

Hostage Uriel Baruch murdered by Hamas, his body held in Gaza, family confirms



Uriel Baruch is presumed taken hostage from the Supernova desert rave by Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023. (Courtesy)

The Tikva Forum for Families of Hostages announces the death of Uriel Baruch, who was taken hostage from the Supernova music festival on October 7.

His body is being held in Gaza, the Forum says.

He is survived by his wife Rachel and their two sons.

“Uriel was a happy and loved man, he was loved by everyone

around him,” his family says in a statement released via the Tikva Forum.

His death brings the number of confirmed deaths of hostages in Gaza to 34.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-march-26-2024/>

Rockets pound north after IDF hits northeastern Lebanon in deepest strikes yet

No casualties were reported and the event did not obstruct operational activities, the IDF noted.

By [TZVI JOFFRE](#), [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MARCH 26, 2024 11:13 **Updated:** MARCH 26, 2024 16:35



Smoke rises after a rocket fired from Lebanon hit Moshav Avivim, northern Israel, March 26, 2024. (photo credit: AYAL MARGOLIN/FLASH90)

The IDF struck a military compound used by Hezbollah's aerial units near Zboud in northeastern Lebanon on Tuesday afternoon, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said.

These were the deepest strikes conducted by the IDF in Lebanon since the beginning of the war.

The compound contained an airstrip and several military structures used by Hezbollah. Shortly after the strikes, barrages of rockets were fired from Lebanon towards the Golan Heights and the Galilee, with the Lebanese Al-Mayadeen TV reporting that 50 rockets were launched in the barrage.

معلومات عن استهداف محيط مستشفى الحكومي في منطقة زبُود، (بين بلدة القاع والهرميل) في البقاع الشمالي، بصاروخين. #الهرميل
#البقاع #لبنان #بعلبك #العدو الإسرائيلي #ليبياوس pic.twitter.com/w7HtJx8kav

— Lebanos (@lebanosnews) March 26, 2024

The strikes came hours after rockets were launched towards the IDF Aerial Control Unit in the Meron area in Israel's North, the military said on Tuesday.

No casualties were reported, and the event did not obstruct operational activities, the IDF noted.

In addition, the **military stated three launches were detected towards Avivim with no casualties at the scene.**

The **military further stated it had fired at the sources of the launches.**

IDF strikes site used by Hezbollah aerial unit in northeastern Lebanon. March 26, 2024 (Credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)

Winery heavily damaged

Earlier on **Tuesday, Israeli media reported that a winery was heavily damaged in Avivim** in Israel's North as a result of an anti-tank missile. No casualties were reported.

Israel's National Fire and Rescue Authority said two teams were operating at the scene.

Fire erupts in Avivim winery. March 26, 2024. (Credit: Shalom Bitton).

The **Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese news organization Al-Mayadeen, citing the terror**

organization, reported Hezbollah claimed to have targeted two buildings in Avivim in response to Israel's military activities in southern Lebanon. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-793752>

Hezbollah claims it has six-fold increase in speed of weapons delivery

The Hezbollah official also said that the group is in touch with “major international powers” and that it has been speaking with Hamas in Gaza.



By [SETH J. FRANTZMAN](#) MARCH 26, 2024 12:08 **Updated:** MARCH 26, 2024 16:58

A Hezbollah fighter stands in front of anti-tank artillery at Juroud Arsal (photo credit: REUTERS/ALI HASHISHO)

Hezbollah has increased the speed with which it can stockpile weapons, one of its senior officials told Al Mayadeen, a pro-Iranian news channel based in Beirut.

This is important because Hezbollah has carried out thousands of attacks against Israel over the past five months. It has used thousands of rockets, anti-tank missiles, and drones to target Israel.

Nawaf al-Mousawi, Hezbollah's head of “Resources and Borders,” said Hezbollah is now capable of receiving as many weapons in a month as it used to receive in six months, Al Mayadeen reported.

“He revealed that what the Lebanese Resistance group used to deliver to its storage facilities in a period of half a year is now being delivered within a month, highlighting that Hezbollah continues to build new storage facilities and bring in new missiles, ones that are more accurate and of new types for naval, ground, and aerial use,” the report said.

Mousawi contrasted Hezbollah's ability to resupply itself with weapons with what he said was Israel's logistical challenges. He said Israel “does not have the logistical ability to strike Lebanon, nor does it have the ability to strike Gaza, were it not for the [US air bridge] that works daily to supply Israeli occupation forces with weapons and ammunition.”



A supporter of Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah holds his picture during a rally commemorating the group's late leaders in Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon February 16, 2024. (credit: REUTERS/MOHAMED AZAKIR/FILE PHOTO)

Hezbollah hoping war will end in Gaza, it seems

Hezbollah is in touch with “major international powers,” he said, adding that it has been speaking with Hamas in Gaza, the report said. Previous reports had said Hezbollah was in touch with Hamas after [October 7](#) and had discussed whether to enter the war and back Hamas. Instead, Hezbollah began smaller attacks against Israel, short of a full-scale war.

Mousawi has spoken to the media in the past about Hezbollah's ties with Hamas and the issue of

whether it should enter the war. He says Hezbollah will not abandon the Palestinians in Gaza, which means they will continue attacks on Israel.

Clearly, Hezbollah is weighing this issue, because it continues to suffer losses from Israeli strikes when the IDF retaliates for its attacks.

“Since October 8, 2023, Hezbollah's Resistance fighters have been attacking Israeli occupation forces and military sites along the border with occupied Palestine, in support of the people of Gaza and the Palestinian Resistance,” Al Mayadeen reported. “The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon has reiterated that it will suspend its operations against Israeli targets once the ongoing aggression on the Gaza Strip ends.”

This appears to show that Hezbollah hopes this will be the outcome. It doesn't want a huge war, but it has also caused 80,000 Israelis to evacuate northern Israel, a major change from past conflicts.

Mousawi hinted that Hezbollah has “new weapons” that it has been using against Israel. The weapons, including missiles, are more accurate and can be used in the maritime or ground domain, he said,

adding that Hezbollah is also acquiring drones.

“International players, including the United States, have asked Hezbollah to engage in direct dialogue, affirming that the Lebanese Resistance party has declined these requests,” Mousawi was quoted as saying.

The **interview shows how Hezbollah is calculating its actions**. It is working with Hamas and values the influence and power that has come through its attacks on Israel.

Hezbollah also is bragging about its weapons stockpile, which may be propaganda designed to show that it is not running out of certain types of munitions. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-793772>

Hamas hostage deal rebuff preceded UNSC vote, US says, accusing PM of playing politics

Top Biden administration official says Netanyahu's claim that resolution led to hardened Hamas stance inaccurate, unfair to hostages, insinuates premier is neglecting them

By [Jacob Magid](#) Today, 7:09 pm



Relatives and supporters of Israeli hostages held in the Gaza Strip by the Hamas terror group lead a Purim parade in Jerusalem, March 25, 2024. (AP Photo/Ohad Zwigenberg)

WASHINGTON — Hamas's rejection of the latest hostage deal offer was issued before the United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire and hostage deal that Washington allowed to pass, a senior Biden administration official told The Times of Israel on Thursday, blasting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for claiming the UN vote led the terror group to harden its stance in the talks.

Netanyahu's office said in an earlier statement that Hamas's decision to reject a US-brokered compromise was “a sad testament to the damage caused by the UN Security Council resolution.”

A senior Biden administration official speaking on condition of anonymity hit back at **Netanyahu's claim, saying, “This statement is inaccurate** in almost every respect and unfair to the hostages and their families.”

“The description of the Hamas response reflects news reports and not the actual substance of that response, which was prepared before the UN vote even took place,” the official said.

“We will not play politics with this most important and difficult issue, and we will remain focused on a deal to free the remaining hostages,” the official added in a scathing critique of Netanyahu, appearing to accuse him of neglecting the 134 hostages still held in Gaza.

The **statement was repeated on the record by US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller later Tuesday.**

The **back-and-forth came a day after the White House accused the premier of manufacturing a crisis** in US-Israel ties. **Netanyahu canceled plans to send a delegation of his top aides to Washington** to discuss a potential IDF offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah in response to the US abstaining on the Security Council resolution and allowing it to pass.

Several hours after the vote, Hamas issued a statement announcing that it had informed mediators of ongoing hostage talks in Doha that it would stick to its already rejected original position on demanding a permanent ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, a return of displaced Palestinians and a “real” exchange of “prisoners.”

However, the senior administration official maintained that Hamas had already delivered its response before the vote.

Indeed, senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan issued a statement hours before the Security Council meeting, rejecting the US's involvement in the talks along with Qatar and Egypt and

maintaining that the mediators were overly focused on the number of Palestinian security prisoners to be released in the deal, rather than issues more important to Hamas such as ending the Israeli “aggression” in Gaza, scaling up humanitarian aid, allowing Palestinians to return to the northern Strip and advancing a plan for the enclave’s reconstruction.

Netanyahu’s office on Tuesday accused Hamas of retreating to its “extreme demands,” including a complete end to the war and full IDF withdrawal from Gaza.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a radio interview Tuesday morning that **the US decision to withhold a veto on the Security Council resolution would hurt Israel** in talks to free its hostages.

Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer told Bloomberg TV on Tuesday that the US decision gave Hamas reason to believe “they’re going to get a ceasefire without giving up the hostages.”

Netanyahu’s office said Monday that the US abstention marked a divergence from Washington’s policy linking a ceasefire to Hamas releasing the hostages it abducted on October 7, but US officials [asserted](#) that this wasn’t their interpretation of the resolution and that their position in favor of that conditionality has not changed.



White House National Security Council adviser John Kirby answers questions about Israel during a press briefing, March 25, 2024. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

“It seems like the Prime Minister’s Office is choosing to create a perception of daylight here when they don’t need to do that,” White House National Security Council John Kirby said in a press briefing.

“We’re kind of perplexed by this. It’s a non-binding resolution, so there’s no impact at all on Israel’s ability to continue to go after Hamas,” Kirby said. **[You folks are perplexed because you are terminally stupid and have little understanding of how islamics think.- rdb]**

A second US official briefing a small group of reporters said that the US worked to ensure that the resolution’s demands for a ceasefire and hostage release would be part of the same paragraph after they initially were separated, to dispel the notion that the two aren’t linked with each other. However, the text still does not explicitly condition the ceasefire demand on the release of the hostages.

The official added that the Biden administration was perplexed by what it views as a major overreaction by Netanyahu, but speculated that the premier is motivated by domestic Israeli politics.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-hostage-deal-rebuff-preceded-unsc-vote-us-says-accusing-pm-of-playing-politics/>

In interrogations, Hamas, PIJ operatives describe using Shifa hospital as terror hub

Terrorists reveal how they use ‘Shifa or schools’ as shelter, operatives disguise themselves as nurses, say Hamas has 600-1,000 members at facility, stores arms in residency ward

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 7:34 pm



Islamic Jihad operative Nabeel Rajab Abed Shteivi is seen being interrogated in a video released by the IDF on March 26, 2024, after he was detained by the IDF near Gaza City’s Shifa Hospital. (Screenshot/Israel Defense Forces)

The Israel Defense Forces Intelligence Directorate on Tuesday released video footage of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad operatives detailing how the terror groups used Gaza City’s Shifa Hospital as a base for terror operations.

The terror operatives were detained in the vicinity of Shifa Hospital in recent days amid the ongoing large-scale military operation that began

last week, the military said.

The **Islamic Jihad operative**, identified by the IDF as **Nabeel Rajab Abed Shteivi**, said during the interrogation that he **has been working with the terror group in missile production** since 2012.

“Shifa, or schools and places like that, are our shelter,” Shteivi said of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas, adding that **he was living in the hospital for three months**.

Asked by the **interrogator where the group’s headquarters inside the hospital are located**, **Shteivi said that the group “does not have specific headquarters. They are in all the buildings, scattered everywhere.”**

He said that **a large number of Hamas operatives use the hospital’s “Specialist Building” as their hub, but added that this “doesn’t mean that they aren’t in other buildings” as well.**

As to **how so many terror operatives can move around the hospital undisturbed**, he said, **“You might see someone who doesn’t look like a nurse, but is dressed in nurse clothes walking around.”**

The **IDF also released footage from the interrogation of Hamas operative Bakr Ahmed Bakr Qanita, who said he was in Shifa Hospital for 25 days.**

He described his role in the terror group as being **“in charge of the defensive area in Gaza” and said he was responsible for 143 people.**

Telling the interrogator that there are 600-1,000 Hamas operatives inside the hospital, Qanita said that **there are “certain places” in Shifa that belong to the group, including in the medical residency department where terror operatives store weapons.**

He confirmed that the **group uses the Specialist Building as one of its primary locations**, as Shteivi said, along with the Management Building.

“I told the officer there where the Islamic Jihad places are, like in the Maternity Ward for example,” he added, describing it as their **“headquarters.”**



Mortars captured by IDF troops at Shifa Hospital’s MRI center, in a video released on March 25, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)

The two terror groups tend to use hospitals across Gaza as their operation hubs because of “the large population and the large displacement,” Qanita said, **adding that access to water and electricity is also a factor in the decision.**

“In the end, the civilians, the sick, the injured, are affected by this,” Qanita stated.

In a statement released alongside the video footage, the IDF said **“the terrorists disclosed details of Hamas terror infrastructure deeply**

embedded within the hospital, which is used by senior Hamas operatives for planning and directing terror attacks.”

Troops **have detained 500 confirmed members of Hamas and PIJ since** the beginning of the raid, according to the latest information provided by the IDF.

International law stipulates that while a medical facility is a protected site in conflict, it loses that status if it is used for military activity. Israel has offered evidence **Hamas uses such facilities as cover** for terror purposes and says the group plunders humanitarian aid to take supplies for its fighters, depriving the civilian population.

Israel **has said those arrested at Shifa include several “very significant” senior Hamas and PIJ commanders.** Seemingly confirming that, an unnamed Hamas official told Lebanon’s AL-Akhbar newspaper on Monday that the significance of commanders from the group who had been detained or killed during the operation should not be underestimated.

The **IDF on Monday accused Hamas gunmen of firing at troops from Shifa Hospital’s emergency room**, maternity and burn wards, effectively **“destroying” the hospital.** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-interrogations-hamas-pij-operatives-describe-using-shifa-hospital-as-terror-hub/>

US says Israel using weapons in line with international law, not blocking Gaza aid

State Department says Israel's use of American weapons meets requirements of new national security memorandum, complies with humanitarian law

By [Jacob Magid](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 5:59 am

The US has deemed Israel to be in compliance with a new national security memorandum after it received a written assurance from Jerusalem that it is using American weapons in line with international law and is not blocking humanitarian assistance in Gaza.

This assurance came last week via a “credible high-level official who has the ability and authority to make decisions and commitments about the issues at the heart of the assurances,” State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said, referring to the letter sent by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

“These assurances are prospective, but of course, our view of them is informed by our ongoing assessments of Israel’s conduct in the war in Gaza,” Miller said during a press briefing.

“We’ve had ongoing assessments of Israel’s compliance with international humanitarian law. We have not found them to be in violation, either when it comes to the conduct of the war or the provision of humanitarian assistance. We view those assurances through that ongoing work we have done,” he said.

The State Department has until May 8 to provide Congress with a report on Israel’s compliance with the memo.

The announcement came on the same day that the US abstained from a vote at the United Nations Security Council calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of the hostages taken on October 7, without linking the two issues. The resolution, backed by Russia and China, passed with 14 votes.

The vote sparked a spat with Israel, which argued that its passage would make Hamas more obstinate in truce talks in Qatar. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also canceled a planned trip to Washington by his top aides to discuss plans for an offensive in the Gaza city of Rafah.

Tensions have been escalating over Israel’s plans for a large-scale ground operation in the southern Gaza city, which is both Hamas’s last major stronghold in the Strip and where over a million Gazans displaced by the fighting are now located.

Washington and Jerusalem have also disagreed on the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza, with Israel blaming the ailing humanitarian situation on aid agencies’ failure to distribute supplies, and on Hamas and armed groups who have looted trucks entering the Gaza Strip.

Hours after the Security Council vote, Hamas said it would insist on demands for a permanent ceasefire, a withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, the return of displaced Palestinians to central and north Gaza, and a release of Palestinian security prisoners — demands Israel has already rejected repeatedly as delusional.

The White House has shown increasing willingness in recent months to voice dissatisfaction with Israel over civilian casualties in Gaza and the humanitarian situation there, including [adopting a harsher tone](#).

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Israel over the weekend on the last stop of his sixth diplomatic swing through the region since war erupted on October 7, amid mounting tensions between Washington and Jerusalem over the management of the conflict and Israel’s intent on a Rafah offensive.

Blinken held one-on-one meetings with both Netanyahu and war cabinet minister Benny Gantz on Friday, along with the war cabinet.

Blinken told reporters after his meetings that the US shares Israel’s goal of defeating Hamas and ensuring long-term security, but that “a major military ground operation in Rafah is not the way to do it.”

“It risks killing more civilians. It risks wreaking greater havoc with the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It risks further isolating Israel around the world and jeopardizing its long-term security and standing,” Blinken said on the Ben Gurion Airport tarmac just before boarding a plane to depart. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-using-weapons-in-line-with-international-law-not-blocking-gaza-aid-says-us/>

Celebrating UNSC resolution: Hamas and Islamic Jihad chiefs in Tehran

Hamas leader Haniyeh welcomed the UNSC resolution demanding a ceasefire but failed to mention the obligation to release the hostages.

By [TZVI JOFFRE](#) MARCH 26, 2024 17:57



Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh meets with Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Tehran. March 26, 2024 (photo credit: KHAMENEI.IR)

The **head of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, and the secretary-general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist movement, Ziyad al-Nakhala, arrived in Tehran on Tuesday to meet with Iranian leaders, a day after the UN Security Council approved a resolution demanding a ceasefire in Gaza.**

Haniyeh met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei to discuss “developments related to the ongoing war on Gaza and all the variables related to the Palestinian issue,”

according to a statement by Hamas.

Haniyeh celebrated the UN Security Council resolution approved on Monday, saying during a press conference with Iran’s foreign minister that this “indicates the unprecedented political isolation experienced by the Israeli occupation.”

The **Hamas leader neglected to mention the resolution’s demand that his movement “immediately and unconditionally” release the Israeli hostages it kidnapped during the October 7th massacre.**

Haniyeh added that Israel had “failed to achieve its political and military goals” in Gaza, saying, “We are going through a historical stage and a fateful turning point in the context of the historical conflict with the Zionist entity in the Battle of Al-Aqsa Flood (Hamas’s name for the October 7 massacre).”



Hamas’ top leader, Ismail Haniyeh speaks during a press conference in Tehran, Iran, March 26, 2024 (credit: Majid Asgaripour/WANA via Reuters)

During the meeting between Khamenei and Haniyeh, Khamenei complimented “the propaganda and media measures” of Hamas and the other Palestinian terrorist groups. He also referenced the elimination of Hamas leader Saleh al-Arouri, calling him an “outstanding personality” and saying he had a “happy end of martyrdom.”

Haniyeh told Khamenei, “The Gaza war is a world war, and the American ruling body is the main accomplice of the Zionist crime because it is in charge of leading the war of the Zionist regime.”

'Palestinians will defeat Israel thanks to Quran, Islam, Iran'

Nakhala spoke at an event in the Azadi Stadium in Tehran on Tuesday, insisting that “The Palestinian nation will defeat Israel thanks to the Quran and Islam and Iran's support.”

زیاد نخاله، دبیرکل جنبش جهاد اسلامی فلسطین، با حضور در تجمع حکومتی «محفل قرآنی امام حسنی‌ها» در استادیوم آزادی تهران گفت به «برکت حمایت جمهوری اسلامی از فلسطین اسرائیل را نابود می‌کنیم.»
— اتاق خبر منوتو (@ManotoNews) [March 26, 2024](#)
[pic.twitter.com/fDzk09vxmY](https://www.pic.twitter.com/fDzk09vxmY)

The Islamic Jihad leader was set to meet with Iranian leaders later in the day.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-793838>

Gallant: 'While I'm meeting with Pentagon, Hamas is meeting with Iran'



Gallant said that this juxtaposition of meetings and allegiances was “the clearest sign that there is a war going on between the free world and the axis which promotes terror.”

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#), [HANNAH SARISOHN](#) MARCH 26, 2024 17:35 Updated: MARCH 26, 2024 21:38

US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant hold a joint statements at HaKirya base in Tel Aviv on October 13, 2023 (photo credit: MIRIAM ALSTER/FLASH90)

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant met with US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin at press time on Tuesday. He issued a statement noting that at the same time as his meeting, Hamas Chief Ismail Haniyeh was in Tehran meeting with the Iranian leadership.

Gallant said that this juxtaposition of meetings and allegiances was "the clearest sign that there is a war going on between the free world and the axis which promotes terror."

The defense minister said that Israel, the US, and other allies needed to "join hands using both military and diplomatic means, and to raise the military pressure" against Hamas to convince it to release the approximately 70 living [Israeli hostages](#) plus approximately 60 remains it is holding.

He said that they discussed how to manage the next stages of the war, how to return the hostages, and how to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge over its adversaries in the region.

Despite Gallant's optimistic portrayal of the meeting, right before the two men started their meeting, Austin said that it was a moral and strategic imperative to protect Palestinian civilians, calling the situation in Gaza a "humanitarian catastrophe" as relations between US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sank to a wartime low.



Palestinians gather on a beach as they collect aid airdropped by an airplane, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in the northern Gaza Strip, March 25, 2024. (credit: REUTERS/STRINGER)

Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said, "Today Secretary of Defense Austin hosted Israeli Minister of Defense Gallant at the Pentagon for his first visit to Washington in his current role. The Secretary and Minister Gallant affirmed their shared interest in defeating Hamas. They discussed the importance of prioritizing civilians in Rafah, the dire humanitarian situation across Gaza, and threats to regional security."

"The Secretary stressed that the United States and Israel have a moral imperative and a shared strategic interest in safeguarding civilians, noting that any assault on Rafah should not proceed without a credible and implementable plan that ensures the safety and humanitarian support for civilians sheltering there. The Secretary also urged Minister Gallant to expand entry points for humanitarian assistance and address distribution challenges inside of Gaza. He also reiterated the department's commitment to establish a temporary maritime corridor to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza.," Singh added.

Netanyahu cancels Washington delegations after USNC vote

The meeting between the two came after Netanyahu on Monday canceled a separate visit to Washington by two of his most senior aides, Tzahi Hanegbi and Ron Demer, who were due to hear US ideas about operational alternatives for how to eliminate Hamas's four battalions in Rafah in Gaza.

Netanyahu's fraught relations with Biden have hit a new nadir over Washington's decision not to veto a UN Security Council resolution seeking an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, which itself came after months of frustration from Biden that Netanyahu was neither: trying to bring the war to an end, nor figure out a plan for "the Day After" the IDF will withdraw from Gaza, nor figure out ways to exponentially and rapidly increase humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Gallant did not respond to Austin's criticism on the spot or mention it in his statement to the press.

Austin's statement outlined how hard it will be for Gallant to convince Austins that the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is not nearly as bad as the UN and the media are portraying it to be.

Further, there is speculation that Austin and the US may slowly walk, instead of speeding up, military aid to Israel going forward until Biden feels that his main priorities are being taken more seriously by Israel.

At the same time as Netanyahu has lost more support politically in Israel, his main opposition National Unity Party leader, Benny Gantz, has continued to support him about the need to invade Rafah despite US objections.

Austin said he would discuss alternate approaches to targeting Hamas militants in Rafah.

The **senior defense official said Austin discussed potential steps like Israel's precision targeting of Hamas fighters in Rafah.**

The threat of such an offensive has increased differences between close allies the United States and Israel and raised questions about whether the US might restrict military aid if Netanyahu defies Biden and presses ahead anyway.

Austin said the security bond between Israel and the United States was "unshakeable."

"The United States is Israel's closest friend, and that won't change," he added.

Separately, US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Fuad Hussein. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Higher Military Commission process, which will enable the transition to a durable bilateral security partnership between Iraq and the United States and help to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-793841>

Released hostage: 'I was forced to commit sexual acts with a gun pointed at me'

Trigger Warning: This story describes deeply disturbing events and testimonials in graphic detail.

By JACOB LAZNIK MARCH 26, 2024 20:32 Updated: MARCH 26, 2024 22:42



Released hostage Amit Soussana, kidnapped on the deadly October 7 attack by Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, talks to the press in front of her destroyed home at the Kibbutz Kfar Aza, Israel, January 29, 2024 (photo credit: REUTERS/ALEXANDRE MENEHINI)

Released Gaza hostage Amit Soussana gave her personal testimony of the sexual violence and physical abuse she endured in Hamas captivity in an eight-hour interview with The New York Times that was published on Tuesday. She is the first released hostage to give direct testimony of sexual atrocities committed by Hamas.

Soussana previously made headlines when a video surfaced of the moment of her capture, when she fought off seven Hamas terrorists before being brought to Gaza.

In the interview, Soussana recalled being held hostage in a child's bedroom in Gaza with a chain attached to her left ankle. The Hamas terrorist in charge of guarding her, whom she named Muhammad, occasionally would sit beside her on the bed, lift her shirt, and grope her, she said.

Recently released hostage Amit Soussana's remarkable courage shines in a new video on N12. The footage vividly captures her brave stand against seven terrorists, as she adamantly refuses to be taken hostage. Read more: <https://t.co/JjmY2ohHHZ> pic.twitter.com/wVdimQETbj

— The Jerusalem Post (@Jerusalem_Post) [December 5, 2023](#)

Demonstrators gather during a protest the crimes and sexual violence against women in October 7 massacre, outside of United Nations headquarters in New York City, on December 4, 2023. (credit: YAKOV BINYAMIN/FLASH 90)



Muhammad would constantly ask about her period, inquiring if she was bleeding, if she had washed herself since, and when it would end, she added.

Sometime around October 24, Muhammad forced her to commit a sex act on him, Soussana said.

On that morning, he unlocked the chain around her ankle so that she could wash herself in the bathtub, she said, adding that after she began,

Muhammad returned with a pistol.

"He came toward me and shoved the gun at my forehead," Soussana said.

Muhammad hit her repeatedly to force her to take her towel off. After she did, Muhammad groped her before continuing to hit her.

Afterward, he dragged her back to the child's room at gunpoint. The room was covered in images of SpongeBob Squarepants, she said.

"Then, with the gun pointed at me, [he] forced me to commit a sexual act on him," Soussana said. After it was over, Muhammad left the room to wash up and left Soussana naked in the dark.

When he returned, she said, he expressed remorse, telling her, "I'm bad. I'm bad. Please don't tell Israel."

Soussana also recounted her moral quandary of accepting food from her abuser.

"You can't stand looking at him, but you have to," she told the Times. "He's the one who's protecting you. He's your guard. You're there with him, and you know that at any moment it can happen again. You're completely dependent on him."

Soussana then discussed her second captor, Amir, after she was transferred to a different location. On the day that she arrived at the new apartment, the Hamas terrorists wrapped her head in a pink shirt, forced her onto the floor, handcuffed her, and beat her with the butt of a gun, she said.

Minutes after that, they suspended her "like a chicken on a stick, suspended between two couches." She recalled that she felt that her hands would be dislocated due to the intensity of the pain.

While suspended, her new captors beat and kicked her, focusing on the soles of her feet while demanding information that she might have had about the enemy.

After that, she was untied and led to a new bedroom, where they told her she had 40 minutes to produce information or else they would kill her.

Reports of acts of sexual violence committed by Hamas have been told in second-hand accounts by women and girls who were freed in the hostage deal last November, but none have been as explicit as Soussana's.

Many apologists have denied any reports of sexual violence committed by Hamas, saying if it took this long to bring the allegations to light, they could not be true. Sexual crimes do not always get reported, as the trauma suffered by the victims could take such a toll as to dissuade them from bringing the crimes to light, according to experts.

Many of the victims of Hamas's sexual crimes either died in the October 7 massacre or are still held in captivity in Gaza.

Currently, there are still 19 women hostages or whose bodies are still held in Hamas captivity:

Naama Levy, Shani Louk, Noa Argamani, Romi Gonen, Arbel Yehud, Carmel Gat, Eden Yerushalmi, Doron Steinbrecher, Maya Goren, Ofra Kedar, Inbar Haiman, Liri Albag, Daniella Gilboa, Shiri Bibas, Karina Arielev, Agam Berger, Emily Damari, Amit Esther Buskila, and Judy Weinstein.

Hamas spokesperson denies the New York Times report

Hamas spokesperson Basem Naim filed a 1,300-word response to The Times regarding Soussana's testimony. He cast doubt on her allegations and demanded that the newspaper investigate them. He also said such an investigation would be impossible under "the current circumstances."

Naim questioned why Soussana had not spoken out publicly about the extent of her abuse until now. The level of detail in her account makes it difficult to believe, "unless some security officers designed it," he said.

Naim also discounted the possibility that Hamas members could carry out such an act because the human body is sacred to them.

"For us, the human body, and especially that of the woman, is sacred," he said, adding that Hamas's religious beliefs "forbade any mistreatment of any human being, regardless of his sex, religion, or ethnicity."

Previous testimonies of rape committed by Hamas have been denied as well

This is not the first instance of denial of the sexual atrocities committed by Hamas. The UN secretary-general's special representative on sexual violence in conflict, Pramila Patten, submitted a special report to the UN Security Council that said: "We found clear and convincing information that sexual violence, including rape, sexualized torture, and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, has been committed against hostages, and we have reasonable grounds to believe that such violence may still be ongoing against those in captivity."

The report was not classified as an investigation, and the UN Security Council met in mid-March

to debate the findings. The report has also faced severe backlash and denial on social media.

In response to Soussana's interview, President Isaac Herzog said in a post on X: "Amit Soussana speaks for all those who cannot speak. She speaks for all the victims of Hamas's despicable sexual crimes and abuse. She speaks for all women everywhere.

"The whole world has the moral duty to stand with Amit – and all the victims – in condemning Hamas's brutal terror and in demanding the immediate return of all the hostages."

Amit Soussana speaks for all those who cannot speak. She speaks for all the victims of Hamas' despicable sexual crimes and abuse. She speaks for all women everywhere. The whole world has the moral duty to stand with Amit - and all the victims - in condemning Hamas's brutal...

— יצחק הרצוג Isaac Herzog (@Isaac_Herzog) [March 26, 2024](#)

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-793862>

US, UK and Ukraine could be behind Moscow terror attack – FSB chief

139 people died and around 200 were injured in last Friday's Crocus City Hall massacre

26 Mar, 2024 12:37



Flowers at a makeshift memorial near the Crocus City Hall in memory of the victims of a terrorist attack on the concert venue near Moscow © Sputnik / Maksim Blinov

The US, UK and Ukraine may have been behind last Friday's terrorist attack on a concert venue in a suburb of Moscow, which claimed lives of 139 people and left around 200 injured, according to the head of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB).

Aleksandr Bortnikov told reporters on Tuesday that the authorities are currently trying to establish the identity of everyone involved in the attack, both inside and outside Russia.

When asked whether the US, Britain and Ukraine could be behind the terrorist attack, the FSB chief responded: "We think that this is so. In any case, we are now talking about the information that we have. This is general information, but they [investigators] also have concrete results."

Bortnikov's statement to the media follows a meeting of the expanded board of the Prosecutor General's Office of Russia. The FSB director told reporters that the intelligence service will do everything necessary to identify the direct organizers and sponsors of the terrorist attack.

On the evening of March 22, a group of men armed with assault rifles attacked the Crocus City Hall music venue in the Moscow suburb of Krasnogorsk, just before a concert by the rock band Picnic was due to start. The 7,500-capacity venue was almost full at the time of the attack. The terrorists killed guards, shot concert-goers on sight, then started a fire that quickly spread throughout the building.

At least 139 people, including three children, were killed in the attack, the chair of the Russian Investigative Committee, Aleksandr Bastrykin, reported on Monday. Around 200 people were injured, according to the latest data.

After the attack, Russian security services detained 11 people connected to the incident, including those believed to be the gunmen who carried out the attack.

Moscow's Basmany Court has since arrested seven other suspects who are accused of helping organize the terrorist attack. <https://www.rt.com/news/594935-us-uk-ukraine-moscow-terrorism/>

Weapon of mass distraction: Is the West scapegoating Islamic State over Moscow attack?

ISIS claiming responsibility for the massacre doesn't end matters, while Washington and Kiev's reactions raise even more doubts

26 Mar, 2024 11:06



By **Kanwal Sibal**, retired Indian foreign secretary and former Ambassador to Russia between 2004 and 2007. He also held ambassadorial positions in Turkey, Egypt, France and was Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington DC.

It is baffling why the powers that be, instead of trying to prevent the conflict in

Ukraine from going out of control, seem actually bent on intensifying it. The horrific terror attack in Moscow at the Crocus City Hall that has resulted in 139 dead and 182 wounded has added fuel to the fire. Russia is bound to react to this grave provocation.

The US took military action against Afghanistan after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on its soil, even though the terrorists were not Afghan. In 2003, President Bush attacked Iraq on the grounds that it had terrorist ties, which was not the case. Russia would have these precedents in mind while considering its response to the terrible terror attack it has suffered.

President Putin has stated several times in the past, and once again in his recent interview with Tucker Carlson, that the CIA was involved in the Islamic insurgency in the Caucasus. As far back as 2015, he said in an interview with Rossiya-1 television channel host Vladimir Solovyov for a documentary film 'President,' commenting on The Second Chechen War, that the West was trying to tear Russia apart by supporting terrorists, and that North Caucasus elements were in direct contact with representatives of US intelligence in Azerbaijan.

When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, the US, along with Saudi Arabia, mobilised Islamic extremists to launch a jihad from Pakistani soil against Soviet forces. Central Asia, with its Muslim population, was considered the soft underbelly of the Soviet Union and the strategy was to destabilise it by provoking a religious conflict in the country. While Central Asian countries are today independent, they can still be used as springboards to strike at Russia.

Moscow is watchful about this possibility. Russia has a large Muslim population and preserving religious harmony in the country would be crucial for internal stability.

President Putin in his address to the nation after the terror attack has pointed a finger at Ukraine. The terrorists, he said, were heading towards the Ukrainian border and there were arrangements to take them across it.

In his second address on Monday night, he went a step further, saying the attack may be only a link in a whole series of attempts by those who have been fighting Russia since 2014, *"using the neo-Nazi Kiev regime as their hand."* This is a grave charge, with very serious implications.

The US is trying to deflect attention away from any Ukrainian involvement. Immediately after the terrorist mayhem in Moscow, the White House spokesperson stated that Ukraine was not involved. This is unusual. Even before any investigation has taken place the US seems to have reached a conclusion about Ukraine's non-involvement. For the spokesperson to affirm this so categorically would suggest that the US agencies would be aware of who is involved.

The US, and the UK, had in early March warned their citizens in Russia to avoid mass gatherings, concerts etc. Very often countries do issue such advisories as a precaution because they have got a whiff of some terrorist attack being planned. But, for the White House spokesperson to immediately after the attack in Moscow rule out Ukrainian involvement raises some questions. It is not clear why Ukrainian extremist elements intending to target Moscow would share their plans with the US.

On the issue of terrorism there is consensus in so many forums, be it the UN, the G7, the G20, BRICS and SCO, on collective action by the international community to combat terrorism. It is repeated in many multilateral documents that no cause justifies a recourse to terrorism.

In this light, whatever the current differences between the US and Russia, if the US had hard information about the planned terrorist attack in Moscow one could argue that they should have alerted Moscow more precisely. More so to stave off the real possibility of Russia holding Ukraine responsible for this act. The Russians have long accused Ukrainian nationalists of terrorising the Russian ethnic civilian population in Donbass and also cite the case of pro-Russians set on fire in a building in Odessa by Ukrainian nationalists in the early days of the conflict, in May 2014.

More recently, Moscow has accused Kiev of numerous terrorist attacks, including two bombings of the Crimean Bridge, in which civilians were killed, as well as the targeted assassinations of Russian public figures, including journalist Darya Dugina, the daughter of prominent Russian philosopher Aleksandr Dugin in August 2022, and military blogger Vladlen Tatarsky. Last year, the Washington Post [reported](#) that Ukrainian security agencies "have carried out dozens of assassinations against Russian officials in occupied territories, alleged Ukrainian collaborators, military officers behind the front lines and prominent war supporters deep inside Russia."

Many are questioning the narrative of the West, led by the US, that ISIS is responsible for the

Moscow attack. In their view the **political intention is to deflect attention away from any Ukrainian complicity** because such a massive attack against innocent civilians could negatively affect world opinion, especially in the Global South, on Ukraine as a victim of “unprovoked” Russian aggression.

No **doubt Russia has acted against Islamic State in Syria and remnants of ISIS could have planned this attack. However, its timing raises some doubts. It could have been planned just before the presidential elections in order to seriously disturb them.** But then, it could have been reasoned that in that case the public would line up more solidly behind Putin. Committing this monstrosity after the presidential election would, however, “*spoil Putin’s party*,” as it were. And so the choice was made.

It is **widely believed that the West has used Islamic extremists in Syria to fight the Assad government. President Putin, while targeting ISIS in Syria, has voiced concern that these elements could present a potential terrorist threat to Russia,** with Russia’s experience of the conflict in the Northern Caucasus in mind, when the sympathy of the West lay with the insurgents.

It **would not be difficult for intelligence agencies to manipulate Islamic extremists from behind the scenes, organise funds and arms for them, and even have them claim responsibility.** This would be standard practice to ensure deniability. The fact that ISIS has claimed responsibility for the Crocus City Hall attack does not definitively close the matter.

If it was ISIS that was behind this monstrous act of terror, the four suspects arrested and interrogated do not fit into the profile of ideologically committed Islamic extremists. They do not come across as persons ready for martyrdom for a cause they deeply believe in. Rather, they come across as small-time mercenaries, ready to do a job, however heinous, for some money.

The **narrative propagated by some in the West, and in Ukraine in particular, that this is a false-flag operation** carried out by Russian agencies in order to create grounds for more mobilisation of troops and an all-out assault on Ukraine, is going too far.

Russia does not need the excuse of a major terror attack to step up its operations against Ukraine. With President Macron ready to send French troops into Ukraine – 2,000 soldiers to begin with, according to the Russian intelligence chief Naryshkin – and General Pierre Schill of France expressing French [readiness to show “strength”](#) in an Op-Ed in Le Monde, the Baltic states egging for NATO intervention in Ukraine, the move to supply F16s to Ukraine, the clear warning by Russia that French/NATO troops would be legitimate targets, are enough reasons for a worsening military conflict in Ukraine.

Ukraine could have officially distanced itself from the Moscow attack in sober language. Instead, President Zelensky has abusively attacked Putin and Russia. It does not help Ukraine’s case.

<https://www.rt.com/india/594899-russias-response-to-moscow-attack/>

[This could easily set off WWII rdb]

OP ED

Alan Dershowitz: 'My vote for Democrats would be a vote against Israel'

Prominent law professor lambasts Biden Administration's decision not to veto UN ceasefire resolution in interview with Israeli television. 'This will lengthen the war. This is a terrible decision both for us and for Israel.'

[Israel National News](#) Mar 26, 2024, 5:21 PM (GMT+2)

US Law Professor Alan Dershowitz spoke to Channel 12 News about the Biden Administration's decision not to veto a UN Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza during Ramadan and criticized the administration for its stance.

“I was surprised by the US decision not to veto Israel. This is a terrible decision, because it gives Hamas everything it wants, without demanding anything in return. This will lengthen the war. This is a terrible decision both for us and for Israel,” Dershowitz said.

He **added, “Many Americans won't vote for Biden after this. This** vote is not a difference between Biden and Netanyahu, this is a difference between Biden and Israel. There is no dispute about the need of getting the hostages back. Biden is going against Israel.”

On a personal note, Dershowitz said, “I’ve been voting Democrats since 1960. This is the first time that I am thinking of not voting for them. I can’t vote for them, because that is a vote against Israel.”

Dershowitz believes that “Nothing has changed in the US. The Muslim population of Michigan has got a

voice, some of them are radicals. A lot of them are young people, useful idiots. These are the ones who are voting for Hamas.”

He continued, “The majority of the US population supports Israel. They are against Hamas. In the future, these youngsters are going to be the older leaders. Even so, it’s a mistake not to support Israel.”

Dershowitz believes that Netanyahu was correct in pulling back the Israeli delegation that would have gone to Washington to discuss the Rafah operation. “This is the same as [Menachem] Begin, who displayed the same level of toughness. Biden is much more concerned about his upcoming elections than Israel’s safety.”

He also claimed that, “If the Democrats move far away from Israel – already by November, Israel is going to have to fight this alone. Israel must be prepared. This is going to be Israel against the rest of the world. The world has been against Israel before. This time it’s the world against the western civilization. If the world weakens its ties with Israel, it will weaken its relationship with the US. <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/387403>

The ‘Rabbi’ And ‘Peace Activist’ Who Cheered The Hamas Oct. 7 Attack



When pro-Hamas insurrectionists stormed Capitol Hill, [Brant Rosen](#), described as “one of the demonstrators”, was quoted as falsely accusing Jews of genocide. He was later arrested.

In Chicago, where he claims to have co-founded the “first anti-Zionist temple”, he showed up at a rally urging, “stop the violence, and then, to work toward a true and lasting and just peace.”

‘Rabbi’ Brant Rosen, a co-founder of the pro-terrorist JVP Rabbinical Council (the misleadingly named Jewish Voice for Peace is neither Jewish nor peaceful) is a public face of the political campaign against Israel disguised as calls for “peace” and a “ceasefire”. The media describes him as a “rabbi” and as a “peace activist”. Much like JVP, he’s as much of one as the other.



Rosen actually became a regional director for the American Friends Service Committee, a radical anti-American and anti-Israel Quaker group, after being pushed out of his synagogue for his hatred of the Jewish State and support for Islamic terrorists. In its 5-year tribute to him, AFSC did not use the ‘rabbi’ title. While at the AFSC, he claimed to have opened the “first anti-Zionist temple”. In reality, the “temple” appears to be a PO

Box opposite a Little Caesars.

Whether the “temple” exists is unclear, but Brant Rosen’s hatred for Jews is all too real.

“When I heard the initial reports of Hamas’ attacks on Israel this past Saturday, I will be completely honest – my first reaction was ‘good for them,’” Brant Rosen wrote in response to the Hamas attacks of October 7.

When Hamas terrorists burst into homes in Kibbutz Nahal Oz, massacring families and livestreaming the horrors on Facebook, Brant Rosen described it as “not the first time this community had experienced Palestinian armed resistance”.

This is Brant Rosen and the Jewish Voice for Peace's [idea of](#) "Palestinian armed resistance".

"A father huddles over a mortally injured girl lying in a pool of blood as his wife wails."

In his column, published at the People's Voice (formerly the Communist Party's Daily Worker), he claimed that "this latest violence did not occur in a vacuum. It is but the latest manifestation of an injustice that Israel has been perpetrating against the Palestinian people for decades."

Later in October, Brant Rosen argued that, " Hamas' abduction of hostages – brutal and heinous as it was – occurred in response to a colonial, apartheid regime that (sic) been governing their lives for the past 75 years."

Brant Rosen gets a great deal of mileage for his activism by claiming to be a "rabbi". In reality, he was "ordained" by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College: an atheistic movement which believes neither in the Bible nor the G-d of the Bible, or in any actual form of Judaism. He speaks most convincingly about faith when discussing his love of Quaker spiritual teachings.

When he announced that he had founded the "first anti-Zionist temple", the story popped up everywhere, including at the JTA: always eager to provide a platform for anti-Israel activists.

But the only address for Tzedek Chicago, the tattooed clergyman's "anti-Zionist temple", is a Chicago post office box seven miles from Rosen's house and opposite a Little Caesars pizza place. The weekly "services" are [happening](#) in closed Zoom sessions.

The launch meeting for Tzedek Chicago was held in the basement of a Lutheran Church of the kind whose staff all list their pronouns. And he has described himself as "a Jew who also finds a comfortable spiritual home in the Quaker community" who testified that "my spiritual life has greatly benefitted from my encounter with Quaker thought and practice."

The American Friends Service Committee had developed extensive Communist ties early in the last century and went to work covering up the worst horrors of these regimes. It even defended the [Khmer Rouge genocide](#), claiming that the United States was spreading lies to undermine an "alternative model of development and social organization."

After the fall of the Communist regimes, the AFSC turned to Islamic terrorism: its people met with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and [traveled to Iran](#). The AFSC defended the Hamas fundraisers of the Holy Land Foundation and ran a piece arguing for "Decriminalizing Hamas" urging that the Islamic terror group be removed from the list of terrorist organizations.

"When the Palestinians chose Hamas as their ruling party, by and large, they were choosing another alternative," another AFSC article argued. "In this instance, they were mistaken in thinking that the world would respect their choice."

Rosen claims that by opposing Israel he's advocating for Jewish values, the actual values he's advocating for are those of a Quaker group that partners with [Hamas' backers in Iran](#).

He established the "Jewish Fast for Gaza" back in 2009 a few years after Hamas took over.

Brant's purpose in fasting was, among other things, "to call upon Israel, the US, and the international community to engage in negotiations with Hamas."

By 2012, Brant Rosen had become so extreme that he was actually attacking Hussein Ibish, a leading anti-Israel Arab figure, for writing too harshly about Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal.

"It was only the armed resistance of Hamas in Gaza that managed to bring Hilary Clinton to the region and actively engage with the Israelis and Palestinians," Brant Rosen argued.

"Meshaal's opening went utterly unregarded by the Obama administration, who refused to deal with Hamas and chose to maintain its support of Israel's crippling siege of Gaza."

After the Hamas kidnapping and murder of three Jewish teens in 2014, Brant Rosen complained that Israel "knew full well that the teens had been murdered shortly after their abduction" and was "using the pretense of their kidnapping to brutally crack down on Hamas members."

"If Israel was truly interested in following the course of justice in order to preserve life, it could have dropped its abject refusal to deal with Hamas following the November 2012 cease-fire and pursued further negotiations aimed at ending its crushing siege," he went on to argue.

That same year, Brant Rosen left the synagogue he used to work at after his "views, work, and words on the Israel/Palestine issue caused deep rifts among the members" and got a job with the Quakers working against Israel and learning from the teachings that had praised Pol Pot.

The "close collaboration" between the American Friends Service Committee and JVP is such that some

critics have questioned whether JVP isn't just a Jewish suit that AFSC wears. Lynn Gottlieb, another member of JVP's Rabbinical Council, used to head AFSC's Middle East Program. May Ye, a current member, had ties to AFSC when she was a "musician".

It's unclear to what extent Tzedek Chicago exists off Zoom, but as a 'church' it doesn't have to file 990 forms or reveal its financials. And there's no way to know what the anti-Israel group could be hiding behind its "temple". But Tzedek Chicago has the advantage of also advancing the "rabbinic" credentials of random anti-Israel activists.

[May Ye](#), a Chinese-American activist from Maine who claimed that she "became a rabbi to be a Jewish voice for Palestinian liberation", who was quoted in stories about the [pro-Hamas assault](#) on New York's Grand Central Station over the Sabbath, had worked as a "rabbinic intern" at Tzedek Chicago before branching out as a "radical rabbi" with a focus on destroying the Jewish State.

What does it mean to be a "rabbinic intern" in a P.O. Box opposite a Little Caesars?

The media is too busy promoting collaborators like Brant Rosen to ask such basic questions.

And while Brant compares Israel's Jews to the Nazis, his wife Hallie Esbin Rosen, who worked for the ADL for 15 years and used to work for the [Illinois Holocaust Museum](#), has [taken part in](#) Brant's anti-Israel rallies.

But Brant Rosen, like many other activists, would not exist if the media did not prop him up. And that is especially true of the JTA which has published multiple articles promoting a "rabbi" and his PO Box congregation whose main claim to fame is supporting terrorists and hating Israel.

The JTA ran 9 articles promoting Brant Rosen over the years. It ran two articles alone about his new "temple". The average synagogue would never get such publicity. Stories about Rosen then popped up in every Jewish local paper in America reprinting the JTA's publicity for Rosen.

Rosen, JVP, If Not Now, and other hate groups and terrorist collaborators have been blown up into public figures by the JTA and supportive media without revealing what they really believe.

Brant Rosen's first reaction to Oct 7 was, "when I heard the initial reports of Hamas' attacks on Israel this past Saturday, I will be completely honest – my first reaction was 'good for them.'"

That is the story about the Quaker Rabbi of the PO Box Anti-Zionist Temple the media won't tell.

[Daniel Greenfield](#) is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's [Front Page Magazine](#).