

Ynet-News, August 16, 2023 – Wednesday

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Air Force & Intelligence commanders compromised by protests, clash with PM

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Israel breaks up Hamas terror cell last month plotting to kidnap Israeli soldiers

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Forces demolish homes in WB outpost; where heroic shepherd defended himself

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Hawaii wildfires, Maui 2,200 buildings & three more mountain fires 544 buildings

8.13.23 – Su- - - News Placed in August 12 spot – Saturday
Iranian munitions storage facility completely destroyed in attack attributed to Israel

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8.16.23 – We
Air Force & Intelligence commanders compromised by protests, clash with PM

8.16.23 – We
Military warns Air Force, Intelligence Units compromised in protests

In briefing to lawmakers, senior officials in the IDF say field units suffer less of an impact from reservists refusing to volunteer but warn that as protests continue, more will stay away from service

Moran Azulay|09:01

The Air Force and the military intelligence is the most impacted among sectors of the IDF, compared to the infantry and other field units, senior military officials told lawmakers on Wednesday. Speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the officials said that the IDF is currently able to meet its challenges but may not be in the future.

A growing number of reservists said they would refuse to serve if the judicial laws are passed, claiming that they refuse to serve a regime that is compromising Israeli democracy by weakening the courts which are a co-equal branch of government.

The officials said that they were actively working to prevent the better-trained and experienced reservists including the pilots from leaving the force and presented their plan to deal with the crisis. They warned that as the protests continue, more of their reservists would refuse to appear for duty and maintain their preparedness for battle.

The briefing held behind closed doors comes amid increased public criticism of the Chief of Staff and his senior commanders from members of the coalition, some accusing the top military brass of being politically motivated. Some among the far-right ministers even accused commanders of the forces in the West Bank as well as other senior security officials of favoring Palestinians over the need to protect settlers there.

Settlements Minister Orit Strock went so far as to compare the IDF to the Russian Wagner Group by undermining the government.

On Monday, it was the son of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who added his voice to the accusations, retweeting a post by another Netanyahu associate who said the military chief was responsible for the weakening of Israel's security. Although the post was condemned by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, immediately as he expressed his support for the chief of staff, the prime minister was silent for an additional day before issuing a statement of support for the IDF and its commanders.

Netanyahu was reported to have shouted at Herzi Halevi and other commanders when they met on Sunday for a long-awaited briefing on the military's preparedness for war amid the crisis. Sources then said Netanyahu was angered by the compromise to the military but blamed the Air Force chief and other senior officers for not doing enough to punish those reservists.

8.16.23 – We

64th Aliyah flight; over 200 new immigrants from US & Canada land in Israel

8.16.23 – We

Over 200 new immigrants from North America land in Israel

Watch them arrive: The olim, including **medical professionals and lone soldiers**, will join **over 1300 immigrants from North America** who have **immigrated** since the beginning of **2023**

Itamar Eichner|Updated:00:59

Some **215 new immigrants from the United States and Canada** landed **Wednesday** morning at Ben Gurion Airport, arriving at the peak of the wave of immigration this summer. They **will join over 1300 immigrants from North America** who have immigrated since the beginning of **2023**.

The **charter flight** was comprised **of 22 families with 75 children** among them, **15 single men and women and 17 retirees**. The youngest oleh on the flight was 4 months old, and the oldest oleh was 77 years old. Also onboard the flight were **seven doctors** and **15 health professionals** who will be integrating into the Israeli medical system. Some 27 Olim on the flight are part of the Nefesh B'Nefesh-KKL Go Beyond **initiative**, which is **aimed at developing Israel's peripheral regions and Jerusalem**.

There were also **dozens of young adults** who **will enlist in the Israel Defense Forces** as lone soldiers. They will be drafting with Garin Tzabar, a Friends of Israel Scouts program which offers support before and throughout military service, and coordinates communities around Israel to serve as a home away from home for these individuals.

It is the **64th Nefesh B'Nefesh chartered Aliyah flight** through El Al Israel Airlines, in **cooperation** with Israel's Ministry of Aliyah & Integration, The Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael (KKL), Jewish National Fund-USA and Tzofim-Garin Tzabar. For the first time, the **immigrants on the flight were able to go through the full absorption process and receive their Teudot Oleh (immigration certificates) while onboard**, finalizing their aliyah process.

"It was my absolute joy to **welcome** these new Olim upon their **arrival** in Israel. It is especially exciting to see families with kids and young adults embrace the Zionist dream of making Aliyah," said Ofir Sofer, Minister of Aliyah and Integration. "I wish the new Olim much success, as well as a **smooth and comfortable absorption in Israel**. Welcome home!"

"**Each and every Oleh carries with them a unique story**, yet what bonds them together is a **unified love for our homeland**, shared goals and collective action," said Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, co-founder and executive director of Nefesh B'Nefesh. "It teaches us that diversity exists within unity - that shared values and commitment can bind different individuals and groups together. Watching each of these Olim walk onto the tarmac and witness their elation as they take their initial steps in **their new homes** is both **inspiring and moving**."

Minister of Interior and Health Moshe Arbel said in a statement that he is pleased that many of the new immigrants "will be **contributing toward Israel's leading health system**." He added: "I wish all the olim success in their new lives in Israel and am confident they will make significant contributions to **strengthening the medical system** in Israel. Welcome home!"

"With each flight of new Olim arriving to Israel, we are empowering the fulfillment of the Zionist dream and strengthening the state of Israel - The one and only miracle," said Jewish Agency Chairman Maj. Gen. (res.) Doron Almog. Wednesday's immigrants come from across the United States and Canadian provinces, including New York, New Jersey, California, Texas, Ohio, Massachusetts, Ontario, Minnesota and Illinois. The main Israeli cities they are moving to include Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Ra'anana, Beit Shemesh, Haifa, Afula and Modi'in-Maccabim-Re'ut.
First published: 08:12, 08.16.23

8.15.23 – Tu

Terrorists attempt to fire rocket from Jenin, but it fails to launch

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Terrorists attempt to fire rocket from Jenin, but it fails to launch

IDF locates remnants of the rocket and the launch apparatus, as the forces also initiated a pursuit of suspected individuals involved
Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi|08:48

The terror organization Ayyash Brigade, which is affiliated with Hamas, attempted to launch a rocket on Tuesday from an undisclosed location in the Jenin area in the West Bank. However, their attempt failed when the rocket misfired.

The Israel Defense Forces swiftly located the remnants of the rocket and the launch apparatus. Expert sappers are currently assessing the presence of explosive materials at the site. The IDF has indicated that the findings will undergo further security assessment and handling.

The military also initiated a pursuit of suspected individuals involved in the failed rocket launch. The remnants of the explosive rocket were found at the launch site, which was located within Palestinian territory near an industrial zone in the northern West Bank.

In an official statement released after the unsuccessful launch, the Ayyash Brigade declared that the attempt was made "in response to the enemy's crimes against our people and as a reprisal for the blood of our martyrs, which fuels our Jihad. This incident is part of our ongoing preparation and development process."

Despite the rocket launch failure, the terror organization asserted: "Our fighters successfully targeted the Shaked settlement, west of Jenin, using a Qassam missile." The statement added that: "Despite the complex security conditions, limited capabilities and significant security constraints, we persist in our mission to make their lives a living hell."

This launch attempt adds to a series of unsuccessful rocket launch endeavors from the Jenin area toward Jewish communities. The most recent rocket fired at the end of July fell within Palestinian territory.

8.15.23 – Tu

Main suspect in killing of Palestinian in Burqa released to house arrest

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Law enforcement say Yehiel Indore refuses to cooperate in his investigation; Police argue confrontation spanned over hours, settlers called for 'reinforcements' from their own ranks instead of calling security forces

Liran Tamari|07:10

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on Tuesday ordered the release of Yehiel Indore, who is suspected of killing 19-year-old Palestinian Qusai Matan during clashes in the village of Burqa near Ramallah earlier this month, to house arrest.

Among other conditions, the court ruled that Indore will be prohibited from using a phone. A police representative said during the hearing, "The respondent was interrogated yesterday and chose to remain silent during his investigation. He refused to participate in a reenactment at the scene after consulting with his lawyer, citing his medical condition."

The police representative added, "I refer the court to yesterday's decision regarding the initial conduct of the investigation under protected conditions, 'even if it burdens the suspect.' We are requesting to conduct 13 investigative actions, three of which involve a reenactment, requiring he remains in custody."

During the hearing, the police explained that "the incident did not begin with Indore's injury and the killing of the Palestinian. It began several hours earlier and ended later." According to the police, the settlers could have called for help during the clashes, but chose not to do so. "There was always an option to leave the area; they could have called the police and the army, but they chose to call for 'reinforcements' instead." In addition, during the hearing, the police acknowledged that no autopsy was performed on Matan's body, only a hospital examination, despite claiming in a hearing last week that they had received a pathological report of the body's autopsy.

The police representative added that they have several videos documenting the clashes, during which, according to suspicion, Indore fatally shot the Palestinian man, which he claims was done in self-defense. He further stated that "several stones were taken for DNA testing to identify the assailants."

Earlier Tuesday, IDF forces apprehended two Palestinians for their suspected involvement in the clashes with the settlers near the village, which began before the shooting incident. The police reported that the investigation is ongoing and additional arrests are expected.

Last week, A military court ordered the release of other detained Palestinians—a father and his three sons—who were suspected of aggravated assault.

Elisha Yarad, formerly of the far-right Otzma Yehudit Party, who is suspected of involvement in the killing of Matan, was also released to house arrest last week by order of the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, after the Supreme Court rejected the prosecution's appeal regarding his release.

In a remand hearing last week, the presiding judge stated in his decision that "a review of the new materials indicates that the reasonable suspicion against the respondent has strengthened to a certain extent, and this particular strengthening justifies his continued detention for an additional period. This does not mean that the claim of self-defense has been ruled out or negated."

8.14.23 – Mo

Hezbollah leader responds: 'If we go to war - Israel will also return to the Stone Age'

8.14.23 – Mo

Nasrallah responds: 'If we go to war - Israel will also return to the Stone Age'

After the Defense Minister's threats on Mount Dov, the Hezbollah leader said that if a war between the Jewish state and Lebanon turns into a multi-front conflict there will be no such thing as Israel!

Daniel Salami|13:53

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said Monday evening in a speech that his terror organization can return Israel to the Stone Age, similar to Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's threats to do so to Lebanon.

Gallant said last week during a visit to Mount Dov that "I warn Hezbollah and Nasrallah not to make a mistake. You made mistakes in the past and paid very heavy prices. If, God forbid, an escalation or conflict develops here - we will return Lebanon to the Stone Age."

During the speech to mark Victory Day in Second Lebanon War, Nasrallah said: "The Israeli army today is in its worst state. Lack of trust between the soldiers and the commanders and the command, a lack of trust between the army and the political echelon, the unwillingness to sacrifice, the lack of motivation to serve in the combat units, failure to improve this situation. Even when the army tried to make a ground invasion in Gaza, they were killed and kidnapped."

"They don't have a real army achievement, certainly not a mighty and legendary army, all the achievements are only from the air. Now and in light of the political divide in Israel, its situation is the worst in relation to any point in time, and this is what senior Israelis and reserve officers are saying and this is something that has been in the headlines for the past two days between the government and the Chief of Staff and the Air Force. But the real blow to the army will be if the new recruitment law of the religious extremists is passed, they actually said that if this law passed it would be a severe blow to the army."

Nasrallah further said that "since 2006 we see a change in the concept of security, we see passive and active defense, whether it is shelters and shielding or whether it is the interception of rockets and missiles, measures that were developed during the conflicts in Gaza. Iron Dome, David's Slingshot, Patriot and Barak. **Almost every year** we do **exercises** to see the readiness of the home front for war, and you can hear the Israeli **generals themselves saying that the home front is not ready.**

"It was published in the media that there are 2.5 million Israelis who do not have protection and shelter. The most important thing is the trust that no longer exists in the home front and the unwillingness of the residents in these areas to pay the price and make sacrifices for the war, and this is also reflected in the army, and we have also seen it in recent months, especially with the government of the strange and delusional Netanyahu and the internal rift and the demonstrations and even before that."

The Secretary General of **Hezbollah continued** his words of **defiance**. "We are asked how we respond to the threats of the enemy. A few days ago, the Israeli Defense Minister stood hundreds of meters from the (border) fence because he knows we are following him, and threatened and said they will return Lebanon to the Stone Age. **We do not deny** that **Israel has the ability to return Lebanon to the Stone Age**, with its powerful air force, and the American army and aid and backing; this is nothing new, it has always been this way. Therefore, this is not what is interesting here, but what **Hezbollah and the resistance can do**, and this is something that the Israeli command understands, and therefore these **threats have no value - look at where Lebanon is today.**

"The territory of Israel is known, I once even pointed to a map. You can prepare a list. The civilian airports, the military airports, the air force bases, power plants, water plants, central communication centers, a group of certain infrastructures. There is no need to expand on this, the oil and fuel and ammonia plants, you can also include the (nuclear) plants in Dimona - these are in a small area. We are not talking about a country the size of the United States or Russia or even Sudan. We are talking about the territories of occupied Palestine, the enemy can calculate how accurate a missile must be to destroy these targets, and if Israel activates all of its Iron Dome batteries and the Sling of David, and the Patriot batteries. Okay, so you intercepted some of the missiles, but what is the required amount?"

Nasrallah further stated in his speech: "Israeli officers themselves presented a technical analysis, with the intention of presenting the threat. They said that the precision missiles could hit nuclear plants. There are of course other targets that we do not intend to go into detail about, and all of this is assuming that the war will be limited only to the resistance in Lebanon. So what will happen if the campaign develops into fighting with the entire axis of resistance? It is possible for Lebanon to return some settlement here or there to the Stone Age, but if the campaign develops into the entire axis of resistance, then there will no longer be such a thing called Israel left.

"That's why the leadership of the enemy's army must understand - it's not a matter of one point, but of being or ceasing to exist. They need to put their feet on the ground and act rationally, and most of the time they really do act logically if we ignore all the media circus, so all these threats don't scare us and Lebanon enjoys strength centers that are able

to deter the enemy, and give confidence in dealing with the enemy. The golden equation we always talk about is the one that brought back the gas fields (the border agreement) and is the one that will bring back the entire border and will be a real protector for the Lebanese people," Nasrallah concluded.

Nasrallah's speech Monday evening comes against the backdrop of repeated provocations by Hezbollah along the border, where one of the terrorist organization's tents is still standing in Israeli territory on Mount Dov. The secretary general of Hezbollah is closely following what is happening in Israel.

In recent months there has been an escalation on the northern border, and in a situation assessment published about a month ago, the research staff of the Alma Center for the Study of Security Challenges in the North stated that they have "identified a clear pattern by Hezbollah to create friction and escalation in the areas of dispute on the Blue Line" - the dividing line between Israel and Lebanon according to the UN resolution.

8.14.23 – Mo

Israel breaks up Hamas terror cell last month plotting to kidnap Israeli soldiers

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Israel breaks up Hamas terror cell plotting to kidnap Israeli soldiers

Security forces apprehend nine suspects in West Bank town of Bidu, seize firearms and large quantities of explosives, as well as maps detailing attack plans and escape routes
Yoav Zitun|05:39

Israeli security forces last month arrested nine members of a suspected Hamas-sponsored terrorist cell who were allegedly plotting to kidnap a soldier in the West Bank, the defense establishment cleared for publication on Monday.

A Shin Bet investigation revealed that the group from the Palestinian town of Bidu had armed themselves, prepared explosives, mapped out escape routes and conducted reconnaissance missions to study the daily routines of soldiers stationed nearby.

The group additionally plotted to carry out shootings and bombings against IDF forces, to which end, they taught themselves to produce explosive material and established a hidden lab within a residence to prepare these substances

The explosives lab contained raw materials for producing explosives, along with detonators and pipes used for constructing devices. Additionally, "Carlo-style" improvised submachine guns were seized, as well as maps detailing attack plans and escape routes.

Given the severity of the planned attack, the cell members operated discreetly, maintaining utmost secrecy to avoid exposing their activities, similar to another Hamas cell that was busted two years ago in the same Palestinian town which also planned suicide bombing attacks.

8.14.23 – Mo

Forces demolish homes in WB outpost; where heroic shepherd defended himself

8.14.23 – Mo

Security forces demolish homes in illegal West Bank outpost

In a rare move since far-right minister instructs the military to refrain from demolishing outposts, 5 structures are destroyed as settlers burn tires, block roads and call on others to join their protests

Yoav Zitun, Gilad Cohen|Updated:00:09

Security forces on Monday, destroyed buildings in an illegal settler outpost- A'ira Shahr, near the West Bank city of Ramallah prompting its residents to block roads to the outpost using burning tires and nails to stop military and police vehicles from arriving. No arrests were made. In the unusual move by the right-wing government, the forces demolished five illegally built structures that were on privately owned Palestinian land.

Since far-right Religious Zionist Party leader Bezael Smotrich was appointed as a minister in the Defense Ministry, forces were instructed by the government to avoid removing illegal outposts on the West Bank.

The settlers called on others to join them in their protest of the move, the first in that outpost since the establishment of the government. They slammed the government claiming its was continuing the policies of its predecessors in the Lapid – Bennett administration.

They linked the move to the arrest of two settlers in connection with the killing of a Palestinian youth during an altercation in the Palestinian village of Burqa earlier this month, that turned violent when settlers from a near-by outpost herded their sheep on the village land and were blocked by villagers.

The settlers said they were shocked that Smotrich opted to "wage war" against their settlements. "These serious events are an addition to the blood libel against our heroic settlers who were defending themselves," the settlers said in a statement. "After lies from the IDF spokesman were exposed, having adopted the Palestinian account of the events in Burka, the military is now exacting its revenge, as the charges brought to the courts were being refuted," they said.

On Sunday, hundreds of right-wing demonstrators blocked the entrance to Jerusalem in protest of the arrest of Yehiel Indore, one of the suspects in the Burqa killing.

First published: 08:05, 08.14.23

8.14.23 – Mo

Hawaii wildfires, Maui 2,200 buildings & three more mountain fires 544 buildings

8.14.23 – Mo

Israelis flee Hawaii wildfires, left homeless: 'It's a miracle we were able to escape'
Adi and Sola Bar Gil Gordon, along with their 3 daughters had to abandon all of their property and flee from the wildfires in Maui that consumed the whole neighborhood of Lahaina in under half an hour
Meir Turgeman|Yesterday | 16:20

Adi and Sula Bar-Gil Gordon, along with their three daughters, ages 2 to 6, were left homeless after their house on the island of Maui was engulfed by the devastating wildfires that have been ravaging Hawaii.

"They managed to escape the inferno," revealed Reuven and Galit Bar-Gil, Adi's parents. "If they hadn't fled in time, it would have been a catastrophe."

Adi, who successfully escaped the flames with her family, and has now taken refuge with friends, recalled the family's escape. "We were lucky. At least we found shelter. Less than half an hour after we fled our house, and the entire street was consumed by fire," she said.

Adi, 36, and her husband Sula, 51, still struggle to grasp the magnitude of the disaster, but they are primarily grateful for the miracle that their family survived, even without their belongings or their home. "In our neighborhood, everyone managed to escape before the fire consumed the houses and cars and everything there," she said.

"The feeling was beyond terrifying. We wanted to get to our cars before they could announce an evacuation. People were running in the streets, trying to escape the thick black smoke that engulfed the area. It was simply terrifying. The fire department and the police couldn't get to the source of the fire before the winds intensified, and the fire had already spread through the streets. Many people couldn't escape. We were fortunate," she said.

Adi has lived on Maui for about 10 years, where she gave birth to her three daughters – Ayari, 6; Shane, 3; and Yahli, 2. "For the girls, it's tough. They want to go back to their dresses and dolls, to their friends in the neighborhood. People are helping us and supporting us immensely. It's a relief. It helps to blur the trauma we're all in," she added.

The family found temporary shelter with friends and is now residing in a remote cabin. "They were left with nothing," Adi's parents shared. "Everything in the house was consumed by fire. The entire town went up in flames, including the grandchildren's playground, and the school. Friends there took up a collection so they could buy some food."

According to their accounts, a nerve-wracking 12 hours elapsed from the moment they heard reports of the fire on the news until Adi managed to establish contact with them.

"We saw **horrifying images**, as the worst scenarios running through our heads," the parents recalled. "It was terrifying, we wouldn't wish what we went through on anyone. We haven't slept since the disaster, we've seen images from there - it's a miracle they managed to escape."

So far the death toll stands at 93, and it is already the deadliest fire disaster in the US in 100 years, but authorities warn that this number is expected to climb in the coming days and that **so far the search has only been completed in about 3%** of the affected area. At least **2,200 buildings** were destroyed or damaged in the fire. Meanwhile, firefighters in Maui are fighting **three more fires**, and in one of them in the **mountainous area** in the center of the island, **544 more buildings** were reported to have been damaged, but there were no casualties in these areas.

8.13.23 – Su

Iranian munitions storage facility completely destroyed in attack attributed to Israel

8.13.23 – Su

Iranian munitions storage facility destroyed in attack attributed to Israel

Explosions are heard **for hours in Damascus** during predawn hours described by Russian linked news site to be **caused by an Israeli missile strike** on the Syrian capital

Daniel Salami | 03:39

An **Iranian depot** located **in Damascus**, and **containing munitions** collected over time was targeted and **completely destroyed**, early on **Sunday**, according to the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The opposition group did not say if the attack was carried out by aircraft or came overland but did say that there was **no knowledge of casualties**.

Earlier the **Russian** Sputnik **news** site **reported explosions** in the Syrian capital, from a missile strike attributed to Israel. according to that report, Syrian air defenses were activated and many of **the missiles were intercepted** before reaching their target. "Fighter jets fired multiple missiles toward the Damascus region," Sputnik said quoting a senior Syrian military official.

According to Ynet's senior security analyst Ron Ben-Yishai, if Israel was behind the strike, it was **likely** carried out **by missiles fired from the ground and not by attacking aircraft**.

An **attack on Damascus last week**, which was also attributed to Israel, **killed six** people, four of them identified as members of the **Syrian military**, while no details were given on the remaining two. According to some reports, among the casualties was a Syrian scientist who specialized in the production of precession weapon systems.

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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

8.10.23 – Th- - - News Placed in August 10 spot – Thursday

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

8.10.23 – Th- - - News Placed in August 09 spot – Wednesday

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

8.08.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in August 08 spot – Tuesday

Shin Bet uncovered West Bank PA terrorist cell operated from Lebanon

8.08.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

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

8.07.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday

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