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South Africa supports Hamas; mulls severing embassy ties with Israel

11.14.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Knesset urges UN find countries to welcome Gaza & West Bank refugees

11.19.23 – Su

Government seeks to advance 'Basic Law for Druze' to correct discrimination

11.19.23 – Su

Government seeks to advance 'Basic Law for Druze' to correct discrimination

After members of the community among front line troops fighting Hamas and among fallen soldiers,

Moran Azulay|04:46

The ruling coalition said on Saturday that it would advance legislation of a basic law that would grant the Druze community in Israel special status after its members were among the front-line soldiers fighting Hamas and also among the fallen troops in the war. The new bill, however, would not negate the Nation State law passed in 2018, stating Israel was the national home of Jews, and that was seen as discriminating against the non-Jewish sectors in Israel.

Coalition whip Ofir Katz said the bill hoped to solidify the Druze community's special status in Israel. "We're setting the wheels in motion for the Druze community foundation law in the imminent future. The aim is to enshrine the crucial role of the Druze community within the State of Israel," he said. The proposed legislation will draw upon earlier proposals including minor changes.

During the summer of 2018, over 90,000 Israelis of ethnicities, marched in protest of the bill calling it racist and contrary to the Declaration of Independence. Netanyahu's government at the time refused to include the term equality for all, in the wording of the bill.

The vast majority of Druze men serve in the IDF, unlike other minorities and many have achieved senior military ranks, but Druze leaders have long said the community suffered discrimination from the government despite their loyalty to the state since before its establishment.

The Druze community lacks a nation-state of its own to express its sectarian and religious identity. Such an affiliation is crucial to maintain the community's unique traits, primarily founded on its exclusive and self-contained religion. The proposed law aims to solidify the standing of the Druze community within the State of Israel, while upholding Israel as the nation-state of Jewish people. It also seeks to acknowledge the right of Druze

community members, as citizens of the country, to conserve their community's unique qualities and self-definition.

Welfare and Social Affairs Minister, Yaakov Margi, said when he attended the funeral of a Druze officer who was killed in the war, that the government owes its Druze citizens better. "With a bit of determination, we can find a balanced phrasing that deeply embodies the Druze community in the Nation-State Law," he said.

"We didn't enter into a death pact, but a pact of life! And in this pact, one side consistently honors its part with blood and sweat. Regrettably, I'm saying this as a government representative and a long-term member of the Knesset, I've always sensed a feeling of discomfort and injustice. The other side, the sovereign, has failed to reciprocate this lifetime commitment equally, whether it's in housing, land, or employment."

Last night, IDF Spokesperson announced two more Druze soldiers fell in battle in Northern Gaza. They are Staff Sgt. Adi Malik Harb, 19, of the Nahal Infantry Brigade's reconnaissance unit, from Beit Jann and Maj. Jamal Abbas, 23, a company commander in the Paratroopers Brigade's 101st Battalion, from Peki'in.

Opposition Chairman and former Prime Minister, Yair Lapid, gave his wholehearted endorsement to the idea. "It's about time, Let's get it done together," he said. Last June, members of the Druze community clashed with police over the government's plans to establish a renewable energy field of 21 wind turbines, would destroy nature and their lands on the Golan Heights. At least 27 people were injured, including 17 members of the police, five suffered serious wounds and six protesters were arrested. Amid social protests of the coalition's legislative push to change the balance of power between the Government and the Supreme Court, Netanyahu decided to stall the project.

11.19.23 – Su

Women's advocate fired from Canadian university over Hamas rape denials

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Samantha Pearson, director of Alberta U. sexual assault center, signs letter criticizing local politician of repeating 'unfounded accusation,' of rape committed by Hamas terrorists; Israeli video slamming feminist group's hypocrisy goes viral
Daniel Edelson, New York|03:41

Canada's Alberta University on Saturday fired Samantha Pearson, the director of the campus sexual assault center, after she co-signed a letter claiming there was no truth to reports that Hamas terrorists raped Israeli victims on October 7.

University president Bill Flanigan said Pearson expressed her personal views and not those of the university. "Effective immediately, the director of the center is no longer

employed by the university. The university has appointed a new interim director of the [University of Alberta] Sexual Assault Centre," he said, adding that the university stands against racism and hatred and recognizes "the historical and ongoing harms of antisemitism."

The letter signed by two local politicians, titled "Stand with Palestine: Call on Political Leaders to End Their Complicity in Genocide," criticized the local center-left New Democratic party leader for repeating the "unverified accusation that Palestinians were guilty of sexual violence."

The refusal to believe Israelis victims of the Hamas assault spread on social media outlets prompting outrage in Israel and in Jewish communities. Hila Yerushalmi, an Israeli activist, wrote and produced a video depicting the hypocrisy of some feminist groups who, despite declaring that all victims of rape and sexual assault would be believed, failed to extend the same courtesy to victims of atrocities committed by Hamas. "Rape is not Resistance" has gone viral and already has been viewed by millions.

"I am disappointed at my sisters around the world," Yerushalmi said. "Where is their commitment to believe all victims?" she told an Israeli radio station in an interview on Sunday.

Hamas terrorists posted their acts of rape on social media on October 7, but have since deleted many of their posts. Victims of rape who survived the massacre of that day were rarely tested for rape because of the fighting that lasted in the area for critical hours, making the collection of evidence impossible.

Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy, chair of the civil commission on Hamas crimes against women on October 7, told a CNN investigative report into the sexual crimes committed by Hamas that Israel may never know everything that happened on that terrible day. "We know that most women who were raped and sexually assaulted were also murdered," she said, adding that it will take time until stories are revealed and survivors share what happened to them.

The CNN report also interviewed a paramedic who was among the first to enter homes in Gaza border communities that came under attack, and described to the network how he found bodies of teenage girls who were raped before being shot in the head or chest by Hamas.

11.19.23 – Su

Drone from Lebanon; Nazi march in Wisconsin; US against West Bank attacks

11.19.23 – Su

After Hezbollah drone intercepted in north, IDF fires on Lebanon

IDF announces deaths of 2 more soldiers; Negotiations continue on hostage deal; Neo-Nazi march in Madison, Wisconsin includes swastika flags and chants of 'Heil Hitler'

ynet correspondents|Updated:03:07

The IDF announces on Sunday morning that it intercepted a "suspicious aerial target" that entered from Lebanon. It is suspected to be a Hezbollah drone, which was intercepted over the border. "The IDF is responding with fire toward Lebanon," the IDF spokesman said. Following the announcement, alert sirens sounded in about a dozen other northern border communities in a second possible drone infiltration.

The expanded political-security cabinet approved on Sunday morning at the end of a meeting that lasted about six and a half hours the war cabinet's decision to comply with the United States' request and bring a limited amount of fuel into the Gaza Strip. Ministers Bezalel Smotrich, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Miri Regev voted against. Minister Gideon Sa'ar abstained.

The IDF announced early Sunday morning the names of two additional IDF soldiers who fell in battles in the northern Gaza Strip. Sergeant Binyamin Meir Airly, 21, a paratrooper, and Captain (res.) Roey Biber, 28, from Beit Shemesh, a squad commander in the Combat Engineering Corps' Yahalom special forces unit, each fell in battles in the northern Gaza Strip. In addition, a fighter in a paratrooper patrol was seriously injured in a battle in the northern Gaza Strip.

The Washington Post reported early Sunday morning that Israel and Hamas are close to a deal brokered by the United States and Qatar that will include the release of at least 50 hostages from the Gaza Strip, as well as a temporary cease-fire of at least five days, with a small group of hostages being released every 24 hours.

The newspaper claimed that a six-page document detailing the terms of the deal has been drafted. But a White House spokesperson said on Saturday night in the United States that no deal had yet been reached, but that the U.S. is continuing to work to get a deal between the two sides. A second U.S. official confirmed no deal had been reached. "No deal yet but we continue to work hard to get a deal," Adrienne Watson, spokesperson for the White House's National Security Council, said in a statement.

US President Joe Biden said he has directed senior officials of his administration to "examine policy options for actions against those responsible for violence in the West Bank, including imposing sanctions and denying visas to enter the United States." Meanwhile, Politico reported that Biden sees the issue as a "serious threat" to the peace between Israel and the Palestinians and the destabilization of the entire Middle East.

In an op-ed published Saturday night in the Washington Post, Biden stated: "I have been emphatic with Israel's leaders that extremist violence against Palestinians in the West Bank must stop and that those committing the violence must be held accountable. The United States is prepared to take our own steps, including issuing visa bans against extremists attacking civilians in the West Bank."

New York City police arrested on Saturday Brooklyn resident Wesley Miles, 66, suspected of attempting to murder a 32-year-old Israeli, following a verbal confrontation between them on the street. On Thursday morning, Miles reportedly fired three shots at the Israeli, who was then taken to a hospital in stable condition. After receiving medical treatment, he got on a plane to Israel to join his reserve unit.

In Madison, Wisconsin, neo-Nazis marched through the streets of the city on Saturday carrying swastika flags and chanting "Heil Hitler." A similar march also took place on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which the university president called "repulsive."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday night in a news conference with Israeli journalists implied that the Western-backed Palestinian Authority (PA) will not return to rule the Gaza Strip once the Palestinian enclave's Islamist rulers Hamas have been defeated.

Netanyahu, who did not mention the PA by name, said that he would oppose Gaza being ruled by "any entity that supports terrorism, pays terrorists or terror families or indoctrinates its children to annihilate the State of Israel."

He stated that one of the war's goals is "to ensure that after victory, Gaza will never again threaten Israeli citizens," adding that "the IDF will have complete freedom in Gaza to counter any threat. This is the only way to guarantee our victory."

First published: 08:36, 11.19.23

11.18.23 – Sa

Netanyahu justifies humanitarian aid: We told a million people to head south

11.18.23 – Sa

Netanyahu justifies humanitarian aid despite criticism: 'We're the ones who told over a million people to head south'

During a press conference with Gallant and Gantz, the Prime Minister talked about why they're bringing diesel fuel into the Gaza Strip: 'We need to give humanitarian aid to keep getting support from the U.S. Without it, even our allies will find it hard to back us.'

Gilad Meiri, Itamar Eichner | 18:53

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and former IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz are holding a press conference to discuss the ongoing war efforts. Netanyahu stressed the three ongoing objectives: Destroying all Hamas infrastructure and forces, the unconditional return of all hostages and making sure no other terrorist forces continue to govern the enclave after the war ends.

"We have successfully neutralized thousands of terrorists, and high-ranking officials have been taken out. Hamas government hubs have been decimated, tunnels have been obliterated, among other accomplishments."

Netanyahu also spoke of the march to Jerusalem by the families of the hostages, saying: "We march with you, as soon as there is news, we will convey it."

On the international front and the issue of pressure from the United States, Netanyahu stressed that "we're facing a lot of heat both from inside the US and internationally these

past few weeks." He mentioned that Israel stood strong against many demands - like not stepping foot in the Gaza Strip, Gaza City, and Al-Shifa Hospital, but Israel went into all of them anyway. "They pushed us hard to agree to a complete ceasefire - we said no, and I made it crystal clear that we'd only agree to a temporary pause in fighting, and that too only if our hostages were returned."

Netanyahu further justified inserting Humanitarian aid by saying: "We're the ones who told over a million people to head south, which is why we made the decision we did. It's important to prevent the spread of diseases in Gaza, which can also reach Israel. With regards to the rotation that is scheduled in the foreign ministry, I honestly haven't thought of it. We're managing a war here. I cannot discuss the exact detail of any hostage return deal. We're dealing with a ruthless and cynical enemy, and I can safely say the war cabinet is working very well."

When confronted with his own words in 2008 against then-Premier Olmert about his failure to protect amid rocket attacks, Netanyahu: "There will be time to deal with this when it's over. I'm not retreating from what I said."

After several questions regarding political ramifications with the public allegedly losing trust in Netanyahu's government, he responded angrily: "I'm shocked. Our troops are out there in Gaza, risking their lives, some are dying. The families of those kidnapped are living their worst fears, and this is what you choose to do? We can deal with politics later. Right now, everyone agrees on one thing - we need to meet those three goals."

Defense Minister Gallant said Hamas "is playing with our emotions, but we are committed to returning every single hostage, it is my utmost duty. Hamas cares only for itself. Dealing with political matters weakens us, and the people are behind us on this matter. I recommend this should be your focus as well."

"There's no difference between a terrorist who walks around armed inside Gaza and one that strolls around in a 3-piece suit in a different country, there's all dead men walking," Minister Gallant responded to a question about how to pursue Hamas officials outside of Gaza. "This is a prolonged conflict, and we hope it does not spread to the northern front as well. Hamas is taking a real beating. They're losing their main offices, their tunnels, and their hideouts. Their leaders are getting hit left and right, from the big shots to the foot soldiers. Thousands of these bad guys have been taken out in just the last week or so."

Minister Benny Gantz began by conveying his condolences for the fallen soldiers' families, and commended the civil engagement to help the soldiers and their families, saying "it is our strength, that's how we will win the war in its entirety. Opposition chair Yair Lapid is more than welcome to join this government to aid with the effort. His place is guaranteed."

He additionally gave his support to the IDF Chief of Staff and heads of both Mossad and Shin Bet: "All of Israel stands with you. We're stepping up our efforts, and we won't stop until we've made sure everyone's safe and our boys are back home." Gantz said that the battle isn't slowing down anytime soon, and only after some more tough fighting will we finally have peace and safety: "We'll keep at it for as long as we need to. We won't back down."

11.18.23 – Sa

Jordan doubts Israel can destroy Hamas; sees risk of PA expelled from West Bank.

11.18.23 – Sa

Jordan doubts Israel can destroy Hamas as Gaza war rages

Kingdom's top diplomat says 'Hamas is an ideology, and ideas cannot be eliminated with weapons' and that Palestinian terror group 'cannot be placed in the same category' with ISIS

Lior Ben Ari, Reuters | 04:07

Jordan's foreign minister voiced doubt on Saturday that Israel could reach its goal of obliterating Hamas with its heavy bombardment and invasion of the Gaza Strip long dominated by the Palestinian terrorist movement.

"Israel says it wants to wipe out Hamas. There's a lot of military people here, I just don't understand how this objective can be realized," Ayman Safadi said at the annual IISS Manama Dialogue security summit in Bahrain.

"Nothing justifies the war in Gaza, and it does not bring security to Israel. Hamas is an ideology, and ideas cannot be eliminated with weapons. Hamas and ISIS cannot be placed in the same category," he added.

Israel vowed to annihilate Hamas since its deadly Oct. 7 cross-border rampage into Israel. Since then, Israel has bombed much of Gaza City to rubble as it has subdued the enclave's north and turned to stepping up attacks on Hamas in the south.

Israel's devastating blitz of Gaza has raised questions over who would govern the densely populated enclave in the event of a Hamas defeat in the enclave it has ruled since 2007.

Only the Palestinian Authority (PA), the Western-backed entity that exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank, could run Gaza after the Israel-Hamas war is over, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

"Hamas cannot be in control of Gaza any longer," Borrell told the Manama Dialogue, an annual conference on foreign and security policy. "So who will be in control of Gaza? I think only one could do that - the Palestinian Authority."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said the PA could play a role in administering Gaza if there was a full political solution - moves toward Palestinian statehood on lands Israel captured in the 1967 Six-Day War - that also encompassed the West Bank.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have been frozen since 2014. The PA is deeply unpopular among Palestinians, perceived largely as a corrupt security subcontractor for Israel, and Israel is now under a hardline religious-nationalist government.

Hamas took over Gaza after a brief civil war in 2007 with Abbas' Fatah party. Years of reconciliation talks between the rivals failed to reach a breakthrough for resuming PA

administration of Gaza. The PA still pays for electricity, water and some civil servant salaries in Gaza.

About two-thirds of Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians have been displaced by Israel's onslaught. Many of those who have fled fear their homelessness could become permanent.

Safadi warned Jordan would do "whatever it takes to stop" such displacement. "We will never allow that to happen, in addition to it being a war crime, it would be a direct threat to our national security. We'll do whatever it takes to stop it."

Jordan, which shares a border with the West Bank, absorbed the bulk of Palestinians who fled or were driven out of their homes when Israel was created in 1948.

The Gaza war has stirred fears of upheaval in Jordan with officials seeing a risk that Israel could expel Palestinians en masse from the West Bank.

"This war is not taking us anywhere but toward more conflict, more suffering and the threat of expanding into regional wars," said Safadi.

U.S. President Joe Biden's top adviser on the Middle East told the Manama conference that the release of hostages held by Hamas would lead to a surge in the delivery of humanitarian aid and a significant pause in fighting in Gaza.

"The hostages are released, you will see a significant, significant change," Brett McGurk told the Manama conference.

Bahrain's crown prince, addressing the gathering on Friday, called on Hamas to release Israeli women and children held hostage and for Israel in exchange to release from its prisons Palestinian women and children who he said were non-combatants.

11.18.23 – Sa

5 terrorists, including commander, killed in Israeli drone strike in West Bank

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Army says 'IDF aircraft struck a hideout used by terrorists involved in planning imminent terror attacks against Israeli civilians and military targets'

Einav Halabi, Reuters | 02:00

The Palestinians reported overnight Saturday that Israel carried out a drone strike on the Fatah headquarters in the Balata camp near Nablus.

"[A]n IDF aircraft struck a hideout used by terrorists involved in planning imminent terror attacks against Israeli civilians and military targets," a joint IDF and Shin Bet statement read.

The attack targeted a location where five terrorists were present, including Mahmoud a-Zoufi, the commander of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades—the armed wing of Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement—and most wanted individual in the refugee camp. The Red Crescent reported that all five were killed in the attack.

During the operation, the forces dismantled an explosives production facility in the area, seizing several ready-to-use explosive devices. Additionally, an engineering vehicle uncovered explosive devices hidden beneath and along the sides of the road, intended to target the forces. Throughout the mission, terrorists opened fire at the forces, who responded with live fire. There were no reported injuries among the IDF personnel.

The terrorists eliminated in the operation included Muhammad Zahed, a resident of the camp and a notable figure in Nablus's terrorist activities. Zahed was involved in various shooting attacks mostly in the Nablus area, and notably in an April 2023 shooting in Jerusalem, which resulted in the wounding of two Israeli civilians. He was reportedly planning further terror acts.

"Zahed took part in the hostile terror activity in the Balata Camp and founded a terrorist cell composed of the camp's youth, which he armed with explosives and weapons for terror activities against IDF soldiers entering the camp," the IDF statement read.

"In the past, he carried out shooting attacks against IDF soldiers, sent terrorists to carry out terror attacks and rallied the camp against IDF forces. In addition, Zahed received weapons and funds to further terror attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers and began to produce explosives for the battalion."

According to Palestinian sources, one of the eliminated terrorists was involved in a shooting attack near the settlement of Beit Lid. The other three fatalities were terrorists from the Balata Brigade.

Klein, a reservist on duty, was driving when terrorists overtook his vehicle between the Shavei Shomron and Enav settlements and opened fire. Klein lost control of his vehicle, which veered off the road and overturned. He was declared dead shortly after.

The terrorists' vehicle fled the scene. IDF forces initiated a pursuit of the suspects and blocked roads in the area where shell casings were found.

11.16.23 – Th

Hostage photos on laptop in Hamas command center at Gaza Shifa Hospital

11.16.23 – Th

Gallant says troops find significant material at Shifa EU chief, in Israel, conflates IDF actions in Gaza with Hamas massacre

Military says photos found of Ori Megidish taken from online posts before abduction; IDF spokesman tells BBC US declines to use veto on UNSC resolution that also calls for release of hostages

ynet correspondents, Agencies|Updated:06:59

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said on Thursday that the military uncovered significant material in its operation at the Shifa hospital. "We've taken over and cleared the western

part of Gaza City and are moving on to the next phase of the operation," Gallant said on a visit to troops operating in Gaza. "The deeper we go, the more pressure is put on Hamas," he said. "That will increase the chances of returning our hostages."

Troops from the Shaldag unit and other IDF forces continue to operate in the area of Al Shifa Hospital area in Gaza City. The forces go from building to building and scan all the floors, while there are still hundreds of patients and medical staff. According to the IDF, "the activity is conducted with discretion, patience and thoroughness, while carrying out an assessment of the situation in the field and an investigation that is conducted on the spot. So far, not a single medical staff member or IDF soldier has been injured in the activity.

The military said that a photo of Or Megidish, the IDF soldier freed from captivity by forces at the start of the ground incursion into Gaza, were found on a laptop in the Hamas command center at Shifa Hospital. The photos were posted online before October 7. European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged Israel on Thursday not to be consumed by rage in its response to last month's Hamas attack, declaring that "one horror does not justify another," conflating the IDF actions in Gaza with the Hamas massacre on October 7.

Borrell made his remarks on a visit to Israel, speaking alongside Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen after the two men had visited Kibbutz Be'eri, a focal point of bloody Hamas attack. "I understand your rage but let me ask you not to be consumed by rage. I think that's what the best friends of Israel can tell you," he said. Borrell stressed the EU's solidarity with Israel and its support for the country's right to defend itself in line with international law. "But one thing is to defend Israel and another thing's to take care of the people in need," he added.

The IDF spokesman for foreign media, Jonathan Conricus, on Thursday told a BBC team that accompanied IDF forces raiding certain areas of Al Shifa hospital that photos of some of the hostages were found on the laptop computers at the hospital, taken after they were kidnapped to Gaza. "We uncovered a lot of equipment that can shed light on the current situation, hopefully also regarding the hostages," he said.

Also on Thursday afternoon, the IDF released the name of another IDF soldier killed in Gaza. Capt. Shlomo Ben Nun, 22, from Modiin, was killed in fighting overnight in northern Gaza. Ben Nun was a company deputy commander in the 202nd Battalion of the Paratroop Brigade. It is the third soldier announced killed for the day.

Israel Police Commissioner Yaakov Shabtai said early Thursday afternoon at the scene of an attack at the tunnel checkpoint near Jerusalem, that left six injured, one critically, that the terrorists intended to carry out a massacre. "They planned an attack on a completely different scale," he said, "Even the dates for the attacks found in their possession testify to that." Two M16 weapons were seized at the scene of the attack, two guns, hundreds of bullets, two axes, about 10 cartridges and clothing resembling an IDF uniform.

The IDF late on Thursday morning attacked targets in Lebanon with fighter jets in a proactive action and not a response to rocket fire.

Early Thursday morning, the IDF released the names of two more soldiers who have been killed in the fighting in Gaza, bringing to 50 the number of soldiers who have been killed since the start of the Gaza ground operation.

Cpt. Asaf Master, 22, from Kibbutz Bahan in central Israel, a platoon commander in the 401st Brigade's 601 Battalion (part of the Combat Engineering Corps), and Cpt. Kfir Itzhak Franco, 22, from Jerusalem, a platoon commander in the 401st Brigade's 52nd Battalion were killed in battles in the northern Gaza Strip, according to the IDF. In addition, a reserves officer with the Negev Brigade was seriously wounded during fighting in Gaza yesterday, and a reserves military member with the Gaza Division was seriously wounded during operational activity in the area of the Gaza border.

In Japan Thursday morning, a car crashed into a barrier near the Israeli embassy in Tokyo. A police officer was injured and according to reports from the state, an "extreme right-wing activist" was arrested. The investigation continues.

The United States on Wednesday night did not use its veto in the United Nations Security Council on a resolution calling for humanitarian pauses in Gaza along with the immediate release of the hostages. The resolution was submitted by Malta, and supported by Arab countries - including the United Arab Emirates, which is a member of the Council. A total of 12 countries voted in favor of it, and the U.S., U.K. and Russia abstained. The resolution calls for "urgent and extensive humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days to allow full, rapid, safe and unrestricted humanitarian access."

U.S. President Joe Biden late Wednesday after a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping said that he was "relatively optimistic" about reaching a hostage deal, and clarified that he "doesn't know how long the war in Gaza will last. The Israeli operation will end when Hamas no longer has the ability to do horrific things to Israelis."

The US president added that Israel is taking risks in operating around Al Shifa hospital, and "people are being killed in Gaza", and clarified that "Israel has an obligation to use as much caution as they can in going after their targets. Hamas said they plan to attack Israelis again and this is terrible dilemma." He also said that "Hamas committed war crimes when it placed command centers under hospitals."

Biden also said that he made it clear "to the Israelis that it would be a mistake to reoccupy the Gaza Strip" and that he told Benjamin Netanyahu that "the two-state solution is the only solution."

Six police officers were injured during violent clashes with pro-Palestinian Jewish demonstrators in Washington. About 150 people protested in front of the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC, calling for a cease-fire in the war between Israel and Hamas. According to the Capitol Police, the demonstration was "illegal and violent." As the demonstration broke out, members of Congress were evacuated from the building. According to Brad Sherman, a Jewish member of the House of Representatives from the Democratic Party, he was evacuated by the police after "the protesters started spraying the police with pepper spray and trying to break into the building."

Videos posted on social media showed protesters pushing police officers and trying to grab the barriers set up on the spot. The police made arrests, and in some of the videos police officers were seen pushing protesters. The group "IfNot Now," one of the organizers of the protest, published on the X social media platform that "the police are particularly violent" in the demonstration. The organization also wrote that "we are begging our politicians to support an end to the killing and suffering in Gaza. We are begging, in a non-violent way, for a cease-fire."

First published: 08:03, 11.16.23

11.16.23 – Th

UN Malta resolution for 3-day cease-fire & release of all hostages

11.16.23 – Th

No condemnation of Hamas: UN Security Council passes resolution calling for temporary cease-fire, hostage return

The resolution submitted by Malta is first to pass since war began, and calls for a cease-fire for several days as well as the unconditional release of all hostages, but somehow failed to condemn Hamas war crimes; Amb. Erdan: 'Resolution is disconnected from reality'

Itamar Eichner|Updated:02:38

Without inclusion of a condemnation of Hamas' horrific massacre on October 7, the United Nations Security Council's resolution on Wednesday called for a cease-fire of several days as well as the release of all hostages held by the Iranian proxy. While the United States was displeased at the omission of criticism for Hamas, it chose not to veto the resolution.

Mostly declarative in nature, the resolution does require UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres to supervise its implementation and report on this at the next Security Council meeting.

Malta submitted the resolution, which received wide support from the Muslim world – including the United Arab Emirates – while the United States, United Kingdom and Russia all abstained. The resolution specifies "urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days to enable, consistent with international humanitarian law, the full, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners."

This is the first resolution successfully passed in the Security Council regarding the war in Gaza, after no less than four failed attempts to pass one, with Russia having failed twice before to secure the requisite amount of votes, and with the United States vetoing another failed resolution promoted by Brazil.

While Israel was happy about the part that called for the unconditional release of all hostages held inside the enclave, Gilad Erdan, Israeli ambassador to the UN, found the

other parts of the resolution disheartening. "Regardless of what the council decides, Israel will continue acting according to international law while the Hamas terrorists will not even read the resolution at all, let alone abide by it," he said in a statement, labeling the resolution "disconnected from reality and meaningless."

A spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry, Lior Haiat, responded to the vote. "Israel calls on the Security Council and the international community to insist on the release of all Israeli hostages quickly as the resolution stipulates," he said.

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian ambassador to the UN, said he was pleased that the council is "finally acting." However, he expressed his disappointment over its failure to demand a cease-fire. Mansour further voiced his disapproval of the council's silence on the tragic death of civilians and humanitarian aid workers.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, laid the blame on both Hamas and Israel. "The atrocities perpetrated by Palestinian armed groups on October 7 were heinous, brutal and shocking, they were war crimes – as is the continued holding of hostages," he said in a statement. "The collective punishment by Israel of Palestinian civilians amounts also to a war crime, as does the unlawful forcible evacuation of civilians."

Acknowledging the loss of 101 U.N. staff members since the war started, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield noted, "Terrorists continue to lob bombs into Israel."

However, since the resolution failed to condemn the actions of Hamas, Thomas-Greenfield expressed horror and shame. "What are they afraid of?" she asked. "What is stopping them from unequivocally condemning the actions of a terrorist organization that is determined to kill Jews?"

First published: 09:39, 11.16.23

11.15.23 – We

IDF enter Gaza Hospital with bulldozers, troops locate room with combat equipment

11.15.23 – We

IDF forces enter Gaza's Al Shifa Hospital with bulldozers, Palestinians report Hospital staff gunfire heard as bulldozers clear vehicles from hospital entrance; Army says found weapons and military command centers within hospital complex; UN Security Council calls for 'urgent and extended humanitarian pauses' in fighting
Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi, Reuters, Meir Ohayon|Updated:16:03

IDF forces have entered Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City through the southern entrance, for the second time, with bulldozers, the Palestinians reported Wednesday night.

Washington DC rally for Israel: Largest Jewish gathering in Jewish history

The head of the burns department in the hospital said that gunfire could be heard and that bulldozers were clearing vehicles from the entrance to allow military hardware to enter.

IDF Spokesperson Lt. Col. (res.) Jonathan Conricus from inside Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City

Earlier, the IDF released evidence of Hamas weapons and military command centers inside the Al Shifa hospital complex during a raid on the medical center.

"During searches in one of the hospital's wards, the troops located a room with technological assets, along with military and combat equipment used by the Hamas terrorist organization," the army said in a statement, adding that troops engaged and killed several Hamas terrorists inside the hospital complex.

"In another ward, the soldiers located an operational command center and technological assets belonging to Hamas, indicating that the terrorist organization uses the hospital for terrorist purposes."

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday called for urgent and extended humanitarian pauses in fighting between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip for a "sufficient number of days" to allow humanitarian aid access.

The United States, Russia and Britain, who are council veto powers, abstained from the vote on the resolution drafted by Malta. The remaining 12 members voted in favor.

A U.S. Navy warship shot down a drone in the Red Sea that emanated from Yemen, two U.S. officials told Reuters on Wednesday, in what appeared to be only the second time the United States has brought down projectiles near its warships since the Israel-Hamas conflict began.

Speaking anonymously, the officials said the Thomas Hudner, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, took down the drone early morning local time.

The officials did not say whether the drone was armed or how close it came to the ship before being shot down.

After 18 hours of quiet, Hamas fired rockets at Ashkelon and the surrounding area on Wednesday afternoon. Damage was caused when a rocket fell inside the city but no injuries were reported. At the same time, sirens warned of incoming fire on the upper Galilee, again after long hours of calm on the northern border. The IDF launched attacks in South Lebanon in response.

Reuters reported on Wednesday that a deal was being negotiated by Qatar that would include the release of 50 hostages held by Hamas in exchange for a 3-day cease fire and the release of 50 Palestinians convicted for terrorism from Israeli prisons. According to the agency, Hamas agreed to the general outlines of this deal but Israel had not and negotiations were still taking place.

"The deal, under discussion, which has been coordinated with the U.S., would also see Israel release some Palestinian women and children from Israeli jails and increase the amount of humanitarian aid allowed into Gaza, the official said."

The families of hostages held by Hamas were on the second day of the march to Jerusalem to call on the government to do all that was necessary to free their loved ones.

The Bank of Israel called on the government to **stop the transfer of funds to coalition parties from the 2024 budget**. "There is much importance in the government blocking new expenses now," the Bank said in a statement. The move indicates that **Bank** chairman Amir Yaron had positioned himself alongside, Finance Ministry officials who have been **opposing Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich's decision** to continue providing coalition parties with **funds agreed on before the war**, out of the 2023 budget and refused to announce he would block the transfer of such funds out of the 2024 budget. The funds are needed to meet the **financial demands** brought on by the war in Gaza, **to provide solutions for the victims of the Hamas atrocities and for displaced Israelis who were told to move away from the southern and northern borders**.

The government was **urged to dissolve ministries** created upon its rise to power, which were **established to satisfy coalition parties' demands** for ministerial positions for their members. These ministries are now **deemed wasteful and costly**, and their **budgets** are proposed to be **redirected toward the war effort**.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan **said** on Wednesday **Israel was a "terror state"** committing war crimes and violating international law in Gaza while repeating **his view that Hamas was not a terrorist organization**.

Speaking to lawmakers in parliament, Erdogan also called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to announce whether Israel had nuclear bombs or not, and added that the Israeli premier was a "goner" from his post. He said Hamas was a political party that Palestinians had elected.

The **IDF** said on **Wednesday** that forces were **operating in** a specific area of Al Shifa **Hospital in Gaza**. "We can confirm that incubators, baby food and medical supplies brought by IDF tanks from Israel have successfully reached Al Shifa Hospital. Our **medical teams and Arabic-speaking soldiers** are on the ground to **ensure** that these **supplies reach those in need**," the military said in an announcement.

The **BBC** claimed **IDF soldiers were targeting Arabic speakers including doctors** at the hospital but then **apologized** for the claim, saying it had misquoted a **Reuters report that the IDF had come in with doctors and Arabic speakers**.

11.15.23 – We

Geneva, UN & WHO refuse to screen Israel propaganda videos of Hamas atrocities

11.15.23 – We

'Israeli propaganda': Belgian parliament refuses to screen videos of Hamas atrocities
The Israeli embassy request denied on the grounds that it was **an attempt to whitewash 'war crimes'**; **In Geneva**, Israeli officials called for the Red Cross to gain access to the hostages

Itamar Eichner|04:45

President of the **Belgian** Senate, Stephanie D'Hose, **denied** a proposal by **Israeli** Ambassador to Brussels Idit Rozenzweig Abu **to screen the 47 minute video of Hamas**

atrocities committed on October 7 over skepticism expressed by certain party leaders. When the ambassador tried to present a condensed version of the film to the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, she faced unequivocal rejection, with claims that it was an Israeli propaganda effort aimed at obscuring "war crimes".

Wouter De Vriendt, a representative of the Green Party, leveled accusations at the ambassador: "More than 4,000 children have already perished in bombings. How many more need to die before you take action?" he said. He pointed out that some political figures in Israel are discussing ethnic cleansing and genocide. "The elimination of a Hamas leader that resulted in the death of civilians is a scandal, especially for a nation like Israel. They constitute war crimes," he said. "You're targeting schools, mosques, and United Nations employees. I had anticipated that a democratic nation like Israel would maintain higher standards. I was supportive of Israel right after the October 7th attack, but I can no longer sustain that stance. The brutality needs to stop."

The Friends of Israel organization in Belgium sharply criticized the parliament speaker, stating: "It's intriguing that the parliament presidents faced no hurdle in agreeing to host a propaganda photo exhibition related to Palestinian terrorism last year. The hypocrisy of the parliament presidents is disgraceful; Their weakness enabled this affront last year, and their spineless nature disrespected the victims this year."

In a meeting in Geneva, Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and Health Minister Uriel Busso met with the President of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spoljaric, in a meeting that also included family members of Israeli hostages held by Hamas in Gaza.

Minister Cohen stated, "The Red Cross must employ all possible means to promptly visit the hostages, which include children, women, and the elderly, currently under the detention of the terrorist organization, Hamas." He continued, "The Red Cross should focus its attention on the massive humanitarian crisis that Hamas is causing in Gaza, rather than on Israel, a nation that abides by and upholds international law."

Busso then added, "Gaza is suffering greatly due to the alarming fact that Hamas terrorists are using hospitals as bases for their operations. I expect a strong condemnation from the international community on this matter - it is unacceptable for medical facilities to be exploited as shields for terrorist activities."

The ministers and representatives of the captive families met with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO). During the meeting, they made a clear demand for the organization to expose Hamas's exploitation of hospitals in the Gaza Strip for terrorist activities.

Minister Cohen stated, "The blatant misuse of hospitals by the terrorist group Hamas represents a glaring failure of the WHO and UN organizations. The world's largest terrorist infrastructure has been established right under the noses of these organizations. This constitutes a dual war crime, with missiles and rockets being launched at the Israeli populace from the vicinity of hospitals. As of today, Hamas terrorists continue to operate within the basements of Gaza hospitals and, as per estimates, Israeli captives were taken there on October 7."

11.15.23 – We

US fills massive IDF munitions request of missiles, bombs, shells and more

11.15.23 – We

U.S. fulfills IDF munitions requests despite concerns for Gaza civilians, report
Pentagon declines to comment on list provided by IDF including laser guided missiles,
bunker busting bombs artillery shells and more, according to defense officials
Ynet|02:43

The U.S. administration is urging Israel to avoid civilian casualties in the war against Hamas in Gaza but at the same time, the supply of munitions to Israel continues, "practically on a daily basis," American defense officials said.

White House says it has evidence Hamas using Shifa hospital to run military operations
According to a Bloomberg report, the pentagon is transferring military aid according to requests from Israel and in addition to the ongoing provision of munitions for the Iron Dome missile defense system and smart bombs.

The report cited a document outlining the requests from a "senior Israeli leader," of weapons that have been delivered in recent weeks or would be delivered to the IDF. It includes some 2,000 laser guided missiles to arm Apache attack choppers and 57,000 155mm artillery shells.

The U.S. is also delivering 36,000 30mm shells, 1,800 M-141 bunker busting bombs and at least 3,500, night vision goggles out of the 5,000 requested by the Israeli government. The list also includes M4A1 assault rifles, 120 mm mortars and dozens of military vehicles. The U.S. also transferred two Iron Dome batteries and 312 munitions for them.

The Pentagon spokesperson declined to comment on the report, but officials said the list of munitions would bolster the ways to ensure Israel has the means to defend itself. "It appears that the IDF is using Apache choppers to support troops encountering Hamas operatives on the ground," Michael Eisenstadt director of the Military and Security Studies Program at The Washington Institute said. "They may also be using laser guided missiles for targeted killings of senior Hamas officials, when possible."

11.15.23 – We

Hamas film seen in Congress, Senate will see Thursday, Sanders wants cease-fire

11.15.23 – We

Shock and tears: Hamas massacre film screened in Congress
About 150 members of the House of Representatives watched the Hamas atrocities, filmed by the terrorists; They left the screening crying and comforting each other - 'How can anyone call for a cease-fire after this?'

Daniel Edelson, New York, Itamar Eichner | 17:21

Two weeks after the screening in the Knesset of the film of Hamas' atrocities on October 7, more lawmakers watched the film that includes very difficult documentation of the massacre committed by Hamas terrorists, this time in the United States. Hours before the giant pro-Israel rally in Washington on Tuesday, the Israeli Embassy in the United States screened the 47-minute film compiled by the IDF spokesman from body-cam footage and cell phone videos to about 150 members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats.

The screening was organized by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and many members of Congress were very upset by the film, including those considered critical of Israel. US senators will have the opportunity to see a screening of the film on Thursday.

The Jewish Insider site reported that the legislators left the hall in silence, looking shocked, with some crying and consoling each other. One of them, Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, D-Wash., left the screening in tears less than five minutes after entering.

Among those present was New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, from the party's progressive wing, who just a day earlier participated in a rally outside of Congress where she and her fellow progressive Squad members called for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza.

"How can anyone call a cease-fire after seeing this?" said Republican Rep. Mike Lawler, who visited Israel over the weekend, as he left the screening.

Other congressmen compared the shocking sights to the Holocaust. "I feel the same way I felt when I visited Auschwitz-Birkenau," said Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif. "These are war crimes." Ted Lieu, D-Calif., said only: "Never again."

Rep. Haley Stevens, D-Mich., said she was "simply shocked," adding: "Seeing on video people celebrating the murder of Jews shows us who is standing in front of us. It is unbelievable to see things like this in 2023, in places we have all been."

Sara Jacobs, D-Calif., added: "It's horrifying and terrifying."

Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson attended the screening for a few minutes. He later described the film as "agonizing" and urged the Senate to pass legislation to increase aid to Israel, "because the movie makes everyone cry," he said.

"I agree with our friend, Prime Minister Netanyahu, who said that this is a war between good and evil, between light and darkness, between civilization and barbarism," added Johnson. "We want to make it clear where America stands in this war, and we will continue to do so."

Israel's ambassador to Washington Mike Herzog said that Israel will continue to present the evidence of Hamas atrocities on October 7 to fight the deniers and show the international community that it cannot allow a cruel enemy that celebrates the massacre to continue repeating its actions.

Meanwhile, on Monday, progressive Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who refuses to publicly support a cease-fire despite the pressure exerted on him by a small number of his constituents and colleagues, met at the Israeli consulate in New York with Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan. He said that he came to the meeting to "hear directly from key leaders about urgent efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and end the unacceptably high loss of civilian life."

Together with his colleague Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vermont, Sanders also met with the Palestinian representative in the U.N., Riyad Mansour, the U.S. representative to the U.N., Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and with the U.N. Sec.-Gen. Antonio Guterres. At the same time, the members of the progressive wing in the House of Representatives known as the squad held a press conference, and called for an immediate cease-fire.

In a statement issued by Waltz and Sanders, they said that the meetings are being held, "with the aim of doing everything we can to stop the indiscriminate bombings that are causing massive civilian casualties, and to bring desperately needed humanitarian aid and protect innocent people in Gaza. This is a humanitarian catastrophe and we need to act now." They expressed their condolences to Guterres for the loss of more than 100 U.N. aid workers in Gaza and "cheered the courage of UN personnel who continue to do life-saving work under extremely difficult circumstances."

Sanders has said several times that, despite his support for a cease-fire for humanitarian purposes, he "does not see how it is possible to reach a permanent cease-fire with an organization like Hamas, whose goal is to destroy the State of Israel. I think the Arab countries in the region understand that Hamas must disappear." Nevertheless, he attacked Israel's policy during a speech to members of Congress regarding the American aid package, and called on the White House to intervene immediately for a humanitarian cease-fire.

Sanders condemned Hamas and called the regime a "nightmare," but claimed that the Israeli occupation and the policies of the Netanyahu government led to the conditions that created the October 7 attack. "Israel has no right to bomb an entire neighborhood to eliminate one unit of Hamas, but that is what it is doing. Just as we want justice for Israelis murdered by Hamas, we want justice for the Palestinians, who need a state. The first step should be to stop the bombings and deliver as much aid as possible Humanitarian to Gaza," he said on Monday.

11.14.23 – Tu

More than 160 tunnels, 2,800 infrastructures & 1,000 terrorists eliminated in Gaza

11.14.23 – Tu

More than 160 tunnel shafts, 2,800 terrorist infrastructures and 1,000 terrorists were attacked in Gaza

IDF announces it has gained operational control of the Shati refugee camp, where many infrastructures and forces of Hamas battalions were located; The forces eliminated

operatives, located tunnel shafts and cleared a school where anti-tank launcher positions were found – See the video
Elisha Ben Kimon | 12:28

The IDF spokesman announced Tuesday evening that the combined Nahal Brigade and commando combat forces took control of the Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip in the last few hours. In addition, the IDF said that the 162nd Division forces located more than 160 tunnel shafts in the Gaza Strip, attacked about 2,800 terrorist infrastructures and eliminated some 1,000 terrorists and Hamas commanders.

IDF announces death in captivity of Noa Marciano, soldier who appeared in Hamas video
In Shati, one of the main centers of the terrorist organization in the Gaza Strip, there are many Hamas infrastructure and battalions, including the Shati Battalion, which played a central role in the invasion and massacre of October 7th. According to the IDF announcement, The 401st Brigade's combined combat forces entered the Gaza Strip and led the rest of the forces from the northern Gaza Strip into the Shati refugee camp.

"The combined combat forces of the Givati Brigade and forces from the 401st Brigade struck numerous targets on the outskirts of Shati camp from ground and air. Among them were central buildings and government institutions belonging to the terrorist organization Hamas, from which terrorist activity was directed against the citizens of Israel and our forces," the IDF said in a statement.

"The Nahal Brigade's combined combat forces took control of the Shati outpost, destroyed terrorist infrastructure, eliminated terrorists and located 5 tunnel shafts. During the operation, the forces apprehended Hamas terrorists, who were transferred to Israeli territory for interrogation," the statement also said.

In addition, forces from the Commando Brigade operated in the north of Shati camp to locate Shati battalion operatives and to destroy Hamas infrastructure. The forces of the brigade raided and secured buildings deep inside the camp and struck many enemy infrastructures. In addition, they operated to clear a school area where anti-tank missile launchers, a large amount of weaponry including IEDs and terrorist infrastructure were found, the IDF said.

Hours before the ground forces entered the Shati compound, the Air Force struck Hamas targets in the camp and the 215th Brigade opened fire in order to prepare the area for the operations of the ground forces.

In addition, according to the IDF spokesman, "as part of the division's activity in the Gaza Strip, the 162nd Division forces raided strategic and vital assets of the terrorist organization, including the Force 17 outpost, the Hamas security quarter, Rantisi Hospital used by Hamas for military activities and holding hostages, and the Bader outpost," an IDF spokesman said.

"We have created conditions for dismantling the military and governmental capabilities of Hamas in Gaza City. Since the beginning of the war, the IDF forces and the 162nd Division forces have been dismantling Hamas' centers and capabilities it had built over

the years. From the beginning of the ground operation, the division forces eliminated over 1000 terrorists. The forces also significantly decreased missile launches towards the State of Israel from the northern Gaza Strip, reducing them by approximately 80%," according to the commander of Division 162, Lt. Col. Itzik Cohen

11.14.23 – Tu

South Africa supports Hamas; mulls severing embassy ties with Israel

11.14.23 – Tu

South Africa mulls severing ties with Israel amid Hamas war

Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor calls 1,400 victims of Hamas massacre 'soldiers' and 'settlers' and speaks with terror group leaders after atrocities; Pretoria mulling expulsion of Israeli ambassador but fears economic blowback from US

Itamar Eichner|06:06

Israel and South Africa are heading toward a severing of diplomatic ties. Although the South African government had been critical of Israel before the war, it has since come out firmly on the side of Hamas and indicated it was considering recalling the charge d'affaires at the embassy in Tel Aviv, back to Pretoria and ending the relations between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor who spoke with Hamas leaders at the start of the war blamed the massacre on Israel and said that Hamas killed 1,400 soldiers and settlers on October 7. She also called for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court, for war crimes.

In 2018, the South African government recalled its envoy to Israel and has since not had a diplomat assigned to the post, in protest of Israeli strikes on Gaza and said the diplomatic relations with Israel were under review.

The Pretoria government also maintains good relations with Iran and was instrumental in calls to include Iran along with six other nations, in the BRICS economic bloc, which includes Brazil, Russia, China, and India as well as South Africa. Pandor visited Tehran in October.

Pandor leads a radical wing of the ANC in opposition to President Cyril Ramphosa. The country has a Muslim population numbering between five and seven million and has advanced the ANC policy of supporting national liberation groups such as the Palestinians and countries such as Cuba, Venezuela and Iran.

But the government also has a capitalist economy that depends greatly on cooperation with the West and has therefore avoided being identified with countries seen as the "axis of evil," wishing to continue receiving economic benefits from the United States that allow it to export goods under favorable conditions.

The ties to Hamas have been good for many years and in 2015, a delegation of the terror group visited the African nation at the invitation of then-president Jacob Zuma, raising

anger in both Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Hamas also has a political office in Cape Town, although the Pretoria government denies its existence.

After protest by the local Jewish community, President Ramphosa condemned "the brutal killing of civilians by Hamas," but also expressed support for the "oppressed people in Palestine."

The Foreign Ministry called for the release of hostages held in Gaza but called the victims of the October 7 massacre "soldiers and settlers." The Jewish community slammed the government and called for Hamas to be condemned.

Israel's ambassador to South Africa Eliav Belotsercovsky was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to explain comments he made that Pretoria described as disparaging to the government. The ministry said it was considering the expulsion of the Ambassador although some officials were concerned that such a move would anger the U.S. and would bring an end to South African participation in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which could result in the loss of jobs for tens of thousands of South Africans employed by U.S. owned companies, and would end American investments. Parliamentary opposition parties holding 120 out of the 460 parliamentary seats, have expressed support for Israel.

11.14.23 – Tu

Knesset urges UN find countries to welcome Gaza & West Bank refugees

11.14.23 – Tu

Israeli lawmakers call on world to take in Gazan refugees

In op-ed for WSJ, Likud's Danny Danon and Yesh Atid's Ram Ben Barak say world should uphold practice of providing safe haven for refugees fleeing war through pre-planned programs

Itamar Eichner|05:07

Likud's Danny Danon and Yesh Atid's Ram Ben Barak, both members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, wrote in an editorial published in the Wall Street Journal that the West should take in refugees fleeing the war in Gaza.

They argued that the UN overlooks the truth that Hamas is a problem rather than a solution, and stress that it's crucial for the international community to support Gaza's people and consider innovative approaches to assist them. Their proposal suggests a model seen in other global conflicts, where various countries would welcome Gaza families wishing to migrate out of the war-torn strip for a chance at a better life.

They write, "Countries can accomplish this by creating well-structured and internationally coordinated relocation programs. Members of the international community can collaborate to provide one-time financial support packages to Gazans interested in moving to help with relocation costs and to ease refugees' acclimation to their new communities."

The column also touches on how international NGOs can facilitate this idea into fruition: "Global organizations with experience settling refugees should facilitate the relocation of Gaza residents who wish to move to countries willing to accept them. We simply need a handful of the world's nations to share the responsibility of hosting Gazan residents. Even if countries took in as few as 10,000 people each, it would help alleviate the crisis." The editorial was received with satisfaction by far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich who has supported "voluntary migration" of Palestinians from the West Bank. "This is just the kind of humanitarian solution that people in Gaza and the whole region need after 75 years of having a refugee status, living in poverty and facing dangers. Most Gazans are fourth and fifth generation '48 refugees, who instead of getting the help they needed, like countless other refugees around the world, got stuck in Gaza, living in poverty and overcrowded conditions," Smotrich said.

"This was all part of some twisted plan to wipe out the State of Israel and return the refugees to Jaffa, Haifa, Acre, and Tiberias. This mess is why there's so much hate brewing in the people of Gaza towards the State of Israel and the Jews. It's this kind of hate that can explain the horrific slaughter of Israeli citizens by Hamas-Daesh, acting like Israel is the root of all their problems, and thinking the solution is to take it down."

Smotrich further noted: "A small region like the Gaza Strip, devoid of natural resources and autonomous sources of income, cannot sustain itself independently, both economically and politically, given its high population density over an extended period. Thus, the real solution is the acceptance of these refugees by global nations genuinely interested in their well-being. This should be complemented by generous financial aid from the international community, including the State of Israel. This approach is the only viable one to end the suffering and anguish of both Jews and Arabs. The State of Israel can no longer tolerate an independent entity in Gaza, which, as mentioned, fundamentally thrives on animosity towards Israel and a desire to annihilate it."

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Ynet-News, Nov 13, 2023 – Monday, Abomination—in 18 Days

11.13.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in November 13 spot – Monday A-Day-in-18
Hammas massacre videos screened in Congress Tuesday; as Zionists march in NY

11.13.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday A-Day-in-18
Hammas planned second phase of October 7 attack into West Bank & military bases

11.13.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday A-Day-in-18
Israel Prison vows exchange for terrorist hostages is not on the table

11.12.23 – Su- - - News Placed in November 12 spot – Sunday A-Day-in-19
Potential release 100 women & children for 100 women & minors from prisons

11.11.23 – Sa- - - News Placed in November 11 spot – Saturday A-Day-in-20
IDF struck Syria; terrorism returns to West Bank; Israel will not allow PA return

11.10.23 – Fr- - - News – Friday A-Day-in-21
Pause will allow; restock & repair tunnels & communication, move hostages & troops

11.09.23 – Th- - - News Placed in November 09 spot – Thursday A-Day-in-22
Nearly 10,000 rockets target Israel since October 7, speeds interceptor manufacturing

11.09.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday A-Day-in-22
US & UN media push Hamas propaganda to include terrorists as civilian casualties

11.09.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday A-Day-in-22
Deal for hostages negotiated in Qatar; Israel strikes targets in Lebanon

11.08.23 – We- - - News Placed in November 08 spot – Wednesday A-Day-in-23
Gazans flock through South corridor with white flags for second consecutive day

11.08.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday A-Day-in-23
IDF uncovered dozens of rocket launchers in mosques, youth centers & playgrounds

11.06.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in November 07 spot – Tuesday A-Day-in-25
Israel-Guys Cowboys of Arkansas & Montana help with shortage of workers

11.06.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday A-Day-in-25
Gazans are evacuating to the south: 'The IDF is shooting - but not at us'

11.06.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday A-Day-in-25
US plans Israel to test new technology Spice-family precision-guided bombs

11.06.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in November 06 spot – Monday A-Day-in-25
Rockets in Gaza mosque & youth hall; CIA Director in Israel, will tour Arab States

11.06.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday A-Day-in-25
Netanyahu supports release of October 7 footage; IDF seeks consent of victims' families

11.06.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday A-Day-in-25
Stabbing Attack in the Old City of Jerusalem: 2 soldiers & a young couple

11.05.23 – Su- - - News – Sunday A-Day-in-26
IDF splits Gaza Strip in two & allow a corridor for residents to move south

11.05.23 – Su- - - News – Sunday A-Day-in-26
Bernie Sanders: 'I don't know how you can have cease-fire with Hamas'

11.05.23 – Su - - News Placed in November 05 spot – Sunday A-Day-in-26
 Hamas tunnels under Gaza hospitals shield diesel & weapons & rocket launchers

11.05.23 – Su - - News – Sunday A-Day-in-26
 Ultra-Orthodox Guard training for deterrence & warning to defend their communities