

# **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 29, 2024 (Nisan 21, 5784)**

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## **Israel-Hamas War, Day 206**

### **Netanyahu Vows Israeli Invasion of Rafah 'With or Without' Hostage Deal as War Cabinet Meeting Called Off**

- **Israeli cop moderately wounded in Jerusalem stabbing; Assailant is suspected Turkish national**
  - **Israeli official: Delegation to Gaza talks will not depart for Cairo before Hamas response**
- **Protesters storm Columbia University's Hamilton Hall in escalation of anti-war demonstrations**
  - **Biden to Qatar, Egypt leaders: Hostage deal is 'only obstacle' for Israel-Hamas cease-fire**
    - **Amid hostage talks, Netanyahu, Biden speak on phone, discuss Rafah incursion**
- **IDF spokesperson: Amount of humanitarian aid entering Gaza will increase in coming days**
  - **Gaza aid flotilla halted after vessels flag removed, activists say**
  - **World Central Kitchen announces the resuming of Gaza operations**
- **War cabinet minister Gantz says gov't would have no right to exist if it prevents a hostage deal**

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***Dozens of Rockets Fired Towards Tzfat During the Passover Seder;*** A barrage of at least 35 rockets was fired on Monday evening, April 22, towards the city of Tzfat in northern Israel, with sirens sounding in the city as Israelis were gathering to celebrate the start of the holiday of Passover. The rockets exploded in open areas, and there were no reports of physical injuries or damages. The IDF said it struck the source of the rocket fire. Shortly after the sirens in Tzfat, sirens warning of an infiltration of a hostile aircraft were sounded in Shlomi and other communities located near the border with Lebanon. Several minutes later, the Home Front Command said the incident had concluded. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit subsequently said that "a short while ago, IAF fighter jets struck Hezbollah terrorist infrastructure in southern Lebanon. Earlier today, two military structures where Hezbollah terrorists operated were struck in the areas of Arzoun and Odaisseh in southern Lebanon." On Sunday night, a surface-to-air missile was launched toward an IAF UAV that was operating in Lebanese airspace. As a result, the UAV was hit and fell in Lebanese territory, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said. IAF fighter jets struck the launch site from which the missile was fired. (INN / VFI News)

***Intelligence Sources Confirm that Sinwar Has Left His Tunnel;*** Intelligence sources have confirmed reports that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar has left his hiding spot and walked the streets of Gaza, according to the Hostage Families Forum. The forum added that "his leaving the depths of the tunnels, where the hostages still are, is the picture of Israeli failure, whether it was photographed or not." The statement comes after a Hamas official told London-based Arabic media that Sinwar walked the streets of Gaza. "He is not cut off, rather he does his job as the leader of the movement on the ground." The official added: "Recently he visited areas where there were battles between the resistance and the occupation forces, and met fighters from the movement above ground and not in the tunnels." According to the official, whose name was not published, the Israeli reports that Hamas only offered to release 20 hostages are incorrect. He also stated that while it's not possible to "accurately determine the number of living hostages," it is "certain" that the number is higher than the number being cited in some media reports. The official claimed that Hamas has about 30 IDF and Shin Bet officers and that these hostages are being kept in "highly secured places, far from the hands of the occupation, and it is impossible to reach them under any circumstances." (INN / VFI News)

***18-Year-Old Freed Hostage Recalls How a Terrorist Wanted to Marry Her;*** 18-year-old Noga Weiss, who was kidnapped to Gaza on October 7 and was held there for 50 days before being released as part of a deal in late November, on Thursday evening, April 25, shared the story of her captivity and of the terrorist who wanted her to marry him and raise his children. "Their moods changed all the time," Weiss told Israeli media about the terrorists who were entrusted with guarding the hostages. "Sometimes they played cards with us and laughed, but then if someone said something that was out of place - one of them

suddenly left the room and came back with a gun.” One day she was moved to a new home and the attitude towards her changed. “Suddenly, an Arab woman wearing a hijab enters the house. It takes me a while to realize that the person I am seeing is my mother. I didn’t know she was alive and she didn’t know I was alive.” Weiss soon realized that there was a reason that her mother, Shiri, was brought there. One of the Hamas terrorists brought her because he wanted to get her approval to marry Noga. “Then we tried to laugh a fake laugh so they wouldn’t shoot us in the head. Until my mother got mad at him and yelled at him and said she disapproves.” Noga said that throughout those days, after the incident, she felt at risk in the company of that terrorist: “He only brought a ring on the 14th day, he stayed with us until the 50th day, and he continued to tell me that I would stay with him in Gaza, even after everyone is freed, and that I will raise his children.” (INN / VFI News)

***Israeli Military Intelligence Chief Resigns Over His Role in Failing to Prevent October 7 Attack;*** Israel’s intelligence chief stepped down Monday, April 22, after saying he’d shoulder the blame for failing to prevent Hamas’ vicious October attacks that left nearly 1,200 citizens dead. Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva — who leads the department tasked with giving the government and military intelligence warnings and daily alerts — is the first senior official to resign after the Oct. 7 attacks, but others may soon follow him out the door. “The intelligence directorate under my command did not live up to the task we were entrusted with,” Haliva wrote in his resignation letter. “I carry that black day with me ever since, day after day, night after night. I will carry the horrible pain of the war with me forever.” In a statement, the military said its chief of staff had accepted Haliva’s decision and thanked him for nearly four decades of service. The timing of additional resignations remains unclear. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he will answer the tough questions about his role but hasn’t acknowledged a role in the intelligence failure. He is not expected to step down. (NYP / VFI News)

***Gallant: IDF Has ‘Eliminated’ Half of Hezbollah’s South Lebanon Commanders, Remainder Are in Hiding;*** Defense Minister Yoav Gallant says half of Hezbollah’s commanders in southern Lebanon have been killed by the Israeli military. The remarks are made following a visit to the IDF Northern Command in Safed, where Gallant held an assessment with the chief of the command, Maj. Gen. Ori Gordin, and other top officers. “Half of the Hezbollah commanders in south Lebanon have been eliminated... and the other half hide and abandon south Lebanon to IDF operations,” Gallant said. He added that Israel’s main goal in the north is to return the tens of thousands of displaced Israelis to their homes, amid Hezbollah’s daily attacks. “We are dealing with a number of alternatives in order to establish this matter, and the coming period will be decisive in this regard,” Gallant said. (TOI / VFI News)

***Jewish Student Recounts Protesters ‘Taunting’ Her on Campus After Being ‘Jabbed’ in the Eye;*** A Jewish Yale student who was reportedly “jabbed” in the eye by a pro-Hamas protester described being “immediately blockaded” while trying to film the protest. Sahar Tartak, the editor-in-chief of the Yale Free Press, said she sought to “document” the protest taking place on the Ivy League school’s campus in an early Sunday morning, April 21, post about the alleged assault on X. Tartak told American media the protesters “immediately blockaded” her when she was recognized. “As soon as I was identified with my friend, who wears a black hat, as visibly orthodox Jewish students, I was immediately blockaded by protest organizers and everywhere I walked there was a line of protest organizers standing in front of me linking arms so that I could not walk forward,” she said. “The rest of the students at the rally noticed this. The other 500 students at this violent rally, and they saw me and so they began to taunt me as well because they recognized that I was something that they view as an enemy.” “The taunting escalated until somebody waved a Palestinian flag in my face and then jabbed me in my left eye. When I tried to run after him, the human blockade of protest organizers continued to stand in front of me to stop me from catching my assailant, and so I went to the hospital,” Tartak added. (DC / VFI News)

***Jewish, Pro-Israel Columbia University Professor Says He Was Blocked from Entering Main Campus: ‘This Is 1938’***; A Jewish Columbia University professor who has been critical of the school’s response to widespread anti-Israel protests and planned a counter-demonstration said Monday, April 22, that he was blocked from entering the main campus. Assistant business professor Shai Davidai, who was born in Israel and has called for Columbia leadership to resign as anti-Israel agitators wreak havoc on campus, said his keycard to enter the school’s main campus had been deactivated. “I have, not just a civil right, a civil right as a Jewish person to be on campus. I have a right as a professor employed by the university to be on campus. They deactivated my card,” Davidai told demonstrators Monday. The moment when Davidai realized his entry card was deactivated was captured on video that quickly spread on social media. “My card has been deactivated? Why? Wait, wait, wait, everybody, my card has been deactivated. This is Cas Holloway, the COO [Chief Operating Officer], this is [Vice President for Public Safety] Gerald Lewis. They were in the meeting when I asked them if Hamas is a terror organization, and they couldn’t say that it is a terrorist organization,” Davidai told the crowd as Holloway and Lewis looked on. (FN / VFI News)

***Israel to Extend Water Agreement with Jordan***; Following Jordan’s involvement in the Western coalition’s efforts to intercept all missiles and drones fired from Iran toward Israel, it appears Israel has decided to reciprocate; Energy Minister Eli Cohen is widely expected to extend the Jordanian-Israeli water agreement for an additional year. Extending the agreement has been a contentious issue for quite some time, especially as Jordan’s Foreign Minister Ayman al-Safadi has repeatedly made anti-Israeli comments and co-sponsored South Africa’s legal action against Israel in the International Court of Justice. Originally, Jordan asked for a five-year extension of the agreement. Following Israel’s hesitation, the Hashemite Kingdom softened its request, asking for a one-year extension. Due to the country’s severe water crisis, Jordan has quite a bit invested in this agreement. It is a land-locked country with few water sources besides the Jordan River, an issue that also compromises the nation’s overall economic output. The Jordan-Israel peace accord stipulates that Israel transfers 50 million cubic feet of water annually. In the summer of 2021, then-Prime Minister Naftali Bennett decided to double the amount to 100 million. As it seems, a one-year extension will be granted following Jordan’s help with the Iranian threat. (YNet / VFI News)



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