The Prince (Netanyahu) Confirmed the Covenant for one week in UN Sept 19-26 2017 (Dan 9:25-27) seventy wks (Dan 9:25) 7wks & 62 wks, = 69 wks = 483 days (Dan 9:26) after 62 wks cut off = 434 days -366 = 68 (Dan 9:27) 1wk - Sept 19-26, 2017 483 days before Sept 19 = 365 + 1 * (2016 was leap year) = 366 + 117117 + 1yr before Sept 19-26 = May 24, 2015 to May 31, 2015 Midst of May 24 to 31 = May 27-28, 2015 May 27, 2015; First Gaza Rocket attack

(Dan 9:26) after 62 wks cut off = 434 days after May 27, 2025 = August 4, 2016 Aug 4, 2016 =

Newsletter wednesday May 27, 2015

IAF strikes Gaza targets after rocket hits southern Israel

Israeli military believes Grad rocket attack, first into Israel since end of Operation Protective Edge, was likely the result of internal Hamas-Islamic Jihad friction in Gaza • Defense Minister Ya'alon warns attacks on Israel will meet harsh response.

Shlomi Diaz, Lilach Shoval, Daniel Siryoti, News Agencies and Israel Hayom Staff

A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip at Israel [Archive] | Photo: Reuters

The Israeli Air Force struck four terrorist targets in the southern Gaza Strip in the early hours of Wednesday morning, after terrorists fired a Grad rocket at southern Israel on Tuesday night. According to Army Radio, the IAF strikes, carried out around 4 a.m., targeted Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Popular Resistance Committees facilities in Rafah, Beit Lahiya and Khan Younis.

Tuesday's launch was the fourth rocket attack since the conclusion of Operation Protective Edge in August, and the first time a Grad rocket, which has a rage of up to 40 kilometers (24 miles), was fired at southern Israel since last summer. Credit:ReutersThe Color Red alert sounded across the Lachish Regional Council, Ashdod and the surrounding towns at about 9 p.m. The Iron Dome missile defense battery deployed in the area did not engage, and the projectile exploded in an unpopulated area near Gan Yavne, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of Gaza. No damage or injuries were reported, but two people suffered shock and required medical attention. Security forces combed the area on Tuesday night but failed to recover the projectile. The search was resumed on Wednesday morning. While no terrorist group has claimed responsibility for Tuesday's rocket attack, the military believes it was the work of Islamic Jihad, and that the attack was the result of the ongoing internal conflict between the latter and Hamas.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad have denied firing the rocket at Israel.

A statement issued by the IDF Spokesperson's Unit confirmed the strike, saying, "IAF fighter jets struck four terror infrastructures in southern Gaza. The targets were destroyed. The IDF views the attack on Israel gravely, and holds Hamas responsible."

Army Radio further reported that Hamas security forces in Gaza arrested several Islamic Jihad operatives on Wednesday morning, saying they were members of the cell that fired at Israel. According to the report, Hamas "sees the attack as a violation [of the cease-fire], which endangers Gaza."

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said the strikes were "a direct response to Hamas and the aggression against Israeli civilians originating from the Gaza Strip. The reality that Hamas' territory is used as a staging ground to attack Israel is unacceptable and intolerable and will bear consequences."

"If there is no peace and quiet for Israel, the Gaza Strip will pay a heavy price, the kind that would make anyone planning to challenge us sorry," Channel 2 quoted Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon Wednesday.

"Israel will not tolerate attacks on its civilians, like the rocket fired by Islamic Jihad operatives last night, and the IAF struck Islamic Jihad and Hamas targets this morning. Hamas would be wise to curtail any attempt to provoke or fire at Israel, or we will have to act more forcefully. I recommend no one test us," he warned.

While the Homefront Command issued no special instructions for the residents of southern Israel at this time, the Ashdod municipality has temporarily suspended studies in 14 schools and 57 kindergartens that cannot provide students with adequate protection.

"Unfortunately, Hamas is once again trying to escalate the security situation in the South. Israel has to respond to any fire on its communities," Culture and Sports Minister Miri Regev said Tuesday evening.

Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Lieberman said, "A government that will not pledge, as part of its core agenda, to eradicate Hamas' rule in Gaza is a weak government. If [the government] doesn?t come to its senses now, it may as well resign."

Former Eshkol Regional Council head MK Haim Yellin (Yesh Atid) urged a strong military response, adding, "We need to demilitarize the Gaza Strip, in exchange for its rehabilitation and an economic future for its residents. As long as they have nothing to lose, we will suffer."

Zionist Union MK Omer Bar-Lev said, "I urge the prime minister to mount a forceful response. Unfortunately, this is another indication that [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and Ya'alon's lack of clear diplomatic horizon will soon bring about another round of hostilities in southern Israel. We have to present Hamas with our price tag without delay."



(Dan 9:26) after 62 wks cut off = 434 days after May 27, 2025 = August 4, 2016 Aug 4, 2016 =

Newsletter Friday August 5, 2016 Newsletters from: Send to a Friend | Print | PM, defense minister reject plan to build Gaza port on artificial island

PM Netanyahu and Defense Minister Lieberman cite inability to guarantee effective security checks • But IDF, Shin Bet find no security reason not to build port, say diplomatic sources • Foreign and Finance Ministry sources call port a suitable solution.

Shlomo Cesana

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu | Photo: Gideon Markowicz

A proposed artificial island and seaport off the Gaza Strip coast appears to be sinking. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman have spoken out against Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz's plan for the port, citing an inability to guarantee goods and people entering and exiting the port are monitored and checked.

In a response to a question from Israel Hayom earlier this week about the proposed port, Netanyahu called security checks at the port "problematic."

Lieberman, siding with Netanyahu on the issue, said he is "firmly" opposed to the creation of a port.

"We cannot guarantee effective security checks," he said.

However, contrary to Netanyahu's and Lieberman's stated positions, the Israel Defense Forces and the Shin Bet security agency maintain there is no security reason not to build the island, senior diplomatic sources say. Sources at the Foreign Ministry and the Finance Ministry also believe that an offshore seaport is an appropriate solution from a diplomatic and financial perspective.

Katz recently called for the creation of an interministerial team to advance the project, but his request was denied by the Diplomatic-Security Cabinet.

The Gaza Strip, which is controlled by Hamas, is under permanent naval and aerial blockade to prevent the entry of weapons and terrorists. Israel regularly allows the entry of goods after they pass a security check at the Ashdod Port. Hamas prohibits Gaza residents from leaving the strip through Jordan, as part of its attempts to exert international pressure on Israel as well as Egypt, which also enforces a blockade on Gaza.

Katz proposed the creation of an 8-kilometer (5-mile) artificial island off the coast of Gaza three years ago, so that Gazans would no longer be dependent on Israel. According to the proposal, the estimated \$5 billion dollar cost of construction would come from foreign investments, and would cover the building of a seaport, airport, staff areas, hotels and advanced facilities for energy production and desalination. The island would be connected to the mainland by a bridge, similar to the ones at the Hadera and Ashkelon power plants, that could be closed off if necessary for security reasons.

Newsletter Sunday August 7, 2016 Newsletters from: Send to a Friend | Print | Minister: Lebanese Olympic team'racist and anti-Semitic' for humiliating Israeli athletes

Lebanese delegation head blocks Israeli athletes from boarding bus to Olympics opening ceremony in Rio, says it was because "Israelis were looking for trouble" • In interview with Army Radio, Culture Minister Miri Regev says IOC must issue condemnation.

Israel Hayom Staff

The Israeli delegation at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Friday | Photo: AP

Israeli officials were outraged after the Lebanese delegation to the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro prevented Israeli athletes from joining them on a bus to the opening ceremony on Friday.

"I am shocked by the incident in which the Israeli delegation was humiliated ?. because the Lebanese delegation refused to share a bus with Israeli Jews. This is pure anti-Semitism and racism of the worst kind," said Culture and Sport Minister Miri Regev in an interview with Army Radio Sunday.

The head of the Lebanese Olympic team, Salim al-Haj Nicola, physically blocked the entrance to the bus when the Israeli team tried to board the vehicle that was assigned to both sets of athletes.

"The International Olympic Committee, which champions the separation of sports and politics, must condemn this incident and act to prevent this type of behavior from recurring," Regev said.

Regev spoke with Igal Carmi, the president of Israel's Olympic Committee and clarified that Israel must not remain silent about the incident because doing so would reinforce the delegitimization of Israeli athletes. Regev noted that the subject would be raised at the next joint meeting of worldwide Olympic committee heads in an attempt to prompt an official condemnation of the incident and to prevent its recurrence.

"I am sending a warm embrace to all of our athletes who were humiliated on what was such an emotional and important day for them," Regev said. "I support coach Udi Gal for talking about the anti-Semitic and unsportsmanlike incident. We all have a responsibility to not let this issue slip from the agenda until this phenomenon ceases to exist." Israel's Olympic sailing coach Udi Gal described the incident on his Facebook page: "Disgraceful! The Israeli Olympic team prepares to board the bus to the opening ceremony. It turns out we are sharing the bus with the Lebanese team. As soon as they realized they would be together with the Israeli team, members of the Lebanese team, led by the head of their team, turned to the driver and demanded he close the door. The organizers tried to split us up onto other buses, something that simply cannot be done for security and symbolic reasons. I insisted, we all insisted, on boarding our designated bus and if the Lebanese don't want us, they're welcome to get off. The bus driver opened the door, but this time the head of the Lebanese delegation stood at the entrance, blocking both the entrance and the aisle ?. The organizers tried to prevent a physical altercation and an international incident and took us aside to a special shuttle."

Gal told Israel Hayom on Saturday, "It's a shame that we're bringing problems from the Middle East, which is tens of thousands of kilometers away from here, to the world's largest sporting event. The Brazilians are doing an excellent job of hosting us, and on Friday they found themselves in what can only be described as a shameful incident. It doesn't matter right now what your political views are, what happened contradicts the Olympic spirit. We could have gotten dragged in by the provocation, but we chose not to resort to hooliganism. Unlike them, we decided to abide by the Olympic spirit, which is the most important thing in these games. We will not let anyone ruin this experience."

Gili Lustig, CEO of Israel's Olympic Committee and one of the heads of the Israeli Olympic delegation said, "When we arrived at the bus area, we found we had accidentally been assigned the same bus as the Lebanese delegation. It wasn't like there wasn't enough room, but the organizing committee asked us to not make a big deal out of it. They apologized to us and sent us another bus."

According to Lustig, "The hostile behavior of the head of the Lebanese delegation contradicts the Olympic charter. We will appeal to the international [Olympic] committee about what took place so that occurrences such as this do not happen again. Now the matter is behind us and we are preparing for the events."

Danny Oren, sport director of the Israeli delegation, said, "It didn't get to the point of pushing or physical altercation because they were inside the bus and we were outside, but it's a shameful event for the Lebanese."

Even More Motivated to Succeed

One of the athletes described the incident as "really unpleasant." He said, "We, like all the athletes from the other delegations around us, were looking forward to one of the highlights of the Olympics, but this incident brought us back to reality. It was a reminder of the routine treatment our country faces, and you could say it might even motivate all of us to achieve better results." The Israeli team had another unpleasant encounter when they entered the stadium, during the opening ceremony in Rio. As Israel's delegation was announced, and gymnast Neta Rivkin led the athletes holding the flag, both applause and boos could be heard.

By contrast, the Palestinian delegation was welcomed into the stadium with enthusiastic applause.

The Lebanese Version

The incident has been covered extensively by Arab media outlets, and the head of the delegation has become a national hero in Lebanon.

Nicola told a different version to Lebanese media and insisted that he had the right to prevent another team's athletes from joining them on the transport reserved for them.

"We boarded our bus, which was Number 22 out of 250 buses. On the bus was a sign that clearly indicated it was for the Lebanese delegation," he said.

According to Nicola, as soon as he noticed that members of the Israeli delegation were planning to board the bus, "I asked the bus driver to close the door but the guide with the Israeli team prevented him from doing so," Nicola told Lebanese newspaper An-Nahar.

"When I realized the Israelis were planning to board our bus, I had no choice but to block the entrance with my body," he said. "Some of the Israelis immediately tried to cause provocations, trying to force their way inside, but I did not give in. It is clear to me that this was an intentional move by the Israelis. They have their own bus, just like all the other delegations. Why would they insist on boarding the Lebanese delegation's bus? The Israelis were looking for trouble and they behaved rudely."

Nicola told the Associated Press that it was "only a small problem."

"This problem is finished," he said by telephone. "We are here only for sports."

Israel Hayom has learned that the entire incident was recorded by one of the Israeli athletes on his mobile phone.

Members of the Israeli delegation considered sharing the video online to show the world what really transpired, but the IOC prohibits the distribution of this type of footage on social media, citing "broadcast rights."

As Israel Hayom reported ahead of the Olympic Games, the Israeli athletes signed a document that forbids them from distributing this material. Athletes were also instructed by the heads of the Israeli delegation not talk about the incident.

The bus incident joins a long list of incidents in which athletes from Muslim countries have resorted to a variety of means, including feigning illness, to avoid encounters with

Israeli athletes. This year, Israeli judokas Gili Cohen and Or Sasson have been paired up with opponents from Saudi Arabia and Egypt, who some have speculated will "sustain injuries" right before their judo matches to avoid competing with Israelis.

Newsletter Sunday August 7, 2016 Newsletters from: Send to a Friend | Print | PM reaffirms alliance with US, rebukes Obama's Iran remarks

Defense Ministry issues stinging response to U.S. President Barack Obama's assertion that Israel now approves of Iran nuclear deal • PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office clarifies that while Israel's stance hasn't changed, U.S. is Israel's most important ally.

Israel Hayom Staff, Erez Linn, Lilach Shoval and Shlomo Cesana

U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday | Photo: AFP

The Prime Minister's Office is distancing itself from a harsh Defense Ministry statement directed at U.S. President Barack Obama, who contended last week that Israel no longer opposes the landmark nuclear agreement struck between Iran and six world powers in 2015.

Obama said in remarks on Thursday that the Iran deal was working and that "it's the assessment of the Israeli military and intelligence community ... that acknowledges this has been a game-changer."

He stated that "the country that was most opposed to the deal" -- meaning Israel -- had come around, and that the dire predictions made by Israel had not come to fruition.

In response, Israel's Defense Ministry compared the deal to the 1938 Munich Pact ahead of World War II, which Britain and France signed with Germany and which averted war at the time but effectively gave then-Czechoslovakia to the Nazis.

The Defense Ministry's response stressed that Israel "believes that agreements only have value if they are based on an existing reality, and they have no value if the facts on the ground are the complete opposite of the facts upon which the agreement is based.

"The Munich Agreement did not prevent World War II and the Holocaust precisely because the fundamental assumption, according to which Nazi Germany could be any kind of partner to an agreement, was mistaken, and because world leaders at the time ignored the clear statements made by Hitler and the other leaders of Nazi Germany."

In an effort to lower the flames, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office issued a statement on Friday saying that while "Israel's view on the Iran deal remains unchanged," it stressed that "Netanyahu fiercely believes that Israel has no ally more important than the United States. As Netanyahu detailed in his speech at the U.N. General Assembly last year, it is important that both those who agreed to and those who opposed [the deal] cooperate to achieve three goals: confirm that Iran is not violating the terms of the agreement; deal with Iran's regional aggression; and dismantle Iran's global terror network."

Additionally, Jacob Nagel, acting head of Israel's National Security Council, met with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro to clarify that, despite the Defense Ministry statement, Israel does not intend to reopen the Iran nuclear deal issue with the United States.

Yesh Atid Chairman Yair Lapid said that "the Defense Ministry's response is a mixture of diplomatic irresponsibility and unnecessary damage to the relationship between Israel and the United States. An official Israeli body simply cannot compare the American president to someone who bowed to the Nazis."

Similarly, Zionist Union MK Shelly Yachimovich described the Defense Ministry's response as "reckless and irresponsible."

She added that since Israel was "on the verge of finalizing an agreement regarding American defense aid, which the IDF needs to badly, this kind of diplomatic damage borders on undermining national security."

Still, criticism of the Iran deal is ongoing in the United States as well. Iranian-born journalist Amir Taheri strongly criticized Obama's remarks in a New York Post op-ed recently. According to Taheri, the Iran nuclear deal is part of Obama's attempt to justify his Nobel Peace Prize while passing the problem on to his successor. He wrote that the "once-in-a-lifetime" deal was simply "a smoke screen" that would allow Obama to "help the Iranian theocracy negotiate its way out of a severe political and economic crisis in exchange for endorsing Obama?s claim that he had prevented 'yet another war' in the Middle East."

Taheri added that "in exchange for vague promises, Obama has solved the Islamic Republic's cash-flow problem by releasing unknown quantities of frozen assets... A lump sum of \$1.7 billion from assets frozen under President Jimmy Carter went straight into the budget of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard to help it upgrade its adventures in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen."

He summed up the issue, writing that a year on from the deal "The Iran Problem' remains intact. In Tehran we have a regime that cannot liberate itself from its dangerous illusions and continues to behave like a rebellious teenager who refuses to grow up."

American Center for Democracy Director Rachel Ehrenfeld also published a biting article on Friday warning of the deal's "corrupting effects" and stating that "nothing seems to deter the [U.S.] administration's determination to satisfy Iran's Supreme Leader."

Newsletter Sunday August 7, 2016 Newsletters from: Send to a Friend | Print | Hamas operative killed in yet another tunnel collapse

Reason for tunnel collapse unclear • Palestinian website says Khaled Alhour, 23, was 16th person to die while digging tunnels for Hamas, but figures may actually be much higher • Tunnels designed to be used for smuggling contraband or attacking Israel.

Israel Hayom Staff

Inside a Hamas tunnel [Archive] | Photo: Reuters

A member of Hamas' military wing was killed in the Gaza Strip on Saturday when an underground tunnel he was digging collapsed. The reason for the collapse was unclear.

The operative was named as 23-year-old Khaled Alhour.

Last month, the Palestinian news website "Al-Quds" reported that 15 Palestinians, mostly members of Hamas' Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, have died digging tunnels (Alhour was the 16th). However, due to Hamas' efforts to conceal details surrounding tunnel collapses, the precise figures pertaining to the number of tunnels that have collapsed and fatalities could be significantly higher. Over the past year, Gaza-based news outlets have reported 10 tunnel collapses.

Hamas' network of underground tunnels is intended to be used either for smuggling goods and weapons into Gaza or to carry out attacks inside Israeli territory.

As part of the country's efforts to combat the terrorist organization's network of underground attack tunnels, the Defense Ministry last week issued a public tender to Israeli construction companies to build a new barrier system along the Gaza border.

Also last week, a senior Israeli defense official said Hamas was digging dozens of kilometers of tunnels toward Israel every month, and that not only did the tunnels still pose a serious threat, but that it was getting worse.

Another defense official, meanwhile, said there was no perfect solution to the tunnel threat posed by Hamas, and that other countries were also struggling to find solutions to similar problems.

In March, under the headline "Israel is Building a Secret Tunnel-Destroying Weapon," Foreign Policy reported that "according to intelligence officials, Israeli engineers are working tirelessly to develop what's being called the 'underground Iron Dome' -- a system that could detect and destroy cross-border tunnels."

Israel's solution, according to Foreign Policy, is a network of underground tunnels it is digging near the Gaza border, equipped with seismic sensors that can monitor underground vibrations.

Foreign Policy also reported that the Israeli government has spent more than \$250 million on the project since 2004, and that the United States has "appropriated \$40 million for the project" in 2016.

A relative of one Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades operative told Israel Hayom at the time that despite high levels of secrecy within the military wing, rumors of its members refusing to enter the tunnels have spread throughout the coastal enclave.

According to the relative, "To be buried alive is a terrible way to die. Everyone has heard the stories of Qassam Brigade members who preferred harsh punishments over digging the tunnels. The Zionist occupation is finding the tunnels and collapsing them on anyone inside. That?s not being a shahid [martyr]. That's gambling with your life."