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IDF carries out targeted killing on West Bank, for the first time in 20 years

6.21.23 – We - - - News Placed in June 21 spot – Wednesday

After two victims of PA; 200 masked settlers rioted; 30 PA houses & 60 cars burned

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Wind turbine construction halted in Golan Heights for Muslim holiday June 28

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MK Yitzhak Pindrus states: LGBT more dangerous than any weapon in the IDF

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CNN slams IDF in report over February 26 Jewish settler retaliation riot in Huwara

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Gang war shootings & explosion close to Tel Aviv started on TikTok, police say

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Ryanair flight attendants announce Tel Aviv is Palestine on June 10 flight from Italy

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US & British Javelin missiles and Anti-armor Weapons for Ukraine diverted to Iran

6.21.23 – We

IDF carries out targeted killing on West Bank, for the first time in 20 years

6.21.23 – We

IDF carries out targeted killing on West Bank, for the first time in 20 years  
After military says it acted in cooperation with Shin Bet to eliminate a terror squad that carried out a shooting attack near Jenin, Defense Minister says Israel will use all means at its disposal to exact a heavy price from terror actors; Netanyahu approves strike  
Yoav Zitun|| 14:17

The IDF on Wednesday, launched an aerial strike on a terror squad that carried out a drive-by shooting attack on the Jalama border crossing from the northern West Bank into Israel and killed its four members. Such targeted killing from the air had not been seen on the West Bank in 20 years.

In a joint statement, the military and the Shin Bet said the squad had launched numerous shooting attacks on settlements in the area. "IDF forces, with the exact intelligence provided by the Shin Bet, identified a suspicious car with a three-man terror squad that had carried out a shooting attack near Jalame. After identifying the squad, an IDF manned aircraft opened fire and eliminated the squad," the statement said. The military had been under pressure to increase its operational scope in dealing with the increase of terrorist attacks originating from the cities of Jenin and Nablus in the northern West Bank in recent months but have also spread to other parts. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved the use of a manned aircraft for the targeted killing.

On Tuesday, two terrorists murdered four Israeli men and wounded four others when they opened fire on a restaurant and gas station outside the settlement of Eli. One of the terrorists was killed by an armed civilian on the scene and the IDF shot the second man after a 2-hour manhunt.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said the squad was responsible for attacks in the Jenin area and praised the force's successful "targeted killing," on his Twitter feed. "We will respond to terror resolutely and with a heavy hand and will use all means at our disposal," he said. "We will exact a heavy price from every terrorist and his senders and will chase them down," he said.

6.21.23 – We

After two victims of PA; 200 masked settlers rioted; 30 PA houses & 60 cars burned

6.21.23 – We

Hundreds of rampaging settlers burn homes, cars in Turmus Ayya  
After two victims of Tuesday terror attack on Eli are laid to rest, masked settlers descend on Palestinian village; local mayor says at least 12 residents hurt from gunfire; PM announces construction of 1,000 new housing units in Eli  
Einav Halabi, Elisha Ben Kimon|| 08:29

Hundreds of settlers rioted, vandalized, and set property on fire in the Palestinian village of Turmus Ayya on Wednesday, less than 24 hours after terrorists opened fire near the West Bank settlement of Eli, killing four and wounding four others.

Some 200 rioters first set fire to homes on the outskirts of the village and as it spread, some 150 of the masked mob entered the village to set more homes ablaze. According to the mayor of the village, at least 12 local residents were wounded from live gunfire and some 30 houses and 60 cars were partly or totally burned

"The attacks carried out by the settlers on Palestinian land continue with the help of the military," Mayor Lafi Adeeb said. "We call on the international community to intervene and defend us. Our village is surrounded by settlements and we are subjected to attack on a daily basis," he said.

The army said it was beefing up its troop presence in the West Bank. On Wednesday morning, it said troops arrested three suspects in the Palestinian village of Urif in connection to the attack and mapped out the homes of the two gunmen ahead of their likely demolition.

Shortly after two of the victims of Tuesday's attack were laid to rest, the mob descended upon the village prompting villagers to seek shelter from the rioters, in their homes. As security forces arrived, some of the rioters fled by others remained, destroying property and instilling fear in the local population.

At the same time in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the immediate plan to build 1,000 housing units in Eli. "Our response to terrorism is to hit it hard while building our country," the PMO said in a statement.

"This is a drop in the bucket," said Eli mayor Ariel Elmaliach. "We call on the government to pass a resolution in its cabinet meeting next week, to make Eli into a city," he said.

The Palestinian Authority issued a scathing condemnation of the mob attack on Turmus Ayya. "The terror of Huwara is being repeated," the PA said in a statement referring to the February attack on the Palestinian town by settlers who set dozens of houses and cars ablaze after two brothers from a nearby settlement were murdered in a terror attack.

"Settler militias and armed terrorists are increasing their attacks on defenseless Palestinian civilians, their property and fields," the statement read. Hussein al-Sheikh the secretary general of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization said the settlers were rioting under the protection of the military. "We see the occupation's government responsible for this organized terror," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report

6.21.23 – We

Wind turbine construction halted in Golan Heights for Muslim holiday June 28

6.21.23 – We

Government, Druze agree on lull in Golan dispute over wind turbines

Work to construct turbines will be halted until after Muslim holiday beginning next week; earlier thousands clashed with police; at least two demonstrators seriously hurt

Yair Kraus, Sharon Kidon, Ishay Shnerb|| 07:45

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to halt construction work for wind turbines on the Golan Heights after the local Druze community increased their protests of what they claim would destroy their fields and lives. In conversation with Druze spiritual leader Sheikh Moafaq Tarif, Netanyahu said all work will be stopped until after the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha which begins next week.

Earlier, thousands of Druze protested in the Golan Heights against the establishment of a wind turbine facility for renewable energy production in the northern part of the Golan. Police forces are present in the construction area in the face of the disturbances caused by the protesters, which include tire burning, stone-throwing, firing flares, and even throwing Molotov cocktails toward police forces.

Two protesters, a 40-year-old man and a 20-year-old man, were seriously injured, one of them from gunfire. The head of the Daliyat al-Karmel Council, Rafik Halabi, said in an interview with Ynet Radio that within the Druze community, "there is very great rage. We are on the verge of an intifada in Druze villages in Israel."

In light of the protests, the police issued an unusual public statement: "It is recommended not to come to the Golan Heights area except for the village of Buq'ata." The message further stated that "despite the agreements, thousands of Druze continue to throw Molotov cocktails and stones and engage in severe violence against the police forces guarding the construction of the turbines in the Golan Heights. The police call on the leaders of the Druze community to act to calm the situation."

Hundreds of protesters attempted to break into the police station in the village of Mas'ade and fired flares directly at police officers. The police reported that the officers managed to repel the protesters.

"Many Druze individuals arrived at the police station in Mas'ade in the Golan Heights and tried to take control of it. They threw stones, set tires on fire, punctured police vehicle tires, and even fired live ammunition. Some of the officers were injured by the thrown stones. In response, the police dispersed the group and pushed them away from the area," the police stated.

At least 12 police officers have so far been reported injured.

Regarding the protests, the police said in a statement: "Contracts have been signed, and substantial amounts of money have been paid to landowners, leaders and local authorities, who demand the implementation of the project. The Israel Police calls on the leaders of the Druze community to accept the legal process, calm tensions and refrain from spreading fake news on social media. The members of the community are an integral part of Israeli society, holding key positions, and have been an example of democracy and adherence to the law over the years. Violent and oppressive behavior, including roadblocks, tire burnings, and damaging traffic lights, may result in injuries and affect the existing relations.

Due to the protests, Highway 85 at the Yasif Junction was blocked in all directions, as well as Highway 70 at the Somekh Interchange in both directions. In addition, Highway

89 was blocked at the Tefen Junction, and Highway 854 was blocked at the Kishor Junction.

The demonstrations against the establishment of the facility began on Tuesday, when clashes were also reported between police officers and Druze protesters, as well as several injuries. Today's large-scale protest takes place against the backdrop of a widespread message via social media on Tuesday, calling on Druze from across the Galilee to come to the Golan to protest, and to block the Elyakim Junction.

The construction project is being carried out following immense pressure from National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. Officials in the police force warned against withdrawing, stating, "The State of Israel cannot succumb to violent coercion."

For years, the state has attempted to establish wind turbine farms, but each time, due to concerns of clashes, the police refused to secure the construction site.

A 29-year-old Druze protester was moderately injured, apparently from a rubber bullet, and was brought to the Magen David Adom station in Mas'ade. Medics and paramedics provided him with medical treatment and he was airlifted by helicopter to the Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Another young man, 19, was also moderately injured and was transported via ambulance with MDA teams to the Ziv Medical Center in Safed.

The police reported that the officers and Border Police troops at the scene responded to the disorderly conduct protest dispersal methods. However, one of the officers was forced to fire his weapon after feeling an immediate threat to his life when a group of masked individuals approached him carrying stones. The police noted that the injured person was one of the masked individuals who ran toward the officer, apparently holding a sharp object.

Halabi explained that, although the establishment of the wind turbine facility was the immediate cause of the violent protests, "this is the result of tremendous anger and rage. We are in a complete breakdown of relations."

Halabi added, "The State of Israel does not understand that the Druze villages are simply in an enormous storm and in a much more difficult situation than what is happening in the Golan Heights and other places." He emphasized that "we are on the verge of an intifada, you just don't understand or recognize what is happening here. A week ago, we spoke with the head of the Shin Bet, Ronen Bar, and he knows, as does the government, that there is tremendous anger over what is happening here as a result of the Kaminitz Law."

The Kaminitz Law, which was approved in the Knesset in 2017, is an amendment to Israel's Building and Planning law that gave the government increased enforcement powers including on demolition and eviction orders, and substantially increased the use of financial penalties against offenders.

The law has faced severe criticism. "There is the State of Israel for Jews and there is the State of Israel for non-Jews and, unfortunately, the Druze have fallen victim to discrimination in recent years," said Halabi. "One young man serves in the Shaldag unit, another serves in the Golani Brigade, they go out to fight in various territories, and when they return home, they encounter the Kaminitz Law, which prohibits them from building."

Sheikh Mowafaq Tarif, the spiritual leader of the Druze community in Israel, stated: "In the past, I warned all government officials about the implications of the wind turbine project in the Golan Heights and the consequences of carrying out work without coordination and completion of negotiations with the residents. The message fell on deaf ears. I call on the prime minister and the Israel Police to order an immediate halt to the work to prevent bloodshed."

Tarif added: "The recent events and protests are an accumulation of years of anger toward a discriminatory policy in various areas, especially in matters of land, planning and construction. A demonstration is a legitimate and fundamental right of citizens. At the same time, I urge members of the community to exercise this right without disturbing the general public and without blocking major roads. I ask the police to exercise restraint as they have done in other places in the country."

Hamas also addressed the riots. "We condemn the brutal attack carried out by Zionist occupation forces against our Arab-Syrian brothers in the occupied Golan Heights during their protest against the occupation's decision to confiscate their agricultural lands for the construction of wind turbines. We express our support and solidarity with our people in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and affirm that the entire policy of Jewish occupation, uprooting and attempts to erase the Arab identity from the occupied lands will not break our Palestinian people and the Arab nations. They will not forget their lands and holy places and will remain steadfast in their covenant until the defeat of Zionist fascist occupation."

Energix Renewable Energies, which is building the turbines, said in a statement: "The company has promoted the project for years with the coordination and full support of the spiritual leader of the Druze community. Opponents, driven by anti-Israel motives, harm the livelihood of hundreds of families in the area employed by the project and deliberately ignore the significant contribution the project makes to the community in the Golan Heights.

"In recent months, negotiations were conducted at the initiative of the company and relevant government bodies in order to reach agreements and compromises, but all these attempts have failed due to the interference of foreign considerations and ideological reasons. Unfortunately, even after all the objections were examined by various professional bodies, some with an anti-Israel agenda, there are those who try to lead a battle that contradicts the national goals of developing the Golan Heights and achieving renewable energy targets set by the government."

6.21.23 – We

MK Yitzhak Pindrus states: LGBT more dangerous than any weapon in the IDF

6.21.23 – We

Haredi lawmaker: LGBT community 'more dangerous than Hamas'

United Torah Judaism MK Yitzhak Pindrus continues streak of controversial statements by claiming that Israel's LGBT community is more harmful to Israel than terrorist organizations and weapons of mass destruction

United Torah Judaism Knesset member Yitzhak Pindrus made sharp remarks against the LGBT community, stating that it is "the most dangerous thing for Israel."

"I believe that the most dangerous thing for Israel, even more than the Islamic State, Hezbollah and Hamas, is forbidden relationships because that's what's written in the Torah," he said Tuesday night in an interview with an Israeli television program.

According to him, "It's more dangerous than any weapon in the IDF. It's the most dangerous thing for Israel because it is written that the land will vomit you out, you'll be expelled, and so on. Therefore, in my line of thought, I need to prevent not only the Pride Parade but also to bring a stop to this whole community."

Yorai Lahav-Hertzano, Knesset member of the Yesh Atid party, called on the government's legal advisor, Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, to open an investigation into the comments. The LGBT Association joined the call: "Comparing the community to terrorist organizations. This is acute incitement to violence and bloodletting that could lead to injury to the body and soul."

Pindrus previously made similar extremist statements. About a year ago, he harshly criticized the Supreme Court in a conversation with ultra-Orthodox students, saying: "My dream is to bring a D9 [bulldozer] and blow this building up. It's not a suitable place for my judges."

Two years ago, he stirred controversy by declaring that a female IDF soldier who converted to Judaism during her military service is, in his eyes, a "shikse" (a derogatory Yiddish term for a non-Jewish woman), despite the fact that the Chief Rabbinate of Israel recognizes her as Jewish.

Later, Pindrus apologized and stated that he did not say those things in a derogatory manner but only in their religious meaning, but then he reiterated that "these female soldiers aren't Jewish."

In November 2022, following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's victory in the elections, Pindrus called the political leftists "beasts."

Yesh Atid Knesset member Meirav Cohen took to Twitter following Pindrus's remarks: "There's a direct connection between Knesset member Pindrus' nonsensical remarks against the LGBT community and his extreme statements against the Supreme Court. "Those who can't connect the dots, and don't understand the motivation behind the judicial overhaul and the reason why the ultra-Orthodox parties continue to push for it," she added.

6.19.23 – Mo

Hours-long fire fight: 7 soldiers injured, IDF special technologies rescue vehicles

6.19.23 – Mo

Hours-long fire fight: 7 soldiers injured, IDF uses special technologies to rescue its vehicles

Complications in arrest operation in Jenin: Armored vehicle apparently ran over explosive charges, which damaged at least 4 other military vehicles; Hours after the explosion, the exchange of fire continues; IDF rescue operation will continue for several hours

Yoav Zitun, Elisha Ben Kimon, Eitan Glickman, Einav Halabi, Daniel Salami|Updated:06:06

Long hours of exchange of fire in the Jenin area: after 11:00 a.m., the IDF spokesperson says that the military forces continue to operate in Jenin, and an exchange of fire is still taking place there. The activity in the area began early in the morning, in an operation by the Border Police and paratroopers to arrest suspected terrorists. But when the troops left - around 7:20 a.m. - an IDF Panther armored vehicle was hit by explosives that were placed in the axle and exploded underneath it.

A senior IDF official said that the operation to rescue the military vehicles stuck in the battlefield - at least five of them - will last "a good few hours." However, he clarified that the incident is under the control and command on the ground of the regional brigades. He said that the IDF is using a Zik unmanned aerial vehicle to help with the rescue.

The engines of the other military vehicles that were stuck were damaged by terrorist fire, and therefore disabled. IDF Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Herzi Halevi held a situation assessment with Yehuda Fuchs, head of the Central Command to "make sure that the command has all the resources for action." Seven wounded soldiers were taken to Rambam hospital in Haifa and Emek in Afula, and their families have been informed. One of the protected vehicles apparently carried three charges. Three other military vehicles also were damaged, including one of those that came to help the first vehicle that was damaged. IDF forces are trying to rescue those vehicles, using special technologies. To enable the rescue, and to keep terrorists away, the IDF launched an air attack using Apache helicopters - for the first time in more than 20 years in the West Bank. A few hours after the start of the event, the IDF spokesman confirmed the unusual attack by Apache helicopters - after first reporting that the activity had been the launch of decoy lights from a helicopter.

The IDF is investigating whether this morning's activity was an "explosives ambush," in which the terrorists knew the troops' exit route or guessed it - and planted significant numbers of explosives there, which managed to hit the armored vehicles. Accurate shots were also fired at the troops.

On the Palestinian side, four deaths were reported - Ahmad Saqer, 15; Khaled Asa'sah, 21; Qais Jabareen, 21; and the wanted Qassam Abul Sariya, 29, the brother of the terrorist who carried out the attack in Afula in 2001. Several dozen more were wounded by gunfire, including nine in critical condition. According to Palestinian reports from Monday morning, large forces entered Jenin, and clashes began in several areas, during which - according to the Palestinians - the soldiers fired live fire, stun grenades and tear gas.



The Jenin Brigade of the al-Quds Brigades, the military arm of Islamic Jihad, claimed responsibility for placing the charges and said that they are "in response to the continued barbaric aggression of the occupation forces." Islamic Jihad spokesman Tariq Salmi said that "We salute the heroic fighters and all the resistance fighters who defend Jenin and bravely confront the forces of terrorism and aggression."

The activity in the Jenin area Monday morning comes under the shadow of the security establishment's assessment that the IDF is very close to launching a wide-ranging military operation that will focus on the northern West Bank. Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich, who is a member of the Security-Political Cabinet and minister operating in the Defense Ministry, said that he is "strengthening the hands of our fighters who are operating in Jenin Under heavy fire and praying for their safety and success. The time has come to replace the 'tweezers' activity with a broad operation to eradicate the nests of terrorism in northern Samaria and to restore deterrence and security in the region." He said that he would demand an urgent meeting of the cabinet on the matter: "The time has come to bring in air forces and armor and protect the lives of our fighters."

Officials in the defense establishment told Ynet last week that in the last year, when Operation Breakwater took place, the IDF is operating more on the offensive in the area than in the past, and the forces are working in a targeted, aggressive and surgical manner. But the purpose of such an operation, if it is carried out, is to act more broadly and use a "cutting the grass" strategy, with the ultimate goal being to restore deterrence..

Such an operation will also have broad consequences regarding cooperation with the Palestinians. At the moment, the IDF would like to see more involvement of the Palestinian Authority in arrests and in the prevention of terrorism. The security establishment is also preparing for the possibility of security tensions, and even the cessation of security coordination with the Palestinian mechanisms during an operation. First published: 12:29, 06.19.23

6.19.23 – Mo

Armored vehicles hit by explosives & fire bomb in possible ambush near Jenin

6.19.23 – Mo

IDF working under fire to rescue bombed military vehicle; For the first time in years - Border Police force and paratroopers entered Burkin, near Jenin; Under live fire; The troops are trying to rescue an armored military vehicle that was hit by an explosive device on the road out of Jenin, the IDF is checking if it was an ambush for the forces. A Palestinian was killed and another 20 were injured in the exchange of fire, including six in serious condition; 2 terror suspects were arrested

Elisha Ben Kimon, Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi|Updated:02:33

Exchanges of fire during the operation of security forces in and around Jenin: Two terror suspects were arrested, after the Border Police, together with a patrol of paratroopers, entered the Palestinian village of Burkin, near Jenin early Monday morning, as well as the refugee camp itself.

Explosives were placed on the road the forces used to leave Jenin and others were thrown toward them – and an Israel Defense Forces armored vehicle was hit by a fire bomb, which exploded underneath it. The forces are working to rescue the vehicles that were hit by fire and, according to the Palestinians, two of them were disabled. The incident is taking place against the backdrop of the IDF's attempt to deal with the "explosives terrorism" that is developing in the region in a variety of ways.

The security establishment is concerned about the incident, and the IDF is investigating whether this morning's activity was an ambush, in which the terrorists knew the route of the troops' exit or guessed it – and placed significant explosives there, which managed to hit armored vehicles. At the same time as the activity, the Palestinians released footage of an IDF Apache helicopter that fired shots, which was intended to mislead ground missiles. The Palestinians have reported that one person was killed and at least 22 others were wounded by gunfire, including six in serious condition. According to Palestinian reports, large forces entered Jenin, and clashes began in several areas, during which – according to the Palestinians – the soldiers fired live fire, stun grenades and tear gas.

The activity in the Jenin area Monday morning comes in the wake of the security establishment's assessment that the IDF is very close to launching a broad military operation that will focus on the northern West Bank.

Officials in the defense establishment told Ynet last week that in the last year, when Operation Breakwater took place, the IDF is operating more on the offensive in the area than in the past, and the forces are working in a targeted, aggressive and surgical manner. But the purpose of such an operation, if it is carried out, is to act more broadly and use a "cutting the grass" strategy, with the ultimate goal being to restore deterrence.

Such an operation will also have broad consequences regarding cooperation with the Palestinians. At the moment, the IDF would like to see more involvement of the Palestinian Authority in arrests and in the prevention of terrorism. The security establishment is also preparing for the possibility of security tensions, and even the cessation of security coordination with the Palestinian mechanisms during an operation. First published: 09:30, 06.19.23

6.18.23 – Su

US, Egypt, UAE, Bahrain and Morocco forum will respond to West Bank construction

6.18.23 – Su

As senior US official arrives: Israel plans to advance about 4,500 settlement homes Assistant Secretary of State arrives in Israel, as the agenda for the Higher Planning Committee meeting was published: on the agenda - promotion of construction plans for 4,560 housing units in the West Bank, despite the Americans' request to refrain from this Itamar Eichner, Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi|Updated:12:53

US Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Barbara Leaf is visiting Israel Sunday and will hold meetings in Jerusalem and Ramallah. In Israel, she is meeting with senior officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Defense Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office. But against the backdrop of her arrival, the agenda for the Higher Planning Committee of the Civil Administration meeting was published, according to which Israel will promote construction plans for 4,560 new housing units in the settlements.

The Americans put pressure on Israel not to approve the promotion of the units, and the U.S. expressed concern that the Palestinians would not come to the next meeting of the Arava Summit and or security meetings in Sharm el-Sheikh. Israel said that last February it had decided to promote 10,000 West Bank housing units in two phases, and this is the second phase agreed to by the government vis-a-vis the settlers, a practice that also existed during the Trump administration, according to which every four months the Higher Planning Committee meets and approves the promotion of additional housing units.

The last time the government approved housing units in the settlements was in January, when the political-security cabinet decided to legalize illegal outposts, and later the government decided to promote 9,409 housing units in West Bank settlements, including outside the settlement blocs.

The United States later on Sunday responded to the agenda item, and sent a message to Israel that the Negev Forum, which was expected to take place at the beginning of July in Morocco, will be postponed due to the announcement of plans to build about 4,500 housing units in West Bank settlements. The forum was set to be a summit meeting in Morocco of the foreign ministers of the United States, Israel, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco. There have already been several postponements of the forum gathering, but it was expected to be held next month. Now the Americans have informed Israel that the agenda item for next week's meeting of the Higher Planning Committee will result in another postponement of the forum meeting.

The construction approvals come after the cancellation of the clauses of the Disengagement Law that ban Israelis from living in four northern West Bank settlements and the transfer of the Homesh yeshiva to state land, steps that drew criticism from the US, including summoning the Israeli ambassador in Washington for a conversation. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who also serves as a minister within the Defense Ministry, created the Regulation Administration since the formation of the government, which is headed by Yehuda Eliyahu, his confidant, for the promotion and regulation of construction in the settlements on behalf of the Civil Administration.

Plans were published for the construction of hundreds of units in Neve Tzuf and Eli, hundreds of units in Givat Ze'ev, as well as in Beitar Ilit, 340 units in Ma'ale Adumim, 381 in Revava, 343 in Elkana, 287 in Adora and 196 in Telem.

Smotrich said that "the construction momentum in Judea and Samaria and in all parts of our country continues. As we promised, today we are promoting the construction of thousands more new housing units in the West Bank. Residents of the West Bank cease

to be second-class citizens and the natural development in the settlements is expressed in construction and expansion. I thank Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for their cooperation. We will continue to develop the settlement and strengthen the Israeli hold on the territory."

Smotrich is also promoting a resolution submitted Sunday for the government's approval, which would shorten the promotion of housing units beyond the Green Line. Until now, in order to approve a housing unit in the West Bank, it required approval at the political level at various stages of the process. Now, a decision will require only a preliminary approval and will be transferred from Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to Smotrich's authority; in some cases it may also require a final approval. This is expected to shorten the time for the promotion of West Bank housing units, though each unit will require a political approval.

In total, the construction approval procedures in the West Bank will be shortened from six stages to only two stages.

This arrangement is part of the coalition agreements and the memorandum of understanding between Smotrich and Gallant. The purpose of the proposal is to eliminate the need for approvals from the political level during the planning procedures themselves, and to transfer the center of control of the political level in the planning procedures.

According to the amendment, if the political level is required and decides to approve the advancement of a plan in a certain area, there will be no need for a renewed requirement in later stages.

The amendment also stipulates that all permission for planning and publication of tenders for construction will be carried out only after the approval at the political level.

Submitting plans in relation to privately owned land will also require approval on the political level. It was also determined that the obligation to obtain political-level approval as a condition for the construction of roads in the West Bank will be abolished.

The shortening of the planning procedures for construction in the settlements is also intended to prevent a situation in which Israel is repeatedly under pressure and condemnation from the American government.

The shortening of the processes for approval of construction in the settlements is dramatic, since in the past there were quite a few cases where plans were dropped in the middle of the long procedure due to security or political considerations – and now they will not be able to be dropped.

The Palestinian Authority Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the move and warned "of the dangers arising" from the amendment, which is considered another step toward applying Israeli law to the West Bank, annexing West Bank land and facilitating the construction projects in the settlements quietly and in short stages that may not reach the media.

"The ministry calls for international action and putting pressure on the Israeli government to deter it from taking this decision, which harms the opportunity to implement the two-state solution," the PA Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The Peace Now movement said in a statement: "The most extreme and dangerous government in the country's history gives fuel to their destruction, and entrusts the political and security interests to those who wish to wipe out a village and represent a small, messianic and dangerous minority. The decision will inevitably lead to more

harmful **construction** and more unnecessary investments in settlements at the expense of the Negev and the Galilee, which are contrary to the Israeli interest and to all logic, as **part of an orderly plan to promote a messianic dictatorship between the sea and Jordan.** The Israeli government is already promoting **de facto annexation**, and only a determined **and uncompromising struggle** will stop it. We call on the public to join us so that Israel does not become an **apartheid dictatorship.**"

First published: 19:52, 06.18.23

6.18.23 – Su

**Landmine removals by UN in Lebanon prepare Hezbollah for infiltrating Israel**

6.18.23 – Su

**Landmine removals in Lebanon endanger Israeli side of border**

Residents of Metula say that the **controlled explosions** are carried out in **contradiction to international precautionary measures**, and lead **cause debris to fly** over the border and **could hurt residents and tourists in the area**

Yair Kraus|07:53

**Work to remove landmines** put in place by the IDF ahead of its 2000 withdrawal from Lebanon, is **endangering** Israeli **residents** of the north. In **addition to the noise of the controlled explosions**, which occur just tens of **meters away from the Israeli border** and **shake** residents' **homes**, the detonations also **cause fragments** of rocks **to fly across the frontier**, endangering lives and causing damage to property.

David Azulai, mayor of the border town of Metula, said in a letter to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan, and Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, that he **demands their immediate intervention**. He criticized the government and the **UN** for **how they were dealing with the crisis**. "It's a complete failure," he said. "It's simply terrifying. I woke up at 7:00 a.m. to four explosions. You can't live like this. The **Lebanese do whatever they want** a short distance away from the residents' homes, and the **IDF is helpless.**"

**"We receive an estimated time of detonation, but there's no warning before the actual explosion**, and it startles everyone," the town's top security official said. "The residents are informed about the situation, but it's distressing nonetheless."

The explosions also endanger pedestrians along Metula's promenade. A few weeks ago, Ofir Lieberman's **solar pannels**, providing his home with electricity, were **damaged**. He lives just **100 meters from the border**.

"The explosion was very close and **seemed deliberate rather than accidental**," Lieberman said. "The rocks from one of the explosions hit one panel of the solar power system and destroyed it. We only receive a **general notice from the municipality** that **explosions** will take place **between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.**, and we are expected to be fine with it. The

Lebanese also don't place sandbags in the area areas to minimize and prevent the chance of debris flying towards the Israeli side," he said.

"When detonating landmines, there are clear international rules that demand safety precautions, protective measures, prior warning, and real-time warning with a siren, but nothing is being done," a former municipal official said.

Contrary to other areas in southern Lebanon where operations to clear landmines are carried out by UNIFIL forces, the mines near Metula are dealt with by a civil contractor hired by the Lebanese government. Some in the Israeli town argue that the Lebanese government is working under the instruction of the Hezbollah terrorist organization, which conducts military drills to prepare for infiltrating Israel close to the border. Some officials in Metula claimed that UNIFIL is obligated to take charge of the operation and clear the mines in a responsible manner. The IDF is struggling to deal with the situation, partly due to a lack of cooperation from the Lebanese side.

UNIFIL's spokesperson Andrea Tenenti told Ynet that the Lebanese operation is carried out in coordination with the IDF, and that they weren't aware of any complaints. Tenenti added that all complaints will be looked into, and will be given the proper consideration in cooperation with the military.

6.15.23 – Th

CNN slams IDF in report over February 26 Jewish settler retaliation riot in Huwara

6.15.23 – Th

CNN slams IDF in report over Jewish settler riots in Huwara

American news network alleges it has acquired videos and testimonies showing the military's inadequacy in preventing the riots, allowing Jewish settlers to do as they wished, and failing to help threatened Palestinians

Ynet|17:04

Almost four months after the riots caused by Jewish settlers in the Palestinian village of Huwara, said to be retaliation for the terror attack in which Israeli brothers Hillel and Yagel Yaniv were murdered, American news network CNN published an extensive investigation on Thursday in which it raises serious accusations against the IDF's management of the incident.

The network claims that IDF soldiers failed to protect the West Bank village's Palestinian residents, didn't prevent the Jewish settlers from causing destruction and setting fire to dozens of houses and cars, and stood by as emergency vehicles, including fire trucks, were blocked from reaching the scene.

Furthermore, according to the investigation, the troops fired stun grenades and tear gas at the local Palestinians, who retaliated by throwing stones at the rioting Jewish settlers. To this day, four months after the riots, police have arrested several suspects in the rioting, who were all released with none of them indicted.

The riots in Huwara, took place on February 26, just hours after the Yaniv brothers were killed by a terrorist who opened fire at point-blank range at the vehicle they were traveling in while driving on a road through the Palestinian town.

Shortly after attack, dozens of Jewish settlers arrived in the Palestinian village and wreaked havoc. According to CNN's investigation, hundreds of people were injured and one Palestinian was killed in the riot, although he was fatally injured in a clash with Jewish settlers in a different Palestinian village, Za'atara.

The severe violence caused widespread shock in Israel and around the world, and the American network opened its investigation with a statement by IDF Central Command chief Maj. Gen. Yehuda Fuchs, who described the incident as a "pogrom."

CNN also mentioned the statement of IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi following the subsequent IDF investigation of the riots, which said that: "This is a severe incident that took place under our responsibility and should not have happened."

Halevi's further remarks, in which he points out that the IDF erred in allocating its forces, focusing at the time on pursuing the terrorist and, as a result, not enough forces were in the area to prevent the riots, wasn't mentioned by the network.

According to CNN, the investigation was conducted over several months and is based on an analysis of videos from the rioting, testimonies of eyewitnesses and Palestinian journalists, as well as an exclusive testimony from a soldier who was among the forces in Huwara – which the network says was acquired via the Breaking the Silence organization. The soldier, whose name remains anonymous, testified that there were dozens of soldiers in Huwara, alongside Border Police officers, and, according to him, although they were aware of the danger posed by the Jewish settlers, they didn't intervene in what was happening.

"We just let them continue to advance," he said, claiming the military "doesn't know how to deal with settler terrorism."

The IDF's 'biggest failure'

The soldier added that he believes the IDF's "biggest failure" in dealing with the riots was the failure to protect the emergency vehicles, including fire trucks and ambulances, and not assisting them in entering Hawara.

"The fire truck simply drove alone and was attacked. The village continued to burn," the soldier said. CNN noted that videos its staff reviewed show that these emergency vehicles were blocked by soldiers in the square leading to Huwara's main street.

A Palestinian Red Crescent spokesperson told the network that the vehicles fell into an "ambush" set by the Jewish settlers, while the soldiers did nothing. "When Israeli forces finally let them in, they told them that it's at their own risk, and if settlers attacked them, it's their own responsibility," the spokesperson told CNN.

"At this point, they [the army] should have started shooting tear gas, and stun grenades and start repelling them."

The soldier himself expressed astonishment that the military didn't block the settlers' access to the village: "You have a group of dozens of people you see who are hot-headed

and they start walking toward Huwara, they are masked and some of them may have knives. What do you think they are coming to do? At this point, they [the army] should have started shooting tear gas and stun grenades and start repelling them.” CNN emphasized calls for revenge against the terror attack were distributed via WhatsApp groups and social media hours before the riots took place. “The post was disseminated on several settler WhatsApp groups, as well as on social media, suggesting that the threat of violence would have been well known to authorities beforehand,” according to the network.

The investigation also presented harsh testimonies from Palestinians who were attacked, and the network reported that videos that came into its possession and were verified, show “hundreds of people flocking to Huwara’s main street from a nearby roundabout between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. local time, setting fire to car tires, cars, trash cans and wooden pallets near the entrances of apartment blocks, shops and businesses.”

One of the residents interviewed was 48-year-old Ziad Dumaidi, who shared that the residents themselves were prepared for the possibility of riots. He prepared water and fire extinguishers in case his home was set alight, and moved his car to another parking lot. However, his preparations were insufficient.

According to Dumaidi, when his house was set on fire, he, his wife, and their four children prepared themselves for death as the smoke filled the house. “We thought it was over for us. There was barely any oxygen,” he recalled.

According to his account, it was only two hours after the fire broke out that IDF soldiers assisted in extinguishing the fire, and according to him, they did nothing when Jewish settlers continued to hurl stones at him and his family.

Another resident who spoke with CNN was 75-year-old Nawal Dumeidi, Ziad's distant relative. She shared that, due to some wooden planks burning outside her door, the exit was blocked, and she and her daughters were trapped inside for three days.

Her son, she said, had to return from Dubai to free them. She described how she heard stones being thrown toward the roof of her house and landing on the balcony, and saw the fire drawing closer.

“We were choking on the gas, it was asphyxiating. We could feel our faces burning.” She tried to put it out with a bucket of water but claimed that soldiers shot tear gas and stun grenades at her: “We were choking on the gas, it was asphyxiating. We could feel our faces burning.” As alleged evidence of her claims, she showed CNN pictures of tear gas canisters and stun grenades on her balcony.

In response to some of the allegations in the investigation, the IDF stated that the soldiers “acted to separate the two sides,” and in order to disperse the riots they used tear gas, stun grenades and fired shots in the air in warning. It was also stated that the military sent reinforcements to Huwara after the riots began.

Regarding the allegations of its failure to prevent violence against Palestinians, the IDF told CNN that soldiers are required to prevent acts of violence or damage to property, and they are “required to act to stop the violation,” and if necessary they are also required to “detain or arrest suspects until police arrive at the scene.”



Both the IDF and the Shin Bet conducted a thorough investigation into the Huwara riots, which resulted in severe criticism of the military's operations, particularly the fact that the IDF failed to gain control over the incident, prevent Jewish settlers from entering the town, and stop the riots.

6.15.23 – Th

Gang war shootings & explosion close to Tel Aviv started on Tik Tok, police say

6.15.23 – Th

Gang war in central Israel started on Tik Tok, police say

A conflict that began on the Chinese social media platform intensified with explosives and assassination attempts in Ramat Gan, whose residents say they feel like their neighborhoods are no longer safe

Liran Levi|16:32

An incident in which a scooter exploded in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv last week, in which its owner suffered serious injuries and six other pedestrians were lightly wounded, was an assassination attempt as part of a conflict between two criminal gangs, that allegedly began on Tik Tok.

One of the police's investigation directions assumes the explosive may have malfunctioned and exploded prematurely, and that the scooter's owner was attempting to deliver the explosive to its target.

However, recent investigation findings say that the explosive was likely planted on the scooter in an attempt to assassinate its owner, who was injured instead.

The 28-year-old suspect, known to the police for gang conflicts in the Ramat Gan area, narrowly escaped the assassination attempt by stepping off the scooter seconds before the explosion took place.

"If the explosion had happened while he was on the scooter, he would've been killed. It wasn't a small charge," a source reported. The injured individual, who is currently being treated and is in moderate condition, is associated with the criminal Naor Sukar, who had an ongoing dispute with a rival criminal named Itay Haham.

In recent months, a conflict between Sukar and Haham took place over a weapons deal the two attempted to advance.

The conflict, which manifested in a series of violent incidents in Ramat Gan, originated from confrontations on Tik Tok, including insults and hostile interactions between the two. Recently, a growing number of criminal organizations and gangs are using the Chinese social media platform to convey messages via songs and provocations.

Investigators from the police's Tel Aviv District recently began acting in order to bring the criminals, who planted charges and threw stun grenades in Ramat Gan in recent weeks, to justice.

Ramat Gan residents have been feeling lately that the underworld gang war is reaching residential areas as well. Criminals are trying to harm each other by planting explosives and shooting in broad daylight in populated neighborhoods close to Tel Aviv and Yarkon Park.

6.15.23 – Th

Ryanair flight attendants announce Tel Aviv is Palestine on June 10 flight from Italy

6.15.23 – Th

Ryanair flight attendant says plane 'approaching Palestine' - airline apologizes

Several Israelis confronted the flight attendant and asked her to clarify her announcement and apologize, but she doubled down and threatened them with arrest; Ryanair apologizes and claims it was an "innocent mistake."

Emily Schrader|Updated:14:48

Passengers on the Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair, were taken aback when the flight attendant announced Tel Aviv is "Palestine" on their June 10 flight from Bologna, Italy to Tel Aviv, Israel.

During the flight, passengers were told repeatedly in English and in Italian that their flight was bound for "Palestine," and shortly before landing, the flight attendant announced the plane's approach "into Palestine."

Several Israelis on the flight claimed that they confronted the attendant, asking her to clarify and apologize. "We didn't [buy tickets] on the airline to deal with anti-Zionist opinions" from flight staff, a passenger reportedly said. "All we wanted was [an announcement] that Tel Aviv is in Israel."

Yet, according to passengers, instead of apologizing, the flight attendant doubled down and then accused the passengers of causing a disturbance that endangered those on the flight.

When one of the passengers attempted to take a picture of the flight attendant, who also stated that Tel Aviv was in Palestine, she was told that she would be arrested upon landing for getting out of her seat to take a picture.

In response to the incident, Ryanair issued a statement saying: "A junior crew member on this flight from Bologna to Tel Aviv (10 June) made a routine descent PA mistakenly saying 'Palestine' instead of Tel Aviv. This was an innocent mistake with no intent and was immediately corrected and apologized for by the senior crew member on board."

There were some calls on social media for a boycott of the airline.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center tweeted: "If Ryanair considers Tel Aviv to be in Palestine then perhaps they should only do business with the Palestinian Authority. Israel and Israelis can make their own way to and from the Jewish state."

First published: 22:16, 06.15.

6.15.23 – Th

US & British Javelin missiles and Anti-armor Weapons for Ukraine diverted to Iran

6.15.23 – Th

Israel worries US weapons intended for Ukraine could go to Iran

IDF official says pro-Russian factions driven to transfer captured U.S. weapons due to the strong defense ties between Moscow and Tehran, and some of these capabilities might fall in the hands of Iranian proxies Hezbollah and Hamas

Ynet|Updated:09:53

A senior IDF commander said Thursday that Israel is concerned regarding the potential risks associated with weapons supplied by the United States and other Western countries to Ukraine. Israel is particularly worried about the possibility of these weapons falling into the hands of adversaries in the Middle East, including Iran.

Experts also back these worries, Newsweek magazine reported, as the situation could mark yet another chapter in a long legacy of arms shipments from the United States being diverted, empowering adversaries of both Israel and the U.S. in another restive region, while the focus of Western governments is on the volatile conflict playing out in Eastern Europe.

The Israeli commander said that there is ongoing monitoring of the diversion of weapons, including the Javelin shoulder-fired anti-tank missile system, by paramilitary forces involved in the Russia-Ukraine war.

The Israeli commander highlighted that pro-Russian factions were driven to transfer captured U.S.-supplied weapons due to the strong defense ties between Moscow and Tehran. On the other hand, pro-Ukrainian elements were primarily motivated by financial gain in smuggling arms. He also expressed deep concern over the situation, emphasizing two major risks for Israel. The primary route for weapon transfers was identified as the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, which the commander deemed as "extremely hazardous."

"One is that they can research capabilities, and then learn how to manufacture them. I'm talking especially about Iran," the Israeli commander told Newsweek. "The other problem is that we are very worried that some of these capabilities are going to fall into Hezbollah and Hamas' hands."

The military official also added that accurately determining the extent of weapon diversion was challenging due to the Israel Defense Forces' historical emphasis on monitoring events exclusively in the Middle East. However, the commander acknowledged that the current flow of arms extended beyond the region, encompassing Europe and North Africa. This broader scope posed a significant challenge in maintaining visibility and tracking the exact amount of diversion.

"It's really challenging to build the picture, but we see the signs," the Israeli commander said. "We see the signs, and this is very, very troubling."

A confidential intelligence source from a foreign country, who spoke on condition of anonymity, disclosed to the magazine a particular incident that occurred on August 2021. According to the source, a Russian Il-76 transport aircraft reportedly delivered cargo worth approximately \$100 million to Tehran, including Western weapons. The shipment was said to consist of U.S.-made Javelin missiles and Next-Generation Light Anti-armor Weapons (NLAWs) manufactured in the United Kingdom.

First published: 17:49, 06.15.23

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Ynet-News, June 14, 2023 – Wednesday

6.14.23 – We- - - News Placed in June 14 spot – Wednesday  
Opposition elected judicial representative; Coalition to vote in 30 days

6.14.23 – We- - - News Placed in June 13 spot – Tuesday  
EU law will impose fines on social media and internet for antisemitic content – Aug 25

6.14.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday  
Lapid opposition suspends talks on judicial overhaul, there will be no agreement

6.13.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday  
Syrian air defenses confront 'Israeli aggression' in Damascus countryside

6.13.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday  
IDF and MDA surround house, suspect evaded & shot 4 in drive-by escape

6.13.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday  
Israel Knesset will continue to defend itself not bound by US Iran deal

6.13.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in June 12 spot – Monday  
Turkish police uncover one billion US counterfeit dollars destined for Africa

6.11.23 – Su- - - News Placed in June 11 spot – Sunday  
IDF 30 man unit preparing for Israel-Iran war, designate the primary targets

6.11.23 – Su- - - News Placed in June 10 spot – Saturday  
Trump Indictment a distraction to massive Biden family's influence peddling