

Ynet-News, August 06, 2023 – Sunday

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Hamis & Abbas meet in Egypt as Israel is staging near-nightly raids on Palestinian

7.30.23 – Su- - - News Placed in July 30 spot – Sunday  
Drones hit Moscow; Putin mulls a cease-fire with a fifth of Ukraine in Russia control

8.06.23 – Su  
Israeli vessel joins international Ukrainian naval blockade in the Black Sea

8.06.23 – Su  
A possible shift in Israel's neutrality over Russia's invasion in Ukraine  
An Israeli vessel sailing from Ashdod is the first to break a Russian naval blockade in the Black Sea and dock in a Ukrainian port after joining international condemnation of Russia over weaponizing the world's food supply  
Daniel Edelson, New York|03:59

Despite Israeli attempts at neutrality over the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and its continued refusal to provide Kyiv with weapons, Jerusalem opted late last week, to join an international initiative slamming Moscow with "weaponizing food."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken strongly attacked Russia in the UN security council, for backing out of a deal to allow Ukraine to transport grains through the Black

Sea. He said that the invasion was an assault on the world's food supply and that since Russia went back on its earlier agreement, grain prices rose by over 8% worldwide.

The Ams 1, a vessel that left the Ashdod port, and was identified as Israeli in media reports, succeeded in docking at Ukraine's grain depot and was the first to break the Russian naval blockade in the Black Sea.

Russia threatened to regard any ship docking in Ukrainian ports as transporting weapons but the Ams1 did not hide its final destination and was escorted across the Black Sea by NATO aircraft.

Since returning to power earlier this year, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu avoided condemning Russia for invading its neighbor. In interviews with international media outlets, Netanyahu was asked why Israel insists on neutrality in the war and said it was due to the "complicated relations," between Jerusalem and Moscow and that it is in Israel's interests to avoid open conflict with the Russian leadership, which could adversely impact the fight against Iranian entrenchment in Syria.

Netanyahu's predecessors, Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid, did speak out against Russia but the current government has avoided taking any side in international forums and has resisted any pressure from the West and especially the United States, to supply Ukraine with missile defense systems.

Israel did however join a condemnation of the weaponization of the food supply, which although does not specifically name Russia, clearly refers to the latest Russian move. "Israel is concerned over potential repercussions to food security and prices, should the agreement to transport Ukrainian grains through the Black Sea not be extended and encourages Russia to agree to renew the deal for the benefit of nations in the Middle East, Africa and beyond," Israel said in a statement.

8.03.23 – Th

Syrian Iranian center produces chemical weapons & precision missiles for war

8.03.23 – Th

Syrian research center produces chemical weapons, precision missiles, study  
Israeli researchers say CERS institute disguised as a civilian research center is used by Iran to develop advanced missiles and chemical weapons for Syria, Iran, and Hezbollah

A new study published on Wednesday by the Alma Research and Education Center, which specializes in defense-based research on Israel's northern border, revealed the true purpose of the CERS Syrian research institute, a military facility that was responsible for developing Syria's chemical weapons in the 1980s.

According to the report, the institute which operates under the guise of a civilian scientific research center, houses classified military facilities that serve the Syrian army,

the Iranian regime, and Hezbollah and is used for the production of chemical weapons and permission missiles.

Iran took control of the CERS center, with an emphasis on its Institute 4000, making it “an inseparable part of the infrastructure of the arms corridor to Syria and Lebanon, both in terms of the production of advanced weapons and their long-term storage for future use by the Shiite axis.” Those weapons include the ground-to-ground M600 missiles, produced in cooperation with Iran, which also manufactures the matching Fateh-110 missile, as well as Scud 275 missiles, Shihab 1, Shihab 2, ODAB, Zelzal, and Fajr missiles.

The Alma Institute report claims Institute 4000 may be working on the Iranian ‘Labaik’ project, which aims to modernize outdated Iranian rockets by adding sensors and remote guidance systems, enabling full rocket control after launch. Israel had attacked CERN facilities numerous times in the past and more frequently in recent years but after each strike, Iran quickly rebuilds and repairs the damage caused, the reports said.

The researchers said there were around 20,000 people working at CERN, mostly Syrian researchers, engineers and members of the Syrian military. The industrial complex which has facilities spread around Syria - includes research institutes, factories, production and storage sites. The CERS Center serves as Syria's military industry.

From the study's outset, the Alma Center pointed out the connection of the Syrian institute to Tehran and its importance to the Iranian regime. “CERS is envisioned as a “growth engine” for the development and production of modern conventional weapons based on Iranian technology on Syrian soil,” the report read.

“Furthermore, the CERS Center operation shortens and saves the logistics of transferring weapons from Iran, which is more vulnerable to harm/disruption and obstruction. Iran's major focus is to develop and manufacture precision missiles and rockets, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) on Syrian soil, using the CERS Center's Institute 4000 infrastructure”

According to the study, the strong connection between Tehran and the Syrian center has existed for many years, and today “Certain projects, particularly at Institute 4000 (Sector 4), are currently under direct Iranian supervision by senior IRGC Quds Force officers.” The report also cited conversations held in July 2015 with a former CERS employee who defected and revealed that CERS operations were overseen by Iran.

Researchers listed a series of Israeli attacks on sites associated or identified with the Syrian center. “The CERS Center installations function as Hezbollah production plants, guided and supervised by Iranian expertise,” the report said and noted that it had knowledge and experience in the production of chemical weapons. “The Syrian leadership has fostered and developed extensive chemical capabilities to generate deterrence vis-à-vis Israel. The CERS Center was given responsibility for this in the 1980s,” the report said.

Despite Syrian claims that the regime no longer possesses chemical weapons, the Alma Center believes otherwise. “We assess that the Syrian regime now possesses extensive chemical capabilities, and considers the stockpiles of chemical weapons in its possession and the threat they pose, as a guarantee of its survival.” The study also showed a troubling possibility in which chemical weapons could fall into Hezbollah's hands at a moment's notice before being directed at Israel.

“At will, this capability may benefit the radical Shiite axis led by Iran in general and Hezbollah in particular. Hezbollah's use of chemical weapons in the next confrontation with Israel cannot be ruled out,” the study read. “It is conceivable that missiles/rockets armed with chemical weapons (such as Sarin nerve gas) are being stockpiled for use by Hezbollah in one of the CERS center's sites in the Masyaf area and will be transferred to Lebanon if so directed.”

Alma believes there is a high probability that in a future war, Israel would come under chemical attack.

“In any case, Hezbollah's tactical employment of any chemical weapons (available, simple, and rudimentary) in the next conflict with Israel cannot be ruled out. In our opinion, Hezbollah has mortar shells and missiles designed for this purpose, which can be armed and operationalized with the assistance of the CERS Center.”

8.02.23 – We

3 West Bank terror strikes, stabbing, drive-by shooting, shopping mall shooting

8.02.23 – We

Israeli women wounded in 3rd West Bank terror strike in 24 hours

Less than a day after a terrorist wounds 6 in Ma'ale Adumim and a later attempt to stab an IDF soldier, terrorists open fire on a car traveling with a family of four  
Elisha Ben Kimon, Yoav Zitun|08:02

A 31-year-old woman was wounded on Wednesday in a drive-by shooting terror attack on the West Bank. She was traveling with her husband and three children when terrorists opened fire on their car. Another man suffered from shock in the attack. Security forces launched a manhunt assisted by a drone after the suspected terrorists fled the scene.

"When we arrived we saw signs of gunfire on the car and inside were four members of the family. Miraculously only one was hurt by broken glass. We administered care and transported her to the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem," said paramedic Yonatan Shenabai.

This was the third terror attack on the West Bank in a 24-hour period. On Tuesday, six people were wounded, two of them seriously when a Palestinian terrorist opened fire outside a shopping mall in the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. He was identified as a 20-year-old from a neighboring village who worked as a janitor in the settlement. His father,

who had been working there for 25 years, and is likely facing dismissal after it was revealed that he pleaded with his employers to allow his son to work in the city as well. An off-duty Border Police officer who was at a nearby barber shop ahead of his wedding when attack began, heard the gunfire, ran out and engaged with the attacker until he killed him.

"I realized something was happening and I was caught up in it, and I had to do what was required of me. I tried to identify the terrorist and was given directions from civilians until I spotted a guy wearing a yellow vest holding a gun. I shouted at him to stop but he began shooting at me. I understood that he was the terrorist, so I fired back and killed him."

A few hours later, another Palestinian terrorist attempted to stab soldiers at the Eshtemoa Junction in the southern West Bank before being shot. There were no casualties among the troops in that incident.

A member of the ruling Likud, said the military was not doing enough to prevent attacks. Amichai Boaron claimed the IDF's head of the central command, cared more about the freedom of movement of Palestinians than he did about the lives of settlers. His comments drew condemnation from Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and senior IDF officers.

8.02.23 – We

Supreme Court deliberates LGBTQ adoption ban as discriminatory law

8.02.23 – We

Israeli Supreme Court deliberates LGBTQ adoption rights

Three judges rule on appeals against existing law that stipulates only a married man and woman can adopt; Attorney General says that there is no 'political feasibility' for a change in legislation, suggesting change by ruling

Gilad Morag|03:07

The Supreme Court convened on Wednesday, to deliberate over the rights of LGBTQ families, to adopt children, in response to two petitions filed by LGBTQ families and advocates and the Reform Movement.

Current Israeli law states that only married heterosexuals should have the right to adopt children. the law was found to be discriminatory by the court in 2017, and the government then promised to amend it by 2019. But no such legislative amendment was passed and in Israel's current political make-up, the likelihood that the law would be changed remains very low.

Attorney General Gali-Baharav Miara, told the court as much, quoting Justice Minister Yariv Levin on the matter. And the justices indicated that since that is the case, they

would be required to use their discretion and rely on precedent in the court, to address the discrimination.

LGBTQ parents were able to adopt their children only when they applied as single parents and the children placed in those families were for the most part older or with special needs.

Social Services Minister Ya'akov Margi from the Ultra-Orthodox Shas party told the court in a filing, that the interest of a child would not be served by placing him or her, in a home with same-sex parents despite studies cited by professionals in his own ministry, providing evidence to the contrary.

"Discrimination against same-sex couples in adoption is not a minor matter," says Jonathan Valfer, chairman of the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance.

"It is present, blocking our path to becoming parents and sending us to different corners of the world to create families. The Israeli government has asked the Supreme Court to protect the rights of the LGBTQ community because it cannot eliminate discrimination. If you needed a reminder of why the LGBTQ community needs a strong and independent judicial system - here it is. We are pleased with the positive approach of the judges and call on them to adopt the state's position and erase the terrible discrimination of these laws."

7.30.23 – Su

IDF & Border Police thwart a favored route for smuggling weapons in Jordan Valley

7.30.23 – Su

Israeli security forces thwart arms smuggling attempt in Jordan Valley

IDF soldiers and Border Police special unit foil 'unusual' smuggling operation compared to previous attempts in the sector; details of incident placed under gag order  
Elisha Ben Kimon|14:45

The Shin Bet and the IDF have been investigating a weapons smuggling incident that occurred early last week in the northern part of the Jordan Valley, Ynet learned on Sunday.

The investigation primarily centers on an unusual smuggling operation that took place overnight between last Monday and Tuesday. Specific details about the incident, which was unusual compared to previous smuggling attempts, are currently under a gag order.

The crackdown on the smugglers involved members of the Israel Border Police intelligence unit, along with IDF forces from the Jordan Valley Brigade. In recent years, the Jordan Valley crossings have become a favored route for smuggling weapons, funds and resources by criminal and terrorist organizations attempting to infiltrate Israel and the West Bank. Since the establishment of the brigade, it has intercepted some thousand smuggled weapons.

Earlier this year, Israel detained a member of the Jordanian parliament on suspicion of arms and gold smuggling.

Imad Al-Adwan was arrested at the King Hussein Bridge border crossing with Jordan after allegedly attempting to smuggle 200 handguns and assault rifles, including M16s, as well as gold, inside three bags, and planned to deliver them to the West Bank.

In May, Al-Adwan was released after the prosecution did not request his remand and after Israel and Jordan agreed that he would face legal action back home.

The Shin Bet said that the interrogation revealed that he had smuggled goods across the border 12 times since February before he was caught.

7.30.23 – Su

Bill to indemnify victims of terrorism clears first Knesset reading

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Bill to indemnify victims of terrorism clears first Knesset reading

Bill, which received overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle, aims to provide victims with an avenue to claim damages from those financing terrorist elements; Victims will also receive \$2.7 million minimum compensation

Ynetnews|11:24

In a significant step, the Knesset plenum on Sunday passed in first reading a bill promising to compensate victims of terrorism.

These bills proposed since government came to power raise opposition, concern Gallant says will abide by High Court's decision on reasonableness law

The bill, which received overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle, aims to provide victims with an avenue to claim damages from those financing terrorist elements. Additionally, victims will receive a minimum compensation of NIS 10 million (\$2.7 million)

Championed by MK Yitzhak Pindros of United Torah Judaism, the bill will enable victims and their families to file tort claims against terrorist organizations and individuals who incentivize attacks by offering salaries to terrorists. By seeking exemplary compensation, this legislation sends a powerful message that terrorism will not go unpunished.

According to the proposed bill, these compensations will not be deducted from the total amount paid to victims by the state for acts of terrorism. Furthermore, the victims of terrorism will have the ability to pursue judgments against any assets owned by those involved in financing terrorism, including funds frozen in connection with terrorism and transferred to the Palestinian Authority from the government of Israel from 2018 and on.

Attorney Asher Stub, a researcher from Columbia University Law School, and businessman Sander Gerber, who successfully passed the Taylor Force law and the law to

withhold money from terrorists' salaries, are among the key initiators and drafters of this groundbreaking bill. In a joint statement, they said, "The new law is an important step toward achieving justice for victims of terrorism. The law will enable victims to receive the compensation they rightfully deserve and will underscore the message that terrorism does not pay. By eliminating the barriers that currently exist in Israeli law, we can impose a heavy price on those responsible for perpetrating acts of terrorism, mirroring the strong stance taken by American law."

The bill secured 26 votes in favor and 6 votes opposed during the first reading at the Knesset plenum. It now progresses to subsequent readings, where further discussions and amendments may take place before it becomes law.

7.30.23 – Su

Hamas & Abbas meet in Egypt as Israel is staging near-nightly raids on Palestinian

7.30.23 – Su

Palestinian factions meet in Egypt to try to reconcile as violence surges in West Bank Amid low expectations due to past failures and escalating West Bank violence, Palestinian factions meet in Egypt for reconciliation and shared hope of restoring unity after 16 years of separation; Egyptians further hoping for sustained dialogue with Israel AP|07:02

Palestinian factions were meeting Sunday in Egypt to discuss reconciliation efforts as violence in the West Bank surged between Israelis and Palestinians.

The main Palestinian groups, Hamas and Fatah, have been split since 2007. With repeated reconciliation attempts having failed, expectations for the one-day meeting are low. According to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa, the gathering in the Egyptian city of el-Alamein on the Mediterranean Sea will discuss "ways to restore national unity and end the division."

The meeting comes amid soaring violence in the West Bank, where Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah group are based and exert limited self-rule. Israel has been staging near-nightly raids in Palestinian areas of the territory in what it says is an attempt to stamp out terrorism, especially in areas where Abbas' security forces have less of a foothold.

Those raids have led to some of the worst fighting in nearly two decades in the West Bank. Palestinians also say the Israeli raids undermine their own security forces and weaken their leadership.

The meeting in Egypt is chaired and initiated by Abbas, and presents the aging and longtime Palestinian leader with a chance to portray an image of control and statesmanship to both Palestinians and the international community at a time when he is deeply unpopular at home and his room for maneuver is constrained by the Israeli incursions.



The meeting is being attended by other Palestinian leaders including Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of Hamas, the terrorist group which rules the Gaza Strip. Fatah and Hamas have been rivals since Hamas violently routed forces loyal to Abbas in Gaza in 2007, taking over the impoverished coastal enclave. Israel and Egypt have imposed a blockade on the territory.

For Hamas, joining the meeting is an opportunity to show Gazans that it is making an effort to mend the rift, even if nothing changes as a result.

Another key group playing a central role in the fighting with Israel, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, boycotted the gathering to protest detentions by the Palestinian Authority of its members, according to the group's leader, Ziyad al-Nakhala.

Egypt has for years acted as a mediator to try to end the infighting between Palestinian factions. It also helped broker truces in multiple rounds of fighting between Israel and Hamas.

7.30.23 – Su

Drones hit Moscow; Putin mulls a cease-fire with a fifth of Ukraine in Russia control

7.30.23 – Su

Ukraine's drones hit Moscow, temporarily shutting airport

It was the fourth airstrike on the Russian capital and its environs this month; Ukraine says there will be more strikes

News agencies|00:44

Russian authorities say three Ukrainian drones attacked Moscow in the early hours of Sunday, injuring one person and prompting a temporary closure for traffic of one of four airports around the Russian capital.

It was the fourth such attempt at a strike on the capital region this month and the third this week, fueling concerns about Moscow's vulnerability to attacks as Russia's war in Ukraine drags into its 18th month.

The Russian Defense Ministry referred to the incident as an "attempted terrorist attack by the Kyiv regime" and said three drones targeted the city. One was shot down in the surrounding Moscow region by air defense systems and two others were jammed. Those two crashed into the Moscow City business district in the capital.

Photos from the site of the crash showed the facade of a skyscraper damaged on one floor. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said the attack "insignificantly damaged" the outsides of two buildings in the Moscow City district. A security guard was injured, Russia's state news agency Tass reported, citing emergency officials.

No flights went into or out of the Vnukovo airport on the southern outskirts of the city for about an hour, according to Tass, and the air space over Moscow and the outlying regions was temporarily closed for any aircraft. Those restrictions have since been lifted.

Moscow authorities have also closed a street for traffic near the site of the crash in the Moscow City area.

There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian officials, who rarely if ever take responsibility for attacks on Russian soil.

Russia's Defense Ministry reported shooting down a Ukrainian drone outside Moscow on Friday. Two more drones struck the Russian capital on Monday, one of them falling in the center of the city near the Defense Ministry's headquarters along the Moscow River about 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the Kremlin, where the military holds briefings on what Russia calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine. The other drone hit an office building in southern Moscow, gutting several upper floors. Russia said following that attack that it would retaliate harshly against Ukraine.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Mykhailo Fedorov said at the time there would be more drone strikes.

In another attack on July 4, the Russian military said four drones were downed by air defenses on the outskirts of Moscow and a fifth was jammed by electronic warfare means and forced down.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that an African initiative could be a basis for peace in Ukraine but that Ukrainian attacks made it hard to realize.

He was speaking at a press conference after meeting African leaders in St Petersburg on Friday and hearing their calls for Moscow to move ahead with their plan. "There are provisions of this peace initiative that are being implemented," he said. "But there are things that are difficult or impossible to implement."

Reuters reported in June that African mediation in the conflict could begin with confidence-building measures followed by a cessation of hostilities agreement accompanied by negotiations between Russia and the West.

Putin said that one of the points in the initiative was a cease-fire. "But the Ukrainian army is on the offensive, they are attacking, they are implementing a large-scale strategic offensive operation... We cannot cease fire when we are under attack."

On the question of starting peace talks, he said, "We did not reject them... In order for this process to begin, there needs to be agreement on both sides."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has rejected the idea of a cease-fire now that would leave Russia in control of nearly a fifth of his country and give its forces time to regroup after 17 grinding months of war.

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Ynet-News, July 28, 2023 – Friday

7.28.23 – Fr - - News   Placed in July 28 spot – Friday

Lt. Gen. Halevi is steadfast; readiness reports cause more panic than reflect reality

7.27.23 – Th- - - News Placed in July 27 spot – Thursday  
Jordan, PA, Saudi Arabia, Egypt condemn Ben-Gvir Temple Mount morning visit

7.26.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday  
IDF reserve officers to show summon before entering HQ when base has protesters

7.26.23 – We- - - News Placed in July 26 spot – Wednesday  
IDF believes additional incursion needed in Jenin to neutralize terrorist hotspot

7.25.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in July 25 spot – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of Av  
Supreme Court will respond to judicial oversight by appeals next month

7.25.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in July 24 spot – Monday  
Haredi lawmakers table bill treating Torah study at par with military service

7.23.23 – Su- - - News – Sunday  
Passing reasonableness law on eve of Tisha B'Av is very bad timing

7.23.23 – Su- - - News Placed in July 23 spot – Sunday  
Over 100,000 in Tel Aviv to support judicial reform against Opposition Lapid & Gantz

7.23.23 – Su- - - News – Sunday  
IDF says no one has the right to refuse a call to service; we would not allow return

7.23.23 – Su- - - News – Sunday  
29-week-long protest spreading into the reserve ranks over judicial oversight

7.22.23 – Sa- - - News Placed in July 22 spot – Saturday  
Protesters form human chain West Wall to Knesset ahead of a final judicial vote