

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 16, 2024 (Kislev 15, 5785)



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Israel-Hamas War, Day 427

Missile Fired From Yemen Triggers Sirens in Tel Aviv, Across Central Israel

- **ISRAEL:** Government appointee to rebuild postwar northern Israel resigns
- **GAZA:** Senior Hamas official tells Asharq Al-Awsat News that cease-fire and hostage deal is 'closer than ever'
- **WEST BANK:** Palestinian security forces launch operation in West Bank refugee camp
 - **LEBANON:** Israeli military says it struck launchers positioned to fire at Israel
 - **ISRAEL:** Government appointee to rebuild postwar northern Israel resigns
 - **GAZA:** Medical teams in say 39 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes since morning
- **WEST BANK:** Palestinian security forces launch operation in West Bank refugee camp
 - **LEBANON:** Israeli military says it struck launchers positioned to strike in Lebanon

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Hamas Gives Egypt List of Hostages Terror Group Holds, Negotiations Privately Progress — Report; Hamas has given Egyptian mediators a list of Israeli hostages who are currently being held in captivity by the terror group, Saudi media reported on Tuesday, December 10. The update comes as the Saudi news outlet reported that officials confirmed that negotiations were privately progressing and secret communications were in the works to finalize a ceasefire deal in the Gaza Strip. Earlier on Monday, London-based Qatari media reported that Hamas had presented Egyptian mediators an initial list with the names of the hostages who would be included in a possible hostage deal. The list reportedly included the names of four American hostages, as well as hostages who are elderly or suffer from medical conditions. Hamas also submitted a list with the names of Palestinian prisoners it would like released from Israeli prisons in exchange for the hostages, according to the Qatari news outlet. However, on Wednesday, Hamas's representative in Lebanon, Ahmed Abdel Hadi, poured cold water on the reports, telling a Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese outlet that the terror organization had neither received any ceasefire proposal nor submitted any lists. (*JPost / VFI News*)

Documents Show Top Administrators at UNRWA Schools Were Hamas and PIJ Fighters; Some two dozen teachers, counselors, and administrators at UNRWA schools in Gaza are members of Hamas or other terror groups, according to a foreign media report published on Sunday, December 8, based on documents provided by Israel. The materials, seized from terror groups during the ongoing war, shed further light on Israel's longstanding contention that the UN agency responsible for aid to Palestinians - which administered some 288 schools in the enclave before the war - has fostered radicalism, and been used by terror groups in their efforts against Israel. The documents, viewed by a renowned American news outlet, identify 24 employees at 24 different UNRWA schools — the majority of them principals or deputy principals — who are registered members of Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad. About half of them had documented possession of lethal weaponry, including assault rifles and hand grenades, provided by the terror groups, or participated in their training exercises. Gaza residents interviewed by the news outlet said Hamas's presence in UN schools was something of an open secret, with one UNRWA educator "regularly seen after hours in Hamas fatigues carrying a Kalashnikov," according to the report. Another school principal, a Hamas member who was issued an assault rifle and a handgun, reportedly has a photo on his Facebook page depicting him standing in front of a Hamas banner. (*TOI/VFI News*)

PM: Israel Wants 'Correct' Ties with New Syrian Regime, But Will Attack If Necessary; In a message to the new regime taking shape in Syria, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday, December 10, that Israel wants to establish relations, but won't hesitate to attack if it threatens the Jewish state. "We have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Syria," he said in a video statement, "but we certainly do intend to do what is necessary to ensure our security." Therefore, he said, the Israeli Air Force was bombing "military strategic capabilities" left by the Syrian military of the ousted Assad regime, "so that they won't fall into the hands of the jihadists." "We want correct relations with the new regime in Syria," he went on to say. "But if this regime allows Iran to reestablish itself in Syria, or allows the transfer of Iranian weapons or any other weapons to Hezbollah, or attacks us, we will respond

forcefully and we will exact a heavy price from it.” After the rebels took over Syria, the Israeli Navy missile ships struck two Syrian Navy facilities simultaneously; dozens of sea-to-sea missiles with ranges of 80–190 kilometers were destroyed; manned aircraft flew hundreds of hours over Syrian airspace, conducting over 350 aerial strikes together with fighter jets; a wide range of targets were struck, including anti-aircraft batteries, Syrian Air Force airfields, and dozens of weapons production sites; numerous strategic weapons were neutralized, including Scud missiles, UAVs, fighter jets, attack helicopters; air strikes on 130 assets in Syria were conducted, including weapons depots, military structures, launchers, and firing positions. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Report: Syrian Rebels Execute Opponents, Threaten Kurds, Release Prisoners Including Toddlers; Syrian rebels who overthrew the dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad on Sunday, December 8, are reportedly executing their opponents, imposing Islamic sharia law, and threatening non-Muslim minorities, including the Kurdish population in the north. Videos are circulating on social media showing Syrian rebels killing people associated with the regime - some of whom may have been part of the state security services, and others who appear to have been ordinary employees. One video also shows thousands of smashed bottles of liquor at the duty-free store of the Damascus airport, where Islamist rebels apparently enforced the Islamic ban on alcohol by force, as Islamists did in Lebanon in the 1980s. In addition, an American news outlet reported that fierce fighting was underway on Tuesday between the rebels supported by Turkey and U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led forces near Kobani, a town in northern Syria with historic and symbolic significance for American involvement in the region. Meanwhile, Syrian rebels have also freed prisoners - including toddlers - from a notorious, jam-packed prison dubbed the “human slaughterhouse,” where the Assad regime allegedly used an “iron press” to pulverize bodies. The Saydnaya military prison, just outside Damascus, was emptied by insurgents over the weekend. (*BB /VFI News*)

Lebanese Christians Rejoice: Freed After Decades in Assad’s Prisons; Christians in Lebanon are celebrating the release of several prisoners who were abducted by the Syrian regime over several decades of occupation and who are now, finally, free after the sudden collapse of the Assad regime. Lebanese media reported: “Souheil Hamawi, a Lebanese national detained in Syria for 33 years, has returned to his home in North Lebanon. Hamawi, who claimed he was arrested in December 1992 at his home in Chekka, arrived in his village accompanied by a brass band and was welcomed by relatives in an emotional reunion, according to our correspondent Michel Hallak.” Some of the missing Christians were political activists; others were members of Christian militias that had been active during the Lebanese civil wars of the 20th century. Syria dominated Lebanon for decades until it was eclipsed by Iran and its proxy, Hezbollah, who propped up a faltering Assad regime while continuing to dominate Lebanese politics. While there is still widespread concern about the fate of Christians inside Syria, especially since the Syrian rebels who overthrew Assad are radical Islamists with ties to terror, there is broad delight at the demise of the Syrian regime. (*BB / VFI News*)

Israeli National Mowed Down in Alleged Anti-Semitic Attack by Palestinian Man in Laguna Beach: Report; An Israeli-American man was mowed down by an enraged Palestinian man outside California in a terrifying act of hate, police said. Roy Gross, 28, was out partying with three friends in Laguna Beach when they got into a shouting match with two men who identified themselves as being Palestinian-Iranian, according to Hebrew media, citing the police report. The enraged men hurled slurs against Israel and blocked Gross and his friends from getting into a taxi before one of the assailants jumped in his car and tried to run them down, witnesses said. Gross was severely injured — suffering a compound fracture on his leg. “This is the first time I have encountered such violence,” Gross, who moved to the US in 2014 after serving in the IDF, told the Hebrew news outlet from his hospital bed. “We tried to calm the conflict and avoid the confrontation, but the suspect acted maliciously and with intent to harm,” he added. Police arrested the assailant and are investigating the incident as a hate crime. Gross seems to be

in good spirits, but he has already had one surgery on the broken leg and will require at least one more, the Hebrew outlet reported. (NYP / VFI News)



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