

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update March 25, 2024 (Adar Bet 15, 5784)



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Israel-Hamas War, Day 171

Despite Netanyahu's Threat, U.S. Abstains From UN Security Council Vote on Gaza Cease-fire

- *Prime Minister Netanyahu warned that he would instruct the delegation, scheduled to discuss a possible military operation in Rafah, if the U.S. doesn't veto a UN resolution calling for a cease-fire in Gaza*
 - *Eight rockets launched at Ashdod from Gaza*
- *Families of hostages both participate in and protest Jerusalem Purim parade*
- *Hamas source: 'Israel's offensive in Al-Shifa Hospital cannot be understated'*
 - *According to IDF data, 30 soldiers were wounded in combat since Friday*
- *Palestinian Red Crescent says IDF is raiding Nasser and Al-Amal Hospitals in Gaza*
 - *Reports in Lebanon: Drone strikes vehicle in eastern town of Souairi*
- *IDF and Shin Bet forces begin Khan Yunis operation overnight into Sunday*
 - *Staff Sergeant Lior Raviv, 21, killed in battle near Al-Shifa Hospital*

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Hamas Chief Ismail Haniyeh Was a UNRWA Teacher - Former Agency Official; Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh worked as a teacher for UNRWA in the past, former UNRWA official Ahmad Oueidat revealed in an interview with London-based media last week, according to footage translated by MEMRI. “First and foremost, we can mention Ismail Haniyeh, who was an UNRWA teacher, and so was Dr. Talal Naji, Secretary-General of the PFLP-GC,” said Oueidat. The former UNRWA official said that UNRWA has tried “to constitute a national platform and a long arm, which would enable the Palestinian refugees to obtain their rights and first and foremost – the Right of Return.” “There used to be quality in [UNRWA’s] education. The teaching cadres really embraced their profession. However, the Americans and the Zionists did not look at this favorably. This is why they insisted on interfering. We, as UNRWA employees, had to deal with that interference.” “They forced us to remove pictures and various topics. They planted [in the curricula] topics that have nothing to do with our values and our heritage, under the fancy slogans like neutrality, independence, impartiality, and humanity – as if UNRWA was not humane and neutral before,” added Oueidat. Meanwhile, an agreement reached by US congressional leaders and the White House on a massive bill funding the military, State Department, and a range of other government programs will continue the ban of US funding for the UNRWA until March 2025, two sources said on Tuesday, March 19. (JPost / VFI News)

Half of Israel May Come Under Hezbollah Fire, Former Israeli Security Chief Warns; Israel’s security establishment is continuing to monitor the developments in the North closely. Meanwhile, in the coalition, threats against Hezbollah are becoming more frequent. After Defense Minister Yoav Gallant warned that “the hourglass is about to reverse course,” ex-MK Moshe Feiglin (Likud) said in a conversation with Gadi Ness on a radio show that “Lebanon may be destroyed in the next war.” In the midst of this, former National Security Council (NSC) chief Uzi Dayan warned in an interview with Ness that “we need to be prepared for a rocket attack from Hezbollah that will hit half of the State of Israel.” He explained, “In the North, our sovereignty is being violated on a daily basis. Residents are not returning to their communities. What needed to be done a month ago was an operation on both fronts, in the North and in the South. But now, Gaza takes precedence. Beirut will have to come after Gaza. We cannot just sit and get attacked and do nothing in response.” “We need to attack Lebanon in general and Hezbollah specifically more harshly, and this should come in addition to having the army form a barrier, a death trap, along the settlements up North,” he stressed. Meanwhile, a new survey conducted by the Jewish People’s Policy Institute revealed that 63% of Israelis also think that the IDF should attack Hezbollah with full force at the first available opportunity or after the war. Of those surveyed, 79% of the Israeli public believes

there is no chance for peace with the Palestinians, and 44% think that the government, the IDF, and the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) have equal and shared responsibility for the October 7 failure. (JPost / VFI News)

Poll: Archterrorist Marwan Barghouti Would Win Palestinian Elections; Dr. Khalil Shikaki, director of Ramallah's Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR), on Thursday, March 21, published a survey presenting the views of the "Palestinian" Arabs living in PA and Gaza. The survey showed that over 90% of "Palestinian" Arabs believe that Hamas didn't commit any atrocities against Israeli civilians during the October 7 massacre; just one in five has seen videos showing Hamas' atrocities. Those who have seen the videos are nearly 10 times more likely to believe that Hamas committed atrocities. Over 50% of Gazans support Hamas' continued rule - a 14-point rise from the previous poll. A full 80% oppose the idea of Arab countries ruling Gaza from abroad. Additionally, 70% of respondents would support Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in an election pitting him against PA chief Mahmoud Abbas. Further, if Haniyeh were pitted against arch-terrorist Marwan Barghouti, Barghouti would win over 60% of the vote. Barghouti would also win a majority if pitted against both Abbas and Haniyeh. A full 71% of respondents believe that the October 7 massacre was a correct action on the part of Hamas. When asked whether they would support a two-state solution, 60% of Gazans responded in the affirmative, compared to 35% in the previous poll. Among Arabs in Judea and Samaria, 34% said they supported a two-state solution, for a total of 45% of respondents in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. (INN / VFI News)

Jihadist and Nuclear Threat As African Country Tells US to Leave Amid Russian and Iranian Gains; The Biden administration is involved in high-stakes talks to try and persuade Niger to allow 1,000 U.S. military personnel and contractors to keep operating a \$110 million anti-terror drone base in the West African country. This is against a backdrop of reports that U.S. military influence is being replaced by Russia and worrying allegations that Iran is trying to buy uranium from Nigerien mines. Already, the Reaper drones based at Airport 201 have not been flying missions targeting both Islamic State and al Qaeda terrorists in the region since the government of Niger was overthrown by a military coup last July. Analysts are concerned that should the U.S. pull out of Niger, this could permit jihadist forces to surge through West Africa and lead to the further expansion of Russian influence in Africa. "What we are seeing in Niger is but one of the numerous examples of the curtains closing on American influence and Western influence on the African continent," Jasmine Opperman told American media. Opperman, an African-based security consultant specializing in extremism, continued, "We can see this in Central Africa. We see this in Southern Africa, and with that, Russia will use each and every opportunity to expand its influence." (FN / VFI News)

Footage Proves: Hezbollah Stores Dangerous Chemicals in Civilian Neighborhood; Since the start of the war, the IDF has been acting to prevent the growth of Hezbollah in Lebanon, harming the terror group's ability to transfer weapons and attacking weapons manufacturing infrastructure. Hezbollah bases its manufacturing infrastructure in the heart of civilian populations in southern Lebanon, in Beqaa and Beirut, and uses the Lebanese people as a human shield. As the footage shows, the size of the attacks, the numerous secondary explosions, and the duration of the fire at the site provide additional proof of Hezbollah's system of action, in which the group stores explosives and dangerous chemicals in civilian villages. On Tuesday night, March 19, IAF fighter planes attacked Hezbollah military structures in the areas of Ayta ash Shab, Meiss El Jabal, and Odaisseh. The attacks were carried out in response to launches from Lebanon towards Manara in northern Israel. Two IDF soldiers suffered light and moderate injuries in the strikes. (INN / VFI News)

UK and Canada Might Stop Selling Weapons to Israel; Britain, which is considered an ally to Israel, has declared that it will no longer sell weapons to Israel unless Israel allows Red Cross personnel to visit

the Nukhba force terrorists being held prisoner for carrying out the October 7 massacre. The ultimatum comes on the background of Hamas' continued refusal to allow Red Cross personnel to visit the Israeli hostages. David Cameron, the British Foreign Minister, told Israel that if the demand is not met, Britain will support an embargo on arms sales from all of Europe. The British, who have been leading the fight for Israel to allow the visits to the captured terrorists, claim that Israel is violating international law and must allow the Red Cross to visit them. Canada also plans to halt arms sales to Israel, its Foreign Minister Melanie Joly told Canadian media after the Canadian Parliament passed a non-binding motion that called on the government to do so. Her statement was confirmed on Tuesday, March 19, by the Foreign Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Robert Oliphant. "We will continue to advocate for a ceasefire, we will continue to not sell arms as we have promised and continue to make sure that we bring hostages back to their homes," Oliphant told the parliament in Ottawa during a question and answer session. (INN / VFI News)

World Happiness Report Shows Israeli Youth Happy Despite War, Adults Less So; Israel maintained its position in the World Happiness Report published on Wednesday, March 20, ranking fifth in the annual ranking, dropping one place compared to last year's list, despite a year characterized by political turmoil, social schisms, Hamas' attack on October 7 and the start of the Gaza war. The Nordic countries remain at the top of the list in the current report. Finland, a welfare state with one of the lowest income gaps between rich and poor among OECD countries, remained in first place for the seventh consecutive year, followed by Denmark and Iceland. The report's authors noted the ranking is based on a three-year average (2021-2023), so the effects of a specific year are limited. The survey was conducted before October 7 in Judea and Samaria and Gaza, and even then the Palestinians were only ranked 103rd out of 143 countries. Another finding from the survey marks the significant gap between older and younger people in Israel: While Israel ranks second for ages 30-44, it is only ranked in 18th place among adults over 60. Meanwhile, a new survey conducted by the World Zionist Organization, in collaboration with the Hebrew University, revealed the sentiments of Israelis living abroad since the war broke out. According to the survey, 80% of the respondents said that they do not intend to return to Israel, even though they feel insecure in their countries of residence. (YNet / VFI News)

Ben Gurion Airport's Low-Cost Terminal to Resume Operations on June 1; Ben Gurion Airport's Terminal 1, designated for low-cost and Eilat flights, will re-open on June 1, the Transportation Ministry announced on Tuesday, March 19. The move is expected to bring back airlines, like Ryanair, that halted flights but promised to return upon Terminal 1's reopening, drawn by its lower fees of \$11 per passenger versus Terminal 3's \$27. According to Airports Authority data, recent months have seen a steady increase in passengers traveling abroad, as well as a significant return of foreign international airlines to Ben Gurion Airport. The data indicates that over 60 international airlines operating at Ben Gurion Airport are expected to fly to more than 100 destinations during the summer months. The daily passenger number in the summer is expected to reach about 70,000, compared to the current 35,000 passengers. Delta Air Lines is one of the airlines that will return to Israel, as it said late on Wednesday that it will resume flights starting June 7, becoming the second major US carrier to do so following the October 7 massacre. Delta said it will begin daily flights between New York-JFK and Tel Aviv on an Airbus A330-900neo following an extensive security risk assessment by the airline. United Airlines resumed flights to Israel earlier this month from Newark but does not plan to restart flights from other US cities until at least this fall. (YNet / VFI News)

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