

Israeli man seriously wounded in West Bank shooting and stabbing attack

IDF troops shoot terrorist, apparently injuring him; two teenage girls in victim's car unharmed; security forces launch manhunt for assailant

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 9:54 am



IDF troops at the scene of a terror attack in the southern West Bank on July 31, 2024 (Israel Defense Forces)

An Israeli man in his 50s was stabbed and seriously wounded by a Palestinian terrorist at a junction on Route 60 near the southern West Bank village of Beit Einun this morning, medics and the Israeli military said.

According to the Israel Defense Forces, the terrorist arrived in the area by vehicle armed with a handgun and knife. He then opened fire at the Israeli man's car, before getting out and stabbing him.

Soldiers at the scene fired at the assailant and apparently managed to injure him, but he managed to flee, the military said. He left behind his gun, knife, and car.

The IDF said it launched a manhunt for the attacker.

The Magen David Adom ambulance service said the injured man was taken to Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem with serious stab wounds.

According to an **initial investigation, the Israeli man had stopped at the junction after a malfunction with his car. He was driving with his teenage daughter and another teen girl who had hitched a ride with them.**

The terrorist then arrived at the area and fired a volley of six shots from the handgun, which then jammed. At that point, he attacked the Israeli driver with a knife.

MDA said in a statement that its **medics found the man conscious and near his vehicle with stab wounds to his upper body. The two teenage girls with him in the car were not injured.**

The attack came hours after a Palestinian tried to stab a soldier at the Beit Einun junction, close to the West Bank city of Hebron. Soldiers opened fire and killed the attacker. There were no injuries to Israeli forces in the incident.

Last week, two Israeli soldiers were injured in a drive-by shooting in the West Bank.

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 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, more than 590 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/israeli-man-seriously-wounded-in-west-bank-shooting-and-stabbing-attack/>

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh assassinated in Tehran missile strike

Terror group confirms death, blames it on 'Zionist strike' on residence in Iranian capital, declares 'severe escalation' will not go unpunished; PA's Abbas condemns act; Israel mum

By [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:53 am

Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in the early hours of the morning in Iran, the Palestinian terror group said on Wednesday, describing the strike as a “severe escalation” that would not achieve its goals.

Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps also confirmed the death of Haniyeh, hours after he attended a swearing-in ceremony for the country’s new president Masoud Pezeshkian, and said it was investigating.

In a statement carried by Iranian media, Pezeshkian said Iran would “defend its territorial integrity, dignity, honor, and pride, and will make the terrorist occupiers regret their cowardly act.”

It was the second high-profile assassination attributed to Israel in a matter of hours, coming after an airstrike in Beirut that killed Hezbollah’s top military leader. There was no immediate comment on the Tehran strike from Israeli authorities.

Israel had vowed to kill Haniyeh and other leaders of Hamas after the Gaza-based terror group’s devastating October 7 attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage.

Haniyeh, normally based in Qatar, has been the face of the Palestinian terror group’s

international diplomacy as the war triggered by the attack has raged in the Gaza Strip, where three of his sons were killed in an Israeli airstrike. He is the most senior Hamas official killed since the war started.

Ismael Haniyeh, Palestinian leader of the terrorist group Hamas, surrounded by lawmakers flashes the victory sign during the swearing in ceremony for the new Iranian President, at the parliament in Tehran on July 30, 2024. (AFP)

One of Haniyeh’s bodyguards was also killed, the IRGC said.

An Israeli military spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment, and there was no official comment from Israel.



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas (C) recites a prayer during a meeting with members of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the West Bank city of Ramallah on June 24, 2024. (Thaer Ghannam / PPO / AFP)

Hamas said Haniyeh was killed “in a treacherous Zionist strike on his residence in Tehran after he participated in the inauguration of Iran’s new president.”

“Hamas declares to the great Palestinian people and the people of the Arab and Islamic nations and all the free people of the world, brother leader Ismail Ismail Haniyeh a martyr,” the terse statement said.

In another statement, the group quoted Haniyeh as saying that the Palestinian cause had “costs” and “we are ready for these costs: martyrdom for the sake of Palestine, and for the sake of God Almighty, and for the sake of the dignity of this nation.”

An Israeli Government Press Office post on July 31, 2024, on Instagram after the killing of Hamas terror group chief Ismail Haniyeh in Iran. The post was soon deleted. Israel has not formally commented on the killing. (via Instagram)

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said the killing of Haniyeh was a “cowardly act” and urged Palestinians to remain united against Israel.

“President Mahmoud Abbas of the State of Palestine strongly condemned the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, deeming it a cowardly act and a



serious escalation,” Abbas’s office said in a statement. “He urged our people and their forces to unite, remain patient, and stand firm against the Israeli occupation.”

Hamas-run Al-Aqsa TV cited senior Hamas official Moussa Abu Marzouk as saying the slaying was “a cowardly act that will not go unpunished.”

The **Hamas-linked Shehab news outlet** quoted another senior Hamas official, Sami Abu Zuhri, as saying that Hamas as a movement was strong enough to outlast the deaths of any of its leaders.

“We are waging an open war to liberate Jerusalem and are ready to pay any price,” Abu Zuhri

was quoted as saying. Abu Zuhri told Reuters that the assassination would not achieve its goals.



Hamas terror group leader Ismail Haniyeh kisses freed prisoner Yahya Sinwar, a founder of Hamas’ military wing, as Hamas supporters celebrate the release of hundreds of prisoners following a swap with kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, on October 21, 2011 in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip. (Abed Rahim Khatib / Flash 90)

“This assassination by the Israeli occupation of Brother Haniyeh is a grave escalation that aims to break the will of Hamas and the will of our people and achieve fake goals,” he said. “We confirm that this escalation will fail to achieve its objectives.”

“Hamas is a concept and an institution and not persons. Hamas will continue on this path regardless of the sacrifices and we are confident of victory,” Abu Zuhri said.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the killing but analysts on Iranian state television immediately began blaming Israel for the attack.



An undated picture of four IDF surveillance soldiers held hostage by Hamas in Gaza since October 7, 2023, that was made public by their families on July 16, 2024. Behind them is a framed picture of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. From left: Liri Albag, Agam Berger, Daniella Gilboa, and Karina Arievo. (Courtesy)

Sepah cited an IRGC statement that said: “The residence of Ismail Haniyeh, head of the political office of Hamas Islamic Resistance, was hit in Tehran, and as a result of this incident, he and one of his bodyguards were martyred.”

The Guards said the cause of the incident was not immediately clear but it was “being investigated.”

A source told Reuters that Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, with the presence of senior Guards commanders, convened to discuss the assassination. The meeting was to decide on Iran’s strategy in reaction to the strike on Haniyeh, according to the source.

Iran’s state media cited the Foreign Ministry as saying in a statement “the martyrdom of Haniyeh in Tehran will strengthen the deep and unbreakable bond between Tehran, Palestine, and the resistance.”



Haniyeh arrived in Tehran on Tuesday to attend the inauguration of Iran’s new President Masoud Pezeshkian in parliament.

He had met with Pezeshkian as well as Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, right, shakes hands with Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh at the start of their meeting at the President’s office in Tehran, Iran, July 30, 2024. (Iranian Presidency Office via AP)

Haniyeh was elected head of the Hamas political bureau in 2017 to succeed Khaled Mashaal.

He **was already a well-known figure**, having become Palestinian prime minister in 2006 following an upset victory by Hamas in that year's parliamentary election. Considered a relative pragmatist, Haniyeh lived in exile and split his time between Turkey and Qatar.

He had traveled on diplomatic missions to Iran and Turkey during the ongoing Gaza war, meeting both the Turkish and Iranian presidents.

Haniyeh was said to maintain good relations with the heads of the various Palestinian factions, including rivals to Hamas.

He joined Hamas in 1987 when the terror group was founded amid the outbreak of the first Palestinian intifada, or uprising, against Israel, which lasted until 1993.

Hamas is part of the "axis of resistance" that also include Tehran-aligned groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen arrayed against Israel.

Iran has made support for the Palestinian cause a centerpiece of its foreign policy since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. It has hailed Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel but denied any involvement.



A man gestures in front of the car in which three sons of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh were reportedly killed in an Israeli airstrike in al-Shati camp, west of Gaza City on April 10, 2024. (AFP)

Haniyeh left the Gaza Strip in 2019 and had lived in exile in Qatar. The top Hamas leader in Gaza is Yahya Sinwar, who masterminded the October 7 attack.

In April, an Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed three of Haniyeh's sons and four of his grandchildren.

In an interview with the Al Jazeera satellite channel at the time, Haniyeh said the killings would not pressure Hamas into softening its positions in the ongoing ceasefire negotiations with Israel.

The **killing of Haniyeh came after Israel carried out a rare strike on Beirut, which it said killed Fuad Shukr, whom it described as Hezbollah's terror military commander. Hezbollah has not confirmed Shukr's death in the strike, which also killed at least one woman and two children** and wounded dozens of people.

The strike came amid escalating hostilities with the Lebanese terror group, which has carried out near-daily attacks across the border in what it says is support for Gaza. Israel said the strike on Shukr was revenge for a rocket attack that killed 12 children at a soccer field on the Golan Heights earlier this week. The US also blames Shukr for planning and launching the deadly 1983 Marine bombing in the Lebanese capital.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-leader-ismail-haniyeh-assassinated-in-tehran-missile-strike/>

In wake of Haniyeh killing, Austin says US will help defend Israel if it's attacked 'Hard to speculate' how hostage talks will be affected, Blinken says; Germany cautions all parties to 'prevent regional conflagration,' Russia warns of 'dangerous consequences'

By [Tol Staff](#) an

United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin reiterated his "unwavering commitment" to Israel's security on Wednesday and said Washington would come to its defense if needed, hours after Hamas's political leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed in Iran early Wednesday, in a targeted assassination attributed to Israel.

Haniyeh was assassinated in the early hours of the morning after having traveled from his home in Qatar to Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony for the country's new president Masoud Pezeshkian.

Israel has not commented on his killing. The US has said it had no part in the assassination and did not know of it ahead of time.

Asked what assistance the US would provide if a wider conflict should break out in the Middle East as a result of Haniyeh's death and the previous night's killing of a top Hezbollah commander in Beirut, Austin said Washington would continue to defend Israel if it were attacked, but that the priority was de-escalating tensions.

"We certainly will help defend Israel. You saw us do that April [when the US led a coalition of forces

that, together with Israel, almost completely thwarted an Iranian attack on Israel with hundreds of drones and missiles]. You can expect to see us do that again,” he said, referring to the attack Iran launched against Israel in response to the bombing of Revolutionary Guards commanders in a building in its Syrian consulate.

“We **don’t want to see any of that happen**,” Austin added, however. **“We’re going to work hard to make sure that we’re doing things to help take the temperature down** and address issues through diplomatic gatherings.”

Speaking at a press conference in the Philippines, Austin said he didn’t believe a wider war in the Middle East to be “inevitable.”

“I think **there’s always room and opportunities for diplomacy**,” the defense official said, adding that “what we have seen along the border, northern border, with Israel over time — that’s been a concern of ours.”

“Again, We are going to give everything we can to make sure that we keep things from turning into a broader conflict throughout the region,” he added.

Later on **Wednesday, in a phone call with Defense Minister Yoav Gallant regarding Hezbollah and Lebanon, Austin reiterated the US’s belief in Israel’s right to self defense.**

A readout from Austin’s office said the two spoke about Israel’s response to Hezbollah’s July 27 attack which killed 12 children in a soccer field in northern Israel, and discussed the threats to Israel posed by a range of Iranian-backed terrorist groups, including Lebanese Hezbollah.

Israel’s Defense Ministry said in turn that the US official had been given an update on the “precise operation” that killed Hezbollah top commander Fuad Shukr.

Gallant **“referred to the operation as a direct response to Hezbollah’s attack and the murder of 12 children** in the northern Israeli town of Majdal Shams,” the readout stated. “Minister Gallant emphasized that Israel does not seek war; however, the IDF remains prepared to defend its citizens and to respond to any attack by Hezbollah.”

Neither the readout from the Pentagon nor from the Defense Ministry mentioned Haniyeh, as the US has said it was “not aware or involved in” the targeted assassination, and the Israeli government said it would not be commenting on the matter.

The **Pentagon said, however, that the two defense officials “discussed the threats to Israel posed by a range of Iranian-backed terrorist groups,”** and Austin “reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to Israel’s security and right to self-defense.”

The two **were also said by the Pentagon to have “discussed ongoing efforts to achieve a diplomatic solution that enables citizens on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border to safely return to their homes.”**

Finally, **Gallant stressed to Austin that “especially during these times, the State of Israel is working to achieve a framework for the release of the hostages.”**

To that **end, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated his call for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, despite the killing of Haniyeh and amid concerns that it could prompt the Hamas terror group to withdraw from negotiations for a ceasefire and hostage release deal in the 10-month-old war in Gaza.**

Speaking to **Channel News Asia, Blinken said he would not speculate about the impact on ceasefire efforts, but that “the imperative of getting a ceasefire, the importance that that has for everyone, remains.”**



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks during a conversation on Advancing Security and Prosperity in the Indo-Pacific Region with Singapore’s Ambassador-at-Large Chan Heng Chee at the Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore, Wednesday, July 31, 2024. (AP Photo/Suhaimi Abdullah)

Washington is Israel’s key military backer, and has been pushing for the Gaza ceasefire, which Blinken said remains “manifestly in the interests” of the Israeli hostages, and of the Gazan civilians who have been “caught in this crossfire of Hamas’s making.”

The US State Department later said that Blinken had spoken with Qatari Prime Minister Muhammad al-Thani, who has been a key mediator in the negotiations, and “emphasized the importance of continuing to work to reach a ceasefire.”

It added that the US “would continue to work to ensure an agreement is reached.”



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, meets with Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani at a hotel during a day of meetings, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Amman, Jordan, November 4, 2023. (Jonathan Ernst/ Pool Photo via AP)

In Jordan, a key US ally, Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi discussed “the dangerous escalation taking place in the region and the steps required to stop it,” in a phone call with Blinken.

Safadi stressed that stopping Israel’s war in Gaza “must be the main immediate priority,” and also repeated his earlier condemnation of the assassination of

Haniyeh, calling it “a heinous crime, a violation of international law, and a dangerous escalation.”

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock called on Wednesday afternoon for all parties to show restraint and avoid further escalation of the conflict in the Middle East after both Iran and its proxies — including Hamas, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthi rebels in Yemen — vowed that Israel would be dealt a “harsh and painful response” following Haniyeh’s death.

“Hamas is a terrorist organization that has carried out countless cruel and deadly attacks on Israel. The central issue now is to prevent a regional conflagration and not plunge the entire region into chaos,” Baerbock said in a news conference.

‘On the brink of global conflict’

She **said any decision made now could either ease the situation or inflame it further, and called on all parties in the conflict to “exercise maximum restraint and deescalate** in the interest of the people in the region.”

The German **government had also called for restraint earlier in the day, with foreign ministry spokesman Sebastian Fischer telling reporters that “the logic of tit-for-tat reprisals is the wrong path.”**



People hold up the Palestinian flag and a portrait of assassinated Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh during a rally at Tehran University, in the Iranian capital Tehran on July 31, 2024, as Iran declares three days of mourning. (AFP)

In Russia, a spokesman for the foreign ministry condemned the killing of Haniyeh, saying that “the organizers of this political assassination were aware of the dangerous consequences this action is fraught with for the entire region.”

The spokesman warned that the region was “balancing on the brink of global conflict,” and

lambasted all sides for continuing “to raise the stakes.”

He charged that the “manic desire” of the United States to monopolize the process of political settlement in the Middle East had led to this situation.

China, too, said it firmly opposed and condemned the assassination, and warned that the incident could lead to further regional instability. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-wake-of-haniyeh-killing-austin-says-us-will-help-defend-israel-if-its-attacked/>

Netanyahu: 'Israel will exact a heavy price for any aggression against us'

Without mentioning Haniyeh assassination in Tehran, PM declares Israel dealt 'crushing blows' to Iran's Axis of Evil, says 'challenging days are ahead' amid threats of retaliation

[Itamar Eichner](#) 12:52

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday addressed the growing threats on Israel after it dealt "crushing blows" to Iran's proxies and vowed to "exact a heavy price for any aggression against us."

"Since the start of the war, I have made it clear that we are fighting against Iran's Axis of Evil. This is a war for survival against a stranglehold of terrorist armies and missiles that Iran seeks to tighten around our necks," he said in a statement shortly after a two-and-a-half-hour Security Cabinet meeting following the assassinations of [top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr](#) and [Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh](#).



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (Photo: GPO)

The axis has three arms - Hamas, the Houthis and Hezbollah. In recent days, we have delivered crushing blows to each of them. In the attack, we eliminated Nasrallah's deputy, responsible for the murder of children and many other Israelis. He was behind the relentless attacks on our northern citizens and was one of the most wanted terrorists in the world."

Netanyahu recalled visiting the site of the Hezbollah massacre in Majdal Shams, where 12 children and teenagers were killed, and expressed solidarity with the Druze community. "We settled the score with Mohsen and will settle the score with anyone who harms us," he said, referring to Shukr by his call sign.

"Citizens of Israel, challenging days are ahead. Since the Beirut attack, threats have been heard from all sides. We are prepared for any scenario and will face any threat with focus and determination. Israel will exact a heavy price for any aggression against us.

"Every week, voices urge me to end the war, claiming it is unwinnable. We did not yield then, and I will not yield now. We have made significant achievements by making brave decisions despite heavy pressure."



Top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr and Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh (Photo: REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir/File Photo)

Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran around 2:00 AM local time, hours after attending the inauguration ceremony of Iran's new president Masoud Pezeshkian. Reports claim he was **killed by a missile strike, but the circumstances remain unclear, and no footage has been released.** Unlike Shukr's assassination in Beirut, Israel has not officially claimed responsibility for Haniyeh's killing, despite accusations from Hamas and Iran.

The dual assassinations have raised concerns of a broader escalation leading to regional war. Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya said that both Hamas and Tehran do not seek regional conflict but **stressed that Haniyeh's assassination was a "crime" that must be punished.** Iran has also threatened a severe response, with its UN delegation hinting at "special actions" to make Israel regret its actions.

In light of these threats, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant visited a missile defense battery and praised the soldiers, emphasizing the importance of their role. He highlighted the precision and quality of the Beirut operation and reiterated Israel's readiness for all scenarios.

IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi visited a Kfir Brigade exercise on the northern border and declared confidence in Israel's future actions. He emphasized that Israel will not revert to the pre-war situation with Hezbollah and is prepared to act decisively in any theater of operation.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rjy8rldfc>

Two birds, one stone: Why Haniyeh was assassinated in Iran, not Qatar

Hamas political chief regularly resided in Doha and frequently traveled to Turkey and Cairo; however, Tehran selected as location for assassination, allowing Israel to send powerful message about capabilities and determination

[Itamar Eichner](#) 13:14

Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran in an operation attributed to Israel, prompting Iran to threaten severe retaliation and raising fears of a regional war. The pressing question remains: why was he eliminated in the capital of the Islamic Republic rather than elsewhere?

Haniyeh had visited numerous countries in recent months as part of Hamas' diplomatic efforts to end the war, meeting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul, visiting Cairo and regularly residing in Doha, Qatar. Despite these travels, he was assassinated in Tehran, where he was attending the inauguration of Iran's new president.

Israel's choice is straightforward: it had pledged to Qatar not to target Hamas leadership on its soil. This limited the locations where Israel could act against Haniyeh. It is likely that Israel avoided actions in Turkey to prevent complications with Erdogan, who recently [threatened military intervention in the war](#).

Choosing Tehran allowed Israel to achieve two objectives: eliminate Hamas' top leader and send a message to Tehran that it is not invulnerable. If Iran continues to host terrorist organizations, it will pay a heavy price at home.

This also serves as a warning to Erdogan, who has hosted Hamas officials for high-profile summits and is considering allowing them to reside permanently in Turkey. However, given Turkey's NATO membership, such a bold Israeli operation on its soil is a non-starter.



Ismail Haniyeh and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (Photo: Reuters)

Haniyeh's assassination in Tehran is a stark reminder to Iran of its intelligence vulnerabilities and Israel's long reach. Iran seemed emboldened following missile and drone attacks against Israel last April.

Iran's outgoing intelligence minister, Esmail Khatib, claimed just last week, six days before Haniyeh's assassination, that "the greatest achievement of my tenure is dismantling the Mossad's infiltration network in Iran." His

statement has now become a subject of ridicule among regime opponents, as Haniyeh's assassination joins a [long list of actions attributed to Israel within the heart of the Islamic Republic](#).

Khaled Mashaal tapped to be new Hamas leader

Hamas sources said Mashaal is expected to be chosen as the paramount leader of the group to replace Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Iran in the early hours of Wednesday.



By REUTERS JULY 31, 2024 19:04 Updated: JULY 31, 2024 19:30

Former head of the Islamic Palestinian organization Hamas, Khaled Mashaal, talks during an interview with Reuters in Doha, Qatar January 30, 2020. (photo credit: NASEEM ZEITON/REUTERS)

Khaled Mashaal was tapped to be the new Hamas leader on Wednesday, replacing Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed in Tehran early Wednesday morning.

Hamas sources said Mashaal is expected to be chosen as the paramount leader of the terror group to replace Ismail Haniyeh, who was eliminated in Iran in the early hours of Wednesday.

Senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya, who is based in Qatar and has headed Hamas negotiators in indirect hostage deal talks with Israel, has also been a possibility for the leadership as he is a favorite of Iran and its allies in the region.

Mashaal became known around the world in 1997 after Israeli agents injected him with poison in a failed assassination attempt on a street outside his office in the Jordanian capital, Amman.



Mashaal, 68, became Hamas's political leader in exile the year before Israel tried to eliminate him, a post that enabled him to represent the Palestinian Islamist group at meetings with foreign governments around the world, unhindered by tight Israeli travel restrictions that affected other Hamas officials.

Khaled Mashaal hugs Ismail Haniyeh before leaving Gaza Strip December 10, 2012. (credit: REUTERS/AHMED JADALLAH)

Mashaal's relations with Iran have been strained due to his past support for the Sunni Muslim-led revolt in 2011 against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Mashaal has been a central figure at the top of Hamas since the late 1990s, though he has worked mainly from exile.

Who is Khaled Mashaal?

Born in Silwad near the West Bank city of Ramallah, Mashaal moved as a boy with his family to the Gulf Arab state of Kuwait.

At the age of 15, he joined the Muslim Brotherhood, which became instrumental in the formation of Hamas in the late 1980s during the First Intifada.

Mashaal became a schoolteacher before turning to lobbying for Hamas from abroad for many years. He was in charge of international fund-raising in Jordan when he escaped assassination after being injected with poison in the street.

Jordan eventually closed Hamas's bureau in Amman and expelled Mashaal from the [Gulf state of Qatar](#). He moved to Syria in 2001.

Mashaal ran Hamas from exile in Damascus in 2004 until January 2012, when he left the Syrian capital because of President Assad's fierce crackdown on Sunnis involved in an uprising against him. Mashaal now lives in both Doha and Cairo.

His abrupt departure from Syria initially weakened his position within Hamas. Mashaal himself told Reuters that his move affected relations with Hamas's main paymaster and weapons supplier - Iran.

In December 2012, Mashaal paid his first visit to the Gaza Strip and delivered the main speech at Hamas's 25th anniversary rally.

Friction between Mashaal and the Gaza-based Hamas leadership surfaced over his attempts to promote reconciliation with President Mahmoud Abbas, who heads the Palestinian Authority.

Mashaal then announced that he wanted to step down as leader over such tensions and, in 2017, was replaced by his Gaza deputy Haniyeh, who was elected to head the terror group's political office, also operating overseas. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-812775>

Major airlines suspend flights to Israel amid escalating tensions

United Airlines, Delta Air Lines and British Airways cancel flights following assassination of top Hamas and Hezbollah officials

Iris Lifshitz Klieger | 14:07

United Airlines and Delta Air Lines, along with British Airways, announced on Wednesday the suspension of flights to Israel.

United, which operates 14 weekly flights to Tel Aviv, informed customers of flight cancellations for the coming days. Delta canceled Wednesday's and Thursday's flights from New York. British Airways also announced cancellations, though it is unclear if they are for the next 24 or 48 hours. The planes will stop in Larnaca and will not continue to Tel Aviv.



(Photo: Shutterstock)

Meanwhile, Ben Gurion Airport operated as usual on Wednesday. The Airports Authority reported that approximately 63,300 passengers would pass through the airport on 373 international flights throughout the day. About 33,200 passengers are departing on international flights, while 31,100 are arriving in Israel.

El Al's website stated in the morning that "El Al flights are operating as scheduled at this time. We are in contact with security officials."

Israir emphasized in a statement that it "continues to operate as usual according to the company's planned flight schedule and is following security guidelines, maintaining continuous contact with the Civil Aviation Authority."

Arkia also announced, "As of now, Arkia continues to operate normally, with the company's scheduled flights running as planned. We are adhering to the guidelines of aviation authorities and security officials. Any changes or updates will be published on our website and social media."

In April, Israel closed its airspace for seven hours due to a widespread Iranian drone and missile attack.

On Tuesday, German carrier Lufthansa implemented a new procedure for flights to Israel, with its aircraft stopping at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus to change aircrew.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/travel/article/sy8vtwufr>

Nasrallah to speak Thursday as Hezbollah confirms military chief killed in Israeli strike

Body of Nasrallah's right-hand man said found nearly 24 hours after attack; Iran-backed terror group's leader set to make speech at Shukr's funeral, as terror group vows revenge

By [Reuters](#) and [Tel Staff](#) Today, 11:05 pm

Lebanon's Hezbollah confirmed on Wednesday that senior commander Fuad Shukr was killed in an Israeli strike on the outskirts of Beirut, making him the most senior figure from the group to be killed in nearly 10 months of conflict with Israel.

Shukr's body was found under the rubble on Wednesday evening, two Lebanese security sources said, nearly 24 hours after the strike. The Israel Defense Force announced late Tuesday that it had killed Shukr.

Hezbollah said that its secretary general, Hassan Nasrallah, would speak on Thursday on the occasion of Shukr's funeral, amid expectation of potential retaliation by the terror group that world leaders fear could spark a wider war.

The Tuesday strike hit Hezbollah's stronghold in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital at dusk.

It came after a Hezbollah rocket strike Saturday killed 12 children in a soccer field in the Druze village of Majdal Shams, in the Golan Heights.

Hezbollah has been attacking northern Israel on a daily basis since October 8 in support of Hamas in Gaza. Northern communities have been largely evacuated since then, while Israel has repeatedly warned it could be forced to launch a war against Hezbollah if it does not halt its attacks and withdraw from the border.



A memorial stands in the middle of a soccer field where 12 Druze children were killed the day before in a Hezbollah rocket strike, in the Golan Heights village of Majdal Shams, July 28, 2024. (Michael Giladi/Flash90)

The strike on Beirut happened hours before the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in the early hours of Wednesday in Iran, in a development that has further fanned fears of wider regional escalation. Iran and Hamas blamed Israel.

Shukr was an adviser to Nasrallah, according to Hezbollah sources and the Israeli military's announcement of his killing. At least two women and two children were also killed, medical and security sources said. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Shukr "has the blood of many Israelis on his hands... We have shown that the blood of our people has a price, and that there is no place out of reach for our forces to this end."



Fuad Shukr, Hezbollah's most senior military commander who was in an Israeli strike on Beirut on July 30, 2024, is seen with Hassan Nasrallah (right) in an undated photo. (Hezbollah media office)

The attack appeared to have shorn off the top corner of a multi-story building and scattered bits of charred debris onto the surrounding buildings and streets.

Lebanese ministers and lawmakers visited the scene on Wednesday. Speaking from the ruins, Hezbollah parliamentarian Ali Ammar condemned the strike as well as the killing of Haniyeh in Tehran. Israel has made no comment on Haniyeh's assassination.

"This enemy demands war and we are up for it, God willing, we are up for it," Ammar said.



Lebanese civil defense check the area in the aftermath of an Israeli military strike on a building in a southern suburb of Beirut, July 31, 2024. (Anwar Amro / AFP)

Lebanon's cabinet held an emergency meeting on Wednesday morning to discuss the strike on Beirut, and Information Minister Ziad Makary issued a statement read to reporters.

Makary condemned the strike and said retaliation by Hezbollah was anticipated but that the government was worried the situation could "spiral."

"Lebanon does not want war," he said, adding that the

government would engage in diplomatic efforts to calm tensions. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/nasrallah-to-speak-thursday-as-hezbollah-confirms-military-chief-killed-in-israeli-strike/>

IDF cannot focus on drafting only haredim who work, AG says

Limon's letter addressed the fact that the IDF chose to send out its first three thousand draft orders to haredim who were listed as either working or studying in universities.

By ELIAV BREUER JULY 31, 2024 16:44 Updated: JULY 31, 2024 18:44



Haredim arrive at the IDF recruitment center in Tel Hashomer to process their draft exemptions. (photo credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI/FLASH90)

The IDF cannot continue to draft only haredim who work as opposed to haredim who study in yeshivas full-time, Deputy Attorney General Gil Limon wrote in a letter to the legal adviser of the Defense Ministry on Wednesday.

Limon's letter addressed the fact that the IDF chose to send out its first 3,000 draft orders to haredim who were listed as either working or studying in universities. The orders are sent in three waves at two-week intervals. The first thousand draft

orders were sent out on July 21, and the second wave is scheduled for this Sunday, August 4.

According to Limon, the choice to target working haredim was legally admissible for these 3,000 draft orders due to the IDF's urgent need for manpower. However, the IDF may no longer make such a distinction in the next batch of orders, which are expected to begin in November, since they unlawfully disadvantaged some haredim compared to others.

Limon also repeated prior demands that the state must present as soon as possible its plan for the coming year to draft 4,800 haredim, as well as its plan to increase this number in the future. The 4,800 haredim include 1,800 who are expected to join existing programs, and an additional 3,000 that the state told the High Court of Justice was its maximum capacity for the upcoming year.

Bill being prepared for second, third readings

The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee continued to debate a new haredi draft bill on Wednesday morning. The bill on the committee's table passed its first reading in 2022 and is widely considered irrelevant to the IDF's post-October 7 needs. Committee chairman MK Yuli Edelstein (Likud) is committed to completely revamping the bill to apply it to current reality.

However, the bill is technically being prepared for its second and third reading, a process that includes a discussion on each clause. Edelstein has therefore chosen to dedicate each committee session to a separate clause based on the existing proposal, with the goal being to approve amendments to all necessary clauses at a later stage.

The clause in question on Wednesday was one that detailed the criteria for haredim to postpone their IDF service. Its goal in the 2022 proposal was to enable haredim who legally postponed their service to join the workforce as early as age 22 without having conducted military service. This clause reflected the stated goal of the 2022 proposal, which was to increase haredi participation in both the IDF and in the workforce.

The **FADC's legal adviser pointed out on Wednesday that the MKs needed to decide whether or not the new bill would include the workforce goal since, if not, the clause in question was not relevant.**

Meanwhile, the first 1,000 haredi soldiers who received draft orders last week are scheduled to report for initial check-ups beginning next week. Their level of compliance will indicate whether the IDF will need to ramp up its efforts and send out thousands more summonses in order to meet their recruitment goal.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-812746>

Threatening pro-Hamas graffiti appears near Calgary synagogue during pro-Israel march

Pro-Hamas graffiti with threatening messages appeared near a Calgary synagogue during a pro-Israel march, aiming to intimidate the community.

By [MICHAEL STARR](#) JULY 31, 2024 10:26



Pro-Hamas graffiti in Calgary. 29.7.2024 (photo credit: SCREENSHOT/X)

Threatening pro-Hamas messages were graffitied near a Calgary synagogue and Jewish day school on Saturday night, Canadian Jewish organizations announced on Monday, and the Calgary Beth Tzedec Congregation told The Jerusalem Post on Tuesday.

"The flood is coming," read black graffiti photographed by the Calgary Jewish Federation near the Beth Tzedec Congregation and Calgary Jewish Academy.

Al-Aqsa Flood was the Hamas operational name of the [October 7 Massacre](#). The Calgary Federation said on social media that the reference emphasized an "insidious" intent to intimidate the community.

Next to the phrase was an inverted red triangle, a symbol often used and popularized by Hamas propaganda videos to denote the targeting of enemies.



"The flood is coming" sprayed on the pavement in Jewish neighbourhood in Calgary. (credit: SCREENSHOT/X)

The red triangle appeared in two more locations, along a wall near the Jewish sites. One red triangle was coupled with the phrase "free Palestine," and the other was next to graffiti saying "for Hind Rajab."

Anti-Jewish graffiti appears near Calgary synagogue

Rajab was allegedly killed by IDF fire during fighting in the Gaza Strip in January, and her memory has served as a rallying call for [pro-Palestinian](#)

[activists](#).

The graffiti appeared as thousands of community members took part in a Sunday Calgary Jews Stand United Walk With Israel. While the graffiti was along the march route, the congregation said that none of it was on the synagogue property.

"Images of Jewish hatred and public death threats to Calgary's Jewish community were on display this weekend near a synagogue and Jewish day school as a means to intimidate the local community and its allies as they walked for Israel and against antisemitism," the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs said on X.

Member of Parliament Shuv Majumdar said that the incident was an act of intimidation but that it would not work against locals.

"We must always defend the freedom of all Canadians to worship in peace and protect innocents from monsters trafficking in violent ideologies," Majumdar said on social media. "We will call out antizionism and antisemitism at every turn. We choose freedom over fear."

Beth Tzedec Congregation CEO David Inhaber said Sunday's march was a success and thanked the police and security for protecting the event.

The removal of the graffiti had begun but had not been finished by Tuesday night.

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-812682>

'Death to Israel': Pro-Hamas graffiti scrawled throughout San Francisco



The Party for Socialism and Liberation said that the demonstrators were standing in solidarity with the tens of thousands of activists that had protested in Washington DC.

By [MICHAEL STARR](#) JULY 31, 2024 12:58 **Updated:** JULY 31, 2024 21:45
 Conversation JCRC Bay Area @SFJCRC Anti-Israel activists vandalized property along Market St. in San Francisco with pro-Hamas graffiti. (photo credit: screenshot/x/JCRC-Bay-Area)

Pro-Hamas and anti-Israel graffiti was found on over fifty structures in San Francisco following a Saturday pro-Palestinian protests, the Bay Area Jewish Community Relations Council claimed on Sunday.

The name of Hamas Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades spokesperson Abu Obaida and the inverted triangle terrorism symbol were scrawled on a bus stop next to the words “death to Israel,” according to photographs published by the JCRC.

Other instances of graffiti in the city in the wake of protests against the US visit of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that week saw calls to **“make Israel Palestine again” and to “free Gaza.”**

“Glorification of Hamas militants and calling for the eradication of the world’s only Jewish state is not peaceful,” the JCRC said on social media.



Anti-Israel activists vandalized property along Market St. in San Francisco with pro-Hamas graffiti. (credit: screenshot/x/JCRC-Bay-Area)

The municipality said that it would compel property owners to remove the graffiti.

Like other anti-Netanyahu protesters, the demonstrations called for the Israeli leader’s arrest. Organized by several groups including the Palestinian Youth Movement, US Palestinian Community Network, Arab Resources and Organizing Center, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and Jewish Voice for Peace, the protest rejected Netanyahu’s remarks and his criticism of pro-

Palestinian protesters.

Netanyahu's speech to congress

The **Party for Socialism and Liberation** said Saturday on social media that their demonstrators were standing in solidarity with the tens of thousands of activists who had protested in Washington last Wednesday.

On **Instagram**, **USPCN** said Netanyahu’s speech last Wednesday only strengthened their **resolve to demand an end to aid to Israel**, and cessation of ostensible genocides and occupations in the Levant.

“We remain steadfast in our protest and our demand for justice,” USPCN said Friday. “The stark contrast between the warm reception from complicit US politicians and the strong rejection from thousands of anti-genocide protesters proves that Western imperialism and Zionism are on their last legs.”

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-812716>

Antisemitic protestors chant 'Heil Hitler' during Israel-Paraguay soccer match at Paris Olympics

Protesters chanted “Heil Hitler” and waved Palestinian flags during Israel’s soccer match against Paraguay at the Paris Olympics. The Paris public prosecutor opened an investigation in response.

By [MARGAUX JUBIN](#) JULY 30, 2024 14:27 **Updated:** JULY 31, 2024 15:01

A group of antisemitic protesters chanted “Heil Hitler” from the stands during Israel’s men’s team soccer match against Paraguay at the Paris Olympics over the weekend. Along with the Nazi salute, the group waved Palestinian flags.



Paris 2024 Olympics - Football - Men's Group D - Israel vs Paraguay - Parc des Princes, Paris, France - July 27, 2024. Protesters hold up the flag of Palestine in the stands before the match. (photo credit: BENOIT TESSIER/REUTERS)

The protesters chanted other hateful rhetoric while booing the Israeli team as they rose for their national hymn at the Parc des Princes on Saturday night. Multiple audience members were seen raising large signs that read “Genocide Olympics.”

Protestors removed from stadium

The anti-Israel demonstrators were promptly removed from the stadium, and no further antisemitic incidences were reported. A Paris Olympic organizer commented, “Paris 2024 strongly condemns these acts. A complaint has been lodged by Paris 2024, which is at the disposal of the authorities to assist with the investigation.”



Paris 2024 Olympics - Football - Men's Group D - Israel vs Paraguay - Parc des Princes, Paris, France - July 27, 2024. A fan displays the flag of Palestine in the stands. (credit: Sarah Meyssonier/Reuters)

Further, the Paris public prosecutor’s office publicly announced that an investigation had been opened into the incident. The prosecutor’s office has also opened an investigation into death threats against three Israeli athletes. Since the [Olympics](#) began, this antisemitic instance marks the second time the Israeli soccer team has faced protesters during a match.

"Bring on the loudest protests. They make us work harder," said Israeli head coach Guy Luzon in response.

Protection for Israeli athletes amid threats

As antisemitic protests grow increasingly tense and violent worldwide, Israeli athletes have been under strong protection from police and Olympic officials due to safety concerns. Additionally, Israeli athletes competing in Paris are being escorted by elite tactical units and are under 24-hour protective surveillance.



Paris 2024 Olympics - Football - Men's Group D - Israel vs Paraguay - Parc des Princes, Paris, France - July 27, 2024. Protestors display an anti Olympics banner and the flag of Palestine in the stands during the match. (credit: BENOIT TESSIER/REUTERS)

To assess safety concerns, France is deploying 35,000 officers each day for the Olympics and 45,000 for the opening ceremonies. Israeli athletes have been the target of terrorist attacks during the Olympic games in the past. Known as the Munich Massacre, at the 1972 Olympic Games, 11 Israeli athletes and a German police officer were killed by Palestinian terrorists.

Israeli athletes receive death threats

This year, 15 Israeli athletes received threatening messages from a group that describes themselves as "People’s Defense Organization." This letter announced that the “organization” intends to harm any Israeli presence at the Olympics.

“The fate of the Zionists will be like the fate of the Palestinians in Gaza if the Zionists continue to threaten everyone,” the letter read. “Therefore, you’re not invited to [Paris 2024](#). If you come, take into account that we intend to repeat the events of Munich 1972.” <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-812500>

Israel said to boost security for Olympic athletes after killings of terror leaders
Additional security personnel stationed around Israeli delegation in Paris at Olympic Village amid fears of retaliation

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 9:38 pm



Illustrative: Police clear the streets outside the stadium ahead of the men's group D match between Israel and Mali at the Parc des Princes during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France, July 24, 2024. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

Security around Israel's athletes at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris was upped on Wednesday as authorities prepared for potential reprisals for the recent killings of top Hamas and Hezbollah officials, according to reports in Hebrew media outlets.

The decision to reinforce the Israeli delegation's security followed the killing of Hezbollah military leader Fuad Shukr in an Israeli strike on Tuesday night and the

assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh several hours later — which Israel has not commented on.

The Shin Bet security agency, tasked with protecting Israel's Olympic delegation through the games, decided in a situational assessment to bolster its security team with additional Shin Bet guards and French security officers in light of the developments back home, Ynet reported.

The guards were stationed in multiple facilities where members of the Israeli delegation were present, including in the Olympic Village. At the same time, athletes were also briefed on conduct and on possible threats that could be directed against them.

The Israeli team was placed under high security from the moment it arrived in Paris ahead of the games. Foreign Minister Israel Katz warned of potential threats from Iran-backed groups against Israeli athletes and tourists amid the war with Hamas in Gaza.

Last week reports emerged that many members of the Israeli delegation had received threatening emails and phone calls inviting them to their own funerals and telling them not to attend the Olympics because if they did, **there would be another "Munich 1972."**



Israeli team fans wave flags as they wait for the Group D soccer match between Israel and Japan, at the La Beaujoire stadium, at the 2024 Summer Olympics, July 30, 2024, in Nantes, France. (AP Photo/Jeremias Gonzalez)

The threat refers to the Munich Olympics, during which a cell of Black September terrorists broke into the Olympic village and took Israeli athletes hostage, eventually killing 11 and a German police officer.

The athletes were also the target of an apparent doxing cyberattack last weekend, when data including their blood test results and login credentials were published on Telegram by a hacker group calling itself

"Zeus." The group also leaked personal information revealing the athletes' military status on social media.

France's cybercrime unit said it was pushing to get the data removed from social media.

Additionally, French police said on Friday that they were investigating a person who threatened on social media to attack President Isaac Herzog, who had been in Paris for the opening ceremony.

The threat was posted to X from the Val-de-Marne region southeast of Paris, and was being investigated by the anti-terrorism unit of the regional police, according to French outlet L'Equipe.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-boost-security-for-olympic-athletes-after-killings-of-terror-leaders/>

First US-made F-16s arrive in Ukraine – Bloomberg



The number of warplanes is "small," the news outlet has reported, citing unnamed sources

31 Jul, 2024 15:43

FILE PHOTO. © Getty Images/guvendemir

The first batch of US-made F-16 fighter jets has arrived in Ukraine, Bloomberg reported on Wednesday. The number of warplanes is “small,” sources told the outlet on condition of anonymity. Kiev has yet to comment on the reported delivery.

The origin of the aircraft is not yet clear. Last year, a group of NATO states, including Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Sweden, formed the so-called ‘F-16 coalition’. Greece, the US, Bulgaria, and France later joined.

While some countries, including the Netherlands and Denmark, pledged to provide Kiev with 24 and 19 aircraft respectively from their own stocks, others committed to training Ukrainian pilots. Norway has also recently stated that it would donate six fighter jets to Kiev.

According to the sources cited by Bloomberg, a delivery deadline set for the end of this month has been “respected.” Earlier in July, the outgoing Dutch government said all preparations for the delivery of F-16s had been finished and the transfer would take place “soon.”

It is unclear whether the Ukrainian pilots trained to operate the aircraft by Kiev’s Western backers can immediately make use of the warplanes, Bloomberg noted.

A spokeswoman for the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, Diana Davityan, declined to comment on the issue when contacted by the news outlet.

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

Last week, Kiev’s top military commander, Colonel General Aleksandr Syrsky, admitted to The Guardian that the Ukrainian military would have to limit the use of F-16s to avoid them being shot down by Russian forces. Moscow has “superior aviation” and “very strong” air defenses, the general said at that time, adding that the US-made aircraft would have to stay dozens of kilometers away from the front lines to avoid serious risk.

A private Russian company earlier offered a bounty of 15 million rubles (\$170,000) for the destruction of the first F-16 in the conflict.

Russia has on multiple occasions warned that the ever-increasing level of support that Western states are providing to Kiev will only prolong the conflict and human suffering. Continued deliveries of ever-heavier weapons to Ukraine also make Kiev’s Western backers de facto participants of the conflict, it said. Top officials in Moscow, including President Vladimir Putin, have referred to the Ukraine crisis as a proxy war waged by Washington and its NATO allies against Russia. <https://www.rt.com/russia/601922-f16-jets-ukraine-delivered/>

Russia launches third stage of non-strategic nuclear drills

Soldiers will train with special ammunition for Iskander-M missiles and practice covert deployment along with mock launches

31 Jul, 2024 17:27

The Russian Armed Forces have kicked off the third stage of drills focused on the combat use of non-strategic nuclear weapons, the Defense Ministry announced on Wednesday, stating that the Central and Southern Military Districts and personnel of the Aerospace Forces are to be involved in the exercises.

The drills, announced in May, were a response to what the Kremlin has described as the West’s continued escalatory actions and to NATO encroachment on Russia’s borders, which has prompted the need for Russia to maintain combat readiness. Previous rounds were held in conjunction with the Belarusian Armed Forces.

During the latest round of exercises, Russian servicemen will work out the combat training tasks of obtaining “special training ammunition” for the Iskander-M missile systems, equipping the ammunition to launch vehicles and covertly deploying to designated positions to prepare for electronic launches, the Defense Ministry explained.

The drills will also have personnel of the Aerospace Forces aviation units practice equipping aviation weapons with special combat units and flying to designated patrol areas.

The ministry stated that the current stage of the exercise is focused on keeping Russian military personnel and equipment prepared for the use of non-strategic nuclear weapons in order to carry out combat missions.

Previously, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov had pointed out that the drills being carried out by Russia’s

forces are “normal practice” and are necessary for maintaining Russia’s combat readiness at “the proper level.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin also stated last month that Russia intends to update its nuclear arsenal, given that it is the primary guarantor of national security. The Russian leader has warned that Russia would use all means available to defend itself should the state’s existence ever be at stake.

At the same time, Putin has repeatedly noted that any conflict involving the use of nuclear weapons would have dire consequences for humanity and has stressed that Russia is not “brandishing” its arsenal and is instead hoping that “it will never come” to an actual nuclear exchange between Moscow and the West.

Source: the Russian Ministry of Defense <https://www.rt.com/russia/601925-russia-non-strategic-nuclear-drills/>

NATO working on new Russia strategy – Washington

US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs James O’Brien says a new approach will be developed in the coming months

31 Jul, 2024 15:38



US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs James O’Brien © Getty Images / Tom Williams; CQ-Roll Call, Inc

NATO is developing a new strategy to deal with Russia, US Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs James O’Brien announced on Tuesday during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing.

O’Brien told the meeting that the US “wants Ukraine to win” and is providing all the materials necessary. He also claimed the “platform” of support for Kiev has strengthened, because the EU has already begun membership negotiations with Ukraine, which O’Brien said will encourage reform within the country.

He recalled that the G7 members have agreed to give Kiev the earnings from Russia’s frozen sovereign assets, delivering an anticipated \$50 billion this year to spend on defense. The third aspect, O’Brien claimed, is that NATO has said that it would welcome Ukraine into its ranks once Kiev takes the necessary steps towards membership.

Making sure Kiev can “win the war” is “the fastest way to peace” O’Brien suggested, adding that Ukraine has already been seen “making some progress on the battlefield.”

“We have, at the same time, strengthened our platform, in particular NATO,” the US official said, adding that the Washington-led bloc is “going to be developing a new strategy toward Russia over the next months” that will aim to “hold our allies together” in future dealings with Moscow.

O’Brien also noted that “all the NATO allies agreeing that [China] is the decisive enabler of Russia’s war” would be a “significant step towards improving the platform that we have.”

Russia **has repeatedly criticized the West for its ongoing military support for Kiev, arguing that “flooding” Ukraine with weapons only serves to prolong the conflict and leads to more bloodshed** without affecting the inevitable outcome of the conflict.

Additionally, Moscow has on multiple occasions cited NATO’s continued expansion towards its borders and attempts to bring Ukraine into its ranks as one of the primary reasons for launching its military operation against Kiev in 2022.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has stressed that Ukraine must become a neutral country and drop its plans to join the US-led military bloc in order for any potential peace negotiations to succeed.

<https://www.rt.com/news/601921-nato-russia-new-strategy/>

OP ED

Kamala’s Crime Wave



Daniel Greenfield

In 2008, the Bologna family was murdered by an illegal alien MS-13 member.

San Francisco DA Kamala Harris refused to ask for the death penalty despite pleas from the widow because of, in her words, a “complicated analysis that



gang

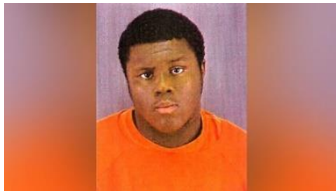


involved many issues”. But the real issue was that Kamala protected criminals instead of victims.

Four years earlier, DA Kamala Harris had refused to impose the death penalty on the violent thug who gunned down Officer Isaac Espinoza with an AK-47. His widow [blasted Kamala](#) for not even talking to her before denying her husband justice “I felt like she had just taken something from us. She had just taken justice from us. From Isaac. She was only thinking of herself.”

“She never called,” her sister-in-law said. “There was no consideration for Renata, my niece, my parents, me, or the officers. It

was as if she didn’t care.”



David Hill, Officer Espinoza’s murderer, however thanked Kamala. “It took a lot of courage,” he told CNN. “I’m forever grateful.”

Because there were people Kamala did care about. Criminals.

A year before the Bologna murders, Alexander Izaguirre was enrolled in ‘Back on Track’: a Kamala program to expunge felony convictions for criminals in exchange for attending some classes. Izaguirre, who had already mugged another woman, was

picked for the program by Kamala. Even while he was enrolled in the program, the illegal alien thug mugged another woman, and then rammed her with a car, [fracturing her](#) skull. That woman, once a liberal, has become a Trump supporter after her experience.

But Kamala’s most enduring legacy was writing misleading descriptions for pro-crime ballot initiatives, including Proposition 47, which legalized shoplifting and set off a crime wave.

Kamala’s history as a pro-crime prosecutor explains why she spent the last four years raising money for a pro-crime group whose actions led to the murders of Demetri Ellis-Strong, a black man and Luis Ortiz: a Latino man.

During the BLM race riots, Kamala Harris endorsed police defunding, arguing that “defund the police, the issue behind it is that we need to reimagine how we are creating safety” and claimed that it “is actually wrong and backward to think that more police officers will create more safety.”

But Kamala Harris went even further than that in aiding the rioters and criminals.

As the BLM race riots burned, [Kamala Harris posted](#) a link to the Minnesota Freedom Fund and urged supporters to donate bail money to keep the rioters back on the streets. By the time the rioting was done, over 1,500 businesses were damaged across the state. Some would never reopen. But the harm caused by Kamala’s pro-crime tweet would prove even deadlier than that.

While the Minnesota Freedom Fund was bailing out the race rioters Kamala had endorsed, the primary purpose of the pro-crime group, like other bail funds, was to bail out all the criminals.

And even after the election, Kamala’s [fundraising page](#) and [social media](#) promotion for the pro-crime group remained up, helping MFF get the money it needed to free rapists and killers.

Next year, MFF bailed out George Howard after he was arrested for domestic abuse. Howard then went out and killed a Latino man driving on I-94. Then it bailed out Shawn Tillman who had three felony convictions including assaults, possession of a firearm and indecent exposure in front of a minor. The bail fund promoted by Kamala bailed Tillman out after he had exposed himself to a woman on the light rail in St. Paul. Tillman returned to the light rail and killed a man.

Some dismissed the two killings linked to Kamala’s bail fund as an unintended consequence of her efforts to bail out rioting supporters during an election year, but it’s consistent with her pro-crime views. Kamala ran for president in 2020 [on a pro-crime platform](#) of freeing criminals by, among other things, eliminating bail, a policy that led to major crime waves in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and other troubled urban areas run by pro-crime ‘Soros’ DAs.

A [plan put out by her campaign](#) promised to “transform the criminal justice system” and “re-envision public safety” by ending “mass incarceration”, freeing potentially hundreds of thousands of criminals, legalizing drugs, ending mandatory minimum sentences, which would allow repeat offenders and violent criminals to get off with light sentences, and promote “alternatives” to prison which would put criminals right back on the street.

Kamala's pro-crime proposals included eliminating bail which creates a revolving door for criminals and an endless crime wave. In New York, which eliminated bail, a pickpocket was [arrested 70 times](#), a shoplifter was [arrested 100 times](#), and [1 in 4 freed burglars](#) were arrested again within 60 days. Violent criminals have also benefited from the pro-crime policies embraced by Kamala. One thug kicked a 39-year-old woman in the stomach, was freed with no bail, [arrested again for selling crack](#), then arrested for threatening city workers with a knife, and arrested again for arson. One sexual predator who groped women was arrested [over 70 times](#).

This is what Kamala Harris, who is running as a 'prosecutor', proposed for the whole country.

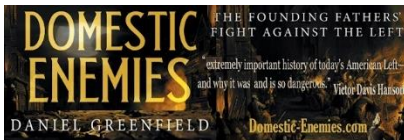
Rather than fighting crime, the former 'prosecutor' condemned the criminal justice system as "unjust, unequal" while claiming that it "disproportionately harms communities of color".

Kamala favored even the most vicious killers, calling for an end to the death penalty and no life sentences for murderers under 18. Her plan admitted that there was no way to end "mass incarceration" without giving a pass to "individuals convicted of violent offenses". Kamala argued that "imposing excessively long sentences" on violence criminals doesn't work and proposed a commission that would embrace "alternatives" to safely locking them up.

Such pro-crime alternatives were already tried in California, New York and other jurisdictions with horrifying results for victims. And Kamala Harris was serious about implementing them.

In the Senate, Kamala had proposed the Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act, alongside libertarian Sen. Rand Paul, to encourage states to get rid of bail. The bill falsely claimed that the "bail system has proven to be an ineffective method of protecting public safety". She also co-sponsored the 'Justice Safety Valve Act' with Paul to get rid of mandatory minimums.

Kamala's pro-crime views have been consistent. Twenty years ago she protected Officer Isaac Espinoza's killer while giving his family the cold shoulder. Her support for defunding the police, releasing criminals and legalizing crime has changed California. What will it do to America?



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

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