

Netanyahu: US response to attack like Oct. 7 would be 'at least as strong' as Israel's PM, shortly before speaking with Biden, says he doesn't know what president meant by calling Israel's war in Gaza 'over the top', claims 1:1 ratio between civilian, combatant deaths

By [Lazar Berman](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 7:35 pm



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (center) meets with IDF soldiers in Latrun, near Jerusalem, on February 5, 2024. (Haim Zach/GPO)

The American response to an attack like Hamas's October 7 massacre would be "at least as strong as Israel's" and possibly stronger, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a round of interviews to US media outlets aired Sunday.

Speaking with Fox News, Netanyahu responded to a question about President Joe Biden's sharpest rebuke yet of Israel's Gaza campaign as "over the top" and said he did not "know what [Biden] meant by that."

"Look, **we were attacked in the worst attack on Jewish people since the Holocaust,**" said Netanyahu. "That October 7 massacre was equivalent to 29 9/11s in one day and the equivalent of 50,000 Americans slaughtered — burned, maimed, raped, beheaded — and 10,000 Americans taken hostage, including mothers and children.

"So, **what would America's response be? I would say it would be at least as strong as Israel's** and many Americans tell me, 'We would have flattened them. We would have turned them into dust.'"

The **two leaders were slated to speak on the phone later on Sunday, with a US administration official saying that the call would focus on hostages held by terror groups in** Gaza since October 7, when thousands of Hamas-led terrorists burst across the border, killing some 1,200 people and seizing over 250 hostages, mostly civilians.

In **response to the onslaught, Israel vowed to eliminate the terror group,** and launched a wide-scale military campaign in Gaza that local health authorities say has killed more than 28,000 people since the start of the war. Those figures cannot be independently verified, and are believed to include both civilians and Hamas members killed in Gaza, including as a consequence of terror groups' own rocket misfires. The IDF says it has killed over 10,000 operatives in Gaza, in addition to some 1,000 terrorists inside Israel on October 7.

Asked to respond to Pres. Biden saying Israeli response in Gaza has been "over the top," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tells [@JonKarl](#): "I appreciate Pres. Biden's support for Israel since the beginning...I don't know exactly what he meant by that." <https://t.co/kLNgggu8Vvk8> pic.twitter.com/NDIfG5ggh1
— This Week (@ThisWeekABC) [February 11, 2024](#)

Following the breakout of the war, Biden offered wholehearted support to Israel. The president visited the country 10 days after the massacre in a show of solidarity and sent two US aircraft carriers to the region to deter the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah from joining the war against Israel.

In the interviews aired Sunday, Netanyahu also asserted that one civilian has been killed for every Hamas fighter killed since October 7. [Assessments](#) from military officials in December put the ratio at closer to two civilian deaths per combatant.

"I think that any civilian loss, any civilian casualty, is a tragedy," Netanyahu told ABC's "This Week."

"And it's a tragedy that's been forced upon us by Hamas."

Netanyahu also insisted, in the Fox News interview, that **toppling Hamas and bringing all the hostages home — two of the stated goals of the campaign in Gaza — "are not mutually exclusive,"** and that the way to get them back is through a "sustained military effort."

He told ABC that "enough" of the remaining hostages held in Gaza since October 7 are alive to justify Israel's ongoing offensive.

Asked how many of the remaining hostages in Gaza are still alive, Netanyahu says: “Enough to warrant the kind of efforts that we're doing.”

“We're going to try to do our best to get all those who are alive back, and frankly, also the bodies of the dead.” <https://t.co/byJwn4gQj pic.twitter.com/rHJAh9QrVf>

— This Week (@ThisWeekABC) [February 11, 2024](#)

It is believed that 132 hostages abducted by Hamas on October 7 remain in Gaza — not all of them alive — after 105 civilians were released from Hamas captivity during a weeklong truce in late November. Four hostages were released prior to that, and one was rescued by troops. The bodies of eight hostages have also been recovered and three hostages were mistakenly killed by the military. The IDF has confirmed the deaths of 29 of those still held by Hamas, citing new intelligence and findings obtained by troops operating in Gaza. One more person is listed as missing since October 7, and their fate is still unknown.

Hamas is also holding two Israeli civilians, Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed, who are both thought to be alive after entering the Strip of their own accord in 2014 and 2015, respectively, along with the bodies of fallen IDF soldiers Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin since 2014.

Asked how many of the hostages are still alive, Netanyahu said “enough to warrant the kind of efforts that we’re doing.

“We’re going to try to do our best to get all those who are alive back and, frankly, also the bodies of the dead,” he told ABC.

In terms of **post-war plans for Gaza**, the prime minister said, **“I think the Palestinians should have the powers to govern themselves, but none of the powers to threaten Israel.”**

“I think the Palestinians should have the powers to govern themselves, but none of the powers to threaten Israel.”

Prime Minister Netanyahu says Israel should maintain “overriding security control in the area west of the Jordan — that includes Gaza.” <https://t.co/IMEP2jthqA pic.twitter.com/GvkWLXoHr5>

— This Week (@ThisWeekABC) [February 11, 2024](#)

“The most important power that has to remain in Israel’s hands is overriding security control in the area west of the Jordan — that includes Gaza,” the prime minister continued. “Otherwise, history has shown us, terrorism comes back — and we don’t want terrorism to come back.”

Recently, Biden and other US officials, while continuing to stand behind Israel’s right to defend itself against Hamas, have expressed increasing concern over the civilian death toll, suffering and humanitarian crisis in the Strip, and the lack of clarity from Israel regarding the “day after” in Gaza. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-us-response-to-attack-like-oct-7-would-be-at-least-as-strong-as-israels/>

PM says Rafah offensive key to victory as Hamas threatens to torpedo hostage talks

Netanyahu says demands to stop upcoming assault akin to telling Israel to ‘lose the war, keep Hamas there’; US, top European diplomats voice concern over looming operation

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 2:39 pm



Palestinians search for survivors after an Israeli airstrike on a residential building in Rafah, Gaza Strip, February 10, 2024. (AP Photo/Hatem Ali)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday slammed calls for Israel to avoid carrying out a military offensive inside Rafah, as the military appeared set to turn its attention to the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip, a crucial goal in the war as it serves as a smuggling haven for the enclave’s terror groups.

Despite international alarm over the potential carnage in a city crammed with more than a million displaced Palestinians, the prime minister told ABC

News’s “This Week with George Stephanopoulos” the offensive is key to crushing Hamas, the terror organization that has ruled Gaza for more than 16 years.

“Those who say that under no circumstances should we enter Rafah are basically saying lose

the war. Keep Hamas there,” he added.

War erupted when Hamas-led terrorists stormed southern Israel on October 7 to kill nearly 1,200 people, mainly civilians, while taking 253 hostages of all ages, committing numerous atrocities, and weaponizing sexual violence on a mass scale.

Rafah has **become home to close to many of the Strip’s displaced Palestinians who were pushed south by the months-long war.**

Netanyahu **assured that Israel will provide “safe passage for the civilian population”** ahead of the expected assault, and rejected fears of a “catastrophe.”

“We are **working out a detailed plan to do so,” Netanyahu added.** “We’re not, we’re not cavalier about this.”

“**Victory is within reach. We’re going to do it. We’re going to get the remaining Hamas terrorist battalions** and Rafah, which is the last bastion, but we’re going to do it,” he said.

However, **expanding the offensive to Rafah may damage the chances of ongoing talks for a deal to release hostages in exchange for a temporary ceasefire.**

#Watch: Netanyahu's statement to ABC regarding the Rafah operation:

“Victory is within reach, we will

do it while providing safe passage...” pic.twitter.com/ZBj3T5yzKt

— Open Source Intel (@Osint613) [February 11, 2024](#)

Any Israeli ground offensive in Rafah on the Gaza border will “blow up” the hostage exchange negotiations,” Hamas-run Aqsa Television channel quoted a senior Hamas leader as saying on Sunday.

It is believed that **132 hostages abducted by Hamas on October 7 remain in Gaza — not all of them alive** — after 105 civilians were released from Hamas captivity during a weeklong truce in late November. Four hostages were released prior to that, and one was rescued by troops. **The bodies of eight hostages have also been recovered and three hostages were mistakenly killed by the military.** One more person is listed as missing since October 7, and their fate is still unknown.



Relatives of hostages and supporters attend a rally calling for the release of the abductees held by Hamas in Gaza, at Hostages Square in Tel Aviv, February 10, 2024. (Avshalom Sassoni/ Flash90)

Hamas is also holding the bodies of fallen IDF soldiers Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin since 2014, as well as two Israeli civilians, Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed, who are both thought to be alive after entering the Strip of their own accord in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

A senior Biden administration official told NBC News Sunday that “there is a growing divide between the US and Israel,” especially over a potential operation in Rafah.

The White House and State Department said last week that they would not support an IDF operation in the city before extensive planning was done on protecting civilians.

Top European diplomats also expressed concern Saturday over a potential humanitarian disaster in Rafah if an offensive were to go ahead. Netanyahu **reportedly** believes that given international pressure, Israel only has one month left to complete the operation, specifically, before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which begins around March 10 and tends to be a period of increased tensions in the region.

The European Union’s head of foreign affairs Josep Borrell said Saturday an assault on Rafah would be an “unspeakable humanitarian catastrophe” and warned that it could spark “grave tensions with Egypt.”

“Resuming negotiations to free hostages and suspend hostilities is the only way to avert a bloodshed [sic],” he posted on X.

A picture taken from Rafah shows smoke billowing during Israeli strikes over Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on February 11, 2024 (SAID KHATIB / AFP)



British Foreign Minister David Cameron said he is “deeply concerned” about the prospect of an Israeli military operation in Rafah.

In a statement on X, Cameron said fighting must stop immediately so aid can enter and hostages can be freed, followed by “progress towards a sustainable, permanent ceasefire.”

Dutch Foreign Minister Hanke Bruins Slot said in a pair of tweets that the situation in the city is “very worrying.”

“Hard to see how large-scale military operations in such a densely populated area would not lead to many civilian casualties and a bigger humanitarian catastrophe. This is unjustifiable,” she wrote, and added that a truce followed by a long-term ceasefire is needed, and called for hostages to be released.



Israeli soldiers drive a tank near the border with the Gaza Strip, as seen in southern Israel, Feb. 11, 2024 (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

The operation is further complicated by Egypt’s concerns, amid fears that Palestinians fleeing Rafah could try and cross into the Sinai. The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that Egyptian officials warned the decades-long peace treaty between Egypt and Israel could be suspended in such a case.

As the Israel Defense Forces awaited the order to operate on the ground in Rafah, troops of

the IDF’s 98th Division continued to battle Hamas in southern Gaza’s Khan Younis, while the 162nd Division carried out smaller raids in central and northern Gaza.

Simultaneously, the Israeli Air Force and Navy carried out strikes on various Hamas targets across the Strip, the military said in a statement.

In an update on the ground operation, the IDF said the Nahal Brigade spotted and killed a Hamas operative who had been observing the forces and fired an anti-tank missile at them in central Gaza.

Moments later, more missiles were fired toward the soldiers. The IDF said the Nahal troops spotted two operatives coming out of the building from which the missiles were fired and directed an aircraft to strike and kill the pair.

The Nahal Brigade also directed several more airstrikes on Hamas sites in central Gaza, including a weapons depot, the IDF said.

Meanwhile, in western Khan Younis, the IDF said the Paratroopers Brigade and Egoz commando unit raided several Hamas sites, killing a number of operatives and locating weapons.

In another area of Khan Younis, the 7th Armored Brigade killed several more Hamas gunmen and the 646th Reserve Paratroopers Brigade located weapons, the IDF said.

Also in Khan Younis, airstrikes were carried out against three weapons depots and a Hamas cell that had fired at troops, the IDF added.

The IDF said the Givati Brigade has “deepened” the damage caused to Hamas’s western Khan Younis Battalion, and has strengthened its “operational control” in the area in southern Gaza.

Over the past two weeks, the IDF said, Givati troops killed some 100 Hamas operatives in close-quarters fighting, tank shelling, sniper fire, and by calling in airstrikes.

Footage released by the IDF shows one of the airstrikes against three Hamas operatives who were spotted by Givati troops carrying a large explosive device on a motorcycle.

The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry said the Palestinian death toll in the Strip since the start of the war has reached 28,176, and an additional 67,784 people have been injured. These figures cannot be independently verified, and are believed to include both civilians and Hamas members killed in Gaza, including as a consequence of terror groups’ own rocket misfires. The IDF says it has killed over 10,000 operatives in Gaza, in addition to some 1,000 terrorists inside Israel on October 7. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-says-rafa-offensive-key-to-victory-as-hamas-threatens-to-torpedo-hostage-talks/>

Biden, Egypt warn Netanyahu against invading Gaza's Rafah

The goal is “nothing less than total victory,” Netanyahu said, as he noted that Israel is facing mounting international opposition to its military campaign to destroy Hamas in Gaza.

By [TOVAH LAZAROFF](#) FEBRUARY 11, 2024 17:42 Updated: FEBRUARY 11, 2024 21:28

US President Joe Biden and Egypt’s Foreign Ministry warned Israel against a military operation in Gaza’s Rafah as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu turned to the American media to explain that such a step was a necessity for an Israeli victory against Hamas.

Biden spoke about the matter directly with Netanyahu in a phone call that followed public statements the White House had made on the matter.

Biden “reaffirmed his view that a military operation in Gaza should not proceed without a credible and executable plan for ensuring the safety of and support for the more than one million people sheltering there,” the White House said after the call.

Netanyahu responded that the Rafah operation was necessary but would take place only after civilians had been evacuated, according to an Israeli source.

The US President also emphasized to Netanyahu the importance of “urgent and specific steps” to increase [humanitarian assistance to Palestinians](#) in Gaza.

Biden spoke in advance of hosting Jordan’s King Abdullah at the White House on Monday, where the monarch is expected to press the US to support an immediate ceasefire.

Egypt warns of ‘dire consequences’

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry separately warned of “the dire consequences of such action,” which it said risks “worsening the humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip.”

It called on the international community to unite to prevent an IDF attack against Rafah, which is located close to its border and where over 1.3 million Palestinians are located, many of whom fled there to escape bombing in the northern part of the enclave.

In the last few days, unnamed Egyptian officials have also warned that the country’s 1979 peace treaty with Egypt could be in danger.

Israel’s push for a Rafah operation comes as it is under heavy international pressure to halt the war and amid growing tension with the Biden administration, which has not sought to hide its frustrations with Israel even as it continued to support its battle against Hamas. **MORE -** <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-786372>

Gallant hails Gaza intelligence treasure trove as key to ‘realistic’ hostage deal

Defense minister says information on Hamas used against it, as terror group maintains tough position for temporary truce amid upcoming Cairo talks, looming military op in Rafah

By [Emanuel Fabian](#), [Lazar Berman](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 4:23 pm



Defense Minister Yoav Gallant gives a video statement from a display of Hamas weapons and intelligence findings found by troops in the Gaza Strip, at the Julis Base, February 11, 2024. (Elad Malka/Defense Ministry)

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Sunday that the military’s intelligence findings on Hamas bring a “realistic” hostage deal closer, as Israel seeks to pressure Hamas to ease its demands for a truce.

Gallant spoke at a display made by the Military Intelligence Directorate’s so-called intelligence collection and technical spoils unit — known by its Hebrew acronym Amshat — which will be

shown to government ministers on Sunday.

“You can see a small part of [what the IDF recovered] here — missiles, explosives, mines, many maps, communication devices, documents, computers, hard drives,” Gallant said.

“We penetrated into the heart of Hamas’s most sensitive places, and are using their intelligence against them,” he continued. “The more we deepen this operation, the closer we are to a realistic deal in order to return the hostages.”

Among the valuable pieces of intelligence gathered by the IDF were handwritten documents suspected to have been written by Hamas’s leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, which were recently discovered in a tunnel he had been hiding in, Army Radio reported without citing a source.

Last week, Gallant said that IDF troops had “found significant materials in the places where he [Sinwar] had recently been,” but made no mention of handwritten documents.



File: Yahya Sinwar (C), Hamas’s Gaza Strip chief, waves to supporters in Gaza City, on April 14, 2023. (MOHAMMED ABED / AFP)

The war erupted when Hamas-led terrorists stormed southern Israel on October 7 to kill nearly 1,200 people, mainly civilians, while taking 253 hostages of all ages, committing numerous atrocities, and weaponizing sexual violence on a mass scale.

As part of its response to a framework negotiated in Paris for a hostage deal, Hamas demanded Tuesday that Israel, among other things, release at least 1,500 Palestinian security prisoners, withdraw its troops fully from Gaza, eventually agree to a permanent ceasefire, and take steps to reduce its sovereignty on the Temple Mount — **demands rejected by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as “delusional.”**

According to reports by Axios and Channel 12, the war cabinet handed its response to Hamas’s proposals over to mediators, rejecting the demands for a troop withdrawal, allow for the return of civilians to northern Gaza, a permanent ceasefire, and a large number of Palestinian security prisoner releases.

Israel will reportedly participate in talks hosted in Cairo and attended by the US and Qatar on Tuesday if those demands are softened. The war cabinet has also decided to draw up a response to Hamas’s counterproposal, Channel 12 news reported Saturday.

Egyptian officials said they warned Hamas that it must reach a hostage-for-ceasefire deal with Israel within two weeks, or the IDF will move into Gaza’s southernmost city of Rafah, The Wall Street Journal reported.

According to the report, Hamas would not budge on its demands in the face of Israeli threats.

With Netanyahu determined to complete the offensive, Hamas has threatened to “blow up” the hostage negotiations if troops enter the city, a senior Hamas leader was quoted as saying on Sunday by the terror group’s Aqsa TV channel.

Foreign governments, including Israel’s main ally the United States, and humanitarian organizations in particular have voiced deep concern about the effect of a push on Rafah on displaced civilians.



File: Palestinians stand by the border fence with Egypt in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, on January 24, 2024. (AFP)

Over a million people — about half of Gaza’s total population — have crowded into Rafah, with many living outside or in tents where food, water, and medical supplies are increasingly scarce.

According to media reports, the Paris framework, which Israel has accepted as a basis for negotiations, envisioned a three-phase humanitarian pause, with 35 to 40 Israeli hostages — women, men older than 60, and those with serious medical conditions — released during the first six-week phase. Israeli

soldiers and the bodies of killed hostages would be released in the second and third phases.

Details regarding the latter phases, as well as the number and identities of Palestinian security prisoners who would be released by Israel, were to be discussed in subsequent negotiations if the sides

both agreed to the Paris proposal. Other reports presented different versions of the framework, which has not been officially published.

As the **government continued to resist Hamas's demands, hostages' relatives and their supporters held nationwide protests Saturday night urging an immediate agreement**, with some calling for elections amid mounting frustration with the government.

It is believed that 132 hostages abducted by Hamas on October 7 remain in Gaza — not all of them alive — after 105 civilians were released from Hamas captivity during a weeklong truce in late November. Four hostages were released prior to that, and one was rescued by troops. The bodies of eight hostages have also been recovered and three hostages were mistakenly killed by the military. One more person is listed as missing since October 7, and their fate is still unknown.

Hamas is also holding two Israeli civilians, Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed, who are both thought to be alive after entering the Strip of their own accord in 2014 and 2015, respectively, as well as the remains of fallen IDF soldiers Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin since 2014. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/gallant-hails-gaza-intelligence-treasure-trove-as-key-to-realistic-hostage-deal/>

IDF catches 20 Hamas terrorists hiding in hospital in Gaza's Khan Yunis

After the arrests were completed, the IDF facilitated the delivery of dozens of oxygen tanks to the hospital.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) FEBRUARY 11, 2024 21:27 Updated: FEBRUARY 11, 2024 21:36



Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) staff perform funeral prayers at the Al-Amal hospital in Khan Yunis, January 31, 2024 (photo credit: PRCS via REUTERS)

The IDF caught and arrested 20 Hamas terrorists hiding in the Al Amal Hospital without disrupting the continued operation of the hospital, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said Sunday evening.

The search in the hospital was conducted with prior coordination with the hospital staff, and the forces searched the hospital carefully without opening fire and without harming patients or staff.

"IDF soldiers were briefed in advance on the importance of preventing harm to patients, medical teams, civilians, and medical equipment, in accordance

with international law," said the IDF Spokesperson's Unit. **"This activity once again proves the cynical pattern of operation of the terrorist organization Hamas, which uses hospitals and the civilian population as a disguise for the purposes of hiding terrorists."**

IDF delivers medical equipment to Al Amal Hospital in Khan Yunis



After the arrests were completed, the IDF facilitated the delivery of dozens of oxygen tanks to the hospital.

IDF soldiers delivering medical equipment to the Al Amal hospital in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, February 10th, 2024 (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

The IDF confirmed that it facilitated the delivery of over 20 oxygen tanks and additional medical equipment to the hospital

This operation, coordinated by officers of the Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration, involved collaboration with the hospital and various international aid organizations.

The [@IDF](#) recently facilitated the delivery of over 20 oxygen tanks and additional medical equipment to Al Amal Hospital in Khan Yunis, coordinated by COGAT officers the hospital and international aid organizations. pic.twitter.com/8G5ms7MWrk — COGAT (@cogatonline) [February 10, 2024](#)

The IDF stated that due to the use of the hospital by terrorists as an operational hideout, as well as the intense combat in the area near the hospital, intricate coordination was carried out with international aid organizations and local officials to transfer the oxygen tanks to the designated locations, from which the IDF collected the oxygen tanks and transferred them to the hospital. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-786408>

News of the IDF and Israel from Yaffa

Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 1:44 PM
To: mortsmo@aol.com <mortsmo@aol.com>
Subject: Mostly quiet

It's been a mostly-quiet Sunday here. Some military air traffic this afternoon.

Today I think the Super Bowl is keeping many Americans riveted to their TV's. Ticket prices to attend the event are limited and extremely expensive. I understand. Lots of money being made by some. Even the losing team players earn a lot. A day when probably few people will be thinking about worldly situations. Maybe for the best. Somehow, however, Super Bowls remind me of ancient Rome and the circuses.

There were Super Bowls when I was growing up and I didn't pay any attention to them then, or now. I followed a different drum beat, so to speak. As a teen, I bought classical music records instead of rock and roll from the record store located near my school. You know, records . . . those black plastic discs with a hole in the middle.

May the best team win, whomever. Here's some news to read and share.

Yaffa
and the Kitty Krew

1. Northern Border Action
2. Time to Surrender
3. Israel's Excessive Response/Biden
4. Pocket Money
5. Demonstrations to Continue
6. Work Toward Armament Independence
7. Who is in Charge?

1. Northern Border Action: 7 February United with Israel By JNS 7 February

Two Israeli soldiers sustained minor injuries on Tuesday morning in a Hezbollah rocket attack on a military post in the area of Moshav Margalioth, near the border with Lebanon, according to the Israel Defense Forces. The soldiers were evacuated to a hospital and their families were informed, said IDF Spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari.

According to Hagari, IDF forces detected several launches that crossed into Israeli territory from Southern Lebanon. Artillery units fired on the source of the attacks. The Iran-backed terrorist organization claimed responsibility for the attacks, including the launch of two heavy "Burkan" rockets, which can carry an explosive payload of more than 1,000 pounds. Earlier on Tuesday morning, Israeli Air Force jets struck a Hezbollah terror base near Marwahin on the Lebanese border. Overnight Tuesday, IAF jets attacked Hezbollah operational facilities near Meiss el-Jabal, also in Southern Lebanon, and shelled the terror group's positions with artillery to "remove threats," per the IDF.

Hezbollah has been initiating a series of fire exchanges with Israel since Oct. 7 as the Jewish state fights Hamas terrorists to the south. The Shi'ite terror group fired more than 2,000 rockets at Israel between Oct. 8 and Jan. 9, in addition to dozens of anti-tank missiles. The attacks have killed five Israeli civilians and nine soldiers.

The IDF has struck more than 3,400 Hezbollah targets since Tehran's terror proxy joined the war in support of Hamas. The IDF destroyed some 120 observation posts, 40 weapons depots and 40 command and control centers. Hezbollah has lost more than 130 fighters.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant met on Sunday night in Tel Aviv with senior White House envoy Amos Hochstein, who has been mediating a potential agreement to stave off full-blown war. Gallant emphasized Jerusalem's commitment to improving the security situation in the area by removing the threats of infiltration and rocket fire from Lebanon. "We are committed to our citizens. We are ready to resolve this crisis via diplomatic understandings, however we are also prepared for any other scenario," said Gallant. He expressed his appreciation for Hochstein's efforts to

address the security issues in the northern arena and mindfulness of the 80,000 Israelis who remain displaced from the region due to the conflict.

Following a situational assessment held in the Haifa bay side suburb of Kiryat Ata last week, Gallant warned that the Jewish state must seriously prepare for the possibility of a war with Hezbollah. "Alongside the military preparedness that we are advancing, and alongside the process that we are trying to lead in the political-diplomatic efforts, we are also preparing in the civilian sphere and the [IDF] Home Front Command has received clear instructions," he said. If conditions on Israel's northern border deteriorate further, "the situation in Haifa will not be good, but in Beirut, the situation will be devastating," Gallant added.

2. Time to Surrender: World Israel News By Vered Weiss 9 February

In their own words, it appears the time has come for Hamas terrorists to throw in the towel. When Shin Bet asked Hamas Nukhba terror commander known as Abu al-Baraa during interrogation if he had a message for his fellow Hamas fighters, he said, "I recommend everyone surrender, your fate is death." Abu al-Baraa told Shin Bet that he and his troops intended to surrender when the IDF entered their tunnel in Khan Younis, even though they were armed with Kalashnikovs, RPGs and improvised explosive devices. He told Shin Bet, "We came to the decision that we don't want to fight and as soon as the army comes we will turn ourselves in."

Abu al-Baraa added, "We sat in the room, we put all the weapons outside, outside the room. And the army came and took all the weapons. We sat and waited. When the army arrived, we raised our hands and surrendered."

"We will continue to act and strike at Hamas terrorists from above and below ground," the Shin Bet said. The IDF dismantled Hamas military capabilities in the north of Gaza earlier in the war and captured Hamas headquarters in Khan Younis before moving on to Rafah.

Netanyahu reiterated that Israel aims to achieve nothing less than "total victory" in Hamas, and that he rejects any hostage deal that would require a permanent ceasefire and a complete withdrawal of the IDF from Gaza. According to an Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) survey, 60% of Israelis believe the war should continue until Hamas is eliminated even if that means that not all of the hostages return.

3. Israel's Excessive Response/Biden: JNS By Charles Bybelezer 9 February

U.S. President Joe Biden described on Thursday Israel's response to Hamas's Oct. 7 massacre as "over the top," adding that he was seeking a "sustained pause" in the war. "I'm of the view, as you know, that the conduct of the response in the Gaza Strip has been over the top," Biden told reporters at the White House. "I'm pushing very hard now to deal with this hostage ceasefire. There are a lot of innocent people who are starving, a lot of innocent people who are in trouble and dying and it's gotta stop," he said. The remarks come as the Democratic president is under intensifying domestic pressure to press Israel to end the fighting ahead of the November election in the U.S.

On Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an address to the nation that his government would not agree to the "delusional demands" Hamas is making as part of ceasefire-for-hostages negotiations. Bowing to the terrorist organization's demands would lead to another massacre and a "major disaster" that no Israeli citizen can accept, Netanyahu emphasized, adding: "We are on our way to total victory. Total victory over Hamas will not take years. It will take months. Victory is within reach."

Earlier Wednesday, Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken "held a long and in-depth meeting in private" in Jerusalem. During his trip to Israel, the top U.S. diplomat stressed it was "essential" to go ahead with ceasefire talks, noting that "there's still a lot of work to be done. But we continue to believe that an agreement is possible and indeed essential, and we will continue to work relentlessly to achieve it," Blinken said.

Israel has repeatedly rejected proposals for a permanent ceasefire and maintains that it will continue in its goal to eradicate Hamas, return the remaining 136 captives and ensure that Gaza can never again pose a threat to the Jewish state.

For its part, the Biden administration is reportedly bucking decades of U.S. foreign policy by considering a plan to unilaterally recognize a Palestinian state, despite deep opposition to the move within Israel. Both *Axios* and *The New York Times* reported about this potential major shift in the American approach towards Palestinian statehood, which hitherto has emphasized direct negotiations between Jerusalem and Ramallah. In the months since Hamas's Oct. 7 terrorist assault, the Biden administration has been pushing for Palestinian statehood as part of a major normalization pact and regional security initiative between Israel and Saudi Arabia. The Palestinian issue was not reportedly seen as a major obstacle to a Jerusalem-Riyadh detente before the Hamas attack, but Washington's stance has apparently changed.

There is widespread opposition among the Israeli public to the creation of a Palestinian state. According to the most recent "Peace Index" survey released by Tel Aviv University, when asked whether they support the creation of a "Palestinian" state alongside Israel, 66% of Jewish respondents said they opposed such a move, while 27% expressed support for the creation of a "Palestine."

Meanwhile, Biden on Thursday issued a memorandum requiring allies who receive U.S. military aid to provide "credible and reliable written assurances" of their adherence to international law. Under the new guidelines, the State Department and the Department of Defense will be required to issue periodic reports on whether American allies are meeting the requirements. The memo does not mention specific countries but comes amid increasing calls in the U.S. to condition aid to Israel due to its offensive to eliminate Hamas.

4. Pocket Money: World Israel News By Vered Weiss 8 February

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant visited the IDF's Document and Technical Means Collection Unit (Amshat) and uncovered evidence of something that was long suspected; the mastermind of the Hamas October 7th massacre is pocketing millions from Iranian funds earmarked for the terror group. Gallant indicated an envelope he found addressed to Sinwar with \$20,000 in it and said, "This has been known to us for years, but here there is clear evidence of the amounts that were transferred, when they arrived, in which hands, and of course what we see is that Yahya Sinwar takes care of himself before anyone else. Out of millions of dollars, one million goes to him, out of tens of millions, he slips what he needs into his pocket," Gallant added.

The Defense Minister praised the soldiers who collected the information which is currently being decoded, processed and analyzed to assist the IDF in discovering Hamas's plans. "The things that our soldiers have found during the months of fighting are amazing," Gallant said. "There are enormous volumes of material here on computers and papers," he continued. Gallant explained, "This information flows, is decoded here by the best experts of the IDF, the General Security Service, and then is used by our forces, showing them where to go and what to do. Our forces are dismantling the targets according to Hamas's own plans. We are learning other very, very interesting things here," Gallant concluded.

5. Demonstrations to Continue: Ynet News By Roni Green Shaulov 9 February

Several thousand Israelis demonstrated Thursday in Jerusalem, urging the government not to yield to international pressure for a ceasefire, and to continue the Gaza war until Hamas is defeated. Many demonstrators held up posters featuring images of fallen IDF soldiers alongside messages expressing their belief that they had entrusted Israel to pursue victory.

In their speech at the rally, Itzik and Noa Bonzel, the parents of Staff Sergeant Amit Bonzel, who fell in combat in the Gaza Strip, emphasized that "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the War Cabinet must heed the call and demand for total victory." "Amit fell on December 6th. Just days before, he wrote in his journal, which was handed to us with his belongings, that he was proud to be a soldier in the IDF, and that 'the feeling is that we are in a historic operation, and we must finish it with a resounding victory.' We are committed to fulfilling Amit's and all the fallen soldiers' will."

The Bonzel couple addressed the families of the captives: "It is difficult for us to imagine the magnitude of pain, anxiety, and suffering you are enduring. We urge you in this tense and difficult time, amid negotiations for the release of the captives, not to see us as enemies but as brothers. Accept us, we fear that releasing more terrorists will harm Israel's deterrence. Do not view us as enemies when we demand to continue the fight and defeat Hamas. We are brothers."

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1e7eozjp>

6. Work Toward Armament Independence: United with Israel

By Yaakov Lappin, JNS 8 February

In the wake of the ongoing war against Hamas and its exposure of Israel's near total dependence on the United States to replenish its stocks of ammunition, Israel has begun shifting toward greater domestic ammunition production. The Israeli Defense Ministry has begun reaching out to local defense companies to boost production lines and place orders that will ensure they churn out ammunition for years to come, as a top priority. The ministry saw domestic production as a priority even before the war, but the issue has now risen to the top of the national agenda. "The lesson from the war in Ukraine and against Hamas is identical: Israel must significantly increase the arsenal with which it enters the campaign," a former defense official told JNS.

This includes a variety of arms, ranging from Iron Dome interceptors to sophisticated guided air-to-ground munitions and artillery shells. Tank shells could also be a candidate for domestic production. Yet not everything can be moved to Israel. Military aircraft will continue to be made in the United States. The cost of producing aircraft for a single military without exporting them to additional clients would make their production a financial non-starter for Israeli defense industries. Nor would the U.S. agree for Israel to begin competing with it in the global fighter aircraft market, as the 1980s Lavi jet project, which shut down for these reasons, demonstrated.

On Jan. 25, ministry director-general Maj. Gen. (res.) Eyal Zamir concluded a working visit to Washington, D.C., where he met with senior U.S. Department of Defense and State Department leadership, as well as with Lockheed Martin and Boeing executives. Those two companies produce the Israeli Air Force's growing fleet—F-35s, CH53 transport helicopters, Apache helicopters and F-15s. Israel is reportedly attempting to fast-track some of those deliveries, particularly the Apaches.

"The visit underscored the close cooperation between Israel and the United States since the beginning of the ongoing Swords of Iron war," the ministry said in a statement at the time. "Maj. Gen. (res.) Zamir engaged in discussions with his American counterparts about armament procurement, aligning with preparations for evolving combat scenarios. The discussions also focused on plans for force build-up in the upcoming multi-year strategy, including the acquisition of advanced platforms and capabilities to maintain the IDF's qualitative military edge and readiness for diverse scenarios. This approach integrates lessons learned from the war into strategies for obtaining military equipment," it stated.

Nevertheless, it has become painfully clear that Israel's dependence on American ammunition supplies, which saw more than 200 cargo planes touch down Israel following Hamas's Oct. 7 invasion, has become a danger to national security and independence. This dependence means that any Israeli Cabinet must consider the principle of "legitimacy" in its warfare planning—a principle that could become paralyzing if leverage over Israel becomes too great. Should that principle trickle down into operational decision-making, the result can only harm Israel's war efforts.

Israel's current lack of independent mass ammunition production has meant that the IDF needs to weigh its uses of resources carefully in Gaza, when looking at multi-arena threats in the north and at Iran, both of which could become involved in full-scale wars at any time. Such precaution means that the IDF has been running an "armament economy" regarding certain munitions. Both the Air Force and the ground forces must take the prospects of additional fronts catching fire into account. All of this means that mass domestic ammunition production is a must-have for Israel going forward, and there are encouraging signs that this is in fact what is developing.

This will also create very real economic burdens in the future; American ammunition was bought with U.S. aid money. For Israel to create and fund new production lines among its defense industries, it will also need to ensure that society can manage this burden by having as many economically productive citizens in the work force as possible.

7. Who is in Charge?: INN By Jack Engelhard 11 February

So who is in charge of America? We really don't know. A Special Counsel, hired by the Department of Justice, has found Joe Biden too feeble to serve as president. That's the crux of it, as the [report](#) goes on to call him. "an elderly old man with a poor memory."

We needed a Special Counsel for this? For something that everybody knows? This has been known for years, by America, by the world, and certainly by Israel. An hour after the devastating report came out, or maybe it was moments before, this leader of the Free World, hallucinated that Israel's military actions against Hamas was "over the top." So it is with a man who suffers from "poor memory." He forgets Oct.7.

About the report, which landed like a sizzling grenade on all news desks, even the liberal media had to concede that the gist of it is "politically harmful" for Biden. Harmful for Biden. How about the rest of us, some 320 million voyaging into the unknown like a ship without a captain, or a pilot who can't remember east from west? To mix the metaphor, off we go like the Titanic.

For the Democrats, the report is a serious setback, since everything is about themselves, and never the country. That is why they'll stick with Biden, push him to the starting gate, drag him to the finish line, even though this horse only has three legs, or can't remember why he is in a race.

All along, it has been no secret that Biden is not in charge. Some say it's Obama who's boss behind the curtain. Makes sense. Since quite frequently Biden refers to himself as vice president. The media ignore such forgetfulness. That's just Joe being Joe, and if you are a Democrat, everything is forgiven. If you are a Republican, no hope, no chance.

Sometimes Joe mentions Kamala Harris as the president. She does not correct him because she knows something. She's next in line. Should anything happen to Joe Biden, between now and then, she becomes President of

the United States and leader of the Free World. Such are the charms of Affirmative Action, or the Peter Principle, which asserts that mediocrity, or plain stupidity, rises to the top.

All this, ladies and gents, is the leadership of America...owned and operated by the Democrat Party. So who you gonna call when you need assistance? If, say, you are the prime minister of Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu, and there is urgent business to discuss, you call, but nobody answers. Nobody's home. Or, maybe worse, Joe Biden does pick up the phone but thinks he's talking to Trudeau of Canada. Just the other day, Biden confused the leader of Mexico with the leader of Egypt. This is not about old age. Biden has never been top stuff. Throughout his 40 years in Congress, he was always a back-bencher. He got to the top because the Democrats fixed it so. They have ways.

There is talk that the Democrats may turn to Michelle Obama as their candidate if finally, they concede that Biden is a hopeless case. What are her qualifications to serve as leader of the most powerful nation on earth? Same as Kamala Harris. Will the American voter wake up before it's too late?

New York-based bestselling American novelist Jack Engelhard writes regularly for Arutz Sheva.

OP EDs

The Middle East: Un-ask Your Question

by [Amir Taheri](#) February 11, 2024 at 4:00 am

- The question is defective for several reasons.
- [I]t turns the estimated 600 million people who live in more than 20 countries into mere objects in their own story; it is up to outsiders to decide what to do about them.
- The "what-shall-we-do about them?" approach is a relic of the colonial era, when the European empires could regard subject nations as mere pawns in a global game of chess.
- Dealing with the Middle East today isn't as easy as it was even a decade ago, let alone a century ago, when sending a gunboat and greasing a few moustaches could do the trick. Today, soft power is more effective than hard power, especially when those who have it in bucketfuls lack the courage to use more than a teaspoonful of it at any given time, while those who have a little of it are suicidal enough to use all of it.

As the Gaza war seethes through its fifth month, policymakers and think-tankers in the West form a chorus demanding: what shall we do about the Middle East?

The best short answer may be "mu," the Japanese word that means "unask your question".

The word is used when the question is defective and whatever answer that is given could plunge the whole discussion into a deeper misunderstanding.

The question is defective for several reasons.

First it reduces a broader geopolitical, economic, cultural and human reality to an ill-defined geographic term, the Middle East, which has several other variants: the Near East, Levant, the Greater Middle East Area, the Crescent of Crisis etc.

Next, it turns the estimated 600 million people who live in more than 20 countries into mere objects in their own story; it is up to outsiders to decide what to do about them.

Worse still, the assumption is that all the nations encompassed by the term live in the same historic sociopolitical timeframe. The one-size-fits-all approach sees no difference between Yemen, for example, at one end of the spectrum, and Morocco at the other.

The "what-shall-we-do about them?" approach is a relic of the colonial era, when the European empires could regard subject nations as mere pawns in a global game of chess. The approach continued to be in vogue in the early phases of postcolonial development right into the Cold War. It continued to appear useful because most of the nations concerned were governed by fairly narrow elites that owed a good part of their legitimacy and power to patronage by former colonial masters or newcomers to the global power game, such as the United States and the USSR.

The massive changes that the region has experienced in the past few decades have radically altered the situation in all nations concerned. Some have surged forward at a speed that even the most seasoned observers never imagined. Others have been forced into zigzags leading into decline and desolation.

In almost all countries of the region, a new actor has entered the scene: the people-power which, setbacks notwithstanding, manifested its potential, both constructive and destructive, during the sudden storm dubbed as the "Arab Spring." The genie may have been pushed back into the bottle, in some cases for good reasons, but thanks to the

global information revolution, retains the potential to splash back into center stage.

In some nations, a new and younger generation of governing elites has taken over, with an ambitious reform program that could lead to transformations that, while welcome, could leave the bulk of the populations behind in terms of both hopes for and fear of change.

The Middle East today represents a far more complex reality and can no longer be reduced to oil, the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Shiite-Sunni rivalry, terrorism and the clash of half-baked nationalisms.

More importantly, perhaps, we must realize that a region that created the first empires as the best model for organizing human societies has, at long last, adopted the Westphalian model of nation-states as the best means of redefining itself.

Thus, those who say "what should we do about the Middle East" should realize that they are not dealing with a monolith but a geopolitical and cultural entity that consists of more than 20 nation-states with different, at times contradictory, ambitions and interests.

In other words, what may work in Oman won't necessarily work in Algeria, and how to deal with Iran can't be the same as dealing with Islamic Republics of Pakistan or Mauritania.

Dealing with the Middle East today isn't as easy as it was even a decade ago, let alone a century ago, when sending a gunboat and greasing a few moustaches could do the trick. Today, soft power is more effective than hard power, especially when those who have it in bucketfuls lack the courage to use more than a teaspoonful of it at any given time, while those who have a little of it are suicidal enough to use all of it.

To "deal" with the Middle East one needs to unlearn the old lessons, talk less and listen more, steer clear of fiats, make concessions and seek compromises first, with more than 20 nations and finally in overarching multilateral accords.

No, it isn't as easy as it was in the good old days.

Amir Taheri was the executive editor-in-chief of the daily Kayhan in Iran from 1972 to 1979. He has worked at or written for innumerable publications, published eleven books, and has been a columnist for Asharq Al-Awsat since 1987. He is the Chairman of Gatestone Europe. [The Middle East: Un-ask Your Question :: Gatestone Institute](#)

The Red Cross Still Hates the Jews

by [Robert Williams](#) February 11, 2024 at 5:00 am

- Even now, after an agreement was brokered between Israel and Hamas by Qatar to deliver medication to the hostages in Gaza, via France to Qatar and then through Egypt, the ICRC refuses to touch the medicines and has said that it wants nothing to do with them.
- "We know that the medications effectively entered into Gaza. The modalities of their transfer to the hostages were dealt with under Qatar's mediation. We now expect to receive verifiable proof that the medications have reached their beneficiaries." — Unnamed French official, Times of Israel, February 6, 2024.
- On social media, the ICRC has made no secret of its anti-Israel bias and its complete lack of care for the Israeli hostages held by Hamas. "77% [of the tweets] were focused on criticizing Israel, expressly or by implication. Only 7% of the tweets criticized Hamas... No statement was made speaking directly about the massacre of October 7th... it is evident that the ICRC has dedicated large amounts of resources to interviewing doctors and victims in Gaza.... Comparatively little to no attention was paid to Israeli victims." — UN Watch, December 11, 2023.
- As if to confirm the ICRC's coverup for Hamas, the newly appointed head of the ICRC is Pierre Krähenbühl, who was the head of UNRWA, the UN's agency for Palestinian refugees from 2014 until 2019, when he was forced to resign after a damning internal ethics probe. UNRWA is effectively embedded with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.
- This is not the first time the ICRC ignored the plight of Jewish victims. During the Holocaust, the ICRC did nothing to help any of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and instead wrote a "favorable report of the good treatment of Jews in German camps."

Pictured: Israeli hostages are transported from Gaza to Egypt in International Committee of the Red Cross vehicles, through the Rafah crossing on November 30, 2023. (Photo by Ahmad Hasaballah/Getty Images)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a [mandate](#) to "alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity," especially during armed conflicts. It has an annual [budget](#) of roughly \$2.7 billion to fulfill that mandate. Yet, when it comes to the Israelis kidnapped by Hamas during the terrorist organization's



horrific invasion on October 7, the ICRC has literally done absolutely nothing.

Approximately 136 hostages remain in Gaza, but Israel has [confirmed](#) that at least 32 of those hostages are no longer alive.

Throughout the more than four months that have passed since thousands of Hamas terrorists invaded southern Israel on October 7 and raped, mutilated, tortured, burned and murdered their way through Israeli communities, kidnapping more than 240 hostages and dragging them into the terror tunnels of Gaza, and killing more than 1,200 mostly civilians, including babies and the elderly, the ICRC has refused to play any role in helping the hostages in any way, including basic ICRC obligations such as visiting them to check on their physical condition – many hostages were severely injured by the terrorists, when they were taken hostage – and bringing them medication.

The organization [boasts](#) :

"The ICRC's actions are aimed at protecting the lives, health and dignity of people affected by violence. In doing so, the ICRC takes a holistic, integrated approach in which three distinct areas of action – protection, assistance and prevention – are closely interlinked. Work done in any one of these areas informs, reinforces and complements actions taken in the others."

So far, the ICRC has done absolutely nothing to "protect" the lives of the hostages in Gaza, has not "assisted" them, or done anything to "prevent" the ongoing physical and psychological abuse of the hostages, including rape and torture. The ICRC has done nothing, even if such attempts at prevention had meant only the most basic task of obtaining access to the hostages and ensuring that any signs of abuse would be made public for the world to react to, or even just making public statements directed at Hamas to the effect that they must not harm the hostages. The ICRC has uttered no such thing.

The only time they have shown themselves on the scene was in operating what has been dubbed as the ICRC's "Uber" service: passing the little more than 100 freed hostages from Hamas vehicles into the ICRC's SUVs.

Shockingly, the ICRC has consistently refused to provide the hostages with life-saving medicine, and [claimed](#) that Hamas would not let them.

[According](#) to ICRC spokeswoman Elizabeth Shaw:

"Since October 7, the ICRC has continuously called for the release of all hostages and for their humane treatment. We have been meeting with Hamas at all levels and undertaking humanitarian diplomacy efforts to gain access to people being held, to be able to visit them, and bring the necessary items, like medicines."

Five families of Israeli hostages are suing the ICRC for its neglect. One of them, former Israeli hostage Raz Ben Ami, who [suffers](#) from several brain tumors, is suing the ICRC for its neglect: the organization has violated its own mandate by not visiting the hostages and guaranteeing their safety or taking action to assist in their release. Ben Ami's family [pleaded](#) with the ICRC to bring her the vital medications, but ICRC officials in Israel, Germany and the United States all rejected the family's requests. [According](#) to the lawsuit, the family's appeals were acknowledged with an email dismissing the issue with a message wishing the family luck with "reconnecting with their loved ones."

Attorney Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, who is representing the families, [said](#):

"[The ICRC] does nothing, absolutely zero, for the Israeli hostages, and I want to remind you that young women and young men kept hostages by Hamas are probably being raped, being sexually abused or assaulted, being tortured. We know that because we hear the testimonies of the hostages that were released. And one of the jobs of [the] Red Cross is to prevent this from happening. They are supposed to make sure that their hostages are safe or not getting harmed."

"The Red Cross ignores and betrays its duties, a breach of its legal obligation, and therefore is being sued for compensation for the damages caused to the hostages, and being sued for orders that we asked the court to compel the Red Cross to fulfill its obligation to compel [it] to visit the centers to give them the medicine they need and to protect their well-being."

During a meeting with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem in December, the ICRC readily [admitted](#) that it had not even tried getting access to the hostages.

"You have every avenue, every right and every expectation to place public pressure on Hamas," Netanyahu [told](#) ICRC chief Mirjana Spoljaric Egger.

"It is not going to work because the more public pressure we seemingly would do, the more they will shut the door," Egger claimed.

"I'm not sure about that. Why don't you try?" Netanyahu asked.

Netanyahu [told](#) a special Knesset session attended by families of the hostages that the ICRC had refused his

request to bring the medicine:

"I met with the Red Cross; I handed them a box of medicine for some of the hostages shown here. Some of them really need it... I told a representative to take this box to Rafah; she said 'no.' It was a difficult conversation."

Perhaps the ICRC is unwilling to try, because they are Hamas sympathizers.

Families of hostages held in Gaza reported that ICRC officials, who had invited to a meeting the parents of one hostage, Doron Steinbrecher, who is in dire need of her daily medications, rebuked the parents instead of telling them that their daughter would finally receive the much-needed medication.

"Think about the Palestinian side," the representatives of the Red Cross [told](#) the parents. "It's hard for the Palestinians, they're being bombed."

"We left there as we entered: without new information, without something new, and with disappointment," said Simona, the hostage's mother, about the meeting.

In another case, the ICRC [refused](#) to bring Elma Avraham, an 84-year-old woman, who has since been released from Hamas captivity, her medication. She was in critical condition upon her release.

"We were in meetings with the Red Cross and asked them to make every effort to bring the medications to her, because some hostages are just dying. From a medical and nursing standpoint, what we witnessed is unlawful neglect," [said](#) Dr. Nadav Davidovitz, who treated Elma after her release.

Even now, after an [agreement](#) was brokered between Israel and Hamas by Qatar to deliver medication to the hostages in Gaza, via France to Qatar and then through Egypt, the ICRC [refuses](#) to touch the medicines and has said that it wants nothing to do with them. The ICRC [wrote](#) in a statement:

"The parties negotiated the agreement, including how much medicines would be delivered and by whom, with Qatar brokering the deal. The mechanism that was agreed to does not involve the ICRC playing any part in its implementation, including the delivery of medication.

"The ICRC welcomes the agreement to deliver medications to the hostages and to medical facilities for the residents of Gaza as a positive humanitarian step."

Israel, incredibly has to [rely](#) on employees of the "Gaza Ministry of Health" – Hamas terrorists, in other words – to deliver the often life-saving medications to the hostages. As of this writing, while the medications have arrived in Gaza, no one, as far as we know, has distributed them to the hostages.

"We know that the medications effectively entered into Gaza. The modalities of their transfer to the hostages were dealt with under Qatar's mediation. We now expect to receive verifiable proof that the medications have reached their beneficiaries," a French unnamed official [said](#) on February 6.

On social media, the ICRC has made no secret of its anti-Israel bias and its complete lack of care for the Israeli hostages held by Hamas. [According](#) to a recent report by UN Watch, the ICRC "has adopted an overwhelmingly skewed approach to the Hamas-Israel war in its social media..."

"Out of 187 tweets published by the main Red Cross accounts on Twitter (now known as X), including those by ICRC president Mirjana Spoljaric Egger and director-general Robert Mardini, 77% were focused on criticizing Israel, expressly or by implication. Only 7% of the tweets criticized Hamas..."

"While statements against Hamas and Israel use emotive language, the ICRC has made 6 times more statements to criticize Israel and has often resorted to hyperbole to cast Israel as a 'limitless' destroyer to evoke sympathy for one side and demonize Israel. No statement was made speaking directly about the massacre of October 7th. Beyond language, only 2 statements condemning Hamas include videos and pictures while 38 tweets condemning Israel contain images, graphic testimonies, and videos designed to solicit greater attention and a stronger response. Through their Twitter, it is evident that the ICRC has dedicated large amounts of resources to interviewing doctors and victims in Gaza, to editing infographics and videos, and to appearing on the news to talk about the devastation in Gaza. Comparatively little to no attention was paid to Israeli victims."

As if to confirm the ICRC's cover-up for Hamas, the newly appointed head of the ICRC is Pierre Krähenbühl, who was the head of UNRWA, the UN's agency for Palestinian refugees from 2014 until 2019, when he was forced to resign after a damning internal ethics probe. UNRWA is effectively [embedded](#) with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. On October 7, as the Hamas massacre of civilians in Israel unfolded, UNRWA employees in Gaza [celebrated](#). In November, a released hostage [revealed](#) that he had been held hostage by an UNRWA teacher, a father of 10, who kept him locked up and barely gave him food or medical care.

UN Watch [stated](#) in a recent report:

"UNRWA has been a breeding ground for Palestinian terrorists from its early day... The perpetrators of the 1972

Munich Olympic Massacre, in which 11 Israeli athletes were murdered... almost all were raised and educated in UNRWA schools... Likewise, Mohamed Deif, the commander of Hamas's Al Qassem Brigades, who masterminded the October 7th massacre, was also educated in a UNRWA school,"

This is not the first time the ICRC ignored the plight of Jewish victims. During the Holocaust, the ICRC did [nothing](#) to help any of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and instead [wrote](#) a "favorable report of the good treatment of Jews in German camps."

One Holocaust survivor asked in May 1945: "Where, above all, was the International Red Cross Committee?"

Unfortunately, in our own time, we already know the answer: The ICRC is cheering for Hamas.

Robert Williams is a researcher based in the United States. [The Red Cross Still Hates the Jews :: Gatestone Institute](#)