

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update January 11, 2024 (Sh'vat 1, 5784)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 97 Rockets Fired From Lebanon Hits Several Homes in Northern Israeli Town

- *Israel's High Court rejects petition to oust Netanyahu due to war*
- *Israel foils ISIS attack planned by two East Jerusalem residents*
- *ICJ genocide hearing in The Hague ends for the day; Israel to defend itself against claims on Friday*
- *IDF finds forensic evidence that Hamas held hostages in newly uncovered tunnel under Khan Yunis*
 - *Blinken says Israel working with region, creating path to Palestinian state, will isolate Iran*

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Commanders of Hamas' Nuseirat Battalion Eliminated; The IDF and ISA eliminated the Commander and Deputy Commander of Hamas' Nuseirat Battalion in an airstrike, the IDF announced Saturday evening, January 6. Ismail Siraj, the Commander of Hamas' Nuseirat Battalion, as well as Ahmed Wehbe, his Deputy Commander, were eliminated during an IAF strike in an operation led by the Southern Command and with the direction of the IDF Military Intelligence Directorate and the ISA on Friday night. Siraj, before becoming Commander of the Nuseirat Battalion had served as a Company Commander of Hamas' Nukhba Unit and as a rocket manufacturing operative. Siraj's Deputy Commander, Ahmed Wehbe, assumed the position after the IDF and ISA killed the battalion's previous Deputy Commander, Abd Al-Rahman Abed during the first weeks of the war. Wehbe held various positions, both in the field and on Hamas' staff, including with the terrorist organization's training program. He was also responsible for the planning and carrying out of terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip against Israel. During Hamas' murderous invasion and massacre on October 7, the Nuseirat Battalion was responsible for terror attacks on Israeli communities in southern Israel, including Kibbutz Be'eri. The battalion's operatives have since been involved in anti-tank missile and UAV fire targeting IDF troops during the war. (INN / VFI News)

Palestinian Toddler Killed in Judea and Samaria Terror Attack, Two Wounded; Two Israelis, including a female Border Police officer, were wounded during a ramming attack at the Ras Biddu crossing near the Givat Ze'ev settlement in Judea and Samaria on Sunday, January 7. Additionally, a Palestinian toddler around the age of four was accidentally shot and killed during attempts to kill the terrorists, Israel Police confirmed. Two United Hatzalah volunteer EMTs gave their account of what they experienced regarding the soldier and the toddler. "At the beginning of the incident, we provided initial treatment to a woman who suffered light limb injuries. While we were treating her, a four-year-old girl was brought to us in critical condition, and after unsuccessful resuscitation attempts, her death was pronounced at the scene," they said. It has also been confirmed that the occupants of the car used in the ramming were a man and a woman and that the toddler was in a separate vehicle that was stopped at the checkpoint at the time of the attack. Israel Police released a statement with a video from the scene, stating that a Border Police officer mistakenly shot at the vehicle carrying the young toddler. The vehicle was inspected and cleared for entry by the forces initially before the ramming. Shortly after it was inspected, a second vehicle appeared driving at the forces. After the ramming occurred, Border Police officers chasing the second vehicle mistakenly fired on the first vehicle, killing the toddler. (JPost / VFI News)

East Jerusalem Man Killed in Judea and Samaria Terror Shooting; An East Jerusalem man was shot to death in a Judea and Samaria terror attack north of Ramallah on Sunday morning, January 7, as tensions in the restive territory continued to spiral. Military forces launched a large manhunt for suspects and set up roadblocks around Ramallah following the shooting on Route 465 east of the Ateret settlement.

The IDF determined that the deadly shooting was a terror attack, it said in a statement. The victim was later identified by the media as Amar Mansour, a 33-year-old resident and father of two from the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Hanina. In the footage, he could be seen slumped in the driver's seat of a silver Volkswagen on the winding road, with several bullet holes punched through the windshield. He was declared dead at the scene, the Magen David Adom rescue service said. A 42-year-old woman, a pharmacist at Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center, was seriously injured in the attack and was taken to a hospital in the city by passing Palestinian medics. She was then transferred to Hadassah, where she is undergoing treatment. The shooting occurred between Ateret and the junction with Route 60, Judea and Samaria's main north-south artery, in an area named for an old British police station. The shooting would appear to be the first deadly attack in the region since November, though there have been several attempted attacks. (TOI / VFI News)

Hamas May Have Kept Gaza Hostages in Cages, IDF Finds; The IDF found cages in Gaza, which the Hamas terrorist organization seemingly built to hold the hostages they kidnapped on October 7, Israeli media reported on Saturday, January 6. This is consistent with intelligence collected in the field indicating that the cages were used by the terrorists not just to hold hostages, but also to move them from place to place within the Strip. They are also the same cages Hamas uses for its own prisoners. Last week, IDF soldiers took over the intelligence and strategy stronghold of Hamas in Gaza City. The forces carried out a targeted raid on the central building of the "Mizrahi Outpost," where the stronghold they took over included 37 buildings and was located within civilian areas in the vicinity of residential buildings, schools, and hospitals. In addition, the Israeli forces uncovered operation rooms and an underground control bunker, from which the organization's commanders conducted the fighting in the Gaza Strip. The underground complex is at a depth of about 20 meters and includes long-term living spaces belonging to senior Hamas officials. (JPost / VFI News)

Children, Women, and the Elderly: Hamas Observers Who Pass Information to Sinwar; Khan Yunis has been visited recently by IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Herzi Halevi and Shin Bet Chief Ronen Bar, with intentions of helping to concentrate the military's efforts in the Gaza Strip. One of the challenges the forces face in the Gaza Strip, which allows Sinwar to control the Gaza Strip partially, is a command and control system, which provides him with a situational picture of what is happening on the ground. According to estimates in the security establishment, Hamas surrounds the tunnel system in Khan Yunis - where the top of Hamas is hiding - in various circles of observers and messengers. These observers can be women, boys, and men of all ages, who report on the location and extent of the IDF forces, and any unusual activity in the area, which can be useful to Hamas's plans. According to army officers, "Some of the observers will stand on the roofs of houses or under the cover of buildings without weapons, only with a walkie-talkie or a telephone, and some of them will probably communicate what is happening with shouts or other signs. Some women will also cross the street with a baby carriage or children in order not to arouse suspicion." But the cynical and cruel step, according to army officers, is the use of children who are sent to battle zones and places occupied by the IDF, where there is no reason for civilians, especially children, to be. "You know that the child arrived at Tzafat, you know that he is part of a larger system, but in the end, he is a child and we as commanders are in a dilemma, to shoot or to carry out a pursuit while risking our fighters. So we do not shoot at children under any circumstances, but Hamas certainly puts us in a very complex dilemma."(JPost / VFI News)

Jewish Doctor Named Interim President at Harvard; Dr. Alan Garber, an economist and Jewish physician, has been appointed as the interim president of Harvard University, replacing Dr. Claudine Gay, who resigned just three months into her tumultuous tenure. Garber has previously served as the head of the prestigious institution and the chief academic officer, and his appointment was widely accepted with a broad consensus. Dr. Garber, 69, holds a doctorate in economics from Harvard and a medical degree from

Stanford. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Medicine. Lawrence Summers, former president of Harvard and former U.S. Treasury Secretary, said that Dr. Garber “is universally liked, admired, and respected, and is a superb choice as interim president.” In an interview with the university’s student newspaper, Dr. Garber expressed regret over Harvard’s initial response to the Hamas’ attack on October 7 and the beginning of the war in Gaza. (YNet / VFI News)



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