

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 5, 2024 (Kislev 4, 5785)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 426

Israeli President Herzog Discusses Hostage Deal With Elon Musk at Request of Hostages' Families

- **ISRAEL:** *Former Shin Bet chief: Netanyahu asked to eavesdrop on confidant of secret project; Qatar resumes mediation between Israel and Hamas on Egyptian proposal*
 - **GAZA:** *39 killed in Gaza in last 24 hours, Gaza Health Ministry says*
- **LEBANON:** *4,047 people killed, in Lebanon since war started, health ministry says; Report: Israel strikes in southern Lebanon close to Litani River*
 - **ISRAEL:** *Shin Bet and army retrieve body of hostage killed in captivity; IDF releases findings of investigation into death of six hostages; Israel's AG, president call for state inquiry*
 - **GAZA:** *20 killed, dozens wounded in Israeli strike, Gaza-based authorities say*
- **LEBANON:** *4,047 people killed, 16,638 wounded in Lebanon since war started, health ministry says*

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Iran to IAEA: We Plan to Install Additional Centrifuges at Fordow and Natanz; Iran has notified the UN nuclear watchdog of its plans to expand uranium enrichment capabilities by installing additional centrifuges at its Fordow and Natanz facilities and activating machines recently installed there, according to a confidential report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) seen by British media on Thursday, November 28. The report outlines Iran's communication with the IAEA about these intentions. However, it notes that Iran has made little progress toward implementing these plans so far, despite its pledge to add thousands of centrifuges following a resolution by the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors criticizing Iran. Currently, Iran operates over 10,000 centrifuges at its underground sites in Natanz and Fordow, as well as an above-ground plant at Natanz. The report describes plans to install 32 additional cascades, or groups, of approximately 174 centrifuges each, along with an unprecedented cascade of 1,152 advanced IR-6 centrifuges. Notably, the report does not mention Iran's uranium enrichment to levels as high as 60% purity, which is close to the 90% threshold for weapons-grade material. This omission could indicate a cautious approach by Iran as it prepared for additional talks in Geneva on Friday with Britain, France, and Germany aimed at reviving dialogue with Western powers. (INN / VFI News)

Israeli Jets Block Iranian Plane Suspected of Ferrying Arms to Hezbollah Over Syria; An Iranian flight suspected to be ferrying arms to the Hezbollah terror group in Lebanon was blocked by the Israeli Air Force overnight between Saturday and Sunday, November 30 – December 1, Israeli media reports. IAF fighter jets intercepted the Iranian plane over Syria and ordered it to turn around, and it did a short while later, a defense source said. The incident was first reported by another Israeli news outlet, although the site showed a screenshot of flight data from an unrelated Iranian Mahan Air plane that landed in Syria's coastal city of Latakia in the afternoon hours of Saturday. In recent months, the IDF has forced several Iranian flights to make U-turns over Syrian or Iraqi airspace, after they were suspected of carrying weapons to Hezbollah. The IDF has said that it would continue to act to prevent all weapon deliveries to the Lebanese terror group, including by striking shipments anywhere in Lebanon or Syria. (TOI/VFI News)

IDF Strikes Hezbollah Amid Truce Violations; The IDF said on Sunday, December 1, that it was continuing to enforce the ceasefire in Lebanon by striking Hezbollah forces violating its terms, as France was said to charge that Jerusalem, too was repeatedly violating the days-old truce. The IDF is still deployed in much of southern Lebanon, and it has until late January to withdraw under the 60-day ceasefire deal clinched last week that sought to end more than a year of fighting. Early on Sunday, Israeli jets launched an airstrike over a southern Lebanese border village of Yaroun, while troops shelled other border towns and villages still under Israeli control, Lebanon's state-run news agency reported. Neither the military nor Hezbollah commented on the incidents. In another incident that the IDF said Sunday took place the previous night, soldiers of the Paratroopers Brigade spotted a group of armed Hezbollah operatives close to a church in southern Lebanon, a site previously known to have been used by the terror group. The paratroopers opened fire at the gunmen, killing them, the IDF said. (TOI /VFI News)

Hezbollah Chief Says Group Scored 'Divine Victory' in War Against Israel; The head of the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah, Naim Qassem, said in a televised address on Friday, November 29, that the group had scored a “divine victory” against Israel, even greater than that declared after the two foes last fought in 2006. He asserted that Hezbollah did not want war, but felt a “religious and humanitarian obligation” to support Gaza. “We repeated that we do not want war, but we are ready for one if Israel forces it upon us.” Qassem claimed, “We are on the verge of a divine victory, greater than the victory of 2006.” He further said, “The resistance has proven through this war that it is prepared, and Nasrallah’s plans were effective and accounted for all developments.” “Israel gambled on internal conflicts, but that gamble failed due to cooperation (in Lebanon, Hezbollah). The resilience of the resistance shocked the world, frightened the Israeli army, and brought despair to the enemy.” Regarding the ceasefire reached under UN Security Council Resolution 1701, he stated, “The agreement is under Lebanese sovereignty, and the resistance is present on the ground. We hold our heads high because we have the right to defend ourselves. One of the signs of the enemy’s defeat is that our people are returning, while settlers are not returning on the other side.” (YNet/VFI News)

Emirati Official Visits Family of Slain Rabbi; Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi flew to Israel on Friday, November 29, to pay a shiva call to the family of Rabbi Zvi Kogan in Kfar Chabad. Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi is the chairman of the Manara Centre for Coexistence and Dialogue and chairman of the Defense Affairs, Interior, and Foreign Affairs Committee of the UAE Federal National Council. Israel’s outgoing ambassador to the UAE, Amir Hayek, also arrived to visit the mourners. He condemned the attack as extremism and reaffirmed the UAE’s commitment to coexistence and peace, stating, “The UAE will never allow extremists to divide us. The state and its citizens are more committed than ever to the values of openness and peace and will increase their efforts to ensure that Rabbi Zvi’s legacy continues and that all communities live in harmony in the UAE.” Kogan, a Chabad emissary in Dubai, was abducted and murdered while on his way to Oman. Emirati authorities denounced the murder and launched an investigation. The Mossad was confirmed to have assisted the UAE in investigating the murder. The murderers are believed to have fled to Turkey, where Turkish intelligence arrested them shortly after their arrival. They have since been extradited to the UAE. If convicted under the appropriate sections of Emirati law, they could be executed by firing squad. (INN/ VFI News)

Jewish Children, Teens Violently Attacked in London: 'Streets Are No Longer Safe'; The latest targets of anti-Semitic attacks spreading through Western Europe were Jewish teens and children in the United Kingdom. On Thursday, November 28, two buses carrying students from a London Jewish school were attacked at a bus stop by a swarm of around ten teens from a nearby school who wielded large rocks, Jewish media reported. Four teens boarded one of the double-decker buses and went to the second level, where they began to swear at students and give them the middle finger. One 12-year-old student, who professed he was scared by the attack, described how the teens “were swearing at us, saying ‘F--- Israel, nobody likes you. F--- off, you bi---s. They were filming us like they were enjoying it. There were lots of people in the street and nobody tried to stop them.” After the four teens got off the bus, they began to throw heavy rocks at the buses. “This incident did not take place in a vacuum,” a spokesperson from the British organization Campaign Against Anti-Semitism told American media. “Over the past year, we have repeatedly warned of the dangerous consequences of Jew hate going unchecked.” Anti-Semitism has seen a startling rise in the UK in the aftermath of Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023 terror attacks. Citing CST statistics, British media reported that 1,978 anti-Semitic incidents occurred during the first six months of 2024, up from 964 during the same period in 2023. Meanwhile, Germany’s Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism (RIAS) recently reported that the number of antisemitic incidents in Berlin in the first half of 2024 (1,383) was higher than the whole total for 2023 (1,270). (FN/ VFI News)

Iraqi MPs to Debate Revised Bill Critics Fear Will Allow 9-Year-Old Girls to Marry; Iraq's parliament postponed a vote on controversial legal amendments, including a reworked family law bill that had sparked civil outrage over fears of a resurgence in underage marriages, including allowing the marriage of girls as young as 9. A session devoted to the legislation scheduled for Sunday, December 1, did not go ahead and will be held today, the parliament's communications department said. The proposed amendments would let people choose between religious or state regulations for family matters, such as marriage, inheritance, divorce, and child custody. Critics fear the move could erode protections for Muslim women by lowering the legal age for marriage — currently set at 18, or 15 with the consent of legal guardians and a judge — and pave the way for the adoption of Islamic jurisprudence that could allow girls as young as 9 years old to marry. A revised version of the bill sets the minimum age at 15 with court approval and retains “current conditions,” according to MP Raed al-Maliki, who backs the new proposals. Couples could opt for Shiite Muslim or Sunni Muslim rules under the amendment. *(TOI / VFI News)*

With Regional Eyes Distracted, Rebel Groups Advance Against Syrian Regime – Analysis; An advance by Syrian rebel groups has caught the Syrian regime by surprise. The regime, backed by Iran and Russia, has lost ground near Aleppo. This is the largest setback for the regime and its Iranian backers in many years. Video from Syria shows the group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) inside a Syrian regime base of the 46th Regiment. According to other reports from Syria, an Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps officer was killed during the rebel advance. The attacks by the rebel groups are important because they indicate their intention to restart fighting with the regime. This comes after days of strikes by the regime against areas in Idlib, northern Syria. This area is controlled by HTS, which is one of the more extreme of the rebel groups. It controls Idlib while neighboring areas are occupied by Turkey and Turkish-backed Syrian rebel groups. The Syrian regime lacks troops and is exhausted from a decade of civil war. Russia, which backs the regime, has been focused on fighting Ukraine. Iran is focused on Israel. Hezbollah has lost thousands of fighters in the war with Israel. As such, it cannot send men to fight on the Aleppo front, where it has fought in the past. *(JPost/VFI News)*

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