

Two killed in Kiryat Shmona, several hurt in Haifa as Hezbollah rockets batter north

Military says 3 troops seriously wounded in southern Lebanon fighting, but touts drone strike on operatives who killed paratrooper last week; 185 Hezbollah sites targeted from air

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 2:36 pm



Israeli security and rescue forces at the site where a missile fired from Lebanon hit in the northern town of Kiryat Shmona, October 9, 2024. (Ayal Margolin/Flash90)

Two people were killed in a rocket attack on the border town of Kiryat Shmona Wednesday, as Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets into northern Israel and military forces aimed heavy air and ground fire at the Lebanese terror group.

The pair of fatalities, which marked the first deadly attack on civilians since fighting between Israel and Lebanon intensified late last month, came on a day that also saw five people injured in a large

rocket barrage on Haifa.

In southern Lebanon, Israeli troops continued to carry out raids, engaging in close combat with Hezbollah forces and carrying out strikes from the air, including against operatives who killed an officer last week, the Israel Defense Forces said. Three soldiers were seriously injured in fighting over the past day, according to the IDF.

Hezbollah took responsibility for the strikes Wednesday, including a volley on Kiryat Shmona early Wednesday afternoon that it claimed had targeted “enemy forces” mustering outside the Galilee Panhandle city.

According to the IDF, some 20 projectiles were fired at the Kiryat Shmona area from Lebanon in the attack, with an unspecified number impacting inside Israel.

The two victims, who were not immediately named, were identified in Hebrew-language media as a civilian couple who had been walking their dogs and were unable to reach a shelter in time.

Medics declared the two dead at the scene, according to the Magen David Adom rescue service, which said the pair had been in their 40s.



Israeli security and rescue forces at the site where a missile fired from Lebanon hit in the northern town of Kiryat Shmona, October 9, 2024. (Ayal Margolin/Flash90)

The pair were the first civilians killed in Hezbollah rocket attacks since early August, when a student visiting his family was fatally struck by an errant interceptor missile.

Hezbollah attacks in late July also killed 12 children playing at a park in Majdal Shams and a man in Kibbutz HaGoshrim, near Kiryat Shmona. In all, 28 civilians have been killed in attacks from Lebanon since October 8, 2023, when Hezbollah began firing into Israel in support of

Hamas.

The Kiryat Shmona attack, which also sparked a number of fires in the city, was one of several major bombardments to batter Israeli cities over Wednesday.

At least 40 more rockets were fired at Haifa from Lebanon early Wednesday afternoon, the IDF said, and rockets also rained on other cities across the Galilee, including Safed, which appeared to come under major attack before 5 p.m.

A 16-year-old boy was moderately injured by shrapnel from the Haifa attack, MDA said, while four others in their 40s and 50s were hospitalized with minor injuries.

At least one rocket impacted in the Haifa suburb of Kiryat Bialik, causing power outages in the city.



Israeli policemen inspect damage from a rocket launched from Lebanon that fell on a cemetery in Kiryat Bialik near the port city of Haifa on October 9, 2024. (Menahem Kahana/AFP)

Earlier in the day, air defenses intercepted two missiles launched from Lebanon at the Carmel region south of Haifa. The attack triggered rare sirens in cities in Israel's northern coastal plain, including Caesarea and Zichron Yaakov.

Hezbollah has lobbed over 3,000 rockets at Israel's north — and in some cases beyond — since Israel launched an offensive on September 23 aimed at removing the terror group

from southern Lebanon following a year of near-daily cross border attacks. Israel says it is seeking to make it safe for some 60,000 people displaced by the Hezbollah attacks since October 2023 to return home, including by eliminating the threat of a Hamas-style cross-border rampage it alleges Hezbollah had planned to unleash on northern towns.

The Israeli military said it has dismantled Hezbollah infrastructure along the border and killed hundreds of Hezbollah fighters. It has also carried out airstrikes deeper inside Lebanon, including an attack on a coastal town near Sidon that Lebanon said killed four people Wednesday. It did not say if the four were civilians or combatants.



A smoke cloud erupts following an Israeli airstrike on a village near Lebanon's southern city of Tyre on October 9, 2024. (Kawnat Haju/AFP)

The IDF said Wednesday three soldiers had been seriously wounded in the fighting in southern Lebanon over the last 24 hours: an NCO and a reservist from the Military Intelligence Directorate's Unit 504 seriously hurt on Tuesday and a soldier from the Alon Brigade's 8207th Battalion seriously injured on Wednesday.

Four divisions have been deployed along a narrow strip along the border in southern Lebanon,

with the army saying Tuesday that operations were expanding toward the west.

During the past day of fighting in southern Lebanon, several Hezbollah gunmen were killed and weapons and rocket launchers were uncovered by ground troops, the military said in a statement. In one village, paratroopers found hundreds of weapons and a 7-meter-deep bunker.

Overnight airstrikes hit around 185 Hezbollah sites, the army said, including a weapons factory and intelligence command center located amid civilian sites in the southern Beirut suburb known as Dahiyeh, a Hezbollah stronghold. Other targets included sites where cells of operatives were gathered, observation posts, rocket launchers and weapons depots, the IDF said.

The **army released footage of a drone strike that it said** killed two Hezbollah operatives who had killed Cpt. Ben Zion Falach, 21, of the Paratroopers Brigade's 202nd Battalion, [during an exchange of fire](#) in southern Lebanon on October 2.

The IDF did not specify when the airstrike took place.

Another operative was killed in an exchange of fire in a building, the IDF added.

On the **ground, Israeli troops razed the so-called Garden of Iran on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese village of Maroun al-Ras, and raised an Israeli flag over the area.**

The **park, located less than a kilometer from the Israeli border**, used to feature a statue of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps assassinated Quds Force commander, Qassem Soleimani, pointing at Israel and a replica of Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock.

Footage shared on social media on Tuesday showed the heavily damaged park following Israeli operations in the area, and troops placing an Israeli flag where an Iranian one once flew.

דגל ישראל מונף מעל הכפר מארון א-ראס בלבנון
צילום: צוות אביר 91 ביחידת הבלנ"מ pic.twitter.com/kljzyAl2H6
— החדשות – N12 (@N12News) [October 8, 2024](#)

Speaking to troops in southern Lebanon, the chief of the IDF Northern Command, Maj. Gen. Ori Gordin, vowed that the ground operation against Hezbollah would make it safe for Israel's displaced residents to return home, the IDF said on Wednesday.

"The way back home for the residents of the north passes through... the removal of this direct and concrete threat to the communities of the north. As I've said, we are determined to bring them back and you are doing it with your tank treads and your legs," Gordin told soldiers of the 188th Armored Brigade.



Chief of the IDF Northern Command, Maj. Gen. Ori Gordin (center), is seen in southern Lebanon, in a handout photo published on October 9, 2024 (Israel Defense Forces)

Since October 8, 2023, 33 IDF soldiers and reservists have been killed in cross-border skirmishes and in the ensuing ground operation launched in southern Lebanon.

Two soldiers in northern Israel have been killed in a drone attack from Iraq, and there have also been several attacks from Syria, without any injuries.

Hezbollah has named 516 members — including its leader, Hassan Nasrallah — who have been killed by

Israel during the war, mostly in Lebanon but also some in Syria. Lebanon says over 1,300 people have been killed in Israel's offensive and over a million people displaced.

Israel says at least 440 Hezbollah operatives have been killed since it launched the offensive in September alone. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/3-idf-soldiers-seriously-wounded-in-south-lebanon-40-rockets-fired-at-haifa-area/>

6 injured, 2 critically, in terrorist stabbing spree in Hadera

Suspect, an Israeli citizen, rides moped between different sites of his attack, is eventually cornered by armed residents and subdued

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 2:32 pm



Emergency services and security forces at the scene of a terror attack in Hadera, October 9, 2024. (Magen David Adom)

Six people were stabbed and injured, two of them critically, in a terror attack on Wednesday in Hadera that spanned four different locations in the central city.

Police said the suspect, who appeared to have acted alone, used a moped to get from one location to the next, attacking people at each place.

The terrorist was then cornered by armed residents until police officers arrived and helped subdue him.

The suspect was later identified by Hebrew-language media as an Arab Israeli resident of Umm al-Fahm. The man was **reportedly known to police** for past criminal activities.

Magen David Adom chief **Eli Bin said two of the victims had initially been listed as seriously injured but their conditions deteriorated and were later declared to be critical.** Three other victims were in serious condition and the fourth was moderately wounded.

Dr. Jalal Ashkar, director of the Emergency Medicine Department at Hillel Yaffe Medical Center, told Channel 12 that four of the victims had undergone surgery.



Emergency services and security forces at the scene of a terror attack in Hadera, October 9, 2024 (Tal Gal/Flash90)

'Get on the floor!'

Video posted to social media appeared to show the **moment a number of armed members of the public surrounded the suspect on what appeared to be a main shopping street, their weapons drawn.**

The **alleged attacker could be seen in the video wearing a motorbike helmet** and a jacket.

The residents shouted in Hebrew and English to the man to "get onto the floor," but he either ignored them or did not understand.

At least two warning shots were fired in the air before one man fired at the suspect as he reached into his coat. It wasn't immediately clear if he was hit.

Armed police officers then arrived at the scene and pushed the suspect to the ground while shouting at the others not to shoot.

אירוע הדקירות בחדרה: עלה לחמישה מספר הפצועים, שניים מהם במצב קשה. המשטרה: ההערכה שמדובר בפיגוע

<<< <https://t.co/yXb0HRvNFQ> עדיין נבדקת

(שימוש לפי סעיף 27א) pic.twitter.com/HcV1gkWUc5

— (@kann_news) October 9, 2024

Speaking at the scene, new police chief Daniel Levy raised some eyebrows by implying that his force is currently unable to adequately prevent terror attacks.

"I want to **stress that the Israel Police, these days, as you understand, is stretched to the limit,**" he said. "My heart is with the injured, but it seems like this is what we'll have to face in this period and we need to be strong."

Hadera Mayor Nir Ben Haim praised the residents for their bravery in confronting the terrorist.

"This is a **difficult day for Hadera, but the heroism of our residents who assisted in the capture of the terrorist proves the importance of vigilance,**" he said, according to the Walla news site. "The results of the attack could have been much more severe. I want to thank each and every one of you for your composure and resourcefulness."

The **attack came two days after the anniversary of Hamas's October 7** mass onslaught against southern Israel, the worst terror attack in Israel's history, and amid a wave of deadly attacks.

On **Sunday, Sgt. Shira Suslik, 19, a Border Police officer, was killed by a gunman at the bus station in Beersheba. Ten others were wounded** in the attack.

Last **week seven people were killed and at least eight others wounded in a shooting and stabbing attack in Jaffa, one of the deadliest terror attacks in Israel in recent years.**

In 2022, Border Police officers Yazan Falah and Shirel Aboukrat, both 19, were shot dead in a terror attack in Hadera. The two perpetrators, supporters of the Islamic State terror group, were [from](#) Umm al-Fahm.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/6-injured-2-critically-in-terrorist-stabbing-spree-in-hadera/>

Netanyahu and Biden, joined by Harris, talk for 50 minutes

It's been six weeks since the president and PM last spoke; They discussed Israel's plans for a retaliatory attack against Iran; After conversation Defense Minister Yoav Gallant says that 'Our attack will be deadly, precise and, above all, surprising'

[Itamar Eichner](#) | 12:25

U.S. President Joe Biden spoke Wednesday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for 50 minutes, a day after the prime minister's decision to postpone Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's scheduled visit to Washington until he had a conversation with Biden. Democratic presidential candidate and Vice President Kamala Harris also joined the conversation, according to the White House.

According to officials in Jerusalem cited by Reuters, the conversation between the two leaders was intended, among other things, to discuss Israel's plans for a retaliatory attack against Iran, in response to the latest barrage it launched into Israel. **Also present** in Netanyahu's office during the

conversation were the **Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer; the prime minister's political advisor Ophir Falk; National Security Council Deputy Director Gil Reich, Head of the National Security Council Foreign Policy Division, Dr. Joseph Drazanin; and prime minister's military secretary, Maj. Roman Goffman.**



President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talk for the first time in 6 weeks(Photos: Prime Minister's Office; SP Photo)

results."

Gallant received a briefing from unit 9900 on the preparation for the latest attacks in Lebanon, and also for attacks that are expected in other arenas. "Thanks to you, we see the entire Middle East - Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq and everywhere else," he said. "We see exactly and in a very, very focused way any place we want."

Gallant's flight to the U.S., now postponed until after a potential discussion between Biden and Netanyahu on Wednesday, was aimed at enhancing coordination between Jerusalem and Washington as the IDF prepares to respond to Iran's second ballistic missile attack within a year.

Gallant, as noted, delayed his planned night flight partly because the government had not yet approved his trip. It is believed Netanyahu is actually wary of Gallant gaining more clout in the eyes of Biden and wants to demonstrate to his Likud base that he is preventing Gallant from coordinating with the U.S.

The Americans were utterly shocked on Tuesday, as this has gone from being a conflict between Netanyahu and Gallant to one also between Netanyahu and the Biden administration. The Defense Minister was invited by the Americans, who see him as "the war liaison," and he coordinated his trip with the Prime Minister's office. Until Tuesday night, despite lacking travel approval, Gallant's associates were confident the trip would proceed as planned. **It is bad business in governance to allow a subordinate to undermine you with a treacherous group who is supporting you. Good for Bibi. The bidumb group need to remember that interference in another countries government is a big NO NO, - rdb**



Photo taken while PM on phone with President Trump(Photo: IDF Spokesman's Unit)

Meanwhile, even before Netanyahu and Biden's conversation, the Prime Minister spoke with former U.S.; President Donald Trump, who is the Republican Party's current candidate for presidential elections next month. Netanyahu's office reported that **Trump called the prime minister on his own initiative about a week ago, and congratulated him on the determined and powerful actions** Israel took

against Hezbollah. U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham also participated in the conversation.

An Israeli official told The Washington Post that Netanyahu had tried several times to reach Biden by phone but was unsuccessful. An American official denied these claims, calling them untrue.

"The administration consults with Israelis on a number of levels and we've always said the leaders will speak soon, following these consultations. That is what we agreed in recent weeks," he said, adding that a call on Tuesday was not possible because Biden was traveling to Wisconsin and Pennsylvania to address the hurricane response. **[NEVER EVER believe anything that comes from DC. They perpetually lie most of the time to cover their stupidity and incompetence. Rdb]**

According to The Wall Street Journal, Israel has refused to provide the Biden administration with details of its planned attack on Iran after Iran launched its missile strike on Israel earlier this month.

Hours after news broke of Netanyahu delaying Gallant's visit, U.S. officials told the Journal there was growing frustration in the administration over being repeatedly surprised by Israeli military operations in Lebanon and Gaza. **[DC has bought Gallant by making promises of supporting him in the next elections (speculation but probably true) and like most politicians who are power hungry he bought into it so he has been kissing up to the bidumb crew for months. – rdb]**

Sources detailed a conversation between Gallant and his U.S. counterpart, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, shortly after the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in a bombing of his bunker in Beirut last month. "Sorry, what did you say?" Austin reportedly asked, according to officials with knowledge of the exchange. Austin also questioned whether Israel intended to defend itself on its own, given the lack of communication with the administration.

Sources said Austin was frustrated because the U.S. had insufficient time to organize its forces to assist Israel or protect American troops in the Middle East. Washington officials expressed hope that in the future, they would have more advance notice of attacks that could lead to greater American involvement, as Israel continues to vow retaliation against Iran. **This government makes lots of words about assisting Israel but in general have put many more road blocks in their way. – rdb]**

American officials believe Israel will target Iranian military and intelligence assets. A conversation between Biden and Netanyahu, details of which were revealed on Tuesday in excerpts from a new book by journalist Bob Woodward, reportedly led to a tempered Israeli response to an Iranian attack in April. Biden is said to have told Netanyahu to "take the win" after the Iranian attack failed, advising that no further action was necessary.

Israel may be withholding information from the administration due to concerns over leaks. Shortly before the Israeli ground offensive in southern Lebanon began last week, U.S. officials leaked details of the IDF's operational plans to the media, likely in an effort to prevent any miscalculations by Iran, which has since launched over 180 ballistic missiles at Israel.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday conversations between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Joe Biden were publicly revealed that resulted in Israel's moderate reaction in Iran. Biden asked Netanyahu to "take the victory" of the failure of the Iranian attack, telling him, according to a book by journalist Bob Woodward: "You should not take on step further. Don't do anything."

In the end, as mentioned, Israel reacted in a targeted and limited manner to Iran, when according to reports outside of Israel, it attacked the radar of an advanced air defense battery that protects the reactor in Natanz.

It was revealed by Ynet on Tuesday night that this wasn't the first such incident between the two. Prior to the incident barring Gallant from traveling to the U.S. and imposing conditions, which included "decisions on Israel's next actions," the prime minister previously demanded amid wartime to talk with a leader of a nation maintaining diplomatic relations with Israel, to which Gallant had discreetly traveled. The conversation occurred, and negotiations with Netanyahu allowed the flight to proceed.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rkhj7n41jx#autoplay>

House in Safed suffers direct hit from rocket fire



Alerts were triggered in Safed as a result of dozens of rockets fired towards the city.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) OCTOBER 9, 2024 17:08

Updated: OCTOBER 9, 2024 17:44

Smoke trails are seen as rockets launched from Lebanon into Northern Israel are intercepted by Israeli anti missile system, as it seen from the northern Israeli city of Tzfat, October 9, 2024. (photo credit: DAVID COHEN/FLASH 90)

A house in Safed was hit by a rocket fired from Lebanon, Israeli media reported on Wednesday.

Alerts were triggered in Safed as a result of dozens of rockets fired towards the city.

The Israel Police announced that they received a report on Wednesday afternoon that a number of crashes

were detected in Safed and the surrounding areas. They stated that two crashes were detected, but no casualties were reported.

This follows the earlier rocket barrage fired by Hezbollah at Israel, including at the areas of Upper Galilee and Haifa Bay. Two people were killed in Kiryat Shmona, and eight others were wounded and evacuated to the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa for medical treatment.



Structures in Lebanon are hit by artillery fired by the Israeli Army, amid cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel, as seen from Kiryat Shmona, northern Israel October 1, 2024. (credit: REUTERS/Jim Urquhart TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY)

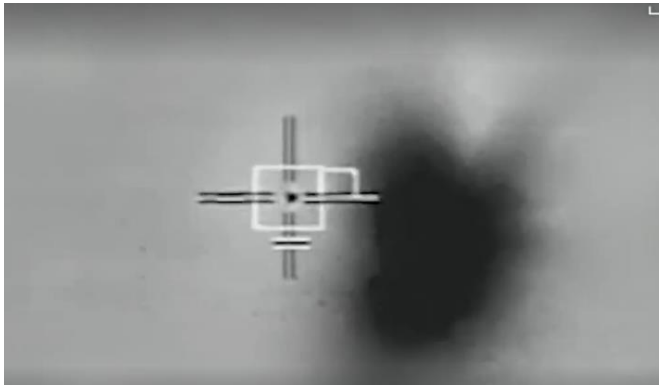
In response, the IDF attacked and destroyed the rocket launcher from which the rockets were fired and fell in Kiryat Shmona, the military said later on Wednesday.

According to the IDF, approximately 90 rockets and projectiles were detected as crossing from Lebanon, some of which were intercepted by the [Israel Air Force](#), and the rest fell in open areas. Crashes were detected in multiple areas.

Firefighters from the Fire and Rescue Authority worked to put out fires that broke out in the area. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-823943>

Gulf states must not allow use of airspace against Iran, Iranian official says

Iranian Foreign Minister Araqchi warns Gulf states against allowing use of their airspace for attacks, while those states have reassured him of their supposed neutrality, as Gulf oil producers raise output in case regional escalation



[Reuters](#)|11:09

Tehran has told Gulf Arab states it would be "unacceptable" if they allowed use of their airspace or military bases against Iran and warned that any such move would draw a response, a senior Iranian official said.

Israeli Air Force fighter jets shoot down Iranian drones and cruise missiles (Video: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)

The official also said any action by Gulf states to balance oil markets should Iranian energy facilities be hit by Israel was not part of the discussions so far.

The comments come amid growing concern over possible Israeli retaliation for last week's Iranian missile attack, as Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi visits Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states including Qatar for talks on Wednesday.

They **followed discussions between Iran and Gulf Arab capitals last week on the sidelines of an Asia conference in Qatar, when Gulf states sought to reassure** Iran of their neutrality in any conflict between Tehran and Israel.

"Iran **made it clear that any action by a Persian Gulf country against Tehran, whether through the use of airspace or military bases, will be regarded by Tehran as an action taken by the entire group,** and Tehran will respond accordingly," the senior Iranian official told Reuters.

"The message **emphasized the need for regional unity** against Israel and the importance of securing stability," he said.

"It also **made clear that any assistance to Israel, such as allowing the use of a regional country's airspace for actions against Iran, is unacceptable.**"

U.S. President Joe Biden held a telephone call on Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that was said to include discussion of any plans to strike Iran, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Washington hopes to weigh in on whether the response is appropriate, a separate person briefed on the discussions said. The White House did not respond to a request for comment. **The dimwits of DC weren't attacked by 200 missiles from Iran so they need to button it and let Israel do what she needs**

to do which would be a benefit to the entire world. – rdb]

Biden said Friday he would think about alternatives to striking Iranian oil fields if he were in Israel's shoes. Last week he also said he would not support Israel striking Iranian nuclear sites. **Interesting comment. First point is does the senile fellow in the WH still think. Second point is he is Not in Bibi's shoes and never will be fundamentally because he is really pretty anti-Semitic. – rdb]**

The **Iranian official said Tehran did not discuss the issue of Gulf Arab oil producers raising output if Iranian production were disrupted** during any escalation.

U.S. news website Axios, citing Israeli officials, **reported last week that Israel could target oil production facilities within Iran as retaliation.**

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, **OPEC, which is de-facto led by Saudi Arabia, has enough spare oil capacity to make up any loss of Iranian supply** if an Israeli retaliation knocks out some of the country's facilities.

Much of OPEC's spare capacity is in the Middle East Gulf region. Iran has not threatened to attack Gulf oil facilities but has previously warned that if "Israel supporters" intervene directly their interests in the region would be targeted.



Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei(Photo: AFP)

Top oil exporter Saudi Arabia has had a political rapprochement with Tehran in recent years, which has helped ease regional tensions, but relations remain difficult.

Saudi Arabia has been wary of an Iranian strike on its oil facilities since a 2019 attack on its key refinery at Abqaiq briefly shut down more than 5% of global oil supply. Iran denied involvement.

A Western diplomat in the Gulf said that during Thursday's Gulf-Iran meeting in Doha, Iran made clear that Tehran had called for regional unity in the face of an Israeli attack and that it considered neutrality of Gulf states a bare minimum.

The diplomat said Iran had made clear that Tehran would keep a close eye on how each Gulf country responded in the case of an Israeli attack, and also how U.S. bases housed in their countries were used. Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates all host U.S. military facilities or troops.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/byaqugnkx#autoplay>

Gallant: Iran's attack was aggressive, our response will be a deadly surprise

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant have both presented removing the Iranian nuclear threat.

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) OCTOBER 9, 2024 20:07 **Updated:** OCTOBER 9, 2024 20:18



People stand around apparent remains of a ballistic missile lying in the desert, following an attack by Iran on Israel, near the southern city of Arad, Israel October 2, 2024. (photo credit: AMIR COHEN/REUTERS)

Defense Minister [Yoav Gallant](#) on Wednesday said that the IDF's counter-strike on Iran for its October 1 massive strike on Israel will put the original attack to shame.

He said, "**The Iranian attack was aggressive but inaccurate. In contrast, our attack will be deadly, pinpoint accurate, and most importantly, surprising - they will not know what happened** or how it happened. They will just see the results."

Speaking to IDF Intelligence Unit 9900, the defense minister said that much of Israel's air supremacy in the Middle East is due to their

intelligence collection work.

He **noted the unit's efforts against Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and any other necessary front to help the Air Force see "very precisely and in every place what we want to."**

Will Israel retaliate?

On Tuesday, *the Jerusalem Post* reported that Israel is not expected to attack Iran's nuclear program but

rather to focus on various kinds of military bases and intelligence sites, following a New York Times report on the issue.



MISSILES FIRED from Iran are intercepted over northern Israel, last Tuesday. This has been a grueling year marked by unrelenting challenges. Just this past week, Israel faced an attack of nearly 200 ballistic missiles from Iran, the writer notes. (credit: AYAL MARGOLIN/FLASH90)

Confronted with the New York Times report, sources did not deny the thrust of the report, which predicted that Israel's retaliation against Iran for its massive October 1 strike on the Jewish state would fall more in the medium range of attack scenarios.

Further, the Post understands that Israel's attack on Iran - which virtually all top Israeli officials have publicly promised - will still be much more substantial than its narrower retaliation on April 19,

when Iran's S-300 anti-aircraft missile system was damaged.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant have both presented removing the Iranian nuclear threat from hovering over Jerusalem's neck as one of the most significant purposes of their lives and time in public service.

If those officials and other members of the defense establishment have backed off from such an option in favor of attacking Iranian military and intelligence bases, such as possibly ballistic missile facilities, drone facilities, and commanders who coordinated the strikes on Israel, it would mark a dramatic shift toward directly emphasizing Gaza and Lebanon as more significant security issues than Iran. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-823970>

‘They called us crazy!’: Hezbollah tunnel to Israel ignites outrage among border communities

The group's construction of tunnels along Israel's northern border is part of its strategy to conduct cross-border raids, similar to Hamas's tactics in Gaza.



By YOAV ITIEL, [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) OCTOBER 9, 2024 09:41

IDF soldiers seen operating in northern Israel, near the Lebanese border, September 18, 2024 (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

"Everyone said we were imagining it," said Sara and Zion Arbiv, longtime residents of Moshav Zar'it, located near Israel's northern border, after the IDF uncovered a Hezbollah-built tunnel that ran dangerously close to their community on Tuesday. "We've stopped being the country's human shield," they added.

Gabi Naaman, head of the Shlomi Local Council, is now demanding a full investigation into what he

described as a severe security failure, questioning, "Who will be held accountable for this negligence?"

Possibility of armed terrorists infiltrating Israel from the north

The tunnel, dug by the Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorist group, had the potential to allow armed militants to infiltrate Israel. In recent years, Hezbollah has constructed numerous tunnels and amassed weapons near the Lebanese border as part of its strategy to launch attacks on Israeli communities. The IDF discovered the tunnel and neutralized it before it could be used, but the discovery has left residents deeply unsettled.

"This is no surprise to us," Sara and Zion Arbiv told Walla News. "We've been warning the authorities for years. No one can claim we didn't try to raise awareness—we reached out to local officials and even to the government."

The Arbivs, who have four children and four grandchildren, described the frustration of living under constant threat. **"We were always told we didn't understand or that we were imagining things."**



An Israeli anti missile system intercept rockets fired from Lebanon, near the Israeli border with Lebanon, northern Israel, September 4, 2024. (credit: AYAL MARGOLIN/FLASH90)

For the residents of Zar'it, the discovery of the tunnel underscores the daily dangers they face. "Whoever thought that we would return home without the IDF providing an impenetrable barrier needs to reconsider," the Arbivs added. "We will no longer serve as the state's human shield."

The **couple also expressed relief that the tunnel was found before Hezbollah could carry out an attack, particularly in light of the coordinated assault from Gaza** by Hamas on October 7.

"It's a miracle they didn't invade from the north on the same day. Had they done so, the outcome could have been catastrophic."

Shimon **Guetta, head of the Ma'ale Yosef Regional Council, which oversees Zar'it, echoed these sentiments. "We warned in the past about suspicious noises and potential dangers,** but the border remained exposed. While the discovery of the tunnel saved lives, it doesn't erase the long-standing failure to secure this area."

The **October 7 attack** by Hamas has left residents of northern Israel fearful of a similar assault from Hezbollah. The Iran-backed group has a long history of threatening Israel's northern border, and communities like Zar'it live in constant anxiety about future infiltrations.

Why is Israel fighting Hezbollah?

Hezbollah, designated as a terrorist organization by both Israel and the US, is a Shiite militant group based in southern Lebanon and supported by Iran.

The **group's construction of tunnels along Israel's northern border is part of its strategy to conduct cross-border raids, similar to Hamas's tactics in Gaza.** These tunnels pose a direct threat to Israeli civilians living near the border. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-823852>

'License to kill': Lebanon must believe Israel will conquer without



resolution, MidEast expert says

"I want the Lebanese to think, believe, and understand that if there's no solution to the problem in southern Lebanon, we will conquer all of Lebanon," Professor Amatzia Baram said.

By PELED ARBELI OCTOBER 9, 2024 10:44 Updated: OCTOBER 9, 2024 12:35

IDF troops raise the Israeli flag in southern Lebanon. October 9, 2024. (photo credit: SCREENSHOT/VIA SECTION 24A OF THE COPYRIGHT ACT)

Professor Amatzia Baram, professor emeritus of Middle East history and director of the Center for Iraq Studies at the University of Haifa, emphasized that for a

resolution in Lebanon to be reached, it is crucial for the Lebanese people to believe that Israel will conquer their country if a ceasefire deal is not achieved.

Baram made these remarks in a recent interview with Maariv, addressing reports that Lebanese residents fear Israel may not withdraw from the country.

"I want the Lebanese to think, believe, and understand that if there's no solution to the problem in southern Lebanon, we will conquer all of Lebanon. Or at least Beirut."

"I need the Lebanese, including the Shiites, to think this way. I believe we need to make it clear to the Lebanese that no one will return home. All of southern Lebanon is currently evacuating, up to the Awali River, which covers all of southern Lebanon. They need to believe they won't return home unless there is an agreement.

The goal is to apply pressure for a resolution.

A new force to replace UNIFIL

"But the other side of the equation is that we have no interest in staying in Lebanon, including southern Lebanon. The condition for our withdrawal is the establishment of an international force to replace UNIFIL, the current UN force.

"This international force would include countries that have good relations with both Israel and Lebanon, such as France and Italy, among others. This force would have the same authority that, in James Bond mythology, he received from the queen, namely a 'license to kill.'

"If such a force with a license to open fire is established, it would be stationed throughout southern Lebanon, from south of the Awali, not just south of the Litani River. This would be backed by a UN resolution similar to 1701.

"Under these conditions, Israel is willing to return to the international border, the blue line. If not, the Lebanese must believe that Israel might consider staying throughout Lebanon. This will create pressure in Lebanon to reach an agreement.

"Two simply fantastic things happened that I never thought would occur. First: Hezbollah has been significantly weakened. We can see that they can still launch rockets—we saw that yesterday here in Haifa—but they've been dramatically weakened.

Just as importantly, their prestige has been seriously damaged. People are less afraid of them today; they're still cautious, but definitely less fearful. That's the first thing.

"The second: Iran has been dramatically weakened, and we haven't even hit them with the blow we're expected to deliver.

"In Iran, you can see it everywhere—the regime is embarrassed, the regime is humiliated. We don't know what happened to Esmail Qaani, the commander of Iran's Quds Force, who is also responsible for Hezbollah in Lebanon.

We don't know whether he was killed along with Hashem Safieddine in a bunker in Beirut or not. I think there's more than a 50% chance that he was. But in Iran, everyone is asking—even a regime mouthpiece said, 'We want to see him.' In any case, they've already been humiliated.

"Two things need to be done in Lebanon today. First, we need to establish a new force with a license to kill throughout southern Lebanon, together with the Lebanese army, because we accept the Lebanese army.

The second thing is to go to the Lebanese parliament and finally elect a president who is not acceptable to Hezbollah.

There is a candidate: I can tell you that right now, he's the chief of staff of the Lebanese army. With international support and the support of the parliament, this president can disarm Hezbollah."

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-823864>

Special forces kill four terrorists in Nablus operation

A source told Kan that the terrorists killed in Nablus were preparing to carry out a terrorist attack against Israelis.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) OCTOBER 9, 2024 18:11 **Updated:** OCTOBER 9, 2024 21:36



Police said forces made an arrest in Nablus in broad daylight. April 25, 2024. (Illustrative). (photo credit: POLICE SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

Special forces killed four terrorists in a vehicle during an operation in Nablus in the West Bank, the Israel Police confirmed in a statement on Wednesday evening.

They were seen armed moments before they were killed, footage published by Army Radio showed.

4 מחבלים חוסלו ברכב במהלך פעולה של כוחות מיוחדים בשכם, כך הם תועדו רגע לפני שנהרגו pic.twitter.com/mFUGTHFqYg — Hod Barel (@hod_barel) [October 9, 2024](#)

Commander of the Balata Battalion of the Al-Aqsa

Martyrs' Brigade (which is aligned with Fatah) Issam a-Salaj was eliminated in the operation, the Israel Police stated.



A source told Kan that the terrorists killed in Nablus were a squad of terrorists from the [Balata Camp](#) that were preparing to carry out an attack against Israelis, which was later confirmed by the Israel Police.

Riots in Nablus

Riots broke out on Wednesday afternoon, during which the IDF killed four terrorists following intelligence provided by the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), Maariv reported.

People gather around a vehicle with bullet holes, after Israeli police says forces killed Palestinian terrorists, in Nablus, West Bank. October 9, 2024. (credit: RANEEN SAWAFTA/REUTERS)

The Israel Police confirmed that the operation was coordinated with the IDF, Border Police, and Yamam soldiers. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-823952>

Antisemitic hate crimes in NYC have surged this year, according to police data

The NYPD links the spike to ongoing tensions surrounding the Israel-Hamas war.

By LUKE TRESS/JTA OCTOBER 9, 2024 02:45



Police at a hostages rally in Central Park, March 24, 2024. (photo credit: LUKE TRESS)

Hate crimes targeting Jews in New York City have surged this year, according to NYPD data released on Tuesday.

From the beginning of 2024 through Sept. 30, Jews were targeted in at least 275 hate crimes, compared to 158 incidents during the same period last year. This year's sum is an increase of 117 incidents, or 74%.

Jews have been targeted in 55% of all hate incidents in the city so far this year, an increase of 14% over last year, the data said.

The data report published on Tuesday indicates that the spike in antisemitism that was documented in New York City following Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 invasion of Israel has continued at varying levels through the rest of the 12 months since the attack. That spike in antisemitic attacks also fueled an overall 30% rise in hate crimes against all groups in the city this year, an NYPD statement said. The statement added that the increase was "not unrelated to the fury and vitriol" present at thousands of protests in the city, many of them surrounding the Israel-Hamas war.

The **NYPD reported that in September, there were 29 anti-Jewish hate crimes, more than half of all hate incidents in the city and an 81% increase over the same period last year**, which saw 16 antisemitic incidents.

The figures represent preliminary police data and are subject to change if, for example, an investigation finds that an altercation that had appeared discriminatory was not actually motivated by

bigotry. Not every reported hate crime results in an arrest or prosecution. The legal standard for proving bias is high, making prosecution difficult.



NYPD, Police Officers stand guard near an entrance to the George Washington Bridge in New York, U.S., May 15, 2024. (credit: David Dee Delgado/Reuters)

The NYPD statement said the city has seen a record number of demonstrations in the past year — more than 4,100 marches, protests and other activities since Oct. 7. The figure did not differentiate between protests surrounding Israel and Gaza, and unrelated demonstrations.

Mayor Eric Adams

Mayor Eric Adams and police officials vowed to protect the Jewish community at a security briefing last week focused on the High Holiday period and the anniversary of Oct. 7, which fell on

Monday. Police stepped up security measures at sensitive sites around the city.

Adams acknowledged the defended the right to peacefully demonstrate, but said that there would be zero tolerance for any lawbreaking.

“Your **city will protect you no matter what is going on on the globe,**” Adams said. “As families come together and neighbors prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, our city’s going to make sure they can do so safely and I urge New Yorkers to celebrate and congregate free of fear.”

Hundreds of anti-Israel protesters marched through Manhattan on Monday to mark the anniversary of Oct. 7. The NYPD told the New York Jewish Week that five individuals were arrested at a protest outside the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street. Charges included attempted assault, menacing, resisting arrest and making graffiti. There were also pro-Israel gatherings, including a 5,000-person rally in Central Park.

At **the briefing last week, police officials said there had been 22 major crimes** committed against the Jewish community, and 157 cases of aggravated harassment, including incidents such as someone shoving a Jewish person on the street, spitting on them, or writing a hateful email.

Several post-Oct. 7 incidents are being pursued by prosecutors, including one in which a suspect allegedly punched a Jewish Israeli near Times Square while shouting antisemitic epithets in mid-October of last year. In another incident, in April, a man was charged with a slew of hate crimes after aiming his moving car at Orthodox Jews in Brooklyn.

Gov. **Kathy Hochul said on Friday that authorities were monitoring bomb threats sent to synagogues around the state, but that there were no credible** threats.

Anti-Israel crimes have also targeted non-Jews. On Monday, the uptown Manhattan district office of New York Rep. Adriano Espaillat was splattered with red paint, similar to other anti-Israel incidents of vandalism. The same office was hit with anti-Israel graffiti less than two weeks ago.

Security footage shared with the New York Jewish Week showed two masked individuals spraying paint on the office and using a hammer to smash its windows, which features images of Israeli hostages held in Gaza. The New York Democratic Congressional Delegation condemned the vandalism, saying it came on a day of “solemn reflection” over the Oct. 7 attacks.

On Monday, Espaillat shared a message of solidarity with families of those held hostage by Hamas, and attended the memorial ceremony in Central Park. On Sunday, Espaillat also stopped by a neighborhood commemoration event blocks away from his district office. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-823828>

Texas State University condemns antisemitic graffiti found on campus

The statement added that vandalism is a crime, "not a form of expression" and would not be tolerated on their campus.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) OCTOBER 9, 2024 16:28 **Updated:** OCTOBER 9, 2024 16:44

Antisemitic graffiti was discovered on the San Marcos campus of Texas State University (TXST), the University announced on Monday.

TXST condemned the graffiti and removed it as soon as it was discovered. However, they gave no details regarding the type or content of the graffiti itself.



An apparent swastika and other wording was spray painted on the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 in Houston, Texas. (photo credit: Brett Coomer/Houston Chronicle via Getty Images)

"This act of hate and vandalism is counter to our university values," they wrote on a post to their social media.

TXST added that the University Police Department had launched an investigation.

The statement added that vandalism is a crime, "not a form of expression," and would not be tolerated on their campus.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott speaks at the annual National Rifle Association (NRA) convention in Dallas, Texas, U.S., May 4, 2018. (credit: LUCAS JACKSON/REUTERS)



The university also encouraged anyone with more information to come forward and announced that they had implemented an option for students to file online police reports for vandalism or graffiti found on campus.

"Together, we stand against hate and promote respect," TXST concluded.

Texas stance against antisemitism

Last month, ahead of the new academic year, Texas Governor Greg Abbott sent a letter to Texas colleges and universities reiterating his belief in the importance of standing against antisemitism.

"There is zero tolerance for antisemitism in Texas," Abbott wrote in a post on X/Twitter.

In March, Abbott gave an executive order instructing all higher education institutions to update their free speech policies to include Abbott's definition of antisemitism <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-823930>

'We will f*** you like Hitler did,' French highschoolers reveal experiences of antisemitism

"The reality is, almost every Jewish student in France has experienced antisemitism," the President of Union of High School Students in France told the Post.

By MATHILDA HELLER OCTOBER 9, 2024 14:23



A university student of Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po Paris) walks down the street wearing a Palestinian keffiyeh to demonstrate against Israel's war in the Gaza Strip, in Paris, on October 8, 2024. (photo credit: DIMITAR DILKOFF/AFP via Getty Images)

"Dirty Jew" and "We will do another October 7" are just two examples of the antisemitic verbal abuse comments hurled at Jewish middle and high school students in France, as revealed in a compilation of testimonies published by the Union of High School Students in France (ULJF) this week.

The Union gathered multiple testimonies which laid bare the antisemitism in the French secondary system, choosing to publish ten of them on Sunday. While a lot has been said about antisemitism within French universities, less is said in the media about what school students experience. The students' names were altered to protect them from further abuse.

In one particularly shocking testimony, a student, Adam, who attends a middle school in Paris, reported being in the changing rooms after sport when other students in his class pointed to the showers and said, "Adam, you're going to die in there like in 1939-1945".

Holocaust references and threats appeared in several of the testimonies: The classmates of one girl, Solal, made Nazi salutes at her in class. When her mother complained to the parent's representative, they told her the

matter did not concern them, as they themselves were not Jewish.

Solal reported being ostracized and isolated from her peers.



A woman holds a placard reading in French "Zionism is the cradle of anti-Semitism" take part in a rally organised by the association France Palestine Solidarite (AFPS) in support of the Palestinian people, in Paris, on October 5, 2024. (credit: STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN / AFP)

Dan, a student at a Parisian secondary school, received messages saying "dirty Jew" and "we will f* you like Hitler did" in an Instagram group.**

He reported that the person who sent the message later waited for him after class with a gang and tried to beat him up. He was able to escape.

Aside from Holocaust-related abuse, the Israel-Hamas War was the incentive for a lot of the antisemitism conveyed in the

testimonies.

One student, **Simon, said that his History teacher gave a class on the theme of the "genocide in Gaza." However, according to him, she made no mention of the October 7 massacre**, the actions of Hamas, or the Israeli hostages.

She also **told the class that the Israeli military's actions in Gaza were due to a desire for colonialism.**

Raphael, a high school student, said that one of his classmates enthusiastically supported the October 7 massacre.

During an event on the theme of countries of origin, another student, David, mentioned Israel in a video. In response, a group of students reportedly threatened him by saying "the Jewish nation doesn't deserve to exist, we need to go f*** it up".

In **an online group, one of Nathan's classmates wrote, "Someone in this group supports the genocide in Palestine".**

Another classmate subsequently admitted to Nathan that "the other guys don't like you because you're Jewish".

When **giving an oral presentation on the fate of Egyptian Jews during the Suez Crisis for her Baccalaureate, Judith was told "your subject is irrelevant**, the Jews got on very well with the Egyptian population."

Educating against antisemitism

The President of ULJF, Liam Szlafmyc, spoke to *The Jerusalem Post* about the testimonies, the situation of antisemitism in French education, and what can be done to combat it. The ten testimonies published are just a sample of around 40 collected so far, the rest being more violent than the ones released so far, Szlafmyc said.

"We wanted to show the reality on the ground of the antisemitic aggressions [Jewish students](#) face," he told *The Post*.

He added that the aim of publishing was to show that the situation is more serious than the data shows.

While the majority of the antisemitism in the testimonies is verbal in nature, the threats are nevertheless violent. Most of the antisemitism, Szlafmyc continued, relates to the war in Gaza and to Israel.

"The reality is, almost every Jewish student in France has experienced antisemitism," he said.

This ranges from evocations of Nazism and the Holocaust to antisemitism under the guise of anti-Zionism to support for the October 7 massacre, he added.

"Especially on social media platforms, the students don't realize they are being antisemitic, they think it's just anti-Zionism."

Part of the solution for this, he told *The Post*, is educating students in schools about Jews and Israel, as many of them do not really understand the subjects.

"What we saw is that antisemitism in high school is very often related to Israel, and so what we do is explain to them what Judaism is, what Zionism is, what has happened to the hostages, what Hamas is, and what the Islamic Republic of Iran is."

While Laïcité - the French policy of secularism in schools - can make such conversations difficult, they are rarely impossible, he said.

Another issue is that many students, and indeed French people in general, still see antisemitism as

something of the Right when, in reality, it is more prevalent in the French Left.

“Even when it comes to things like the Dreyfus affair, many don’t realize that a lot of the people against Dreyfus were on the Left.”

Szlafmyc added that the French elections have been a reality check of sorts for the Jewish community, who previously always associated antisemitism with Marine Le Pen’s right-wing Rassemblement National but who now understand that more Jew hatred is found with France Insoumise, which is on the Left.

Most of all, it is education, Szlafmyc said, which is the most effective in combating antisemitism. “Our objective [at ULJF] is to show that we aren’t afraid of antisemites in high school, and we will fight them with dialogue.” <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-823919>

[Pay very close attention to this. The anti-Semitic events going on today are literally world-wide. They are increasing dramatically, and they aren’t in poor low class areas. Anti-Semitism is anti-Jew it is anti-Israel and anti-Zionism]

It is also clearly prophesied in the Bible in multiple locations as a sign of the Messianic era. We are seeing the signs of the rapture, the tribulation and the ultimate return of Messiah almost everywhere. Everyone needs to carefully evaluate their situation with God. RDB

Russian military liberates more areas in Kursk Region – MOD (VIDEO)

Ukrainian forces have been driven out of two Russian villages near the border, the Defense Ministry has said
9 Oct, 2024 15:19

Russian troops have liberated two villages in Kursk Region, the Defense Ministry announced on Wednesday.

Ukrainian forces have been expelled from Novaya Sorochina, 15km north of the town of Sudzha. Russian troops have also retaken Nikolsky, a small populated area in the southwest of the Ukraine-controlled pocket of Kursk Region.

The **Defense Ministry shared footage from Nikolsky, showing assault groups advancing on the area in BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles.**

The Ukrainian personnel were pushed back from their positions, and retreated in disarray, the ministry said.

Kiev launched its incursion into Russia’s Kursk Region in early August, seizing the town of Sudzha and several nearby villages. Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky has claimed the operation was part of a “victory plan,” intended to strengthen Kiev’s hand in potential talks with Moscow.

The Ukrainian attack on Kursk lost its momentum in a matter of days, and the situation turned into a weeks-long stalemate. Since mid-September, the Russian military has been conducting counteroffensive operations, and has regained control over multiple towns and villages.

According to Russian estimates, Ukraine has lost 21,350 troops, killed or wounded, while sustaining heavy materiel losses in the offensive. Up to 136 tanks, 66 infantry armored vehicles, 98 armored personnel carriers, and nearly 900 other Ukrainian armored vehicles, have been destroyed during the hostilities in Kursk Region.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/605477-military-liberated-kursk-villages/>

Top-level meeting of Western leaders on Ukraine canceled – media

The gathering was reportedly scrapped after US President Joe Biden pulled out

9 Oct, 2024 14:40



FILE PHOTO. General view of the seventh meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group at Ramstein air base on March 19, 2024 in Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany. © Thomas Niedermueller/Getty Images

This week’s planned meeting of the heads of state of Ukraine’s backers in Germany has been canceled after US President Joe Biden announced he will not attend, Reuters reported on Wednesday, citing an e-mail sent by the US public affairs office at Ramstein Air Base. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) also reported the development, citing anonymous NATO

sources.

The gathering of the so-called Ramstein group at the eponymous US military base was supposed to feature addresses by Biden, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky.

Following the start of the Ukraine conflict in February 2022, more than 50 countries, including most NATO member states, established the Ukraine Defense Contact Group. The participants' defense ministers have been meeting regularly at Ramstein Air Base to discuss Kiev's arms needs and organize deliveries.

Reuters reported on Wednesday that the "October 12, 2024 event is postponed," with "announcements about future Ukraine Defense Contact Group meetings... forthcoming."

Earlier that same day, RFE/RL had reported that a "high-level meeting of the Ramstein group of Ukraine arms donors has been canceled." The media outlet attributed the development to President Biden's decision to scrap his planned trip to Germany.

In a statement on Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre announced that "given the projected trajectory and strength of Hurricane Milton, President Biden is postponing his upcoming trip to Germany."

The US president later explained that "I just don't think I can be out of the country at this time," adding that he hoped to reschedule the trip "and all the conferences I said I'd participate in."

Biden's visit was originally scheduled for October 10-13, and would have been the first state visit by a sitting US president to Germany in nearly 40 years.

Later on Tuesday, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken "was going to accompany the President and now is returning home" since Biden has called off his trip to Germany.

Weather forecasters have warned that Hurricane Milton could end up being the worst natural disaster to hit the state of Florida in a century. According to the National Hurricane Center, Milton is expected to make landfall late on Wednesday.

The state is still recovering from Hurricane Helene, which battered the southern US two weeks ago, causing widespread destruction and leaving at least 230 dead <https://www.rt.com/news/605473-ramstein-meeting-ukraine-canceled-biden/>

WATCH: Woke FEMA doled out millions pushing 'equity,' prioritizing 'underserved communities' leading up to hurricane season

'LGBTQIA people, and people who have been disadvantaged, already are struggling'

By [Robert Schmad, Daily Caller News Foundation](#) October 8, 2024

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in May 2023 launched a \$12 million grant program designed to increase "equity" in disaster responses by making greater investments in communities with high concentrations of racial and sexual minorities, documents show.

FEMA's 2023 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program sought to disburse multi-million dollar grants designed to bolster disaster preparedness "equity" for what it called "underserved communities," a label later defined in grant documents as "populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, who have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social and civic life." Examples of these groups cited in the FEMA documents include African Americans, Hispanics, Middle Easterners, LGBT people and people living in rural areas, among others.

"LGBTQIA people, and people who have been disadvantaged, already are struggling," FEMA emergency management specialist Tyler Atkins said in a leaked Zoom recording that surfaced on Sunday. "They already have their own things to deal with. So, you add a disaster on top of that, it's just compounding on itself."

Maggie Jarry, an emergency management specialist at the Department of Health and Human Services, responded to Atkins by stressing that emergency management is moving away from providing "the greatest good to the greatest amount of people" and working towards "disaster equity."

FEMA Disaster Preparedness Meeting:

"We should focus our efforts on LGBTQIA people... they struggled before the storm"

"FEMA relief is no longer about getting the greatest good for the greatest amount of people.... It's about disaster equity." pic.twitter.com/lqXeKl8OTT

— End Wokeness (@EndWokeness) [October 7, 2024](#)

Black and gay people disproportionately live in areas where the effects of climate change, alongside poor infrastructure and a lack of resources, make natural disasters more dangerous, according to the FEMA documents. The agency used this position to argue that investments in these communities are needed to "effectively address equity in emergency management."

FEMA instructed entities applying for grant funding under the program to use the Biden-Harris administration's [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) (CEJST) to identify disadvantaged communities where they would spend their federal grant dollars.

CEJST provides users with a map of every county the federal government considers "underserved" for the purposes of federal grantmaking. Many of the counties [hit hardest](#) by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina and northern Georgia were made ineligible for funding through this program as a result of CEJST's designations.

Hurricane Helene had left 227 people dead as of Saturday and damages caused by the storm could reach as high as \$35 billion, according to estimates from the reinsurance company Gallagher Re. North Carolinians have received \$27 million in individual assistance approved by FEMA, The Associated Press [reported](#).

Entities that requested FEMA grant funding had their applications evaluated based on whether or not they selected communities labeled as "underserved" by CEJST as well as the degree to which they centered equity in their proposal.

"To advance considerations of equity in awarding RCPGP grant funding, FEMA will add additional points to the scores of projects that will benefit disadvantaged communities," the grant document reads.

"We are expecting another hurricane hitting," Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas [said](#) on Wednesday "FEMA does not have the funds to make it through the season."

FEMA's shortfall in funding comes after the agency spent nearly \$1 billion on migrant assistance programs in the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years.

Hurricane Milton is a Category 5 storm on track to hit the Florida Gulf Coast on Wednesday, CNN [reported](#). Florida is still recovering from Helene.

FEMA did not respond to the Daily Caller News Foundation's request for comment.

Content created by The Daily Caller News Foundation is available without charge to any eligible news publisher that can provide a large audience. For licensing opportunities of our original content, please contact licensing@dailycallernewsfoundation.org.

<https://www.wnd.com/2024/10/watch-fema-doled-out-millions-pushing-equity-prioritizing-underserved-communities-leading-up-to-hurricane-season/>

Kamala Harris made her biggest mistake yet... JD Vance went beast mode on her...

October 9, 2024 (35 minutes ago)

Well, it's official, folks. Kamala Harris just made her biggest mistake yet, and it's going to haunt her all the way to election day. JD Vance went full beast mode on her, and we'll get to that in a minute. But first, let's talk about her monumental screw-up and how she's now doomed herself in ways we never thought possible.

As you likely know, Kamala has been doing everything she can to distance herself from Joe Biden. Why? Well, for a laundry list of reasons, but **mainly because the Harris/Biden regime is probably the worst administration on record.** Aside from their slew of failed policies, they've managed to tank the economy so badly that Americans went from economic prosperity under President Trump to not being able to afford chicken wings under Harris/Biden. So, even though it seems like a tall order—and frankly, absurd—Ms. Harris has been desperately trying to distance herself from senile Joe.

Kamala Harris pointed out at a campaign event on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" that she is not, indeed, Donald Trump or Joe Biden.

That is how her presidency would be "different."

That's it. Physically not the same person. God help us. pic.twitter.com/F2Ki22hQTE

— Kyle Becker (@kylenabecker) [October 9, 2024](#)

She's been laying it on so thick that even Joe had enough and decided to fix her wagon. He did something he's never done as the so-called "president." He stood before the official White House press and told the world that Kamala Harris is a proud member of his administration, involved in every decision being made (no matter how awful). He really drove the point home, saying, **"We're singing from the same song sheet."** Ouch.

Biden on Kamala: "We're singing from the same song sheet. She helped pass all the laws. She was a major player in everything we've done." pic.twitter.com/blncGeLcNN

— Stone (@xStone67) [October 5, 2024](#)

Ms. Harris got sucker-punched, and in that moment, she knew she had no choice but to embrace Biden's failed policies—or risk more sabotage from him and his team. And knowing how petty Joe and Jill can be, it was bound to get a helluva lot worse. **So, when Harris appeared on "The View" and was asked what she would change about her time working with Biden, she did what any obedient political puppet would do: she said she wouldn't change a thing.** That was the moment Team Harris took their final "glub" before sinking to the bottom of the political sea. President Trump was quick to share the clip, calling it the dumbest answer yet—and he's right.

Lyn' **Kamala, who is being exposed as a "dummy" every time she does a show, just stated to the degenerates on The View that she would have done nothing different than Crooked Joe Biden,** the WORST PRESIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. The Lamestream Media doesn't want to... pic.twitter.com/c7bDvMc9GK

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) [October 8, 2024](#)

This was a poignant moment for the Harris/Walz campaign, because if you recall, a recent CNN poll shows only 28 percent of Americans think the country is heading in the right direction. That dismal number—likely even lower—is all thanks to a failed, hopeless regime run by Harris and Biden.

[John Cremeans:](#)

Things Aren't Going Well In Kamala's World: **Only 28% of Americans think the US is on the right track. The incumbent party usually loses when that number nears 25%, and wins when it is near 42%.** This plus the results of the latest Rasmussen poll seem to indicate Trump victory!

Things Aren't Going Well In Kamala's World: Only 28% of Americans think the US is on the right track. The incumbent party usually loses when that number nears 25%, and wins when it is near 42%. This plus the results of the latest Rasmussen poll seem to indicate Trump victory!

pic.twitter.com/1Lk1pJOiMv

— John Cremeans USA (@JohnCremeansUSA) [October 4, 2024](#)

So, now that Kamala Harris has officially hitched her wagon to Joe Biden and his abysmal administration, she's proudly aligning herself with the worst so-called "president" ever installed in the White House. By doing so, she's admitting to the world that she's just as responsible for the misery and despair most of the US is feeling. JD Vance, President Trump's stellar pick for VP, went full "beast mode" on Kamala. He not only called her out for embracing Biden's failed policies but, like President Trump, reminded everyone just how unbelievably dumb Ms. Harris really is—a mindless puppet with nothing to offer except failure.

.@JDVance: The **View asked Kamala Harris one thing you would do differently than Joe Biden. You know what she says? "I can't think of anything off the top of my head."** In her defense, I'm not sure she can think of anything off the top of her head. 🤖🤖

pic.twitter.com/Q6db3f69Nz

— Trump War Room (@TrumpWarRoom) [October 8, 2024](#)

One thing's for sure—yes, Kamala Harris is a shallow, hollow, failed politician with no original ideas in that air-filled noggin of hers. But thanks to her, Biden, and Tampon Tim's complete disaster, we can see even more clearly just how much better President Trump truly is. And bonus points to him for being so smart and savvy in picking JD Vance as his running mate. With the dream team Trump has put together, there's no way he and his posse won't make America great again.

<https://revolver.news/2024/10/kamala-harris-made-her-biggest-mistake-yet-jd-vance-went-beast-mode-on-her/>

OP ED

Irangate: Iran's Plan to Stop Trump and Elect Kamala

Tue, 8 Oct 2024 12:31 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



In the last two months, Iran set up fake news sites to defame Trump and [promote Kamala](#), hacked the Trump campaign and tried to pass stolen documents to the Harris-Walz campaign and its media allies, and finally plotted to assassinate former President Trump and his officials.

These rather definite statements of Iran's intentions in the presidential election have been dismissed with generic Russiagate buzzwords that describe the Islamic terrorist state as being out to "destabilize and sow chaos". When Iran hacked the Trump campaign, we were told that it was to "sow chaos" and now that Trump has been briefed on the assassination threats, once again it's been described as a plot to "destabilize and sow chaos" in the United States.

But if Iran is out to only "sow chaos" then why isn't it trying to assassinate Biden or Kamala?

Where are the Iranian agents soliciting useful idiots to take a shot at current administration officials rather than former Trump administration officials? And why didn't Iran hack into the Kamala campaign and then email the stolen files to the Trump-Vance campaign?

Iran isn't trying to "sow chaos" which is a meaningless buzzword the intel community seem to have come up with to project its own nation building paradigm abroad onto American politics.

The Islamic Republic is out to win. And it defines winning as Trump's political defeat or death.

America's leading middle eastern enemy actively interfering in a presidential election ought to be bigger news than it is. The Clinton campaign spun Russia's awkward efforts to recruit black nationalists into backing its Syria agenda after the election into the great Russiagate hoax complete with British ex-secret agents, micturating hookers in Moscow hotel rooms, secret bank internet connections and a multi-year investigation fronted by a senile former FBI boss.

The revelation that Iran is trying to stop Trump and elect Kamala by any means occasions no more from the White House and the intel community than a reluctant briefing and some boilerplate prose about sowing chaos as if there is no motive or agenda to these activities.

No one has brought 'Irangate' into being even though there's [more than enough materials](#).

After September 11, Joe Biden [suggested](#), "this would be a good time to send, no strings attached, a check for \$200 million to Iran."

Biden urged restoring an American diplomatic presence to Tehran where our diplomats had been held hostage and cutting off Radio Liberty broadcasts undermining the Iranian regime.

Biden's 2008 presidential campaign was [backed by Iran Lobby figures](#) and he believed that Iranian support was so vital to his campaign that he attacked Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama for being insufficiently pro-Iran, and used his vote against designating the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the key player behind Hamas, Hezbollah and the murder of hundreds of American soldiers, as a terrorist organization to argue that he would make a better president.

For Iran.

After being part of an administration that provided Iran with the massive sanction relief and clearance that enabled it to build a massive missile arsenal and nuclear program, Biden left office and misappropriated classified documents involving Iran that he took home with him.

Biden stayed loyal to the Iran Lobby and it to him. Iranian hackers with the IRGC tried to interfere in the 2020 presidential election to stop Trump and aid Biden.

In the 2020 election, Jamal Abdi, the executive director of National Iranian American Council (NIAC) Action, often described as the Iran Lobby, [was exposed as one of Biden's biggest bundlers](#), and NIAC claimed its members had run phone banks and donated \$385,000 to him.

NIAC Action had endorsed Biden and [celebrated the election outcome](#) by declaring that, "our long, national nightmare is almost over. AP has called the race for Joe Biden".

Iran's president cheered Biden's election win by [expressing the hope](#) that "the next American administration will surrender to the Iranian nation." The Islamic terror state leader was not to be disappointed. The Biden-Harris administration offered billions in sanctions relief to Iran while attempting to restore the failed nuclear deal with the terror state. It dropped support for the Saudi campaign against the Houthis in Yemen which allowed

the Iran-backed terrorists to arm up and terrorize shipping in the Red Sea leading to 9 months of fighting in what has been described as the “most intense combat since World War II” for the U.S. Navy.

The Biden-Harris administration was filled with Iranian sympathizers and lobby figures, including Rob Malley, Biden’s envoy to Iran, under FBI investigation for mishandling classified information, whose actions were illegally covered up by State Department figures. It [even brought in Ariane Tabatabai](#), an Iranian immigrant who had worked with the Iranian government to advise it and spread its propaganda, before [working with Malley](#) on the Iran negotiations, to act as a senior adviser to the Office of the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control, exactly where Tehran would have wanted her, before making her a Pentagon Chief of Staff.

Over the next four years, the Biden-Harris administration gave Iran everything it wanted from endless sanctions relief to a hostage trade that not only freed Iranian agents but [allowed them to remain](#) and continue their activities inside the United States.

This year the Biden administration was still at it, [warning the British and French](#) not to censure Iran at a vote in the UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency despite its nuclear violations

When the chopper carrying Iran’s previous president crashed, the Biden administration [sent its condolences](#) and Deputy UN Ambassador Robert Wood stood for a moment of silence in the memory of the leader of a regime that had recently been responsible for killing U.S. soldiers.

The Biden-Harris administration now not only allowed sanctioned Iranian figures into the country but [warned journalists](#) away from filming outside the hotel where the Iranian delegation was staying. What did their cameras catch? The former head of NIAC, the Iran Lobby group linked to the Biden-Harris administration, [entering the hotel](#). Is it any wonder that when Iran hacked the Trump campaign, it sent the materials to Harris-Walz staffers who did not report it to the FBI?

There is no shortage of materials for a theory of ‘Irangate’. The Biden-Harris administration has been even better for Iran than the previous low-water marks set by Carter and Obama.

Iran is not trying to “sow chaos” but to swing a presidential election in favor of its candidate.

The Islamic regime has also had a longtime obsession with Trump ever since he approved the operation that took out the IRGC’s deadly terror boss Qasem Soleimani. Even with Trump out of office, the official website of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [published a video](#) simulating a drone strike on Trump’s home with the message, “Revenge is Inevitable”

Unlike Russiagate, Irangate is real and has been taking place out in the open for us to see.

An enemy of the United States is doing everything possible to stop a free election from taking place. It already used fake news, hacking and assassination plots to stop Trump.

Those tactics are likely to pick up as Election Day approaches.

Facing defeat in Gaza and Lebanon, Iran is not about to give up. And the most troubling question at the heart of Irangate that needs to be asked is how much support do Iran’s agents have inside this country, and inside the Biden-Harris administration and the intel community.

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

<https://bkdvk-zgpvh.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser>

From Our Dear Friend Yaffa In Tzfadt, Israel

This afternoon I debated with myself whether to water the garden or read my daily Tehillim. I decided to read the Tehillim and water if there was time. Good decision because soon I heard a strange sound and I felt that something was coming. Katy (Head Cat) came bounding through the open kitchen window and her paws hit the floor at 4:42 PM when the first siren sounded followed in succession by four additional alerts. She heard something, too. In my safe area with three of the Kitty Krew, I listened to multiple explosions overhead as rockets were intercepted. Later I learned that an apartment in the south part of the city was hit. A photograph on my cell phone showed the damage where the rocket had exploded after slamming into a wall and part of the roof of a second level apartment. It hit a children's bedroom and a video showed a mangled baby crib and debris strewn across a child's bed and across the floor along with toy trucks and children's books that fell from a damaged wall unit. The hot water tank from the solar system was dangling

from the roof. No injuries. The family safe room worked well, it appears. And, of course, protection from Above. The Electric Company is in process of restoring electric to a few buildings in the area of the hit.

Many ramped up attacks with rockets and missiles across the country therefore it appears Yom Kippur, beginning Friday night, might not be a quiet one.

Lots of news for you this evening.

Yaffa

and the Kitty Krew

- 1. From A Reporter's Viewpoint**
- 2. Hit in Tzfat**
- 3. One Force Against Iran**
- 4. All About Oil in Iran**
- 5. Lobbying Against an Ally**
- 6. Israel Not Sharing Information**
- 7. Harris/Israel Not an Ally**

1. From A Reporter's Viewpoint: Algemeiner By Simon Plosker 8 October

A significant part of my professional life has been spent at [HonestReporting](#). I've worked through far too many crises, including several major IDF military operations, mass-casualty terror attacks, and numerous incidents that made the front pages of every international newspaper around the globe. In this sphere, you have to come to grips with the constant fight ahead. You may win critical battles, but the war itself — a war beyond the military battlefield — is one you may never fully win. This is a fight for Israel's legitimacy and its right to be treated as simply another state among the nations.

The past year has been one of the hardest I've ever experienced, not just because of the relentless attacks in the international media on Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas terrorists who carried out the worst atrocity against the Jewish people since the Holocaust. It's also the overwhelming antisemitism and abuse that floods social media — things I force myself to see and respond to every day. It's the inability to separate my work from the harsh reality that Israelis are living through — because I'm one of them.

In a country this small, it's almost a cliché to say everyone is connected to someone directly affected by the situation. But it's the truth. I live in Modi'in, a city of 100,000 people situated exactly halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. It's a place proud of its distinction as having the highest percentage of 18-year-olds answering the mandatory call to serve in the IDF. Tragically, in the days after October 7, it became clear that several of those young soldiers had been brutally killed inside their bases, including some from my own neighborhood.

I've lived in the same house for 14 years, yet had never met the neighbors two doors down — until I attended the shiva for their teenage granddaughter who fell that day. At other times, the streets of our neighborhood would fill with residents standing silently, holding Israeli flags, as convoys carried the families of the fallen to lay their loved ones to rest in the local cemetery — a heartbreaking scene echoed across the country.

In my late 40s, I'm at an age where the soldiers on the front lines are both my peers and the children of many friends and acquaintances. In my position, I receive constant updates from various governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the IDF, police, and Magen David Adom emergency responders. Far too often, I'd wake up to an IDF notification about the latest casualties. Sometimes, a name would stand out and I'd pray it wasn't the child of a friend or colleague. Tragically, sometimes it was.

The husband of a former colleague and the son of a family friend were both killed in Gaza. A cousin from my extended family was stabbed to death while serving as a Border Policewoman in Jerusalem's Old City. The pain and grief are beyond words.

HonestReporting is a microcosm of the country as a whole. One colleague has been on army reserve duty for over 200 days, leaving his wife and two small children to manage without him, while our organization is left without a key team member. Another colleague's husband has spent many days in uniform, leaving her to care for their baby

alone. Everyone is affected in some way, and we are no different from countless workplaces disrupted by the mandatory call to serve.

I will always consider it a privilege to have a level of insider access that many Israelis don't. At the end of November, I was invited to a breakfast at a foreign ambassador's residence, alongside colleagues from other organizations and some family members of the hostages. We sat and listened as the families shared the stories of their loved ones, still held captive in Gaza. At one point, an attendee broke down in tears. She quickly apologized, wondering aloud how she could be the one crying when others in the room had brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, and children being held by Hamas — yet somehow, they managed to keep their composure while fighting for their release.

There was no shame in her tears. It's hard for those outside to fully grasp the deep bonds that connect both Israelis and the broader global Jewish community, or the simple truth that this catastrophe touches nearly every one of us in some way.

In the weeks following October 7, I had the opportunity to visit Sderot and several kibbutzim near the Gaza border. It felt like stepping into a vast crime scene, frozen in time since that horrific day. Many of HonestReporting's staff have been there, witnessing the devastation firsthand, so we can accurately convey to the world the barbarity of what happened there.

Israel is a country still gripped by trauma, and there's no sign of it easing. Behind every article, video, and social media post is a member of HonestReporting's staff, living the reality of a nation at war — where the front lines are also the home front. Workdays spent behind computers are often interrupted by sirens and frantic runs to safe rooms.

A job focused on handling bad news becomes indistinguishable from the constant barrage of terrible events that flood our senses. In the immediate aftermath of Hamas' rampage, I believed Israel might have three or four days before the global narrative turned against us. In truth, I'm not sure we even had that.

Today, we continue fighting against media bias and anti-Israel slander — not just because it's our job or career, but because it's our responsibility as proud Israelis. We've been given the privilege to serve our country and people in the best way we know how.

The author is the Editorial Director of HonestReporting, a Jerusalem-based media watchdog with a focus on antisemitism and anti-Israel bias — where a version of this article [first appeared](#).

2. Hit in Tzfat: Jerusalem Post 9 October

A [house in Safed \(Tzfat\)](#) was hit by a rocket fired from Lebanon, Israeli media reported on Wednesday. Hezbollah launched 90 rockets at Safed and surrounding neighborhoods, causing some damage to several houses but thankfully no casualties. Alerts were triggered multiple times as a result of dozens of rockets fired towards the city.

The Israel Police announced that they received a report on Wednesday afternoon that a number of crashes were detected in Safed and the surrounding areas. They stated that two crashes were detected, but no casualties were reported.

This follows the [earlier rocket barrage](#) fired by Hezbollah at Israel, including at the areas of Upper Galilee and Haifa Bay. Two people were killed in Kiryat Shmona, and eight others were wounded and evacuated to the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa for medical treatment.

In response, the IDF attacked and destroyed the rocket launcher from which the rockets were fired and fell in Kiryat Shmona, the military said later on Wednesday. According to the IDF, approximately 90 rockets and projectiles were detected as crossing from Lebanon, some of which were intercepted by the [Israel Air Force](#), and the rest fell in open areas. Crashes were detected in multiple areas. Firefighters from the Fire and Rescue Authority worked to put out fires that broke out in the areas.

3. One Force Against Iran: Arutz Sheva 9 October

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, today (Wednesday), at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, met with a Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations delegation. Prime Minister Netanyahu told the Conference of Presidents delegation, "There is only one force in the world fighting Iran right now. There's only one

force in the world that stands in Iran's way to conquest. And that force is Israel. If we don't fight, we die. But it's not only our fight, it's the free world's fight, and I would say the civilized world's fight."

"There are quite a few dictatorships around the world, they're all bad. But this dictatorship is different because it wants to throw us all back into a dark age. They want to destroy us and others. Us first, because we stand in their way of conquering the Middle East, but they want to subjugate the world and bring it back to the dark ages," Netanyahu said. "When you come in solidarity here, which is much appreciated, it's not only solidarity with the Jewish people and the Jewish state, it's with civilization," he concluded.

Participating in the meeting were Conference of Presidents Chairperson Harriet Schleifer, incoming Chairperson Betsy Korn, CEO William Daroff, and the Prime Minister's Spokesperson, Dr. Omer Dostri, among others.

4. All About Oil in Iran: Ynet News 8 October

In an effort to maintain the appearance of normalcy, Iranian oil minister Mohsen Paknejad made visits to the country's major oil and gas facilities on Saturday. His itinerary included the coastal city of Asaluyeh, a critical hub for Iran's energy sector, and Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf, which serves as the main oil export terminal, responsible for 90% of Iran's oil exports. The timing of these visits is noteworthy, especially as global media outlets are abuzz with discussions about the potential energy market impacts if Israel were to strike Iran's facilities following last week's missile attack on Israel. The world's concern is less about Iran's oil sector itself and more about how Iran might respond to an Israeli attack.

While Iran's oil production is on the rebound, currently estimated at around 3.5 million barrels per day (about 4% of global demand), half of this is exported. Iran claims its oil export revenues last year were approximately \$35 billion, crucial for sustaining its economy and funding its military and terror activities. However, skepticism is advised regarding the transparency of Iran's published data on its oil industry. Interestingly, oil prices are not soaring as one might expect.

Iran's energy sites are relatively vulnerable, primarily located in the Persian Gulf and nearby Khuzestan province, close to the Iraqi border, home to a Sunni Arab population opposed to the regime (Ahwazi Arabs). The Iranian oil sector includes 10 major refineries, the largest in Isfahan, Abadan and Bandar Abbas, which produce a significant portion of the country's energy needs.

In the Persian Gulf, Iran shares the world's largest natural gas field, known as "South Pars," with Qatar. Any attack in this area could disrupt the global natural gas market, especially due to concerns about supply from Qatar. Even in the extreme scenario where an Israeli attack halts Iran's oil production entirely, which is unlikely, the global market could absorb the impact. Oil producers have unused spare production capacity. Iran's neighbors and OPEC partners – Saudi Arabia and the Emirates – could, if necessary, quickly add 4.5 million barrels per day to the market to compensate for any loss of Iranian production.

However, the proximity of these countries to Iran poses a risk. Should its oil facilities be attacked, Iran might retaliate by targeting the oil facilities of neighboring countries, disrupting the global oil market as it did in 2019 with Saudi Arabia. Iran could also disrupt oil and gas supplies from these countries without firing a shot by attempting to close or mine the Strait of Hormuz. In such a case, the U.S. would likely intervene to keep the strait open. Since about a fifth of the world's daily oil consumption passes through the Strait of Hormuz, any disruption would likely cause a significant, albeit temporary, spike in oil prices.

Overall, despite rising tensions in the Middle East, oil prices have not surged as expected, though they have risen since Iran's attack on Israel, and Brent crude trades around \$80 per barrel, while WTI is about \$76 per barrel. This price stagnation, despite instability in the region, is due to restraining factors, notably low growth trends in China and Europe, which are expected to reduce demand for oil.

Another factor tempering price increases is the ongoing trend since December 2022 of strengthening the U.S. strategic oil reserves. The market anticipates that in an extreme scenario, the U.S. would use its strategic reserves to mitigate panic.

If Iran's oil production is halted or damaged, China stands to lose the most. Currently, China is the main importer of Iranian oil, accounting for about 90% of Iran's exports, over 1.4 million barrels per day. Due to sanctions, Iranian exports to China operate through a "shadow fleet" of tankers that sail without activating their tracking systems and without insurance. Oil from tankers leaving Kharg Island is transferred to smaller tankers in countries like Malaysia, Bangladesh, the Emirates and Oman, eventually reaching China as if from those countries. Iran sells oil to China at a significant discount, saving China billions annually, and receives payment in Chinese currency. Due to the limited global tradability of the Chinese currency, Iran uses it to buy goods in the Chinese market or accumulates foreign currency reserves in yuan.

India, too, could face significant challenges if oil movement in the Gulf is disrupted. In recent years, India has reduced its oil imports from Iran due to international sanctions and a desire to maintain close U.S. relations. However, India's dependence on oil from the Middle East has only increased, with over 45% of its imports coming from the region. Any disruption in supply chains due to the Israeli-Iranian conflict could pose a temporary issue for India. However, if Iranian production is removed from the market, there are potential winners. Recently, Russia has lost its status in the Chinese oil market to Iran. Kazakhstan, an ally of the Kremlin, could benefit from a disruption in Iran's oil production. Kazakhstan has agreed to cut its production but possesses unused capacity of 1.4 million barrels per day. <https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/s1fta8zkke>

5. Lobbying Against an Ally: WSJ, Opinion 2 October

The day after U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin called for a diplomatic solution between Israel and Lebanese Hezbollah, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the U.N. General Assembly to "set the record straight" regarding some speakers' "lies and slanders." Well, that was fast.

Iran fired 181 ballistic missiles on Israel Tuesday, and a day later President Biden was already telling Israel what it shouldn't do in response. Asked Wednesday if he'd support an Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, the President said "The answer is no." He also hauled in the leaders of the G-7 democracies to add to the pre-emptive pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "We will be discussing with the Israelis what they are going to do. All seven of us agree that they have a right to respond but they should respond in proportion," he told reporters after a G-7 conference call. "We are giving them advice. I will talk to Bibi relatively soon."

This is extraordinary. Even before he talks with Mr. Netanyahu, the President engages in public lobbying aimed at blocking a sovereign state and American ally from deciding on its own what is the best response to a direct military attack on its territory. Iran attacked Israel for the second time in six months, but Mr. Biden tells Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that the U.S. will help the regime protect its most prized and threatening military asset.

This is the thinking that has led to the collapse of U.S. deterrence on Mr. Biden's watch. Enemies rely on him to come to their defense by restraining allies from responding to aggression. Mr. Biden didn't even wait to keep Iran guessing. What happened to the "severe consequences" for Iran the Administration promised Tuesday? On Wednesday Mr. Biden mentioned new sanctions, but he won't even enforce the oil sanctions already on the books.

The question is why Mr. Biden wants to deter Israel, rather than Iran. Perhaps he fears further military exchanges before the U.S. election, but that leaves control over a decision to escalate in the hands of the enemy. That thinking hasn't stopped attacks by Iran and its proxies. Israel has made its biggest military and strategic gains when it has ignored such U.S. advice, as it has by attacking Hezbollah in Lebanon.

All [evidence suggests](#) that Iran continues to move closer to building a nuclear weapon it could deliver on ballistic missiles. If that happens, the world becomes far more dangerous and Israel far more vulnerable. If Mr. Biden won't

take this opportunity to destroy Iran's nuclear program, the least he can do is not stop Israel from doing the job for its own self-preservation.

6. Israel Not Sharing Information: Arutz Sheva 9 October

Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke this evening (Wednesday) with the President of the United States Joe Biden for the first time in a month and a half. Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris also participated in the conversation.

During the conversation, the Prime Minister's office was joined by Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, Military Secretary Roman Gofman, his Chief of Staff Tzachi Braverman, and deputy head of the National Security Council Gil Reich.

The conversation lasted 50 minutes and dealt with Israel's plans to retaliate for Iran's attack against the Jewish State last week with 181 ballistic missiles.

Earlier, the Prime Minister's Office stated that former US President Donald Trump called the Prime Minister on his own initiative last week to "congratulate him on the determined and powerful actions that Israel has taken against Hezbollah." Republican Senator Lindsey Graham was also involved in the conversation.

The *Wall Street Journal* newspaper reported today that the Biden Administration is feeling frustrated that Israel has so far refused to reveal to the administration details about the plans for its response against Iran, according to officials. The White House has been urging Israel to avoid damaging Iran's oil facilities or nuclear sites, for fear of a widespread regional war.

7. Harris/Israel Not an Ally: Algemeiner By Corey Walker 7 October

US Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris refused to affirm that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is an "ally" of the United States, dodging a direct question on the subject and fueling doubts about her commitment to the Jewish state.

During an interview with the long-running news program "60 Minutes," Harris was pressed on the Biden administration's struggles to secure a ceasefire deal between Israel and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas, which has totally ruled Gaza since 2007. Journalist Bill Whitaker asked the incumbent US vice president whether Washington, DC wields influence over Netanyahu and whether the Biden administration considers the Israeli prime minister a trusted partner.

"Do we have a real, close ally in Prime Minister Netanyahu?" Whitaker asked.

"I think, with all due respect, the better question is do we have an important alliance between the American people and the Israeli people? And the answer to that question is yes," Harris responded.

Over the course of the interview, Whitaker accused Netanyahu of ignoring American requests to tone down Israeli military activity in Gaza and Lebanon. Harris did not voice disagreement with the journalist's claims.

"We supply Israel with billions of dollars in military aid. And yet, Prime Minister Netanyahu seems to be charting his own course. The Biden-Harris administration has pressed him to agree to a ceasefire. He's resisted. You urged him to not go into Lebanon. He went in anyway. He has promised to make Iran pay for a missile attack, and that has the potential of expanding the war. Does the US have no sway under Prime Minister Netanyahu?" Whitaker asked.

US officials have said in recent weeks that Hamas has refused to agree to a ceasefire deal, pointing the finger mainly at the terrorist group's top leader, Yahya Sinwar.

Meanwhile, Israel has in recent weeks been launching more intensive military operations against the terrorist group Hezbollah, which for the past year has been firing rockets, missiles, and drones at northern Israeli communities almost daily. Iran, which supports both Hamas and Hezbollah, launched over 180 ballistic missiles at Israel directly. The Jewish state has vowed to respond to the attack.

Harris responded to Whitaker, arguing that American military aid has allowed Israel to "defend itself against 200 ballistic missiles" aimed at killing the Jewish state's civilians. "It is without any question," she continued, that the federal government has an "imperative" to help Israel mitigate threats from belligerent entities such as Iran, Hamas, and Hezbollah. The vice president added that Israel has an obligation to allow "humanitarian aid" to enter the Gaza Strip and cooperate with ceasefire negotiations. Harris added that American pressure against Israel has "resulted in a number of movements in that region" that have helped improve living standards for Palestinians in Gaza.

Since ascending to the top of the Democratic presidential ticket in July, Harris has sought to shore up support among the Jewish community as well as the Arab and Muslim communities in the US. The vice president has also been [dogged by accusations](#) that she maintains only mild support for Israel.

In an official White House statement commemorating the [Oct. 7 slaughter](#) of roughly 1,200 people throughout southern Israel, the vice president vowed to “do everything in my power to ensure that the threat Hamas poses is eliminated, that it is never again able to govern Gaza, that it fails in its mission to annihilate Israel, and that the people of Gaza are free from the grip of Hamas.”

In the [same statement](#) reflecting on the deadliest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, Harris dedicated a paragraph to seemingly criticizing the Israeli war effort. The Democratic nominee promised that she “will always fight for the Palestinian people.”

“Hamas’s terrorist attack on Oct. 7 launched a war in Gaza. I am heartbroken over the scale of death and destruction in Gaza over the past year — tens of thousands of lives lost, children fleeing for safety over and over again, mothers and fathers struggling to obtain food, water, and medicine,” the statement read. “It is far past time for a hostage and ceasefire deal to end the suffering of innocent people. And I will always fight for the Palestinian people to be able to realize their right to dignity, freedom, security, and self-determination. We also continue to believe that a diplomatic solution across the Israel-Lebanon border region is the only path to restore lasting calm and allow residents on both sides to return safely to their homes.”