

Ynet-News, August 11, 2023 – Friday

8.10.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday

CEO of Golan hotel that hosted Netanyahu says online critics 'will be sued'

8.10.23 – Th- - - News Placed in August 11 spot – Friday

Abbas orders 12 of 16 PA city governors to 'retire' as West Bank finances collapse

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Rescue from Ethiopia: 204 Israelis, eligible immigrants were flown from battle zone

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Culture of Terror cell profiled in US publication; claim Jewish settlers are targets

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Shin Bet uncovered West Bank PA terrorist cell operated from Lebanon

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Court petitioned to throw out a law this fall, changing judge selection

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West Bank shepherd & herd confronted by stone-throwing PA, defends himself

8.07.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in August 07 spot – Monday

Israel launched aerial aggression from Golan Heights, targeting vicinity of Damascus

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CEO of Golan hotel that hosted Netanyahu says online critics 'will be sued'

Ami Yisrael CEO of the Panda Hotel says the management is considering how to respond to the virtual attacks, adding that it was a great honor to host the prime minister and his wife, who had no particular special requests

Yair Kraus|13:41

The CEO of the Panda Hotel located in Neve Ativ on the Golan Heights, where Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara spent their vacation, responded Thursday to the virtual attack and Google ranking drop by judicial reform protestors.

"I hope we will finish this saga and next week we will make decisions," said Ami Yisrael, CEO of the Panda Hotel. "Those who harmed the hotel will be sued. I respect and host every guest in the best way possible. It is a great honor to host the prime minister at our hotel. I had to give my utmost."

When the Netanyahus arrived at his highly rated hotel on Google, the rating stood at a particularly high score of 4.8 out of 5. But now, two days later, the rating has dropped to 4.4, and in addition around 1,300 new comments have been registered. Many of them criticize the hotel for hosting the couple.

On the other hand, supporters of the prime minister have begun posting positive comments about the hotel to counter the criticism. For example, a user named Yair commented on Google: "A perfect hotel that serves a legitimate prime minister despite the anger and hatred of the anti-democrats. It won't help the haters!" At this stage, it's not clear what actions are being considered by the hotel management, and the threat to sue at the moment is general against "those who caused harm." In a conversation with Ynet, the hotel's CEO emphasized that: "I'm not a political person."

Either way, Ami Yisrael will not forget this week anytime soon. "I received the alert about their vacation two days ago," he recalled. "This is not the first time I've hosted ministers and Knesset members, both at the Panda Hotel and in previous hotels I worked at, and I know how to prepare and provide them, like all guests, with the experience and enjoyment. Everything else is less interesting."

"We certainly paid a lot of attention to them and took care of them, and we made a great effort to ensure that no guest was affected. There were those who applauded and were excited, and there were those on the other side. Due to security arrangements, the prime minister and his wife had complete privacy. They had no special requests, and we provided them with our presidential suite. I hope there will be unity and peace for all the people of Israel, and we will welcome them all with love."

During the vacation, which unlike reports didn't end, but continued also on Thursday, the Netanyahus were not seen by the other hotel guests. They reportedly had their meals in their suite, relaxed a lot and enjoyed the spa facilities.

8.10.23 – Th

Abbas orders 12 of 16 PA city governors to 'retire' as West Bank finances collapse

8.10.23 – Th

Abbas orders governors of several Palestinian cities to 'retire'  
Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has removed a series of governors from key cities such as Jenin, Nablus, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho, with absolutely no

warning; In light of these sudden vacancies, a special committee is has been tasked with sifting through potential successors for these pivotal roles

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday removed several governors from key districts, including Jenin, Nablus and Bethlehem, among others. He also set up a team to suggest suitable replacements for these roles.

Abbas reportedly ordered 12 of 16 Palestinian regional governors to "retire." He then appointed a presidential committee to recommend replacements for the newly vacated positions.

Reacting to the move, Jericho's governor, Jihad Yousef Abu al-Asal, shared his bewilderment, noting that the move was unexpected and the rationale behind his removal remains unclear to him, and to the other deposed mayors.

Head of the Jenin Governorate, Akram Rajoub, said: "I learned about the decision from the media, and I don't know the reason for my dismissal."

The action comes in the 17th year of Abbas' presidency, though he was only elected to a five-year term. It also comes as he remains an unpopular figure among most Palestinians, and as his government appears to have lost control of security in some areas of the West Bank.

Meanwhile, some coalition members of the Netanyahu government have refused to approve relief measures to prop up the Palestinian Authority.

The political-security cabinet met at the beginning of the week to discuss such measures, but ultimately rejected economic concessions that require the approval of the Finance Ministry, such as fuel discounts and debt relief, due to the opposition of the Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir, Finance Minister and Minister in the Defense Ministry Bezalel Smotrich, who also expressed his opposition, abstained from the vote. Security officials have warned that the PA is in a difficult situation, and even in danger of collapse. Their position that Israel needs to strengthen the Palestinian Authority with significant measures to save it from collapse ultimately was accepted by the Cabinet.

8.10.23 – Th

Rescue from Ethiopia: 204 Israelis, eligible immigrants were flown from battle zone

8.10.23 – Th

Rescue from Gondar: 204 Israelis, eligible immigrants were flown to Addis Ababa from battle zone

After heavy clashes between armed militias and Ethiopian forces, Israel rescued 204 Israelis and those eligible for aliyah who were besieged in northern Ethiopia. Netanyahu: 'From there they will come to Israel, we will receive them here with warmth and welcome'

Itamar Eichner|09:59

Rescue operation from northern Ethiopia: on Thursday, 204 Israelis and Ethiopians who are eligible for immigration were rescued on four different flights from the cities of Gondar and Mount Dar in northern Ethiopia, after they came under siege in an area where severe clashes between armed militias and the Ethiopian security forces have taken place in recent days.

Last week, the Foreign Ministry issued a "travel advisory" for Israelis staying in Gondar, following "violent clashes between armed local groups and the federal security forces, which led to the blocking of the roads to and from Gondar and the closing of the airport."

The rescue operation became possible after a relative stabilization of the situation in Gondar. Buses transported the evacuees – 174 Israeli citizens and Ethiopians eligible for immigration – from several different points to the Gondar airport, which had recently opened, and from there they were flown to safety in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. At the same time, 30 Israelis were rescued from the city of Mount Dar and also taken to Addis Ababa.

A few days ago, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in consultation with Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, instructed the head of the National Security Council Tzachi Hanegbi to lead the coordination of the rescue operation. The operation was carried out under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Israeli Embassy in Ethiopia, the Prime Minister's Office, and the Jewish Agency. At the time, it was estimated that there were only about 50 Israelis in the area, but later the exact number became clear. The Israeli Embassy in Ethiopia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem had contacted most of the Israeli citizens in the area of the cities of Gondar and Mount Dar in the last day. On Wednesday night they were instructed to reach meeting points in the cities for their rescue. For this purpose, the situation room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was reinforced with Amharic-speaking diplomats, agency workers and soldiers.

At the meeting points, the Israelis boarded designated buses that were waiting for them and transferred them to the airport of Gondar and Mount Dar, where they boarded special flights that had been arranged in advance and arrived a short time ago in Addis Ababa. The Israelis who were rescued from the battle zone will stay in Addis Ababa until their decision regarding their continued stay in Ethiopia and return to Israel. After the rescue, it became known that a number of Israelis remained in areas that cannot be reached, and that efforts are being made to rescue them as well.

Prime Minister Netanyahu said: "The State of Israel cares for its citizens wherever they are. In the last few days, citizens of Israel and those eligible for aliyah from Ethiopia entered into distress in the battle zones. I ordered them to be taken out of there."

"I want to thank the National Security Headquarters, the people of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the people of the Jewish Agency – for quick action, quiet and above all success. The people are now on their way from Gondar and Mount Dar and from there they will arrive in the State of Israel. We will receive them here with warmth and greetings. Welcome to the State of Israel."

Foreign Minister Eli Cohen added: "The State of Israel will not stand by and will not leave a single Israeli behind. This is the result of successful cooperation and close coordination with the Prime Minister's Office, the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Agency. I am proud of the people of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli Embassy in Ethiopia for their quick and high-quality activities. As we have proven in the past and in this event as well, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to act and assist in all possible ways and channels for every Israeli in the world who needs help."

On Tuesday, Cohen held a situation assessment regarding the Israelis and those entitled to aliyah besieged in Gondar, and yesterday he ordered officials to examine the possibility of evacuation to Addis Ababa; In the end, that plan came to fruition.

Asher Seyoum from Kiryat Malachi, who together with Shay Tronhc managed the WhatsApp group to locate the Israelis, explains that: "We decided to open a WhatsApp group and help with what we have in order to make things more accurate because the numbers did not come together. We saw that all the families were worried. After we opened the group, the numbers increased. We also sent locations, we prepared a table with ID numbers, the location of the hotel and even what their health status is. Unfortunately, there are some we were unable to reach, but we reached the central mass."

He added that: "Just a month ago I was in Ethiopia in the Gondar area. There is a sense of insecurity on the street, you stay where you are and feel that something is happening. I decided to take action because I understood what the Israelis who are there are going through. Some of them were under fire and they ran out of food, and we knew that if we didn't do something, there would be Israelis who would be slaughtered. If we didn't shout, the government wouldn't act. Big thumbs up to the government for this move." Initially, the Defense and Foreign ministries examined the possibility of sending a plane from the Israeli Air Force, but on Wednesday, the Ethiopian government announced that it had removed the armed militias after several days of heavy clashes, and announced a curfew in six major cities in the Amhara National Regional State, including the capital, Mount Dar. "Today there is complete silence in the city, no one moves in the city," according to a resident of the capital. "The army is going door to door looking for suspects."

Flights to the district resumed Wednesday, after Ethiopian Airlines announced the end of the short suspension of operations in Mount Dar and Gondar.

The Ethiopian government, headed by Abiy Ahmed, announced last week, after the fighting began, a state of emergency for six months in Amhara - only nine months after the end of the war that took place in the neighboring Tigray province. Doctors in hospitals in the area said that dozens of civilians were killed or injured in the clashes. Amhara militias did indeed fight alongside government forces in battles in Tigray, but at the beginning of the year tensions developed after the government's decision to disband armed groups throughout Ethiopia. This step led to a protest from nationalists in Amhara, who said it would weaken the province's ability to defend itself.

A month ago, the second part of Operation Tzur Israel was completed, with the arrival in Israel of about 130 new immigrants from Ethiopia. During the operation, about 5,000

immigrants made aliya from Ethiopia, of which about 70% were young people under the age of 35.

At the same time, Wudoo Adebabayi, a 79-year-old resident of Rishon Lezion, was kidnapped in Ethiopia. The Foreign Ministry stopped handling the case due to suspicions that Adebabayi staged his own kidnapping, but the family insisted that Adebabayi was kidnapped - and in the end he was rescued last month by a special force of the Ethiopian army, after a chase that included a gunfight with the kidnapers.

"The State of Israel is measured in moments of emergency and distress and the ability to rescue Israelis from life-threatening situations from anywhere in the world," said former minister Pnina Tamano-Shata, who came to Israel from Ethiopia when she was three-years-old. "I am very happy that we were able to rescue Israelis and those entitled to make aliyah who were under fire and in immediate danger. The government must not stop the operations until the last of the Israelis and those entitled to aliyah arrive in Israel safely."

8.10.23 – Th

Culture of Terror cell profiled in US publication; claim Jewish settlers are targets

8.10.23 – Th

Terror cell profiled in U.S. publication describes life in the Balata refugee camp. Group members say terrorists are treated as heroes and role models by children in the camp, which has high unemployment and provides little hope for the future; cell leader says he used his Israeli paycheck to purchase a rifle after seeing a friend killed. Ynet|07:31

If you want to see a place around Nablus where people, who aren't affiliated with Palestinian security mechanisms, walk around freely with automatic rifles, all you have to do is go into the Balata refugee camp. It has been raided often by the IDF, just recently in May, when security forces blew up a laboratory that was making explosive devices.

There are several armed groups operating in the refugee camp, including one that associates with the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. The Washington Post recently published an article that deals with that group nicknamed "The Cell", providing insight into the people who refer to themselves as Tomorrow's Martyrs.

A local cell commander, who identified as Zufee told the Post that his men are not associated with the Palestinian Authority, which he said was corrupt and weak and acting as a defense shield for Israel. He said the PA members drive around in fancy cars in stark contrast to the standard of living of camp residents.

In its report, the Washington Post said Zufee spent time in the Meggido prison when he was a teenager during the second Intifada. After he was released in 2008, he joined the Palestinian security forces for several years before leaving to begin working on Israeli

construction sites. He scrimped and saved and managed to purchase a fully automatic M-16 for \$20,000.

After a February IDF raid in Nablus that killed 11 terrorists, Zufee was inspired to establish a terror cell with several friends, one of whom was killed. That further cemented his desire to carry out acts of terror. A 19-year-old sitting next to him nodded in agreement, the report went on to say. He too told the paper that he joined the Balata cell after seeing his friend shot by troops as they hurled stones at them.

The article cited sources in the IDF who claim that they were fully aware of the cell and were keeping a close eye on it. Their objective is to turn the camp into a fort, the sources told the paper.

Last April terrorists opened fire on a military outpost located near the West Bank settlement of Elon Moreh. Two terrorists were killed and one was wounded. He was identified by the Post as 38-year-old Amar, who is widely revered in the refugee camp so much so, that residents offer to pay for his coffee. Like other members in the terror cell, the post says, he is treated like a rock star. Terrorists enjoy their social status and are role models for children, while the unemployment rate for men in Balata nears 90%, and options for social mobility are nonexistent.

The article claims that some members of Balata cell participated in the fight against the IDF forces during their incursion into the refugee camp in Jenin, last month, as part of a cooperation between cells. The publication showed the terrorists making assembling explosive devices they called "melons," from Chinese-made charges, gunpowder and fertilizers. When they believe they might be raided by the IDF, they either hide their devices or hurl them at forces, like grenades.

While some of the terrorists said they were only doing what they must in order to survive, others claimed that Jewish settlers were a legitimate target and told the post that a recent attack near the settlement of Eli, where four people were killed, was carried out by a group calling themselves the Rapid Response, although they insisted that they do not know the identity of its members.

8.08.23 – Tu

Shin Bet uncovered West Bank PA terrorist cell operated from Lebanon

8.08.23 – Tu

Shin Bet says it uncovered terrorist cell operated from Lebanon

PFLP operative deported to Gaza in the Shalit prisoner swap found to have enlisted family members and others West Bank residents to carry out attacks under the direction of the Palestinian terror group in Lebanon

Yoav Zitun|10:19

The Shin Bet said on Tuesday that in a joint operation with the IDF conducted over the past several months, it had identified and disrupted a terrorist cell in the West Bank

planning to execute attacks in Israel and which was directed by a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in Lebanon.

The cell, made up of several West Bank Palestinians, was directed by Aalam Qaabi, a Popular Front activist from Nablus. Qaabi had enlisted terror actors, some from his own family, to carry out attacks. He had been deported to Gaza in 2011, in a prisoner swap that was struck to secure the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit after five years in Hamas captivity in Gaza.

Several of the Palestinian suspects were charged with intent to carry out terrorist attacks, and others were arrested on suspicion of promoting terrorist activities. In his interrogation, one of the suspects said he was instructed by Qaabi to carry out a shooting attack using an M16 assault rifle he had in his possession. Another suspect said he was tasked with carrying out attacks and leading a terror squad that would operate in the area of Jenin. Both men were indicted in military court.

"The Shin Bet along with the IDF and the Israel Police will continue to foil terrorism, including when it is carried out by West Bank Palestinian residents under the guidance of terror actors outside Israel's borders, such as Aalam Qaabi," the security service said in a statement.

8.08.23 – Tu

Court petitioned to throw out a law this fall, changing judge selection

8.08.23 – Tu

Netanyahu attempting to deter justices, judicial officials say

Prime minister's announced intent to revamp the committee for selecting judges comes as the Supreme Court hears petitions to throw out a law that prevents his ouster for any reason other than physical or mental incapacity  
Tova Zimuky, Moran Azulay|Yesterday | 16:03

Officials in Israel's legal system said on Monday that they heard a threat from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he said he would complete legislation to change the way judges are selected after a bill already making its way through the Knesset requires only a final vote.

The panel for selecting judges now comprises three Supreme Court justices, two Cabinet ministers, two parliamentarians and two lawyers. A vote of at least 7-2 is required to approve an appointment, a threshold designed to encourage compromise.

Under the bill drawn up by Justice Minister Yariv Levin, the panel would be expanded to 11 members – seven of them aligned with or brought in by the government, giving it a potential automatic majority.



Netanyahu said in an interview with Bloomberg News on Sunday that he intended to pass the legislation when the Knesset returns from its recess in the fall, as a final move in his judicial reform.

The sources said Netanyahu was hoping to deter Supreme Court justices who will decide a petition before the court, to throw out another bill that prevents the prime minister's ouster from office for any reason other than medical or mental incapacity.

The prime minister is on trial for corruption and has signed a conflict of interest agreement that prevents him from dealing with matters that could influence the case's outcome, an agreement he is accused of violating.

But members of Netanyahu's Likud Party said there may not be a majority of coalition members who will support such legislation after some lawmakers said they would refuse to vote for additional bills in the government's judicial overhaul that did not have a broad consensus after the Knesset passed by a 64 to 0 majority the reasonability bill, that limits the Supreme Court's oversight of the government.

They questioned Netanyahu's motives for announcing he would pass the bill changing the way judges are selected in light of the wide opposition it is sure to raise in an already volatile public protest that has seen hundreds of thousands take to the streets for the past 31 weeks and amid concerns that the economy would continue to suffer and that the IDF would be severely impacted if protests continue.

One source in Likud said Netanyahu may be attempting to float the idea in order to ultimately pass another of his proposed laws, which could be considered less provocative but would weaken the position of the attorney general.

8.07.23 – Mo

West Bank shepherd & herd confronted by stone-throwing PA, defends himself

8.07.23 – Mo

Five Palestinians arrested following deadly West Bank clash with settlers

Arrests come three days after confrontation in which a settler shot and killed a Palestinian man; Settlers claim to have acted in self-defense

Elisha Ben Kimon|03:34

Five Palestinians, including two minors, were arrested early Monday on suspicion of involvement in a deadly clash with settlers in the West Bank town of Burqa near Ramallah over the weekend which resulted in the death of a young Palestinian man.

According to police, the five individuals are suspected of aggravated assault and additional arrests are expected.

Immediately following the incident on Friday, police detained Yechiel Indor from the settlement of Ofra who is suspected of the fatal shooting of 19-year-old Qusai Jamal

Matan and who himself sustained a head injury. Elisha Yarad, a former parliamentary advisor to Otzma Yehudit MK Limor **Son** Har-Melech, was also apprehended.

According to an **IDF probe**, Indor, a shepherd, arrived with his herd from the wildcat outpost of Oz Zion to an open area adjacent to Burqa around 7:00 PM on Friday where a confrontation developed with a group of **Palestinians**, during which Indor is suspected of shooting and killing Matan.

The first IDF and police force arrived at the scene about two hours later after **settlers failed to report the incident**. According to the IDF, the **incident** on Friday took place in private Palestinian land a few hundred feet from the first line of houses in the Palestinian town, and about **a mile** as the crow flies **from the houses in the outpost**.

Indor received backing from several coalition lawmakers, as well as from National Security Minister Itamar **Ben-Gvir**, who **argued** Sunday that Indor should be granted a citation for his actions. "My policy is clear. **Anyone who defends themselves from stone-throwing should receive a citation**", wrote Ben-Gvir on X.

Alongside Indor, Elisha Yarad was also arrested. Both are **suspected of causing death intentionally due to racial motives, a crime equivalent to murder under West Bank law, and they were remanded to custody for five days.**

The **settlers** involved in the incident claimed they were attacked first. As per their account, Indor was struck in the head by a stone and **"used his personal weapon in his final strength."**

According to them, **"dozens of rioters armed with rods, firecrackers and stones attacked the settlers, who called security forces and civilian forces for assistance. The rioters fired firecrackers directly at the settlers and threw stones from point-blank range. One of the settlers was struck in the head by a stone at point-blank range and was seriously injured. With his last strength, he managed to defend himself by using his personal weapon, which he holds a license for."**

**8.07.23 – Mo**

**Israel launched aerial aggression from Golan Heights, targeting vicinity of Damascus**

**8.07.23 – Mo**

**Four Syrian soldiers killed in Israeli attack on Damascus, state media reports**

For the first time since hundreds of Air Force pilots announced they would not report for reserve duty due to judicial reform legislation, **Syrian media reports Israeli attack in the Damascus area**

Daniel Salami|01:07

**Syrian air defense systems were activated Monday overnight** in response to an Israeli attack near the capital **Damascus**, Syrian state media reported.

Subsequent reports indicated that **four Syrian soldiers** were **killed**, and another **four** were **injured**. This was the first reported **strike by the Israeli Air Force** in Syria since hundreds of reserve pilots and officers announced they would not report for reserve duty in response to the government's judicial reform legislation.

"At about **2:20 in the morning** today, the **Israeli enemy** **launched** an **aerial aggression** **from** the direction of the occupied Syrian **Golan Heights**, **targeting** some points in the **vicinity of** the city of **Damascus**," the military source said.

The **previous attack in Syria** was reported on **July 19**, when the state news agency SANA reported that Israel had targeted **several locations in the Damascus region**.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a London-based opposition war monitor, the **July attack** was **aimed at military sites and ammunition depots of Hezbollah's Fourth Division** in Damascus.

In the same week, more than a thousand Air Force personnel announced they would halt their reserve service if the judicial reform legislation was not stopped. The bill was ultimately approved a few days later.

Over the weekend, senior officers and pilots in the reserves, who are leading the protest, claimed there is a deep crisis in the IDF's operational readiness, much more severe than what is presented to the public. According to them, the number of pilots and officers who have announced their non-attendance is much higher than the 300 or 400 reported by the IDF.

IDF officials admitted that the **protest movement has dented its preparedness for war** and, even more so, the **unity among its ranks**. However, the impact on readiness is still "limited" given the fact that the **military has barely trained in August**. "The test will be **next month**, when **large-scale exercises will begin again**," they said.

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Ynet-News, August 04, 2023 – Friday

**8.06.23** – Su- - - News   Placed in August 06 spot – Sunday  
**Israeli vessel joins international Ukrainian naval blockade in the Black Sea**

**8.03.23** – Th- - - News   Placed in August 03 spot – Thursday  
**Syrian Iranian center produces chemical weapons & precision missiles for war**

**8.02.23** – We- - - News   Placed in August 02 spot – Wednesday  
**3 West Bank terror strikes, stabbing, drive-by shooting, shopping mall shooting**

**8.02.23** – We- - - News   Placed in August 01 spot – Tuesday  
**Supreme Court deliberates LGBTQ adoption ban as discriminatory law**

7.30.23 – Su- - - News Placed in July 30 spot – Sunday  
IDF & Border Police thwart a favored route for smuggling weapons in Jordan Valley

7.30.23 – Su- - - News Placed in July 29 spot – Saturday  
 Hamas & 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