

Ynet-News, Oct 18, 2023 – Thursday Demon-Day-5, Abomination—in 42 Days

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World blaming Israel or PA for hospital blast, depends on affiliation, not facts

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10.18.23 – We

World blaming Israel or PA for hospital blast, depends on affiliation, not facts

10.18.23 – We

The world is watching: How the global press covered the Gaza hospital blast

While the Muslim world 'knows' Israel is responsible and Russia is cynically demanding proof it wasn't, press around the world have been reticent about accepting Hamas version about the hospital explosion, and Biden seems to believe us
ynet correspondents|06:41

The morning after the massive explosion in the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, where according to Palestinian reports the death toll tops 500, the story is prominently featured as the top story in media outlets all over the world.

While the images themselves are horrific, it seems that at least the more respectable publications are not buying Hamas' version of the events, waiting for facts to be independently verified before taking a side. This is a correction following the hours after the blast, where almost everyone believed Hamas.

It was barely an hour after the explosion at the hospital when Israel Defense Forces officials speculated that it was a failed rocket launch that caused the horrendous death toll, not an aerial strike by the Israeli Air Force. The IDF has stressed they possess significant evidence to substantiate their claim, including a piece of a phone call conversation between two Hamas operatives.

The BBC, which normally has little sympathy for Israel, were heavily criticized due to its odd refusal to label Hamas operatives as terrorists, using the milder term militants. In order to describe the hospital bombing, the BBC used the word "blast" rather than "attack" or "bombing." The headline of its coverage reported that official Hamas accounts point the finger at Israel, but equally made clear the IDF blamed the Palestinians for erroneously bombing their own hospital.

CNN also used the word "blast" and said Israeli and Palestinian officials are debating which position is true. Fox News, the conservative American network, has put Israel's position front and center.

The New York Times wrote: "Palestinian officials blamed an Israeli airstrike, an assertion that was forcefully disputed by the Israel Defense Forces, which blamed an errant rocket fired by an armed Palestinian faction. By early Wednesday, neither side's account could be independently verified. The cause of the blast, and the death toll, remained unclear."

The British Guardian called the event "a deadly explosion," coupled with images of Palestinian women crying.

The Italian "La Repubblica" featured Israel's position on the front page, labeling it "a bloodbath at a hospital - hundreds killed. Israel presents video showing it was a Palestinian-made rocket." French publication "Le Monde" displayed a headline saying: "Israel blames Islamic Jihad." Finally, in Spain, "El Pais" simply stated: "Hundreds killed in Gaza hospital bombing."

Keep in mind, though, **press headlines do not necessarily reflect public opinion**, even if it **does help shape it**. That said, it does seem Israel's efforts to set things straight have borne fruit. Not only is the **world media not ignoring the Israeli account**, it emphasizes it.

Still, first impressions matter. Hamas' position took hold in the Muslim world, sparking **mass protests in Turkey, Lebanon, Ramallah and other places**, with locals **burning Israeli and American flags** alike. Push messages from CNN, Sky News, AP and Reuters all published the position from the **Gaza Ministry of Health**, **saying it was an "Israeli airstrike" that caused the blast**.

On the Russian front, the same line continues. Russia incessantly criticizes Israel and says **not one word of condemnation** about the **Hamas massacre on October 7**. Regarding the blast, the **Russian Foreign Ministry** spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, said the hospital blast is **"a shocking and inhumane crime,"** and **said Israel must provide satellite images proving she was not involved**.

Moving back to Western Europe, **German Chancellor Olaf Scholz**, who himself was forced to lie down on the ground at the airport just before leaving Israel when a siren sounded, **expressed shock from images** documenting the explosion, **calling for a thorough investigation**. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said: **"Nothing can serve as an excuse for bombing a civilian hospital."** **US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken**, called PA President Mahmoud Abbas, expressing his **condolences about those killed in the tragic event**.

Shortly after landing in Tel Aviv for his flash visit, President Joe **Biden said** of the hospital blast: **"Seems it was by other team, not you,"** yet stressed that uncertainty regarding the issue persists with many people. Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the **United Kingdom**, James Cleverly, **posted** on X: **"Last night, too many jumped to conclusions** around the tragic loss of life at Al Ahli hospital. **Getting this wrong would put even more lives at risk. Wait for the facts,** report them clearly and accurately. **Cool heads must prevail."**

10.18.23 – We

Biden visit with PM & Herzog on abductees & aid to Gaza; Jordan summit cancelled

10.18.23 – We

In historic visit, Biden accepts Israel's version of Gaza hospital blast

US president's visit to Amman cancelled after Gaza hospital explosion; **'I am coming to Israel** to stand in solidarity against the **brutal terrorist attack by Hamas** and to consult about the next steps'

Itamar Eichner |01:13

"I am coming to Israel to stand in solidarity against the brutal terrorist attack by Hamas and to consult about the next steps," Biden said Tuesday night as he boarded Air Force One for Israel.

He was met at the airport by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog for the visit, scheduled to last just a few hours. When they met, Biden gave the prime minister a warm hug, and Herzog said to him: "Welcome, God bless you for protecting the Israeli nation."

Biden and Netanyahu delivered statements before the start of their meeting. Biden called the courage of the Israeli people "stunning" and appeared to accept Israel's version of the bombing of a hospital in Gaza on Tuesday night, saying it was "done by the other team." Netanyahu thanked Biden for coming, adding: "I have seen your support every day in the breadth and depth of cooperation that we have had since the beginning of this war."

Biden was supposed to continue to a summit in Jordan, with King Abdullah and the presidents of Egypt and the Palestinian Authority, which was canceled following the explosion at the hospital in Gaza.

This will be the first time that a US president comes to the State of Israel during a war. Biden is coming here for a quick visit that should last only four to five hours. From Israel he was supposed to continue to Jordan, where a four-way summit was planned to take place with King Abdullah II, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas canceled his participation Tuesday night after the explosion at the hospital in the Zeitoun neighborhood, which Hamas claimed was caused from an attack by the IDF, and hours later Jordan announced that the summit would not take place. Israel's military said that it was a failed launch by the Islamic Jihad.

From the airport Biden traveled to a hotel in Tel Aviv; the meetings will not be held in the Kirya defense headquarters in Tel Aviv. In the hotel, he will meet separately with Netanyahu and Herzog, and then he will meet with the limited war cabinet.

Ahead of the visit, the spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House, John Kirby, said that Biden is expected to meet in Israel with families of the victims of the terrorist attack by Hamas, and also meet family members of hostages in Gaza. Kirby noted that Biden plans to present "tough questions" to his colleagues in Israel, and that he will deal with the humanitarian issue in Gaza and the issue of the abductees, as well as Israel's plans for the future. "We are optimistic that we will be able to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza," said Kirby. "We are getting closer to the outline for the transfer of aid to Gaza from Egypt."

"Tomorrow, for the first time in the history of Israel's wars, the leader of the greatest power in the world will arrive to be with us in the difficult days," said the Chief of Staff for National Security Tzachi Hanegbi. "This is not only an identification with the pain of each and every one of us. It is also a political and practical statement that expresses identification with the determination we are demonstrating to achieve the goals of the war until complete victory. Not only in his public statements and the statements he made to Iran and Hezbollah, President Biden made it clear to his enemies that if it occurred to them to join the attack against the citizens of Israel, there will be American involvement here. Israel will not be alone," he said.

10.17.23 – Tu

Jihad failed rocket launch hit the hospital in Gaza, killing at least 500 people

10.17.23 – Tu

IDF: Islamic Jihad behind deadly Gaza hospital blast

Army says failed rocket launch by terrorist group led to mass-casualty event at hospital sheltering refugees; Netanyahu: 'Those who brutally murdered our children are also murdering their own'; Hezbollah announces Wednesday 'day of unprecedented anger' Lior Ben Ari, Einav Halabi, Yoav Zitun, Yair Kraus, Itamar Eichner, Hadar Adij Updated:13:43

The IDF said Tuesday night that a failed rocket launch by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist group was the reason behind a deadly blast at a hospital in the Gaza Strip that caused hundreds of casualties.

“An analysis of IDF operational systems indicates that a barrage of rockets was fired by terrorists in Gaza, passing in close proximity to the Al Ahli hospital in Gaza at the time it was hit,” a statement read.

“Intelligence from multiple sources we have in our hands indicates that Islamic Jihad is responsible for the failed rocket launch which hit the hospital in Gaza.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in response, "Let the world know: the barbaric terrorists in Gaza are the ones who attacked the Gaza hospital, not the IDF. Those who brutally murdered our children are also murdering their own."

President Isaac Herzog wrote on X, “An Islamic Jihad missile has killed many Palestinians at a Gazan hospital - a place where lives should be saved. Shame on the media who swallow the lies of Hamas and Islamic Jihad - broadcasting a 21st-century blood libel around the globe. Shame on the vile terrorists in Gaza who wilfully spill the blood of the innocent. Never before has the choice been clearer. Israel is standing against an enemy made of pure evil. If you stand for humanity - for the value of all human life - you stand with Israel.” Islamic Jihad denied the allegations.

The Palestinian enclave's health ministry claimed that at least 500 people were killed in a massive explosion at the Al-Ahli Arabi Baptist Hospital in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood.

Hezbollah denounced Israel for the attack, announcing Wednesday "a day of unprecedented anger" against Israel and U.S. President Biden's visit to the country, according to a statement released by the terrorist group late on Tuesday.

While Hamas was quick to accuse the IDF of the deadly blast, Israeli authorities were at first unsure whether the hospital, which had been sheltering thousands of refugees whose homes were destroyed since the beginning of the war, was attacked by Israeli forces and attributed the blast to a misfired rocket launched from Gaza.

Egypt's Foreign Ministry accused Israel of a "deliberate bombing" on the Gaza hospital, where, according to Palestinian claims, hundreds of people were killed. However, the IDF is still investigating whether it might have been a misfired rocket. "Egypt condemns

in strongest terms the Israeli bombing of the hospital in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the death of innocent Palestinians and wounded others in Gaza."

Meanwhile, Hundreds of people protested in Ramallah against Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas in response to the deadly explosion, chanting, "The people want to overthrow the leader" for his supposed inaction in the face of Israeli strikes in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israel's National Security Council issued a warning on Tuesday evening, urging all Israelis in Turkey to leave the country immediately due to heightened terror threats against Israelis overseas. The travel advisory for Turkey has now been raised to its highest level, level 4, while the advisory for Morocco has been increased to level 2. Heavy rocket barrages from the Gaza Strip targeted central Israel Tuesday evening as German Chancellor Olaf Scholz was making a solidarity visit. Meanwhile, sporadic rocket attacks into southern Israel towns and cities persisted through the evening. The Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing, claimed responsibility for the rocket attacks toward Tel Aviv, claiming they were a response to the "Zionist massacre of civilians". The group also added that it shelled the northern Israeli city of Haifa with an R-160 rocket although no incoming rocket alarms were triggered.

In a joint press conference with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the German leader emphasized his country's commitment to Israel's security, citing Germany's responsibility for the Holocaust.

At least eight rockets fired from the Gaza Strip landed in the southern city of Sderot, where 85% of the population had been evacuated to safety.

Air raid sirens sounded in the northern city of Kiryat Shmona and neighboring communities along the Lebanon border Tuesday afternoon. The IDF later reported that two rocket launches were detected from Lebanon - one was intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system, while the second landed in an unpopulated area. The IDF later said that it struck Hezbollah targets in Lebanon and intercepted an unmanned aircraft that approached Israel's airspace from Lebanese territory. No alert was activated during the incident.

Earlier Tuesday, two anti-tank missiles, accompanied by gunfire from Lebanon, were directed at military outposts near the border. In response, Israeli forces targeted Hezbollah positions using tank and artillery fire. There were no reported injuries among the IDF personnel in the incident.

In total, the Lebanese terrorist group has fired five anti-tank missiles into Israeli territory since morning hours. One of the missiles targeted a tank in the Israeli border town of Metula, inflicting mild and moderate injuries on three Israeli soldiers, two of them reservists. The organization later released footage of the strike.

Hezbollah anti-tank missile unit targets Israeli tank near border

The IDF launched a series of retaliatory attacks in Southern Lebanon following the anti-tank missile fire, in which four people were killed, according to the Lebanese Red Cross.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah is focusing efforts on neutralizing Israel's observation capabilities along the border at several points, according to a report on the Lebanese Al Mayadeen network.

The organization also announced Tuesday afternoon the deaths of two of its operatives, Hussein Abbas Fasa'i and Mahmoud Ahmad Biz, "while fulfilling their jihadist duty," though no specific details about the incident leading to their deaths were provided. Palestinian sources claim that the two were killed in an IDF strike. The group later reported that its operative, Ibrahim Habib Al-Dabak, also died, bringing its total death toll on Tuesday to five.

Hamas announced Tuesday afternoon that Ayman Nofal, a member of the terror group's General Military Council and the head of its military wing's Central Gaza Brigade known by his Kunya "Abu Ahmad," was killed in an Israeli air strike in the Bureij refugee camp. Visiting troops on an IDF airfield in southern Israel earlier Tuesday, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant vowed to "get to every single member of Hamas."

"Our planes can reach any location. Every missile has a target. We will get to every single member of Hamas. Hamas members have two options: either die in their positions or surrender unconditionally. There is no third option. We will eradicate Hamas and strip it of all its capabilities," Gallant said during a visit to the Nevatim Air Base near Be'er Sheva where he spoke with pilots, aircrew members and technicians.

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10.17.23 – Tu

Thousands protest in London against BBC for refusing to call Hamas 'terrorists'

10.17.23 – Tu

Thousands protest against BBC for refusing to call Hamas 'terrorists'

Demonstrators gather outside British public broadcaster's London HQ to voice criticism;

'We've seen terrorism before, we've seen hate before, we've seen evil before'

Ynet|13:05

Thousands protested outside the BBC headquarters in London on Monday over the news network's policy concerning their reporting on the war between Hamas and Israel, namely, its refusal to call members of Hamas "terrorists," despite Britain labeling Hamas a terrorist organization in 2021.

The demonstrators surrounding the building chanted "Hamas are terrorists" and "Shame!" One of the keynote speakers was Johnny Gould, a Jewish former sports announcer and broadcaster for BBC Radio.

Gould told the audience that Hamas "beheads babies, burns people alive, executes people at bus stops, at a peace festival. Terrorists? No, it's to choose a side, isn't it, John Simpson?" referring to a senior BBC correspondent and head of the network's foreign

news desk who Last week tweeted, "Calling someone a 'terrorist' means you're picking a side and ceasing to treat the issue impartially."

Gould went on to argue that Simpson sanctifies neutrality as Switzerland hides behind hers. "The BBC is making excuses for this," Gould blasted.

Presenter Andre Walker, who spoke after him, continued in the same vein. "We've seen terrorism before, we've seen hate before, we've seen evil before. But this time they committed a massacre in Israel and this is the first time it's happened, and we all have to think about it. It's time to tell the BBC they can't hedge their risks when it comes to beheading babies, burning people alive and murdering innocent civilians. We will never tolerate it."

Last week, the British Broadcasting Corporation received heaps of criticism for its refusal to call members of Hamas "terrorists", instead opting for terms such as "militants."

At times, protests against the BBC escalated into tangible acts. On Saturday, red paint was splashed on the BBC building as a form of protest. Earlier in the week, photos of Israelis kidnapped and killed in the Hamas attack were displayed on the building's entrance doors.

Meanwhile, the network suspended on Monday six Arabic-language BBC news reporters who published anti-Israeli posts. "We are investigating this matter urgently," the BBC said. "We take allegations of breaches of our editorial and social media guidelines with the utmost seriousness, and if and when we find breaches we will act, including taking disciplinary action."

10.16.23 – Mo

Wexner Jewish Zionist Foundation ends donations to Harvard U for Hamas support

10.16.23 – Mo

Wexner ends donations to Harvard U after refusing to condemn students support of Hamas

The foundation cites Harvard's 'absence of this clear moral stand' after Leslie Wexner warns the University's president, Claudine Gay, donations would stop if she fails to definitively condemn the students

| 23:03

Amid Harvard University's refusal to condemn the letter from student groups who blamed Israel for the heinous Hamas attack on civilians earlier this month, The Wexner Foundation announced on Monday that it was ending financial support to the institution after 35 years.

"We are stunned and sickened at the dismal failure of Harvard's leadership to take a clear and unequivocal stand against the barbaric murders of innocent Israeli civilians by terrorists last Saturday, the Sabbath and a festival day," the foundation wrote in a letter

signed by the Wexners, President Rabbi B. Elka Abrahamson and Ra'anana Avital, the director general.

"In the absence of this clear moral stand, we have determined that the Harvard Kennedy School and the Wexner Foundation are no longer compatible partners," the Wexner letter stated.

"The apartheid regime is the only one to blame," wrote the organizations, which include a Progressive Jewish Union and a chapter of the human rights organization Amnesty at the educational institution. "We hold the Israeli regime entirely responsible for all unfolding violence," the letter representing 35 groups of students, mostly Muslim and from North African and Far-East countries wrote.

After the letter was published, Leslie Wexner wrote the University, demanding its president, Claudine Gay, clarify her position on the atrocities committed by Hamas and on the letter written by students, after a vague initial response, or the foundation would end its relations with Harvard.

"Our University rejects hate — hate of Jews, hate of Muslims, hate of any group of people based on their faith, their national origin, or any aspect of their identity," Gay said in her first comments on the letter.

Wexner was among the most prominent benefactors of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and has a building named after him on campus.

The Wexner Alumni community and officials of the Foundation in Israel and the U.S. also write Harvard demanding a clear condemnation be made and when that was not forthcoming, asked the Wexner family to take definitive steps.

The Wexner Foundation is an American, Jewish and Zionist Foundation which operates along with the Israeli public service authority and the IDF, two leading leadership programs at Harvard.

The Wexner Israel Fellowship takes 10 Israeli public sector directors and each year to work toward their master's in public administration degree at Harvard Kennedy School in exchange for a commitment to remain in public service for at least three years, and the Wexner Senior Leaders program which offers a month-long management course to 45 senior managers a year.

In a statement, the Foundation said it continues to be committed to the state of Israel and its public service and will support it through professional training for executives and academic programs in other choice institutions.

10.16.23 – Mo

BBC suspends six Arab reporters for anti-Israeli posts, yet refer to Hamas as militants

10.16.23 – Mo

BBC suspends six reporters following publication of anti-Israeli posts

BBC Arabic news reporters published posts supporting Hamas on social networks, in which, among other things, October 7 is presented as a 'morning of hope'; According to

the British Broadcasting Authority, this is a violation of their regulations regarding impartial coverage
Ynet | 20:06

At least six Arabic-language BBC news reporters are suspected of violating the British Broadcasting Authority's strict regulations regarding impartial coverage, by publishing pro-Hamas posts on the social network X, and liking other similar posts.

"We are investigating this matter urgently," the BBC said, "We take allegations of breaches of our editorial and social media guidelines with the utmost seriousness, and if and when we find breaches we will act, including taking disciplinary action."

The posts in question have been removed at this point, but the Daily Telegraph reported that they compared Hamas to freedom fighters and described the terrorist attack on Israel on October 7 as a "morning of hope," while other posts mocked Israel. The report was based on an investigation by the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA), an American organization working for balanced media coverage of Israel and the Middle East.

"These revelations about BBC Arabic employees go hand in hand with the outlet's ongoing conduct during the war. The BBC has repeatedly whitewashed the practice of targeting Jewish civilians in Israel even before the current escalation. They constantly claim that they apply the same editorial standards of accuracy and impartiality to their services in all languages, including those with which BBC management is not familiar and can't oversee properly, such as Arabic," CAMERA said in a statement.

This is not the first time that the BBC's coverage of the Swords of Iron War has made headlines, having already caused a stir by refusing to use the word "terrorists" to describe Hamas while covering the atrocities that took place in Israel.

Meanwhile, at the end of last week the facade of the television network located in London was painted red. The incident occurred several hours before a protest to express solidarity with the Palestinians was held nearby. It is not known if this was done as a response to the storm that arose a few days before, when during the coverage of the war, in which about 1,300 Israelis were killed and fell, they refused to refer to the Hamas terrorists as "terrorists" - but as "militants."

10.16.23 – Mo

Tel Aviv, Jerusalem come under repeated rocket attacks; Netanyahu warns Libya

10.16.23 – Mo

Tel Aviv, Jerusalem come under repeated rocket attacks; Netanyahu warns Hezbollah and Iran "Don't try us,"

Rocket attack forces lawmakers, guests into shelter in Knesset winter session opening; Herzog tells parliament member they must meet public demands; Opposition Leader says state failed after distancing from its democratic DNA

Yoav Zitun, Reuters, Einav Halabi, Itamar Eichner|Updated:09:56

Central Israel and Jerusalem came under a rocket attack on Monday afternoon. The sirens alerted of incoming fire, disrupted the opening of the winter session of parliament and sent lawmakers and guests into protected areas, soon after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ended his address. In it he warned Iran and Hezbollah, not to open a second front against Israel in the north.

President Issac Herzog said in the Knesset that Hamas targeted the entire Jewish people and if they are not stopped, they will endanger the entire world. He said this is not a complex reality. There is good and there is utter evil, "we are fighting an enemy that is all evil."

The president praised the volunteering spirit of all Israelis who came regardless of religion or affiliation, in masses, to help in any way, in hospitals with the wounded, for the families who survived the massacre and the troops who are deployed to the border. "Few are the moments when a nation sees so much endangered but that is when heroes are revealed," he said.

Law makers in secure area amid rocket attack

Opposition leader Yair Lapid said Israel will triumph but it was caught at a time when it distanced itself from its democratic DNA. He said that after meeting a 13-year-old survivor who lost her best friend in the massacre and after listening to her story, told her she would live again. He said he wanted to tell her that his father, who saw his father murdered by the Nazis became a life-loving adult and she will become one too. He said his party is fully supportive of the war effort although it had not joined the government

IDF forces were engaged in exchanges of fire with terrorists on the Lebanon border. In Gaza, officials said 2,800 have died and 10,859 were injured since the fighting began. Netanyahu will meet with Biden who returned to Israel after meeting with Arab leaders. According to officials, he did not succeed in uniting them to condemn Hamas. Earlier the prime minister had his first conversation on Monday with one of those leaders, Mohamed bin Zayed.

U.S. President Joe Biden will likely arrive in Israel on Wednesday for a solidarity visit, according to sources familiar with the arrangements.

Ynet reported on Sunday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu invited the Democratic leader to visit the Jewish state following Hamas' barbaric attack on southern Israel and that arrangements were underway to that end. If the visit materializes, Biden is expected to proceed from Israel to Egypt.

IDF Spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari again urged residents of the northern Gaza Strip to relocate south in anticipation of an impending ground offensive and also launched a threat at Hezbollah in Lebanon, warning it against opening another front to the north.

"Gaza [City] is our primary battleground - and we remain focused on this area. There, our captured Israeli civilians are located, but if Hezbollah makes a mistake, the response will

be lethal, he said, adding, "this move is intended to give the IDF operational freedom to take offensive action."

Hagari also said that the army has informed close to 200 families whose loved ones are being held in the Gaza Strip. "We have informed the families of 199 captives. We continue to gather information about the captives and maintain constant communication with their families. The IDF is working around the clock to bring back our captives," he said.

Hagari emphasized that IDF strikes are intelligence-based to avoid harming the captives. "Of course, when we possess such information, we won't carry out an attack that might endanger our people," he said.

Arabic-language media reported Monday hours fuel trucks were allowed to enter the Gaza Strip from Egypt through the Rafah border crossing. Sky News in Arabic reported the Israeli Foreign Ministry informed it that some foreigners have been granted permission to leave the Palestinian enclave via Rafah, following Israel's denial of a humanitarian ceasefire in the southern part of the territory.

Earlier Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office denied reports citing Egyptian security sources that Egypt, Israel and the U.S. agreed to a ceasefire in southern Gaza beginning at 0600 GMT coinciding with the re-opening of the Rafah border crossing to allow in aid and evacuations of foreigners

"There is currently no truce and humanitarian aid in Gaza in exchange for getting foreigners out," a statement from his office said.

Speaking to Reuters, Hamas official Izzat El Reshiq said there was no truth to reports about the opening of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt or a temporary ceasefire. Hagari also denied the reports, saying, "At this stage, the crossings are closed, and no such decision has been made. There is no ceasefire, and we continue our operational activities. If anything changes, we will update the public. We persist in our fight against the murderous terrorist organization, Hamas."

Rafah, which is on the border between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Hamas-governed Gaza, is the only crossing into the territory not controlled by Israel.

The Egyptian sources said the ceasefire would last for several hours but they were not clear on the exact duration. They also said the three countries had agreed that Rafah would be open until 1400 GMT on Monday as a one-day initial re-opening.

A security source and NGO source in Al-Arish said that aid trucks were still waiting there after the re-opening at 0600 GMT. Reuters images showed the trucks awaiting permission to make the trip to Rafah, which could take several hours.

Egypt has said that the crossing remained open from the Egyptian side in recent days, but was rendered inoperable due to Israeli bombardments on the Palestinian side. The agreement would allow for limited evacuations of foreign passport holders from Gaza.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is scheduled to return to Israel on Monday as part of a Middle Eastern tour aimed at easing regional tensions and preventing the Israel-Hamas conflict from spilling over to neighboring countries. He is set to meet with Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog. Blinken visited Tel Aviv last week to voice U.S. support of Israeli actions in Gaza after Hamas' devastating attack on southern Israel.

Overnight Monday, the IDF continued to strike Hamas targets across the Gaza Strip in "the worst attacks since the beginning of the war," according to news network Al Jazeera. The army reported it had targeted a prominent Hamas field commander. Meanwhile, rocket fire from the Palestinian enclave resumed Monday morning after a night of relative calm, with rocket sirens sounding in the border towns of Be'eri and Nahal Oz.

The Magen David Adom ambulance service reported that a man in his 30s sustained light injuries from shrapnel in the latest rocket attack and was transported to Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva.

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit on Monday morning released a list of high-ranking Hamas officials who have been eliminated by the IDF and Shin Bet since the onset of the conflict. The list includes the head of the terror group's national security southern district, a platoon leader in Hamas' commando unit and the head of the Hamas' aerial force, among others.

Overnight Monday, the IDF also accused Hamas of attacking a convoy of civilians fleeing the northern Gaza Strip southward Friday in an apparent false flag operation to prevent civilians from leaving the area as the Israeli military prepares for a ground incursion against Hamas infrastructure there. Some 70 people were killed in the attack. Embedding terrorist activities in the heart of the civilian population and using uninvolved Gazans as human shields have been longstanding Hamas practices, with the Islamist terrorist group weaponizing civilian casualties to mobilize international public opinion against Israel.

The IDF on Monday morning released the names of two more Israelis who were killed in Hamas attacks and whose families have been informed.

They are Lt. Amitay Zvi Granot, 24, a commander in the 75th Brigade, from Tel Aviv; and Sergeant Daniel Rashed, 19, a Golani soldier, from Shfar'am.

Israel Police released the names of three additional officers who have been killed since the beginning of the conflict, who "acted with courage and self-sacrifice on the front lines against the enemy".

They are First Sergeant Boris Danilov, Staff Sergeant Gedif Mulugeta and Staff Sergeant Dor Mangadi – all from the coordination of enforcement operations unit. This brings the death toll of Israel Police officers to 54.

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10.16.23 – Mo

Israeli family documents Hamas attack drama & spending 17 hours in a safe room

10.16.23 – Mo

'Don't worry, Daddy's got a gun': Israeli family documents Hamas attack drama Shoshi Shaked and her family spent over 17 hours in their home's safe room while filming the attack as it unfolded and their subsequent rescue

Liran Tamari|06:29

On a Saturday morning last week, many families were trapped in their homes in Kibbutz Kisufim while Hamas terrorists infiltrated the area, murdered residents, and set houses on fire with people still inside them. The Shaked family is one of the families who lived in the kibbutz. The Parents Shoshi and Yotam and their children, 11-year-old Roni and 8-year-old Erez, spent a total of 17 hours in a safe room before being evacuated to safety.

At some point, Shoshi realized the family might not survive the terrorist attack and decided to document what was happening.

She recorded the sounds of gunfire outside, the moment she went to get a knife from the kitchen, her concern for her neighbor who was alone with two young children, and the tense talk with her son. "I'm afraid the terrorists might enter," he said. "Don't worry, Dad has a gun," she replied, and her son responded, "They have guns too."

Filmmaker Dana Yisraeli edited Shoshi's videos into a four-minute video, which has been shared in multiple languages, highlighting the dreadful moments, the sheltering in the safe room, and the eventual rescue by IDF forces.

Following the attack eight residents and six Thai foreign workers were killed in Kibbutz Kisufim. Among the victims was a 90-year-old woman who was dragged from her home's safe room and executed in her living room, and a family that refused to leave the safe room and killed after Hamas terrorists set fire to their home.

The final rescue from Kibbutz Kisufim was completed after 72 hours, with some of the rescue team members losing their lives during the operations.

10.15.23 – Su

Abbas blames PLO actions not PA; release prisoners & restore water, electricity and aid

10.15.23 – Su

PA's Abbas condemns Hamas attack: 'actions that do not represent the Palestinians' After talking to US President Joe Biden, Palestinian Authority president condemned murderous terrorist attack - after more than a week, and called for the release of the kidnapped Israelis and Palestinian prisoners

Einav Halabi, Reuters|18:40

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday night for the first time clearly condemned the murderous terrorist attack by Hamas, saying that these were "actions that do not represent the Palestinians." The condemnation, which came during a conversation with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, was reported by the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

IDF commando chief: 'Hamas will be just a memory, nothing more, that's a promise'

Abbas also said in the conversation that the PLO is "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," and not Hamas. He added that he rejects the killing of civilians on both sides, and called for the release of "civilians, prisoners and detainees on both sides."

The Abbas condemnation was published a few hours after he spoke with US President Joe Biden for the second time in 24 hours. A statement issued by the PA said that the US president acknowledged that the actions of Hamas do not represent the Palestinian people. Biden, according to the message, also said that he is working to ensure humanitarian aid to civilians from Gaza, adding that the goal is to prevent the fighting from expanding to other arenas.

After Abbas' previous conversation with Biden, the Palestinian Authority president published a statement which said that "peace and security in our region will be achieved through the implementation of the two-state solution, based on international legitimacy and the intention of the Palestinian side to act to achieve this goal, and the necessity of stopping all attacks and respecting international humanitarian law in what is happening in the Gaza Strip."

Abbas emphasized in that conversation "the necessity of allowing the opening of urgent humanitarian crossings in the Gaza Strip, the supply of basic materials and medical supplies, restoring the supply of water, electricity and fuel to the citizens there, and the complete rejection of the displacement of the residents of the Gaza Strip," and called for "a stop to the settler attacks against Palestinians in cities, villages and Palestinian camps in the West Bank, and to stop the extremist invasions of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which are causing the escalation of the situation."

It was also reported that Abbas "rejected the methods associated with killing or abusing civilians on both sides, and called for the release of civilians, prisoners and detainees. He reiterated the rejection of violence, adherence to international legitimacy, peaceful popular resistance, and political action as a way to achieve the national goals of freedom and independence."

Since the outbreak of the war with Hamas' surprise attack on the Gaza Strip, Biden has expressed unqualified support for Israel and its right to defend itself. Among other things, Biden gave a speech offering unequivocal support for Israel, in which he strongly condemned the horrific massacres by Hamas. Biden's speech, which gave full support to Israel and even promised significant aid, evoked admiration in Israel and around the world. Biden also spoke for about an hour and a half with families of American citizens who are defined as missing, and those who were kidnapped and held by Hamas in Gaza.

10.15.23 – Su

IDF unveils Hamas weapons cache smuggled into Gaza as humanitarian aid

10.15.23 – Su

Watch: IDF unveils Hamas weapons cache seized after deadly terror attack

Elite IDF engineering unit successfully retrieved an extensive arsenal left by terrorists; 'We were surprised by their ability to smuggle such an enormous quantity of weaponry into Israeli territory, their preparations indicated an extended stay,' officer says Nir Ben Zaken, Meir Turgeman, Yoav Zitun|15:59

A week and a day after the deadly surprise terror attack by Hamas in the south, the IDF provided a glimpse on Sunday into the combat arms used by members of the terrorist organization.

Dozens of RPG launchers, various types of explosive charges designed for different purposes, landmines, grenades and even anti-aircraft rockets are just a small portion of the weaponry that was recovered by the soldiers of the Yahalom unit, a special unit of the Combat Engineering Corps, before they are transferred to the National Institute for Weapons Research.

According to Major J., the commander of the institute, "The Yahalom forces have been in the field since the outset of the war, engaged in clearing various areas of combat means, weaponry and various charges found in vehicles, houses, streets and the bodies of terrorists. This is done to facilitate the continued operations of the IDF. Some of the combat means are destroyed in the field, while others are brought to the institute to be investigated and studied for the purpose of developing strategies and defenses against them for ongoing combat."

He added, "We weren't surprised by the diversity of the various types of weaponry, nor by the quantities we knew were in the possession of Hamas, as they have been engaged in producing combat means around the clock for a long time. What surprised us was their ability to smuggle such a massive quantity of armaments into Israeli territory. It's evident that the terrorists had planned for an extended stay within Israel's borders. They brought along an ample supply of food and medical equipment to sustain their forces in the field for prolonged combat. All of this was neutralized, thanks to the IDF's swift action."

Most of the combat means on display were locally manufactured by Hamas, rather than imported from other countries. Nevertheless, they represent an extensive array of tools designed to inflict maximum damage in various combat scenarios. Among these were anti-personnel landmines, anti-tank charges, flexible insertion charges that can be fed through small openings, powerful car and personnel-borne explosive devices, room-clearing blast charges that consume everything in their path, and magnetic attachment charges for tanks with a seven-second delay mechanism.

In addition to the numerous and diverse combat means, it is evident that Hamas has invested heavily in the careful planning and execution of the incursion, including controlling the terror organization's many forces on the ground. For instance, the terrorists who entered Israel were equipped with a large amount of well-organized combat equipment, complete with simple instructions in Arabic for activation. This allowed each of the terrorists to operate them without requiring high skill levels.

Maj. J. further said, "In the distribution of forces in the field, we found that in each of the combat zones, there was a truck loaded with about 20 RPG rockets, another one was filled with around 15 explosive charges, as well as command and communication vehicles. We found a great deal of tactical communication devices, MR5s, as well as smartphones, tablets and computers." The significance of this extensive equipment is that it points to a meticulously planned and well-controlled operation by Hamas leaders throughout the duration of the combat hours.

Meanwhile, Yamam officers who participated in battles against Hamas terrorists discovered rice bags containing weaponry that the terrorist organization smuggled into the Gaza Strip.

These soldiers, who eliminated approximately 200 terrorists at various points in southern Israel, were among the first to respond robustly to the surprise attack. After these confrontations, military intelligence personnel collected the terrorists' weaponry and found combat materials concealed within the rice bags. According to suspicions, this weaponry was smuggled into the Gaza Strip under the guise of "humanitarian aid."

10.15.23 – Su

Villages near Gaza taking evacuees from massacre, burying the fallen & arming squads

10.15.23 – Su

'We are the border's human shield, you can't win a war with pistols'

Southern border towns urgently seek additional weapons as Hamas onslaught highlights need to beef up security; 'Over the past decade, the number of weapons has decreased, you can forget about ceramic vests or night vision devices'

Ilana Curie|12:08

The local authorities neighboring the Gaza border are taking in evacuees from the October 7 massacre, burying their fallen soldiers and arming alert squads.

The Ramat Hanegev Regional Council borders Egypt and is adjacent to the Eshkol Regional Council. It lost hundreds of residents - murdered and abducted to Gaza. The regional council has already purchased half a million shekel worth of weapons. Some of the Pithat Nitzana communities within the regional council don't even have fences. They're prepared for terrorists spilling out of Gaza but are not ruling out the possibility of terrorists also coming from Egypt.

"Arm the alert squads and let us defend ourselves with all our force. The rationale is clear: We've seen that armed-and-ready alert squads saved entire communities in the Gaza border," says Ramat Hanegev Mayor Eran Doron.

"In Ramat Negev, we have about 15 communities, some adjacent to the fence, which are facing solid threats and warnings. I can't wait around for the police and the army. They're now busy with further incidents. I want to ensure that the alert squads in our communities can repel threats and dangers within our territory. We cannot be abandoned to our fate."

In Kadesh Barnea, Military Security Coordinator Annan Sion set up an improvised war room to obtain weapons, radios and ceramic vests. "We're trying to upgrade and fill our inventory gaps. Things like water for the moshav, gasoline and more equipment. We're going into emergency mode and waiting to see where it's going. As for possible scenarios: We've seen what's happened and we're trying to respond to every possible outrageous scenario," he says.

During our conversation, he's also talking to a military source, warning, "If I can't go to a shooting range, we're going to the greenhouses to practice. If you hear shooting from there, it's us." Sion's wife spent the night at a friend's house. "Lone farms are in trouble too. They only have a couple of people there. We have 80 families in our community. They have the same problem."

Yahli Levi, 41, a farmer and single mother to five children in Kadesh Barnea, is a member of the community's alert squad. "The Peled Team in Pithat Nitzana lost two members. My brother's on the team with them," she tells us.

Two LOTAR (counter-terrorism special forces [sayeret] unit) fighters from Nitzana (Peled Team), Yiftach Groni from Be'er Milka and Liran Almosnino from K mehina, were killed on the first day of the fighting on their way to defend Kibbutz Holit.

"We had a few extremely hard days, but our alert team functions and we have a lot of ammunition here. There's an atmosphere of war, but also of life. In between, we drop in at the farm. We're busy around the clock guarding and securing the moshav. Events have put us into a very heightened state of alert."

Levi adds, "What we saw on the Gaza border are scenarios that we'd been training for in the alert squads, but no one imagined that level of force and brutality." Kadesh Barnea is situated 1600 feet from the Egyptian border. Mortars, the Islamic State and terrorists trickling in from Gaza are the main threats. "We have children on the moshav. We've trained for ISIS terrorists showing up in vans."

Ramat Hanegev Regional Council head Eran Doron describes how the local alert squads are struggling. "Over the past decade, the number of weapons has decreased. The army's simply taking them when they feel like it. Our military security coordinator in Petah Nitzana has fought tooth and nail to keep our weapons - and some residents have managed to keep hold of them, but we're still short of equipment," he says.

"You can forget about ceramic vests or night vision devices. We rely on the fact that we live here and know every streetlight and vehicle outside the moshav. We can recognize smugglers - and there are smugglers coming across the border all the time. We can identify routine fire from Egypt. We have personal weapons, but you can't win a war with pistols. At the end of the day, it's down to the political echelon. We have to beg for our children's lives and livelihoods because we're farmers. We are the border's human shield. We're the first line of defense."

Doron explains, "We've put together a guard system - a bit from the Border Police, the police force, regulars, reservists and lots of residents. But it's cobbled together from what we had. It's not organized. Units come and go. When you see Kibbutz Be'eri erased, you can't take chances. You can't be too careful. You never know who to rely on and who'll come to your rescue. They rely on us."

'The community has collapsed'

Almost all the residents of Ramat Hanegev have taken in evacuees. Kibbutz Mash'abei Sadeh have taken in 240, mainly from Ohad, but also from Be'eri, Pri Gan and other communities. "The number of evacuees changes from one moment to the next," says Chen Rodman, responsible for their absorption.

Adamit Bachar, 41, mother of three children (14, 9 and 2 1/2 years) from Moshav Ohad, is sitting shiva for her husband's niece, Shir Yaron, who was murdered at Mivtahim Junction, along with three friends while returning from the music festival at Re'im.

"We spent all of Shabbat locked in the safe rooms and then, on Sunday, we evacuated to Sde Boker where we were hosted by a family. We arrived at Mash'abei Sadeh on Monday, along with lots of other people from the moshav. I have no words to describe how kindly we've been received. We're together here, so we feel a little safer, trying to take in what's happened to the community."

"We wake up every morning and keep getting more and more reports of some friend or another who's been killed, or the father or uncle of a friend. It's mainly to do with the children – it's children who haven't made contact, parents of children who've been killed. It's all about the children and what they're going through. We're adults and we have different coping mechanisms, although everyone's broken. The community has collapsed. We try to keep the children away from their phone screens and the horrific videos online, but it's unavoidable as their friends are telling them about what happened to their mothers or fathers. My son's on tranquilizers. It's so hard to find out every day that another person is dead. It's too close. It's not a story on TV. It's real life."

Adamit adds, "I have no problem with the rockets. As far as I'm concerned, they can keep firing at me, but taking away my children? I don't know if we'll be able to go back there." And as if that's not enough, Moshav Ohad is four and a half miles from the border, so they're not even getting the pocket money the government has authorized.

Inbal Lasri from Moshav Pri Gan arrived at Mash'abei Sadeh. "We had an infiltration, but Shlomit's alert squad came and protected us with their lives," she tells us. "They were killed but saved us. The terrorists got into two houses. Everyone who's here was saved." They're now in a resort in Ramat Hanegev that seems like some kind of virtual reality. "This is what all the kibbutzim looked like. This is how we lived. This is the closest we have to our home now. Our home is a ruin. It's the kind of war zone you only see in the movies."

In addition to evacuees, the regional council has also taken in hundreds of foreign agricultural laborers. "It's crazy," says Yankel'e Moskowitz, director of R&D for Ramat Hanegev Regional Council. Around 200 Thai workers were put up at the Desert Ship in Golda Meir Park. "There's a refugee camp there. Some arrived post-traumatic. Those wanting to carry on working are making it to the center of the country. But people showing up here didn't. We're all exhausted. It's just all so hard."

10.15.23 – Su

A quarter of residents are either dead or missing, atrocities include beheading babies

10.15.23 – Su

A quarter of the residents of Nir Oz are either dead or missing

The magnitude of the atrocities committed and lives lost in the heinous assault on civilians continues to come to light along with testimonies of survivors
Matan Tzuri|05:09

More than 100 residents of Nir Oz were massacred, or abducted to Gaza, out of the 400 who had lived there before the heinous Hamas attack on October 7.

In Nir Am at least 80 of the Kibbutz residents are missing and more than 25, massacred by the invading Hamas terrorists.

Kfar Aza, that was home to just under 800, had at least 52 souls brutally murdered and 13 of its residents are missing in addition to seven who have been confirmed to have been abducted to Gaza.

All those numbers are not a final tally and may rise.

While the effort to identify the unending number of bodies of slain Israelis, the IDF said on Sunday, that one of the masterminds of the monstrous attack on Nir Oz and on Nirrim, was killed after Shin Bet directed an airstrike against him.

On Day 9 of the war testimonies of the horrors dealt to the residents of the Gaza border communities, continue to come to light. The military allowed world media into Kfar Aza, to see for themselves the level of destruction in the wake of the Hamas attack. The small farming community has since become a symbol of the tragedy that befell Israel. International outlets reported testimonies recounting the atrocities, including the beheading of babies by the murderous Hamas.

Nir Oz was not spared similar cruelty. Mor Baider, whose grandmother, a lifelong resident of the small community, was murdered by Hamas terrorists who then posted a photo of her dead body to her family, using her phone. "That's how we found out," she said. Testimonies revealed the Hamas murderers set homes on fire to force residents out and shot them to death as they emerged.

10.15.23 – Su

Military ground offensive prepares for tunnel eradication without a Hamas ambush

10.15.23 – Su

Military officials: Israel preparing for ground offensive, report

In article, senior military officials say operation is expected 'in the coming days' and will include thousands of soldiers and armored vehicles

Ynet|00:50

Many Israelis have weighed in on whether the IDF was preparing to act against Hamas in the Gaza Strip itself with a ground offensive following the terrorist organization's shocking attack against Israel last week. According to an article published by the New York Times on Sunday, three military officials confirmed preparations are underway.

According to the article, titled "Israel Plans Gaza Invasion to Avenge Hamas Atrocities," the IDF was planning to carry out a ground operation in the Strip "in the coming days," which will involve "tens of thousands of soldiers." The article added that according to the officials, the offensive's goal remains to take control of the Strip in order to remove Hamas' control over the region.

The New York Times added that should such an offensive take place in the coming days, "it would be Israel's biggest ground operation since it invaded Lebanon in 2006." Quoting the IDF officials, the article described further goals in the operation would include the dismantling and destruction of Hamas' political capabilities throughout the Strip.

The IDF issued a directive urging the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, possibly in anticipation of a ground incursion. Meanwhile, Hamas called on residents to remain in place, labeling the directive as "Israeli propaganda."

According to the article, this operation also holds uncertainty and danger to Israeli forces. On the one hand, the New York Times explained, it's "unclear whether Hezbollah... might respond to an invasion of Gaza by opening up a second front with Israel along the Lebanese border." On the other, it added that "tens of thousands of Hamas gunmen," might be hiding and preparing to surprise troops and armored vehicles moving into Gaza's north with considerable firepower.

In addition, the article noted that "Hamas also plans to ambush Israeli forces from behind by emerging suddenly from hidden tunnel openings dotted across northern Gaza, according to a Hamas officer."

The article also emphasized the difficulty of such an operation, which is "heightened by the fact that Hamas is thought to be holding many of the Israeli hostages with them in their underground bunkers and tunnels." At the same time, according to a former senior military official quoted in the article, the "only way," to return these hostages is via an extensive ground operation in the region.

As for the aftermath of this planned offensive into Gaza, the New York Times noted the question is a loaded one that will have to be discussed: to maintain Israeli presence in the area or to hand control over to the Palestinian Authority once Hamas' control over the area has been eradicated.

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Ynet-News, Oct 15, 2023 – Sunday **Demon--Day-2, Abomination—**in 47 Days

10.15.23 – Su - - News Placed in October 15 spot – Sunday **D-Day-2**

Summit of evil: Hamas meets Iran, Saudi, US & UN to oppose Israel

10.13.23 – Fr- - - News Placed in October 13 spot – Friday Demons in-1-Day
Gazans have 24 hours to move south of Gaza River; UN should focus on hostages

10.12.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday Demons in-2-Days
Jewish schools in US & Europe shut as Hamas calls for worldwide Friday 'Day of Rage'

10.12.23 – Th- - - News Placed in October 12 spot – Thursday Demons in-2-Days
CEO's demand names of Harvard students who's letters justify horrific Hamas attack

10.12.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday Demons in-2-Days
Iran president touring to rally Arab-Western alliance amid Israel-Hamas war

10.12.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday Demons in-2-Days
BBC to stay objective, refuses to label Hamas as 'terrorists,' citing the term as 'loaded'

10.12.23 – Th- - - News Hoax article – Thursday Demons in-2-Days
Shayetet 13 commandos eliminated over 60 Hamas & rescued 250 hostages alive

10.12.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday Demons in-2-Days
Chief of Staff says IDF's mission is eliminating all Hamas leadership

10.12.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday Demons in-2-Days
Two Aircraft Carriers, dozens of fighter planes & four Destroyers add US support

10.12.23 – Th- - - News Hoax article – Thursday Demons in-2-Days
Egypt warned Israel of pending Hamas attack ten days before terrorists breached border