

Ynet-News, Sept 05, 2023 – Tuesday

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Aliyah from France down 60% in 2023

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Netanyahu seeks deportation for rioting asylum seekers; 50 are in police custody

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Horn of Africa rioters in Tel-Aviv, Most arrived between 2006 and 2011

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Netanyahu set on removing Yad Vashem, a Leftist Consul General in New York

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US Blinken met PM & PA over Saudi Arabia; Lapid opposed all agreements at WH

9.05.23 – Tu
Blinken speaks with Netanyahu, Abbas: 'No news about a breakthrough with Saudi Arabia'

The US Secretary of State spoke with prime minister and the Palestinian Authority president, against the backdrop of talks on normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia, and discussed the possibility of granting concessions to the Palestinians
Itamar Eichner|15:25

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken spoke Tuesday evening with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and separately with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, against the backdrop of talks regarding normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia – which also include a discussion on possible concessions for the Palestinians.

After Blinken's talks with Netanyahu and Abbas, US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in a briefing at the White House later on Tuesday that the talks do not portend an imminent breakthrough with Saudi Arabia. Sullivan also said that the normalization agreement will be only one of the topics in talks to be held by Brett McGurk, White House Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa in the US National Security Council, with the Palestinian delegation in Saudi Arabia.

Blinken discussed with Netanyahu what was defined by the State Department spokesman as "the expansion of Israel's regional integration." Blinken also reaffirmed the strength of the bilateral partnership and the commitment of the US to Israel's security.

The secretary of state and the prime minister discussed mutual interests, including dealing with threats from Iran. Blinken reiterated continued US support for policies that guarantee freedom, security and prosperity for both Israelis and Palestinians. The US State Department referenced the conversation between Blinken and Abbas and said that "the secretary of state spoke with Abbas, and expressed concern about the ongoing violence in the West Bank. He made it clear that the US supports measures to promote the freedom and security of the Palestinian people. The secretary and the chairman of the Palestinian Authority discussed support for the two-state solution - and opposition to actions that endanger the idea."

At the same time, Opposition Leader Yair Lapid met Tuesday with senior White House officials and advisers to US President Joe Biden, including Amos Hochstein, the special adviser on energy matters, and McGurk. After the meeting, McGurk left at the head of a delegation to Saudi Arabia, where he will meet with a Palestinian delegation

During the meetings, Lapid expressed his opposition to the possibility of the US agreeing to a Saudi nuclear program as part of its talks with the kingdom on an agreement with Israel.

"Strong democracies do not endanger their security interests in order to solve political problems," he said.

The head of the opposition told the Americans that he is concerned about the possibility of uranium enrichment on Saudi soil as part of this agreement. According to Lapid, this will endanger Israel's security. The Americans tried to convince Lapid to support the agreement with Saudi Arabia, after apparently realizing that his opposition could be an obstacle on the way to reaching an agreement.

9.05.23 – Tu

Ukrainians insist on receiving special visa & treatment on arrival to Israel

9.05.23 – Tu

Ukrainians to receive easier treatment at airport under new policy

Following diplomatic tension and the threat from Ukraine to cancel visa-free travel, Israel's Population Authority decided to ease the treatment of Ukrainian citizens arriving at Ben Gurion Airport
Itamar Eichner|13:32

Following diplomatic tension with Ukraine and the Ukrainian threat to cancel the visa exemption for Israeli citizens over Israel's deportation of thousands of Ukrainians, the Population and Immigration Authority has announced that it will ease the treatment of Ukrainian citizens arriving at Ben Gurion Airport.

Eyal Sisso, director general of the Population Authority, distributed an official document to all government ministries announcing the new policy.

"In light of questions raised by the Ukrainian Embassy in Israel and in order to improve the entry experience of Ukrainian citizens, I have ordered a number of operative steps: A. A brief initial screening will be carried out by a border control officer in order to allow quick entry and only those who arouse suspicion (criminal or security) will be transferred for further questioning. In order to shorten the questioning time, we are working to add additional questioners at the checkpoints at the entrance to Israel. B. We will provide sandwiches and drinks for those waiting to be questioned. C. A person whose refusal is decided by the border control officer and the refusal is approved by the authorities, will be allowed to purchase a return flight ticket quickly in order to avoid waiting at the refusal facility; In addition, those who do not get a quick flight can wait at Duty Free and can purchase food products at all the food stores located in the complex."

Sisso also reported that the authority recently held three conferences for border control officers on the subject of service, which emphasized the importance of providing proper treatment and a warm welcome to travelers, with an emphasis on Ukrainian citizens. "For Ukrainians who are staying in Israel and are unable to return at this stage, the Interior Minister has decided to approve for them the extension of the validity of their visas by six months, until January 31, 2024, and to continue the policy of non-enforcement against the employment of Ukrainian citizens residing in Israel until that date. I would like to emphasize once again that the State of Israel welcomes every foreign citizen and of course Ukrainian citizens who come to stay in the State of Israel," he said.

Sisso noted that, since the beginning of the year, about 94% of all Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Israel have entered, while about 6% have been refused. All refusals were personally approved by Sisso himself, with the aim of ensuring that there would be no

mistakes and allowing entry to those for whom there are no restrictions (security, criminal, and immigration).

The new policy of the Population and Immigration Authority comes a day after Ukraine made it clear to the Israeli government that it expects reciprocity for incoming citizens - just as Israel wants Ukraine to take care of visitors who come to Uman for Rosh Hashanah, so too Ukraine expects Israel to stop deporting its citizens.

"Unfortunately, there has not yet been an effective and positive dialogue between the governments. In the absence of arrangements on the issue, the Israelis who reach the borders of Ukraine through third countries may find themselves waiting there for long hours. This is the time to bring about a change in the relations between the countries, reach arrangements and send a message of reconciliation," the Embassy of Ukraine said in a statement.

In the meantime, Jerusalem Affairs and Jewish Tradition Minister Meir Porush, who is also responsible for Israelis who travel to Uman, sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in which he made it clear that without the prime minister's urgent intervention a humanitarian crisis is expected on the border with Ukraine.

"In the past year, many waited at the border in difficult conditions for many hours and in some cases even for a day," wrote Porush. "The complex political relations between Israel and Ukraine have led to the fact that the authorities in Ukraine refuse to cooperate and hold a dialogue on the issue of regulating the passage of travelers in an efficient and safe manner. I fear that we will again find ourselves in a difficult and serious humanitarian situation in which tens of thousands of Israelis may be forced to wait for long hours in open areas between the border crossings of the bordering countries in Ukraine."

Porush called on Netanyahu to discuss the issue with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"In the absence of a change in the state of dialogue with the government of Ukraine, I will not be able to carry out the task assigned to me and the failure will be registered in the name of the government," wrote Porush.

9.05.23 – Tu

Israel & German police bust international investment fraud ring

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The head of the snake: Israel police bust international crypto fraud ring

Watch: Cops raid Ramat Gan offices of company behind 'sting software' used by criminal gangs, both domestic and foreign, to defraud investors of tens of millions of euros; Ynet joined the operation and captured the dramatic moments

Liran Levi|07:58

The Israel Police National Cyber Crime Unit spent the last few months conducting a massive investigation into an Israeli company that allegedly developed a "sting software"

that enabled organized crime syndicates, both domestic and foreign, to defraud crypto investors out of seven-figure sums.

The whole enterprise is suspected to be run by some of Israel's most powerful crime families such as the Jarushis, Muslis and others. Officers of Lahav 433 — the police's anti-corruption wing popularly dubbed the "Israeli FBI" — raided the company's offices on Monday, arresting six suspects, and detaining dozens for questioning.

The sting was designed by erecting many different phone centers around the country to lure in European investors with the promise of crypto profits. Victims receive a username and password to enter their personal area to view their so-called investment portfolio, not knowing software developers, who sit in high-rise offices in central Israel, are the ones who control the profits exhibited.

However, once a customer wishes to withdraw his "earnings", they find out the option doesn't exist. Among those targeted by Serbian, Ukrainian, Georgian, German, Spanish and Israeli nationals.

Fraudulent call centers were established as quickly as they were shut down by the police, making it clear there was no escape from raiding the main offices to shut down the "tentacles" once and for all.

The investigation involved officials from the Israel Money Laundering and Terror Financing Prohibition Authority, the Israeli Tax Authority and the Bavarian Cyber-Warfare Unit of the German police, who arrived in Israel and took part in the raids alongside their Israeli counterparts.

The raid made it clear that most of those who operated on-site were very young, had no criminal records and were likely trying to make some easy money. Those detained were in for a big surprise, as they all arrived at the offices at 9am, ready for another usual day at the office when the raid occurred. Police forces corralled the suspects into one location so they wouldn't touch the computers, fearing that early news of the raid would result in one or some of the workers erasing evidence before the police could show up.

The suspects were arraigned at the Rishon Lezion Magistrate Court on Tuesday. Chief Superintendent Dudi Katz, who heads Lahav 433's National Cyber Crime Unit, said: "We were able to stem the tide of this crime wave and bring down hundreds of call centers. This operation spanned internationally and was unique in scope, including cooperation with German police forces."

Adv. Shay Roda and Adv. Uri Goldman, who accompanied the suspects during the interrogation, said, "Our client denies any and all relations to this affair, and we believe that as the investigation continues, we will be able to relay that message to the relevant cyber investigators."

9.04.23 – Mo

Netanyahu: Israeli security will not be sacrificed to reach Saudi deal

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Senior Israeli official: Israeli security will not be sacrificed to reach Saudi deal

Official says ministers will back prime minister's decision on concessions to the Palestinians, demanded by the Saudis in exchange for peace and a majority would support such a deal

Itamar Eichner|13:21

A senior official traveling with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Cyprus said on Monday that "Israeli security would not be sacrificed, following the Saudi Arabian demand for a civilian nuclear reactor, as part of their agreement with the U.S. that would lead to normalized relations with Israel.

The official said there were other obstacles in the way of an agreement, other than the question of the reactor, and indicated that he "could not make any assurance that they would all be overcome."

The official spoke after Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, a close ally of the prime minister, said the Saudis had the option of turning to China or France to obtain a reactor. "[The Saudis] could go to China or they can go to France tomorrow, and they could set up — ask them to set up a civil nuclear program and to allow for domestic enrichment. They could do that tomorrow if they wanted to. So the question that I asked myself is, if the US is involved in this, what will that mean 10 years down the road, 20 years down the road, 30 years down the road, and what's the alternative?" Dermer said in an interview. The official said Dermer was right and did not say that Israel agreed to Saudi Arabia enriching Uranium. "He did not say that he was okay with that he was just stating facts," the official said.

He said he believed that the question of concessions to the Palestinians, that would be required as part of the deal with the Saudis, would be resolved. "This is not the first time the matter is discussed and if we achieve peace, you will see how it was resolved," he said.

He hinted that whatever is acceptable to the prime minister, would be acceptable to his ministers, including far-right Bezael Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir who have opposed most measures that would benefit Palestinians, proposed to the cabinet.

"If the prime minister is satisfied with concessions to the Palestinians, there will be a firm majority in the government for them and a firm majority in support of a deal with Saudi Arabia," the senior official said.

"This is a joint effort of three nations interested in the deal: Saudi Arabia, the United States and Israel. There are four or five variables that are not very complicated. We need the magic number of 67 Senators first."

National Unity leader Benny Gantz said he would not join a Netanyahu-led government even in order to secure a deal with Saudi Arabia. He would, he said, support the government from the opposition if such an agreement was reached.

Meanwhile, there were increasing reports on Monday, of efforts to reach an agreed compromise on the judicial legislation advanced by Netanyahu's government which has caused mass protests that have been taking place for the past 35 weeks.

According to the reports, President Issac Herzog has been mediating between Gantz and Likud Party officials to reach an agreement that would include a halt to legislation for a period of 18 months, no change to the makeup of the panel that selects judges, and a moderation of the bill already passed, the limits the ability of the Supreme Court to block laws it deems undemocratic.

The Likud party issued a denial claiming there was no agreement to such conditions while others in the party said word of the negotiations was leaked in order to prevent an agreement.

9.04.23 – Mo

Barcelona reinstates Twin City agreement with Tel Aviv

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Barcelona reinstates Twin City agreement with Tel Aviv

After Jaume Collboni elected mayor, decision of his predecessor to end agreement over Israel's treatment of Palestinians, reversed; Tel Aviv's Huldai welcomes decision
Adam Kutub|08:30

Barcelona announced on Monday, that it was renewing its Twin Town agreement after it was severed last February over "crimes perpetrated by Israel against Palestinians." Mayor Jaume Collboni reversed the decision of his predecessor two months after stepping into Barcelona city hall.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai praised the announcement. "I am happy that the elected mayor of Barcelona, reinstated our Twin City agreement and that he recognizes our joint democratic values," Huldai said.

"Barcelona and Tel Aviv are leading cities and hubs of technology and innovation. They attract tourists who enjoy their wonderful beaches, as well as investments in start-ups. They also lead in art and culture, protect the rights of LGBTQ and aspire for equality and diversity," he said adding he hoped to host Collboni in Tel Aviv, soon.

Tel Aviv and Barcelona have two historic agreements. The first was signed in 1998 together with Gaza City and the second, including only Barcelona and Tel Aviv, was signed in 2013. The agreement includes cooperation in tourism and the economy.

9.04.23 – Mo

Aliyah from France down 60% in 2023

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Aliyah and Integration Ministry and the Jewish Agency launch program to help prospective new immigrants from France and other Western countries to complete their aliyah process amid sharp decline

Itamar Eichner|06:43

A sharp decline in the number of Jews making aliyah from France and other Western countries has prompted the Aliyah and Integration Ministry to start a program encouraging those who have shown interest in arriving in Israel in these countries in the past to make the move.

Sharp decline in young Americans making Aliyah: 'Not the right time to move to Israel' In recent months, the ministry has dispatched envoys to the homes of prospective immigrants to assist them in advancing their aliyah process to Israel.

Additionally, a global call center has been established by the Jewish Agency, with dedicated representatives reaching out to Jews in France who have begun their aliyah process within the last five years but have yet to complete it. This initiative is aimed at increasing the number of new immigrants from France following the recent decline in numbers.

There have also been plans announced to attract students from France for engineering and pre-medical degree programs in Israel, specifically targeting young individuals from France at Ariel University, as well as a program for completing their master's degree in Israel.

"A changing reality"

According to data from the Aliyah and Integration Ministry and the Jewish Agency, approximately 700 French olim arrived in Israel from January to the end of July this year, representing a 60% decrease compared to the same time last year. Both the ministry and the Jewish Agency believe there is still significant potential for aliyah from France. Studies conducted within the Jewish community suggest that a substantial percentage of France's half-million Jews have considered or are considering immigrating to Israel at some point in their lives.

Additionally, around 8,000 individuals from France started the aliyah process with the Jewish Agency between 2019 and the end of 2022 but did not complete it, making them potential candidates for arriving in Israel. This number also includes many individuals who expressed interest in making aliyah in 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The decline in the number of olim from France and Western countries requires us to think outside the box and invest heavily in encouraging aliyah and facilitating it for potential olim from these countries," Aliyah and Integration Minister Ofir Sofer said.

"We're very interested in French Jews making aliyah to Israel and believe that we can succeed in increasing the number of olim," he added. "To accomplish this, the Aliyah and Integration Ministry is **adapting its absorption programs** for olim from Western countries."

Jewish Agency Chairman Doron Almog said: "The Jewish Agency is **always working to encourage aliyah to Israel from all countries worldwide**, including France."

"We're making every effort together with our partners in the Aliyah and Integration Ministry to find efficient, innovative and relevant solutions to a changing reality, with the **goal of providing a successful and smooth aliyah process**," he added. "New olim strengthen Israel and play a crucial role in its development."

9.04.23 – Mo

In first, Palestinian delegation to meet with US officials over Israel-Saudi deal

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In first, Palestinian delegation to meet with US officials over Israel-Saudi deal
Palestinians expected to present their **position** and terms for supporting **normalization** efforts with Israel **by Saudi Arabia**
Einav Halabi, Itamar Eichner|02:14

A **Palestinian delegation will arrive in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday** and is expected to meet with Brett McGurk, a senior official at the U.S. National Security Council. The delegation **and American adviser** are expected to **discuss normalization** between Israel and Saudi Arabia, **and the terms benefitting the Palestinians** in such a deal.

This will mark the **first time** that an **American delegation** meets **with a Palestinian delegation in Saudi Arabia** to discuss the details of normalization.

"The **Palestinian leadership believes** that **Saudi Arabia will not proceed** with **normalization without** obtaining a **satisfactory political price** that strengthens its position and is **supported by the Palestinians**," an unnamed Palestinian official told the UK-based news outlet Al-Araby Al-Jadeed last week.

"The **core of the Palestinian position** that will be presented to Saudi leadership is the implementation of the Arab Peace Initiative, which **includes a withdrawal from the territories controlled by Israel** after the Six-Day War in 1967 in exchange for Arab recognition of Israel, in addition to a **demand to make the Palestinians a full member of the UN**," the official also said.

The source added that the demands would also include the **reopening** of the **American consulate in East Jerusalem** and **Fatah offices in the U.S.** "These are demands that the **Biden administration promised** the **Palestinian leadership two years ago but has not fulfilled**," he said.

The Palestinians have further demands, reminiscent of confidence-building steps that the Palestinians presented to the Biden administration to renew relations with the Israeli government, according to the official. Those same demands were presented by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas when he met with then-Defense Minister Benny Gantz two years ago.

"The meetings concluded without any of these steps being implemented, especially the halting of development of Jewish settlement, the cessation of de facto annexation of Palestinian territory, the cessation of Palestinian home demolitions, the cessation of incursions into Palestinian territory in Area A, and a commitment not to change the status quo at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem," according to the official. He confirmed that the Palestinian delegation's head will be Hussein al-Sheikh, the secretary-general of Fatah's Executive Committee. The delegation will also include the head of the Palestinian Intelligence Service, Majed Faraj; and Majdi Khaldi, Abbas' diplomatic affairs adviser.

Last week, this same delegation met with the Saudi ambassador to Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, Nayef bin Bandar Al Sudairi, in Amman, Jordan. The Wall Street Journal reported last week that Saudi officials and senior Palestinians said that the kingdom is offering to renew financial support for the Palestinian Authority, which they say is a "serious effort to overcome obstacles" to establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. Saudi officials said they're trying to secure Abbas' support for establishing relations with Israel, which would give broader legitimacy to any agreement and prevent accusations against Saudi Arabia claiming it to be advancing Israeli goals.

9.03.23 – Su

Netanyahu seeks deportation for rioting asylum seekers; 50 are in police custody

9.03.23 – Su

Netanyahu seeks deportation for rioting asylum seekers

Ministers consider administrative detention; Netanyahu denies he reached an agreement with the UN to resettle refugees despite announcing the deal in 2018, calling it an unprecedented achievement, before backing out
Itamar Eichner, Sivan Hilaie, Hadar Gil-Ad|07:04

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened a special panel of ministers on Sunday to discuss the violent riots of Eritrean asylum-seekers in Tel Aviv on Saturday and to consider measures to be taken against them. The ministers said some rioters should be put under administrative detention and others should be deported.

Some 50 asylum-seekers are in police custody and will be brought before a court to remand their arrests. National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, requested that the police arrest more people suspected of rioting.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there was still a serious problem with asylum seekers in the southern quarters of Tel Aviv. "What happened yesterday was crossing a red line. We won't allow such riots and bloodshed. We're demanding strong measures be taken against the rioters, including immediate deportation of those who took part in the violence," he said. "I also asked this forum to prepare a comprehensive and updated plan for the deportation of anyone staying in Israel without a permit. Illegal immigration from Africa posed a real threat to the future of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state," the prime minister said.

Netanyahu told his ministers that his government did not consider a 2018 agreement brokered with the UN to resettle half of the African asylum seekers, despite having announced the agreement publically at the time, calling it the best possible agreement and an unprecedented achievement. But under pressure from detractors of the agreement, among his supporters, he backed out of the deal immediately after making those remarks.

The Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel (ASSAF) said the police failed to prepare for the possibility of violence. "The National Security Ministry and the police, despite knowing about the planned event and its potential for violence, chose to ignore the warnings and turn a blind eye to them, waiting for a spark to ignite the wild incitement against the asylum seekers and the Eritrean refugee community in Israel," Assaf said in a statement.

"It would have been appropriate for policymakers to investigate the use of live ammunition by police in the heart of a residential neighborhood. Instead, the government is proposing the use of anti-democratic practices such as administrative detentions. In doing so, it paves the way for further abuses of human rights and attempts to enlist public opinion for additional legislative moves that will only bring further persecution."

Eyal Sisso, the Population and Immigration Authority's director-general, said that over 2,000 asylum-seekers voluntarily left Israel as part of the government's incentive program and that an additional budget of about 30 million shekels is required to increase the program's activity.

Development of the Periphery, the Negev, and the Galilee Minister Yitzhak Wasserlauf said he would provide the funds from his ministry's budget, with the aim of rebuilding neighborhoods affected by the riots.

The violent riots by Eritrean asylum-seekers in Tel Aviv injured at least 135 people, with 15 of them seriously. After hours of chaos in the streets, the police said order was restored to the area.

9.02.23 – Sa

Horn of Africa rioters in Tel-Aviv, Most arrived between 2006 and 2011

9.02.23 – Sa

Israeli authorities failed to anticipate Eritrean rioters

Police officials say they did not expect such violence to erupt although community leaders say they had warned police to bar Eritrean embassy event
Itamar Eichner|10:16

At least 135 people were injured, some seriously on Saturday when riots broke out between supporters and opponents of the Eritrean regime in Tel Aviv. The violence was prompted by a planned celebration put on by the Eritrean government, to mark the country's independence.

Despite warnings from leaders of the community, against possible violence if the embassy's event is allowed to take place, Israeli police and local authorities did nothing to prevent the expected clashes. "We did not expect such clashes between supporters and opponents of the Eritrean regime," police officials said but added that even if they had bared the celebration from taking place, clashes and riots would still have broken out.

Opponents of the regime wore blue T-shirts and some carried Israeli flags to symbolize their appeal to the people and government of Israel to understand their protest, they claim supporters of the government in Asmara were agents of the regime who had been spying and reporting on the community and that their families were being punished for their desertion and their views. The supporters wore red shirts to the riots.

Members of the community said that regardless of the protesters' motives, justified as they may be, their violent actions must be condemned, and that they had disrespected the law in the country that had given them shelter. There are 17,000 Eritreans living in Israel, out of the 50,000-strong migrant community. Some 2,000 left the country in the past year.

President Isaias Afwerki, 77, has led Eritrea since 1993, taking power after the country won independence from Ethiopia in a long guerrilla war. There have been no elections, there's no free media and exit visas are required. Many young people are forced into military service with no end date, human rights groups and United Nations experts say. The nation on the Horn of Africa has one of the world's worst human rights records, and the asylum-seekers fear death if they were to return.

Israel paints its African migrant community with a wide brush, as migrant workers and does not differentiate between those who escaped the Eritrean regime and others who are seeking a better life. Most arrived between 2006 and 2011, after fleeing the Eritrean dictatorship.

In 2018, Israel reached an agreement with the UNHCR to resolve the African migrant crisis, agreeing to grant temporary legal status to protected populations among the asylum seekers, some 18,000 refugees who would've remained in the country regardless. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu backed out of the agreement just hours after it was announced under pressure from his ultra-Orthodox allies who wanted all of the migrants deported, which would have been a violation of Israel's international commitments.

Over 100 African asylum-seekers & 30 officers injured in Tel Aviv riot

9.02.23 – Sa

Over 100 wounded in Eritrean asylum-seekers riots in Tel Aviv

At least 135 were evacuated to hospital, most suffering gunshot wounds after police broke up violent riots prompted by opponents of the Eritrean regime during celebration of Eritrean independence

Ynet, Agencies|06:29

Violent protests erupted between hundreds of Eritrean asylum-seekers and police in Tel Aviv on Saturday during a protest against an event organized by the Eritrean Embassy.

The Police were attempting to disperse the rioters using riot control measures and live ammunition, and after hours of turmoil, law enforcement announced that peace had been restored to the area, while no less than 39 rioters were arrested.

The police said some 30 officers were injured in the clashes, and protesters were shot by police firing live rounds after they felt "real danger to their lives." Police in riot gear and on horses tried to corral the protesters, who broke through barricades and hurled chunks of sidewalk, batteries and rocks at the force.

At least 135 individuals, including 15 in critical condition, were caught in the midst of chaos on the streets. Most of the wounded were brought to Souratsky Medical Center, as some of them suffered gunshot wounds while dozens more were taken to other area hospitals that declared a mass casualty event.

Eritreans make up the majority of the more than 30,000 African asylum-seekers in Israel. They say they fled danger and persecution from a country known as the "North Korea of Africa" with forced lifetime military conscription in slavery-like conditions.

Violent protests have popped up all over the world as Eritrea, one of the world's most repressive countries, marks 30 years of independence with festivals held by Eritrea's diaspora across Europe and North America. Earlier this year, Eritrea called anti-government protesters marching against these events "asylum scum."

President Isaias Afwerki, 77, has led Eritrea since 1993, taking power after the country won independence from Ethiopia in a long guerrilla war. There have been no elections, there's no free media and exit visas are required. Many young people are forced into military service with no end date, human rights groups and United Nations experts say. The nation in the Horn of Africa has one of the world's worst human rights records, and the asylum-seekers fear death if they were to return.

Eritrean riot in Tel Aviv

An advocacy group for asylum seekers in Israel said the local Eritrean community asked the police to prevent the embassy's event. "The police ignored their requests and now the the force fire live bullets at those who were forced to flee the cruel dictatorship in their country." The group added that Eritrean embassies around the world have been

persecuting asylum seekers but in most places, the celebrations of independence were canceled.

9.02.23 – Sa

Netanyahu set on removing Yad Vashem, a Leftist Consul General in New York

9.02.23 – Sa

Netanyahu set on removing Yad Vashem Chairman

According to a report on Channel 12, Netanyahu's wife is behind the decision to oust Dani Dayan, after he invited singer Keren Peles, seen by members of the right-wing as anti government

Itamar Eichner, Ran Boker|08.31.23 | 15:45

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists on firing Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan in what local media reports described as an order from the residence, alluding to Netanyahu's wife Sara.

Dayan who was appointed by Netanyahu to be the Consul General in New York in 2016, had fallen out of favor after he defected from the Likud Party to join Netanyahu nemesis Gideon Saar's party when he left the Likud taking a number of members with him, a move that ultimately deprived Netanyahu of power for two years.

Dayan most recently evoked ire among Netanyahu allies, when he invited Keren Peles, an Israeli singer, to appear at a memorial service at Yad Vashem after she had participated in a mass protest of the government's judicial legislation.

According to a report on Israel's Channel 12, Peles appeared at the protest dressed like a character in the dystopian novel The Handmaid's Tale, " used by women protesting what they regard as legislation that would threaten women's rights and are an assault on liberal democracy. Her appearance at Yad Vashem sealed Dayan's fate and his removal was decided on. The Prime Minister's office denied the report.

In order to justify the decision, Education Minister Yoav Kisch, who has the authority to appoint the chairman of the Holocaust Memorial Museum, dispatched a letter to Dayan, claiming irregularities in the management of Yad Vashem. Kisch objected to the participation of three former lawmakers who were appointed to the board during the term of the previous government. The minister said the appointments were never approved in accordance with regulations and their participation raises questions over the legality of decisions made by the board.

Dayan rejected the claims and said that until ministers appointed new representatives to the board, the service of the three is in accordance with the law. Sources close to Dayan said Kisch was doing the bidding of his masters in his awkward attempt to remove the chairman and appoint a member of Likud in his place, without merit.

Calls to remove Dayan were increasingly made over social media in recent months, some shared by Yair Netanyahu, the prime minister's outspoken son. Officials said that the chances that Dayan would be removed were slim without a decision taken by the entire government.

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Ynet-News, August 31, 2023 – Thursday

8.31.23 – Th- - - News Placed in August 31 spot – Thursday
Jordan is behind Abbas firing 12 governors & 35 envoys in PA's sinking popularity

8.31.23 – Th- - - News Placed in August 31 spot – Thursday
1 killed, 5 injured in ramming at West Bank checkpoint; dozens of alerts every day

8.30.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday
IDF troops hit with explosive device near Joseph's Tomb in Nablus

8.30.23 – We- - - News Placed in August 29 spot – Tuesday
Palestinian shot accelerating car into soldiers; reminder that terror continues

8.30.23 – We- - - News Placed in August 30 spot – Wednesday
32 PA schools under orders of demolition averaging 10 students per school

8.28.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Secret Libya-Israel meeting leaked by Cohen caused riots & firing of Libya Minister

8.28.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Smotrich vs US: They shouldn't preach to us, there is no more moral army than IDF

8.28.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Hezbollah Muniton smuggling in Jordan Valley; area is now monitored by brigade