

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update January 15, 2024 (Sh'vat 5, 5784)



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Israel-Hamas War, Day 101

Israeli Army Raids Hamas Command Center in Southern Gaza

- *IDF to pull out combat division from Gaza Strip fighting*
 - *Explosion heard near Yemen's Hodeidah airport*
- *U.K. Maritime agency received report of missile attack on ship off the coast of Yemen's Aden*
 - *One woman killed, 14 wounded in terror attack in central Israeli city of Ra'anana*
 - *Shin Bet exposes Iranian network for recruiting and mobilizing Israeli citizens*

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Please contact Jeffery @ Yachad Ministries

Phone 770-641-3000 ext. 6

E-mail yachad@mindspring.com



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At Least Third of Hostages in Gaza at Immediate Risk of Death, Report Warns; At least a third of the 136 hostages remaining in Hamas captivity suffer from chronic illnesses, each at immediate risk of death, according to a report published Tuesday, January 9, by the Hostages and Missing Persons Families Forum. The testimonies from those who have been released from captivity reveal severe cases of both mental and physical abuse. “This includes brutal sexual assault, which also affects men, mutilation, torture, enforced starvation, and dehydration,” the report says. “On top of that, there is a lack of medical care and denial of access to Red Cross representatives. With each day that passes, the health and lives of all the hostages, both men and women, are increasingly at risk.” According to the report, about a third of the Israelis remaining in Hamas captivity are dealing with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, osteoporosis, anemia, asthma, cancer, inflammatory bowel diseases like ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, hypertension, and other conditions. For instance, Dolav Yehud, 35, is grappling with kidney disease and thyroid issues. Youssef Alziadna, 53, suffers from diabetes and hypertension, while Omer Wenkert, 22, suffers from ulcerative colitis. Michel Nisenbaum, 59, has Crohn's disease and desperately needs consistent treatment, including intravenous therapy. “Without treatment, he faces severe complications and an immediate threat to his life,” the report states. “The hostages are held in conditions of poor nutrition and inadequate hygiene, affecting everyone, but especially those with complex medical backgrounds and specific nutritional needs. One infant, Kfir Bibas, and one toddler, Ariel Bibas, are at risk of death or severe complications if they do not receive nutrition that meets their specific dietary requirements,” states the report. (YNet / VFI News)

Gazans to IDF: Hamas Steals UNRWA Food, Kills Civilians Who Ask for Aid; Gazan civilians have testified to officers of the IDF's Unit 504 how Hamas murdered Gazan civilians who tried to get help from UNRWA, and that Hamas terrorists steal food from US aid organizations and seize civilian properties for military use. In one recorded call, a Gazan civilian testified that Hamas murdered his cousin because he tried to seek help from UNRWA. “When will you get rid of [Hamas]? They killed my cousin yesterday because he went to UNRWA. They killed him in Rafah,” the civilian is heard on a recording telling the IDF officer. In another conversation, a civilian said he does not leave his home because he fears Hamas will seize it and use the property to fire toward Israel and destroy his house. “[Hamas] want us to leave our homes so they can take control of them in order to shoot at you,” the man tells the IDF. “We keep our houses so that no one takes them over.” A different civilian is recorded telling the IDF how Hamas terrorists steal food from civilians. “I work at the American organization called WKSA [The American World Kitchen], when I was preparing a dish, some of [Hamas] came. They tried to steal food from me but I prevented them. They steal from the warehouses of UNRWA. When the supplies arrive, they try to steal,” the civilian stated. (JPost / VFI News)

13,000 Residents, More than 2,500 Soldiers Wounded in the Israel-Hamas War; From the start of the war against Hamas, 13,000 Israelis, including more than 2,500 soldiers, have been wounded. This was reported by Health Minister Uriel Bosso to the Knesset Health Committee on Monday, January 8. Committee chairman Yonatan Mashriki said that the budget for rehabilitation of the wounded will be increased from 900 to 1,500 beds with a real increase of about NIS 2 billion to the budget of the four public health funds. The budget for resilience centers to treat people with psychological trauma is also being increased by NIS 180 million, and what they do with the money will be monitored. Bosso added that the plan for mental health has been budgeted for NIS 2b. to strengthen the community, especially in the periphery. The multi-year hospital bed plan includes an addition of about 2,300 until 2028. Ministry director-general Moshe Bar Siman Tov praised medical personnel and their heroism during the fighting and emphasized plans to promote human capital, prevent chronic disease, and boost infrastructure technologies and the availability and quality of services. Meanwhile, Israeli media recently reported that 25 Hamas terrorists, who were captured alive since October 7 and needed medical treatment, were evacuated and have received treatment in hospitals in Israel. According to the report, in some cases, Hamas terrorists were lying in beds near IDF soldiers who were also injured in Gaza. (JPost / VFI News)

Hezbollah Drone Mastermind Responsible for Series of Strikes on Israel Was Taken out — by a Drone; A senior Hezbollah commander responsible for a series of drone attacks across northern Israel since October 7 was ironically taken out by a drone strike, according to reports. Ali Hussein Barji, chief of Hezbollah's aerial forces in southern Lebanon, was killed on Tuesday, January 9, in an explosion in the town of Khirbet Selm, where members of the Iranian-backed terror group were attending the funeral of senior officer Wissam al-Tawil, Israeli media reported. Al-Tawil was killed in an alleged Israeli airstrike in southern Lebanon the previous day. Barji was believed to have been the mastermind behind the drone attacks that have plagued northern Israel since the Lebanese terrorists with Hezbollah launched their own assault on the Jewish state in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza. Those attacks included a strike against the IDF's Northern Command headquarters in Safed on Tuesday — before Barji died the same day. The key Israeli base was hit with an explosives-laden drone, with Hezbollah claiming responsibility for the attack in response to al-Tawil's death Monday, as well as the killing of Hamas official Saleh al-Arouri in Beirut last week. The IDF said the attack on the Safed base triggered rocket sirens across multiple cities in northern Israel. The Israeli military said there were no casualties in Tuesday's attacks. The IDF did not comment on the drone strike that killed Barji, however, the Israeli military did acknowledge that it carried out a series of airstrikes against Hezbollah on Tuesday morning across southern Lebanon. (NYP / VFI News)

IDF Hopes to Find Sinwar in Tunnels under Gaza's Khan Yunis; The IDF is focusing its military efforts in Gaza on the tunnel system below the southern city of Khan Yunis, based on the Israeli military's belief that senior Hamas leaders remain hidden in the vast underground complex. The IDF has reportedly withdrawn thousands of its soldiers from northern Gaza amid discussions over the military's transition to the third phase of the war against Hamas in the Strip. However, it has deepened military efforts in the center and south, while close to two full IDF divisions are operating across Khan Yunis, focusing operations on the tunnel complex underneath the city. According to some estimations, Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar may have surrounded himself with hostages and used them as human shields, which would tie the mission to locate and kill Sinwar together with the IDF's stated war goal of freeing the hostages. In Khan Yunis, IDF Soldiers of the 55th Brigade have recently uncovered Hamas equipment and proof that the group has exploited civilian areas. Meanwhile, the IDF revealed on Thursday, January 11, that using the information collected by IDF troops on the ground and analysis of the tunnels exposed by the forces up until now, it is estimated that over 6,000 tons of concrete and 1,800 tons of metal were used by Hamas to build the hundreds of kilometers of underground infrastructure, at a total cost of tens of millions of dollars. (JPost / VFI News)

Erdan to ICRC Rep: Red Cross 'Covers up' Hamas's Heinous Crimes; Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, met with the Permanent Observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the UN, Laetitia Courtois, on Wednesday, January 10, in New York and strongly criticized the organization for its failures over the Israeli hostages still held by Hamas. “The Red Cross refuses to publicly condemn Hamas, which even denies access to the hostages or the transfer of medication to them and carries out the most serious war crimes,” Erdan said at the meeting. “Hamas is committing heinous and abhorrent war crimes, and the Red Cross covers it up, refusing to condemn its actions publicly and not presenting to the world the monstrous behavior of Hamas towards the captives.” Erdan detailed to Courtois that Hamas had planned from the beginning to use international law against Israel and, immediately after committing the massacres of October 7, to manipulate the UN and international organizations to pressure Israel for a ceasefire that would allow Hamas to remain in power. Erdan also criticized UN agencies for using the privileges they receive from Israel for their employees to identify and spread falsehoods against Israel. He emphasized that the day after the war, he would recommend to the government to cancel residence permits and immediately expel many UN employees until fundamental changes and reforms occur in the motivated UN bodies. (JPost / VFI News)

BBC Apologizes for Reporting Unproven Claims about Israel Carrying out 'Summary Executions' on Gaza Civilians; The BBC apologized Friday, January 5, for a Christmas Eve report containing an unverified Hamas claim that Israelis were committing “summary executions” – or executions based on guilt without a fair trial – on Palestinian civilians in Gaza. “In overnight output, we ran a story about Hamas accusing the Israeli army of carrying out summary executions in the Gaza strip,” the apology, posted to the outlet’s corrections and clarifications page, read. “This was a Hamas statement, but although the accusations were attributed and our story contained a response from the Israeli military saying they were unaware of the incident and that Hamas was a terrorist organization that did not value truth, we had not made sufficient effort to seek corroborating evidence to justify reporting the Hamas claim. We apologize for this mistake,” it continued. Afterward, the BBC told American media that it had no further comment on the matter. It should be noted that this is not the first time the BBC has apologized for false reporting against the IDF since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. On November 15, the news organization apologized for falsely claiming that IDF forces were targeting medical teams in battles in and around the al-Shifa hospital in Gaza where the Hamas terrorist organization has made a command and control center. (FN / VFI News)

Israeli MFA: 'South Africa is Functioning as Hamas's Legal Arm'; The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a harsh reaction to the three-hour deliberation at the International Court of Justice in the Hague on Thursday morning, January 11, on the petition by South Africa against Israel on charges of “genocide” during the war in Gaza. “Today we were witness to one of the greatest shows of hypocrisy in history, compounded by a series of false and baseless claims,” the Foreign Ministry wrote in a statement. “South Africa, which is functioning as the legal arm of the Hamas terrorist organization, utterly distorted the reality in Gaza following the October 7 massacre and completely ignored the fact that Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel, murdered, executed, massacred, raped and abducted Israeli citizens, simply because they were Israelis, in an attempt to carry out genocide. South Africa seeks to allow Hamas to return to commit the war crimes, crimes against humanity, and sexual crimes they committed repeatedly on October 7, as its leaders have stated,” it added. Meanwhile, while South Africa sues Israel, its President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa is hosting a mass murderer in the country - and held a meeting with him. Ramaphosa met with the leader of the RSF in Sudan, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Dagalo is responsible for mass murders and reignited the civil war in Sudan a few months ago. In support of Israel, more than 1,000 Christians gathered in the Hague on Thursday to march for it and against the opening of South Africa’s trial. Further,

British Tory MP Sir Michael Ellis denounced South Africa in the Parliament for its decision to accuse Israel of genocide. (INN / VFI News)



*Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, rabbisolomon@yachad.com
Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com
Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075
E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: <https://www.yachad.com>
Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)*

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