

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update May 27, 2024 (Iyyar 19, 5784)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 234

Islamic Jihad Airs Video of Israeli Hostage; Gaza Officials: 21 Dead in New Rafah Attack

- ***Israeli tanks reportedly reach Rafah city center***
- ***UNRWA says about a million people fled Rafah in the past 3 weeks***
- ***ABC NEWS reports that a piece of shrapnel ignited a fuel tank that caused the fire in Rafah***
 - ***Ireland, Spain, Norway officially recognize a Palestinian State***
- ***IDF's top attorney: Rafah incident 'very grave'; some 70 investigations launched by IDF police, including over Sde Teiman prison facility***
- ***Israeli army says it took steps to minimize possibility of civilian harm ahead of deadly Rafah strike, didn't anticipate civilian casualties***
- ***Fire breaks out in open area in Israel's north, hit by rockets launched from Lebanon***
 - ***Egyptian soldier killed in exchange of gunfire with IDF; Israeli army sources say Egyptian soldier fired first***

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'The Day Has Come': The International Criminal Court Seeks Arrests of Netanyahu, Gallant, and Hamas Chiefs; The International Criminal Court (ICC) wants to issue arrest warrants for top Hamas leaders – as well as for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant – on charges of crimes against humanity in the Gaza war, its Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan announced on Monday, May 20, the 227th day of the Gaza war. “My office seeks to charge two of those most responsible, Netanyahu and Gallant, both as co-perpetrators and as superiors,” Khan stated. Warrants would also be sought for Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Ismail Haniyeh, and Mohammed Deif, Khan said as he demanded the release of the remaining 128 hostages in Gaza. Khan first spoke of asking the pre-trial chamber to approve the issuance of arrest warrants in an interview with American media. He then published a video and text statement from his office. Netanyahu is the first Israeli leader and the only head of a democratic country ever to face the threat of ICC arrest. He is now likely to join the small ranks of world leaders the ICC has marked as international pariahs such as Russian President Vladimir Putin, former Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir, and former Libyan president Muammar Gaddafi. Israel is not a party to the Rome Statute, which governs the ICC. Should the pre-trial chamber agree to issue the warrants, the legal process could take years. The announcement, however, adds strength to the growing call for Israel to stop its military campaign in Gaza to destroy Hamas. Israel was outraged that Khan had drawn a moral equivalence between its democratic country and a terror group, particularly given that the state’s legal system is globally respected while Hamas is a non-state actor without an independent judiciary. (JPost / VFI News)

Terrorists Admit Sexual Crimes on October 7; An evil father and son have revealed to Israeli investigators how they killed and raped innocent civilians after taking part in the Hamas invasion. Shameless Jamal Hussein Ahmad Radi, 47, and his son Abdallah, 18, were captured by IDF forces in Gaza and questioned about the atrocities they committed in a kibbutz close to the border. In video footage of their confession obtained by British media, the men chillingly describe murdering innocent civilians in their homes, kidnapping others, brutally raping women they found, and shooting them once they had finished their evil acts. Father-of-seven Radi, a member of the Hamas Security Service, who was captured in March in Gaza, describes how he, his son, and other terrorists broke into the Nir Oz kibbutz. 'In each house where we found someone, we either killed them or kidnapped them.' Pressed further he added: 'In the first house I found a woman and her husband, and we hit them with fire and killed them...they were in their late 40s.' He then went on to confess how he had raped one woman and said: 'She was screaming, she was crying, I did what I did, I raped her.' 'I threatened her with my gun to take her clothes off, I remember she was wearing jean shorts, that's about it. I don't know what happened to her, I was there for fifteen minutes and then I left.' But according to his son Abdallah, his father killed the woman, as he told

investigators: 'My father raped her, then I did and then my cousin did and then we left but my father killed the woman after we finished raping her.' (DM / VFI News)

IDF Controls Half of Philadelphi Corridor: This Is How Israel's Operation in Rafah Is Progressing; About two weeks after the start of the Rafah operation, forces of the 162nd Division are deepening their engagement, and the Commando Brigade has begun operating in the Brazil neighborhood on the outskirts of the city – the westernmost point reached so far by IDF forces. The military estimates that the Rafah operation will continue for weeks to months and will proceed slowly and deliberately due to the operation's complexity and sensitivities with the United States and Egypt. The IDF has been pleasantly surprised by the rapid evacuation of residents from the area, including neighborhoods in Rafah that were not required to evacuate. According to estimates, approximately 950,000 residents have moved to designated humanitarian zones prepared in advance, primarily in western Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. Currently, four brigades are operating in the Rafah area: three regular brigades – Commando, Givati, and the 401st Armored Brigade – and one reserve brigade, the 12th (Negev) Brigade, operating closer to the Israeli border. The IDF now controls approximately half of the southeastern section of the Philadelphi Corridor bordering Sinai. "The forces are operating above and below ground, targeting terror infrastructure, locating numerous weapons, including launchers and explosives, and eliminating terrorists in the area," the IDF said in a statement. "So far, the forces have killed over 130 terrorists, located dozens of tunnels, and several significant underground routes that are currently being investigated and destroyed." (YNet / VFI News)

Hamas Missile Operative Who Took Part in October 7 Massacre Eliminated; The IDF announced that following precise intelligence, the IAF struck and eliminated the Hamas terrorist Ahmed Yasser Alkara in Khan Yunis. Ahmed Yasser Alkara took part in the October 7 Massacre in communities in southern Israel and was a significant anti-tank missile operative who carried out attacks on IDF troops during the war. During the preparations for the operation, the IDF aborted the strike after a child was identified near the terrorist Ahmed Yasser Alkara. After waiting until the child was no longer in the vicinity of the terrorist, the IAF eliminated Alkara, alongside two additional terrorist operatives: Saib Raed Abu Riba, a Hamas Nukhba terrorist, and Ans Muhammad Abu Ragila, an Islamic Jihad terrorist. In another operation, IAF fighter jets directed by intelligence eliminated five Hamas terrorists operating from inside the Faami Aljerjawi School in Daraj Tuffah in the northern Gaza Strip. Among the terrorists that were eliminated were Fadi Salim, Head of Propaganda in Hamas' Gaza Brigade, as well as three Hamas intelligence operatives and an additional Nukhba terrorist. (INN / VFI News)

Smotrich: If Hezbollah Doesn't Withdraw from Border, IDF Must Take Southern Lebanon; Israel should not shy away from launching a military takeover of southern Lebanon if Hezbollah does not withdraw from the border, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declared Sunday, May 19, becoming the latest minister to publicly challenge Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the handling of the conflict on Israel's northern and southern borders. Speaking at a faction meeting of his far-right Religious Zionism party held, unusually, in northern Israel, Smotrich demanded that Netanyahu make a clear announcement of a plan to deal with the Iran-backed terror group, saying that if necessary, Hezbollah must be dealt with through military action. "A public ultimatum must be issued to Hezbollah that they completely stop firing and withdraw all forces to beyond the Litani River," said Smotrich, who also serves as a minister in the Defense Ministry. Promoting a plan reminiscent of Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon in the years following the First Lebanon War in 1982, Smotrich warned, "If the ultimatum is not fully met, the IDF will launch an assault deep in Lebanese territory to defend the northern communities, including ground entry and Israeli military takeover of the southern Lebanese area." "The way to bring the [evacuated] residents home to the north is through a military decision with a devastating assault on Hezbollah, its infrastructure, and the destruction of its power," he said. (TOI / VFI News)

UN Holds Moment of Silence for 'Butcher of Tehran' Raisi After Iranian President Dies in Helicopter Crash; Despite earning the nickname the “Butcher of Tehran” for presiding over Iran’s human rights abuses, the United Nations on Monday, May 20, held a moment of silence for Ebrahim Raisi after the Iranian president died in a helicopter crash. At the request of Russia, China, and Algeria, representatives – including United States Deputy Ambassador to the U.N. Robert Wood – stood at the U.N. Security Council for a minute to honor Raisi. Israeli U.N. Ambassador called the moment of silence in memory of “mass murdering” Raisi a “disgrace.” Erdan slammed the U.N. Security Council for doing nothing to advance the release of the remaining hostages who have been in Hamas captivity since the October 7 attack on Israel. State Department spokesperson Matt Miller addressed the U.S.’ participation in the moment of silence at an afternoon press briefing. Asked if the U.S.’ participation was appropriate, Miller clarified that “we have been quite clear that Ebrahim Raisi was a brutal participant in the repression of the Iranian people for nearly four decades.” Miller pointed to Raisi’s involvement in “numerous horrific human rights abuses, including playing a key role in the extrajudicial killing of thousands of political prisoners in 1988. Some of the worst human rights abuses occurred during his tenure as president, especially the human rights abuses against the women and girls of Iran,” Miller said but qualified: “That said, we regret any loss of life. We don’t want to see anyone die in a helicopter crash. But that doesn’t change the reality of his record, both as a judge and as the president of Iran.” (FN / VFI News)

Norway, Ireland, Spain Announce Recognition of Palestine As A State; Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris, and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced on Wednesday, May 22, that their country will formally recognize the Palestinian Authority as the state of Palestine. The recognition will take effect on May 28. “There cannot be peace in the Middle East if there is no recognition,” Støre said. He added, “The terror has been committed by Hamas and militant groups who are not supporters of a two-state solution and the state of Israel.” Harris linked his recognition of Palestine to the Irish struggle for independence. According to Harris, Ireland will recognize Palestine “because we believe in freedom and justice.” In response, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz ordered the immediate return to Israel of the Israeli ambassador to Norway for consultations. He also ordered the return of Israel’s ambassador to Ireland. “I am sending a clear message today - Israel will not be complacent against those who undermine its sovereignty and endanger its security,” Katz said. “Ireland and Norway intend to send a message to the Palestinians and the whole world today: Terrorism works. After Hamas committed the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, after committing the most horrific sexual crimes the world has ever seen, these countries chose to give a reward to Hamas and Iran and recognize a Palestinian state.” (INN / VFI News)

Over 569 Tons of Humanitarian Assistance Delivered to Gaza So Far, Says US CENTCOM; The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on Tuesday, May 21, that more than 569 metric tons of humanitarian assistance has been delivered so far across a temporary floating pier to Gaza, but not all the aid has reached warehouses. Aid deliveries began arriving at a US-built pier last Friday, as Israel comes under growing global pressure to allow more supplies into the besieged coastal enclave. The UN said that 10 truckloads of food aid - transported from the pier site by UN contractors - were received on Friday at a World Food Programme warehouse in Deir El Balah in Gaza. But on Saturday, only five truckloads made it to the warehouse after 11 others were cleaned out by Palestinians during the journey through an area that a UN official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said has been hard to access with humanitarian aid. The UN did not receive any aid from the pier on Sunday or Monday. (JPost / VFI News)

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