

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 1, 2024 (Adar Bet 22, 5784)



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Israel-Hamas War, Day 178

Report: Israel Kills Top General in Iran's Revolutionary Guard in Damascus Strike

- *Top Biden, Netanyahu aides to virtually discuss Israeli plans to invade Rafah*
- *IDF says drone crashed in army base overnight into Monday after pro-Iranian militia in Iraq announces it struck 'key target' in Israel*
 - *IDF says intelligence from Al-Shifa raid 'may yield significant information' about hostages, Palestinians report hundreds of bodies and wide destruction*
 - *Netanyahu's hernia surgery successful, PM in 'good condition'*
- *IDF says suspicious aircraft entered Israel and crashed near southern city of Eilat; no casualties reported*
 - *Thousands protest outside the Knesset, calling for early elections*
- *Israeli delegation arrives in Cairo for talks on cease-fire, hostage release deal*

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PM's Office Doesn't Send Delegation to Washington, Says Hamas Has Rejected All US Proposed Compromises; The Prime Minister's Office responded to the USA's refusal to veto a UN Security Council decision that called for a ceasefire without the release of the hostages. "The USA has retracted its consistent position that a ceasefire and the release of the hostages must be connected, which it demonstrated just a few days ago." "In a previous resolution, Russia and China vetoed a call for a ceasefire because they support a ceasefire without the release of the hostages. The current resolution was supported by Russia, China, Algeria, and other countries." "The USA did not veto a new wording of the resolution that calls for a ceasefire without the release of the hostages. This is a clear withdrawal from the USA's consistent position in the Security Council since the beginning of the war," the Office added. Prime Minister Netanyahu has clarified that if the USA withdraws from its principled position, he will not send an Israeli delegation to the USA. "In light of the change in the American position, the Prime Minister has decided that the delegation will in fact not be sent," the Office explained. The delegation would participate in a series of conferences regarding coordinating an operation in Rafah with the USA. The Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday morning, March 26, also said that Hamas is not interested in a prisoner swap agreement. "Hamas has once again rejected every US compromise and returned to its extremist demands: an immediate end to the war, the IDF's complete withdrawal from the Strip, and remaining in power so that they can repeat the October 7 massacre over and over again, as they have promised to do," the Office said in a statement. "Israel will not cave to Hamas' outrageous demands, and will continue operating to achieve all of the goals of the war: the release of all the hostages, the destruction of Hamas' military and governing abilities, and ensuring that Gaza will never again threaten Israel." (INN / VFI News)

President Herzog: We Must Get to Sinwar - Either Alive Or Dead - to Free the Hostage; Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Tuesday, March 26, attended the inauguration ceremony of the Mobileye Campus in Jerusalem. "Seeing Israeli industry thriving at full strength – that's the real victory," he began. "Regarding the negotiations for the release of the hostages: The reality is this - and the world and us must face it - everything begins and ends with Yahya Sinwar," Herzog stressed. "He's the one who decided on the October massacre, he's been seeking to shed the blood of the innocent ever since, it is he who aims to escalate the regional situation, to desecrate Ramadan, to do everything to shatter coexistence in our country and in the whole region, to sow discord among us and around the world." "He seeks terror, and the entire world and our entire region must know that the responsibility lies with him, and with him alone. It won't work. We won't allow it." Herzog continued, "At this moment, we must be united and determined. Israel is making every effort to bring the hostages home - making every effort in a range of fields. In the end, there is no choice. We must continue the fight, and we must get to Sinwar - either alive or dead - so that we can see the hostages back home." (INN / VFI News)

Reports in Syria: 36 Syrian Military Personnel Killed in Israeli Strike; Syrian media reported overnight Thursday, March 28, that Israel carried out an air strike in the vicinity of Aleppo, in the northwest of the country. According to the reports, the country's air defense systems were activated in the area following the attack. A website affiliated with the Syrian opposition reported that the strike targeted the international airport in Aleppo. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which is affiliated with the opposition and operates from London, reported that three explosions were heard in the vicinity of the airport. The Syrian army claimed that several civilians and military personnel were killed in the attack which it attributed to Israel and "terrorist organizations." The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 36 soldiers from President Bashar Al-Assad's army were killed in the strike. British media reported that five members of Hezbollah were also killed in the strike. The airport in Aleppo has been struck in the past, with some of those attacks, that were attributed to Israel, putting the airport temporarily out of service. This past October, Syria claimed, "The Israeli enemy carried out an air attack from the direction of the Mediterranean Sea, west of Latakia, targeting Aleppo International Airport, which led to material damage to the airport and it being out of service." (INN / VFI News)

UNRWA Textbooks Were Pivotal in Radicalizing Generations of Gazans — Watchdog; A map of the Middle East in a geography book makes no mention of the State of Israel, showing "Palestine" in its place; a history book narrates a 1968 battle between the Israeli army, the Jordanians, and Palestinian fedayeen, extolling the latter's courage in wearing explosive belts, and praising the "image of a burnt Zionist soldier" A chemistry book asks students to analyze the type of chemicals contained in phosphorous bombs allegedly dropped by Israel; an Islamic studies book describes the goals of jihad as "terrorizing the enemy" and "achieving martyrdom." These are examples from textbooks used in schools in Gaza run by the UNRWA, as highlighted in a recent report compiled by the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se). "The cooperation between UNRWA and Hamas is absolutely undeniable," said Marcus Sheff, CEO of IMPACT-se, "both in educating the terrorists that perpetrated the October 7 atrocities and in being part, as we discovered afterwards, of the terror infrastructure in its schools and in its hospitals." Israel has said it has evidence that at least 12 UNRWA employees took an "active part" in the October 7 massacres, that at least 30 more "assisted," and that around 1,500 of the agency's employees in Gaza (some 10 percent) have active ties to terror groups. (TOI / VFI News)

Senator Graham: UNRWA Is Dead to the United States; US Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said on Wednesday, March 27, that the UNRWA is "dead to the Congress" and "dead to the United States." Speaking to reporters during a visit to Israel, Graham said, "For decades now, Palestinian children have been taught through UNRWA and other agencies to kill all the Jews. Somebody needs to pull the Palestinian school system up by its roots and destroy it." He underscored that the US has no intention of resuming its funding to UNRWA. "UNRWA as an organization is dead to the United States and the people of Israel. It must be replaced in terms of health care, basic necessities like food, as well as education," Graham stated. The US and a host of other countries announced they would temporarily pause funding to UNRWA in January, after Israel said that 12 UNRWA staff had taken part in Hamas' October 7 attack. A recent agreement reached by US congressional leaders and the White House will continue the ban on US funding for UNRWA until March 2025. (INN / VFI News)

Al Jazeera Takes Down Video Falsely Alleging IDF Rapes in Shifa Hospital; After a former managing director of Qatari news outlet Al Jazeera took to X Sunday night, March 24, to disavow the network's false allegation that soldiers from the IDF had raped women during their ongoing operation in Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, video of the woman who made these allegations was removed. " Hamas investigations revealed that the story of the rape of women in Shifa Hospital was fabricated," wrote Yasser Abu Hilalah on X. "Of course, the enemy did not hesitate to commit the crime of genocide," he added. On

Sunday morning, Al Jazeera quoted a woman named Jamila al-Hissi, said to have been trapped in the hospital for six days, as saying that Israeli soldiers there had “raped women, kidnapped women, executed women, and pulled dead bodies from under the rubble to unleash their dogs on them.” “Is there anything worse than this? Is there anything more horrifying than hearing women call for help, and when we try to reach them to provide assistance, they shoot at us?” al-Hissi had been quoted as saying. The report quoting al-Hissi was still available on Al Jazeera’s liveblog as of Monday afternoon, but a video of her testimony was apparently removed. (TOI / VFI News)

Israel Slams Colombian President as a ‘Disgrace’ After He Threatens to Cut off Ties; Colombian President Gustavo Petro on Tuesday, March 26, threatened to break off diplomatic ties with Israel if the country doesn’t comply with a United Nations Security Council resolution that calls for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Petro made the announcement on X, formerly known as Twitter. On Monday, he published another message in which he celebrated the resolution’s approval and urged other nations to suspend ties with Israel if it doesn’t cease its military offensive in the Gaza Strip. Foreign Minister Israel Katz blasted Gustavo’s call to cut ties, writing on X that Gustavo’s support for “the Hamas murderers who carried out terrible acts of slaughter and sexual crimes against babies, women, and adults is a disgrace to the Colombian people.” “Israel will continue to defend its citizens and will not give in to any pressure or threats,” he declared. The confrontation on X signals a growing deterioration in the relations between both nations, which have gone from being military and commercial partners to becoming bitter ideological rivals. For decades, Colombia used Israeli-built warplanes and machine guns to fight drug cartels and rebel groups, and both countries signed a free trade agreement in 2020. (TOI / VFI News)

First Orthodox Jewish US Senator Joe Lieberman Dies at 82; Former US senator and Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Lieberman has died at the age of 82. He died from complications from a fall, American media reported in a social media post on X, citing family. Lieberman spent 24 years as Senator for Connecticut and was the first Orthodox Jew to serve in the Senate. While there had been other Jews in the Senate, Lieberman was the first Jew to keep Sabbath to Orthodox standards, meaning he didn’t attend Senate business from sundown on Friday to Saturday. Lieberman also kept Kosher and prayed daily, in addition to not working on the Sabbath. He was known for a strong focus on morality during his time, denouncing gratuitous sex and violence in films, television shows, and pop music. Lieberman was noted for his bi-partisanship, having worked closely with Democrats and Republicans throughout his time in the Senate. He was so successful that Republican candidate John McCain considered picking him as his running mate in 2008, American media reported. Lieberman’s daughter Hana Lowenstein, her husband Daniel, and four children all made aliyah in 2018. Separately, his granddaughter Nesya Lieberman made aliyah earlier that year. He is survived by his wife Hadassah and their three children. (JPost / VFI News)

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