

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 2, 2024 (Kislev 1, 5785)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 423

After Earlier Fire From Hezbollah, IDF Says It Is Striking Targets in Lebanon

- **LEBANON:** IDF tells residents of dozens of southern villages to avoid returning to their homes until further notice
 - **ISRAEL:** American-Israeli hostage Omer Neutra killed on Oct. 7, IDF says
- **GAZA:** IDF strike kills at least 15 in northern Gaza, medics report; IDF intercepts rocket launched from Khan Yunis
- **IRAN:** U.S. ships intercepted Iran-backed Houthi attacks on U.S. navy ships in Gulf of Aden, CENTCOM says
 - **SYRIA:** At least 25 killed over past day, including ten children, opposition says
 - **LEBANON:** IDF strikes Hezbollah targets in Lebanon on Saturday
 - **ISRAEL:** Israeli officials fear Iran, terrorist organizations will strengthen grip in Syria; Missile launched from Yemen triggers sirens across central Israel
 - **GAZA:** Hamas delegation visits Cairo for talks with Fatah, Islamic Jihad
 - **IRAN:** Tehran plans uranium-enrichment expansion, IAEA report says

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Israel Says Hezbollah Ceasefire Violated, Fires on South Lebanon; Israel said Thursday, November 28, that its ceasefire with Hezbollah had already been violated — less than two days after U.S. President Joe Biden announced it in the Rose Garden. The military said the ceasefire, which took effect at 4 a.m. Wednesday was broken by suspects arriving in vehicles in defiance of the deal. Lebanese officials said that Israeli tanks then opened fire at a half-dozen locations in southern Lebanon, from which the Jewish state agreed to withdraw as part of the truce gradually. It's unclear if the fighting will derail the broader agreement to end fighting after more than a year. It was not immediately clear if the individuals Israel complained about were fighters associated with the Iran-backed terrorist group, which is supposed to withdraw to roughly the Litani River north of the international border. Hassan Fadlallah, a Hezbollah member of Lebanon's parliament, claimed that they were just civilians returning to their homes. Lebanon's parliament speaker Nabih Berri, who led his country's side in the peace talks, reportedly had encouraged residents to return immediately, despite Israel urging them not to do so yet. Israel is due to withdraw from southern Lebanon within 60 days under the terms of the deal, which was reached in the waning days of Biden's administration with the involvement of French President Emmanuel Macron. (*NYP / VFI News*)

Report: IDF Foiled Hezbollah Attempt to Develop Chemical Weapons; The IDF foiled an attempt by Hezbollah to develop chemical weapons several weeks ago, Israeli media reported on Wednesday, November 27. The report did not mention any details about the weapons or where they were being developed. According to the unsourced report, the weapons were meant to be used by Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force during an invasion of Israeli territory. Another report said that soldiers in Lebanon have come across gas tanks, coveralls, and gas masks while searching Hezbollah positions. The report quoted IDF soldiers who claimed to have been briefed by members of the Home Front Command about what to do in case of a chemical attack by Hezbollah. However, the IDF has denied the report, whereas it has recently cleared for publication that in the hours leading up to the beginning of the ceasefire, IAF fighter jets, under the direction of the Intelligence Directorate, struck Hezbollah's largest precision-guided missile production site in Bekaa's Janta area. The 1.4-kilometer-long underground infrastructure was used to produce surface-to-surface missiles and components of different weapons and store a range of precision weapons designated to be used in attacks on Israel. The site was located in an underground compound near the Syrian border. (*INN / VFI News*)

Lebanon War Toll: Thousands Dead, Hezbollah Arsenal Severely Depleted – Analysis; Below are some estimated numbers for the Lebanon war from October 8, 2023, until November 26, 2024. Some numbers are fully updated, and some await updates from the IDF but are based on previous reports. Between 2,500-3,000 Hezbollah fighters have been killed compared to 75 IDF soldiers who died

either invading southern Lebanon or from Hezbollah attacks into northern Israel. Most of these have been killed since mid-September, but several hundred Hezbollah had been killed before then. Hezbollah still has tens of thousands of fighters - the vast majority of its rank-and-file forces, even as a majority of its commanders have been killed. Between 700-1,200 Lebanese civilians have been killed compared to 45 Israeli civilians. Statistics vary wildly regarding how much Hezbollah has attacked Israel, depending on the definition, with the numbers varying from as low as a few thousand rockets to over 10,000 to around 15,000 rockets and 2,500 drones. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Released Hostages Suffer Severe Ongoing Health Challenges, Study Reveals; A new medical report by the Health Team of the Hostages and Missing Families Forum reveals severe ongoing health challenges among released hostages and their families, one year after the exchange that freed 105 people from Gaza. Key findings show survivors and their families face severe physical issues including malnutrition, untreated fractures, nerve damage, and long-term disabilities, widespread PTSD symptoms, including nightmares, hypervigilance, and emotional detachment, with children showing developmental regression. Other issues include accelerated aging among elderly survivors, who require increased medical and psychological care, and major challenges returning to work and education, with public attention often intensifying feelings of alienation. Prof. Hagai Levine, head of the Health Team, said, “The difficulties faced by survivors of captivity and their families over the past year highlight the critical need for continuous and comprehensive support.” “Addressing gaps in rehabilitation, ensuring long-term support for families, and establishing systematic monitoring mechanisms are all vital. But there can be no full recovery without the return of all hostages!” (*INN/ VFI News*)

France Backtracks, Now Says It Wouldn't Arrest Benjamin Netanyahu over ICC Warrant; The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants last week for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant for supposed war crimes committed in Gaza. The decision to issue the warrant contradicted legal advice received by the court that it actually had no jurisdiction to issue a warrant, and prompted awkward responses from Western nations on how they would interpret the law and if they would arrest the democratically elected head of government of an allied state. The government of French President Emmanuel Macron has been locking horns with Israel more often in recent months and had previously indicated it would respect the ruling of the court. Its statement immediately after the arrest warrant was issued last week felt deliberately vague, stating only that: “True to its long-standing commitment to supporting international justice, it reiterates its attachment to the independent work of the court.” Yet France has now shifted to a new position, publishing a diplomatic communication stating that the nation respects its international obligations, both to the International Criminal Court of which it is a member nation, but also towards third-party nations that aren't members, like Israel. The French government asserted: “A State cannot be required to act in a manner inconsistent with its obligations under international law with respect to the immunities of States not party to the ICC. Such immunities apply to Prime Minister Netanyahu and other relevant ministers and will need to be taken into consideration should the ICC request their arrest and surrender.” (*BB / VFI News*)

PA Head Mahmoud Abbas Announces Rawhi Fattouh As Replacement 'If The Position Becomes Vacant'; Mahmoud Abbas, chairman of the Palestinian Authority (PA), published a “constitutional declaration” on Wednesday, November 27, stating that Rawhi Fattouh, chairman of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), will assume the position of interim President “if the position becomes vacant.” In the declaration, Abbas stipulated that if his position became vacant and the Legislative Council were “dysfunctional,” then Fattouh would assume the position of interim President for a period of no more than 90 days while elections were held. Abbas specified that if elections could not be held, the Palestinian Central Council (PCC) could choose to extend his term for another 90 days, but no longer. The PCC serves as one of the Palestinian Liberation Organization's (PLO) policy-making bodies along with the PNC;

Fattouh is chairman of both the PCC and PNC. Fattouh previously served as interim President following the death of Yasser Arafat in 2004; he held the post from November 2004 until January, when elections were held. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Severe Incitement: Telegram Channel Calls for Murder of Temple Mount Activist Yehuda Glick; A Palestinian Arab Telegram channel which has over 100,000 followers, published a post on Thursday, November 28, calling for the murder of former MK Yehuda Glick. The post, which comes mostly due to Glick's activism for Jewish rights on the Temple Mount, includes a clear mention of the previous attempt on his life about a decade ago: "This criminal's aggression must end with a gunshot like that of the hero Muataz Hijazi." Glick stated that he submitted a complaint to the police about the post. "I hope the suspects are caught immediately. We can not be silent in the face of this incitement. These threats will never break my spirit to continue working for Jewish rights on the Temple Mount." A video posted on the channel describes Glick's activism as "offensive to the sanctity of al-Aqsa." The channel accused him of "daily break-ins," religious ceremonies, and cooperation with the Israeli security forces. In addition, it claimed that Glick "incites settlers to invade the Mount," and use tourism as a cover. (*INN /VFI News*)

Israel's Thanksgiving Message: 'Thank You to The United States of America'; Israeli government spokesman David Mencer wished the American people, and the U.S. government, a happy Thanksgiving, adding that the State of Israel was thankful for the enduring support of the American people. "We are very grateful for the ironclad commitment and friendship and union with the United States of America," Mencer said. "They have stood by our side in difficult times and in good times, none more so than in the last 419 days." No one in Israel would ever forget that President Joe Biden visited Israel just days after the October 7 terror attacks in solidarity, he said, adding that Israel also looked forward to the administration of President-elect Donald Trump. Mencer also listed Israel's achievements in the Third Lebanon War. According to him, Israel decimated Hezbollah's leadership, destroyed much of its weaponry, and prevented it from carrying out an October 7-style attack on northern Israel. In addition, Israel's government has noted that the war removed Hezbollah as a deterrent force to protect Iran from an Israeli attack on the regime's nuclear program. (*BB / VFI News*)

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