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Bodies of 5 hostages were found in tunnel in Gaza's Israeli-designated humanitarian zone

IDF had adjusted zone in Khan Younis, ordering civilians to evacuate area where tunnel found; soldier dies, 2 others badly hurt in Gaza, apparently after inhaling toxic fumes

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 8:15 pm



IDF troops are seen at the entrance to a tunnel in southern Gaza's Khan Younis where the bodies of five Israeli hostages were held, July 24, 2024 (Israel Defense Forces)

The bodies of five Israeli hostages brought back to Israel in a [special operation](#) on Wednesday were recovered from a tunnel located in the Israeli-designated humanitarian zone in the southern Gaza Strip, the military said Thursday.

The Israel Defense Forces adjusted the zone ahead of the operation in southern Gaza's Khan Younis and ordered Palestinian civilians in part of it, where the tunnel was located, to temporarily evacuate.

In the operation on Wednesday, the bodies of Ravid Katz, 51, Oren Goldin, 33, Maya Goren, 56, Sgt. Kiril Brodski, 19, and Staff Sgt. Tomer Yaakov Ahimas, 20, were recovered by IDF special forces and members of the Shin Bet security agency.

All five were previously declared dead by the IDF, though their bodies continued to be held in Gaza until Wednesday. They were all killed on October 7 and their bodies were dragged into Gaza by Hamas-led terrorists.

The IDF said that in recent weeks it obtained intelligence, including from Shin Bet interrogations of detained terrorists in Gaza, on the location of the tunnel where Hamas was holding the bodies of the hostages.



Hostages recovered by the IDF from southern Gaza's Khan Younis on July 25, 2024: top L-R Oren Goldin, Maya Goren, Ravid Katz; bottom: L-R Sgt. Kiril Brodski and Staff Sgt. Tomer Yaakov Ahimas. (Courtesy)

The tunnel was 200 meters long and about 20 meters deep and featured several rooms, according to the military. It took combat engineers several hours to dig down to reach the tunnel.

IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari in a press conference said the “complex” operation to recover the bodies took place in “the heart of Khan Younis,” where the military had operated and withdrawn from earlier this year.

“The troops raided the area and reached an underground site based on accurate intelligence, from several sources... where they found the five hostages hidden behind a wall in the tunnel,” Hagari said.

To enable the operation, the IDF’s 98th Division launched a new offensive in Khan Younis earlier this week. Hagari said the troops have killed numerous terror operatives amid the offensive so far.

The bodies of the hostages were brought back to Israel on Wednesday afternoon and taken to be identified. Once they were identified, the families of the hostages were notified.



Members of the Shin Bet security agency recover the bodies of Israeli hostages in southern Gaza’s Khan Younis, July 24, 2024. (Shin Bet)

There are now thought to be 111 hostages in Gaza, including the remains of 39 confirmed dead by the IDF, out of the 251 people abducted during the Hamas onslaught nearly 300 days ago.

Brodski and Ahimas were killed while serving in the forward command team of Col. Asaf Hamami, the commander of the Gaza Division’s Southern Brigade, who was also killed on October 7 as they tried to fight off dozens of Hamas terrorists invading Kibbutz Nirim. The bodies of all three were abducted to Gaza, where Hamami’s remains are believed to still be.

Goldin, who ran Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak’s mechanic shop, was among the first members of the community’s civilian defense team to respond to the attack. He was killed in the fighting and his body was taken to Gaza.

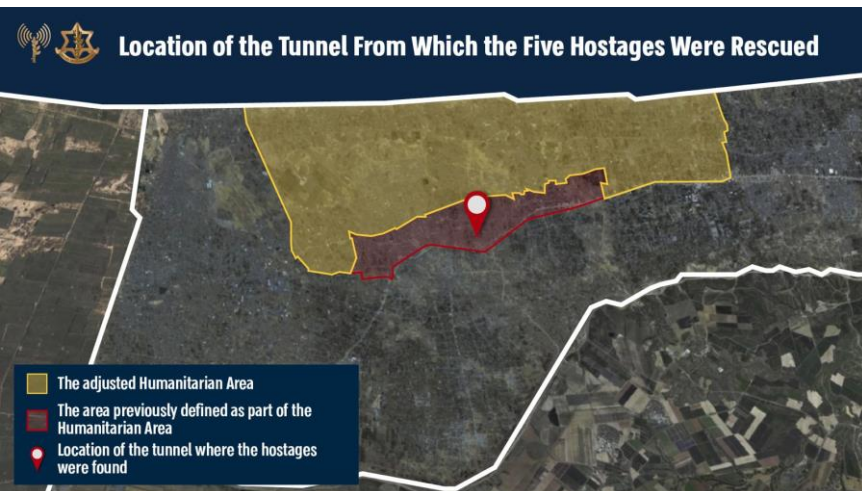
Goren, from Nir Oz, was setting up the kibbutz’s kindergarten on the morning of October 7 when the Hamas attack erupted and she was snatched by the terrorists. Her husband, Avner, also 56, was murdered inside the couple’s home during the attack.

Katz was a member of the Kibbutz Nir Oz security team, who

battled the terrorists on October 7, before being killed and his body abducted.

Troops operating in Gaza have managed so far to rescue seven hostages alive, along with the remains of 24 other captives, including the five recovered Wednesday and three abductees mistakenly killed by the military as they tried to escape their captors.

This map released July 25, 2024 shows the location of a tunnel in southern Gaza’s Khan Younis where the bodies of five Israeli hostages were held. (Israel Defense Forces)



during a weeklong truce in late November, and four hostages were released before that.

One more person has been listed as missing since October 7, and their fate is still unknown.

Hamas is also holding two Israeli civilians who entered the Strip in 2014 and 2015, as well as the bodies of two IDF soldiers who were killed in 2014.

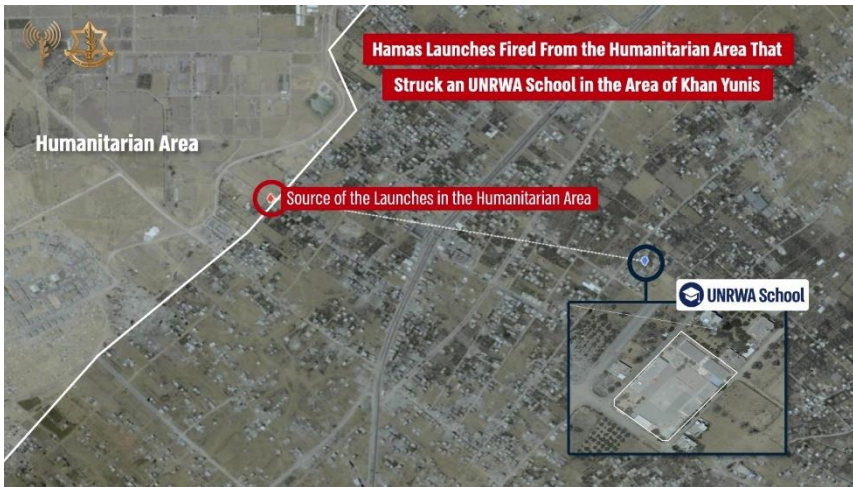
Hamas rockets kill two Palestinian civilians

Rockets launched by Hamas on Wednesday from the Israeli-designated humanitarian zone in the Gaza Strip struck a United Nations-run school in Khan Younis, killing and wounding Palestinians, the IDF said.

According to the IDF, it received reports from international aid organizations that two civilians were killed and several more were wounded after the rockets struck UNRWA's Al-Qarara school.

The IDF said the rockets were fired by Hamas from the humanitarian zone, but failed to cross the border into Israel, falling short on the school in Khan Younis.

In a move coordinated by COGAT and the World Health Organization, the wounded Palestinians were taken to a field hospital run by the International Medical Corps in central Gaza's Deir al-Balah, the IDF added.



IDF infographic showing the location of a UNRWA school in Khan Younis purportedly hit by Hamas rockets on July 24, 2024. (IDF)

More than 60 targets were struck by Israeli Air Force fighter jets, attack helicopters and drones in the Gaza Strip over the past day, the military said earlier Wednesday, as ground troops continued operations in Khan Younis, Rafah, and the Netzarim Corridor area.

In Khan Younis, the IDF said troops with the 98th Division killed numerous gunmen and destroyed some 50 sites belonging to terror

groups over the past day.

Soldier dies apparently after inhaling toxic fumes in Gaza

A soldier died and two more were seriously hurt overnight in a non-combat incident in the southern Gaza Strip that is under Military Police investigation, the IDF announced Thursday.



Staff Sgt. Noam Douek, 19, killed in Gaza on July 25, 2024, possibly after inhaling toxic fumes. (Courtesy)

The soldier was named as Staff Sgt. Noam Douek, 19, of the 401st Armored Brigade's 9th Battalion, from Kiryat Motzkin. Two more soldiers of the 9th Battalion were listed in serious condition.

The military suspected that Douek was killed and the other soldiers were hurt by toxic fumes from a generator in the room they were sleeping in overnight.

Further details were under investigation by the Military Police.

Israel's toll in the ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza and in military operations along the border with the Strip stands at 329. The toll includes a police officer killed in a hostage rescue mission and a Defense Ministry civilian contractor <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bodies-of-5-hostages-were-found-in-tunnel-in-gazas-israeli-designated-humanitarian-zone/>

Two IDF soldiers wounded in West Bank drive-by shooting attack

Reservists hit by gunfire during operation on Route 55 near Nabi Ilyas; third soldier treated at scene for minor injury

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 12:21 pm



First responders at the scene of a shooting attack in the West Bank on July 25, 2024. (Courtesy Magen David Adom)

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a drive-by shooting attack on the Route 55 highway in the West Bank on Thursday morning, the Israel Defense Forces and medics said.

According to an initial IDF probe, reservist soldiers carrying out a patrol on the highway near the Palestinian village of Nabi Ilyas came under fire from a passing vehicle. The vehicle with the gunman fled the scene.

One of the soldiers, aged 25, was moderately wounded, while the second reservist, aged 34, was listed in good condition, the Magen David Adom ambulance service said. The pair were taken to Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba for treatment.

MDA said a third soldier was treated at the scene for very minor injuries not directly caused by the gunfire, and did not require hospitalization.

The IDF said it was searching for the assailants, bolstering forces in the area, and encircling nearby Palestinian towns.

Tensions have been high in the West Bank amid the war in the Gaza Strip, which began on October 7 when thousands of Hamas terrorists attacked southern Israel under a barrage of rockets fired at population centers all over the country. They brutally killed some 1,200 people, amid instances of torture and rape, and seized 251 hostages.

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, 23 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/two-idf-soldiers-wounded-in-west-bank-drive-by-shooting-attack/>

IDF fails to intercept Hezbollah drones, fires break out in northern Israel

The IDF acknowledged that it had tried to shoot down the drones and failed, without explaining why or how they might improve in the future.

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) JULY 25, 2024 18:32 **Updated:** JULY 25, 2024 20:46



Fires in the north (photo credit: Eyal Margolin / Flash 90)

Hezbollah's drones beat the IDF's defenses in the North again on Thursday, causing damage in Avadon and Manarah and fires in fields in other parts of the Galilee.

There were contradictory reports about whether anyone was injured with the IDF claiming no injuries, or no injuries from a later attack without addressing an earlier attack, but some reports saying up to 10 people may have been hurt indirectly by debris.

The IDF acknowledged that it had tried to shoot down the drones and failed, without explaining why or how they might

improve in the future.

The Jerusalem Post has been told by numerous top IDF sources that Hezbollah's drones are a major problem for Israel's multitier air defense systems, even as the same officials have been claiming for months that they are on the verge of a new solution for the issue.



A wildfire in Israel's north. (credit: KKL-JNF Staff and Foresters.)

In addition, some of the fires seemed to be caused by the IDF interceptor misses, though the military's message was not entirely clear on this point.

Israeli Fire and Rescue Services arrived at the scenes of the fires to handle the situation.

The IDF also stated that sirens regarding rocket and missile launches were activated due to the possibility of falling shrapnel from the interception attempts.

Strikes on Hezbollah targets

Responding, the air force struck Hezbollah's

military and terror structure in southern Lebanon on Thursday evening.

The IDF's strikes hit the areas of Aitaroun and Ayta ash Shab. Additionally, the IDF artillery fired to remove threats in multiple areas along southern Lebanon.

Earlier, the air force killed a Hezbollah terrorist in the Rab El Thalathine area in southern Lebanon from which Hezbollah has been firing on Israel.

The terrorist had been identified by troops from Unit 869.

In addition, artillery forces fired at the Shebaa and Ayta ash Shab areas (one of two rounds) in southern Lebanon. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-811940>

Netanyahu thanks Biden for 50 years of Israel support: 'From a proud Jewish Zionist, to a proud Irish-American Zionist'

PM meets POTUS in Oval Office, exchanging courtesies; 'We have a lot to discuss,' Biden says; Netanyahu aims to resolve armament issues, hostage deal, situation in north and settler sanctions

Itamar Eichner, Washington|13:33

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is meeting U.S. President Joe Biden on Thursday evening in the Oval Office.

The meeting comes after Biden announced his withdrawal from the presidential race, passing the baton to his deputy, Kamala Harris. Despite dropping out, Biden will remain in office until January, freeing him from the political constraints of the campaign. Israel hopes to leverage this period to achieve maximum coordination on several key issues.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meeting US President Joe Biden in

the Oval Office (Photo: AP/Susan Walsh)

"Welcome back Mr. Prime Minister. We've got a lot to talk about. I think we should get to it. The floor is yours," Biden said at the opening of their meeting.

"Mr. President, we have known each other for 40 years, and you've known every prime minister for 50 years, from Golda Meir. **From a proud Jewish Zionist, to a proud Irish-American Zionist, I want to thank you for 50 years of public service and 50 years of support** for the state of Israel," Netanyahu thanked Biden for his long-standing support of Israel.

"I look forward to discussing with you today, and working with you in the months ahead, on the great issues before us," Netanyahu added. "I look forward to it as well," Biden replied.

"By the way, that first meeting with Prime Minister Golda Meir, she had an assistant sitting next to her named Rabin. That's how far back I go. I was only 12 then," Biden quipped.

Netanyahu, who took office in January last year, is making his first visit to the White House as Biden's guest. Until now, Netanyahu and Biden had only met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly last year, where Biden promised a White House invitation by the end of the year. However, the October 7 events disrupted those plans, leading to Biden's historic visit to Israel instead.

Following his meeting with Biden, Netanyahu is also scheduled to meet with Vice President Harris at the White House at 11:30 p.m. (Israel time. This meeting is equally significant, given Harris's potential to become the next U.S. president. Building a foundational trust and addressing past tensions are seen as crucial, as Harris is viewed as more critical of Israel and Netanyahu within the Biden administration.

Earlier, Harris condemned protests against Netanyahu, saying, "I condemn any individual connected to the brutal terrorist organization Hamas, which has vowed to destroy the State of Israel and kill Jews. Pro-Hamas graffiti and rhetoric are abhorrent, and we must not tolerate this in our nation. I also condemn the burning of the American flag."

Meanwhile, dozens of protesters are gathered outside the White House chanting, "Netanyahu, you can hide, but we accuse you of genocide," "Free Palestine," and "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." Some demonstrators held up an effigy of Netanyahu with blood on his hands, and there were reports of confrontations with Israelis.

Netanyahu's bullet points

Israel's primary goal is to coordinate with Biden on the issue of a hostage deal. An American official noted there is a sense that a deal might be possible this time since both sides are interested, but not everyone in the White House is convinced, fearing Netanyahu may be stalling. Biden is determined to secure a deal for his legacy and to bring the hostages home.

The **meeting will focus on reaching an understanding on the framework,** particularly on the two issues Netanyahu insists on: the Philadelphi Corridor and the Netzarim Corridor.

Next week, an Israeli delegation is expected to visit Qatar, and it is possible that CIA Director Bill Burns will also be involved to hammer out the details. Israeli officials believe that military pressure on the Philadelphi Corridor led to a change in Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar's stance, causing him to drop his insistence on a commitment to end the war. However, Sinwar now insists that negotiations for the second phase continue indefinitely to prevent Israel from resuming the war.

Israel sees an opportunity for a deal but acknowledges unresolved issues remain. Netanyahu is confident that a favorable deal will be approved by his government, preventing its collapse. Biden has invited both the families of the hostages who accompanied Netanyahu and those in Washington to the meeting, a move intended to increase pressure on Netanyahu to agree to a deal.

In addition to discussing a Gaza cease-fire, Netanyahu will address the situation in the north and diplomatic efforts during his meeting with Biden. If diplomatic efforts fail, Israel may need to take military action against Hezbollah and requires U.S. support, particularly in terms of armaments. Netanyahu plans to emphasize that a Gaza cease-fire does not obligate Israel to cease fire in the north, even if Hezbollah halts its attacks.

The **post-war situation in Gaza is also expected to be a topic of discussion.** The U.S. has repeatedly urged Netanyahu to declare his plans, warning that without a clear strategy, Hamas will rearm. [In his speech to Congress Wednesday night,](#) Netanyahu spoke about establishing a civilian administration in Gaza committed to demilitarization and deradicalization. However, the plan cannot proceed under the current conditions, especially if terrorists return to northern Gaza.

Hezbollah attack on northern border community of Metula (Photo: Rabih DAHER / AFP)

Normalization with Saudi Arabia will also be on the agenda. Unlike his speech at the UN last September, Netanyahu did not explicitly mention Saudi Arabia in his address to Congress but spoke of a vision for a regional alliance, implying Saudi involvement.

Netanyahu believes this alliance is crucial to counter Iran's influence in the Middle East, viewing it as not only a goal for the free world but also a necessity for moderate regimes in the region. "I am talking about a regional defense alliance that will be not only a defensive coalition but a security coalition in every sense," he said.

Before departing for Washington, Netanyahu was scheduled to meet with settler leaders who planned to express their deep concerns about



continued U.S. sanctions on settlers. Netanyahu will raise this issue with Biden, though it is unlikely he will succeed in convincing the administration.

He will also need to clarify if the administration plans to impose sanctions on ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich following Ben-Gvir's statement on changing the status quo on the Temple Mount, which prompted Netanyahu's office to issue a statement from Washington asserting that the status quo will not change.



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

In his speech to Congress, Netanyahu also highlighted the issue of armaments, calling on the U.S. to expedite the transfer of munitions to Israel to "finish the job faster." While there has been significant progress following recent talks, the transfer of one-ton bombs remains unresolved. Netanyahu hopes to finalize this matter in his meeting with Biden, though the administration insists that such bombs cause significant damage and casualties, making them dangerous to use near civilians.

Additionally, Israel will request that President Biden take more proactive measures against the Houthis in Yemen to deter them from acting against Israel and the coalition. Following [Saturday's strike on the port of Hodeidah](#), there was satisfaction among moderate Arab states, but more action is needed.

On Friday, Netanyahu will fly to Palm Beach, Florida, to [meet with former U.S. President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump](#). The meeting will be closed to the press, with journalists accompanying Netanyahu remaining in Washington. After the meeting, Netanyahu will return to Washington to observe the Sabbath before flying back to Israel on Saturday night. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1lbvfxya#autoplay>

Britain reportedly will withdraw its objection to international arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant

New York Times reports that Britain's new Labor government is expected to change policy toward Israel and the war in Gaza; As a result the UK is distancing itself from the US position on the Hague Tribunal, and will therefore withdraw the objection made by the previous government against the request for the arrest warrants;. London also is expected resume funding UNRWA

[Itamar Eichner](#) | 11:56

Since the war in the Gaza Strip began, Britain's Conservative government, like the U.S. government and in almost complete coordination, has taken a very firm and friendly stance toward Israel. But with the historic change of government in Great Britain under the leadership of the new Labour government of U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, London is expected to enact a policy change regarding Israel the way it is conducting the war, the New York Times reported, citing two British sources.

According to the Times, the new government in London will withdraw by the end of this week the objection that the previous government submitted to the International Criminal Court in The Hague (ICC) to the request to issue international arrest warrants for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. Under the new government, according to the report, **the United Kingdom is distancing itself from the US position** on the issue of the tribunal, as well as on the issue of the war in Gaza.



U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer (Photo: David Cliff/AP)

In recent days Israeli officials have tried to dissuade the new British government from the decision. Britain's chief prosecutor currently is visiting Israel in order to examine the issue. Israeli officials say that there will be damage to relations between London and Jerusalem if Britain takes these steps.

The Times also reported that, last week, Britain announced that it would resume funding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), after concluding that the agency had taken steps to ensure that it met the "highest standards of neutrality." This conclusion

comes despite Israel's accusations that dozens of its employees were complicit in the Hamas attack on October 7. Starmer himself is a lawyer, and an expert in international law and human rights. **That is total unmitigated garbage by UNRWA and the UN groups. - rdb**

The **outgoing Conservative government headed by Rishi Sunak submitted to the international court an objection to the request of prosecutor Karim Khan to issue arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant.**

These steps, according to the New York Times, show that the new Labour government is ready to change policy and exert significantly more pressure on Netanyahu due to Israel's military operation in Gaza, which is much more in line with international legal institution than with the United States.

It is **also possible that there will be a halt to weapons shipments to Israel.** Analysts note that Britain's new government has not yet acted to stop arms shipments to Israel, and that government officials are still awaiting a legal review of whether Israel is violating human rights law. Starmer, the newspaper wrote, is expected to lead a very independent path and not necessarily coordinate with leaders such as French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and U.S. President Joe Biden.

A key figure when it comes to changing the policy is expected to be Richard Hermer, a well-known British human rights lawyer and close colleague of Starmer who appointed him to be the new Attorney General. Hermer, who was born into a Jewish family and is a supporter of Jewish causes, will be highly influential in advising Starmer and will be the one who will most likely decide everything related to policy toward Israel.

The **war in Gaza, according to the report, puts Starmer and the Labor Party in a problematic position.** Before the general election, Starmer did not want to distance himself too much from Rishi Sonak's government when it came to the war, and he also worked very hard to purge the party of antisemitic elements, such as previous party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

While Strummer expressed clear support for Israel at first, alongside calls for increased humanitarian aid to Gaza, he later called for a cease-fire. However, many of the Labour voters, especially the Muslim ones, saw this as too little and punished Labour candidates in recent elections. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sj1llgxyz>

A surge of illegal infiltration from the Jordanian border: 'From a trickle to a flood'
Understanding the consequences of the past infiltration should cause the relevant parties "to find solutions to the issue as soon as possible," Barda said.

By **JERUSALEM POST STAFF** JULY 25, 2024 18:46 Updated: JULY 25, 2024 18:55



A Syrian soldier is seen standing in the Nasib border crossing with Jordan in Deraa, Syria July 7, 2018. (photo credit: OMAR SANADIKI/REUTERS)

There is a rapidly growing phenomenon of illegal infiltration into Israel through the Jordan border and the dangers that come with it, warns Dr. Yossi Barda from the Court of the Population and Immigration Authority.

The Court of the Population and Immigration Authority, where Barda works, is the responsible legal authority for reviewing the detention of infiltrators and illegal residents in custody until their removal from Israel.

Such illegal residents have included four infiltrators from Turkey who entered Israel on two different dates. They were only caught after an extended period during routine immigration enforcement.

All four testified that they had contacted a smuggling network in their country of origin. Furthermore, the smuggling network had arranged for them to stay in an Amman hotel until they were transported to the border, where they had Israeli drivers who waited for them on the other side and transferred them to Beer Sheva or Tel Aviv.



Two of the infiltrators testified that they entered the border with a group of five Indians, who have not been caught to this day.

To the **Israeli Immigration Policy Center's** knowledge, this is the first time that Indian nationals have infiltrated through the Jordan border, joining nationals from Ethiopia, Georgia, Moldova, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Jordan, and Sudan.

A constant warning of the dangers of infiltration

The Court has repeatedly warned about the increase in infiltration. An additional case occurred when two Sudanese infiltrators were arrested at the Jordan border and brought to the Court in July.

The two infiltrators said they arrived in Jordan to work legally on a direct flight and had a valid passport. However, they decided to infiltrate into Israel independently near the Dead Sea without the assistance of smugglers. They were then caught by soldiers and transferred to custody.

In **addition to Barda's warning, he added that lessons must be learned from past infiltrations** and their consequences, such as in 2006, when there was infiltration through the Egyptian border.

Understanding the consequences of the past infiltration should cause the relevant parties "to find solutions to the issue as soon as possible," Barda said.

"There **is also a need to address the repeated testimonies of detainees who were captured after infiltrating Israel.** There exists a mechanism that coordinates [the infiltrators] departure from the country of origin and arrival in Jordan" to then breach Israel's border.

Founder of the Immigration Policy Center, Yonatan Yakubovich, referred to the invasion of infiltrators from the Jordanian border as an issue that went from "a trickle to a flood."

"Today, most of the infiltrators caught come from East Africa, exactly as happened in 2006 at the Egyptian border. Even more seriously, similar to the Egyptian border, experience shows that smuggling networks that develop for smuggling infiltrators are later used for terror and criminal elements, and here, too, we see a dangerous increase in the smuggling of weapons from the Jordanian border to the territories of Judea and Samaria," he explained.

Placing urgency on the government, Yakubovich added that "the Israeli Immigration Policy Center has warned of the threat for a long time, and official judicial bodies are now addressing it. The Israeli government must wake up and act quickly to prosecute infiltrators criminally."

"Although it is late, if we act quickly, there is still a chance that deterrence can be restored and the phenomenon reduced before it gets out of control and the damage becomes irreversible," He concluded.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-811934>

'The logical choice': 17 years after he fled, could Dahlan lead a post-Hamas Gaza?

"He has bridges with everyone but not necessarily liked by everyone. But I can't think of anyone else who has his credentials."

By [SETH J. FRANTZMAN](#) JULY 25, 2024 16:04 **Updated:** JULY 25, 2024 18:29



Mohammed Dahlan, a former Fatah security chief, in his office in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. STRINGER/ REUTERS ID: 546201 Image Remarks: (photo credit: STRINGER/ REUTERS)

Former Gaza-based Palestinian politician Mohammad Dahlan has been floated as a person who might return to Gaza and play a renewed role there, according to a recent report by The Wall Street Journal, however Dahlan himself refuted these claims, saying he would not take a leadership role despite rumors circulating.

The **one-time Fatah strongman who once ran Gaza has been living abroad for many years after he was forced to flee Gaza during the Hamas coup in 2007.** Dahlan has been at odds in the past with the Palestinian Authority leadership, and he has resided in the United Arab Emirates for many years, where he enjoys good relations with the leadership.

The **reports about Dahlan could be relevant, according to a person with knowledge** about the matter.

“I think Dahlan is the only possible transitional leader now – more like [former Afghan president Hamid] Karzai,” the source said.

This means it’s worth taking these reports seriously and looking back at Dahlan’s origins and the current state of play in Gaza.

Dahlan’s name has come up in relation to Gaza – and for good reason. There is a lack of names of those who might be able to fill a void in leadership in Gaza if Hamas is weakened. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to the [US Congress on Wednesday](#) and suggested that while Israel would maintain security over Gaza to prevent another Hamas October 7-style attack, civilian leadership was needed in Gaza.

For more than six months, there has been talk in Israel about the need for a “day after” plan. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has floated the idea several times, but it has come up against pushback from other parts of the government.



Dahlan and Abu Mazen in Ramallah (credit: REUTERS)

The problem is that there aren’t a lot of good options for rulers of Gaza. The idea of using “clans” to rule parts of Gaza, or “civilian bubbles” free of Hamas, appeared to be shot down when Hamas murdered a well-known clan leader. The clans will only grow in strength if there is chaos and Hamas is completely weakened.

Clans are not known for being good leaders of areas, unless all law and order has collapsed, and there are no governments or terrorist groups in charge. This was the problem discovered in Iraq and

Syria regarding [“clan” rule](#).

At the same time, representatives of 14 Palestinian factions recently went to Beijing, where they agreed to work on reconciliation and unity, including Fatah and Hamas. Therefore, there is an absence of Palestinian leadership for Gaza that would also be amenable to Israel.

The silver lining is that there have been reports about meetings between Israeli, UAE, and American officials to discuss Gaza. According to a report at Axios, “The Israeli officials said the Emirati foreign minister Abdullah Bin Zayed (ABZ) hosted the meeting. President Biden’s top Middle East adviser, Brett McGurk, and State Department counselor Tom Sullivan attended from the US side.”

Dahlan could be a possible leader in the future, according to a person with knowledge about the matter.

“He has bridges with everyone but is not necessarily liked by everyone,” the source said. “But I can’t think of anyone else who has his credentials.”

The only **caveat to this would be if jailed Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti is released. Barghouti is popular, but it is unlikely Israel will release him even as part of a hostage deal.**

The logical choice

DAHLAN ALSO would be a logical choice from the UAE’s perspective. He enjoys connections in Gaza and has been absent from Gaza for 17 years. Absence likely makes some of the older generation look fondly upon the pre-2007 era, when they had more peace and Hamas hadn’t destroyed Gaza in numerous wars. They might welcome the return of Dahlan.

Dahlan also has aged since when he was forced out. He has learned a lot in the UAE, and he knows much more about the region now, having reportedly dealt with key issues spanning the Middle East during his period abroad. Exile doesn’t make some incapable of returning. Yasser Arafat, it should be recalled, was in exile in Tunisia before returning after the First Intifada.

Dahlan's background

Dahlan was born in Khan Yunis in Gaza. Khan Yunis is also the hometown of many key Hamas leaders in Gaza today. In essence, one could conclude that Gaza has basically been led by Khan Yunis men in recent decades. A profile in New Lines Magazine by Neri Zilber in 2020 provided an insight into Dahlan’s rise and then his movement to exile: “After Arafat’s death in November 2004 and the election of Abbas as the new Palestinian president, Dahlan was given more powers, serving as Minister for Civil Affairs – effectively the main Palestinian interlocutor with Israel.

He resigned the post to run in the 2006 parliamentary elections, securing the top spot in the Khan Yunis district against a packed field of Fatah and Hamas candidates... People that know Dahlan – even his opponents – highlight his intelligence and cleverness. Nearing 60 but still youthful, clean

shaven, with a strong helmet of black hair, he also looks the part of a modern Arab power player, dressing since his early days as Gaza's security chief in finely tailored suits."

How could Dahlan return?

How could Dahlan return? This is not entirely clear. The PA and Israel do not get along. The current Israeli government has no interest in seeing the PA run Gaza. The PA also doesn't want to work with Israel. Hamas is also willing to kill anyone it thinks is "collaborating."

In addition, Hamas has its sights set on taking over the West Bank. Having Dahlan move into a role relating to Gaza, with Hamas angling to take over PA institutions in Ramallah, could end up as a strange bait and switch, leaving a former PA strongman in charge of Gaza and Hamas riding into Ramallah to remove the aging oligarchic leadership of the PA.

There is a lot riding on what may happen in Gaza in the next several months. While Israel's leadership says it has plans for the day after, those plans have not materialized so far, even on a small scale. Much work remains to be done. Dahlan is a name that rings out, but Gaza is a complex place. It requires a lot of investment to rebuild, and Hamas is waiting under the rubble to return.

Dahlan's response

In response to the circulation of this proposal in various media sites, Dahlan himself posted on X on Thursday that he would not take such a role.

"I have repeatedly refused to accept any security, governmental or executive role," he said.

He suggested that the scenarios presented were being used to "thrill audiences" and that his only involvement in Gaza would be providing relief alongside "generous and continuous support from our brothers in the United Arab Emirates throughout this ongoing dirty genocide."

"We strongly affirm that our highest priority now is to end the war," Dahlan stressed.

He strongly stated that he would not support any choice regarding the future of Gaza unless it was "based on Palestinian national understandings" which involved "rebuilding the Palestinian political system through a transparent democratic process."

Dahlan also said that such an international plan for Gaza would have to result in the culmination of establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

<https://www.jpost.com/deals/article-811921>

New Knesset subcommittee to oversee IDF October 7 investigations

With a National Committee of Investigation lacking, the forum will serve as the FADC's tool for oversight and examination of all of the IDF's investigative reports.

By [ELIAV BREUER](#) JULY 25, 2024 16:23 **Updated:** JULY 25, 2024 19:31

IDF Soldiers, Kibbutz Beeri October 15, 2023 (photo credit: REUVEN CASTRO)

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee voted on Thursday to form a subcommittee to oversee and examine the IDF's internal investigations into its conduct before, during, and after the Hamas massacre on October 7.

According to the committee's statement, "With a National Committee of Investigation lacking, the forum will serve as the FADC's tool for oversight and examination of all of the IDF's investigative reports. The subcommittee will summon all of the officials relevant to the investigative reports – whether military, governmental, or civilian."

FADC chairman MK Yuli Edelstein (Likud) said in an accompanying statement, "For long months I have been calling for a National Committee of Investigation, which is the unit authorized by law to approach materials with the highest secrecy levels.

"The nature of a vacuum is to be filled, and lacking a National Committee of Investigation, the IDF has begun to investigate itself ... Investigations by the IDF and others are not and will not be a replacement for a National Committee of Investigation, which should have been formed long ago," Edelstein added.

Committee Chairman Yuli Edelstein leads a Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee meeting at the Knesset, the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem on May 8, 2024 (credit: YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90)

Members of the committee

Edelstein himself will chair the subcommittee, which will also include MKs Ram Ben Barak (Yesh Atid), Meir Cohen (Yesh Atid), Merav



Michaeli (Labor), Tzvi Sukkot (Religious Zionist Party), Gadi Eisenkot (National Unity), Yinon Azulay (Shas), Ze'ev Elkin (United Right), Sharon Nir (Yisrael Beytenu), Moshe Roth (United Torah Judaism), Limor son Harmelech (Otzma Yehudit), and Boaz Bismuth (Likud).

The subcommittee's formation comes a number of weeks after the IDF published its first investigation, about the events surrounding Kibbutz Be'eri on October 7, and ahead of the staggered release of additional investigations. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-811929>

2024 Olympics: Iran threatening Israeli athletes

An Iranian-backed campaign is attempting to strike fear into Israeli athletes in Paris for the Olympic Games by publishing their personal information among other things.

[Israel National News](#) Jul 25, 2024, 8:56 PM (GMT+3)

The Israel National Cyber Directorate revealed on Thursday that Iran is behind a new influence campaign that attempts to scare members of the Israeli delegation to the Olympics in Paris.

As part of the campaign, a group of hackers opened pages on social media that published the personal information of the athletes and sent threatening messages.

The campaign was run while attempting to impersonate a French organization named GUD.

The Cyber Directorate worked with the Israeli Olympic Committee and the Security and Emergency Department of the Ministry of Culture and Sport to form security instructions for the delegation.

Gaby Portnoy, the head of the Cyber Directorate said: "Iran is taking advantage of an apolitical international sports competition to advance digital terrorism against Israel and it's right to participate in these competitions.

Minister of Culture and Sport Miki Zohar added: "Again we are exposed to attempts by the head of the snake, Iran, to threaten Israeli athletes and to enact petty psychological terrorism against our amazing delegation. We here in Paris are continuing in full force and nothing will stop us - the athletes are as ready and determined as ever to bring achievements and our security system is ready for any scenario. We will not let up until we cut off the head of the Iranian snake." <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/393633>

Zelensky is preparing a capitulation referendum - V. Zaluzny to the West: "Your turn is coming - The freedoms of your citizens must be limited"

The conflict in Ukraine is a "transitional" war

Evangelos L. info@warnews247.gr 24.07.2024 | 22:41

The former commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine V. Zaluzny, in his first public speech as Ukraine's ambassador to the United Kingdom, called on the inhabitants of Western countries to "temporarily give up some freedoms for the sake of survival" as wars will increase...

"Perhaps the most difficult and important element is citizen preparedness, which is based on honest and transparent communication between the government and the people.

The public must agree to temporarily give up certain freedoms in order to survive.

Unfortunately, modern wars are everywhere.

They require efforts not only from the military, but also from society as a whole.

He also noted the growing role of technology in armed conflict and called the conflict in Ukraine a "war of transition."

According to Zaluzny, technologies are being created in Ukraine today, but there is no "applied and practical field to test them".

The ambassador believes that only together Ukraine and its partners will be able to "effectively use resources."

On May 9, V. Zelensky appointed Zaluzny Ambassador of Ukraine in London.

Revelation: Zelensky referendum on capitulation

Kiev may already be preparing for a referendum on peace talks with Moscow, as prolonging the standoff for years would be a disaster for Ukraine, political scientist Alexander Dudchak argues in an interview with RIA Novosti.

"They are already running out of opportunities. The population is decreasing. The average age in the trenches is increasing," noted the expert.

According to the political scientist, Ukraine is indeed preparing a referendum, but it is unlikely to

happen before January.

Research will show that **people are tired of military conditions** and are even willing to lose territory. Their opinion will be taken seriously, Dudchak stressed.

At the same time, he **noted that this does not mean that Kiev is going to capitulate.**

According **to him, Washington will also agree to a complete withdrawal of the Ukrainian Armed Forces from the new Russian territories.**

But the main thing will remain out of the discussion and that is none other than the political existence of the Kiev regime itself.

The Ukrainian Armed Forces will continue to pump weapons, and as a result, Russia will have another conflict in about five years, he estimated, closing his interview.

Mayor of Kyiv: Zelensky has no legitimacy, will be dragged to a referendum and a government of national unity

For **his part, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera that due to the absence of any popular legitimization of Zelensky, the scenario of holding a referendum on the issue of the agreement with Moscow is possible in the future.**

"I don't think he can come to such painful and important agreements on his own without popular legitimation," Klitschko said on the issue of territorial concessions, while pointing out that we are probably headed for a government of national unity.

Asked about the removal of the former head of the Ukrainian armed forces, V. Zaluzny, Klitschko said: "Yes, Zelensky has concentrated too much power in his office.

Therefore, the parliament has lost any relevant role.

"We must never forget that we have a democracy linked to the tradition of European governments." [NOT TRUE Ukraine has been a US puppet government for years. - rdb

"We are fighting to defend ourselves from the Russian dictatorship, we want to remain different from Putin's regime," said the mayor of Kyiv, who has been a frequent critic of the Ukrainian president in the recent past.

A peace referendum holds surprises

In fact, there are some interesting points to glean from the mayor's words, geopolitical analyst Lucas Leiroz points out.

He is right **that Zelensky is at an impasse,** but his claims that the Ukrainian people would not accept losing territory seem to have no basis in reality.

The **Ukrainian people are tired of war and seem genuinely interested in achieving peace, despite the cost to Ukrainian "national pride."**

Thus, it is possible that **a referendum would show a favorable outcome for the negotiations – and perhaps this is precisely one of the reasons why Kiev insists on acting in an anti-popular and dictatorial way,** excluding ordinary people from the decision-making process during war.

On the other hand, **we must admit that Zelensky is in an extremely complicated political situation, indeed close to real "suicide".**

If he continues the war, the country will collapse.

If he dares to negotiate peace, he will be "drifted away" by Westerners who want hostilities to escalate.

Zelensky is unable to take any action, which is compounded by the fact that he is ruling illegally, since his term is officially over.

Kremlin: Zelensky's legitimacy is a serious obstacle to the negotiations

Earlier, the press secretary of the Russian president, N. Peskov, said that the question of the legitimacy of the leader of Kiev Zelensky, as well as the law prohibiting negotiations with Russia, remained serious obstacles and could complicate the settlement process.

At the **same time, he made it clear that Moscow does not know what is hidden behind the statements of Ukrainian Foreign Minister N. Kuleba and hopes to receive clarifications** in the near future.

"We do not know what is behind these statements, we have not even heard these statements from Mr. Kuleba's mouth.

We hope that we will receive some clarifications in the near future," Peskov said.

It is recalled that during talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing earlier in the day, Kuleba said

that Ukraine is ready for negotiations with Russia, adding that they should be reasonable and practical, with the aim of achieving a fair and lasting peace. <https://warnews247-gr.translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=uk&u=https://www.russia.com/601667-snipers-disrupt-ukrainian-troop-rotation/>

WATCH Russian snipers disrupt Ukrainian troop rotation

Sharpshooting teams have performed two successful missions over the past day, the Defense Ministry has said

The **Russian Defense Ministry has released footage showing the work of snipers in Donbass, where they are supporting Moscow's ongoing offensive.**

One clip shows a pair of sharpshooters eliminating a machine gun crew that was hindering an assault unit from moving forward. The short black-and-white video shows the moment one of the snipers took his shots in a wooded area.

According to the **Defense Ministry, the pair had to cross difficult terrain and get through minefields to reach their target. They also had to perform the mission amid constant Ukrainian shelling** and drone attacks. The snipers managed to hit their target from a distance of one kilometer, the ministry said.

One of the snipers put the distance between him and his target at 750 meters, adding that he "eliminated the machine gunner with the first shot." The man identified only by his callsign 'Derbent' also said that he had previously hit targets at a distance of up to 1,500 meters.

Another video shows a separate group of snipers equipped with large-bore rifles ambushing a Ukrainian unit that sought to reinforce the front line. The clip shows a group of men dressed in camouflage and equipped with garnished nets setting up a position in the bushes. One of them can then be seen making several shots.

The **clip then switches to black-and-white footage presumably taken with a camera the snipers** had with them, as well as from a drone flying in the area. The second part of the video shows a group of Ukrainian soldiers moving through the bushes at a certain distance from the snipers, with the Russians shooting at them.

According to the Defense Ministry, Russian forces discovered a path regularly used by Kiev to replenish troops at the front in the southern part of the Donetsk People's Republic. The snipers were then deployed to set up an ambush and disrupt the enemy's movements.

Moscow's forces are continuing offensive operations in Donbass and northeastern Kharkov Region. Russian troops have been steadily moving forward since seizing the strategic town of Avdeevka back in February. The Russian army has taken control over a total of four villages in the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics and in Kharkov Region over the past week alone, according to the Defense Ministry. <https://www.rt.com/russia/601667-snipers-disrupt-ukrainian-troop-rotation/>

Ukraine brings first female prisoners into army

Kiev's military is constantly seeking new ways to replenish its ranks

25 Jul, 2024 17:26

Kiev has sent its first seven female prisoners into the army, the Ukrainian Justice Ministry said on Thursday. The women expressed their desire to join up in exchange for parole, a statement published on Facebook said.

The move was made possible by a law adopted by parliament and signed by Vladimir Zelensky in May. The legislation allows people convicted of certain crimes to volunteer for the army in exchange for parole. Their requests are then assessed by a military medical commission and a court.

"The law on the mobilization of convicts, approved by the Verkhovna Rada, provides for the opportunity not only for men, but also women to enter the army," said Ukrainian Deputy Justice Minister Elena Vysotskaya.

The minister admitted that very few female convicts have expressed a desire to join the army so far. As of July 23, Ukrainian authorities had signed off on just seven such applications, she said. All the applicants were "put in contact" with the Ukrainian military, she added.

A total of 6,101 inmates have applied to join the armed forces in exchange for parole since the law was adopted in May, according to the ministry. More than 3,800 have already been released for service, the statement said.

Kiev is struggling to replenish its ranks after heavy losses suffered in battles against Russian forces. In June, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Ukraine's losses were five times higher than Moscow's. The Ukrainian military was losing some 50,000 personnel a month, he said then.

Ukraine's top military commander, Colonel General Aleksandr Syrsky, declined to give casualty figures in an interview with the Guardian this week. He called the level of losses a "sensitive" topic that could be exploited by Russia.

Kiev overhauled its national mobilization system this spring in a bid to tackle the shortage of military personnel. The reforms included lowering the draft age from 27 to 25, a significant tightening of mobilization rules, and harsher penalties for avoiding conscription.

Draft dodging has been a major problem for Kiev since it announced a general mobilization soon after the start of the conflict in February 2022. Some men are even willing to risk their lives to escape the country. In late May, the Ukrainian Border Guard reported that it had recovered the bodies of 45 people who had drowned while attempting to cross the Tisza river, which runs along the frontier with Hungary and Romania. In July, Ukrainian media reported that local doctors were offering leg-breaking services as "a unique opportunity to avoid mobilization." <https://www.rt.com/russia/601661-ukraine-female-prisoners-army/>

China warns US against impeding ties with Russia

Beijing's right to normal trade and economic cooperation should not be undermined, an embassy spokesperson has said

25 Jul, 2024 18:29

Washington should not undermine the economic and trade cooperation between Beijing and Moscow, which is based on equality and mutual benefit, Liu Pengyu, a spokesman for the Chinese embassy in the US, told the news agency TASS on Thursday.

The statement came after Daniel Kritenbrink, the US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, claimed Beijing was supporting Moscow's military operation against Ukraine by providing assistance to the Russian defense industry which, according to Washington, is having a destabilizing effect.

"China's right to engage in normal economic and trade exchanges with all countries, including Russia ... should not be undermined," Liu stated, calling Washington's allegations baseless.

"The US is organizing a campaign to help Ukraine while making groundless accusations," the Chinese spokesman said, slamming such an approach as "hypocritical and irresponsible," which he said China firmly opposes.

Beijing has always taken "an objective and fair stance" with regard to the Ukraine conflict and has actively promoted peace talks and a political resolution, the spokesman stressed.

"We don't seek selfish gains by fueling the tensions, nor do we provide weaponry to either side," Liu concluded.

Beijing has previously accused the US and its allies, which together supply the bulk of Kiev's military equipment, of hypocrisy, stating that Western powers should work on bringing Russia and Ukraine to the negotiating table instead of "shifting the blame" onto China for the continued hostilities.

However, the West, and particularly the US, has been claiming that Beijing is fueling Russia's military effort by supplying it with dual-use components that can be utilized in weapons production. Both Moscow and Beijing have rejected the allegations.

Nevertheless, the US has sanctioned dozens of Chinese businesses, accusing them of selling goods and components to Russia, including navigation devices and machine tools that can be used for both civilian and military purposes.

Among the latest steps, the US Treasury said it was raising "the risk of secondary sanctions for foreign financial institutions that deal with Russia's war economy," effectively threatening them with losing access to the American financial system.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has repeatedly stressed that economic and trade cooperation between China and Russia "will not be disrupted by any third party."

Trade between the two countries has hit all-time highs in light of Western sanctions against Moscow. Last year, mutual trade turnover surpassed \$240 billion, according to official data, with Russian imports from China

jumping nearly 47% to \$111 billion, and exports to China growing by 12.7%, to \$129 billion. Moscow and Beijing target \$300 billion in bilateral trade by 2030. <https://www.rt.com/news/601654-china-russia-trade-us-sanctions/>

U.S. jets scrambled to intercept four Chinese, Russian bombers near Alaska

By [Bill Gertz](#) - The Washington Times - Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Russia and Chinese nuclear-capable bombers entered the U.S. air defense identification zone near Alaska on Wednesday prompting North American Aerospace Defense Command jets to intercept the aircraft, the command said in a statement.

The bombers were identified as two Tu-95 Russian bombers and two Chinese H-6 bombers. Both are missile-launching strategic bombers.

The four bombers flew within international airspace and did not enter American or Canadian sovereign airspace, the statement said.

Sen. Dan Sullivan said the joint bomber flight highlights growing military cooperation between Beijing and Moscow.

“Make no mistake, this is an escalation—the first time Russia and China have sent a joint bomber taskforce into the Alaska ADIZ,” the Alaska Republican said in a statement.

“Fortunately, our brave military members working closely with our Canadian allies were ready, conducting joint operations to intercept these bombers.”

Mr. Sullivan said the Arctic is a critical zone of strategic competition for the United States, [Russia](#) and [China](#).

“As I have been warning our Pentagon leaders for years, these kinds of joint Russia and China incursions on the sea and in the air near Alaska will continue,” he said.

The Pentagon needs to build up military forces and infrastructure in the region to protect the Arctic and the Indo-Pacific region he said.

Russian bombers frequently fly into the U.S. and Canadian air defense zones in what military analysts say are attempts to test air defenses.

However, the presence of two Chinese bombers in the air defense zone is unusual and has not been reported before.

“NORAD fighter jets from the United States and Canada conducted the intercept.”

No additional details, such as the type of jets that conducted the intercept or a specific location of the activity were disclosed.

NORAD did not respond to an email request for comment on the bomber intrusion.

NORAD said in its statement that the bomber activity “is not seen as a threat” although it offered no explanation or reasons why.

“NORAD will continue to monitor competitor activity near North America and meet presence with presence,” the statement said.

The aerial intercept Wednesday coincided with the Navy hosting of the large-scale Rim of the Pacific international naval exercises now underway near Hawaii that involve military forces from 29 U.S. allies.

The intercept of the Russian and Chinese bombers also followed the Pentagon’s release this week of a major strategy report on the Arctic. The report stated U.S. military forces will continue to protect American sovereignty in the region from perceived threats, including Russian bomber flights in the region.

The report also said Russian and Chinese military forces are stepping up collaboration in the Arctic.

“PRC-[Russia](#) military cooperation, including joint exercises in the Arctic, continues to increase,” the report said.

The cooperation included joint naval patrols near Alaska in 2022 and 2023, and a memorandum

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/jul/24/chinese-russian-bombers-intercepted-inside-us-air>



[US Civil Defense News](#)
[@CaptCoronado](#)

Information: **The US only has ONE semi-operational missile defense system - The GMD system currently active in Alaska with a smaller contingent active in California.**



Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD), previously National Missile Defense (NMD), is an anti-ballistic missile system implemented by the United States of America for defense against intercontinental ballistic missiles, during the midcourse phase of ballistic trajectory flight. These are currently located in Alaska and California, to counter a Chinese or North Korean limited ballistic missile attack.

On 30 April 2014, the Government Accountability Office issued a report stating that the system may not be operational any time soon because "its development was flawed". It said the GBI missile was at that point "capable of intercepting a simple threat in a limited way".

On 12 August 2015, Lt. General David L. Mann (commanding general USASMDC/ARSTRAT) characterized GMD as the nation's only ground-based defense against limited ICBM attacks. No other missile defense system are active in the continental United States! The system has a "single shot probability of kill" of its interceptors calculated at 56%, with the total probability of intercepting a single target, if four interceptors are launched, at 97%. Each interceptor costs approximately \$75 million! President Trump has declared that he will create

and deploy an Iron Dome type missile defense system across the United States because we currently do not have one!

10:15 AM · Jul 25, 2024

<https://x.com/CaptCoronado/status/1816492528457142283?t=qEuqQP0dOaGa48aVgViaLQ&s=03>

Sorry folks but this is pathetic. While DC floods money to Ukraine it does NOTHING for US defense.- rdbj

OP ED

Iran is Funding the Pro-Hamas Protests



Daniel Greenfield

Who is funding the pro-Hamas riots in major cities? The state sponsors of Hamas in Tehran.

After failing to mention it in previous briefings, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines finally issued a press release admitting that "Iranian government actors have sought to opportunistically

take advantage of ongoing protests regarding the war in Gaza" by "posing as activists online, seeking to encourage protests, and even providing financial support to protesters."

Haines, a veteran of the Obama and Biden administrations, then went out of her way to defend participants in the pro-Hamas movement even though they are working with America's enemies.

"I know Americans who participate in protests are, in good faith, expressing their views on the conflict in Gaza," she argued. "Americans who are being targeted by this Iranian campaign may not be aware that they are interacting with or receiving support from a foreign government."

That problem could be easily addressed if Haines revealed the names that the Iranian campaign operates under and which pro-Hamas groups or individuals are benefiting from the money.

Especially since doing business with the Iranian government is illegal without special exemptions. If Americans are taking money from the Iranian government, they're committing a crime. And if they don't know the source of the money, shouldn't the U.S. government warn them that they're unintentionally breaking the law? So



why is Haines still keeping quiet?

Iran's support for the pro-Hamas movement is no secret. The terrorist regime in Tehran has declared its support for the terror riots and even sanctioned' the Chief of the University of Florida Police Department and other law enforcement personnel for interfering with the terrorists.

"Dear university students in the United States of America, you are standing on the right side of history. You have now formed a branch of the Resistance Front," Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei [had declared](#), openly taking credit for the pro-Hamas movement.

The term "Resistance Front" is used to refer to Iran's international network of terrorist groups including Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and others. (Iran doesn't officially list Al Qaeda as part of this network, which does include other Sunni Muslim Brotherhood groups like Hamas, but the current [leader of Al Qaeda is based out of Tehran](#).) By naming the Hamas protesters as part of the "Resistance Front", Iran was including them alongside Hamas and Hezbollah, [whose flags have been waved at the riots](#), as one of the terror fronts that it funds and controls.

During a terrorist conference, IRGC Chief Commander Hossein Salami, a leader of Iran's international terrorist network, boasted that "the resistance is so grand, beautiful, and captivating that its attractions have penetrated even into the universities of the US."

Iranian universities [organized](#) solidarity protests praising the Hamas encampments complete with chants of 'Death to America!' 'Death to Israel!' and 'Death to the Jewish oppressors!'

An Iranian university offered free tuition for students protesting in support of Islamic terrorism.

Kayhan, a major Iranian regime newspaper, [wrote that](#) "every student from Harvard, MIT, Boston, Columbia, Emerson, Texas, and so forth has become an Iranian student" and celebrated, "this is what we call exporting the Islamic Revolution!"

Foad Izadi, a professor at Tehran University who is listed as affiliated with the USC Center on Public Diplomacy, [boasted that the](#) Hamas supporters on college campuses were "our people".

"If tensions between America and Iran rise tomorrow or the day after, these are the peoples who will have to take to the streets to support Iran," he told an interviewer. "Personally, I think that the potential to repeat in the U.S. what Iran did in Lebanon is much higher. Our Hizbullah-style groups in America are much larger than what we have in Lebanon."

The Iranian regime has done everything possible to take responsibility for the Hamas riots. After months of it, the Biden administration has tentatively gotten around to admitting the obvious.

Why is the Biden administration covering up Iran's role in the Hamas campus riots?

The protesters and rioters are almost universally members of the administration's leftist political base. And the administration has gone to great lengths to defend them. Like Haines, Biden and Kamala both praised the Hamas rioters as being motivated by the best possible intentions.

The Hamas rioters "are showing exactly what the human emotion should be, as a response to Gaza," Kamala [recently told](#) The Nation: an extremist magazine whose writers have championed the riots and denied Hamas atrocities. Kamala sounded like Iran's Khamenei.

And the Biden administration has played a major role in enriching the Iranian regime.

Iran has benefited from tens of billions in sanctions relief. That money allowed it to build up allied terror groups like Hamas in Israel, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen. The US Navy has been battling the Houthis for months on the high seas because of those billions.

The dozens of Americans killed in Israel by Hamas and others who may die in a war with Hezbollah can be attributed to the Biden administration's extensive sanctions relief to Iran.

And it's likely that the sanctions relief also freed up money used to interfere in our election.

In her Senate testimony, Haines implied that Iran was interfering in the coming elections. We already know that Iran interfered on behalf of the Democrats in the 2020 election.

The IRGC had [previously engaged](#) in a "cyber-enabled disinformation and threat campaign designed to influence the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election" through a false flag operation by Iranian operatives pretending to be conservatives sending emails to "tens of thousands of registered voters" in Florida that threatened them "with physical injury if they did not change their party affiliation and vote for President Trump."

The Iranian operatives organizing and funding Hamas riots in America may be the same ones trying to swing the 2024 presidential election to the Biden-Harris ticket.

That's why the Biden administration doesn't want to talk about them.

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

<https://www.danielgreenfield.org/2024/07/iran-is-funding-pro-hamas-protests.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