

Newsletter Tuesday September 25, 2018

Newsletters from:

Send to a Friend

Print

PM warns against Russian delivery of S-300 system to 'irresponsible' Syria

Amid crisis with Russia over downed plane, Israel convenes emergency security cabinet meeting to discuss Russia's imminent transfer of advanced S-300 air defense systems to Syria • Israel will continue to defend its security, PM Netanyahu tells Putin.

Yoni Hersch, Ariel Kahana, Eli Leon, Lilach Shoval, News Agencies and Israel Hayom Staff

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu | Photo: Amos Ben Gershom / GPO

Israel convened an emergency Diplomatic-Security Cabinet meeting on Tuesday to discuss the transfer of Russian S-300 missiles to Syria.

The meeting took place ahead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's departure to the U.N. General Assembly in New York, where he is expected to bring up Israeli-Russian tensions in a meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Moscow announced its plans to deliver up to eight S-300 batteries to Syria on Monday, citing last week's downing of a Russian reconnaissance plane by Syrian forces, which mistook the Russian aircraft for an Israeli fighter jet. Fifteen Russian crewmen were killed in the incident, stoking regional tensions.

Russia laid the blame entirely on Israel, saying Israeli fighter jets were hiding behind the Russian plane, an account denied by the Israeli military.

Netanyahu spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday about the issue.

A statement by the Prime Minister's Office said that Netanyahu warned Putin that supplying advanced weapons systems to Syria would only intensify tensions in the highly volatile region.

"The prime minister expressed his confidence in the credibility of the IDF's investigation [into the incident] and its conclusions, and reiterated that the Syrian military, which shot down the plane, and Iran, whose aggression is undermining stability, are responsible for the unfortunate incident," the statement said. "Prime Minister Netanyahu said that transferring advanced weapons systems into irresponsible hands will ramp up the dangers in the region, and added that Israel will continue to defend its security and its interests. It was also agreed to continue the dialogue between the professional teams and the inter-military coordination via the military channels."

Former Military Intelligence Director Maj. Gen. (ret.) Amos Yadlin tweeted that the Russian accusations that Israel was to blame for the Russian plane being shot down were "fake news" meant "to amplify diplomatic pressure and deflect responsibility from Syrian and Russian officers for downing the plane."

Yadlin tweeted, "Supplying S-300 missiles [to Syria] increases the risk posed by unprofessional Syrian operators first and foremost to the Russian Air Force, to Israel, the United States and the coalition as well as to civil aviation.

"Israel has been preparing for this threat for 20 years and will know how to handle it."

Israel has long lobbied Russia not to provide Syria with S-300 missiles, fearing this would hinder Israel's aerial ability to strike Iranian and Hezbollah assets in Syria.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Moscow had in the past obliged Israel, but last week's incident had forced Moscow to take "adequate retaliatory measures" to keep its troops safe.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the decision to supply the weapons was not directed at any third country.

"Russia needs to increase the safety of its military and it should be clear for everyone," he said.

But he also repeated Moscow's accusations that Israel was to blame for the plane's downing, saying, "No doubt that according to our military experts, deliberate action by Israeli pilots was the reason for the tragedy and this cannot but harm [Russian-Israeli] ties."

Russian news website Kommersant reported Tuesday that Russia plans to supply Syria with at least two S-300 air defense missile systems within the next two weeks. The systems will be deployed along Syria's coast and later on its borders with Jordan, Israel, Lebanon and Iraq.

Russian news outlet Izvestia reported that Moscow is boosting its electronic warfare systems in Syria as well, saying the first systems have already been delivered to the Hmeimim air base in Latakia, to be used by Russian forces stationed there.

In the U.S., the White House expressed concern at the Russian plans to supply the S-300 surface-to-air missile system to Syria, saying it hoped Russia would reconsider the move.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he would discuss the issue with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in New York. The two are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly this week.

"We are trying to find every place we can where there is common ground, where we can work with the Russians," he said. He added that Russia was working against the United States in many areas, and "we will hold them accountable."

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Monday that the delivery would cause a "significant escalation" in already high regional tensions.

"There shouldn't be any misunderstanding here – the party responsible for the attacks in Syria and Lebanon and really the party responsible for the shooting down of the Russian plane is Iran," he said.

Bolton said a political process is needed to end Syria's war but that Russia's plans with the S-300 are making that difficult.

He said U.S. troops would stay active in Syria as long as Iran was involved.

"We're not going to leave as long as Iranian troops are outside Iranian borders, and that includes Iranian proxies and militias," he said.

"We think introducing the S-300s to the Syrian government would be a significant escalation by the Russians and something that we hope, if these press reports are accurate, they would reconsider."

Russia's Deputy Foreign Ministry Sergei Ryabkov responded to Bolton's comments by warning the U.S. against taking "a mentor's tone."

International and regional powers backing various sides in Syria's civil war have been carrying out strikes for years, often using special hotlines to prevent aerial confrontations.

Russian officials said Syria's Soviet-made S-200 systems, one of which downed the Russian plane, were not sophisticated enough to identify the Russian aircraft as a friendly one.

Originally developed by the Soviet military, **the S-300 fires missiles from trucks and is designed to shoot down military aircraft** and short- and medium-range ballistic missiles.

Alexander Khramchikhin of the Moscow-based Institute of Military and Political Analysis said the S-300 could "seriously affect Israel's ability to carry out its strikes in Syria."

Dmitri Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center and a former colonel in the Russian army, said the S-300 would make Israel "more careful in the vicinity of Russian assets."

Syrian President Bashar Assad's office issued a statement saying, "President Putin held Israel responsible for bringing down the plane and informed President Assad that Russia will develop Syria's air defense systems."

Newsletter Tuesday September 25, 2018

Newsletters from:

Send to a Friend

| Print

World Bank report: Gaza Strip's economy is in 'free fall'

Gaza economy has fallen 6% since the first quarter of 2018, when Hamas launched its border riots campaign, report finds • Israel and the international community must act to prevent collapse, Gaza's economy has reached "critical point," official says.

Associated Press and Israel Hayom Staff

Men in Gaza City search through trash for items to recycle for money | Photo: GettyImages

The Gaza Strip's economy is in "free fall" and Israel and the international community must take urgent action to avoid its "immediate collapse," a report from the World Bank warned Tuesday.

According to the report, Gaza's economy contracted by 6% in the first quarter of 2018 and unemployment there is now over 50% – and over 70% among Gaza's youth.

The World Bank said the enclave's crippled economy was the result of various factors, starting with Israel's decade-long blockade against Hamas, which seized control of Gaza in 2007 in a military coup, as well as budget cuts by the rival Palestinian Authority and a reduction in international aid, particularly from the United States.

"A combination of war, isolation, and internal rivalries has left Gaza in a crippling economic state and exacerbated the human distress," said Marina Wes, the World Bank's director for the region.

The report was released ahead of a high-level meeting this Thursday of the bank's Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, responsible for coordinating development assistance to the Palestinians.

The increasingly dire economic situation in Gaza "has reached a critical point," Wes said.

"Increased frustration is feeding into the increased tensions, which have already started spilling over into unrest and set back the human development of the region's large youth population."

Gazans have staged near-weekly violent demonstrations along the border with Israel since late March. Hamas has led and organized the protests, which include remote arson attacks, in which burning kites and balloons are sent over the border to spark fires in Israel. Thousands of fires have devastated 10,000 acres of fields, nature reserves, and open land in southern Israel.

The World Bank report called on Israel to lift restrictions on trade and movement of goods and people to help improve Gaza's economy, and called for the development of "legitimate institutions to govern Gaza in a transparent and efficient manner."

Newsletter Sunday September 23, 2018

Newsletters from:

Send to a Friend

Print

Russia blames Israel 'entirely' for plane shot down over Syria

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman cites Israeli "misinformation" as direct cause behind the deadly downing of a Russian aircraft off the Syrian coast last week, calling Israel "ungrateful" • Israeli official: Mini-crisis with Russia will subside in a matter of weeks.

Ariel Kahana, Lilach Shoval, Erez Linn, News Agencies and Israel Hayom Staff

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman, Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov speaks at the Russian Defense Ministry in Moscow earlier this year | Photo: AP

"We believe that the blame for the Russian Il-20 aircraft tragedy lies entirely with the Israeli Air Force," Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Sunday, after days of blame shifting over the downing of a Russian military plane off the Syrian coast last week.

On Sept. 17, a Russian reconnaissance plane carrying 15 crew members was shot down by Syrian anti-aircraft fire responding to an Israeli missile strike on a facility in Latakia. All 15 Russian crew members aboard the aircraft were killed, prompting a strong rebuke from Russia and appearing to cause friction between Israel and Russia.

The Defense Ministry in Moscow initially accused Israel of indirectly causing the incident, charging that an Israeli warning came less than a minute before the strike, leaving the Russian aircraft in the line of fire. But Russian President Vladimir Putin later called it "a chain of tragic, chance events."

Israel, meanwhile, placed the blame squarely on Syria.

In a detailed account of the events leading up to the incident, the Russian Defense Ministry accused Israel on Sunday of using the Russian aircraft as cover for its attack on a Syrian facility.

In its report, the Russian Defense Ministry revealed previously undisclosed radar data and communications between Russian and Israeli figures, and concluded that "the military leadership of Israel either has no appreciation for the level of relations with Russia, or has no control over individual commands or commanding officers who understood that their actions would lead to tragedy," Russian news network RT reported.

According to Konashenkov, the Israeli Air Force left the Russian aircraft "virtually no time for any safety maneuvers, in a clear violation of the 2015 Russian-Israeli agreements." His remarks rested on claims by Russian officials that Israel provided "less than a minute" of warning before launching its strike. Israeli officials have dismissed this claim, with one official telling Israel Hayom it was "much more than one minute."

In a briefing Sunday, Konashenkov said that the Israeli warning also failed to specify the exact target of the strike, citing only a planned strike on "industrial facilities" in northern Syria. The spokesman called this "misinformation," and said it prompted the Russian command to order its reconnaissance plane back to base, where it came under Syrian fire.

"Once the Syrian air defenses responded to the initial strike, the Israeli jets switched on radar jamming and pulled back, apparently preparing for another attack. One of the jets then approached the Syrian coast – and the Russian plane that was preparing to land," Konashenkov said, explaining that the Russian plane could easily appear to the Syrians as part of the Israeli attack and insisting that the Israeli pilots "must have been well aware" of this.

He went on to say that Israel's "reckless actions" could have also jeopardized "any passenger or transport aircraft that may have happened to be in the area" at the time of the strike.

"This is an extremely ungrateful response to all that has been done by the Russian Federation for Israel and the Israeli people recently," Konashenkov said.

In the coming weeks it will become clearer whether Israel's run-in with Russia will curtail its freedom to maneuver in Syria.

Israel says its jets targeted a Syrian facility that held weapons for the Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah, noting it alerted Russia ahead of time as per deconfliction agreements.

Earlier Sunday, an Israeli government official estimated that the "mini-crisis" with Russia would subside within a matter of weeks. According to the official, the countries' respective interests in Syria had not changed and therefore relations would return to normal over the long term.

"The Russians understand we don't want and didn't want to harm them and they also understand Israel's need to act in Syria," the official said, "which is why they have permitted the coordination mechanism until now."

In that vein, an IDF official said the army's deconfliction line of communication with Russia, designed to coordinate the two countries' respective air force activities in Syria, would be streamlined following the incident.

In accordance with protocol, the IDF official spoke anonymously Friday after an Israeli delegation returned from Moscow where they briefed officials.

The delegation, led by air force chief Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin, presented Moscow with its findings on the incident, "including recordings of the conversations between the Israeli Air Force and the Russian Air Force component in Syria," said the official.

"We proved how the reckless Syrian anti-aircraft fire was the direct cause of the hit on the Russian aircraft. They fired quite recklessly and irresponsibly and unprofessionally into the air long after our planes were no longer there," the official said.

More than 20 Syrian anti-aircraft missiles were fired during the incident, the official said.

"Our Russian counterparts had a few questions, those questions were answered," the official added. "Our impression is that the discussions were professional and that the information was well received.

"We acted in accordance with the standard operating procedures that are in place with the Russian military. But our freedom of movement is paramount. ... The IDF will continue to implement our strategic interests."

Newsletter Sunday September 23, 2018

Newsletters from:

Send to a Friend

| Print

[Iran blames Israel, US, Saudis for deadly terrorist attack on military parade](#)

At least 25 killed, 60 wounded as four gunmen open fire on spectators, soldiers in Ahvaz parade marking 30 years to Iran-Iraq war • President Rouhani vows "crushing" response • Iranian general says gunmen were trained by U.S. and Israel's Mossad.

News Agencies and Israel Hayom Staff

A soldier running past injured comrades at the scene of an attack on a military parade in Iran, Saturday | Photo: AFP

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday blamed Israel, the United States and regional archenemy Saudi Arabia for the deadly terrorist attack that left at least 25 dead and 60 wounded in the southwestern city of Ahvaz in Khuzestan, a province bordering Iraq, and vowed a "crushing" response to the shooting.

The attack, which took place during a military parade marking the 30th anniversary of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, saw four gunmen disguised as soldiers open fire on a crowd of marching Revolutionary Guard soldiers, bystanders and government officials watching from a nearby riser.

Among the dead and wounded were a journalist, civilians – including women and children – and military personnel, the state-run IRNA news agency reported as the chaos was captured live on state television.

Two groups – the Islamic State group and the anti-government Al-Ahvaziya, or Arab Struggle Movement to Liberate Ahvaz group – claimed responsibility for the shooting.

Iranian Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Abolfazl Shekarchi said the four had hidden weapons near the parade route several days in advance.

"All four terrorists were quickly neutralized by security forces," he said.

AP

A Revolutionary Guard member carries a wounded boy away from the scene of the shooting in Ahvaz

Shekarchi further alleged that the four terrorists "were dependent on the intelligence services of the U.S. and the Mossad," Israel's national intelligence agency, adding they were "trained and organized in two Persian Gulf countries."

He offered no proof for his allegations.

Attack perpetrated by 'U.S.'s puppets'

Rouhani has ordered Iran's Intelligence Ministry to investigate the attack.

"The president stressed that the response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the slightest threat would be crushing, and those who support the terrorists will be held accountable," his office said in a statement.

Speaking before leaving Tehran to attend the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Rouhani said that the U.S. seeks to create chaos and insecurity in Iran. He also accused U.S.-backed Gulf Arab states of providing financial and military support for anti-government ethnic Arab groups.

"The small puppet countries in the region are backed by America, and the United States is provoking them and giving them the necessary capabilities. Iran's answer is forthcoming within the framework of law and our national interests," said Rouhani, adding that the United States will regret its "aggressiveness."

AP

Soldiers take cover at the scene of the attack

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei described the attack as exposing "the atrocity and viciousness of the enemies of the Iranian nation."

"Their crime is a continuation of the conspiracies by the U.S.-backed regimes in the region which have aimed at creating insecurity in our dear country. However, to their dismay, the Iranian nation will persist on the noble and prideful path they have taken and will – like before – overcome all animosities," he said.

Khamenei accused U.S.-backed Gulf Arab states of carrying out the shooting and ordered security forces to bring to justice those responsible for one of the worst assaults ever against the Revolutionary Guards, the most powerful military force in the country, which answers directly to him.

The allegation will likely ratchet up tensions with Iran's rival Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies, which along with the United States have been working to isolate the Islamic republic.

"This crime is a continuation of the plots of the regional states that are puppets of the United States," Khamenei said, without naming the nations he believed were to blame.

Initially, Iranian authorities described the terrorists as "takfiri gunmen," a term previously used to describe Islamic State operatives, but later, state media and government officials seemed to come to the consensus that Arab separatists in the region were responsible.

The separatists accuse Iran's government of discriminating against its ethnic Arab minority, though an Ahvazi Arab, Gen. Ali Shamkhani, serves as the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

An Iranian soldier helps a woman and her children to safety, Saturday | Screenshot
Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the Islamic republic will respond "swiftly and decisively" to the deadly attack.

"Terrorists recruited, trained, armed and paid by a foreign regime have attacked Ahvaz," he tweeted. "Iran will respond swiftly and decisively in defense of Iranian lives."

While Zarif did not name the regimes to which he referred, shortly after the attack, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned diplomats from Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain for a reprimand.

The Dutch and Danish ambassadors and the British charge d'affaires were "informed of Iran's strong protests over their respective countries' hosting of some members of the terrorist group" that carried out the attack, IRNA reported.

Citing Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi, the report said Tehran called on Denmark and the Netherlands "to extradite the attack's "masterminds and their accomplices" to stand trial in Iran.

"It is not acceptable that the European Union does not blacklist members of these terrorist groups as long as they do not perpetrate a crime on European soil," Qasemi was quoted as saying.

The British charge d'affaires, summoned in the ambassador's absence, was told it was unacceptable "that the spokesman for the terrorist group was allowed to claim responsibility of the attack through a London-based TV network."

Shortly after the attack, a Saudi-linked, Farsi-language satellite channel based in the U.K. aired an interview with Al-Ahvaziya spokesman Yacoub Hor al-Tostari, who said the shooting was the work of his organization.

The attack "undermined the Iranian government on the day it wants to give a message to the world that it is powerful and in control," al-Tostari said.

Iranian Ambassador to the U.K. Hamid Baeidinejad called the channel's decision to air the interview a "heinous act" and said Iran would file a complaint with British authorities over the broadcast.

U.N., U.S. condemn attack

American and United Nations officials condemned the attack Saturday.

"The United States condemns all acts of terrorism and the loss of any innocent lives," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement.

"We stand with the Iranian people against the scourge of radical Islamic terrorism and express our sympathy to them at this terrible time," she said.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres issued a statement saying the world body "condemns the attack today in Iran's southwestern city of Ahvaz."

The statement said Guterres "expresses his condolences to the families of the victims and to the government and people of Iran, and wishes the injured a speedy recovery."

Russian President Vladimir Putin also offered his condolences over the attack, saying Moscow was ready to boost joint efforts in the fight against terrorism.

Egypt, a key ally of Saudi Arabia, also condemned the attack.

Newsletter Friday September 21, 2018

Newsletters from:

Send to a Friend

| Print

| [IDF braces for fresh violence on Gaza border](#)

"March of Return" group urges Gazans to take part in disturbances along border • IAF hits terror cell launching arson balloons into Israel • Balloon rigged with explosives detonates in Sdot Negev, close to homes • Council head: We want a harsh response.

Nikki Guttman and Israel Hayom Staff

Protesters trying to breach the fence of the Gaza Strip border with Israel during a protest | Photo: AP

The Israel Defense Forces braced for violent clashes on the Gaza Strip-Israel border Friday as the "March of Return" national committee urged Gazans to take part in demonstrations and disturbances along the border.

Judging by past demonstrations, which have been staged on a weekly basis since late March, protesters were expected to throw rocks and firebombs at Israeli troops securing the border and try to breach the border fence and infiltrate Israeli territory.

A spokesman for the Popular Resistance Committee posted a call online for all Gaza residents to march to the border to protest the blockade on the Gaza Strip. "We will break the blockade, at any price," he wrote. "The price of freedom in blood."

Since the demonstrations began in March, 20,000 Gazans have been wounded in clashes with Israeli forces and dozens have been killed. Several of the wounded have criticized Hamas for organizing the demonstrations but then abandoning stricken participants.

Islamic Jihad spokesman Daoud Shahab told the Palestinian news agency Maan that the demonstrations would continue, because the residents of Gaza have no other means of pressuring Israel to lift the blockade.

Shahab added that the number of Palestinian demonstrators at the border marches has consistently increased, particularly since talks in Cairo regarding the blockade have yet to yield results.

On Thursday, the Israeli Air Force targeted a Palestinian terrorist cell launching incendiary balloons into Israel from the Gaza Strip, the Israeli media reported. Local reports in Gaza maintained that there were several casualties in the incident.

Meanwhile, incendiary balloons from Gaza set 10 fires in Israeli communities on Thursday. One such balloon carried a device that exploded some 300 feet from a residential area in the Sdot Negev regional council.

"The balloon terrorism is escalating, and today an explosive mechanism went off," the council said in a statement. "The device was spotted by our security chief and a police sapper unit was dispatched to the site and found its wreckage. We were extremely lucky not to have any casualties, as there were civilians nearby."

The head of the council, Tamir Idan, said that "this incident is a terrorist attack in every respect. We want a harsh response and we trust the IDF to take the necessary actions."

Earlier Thursday Eyal Hajbi, the chief of security at the Shaar Hanegev Regional Council, said that the incendiary balloons were gradually becoming more sophisticated, saying that recently they have been upgraded from mere arson devices to delivering grenades and explosives.

"We have seen an escalation when it comes to their quality, not their quantity. They can cause real harm and death," he said.

Newsletter Thursday September 20, 2018

Newsletters from:

Send to a Friend

| Print

Hezbollah has precision rockets despite Israeli action, Nasrallah declares

"If Israel forces a war on Lebanon, Israel will face a fate and a reality it has never expected," Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah warns • Nasrallah vows to maintain a military presence in Syria "until further notice," saying "no one can force us out."

Reuters and Israel Hayom Staff

A Lebanese supporter of Hezbollah holds a portrait of group leader Hassan Nasrallah, near Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday | Photo: AP

Lebanon's Hezbollah group has obtained precision rockets despite hundreds of Israeli strikes in recent years aimed at cutting off the supply route through Syria, the group's leader Hassan Nasrallah declared Thursday.

"No matter what you do to cut the route," Nasrallah said, addressing Israel in a televised speech, "the matter is over and the resistance possesses precision and nonprecision rockets and weapons capabilities."

Hassan Nasrallah spoke in a televised speech on Thursday to supporters commemorating Ashoura, one of the most important religious holy days for Shiite Muslims.

"If Israel forces a war on Lebanon, Israel will face a fate and a reality it has never expected on any day," he added, stressing that Hezbollah's precision weapons were "highly accurate."

Hezbollah, backed by Iran, has played a critical role in supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad during Syria's seven-year civil war.

Israel regards Iran and Hezbollah as the biggest threats on its borders and has uncharacteristically admitted to carrying out repeated strikes in Syria to prevent Hezbollah from getting Iranian arms deliveries.

Nasrallah said Israel knows the regional balance of power has changed, and that recent Israeli strikes in Syria to prevent Hezbollah from acquiring those weapons failed because this "has already been achieved."

In a separate speech on Wednesday, Nasrallah said his group will maintain its military presence in Syria until further notice and commended a Russian-Turkish agreement on the Syrian province of Idlib as a step toward reaching a political solution in the country.

"We will stay there [in Syria] even after the settlement in Idlib. Our presence there is linked to the need and the consent of the Syrian leadership," Nasrallah said.

"The calm of the fronts and the diminishing number of threats ... will naturally affect the current numbers [of Hezbollah fighters in Syria]," he added, but insisted that "no one can force us out of Syria. We will stay there until further notice."

Nasrallah welcomed the outcome of Iranian, Russian and Turkish diplomatic efforts to spare Idlib a military offensive that could have led to a humanitarian catastrophe.

On Monday, Russia and Turkey agreed to shelve a military solution in Idlib in favor of enforcing a new demilitarized zone in the region from which "radical" rebels will be required to withdraw by the middle of next month.

"The outcome [of the diplomatic efforts] is good and reasonable but depends on results," Nasrallah said, describing the agreement as a step toward reaching a political solution to the more than seven-year conflict.

Russia, Assad's biggest outside backer in his fight against insurgents, has been preparing for an offensive on the city of Idlib, which is controlled by rebels and is now home to about 3 million people.

The United Nations had warned such an attack would result in a humanitarian disaster.

The Idlib region and adjoining territory north of Aleppo represent the opposition's last big foothold in Syria. Assad has recovered most of the areas once held by the rebels, with decisive military support from Iran, Russia and Hezbollah.

Newsletter Thursday September 20, 2018

Newsletters from:

Send to a Friend

Print

Iran asks UN to condemn Israeli threats, remove 'all Israeli nuclear weapons'

Iran's ambassador to the U.N. asks world body to force Israel to join Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, bring its nuclear program under U.N. atomic watchdog's supervision

• U.N. "must take firm actions to eliminate all Israeli nuclear weapons," he says.

Reuters and Israel Hayom Staff

Iran's Ambassador to the U.N. Gholamali Khoshrou | Screenshot: YouTube

Iran has asked the United Nations to condemn Israeli threats against Tehran and bring Israel's nuclear program under its supervision, Iranian state media reported on Thursday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used a visit to an Israeli atomic reactor in late August to warn the country's enemies that it has the means to destroy them, in what appeared to be a veiled reference to its assumed nuclear arsenal.

"The United Nations' members should not turn a blind eye to these threats and must take firm actions to eliminate all Israeli nuclear weapons," the Fars news agency quoted Iran's ambassador to the U.N. Gholamali Khoshrou as saying in letters to the U.N. secretary general and the Security Council.

Khoshrou asked the U.N. to force Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and bring its nuclear program under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, a U.N. atomic watchdog.

Israel, which is outside the NPT, neither confirms nor denies having the bomb, a decades-old "ambiguity" policy that it says keeps hostile neighbors in check while avoiding the kind of public provocations that can spark regional arms races.

Israel is trying to lobby world powers to follow the United States in exiting the 2015 deal with Iran that capped the Islamic republic's nuclear capabilities in return for the lifting of sanctions.

The Israelis deem the agreement insufficient for denying Tehran the means to eventually get the bomb - something Tehran, which is a signatory to the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, denies wanting.

Since its 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has preached Israel's destruction. It backs the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas. Israel sees the deployment of Iranian forces in Syria as Tehran creating working to establish another front on Israel's border.

Trump Cancels Obama's Vacation Plans

NOTE: Verified as being TRUE by the liberal "Snopes."

TRUMP JUST ENDED OBAMA'S VACATION SCAM

Obama was going to stick us for 2.1 billion or so.

Before Obama left office, he arranged with the State Department for a series of "official visits" to foreign countries spanning the next 20 years. Using discretionary funds from the Office of Presidential Visits and Vacations, Obama was planning to weasel what would have been another \$2.1 billion in free vacations for him and up to 24 members of his family plus staff and even a dog sitter until the year 2036.

He would have, that is, until Donald Trump put a stop to it. Trump, who is always looking for ways to save money, was presented with a ledger that contained all of the Obama travel plans and expenses. The ledger was found by one of the workers Trump hired from outside the typical White House staff. Trump immediately canceled the plans and recalled all Secret Service agents scheduled to protect the Obama's anywhere outside of the United States.

The Obama's are also facing another new challenge at the hands of Trump. They're going to have to repay the government for all of those vacations that weren't official state business.

The bill, after some small allowances, for days that were possibly work related, is for \$214 million. Of the 692 days the Obama's spent on vacation, almost none included any work at all. They ate, slept and golfed and Michelle was given shopping allowances from the Office of Discretionary Gifting Funds, which is supposed to be used to buy presents for visiting dignitaries.

Feel free to share this. Many Americans will appreciate it!

The Best 10 Churches in Panama City, FL - Last Updated September ...

<https://www.yelp.com> › Panama City, FL › Religious Organizations › Churches

Best Churches in Panama City, FL - Northstar Church, Hiland Park Baptist Church, Grace Fellowship Church, Refuge Full Gospel Church, City Church at ...
Congregation of Yahweh, Panama City, Florida

www.congregationyhwpc.com/

Congregation of Yahweh Our Location has. changed. We now meet at 1107 Frankford Avenue Panama City, Florida 32401 850-522-YHWH (850-522-9494).

You visited this page on 1/17/17.

Northstar Church | Serving Florida's Northwest Panhandle
northstar.church/

Everyone's Welcome, Nobody's Perfect & Anything's Possible. Join us this Sunday at one of our locations in Panama City, Panama City Beach or Callaway.

Panama City Campus · Panama City Beach Campus · About · Locations

Congregation of Yhwh - Panama City, FL - Church in Panama City ...

<https://www.manta.com> › ... › Religious Organizations › Churches

Get information, directions, products, services, phone numbers, and reviews on

Congregation of YHWH in Panama City, FL. Discover more Religious ...

You visited this page on 5/8/18.

Hispanic Churches in Panama City, FL with Reviews - YP.com

<https://www.yellowpages.com/panama-city-fl/hispanic-churches>

376 results - Find 376 listings related to Hispanic Churches in Panama City on YP.com.

See reviews, photos, directions, phone numbers and more for Hispanic ...

Churches in or near Panama City Beach, Florida FL

churches.find-near-me.info/in/panama-city-beach-fl

Are you looking for the best churches near Panama City Beach in Florida? This page has all the information about Churches in Panama City Beach, FL you ...

Callaway Assembly of God | Home

<https://callawayag.org/>

Type content here... Youtube Channel. Type content here.... Callaway Assembly of God.

5718 Cherry Street. Panama City, FL 32404. phone: 850.769.5646.

unity spiritual center of panama city - Home

<https://www.unityofpanamacity.org/>

Panama City, FL 32405 ... and the power of prayer. Unity honors the universal truths in all religions and respects each individual's right to choose a spiritual path.

Cornerstone Family Fellowship

www.cornerstonefamilyfellowship.org/

No information is available for this page.

Learn why

Congregation of Yhwh - Panama City, Florida - Church | Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com> › Places › Panama City, Florida › Church

Phone, (850) 522-9494 · Address. 4008 W 27th St; Panama City, Florida 32405.