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Israel air attack at Syria air defense in Tartus, then Iranian equipment warehouses

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EU condemns Abbas fueling anti-Semitism & commending PA terrorism

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Officials using inflammatory statements are used as proof in international courts

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9.18.23 – Mo
Concerns over German envoy presence & conduct in Israel Supreme Court debates

9.18.23 – Mo
Diplomatic curiosity: German envoy sits in on Israel's Supreme Court debates, raises eyebrows
Ambassador Steffen Seibert leaves Israeli Foreign Ministry fuming after attending Supreme Court deliberations on judicial reform; Scholz backs envoy despite concerns of 'meddling in internal affairs'
Itamar Eichner|15:18

The attendance of German Ambassador to Israel Steffen Seibert at a high-profile Israeli Supreme Court hearing concerning the judicial reform has sparked diplomatic tension between Jerusalem and Berlin.

Adding fuel to the fire, Seibert recorded and uploaded a video from inside the courtroom, an action perceived as provocative by Israel's Foreign Ministry. In response, the ministry conveyed its serious concerns to the ambassador about both his behavior and his presence at the hearing.

Foreign Minister Eli Cohen instructed Israeli Ambassador to Germany Ron Prosor to communicate Jerusalem's discontent with the German ambassador's conduct to German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, adding that Seibert's behavior amounted to interference in Israel's internal affairs.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz backed Ambassador Seibert while speaking to journalists during his trip to New York. Scholz affirmed that the German ambassador was a dedicated individual with unwavering principles, and he believed this fact was recognized by everyone, including in Israel.

While Seibert was not officially summoned for reprimand, his behavior has generated significant concerns in Israel, at times being perceived as "neering a lack of comprehension of the diplomatic role." Seibert has been called in for reprimands at the Israeli Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem in the past.

The Germans did not take the criticism lying down as a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry in Berlin released a statement saying, "Diplomats have a central responsibility to observe significant political developments in host countries. Visiting and participating in public discussions at the Supreme Court of a partner country, like Ambassador Seibert's visit, is an excellent example of this accepted practice. The Federal Foreign Office maintains regular contact with its Israeli counterparts. We cannot confirm reports in the media of an official protest from the Israeli Foreign Ministry."

In a video released from the Supreme Court discussion, Ambassador Seibert said in Hebrew: "I believe something of great importance is unfolding here for Israeli democracy. As friends of Israel, we also regard this matter with profound interest. I personally wanted to witness it firsthand."

9.17.23 – Su

Netanyahu eight-day visit in US to speak at UN; protests teamed up with PLO, Iran

9.17.23 – Su

Netanyahu: The protest movement has teamed up with PLO, Iran

Before embarking on long-awaited US trip, PM slams plans to demonstrate against him in California and New York; 'When they go and tarnish Israel in front of world nations, that seems normal to them'

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flew to the United States overnight Monday for an eight-day visit, during which he will meet US President Joe Biden in New York on Wednesday and speak at the United Nations General Assembly two days later.

Before his departure, Netanyahu addressed the expected protests against him in the U.S., criticizing them as well-funded and organized and crossing all boundaries.

"They have made roadblocks seem normal, harassment and violence against public figures seem apparently normal, and refusal [to follow rules or laws] seem normal. So when they go and defame Israel in front of the nations, that also seems normal to them. To me, it's not normal. When I was the leader of the opposition, I never did such a thing," he said.

Before his departure, Netanyahu addressed the expected protests against him in the U.S., saying, "Nothing surprises me. The people organizing these protests are well-funded. These are financed and organized demonstrations that cross all boundaries. They have normalized roadblocks, apparently normalized harassment and violence against public figures, and disobedience seems normal to them. So when they go out and tarnish Israel's reputation in front of the nations, that also appears normal to them. To me, it's not normal. When I was the head of the opposition, I never did such a thing."

Despite his words, during his time as the leader of the opposition, Netanyahu was accused by then-coalition leaders of disseminating videos in English against Israel and "behaving like our worst enemy."

According to Netanyahu, "I think this is the 12th time I'm going to speak at the UN as prime minister. There have always been protests both for and against Israel. But this time, we're seeing protests against Israel led by people who team up with the PLO, Iran, and others. Nothing is surprising anymore, but that won't stop me from representing Israel proudly and in the best way possible for all its citizens."

In response to a question from Ynet about whether he is disappointed that he won't be meeting with Biden at the White House, the prime minister replied: "What's important is what will be discussed, not the location."

"I am now leaving for the UN General Assembly where I will represent Israel before the nations of the world. I will also meet with many world leaders, especially President Biden, with whom I will discuss – first and foremost, but among other topics – Iran and expanding the circle of peace. I will also meet with the German Chancellor, the President of Ukraine, the President of Turkey, and many additional leaders from Asia, Europe and Africa," he said on the tarmac at Ben Gurion Airport.

"Today, the world is seeing – and I will certainly emphasize this – that Iran is violating all of its commitments, that it brazenly lies, and that it intends both to develop nuclear weapons and continue its aggression in the region. We will confront both of these together. I heard the threats from an official of the Iranian regime today; I suggest that he not threaten us. He and this regime need to know that we will respond forcefully to any attack on our people and our citizens."

Netanyahu will start his visit in California where he will meet with Elon Musk to discuss artificial intelligence and investment in Israel in the coming years.

9.14.23 – Th

Israel air attack at Syria air defense in Tartus, then Iranian equipment warehouses

9.14.23 – Th

Syria accuses Israel of second air attack within hours

Two Syria soldiers were killed; Opposition source: The target was 'warehouses with Iranian equipment'

Daniel Salami|09.14.23 | 01:04

The Syrian army reported late on Wednesday night that Israel's military attacked the Al-Shayrat military airport in the west of the country, the second attack within hours. The networks reported "intense air activity over Lebanon," north of Beirut, and the Al-Mayadeen network claimed that Israelis military jets launched missiles toward the Homs area, while flying over the Lebanese coastal plain.

A Syrian opposition official told Ynet that "it is an Israeli airstrike from Lebanese territory. The target was warehouses containing Iranian equipment." The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), a UK-based war monitor, reported that this is the 28th Israeli attack in Syria since the beginning of the year.

Earlier, Syria accused Israel of an attack in the western Tartus area, which occurred at around 5:20 p.m. The attack, according to the Syrian military, was aimed at air defense positions, killing two Syrian soldiers and injuring six others. SOHR reported that three Hezbollah operatives were killed in the attack, but there has been no verification of this claim.

9.07.23

EU condemns Abbas fueling anti-Semitism & commending PA terrorism

9.07.23

European Union condemns Mahmoud Abbas for 'fueling antisemitism'

In rare censure, the EU strongly opposes the words of Palestinian Authority president, who told his Fatah Party's Revolutionary Council that Hitler fought the Jews because they were money lenders: 'Such historical distortions can only worsen tensions in the region'

Itamar Eichner|10:22

The European Union in an unusual move condemned on Thursday the words of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who in a recent speech he gave in

Ramallah said that "Hitler fought the Jews of Europe because they charged interest on loans, it had nothing to do with antisemitism."

The full message reads: "The speech delivered by President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas to Fatah's 11th Revolutionary Council in late August contained false and grossly misleading remarks about Jews and anti-Semitism," the EU said in its condemnation statement. Such historical distortions are inflammatory, deeply offensive, can only serve to exacerbate tensions in the region and serve no-one's interests. They play into the hands of those who do not want a two-state solution, which President Abbas has repeatedly advocated for."

The statement also said: "Moreover, they trivialize Holocaust and thereby fuel antisemitism and are an insult to the millions of victims of the Holocaust and their families. The European Union remains committed to combating antisemitism and racism in all its forms and will continue to strongly oppose any attempt to condone, justify or trivialize the Holocaust.

In a video published Wednesday from the Fatah Party's Revolutionary Council, Abbas was also heard saying that "Jews from Arab countries did not want to emigrate, but Israel forced them to do so."

Yad Vashem called Abbas' words "one of the most serious and contemptible antisemitic statements and denials of the Holocaust ever made by any leader. ... These repulsive things must not be met with silence."

Deborah Lipstadt, US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, joined the condemnation. "I am shocked by the antisemitic and controversial statements of President Abbas at the last meeting of Fatah. The speech slandered the Jewish people, distorted the Holocaust and misrepresented the tragic exodus of Jews from Arab countries. I condemn these statements and ask for an immediate apology," she said in a statement also posted on the X social media platform.

Israel's ambassador to Germany, Ron Prosor, commented on Abbas' statements, saying: "2022: Berlin, Abbas claims that Israel has committed 50 holocausts on Palestinians; 2023: Ramallah, Abbas claims that Jews were not exterminated because of their religion but because of their love of money; 2024: Spoiler alert - New York, Abbas claims that Jews put themselves in the gas chambers and furnaces in Auschwitz." Prosor added that "these repeated statements are horrifying. Words are not enough - we must act strongly against the incitement that begins in antisemitic textbooks and ends in the murder of Jews as a routine matter.

Prosor's German counterpart, Steffen Seibert, also condemned the head of the PA.

"President Abbas' latest statement about the Jews and the Holocaust is an insult to the memory of millions of men, women and children who were murdered. The Palestinians deserve to hear the historical truth from their leader, not such distortions," he tweeted..

In a message in English on his Twitter account, Israel's UN ambassador Gilad Erdan harshly criticized Abbas: "This is the true face of Palestinian 'leadership.' Just as Abbas blames the Jews for the Holocaust, he also blames the Jews for all the Middle East's

issues. While he spreads this pure antisemitism he also pays Palestinian terrorists for murdering Israelis and publicly commends Palestinian terrorism."

9.07.23

Supreme Court will gag IDF judicial defenses if reasonability law is revoked

9.07.23

Caution: All IDF troops are at risk of prosecution

Legal experts including from the military prosecution warn that Israel's judicial system would no longer be perceived as independent to litigate accusations of war crimes, opening the door for international proceedings; politicians were alerted
Ronen Bergman|06:01

On the morning of August 22, this message was sent on the internal mail server of a prominent Tel Aviv law firm. "For anyone who may find this relevant: In light of the damage inflicted on the Supreme Court, there is a higher probability today, that those serving in the territories could be photographed and identified and would then be exposed to possible arrest in Europe and elsewhere, on charges of war crimes. In such cases, a defense will be difficult to mount. Until all actions taken to harm the court and the legal system are revoked, will remain real and tangible. I recommend that you refuse calls to military reserve duty."

The message was signed by the firm's senior partner Ron Berkman, who is one of Israel's leading litigators, who had been involved in a slew of international cases and is versed in international law pertaining to the possible prosecution of war crimes by members of armed forces.

Berkman added arguments that are partially based on his personal opposition to the government's judicial revolution, but in his opening remarks, including his call to avoid reserve duty, he had touched on a matter that is unrelated to opinions for or against the legislation. If the government's legislative push proceeds or if the law revoking the reasonability clause is upheld by the Supreme Court, and amid comments made publicly by members of the government, IDF soldiers, will face grave danger of prosecution, whether they are on active duty, or in the reserves.
'Don't go to the reserves'

Air Force pilots who have suspended their volunteer reserve duties, justified their decisions by claiming among other things, that they fear exposure to interrogations and legal proceedings in the international courts in the Hague or in other judicial forums as well as in countries that believe they have jurisdiction over such matters. The pilots, of course, do not themselves believe that their present or past missions, carried out on a weekly basis, are war crimes, but say that damaging the Israeli legal system could bring international forums to believe that Israel's judiciary is not independent enough and therefore to initiate separate legal action.
Not only pilots at risk

It is now known that in **closed-door discussions in military** forums and the state prosecution and in sealed testimony given before the Supreme Court, experts have said that the **danger of legal action extends to all enlisted** personnel and officers of the IDF and not only to pilots, whose identities and actions are protected. They explained that the **soldiers are exposed to cameras** on the West Bank, that **are not under** the control of the military **censorship** or the military administration of the territories.

The deep concern of increased and dangerous **exposure of** the IDF **troops to criminal prosecution** in international courts **added** an additional dimension to those already **worrying** the senior levels of the **IDF**.

The problem was **dubbed** "The **4th dimension**" in the consultations held by senior members of the military prosecution, members of the general staff and senior members of the Attorney General's office including **AG Gali Baharav-Miara** (who **oversees** the **military prosecution** – a vital aspect of the defense of soldiers from international prosecution.)

This dimension is added to others, causing the IDF concern, including military preparedness for war and its ability to complete its daily missions, the question of **unity among the troops**, the movements of enemies including the growing boldness of some **adversaries** who **are willing to take** increasingly more audacious **risks** that may lead to **all-out war**, because of the **perceived Israeli weakness**, among other reasons.

Leaders wanted this **kept secret from lawmakers**

Now, the legal dimension was revealed as an added concern that had already been flagged by members of the Military Prosecution's international division, in a closed-door meeting last February. At the time, leaders in the coalition asked that the contents of the meeting be kept off the record so that it did not reach the rest of the lawmakers.

According to military officials with knowledge of the meetings, "**all IDF soldiers and officers in the regular army or the reserves, who take part in any military operation** including intelligence gathering or coordination there-of, which is often done behind enemy lines, not to mention soldiers who are in daily contact with the civilian population of the West Bank or along the Gaza border," **are exposed to the danger of prosecution**.

The IDF says that if **in the past Israel saw less of a need for its legal advisors**, to travel to international forums to advocate for the country's independent judiciary, now such advocacy may not be so simple.

U.S. Aid could be impacted

A source in the Defense Ministry said there is **not only the risk of soldiers being prosecuted or interrogated but also the bigger question of Israel's legitimacy**. According to the source, the United States examines the independence of courts, to litigate suspected violations of the laws of armed conflict, before approving financial **aid to its allies**. The **law to revoke the reasonability** clause **could inflict serious damage** to the security of the country, **in a congress** that includes members who are **hostile to Israel**.

An indication of the serious concerns in the military can be gaged from comments made by Chief Military Prosecutor, General Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, in a conference last week:

"Steps that could harm or could be perceived as damaging to the independence, effectiveness and professionalism of the legal system, could fracture the shield that the courts provide to the military and the legal system and may harm Israel's security interests, the IDF and those who serve abroad," she said. She also let on, that the military was working to impress those concerns on the political echelon.

Experts who enjoy international acclaim in law, raise serious concerns in closed-door meetings and some of what is being discussed there, makes its way to addendums presented to the Supreme Court for its deliberation on the legality of the reasonability law.

9.07.23

Ramaswamy joins antisemitic podcaster who says: Jews 'own almost everything'

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Ramaswamy joins antisemitic podcaster who says: Jews 'own almost everything'
GOP Presidential candidate holds Israel-related controversial ideas for Republicans; goes on podcast with person who makes comments like: 'Zionists have the Republican Party by the nuts'

Ron Kampeas / JTA|03:39

Vivek Ramaswamy, known for his broadsides against the Jews, including accusing them of owning "almost everything," appeared on an influencer's podcast in the upstart Republican presidential candidate's latest dustup involving Jewish issues.

The presidential candidate's unrestrained rhetorical style, borrowed from Republican former President Donald Trump, has given his poll numbers a boost in the GOP primary contest, although Trump remains the frontrunner.

But the spike in the polls has also brought increased scrutiny of the 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur, causing comments and appearances that might have remained under the radar just weeks ago to vault quickly into public view.

That was the case last month after Ramaswamy told an actor and podcaster that he wanted to cut defense assistance to Israel, a country that he says he fervently supports but believes should be able to support itself through improved relationships with Arab neighbors. He walked back those positions after being lambasted by rivals in the GOP primary field.

On Wednesday, the Free Beacon, a conservative news site, singled him out for his appearance the day before on the YouTube podcast of Albert Faleski, an influencer known for peddling tropes about Jewish control.

Faleski went on a tear last year after Trump came under fire from Republicans for dining with Kanye West, the rapper who now goes by Ye and who had begun to relentlessly peddle antisemitic content, and **Holocaust denier** Nick Fuentes.

In one tweet at the time, Faleski, who also goes by Anomaly, said, “Zionists have the Republican Party by the nuts.” In a separate thread he said Jews pay Black celebrities to attack white people. Jews, he said, were “A group of people who statistically own almost everything convincing the world they are the #1 victim & **punching down on other races.**”

Ramaswamy greeted Faleski warmly, telling him, “It’s good to be here.” A spokeswoman for his campaign said he was unaware of Faleski’s views on Jews going into the interview. She noted that it was otherwise a contentious interview, with Faleski challenging Ramaswamy over his past as work in the biotech industry.

The interview was indeed combative, with Faleski seeking to find contradictions in Ramaswamy’s comments in **his past statements on issues** including whether he agreed with **Trump’s falsehoods** about winning the 2020 election. “I’m just not sure which one you actually believe,” Faleski said of the falsehoods and the accurate reporting.

Faleski also asked Ramaswamy about a \$50,000 **scholarship he accepted** when he was 24 **from Paul Soros**, the late **brother of George Soros**, the Jewish billionaire and progressive megadonor who is at the **center of myriad antisemitic** conspiracy **theories**.

Faleski seemed less interested in the Soros connection than in whether Ramaswamy was exaggerating how needy he was when he applied for the scholarship. Ramaswamy however was at pains to distinguish Paul from George Soros, whom he depicted as a nefarious influence.

“I think the **big question** that comes up with **who’s the bogeyman pulling the strings,**” Ramaswamy said of George Soros. “**I have no tie to George Soros other than criticizing him.**”

Content distributed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency news service.

9.07.23

Officials using inflammatory statements are used as proof in international courts

9.07.23

Officials concerned of legal exposure in international court

Sources say after ex Mossad chief claims Israel conducts a policy of **apartheid in the West Bank** and **far-right ministers make racist statements**, the country's legal exposure in the Hague **could bring sanctions and isolation**

Itamar Eichner|Yesterday | 15:58

Israeli officials on Wednesday voiced concerns that comments made by former senior members of Israel's security agencies, along with statements of some ministers in the government would be used against Israeli in international criminal proceedings.

The International Court of Justice in the Hague is already set to announce its opinion on the legality of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the International Criminal Court (ICC) is supposed to investigate allegations of Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Earlier on Wednesday, former Mossad Chief Tamir Pardo told the Associated Press in an interview, that Israel is enforcing an apartheid system in the West Bank. When someone who held such a senior position uses the term apartheid, it can be used to prove such allegations in legal proceedings, the officials said.

A senior official rejected Pardo's accusation calling it hyperbole and saying it bolsters Israel's enemies. "The use of the word apartheid by someone who was at the helm of one of Israel's security agencies is damaging and we will cost Israel in international litigations. It should not have been said," the official said.

But statements made by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and others were also a source of concern. Smotrich said he thought the Palestinian town of Huwara should be wiped out. And all though he later retracted, his statement could be seen as damming to Israel's case. His actions in his capacity as a minister in the Defense Ministry, with responsibility over affairs in the West Bank, are perceived as a de facto annexation of Area C and as destroying any chance for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The officials also said the National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's interview last month, when he said the right of his family for security trumped the rights of Palestinians, also strengthened claims of an Israeli policy of apartheid.

"My right, my family's right and my children's right to travel safely on the roads comes before the right to travel for Palestinians. The right to life comes before the freedom of movement, and that is just the way it is," Ben-Gvir said.

Nick Kaufman, an Israeli attorney who served at the ICC said such comments by ministers, present Israel's detractors in the court, with proof for their claims, on a silver platter.

"As long as Israeli ministers speak publicly in a manner that can be construed as support for an established policy that includes inhumane acts of an oppressive and racist regime, the road to the prosecution of Israeli leaders is clear."

If the court in the Hague rules that Israel is conducting a long-term occupation of the West Bank, its legal exposure would be complicated and its policy could be ruled a de facto annexation, in which case it could be subject to sanctions and political isolation by the international community.

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Ynet-News, Sept 05, 2023 – Tuesday

9.05.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in September 05 spot – Tuesday
US Blinken met PM & PA over Saudi Arabia; Lapid opposed all agreements at WH

9.05.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in September 01 spot – Friday
Ukrainians insist on receiving special visa & treatment on arrival to Israel

9.05.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in September 05 spot – Tuesday
Israel & German police bust international investment fraud ring

9.04.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Netanyahu: Israeli security will not be sacrificed to reach Saudi deal

9.04.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in September 04 spot – Monday
Barcelona reinstates Twin City agreement with Tel Aviv

9.04.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Aliyah from France down 60% in 2023

9.04.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday
In first, Palestinian delegation to meet with US officials over Israel-Saudi deal

9.03.23 – Su- - - News Placed in September 03 spot – Sunday
Netanyahu seeks deportation for rioting asylum seekers; 50 are in police custody

9.02.23 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
Horn of Africa rioters in Tel-Aviv, Most arrived between 2006 and 2011

9.02.23 – Sa- - - News Placed in September 02 spot – Saturday
Over 100 African asylum-seekers & 30 officers injured in Tel Aviv riot

9.02.23 – Sa- - - News – Saturday
Netanyahu set on removing Yad Vashem, a Leftist Consul General in New York