

IDF: 13 soldiers injured in Gaza, four in serious condition

Military reports soldiers evacuated to the hospital following two separate incidents in the northern and southern parts of the Gaza Strip

[Yoav Zitun](#) | 11:29

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit reported on Tuesday that 13 soldiers have been injured in two separate incidents in northern and southern Gaza, with four of them being evacuated to the hospital in serious condition.



IDF forces in Gaza (Photo: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)

Three of the soldiers, serving at the Paratroopers Brigade's 202nd Battalion, were injured during engagements against terrorists in the northern part of the Strip. Five other soldiers received moderate injuries in the same incident.

In another incident in the southern part of the Strip, a soldier serving in the Givati Brigade was seriously injured as a result of an explosive charge. Four additional soldiers present in the area were injured and

evacuated to the hospital in minor to moderate condition.

Meanwhile, the IDF has issued an evacuation notice to residents of neighborhoods in the northern Gaza Strip. According to the notice, " Hamas and other terrorist organizations are using your lands for terrorist activities and the launching of rockets into Israeli territory, and therefore the IDF will act against them soon."

The IDF and Shin Bet reported earlier on Tuesday they had eliminated 15 terrorists at a United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) school in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. According to the IDF and Shin Bet, the school served as a headquarters for Hamas military commanders and was used for planning and carrying out terrorist operations. It added that at least 10 of the eliminated terrorists were affiliated with Hamas. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjo9jw11qr>

Israeli tanks move deeper into Rafah, Palestinians say, as 450,000 flee

IDF says it's looking into UN car hit in 'active combat zone'; army says gun battles continuing in Rafah and north Gaza, dozens of gunmen killed

By [Agencies](#) and [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 3:12 pm



Israeli troops operate in the Gaza Strip, in a handout photo published May 14, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)

Israeli tanks forged deeper into eastern Rafah on Tuesday, reaching some residential districts of the southern border city where more than a million people had been sheltering after being displaced due the war against Hamas in Gaza.

"The tanks advanced this morning west of Salahuddin Road into the Brzail and Jneina neighborhoods. They are in the streets inside the built-up area and there are clashes," one resident told

Reuters via a chat app.

Video on social media showed one tank on George Street in Al-Jneina neighborhood. Reuters could not verify the video.

In a round-up of its activities, the IDF said its forces had eliminated several armed cells in close-quarter fighting on the Gazan side of the Rafah Border Crossing with Egypt. In the east of the city, it said, it had also destroyed cells of gunmen and a launch post from where missiles were being fired at IDF troops. The latest fighting in Gaza came as Israel marked a dour Independence Day with subdued events in the shadow of October 7 and the seven-month-old war.

Israel's international allies and aid groups have repeatedly urged against a ground incursion into refugee-packed Rafah, warning of a potential humanitarian catastrophe. Israel says it is acting to evacuate civilians ahead of moving into new areas. It says a Rafah operation is necessary as part of its effort to eliminate Hamas's remaining operational battalions.

CNN reported overnight that the US believes Israel has enough troops just outside Rafah to launch a full ground operation soon.



Israeli troops operate in the Gaza Strip, in a handout photo published May 14, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)

The report, citing two senior US administration officials, said the Biden administration is unsure if Israel has made the decision to move ahead with a full ground invasion of the city, following President Joe Biden's warning last week that such a move would prompt the US to withhold some weapons shipments.

Israel has urged residents of some neighborhoods in the city, which the IDF has called the last major Hamas stronghold in Gaza, to evacuate over the past week. The **United Nations' agency for Palestinian refugees says that around 450,000 Palestinians have left Rafah** since then, as the IDF has escalated its operations in the southernmost Gazan city.

Also **Tuesday, the Israeli military responded to the death of a United Nations employee and the injury of another in southern Gaza's Rafah** the previous day, saying that the pair were hit in an active combat zone, but further details were under investigation.

In response to a query, the IDF said it received reports that two members of the UN Department of Safety and Security were hit while driving in the Rafah area. According to a UN spokesman, the pair were driving to the European Hospital in southern Gaza when one of the staffers was killed.

Photos published of the car on social media appeared to show it had been hit by bullets.

News ??????????????????II:

A UN car was targeted and a confirmed first international staff casualty in [#Gaza](#) after it was hit by [#IDF](#) [#Israel](#) fire in [#Rafah](#). [#Follow](#) for more [#news](#) [#Updates](#) [#IDF](#) [#Israel](#) [#Palestine](#) [#Hamas](#) [#Lebanon](#) [#Hezbollah](#) [#Yemen](#) [pic.twitter.com/GFaJmePCbK](#)

— Wire Dispatch (@WireDispatch) [May 13, 2024](#)

“An initial inquiry conducted indicates that the vehicle was hit in an area declared an active combat zone,” the military said, **maintaining that it had “not been made aware of the route of the vehicle.”**

“The incident is under review,” it said, without attributing responsibility for the strike.

The UN has not yet cast blame for the incident.

Monday's incident marked the first time a UN international employee has been killed in the Gaza war, though a large number of local staff have died.



The army said Tuesday that more than 100 targets were struck by Israeli Air Force fighter jets, drones and helicopters across the Gaza Strip over the past day, as fighting continues in Rafah, Zeitoun and Jabaliya.

The IDF said **troops killed several cells of gunmen in close-quarters** combat in eastern Rafah, and located weapons.

File: Displaced Palestinians arrive in central Gaza after fleeing from the southern Gaza city of Rafah in Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip, on Thursday, May 9, 2024 (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana, File)

The Jabaliya and Zeitoun operations in northern Gaza were launched in recent days after the army said it had identified Hamas forces regrouping in those areas.

In Jabaliya, the military said soldiers raided Hamas sites in the city in northern Gaza. Over the past day, troops killed dozens of gunmen in Jabaliya, according to the IDF.

More than 100 targets were struck by Israeli Air Force fighter jets, drones, and helicopters across the Gaza Strip over the past day, the military says, as fighting continues in Rafah, Zeitoun, and Jabaliya.

The IDF says troops of the 401st Armored Brigade and Givati Infantry...

pic.twitter.com/7D8G9A4MSm

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [May 14, 2024](#)

Meanwhile, in the Zeitoun neighborhood of Gaza City, troops located tunnel shafts and destroyed several rocket launchers and a weapons depot. Several gunmen were also killed by the troops, the military said.

Sites hit by the IAF included a command room in central Gaza where at least five operatives were gathered, booby-trapped buildings, and other infrastructure, along with gunmen near troops, the IDF added. In the morning rocket sirens sounded in Ashkelon and other nearby areas as rockets were fired from Gaza at the southern Israeli city. There were no reports of damage.

The International Red Cross said Tuesday it was opening a field hospital in southern Gaza to try to meet what it described as “overwhelming” demand for health services in the city. Some health clinics have suspended activities while patients and medics have fled from a major hospital as Israel has stepped up its operations.



The ICRC said that staff at the new facility will be able to treat around 200 people a day and can provide emergency surgical care and manage mass casualties as well as provide pediatric and other services.

Palestinians displaced by the Israeli air and ground offensive in the Gaza Strip walk along a beach of Mediterranean Sea at a makeshift tent camp in Deir al Balah, Monday, May 13, 2024 (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)

Tensions have risen between Israel and Egypt over the Rafah operation, and Cairo has indicated it will not bring aid into Gaza through the crossing — a key entry point for goods — so long as Israeli forces control it. [This is just brilliant on the part of Egypt so don't cry that the “PA” terrorists don't have supplies when you won't allow them in. What is the problem with Israel controlling the crossing? You don't want them to discover the elaborate set of tunnels underneath the area where contraband has been getting in???? rdb

The **Wall Street Journal** reported that the Egyptian anger was partly a result of Cairo having previously received assurances from Israel that any operation along its border would not happen without warning and that civilians would have “weeks” to depart.

“None of these assurances materialized, with Israel giving us a very short notice about entering the crossing,” an unidentified Egyptian official told the Journal.

Amid fresh distrust between the sides, the report said, **Cairo is considering downgrading — but not cutting — its diplomatic relations with Israel.**

According to the report, officials say that **pulling Egypt's ambassador from Tel Aviv is a move being weighed.**

“As we stand, there are no **plans to suspend ties or throw away Camp David,**” another Egyptian official told the newspaper, referring to the US-backed accords that led to the countries' 1979 peace treaty. “But as long as Israeli forces remain at Rafah Crossing, Egypt will not send a single truck to Rafah.”

On Monday the military said that five Israeli soldiers and a Defense Ministry contractor had been seriously wounded in a series of incidents in the Strip in recent days.

The war in Gaza erupted after Hamas's October 7 attacks, which saw some 3,000 terrorists burst across the border into Israel by land, air and sea, killing some 1,200 people and seizing 252 hostages amid acts of brutality and sexual assault.

The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry says the ensuing war has killed more than 35,000 people in the Strip, a toll that cannot be independently verified and does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. The UN says some 24,000 fatalities have been identified at hospitals at this time. The rest of the total figure is based on murkier Hamas “media reports.”

Israel has said it has killed some 15,000 terror operatives in Gaza, in addition to some 1,000 terrorists inside Israel on October 7, while 272 soldiers have been killed during the ground offensive against Hamas and in the course of operations along the Gaza border. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-tanks-move-deeper-into-rafah-palestinians-say-as-450000-flee/>

IDF kills dozens of Hamas terrorists in largest Gaza battle in two months

Multiple defense sources have assured the Jerusalem Post that Tuesday's fights are an indication of a more significant volume of Hamas terrorists reconstituting themselves in Jabalya.

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) MAY 14, 2024 12:53 **Updated:** MAY 14, 2024 12:54



IDF soldiers operating in the Gaza Strip. (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

IDF Division 98 on Tuesday killed dozens of Hamas terrorists in Jabalya in northern Gaza in the largest Gaza battle since mid-March and the largest battle in Jabalya itself since January.

Although the IDF started its reinvasion of Jabalya over Saturday-Sunday, only on Tuesday did the military finally find and confront larger quantities of Hamas's reconstituted forces in that northern Gaza area.

Until Tuesday, fights in Jabalya since January had only involved IDF altercations with smaller terror cells, often of only a handful of Hamas fighters at a time.

The last large fight anywhere in the Strip was during a reinvasion of Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in mid-March. That reinvasion lasted between one to two weeks, depending on how one categorizes different stages of the fighting.

Questions raised over evacuation of northern Gaza

Until now, it has been unclear why the IDF evacuated 100,000-150,000, between one-third to one-half of the remaining northern Gaza civilian population, for a new large operation in Jabalya, given that the last few days have involved relatively minor altercations.



IDF soldiers operating in the Gaza Strip. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

But multiple defense sources have assured the Jerusalem Post that Tuesday's fights are more of an indication of a more significant volume of Hamas terrorists reconstituting themselves in Jabalya.

In addition, IDF Division 162 continued smaller battles in Rafah, and IDF Division 99 continued smaller battles in Zeitoun, killing lower numbers of Hamas fighters.

The IDF still has not broadened its operations in Rafah beyond portions of the eastern area, though the Post has been told by Israeli defense sources that such a broadening operation could come soon and US sources have told CNN that the massing of additional IDF forces appears ready to broaden the Rafah operation.

In the face of US threats to halt the transfer of large American bombs, one move Israel may make is to invade Rafah without using as much airpower.

This could expose IDF ground forces to greater dangers, but those forces would still be able to use tanks and artillery to overpower Hamas's four Rafah battalions.

Israel's air force has not powered down completely, with the IDF saying on Tuesday that it carried out over 100 airstrikes throughout the Strip over Monday-Tuesday. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-801122>

IDF reveals Hamas terrorists use UN vehicles, UNRWA compound as cover in Rafah - watch

Several terrorists and gunfire can be seen near UN vehicles and in the area of UNRWA's logistics warehouse compound in eastern Rafah, which is a central point for the distribution of UNRWA's aid.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MAY 14, 2024 21:25 **Updated:** MAY 14, 2024 21:37

The IDF revealed on Tuesday that during operational activity in eastern Rafah on Saturday, terrorists were identified in UNRWA's central logistics compound alongside UN vehicles.



In the footage, several terrorists and gunfire can be seen near UN vehicles and in the area of UNRWA's logistics warehouse compound in eastern Rafah, which is a central point for the distribution of aid on UNRWA's behalf in the Gaza Strip.

Following the event, representatives of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) conveyed the findings to senior officials in the international community and called on the UN to conduct an urgent investigation into the matter.

Footage of Hamas terrorists using UN facilities for cover and transport, May 14, 2024 (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

Hamas presence threatens civilian safety

In addition, COGAT representatives warned the UN against the presence of terrorists in the area and the seriousness of the danger their presence brings to the logistics center compound concerning the continued protection of the organization's facilities.

The IDF promised at the end of the announcement that it would continue to act in accordance with international law to distribute aid to the residents of the Gaza Strip. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-801171>

Criminal gangs, profiteers thrive in Gaza as cash shortage worsens misery

Armed gangs sometimes demand a fee to provide priority access to ATMs, exploiting the absence of Palestinian police.

By [REUTERS](#) MAY 14, 2024 16:12

A shortage of banknotes is gripping Gaza, fueling criminal gangs and profiteering, after Israel has blocked imports of cash and most banks in the enclave have been damaged or destroyed during the war, according to residents, aid workers and banking sources.

After more than 7 months of Israeli bombardment, just a handful of ATMs remain operational in the strip, most of the them in the southern city of Rafah, where some 1.4 million Palestinians are sheltering. The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has ordered civilians to evacuate parts of the southern city**, sparking fears of a looming offensive. Its tanks entered residential districts there on Tuesday.

Supplies of basic goods had returned to some markets in April and early May for the first time in months after Israel ceded to international pressure to let in more aid trucks amid famine warnings.

But residents and aid workers say that many people haven't had the cash to purchase them.



Now residents say Israel's offensive in Rafah has dried up supplies again and stoked prices.

Hundreds, sometimes thousands, of desperate people crowd outside ATMs, often waiting days for access. Armed gangs sometimes demand a fee to provide priority access, exploiting the absence of Palestinian police, three Western aid workers and seven residents told Reuters.

Displaced Palestinians prepare to evacuate a tent camp, after Israeli forces launched a ground and air operation in the eastern part of Rafah, amid ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, May 11, 2024. (credit: REUTERS/Hussam Al Masri)

Abu Ahmed, 45, a resident of Rafah, said he had waited for as long as seven days and became so frustrated that he turned for help to gang members, who are sometimes armed with knives and guns.

"I paid 300 shekels (\$80) of my salary to one of them for accessing the ATM and getting my cash," said Abu Ahmed, who asked that his last name not be used for fear of reprisals. He earns 3,500 shekels per month as a public servant.

The three Western aid workers described the gangs as improvised groups that have sprung up across the Strip up as desperation has grown.

As of May 13, only 5 branches and 7 ATMs remain operational in the strip, primarily in Rafah, according to the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute, a non-profit organization headquartered in the West Bank. Before the war, Gaza had 56 bank branches and 91 ATMs.

The conflict erupted after an Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Palestinian Islamist terrorist group Hamas, in which some 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 taken hostage. Israel's assault on Gaza, aimed at destroying Hamas and returning the hostages, has killed at least 35,000 Palestinians, according to the Hamas-run Gaza's health ministry.

The Palestinian economy runs on the Israeli shekel. Gaza's financial system is almost completely dependent on Israel, which must approve major transfers and the movement of cash into the enclave, bankers said.

Israel **has blocked cash imports to Gaza since the start of the war in October**, according to the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) and the Association of Banks in Palestine (ABP), a non-profit based in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Adnan Alfaleet, the Gaza district manager of Palestine Islamic Bank, which operates the biggest Islamic banking network in the Palestinian Territories, said his bank has no cash left in Gaza.

"We reached the point of complete lack of liquidity now. It can't get worse," he said.

The Israeli central bank did not respond to questions about whether transfers had been blocked. It said there were no Israeli banks in Gaza and shekels had circulated there in the past because of trade with and Palestinian workers in Israel.

COGAT, an Israeli Defense Ministry agency tasked with coordinating aid deliveries into the Palestinian territories, did not respond to Reuters' questions.

Police reportedly killed

Ismail Al-Thawabta, the director of the Hamas-run government media office, said the Palestinian police were trying to protect ATM machines, despite coming under fire from Israeli forces.

A Hamas official, who declined to be named, said police were keeping a low profile and only making surprise raids or patrols at certain locations after officers had been targeted in Israeli strikes.

In **February, the top US diplomat involved in humanitarian assistance to Gaza** said Israeli forces had killed Palestinian police protecting a UN convoy.

The IDF did not respond to a request for comment on whether its forces have targeted police officers. Reuters could not determine how many police officers have been killed during the war.

Residents said some merchants are profiteering from the shortage. Some money exchange store owners, who can cash Western Union transfers, and even some pharmacists who have credit card machines, were charging hefty commissions for access to money, according to two sources.

Azmi Radwan, a union representative of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA, said some merchants were charging its staff in Gaza City and the north commission of 20% or 30% to cash their salaries for them, in the absence of banks.

"This is very dangerous," he said. **"A quarter of the salary that is supposed to feed one's children is going to these merchants."**

UNRWA employs roughly 13,000 people in Gaza.

Sometimes money changers, after deducting a fee, will then say there are no shekels available and make payments in dollars at an unfavorable exchange rate, according to resident Abu Muhey, who also asked not to be identified by his full name for security reasons.

Stuck in vaults

Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of shekels are stranded inside bank vaults in northern Gaza due to a lack of armored vehicles and fear of looting, according to three UN and banking sources.

Bashar Odeh Yasin, director general of Association of Banks in Palestine (ABP), **said the situation remains too unsafe for bank employees or international bodies to transfer the money.**

"There's a real problem in transferring cash from northern Gaza to the south and in bringing in cash from outside the Gaza Strip," he said.

The number of bank notes in circulation has been further diminished by wear and tear as well as people taking them out when they leave, residents said.

Essential goods such as medicine remain chronically scarce in the enclave, which is also plagued by lengthy power shortages and lack of fuel.

The World Food Programme warned in April of the risk of famine in northern parts of Gaza. Israel this week opened a third crossing to allow more humanitarian aid into the north, but it has shut two checkpoints in the south, including the vital Rafah crossing into Egypt, halting aid deliveries there.

Monday saw fierce fighting in north and south Gaza. Efforts by Egyptian, Qatari and US mediators to secure a ceasefire have so far failed.

"There's more food, which is provided, but there is definitely a lack of cash for people to buy it," said Rik Peeperkorn, the World Health Organisation's (WHO) representative to the Palestinian territory. **So they are bringing in food donated by nations and charging for it. HUMMMM? rdb**

Many people were trading canned food or other aid for items they were missing, or selling them for cash, residents told Reuters.

Aya, a resident of Gaza City who was displaced first to Rafah and then central Gaza by Israeli operations, received ten blankets in aid packages. As her family already had some, she sold 8 of the blankets to buy her sisters and brothers chocolate and Nescafe, she said.

"Despite the misery, I tried to make them feel happy," she said. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-801141>

Hamas planned to operate Turkey base to harm Israelis, report says

UK-based The Times claims IDF located secret document in Hamas official's home detailing the terror group's plans to establish a base in the area

Ynet|10:10

UK-based news outlet The Times reported Tuesday that documents found in the home of a senior Hamas official in Gaza indicate the terrorist organization planned to establish a secret base in Turkey – and to use it to carry out attacks against Israeli targets in the region, prior to the outset of the war after October 7.



Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Yahya Sinwar (Photo: AP, Sean Gallup/Getty Images)

According to the Times, the document detailed how Hamas planned to establish terror cells in Turkey and other NATO member states. It's unclear whether those cells were fully established in Turkey before October 7. The British newspaper report added the IDF claims that a document titled "Establishing a Base in Turkey" was found in the home of Hamza Abu Shanab, who was reportedly the head of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar's

office, according to the outlet.

According to Hamas' document, the terrorist organization needs "to act with a greater effort to create military centers that will form the basis for special operations that can strengthen the resistance on a military, diplomatic and moral level" The document found in Abu Shanab's home outlined a three-year plan that included "establishing many military cells and safe houses in many countries."

According to the document, possible assassination targets were "officers and commanders of the Mossad," as well as "influential Israeli citizens." Additionally, the document specified plans to "sabotage of Israeli naval vessels," and to carry out kidnappings.

During the war in Gaza, diplomatic relations between Turkey and Israel deteriorated, in light of Ankara's alignment with Hamas and the sharp condemnations by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu](#). The Times wrote that despite his support for Hamas, Erdogan opposes a

scenario in which Turkey becomes a stronghold for the terrorist group.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r19jfe117a>

Hezbollah anti-tank missile hits Western Galilee, IDF strikes southern Lebanon

Hezbollah fired anti-tank missiles at northern Israel, with a direct hit in Adamit, in the Western Galilee, with the IDF continuing to respond with air strikes in southern Lebanon.



By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#), [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MAY 14, 2024

14:04 **Updated:** MAY 14, 2024 14:56

Israeli reserve soldiers take part in a military drill in the Golan Heights, northern Israel, May 8, 2024 (photo credit: AYAL MARGOLIN/FLASH90)

Hezbollah on Tuesday afternoon fired an anti-tank missile which, according to Lebanese media, made a direct hit at Adamit in the Western Galilee.

Sirens had sounded in that and other nearby areas, including in Arab al-Aramshe. The details of the incident are still under review.

Currently, any reports about Israeli injuries are under gag order.

IDF continues to strike Hezbollah infrastructure, assets

Meanwhile, the IDF overnight and this morning attacked Hezbollah assets in three different areas of southern Lebanon. In recent hours, IDF fighter jets struck Hezbollah infrastructure and military structures in the areas of al Kharayeb, Halta, and Yaroun in [southern Lebanon](#).

The IDF was also [expected to counterstrike](#) the sources of Hezbollah fire.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-801127>

Protesters call for Jewish settlement of Gaza during Sderot march

Organizers stated that thousands participated in the march, which will be followed by a rally for "coming home."



By [EVE YOUNG](#) MAY 14, 2024 16:09 **Updated:** MAY 14, 2024 16:55

Protesters in Sderot gather for the 'Gaza March,' May 14, 2024 (photo credit: Via Maariv)

Protesters marched in Sderot on Tuesday for the "Gaza March" in support of a widespread Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip. Thousands participated, according to organizers, and the march was followed by a rally for "coming home."

Among many organizations affiliated with the event were the settlement movement Nachala, Torat Lechima—an organization that works to increase the Jewish nature of the IDF—and the Homesh yeshiva.

MKs join in on the settlement calls

Family members of hostages held by Hamas, as well as National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Otzma Yehudit MK Limor Son Har-Melech, spoke at the rally, said the organizers.

Construction and Housing Minister Yitzhak Goldknopf supported the march, calling for Israelis to join.

"This march embodies what God said to Abraham, our forefather," said Goldknopf, citing a bible passage about God giving the land to Abraham's offspring.

Ben Gvir addressed the people at the rally, telling them that their attendance was the "real solution" to the ongoing war.

"We can sit in the cabinet and press for action in Rafah, not compromise on ending the war, demand countermeasures, but in order to actually end the problem once and for all, we need two

things: one - return Israelis to Gaza now! Return home! Return to our holy land! And two - encourage immigration. We need to encourage the voluntary departure of the current residents of Gaza.

"This is the Torah and this is the only way! And yes, it is also humanitarian," he continued.

He also spoke of being ashamed to be the only cabinet member to vote against the transfer of humanitarian aid shipments into Gaza through Kerem Shalom.

MK Tzvi Sukkot, with the Religious Zionist party, told the attendees that "whoever expelled the Jews of Gush Katif is directly responsible, with his own hands, for the terrible massacre of October 7."

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-801140>

Evyatar Bar-Gil and David Shasha crowned dual International Bible Contest winners
17-year-olds tie for first place as annual contest held under shadow of war; 'Bible teaches that thousands of years ago, our forefathers all fought against formidable enemies,' Netanyahu says via video link

[Tamar Trabelsi-Hadad](#), [Itamar Eichner](#) | 07:14

Evyatar Bar-Gil, 17, an eleventh-grade student at ORT Pelech Boys School in Jerusalem, and David Shasha, 17, a twelfth-grade student at Amit Kfar Ganim Yeshiva in Petah Tikva, jointly won the 61st annual International Bible Contest for Jewish Youth held at the Jerusalem Theater on Tuesday.

Both contestants reached the final round with identical scores.



David Shasha, a resident of Petah Tikva, prepared for the contest for three years with his mentor, Rabbi Amitai Sar-Avi. "It is an honor to be a Bible Contest winner," said Shasha. "Persistence and desire are the paths to success. I am grateful to God, my parents, my family, Rabbi Amitai Sar-Avi and the yeshiva for their support throughout this journey."

61st annual International Bible Contest for Jewish Youth winners Evyatar Bar-Gil and David Shasha (Photo: Mizmor)

Rabbi Nitzan Berger, the head of the yeshiva where Shasha studies, said, "We are fortunate to receive abundant satisfaction from David's impressive mastery of the Scriptures. We all learn a great lesson from David in setting goals and achieving them, all with humility and excellent moral qualities. David is a role model for his burning passion for the Bible, his precision and his thorough attention to detail. All these qualities have led him to become the International Bible Contest winner."

Evyatar Bar-Gil studies at a high school formerly led by the late Sergeant Major (res.) Yossi Hershkovitz who fell in the Gaza war last November.

Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion remarked, "I am sure that Yossi, from above, is looking down on Evyatar with excitement and pride, knowing that even now, his gracious spirit, legacy and abilities continue to manifest in the best possible way, just as he wished during his lifetime."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a regular participant in the Bible Contest, opted out of Independence Day events due to the ongoing war. In a pre-recorded speech broadcast at the beginning of the quiz, Netanyahu addressed the participants.



(Photo: Mizmor)

"On a day of biblical magnitude, our enemies attacked us precisely when Israel celebrates the continuity of learning from Genesis. This is nothing new. The Bible teaches that thousands of years ago, our forefathers, including Abraham, Moses, Joshua, the Judges and Kings David and Solomon, all fought against formidable enemies. Even then, we did not yield; even then, we did not bow our heads," he said.

"The prophet Micah says: 'Though I fall, I will rise.' We paid a price, but we repelled the attack fiercely. We overcame those who wished us harm.

With God's help, we ensured Israel's eternity." Netanyahu also delivered the traditional quiz question via recorded video.

Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana remarked, "We are commemorating Israel's 76th Independence Day, a day unlike any previous ones. This year, Israel and its people endured the longest day, a day when what we vowed 'never again' occurred. The war is still raging, and we are still speaking of the 132 of our brothers taken by the murderous organization, with worry and longing that give us no rest. From here, we send a prayer for their swift return."

Dov Gotthelf of the United States secured second place, while Noa Rivka Kahn, an eleventh-grade student at the Israeli Center for Educational Excellence in Jerusalem, finished third.



International Bible Contest participants (Photo: Ronen Horesh/GPO)

Other competitors included Yahav Noach Atlas (Israel), Noa Saubel (UK), Penina Crystal (U.S.), Yosef Samson (Canada), Noach Greenblatt (South Africa), Aviv Sharon (Canada), Mickey Sirotnik (U.S.), Sara Harari (Panama), Ezra Goldberg (Canada), Emmanuela Milman (U.S.), David Abadi (Mexico) and Yoni Cady (Australia).

The judging panel included [Iris Haim](#), mother of [Yotam Haim](#) who was [accidentally killed by IDF fire](#) after being kidnapped to Gaza on October 7. Among the quizmasters were [Rachel Edri](#), known colloquially as "Rachel from Ofakim" after standing up to Hamas terrorists who invaded her home on October 7, and public diplomacy activist [Yoseph Haddad](#).

Additional judges included question writer Yoav Shlosberg, [last year's Bible Contest winner Emunah Cohen](#), Rabbi Yemima Mizrachi and children's author Hadassah Ben Ari, who has written about wartime events. Additional questioners included Yair Rosenberg, a senior reserve officer who teaches at a pre-military academy in Rehovot, and a representative of the Druze community

Education Minister Yoav Kisch told participants, "Each one of you had the freedom to spend your time as you wished: sitting in front of screens, hanging out at the beach with friends or taking up various and unusual hobbies.

You chose the brave and difficult path of dedicating your time to studying and memorizing the foundational text of the Jewish people, thereby providing inspiration to every Jewish child around the world. "I am proud of you, and I call on every young person in the world to revisit and delve deeper into our foundational book, to reconnect with the narrative that shaped our identity, to envision themselves crossing the Red Sea with the Children of Israel, walking alongside Abraham on his journey to the Promised Land, and standing in the Temple singing King David's songs. I wish you great success; go forth and prosper."

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjhts6eq0>

Ukrainian military stole money intended for fortifications – local media

With millions of dollars reportedly embezzled, Russian armor was free to roll across the border into Kharkov
14 May, 2024 14:15



Ukrainian soldiers keep watch from a trench in Kharkov Region, Ukraine, March 10, 2024 © Getty Images / Diego Herrera Carcedo

Military and civilian authorities in Ukraine's Kharkov Region paid millions of dollars to fake companies for the supply of non-existent building materials to construct defensive fortifications, the newspaper Ukrainska Pravda reported on Monday. With no fortifications built, Russian forces have advanced rapidly through the region.

Russia has seized dozens of towns and villages in the northern part of Kharkov Region after launching an offensive last Friday. According to the latest update from the Russian Defense Ministry, Russian troops had captured the village of Bugrovatka on Monday and are inflicting losses on Ukrainian manpower and hardware near Veseloye, Volchansk, and Liptsi, the latter of which is located just 20km from the outskirts of Kharkov city.

Writing in Ukrainska Pravda on Monday, Ukrainian anti-corruption activist Martina Boguslavets

explained that Kharkov's Department of Housing and Communal Services (ZhKG) and Regional Military Administration (OVA) had been given 7 billion hryvnias (\$176.5 million) to build fortifications to hold back this advance.

Much of this money was embezzled, Boguslavets claimed. For the supply of wood, the ZhKG and OVA signed contracts worth 270 million hryvnias (\$6.8 million) with five companies that were set up immediately after the contracts were announced. No bidding process took place, and at least two of these companies were owned by the same person, Boguslavets wrote.

"Moreover, the owners of these firms do not resemble successful businessmen and businesswomen," she wrote. "They have dozens of court cases, from whiskey theft to domestic violence against a husband and mother; some of them are deprived of parental rights and have had enforcement proceedings for bank loans."

Boguslavets described these business owners as "avatars," placed in charge of the companies either for a small fee or without their knowledge. One of the supposed CEOs, whose firm was paid 52 million hryvnias (\$1.3 million) is an agricultural laborer, according to Boguslavets' documents.

"The naked eye can see how a government official mercilessly registers new companies, using for this purpose people who, due to the circumstances, may not be aware of this," she wrote. "And this someone continues to make money on blood."

The lack of defensive fortifications allowed Russian forces to enter Kharkov Region almost unopposed, Denis Yaroslavsky, commander of a Ukrainian special reconnaissance unit, told the BBC on Monday. "There was no first line of defense. We saw it. The Russians just walked in. They just walked in, without any mined fields," Yaroslavsky said.

"Either it was an act of negligence or corruption. It wasn't a failure. It was a betrayal," he added.

The story of the embezzled defense money is the latest in a long series of tales of corruption to emerge from Ukraine. Earlier this week, Poland canceled trade talks with Kiev after Ukrainian Agriculture Minister Nikolay Solsky was accused of illegally appropriating state land worth nearly \$7.4 million. Several months earlier, Ukraine's security service, the SBU, announced that it had uncovered a major embezzlement scheme in which Ukrainian officials and private contractors stole around \$40 million earmarked for shell procurement. <https://www.rt.com/russia/597583-ukraine-corruption-defense-kharkov/>

Frontline situation 'on the edge' – Ukrainian intel chief

Russia may launch another incursion in the northern part of the country this week, Kirill Budanov has told the NYT

14 May, 2024 09:03



FILE PHOTO: Ukrainian military intelligence chief Kirill Budanov. © Maxym Marusenko / NurPhoto via Getty Images

Ukraine's precarious battlefield position is set to worsen in the near future, Kiev's military intelligence chief has warned in an interview with the New York Times. Kirill Budanov described the situation as "on the edge" as Russia continues to make territorial gains.

Moscow has seized multiple villages in the northern part of Ukraine's Kharkov Region after launching an offensive last Friday. The area has been used by Kiev for months to launch cross-border attacks into Russia's Belgorod Region.

Budanov, the head of Ukraine's military intelligence agency (GUR), told the New York Times that the apparent intention of the maneuver was to stretch Ukrainian reserves thin. This could potentially open a window for Russia to capture Chasov Yar, a strategically important Donbass city around 200km southeast of Kharkov.

"The situation is on the edge," he told the outlet on Monday. "Every hour this situation moves toward critical."

Budanov believes that Kiev will be able to stabilize the situation, but that Russia's next move will be a similar incursion in Sumy Region, 150km to the northwest of Kharkov. He expects this to happen

within days.

The **Ukrainian military leadership has acknowledged “tactical successes” for Russia in the area and reports that it has deployed reserves in response. Budanov told the NYT that Kiev partially disrupted Moscow’s plans thanks to this, but the outlet noted that Kiev may weaken its defenses in other places with the redeployment.**

The Russian operation has long been expected in Ukraine, but according to some military officials, Kiev failed to prepare defenses on its side of the border, possibly due to graft.

“The first line of fortifications and mines just didn’t exist,” Denis Yaroslavsky, a Ukrainian commander active in the area, wrote on social media. *“We came to the conclusion that this was either deliberate theft or deliberate sabotage.”*

Amid the battlefield uncertainty, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit Kiev on Tuesday with what US officials called a *“signal of reassurance.”* Washington is expected to announce further supplies of arms to Ukraine soon.

The Ukrainian leadership has blamed a shortage of Western military assistance and the months-long delay in the appropriation of over \$61 billion of Ukraine-related spending by the US Congress for a string of frontline setbacks since last year.

Moscow perceives the Ukraine conflict as a US-initiated proxy war against Russia, in which Ukrainian soldiers serve as *“cannon fodder.”* The Defense Ministry has estimated Kiev’s military casualties at over 111,000 this year alone, as of early May. <https://www.rt.com/russia/597550-budanov-ukraine-situation-critical/>

Ukraine facing ‘a nightmare’ – CNN

President Vladimir Zelensky may have to make “tough choices” in the face of the new Russian offensive in the east

14 May, 2024 00:28



Ukrainian police and vol

The new Russian offensive in the eastern Ukrainian region of Kharkov could force President Vladimir Zelensky to make sacrifices in order to hold the front line, CNN’s chief international security correspondent believes.

The **Russian Army has captured nine villages since it launched an offensive on Friday, according to the Russian Defense Ministry. Ukraine’s General Staff conceded that the Russians have had “tactical success,”** and reported heavy fighting for control of the border town of Volchansk.

CNN’s **Nick Paton Walsh offered a grimmer assessment of the situation on the battlefield on Monday, describing the progress made by the Russian troops as “arguably their fastest advance since the first days of the war.”**

“This is a nightmare for Kyiv for two reasons: firstly, they liberated this land from Russian forces 18 months ago, yet failed, clearly, to fortify the area enough to prevent Moscow sweeping back with the ease with which they were swept out,” the veteran warzone reporter outlined.

“And secondly, Russia can again tie up Ukraine’s overstretched army with constant and grinding pressure on Kharkiv, exacting a toll with crude shelling on a vast urban center,” he argued. Paton Walsh added that Zelensky faces *“ugly choices about where to send limited resources, and where ultimately to sacrifice.”*

Western **analysts have said that the opening of a new front is particularly dangerous for Kiev, given the persistent shortages of ammunition and the delays in Western aid deliveries.** The New York Times reported on Sunday that successful advances on Kharkov, Ukraine’s second-largest city and an important industrial center, *“could demoralize Ukrainians and [their] allies,”* and even compel the West to pressure Kiev to negotiate a truce with Moscow.

Ukraine was forced to retreat from several cities and villages in Donbass this year, including the heavily fortified city of Avdeevka, which was the scene of fierce battles for many months.

Zelensky partly blamed Washington for the recent losses, saying last month that his country is “a hostage” of the upcoming US presidential election and political wrangling in Congress, where Republicans spent months blocking a \$61 billion aid package. President Joe Biden finally signed the aid bill into law on April 24.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/597542-ukraine-nightmare-battle-kharkov/>

In the Kremlin the "Armageddon general" S.Surovikin - Plan of double fragmentation of the Eastern front & destruction of the Ukrainian ED in the Dnieper

Aim to push the Ukrainian ED back from the Dnieper!

We should expect important developments on the fronts of Ukraine as the "Armageddon general" S.Surovikin returned to Moscow from Algeria and a few hours ago he passed the door of the Kremlin to meet with B.Putin.

The first information about S.Surovikin's return appeared on May 8 and most likely his return is related to the reorganization of the entire Ministry of Defense of Russia.

As we mentioned, major purges are underway, while the current A/GETHA V. Gerasimov is a question mark as the new Minister of Defense A. Belousov wants people of his own confidence.

According to Russian sources, S.Surovikin, former commander of the Aerospace Forces, will join the board of the Ministry of Defense.

His return is linked to the escalation in Russia-NATO relations and the operation of the Russian Army in Kharkiv (?).

Read also: B. Putin "anointed" his successor: A. Dyumin together with A. Belousov will lead Russia to a long war and victory over NATO

Russian media report that General Surovikin will return from exile in Africa to Russia today. After May 10, he is expected to attend "a number of formal events."

Surovikin is rumored to be a candidate for the position of Chief of the General Staff.

[dneipero/?_x_tr_sl=el&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en](#)

There are also strong rumors... <https://t.co/9tAFx0x3p> pic.twitter.com/GSYJyTqYd

— Anton Gerashchenko (@Gerashchenko_en) May 8, 2024

— General Surovikin is reportedly back in Moscow.

Rumors floating around of him being part of the new cabinet. pic.twitter.com/cSnDaQ8q07

— IL Lebanese (@Dal_Libano) May 8, 2024

Russian General Surovikin was reportedly seen in the Kremlin today.

Surovikin is a veteran of the Soviet–Afghan War, Second Chechen War, and Russian military intervention in Syria, briefly commanded Russian forces in Ukraine in late 2022 before being replaced in January 2023. pic.twitter.com/kRLhmKPw3

— Clash Report (@clashreport) May 14, 2024

Brief, citing its sources, reports that the former commander of the Russian Aerospace Forces, General Surovikin, will allegedly take part in the board of the Ministry of Defense on May 15 pic.twitter.com/9Yo4j9nQ9k

— S printer Factory (@Sprinterfactory) May 14, 2024

Double slicing scheme of the Ukrainian front

Russian military sources present a revised "X" plan that includes the bifurcation of the Ukrainian front.

MORE -

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Report: Biden withholding from Israel key information about terrorists

'White House is actively undermining America's greatest ally'

By [Bob Unruh](#) Published May 14, 2024 at 12:14pm

Joe Biden, after terrorists from Hamas invaded Israel Oct. 7 and butchered some 1,200 civilians, initially appeared to support Israel's fight against that horrific violence.

However, he's aware that strong leftist enclaves around the country could threatened his re-election for those comments, and he's been shifting his position since.

For example, he's ordered congressionally approved munitions scheduled for delivery to Israel in its fight against terror to be delayed unless and until the Middle East democracy adopts his own strategy for its fight.

That actually has prompted further impeachment investigation work in Congress, for his obvious "quid pro quo" demands of an American ally.

Besides the munitions threat, a new report now charges that Biden has been withholding strategic and critical information about the terrorists attacking Israel from inside Israel.

That's known because he's now offering to share that information if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu follows Biden's instructions and call off a planned campaign to rid Rafah of terrorists.

It is the Washington Post that reported, "The Biden administration, working urgently to stave off a full-scale Israeli invasion of Rafah, is offering Israel valuable assistance in an effort to persuade it to hold back, including sensitive intelligence to help the Israeli military pinpoint the location of Hamas leaders and find the group's hidden tunnels, according to four people familiar with the U.S. offers."

A [report](#) by the American Center for Law and Justice pointed out the obvious: "So not only did the Biden administration have intel on where certain Hamas leaders were hiding, but even more despicably, the Biden administration used this information as a bribery tool against Israel."

It continued, "President Biden wants Israel to avoid going into Rafah at all costs – so much so that his administration offered to give Israel intelligence on Hamas leaders if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would call off the operation. Biden's deliberate withholding of war intel just fully exposed his anti-Israel agenda."

The report noted Israel has been defending itself for seven months following Hamas' terrorism against civilians, which included whole families burned alive and babies butchered.

"The war could have ended much sooner if the Biden administration had rightfully shared the location of Hamas leaders in Gaza. Don't forget that Biden also just halted a weapon shipment to Israel over its upcoming invasion of Rafah," the ACLJ reported.

It charged, "The White House is actively undermining America's greatest ally. And how long has it had this valuable intel that could have ended Israel's war against Hamas?"

Ric Grenell, the organization's senior adviser for foreign policy, explained: "It makes me very angry to see how, once again, the Democrats are playing politics with intelligence. We can't do that – we've got to remove the politics from intelligence. But here's a situation where they literally are holding back information, possibly crucial information.

"I've spoken to several intel officials who are currently employed in the federal government intelligence system. I spoke to them this morning, and one individual says that it's so bad that everybody is talking about it and complaining that it ruins the credibility of the intelligence agencies when we're trying to hold back intelligence or manipulate it in some way." <https://www.wnd.com/2024/05/report-biden-withholding-israel-key-information-terrorists/>

OP ed

Israel Declares Independence from Biden



Daniel Greenfield

As Israel marks its 76th Independence Day, instead of a day usually filled with parades and



fireworks, the Israeli people will buckle down to the business of a nation at war.

Too much of the population is either deployed in the field or may soon be, displaced from their homes near the Gaza border or aware that at any moment rocket alerts could sound for incoming missiles from Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen or Iran. This year, Yom HaZikaron, Memorial Day annually observed for the fallen, will overshadow Yom Ha'atzmaut or Independence Day.

Much like America's Greatest Generation, the men and women who scrappily fought for Israel's independence using crude weapons and WWII surplus gear are passing out of history. Few now remember a time when Israel did not exist and some have come to take it for granted. While Israeli Air Force jets won't be doing flyovers for the 76th, the leftist protesters, some backed by foreign interests, will still continue their rallies and riots that only serve to aid Hamas.

And yet Israel did declare a new kind of independence before its latest Yom Ha'atzmaut.

After nearly half a year of pressure campaigns to end the war, the Biden administration followed through by announcing an embargo on offensive weapons to Israel. It's not the first time. In 1947, the Truman administration had imposed an arms embargo on Israel. Truman, like the current Democrat in the White House, had played a familiar double game, offering diplomatic recognition to Israel and enthusiastic speeches to Jewish voters, even while privately promising Muslims the opposite and making sure that Israel would not have the weapons to defend itself.

When the Republican Party platform declared that it took "pride in the fact that the Republican Party was the first to call for the establishment of a free and independent Jewish Commonwealth" and condemned the "vacillation of the Democrat Administration", Truman shot back angrily claiming that he supported the Democratic platform and its call for "the revision of the arms embargo to accord to the State of Israel the right of self-defense." This was a lie.

Truman had supported the arms embargo from the beginning. Three months before the Democrat platform had been adopted, the administration had backed a UN resolution that included an arms embargo. Truman was saying one thing and doing another. Like Biden, Truman had been following political considerations. That was why diplomats had been warned to stay away from making any anti-Israel moves at the United Nations before Election Day.

Even under the arms embargo, Israel survived an invasion by five Muslim nations.

"You just don't understand. Forty million Arabs are going to push four hundred thousand Jews into the sea. And that's all there is to it," Secretary of Defense James Forrestal had predicted.

Three generations later, Israel is still here.

Israel's 76th Independence Day has come around again. Once again the Jewish State is fighting for its survival against Islamic genocidal violence and a corrupt political class in Washington D.C. It's relearning the old lesson that presidents say one thing for public consumption and do another. And that independence is not just aspirational, it's a simple matter of survival.

Biden's betrayal of Israel was inevitable. The blindness of Israeli leaders to that eventuality, their conviction that if they followed every single guideline from the White House, they would have the support they needed to finish off Hamas in Gaza was a delusional fantasy. Israel's best bet lay in quickly doing what it needed to do. Everything the Biden administration wanted only slowed down the war effort and doomed the very support that Israel had been counting on.

A day after delivering a speech at the Holocaust Museum about his support for Israel, Biden told CNN that the support was gone. But Truman had pulled a similar trick with a rally at Madison Square Garden when he told New York's Jewish voters that he was responsible for setting up Israel "as a free and independent political state" even while it was fighting for its survival.

The Truman administration continued backing worthless UN truces (the predecessors of today's equally duplicitous ceasefires) which allowed the Islamic terrorists of the Muslim Brotherhood (the parent organization of Hamas) to continue attacking Jewish towns and massacring Jews.

While Truman was telling one thing to Jewish voters in New York City ahead of Election Day, Israel was evacuating children as part of 'Operation Baby' from front line communities under siege by terrorists during the latest 'truce'. In Kibbutz Manara, the children had to be evacuated from the mountaintop in vegetable crates in a scene later recreated in the movie 'Exodus'.

Manara had to be evacuated again after the Hamas attacks of Oct 7 and it's estimated that [half the homes in the community](#) have been destroyed after Hezbollah Islamic terrorists have shot a rocket every day at the village. The people living there can't go home. But unlike the Hamas supporters crying in Gaza, you won't see their faces on the evening news.

After the 1948 election, not only weren't there any arms sales, but the White House was upset that Israel had begun winning. The Egyptians had not only failed to push the Jews into the sea, but the Jews were now pushing them back into the Sinai.

A month after the election, in which 75% of Jews had voted for him, Truman demanded that Israel immediately withdraw or his administration would "re-examine" its mostly non-existent relations. Truman, who would later claim credit for creating Israel, had done little more than provide de facto (not de jure) recognition to Israel, while still maintaining the arms embargo.

Truman's move allowed Egypt to control Gaza and turn it over to the Muslim Brotherhood for [regular terror raids on Israel](#). And that led directly to the rise of Hamas and the current war.

It's also why Truman ought to get more credit for creating Hamas than for creating Israel.

Truman did not actually begin selling weapons to Israel until 1950, well after it had survived the war, and only in order to also be able to sell weapons to its Arab Muslim enemies as part of an agreement with the UK to "maintain a rough balance of power between Israel and the Arab states."

American Jews have long lived with the comforting "Eddie Jacobson" myth that Truman had intervened on behalf of Israel because of a plea from his longtime friend and business partner. The truth is that the Truman administration [had opposed statehood](#), until Israel had gone ahead and declared it, had opposed any Israeli presence in Jerusalem, and blocked the pathway to victory, until Israel had gone ahead and won not because of Truman, but despite him.

Since then history has repeated itself again and again. And too many Israelis, who used to know better, bought into the silly myth that their country existed because Truman "liked" them. Millions of Jews were murdered in Europe despite all the politicians who claimed to like them, but then did nothing for them. Hundreds of thousands of Jews in Israel held off armies and built a state, not because politicians liked them, but because they fought for their independence.

The Oslo accords, made so that Israel would be liked, brought it to the brink of destruction. If Israel is going to undo that and the entire 'palestinian' colonial project, it has a limited time in which to act. Even after Oct 7, it was too consumed with being liked to do what had to be done.

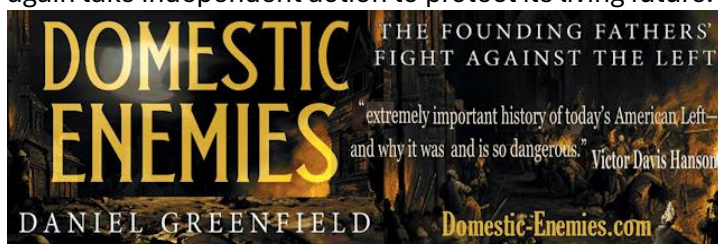
Like America, Israel wants to be liked after Islamic terror attacks, when what it needs is to win.

On the 76th anniversary of its independence, Israel has once again been forced to declare its independence from a White House Democrat who publicly promised support while privately stabbing it in the back. Going into Rafah and finishing off Hamas will be a more meaningful celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut or Independence Day than any flag-waving parades.

Independence is not in the fireworks you shoot off, it's in taking independent action.

Contrary to popular myth, foreign aid to Israel isn't proof that Jerusalem controls D.C. but that D.C. controls Jerusalem. What's often misleadingly described as aid isn't a big check, it's an entanglement with the U.S. defense industry that prevents Israel from fighting an extended war without permission. Since the War of Independence and the 1956 Suez Canal War, the priority has been to make sure that Israel won't be able to unilaterally pursue a military campaign. Once denied weapons, Israel has been given them in exchange for being put on a leash out of D.C.

Oct 7 has become the ultimate test of Israel's independence. And this Memorial Day and Independence Day will determine whether a nation of [nearly 10 million](#) is truly free to do more than mourn its dead, but once again take independent action to protect its living future.



Daniel Greenfield is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's [Front Page Magazine](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2024/05/israel-declares-independence-from-biden.html). <http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2024/05/israel-declares-independence-from-biden.html>

The Genocide Libel Is the Blood Libel of Our Time

Dennis Prager | May 14, 2024

In medieval Europe, Christians who hated Jews spread the lie that Jews kidnap Christian children, slaughter them, and use their blood to bake matzos for Passover. This lie became known as "the Blood Libel," probably the greatest libel in history. Over the course of many centuries, Jews were tortured and murdered, often by being burned alive, because of the Blood Libel.

The Blood Libel was particularly odious in light of two facts: It was the Jews who, through their Bible, first outlawed human sacrifice; and one of the first laws in the Hebrew Bible is a ban on consuming blood. For centuries, Jews had to confront the fact that all around them, throughout Europe, a vast number of people believed an enormous lie about them. Jews have to confront the same thing today. We are now living through the Second Blood Libel: the claim that the Jewish state is committing genocide. But, unlike the Blood Libel, this libel is not the product of Christians; it is the product of Muslims and the Left. The very people against whom the greatest genocide in recorded history -- the Holocaust -- was directed are now accused of that crime.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in 1948, there were 1,380,000 Palestinians in Israel and the greater Palestine area, and as of 2022, there were 7 million. In other words, there are now five times as many Palestinians in the Palestinian territories and in Israel as there were in 1948.

Now, as I have said all my life, truth is a liberal value and it is a conservative value, but it has never been a left-wing value. Yet, given these figures, even leftists would be forced to acknowledge that Israel has never had the slightest inclination to perpetrate genocide against the Palestinians. People targeted for genocide do not increase their numbers -- let alone by a factor of five.

What the Left and their Muslim allies claim is that since Oct. 7, Israel has presumably changed its mind and decided to commit genocide against Palestinians (though, apparently, only in Gaza, not in the West Bank).

Here are some facts that explain why the charge of "Israeli genocide" is as much a lie as was the Blood Libel: First, as Israeli officials have repeatedly stated, if Hamas released the hostages and surrendered, Israel would cease its bombing of Gaza. That was precisely the condition that the United States and its allies offered Japan and Germany: Unconditionally surrender, and the bombing of Japanese and German cities will immediately cease. Second, World War II brings us to more proof that the charge of Israeli genocide is a lie. No one ever accused America or Britain of committing genocide against Nazi Germany or Imperial Japan. Even those who now maintain that the Allied bombing of Dresden and other German cities was morally wrong do not accuse the United States or Britain of having committed genocide. So why is Israel so charged?

Third, during World War II, it was almost universally understood that every German death by the Allies was caused by the Nazi regime, and every Japanese death was caused by the Japanese fascist regime. Had there been no Nazi invasions of European countries and no Japanese bombing of the United States and invasions of myriad Asian countries, there would have been no World War II and therefore no bombing of German and Japanese cities. Likewise, if there were no Hamas and no Oct. 7, there would be no Israeli bombing of Gaza. Every dead Palestinian in Gaza is the result of Hamas' actions.

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Fourth, Hamas is responsible for every dead Gazan for another reason: Hamas uses Gazan civilians as human shields.

Fifth, despite far larger mass killings around the world, only Israel is widely charged with genocide.

Since the beginning of this century, the Islamic terror group Boko Haram has murdered more than 60,000 Christians in Nigeria. Not only have there been no left-wing protests, few people even know, let alone care, about it. The Left doesn't care because the perpetrators have been Islamists -- their allies in the fight against the West -- and blacks. The Left cares about dead black people, whether in America or in Africa, only when they are killed by whites.

From 2003-2008, in Darfur, Sudan, the Arab regime and Arab paramilitary groups killed more than 300,000 civilians and created about 2.7 million refugees. Again, because blacks are being killed by Muslims, the Left has no interest in their deaths.

One more example: In just the last few years, according to the BBC, between 700,000 and 800,000 civilians have been killed in the war between the Ethiopian government and the breakaway province of Tigray. Virtually no one knows or cares: It's blacks killing blacks, after all.

Sixth, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has just revised its child fatality figure in the Gaza war sharply downward. On May 6, it reported more than 14,500 deaths; two days later, it reported 7,797. OCHA also revised downward its figure for women fatalities from more than 9,500 to 4,959. In other words, all the mainstream Western media have reported as truth the lies Hamas announced about the numbers of Gazan women and children killed by Israeli bombs. (However, even the original false figures don't come close to substantiating the genocide charge.)

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Even if the media give these new numbers the attention it has given the alleged "genocide," it will not end a single anti-Israel demonstration or cause one Israel-hater to cease accusing Israel of genocide. Since the accusation was never based on truth, truth will not end it.

The only genocide in the Israel-Palestinian war is the one Hamas and Iran seek to perpetrate against the Jews of Israel. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/2024/05/14/the-genocide-libel-is-the-blood-libel-of-our-time-n2639022>