

Don't miss Lev U'Neshama message at end! RDB

WATCH LIVE:

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu addresses joint meeting of Congress

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6XZKE7a_F4

IDF responds to Hezbollah publishing drone footage appearing to show IDF base

In June, Hezbollah published a nine-minute video of what it described as surveillance footage of locations in Israel, which included Haifa's airport and sea ports.

By *JERUSALEM POST STAFF* JULY 24, 2024 14:15 **Updated:** JULY 24, 2024 17:33



Hezbollah drone footage published July 24, 2024. (photo credit: SCREENSHOT/VIA TELEGRAM@baznews9/VIA SECTION 24A OF THE COPYRIGHT ACT)

Reacting to Hezbollah publishing drone footage on Wednesday morning claiming to show the IDF Ramat David base, the IDF later stated that the video was filmed by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) solely for photography purposes and that the base's operations were not impacted.

The IDF and the Air Force within it are operating against Hezbollah's aerial array and have attacked hundreds of targets from this array in recent months, the IDF continued in its statement.

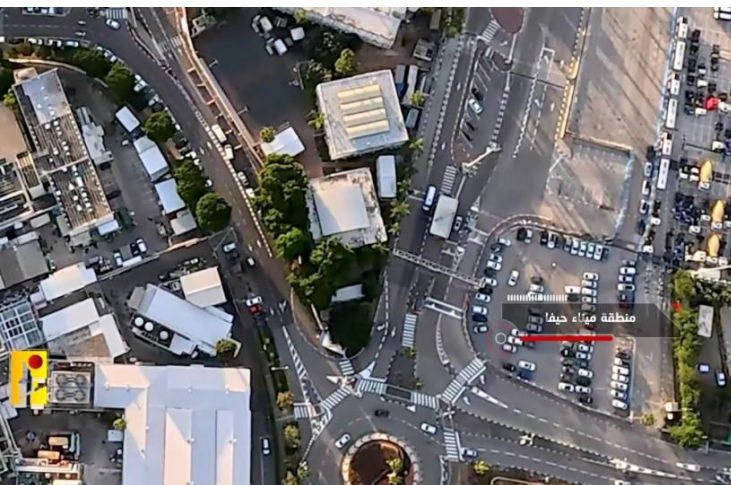
It added that the Israel Air Force is using all means available to protect the skies of the state of Israel and will continue to do so.

This is not Hezbollah's first time publishing drone footage of Israel

Earlier in July, Hezbollah published additional drone footage showing the Golan Heights and the northern coast of Israel, respectively.

Screenshot of a Hezbollah drone video showing the northern city of Haifa, Israel (credit: SCREENSHOT/X)

In June, Hezbollah published a nine-minute video of what it described as surveillance footage of locations in Israel, which included Haifa's airport and sea ports.



In this instance, Hezbollah's media relations officer Muhammad Afif stated that "publishing this video sends a clear message to the enemy and its army." <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-811710>

Soldier seriously injured in Hezbollah rocket attack on northern border

Military says barrages and explosive-laden drones fired at Mount Dov, Kiryat Shmona, Galilee Panhandle; drones launched from Iraq intercepted by fighter jets

By *Emanuel Fabian* Today, 10:19 am



Rockets fired from southern Lebanon are intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome air defense system over the Upper Galilee region in northern Israel on July 23, 2024 (Jalaa MAREY / AFP)

The Israel Defense Forces said Wednesday that a soldier was seriously injured a day earlier by rocket fire from Lebanon on the Mount Dov area, as the Hezbollah terror group claimed a number of attacks on communities and outposts along the northern border.

Rocket and drone alert sirens sounded in northern communities near the border with Lebanon multiple times throughout the day.

The IDF said Tuesday evening that several

projectiles had been fired at Mount Dov — which houses several military bases and no towns — and some 15 rockets were launched from Lebanon at the Kiryat Shmona area. Earlier in the day, a barrage of rockets was fired from Lebanon at the Galilee Panhandle.

Some of the rockets were intercepted by the Iron Dome system.

Additionally, there were several drone attacks on northern Israel. According to the IDF, several explosive drones impacted the Mount Meron area while others were intercepted.

The military said troops responded to the attacks by shelling launch sites with artillery, and fighter jets struck a Hezbollah rocket launcher in Kfarhamam, infrastructure in Ayta ash-Shab, and an observation post in Khiam.

Additionally, a drone strike was carried out against a Hezbollah operative in southern Lebanon's Tallouseh, the IDF said. According to the military, the operative had been identified leaving a site from which rockets were launched at the Galilee Panhandle.



Smoke billows from a site targeted by Israeli shelling in the southern Lebanese border village of Kfarhamam on July 23, 2024 (Rabih DAHER / AFP)

Also on Tuesday, the IDF said that it struck a car in southern Lebanon's Shaqra that was transporting several Hezbollah operatives.

On Wednesday, the military said fighter jets struck a building in southern Lebanon's Chihine that the IDF says was used by Hezbollah to fire rockets at Israel.

Additionally, a Hezbollah weapons depot was struck in Kfarhamam, the military said. The IDF published footage of the strike, and said that secondary blasts seen in the clip

indicated the presence of numerous weapons at the site.

במהלך הלילה מטוסי קרב תקפו מבנה צבאי של ארגון הטרור חיזבאללה במרחב שיחין, ממנו בוצעו שיגורים לשטח הארץ אתמול.

בנוסף, הותקף מחסן אמל"ח במרחב כפר חמאם.

במהלך התקיפה זוהו פיצוצי משנה אשר העידו על הימצאות אמצעי לחימה רבים במחסן

pic.twitter.com/sCYGNAOx4U

— צבא ההגנה לישראל (@idfonline) July 24, 2024

Meanwhile, Education Minister Yoav Kisch told the heads of local authorities that students from northern communities evacuated because of the war would not be able to return to school in their hometowns in September and would instead continue to attend schools elsewhere in Israel.

Kisch wrote in a statement that this was due to the “security complexities” in the region, which has been subject to incessant rocket fire and drone attacks by the Hezbollah terror group from Lebanon since the beginning of the war against Hamas in Gaza on October 7.

Calling the decision not to start the school year in the affected northern communities “regrettable,” Kisch called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to “act now, strongly,” against the state of Lebanon.”



Education Minister Yoav Kisch attends an Education, Culture, and Sports Committee meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem, on June 26, 2024 (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Of 60,000 civilians relocated from northern Israel at the outset of the war, 14,600 are children, scattered in kindergartens and schools or makeshift premises throughout the country. The evacuated residents do not yet know when they will be able to return to their homes.

Since October 8, Hezbollah-led forces have attacked Israeli communities and military posts along the border on a near-daily basis, with the group saying it is doing so to support Palestinians in Gaza amid the war against Hamas there.

The fighting in the north has resulted in 12 civilian deaths on the Israeli side, as well as the deaths of 18 IDF soldiers and reservists. There have also been several attacks from Syria, without any injuries.

Hezbollah has named 374 members who have been killed by Israel during the ongoing skirmishes, mostly in Lebanon but some also in Syria. In Lebanon, another 68 operatives from other terror groups, a Lebanese soldier, and dozens of civilians have been killed.

Fighter jets down drones launched from Iraq

Overnight, Israeli fighter jets downed two drones heading toward Israel from the east, the military said Wednesday morning.

The IDF has **described past attacks launched from Iraq as “from the east.”**

According to the military, **the drone did not enter Israeli airspace,** and therefore sirens did not sound in any towns.

The **IDF’s statement came shortly after the Iran-backed Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed to have launched drones at a “vital target”** in Israel’s southernmost city of Eilat. It said the attack was in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

The **Islamic Resistance in Iraq has claimed dozens of drone attacks on Israel** amid the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, with the IDF reporting downing many of them. Many of the militia’s claims have been exaggerated, but in one case it managed to hit an Israeli Navy base in Eilat, causing damage.

Along with the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, Iran-backed groups in Yemen and Syria have claimed to have launched dozens of drones at Israel during the ongoing war sparked by Hamas’s devastating October 7 terror onslaught. Last week, a man was [killed](#) in a drone attack on Tel Aviv by Yemen’s Houthis.

Iran itself also carried out an unprecedented attack on Israel in April with hundreds of drones and missiles. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/soldier-seriously-injured-in-hezbollah-rocket-attack-on-northern-border/>

In first, male October 7 survivor recounts rape at hands of Hamas terrorists

‘They pin you to the ground, you try to resist, they take off your clothes, laugh at you, humiliate you, spit at you,’ survivor says, recounting ‘very difficult’ assault

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:41 am



The site of the Re'im music festival massacre, in southern Israel, June 9, 2024. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

A survivor of the Hamas massacre at the Supernova music festival on October 7 said he was raped by terrorists attacking the rave, the first time a male victim has come forward to publicly detail sexual offenses during the brutal assault.

The **testimony by the victim, whose comments to Channel 12 news were aired without revealing his identity, add to a growing body of evidence that terrorists who stormed into Israel on October 7 sexually assaulted their victims, both male and**

female.

Firsthand testimony of such acts has been fairly rare, as most of the victims were killed, a fact that some Israel critics have used to sow doubts about the allegations.

The victim was with hundreds others fleeing terrorists who descended upon the festival near Kibbutz Re'im early on October 7, when he said he was caught by forces from Hamas's elite Nukhba unit.

"They pin you to the ground, you try to resist, they take off your clothes, laugh at you, humiliate you, spit at you," he said, his face blurred and his voice distorted to avoid recognition. "They touched [private] parts, they rape you."

"There is a circle, [people] laugh, and you don't know what to do in the moment, whether you should resist or let it pass, how to deal with the situation. There was a very difficult rape. At some point more people arrived and called for them and so they had to stop," added the man, who was identified by the Hebrew initial Dalet.



The site of the Re'im music festival massacre, in southern Israel, June 9, 2024. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

"It's a very tough moment. Weakness in the entire body. As if your blood is cheap. They were wildly intoxicated, celebrating, laughing with their pistols, with their knives. You disassociate yourself from the situation, but on the other hand experience it very strongly. Very difficult," he said.

Dalet eventually managed to escape, the report said, with the help of Israeli forces that showed up.

Asked how he has been coping with the experience, Dalet replied, "It wasn't simple in the beginning. I was very closed off." He also reported an obsessive fixation on cleanliness in the aftermath of the attack. "A lot, a lot of showers, to get all that energy off me, everything that happened."

Dalet's testimony has been handed to a police unit investigating sexual crimes committed by the terrorists on October 7, after he filed a complaint, the report said.

Aware that some are casting doubt on testimony of sexual violence on October 7, Dalet has presented various sources with medical opinions that testify to the harm done to him, as well as sitting for a polygraph test.

His testimony is also included in a major lawsuit filed by more than 100 survivors of the Supernova festival against the State of Israel, demanding more than NIS 500 million (\$137 million) in government support.

"Many of them aren't able to return to work, and aren't able to return to their lives— to address [the case of] Dalet specifically, of course it's impossible, at this stage, to return to normal life after what happened," said Einat Ginzburg, one of the lawyers representing the massacre survivors.

Israeli police have been collecting survivor testimony, physical evidence, and confessions of sexual assault by terrorists on October 7 since the immediate aftermath of the attack, when thousands of terrorists burst into southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages, starting the ongoing war.

A February report by the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict found that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the 7 October attacks in multiple locations across the Gaza periphery, including rape and gang rape, in at least three locations."

The report also testified to "clear and convincing" evidence that hostages were raped while being held in Gaza, and that those currently held captive are still facing such abuse.

Further evidence was made public in April by the release of a one-hour documentary on the topic directed by former Meta CEO Sheryl Sandberg, called "Screams Before Silence," which is [free to watch](#) online.

Amit Soussana, an Israeli hostage who was released during a weeklong truce in November, was the first to speak publicly about being sexually abused in captivity, [recounting](#) being marched at gunpoint to the bedroom of her captor, where he forced her to "commit a sexual act on him."

Teenager Agam Goldstein-Almog, also released in the November deal, reported having been

groped by captors and being constantly afraid she would be raped. “Half of the girls and young women I met in captivity told me they experienced sexual or physical abuse or both. They are still living there with their rapists,” she said at the time. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/male-october-7-survivor-recounts-rape-at-hands-of-hamas-terrorists/>

IDF probing killing of armed PA police officer by troops in West Bank

Troops demolish home of terrorist who carried out deadly shooting in February; 5 Palestinians suspected of carrying out bombing at settlement arrested

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 2:20 pm



Israeli troops kill a Palestinian Authority customs police officer in the West Bank city of Tubas, July 24, 2024. (Screenshot: X)

A Palestinian Authority customs police officer was shot dead by Israeli troops in the West Bank city of Tubas on Wednesday morning, in an incident that the Israel Defense Forces said was under investigation.

According to the IDF, troops detained two wanted Palestinians over their suspected involvement in terror activity during a raid in Tubas overnight.

In the morning hours, during the operation,

troops encountered several gunmen, the army said.

“An armed Palestinian who served as a customs officer of the Palestinian Authority was killed during the clashes,” the IDF said, adding that “the circumstances of the incident are being investigated.”

The officer was named by Palestinian media as Abdel Nasser Sarhan. Footage posted to social media shows the moment Israeli troops shot him dead.

The soldiers are seen driving up to a corner of a road in Tubas in a white van, before getting out and opening fire upon spotting the armed man.

One IDF soldier was lightly hurt during the operation, the military said.

عاجل

لحظة اغتيال الضابط في الضابطة الجمركية الشهيد عبدالناصر سرحان ابن مخيم بلاطة في مدينة طوباس

pic.twitter.com/rjgAxLjLHY

— [خبرني - khaberni \(@khaberni\)](#) July 24, 2024

Meanwhile, overnight, the IDF said it demolished the home of Muhammad Manasra, a Palestinian terrorist who carried out a deadly shooting attack at a gas station near the West Bank settlement of Eli, killing two Israelis.

In the [attack on February 29](#), Manasra shot dead Rabbi Yitzhak Zeiger, 57, and Uria Hartum, 16, before being killed by the owner of a nearby hummus restaurant.

The IDF said troops operated in the West Bank village of Qalandiya overnight to demolish the home.

Amid the operation, troops clashed with rioters in the area. The IDF said the soldiers used riot dispersal means and live fire.

Several suspects were arrested in Qalandiya, it added.

As a matter of policy, Israel demolishes the homes of Palestinians accused of carrying out deadly terror attacks.

Also overnight, five Palestinian terror suspects were detained near the West Bank city of Tulkarem, including two who were suspected of carrying out a bomb attack near the settlement of Hermesh last week, police said.

Members of the police’s Yamam counter-terrorism unit and the Shin Bet security agency operated in the town of Seida to detain two suspects believed to be behind the attack near Hermesh on July 18, in which four Israelis were wounded.

Police said that **one of the suspects behind the attack was shot** by the officers amid clashes in Seida.

Another three suspects were detained amid the operation, police added.

Since October 7, troops have arrested some 4,400 wanted Palestinians across the West Bank, including more than 1,850 affiliated with Hamas.

According to the Palestinian Authority health ministry, 589 West Bank Palestinians have been killed in that time. The IDF says the vast majority of them were gunmen killed during raids or terrorists carrying out attacks.

During the same period, 22 Israelis, including security personnel, have been killed in terror attacks in Israel and the West Bank. Another five members of the security forces were killed in clashes with terror operatives in the West Bank. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-probing-killing-of-armed-pa-police-officer-by-troops-in-west-bank/>

Iran's militias in Iraq threaten Israel amid Houthi, Hezbollah attacks

Kataib Hezbollah and the Houthis have both slammed Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, accusing them of working with Israel.

By [SETH J. FRANTZMAN](#) JULY 24, 2024 17:52



Kataib Hezbollah Iraqi militia hold the picture of the Iranian Maj.-Gen. Qassem Soleimani, as they gather ahead of the funeral of the Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis (photo credit: REUTERS/THAIER AL-SUDANI)

The Iranian-backed Kataib Hezbollah terror group in Iraq has said it would support the Houthis in more attacks on Israel. This statement comes amid reports that the Houthis and Iranian-backed militias in Iraq want to conduct more “joint” operations against Israel.

In the wake of the Houthi attack on Tel Aviv on July 19, the Houthis and Iraqi militias have sought to highlight how they might increase their threats to the region. For instance Kataib Hezbollah and the Houthis have both slammed Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, accusing them of working with Israel. They use similar language in their condemnation of Saudi Arabia and regional Arab states.

In addition, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of pro-Iranian militias, claimed on July 24 that it had targeted Eilat. The pro-Iranian Al-Mayadeen reported that “similarly, the Resistance in Iraq is conducting joint operations with the Yemeni Armed Forces to target the occupied Palestinian territories.

Sayyed Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, leader of the Ansar Allah movement in Yemen, confirmed in his speeches that **‘these joint operations between the Yemeni army and the Islamic Resistance in Iraq have had a direct and significant impact on the enemy,’** emphasizing that they will [continue and escalate](#).

Drone attacks

The reports of the joint work of the Iraqi militias and Houthis comes amid escalation by Hezbollah. Hezbollah has continued its rocket and drone attacks on northern Israel. Al-Mayadeen news network reported that a “squadron of the Islamic resistance [Hezbollah] drones from Lebanon entered the West Galilee region in northern occupied Palestine and sirens sounded in the Zionist settlements.”

The attacks on northern Israel wounded a soldier recently. It also appears Hezbollah is increasing the range of its attacks. This would coincide with the Iranian attempt to push the Houthis and Iraqi militias to expand their attacks. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-811738>

Yemen's Houthi rebels vow open battle with Israel and the US, as fears rise of Mideast war



Israeli jets struck Yemen's Hudaydah port in retaliation for a Houthi drone attack on Tel Aviv, killing six and destroying key infrastructure. Experts warn this escalation could fuel further conflict

By [NABIH BULOS/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS](#) JULY 24, 2024 11:06

A man takes pictures of a raging fire at oil storage tanks a day after Israeli strikes on the port of Yemen's Houthi-held city of Hodeida on July 21, 2024. Yemen's Huthi rebels on July 21 promised a “huge” retaliation against Israel following a deadly strike on the port of Hodeida. (photo credit: AFP via Getty Images/TNS)

After more than 1,000 miles and almost three hours of flight times, the squadron of Israeli F-15s and F35s launched their missiles on Yemen's Hudaydah port, leaving in their wake a raging blaze and renewed fears of a Middle East engulfed by wider war.

Israel's retaliatory attack was meant as a fiery message to a terrorist group that hit Tel Aviv with a deadly drone strike the day before. But, experts say, Israel may have given the Houthi rebels the legitimacy they have long sought, leading them to escalate attacks on [Israel and ships in the region](#).

Israel's attack Saturday evening, which killed six dockworkers and injured dozens, was the country's first strike on Yemeni territory. The drone strike from the Iran-backed Houthi militia, which controls wide swaths of Yemen and is allied with Hamas, managed to get through Israel's defenses and kill one civilian and wound at least 10.

If anything, Israel's strike is likely to further encourage the Houthis, said Hisham al Omeisy, a US-based Yemeni analyst. It could play into their often-repeated narrative of championing Muslims against the United States and Israel.

"The Houthis desperately wanted this direct confrontation to legitimize their claim of being in a fight with Israel," Omeisy said.



A satellite image shows a closer view of burning oil tanks after an Israeli air strike on Houthi military targets in Hodeidah, Yemen, July 21, 2024. (credit: MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS)

The group — part of a regional network of Iran-backed factions operating in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Gaza — has been lobbing missiles and drones at Israel (almost all of which have been intercepted). It is demanding Israel end the war in Gaza, which has killed more than 39,000

Palestinians in the territory, according to the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry. The war began after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking some 250 hostage.

The Houthis have also repeatedly attacked ships transiting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, including those with no links to Israel. The US and Britain have launched multiple rounds of joint strikes on the Houthis over the shipping attacks.

Effect of Israel's strikes

Israel's strikes on Yemen destroyed storage tanks with more than 150,000 tons of fuel, along with a number of cranes and piers, said Mohammed Albasha, a senior Yemen expert at the US-based Navanti Group consulting firm.

Days later, fires still rage from the port, a crucial aid and fuel lifeline for Houthi-controlled areas of the country, where the majority of the country's 33 million people live. Though firefighters have yet to fully put out the flames in the port's fuel depot and power plant or clear debris from destroyed cranes, officials said Monday the port is operational.

In the hours after the strikes, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant characterized the hit as a message not only to the Houthis but to Israel's regional enemies.

"The fire that is currently burning in Hudaydah is seen across the Middle East and the significance is clear," Gallant after the Israeli strike.

"The Houthis attacked us over 200 times," Gallant said. "The first time that they harmed an Israeli citizen, we struck them. And we will do this in any place where it may be required."

Yet it's a message the Houthis are unlikely to heed, experts say.

"The Israeli attack was meant to shock and awe, but unfortunately you're dealing with the Houthis," said Hisham Omeisy, a US-based Yemeni analyst.

The Houthis, who started out as anti-government rebels, had spent years in pitched battles with the Yemeni state; in 2014 they overran the capital, Sanaa, then put their sights on the rest of the country. To stop them, a Saudi-led onslaught — bolstered by American weapons, intelligence and

logistics support — launched a devastating air campaign and blockade that brought Yemenis to the brink of famine. By the time an April 2022 cease-fire was signed, the Houthis remained even stronger in the areas they controlled.

"Shock and awe and the use of overwhelming power didn't really work on them when it was a coalition of countries hammering them," Omeisy said. "So it won't work now."

Since the attack, Houthi officials have vowed a "huge" response to the Israeli strike, and on Sunday it launched a ballistic missile on Israel that was intercepted. That same day, the group's leader, Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, gave a televised address in which he said he was "very happy" that the group was now engaged in a direct battle with Israel and the United States.

"The Israeli aggression against our country will contribute to a greater escalation of our operations against it and to the development of our capabilities as well, and the enemy will lose and incur more dangers upon itself," he said.

The Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah, the most powerful armed faction in Iran's so called Axis of Resistance, characterized Israel's strike as a "foolish step" that "heralds a new and dangerous phase of extremely important confrontation at the level of the entire region."

Israel has traded attacks with several groups in Iran's Axis, which also includes factions in Syria and Iraq, pushing the Middle East closer to an all-out war.

The expectation is that the Houthis, as well as their allies in other Iran-backed factions, will intensify their attacks both on Israel and in the Red Sea, utilizing more advanced Iranian-supplied weaponry than the group has possessed in the past, Albasha said.

"Historically, Iran didn't give the Houthis the newest technology. Now they are," he said. He pointed out that the drone used in the Tel Aviv attack, which the Houthis called Yafa (the Arabic name for Jaffa), was a modified version of the Houthi-manufactured Sammad 3 drone — but with a newer engine and possibly upgraded avionics.

Last week, the Houthis used kamikaze drone boats to attack two vessels in the Red Sea. Reports said the drone boats were an upgraded design of the Toofan, a drone boat with a 4,500-pound payload capable of reaching 45 nautical miles per hour.

That any escalation would have consequences on Yemen, already the region's poorest and one of its most war-ravaged nations, was not necessarily a problem for the Houthis, said Fatima Alasarar, a nonresident scholar at the Middle East Institute think tank.

"The Houthis have not shied away from leveraging conflict to expand their influence and capabilities," she said. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-811672>

Israel, CENTCOM ties have been essential mid Gaza war

The war in Gaza has been a showcase of how US-Israel relations, and particularly military-to-military relations are important. Central Command is a key component of this.



By [SETH J. FRANTZMAN](#) JULY 24, 2024 18:19

IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi and US CENTCOM commander Michael Eric Kurilla holding a situation assessment on the threat from Iran, April 12, 2024. (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON UNIT)

Israel's move from being part of the area of operations for US European Command to US Central Command in 2021 has been important amid the long war in Gaza and the growing Iranian threats in the region. This is important to examine because it will have implications in the future.

One of the key moments that showcases how important Israel-CENTCOM ties have become, was the defense against the Iranian attack on the evening of April 13-14. Several years of growing ties with Central Command helped bring together the necessary assets to defend against Iranian drones and missiles. While Israel has impressive air defenses, such as the Arrow 3, and Israel has numerous squadrons of advanced warplanes, such as F-35s, US Central Command also has close ties to regional countries and access to squadrons of planes and air defenses in the region, including on ships.

Another aspect of being closely involved in talks with US Central Command is the way in which this links Israel to countries in the region. Israel has peace with Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain and the UAE. These countries are also under CENTCOM. When Israel was under European Command, the only regional power also under European Command was Turkey, because Turkey is in NATO.



CENTCOM Commander General Michael Erik Kurilla met with IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi in Israel, the IDF said on June 11, 2024. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

However, Israel was the odd-man out because it was the only country clearly in the Levant that was part of “Europe” as opposed to a US regional command centered in the Middle East. This was historical baggage from the Cold War era and a time when Israel didn’t have as many ties regionally. Today there are some of the twenty-one countries in US Central Command that don’t have ties with Israel, such as Saudi Arabia or Qatar.

However, Central Command’s view of the region is a net benefit for everyone involved.

To give an example of how important this is, consider the recent trip by the head of CENTCOM. US Central Command head General Michael Kurilla has been traveling in the region recently. He recently concluded a trip that included Qatar and Bahrain.

The role of Bahrain

In Bahrain he discussed the regional security situation and the strong military relationship between the US and Bahrain, US Central Command said in a statement on social media. "It is particularly important for me to travel to the CENTCOM region during these times of increased regional tension," Gen. Kurilla said. The trip that began on July 11 included visits to Jordan, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Qatar, and Bahrain.

Have US commanders and their deputies and staff who are constantly on the move in the region, speaking with other nations, and conducting various joint exercises is important. There are key aspects of planning and interoperability and multi-lateral structures that all help to reduce the chances of conflict and also can help defend against threats, such as the Iranian attack on April 13-14.

When Hamas attacked Israel on October 7 it was a huge shock. The US decided to keep The US Carrier USS Gerald Ford and its strike group in the Mediterranean after the Hamas attack and move the ships to the Eastern Mediterranean to deter Iran and Hezbollah. This was in addition to the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower carrier strike group, which also remained in the region.

This was an important development, because within weeks of the Hamas attack, the Houthis began attacks targeting Eilat and then targeting shipping in the Red Sea. The carriers and their strike groups played a key role in securing the seas during this time and may have helped in deterring Iran and its proxies from further escalation.

The role of the US Fifth Fleet, which is based in Bahrain, is important in this context. It has helped prevent Iranian-backed proxies from blockading sea lanes. Israel has conducted drills with US Navcent, the naval component of Central Command.

"Forces from U.S. 5th Fleet completed a four-day exercise with Israel in the Gulf of Aqaba, May 11, that focused on unmanned systems and artificial intelligence integration into maritime operations," Navcent noted in May, 2023.

"The exercise, called Digital Shield, included members of U.S. 5th Fleet's unmanned systems and artificial intelligence task force, Task Force 59, as well as a MANTAS Devil Ray T-38 unmanned surface vessel. U.S. forces trained alongside Israeli counterparts during maritime awareness and vessel boarding drills."

In 2021 US Vice-Admiral Brad Cooper, the head of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command visited Israel, his second visit since Israel moved to CENTCOM. "Our commitment to Israel is unwavering and this visit highlighted the importance of our decades-long strategic relationship," said Cooper.

"The recent alignment of Israel to U.S. Central Command opens new opportunities to deepen our naval ties and enhance regional maritime security and stability," Cooper said at the time.

Partnership with Israel

“Vice-Admiral Cooper is a friend and strategic partner to the Israeli Navy, he and his team are deeply committed to the security of the State of Israel” Israel’s Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, then head of Naval Operations in the Israeli Navy, said at the time. Hagari went on to be the key IDF spokesperson during the recent war.

After Hamas attacked the US also sent Marine Corps Lieutenant General James Glynn along with two officers to provide advise to Israel regarding the possible challenges in Gaza. This was supposed to be advise gained from the US fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria where the US faced enemies embedded in urban areas.

Most important for Israel-CENTCOM ties was the April 13-14 attack by Iran which involved more than 300 drones and missiles. Iranian proxies in Yemen and Lebanon also carried out attacks on Israel. This was a major success in terms of Israel’s work with Central Command.

There have been other issues that came up during the war that don’t involve Central Command. Controversies, such as the US pausing shipment of 2,000-pound bombs and 500-pound bombs were a feature of the war. The heavy bombs could be used to take out Hamas targets deep underground.



CENTCOM commander Michael Kurilla and IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kohavi visit Nevatim Airbase in southern Israel, November 15, 2022. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

In another saga during the war, the US sent US Army ships to construct a floating pier on the coast of Gaza. The Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (JLOTS) operation took a month and a half to prepare, with ships sailing from Virginia. Then, the pier operated intermittently for only around two months before it was finally dismantled in July. In addition there were airdrops in Gaza carried out by US C-130 airplanes.

The war in Gaza has been a showcase of how US-Israel relations, and particularly military-to-military relations are important. Central Command is a key component of this. Investment in these kinds of relationships is key to dealing with the growing Iranian threat and other threats in the region. It can also lead to more joint work on air defenses and other important aspects of the security infrastructure of the region. The rising drone threats, such as the Houthi attack on Tel Aviv on July 19, illustrate how more work can be done to learn lessons from these emerging threats.

What comes next in Israel’s ties with US Central Command. One thing that is clear is that these ties are at an all time high historically, and continuing to grow. These ties transcend political issues that may affect Israel’s relations with some countries. The military-to-military ties have not been affected by the political issues that may come between countries.

However, there are issues on the horizon. The US commitment to the region and to creating multi-lateral ties and joint training is important. Some countries in the region are hedging their bets, or watching the rise of China and considering closer ties with BRICS, the SCO and other economic groups tied to China or Russia. China’s hosting of Palestinian factions is an example of this. US Central Command played a key role in the region over the last decades.

This was an outgrowth of the Gulf War and the Global War on Terror.

However, as the US shifts to focus on China and near-peer rivalries, such as the Russia-Ukraine war, there will be a tensions about resources devoted to the Middle East. The Hamas attack and the Iranian attack shows why the region is still very important for the US and global security.

The US role in Iraq and Syria, for instance, is important in terms of keeping influence in areas such as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and blunting Iran’s march across the entire Middle East. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-811742>

"50 dead NATO military advisers" - Russians showed video of strike against Westerners in Kharkiv

"This will be the fate of all Westerners who find themselves on Ukrainian soil!"

Evangelos L. info@warnews247.gr 23.07.2024 | 21:50

An Iskander-M missile hit a base of trainers and mercenaries from Western NATO countries in the Kharkiv region, killing 50 NATO military advisers, the Russian Defense Ministry announced on Tuesday, as you read earlier!

"The crew of the Iskander-M tactical missile system launched a missile attack on a point of temporary deployment of trainers and mercenaries from Western countries in the village of Dergachi, Kharkiv region.

As a result of the attack, about 50 foreign instructors were killed, the statement said.

The Russians also provided a video of the strike, while, as it is announced, "**this will be the fate of all Westerners who find themselves on Ukrainian soil!**"

Watch the video

In fact, the airport in Nikolaev, where the F-16s are expected to be installed, was also hit!

Foreign mercenaries are actively engaged in fighting alongside the Ukrainian Armed Forces, with the media often reporting significant casualties!

The **Russian Defense Ministry has previously reported the elimination of mercenaries from the United States, the United Kingdom, Poland, France, Georgia and other countries, and regularly reports the destruction of sites where foreign military personnel fighting for Kiev gather.**

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has repeatedly warned foreign citizens not to travel to Ukraine and emphasizes that according to international humanitarian law, mercenaries are not considered combatants and are not subject to prisoner of war status!

According to the Russian ministry, more than 13,000 foreign mercenaries have arrived in Ukraine to fight for Kiev since the start of the special operation. During this period, approximately 6,000 militants have been eliminated.

Watch the video released by the Russians

Iskander strike on a building that is said to have housed foreign military instructors in the town of Dergachi, in the Kharkov region.

Geolocated to 50.104426, 36.139116 by [@lostarmour](https://pic.twitter.com/yWp4VHPvJh) pic.twitter.com/yWp4VHPvJh

— Fennec_Radar (@RadarFennec) [July 22, 2024](https://twitter.com/RadarFennec/status/18141234567890123)

A deployment point for instructors and advisers from NATO countries (including the USA) was discovered near the settlement of Dergachi in the Kharkiv region.

An Iskander-M missile system team decided to visit the foreign specialists to send them back to their homeland as soon... pic.twitter.com/kr3nZaOwUc

— MD (@distant_earth83) [July 22, 2024](https://twitter.com/distant_earth83/status/18141234567890123)

From Dergachi, "[#Ukraine](https://twitter.com/distant_earth83/status/18141234567890123)"...a large group of NATO was smuggled to this location in the middle of the night (when Russian satellites are asleep!) 3 days ago. The bldng is a *day care*! The Russian missile hit *the right room* killing 50+ NATO meat. [#UkraineWar](https://twitter.com/distant_earth83/status/18141234567890123)

pic.twitter.com/MjwGzZEgur

— Soror Inimicorum (@SororInimicorum) [July 23, 2024](https://twitter.com/SororInimicorum/status/18141234567890123)

https://warnews247-gr.translate.google.com/translate/war-monitor/oukrania/50-nekroi-stratiwtikoi-sumbouloi-tou-nato-oi-rwsoi-edeiksan-binteo-apo-xtuphma-kata-dutikwn-sto-xarkobo/?_x_tr_sl=el&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en

US: Who is Pushing to Resume Nuclear Testing - What Are They Demanding?

They want to pre-empt Trump's election

Newsroom info@warnews247.gr 24.07.2024 | 22:17

As of 2024, the United States is still the only country to have deployed nuclear weapons in a military setting, killing over 150,000 people in nuclear attacks on Japan as the country was on the brink of surrender!

Prominent figures in the United States' national security establishment are pushing for a resumption of nuclear weapons testing as the country continues to move toward weakening international arms control frameworks.

Former US national security adviser Robert O'Brien and George W. Bush's State Department adviser Christian Wheaton are among the "luminaries" promoting this policy , Sputnik writes and continues:

The Heritage Foundation think tank is also urging immediate nuclear tests if former President Donald Trump wins the White House this fall.

The organization urged a remediation of **"former Manhattan factories and Cold War nuclear material sites"** in a recent political plan!

The think tank also supported the development of "new nuclear weapons and naval nuclear reactors." Spent fuel from US reactors has been used in depleted uranium weapons that the United States has repeatedly deployed on battlefields such as Iraq and Serbia.

Human rights groups have called for the weapons to be banned, noting that their abject use on civilian populations in Belgrad and Fallujah has continued to lead to increased rates of cancer and birth defects. https://warnews247-gr.translate.googleusercontent.com/translate/hpa/hpa-poioi-piezoun-gia-thn-epanenkash-twn-purhnikwn-dokimwn-ti-zhtoun/?x_tr_sl=el&x_tr_tl=en&x_tr_hl=en

F-16s to stay away from front lines – Ukraine's top general

Russia has "superior aviation" and "very strong" air defenses, General Aleksandr Syrsky has told the Guardian

24 Jul, 2024 16:11



FILE PHOTO. © Global Look Press / Marcus Brandt

Ukraine's western-donated F-16 warplanes are likely to be vulnerable to Russia's "superior" aviation and air defenses, when they are finally deployed, Kiev's top military commander, Colonel General Aleksandr Syrsky, has told the Guardian.

The aircraft will likely be used to strengthen Ukraine's air defenses, the general stated, admitting that their use would still be limited. The fighter jets would have to stay at least "40 kilometers or more" from the front lines to avoid being shot down by Russian forces, he said in an interview with the British daily published on Wednesday.

According to **Syrsky, Moscow has "superior aviation" and "very strong" air defenses** that have forced Kiev to increasingly rely on various types of drones instead of aircraft. The general also admitted that the Russian army is bigger and much better equipped than that of Ukraine. *"When it comes to equipment, there is a ratio of 1:2 or 1:3 in their favor,"* he said.

Kiev **has yet to receive its first US-made military aircraft**. Last year, a group of NATO nations, including Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Sweden, formed the so-called 'F-16 coalition'. It was later joined by Greece, the US, Bulgaria, and France.

Some of the coalition members pledged to provide Kiev with the Western aircraft from their stocks while others trained Ukrainian pilots. The outgoing Dutch government stated earlier in July that it had finalized preparations for the delivery of its F-16s, adding that it would take place *"soon."* Amsterdam vowed to send a total of 24 aircraft.

Russia has repeatedly stated that the ever-increasing level of support that NATO states extend to Kiev makes them de-facto participants of the ongoing conflict. The nation's top officials, including President Vladimir Putin, have described the Ukraine conflict as a proxy war waged by the bloc against Russia.

Moscow has said that F-16s will not change the outcome of the conflict, just like other Western weapons provided to Kiev. The Russian military will destroy the planes as it has done with other Ukrainian hardware, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said earlier this year.

A private Russian company even offered a bounty of 15 million rubles (\$170,000) for the destruction of the first US-made aircraft in the conflict. <https://www.rt.com/russia/601601-f-16-away-frontlines-general/>

EU approves first €4.2bn payment to Kiev

The funds are part of a €50 billion Ukraine funding project

24 Jul, 2024 16:41

The **European Council ambassadors have voted in favor of sending the first installment of the €50 billion plan to finance Ukraine through 2027.**

Known as the Ukraine Facility, the program was set up last summer, with the goal of providing “predictable financial support” to Kiev.

“Today, Ambassadors adopted the first installment under the Ukraine Plan of the Ukraine Facility Regulation, paving the way for the transfer of nearly €4.2 bn to support Ukraine’s recovery, reconstruction, and modernization,” the Hungarian presidency of the council [announced](#) on X (formerly Twitter).

The **council now needs to follow written procedure to actually disburse the funds. That is like putting the cart before the horse - rdb**

According to the European Council, **the Ukraine Facility was designed “as a flexible instrument adapted to the unprecedented challenges of supporting a country at war and ensuring predictability, transparency, and accountability of the funds.”**

The EU eventually approved up to €50 billion for the project, starting this year and going through 2027, *“for all types of support.”* The money will be disbursed through grants, loans, investments and outright aid.

The plan was actually launched in March, with around €7.8 billion sent under *“interim and preliminary”* arrangements. Regular quarterly payments under the Ukraine Plan will depend on Kiev fulfilling the *“pre-agreed requirements,”* according to Brussels.

Wednesday’s funding is separate from the program to lend Ukraine some €1.4 billion from the interest earned by sovereign Russian assets frozen in the EU since 2022. Moscow has accused Brussels of *“theft”* for freezing more than €200 billion (\$217 billion) in Russian central bank assets following the start of the Ukraine conflict.

Legal concerns have stopped the EU from outright seizing the funds, but the bloc has submitted to US pressure to use the interest from them instead. The value of open-ended loans generated this way has been estimated at €3 billion (\$3.25 billion) a year. The first installment, amounting to €1.4 billion (\$1.5 billion), will be sent to Kiev in early August, EU foreign policy commissioner Josep Borrell has said.

<https://www.rt.com/news/601598-eu-funding-ukraine-approval/> **Ever heard of beating a dead horse? That is just what the EU is doing. They are beathing the proxy Ukrainians to death. - rdb**

Ukrainian FM says Kiev ready for talks with Russia – China

Dmitry Kuleba says negotiations should be “rational” and seek to achieve “lasting peace,” according to the Foreign Ministry in Beijing

24 Jul, 2024 10:20

Kiev is ready to hold peace talks with Moscow to end their long-running conflict, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba has told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning offered a glimpse into the agenda of Kuleba’s visit to China – the first since the start of the Ukraine conflict in February 2022 – as well as his talks with Wang.

According to Mao, the hostilities between Moscow and Kiev were high on the agenda, with Kuleba making it clear that *“Ukraine is ready and willing to engage in dialogue and negotiations with Russia.”*

“Of course, the negotiations should be rational and substantive, aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace,” he added, as quoted by Mao.

Mao said Wang had warned that there was a “risk of escalation and spillover” of the conflict, adding that *“China believes that the resolution of all conflicts must eventually return to the negotiation table.”* He noted that *“recently, both Ukraine and Russia have sent signals of willingness to negotiate to varying degrees.”*

Kuleba’s trip to China comes after Ukraine’s Vladimir Zelensky said earlier this week that he wanted to end the conflict “as soon as possible” and signaled readiness to engage with Russia. This comes in a sharp contrast to the existent presidential decree he signed in the autumn of 2022, which barred all talks with the current leadership in Moscow. Zelensky introduced the ban after four former Ukrainian regions voted overwhelmingly to join Russia.

Since then, Zelensky has been promoting his ‘peace formula’ demanding that Russia withdraw its troops from all territories claimed by Kiev as its own. The proposal was dismissed by Moscow as detached from reality.

In **June, Ukraine attended the so-called ‘peace summit’ in Switzerland,** which focused on several points of Zelensky’s formula. However, Moscow was not invited, and Beijing also shunned the event, arguing that Russia needed to be part of the process. Several participants also later withdrew their signatures from the final

document.

Kuleba's comments also come as Russian troops have been steadily pushing Ukrainian troops back in Donbass and elsewhere in recent months. Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Moscow is ready to immediately open peace talks with Ukraine once it withdraws troops from Donbass and its two other former regions, and commits to adopting a neutral status. <https://www.rt.com/russia/601575-ukraine-ready-talks-russia/> **It would seem he wants to try to get things going quickly and is assuming Trump will get in and do a one handed deal. – rdb**

D.C. on high alert ahead of Netanyahu's speech to Congress

Roads leading to the Capital closed overnight and roadblocks set up as the local police force receives reinforcements for nearby jurisdictions; at least 80 Democratic House representatives and Six senators plan to skip speech

[Itamar Eichner](#)|09:24

Washington D.C. was on high alert on Wednesday, ahead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to a joint session of Congress scheduled to begin at 4 PM local time (9 PM in Israel.) Local police closed off streets leading to the capital from the early morning hours and roadblocks were set up in the area.

Police officers from nearby jurisdictions were brought into the city to bolster the deployment of DCPD in case protests of the prime minister, get out of hand.



Fences set up around Capital ahead of Netanyahu speech (Photo: Itamar Eichner)

Hundreds protested outside Netanyahu's hotel on Tuesday night calling for his arrest. In the morning, protesters called out to the prime minister that he was a criminal of war.

Protests are also planned for the families of hostages who arrived in the U.S. to call on Netanyahu to finalize a deal that would free their loved ones.



Families of hostages call for Netanyahu to agree to a deal (Photo: Itamar Eichner)

Netanyahu will meet with U.S. President Joe Biden and with Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday and will travel to Florida on Friday for a meeting with former president Donald Trump.

At least 80 members of the House and six senators, all Democrats, are expected to remain out of the chamber during Netanyahu's speech.

Some have said explicitly that they intend to boycott the prime minister.

Vice President [Kamala Harris](#) would also be absent from the speech and would not preside over the joint session, citing scheduling problems. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bjj2ptao0>

Israeli officials rap Harris for skipping PM Congress speech; House Speaker: Inexcusable

Vice president 'unable to distinguish between good and evil,' unnamed officials tell Telegraph; Harris, who as Veep would have presided over Netanyahu's address, will be in Indiana

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 12:50 pm

Unnamed Israeli officials reportedly slammed US Vice President Kamala Harris for her plans to skip Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to Congress on Wednesday.

The vice president typically presides over such joint addresses. In her absence, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Ben Cardin will preside over the address along with House Speaker Mike Johnson.

The Israeli officials were quoted telling UK newspaper The Telegraph that Harris, who is running for president in November, is “unable to distinguish between good and evil,” and that skipping the prime minister’s speech is “not a way to treat an ally.”

Harris, who is expected to receive her Democratic party’s nomination for president following President Joe Biden’s withdrawal from the race on Sunday, will instead be speaking at an event in Indiana for Zeta Phi Beta, a historically Black sorority founded at the vice president’s alma mater, Howard University.

Harris will, however, meet with Netanyahu privately at the White House on Thursday.

“We anticipate she will underscore her commitment to ensure Israel can defend itself from threats from Iran and Iranian-backed militias, including Lebanese Hezbollah and Hamas,” an aide to the vice president said in a statement about the planned sit-down with Netanyahu.

“She **will again condemn Hamas’ brutal terrorist attack on October 7**, and horrific sexual violence. She will reiterate her deep concerns about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the loss of innocent life,” the statement added.

Harris did not present her plans as an intentional snub of Netanyahu — her trip “should not be interpreted as a change in her position with regard to Israel,” her campaign said — but she has received criticism from Republicans for declining to preside over the speech in Congress.

“**It is outrageous to me and inexcusable that Kamala Harris is boycotting**” the speech, said Speaker of the House Johnson, of Louisiana, on Tuesday.

“**This is an historic moment, it’s an important moment for the country, the gravity of the situation cannot be overstated, and yet, Kamala Harris will abandon her seat,**” he said, noting that Harris, as vice president, would traditionally be seated at the rostrum during a joint session of Congress.



“The **idea that Democrats are making political calculations when our ally is in such dire straits, fighting for its very survival... is unconscionable to us,**” Johnson added.

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., meets with reporters ahead of a Wednesday visit by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu who will address a joint meeting of Congress, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, July 23, 2024. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Senator John Cornyn of Texas on Tuesday similarly denounced Harris’s absence from the speech, describing the decision as “pandering to extremist elements in the Democratic party” and saying it was “disgraceful and embarrassing” for Harris to skip the address.

The vice president has not signaled any significant departure from the current administration’s policy on the Middle East, but some observers have pointed to her sharp tone with respect to the humanitarian situation in Gaza as a sign that she may be harsher with Israel than Biden has been.

Harris made headlines in March when she called for an “immediate ceasefire” in Gaza, though her call was in line with the administration’s position, supporting a hostage release in exchange for a pause in fighting. She also took aim at Israel for the problems delivering humanitarian aid to Gazans, saying in a speech, “No excuses.”

And earlier this month, Harris said in an interview that pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel protesters on American college campuses were “showing exactly what the human emotion should be” about the war — though she noted that “there are things some of the protests are saying that I absolutely reject.”

Netanyahu also plans to sit down with US President Joe Biden at the White House on Thursday, as well as meet with former president Donald Trump, Harris’s presumptive opponent in November, in Florida on Friday.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-officials-said-to-slam-kamala-harris-for-skipping-netanyahus-congress-speech/>

Itamar Ben-Gvir endorses Donald Trump for US presidency

Ben-Gvir accused the Biden administration of “preventing Israel from winning.”

By [ELIAV BREUER](#) JULY 24, 2024 15:19

Far-right National Security Minister MK Itamar Ben-Gvir endorsed former US president and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in an interview with Bloomberg published on Wednesday.

"I believe that with Trump, Israel will receive the backing to act against Iran," Ben Gvir said in the interview. "With Trump, it will be clearer that enemies must be defeated," he said.

Ben-Gvir's comments came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to speak in the US Congress on Wednesday, meet US President Joe Biden and probable [Democratic Party](#) nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, and meet Trump on Friday.

Ben-Gvir accused the Biden administration of "preventing Israel from winning."

"The US has always stood behind Israel in terms of armaments and weapons, yet this time the sense was that we were being reckoned with — that we were trying to be prevented from winning,"

[Ben-Gvir](#) said to Bloomberg. "That happened on Biden's watch and fed Hamas with lots of energy," he added.

Ben-Gvir's comments ran against most other Israeli politicians, including Netanyahu himself, who have preferred to remain neutral in the presidential race. "A cabinet minister is supposed to maintain neutrality, but that's impossible to do after Biden," Ben-Gvir said in the interview.

Calling for further action against Iran and Hezbollah

The national security minister also criticized Israel's response to the Iranian missile and drone attack in April, saying that "Israel should respond to attacks on it in a determined, pain-inflicting manner" and also called for an attack on Hezbollah in Lebanon, "The sooner the better."

The timing of the interview's publication joins a number of other incendiary steps that Ben-Gvir took in Netanyahu's absence. The national security minister created a storm after conditioning his party's support for a bill promoted by Shas MK Aryeh Deri, a key Netanyahu ally, on him becoming part of a forum that sets policy and makes decisions regarding the ongoing war.

In addition, Ben-Gvir held a conference on Wednesday in the Knesset in which he announced that contrary to the status quo that has existed for decades, Jews are permitted to pray during visits to the Temple Mount. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-811719>

OP ED

Mostly Peaceful Assassinations



Daniel Greenfield

The attempted assassination of President Trump was on the right side of history. The inch that spared his life was on the wrong side of history.

Leftists see history as a series of confrontations between progressive and reactionary forces. The escalation of those confrontations from political protests "dissent is patriotic" to violent riots "the language of the unheard" to terrorism "the last desperate struggle of outraged and exasperated human nature" is blamed on the failure of society to become sufficiently socialist.

The right side of history arrives when society, and all conservative and reactionary forces, is overthrown. Assassinating a president, especially a reactionary one, is a means to that end.

Over the last 9 years, liberals had pursued every possible legal and illegal means from secret investigations to lawfare to street violence to prosecution on invented grounds to stop Trump.

Are we supposed to believe that the same political interests that defended the violent BLM riots as "mostly peaceful" were willing to shrink away from a targeted assassination of Trump?

Just call it a mostly peaceful assassination.

Nearly every Democrat politician, media outlet and cultural force has consistently made the case for the last 9 years that Trump is a unique threat that must be stopped by any means.

If there is anything that they have demonstrated over the years, it's that they don't believe any value, principle or safeguard matters more than getting him. Or getting to the right side of history. A movement vandalizing art treasures, killing babies and destroying black neighborhoods for the greater good could hardly quibble with one man's death.



Every legal and moral code has been made subservient to the right side of history. The ends of saving the planet and transforming society always justify the means. Violence is a means. Like racism or breaking into the Capitol, it's not inherently wrong, its morality rests on whether it falls on the right and progressive side or the wrong and reactionary side of history.

To regret the violence is to also to regret the movement. Those liberals who came to regret the violence eventually became conservatives because they came to question the ends.

Liberals ask us to accept two incompatible notions, that Trump is Hitler and they regret his attempted assassination. But if Trump indeed is Hitler, then wouldn't shooting him be justified? Either they don't believe their own analogy or they don't regret the assassination attempt.

There's no doubt that the obsessive hatred for Trump is real, but the need is as real as the hate. Every Republican presidential candidate, even the most milquetoast of them like Mitt Romney, have been compared to Hitler because the right side of history needs someone to hate.

Trump, unlike Romney or George W. Bush, understood that and embraced the persona. In contrast to many other Republicans, he didn't expect to be liked by those who wanted to hate him. And the right side of history is all about finding someone to hate to justify the violence.

The greatest lie that leftists tell themselves is that they are violent only as a reaction. Someone, society, an economic system, human nature, always started it and they're the ones fighting back. The reality is that the real purpose of every radical movement is violence. The promise of utopia is unachievable, but the impossible dream and its accompanying impossible standards justify the destruction of every flawed institution and the flawed people who live by it.

In France, leftists rioted before and after they won the election. Why riot after you've won? Because violence is both the means to victory and the ultimate purpose of victory. Out of power, leftists riot, in power they kill. The right side of history is the power to kill absolutely everyone.

Killing Trump was not an aberration, a turn away from the right side of history, but the thing itself. In the aftermath of the assassination attempt, the machinery of denial and projection hums along, spinning off conspiracy theories, projections and rationalizations. Ear truthers claim that Trump wasn't really hit. Prominent intellectuals and academics speculate that it was a set up. Democrats and the media explain that it's conservatives who are the violent dangerous ones.

An act of violence is an opportunity for self-examination. Mass murder, as Stalin was said to have pointed out, operates on the scale of statistics which is impossible for people to take in. Anne Frank is comprehensible where the Holocaust is not. A single story or moment can crystalize violence while a systematic campaign of destruction is too big to take in.

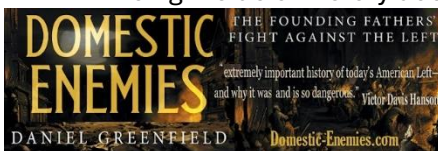
The Trump assassination attempt did what previous larger scale outbursts of leftist violence, like the congressional baseball game shooting, the campaign against the justices and BLM race riots could not because the man at the center of it had become the symbol of the unwoke. The seconds of the assassination showed what the right side of history really looks like up close.

The Left fears that moment because it understands the power of symbolism. It cannot bend economies to its will, command the ocean tide or change the human heart, but it understands how to tell a story because telling stories is what it does. The right side of history is a story that killed millions. The Trump assassination is the story of the right side of history. And its ugliness.

The Trump assassination, like the terrors of the French and Russian revolution, and Mao and Pol Pot in China and Cambodia, show what happens when the Left actually gets what it wants.

In Butler, PA, liberals briefly tasted what they had wanted all along. Some were shocked while others gloried in it. And that is not only the story of the Trump assassination, but of the Left. It's the story of two centuries of mass murder, torture, fear, terror and the destruction of everything.

The right side of history doesn't unite us, it doesn't offer hope and its only outcome is death.



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/2024/07/mostly-peaceful-assassinations.html>

B"SD

From: Lev U'Neshama - Tzfat Israel

To say No" to a mother when she requests what her children needs, is heart-wrenching for us. We want to be able to say, "Yes", so the children can have new sport shoes and/or eyeglasses.

Presently numerous requests for sport shoes and eyeglasses cannot be filled and parents are told that they are on a waiting list.

We are in a quandary concerning the lack of funds to provide necessities and, later, school supplies, therefore I'm writing you and I'm hoping you will say, "Yes".

The local optician who participates with Lev U'Neshama gives a free eye exam using advanced optical equipment. The child selects eyeglass frames from a special section in his display. You can sponsor a child for a pair of eyeglasses for \$60.

A local shoe store owner in Tzfat gives a generous discount for the children's shoes to stretch our funds. He often gives as his gift, two pairs of socks to each of the young "customers". You can sponsor a child for a pair of sport shoes for \$40. Shoes within a price category are available for the children to make a personal selection.

For many years Lev U'Neshama has provided school supply shopping coupons to each of our Lev U'Neshama families. It is redeemed at our one-and-only office supply store in Tzfat. The family-owned store staff is delighted to participate with us every year and they offer a generous discount. Our families tend to have many children so they come as a group to do the much-anticipated school supply shopping. Often the store owner gives a pack of pencils to each family as his gift. It's a happy time for everyone. Sponsoring a family for a shopping coupon is \$60.

Our Education Fund has about ½ the amount needed for school supplies, notwithstanding what is needed for sport shoes and eyeglasses.

Schools are beginning to close for the summer and, G-d willing, the political situation will allow our children to attend school the end of August/beginning of September. We are starting now to reach out for funds so we will be in a position to send out the school supply coupons middle of August as well as get the children ready for the new school year with sport shoes and eyeglass replacement, if necessary.

I am therefore sending this letter to everyone in my email address book in the hopes of garnering funds for this project. (You might receive a duplicate letter.)

(If you are already a supporter of Lev U'Neshama, please know that we appreciate what you are already sending us.)

Donations in any amount would be gratefully accepted, by check or Zelle bank method.

Checks must be made payable to our US volunteer representative, Simcha Smolensky, (my son) and sent to:

Rabbi Simcha Smolensky
6933 N Kedzie Ave Unit 116
Chicago IL 60645

If you choose the Zelle payment method, US to US bank, contact me at: mortsmo@aol.com and I will provide the information for you to complete the transfer. You can go to the Zelle website or through an app on your cellphone if your bank doesn't offer the service. You may use a credit card, as well.

Your help is critically needed and the children and I am eager for your "Yes."

Shalom,

Yaffa Smolensky, Volunteer Program Manager Email: mortsmo@aol.com