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Trump Indictment a distraction to massive Biden family's influence peddling

6.14.23
Opposition elected judicial representative; Coalition to vote in 30 days

6.14.23
Coalition defeated in key judicial vote
Yesh Atid MK elected to judicial selection committee with 58-56 vote while coalition
MK Tali Gottlieb receives 15-59 in secret ballot.
Israel National News
Jun 14, 2023, 6:23 PM (GMT+3)

MK Karin Elharrar (Yesh Atid) was elected today (Wednesday) to the judicial selection committee, the committee which chooses the justices who serve on the Supreme Court. Elharrar's election gives the opposition the representative it seeks on the committee.

58 MKs voted in favor of Elharrar's appointment in a secret ballot today, while 56 voted against her. Four members of the coalition voted in favor despite the call of the coalition and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to oppose all candidates in order to force a new vote 30 days from now.

The coalition's representative to the committee will be elected in a repeat election to be held within thirty days after Likud MK Tali Gottlieb obtained only 15 votes in favor of her selection while 59 MKs voted against her.

Coalition MKs reacted angrily to the vote, calling it a "shame."

Yisrael Beyteinu chairman MK Avigdor Liberman slammed the coalition's conduct. "Today a new record of contempt for the Knesset has been set. Netanyahu and Deri have created a crazy precedent, which first of all harms Israel's economy, Israel's position in the world and the legal system and sends Israeli society into an impossible spiral."

"There is no consideration for the good of the state here, nor the good of the people of Israel, only the personal good of Netanyahu and Deri. The failure of the vote today is intended to allow the coalition to take over the committee for the appointment of judges and the central election committee. I call on my friends in the opposition to stop being silent and immediately announce the end of the talks at the President's Residence," Liberman added.

Opposition leaders had threatened to end the negotiations for a compromise on the judicial reform issue if the coalition received both Knesset representatives on the judicial selection committee.

6.14.23

EU law will impose fines on social media and internet for antisemitic content – Aug 25

6.14.23

In first, EU to fine social media platforms for failure to remove antisemitic content
EU official Margaritis Schinas says the fight against antisemitism is a top priority and Israel is a key partner in this effort; Foreign Minister Eli Cohen says that the era of social media brings new challenges

Itamar Eichner|13:15

The European Union will impose fines on social media and internet companies that will fail to remove antisemitic and defamatory content, according to the new EU Digital Services Act which will come into effect on August 25th.

The law will require internet companies in Europe to be more transparent and would oblige them to submit a risk assessment report detailing how they are working to

neutralize such content. Europeans are discussing 19 digital players who are expected to adhere to these standards, including Facebook and Twitter.

Platforms that fail to meet these standards may face fines and legal action. As part of the law, all EU member states will need to appoint digital coordinators by February 2024 to ensure that companies comply with the established principles.

The European companies would have to outline their plan to respond to antisemitism and hate speech by the beginning of September this year. The law also mandates countries to provide training for law enforcement so that they understand what would constitute a hate crime, how to investigate such a crime, and how to support victims. The law does not abolish the fundamental right of freedom of expression but addresses the fine line between freedom of expression and hate speech online. This law is significantly more advanced than in the United States, where there is no legislation against defamation and anti-Semitic hatred on social networks.

This new regulation, which is a crucial development in the fight against antisemitism, was discussed broadly during talks between Israel and the EU on combating racism, xenophobia, and antisemitism, held at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. This was the 14th such meeting between the two sides since 2007, and it is the first time talks were held at the ministerial level, with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and European Commission Vice-President for Promoting Our European Way of Life, Margaritis Schinas.

Following the meeting Schinas said: "The fight against antisemitism is a top priority for the European Union and Israel is a key partner in this effort. The ultimate goal of our first-ever dedicated EU strategy is to ensure that Jews can go about their lives in line with their cultural and religious traditions, free from security concerns. Today's meeting is an expression of our common determination to address antisemitism and Holocaust distortion and denial in the digital sphere with all the instruments we have: strong legislation such as the EU Digital Services Act to come into force on 25 August, an EU-wide network of trusted flaggers to counter antisemitic speech, and increased capacity of relevant authorities to prosecute hate speech online."

Eli Cohen said: "The fight against antisemitism should continue ceaselessly as the era of social media brings new challenges. It is with great concern that we follow the constantly increasing level of antisemitism both on and offline.

6.14.23

Lapid opposition suspends talks on judicial overhaul, there will be no agreement

6.14.23

Opposition suspends talks on judicial overhaul over judicial panel delay

Yair Lapid says Netanyahu knows the implication of delaying the selection of judges and until a panel is seated there is no point in negotiations; accuses the prime minister of being a liar; Netanyahu: opposition wanted talks to fail from the moment go

Ynet|12:10

Opposition leader Yair Lapid on Wednesday said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prevented the election of the coalition's representative to the panel for selecting judges thereby maintaining the government's option to weaken the power of the courts.

"Netanyahu knows very well what the implications of his actions are. They were made clear to him by President Issac Herzog and by us. If there is no panel to select judges, there will be no talks to reach a broad agreement on a judicial overhaul," Lapid said adding that the prime minister who was once a liar but a strong politician was now just a liar. In response, Netanyahu said the opposition was not serious about reaching a compromise, from the start.

In an anonymous vote in the Knesset earlier, Netanyahu's coalition did not select a representative to the panel while the opposition secured the participation of its own representative.

The makeup of the panel that would ultimately select the Supreme Court judges was part of the legislation tabled by the coalition to overhaul the judiciary. After mass demonstrations broke out in January after the legislative push was announced by Justice Minister Yariv Levin, and the fallout for Israel's economy and international standing – Netanyahu announced he would pause legislation until a broad agreement could be reached with the opposition.

Both sides have been meeting in efforts to reach such an understanding, under the auspices of the president who warned the fracture in Israeli society could become irreversible and must be avoided.

But the prime minister is under pressure from members of his own party as well as his coalition partners to see the legislation through. After he conceded to the demands of the opposition to allow one of the two positions on the judges' selection panel reserved for Knesset members, to be filled by an opposition lawmaker, he was faced with threats from Itamar Ben-Gvir, head of the Otzma Yehudit Party who was promised a seat on the panel in his coalition agreement.

Failure to select two members of the Knesset on Wednesday delays the convening of the panel, which the opposition regards as a ploy that will ultimately ensure the coalition's bid to control the selection of judges through a change in legislation, or through a shift in the balance of power among other members of the panel. A new representative of the Lawyers Association would be named after the association elects its new leader next week, which the coalition hopes will be in support of the overhaul as it was originally intended.

Meanwhile, the protesters who have been out on the streets in great numbers for the past 23 weeks have said they would increase their pressure on both the coalition and the opposition until the judicial overhaul bills are scrapped entirely. They regard Wednesday's events in the Knesset as proof that Netanyahu was not really seeking compromise and was only hoping to exhaust the Israeli public and weaken its demonstrations.

"Netanyahu chose war against democracy and we will win it," the protest organizers said in a statement after the Knesset vote as they called on Israelis to demonstrate.

6.13.23

Syrian air defenses confront 'Israeli aggression' in Damascus countryside

6.13.23

Syrian air defenses confront 'Israeli aggression' in Damascus countryside, state TV reports

Media claims Israel struck Al-Kiswah area on outskirts of Syrian capital; security source says 'air defense systems successfully intercepted most Israeli missiles before they hit their targets'

Daniel Salami|17:55

Syrian air defense systems confronted "Israeli aggression" targeting several different locations in the Damascus countryside, Syrian state TV reported early Wednesday.

Sham FM Radio reported that the attack took place in the Al-Kiswah area, where Israel has reportedly attacked several times in the past.

A Syrian security source in Syria told the Arabic-language Sputnik news agency that "air defense systems operated against an Israeli attack on several targets in the Damascus area. The attack was carried out by Israeli Air Force planes using missiles that were launched from Israeli territory in two waves. Syrian air defense systems successfully intercepted most of the Israeli missiles before they hit their targets."

Sputnik also reported that a fire broke out in the area of the attack in Al-Kiswah as a result of an Israeli missile strike.

The previous attack on Syrian soil attributed to Israel occurred two weeks ago and also targeted Damascus. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based opposition war monitor, reported at the time that "the Israeli attack was carried out in two waves," targeting "a Syrian air defense base with active members of Hezbollah" and the international airport area of Damascus.

According to the watchdog, a Syrian interceptor might have crashed in a residential area in Damascus, and ambulances were dispatched to the scene.

Early last month, the Aleppo International Airport was shut down following an attack attributed to the Israeli Air Force.

Opposition sources in Syria claimed that in the attack, the third in eight days, targets belonging to pro-Iranian forces near the airport were struck. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the attack destroyed a Hezbollah weapons depot.

In the days leading up to the attack in Aleppo, Syria has attributed two other attacks on its soil to Israel. One of the attacks reportedly destroyed a Hezbollah arms depot in the Homs Province. The attack came half a day after Iran's foreign minister met with Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah and observed from the Lebanese border with Israel.

Just days later, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that Israel had shelled a Hezbollah observation post near the Syrian border. According to the report, over 20 shells were fired at the post located west of the village of Khader in the Quneitra province, but no casualties were reported.

6.13.23

IDF and MDA surround house, suspect evaded & shot 4 in drive-by escape

6.13.23

4 hurt in West Bank terror attack

A 30-year old man sustained gunshot wounds receives treatment by IDF and MDA teams after coming under fire in drive-by shooting which may have continued to second location; Assailants remain at large as troops launch manhunt
Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi|07:28

At least four people were injured on Tuesday in a terror attack near the Palestinian village of Ya'bad in the northern West Bank.

A 30-year-old Israeli was being treated by IDF medical personnel and MDA emergency teams, after sustaining gunshot wounds to his upper extremities in a suspected drive-by shooting that may have included two locations.

The assailants were still at large, and forces launched a manhunt to apprehend them.

Earlier, troops encountered militant fire when they entered the Balata refugee camp near Nablus in order to arrest a suspect who according to the military, was in the final stages of preparing a terror strike.

The shooting took place as the force was working to remove non-combatants from a house they had surrounded, where the suspect was hiding. He had been evading capture for the past year and succeeded in escaping again but weapons were found in the building.

6.13.23

Israel Knesset will continue to defend itself not bound by US Iran deal

6.13.23

Netanyahu says Israel not bound by any U.S. Iran deal

Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the prime minister says Israel will continue to defend itself by any means, says his government's policies are to expand circle of peace while blocking Iran

Sivan Hilaie|04:20

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday that Israel would not be bound by any deal the United States reaches with Iran. Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister said Israel would do everything in its power to defend itself.

"Our objection to the return to the original 2015 nuclear deal is effective but there are still some differing points of view, even on minor matters, and we don't hide them," he said. "This is my first appearance before this committee since this Knesset came into session," Netanyahu said at the start of the special meeting convened. "Israel's international and security standings are a direct result of our strength – our military technology, by allotting budgets made available by our economic policies. A combination of those facilitates regional alliances and agreements with nations around the world, including the superpowers," he said.

"We are challenged by the most powerful hegemony in the region, Iran which has assumed the place vacated by the Arab world that had previously sought our destruction," the prime minister said. "Our policies aim along with expanding the circle of peace, to block Iran and its nuclear program. Our position is clear – No deal with Iran would be binding for Israel which will do everything to defend itself, Netanyahu said adding that that position was repeated in public settings and behind closed doors.

"On one hand we are working to block Iran and on the other, we are rapidly working to extend the circle of peace," he said before the committee's secret discussions began.

Yuli Edelstein the committee chair said he convened the meeting after months of discussions on military and security budgets. "It is today important for us to concentrate on what the political echelon requires the security services and the military to do," he said. "It is no secret that there is a lively debate in Israel over the possibility of a multi-front conflict. We know on the one hand that there is no imminent plan by any one entity to launch such an attack but on the other hand we must be prepared for any scenario and therefore there is no alternative to the policies of the government and to the need to close the gaps between our needs and desires and what we see in our discussions, is the preparatory actions of the security system."

On Monday, Iran confirmed it was holding indirect talks with the United States through the Sultanate of Oman.

U.S. officials did not deny media reports of recent U.S.-Iranian contacts but said that suggestions they were about an interim nuclear deal were inaccurate.

6.13.23

Turkish police uncover one billion US counterfeit dollars destined for Africa

6.13.23

Turkish police uncovers international counterfeit scheme, Israeli among suspects
Turkish law enforcement describes catch as largest in country's history; Raid uncovers crates full of millions of counterfeit \$100 dollar bills printed in Istanbul and destined for African nations

Itamar Eichner|01:47

The police in Istanbul on Tuesday, revealed that it had exposed an international scheme to send one billion dollars in counterfeit bills to Africa. Among the suspects arrested was an Israeli national.

The police action on Friday included a raid on a warehouse in the city where crates of counterfeit bills were found. Three Swedish nationals, a Guinean and a Turkish citizen were arrested as well as a suspect who was described as holding an Israeli and British nationality.

The crates held millions of counterfeit \$100 bills printed in Istanbul and prepared to be shipped to African nations, in what was described by Turkish authorities as the largest ever catch of counterfeit bills in the country's history.

According to the Turkish police, the suspects were observed entering and leaving the warehouse at different times but had remained in the facility for long periods of time.

Forces also raided the luxurious private homes in the city's Shibli neighborhood and confiscated money and Jewels.

The Israeli consulate was reportedly unaware of the arrested Israeli because he had entered Turkey using his British passport.

6.11.23

IDF 30 man unit preparing for Israel-Iran war, designate the primary targets

6.11.23

New IDF intel unit preparing for possible Israel-Iran war

The unit's objective is to prepare for a potential conflict between Israel and Iran; its establishment is a major step in the Israeli military's strategic planning - the unique nature of such conflict necessitates a different approach compared to previous military operations

Yoav Zitun|Updated:15:58

It has been almost a decade since the direct military confrontation between Israel and Iran began. Recently, the Israel Defense Forces has started preparing for the possibility of war with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). In simple terms, the intelligence branch of the IDF is completing the outline of a war that no one imagined would ever come – the first Israel-Iran war.

In recent years, the tension between Israel and Iran has escalated. About 10 drones have been launched toward Israel, with the latest one being intercepted over the Hula Valley in northern Israel about two months ago. In addition, the Quds Force of the IRGC has sent several times in recent years terrorists who attempted to plant explosive charges against IDF forces, and terrorists from one of their units have tried to target Israeli tourists abroad, mainly in Turkey.

The increase in direct confrontations between the two countries has ended years of ambiguity in the struggle over the region. However, the stalemate in reaching a new nuclear agreement between Iran and the world powers, along with assessments within the security establishment that the next war will be a multi-front conflict, led the Israeli military to enter a stage of preparations for direct warfare against Iran, or at least several days of conflict with forces of the Islamic Republic.

"This is a significant mindset change that the IDF is required to make. It is not similar to a war against Hezbollah or an operation in Gaza against Hamas or Islamic Jihad," explained Lieutenant Colonel T., head of the Research Department in Branch 54, the new Iran branch established in the Military Intelligence Directorate. "It is like briefing a senior commander in the IDF who trains all day for war in Lebanon or Gaza, and telling him that this time it is entirely different from what he has known until now." According to T.: "We are responsible for providing the military with the knowledge infrastructure regarding Iranian military capabilities and strategic systems under their control. We are engaged in researching the elements of control in Iran from the senior level down to the operators at the frontlines."

The new branch is intended to be the first focal point in the IDF's preparations for a scenario of wide and overt military confrontation with the Iranian military. In general, the branch focuses on intelligence learning, similar to the preparations for up-to-date intelligence-based training for combat with Hezbollah and Hamas. One of the departments within the branch is considered operative, collecting intelligence on the regular army of the IRGC.

The branch consists of only 30 soldiers, it doesn't even have a name yet, but it is responsible for preparing the IDF for a war against Iran, as every day, the operatives dissect another layer of the Iranian army, revealing another doctrine, combat method or enemy training technique.

In their internal discussions, they are well aware that it is not like the scenario the IDF will be practicing in the coming months, as a two or multi-front war. It is an entirely different war altogether, one that will require great endurance from the Israeli public, almost akin to a modern-day total war.

The heads of the branch come from a background of Palestinian specialization. One of them, Lieutenant Colonel Y. leads the targeting department, a position that leaves no doubt about its purpose in preparation for a possible war.

Throughout Iran, there are thousands of military targets that Israel could attack, but the targeting department is required to locate and designate the primary targets. "We analyze the IRGC specifically within Iran, not the Quds Force," an officer described. "Iran is a very large country in terms of territory, and they know there will be consequences to our operations within their territory – but it's a mutual game of exposure."

"What we are currently collecting and researching about the IRGC directly influences the building of the IDF's power and the new multi-year plan outlined by the chief of staff, serving as a compass for shaping the IDF's force in the coming years."

Y. has not yet participated in the practical exercises with the forces that will lead the future warfare against the Iranian army, such as the Israeli Air Force, but he is already monitoring meticulously the deceptive capabilities of the Iranian army.

"Every day we gather more targets and objectives at a satisfying pace and learn how to strike them effectively. We have already doubled the target bank in Iran, regardless of nuclear facilities. It is very different from interwar operations. An overt military confrontation will be an entirely different story," Y. said.

The branch has already conducted several war games and scenario presentations with expert teams, some of whom are no longer on active duty. Alongside prominent representatives from intelligence units such as Unit 8200 and Unit 9900, and with significant assistance from its American counterparts, the intelligence branch complements the war mapping that no one ever imagined would come to fruition – the first Israel-Iran war.

First published: 23:55, 06.11.23

6.11.23

Trump Indictment a distraction to massive Biden family's influence peddling

6.11.23

Trump hints: Indictment came as a distraction to Hunter Biden probe

Former US President suggests the indictment against him is an attempt to "cover up a crime" being revealed by Republicans".

Israel National News

Former US President Trump suggested on Sunday that his recent federal indictment comes as a "distraction" for allegations made by House Republicans in their probe into President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden, The Hill reported.

"It was done for political reasons, but it was also done, I guess, to cover up the kind of a massive crime that's now being revealed by the Republicans in the House," Trump told "The Roger Stone Show" on 77 WABC radio in New York, hosted by the former president's longtime ally Roger Stone.

"It's incredible when you look at what happened, when you look at the kind of money that flows into the Biden family, and to Joe Biden, by the way, and so they wanted to do a distraction," Trump added.

House Republicans have long made investigating "the Biden family's influence peddling and business schemes" and concerns about Hunter Biden's laptop a priority for their lower chamber majority.

Last week, House Oversight lawmakers reportedly reviewed a document containing an unsubstantiated tip they say alleges Biden, as vice president, engaged in bribery with a foreign national.

“They’ll probably come up with a jaywalking charge on Hunter in the not too distant future, you know, a very small charge, so they can say well, ‘It’s fair.’ But there’s a very unfair situation. We’re living in a very, very corrupt country,” Trump said on Sunday.

Trump’s comments come two days after the federal indictment against him in the classified documents case was unsealed.

According to the indictment which was unsealed on Friday, Trump faces 37 counts in the case, including 31 counts of willful retention of national defense information, according to the indictment.

Walt Nauta, an aide to Trump, was also indicted in special counsel Jack Smith’s investigation into the mishandling of classified documents.

Special counsel Jack Smith, whom Garland appointed to oversee the investigation after Trump declared his candidacy for president in 2024, emphasized the seriousness of the charges facing Trump on Friday shortly after the indictment was unsealed.

Smith said Trump is innocent until proven guilty but pushed against criticism from Trump and members of the Republican Party who have slammed the probe as politically motivated.

On Saturday, Trump denounced the indictment against him in a speech in Georgia, calling it "ridiculous and baseless."

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Ynet-News, June 08, 2023 – Thursday

6.08.23 – Th- - - News Placed in June 08 spot – Thursday
Kamala Harris throws judicial reform jab after learning Rothman in crowd

6.06.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in June 06 spot – Tuesday FOW 8th day
Russian forces blow up hydroelectric dam in southern Ukraine battle retreat

6.05.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in June 05 spot – Monday FOW 7th day
IAEA denies watering down standards in Iran investigation to 35-nation Board

6.05.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in June 07 spot – Wednesday
Saudi normalizations demand enrichment facility & most advanced weapons in US

6.05.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday FOW 7th day
Why the IAEA closed a probe in Iran; two other facility tests remain ongoing

6.04.23 – Su - - - News Placed in June 04 spot – Sunday FOW 6th day
Egypt attempts to avoid religious zealots, after border guard murders

6.04.23 – Su - - - News – Sunday FOW 6th day
Netanyahu cancels American Jewish Committee speech amid protesters

6.01.23 – Th - - - News – Thursday FOW 3rd day
Gallant says Israel may have to act amid 'intensifying threats from Iran'

6.01.23 – Th - - - News Placed in June 01 spot – Thursday FOW 3rd day
Israel slams IAEA ending probe of Iran nuclear sites with no cost to violations