

Ynet-News, June 25, 2023 – Sunday

6.25.23 – Su- - - News Placed in June 25 spot – Sunday
Boats set ablaze in Sea of Galilee from arson, 93% paying protection money

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Israel clears major hurdle on way to US Visa Waiver Program inclusion

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Israeli exports of carrots, potatoes breaking records provided by a wet winter

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n Netanyahu trial: Gideon Sa'ar would struggle to prove bribery; judges tell prosecutors

6.22.23 – Th- - - News Placed in June 23 spot – Friday
US Patel expects detention warrants on Israeli rioters that torched West Bank village

6.22.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday
Israel's targeted killing intended to send a message to Jenin and Nablus militants

6.22.23 – Th- - - News Placed in June 22 spot – Thursday
Druze angered at wind turbines without negotiations or coordination with residents

6.25.23 – Su
Boats set ablaze in Sea of Galilee from arson, 93% paying protection money

6.25.23 – Su
Boats set ablaze in the Sea of Galilee raise arson suspicions
Five of the seven boats anchored in Migdal Beach that were set on fire completely burned,
raising arson suspicion; Some 73% of businesses in northern Israel have faced demands
to pay protection money
Israel Moskovitz|04:37

Seven boats docked in the Migdal Beach area of the Sea of Galilee caught fire overnight
between Saturday and Sunday. Five of the boats were completely burned, and there were
no casualties.

Five firefighting teams that were called to the scene gained control over the fire during
the night, and the Tiberias police have initiated an investigation. The cause of the fire has
not yet been determined, and suspicions of arson will be investigated.

The police also are investigating another suspected arson incident that occurred Saturday night in the Upper Galilee, after agricultural equipment was burned in a hangar near the Tzahar Industrial Park, adjacent to the Bedouin town Tuba-Zangariyye. Fire defense systems deployed on-site extinguished the flames and prevented significant damage to the equipment and building. This is another case of suspected arson related to protection payments and money extortion.

In March, the 2022 report of HaShomer HaChadash – a volunteer recruitment organization dedicated to safeguarding land and farms in the Negev and Galilee – revealed that 73% of businesses in the fields of construction, commerce, agriculture and industry have received demands to pay protection money, and the majority of them comply. Some 55% of the survey respondents, conducted in collaboration with the Israel Builders Association, testified that they did not report extortion attempts to the police. They explained that the inability to maintain anonymity and receive effective protection prevents them from informing the police.

The prevalence of this phenomenon is lower in the central region of the country and higher in remote areas, according to the report. The highest number of those paying protection money, 93% of respondents, was in the eastern Galilee and the eastern part of the Golan Heights.

According to various studies conducted by the Knesset Research and Information Center and data from the Israel Money Laundering and Terror Financing Prohibition Authority (IMPA), it is estimated that the protection money enterprise in Israel generates hundreds of millions to billions of shekels annually.

6.23.23 – Fr

Israel clears major hurdle on way to US Visa Waiver Program inclusion

6.23.23 – Fr

Israel clears major hurdle on way to U.S. Visa Waiver Program inclusion

In the coming month, Israel and U.S. will initiate a pilot program allowing West Bank residents with American citizenship to fly to Israel without delays through Ben-Gurion Airport; The condition set by the U.S. stipulates that without compliance, Israel will not be admitted to the exemption program

Itamar Eichner|03:13

Next month, a significant milestone will be reached as Israel and the United States embark on a crucial phase toward visa exemption. This groundbreaking development will enable Palestinians with American citizenship residing in the West Bank to travel seamlessly to the United States through the same airports as Jews, bypassing unnecessary delays. This progressive step signifies an advancement in facilitating smoother travel arrangements and fostering stronger ties between the two nations.

Currently, Palestinians face the obligation to depart from the West Bank and reenter through the Allenby crossing, east of Jericho, regardless of any additional citizenship

they possess. This requirement remains in place, except for a limited number of approximately 30,000 Palestinians annually who are granted humanitarian access to fly to the United States.

To fulfill the American condition for Israel's inclusion in the visa exemption program, it is imperative that American citizens, irrespective of their origin, are granted equal treatment when entering Israel like any other visitor from around the world, without any discriminatory measures during security screenings.

The United States has unequivocally conveyed that the fulfillment of this condition is essential for Israel's admission to the exemption program, scheduled to come into effect in either October or November.

At present, both the United States and Israel are diligently ensuring the functionality of all systems pertaining to a multifaceted issue and a security imperative for the Shin Bet and the security establishment.

The forthcoming implementation of new systems will empower Israel to scrutinize the identities of American citizens flying to the country even before their departure, thereby enabling the identification of potential individuals of interest.

The Interior Ministry is currently in the process of formulating Israeli policies regarding the entry and exit of Palestinians through Israel, with official approval pending within the next two weeks.

In principle, Israel possesses the authority to exercise discretion in denying entry to a Palestinian individual holding American citizenship, should there be grounds related to criminal activity, security concerns, immigration matters, or public health considerations. However, the prevailing approach is to honor the American requirement of complete reciprocity, ensuring unrestricted entry and exit for both American and Israeli citizens. In recent times, members of the United States Congress have made appeals to the administration, urging that Israel's approval for the visa waiver program be contingent upon its commitment to avoiding any form of discrimination against Palestinians holding American citizenship. Yet, it remains possible that the successful implementation of the pilot program may convince them of Israel's suitability for inclusion.

6.22.23 – Th

Israeli exports of carrots, potatoes breaking records provided by a wet winter

6.22.23 – Th

Israeli exports of carrots, potatoes breaking records

It's a result of global warming that is causing drought in Spain, Portugal and Italy, and provided a wet winter that was enjoyed by Israeli farmers

Ynetnews| 11:12

The export of carrots and potatoes from Israel is breaking record numbers this year. The impressive export figures are a result of global warming that is causing drought in Spain, Portugal and Italy, and provided a wet winter that was enjoyed by Israeli farmers.

Oren Barnea, chairman of Israel's Vegetable Growers Organization, said exports are way up from previous years.

"Potato exports grew from 140,000 tons to 200,000 tons and the price for farmers rose by 10%. Meanwhile carrot exports jumped from 15,000 tons to 50,000 tons and the prices were up by 20% compared to last year," he said.

Russia had been Israel's largest export market for potatoes and carrots until the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, but due to the war the produce was not able to arrive at its destination, the Russian ruble plummeted and importers were unable to pay in foreign currency.

Tomato paste exports also rose this year and farmers supplying the local markets saw a growth in sales after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan opted to export his produce to Europe.

Israel's vegetable industry is spread over approximately 550,000 dunams, and includes a wide variety of crops in open areas and under protected conditions in green houses in all regions of the country and in all seasons, which allows continuous vegetable production throughout the year, according to the Agricultural Ministry.

In 2020, the volume of vegetable production was about 2.3 million tons, intended for fresh consumption in the domestic market, for industrial processing and export.

6.22.23 – Th

In Netanyahu trial: Gideon Sa'ar would struggle to prove bribery; judges tell prosecutors

6.22.23 – Th

Drama in Netanyahu trial: 'You would struggle to prove bribery,' judges tell prosecutors
Presiding judges advise prosecutors to opt for mediation, Channel 13 reports; PM still has to contend with charges of fraud and breach of trust even if bribery charge dropped
Gilad Morag|Updated:| 15:06

Judges presiding over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's trial informed prosecutors that they would struggle to prove bribery in the corruption charge in which the Likud party chairman is accused of trading favors with a powerful media mogul, Hebrew-language Channel 13 reported Thursday evening.

Netanyahu has been charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three corruption cases. One of them, popularly known as Case 4000, alleges that Netanyahu promoted regulations worth hundreds of millions of dollars for the owner of the Bezeq telecom company, Shaul Elovitch, in exchange for positive coverage on its popular Walla! news site.

Even if the bribery charge is dropped, Netanyahu still has to contend with charges of fraud and breach of trust in Case 4000, as well as two other graft cases.

Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, denies any wrongdoing and says the charges against him amount to a witch hunt. He and his supporters may view this latest turn of events as lending credence to his claims.

Last week, in an unusual move, Netanyahu's team and prosecutors in Case 4000 met for a closed-door meeting at the judges' chambers. This was the second meeting held by the judges with the parties involved in the past few months, likely with the intention of moving proceedings to mediation.

In light of the reports, Attorney General Gali Baharav Miara said that she would oppose such a move and would advise Netanyahu's attorneys to engage in direct negotiations regarding a plea bargain, but within the framework of the regular judicial process.

Former Justice Minister Gideon Sa'ar also called on prosecutors to negotiate a plea deal. "During my tenure as Minister of Justice, I avoided referring to the possibility of a plea deal in the Netanyahu trial. This, out of respect for the independence of the General Prosecutor's Office in matters dedicated to its professional discretion. My position has long been that it is right, considering all the considerations, to end Netanyahu's trial with a plea agreement. Now it is appropriate for the prosecution to listen to the court's messages and show readiness for such a negotiation. The public interest in its broadest sense is to end this long-standing saga with a plea agreement," he said.

Prosecutors have faced a major setback as inconsistencies were discovered in the testimony of a crucial witness and former close aide to Netanyahu during cross-examination.

Netanyahu's defense team contends that the bribery charges in the case are disputable, while the prosecution maintains that the case remains solid and bribery can still be proven. The evidential stage of Netanyahu's trial opened in April 2021, and numerous hearings have taken place since, with only a fraction of the witnesses having testified.

This is not the first time the option of a settlement has been raised. In January of last year, Netanyahu met with his lawyers for intense consultations regarding a potential plea deal. Close associates of Netanyahu at the time indicated that there were differences in negotiations with then-Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit.

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6.22.23 – Th

US Patel expects detention warrants on Israeli rioters that torched West Bank village

6.22.23 – Th

U.S. expects Israel prosecute rioters that torched West Bank village

State Department spokesperson Vedant Patel condemns settlers attack on Turmus Ayya; Shin Bet domestic recommends administrative detention warrants to be issued to far-right activists, local media says

i24NEWS|05:17

After far-right settlers rioted in a West Bank village on Wednesday afternoon, after a brutal terror attack that killed four civilians, the U.S said it expected Israel to “prosecute” the riot instigators and provide “compensation” for destroyed property.

The violence took place shortly after the funeral of Nachman Shmuel Mordoff, a 17-year-old Israeli who was killed on Tuesday in a terror attack, murdered along with three others by Hamas-affiliated terrorists from the village of Urif. Four others were wounded. “We are concerned about reports of attacks by extremist settlers against Palestinians. We condemn these violent acts. We expect the Israeli government to prosecute those responsible for these attacks in addition to providing compensation for the property destroyed,” said State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel.

Reinforcements from the IDF, police and border guards were dispatched to restore order. On their arrival, the rioters dispersed. The clashes led to the death of at least one Palestinian, and three wounded, according to the Palestinian Authority’s health ministry. The mayor of Turmus Aya reported over 30 houses and 60 vehicles were damaged. “There are days when we must state what is self-evident: The State of Israel is a nation of laws. All citizens of Israel are obligated to obey the law. We will not allow disturbances either on the Golan Heights or in Judea and Samaria,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated, in response to the riots in the West Bank village and up north by the Druze.

Israel’s Shin Bet domestic security agency Wednesday evening did recommend to Defense Minister Yoav Gallant that he sign several administrative detention warrants against the Israeli far-right activists, according to Kan 11.

6.22.23 – Th

Israel's targeted killing intended to send a message to Jenin and Nablus militants

6.22.23 – Th

Israel's targeted killing in West Bank, intended to send a message
Security expert says the aerial strike is the right operational move which increases deterrence but would not expand beyond Jenin and Nablus, while raids of Palestinian areas to arrest terror suspects would continue
Elisha Ben Kimon 03:09

IDF's decision to launch a targeted aerial strike against terrorists is not expected to be repeated in other parts of the West Bank, but rather to focus at this stage, on Nablus and Jenin. The military move came after increasing terror attacks in the northern part of the region and was hailed by a security expert.

Tamir Hayman, a retired general and the director of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), told Ynet that the military was right to take such action. “The freedom of troops to operate on the ground is unchanged and there is a variety of methods at the IDF's disposal,” he said. “The military had carried out intensive operations over the past

year and the presence of troops on the ground grants Israel relative benefits. It instills fear in our enemies and is proof of Israel's control," he said.

Unlike similar operations conducted in Gaza, Wednesday's strike was not the result of extensive preparation and intelligence gathering on a potential target, according to foreign media reports, but rather a quick response to an immediate and tangible threat. When the IDF and Shin Bet dealt with the Lion's Den in Nablus, for example, a terrorist was targeted using an explosive device hidden on a motorcycle.

In practice, despite the military's use of more aggressive means, aimed at creating deterrence, there is no change in policies and no immediate plan to resume targeted assassinations in the West Bank. Raids to arrest terror suspects in Nablus and Jenin, are expected to continue. On such occasions, the troops encounter militant fire, and explosive devices hurled at them, to name but a few of the challenges they face.

Still, drones are a highly aggressive means that has been added to Israel's arsenal in the fight against the terrorists who carry out shooting attacks on settlers and military vehicles on the roads, IDF positions, and checkpoints.

The terrorists were killed on Wednesday using an Elbit Hermes 450 UAV after they left Jenin. They opened fire on the Jalameh Crossing and were en route to carry out another attack. Three weapons were found in their car, and their bodies were taken by the military. In a joint statement, the IDF and 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.

6.22.23 – Th

Druze angered at wind turbines without negotiations or coordination with residents

6.22.23 – Th

Druze in warning to PM: Stop wind turbine project or violent protests will continue
After 27 people were injured, 5 seriously in clashes between protesting Druze residents of the Golan and police forces, community leaders send Netanyahu a letter demanding he freeze construction advanced by Ben-Gvir

Yair Kraus|01:07

Druze leaders on Thursday issued a demand to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to freeze the planned construction of wind turbines in the northern Golan Heights, after the violent clashes between members of Israel's Druze community and police. If their demands are not met, they said in a letter, the protests would continue and even increase.

Thousands protested on Wednesday claiming the government's plans to establish a renewable field of 21 wind turbines, would destroy nature and their lands. At least 27 people were injured, including 17 members of the police, five suffered serious wounds

and six protesters were arrested and are expected in court on Thursday, where the police will request their remand.

Netanyahu met with the Druze spiritual leader Sheikh Mowafaq Tarif on Wednesday and agreed to halt construction until after the Muslim Eid al Adha - the Feast of Sacrifice which begins next week but he also warned Israel would not tolerate the violation of law. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir who was behind the decision to advance the planned construction of wind turbines said Israel must not give in to violence. "I ordered the police to carry out operation "Golan wind," after it was delayed due to the threats of a small number of people," he said. "This is privately owned land purchased legally and is a project that will benefit Israel. We must exert our governance," he said.

Rafik Halabi, mayor of the Druze village of Daliyat al-Karmel said in an interview with Ynet Radio on Wednesday that within the community, "there is very great rage. We are on the verge of an intifada in Druze villages in Israel."

"The State of Israel does not understand that the Druze villages are in a much more difficult situation," he said. "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," he said referring to a law passed by a previous Netanyahu led coalition in 2017, to amend Israel's Building and Planning law, giving the government increased enforcement powers including on demolition and eviction orders, carried out predominately in Arab and Druze communities.

"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. Sheikh Tarif said he warned government officials about the implications of the wind turbine project without negotiations and coordination with the residents. "The message fell on deaf ears," he said.

"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," Sheikh Tarif said referring not only to the Kaminitz law but also to the 2018 Nation-State Bill which was seen as discriminatory to non-Jewish citizens of the country and enraged the community, whose members serve in the military often reaching senior ranks.

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Ynet-News, June 21, 2023 – Wednesday

6.21.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday

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

6.21.23 – We- - - News Placed in June 20 spot – Tuesday
Wind turbine construction halted in Golan Heights for Muslim holiday June 28

6.21.23 – We- - - News Placed in June 19 spot – Monday
MK Yitzhak Pindrus states: LGBT more dangerous than any weapon in the IDF

6.19.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in June 18 spot – Sunday
Hours-long firefight: 7 soldiers injured, IDF special technologies rescue vehicles

6.19.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Armored vehicles hit by explosives & fire bomb in possible ambush near Janin

6.18.23 – Su- - - News Placed in June 16 spot – Friday
US, Egypt, UAE, Bahrain and Morocco forum will respond to West Bank construction

6.18.23 – Su- - - News – Sunday
Landmine removals by UN in Lebanon prepare Hezbollah for infiltrating Israel

6.15.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday
CNN slams IDF in report over February 26 Jewish settler retaliation riot in Huwara

6.15.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday
Gang war shootings & explosion close to Tel Aviv started on TikTok, police say

6.15.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday
Ryanair flight attendants announce Tel Aviv is Palestine on June 10 flight from Italy

6.15.23 – Th- - - News Placed in June 15 spot – Thursday
US & British Javelin missiles and Anti-armor Weapons for Ukraine diverted to Iran