

3 Israelis killed in terror shooting at crossing between West Bank and Jordan

Jordanian terrorist drives truck from Jordan, opens fire at Allenby Bridge workers and then is shot dead; IDF rules out vehicle was rigged with explosives

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 1:23 pm Updated at 3:06 pm

Three Israeli men were killed in a terrorist shooting attack at the Allenby Bridge Crossing between Jordan and the West Bank on Sunday morning, authorities said.

The attack was carried out by a Jordanian truck driver who had arrived from Jordan. The crossing, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, is the West Bank's sole crossing with Jordan.

The three victims were named Yohanan Shchori, 61, a father of six from the West Bank settlement of Ma'ale Efraim, Yuri Birnbaum, 65, from the settlement of Na'ama, and Adrian Marcelo Podzamczer, from the settlement city of Ariel.

According to the military and Israel Airports Authority officials — the latter of which manages the



land crossing — the gunman got out of the truck he was driving during an inspection at the terminal and opened fire at several of the crossing's workers, killing three.

IAA security guards returned fire at the terrorist, killing him.

He was identified by Israeli security sources as Maher Dhiab Hussein al-Jazi, 39, a Jordanian national from the southern Jordan town of Udhruh, east of Petra.

Yuri Birnbaum (left), Yohanan Shchori (center), and Adrian Marcelo Podzamczer, killed in a terror shooting attack at the Allenby Bridge Crossing, September 8, 2024. (Courtesy)

The Magen David Adom ambulance service said its medics treated the three men at the scene, but were forced to declare their deaths.

Footage circulating online purported to show the moment of the attack.

[@bokeralmog](#) | פיגוע הירי במעבר אלנבי | pic.twitter.com/9KW4WUsXZx צילום: סעיף 27 א' לחוק זכויות יוצרים — החדשות - N12 (@N12News) September 8, 2024

The Israel Defense Forces described the shooting as a terror attack. It published an image of the handgun used by the terrorist.

IDF sappers dispatched to the scene later ruled out suspicions that the truck in which a terrorist arrived had been rigged with explosives, the military said.



Israeli security forces gather at the scene of a terror attack near the Allenby Crossing between the West Bank and Jordan on September 8, 2024 (Ahmad GHARABLI / AFP)

Terror groups Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad both welcomed the attack.

Hamas hailed the attacker as “one of Jordan’s brave men.”

In a statement, it said that the attack was a “natural response to the holocaust carried out by the Nazi Zionist enemy against our people in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, and its plans for the Judaization of the Al Aqsa mosque.”

The terror group further called on people in Arab and Muslim countries to rise up in support of Palestinians.



The handgun used by the terrorist who carried out a shooting attack near the Allenby Bridge Crossing in the West Bank on September 8, 2024 (Israel Defense Forces)

On its Telegram channel, the PIJ described the attacker as a “hero” and said the assault is an “expression of the sentiments of the Jordanian people and the Arab and Muslim peoples towards the brutal massacres committed by the enemy.”

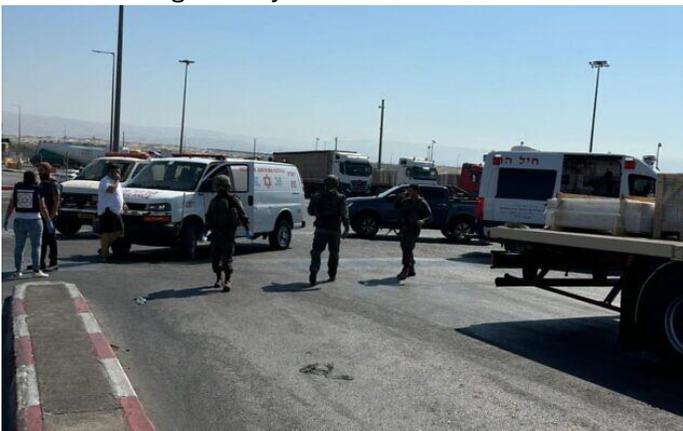
“This heroic attack and similar ones are the only response that the American administration understands,” the statement added, accusing the United States of being an “accomplice” to Israel.

Israeli and Jordanian authorities both announced that the crossing had been closed until further notice following the deadly shooting attack.

The Jordanian interior ministry also said that authorities had begun an investigation into the attack.

The IAA said that in addition to the closure of Allenby Bridge, the other land crossings with Jordan — the Rabin Crossing near Eilat and the Jordan River Crossing near Beit She’an — were closed at the request of security authorities.

Palestinians can only use the Allenby Bridge Crossing to enter Jordan from the West Bank, while Israelis generally use the Rabin and Jordan River crossings.



The scene of a shooting attack at the Allenby Crossing between the West Bank and Jordan on September 8, 2024 (Magen David Adom)

Violence in the West Bank has surged in the past year, following the October 7 Hamas terror onslaught in southern Israel, in which some 1,200 people were massacred and 251 were taken hostage.

Since October 7, troops have arrested some 5,000 wanted Palestinians across the West Bank, including more than 2,000 affiliated with Hamas.

According to the Palestinian Authority health ministry, more than 670 West Bank Palestinians have been killed in that time. The IDF says the vast majority of

them were gunmen killed in exchanges of fire, rioters who clashed with troops or terrorists carrying out attacks.

During the same period, 32 people, including Israeli security personnel, have been killed in terror attacks in Israel and the West Bank. Another six members of the security forces were killed in clashes with terror operatives in the West Bank.

Gianluca Pacchiani contributed to this report.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/3-israelis-killed-in-terror-shooting-at-crossing-between-west-bank-and-jordan/>

West Bank border crossing to Jordan, Palestinians' gateway to the world

Some 14,000 Palestinians cross the Allenby - King Hussein crossing daily and 250,000 workers rely on the crossing to transfer goods and import raw materials for industry

[Lior Ben Ari, Elisha Ben Kimon, Einav Halabi](#)|06:11

The Allenby Bridge - King Hussein border crossing between Israel and Jordan was closed on Sunday after a deadly terrorist shooting attack. Three Israelis were murdered when a terrorist driving a truck crossed the border from Jordan and opened fire on them at close range.

Other than goods transport, the crossing also serves as the main exit point for Palestinians from the West Bank to the outside world, with an average of 14,000 Palestinians crossing into Jordan every day.

According to Nazmi Mhanna, General Director of the Palestinian Authority’s General Administration for Borders and Crossings, around 250,000 workers rely on the crossing daily to transfer goods and import raw materials for industry.

Jordan sealed their side of the border after the attack and launched an investigation while Israel closed all land border crossings between the two countries, after the Airport Authority, in charge of all points of entry to Israel, was instructed to do so by security officials.

Officials from Israel and Jordan were in conversation in their investigations. A Jordanian official told Reuters that authorities in Amman have launched a probe into what he described as a "shooting incident" on the Israeli side of the border crossing.

Despite contact by the two sides, tensions remain high: former Jordanian Information Minister Samih Al-Maaytah told Al-Arabiya, "The attack at the Allenby Bridge crossing was expected due to the ongoing Israeli escalation against the Palestinians."



Meanwhile, in Jordan, sweets were handed out on the streets in celebration of the killing of Israelis. similar celebrations were seen in the West Bank city of Hebron.

Sweets handed out in Jordan, in celebration of a terror attack at the Israel-Jordan border crossing that killed 3 Israelis

Jordan and Israel have maintained continuous coordination on matters of counterterrorism and

security, despite tensions.

Israel's long border with Jordan to the east, has been an increasing concern for the IDF and Shin after efforts by Iran and **Hamas to smuggle weapons and explosives into the West Bank.** Jordan is also working to combat the rise of terrorism within its territory linked to Theran's activities.



IDF troops search Jordanians, Palestinians at the Allenby-King Hussein border crossing with Jordan after a deadly terror attack

The Allenby Bridge crossing mainly serves the transportation of goods, with trucks passing from Jordan to the West Bank and into Israel.

The **crossing is located near villages in the Jordan Valley and the city of Jericho, which was placed under lockdown for a few hours, after the attack,** while troops conducted searches for possible accomplices of the terrorists who carried out the deadly attack. The crossing was also used to transport Jordanian

humanitarian aid for Gaza during the war. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjhnves3a>

IDF says over 50 rockets fired at north overnight; some damage, no injuries

Missiles slam into Kiryat Shmona, hitting building and sidewalk; Hezbollah claims responsibility, says barrage revenge for Israeli strike the previous day that killed three

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 11:13 am

More than 50 rockets were launched from Lebanon at the Galilee Panhandle and Kiryat Shmona area overnight, the military said Sunday morning, with damage reported by no injuries.

First, some 20 rockets were fired at around 1 a.m. and 2:30 a.m., with the Israel Defense Forces reporting that most of the projectiles were intercepted by air defenses, although some impacted Kiryat Shmona, causing damage.

The **terror group Hezbollah claimed responsibility,** saying it targeted Kiryat Shmona in revenge for an Israeli strike Saturday in Lebanon that local officials claimed killed three emergency workers in the town of Froun.

The IDF said that **at least two of those killed were members of the Hezbollah-allied Amal movement,** and that they were operating out of a Hezbollah compound in Froun. Amal also claimed two of the people as its members.

According to **the Kiryat Shmona municipality, one rocket scored a direct hit on an unspecified building while a second hit a sidewalk,** with both causing extensive damage.

“There is damage to the building, to property, to infrastructure, and to a parked car,” the city said.

בזמן שישנתם בגליל העליון ובקריית שמונה מעל 100 שיגורים.

אבל זה לא תל אביב, זה הצפון זה לא מעניין את הצבא היקר והממלכתי שלנו. הם ישנו טוב הלילה.

pic.twitter.com/h5dWSKWVGJ

— ???????? (noamamir74) [September 8, 2024](#)

Crews scanned the city to find if there were any more impacts, but were impeded somewhat by the late-night darkness, the spokesperson said.

Then, at **around 5:30 a.m., a barrage of another 30 rockets was fired from Lebanon, according to the military, which said that some were intercepted and the remainder hit open areas.**

Hezbollah also took responsibility for this barrage as well, saying it fired a volley of Katyusha rockets at the community of Shamir, a kibbutz in the far eastern Galilee bordering the Golan Heights.

Unlike many other towns that usually come under rocket fire, Shamir has not been officially evacuated by the government. The kibbutz lies some nine kilometers (5.5 miles) from the Lebanese border.

Overnight attacks on northern Israel are relatively uncommon and often reflect an increase in tensions.

Meanwhile, **the IDF confirmed reports that its fighter jets struck buildings used by Hezbollah** in southern Lebanon’s Aitaroun, Maroun al-Ras, and Yaroun overnight, releasing footage of the strikes.

במהלך הלילה, מטוסי קרב תקפו מבנים צבאיים ששימשו את ארגון הטרור חיזבאללה במרחבים עיתרון, מארון א-ראס ויארון שבדרום לבנון.

אמש, כלי טיס תקף וחסיל מחבלים של ארגון הטרור אמל שפעלו בתוך מתחם צבאי של ארגון הטרור חיזבאללה >> pic.twitter.com/EVVqArBCsX

— צבא ההגנה לישראל (@idfonline) [September 8, 2024](#)

The **towns are all relatively close to the part of southern Lebanon that borders the Galilee Panhandle, a finger of land that is home to Kiryat Shmona.**

In Froun on Saturday, a **military statement said Israeli forces “struck and eliminated” Amal members who “operated within a Hezbollah military structure.”**

Hezbollah ally Amal said two of its members were among the dead in the strike. It said they were killed “while carrying out their humanitarian and national duty defending Lebanon and the south.”

The **Lebanese health ministry statement condemned the “blatant Israeli attack that targeted a team from an official body** of the Lebanese state.”

The ministry said the attack had targeted “a Lebanese civil defense team that was putting out fires sparked by the recent Israeli strikes,” referring to a bombing the day before. It added that the attack was “the second of its kind against an emergency team in less than 12 hours.”

Lebanon’s civil defense agency said three of its employees were killed in “an Israeli strike that targeted a firefighting vehicle after they had finished a firefighting mission.”

Prime **Minister Najib Mikati condemned the attack**, saying in a statement that “this new aggression against Lebanon is a blatant violation of international laws... and human values.”

Several militia and terror groups operate health centers and emergency response operations in south Lebanon.



Smoke rises in the southern Lebanese Marjayoun plain after being hit by Israeli shelling on September 7, 2024. (Rabih DAHER / AFP)

Hezbollah fired around 100 rockets into Israel over the past 24 hours.

A number of communities in the area targeted by Hezbollah remain inhabited, though tens of thousands of residents from the north were evacuated to other areas when the fighting started and have not yet returned to their homes.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah has exchanged near-daily fire with Israeli forces in support of ally

Hamas since the Palestinian terror group’s October 7 attack on Israel triggered the war in the Gaza Strip, with repeated escalations during 11 months of cross-border violence.

So far, the skirmishes have resulted in 26 civilian deaths on the Israeli side, as well as the deaths of 20 IDF soldiers and reservists. There have also been several attacks from Syria, without any injuries.

Hezbollah has named 433 members who have been killed by Israel during the ongoing skirmishes, mostly in Lebanon but some also in Syria. Another 78 operatives from other terror groups, a Lebanese soldier, and dozens of civilians have also been killed. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-says-over-50-rockets-fired-at-north-overnight-some-damage-no-injuries/>

Cairo may agree to Israeli presence in the Philadelphi Corridor, report

Egyptian agreement depends on a temporary Israeli deployment to the strip of land along the Gaza-Egypt border if U.S. guarantees provided

Ynet|04:44

According to American reports, despite the Egyptian insistence the IDF withdraw from the Philadelphi Corridor at the first stage of the deal, Cairo may agree to an extended IDF presence if the U.S. guarantees it is temporary. Cairo also asked the Americans to guarantee that Israel would not operate again in the axis or the Rafah Crossing, even if the second phase of the negotiations reached an impasse.



Egypt refuses to maintain Israeli presence on Philadelphi Corridor (Photo: REUTERS/Ronen Zvulun, דובר צה"ל, Saudi Press Agency/Handout / Brendan SMIALOWSKI / AFP)

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal reported that Egypt agreed to build a new barrier along the axis, including sensors and security cameras, financed by the U.S. Another point of contention is Israel's access to the data from the planned border.

A senior Egyptian official who's closely following the cease-fire and hostage deal talks in Cairo clarified during August in a conversation with Ynet, "We won't agree to an Israeli military presence along the Philadelphi Corridor. This has been our stance from the start of the negotiations, and we have no intention of changing it."



Israeli presence on Philadelphi Corridor (Photo: Ziv Koren)

The official, however, added, "I won't comment on the introduction of Israeli surveillance and monitoring equipment along the route." In other words, the senior official in Cairo refused to clarify whether Egypt intends to silently approve the establishment of electronic devices for Israeli supervision along the route.

The Egyptian official emphasized the U.S. is making optimistic statements despite the significant challenges remaining before a deal is secure.



Egyptian military chief visits the Rafah border

"The Americans intend to maintain a businesslike, perhaps even positive, atmosphere between senior officials from Egypt and Israel," the official said. "But Netanyahu's influence is felt in the negotiation room; we know he receives real-time updates from the talks."

Egypt's chief of military staff Ahmed Fathy Khalifa arrived at the Egyptian border crossing to Gaza at Rafah last week, on a surprise visit to his troops there. Egyptian television said the general's visit was to "secure the nation's borders in all strategic directions."

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hknxt0q3r>

IDF kills Hamas commander Raef Omar Salman Abu Shab in Gaza strike

Shab had been in charge of the rocket barrages fired at southern Israel from the Khan Yunis area since the onset of the Israel-Hamas War.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 14:34

An Israel Air Force (IAF) aircraft killed Hamas commander Raef Omar Salman Abu Shab in an airstrike in the Gaza Strip last week, the military said on Sunday.

Shab was reportedly the commander of the Rocket Launching Platoon in Hamas's Eastern Khan Yunis Battalion.



The IDF noted that the platoon commander had been in charge of the rocket barrages fired at southern Israel from the Khan Yunis area since the onset of the Israel-Hamas War.

IDF troops operate throughout Gaza

In other operation activities, in Rafah, IDF troops of the 162nd Division eliminated terrorists, raided terror targets, and located weapons, the IDF added.

In central Gaza, soldiers of the 252nd Division eliminated terrorists who posed a threat to the security forces, the military noted.

IDF troops operate in the Gaza Strip. September 8, 2024. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

The IDF specified that in the past day, it had struck some 25 Hamas terror targets throughout Gaza.

Among the targets were terrorist squads, terror infrastructure, and military structures.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-819182>

Gaza war breakdown: 17,000 terrorists killed as Israel weathers terror attacks, rockets - INSS

Since the beginning of the war, alerts have sounded in 935 communities, forcing Israelis to run to safe areas some 15,000 times.

By [WALLA!](#) SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 09:05 **Updated:** SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 14:47



An Israeli army infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) moves at a position along the border with the Gaza Strip and southern Israel on July 14, 2024 amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. (photo credit: Menahem Kahana/AFP via Getty Images)

Since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war, 1,664 Israelis have been killed, of which 706 were soldiers, 17,809 were wounded, some 143,000 people have been evacuated from their homes, and some 20,000 projectiles have been fired at Israeli territory, according to a recent INSS report.

Currently, 101 hostages are being detained in Hamas captivity.

Since the beginning of the war, alerts have sounded in 935 communities, forcing Israelis to run to safe areas around 15,000 times.

In October alone, 7,721 sirens were activated. The numbers dropped in November to 1,303 and in December to 1,277. Since then, fewer than a thousand sirens have sounded, apart from April when more than a thousand sirens were triggered amid [Iran's April attack](#).

Data from the Gaza Strip, the north and West Bank

Since the outset of the war, some 17,000 Hamas terrorists have been eliminated in Gaza, with the IDF striking approximately 38,000 Hamas military targets throughout Gaza. According to the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry, which does not draw distinctions between the deaths of civilians and combatants, some

41,000 Palestinians have been killed, and almost 95,000 have been wounded since [October 7](#).

On the **northern front, 50 Israelis have been killed, of which 24 were soldiers.**



a pro-Palestine protest (credit: DAN MARGOLIS)

Some 7,600 projectiles have been fired to date at Israeli territory from both Syria and Lebanon.

Over 68,000 Israelis have been evacuated from 43 northern communities, and according to the report, some 100,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in Lebanon.

The report also detailed the occurrences in the West Bank. According to the INSS, since the onset of the war, 4,973 terror attacks have occurred in the West Bank, killing 38 Israelis, 12 of whom were soldiers and three were police officers.

In addition, **285 Israelis were wounded in these** terror attacks.

Nearly **700 Palestinians have been killed throughout the West Bank since the beginning of the war**, according to the report, citing the Palestinian health ministry.

Some **4,400 Palestinians were arrested, among whom 1,850 were Hamas terrorists**, representing a 114% increase in the number of Palestinian prisoners imprisoned in Israeli jails compared with the numbers in July of 2022.

Also, in **the West Bank, since the beginning of the war, there have been 1,407 incidents of violence between Palestinians and settlers, with the largest number of such incidents, 300, occurring in October** of last year.

Regarding protests **worldwide on the war, the report showed that an average of 2,090 anti-Israel protests occur globally every month in comparison to 65 pro-Israel demonstrations.**

Yemen saw the most anti-Israel protests, with 5,500 demonstrations. The US came in second, with 3,500 protests, followed by Morocco, Turkey and Iran.

The most pro-Israel protests, 317, have occurred in the US, followed by France with 108, Germany, Canada, and Australia. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-819136>

US suggests Lebanon-Israel land swap in bid to end border conflicts - Al-Jarida

According to the report, the Israeli side reiterated its main demand for a complete military withdrawal of Hezbollah to 10 km away from the border, a demand that the organization currently rejects.

By [MAARIV ONLINE](#) SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 12:41



Israeli soldiers guard in Metula, on the border between Israel and Lebanon, northern Israel, on May 14, 2021, after Lebanese protesters crossed the Israeli border fence. (photo credit: BASEL AWIDAT/FLASH90)

American officials recently proposed, in a virtual meeting with their Israeli counterparts, a land swap between Lebanon and Israel as part of a comprehensive agreement to end the border conflicts and resolve the land dispute between the two countries, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Jarida reported on Sunday. **(OK folks this makes no sense at all. The UN resolution 1701 ended the Lebanese war and called for the cessation of all hostilities and for Hezbollah to be removed to north of the Latoni River and the buffer area between the Latoni and Israel to be monitored and held by UN troops and the Lebanese army. All Israel is**

asking for is the enforcement of that ruling. There is no reason for anything else. Either the UN should remove all of Hezbollah and comply with the order or simply admit that they are an impotent useless group who simply drain money from the nations supporting it Lebanon should be told to correct their terrorist government or face a complete boycott by all nations in the UN. The idea that Israel needs to act on anything and change any boundaries is ludicrous. – rdb]

The **report follows Saturday night's rocket attacks, which involved about 50 launches from Lebanon toward Kiryat Shmona** and Western Galilee.

According to the **report, the Israeli side reiterated its main demand for a complete military**

withdrawal of Hezbollah to 10 km away from the border, a demand that the organization currently rejects.

On the other hand, two outstanding issues were raised in Washington's proposal for a diplomatic settlement. The first is the "Point B1" issue, the westernmost border point of the "Blue Line," overlooking the Israeli tourist site at Rosh Hanikra.

The proposal for this point involves recognizing it as part of Lebanon, with UN forces deployed there as a neutral party for both sides. **The idea of UN forces enforcing anything is stupid. This would simply put Hezbollah in a position to attack Israel further south. – rdb]**

The second issue is the **Kibbutz Misgav Am, which belongs to the Upper Galilee Regional Council.**

A quid-pro-quo

Here, the Americans propose a land swap that would not alter the kibbutz's characteristics in exchange for twice the area currently held by Israel.

Other **issues on the table, such as the Shebaa Farms, the Kfar Shuba Hills, and the northern part of the Rajar village, remain to be addressed later.**

Meanwhile, it remains unclear whether the current escalation signals preparation for a new military phase or if it is simply part of ongoing efforts to target Hezbollah sites in the southern Litani region. **An international group needs to simply go in and eliminate or neutralize all of Hezbollah including the execution of Nasrallah and all his deputies. Anyone who is affiliated with Hezbollah should be removed from any government position in Lebanon, – rdb]**

Additionally, the diplomatic information regarding the fate of Lebanon's southern front remains unclear, with Western and American diplomatic sources indicating the improbability of a broad war, assuring that the Biden administration is making every effort to achieve calm in Gaza and other fronts.

On the other hand, diplomatic assessments suggest that Israel aims to use the period until the November US elections to weaken Hezbollah as much as possible. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-819164>

Not sick, high - soldiers eat donated hash-spiked cookies

Civilians arrive at a base in the South with the food they want to give to the troops serving there; after ruling out infections, military begins a probe to confirm that the cookies were spiked with drugs

Korin Elbaz-Alush|05:36

A number of IDF soldiers in the reserves, serving in a base in the South, were hospitalized over the weekend, after eating cookies that the military police suspects were spiked with Hash. They felt ill and a possible infection was ruled out.

The **soldiers ate from food donated by civilians who came to the base with food products** they said were for troops.



IDF soldiers in the reserves (Photo: Shutterstock)

Since the start of the war, civilians have donated clothing, military gear and food to troops in an outpouring of concern.



The **soldiers were released from care after a few hours and their physical condition improved.**

The military police launched an investigation.

Donations collected for troops in the early days of the war

In a statement, the IDF said that regulations regarding receiving donations of food will be refreshed. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1ou2ejn0>

Police: If IDF shared intel on Oct. 6, Nova partiers might have survived - report

It appears that an aspect of these warnings were IDF intelligence seeing somewhere between dozens to hundreds of Israeli SIM cellphone cards switching on within Gaza.

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 15:39 **Updated:**
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 16:09

The Nova Massacre Scene (photo credit: Arie Leib Abrams/Flash90)



Some police officials have accused the IDF and the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) of withholding security threat information overnight between October 6 and 7, which, if it had been shared with the police, could have saved the lives of 364 civilians who were killed at the Nova party and the 44 hostages who were taken.

First reported by Channel 12 at the end of the weekend, the Acting Police Commander for the Negev Area in the South Eyal Azulai is quoted as saying that the police had always been unsure about the safety of the Nova party attendees and that if they had known about the

enhanced security threat, they might have ended the party before the invasion took place.

The warnings that Azulai was referring to led to at least two consultations among and between the Shin Bet and the IDF in the middle of the night between October 6 and 7.

It appears that an aspect of these warnings were IDF intelligence seeing somewhere between dozens to hundreds of Israeli SIM cellphone cards switching on within Gaza, something drawing suspicion of a potential attempted penetration into Israel since Israelis cannot safely reside in Gaza.

The various warnings eventually led to a decisive conference call between IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Herzi Halevi, Shin Bet Chief Ronen Bar, and other senior IDF officials in which the Shin Bet decided to send a small additional crew of reinforcements to the border, and all of the security officials agreed to discuss the situation more the next day.

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



However, either because the security chiefs did not view the threat as terribly significant or because they did not want to widen the circle of intelligence sharing to the police, who they might have trusted less with such sensitive information, they did not even tell the police that anything problematic was afoot.

Asked to respond to the allegations, the IDF gave a generic non-denial denial, saying only that it is still probing the Nova party incident and that it will present its findings to the public when it concludes the probe.

However, given that the IDF had originally said it would publish the probe in June and then sometime over the course of July and August, IDF and police officials have been now regularly leaking findings from all of the different military probes in order to try to frame the public's view of them before the official reports are issued.

In the past, certain IDF officials have tried to blame the police for allowing the Nova party to go forward in such a secure area and for reacting slowly to save the Nova party attendees, given that technically, it had more direct responsibility for their safety than for the many Gaza border towns which Hamas invaded and which were supposed to be protected by the IDF.

This latest leak places the onus on the IDF and the Shin Bet (which has been even more opaque than the IDF, not providing a single public update to date about its October 7 failures) for failing to warn the police of the increased danger they knew about overnight between October 6 and 7.

No Israeli official had any idea of the scale of Hamas's invasion

Even though no one in the IDF or the Shin Bet had any idea of the scale of the size of the impending invasion, even a warning of a small penetration, which they were worried about, might have been enough to get the police to close the Nova party and evacuate the attendees.

Next, **the Channel 12 report tries to compliment the police for evacuating a significant percentage of the Nova party attendees once Hamas's invasion started, as well as for setting up a defense position on Route 232, which slowed Hamas's advance against some of the attendees.**

However, **the report also said that then-Israel Police chief Kobi Shabtai did not even call Halevi for more help until 11:45 a.m.,** by which time it was already too late to save many of the Nova party residents.

Also, at that point, **neither Halevi nor Shabtai made any bold moves to send a larger amount of reinforcement forces rapidly to** the Nova party despite the fact that there were far more civilians there than in the many other locations that Hamas was invading.

As has **become clear by a variety of IDF briefings, top IDF officials were either still in shock or lacked a clear picture of myriad places where Hamas had invaded and did** not even assign field commanders to certain areas until around 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon, and full reinforcement forces did not arrive in some places until even later.

By then, **the entire police position at Route 232 had been overrun, and most Nova party civilians who had stayed near police were either killed or kidnapped.**

There is an **ongoing unresolved disagreement between the IDF and the police** about which side had more doubts about holding the Nova party and which side was more negligent in allowing it to go forward in such a dangerous area so close to Gaza in the first place.

A variety of **IDF officials have said they had not even been updated by other IDF officials that the party was taking place.**

Yet, **IDF Southern Command Chief of Staff Brig.-Gen. Manor Yanai had told Azulai that there was no security issue with the Nova party, and despite that statement, did not later update Azulai** or any other police officials that the situation had changed, according to Channel 12.

The lack of updates to the police from JIDF Southern Command would stand even more since IDF Southern Commander Maj.-Gen. Yaron Finkleman, Yanai's boss, abandoned his vacation in northern Israel in the middle of the night to rush south to his base at Beersheba to have a closer hand on the situation.

<https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/article-819196>

Two Arab Israelis shot dead in separate suspected homicides

One man killed Sunday while driving in southern town of Rahat; another succumbs to wounds after being shot on Friday in Rosh Pina

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 4:16 pm

Two men were killed in shootings, one while driving in Rahat on Sunday and another at a bar in Rosh Pina on Friday, according to Hebrew media reports amid a persistent crime wave in the Arab Israeli community.

Mohammed Sheikh al-Eid, in his 30s, was shot dead while driving on Sunday in the southern city of Rahat in what police suspect to be a criminal incident.

He was **fatally wounded and his car** then collided with a minibus.

Seven **passengers on the bus were slightly wounded and taken** to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

According **to the Ynet news site, a burnt-out vehicle was found at the scene in Rahat, which police suspect was used by the shooters.**

A preliminary investigation revealed that **the incident is related to a feud between the victim's family and the Abu Latif family that has already claimed the lives of eight people,** Ynet added.

In a **separate incident, Yazen Abu Salah, a resident of Ein al-Asad in his 20s, succumbed to his wounds on Saturday night after being shot on Friday in Rosh Pina.**

The shooting **on Friday was suspected to be part of a conflict between criminal gangs, according to Channel 12 news.**

Abu **Saleh was in a bar in Rosh Pina when he was shot.** A bystander told Channel 12 that initially people feared it was a terror incident. The shooter fled the scene, according to the report.

Three suspects have since been arrested in connection to the incident, all from the town of Tuba-Zangariyye, Channel 12 added.

Police told Channel 12 that the **incident could have "ended in a major disaster."**

Both **Mohammed Sheikh al-Eid and Yazen Abu Salah are members of Israel's Arab community, which has seen 156 murders in 2024, according to the Abraham Initiatives,** a group that tracks these

statistics.

A wave of **violent crime has swept the Arab Israeli community, much of it tied to warring organized crime groups**. Many Arab Israeli community leaders put the blame on the police, who they say have failed to crack down on powerful criminal organizations and largely ignore the violence, which includes family feuds, mafia turf wars, and violence against women.

For their part, authorities have blamed burgeoning organized crime and the proliferation of weaponry, while some have pointed to a failure by communities to cooperate with law enforcement to root out criminals.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/two-arab-israelis-shot-dead-in-separate-suspected-homicides/>

Terrorist released in November deal re-arrested after attacking mother, sister
The released terrorist had reportedly attacked his female relatives with broken glass following an argument.
By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 12:04 Updated: SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 16:44



Palestinian youths hold their national flag during a protest against a Jewish settlement in the mostly Arab neighborhood of Silwan in east Jerusalem (photo credit: REUTERS/BAZ RATNER)

An 18-year-old terrorist released in the November ceasefire-hostage deal was arrested on Sunday after he broke his sister's nose and allegedly threatened to behead her, according to Israeli media.

The suspect is from the Silwan neighborhood in east Jerusalem. He also allegedly broke his mother's hand.

The released terrorist had reportedly attacked his female relatives with broken glass following an argument.

Police said he threatened to behead his sister

"He approached his little sister and threatened to slaughter her, cut off her head, [and] bring a knife and a gun and kill her while slapping her and hitting her in all parts of her body," police said, according to KAN.

The terrorist was reportedly sentenced in June 2023 at age 16 to two-and-a-half years in prison for throwing Molotov cocktails at a car of Jewish Israelis in east Jerusalem.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-819149> **These are the "peaceful palestinians" with whom Israel is supposed to make a deal. They are worse than animals. – rdb]**

High Court: Levin must begin process to appoint permanent Chief Justice

The High Court ruled that Justice Minister Yariv Levin's year-long delay in appointing a Chief Justice was unlawful and ordered him to start the process.

By [ELIAV BREUER](#) SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 16:35 Updated: SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 16:51



Israel's Justice Minister Yariv Levin holds a press conference at the Knesset, the Israeli Knesset in Jerusalem, on January 4, 2023. (photo credit: OLIVIER FITOUSSI/FLASH90)

The High Court of Justice ruled on Sunday that Justice Minister Yariv Levin's refraining from electing a Chief Justice for nearly a year was unlawful and ordered him to begin the procedure of appointing a new permanent Chief Justice.

The ruling was unprecedented, as no justice minister has acted this way in the past, and is likely to deepen the crisis between the justice minister and the nation's highest court.

Israel's Chief Justice is appointed by a regular majority in the nine-member Judicial Appointments Committee, which is chaired by Levin. Traditionally, the committee appoints the judge with the most time on the bench in a process known as "seniority." The next in line to become chief justice following the retirement of former chief justice Esther Hayut was Yizhak Amit.

However, **Levin refrained from holding a vote to elect Amit; Amit is considered a liberal judge, and Levin supported the candidacy of conservative judge Yosef Elron, who was the only other judge to apply for the position.** Judge Uzi Fogelman served as interim chief justice, but Fogelman is set to retire in October.

The committee with Levin in charge has appointed approximately 170 judges since he took office, all for lower courts. The committee has not yet replaced the vacancies left by Hayut and fellow judge Anat Baron's departure in October, nor for Fogelman's spot, which will soon be vacant as well.

Contrary to the issue of the chief justice, however, the three judges who authored Sunday's ruling – Yael Vilner, Ofer Groskopf, and Alex Stein – did not order the justice minister to initiate the process to fill these vacancies.

Sunday's ruling came after the Movement for Quality Government in Israel appealed against Levin for refraining from carrying out the appointments. While the law says that the justice minister has the power when to convene the committee and what to place on its agenda, the justice minister did not have the prerogative to ignore the law's purpose, to appoint a chief justice, by leaving the position permanently unoccupied.

Levin's response

Levin **stated in his defense that he wanted to reach a "broad agreement" on the identity of the next chief justice and argued that it was his right to do so. However, Vilner wrote in the majority opinion that this could not be the only consideration and that the justice minister was required to consider** the main purpose of the law as well.

Levin **also argued that the judges had a conflict of interest in that they were ruling on a topic that involved their own court directly.** Vilner rejected this argument, writing that the judges were not ruling on whom the chief justice would be but rather that the need for a permanent justice to be appointed was critical for the public as a whole. The interest was, therefore, a public interest and not a personal one by the judges, and as such, did not conflict with their ability to rule on the issue, Vilner wrote.

Vilner added **that the court had given Levin ample time to attempt a compromise and done all it could to avoid resolving the issue by judicial decree** but wrote that the court could wait no longer since the court system was entering "paralysis."

As opposed to the chief justice appointment, which requires a simple majority, appointing new justices requires a majority of at least seven out of the nine committee members. The law itself thus puts an **emphasis on broad agreement**, and therefore, Levin's refraining from appointing them was lawful, and no judicial order was required, Vilner wrote.

The court's decision was that Levin must publish within 14 days the list of candidates for the position, and convene the committee in order to elect the chief justice immediately afterwards.

In addition to his position as leader of the court system and as responsible for case assignments on the High Court bench, the **chief justice holds a number of statutory positions**, including, for example, electing members of the National Committee of Inquiry.

Levin responded by harshly criticizing the court's decision but refrained from saying that he would not respect the ruling. The justice minister said that the order was "directly contradicted the law" and blamed the judges of a "severe conflict of interest."

Levin, the chief proponent of the government's controversial judicial reforms in 2023, said that the court "cynically took advantage" of his decision to freeze the reform after war broke out on October 7. The justice minister said that the court had rejected "with contempt" a compromise decision he proposed at the end of August, and accused the judges of a "forceful takeover" of his authorities. The ruling was a "ringing slap in the face" of 2.5 million of the coalition's voters and "many others who demand the diversification of the High Court" and turned them into "second-class citizens," Levin added.

The justice **minister concluded that he "will not be able to work with a chief justice who was appointed illegally by his friends and is illegitimate in the eyes of an enormous population."**

MQG, the petitioner in the case, "strongly condemned" what it said was Levin's "irresponsible words."

"His [Levin's] blatantly contemptuous response to the Supreme Court ruling is a direct continuation of his misguided policy of ignoring the law and violating the principles of democracy," MQG wrote.

"Minister Levin accuses the court of a conflict of interest but ignores the serious conflict of interest in which he himself is embroiled as the minister of justice who is refusing to fulfill his legal duty. His claim that the order is 'absolutely contradictory to the law' is false and misleading. The court made it very clear how the minister's interpretation of the law is the one that is contrary to its language and purpose," MQG said.

The statement continued, "Accusing the court of 'forceful takeover' is shocking hypocrisy on the part of those who tried to trample the independence of the judiciary and subordinate it to their political wishes. The claim that the order is a 'slap in the face' to coalition voters is cheap demagoguery. The role of the court is to protect the rule of law and the rights of all citizens, not to please one political group or another."

MQG added, "The minister's threat not to work with the president of the Supreme Court who will be legally appointed is the crossing of another red line which indicates a complete disdain for the principle of separation of powers. We call on the minister of justice to retract his dangerous words, respect the

ruling of the Supreme Court and fulfill his duties as required by law. If he is unable to do so, he must resign from his position immediately." <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-819210> **[Just what Israel needs in the middle of a war is more problems with their liberal judiciary. Sorry folks but each judge on the court should be picked by the Knesset similar to the method in the US. That avoids political nepotism. – rdb]**

Washington wants Ukraine's resources – US Senator

Kiev is sitting on a "trillion dollars' worth of minerals" that are "good" for the US economy, US Senator Lindsey Graham says

7 Sep, 2024 21:28

US Senator Lindsey Graham has openly said Washington needs Ukraine's natural resources and that, therefore, military aid to the country must continue until Kiev is able to "win" its conflict with Russia.

The **South Carolina Republican, one of the top backers of Kiev within the US establishment, made the remarks on Friday in Kiev**, speaking alongside leader Vladimir Zelensky. He praised the Ukrainians and their purported resolve to fight Moscow no matter what, noting that this means that Americans themselves don't have to do this, only to provide the weaponry.

"They [the Ukrainians] are sitting on a trillion dollars' worth of minerals that could be good to our economy. So, I want to keep helping our friends in Ukraine. We can win this. They need our help," Graham stated.

The **senator has long been very open about Washington's true goals in the conflict** between Moscow and Kiev, repeatedly bringing up the **"trillions worth"** of resources in the hands of the Ukrainians as a crucial asset and the ultimate prize for the US. He also previously described the deaths of Russians in the conflict as **"the best money we ever spent"** and an all-round solid investment for the US.

Graham's new admission matches the assessment of the US motives recently outlined by Russia's ex-president and the incumbent deputy chair of the National Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev. Last week, Medvedev claimed both Kiev and its Western backers have been focused on holding their grip on Donbass solely over its natural-resource riches.

"According to open-source data, the total value of Ukraine's former mineral resource base is estimated at almost \$14.8 trillion, but \$7.3 trillion of this is now in the Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics. That means almost half of the former Ukraine's national wealth is in Donbass!" Medvedev explained in a lengthy Telegram post.

"To get access to the coveted minerals, the Western parasites shamelessly demand that their wards wage war to the last Ukrainian. They are already directly voicing such intent without hesitation," Russia's former leader added. <https://www.rt.com/russia/603669-washington-wants-ukraines-resources/>

Ukraine's new dragon drones unleash hellfire on Russian positions

Drones spew white-hot mixture of molten metal, burning at temperatures of up to 4,000 °F; 'Our drones are the wings of our revenge, delivering fire from the sky'

Ynet|17:29

Ukraine unleashes dragon drones on Russian forces

Dramatic videos released last week show Ukrainian forces a fleet of drones, dubbed dragon drones, spewing molten metal on Russian troops in eastern Ukraine's forests.

The white-hot mixture of aluminum powder and iron oxide, called thermite, burns at temperatures of up to 4,000°F (2,200°C). It can quickly burn off trees and vegetation giving cover to Russian troops, if not killing or disabling the troops outright.

Ukraine's new dragon drones unleash hellfire on Russian positions

While Russia has used thermite bombs throughout the war, they have typically been deployed



via rockets or cluster bombs at a much higher cost. The Ukrainians have now developed a cheaper, more precise method by attaching these bombs to drones, according to reports in the Daily Mail.

In one video, a drone is seen flying over a forested area in eastern Ukraine, where Russian forces are hiding. The drone operator drops a thermite bomb, sending white-hot sparks into the Russian positions below. Additional footage released by Ukrainian forces followed shortly after.

"Our drones are the wings of our revenge, delivering fire from the sky," said the Ukrainian armored battalion that shared one of the videos on Facebook. "They pose a real threat to the enemy, burning their positions with precision unmatched by other weapons."

Thermite munitions are capable of damaging Russian artillery batteries and armored vehicles, even melting steel. Days after the Ukrainian videos surfaced, an unverified clip appeared on Telegram, showing a Russian soldier pleading for help after his camp was devastated by a similar Ukrainian strike.

Meanwhile, CNN reported Friday on a graphic video showing the execution of three Ukrainian soldiers who had surrendered during fierce fighting near the strategic city of Pokrovsk in eastern Ukraine. Moscow aims to capture the city to eliminate Ukrainian resistance in the Donbas region, as Russian forces struggle to fend off Ukrainian advances in the Kursk region.

The execution, filmed by a Ukrainian military drone in late August, shows the three soldiers kneeling with their hands behind their heads before they fall lifeless to the ground, likely after being shot. CNN described the footage as evidence of Russia's brutal tactics in its determined push for eastern Ukraine, while refraining from diverting significant forces to counter Ukraine's incursion into Russian territory in Kursk.



Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky claimed Friday that around 6,000 Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded in Kursk since the Ukrainian offensive began on August 6. Zelensky said Ukrainian forces now control over 500 square miles in the region, including 100 settlements, much of which was reportedly

abandoned by retreating Russian troops.

The Wall Street Journal also reported that Iran has supplied Russia with short-range ballistic missiles, deepening Tehran's alliance with Moscow. European officials told the newspaper that despite stern warnings from the West, Iran has sent the missiles to aid Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, raising concerns about what Iran may receive in return.

While the White House did not confirm the report, it warned that any missile shipment from Iran to Russia would be a "dramatic escalation" of Tehran's support for Moscow. In response, Iran's UN delegation denied the claim, saying, "We do not supply weapons to either side in the conflict and call on others to do the same and support peace negotiations." <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bjhbahc3r#autoplay>

WATCH: Dr. Ben Carson: Kamala 'needs to be told what her policies are' for one troubling reason

'And all this business about flip-flopping, you have to wonder if she has really flip-flopped because she said that her values have not changed'

By [Joe Kovacs](#) September 8, 2024

As America prepares for the highly anticipated debate Tuesday between former President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, a former member of the Trump administration says Joe Biden's vice president "needs to be told what her policies are."

Appearing on "Sunday Morning Futures" on the Fox News Channel, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Dr. Ben Carson said Harris "needs to be told what her policies are, because she doesn't really know what they are. Nobody else does either.

"Donald Trump doesn't have to prep because the truth is always the truth. You don't have to try to figure out what things will resonate with people, you just say who you are. He's very transparent. And I

think the people will appreciate that. So it's going to be a widely watched debate. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Carson **believes "Harris is going to try to get under Donald Trump's skin. That's what the preparation is all about, how do you get under his skin."**

The former HUD secretary expects the matchup to be **"one of the most consequential can debates ever because people will finally get a chance to hear from Kamala Harris what she believes."**

"And all this business about flip-flopping, you have to wonder if she has really flip-flopped because she said that her values have not changed. So what kind of values are we talking about?" Carson said.

"You know, values that as the D.A. in San Francisco led to a policy where people can go into stores and take \$900 of stuff with little or no consequences or values that lead to not deporting drug dealers who are resulting in the death of American citizens or the kind of values that allow you to kill babies right up until the time of birth? And maybe even beyond that time?"

"Opposing legislation that would save babies that survive abortion attempts?" You have to wonder about that.

"Values that lead you to mandate what kind of car people should drive, or what kind of stoves they should have as opposed to letting free market forces. So what you're going to see in the debate is Donald Trump running on his past policies and Kamala Harris running away from her past policies. So it should make for a very, very interesting evening." <https://www.wnd.com/2024/09/watch-dr-ben-carson-kamala-needs-to-be-told-what-her-policies-are-for-one-troubling-reason/>

Joe Biden's 'TikTok Army' received hundreds of thousands from George Soros to push left-wing causes, bash conservatives

By [Jon Levine](#) Published Sep. 16, 2023, 7:45 a.m. ET



Billionaire George Soros is financing an army of social media influencers who are going into battle for President Biden and other progressive causes, a review of public documents by The Post shows. REUTERS

Billionaire Democratic donor George Soros is financing an army of Gen-Z TikTokers to push his extreme left-wing causes, praise President Joe Biden, and bash conservatives, a review of public documents and social media by The Post shows.

Soros' Open Society Foundation shelled out \$5.5 million to the nonprofit Accelerate Action Inc. in 2020 and 2021 — which in turn gave at least \$300,000 in 2022 to another nonprofit, Gen Z for Change, which boasts a network of 500 "activists, organizers, and creators," tax filings show.

The woke foot soldiers regularly go into battle on behalf of abolishing border enforcement, defunding cops, and ending cash bail [according to their website.](#)

Throughout his term in office, President Biden has looked to Gen Z for Change and other social-media stars to sell his policy agenda.

In March 2022, top White House officials briefed them on the ongoing US effort in Ukraine.

They gabbed with Surgeon General Vivek Murthy about coronavirus and sat for meetings with Biden in the Oval Office, the [Washington Post reported.](#)

The confabs were the subject of a [Saturday Night Live Cold Open](#) that same month.

Soros' Open Society Foundation shelled out \$5.5 million to the nonprofit Accelerate Action Inc. in 2020 and 2021, which in turn gave at least \$300,000 in 2022 to another nonprofit, Gen Z for Change.

In recognition of their contributions, Gen Z for Change was invited to the White House to witness the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act.

It's unclear how Gen Z for Change disperses the Soros cash to its core cadre of young influencer activists whose accounts are littered with White House and far-left talking points.

"We are unequivocally supportive of Medicare for all, the Green New Deal, Palestinian liberation, [and] a plethora of progressive policies that a vast majority of Gen Z supports," group founder Aidan Kohn-Murphy told his 288,000 TikTok followers [in a message](#) Wednesday.

Kohn-Murphy himself has overseen partnerships with the White House and Democratic



National Committee, according to his [speakers bureau](#).

Victoria **Hammett, 24**, the group's deputy executive director, frequently sounds the alarm on **women's issues and reproductive rights**.

"Abortion **after six weeks will be banned in Iowa once the governor signs the ban**," [she told her 819,000 followers](#).

"If there is a 13-year-old little girl who is getting abused and is too scared to or does not know how to report it, she would be forced to carry her rapist's baby to term."

Conor Stayton, 20, a digital marketing strategist for the group, had sharp words for upstate GOP Rep. Elise Stefanik after a shooting in Buffalo left [10 people dead](#) in May 2022 — accusing her of repeating "neo-nazi and white supremacist" talking points.

"Elise maybe you should keep your mouth shut," Stayton snapped [in a video](#) that same month to his 557,000 TikTok followers.

Critics said the Soros' Gen Z grunts are worrisome

"George Soros is funding the next generation of far-left activists on a platform that is beholden to the [Chinese Communist Party]," Rep. Stefanik told The Post.

Roughly **two-thirds of Accelerate Action's \$8.3 million for 2020 and 2021 came from Soros.**

Accelerate Action is the only nonprofit that has donated to Gen Z for Change, according to the latest publicly available tax records.

The middle-man nonprofit has little public-facing presence beyond a [spartan website](#) with a brief mission statement that declares its purpose is to "develop and test new models for citizen organizing, particularly in communities of color. . . and develop deep, trusted relationships that can move people to take action."

No **tax forms for Gen-Z for Change were publicly available on the IRS website, and Kohn-Murphy did not respond to multiple requests from The Post to provide them.**

"We believe that more, rather than fewer, voters, including among younger and historically marginalized communities, should be empowered to participate in America's democracy through free and fair elections. We're proud to support organizations working with new technologies to spur civic participation and help enable more inclusive, just, and open societies," an **Open Society Foundations spokesperson said.**

Stayton, Hammett, and Accelerate Action did not respond to requests for comment.

Soros, a 93-year-old billionaire, has spent decades financing far-left causes around the world through his Open Society Foundation.

His most notable contributions to New York City have included [bankrolling soft-on-crime prosecutors](#) like Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg. <https://nypost.com/2023/09/16/joe-bidens-tiktok-army-funded-by-george-soros/>

Jack Smith And DOJ Have Spent More Than \$35 Million Prosecuting Trump

[Alison Durkee](#) *Forbes Staff* Aug 29, 2024, 01:12pm EDT

Alison is a senior news reporter covering US politics and legal news.

Special Counsel Jack Smith and the Justice Department have spent more than \$35 million prosecuting Trump, according to new disclosure reports through March—an amount that outshines his fellow special counsels and will only rise as Smith took new actions in court this week to revive his two criminal cases against the ex-president.

Key Facts

Smith and his office lead the federal government's two criminal cases against Trump, for the ex-president's efforts to overturn the 2020 election and for allegedly withholding White House documents.

Smith's **Special Counsel Office and the broader Justice Department spent \$35.7 million on Smith and his staff's work between Nov. 2022, when he was appointed, and March 31, the most recent date for which data is available, according to statements of expenditures released** by Smith's office.

That includes **\$19.4 million spent by Smith's office directly, plus \$16.3 million in other DOJ resources to support his investigations, including hours worked by DOJ employees** and a protective detail for Smith, as Trump has repeatedly attacked the special counsel.

Smith's largest expenditures have been for staff salaries and benefits, totaling \$11.6 million, followed by \$4.6 million on services that are contracted out like IT, investigative and litigation support and transcription services.

Smith's office and the DOJ spent the most—\$14.7 million—in the period between April 1 and September 30, 2023, which includes when both of Smith's indictments against Trump were first brought.

The office and DOJ spent \$11.8 million in the most recent period reported, from October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, including \$6.6 million spent by the Special Counsel's office and \$5.2 million in DOJ support.

News Peg

Smith **made big moves in his two criminal cases against Trump this week. The special counsel appealed Trump's documents case on Monday, asking for the charges to be revived after Trump-appointed U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon dismissed them.** Smith then filed an [updated indictment](#) against Trump in the federal election case on Tuesday, removing some allegations and tweaking language after the Supreme Court gave Trump immunity from criminal prosecution based on his "official acts" in office. The new indictment still brings the same [four felony charges](#) against Trump, and both Smith and Trump's attorneys are expected to file reports by Friday proposing how the case should move forward from here.

What To Watch For

The **continued debate over whether Smith's appointment was lawful. Cannon threw out Trump's documents case because she ruled the special counsel was appointed unlawfully, believing someone with his level of authority shouldn't have been named by the attorney general, but rather by the president and then confirmed by the Senate.** The Trump appointee's ruling has been widely criticized by legal experts, and Smith argued in his appeal Monday that the judge misconstrued federal statutes and went against Supreme Court precedent by throwing out the case. If Cannon's ruling stands, Smith argued, it could "jeopardize the longstanding operation of the Justice Department and call into question hundreds of appointments throughout the Executive Branch." It's unclear how long it will take the appeals court to rule on Smith's request, and it's likely the dispute will go to the Supreme Court. Cannon's ruling in the documents case does not affect Smith's authority to oversee the separate federal election case, though if the Supreme Court were to rule that special counsels are unlawfully appointed across the board, that would then affect Smith's standing more broadly.

How Does Jack Smith's Spending Compare With Trump?

The **\$35 million spent by Smith's office and the DOJ is only slightly higher than how much Trump is paying his lawyers in the criminal cases against him. Trump's attorneys said in an August court filing that Trump has spent \$15 million in attorneys fees on the federal documents case alone—**though since the ex-president has been using his **Save America political action committee to fund his legal fees, at least most of that isn't coming out of his own pockets.** While Trump has not put a dollar figure on how much the federal election case has cost him, the **attorneys representing him in that case have collectively been paid \$14.2 million (\$15.8 million including debt) by Save America through the end of July, the** most recent date for which filings are available. Many of his attorneys are representing Trump in multiple cases, however, so the amount they're being paid for the election case specifically would be lower. It's also still unclear if Trump is using any other funds to pay his attorneys, or if he's paying any attorneys fees himself.

How Does Jack Smith Compare To Other Special Counsels?

With two separate high-profile criminal cases now playing out in court, Smith's office has vastly outspent other recently hired special counsels. Special Counsel [Robert Hur](#), who led the investigation into President Joe Biden retaining White House documents, and the DOJ [spent](#) \$11.3 million on its investigations between Jan. 2023 and March 2024, including \$4.8 million in the period between October 1, 2023 and March 31, lower than the \$11.8 million spent on Smith's cases during that time. [John Durham](#), the special counsel who investigated the FBI's Trump-Russia probe, and the DOJ [spent](#) only \$9.8 million on his investigation in the span of nearly three years, between Oct. 2020 and Sept. 2023. [David Weiss](#), who's investigating Hunter Biden, has [spent](#) \$3.7 million with the DOJ between Aug. 2023 and March 2024.

What Happens If Trump Gets Elected?

Trump has vowed to fire Smith if he wins the presidential election, though in practice he doesn't have the power to do that directly. Special counsels like Smith can only be fired by the attorney general, and federal law states they can only be let go "for misconduct, dereliction of duty, incapacity, conflict of interest, or for other good cause." It's expected Trump would appoint an

attorney general willing to fire Smith and have the charges against Trump dropped, however, and while legal experts note Smith would have standing to sue over his dismissal, it remains to be seen if the conservative-leaning Supreme Court would rule in his favor.

Key Background

Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed Smith in Nov. 2022 to oversee the investigations against Trump, naming an independent special counsel in order to avoid perceptions of political bias given Biden and Trump were set to face off in the 2024 election. Smith brought criminal charges against Trump in the ensuing months, indicting him in June 2023 in the [documents case](#) and in August 2023 in the federal [election case](#). Trump has pleaded not guilty to the charges against him and has frequently lashed out at Smith while the government's investigations and criminal cases have played out, claiming the special counsel is a "thug" who's leading "witch hunts" against him in order to harm Trump's political campaign.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2024/08/29/jack-smith-and-doj-have-spent-more-than-35-million-prosecuting-trump/>

OP ED

The Oslo Effect: The Weaponization of Hostages to do Hamas's Dirty Work for It

by [Melanie Phillips](#) September 8, 2024 at 5:00 am



The demonstrators in Israel are backed by assorted military and intelligence types in a treasonous attempt to lever Netanyahu out of office by creating division and demoralization while Israel is fighting for its life. Their core claim is that Netanyahu is prolonging the war and condemning the hostages to death solely to appease extremists in his coalition and thus remain in power.

Pictured: Anti-government protesters set a fire and use smoke torches on September 7, 2024 in Tel Aviv, Israel. (Photo by Amir Levy/Getty Images)

The enormous demonstrations in Israel against Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, might be giving people outside the country the impression that the Israeli public is generally against him because of his conduct of the war and that his days in office are therefore numbered.

What's more likely is that the Israeli left is in the process of destroying itself once and for all.

Israelis are being increasingly maddened by grief and horror over the unconscionable fate of the hostages trapped in the hellholes of Gaza. This month's cold-blooded murder of six of these captives by Hamas savages has tipped many Israelis over the edge.

The demonstrators' demand for an immediate ceasefire deal to release the hostages is not only ludicrous to the point of near derangement, but also poses a direct threat to Israel's security and indeed existence — precisely the outcome that Hamas intends through its diabolical manipulation of the hostages' plight.

The demonstrators are backed by assorted military and intelligence types in a treasonous attempt to lever Netanyahu out of office by creating division and demoralization while Israel is fighting for its life. Their core claim is that Netanyahu is prolonging the war and condemning the hostages to death solely to appease extremists in his coalition and thus remain in power.

What Netanyahu's opponents fail to grasp is that, even if the prime minister is as opportunist as he is portrayed, his conduct of the war has overwhelming public backing.

The majority of Israelis insist that Hamas be defeated once and for all. After the October 7 terrorist attacks and atrocities in southern Jewish communities, they demanded that Israel should never again be content with repeatedly inflicting "serious blows" on Hamas only for it to resume its murder offensives within a few months.

Of course, everyone desperately wants the hostages brought back home. But the idea that the ceasefire deal would achieve this is sheer fantasy.

Only a few of the hostages would be released in the first phase. Hamas would then use the ceasefire to regroup and rearm, spinning out the continuing negotiation farce to keep the rest of the hostages trapped and thus retain control of the Gaza Strip.

It would only ever release all the hostages (if at all) with Israel's total surrender. That's what those calling for an immediate ceasefire deal are actually promoting.

The only way to save the hostages is through military pressure. That's one reason why it's imperative for Israel to retain control of the Philadelphi corridor, the area of Gaza that borders Egypt.

The importance of this corridor cannot be exaggerated. Israel's capture of it has uncovered deep below its surface an extensive infrastructure of giant tunnels into Egypt — thus revealing the principal route through which Hamas imported its rockets, weapons and ammunition.

Hamas needs to control the Philadelphi corridor in order to resupply itself. Without that, it will be finished. That's why it's insisting that there will be no deal while Israel remains in control.

The vast majority of the military and security officials who belong to the authoritative Israel Defense and Security Forum are adamant that Israel must not cede control of the corridor. The forum's chairman, Brig. Gen. Amir Avivi, said last week that tens of thousands of rockets and thousands of Hamas *Nukhbah* terrorists were waiting inside the Egyptian Sinai to go into Gaza through Philadelphi.

Even if Israel made only a short retreat, these troops and equipment could be brought in within a week. Egypt had made billions of dollars from the smuggling trade into Gaza and wants to continue.

Moreover, said Avivi, only 30 out of more than 100 hostages were slated to be released in the first phase of the deal — and Hamas reportedly planned to take the rest of them through the Philadelphi tunnels to Sinai and then to Iran.

Yet the corridor has suddenly become a weapon to be used against Netanyahu, who is accused of inflating its importance in order to scupper a ceasefire deal and hostage return.

In a security cabinet row, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant reportedly called Philadelphi "an unnecessary constraint that we've placed on ourselves." Gadi Eizenkot, a former chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, said it wasn't strategically important. Former Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Israel could return to the corridor if it deemed it necessary once the hostages were home.

Other arguments have included getting Egypt to safeguard Philadelphi against Hamas and using electronic sensors to monitor it.

This is all utterly delusional. For two decades, Egypt was complicit in the construction and use of the Philadelphi tunnels; entrusting it with Israel's security would be to put the fox in charge of the henhouse. Israeli reliance on electronic sensors was one of the reasons the October 7 pogrom happened.

As for the IDF returning to the corridor after it pulled out, the same argument was used by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in the 2005 disengagement from Gaza when he pulled Israel out of Philadelphi — the issue over which Netanyahu resigned from that government. Just as international pressure meant the IDF never went back in despite the subsequent rocket barrages from Gaza, so a future return to the Philadelphi corridor after a withdrawal now would be a total non-starter.

Despite the thousands of people in the streets, most Israelis get this. In one opinion poll, 79% agreed that Israel needed to control Philadelphi permanently to prevent weapons smuggling from Egypt to Gaza. When asked more emotively whether Israel should control Philadelphi "even at the expense of a hostage deal," more respondents said it should than those who balked at preventing a hostage deal.

Gantz, Eizenkot and Gallant are part of a military and security establishment whose morally and intellectually bankrupt "conception" brought about the Oct. 7 catastrophe in the first place.

Netanyahu, too, was part of that same establishment and in due course must be held to account for the heavy responsibility he bears.

However, those who aren't blinded by a pathological hatred of Netanyahu can see that he is holding off intense American pressure to pull out of Philadelphi, just as they can also see that America itself bears a significant measure of responsibility for the hostages' fate.

The Biden administration forced Israel to proceed in Gaza far more slowly than the IDF judged necessary to defeat Hamas and thus save the hostages. Worse, for three months, the administration stopped Israel from entering Rafah — below which the six hostages were murdered this month. If Israel had been free to proceed at its own pace, those six captives and many others might have been saved.

Whatever happens to Netanyahu, the left will almost certainly discover that, for the second time, it has made a terrible strategic error.

The first such error was the 1993 Oslo Accord, which gave the Palestinians political power and status — with the Americans even training their security forces — on the assumption that they intended to live in peace alongside Israel.

This was a victory of fantasy over reality. The eventual result was more than 1,000 Israelis murdered in the five-year intifada from 2000 to 2005, and an enduring culture of indoctrination and incitement that today has turned Judea and Samaria into another genocidal front for Iran.

The catastrophic Oslo "conception" caused the Israeli elites to ignore the clear evidence of Islamic holy war by the Palestinians and to believe that Israel could keep a lid on potential trouble. They believed that their enemy was not genocidal Palestinianism. It was Netanyahu.

That's also why they spent most of last year fighting judicial reform. And the same people are now sickeningly weaponizing the hostages for the same goal — to remove Netanyahu from power. You don't have to be a Netanyahu fan to be revolted, frightened and enraged.

The effect of the Oslo nightmare was to wipe out the Israeli left's chances of gaining political power. The public's revulsion and anger that these same types of people have been doing the work of Hamas for it by promoting Israel's surrender means that this terrible betrayal won't be forgotten or forgiven. It will be the Oslo effect on steroids.

Melanie Phillips, a British journalist, broadcaster and author, writes a weekly column for JNS. Currently a columnist for The Times of London, her personal and political memoir, Guardian Angel, has been published by Bombardier, which also published her first novel, The Legacy, in 2018. To access her work, go to: melaniephillips.substack.com.

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/20922/israel-weaponization-of-hostages>

B"SD

From: Lev U'Neshama - Tzfat Israel

Sufficient and generous donations from many generous and concerned people enabled Lev U'Neshama to provide school supplies shopping coupons to every Lev U'Neshama family. The parents and children are redeeming the coupons now and very excited to be getting ready for school in Tzfat. The family-owned office supply store in Tzfat is delighted to participate and also to have the business, especially now during wartime.

However, the school supplies coupons were Part One of the Education Fund project and now we face Part Two; the mounting requests for sport shoes and eye exams/eyeglasses for the children in need of them. A child can be sponsored for a pair of sport shoes for \$40 and \$75 will sponsor a child for an eye exam and eyeglasses. Eyeglasses are an obvious need and students are not allowed to wear rubber flip-flop sandals to school. Our Lev U'Neshama families tend to have many children and it becomes an impossible situation to get the shoes and eyeglasses for many children from an already tight budget.

Help is urgently needed; school begins in two to three weeks, depending on the school system opening date.

Donations may be made to Dr. Ron Beals' organization or checks made payable to:
Simcha Smolensky
and sent to:

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

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