

## IDF confirms: Body of hostage Ron Binyamin recovered from Gaza

*"The Families Forum bows its head and mourns upon receiving the difficult news of the murder of Ron Benjamin by Hamas terrorists and the taking of his body to Gaza as a hostage.*

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MAY 18, 2024 19:54 Updated: MAY 18, 2024 20:20



Ron Binyamin (photo credit: Hostages and Missing Families Forum)

**The body of Ron Binyamin, 52, was recovered from Gaza by the IDF after being held there since his murder by Hamas on October 7, the IDF confirmed on Saturday.**

IDF spokesperson, R.-Adm. Daniel Hagari announced that Ron's body was recovered at the same time as the three other hostages' bodies rescued on Friday.

**"Based on verified intelligence in our possession, Ron Benjamin was murdered during the October 7th Massacre at the Mefalsim Intersection, and his body was abducted to Gaza by Hamas terrorists," Hagari said.**

**The operation was "based on precise Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) intelligence obtained during the interrogations of terrorists** who were apprehended in the Gaza Strip, as well as intelligence from IDF Intelligence Directorate," he said.

### Comments on the recovery

Shortly afterward, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum provided the following statement:

"The Families Forum bows its head and mourns upon receiving the difficult news of the murder of Ron Benjamin by Hamas terrorists and the taking of his body to Gaza as a hostage."

"Returning his body to Israel is a sacred mission that allows his family to grant him eternal rest in the land of Israel."



(L-R) Itzik Gelenter, Amit Buskila, and Shani Louk (credit: Foreign Ministry/Facebook, Hostage and Missing Families Forum)

The Families Forum added: **"128 hostages have been waiting to be released and return to Israel for 225 long days and nights already. The Israeli government must focus on the only mission that matters - to dispatch negotiation teams this very evening and fight for their**

**return home.** Those alive should be returned for rehabilitation, and those murdered should be brought back for a dignified burial, as was made possible for Ron Benjamin this evening."

Ron Benjamin (53), married to Ayelet and father to Shay and Gil, was a family man who loved cycling. He used to go out for a ride every Saturday, just as he did on that fateful Saturday when he was taken hostage from the Kibbutz Be'eri area while on a cycling trip. Ron loved traveling in Israel and around the world, and he loved music."

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-801580>

## IDF kills over 80 terrorists, seizes anti-aircraft guns in eastern Rafah



**In one of the raids, the "Tzabar" Infantry Battalion located numerous weapons, including dozens of rifles, grenades, and magazines.**

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MAY 18, 2024 15:00 Updated: MAY 18, 2024 15:21

**IDF Givati Brigade operates in eastern Rafah. May 18, 2024. (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON UNIT)**

**The combat team of the IDF's Givati Brigade has killed more than 80 terrorists during operational activities in eastern Rafah, the military said on Saturday afternoon.**

The Givati Brigade has been operating in the area for several weeks.

In one of the raids, the “Tzabar” Infantry Battalion located numerous weapons, including dozens of rifles, grenades, and magazines.



During an assault conducted by the brigade’s 9th Battalion, troops found many anti-aircraft machine guns, the IDF reported.

*IDF Givati Brigade operates in eastern Rafah. May 18, 2024. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON UNIT)*

**Destroying terrorist infrastructure in Rafah**

The Givati fire array, along with the air force and others, also destroyed dozens of terrorist infrastructures in the area, the military added.

Earlier, ABC News reported that, since May 4, roughly 1,400 buildings in Rafah have been destroyed.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-801630>

## **WATCH: IDF destroys terror infrastructures, kills 50 Hamas terrorists in Rafah**

*Hundreds of pieces of terror infrastructure have been destroyed, including weapons production sites and rocket launching sites.*

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MAY 18, 2024 17:00 **Updated:** MAY 18, 2024 18:04

**IDF troops launched targeted raids into Rafah, aiming to destroy and disrupt terror infrastructure, according to an IDF statement on Saturday.**

**Soldiers from the 401st Brigade's combat team launched raids deep into eastern Rafah.**

**The troops targeted terror infrastructure and buildings used by Hamas to fire on IDF troops.**

**About 50 Hamas fighters were eliminated in the fighting.**

**Dozens of tunnel shafts are being explored and mapped in preparation for their destruction.**



**Hundreds of pieces of terror infrastructure have been destroyed, including weapons production sites and rocket launching sites.**

*IDF troops operating in Rafah, May 18, 2024. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)*

**Earlier Givati raids**

**Earlier on Saturday, the IDF announced that the Givati Brigade had killed more than 80 terrorists during operational activity in eastern Rafah over the past weeks.**

Givati's raids have located and seized numerous weapons ranging from rifles, grenades, and ammunition to heavy machine guns and anti-aircraft weapons.

**Various international actors have tried to dissuade Israel from launching its invasion of Rafah due to the arrival of most of Gaza's refugees into Rafah.** <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-801633>

## **Rafah airstrike kills PIJ officer, 460th Brigade faces heavy fighting in Jabalya**

*The airstrike eliminating the PIJ operative was one of a broader array of strikes across the Strip.*

By [SAM HALPERN, DANIELLE GREYMAN-KENNARD](#) MAY 18, 2024 09:56 **Updated:** MAY 18, 2024 12:05

**An Israeli airstrike killed the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist organization’s Rafah Brigade head of logistics, the IDF announced on Saturday morning.**

**The terrorist was armed with an RPG in a compound across from IDF troops.**

**The PIJ operative was reportedly responsible for preparing terrorists for attacks on Israeli personnel in the area.**

**The airstrike eliminating the PIJ operative was one of a broader array of strikes across the Strip.** The military reported that, over the past day, the Israel Air Force hit 70 targets across Gaza.

**Palestinian media reports have claimed that a person was killed in an airstrike in east Rafah, although the validity of the report and background of the alleged party cannot be confirmed by the Post at this current stage.**

In the area of Jabalya, soldiers successfully eliminated a number of other terrorists.

### **Targets struck**

**Among these targets were weapons storage facilities, military infrastructure and compounds, and terrorists.**



*IDF troops operate in the Gaza Strip. May 18, 2024. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)*

**In one military compound, the IDF identified a launcher used to fire rockets at civilian populations in Israel.**

**In addition, the IDF located the sites of several terror tunnels.**

### **Terrorists hiding in Rafah**

**While the United States and United Nations, along with a myriad of other international actors, have discouraged Israel from conducting military operations in Rafah, Israel has repeatedly asserted that operations in the densely-packed Rafah are**

**essential for freeing the hostages and eliminating Hamas.**

**In addition to terrorists hiding in Rafah, where many Palestinian civilians are sheltering to escape the war, living hostages have been recovered from the city.**

**Egypt, since Israeli forces took over the Palestinian side of Rafah, has refused to allow humanitarian aid to cross into Gaza in protest of Israel's decision. The United Nations has repeatedly stressed that Gaza is in the midst of a humanitarian crisis and humanitarian aid is essential.**

### **IDF engages in heavy Jabalya fighting, destroys weapons production facility**

**During raids on terrorist positions in the outskirts of Jabalya, Israeli troops of the 460th Brigade encountered and engaged squads of terrorists, the IDF later noted.**

*The IDF's 460th Brigade engages terrorists in Jabalya. May 18, 2024. (Credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)*

**These troops also discovered and destroyed a facility dedicated to the production of arms, including long-range rockets, grenades, and electronic devices.**

In one location in the area, the soldiers located a tunnel shaft that had previously been destroyed in an airstrike. The Israeli personnel then encountered terrorist forces in the area and, with a combination of tank fire, airstrikes, and close-range fire, eliminated the opposing force.

**Subsequently, Palestinian media sources reported that 15 had been killed and another 30 wounded in Jabalya. These reports have yet to be confirmed. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-801622>**

## **Gantz challenges Netanyahu to reveal his true war, post-Hamas, Hezbollah strategy**

**Whether Benny Gantz is bluffing or not, one thing is certain: Come June 8, Israel's way forward on the southern and northern fronts of the war will be much clearer.**

By *YONAH JEREMY BOB* MAY 18, 2024 22:22



*Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Cabinet minister Benny Gantz during a press conference in the Kirya military base in Tel Aviv, Israel, 28 October 2023. (photo credit: ABIR SULTAN/POOL)*

**What National Unity party leader and war minister Benny Gantz did on Saturday night was to force Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to reveal his true war and post-Hamas strategy.**

**Gantz, as well as Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and the IDF high command have made it clear that winning the war requires removing Hamas from power.**

They believe removing Hamas from power requires choosing a replacement to manage Gaza and that this replacement should be a mix of the US-EU-Arab allies-Palestinian Authority.

**[Essentially a two state solution by default. - rdb**

To avoid returning to large battles in Jabalya, Shifa Hospital, Zeitoun, and other locations in northern Gaza that were supposed to be cleared, injecting a new Gaza manager must happen at the same time as fighting any Hamas insurgency.

Gallant and the IDF had predicted needing to fight a three-to-nine-month low-grade Hamas insurgency from January-February until later in 2024.



*Defense Minister Yoav Gallant meeting members of the artillery units in the North, May 17, 2024. (credit: IDF SPOKESMAN'S UNIT)*

But they, and Gantz, are furious to be fighting whole newly reconstituted Hamas battalions in northern Gaza still in May, at a time when low-grade clean-up fighting was supposed to be against single-digit numbers of Hamas terrorists at a time.

There are debates about what Netanyahu's true strategy is since, at least publicly, he has repeatedly and vehemently resisted having the Palestinian Authority involved in any part of managing Gaza.

Interestingly, sources say he was ready to bless PA-affiliated Gaza personnel taking over the Rafah

Crossing with Egypt as long as they did not identify themselves as connected to the PA, but this was a non-starter with the PA and Egypt. The West and Israel's Arab allies (Egypt, UAE, Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain) have all pushed for a reformed PA to be involved to achieve legitimacy with Gazans.

There are only three options at this point to what he favors: Hamas control of Gaza, without formally admitting it, Israeli control of Gaza without formally admitting it, ensuring Gaza remains at a certain level of chaos long enough with a hope that at some point the US, EU, Arab allies would take over managing Gaza without the PA involved (a gamble which seems highly unlikely.)

All of this connects to the hostage deal with Hamas.

**Who will be the enemy when the IDF finishes in Rafah**

Now that Israel has started its Rafah operation, there will soon be no one else official to fight in Gaza other than in the form of putting down insurgencies.

Gantz did not say why he had set a June 8 deadline for Netanyahu, but it could very well be because that is around when the Rafah operation is expected to conclude, or significant aspects of it will have concluded, or a breaking point with the US over the future of the operation may have been reached.

Once there is no large Hamas force left to fight in Gaza, there will be little basis for the government not to agree to an extended pause in fighting in order to gain a return of the hostages.

There can be many fights about the details of such a deal, but having gone through Rafah, the last bastion of Hamas will have been addressed by the IDF, so it would be less clear what Israel would lose in a pause.

This would also force Netanyahu to decide what his plans are for who will replace Hamas.

The other major war decision that Gantz seeks to force Netanyahu's hand on is dealing with Hezbollah.

Gantz has set September 1, the new school year, as a deadline date for resolving the issue of returning evacuated northern residents to their homes.

Until now, Gantz, Gallant, and the IDF high command have repeated that there must be a deal with Hezbollah by then or a larger military operation to restore security.

But after repeating this mantra for months, it has lost its luster, and it is doubtful whether Hezbollah is taking the threat seriously.

Giving Hezbollah an ultimatum by which it needs to decide if it will risk Israel being "crazy" enough to do a larger operation against it versus if the terror group should cut its losses and agree to some kind of diplomatic deal in which it will demilitarize within significant portions of southern Lebanon will force it to take the threat seriously.

On the positive side, Hezbollah might finally agree to Israel's terms.

On the **negative side, setting such an ultimatum is dangerous business because it could also force Israel to act toward a major war** or to be exposed as bluffing, both of which could have grave consequences.

Netanyahu historically hates making such fateful decisions and tries to defer them to the point at which he really cannot postpone anymore.

**Gantz's speech forces him to show his hand on whether he is ready to present Hezbollah with an ultimatum or whether he is bluffing and willing to leave northern residents** evacuated from their homes for a much longer period than Gantz.

Regarding the **North, another possibility is that a hostage deal and extended pause with Hamas is reached, which leads to a ceasefire with Hezbollah.**

In this case, top defense sources have told the Jerusalem Post something that no Israeli politicians have said out loud: **given a ceasefire, around 90% of Hezbollah has already fled southern Lebanon, and doubling or tripling the number of soldiers on the northern border**, the government might eventually suggest to the northern residents to return with more of a "fudged" unofficial deal with Hezbollah.

**Hezbollah might simply not send its forces back to southern Lebanon** without formally agreeing not to.

This would leave open the threat of a future Hezbollah return, but it is another possible scenario.

In any case, if Netanyahu and Gantz do not reach a deal, Gantz will likely seek to blame Netanyahu for failing to remove Hamas, blowing a hostage deal, and failing to get the northern residents back to their homes.

There are other major points of disagreement between Netanyahu and Gantz, including how much Haredim serves in the IDF, but that issue is more about domestic politics than the grand war strategy between Hamas and Hezbollah.

If Gantz and Netanyahu agree on a grand war strategy, they would also probably find a way to agree or buy time on the Haredim in the IDF issue.

One way or another, by June 8, the way forward on both the southern and northern fronts of the war will be much clearer. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-801658>

## Hezbollah launches multitude of rockets and drones at Israel

*Amid escalation between Israel and Hezbollah, the terror organization fires dozens of rockets and drones at Israel; Israel retaliates with artillery fire and targeted assassinations*

*Hod Bass|12:24*

**Saturday marks the most activated sirens from Hezbollah drone and rocket attacks. Since Saturday morning, the terror organization has launched dozens of drones and rockets at Israel, thankfully not injuring anyone in the process. Israel has retaliated against Hezbollah**, targeting terrorist targets in southern Lebanon as well as deep in Lebanese territory.



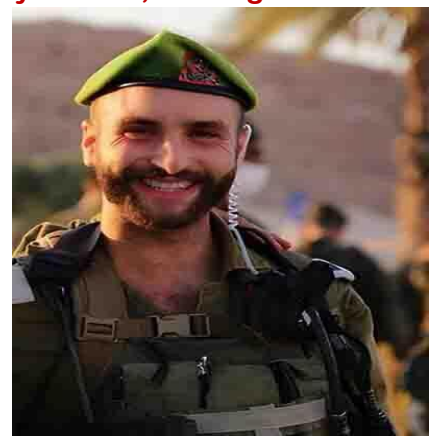
*IDF strikes Ayta ash Shab in southern Lebanon*

**By 8 a.m. on Saturday, Hezbollah has launched at least 4 drones into Israel, activating sirens in the Upper Galilee and the Golan regions.**

**Since then, Israel has retaliated with airstrikes and artillery attacks, striking in southern Lebanon** as well as terror targets deep in the country.

**The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Syrian human**

**rights organization that opposes the Assad regime, reported that one of Israel's targeted strikes was directed at a Hezbollah**



**commander and his subordinate at the Lebanon-Syria border.** Their fate remains unknown at this time.

**Throughout Saturday, Hezbollah continued to launch drones and rockets at Israel,** despite clear warnings from Israel, resulting in damages and injured persons in south Lebanon towns serving as Hezbollah strongholds such as Ayta ash Shab.

*The late Captain (res) Dor Zimel*

**Over the past 5 hours, Hezbollah has conducted at least 6 drone and rocket attacks against northern Israel,** including border-adjacent towns such as Arab al-Aramshe, where the [late Captain \(res.\) Dor Zimel was injured and later succumbed to his wounds.](#)

**Panama-flagged oil tanker reportedly attacked southwest of Yemen's Mocha - Ambrey**  
**Ambrey said a radio communication indicated the vessel was hit by a missile and that there was a fire onboard.**



By REUTERS MAY 18, 2024 09:29 **Updated:** MAY 18, 2024 10:08

*An aerial view of the Barbados-flagged ship True Confidence ablaze following a Houthi missile attack at sea, March 6, 2024, in this handout photo. (photo credit: DVIDS/Handout via REUTERS)*

**British security firm Ambrey said on Saturday it had received information that a Panama-flagged crude oil tanker had been attacked approximately 10 nautical miles southwest of Yemen's Mocha.**

**Ambrey said a radio communication indicated the vessel was hit by a missile and that there was a fire onboard. It** did not provide

details of the communication.

**Yemen's Houthi militia, which controls the most populous parts of Yemen and is aligned with Iran, has staged attacks on ships in the waters off the country** for months in solidarity with Palestinians fighting Israel in Gaza.

Vessels in the vicinity were advised to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity, Ambrey added in an advisory note.

**Earlier Houthi attacks on Saturday**

**Earlier on Saturday, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency said a vessel in the Red Sea was struck by an unknown object and sustained slight damage.**

**"The vessel and crew are safe and continuing to its next port of call,"** UKMTO said in an advisory note, adding the incident occurred 76 nautical miles northwest of Yemen's Hodeidah.

**Months of Houthi attacks in the Red Sea have disrupted global shipping,** forcing firms to re-route to longer and more expensive journeys around Southern Africa, and stoking fears that the Israel-Hamas war could spread to destabilize the wider Middle East.

The United States and Britain have carried out strikes against Houthi targets in response to the attacks on shipping. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-801620>

**IDF: Terrorist involved in 2023 murder of Israeli killed in rare West Bank airstrike**

**Military says members of Islamic Jihad commander's network planned imminent attacks; jets, helicopters targeted building used as 'operational war room' by Jenin terror network**

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 9:38 am



*Palestinians look at the damage following an Israeli airstrike in the West Bank Jenin refugee camp, May 18, 2024. (AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)*

**An Israeli airstrike in the West Bank city of Jenin late Friday night targeted a command room belonging to a local terror network and killed a terrorist behind the murder of an Israeli in May 2023, according to a statement from the military and the Shin Bet early Saturday.**

**Dozens of drone strikes have been carried out by the Israel Defense Forces in the West Bank**

— largely amid clashes — since October 7, but Friday’s attack, carried out by a fighter jet, was a rare occurrence in the territory.

The man killed was Islam Khamayseh, who the IDF said was wanted over his involvement in a series of terror attacks, including a shooting near the settlement of Hermesh in which Meir Tamari was killed, and another attack in the area in June 2023 that wounded four soldiers and one civilian.

Fighter jets and attack helicopters targeted a building used as an “operational war room” by Jenin’s terror network, the statement said, adding that several gunmen were gathered at the command room when it was struck, including those involved in several shooting attacks in the Jenin area.

Members of the network planned additional attacks in the near future, the statement said, while also publishing footage of the airstrike.

The Palestinian Authority health ministry said that eight others who were wounded in the strike were in stable condition and receiving treatment at hospitals.



An undated photo of Meir Tamari, who was killed in a West Bank shooting attack on May 30, 2023. (Courtesy)

Khamayseh was eulogized in posts on social media as a Jenin battalion commander in the Al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group.

מטוס קרב ומסוק קרב של חיל-האוויר, בהכוונה מודיעינית של שב"כ תקפו מבנה אשר שימש כחמ"ל מבצעים של תשתית הטרור בג'נין. במבנה הסתתרו מספר מחבלים מרכזיים, ביניהם מחבלים אשר היו מעורבים בביצוע פיגועי ירי בגזרת ג'נין וכן תכנון לממש פיגועים נוספים בתקופה הקרובה. בתקיפה חוסל אסלאם... [pic.twitter.com/gmKNg9rXPC](https://pic.twitter.com/gmKNg9rXPC) — Israeli Air Force (@IAFsite) May 17, 2024

Videos posted late Friday and early Saturday showed crowds of Palestinian men, some armed, walking the streets of Jenin as part of a funeral march for Khamayseh.

The military said the targeted site was “a dangerous terrorist infrastructure,” and the airstrike “was carried out to remove an imminent threat posed by the terrorists who were involved in advancing terror attacks in the area of Jenin and Israeli territory.”

The IDF has intensified its near-daily raids across the West Bank in the aftermath of Hamas’s October 7 attack, in operations aimed at dismantling Palestinian terror groups.

Since October 7, troops have arrested some 4,000 wanted Palestinians across the West Bank, including more than 1,700 affiliated with Hamas. According to the Palestinian Authority health ministry, more than 490 West Bank Palestinians have been killed in that time.

Based on military estimates, the vast majority of those killed since October 7 were shot during clashes amid arrest raids, and many of them, according to data seen by The Times of Israel, were armed with either a firearm or an explosive device.

The IDF is aware of at least three cases of uninvolved Palestinians being killed by troops in recent months, and a handful of cases of settlers killing Palestinians, which are still under investigation. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-terrorist-involved-in-may-2023-murder-of-israeli-killed-in-rare-west-bank-strike/>

## Iran sentences to death a Jewish man who killed a Muslim



Arvin Nathaniel Ghahremani's family try to commute his sentence to reparations after he allegedly killed a Muslim in self-defense; The victim's family refuses to accept their offer [Itamar Eichner](#)|09:16

Arvin Nathaniel Ghahremani, a 20-year-old Iranian Jew, is scheduled to be executed in Iran on Monday for allegedly killing an Iranian Muslim in a brawl in self-defense.

Arvin Nathaniel Ghahremani

In Iran, it was reported that Ghahremani was involved two years ago in a brawl with a non-Jewish Iranian. During the brawl, the Iranian died, and the Jewish citizen was sentenced to death.

According to Iranian law, the death sentence can be commuted to reparations only with the consent of the deceased person's family. The family and the Jewish community have offered a generous amount for reparations, but the victim's family refuses to accept the offer and demands the Jewish man's execution.

The execution was planned for Saturday, but for unknown reasons, it has been postponed to Monday. Several figures have appealed to different countries so they can intervene and help suspend the execution. Appeals have been made to countries like Russia, Germany, and more.

At the same time, lawyers and prominent figures in the Iranian Jewish communities in the U.S. are trying to influence the family of the deceased, but so far to no avail. There are currently about 8,000 Jews living in Iran, much less than the number of Jews in Iran before the Islamic revolution which was about 100,000.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/s14twl70>

## Russia 'done' with Western Europe 'for at least a generation' – Lavrov

*An “acute phase of the military-political confrontation with the West is in full swing,” Moscow’s foreign minister has said*

18 May, 2024 16:28



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. © Sputnik/Alexey Filippov

Russia won't be viewing Europe as a partner for “at least one generation,” Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has predicted. The diplomat remarked that Moscow and the West are already locked in a confrontation that has no end in sight.

Top Russian officials, including President Vladimir Putin, have repeatedly described Moscow's ongoing military conflict with Kiev as a proxy war waged by NATO against Russia. Evidence of this, the Kremlin says, is the material aid, the training, and the intelligence that the US and many European countries have been providing to defend Ukraine.

Speaking on Saturday, Lavrov cited an article by Russian political scientist Dmitry Trenin, who has written that “Europe as a partner is not relevant for us for at least one generation.” The minister said that he “can't help but agree” and that Moscow is “feeling this in practice almost daily.” The senior Russian diplomat also claimed, without elaborating, that “many facts speak in favor of such a prognosis.”

“The acute phase of the military-political confrontation with the West continues [and] is in full swing,” Lavrov said, pointing to the nature of the narratives currently prevalent in the US and Europe.

In an interview with TASS on Friday, Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Ryabkov compared Western elites to delinquent youths and provocateurs intent on escalating tensions to the brink of a “catastrophic collapse,” and with no regard for the consequences.

Speaking of the work of Russian diplomats in the West, the official revealed that it is “in a crisis-management mode, aimed at preventing an escalation into a really massive conflict.”

NATO is “a group in which we feel not an ounce of trust, which triggers political and even emotional rejection” in Moscow, Ryabkov told the media outlet.

He said that, no matter who comes out on top in the US presidential election in November, “no chance for the improvement of the situation can be seen, considering the fundamental anti-Russian consensus of the American elites.”

During his inauguration speech on Tuesday, nonetheless, Russian President Vladimir Putin asserted that Moscow does not “refuse dialogue with Western states.”

“The choice is theirs,” the president proposed, posing the question: “Do they intend to continue trying to restrain the development of Russia, continue the policy of aggression and relentless pressure that they have pursued for years, or look for a path to cooperation and peace?” <https://www.rt.com/russia/597827-lavrov-europe-no-partner-for-generation/>

## West 'playing with fire' – Moscow

*Ukraine has increased attacks on Russian border regions using NATO-supplied missiles and bombs*





18 May, 2024 00:28

Fragments of downed AGM-88 HARM, HIMARS and Storm Shadow munitions at the 'Army-2023' expo in Moscow, August 2023 © Arthur Shayhutdinov / Sputnik

**The West is risking further escalation by arming Ukraine and encouraging it to strike Russian territory, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Friday.**

**Ukrainian strikes on Russian cities have intensified since Kiev began losing ground in Kharkov Region.**

**“The profile of the American and British handlers of the [Ukrainian President Vladimir] Zelensky regime is clearly visible behind these barbaric attacks,” Zakharova told reporters. “They are not only providing longer-range missiles and heavy weapons, but are giving the green light for their use against Russia.”**

**“Once again, we would like to unequivocally warn Washington, London, Brussels and other Western capitals, as well as Kiev, which is under their control, that they are playing with fire. Russia will not leave such encroachments on its territory unanswered,” the spokeswoman stressed.**

**On Thursday and Friday, Ukrainian troops launched a combined assault on Crimea, Krasnodar and other Russian regions using UAVs and naval drones. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, more than 100 drones were intercepted mid-air, while six unmanned boats were destroyed by the Black Sea Fleet.**

**During its briefing on Friday, the MOD added that over the past week Russian troops have intercepted dozens of US-made ATACMS missiles, as well as nearly 200 rockets, including projectiles fired from US-made HIMARS and Czech-made Vampire launchers. Hammer guided bombs delivered by France, Storm Shadow cruise missiles made by the UK, and nearly 330 UAVs were also used in the attacks, it said.**

**A total of 19 civilians were killed in Russia’s Belgorod region on May 12 alone, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said. On Friday, Gladkov wrote on Telegram that a Ukrainian drone had hit a civilian car in Belgorod, killing a mother and her four-year-old daughter.**

**On Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin reiterated that the shelling of residential areas is pushing Moscow to create a buffer zone along the border with Ukraine. “If this continues, we will be forced to create a security zone. This is what we are doing,” he said during his trip to China.**

**Last month, the New York Times cited senior Pentagon officials as saying that the US had allowed Ukraine to use ATACMS missiles against targets in Crimea. British Defense Secretary Grant Shapps confirmed to journalists on Tuesday that London allows Kiev to strike Crimea with UK-supplied weapons.**

**The largely Russian-speaking peninsula voted in 2014 to leave Ukraine and join Russia following the Western-backed coup in Kiev that took place earlier that year. <https://www.rt.com/russia/597810-west-playing-with-fire-moscow/>**

## **Zelensky approves mobilization of convicts**

**The new measure is aimed at helping Kiev replenish its depleted ranks**

18 May, 2024 16:17

**Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky ratified a new law on Friday which would allow some prisoners to be paroled if they agree to enlist in the country’s military, according to documents published on the official website of the country’s parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. [Desperation - rdb](#)**

**The bill was first submitted to the legislature in March this year as part of Ukraine’s efforts to replenish its ranks amid a series of setbacks in its conflict with Russia.**

**The new legislation permits Ukrainian inmates to voluntarily enlist on a contractual basis and serve for as long as the country remains under martial law. The law only applies to convicts who have no more than three years left of their original prison sentence. It does not extend to people who have been convicted of premeditated murder, rape, drug trafficking and production, crimes against national security or corruption. However, the law allows military service for those convicted of involuntary**

manslaughter, with the exception of cases where the prisoner committed the crime while intoxicated.

Ukrainian Justice Minister Denis Maliuska [said](#) earlier that the **mobilized convicts will serve in special units, and could perform tasks not related to actual combat** or the handling weapons, such as building infrastructure and other fieldwork. He also noted that the new law could help Kiev bolster its number of troops by as many as 20,000.

An **April survey conducted by the ministry showed that some 4,500 Ukrainian convicts had already expressed a desire to serve in the army in exchange for parole**, Olena Vysotska, Maliuska's deputy, told Glavkom news outlet this week.

The **new move is part of a broader initiative by Kiev to address critical shortages** of manpower on the front line. Last month, Zelensky signed a new mobilization law which lowered the conscription age from 27 to 25, expanded the powers of enlistment officers and introduced penalties for draft dodgers, including fines of up to 25,000 hryvnias (\$640).

The government in **Kiev previously insisted that only 31,000 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed in the conflict since it began in February 2022. However, earlier this month, then-Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu claimed that Ukrainian military casualties this year alone have amounted to more than 111,000 soldiers.** <https://www.rt.com/russia/597824-ukraine-law-mobilization-prisoners/>

## Zelensky details Ukraine's weapons demands

**Kiev needs up to 130 modern aircraft from its foreign backers, the country's president has said**

18 May, 2024 07:33

**Ukraine requires more air defense systems and warplanes from its Western backers in order to achieve parity with Russia, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky has said.**

**Moscow has the upper hand in the battle for the skies, Zelensky acknowledged** during an interview with AFP on Friday.

*"I believe that today, we have about 25% of what we need to defend Ukraine. I'm talking about air defense,"* he said.

As for **warplanes, Kiev should be provided with between 120 to 130 modern aircraft**, *"so that Russia does not have air superiority,"* the Ukrainian leader stated.

*"In total, we need this fleet of F-16s in the number I am talking about, in order to have parity,"* he added.

During his visit to Kiev earlier this **week, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington is "intensely focused" on finding and delivering Patriots and other air defense systems to Ukraine.** Zelensky told Blinken that his military needed two Patriot batteries to protect the Kharkov Region alone, where Russian forces have been advancing in recent weeks.

In **late March, then-Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said that at least five Patriots operated by Ukraine had been destroyed since the start of the year.** Last month, Germany promised to provide Kiev with one more of the US-made air defense systems.

**Earlier this week, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said that the F-16s will arrive in Ukraine within the "next few months,"** retracting her earlier claim that the planes will be there *"within the next month."* Denmark and the Netherlands jointly promised to supply Kiev with 61 US-designed fourth generation jets in August 2023.

Reports in **Western media in recent months explained delays in deliveries of the planes were due to complications in the training of Kiev's pilots and** the lack of proper airfields that would be able to host the F-16s in Ukraine.

**Russia has warned repeatedly that foreign weapons being sent to Kiev will not prevent Moscow from achieving its military goals, and will merely prolong the fighting and increases the risk of a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO.**

According to officials in Moscow, the provision of arms, intelligence sharing, and the training of Ukrainian troops mean that Western nations have already become de-facto parties to the conflict.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/597814-zelensky-ukraine-patriot-f16/>

# Russia: French and British operators of Storm Shadow/SCALP-EG – Bombardment of Russian hinterland with AASM-250 Hammer and AGM-88 HARM

Russia: "We are preparing a military response to London and Paris"

France and Britain are attempting to break the last Russian red lines by leading the entire region down "murky" paths. Ukraine attempted for the first time to bombard Russian targets in Belgorod - Russian hinterland - with NATO weapons as approved by Paris and London.

**Read also: [Russia delivered a three-point "nuclear ultimatum" to France and Britain: "We will bomb your countries directly"](#)**

According to the Russian Ministry of Defense, today a series of explosions was heard in the center of Belgorod. Sirens sounded in the city and air defenses were activated.

The Russian Ministry of Defense reported that the missile attack was repelled.

*"Four French-made AASM-250 Hammer guided bombs and 2 American-made AGM-88 HARM anti-radar missiles were shot down over the territory of the Belgorod region,"* the statement said.

The Vice President of the Russian Security Council N. Medvedev took the discussion even further

In an interview he gave a few days ago, he revealed for the first time that *"Storm Shadow/SCALP-EG missiles are not controlled by the military personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, but by the British and French who arrived in Ukraine"*.

He also added:

*"That is why the response to such actions will not be long in coming and the target will not only be Kiev, but also London and Paris (confirmed the ultimatum)."*

The goal of Russia's planned tactical nuclear weapons drills is to work out a response to any attacks on Russian soil that the West has allowed Ukraine to carry out with weapons it supplies, his vice president said. Security Council of Russia Dmitry Medvedev.

*"And not only with conventional explosives, but also with special ammunition. Russian troops will practice such attacks in the planned nuclear exercises,"* he said .

Most likely, Medvedev means that the French and Americans give the coordinates for the strikes, they themselves determine when and how the operation will take place. Unless he means the pilots are French and British...

## The scenario that Zelensky and the Poles tremble

Enraged by the delivery of increasingly powerful missiles (and with a longer range) from the NATO countries to Ukraine is Dmitry Medvedev, estimating that if this situation continues the "security zone" created by the Russians in eastern Ukraine will eventually extend to the west of the country.

*"If this continues the security zone will be up to the border of Poland or maybe even include Poland itself."*

Here is Medvedev's full post:

*"Stupid NATO Generals honestly want almost all of Ukraine to come under Russian control. That's why they're giving the Ukrainian government longer-range weapons."*

*But this is not the first time that President Putin says that for a peaceful life, our country should create a security zone, within which the neo-Nazi regime will not have the opportunity to hit targets on Russian soil (including, of course, all of the lands that returned to our state).*

*It is not difficult to calculate that if the Kiev regime uses Storm Shadow/SCALP-EG missiles with a range of at least 550 km and a distance between Belgorod and Kiev of 429 km, almost the entire central and important part of western Ukraine would be destroyed. In other words, Russia should be all over there (550 km plus another 70-100 km to be sure).*

*Otherwise the safety of our cities and villages cannot be ensured.*

*Even if we imagine that some kind of document has been signed with Kiev (or rather with Washington), any new stupid Nazi with missiles is quite capable of breaking it. The consequences are obvious.*

*If this continues, the guaranteed safe zone will be somewhere on the border with Poland. Or already in Poland itself. And that is downright dangerous. In addition, the non-strategic nuclear weapons, with which our country announced to conduct exercises, is a very loose idea.*

*Such weapons (tactical or not), as everyone knows, include nuclear warheads that greatly exceed the power of Little Boy (ie the nuclear bomb that dropped Hiroshima) and Fat Man (ie the nuclear bomb that dropped Nagasaki).*

*So carefully calculate the range of weapons you have at the disposal of the Nazis, gentlemen."*

[Watch videos of old Ukrainian attacks with AASM-250 Hammer and AGM-88 HARM](#)

Footage of a Ukrainian Air Force Su-27 Flanker launching a French-supplied AASM-250 Hammer extended-range guided bomb. [pic.twitter.com/lxsPxxiHKA](https://pic.twitter.com/lxsPxxiHKA)

— OSINTtechnical (@Osinttechnical) [April 12, 2024](#)

Ukrainian Air Force Su-27 Flanker operations, conducting standoff strikes with US-supplied AGM-88 HARMS and French-supplied AASM-250 Hammer extended range bombs. [pic.twitter.com/1WhMGMxZRA](https://pic.twitter.com/1WhMGMxZRA)

— OSINTtechnical (@Osinttechnical) [April 12, 2024](#)

Ukrainian Air Force Su-27 launching US-supplied anti-radar AGM-88 HARM missiles. [pic.twitter.com/Zo7oiErh4m](https://pic.twitter.com/Zo7oiErh4m)

— Igor Sushko (@igorushko) [April 25, 2024](#)

## Israel-Hamas war: 700 terror tunnel shafts in Rafah, 50 to Egypt, Israel says | LiveNOW from FOX

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldNIHZc6jGE>

Excellent video update on current war status rdb

## WHO considers granting special privileges to abortion industry

*GOP lawmakers promise consequences if plan moves forward*

By [Bob Unruh](#) Published May 17, 2024 at 5:18pm

Republican members of Congress are suggesting there could be consequences for the World Health Organization should that international body of bureaucrats move forward with plans to grant special privileges to an abortion industry player.

In fact, the plan would be the withholding of all U.S. funding for that group that apparently allowed China to conceal the source and threat of the COVID-19 pandemic when it first developed.

It is a report from the Washington Stand that details the Republicans' concerns.

That is over WHO plans to recognize enhanced "official relations" with the Center for Reproductive Rights, an American organization that "attempts to override pro-life laws at the state, national, and international level," according to the report.

That decision, coming from the WHO executive board, is expected at its meetings next month.

The result could be, the report said, a "plan for collaboration" with the abortion promoters.

The new letter, from 26 members of Congress, said, "The Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) is a radical organization that manipulates international mechanisms to impose abortion on countries."

And it pointed out, "There is no internationally recognized human rights obligation with regard to abortion either by treaty or customary international law."

The Stand noted its own reporting on the conclusions of two international conferences on the issue, in Cairo in 1994 and in Beijing in 1995, that said, "In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning."

The coalition including Reps. Andy Biggs of Arizona, Chip Roy of Texas, Bob Good of Virginia, Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Paul Gosar of Arizona, Mary Miller of Illinois and Harriet Hageman of Wyoming noted the goal of the abortion organization is to "impose abortion on all countries."

The Stand pointed out in America the organization has pushed to defeat pro-life ballot issues, persuaded activist judges to insert abortion "rights" into state constitutions, sued to overturn legitimate constitutional rights such as conscience protections for Christian doctors and more.

The organization donates exclusively to Democrats, who are pro-abortion up and down their party line.

Worldwide, it lobbies governing bodies like the U.N. to eliminate any limits on abortion.

Groups including the Family Research Council have noted that CRR sometimes clouds the facts in order to push abortion.

The members of Congress did note that the U.S. turns over some \$700 million a year to WHO, a money pot that could go away.

The WHO also is in the news for another reason, its attempt to take over decision-making from all nations should another pandemic occur.

Already, attorneys general from 21 states have instructed Joe Biden to avoid the legally flawed plan. <https://www.wnd.com/2024/05/considers-granting-special-privileges-abortion-industry/> If you recall one of the biggest funders of WHO is Bill Gates who himself is a eugenicist as was his parents who were very involved with the formation of Planned Parenthood and "thinning out the World's population" - rdb

# Staggering 84 percent of measles cases in major Chicago outbreak linked to Venezuelan migrants, CDC report shows

By [Health Reporter For Dailymail.Com](#) Published: 13:42 EDT, 16 May 2024 | Updated: 15:29 EDT, 16 May 2024

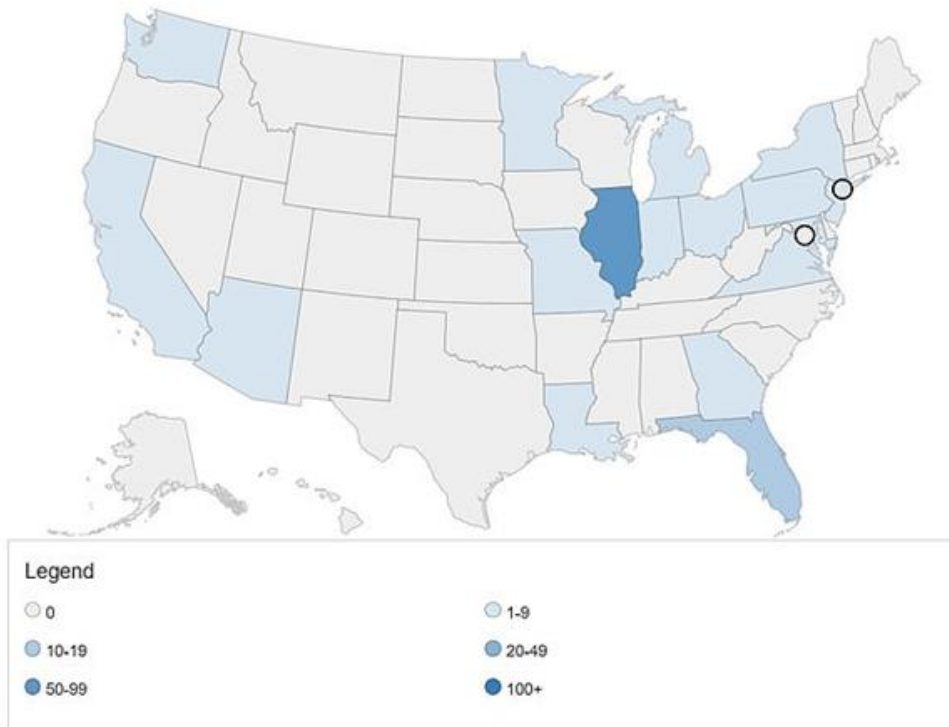
**Some 84 percent of deadly measles cases in a recent major outbreak at a migrant center in Chicago are linked to Venezuelan immigrants, a new CDC report shows.**

**New information reveals that the spate of 57 cases at the Pilsen migrant shelter can be traced back to a one year-old boy who had only received one of the two vital vaccines.**

The majority of the cases — 72 percent — were among unvaccinated people, the CDC said.

## Measles Cases in 2024

as of April 18, 2024



The report cites overcrowding at the center for the rampant spread, with 500 people said to be crammed into a single room.

**Chicago is at the epicenter of the measles outbreak in the US, with 64 cases recorded so far**

**The first patient had arrived in the US less than five months before he became ill.** He had received one dose of the MMR vaccine five weeks prior to his rash.

**He had no recent travel history or known exposure to measles, and was taken to the hospital on February 27.**

The Chicago Department of Public Health was notified of the case a few days later, and organized a vaccination event for the residents and staff members of the shelter the next day.

Because of the highly infectious nature of measles, they considered anyone who had been inside the shelter between February 22-27 - the boy's infectious period - to have been exposed to measles.

**Between February 26 and May 13, there were 57 confirmed cases linked to the shelter**, including 52 among migrants staying at the shelter and three among staff members.

**The median age of infected migrants was three years old, and most were originally from Venezuela.** Four were from Peru, two from Ecuador, one from Chile and a further one whose origin country was not known.

**Since August 2022, roughly 41,000 migrants have arrived in Chicago, Illinois from the US southern border.**

**Of those, 88 percent are from Venezuela - a country that has seen a recent decline in routine child vaccination coverage,** including the measles vaccine.

**The surge in migrants comes as Chicago continues to pride itself as a 'sanctuary city'**, or a location where people can ask for aid from city services without revealing their immigration status.

**Officials also do not ask residents about whether they are legally entitled to be in the US.**

**Some 30 of the 57 cases at the Pilsen center were in women, and 27 were in men. Most of the patients were between six months old and four years old,** followed by 20-49 years old.

The Pilsen migrant shelter is the largest in Chicago, and was hosting around 2,100 people in late February, with more than 500 people residing in some of the rooms.

**Migrants themselves have said illnesses are rampant in shelters because of overcrowding** and unsanitary conditions.

Around 130 Americans have been **struck with measles this year**, amid warnings that falling vaccination rates and surging immigration is leaving America's children more vulnerable to the disease than ever before. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-13426663/chicago-measles-outbreak-venezuela-immigrants-cdc-report.html>

## OP ED

### **INNER STRIFE: Is the Israeli Defense Minister Rebelling Against Netanyahu | Caroline Glick In-Focus**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AORM\\_KUaUB8&t=13s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AORM_KUaUB8&t=13s)

**This is an outstanding commentary on the current interference in Israel's conflict with Hamas by the US government.**

## The Despicable Crime of Indoctrinating Young Children



[Jeff Davidson](#) | May 18, 2024

I've been an author and professional speaker for most of my adult life. Of late, I am privileged to speak on cruise ships several times a year. To complete an application as a guest presenter, invariably I need to check a box that says "male" or "female." No other choices are available. I dutifully check the appropriate box. There and then, I once again ponder the absurdity in our nation and elsewhere regarding gender, which seems to know no bounds.

### This Child is Mine

If you've raised a young child or are contemplating it, here is much to consider: Suppose you have a baby, a delight to your family and a gift from God. During the toddler years, the baby learns to walk and talk, eat, go to the bathroom, and do all kinds of things. Your digital family album is full of pictures, and more are coming.

At age five or six, the young child ventures off to kindergarten. Unbeknownst to you, indoctrination might begin. Some teachers and teacher's aides, in schools across America, have no qualms whatsoever about reading to the class about little boys and girls who are not sure if they should be boys or girls. Dozens upon dozens of books are selling on this topic.

The teachers and aides who read these stories to children do not feel as if they're doing anything wrong. They are not ashamed and do not feel guilty. Indeed, they think they're being champions of a noble cause: helping young children make a difficult decision that perhaps was squelched for children of previous generations.

What poppycock and unmitigated gall, especially in the face of emerging evidence that most children unsure of their "proper" gender are simply gay.

### Investigation is Mandatory

If I were to have a child now, soon to enter kindergarten, I'd make darn sure of the teacher's background, the aide's background, and what they plan to cover during the year – yes, even for kindergarten. I'd like to know the philosophy of the school principal and the school board itself.

In no way on this earth would I expose my child to anyone who believed it was their right to indoctrinate my child in terms of gender, sexuality, or anything else that should never be introduced in a kindergarten classroom, elementary school, or any other years of schooling.

This blatant attempt to surreptitiously change a family is a crime against society. Laws need to be enacted against anyone whose ideology, political belief, religion, or lack of religion prompts them to go behind parents' backs. Parents and children have a sacred bond. Sending your child to school should not in any way upset that

bond.

#### None of Your Business

Teachers have no business interfering in a family's life in terms of gender. For the tiny, tiny percentage of children who might require some type of psychological assistance because of gender dysphoria, and for the even smaller percentage who might possibly benefit from radical, gender transition surgery, it is a family decision.

With no longitudinal studies of the satisfaction levels of those undergoing radical surgery, such a procedure is mentally and emotionally risky, certainly life-altering, and possibly life-destroying. If a child feels stymied by parents so as to not bring up the issue, other outlets exist – other family members, aunts and uncles, friends, and so on.

For a teacher, who has the child in school for a half day in kindergarten and six or seven hours in later grades, no excuse justifies usurping parents' rights, privileges, and responsibilities.

If I have any inkling that my five-year-old child is being indoctrinated by books that advocate exploring one's gender, the school principal is going to hear from me that same day, followed by the board of education, the town newspaper, my congressional representative, and everybody else I can reign in.

#### We Are Ought of Here

If such readings continue, that's the end of my participation in the school system. At that point I'll explore alternative forms of education including home-schooling, group home-schooling, private schools, and whatever else might be available.

This would not be the end of my activism. I don't want anyone else's five-year-old to be indoctrinated. I don't want any other parents to have their rights usurped.

Who in the blazes conveyed to Leftists that indoctrination was acceptable? It is not.

<https://townhall.com/columnists/jeffdavidson/2024/05/18/the-despicable-crime-of-indoctrinating-young-children-n2638869>