

**Please note:**

**I will have minimal internet access this next week and postings will be sporadic and very abbreviated. Very Busy with family issues rdb**

## IDF soldier killed, 2 seriously injured in tank in northern Gaza

**Staff Sergeant Yaniv Michalovitch, 19, from Rehovot, an armored corps soldier in Battalion 82 of the 7th Brigade, was killed by an anti-tank missile in Shejaiya; a total of 8 soldiers were injured in incidents in northern Gaza on Wednesday**

[Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi](#) 10:15

Staff Sergeant Yaniv Michalovitch, 19, from Rehovot, an armored corps soldier in Battalion 82 of the 7th



Brigade (Saar Golan Formation), was killed by an anti-tank missile in Shejaiya in the northern Gaza Strip.

Since the beginning of the war on October 7, 2023, 880 soldiers have fallen, 20 of them since the beginning of this month.

**Staff Sergeant Yaniv Michalovitch (Photos: IDF Spokesperson's Unit, Marc Israel Sellem, Haj Suleiman/Getty Images, Abdulaziz KETA, AP/Alex Brandon/Matias Delacroix, Andrew Ha)**

The tank commander and another armored corps soldier were seriously wounded in the same incident. Two other soldiers were moderately wounded, and a sixth soldier sustained light injuries.

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In a separate incident, a soldier from the Egoz unit under the Commando Brigade was seriously wounded by an anti-tank missile fired at a building in Shejaiya. The soldiers were evacuated for medical treatment at a hospital, and their families have been notified.

In another incident, two soldiers were moderately and lightly injured when a D9 bulldozer ran over an explosive

in Shejaiya. All the fighters were evacuated to receive medical treatment at the hospital and their families were notified. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/b1xlo6fsle>

## Trump says Israel 'agreed to necessary conditions to finalize' 60-day Gaza ceasefire

**US president says 'we'll work with all parties to end the war' during two-month truce, urges Hamas to accept the proposal 'because it will not get better — it will only get worse'**

By [Jacob Magid](#) Today, 5:11 am



**US President Donald Trump speaks with the press on board Air Force One as he travels from Ochopee, Florida, to Joint Base Andrews, Maryland on July 1, 2025. (Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP)**

US President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that "Israel has agreed to the necessary conditions to finalize" a 60-day ceasefire with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

During the prospective two-month truce, "We will work with all parties to end the war," Trump said in [a Truth Social post](#), summarizing the development that came out of meetings top US officials held on

Tuesday in Washington with visiting Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer.



Trump said Qatar and Egypt will deliver the “final proposal” to Hamas.

“I hope, for the good of the Middle East, that Hamas takes this deal because it will not get better — it will only get worse,” Trump wrote.

There was no immediate comment from Israeli officials on Trump’s post, which appeared to be referring to a proposal for a temporary ceasefire that has been discussed over the past several months. Those talks have been at an impasse, largely over the terms for what happens at the end of that truce, with Israel demanding that it maintain the ability to resume fighting, while Hamas wants the temporary ceasefire to become permanent.

In declaring that he will “work to end the war,” Trump apparently was trying to appease both sides, mentioning an end to the war without speaking definitively.



***The IDF’s Commando Brigade operates in the Gaza Strip in a photo cleared for publication on July 1, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)***

Despite the announcement from Trump, an official from one of the Arab mediating countries told The Times of Israel that major hurdles remain and that the sides will still need to hold proximity talks in order to close remaining gaps.

Two Arab diplomats from mediating countries told The Times of Israel that remaining sticking points also include Hamas’s demand for a return to old mechanisms for distributing humanitarian aid or the establishment of a new system to replace the current one managed by the

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. Israel says GHF is essential in preventing the commandeering of aid by Hamas, but the US- and Israeli-backed system has forced Gazans to walk long distances in order to pick up food, while also crossing IDF lines, coming under deadly fire on a near-daily basis.

Meanwhile, Hebrew media outlets offered conflicting reports on whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was prepared to compromise.

Channel 12 reported that he is, while Channel 13 quoted him as having said during a security cabinet earlier this week that “we need to kill every person that holds a weapon. Nothing less than this.”

Netanyahu is scheduled to visit the White House next week, Trump saying earlier Tuesday that [he will be “very firm”](#) with the prime minister on the need to end the war in Gaza. Trump also repeated his prediction that a ceasefire and hostage release deal would be reached shortly. “I think we’ll have a deal next week,” he said, adding that Netanyahu “wants it too.”

Ahead of Netanyahu’s trip, discussions were held Tuesday at the Prime Minister’s Office on the efforts to reach a hostage release deal, with reports of some progress.

“There is a positive dynamic and lively activity on the issue of negotiations,” a senior official told The Times of Israel.



***Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrives at the White House where he is met by US President Donald Trump (L) in Washington DC, April 7, 2025 (Avi Ohayon/GPO)***

While in the US, Netanyahu said will also meet with Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and senior lawmakers.

Hostage-ceasefire talks are being mediated by Witkoff, whose latest proposal, the authenticity of which was confirmed to The Times of Israel by two sources familiar with the negotiations, would see Hamas

release 10 living Israeli hostages held in Gaza and return the bodies of 18 deceased hostages during a 60-day ceasefire. The rest of the hostages would be released if a permanent ceasefire is reached.

Hamas sources told the London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat that the terror group’s response to Witkoff’s deal proposal was generally positive, though with conditions.

A source directly involved in the negotiations told The Times of Israel that Hamas’s response included a demand that makes it more difficult for Israel to resume fighting if talks on a permanent ceasefire are not completed by the end of the 60-day truce.



The source said there were other changes Hamas wanted to make to the Witkoff proposal, adding that it would require a more drawn-out negotiation process.

The updated proposal submitted by Hamas envisions the release of the 10 hostages being more spread out throughout the truce, rather than in two batches on the first and seventh days, as the US offer envisioned.

The source said this change was aimed at preventing Netanyahu from abandoning talks on a permanent ceasefire after the hostages are released, or refusing to engage in them altogether, as he did during the previous ceasefire from January to March.

Netanyahu told hostages' families in May that he approved of Witkoff's proposal in principle.



*People take part in a protest demanding the end of the war and immediate release of hostages held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government in Tel Aviv, Israel, Saturday, June 28, 2025. (AP/Ariel Schalit)*

Terror groups in the Gaza Strip are holding 50 hostages, including 49 of the 251 abducted by Hamas-led terrorists on October 7, 2023. They include the bodies of at least 28 confirmed dead by the IDF. Twenty are believed to be alive and there are grave concerns for the well-being of two others, Israeli officials have said. Hamas is also holding the

body of an IDF soldier killed in Gaza in 2014. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-says-israel-agreed-to-necessary-conditions-to-finalize-60-day-gaza-ceasefire/>

## Ben Gvir said seeking partnership with Smotrich to thwart emerging hostage deal

**Finance minister denies cooperation, says Ben Gvir 'playing game' with media leaks; Sa'ar says majority in cabinet for a deal; opposition promises to back government if needed**

By [Sam Sokol](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 1:35 pm



*Left: National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, January 16, 2025; Right: Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich, January 13, 2025. (Both photos by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir reportedly reached out Wednesday to Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich to request that the two far-right party leaders form a united bloc within the government against the emerging ceasefire deal in Gaza being pushed by the Trump administration.

According to Hebrew language media reports, the two — who lead the Otzma Yehudit and Religious Zionism parties, respectively — were said to be mulling a meeting to discuss coordinating their opposition to the

American initiative.

However, in a statement to the press sent via Smotrich's spokesman, the finance minister denied any such cooperation and instead accused Ben Gvir of playing "a game" with leaks to the media.

The notion of the ministers preventing a hostage deal drew outrage from opposition leaders, who promised to give the government a majority in the Knesset for any such agreement, and families of hostages who said their alleged behavior was a "disgrace."

The Kan public broadcaster quoted Ben Gvir as explaining he wanted Smotrich's help as he alone "cannot halt this process, but together they have enough votes [in parliament] against the deal."

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The two parties together have 13 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, where the ruling coalition fields a slim majority with just 61 lawmakers. Though the cabinet would not need Knesset approval for a hostage deal and can authorize one even against the wishes of Ben Gvir and Smotrich, the two parties could threaten to hamper coalition legislative action in parliament if they don't get their way.



**People calling for the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip protest outside the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem, June 28, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)**

A source close to Smotrich denied he was coordinating with Ben Gvir, telling the media, "There is no approach [to Smotrich] from Ben Gvir; there is a briefing by Ben Gvir to the media about a meeting that was not set."

"The issue of victory in Gaza is too significant and the lives of the hostages are too precious to play a game of briefings to the media," the source said. "The finance minister has been working on this issue with full force and seriousness for quite some time now."

Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar in a post to X said, "There is a large majority in the government and also the public for the framework to release the hostages. If there is a chance to do that, we must not miss it!"

Responding to Sa'ar, Diaspora Minister Amichai Chikli, who is a member of Netanyahu's own Likud party, wrote that the framework has not yet been presented to the government.

Opposition Leader Yair Lapid offered Netanyahu opposition support for a ceasefire that would outweigh the loss of Ben Gvir and Smotrich.



In place of Ben Gvir and Smotrich's 13 votes in the Knesset, "you have 23 votes from me as a safety net for the hostage deal," Lapid said in a statement. "We need to bring everyone home now."

**L: Leader of The Democrats party Yair Golan leads a faction meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem on June 9, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90); C: Opposition Leader Yair Lapid leads a faction meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem on June 9, 2025. Photo by Chaim Goldberg/Flash90; R: Finance minister Bezalel Smotrich attends a press conference held on "Operation Rising Lion" at the Ministry of Finance in Jerusalem on June 23, 2025. (Oren Ben Hakoon/FLASH90)**

Democratsparty chairman Yair Golan tweeted that Smotrich and Ben Gvir were a "pair of failed Kahanists" whose actions show that they are "neither Zionist nor worthy of sitting around the government table," a reference to the banned ultra-nationalist Rabbi Meir Kahane, of whom Ben Gvir was a disciple, and who was assassinated in New York in 1990.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, the largest group representing families of captives, said in response to the reports that the religiously Orthodox Smotrich and Ben Gvir "have forgotten what it means to be Jews, and the significance of the values of mutual friendship and responsibility on which the State of Israel was founded."



"We have no other word for them this morning than 'disgrace,'" it said.

Einav Zangauker, whose son Matan is held hostage in Gaza, appealed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to align himself with the pair of "wretched" ministers in preventing a deal.

She also noted that the prime minister himself recently assured her that he does not need Ben Gvir and Smotrich to approve a hostage deal, as he has broad support for such a move even without them.



***Einav Zangauker, the mother of hostage Matan Zangauker, at a press conference outside the Kirya military base in Tel Aviv on June 7, 2025. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)***

On Tuesday evening, US President Donald Trump announced that [Israel had agreed](#) to the necessary conditions to finalize a 60-day ceasefire with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

“We will work with all parties to end the war” during the prospective two-month truce, Trump said in a Truth Social post, summarizing the development that came out of meetings top US officials held on Tuesday in Washington with visiting Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer.

Netanyahu is scheduled to visit the White House next week, and Trump has said that he will be “very firm” with the prime minister on the need to end the war in Gaza.

Ben Gvir’s Otzma Yehudit party quit the government in January to protest a previous ceasefire/hostage release deal, only returning in March with the resumption of hostilities. Smotrich kept his Religious Zionism party in the coalition for the ceasefire but conditioned his staying in on the resumption of fighting against Hamas rather than using the truce period to negotiate a final end to the war, as was originally stated in the agreement. The ceasefire collapsed in March when Israel renewed attacks on Hamas while accusing the terror group of violating the terms. Dozens of hostages, dead and alive, were released during the ceasefire.

Terror groups in the Gaza Strip are holding 50 hostages, including 49 of the 251 abducted by Hamas-led terrorists on October 7, 2023, during their devastating invasion of southern Israel that also killed 1,200 people and triggered the war. They include the bodies of at least 28 confirmed dead by the IDF. Twenty are believed to be alive, and there are grave concerns for the well-being of two others, Israeli officials have said. Hamas is also holding the body of an IDF soldier killed in Gaza in 2014. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ben-gvir-said-seeking-partnership-with-smotrich-to-thwart-emerging-hostage-deal/>

## **Iranian president enacts law suspending cooperation with UN nuclear watchdog**

***Legislation aims to ‘ensure full support for the inherent rights’ of Iran, ‘especially uranium enrichment’; IAEA says ‘awaiting further official information’ from Tehran***

*By [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 3:30 pm*



This handout picture provided by the Iranian presidency shows Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian giving an address on the anniversary of the death of the country's former supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini at the latter's mausoleum in Tehran on June 3, 2025. (Iranian Presidency / AFP)

Iran on Wednesday formally suspended its cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, a measure drawn up in the wake of unprecedented Israeli and US strikes on the Islamic Republic's nuclear sites.

Following a parliament vote on the matter last week, the bill was approved by the Guardian Council, a body tasked with vetting legislation, before it received a final ratification from the presidency.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian “promulgated the law suspending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency,” state TV said.

The war between Iran and Israel, which broke out on June 13 and lasted for 12 days, has intensified tensions between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

On June 25, a day after the ceasefire began, Iranian lawmakers overwhelmingly voted in favor of the bill to suspend cooperation with the agency.

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State media said Wednesday that the legislation had cleared the final hurdle and was in effect.





***This handout picture made available by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran shows Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafaeel Grossi, center, during a tour of the organization's headquarters in Tehran on April 17, 2025. (Atomic Energy Organization of Iran / AFP)***

The text, published by Iranian media, stated that the legislation aims to “ensure full support for the inherent rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran” under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and “especially uranium enrichment.”

Responding to bill, the IAEA said that the UN nuclear body was “aware of these reports” and would be “awaiting further official information from Iran.”

The issue of enrichment was at the core of

disagreements between Washington and Tehran in nuclear negotiations.

Israel and Western countries accuse Iran of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons — an ambition Tehran denies.



***This image grab taken from footage broadcast by Iran's IRINN news on June 13, 2025 shows what the television described as smoke billowing from explosions in Natanz after Israel announced it had carried out strikes on Iranian nuclear and military sites. (IRINN / AFP)***

The text of the law did not specify concrete moves linked to the suspension of cooperation with the IAEA, whose inspectors have had access to declared nuclear facilities, although at times that access has been obstructed.

Iranian officials have sharply criticized the IAEA for what they described as the agency's “silence” in the face of the Israeli and US strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

The US and Israel said the strikes were intended to prevent Iran from attaining nuclear weapons and to radically degrade its ballistic missile capabilities.



***Firefighters, rescue workers and military work at the site of a direct missile strike launched from Iran in Tel Aviv, on June 22, 2025. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)***

Iran, which openly seeks to destroy Israel, claims its nuclear program is solely geared toward civilian use, but it has enriched uranium to 60 percent purity, above levels needed for civilian usage and a short step from the level needed for weapons production, obstructed international inspectors from checking its nuclear facilities, and expanded its ballistic missile capabilities.

Israel says it holds intelligence information indicating that Tehran was taking active steps to build a bomb. It has also

warned that it could take further military steps if it sees Iran attempting to rebuild its nuclear and missile programs.

### **‘Deceptive and fraudulent’**

Tehran has also lambasted the IAEA for a resolution adopted on June 12 that accused Iran of noncompliance with its nuclear obligations.

Iranian officials said the resolution was among the “excuses” for the Israeli attacks.

On Wednesday, senior Iranian judiciary official Ali Mozaffari said that IAEA director Rafaeel Grossi should “be held accountable” for what he called “preparing the groundwork for the crime” against Iran, referring to Israel's strikes.



Mozaffari, without evidence, accused Grossi of “deceptive actions and fraudulent reporting,” according to Iranian news agency Tasnim.



*Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi attends an extraordinary Board of Governors meeting at the agency's headquarters in Vienna, Austria on June 23, 2025. (Joe Klamar / AFP)*

Iran has rejected a request from Grossi to visit nuclear facilities bombed during the war, and earlier this week Pezeshkian decried his “destructive” conduct.

France, Germany and Britain have condemned unspecified “threats” against the IAEA chief.

Iran has said Grossi's request to visit the bombarded sites signaled “malign intent” but insisted there were no threats against him or against inspectors from his agency.

Iran's ultra-conservative Kayhan newspaper has recently claimed that documents showed Grossi was an Israeli spy and should be executed.

### **Damage**

On Monday, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said the parliament vote to halt cooperation with the IAEA reflected the “concern and anger of the Iranian public opinion.”

The 12-day war began when Israel launched a major bombing campaign on Iran and killed top military commanders and nuclear scientists, with Tehran responding with waves of missiles and drones launched at Israel.

On June 22, the United States launched unprecedented strikes of its own on Iranian nuclear facilities at Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz.



*This handout satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies and dated July 1, 2025, shows an overview of the Fordo Fuel Enrichment Plant complex in central Iran. (Satellite image ©2025 Maxar Technologies / AFP)*

More than 900 people were killed in Iran, according to the judiciary. The numbers cannot be independently verified and do not differentiate between members of the military and civilians.

Iran's retaliatory attacks killed 28 people in Israel.

US President Donald Trump said the US attacks had “obliterated” Iran's nuclear program, though the extent of the damage was not clear.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has admitted “serious” damage to nuclear sites. But in an interview with CBS Evening News, he said: “One cannot obliterate the technology and science... through bombings.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iranian-president-enacts-law-suspending-cooperation-with-un-nuclear-watchdog/>

## **2,000 new immigrants among 10,000 Israelis still displaced after war, MK says**

**Warning messages were translated, visas were extended, and immigration flights have resumed, officials tell a Knesset committee meeting on immigrant assistance during the Iran war**

By [Zev Stub](#) Today, 5:13 pm



*Israeli security and rescue forces at the scene where a ballistic missile fired from Iran hit and caused damage in Tel Aviv, June 22, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)*

Some 10,000 Israelis still remain displaced from their homes due to rocket damage sustained during Israel's 12-day war with Iran, including about 2,000 new immigrants, Labor MK Gilad Kariv told a meeting of the Knesset's Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Committee Wednesday.

While all Israelis suffered during the war, “it is important to consider the unique needs of the



immigrants who have been affected and to make information accessible to them in the right way,” Kariv said at the meeting, which focused on the particular needs of immigrants in the aftermath of Israel’s preemptive strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Kariv commended the Home Front Command for translating advanced warning notices for incoming rockets to English, Arabic and Russian. He requested that they also be translated into Amharic, French and Spanish.

Safety instructions from the Defense Ministry were translated into 14 languages during the war, and essential instruction packets are now also being distributed in several languages, a representative from the ministry added.

Israelis who were evacuated from their homes are entitled to stay in hotels until July 20, Tax Authority officials said. The Tax Authority is working to establish an exceptions committee that would allow those with unique cases to extend their stays, they added.

Many of the buildings and houses that suffered direct damage were in residential areas populated by new immigrants, Kariv noted.

Some 50,000 claims for property damage totaling NIS 5 billion (\$1.47 billion) are expected to be filed for the 12-day operation, around twice the total value of all damage claims since the war with the Hamas terror group started on October 7, 2023, the head of the Tax Authority’s compensation department [said last week](#).



**Security and rescue forces at the scene where a ballistic missile fired from Iran hit and caused damage in Ramat Gan, June 19, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)**

Visas for non-Israeli residents that were nearing expiration have been automatically extended through September 30, said Natalie Or-Chen, deputy administration director at the Population and Immigration Authority. People whose appointments at the ministry were canceled during the war at one of its branches, including one in Haifa that was damaged by missile fire, will be contacted in order of urgency, she said.

The Immigration and Absorption Ministry is reaching out to new immigrants who were evacuated or harmed during the military operation, and is currently helping 235 immigrant families file the documentation to receive government reparations for damages to their property, including 25 Ethiopian families, said ministry representative Shir Galili.

Despite delays caused by the war, flights are still being organized for anyone who wants to immigrate to Israel, Galili added.

Those whose immigration had to be postponed due to the war have been contacted to reschedule, said Shimon Shamila, operations manager for immigration at the Jewish Agency.

“We are doing everything we can to make information about immigration accessible, even in countries where it is problematic to do so openly,” Shamila said. “It is time to bring as many immigrants to Israel as possible.”

Kariv and other participants said it is important that information about future military operations remains accessible for immigrants in numerous languages.

“Most immigrants who were damaged during Operation Rising Lion are not sufficiently aware of the options for exercising their rights,” noted Histadrut national labor federation representative Alex Miller. He added that the Histadrut’s help hotline is available for all immigrants, not only union members.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/2000-new-immigrants-among-10000-israelis-still-displaced-after-war-mk-says/>

**Iran didn't release the name of its new commander. So the Mossad revealed it on X**

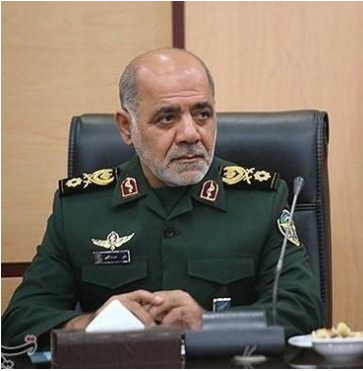
**After both the commander and his replacement at the Iranian forces' emergency headquarters was assassinated by Israel during the very recent war with Iran, a social media account affiliated with Israel's intelligence organization asked users to guess who is now in charge; More than 2,300 comments were registered, one user was 'right' - he worried about retribution**

[Lior Ben Ari](#)|08:42

**In the opening strike of the war with Iran, Gholam Ali Rashid, head of the Iranian emergency military command (Khatam al-Anbiya), was killed. Three days later, his replacement, Ali Shadmani, was also**



**assassinated.** In an effort to prevent the assassination of a successor to the successor, Iran decided not to reveal the name of the new commander. But Mossad Farsi (Persian) had other plans.



This mysterious social media account, recently identified as an official channel for messages from Israel's Mossad in the Persian language, published another intriguing post on the X social media platform Tuesday. This time, it called on followers to guess who they thought is now heading Khatam al-Anbiya.

*Ali Abdollahi Aliabadi, the new head of the Iranian emergency military command - or Khatam al-Anbiya*

In the post, Mossad Farsi wrote: "The Tasnim news agency announced that the Iranian regime will not publish the name of the new commander of Khatam al-Anbiya in order to protect him. Know that we know his actual name and are well acquainted with him. Unfortunately, such basic information is being hidden from the Iranian people. Please send us your guesses regarding his name."



**Mossad Farsi (Mossad Persian) post (Photo: X platform)**

More than 2,300 responses were recorded. Users offered potential names for the new commander. The replies included threats against Israel, mockery of the unusual post, and suggestions such as Ahmad Vahidi, adviser to the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif; and Mojtaba Khamenei, son of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

On Wednesday morning another post appeared on the same account, whose ties to Israeli intelligence have not been denied by Israel. Mossad Farsi replied to an Iranian user named Behnam Golipour, who had guessed that the name of the secretive new head of the Iranian emergency command was Ali Abdollahi Aliabadi. The post read: "The lucky winner who successfully guessed the 'secret' name is Mr. Behnam. Please contact us privately to receive your prize."

**Aliabadi previously served as a deputy minister and governor in Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government** and, further back, as deputy commander of the IRGC Air Force. He has been sanctioned by the United States.



**Mossad Farsi replied to an Iranian user named Behnam Golipour, who had guessed the name of the secretive new head of the Iranian emerge (Photo: X platform)**

However, it soon became clear that the "correct guesser" was alarmed by Mossad Farsi's response. A few hours later, he clarified on his private account: "I do not receive money or compensation from any individual, institution or organization for the freedom of the Iranian people. I am independent and free. That's why I can

write here freely and without hesitation and be myself. For me, the freedom of the Iranian people is the greatest wish and the best reward." He attached the Mossad Farsi post directed at him to his message.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/syavw2grgg>



# Trump halts weapons shipments to Ukraine, White House confirms

*The US has stopped sending some aid to Ukraine - such as Patriot missiles, precision weapons and shells - out of fear that US stocks are running low; The reason for the shortage is 'heavy use' of interceptors against the Houthis, and now also against Iran; Kiev is facing huge drone and missile attacks every night, and is afraid: 'This is a painful blow'*

Ynet, [News Agencies](#)|09:41

**White House confirmed overnight reports in the U.S. media that some shipments of American military aid to Ukraine has recently been halted, out of fear that U.S. ammunition and air defense missiles were running low.**

**Anna Kelly, a White House spokeswoman, said that, following a review process conducted at the Pentagon regarding US military aid to various countries around the world, "it was decided to put America's interests first" - and to freeze some of the shipments. She highlighted the American bombing of nuclear facilities in Iran and emphasized: "The strength of the U.S. armed forces is beyond doubt - just ask Iran."**



*US launches HIMARS rocket system that Washington has supplied to Ukraine(Photo: AFP)*

The Trump administration's decision to halt some aid to Ukraine was first reported last night by the news website Politico, and three sources familiar with the details noted that it was made following a review conducted by Elbridge Colby, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, which raised concerns about a decline in the number of shells, [interceptors](#) and various precision weapons in the U.S. military's stockpiles. One of the sources added that, as early as February, the

Pentagon began sorting ammunition items into various urgent categories, according to him "against concerns that too many interceptors were used in Yemen" in the campaign against the Houthis. The U.S. also used many interceptors during the recent war with Iran, to assist Israel.

The decision by Washington to halt some shipments of critical weapons to Ukraine triggered warnings in Kyiv on Wednesday that the move would weaken its ability to defend against intensifying Russian air strikes and battlefield advances.



*Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Russian President Vladimir Putin(Photos: Dmitry Serebryakov / Jonathan Nackstrand / AFP)*

**Ukraine said it had called in the acting U.S. envoy in Kyiv to stress the importance of continuing military aid from Washington, saying any cut-off would embolden Russia as diplomatic efforts to end the war falter.**

The Pentagon's pause due to concerns that U.S. stockpiles are too low came in recent days and includes precision munitions and air defense interceptors that knock down Russian drones and

missiles, two people familiar with the decision said.



*US President Donald Trump is pursuing an America First policy(Photo: Andrew Caballero-Reynolds / AFP)*

"The Ukrainian side emphasized that any delay or procrastination in supporting Ukraine's defense capabilities will only encourage the aggressor to continue the war and terror, rather than seek peace," Kyiv's foreign ministry said in a statement.



Ukraine's defense ministry said it had not been officially notified of any halt in U.S. shipments and was seeking clarity from its American counterparts.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said he understood the U.S. needs to take care of its stockpiles. "But when it comes to Ukraine, in the short term, Ukraine cannot do without all the support it can get when it gets to ammunition and to air defense systems," Rutte said in an interview Wednesday with Fox News.

Dozens of people have been killed in recent weeks during air strikes on Ukrainian cities, including the capital Kyiv, that have involved hundreds of attack drones in addition to ballistic and cruise missiles.

Russian forces, which control about a fifth of Ukraine, have also made gains in a grinding summer campaign in the east.

Since U.S. President Donald Trump took office in January, he has softened Washington's position toward Russia, seeking a diplomatic solution to the war and raising doubts about future U.S. military support for Kyiv's war effort.

Last week, Trump said he was considering selling more Patriot air defense missiles to Ukraine following a meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Politico said the pause includes the critical Patriot air defense missiles which Ukraine has relied on to destroy fast-moving ballistic missiles.

Fedir Venislavskyi, a member of the Ukrainian parliament's national security and defense committee, called the decision to halt the shipments "very unpleasant for us".

"It's painful, and against the background of the terrorist attacks which Russia commits against Ukraine, it's a very unpleasant situation," he told reporters in Kyiv.

In an email, the Pentagon said it was providing Trump with options to continue military aid to Ukraine in line with the goal of ending Russia's war there.

"At the same time, the department is rigorously examining and adapting its approach to achieving this objective while also preserving U.S. forces' readiness for administration defense priorities," said Colby.

All weapons aid was briefly paused in February with a second, longer pause in March. The Trump administration resumed sending the last of the aid approved under Biden but no new policy has been announced.

The Kremlin on Wednesday welcomed the news of a halt, saying the conflict would end sooner if fewer arms flowed to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, at noon, the Kremlin addressed the phone call between Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday night – the first conversation between the two leaders since September 2022 – and claimed that it was the French side that requested the conversation. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that it lasted more than two hours, and described it as "very significant."



***Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke Tuesday night with French President Emmanuel Macron***

***(Photos: Sergei Bobylev, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo/ AP/Ebrahim Norooz)***

European leaders have largely boycotted Putin since the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and therefore the conversation is seen as highly unusual. A German government spokesman said at noon that France had informed Berlin in advance of its intention to hold the conversation. He noted that German Chancellor Friedrich Merz does not intend, at least for the time being, to hold a similar conversation with his Russian counterpart. Trump has already broken the Western embargo on Putin and has spoken with him on the phone several times in recent months.

The Elysee Palace reported Tuesday night that Macron expressed to Putin his firm support for Ukraine's "sovereignty and territorial integrity," and called on him to agree as soon as possible to a ceasefire - during which negotiations on a permanent settlement would be held. Putin refuses such a proposal, and has so far agreed to conduct talks only under fire - talks that were held in two rounds in Istanbul, and did not yield any real progress. The Kremlin reported in its description of the conversation that Putin emphasized to Macron that any agreement must include a long-term solution and a response to the "roots of the conflict," a description the Kremlin uses to address its long-standing complaints about the gradual expansion of the NATO alliance eastward after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Putin, it was reported, also said that the conflict is "a direct result of the policies of Western countries." <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rjcwxtfbgg>