before. Without going into details. We have the capabilities, and it is significant and important. There is a trend for countries in the region to establish ties with Iran. This stems from a desire to lower tensions in the region and avoid major confrontations."

Regarding Lebanon and Hezbollah's military buildup across the northern border, Halevi said, "Lebanon is in a deep crisis. And Hezbollah's buildup in the country is a major challenge for us. We are delaying it, but it is difficult to contain it. We constantly need to ensure that a qualitative gap is maintained and expanded between the pace of our improvements and what they are doing, and always consider an initiative that can bring an advantage."

"Hezbollah is very deterred by the idea of an all-out war with Israel. It believes that it understands how we think, and that emboldens it to challenge us when it is confident that it will not lead to war. I see this as a good opportunity to create surprises."

During Halevi's speech, nine people were injured in a fire at Isfahan's Eshtehard industrial town in central Iran, according to Iran's semi-official Young Journalists' Club news agency.

"The fire was caused by the explosion of a chemicals reactor," the news agency said, adding that the Red Crescent was dispatched to the area.

Halevi also addressed the West Bank issue, noting that "a functioning Palestinian Authority is preferable to chaos in the West Bank, or the rise of Hamas to power."

Halevi also lauded Israel's policy of targeted assassinations of terrorist leaders, which proved exceedingly effective during Israel's latest military campaign against Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, adding that Israel was doing everything possible "to prevent harm to uninvolved individuals."

"When there is a senior terrorist operative doing everything to harm Israelis, we will do everything to remove him from the equation," he said.

5.23.23

UAE invites Netanyahu & Herzog to November climate conference in Dubai

5.23.23

UAE invites Netanyahu and Herzog to COP28 climate conference in Dubai

Climate summit will mark PM's first official visit to Gulf kingdom and bring together national and industry leaders to address global challenges wrought about by climate change

Dennis Bihler|06:44

Emirati leaders invited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog on Tuesday to attend the UN climate conference, known as COP28, which will be held in Dubai this November.

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, commonly known as MBZ, and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum sent formal letters to the Israeli leaders and dozens of other leaders including Syrian President Bashar Assad. This will be Netanyahu's first official visit to the Gulf kingdom.

The letters, which were delivered Tuesday by UAE Ambassador to Israel Mohamed Al Khaja, conveyed the greetings of MBZ and Premier Rashid, along with their wishes for further progress, peace and prosperity for Israel and its people.

The Gulf kingdom will host the 28th COP at Dubai's Expo City from November 30 to December 12, 2023, bringing together national and industry leaders to address global challenges wrought about by climate change

The conference is expected to host a total of 70,000 participants, including heads of state, government officials, industry leaders, academics, youth representatives, and non-state actors. As mandated by 2015's Paris Climate Agreement, COP28 will deliver the first ever Global Stocktake – a comprehensive evaluation of progress to date against climate goals.

The UAE will lead a process at COP for all parties to agree upon a clear roadmap to accelerate progress through a pragmatic global energy transition and a "leave no one behind" approach to inclusive climate action.

COP28 will be focused on innovative solutions for nature, including the protection of natural carbon sinks, and helping preserve Earth's ecosystems. This will be accompanied by ambitious, transparent, and accountable commitments that will shape policies in both parliaments and in boardrooms, in order to bring pragmatic solutions and deliver a practical action plan for 2030.

COP28 will remain focused on phasing out fossil fuel emissions, while phasing in viable, affordable zero-carbon alternatives, working to decarbonize current energy systems while building new ones capable of transitioning even the most heavy-emitting industries towards a net-zero future.

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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