

# **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 27, 2024 (Sivan 21, 5784)**

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## **Israel-Hamas War, Day 265**

### **Israeli Army Says 40 Rockets Fired From Lebanon at Northern Israel, Half Intercepted**

- *Gazans report 30 killed and dozens wounded in 'massive' Israeli airstrikes in Shujaiyeh, Gaza City*
  - *U.S. urges citizens to 'strongly reconsider' Lebanon travel, says security situation can quickly 'change'*
  - *Reports in Lebanon: Israeli drone attacked motorcycle in Sohmor, southern Lebanon*
    - *IDF officer killed, 16 soldiers wounded in West Bank raid*
  - *Reports: Israel launches airstrikes in Syria and Lebanon; two said killed near Damascus*
  - *Top U.S. official: Working with Israel to resolve arms delays, heavy bomb transfer still halted*
    - *Germany 'urgently' requests citizens to leave Lebanon*
    - *Netanyahu hits back at Gallant for calling to resolve U.S.-Israel disputes privately*
  - *Report: IDF, Hamas fighting in Rafah intensifies as Israel strikes north, central Gaza camps*
    - *Anti-tank missiles fired from Lebanon into Metula, house sustains damage; two buildings on fire after rockets fall in the city; House hit by anti-tank missile in Avivim*
- *WSJ: American arms shipments slowed down because Israel put in fewer new requests, officials say*

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***Iraqi Terror Group: 'We Will Join the War Between Israel and Hezbollah';*** The Iraqi terror organization Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada' (Master of Martyrs Battalions, KSS) announced on Sunday, June 23, that the Iraqi "resistance" groups would join the militant force if a war broke out between Hezbollah and Israel. Sheikh Kazim al-Fartousi, a spokesman for the organization, stated that the current war against Israel in Gaza and Lebanon is that of one axis, and Iraq is part of that axis. "The Iraqi organizations are taking part in this war, we are actively in the fighting, and we don't need to enter the war, since we are part of it," he stated. al-Fartousi added: "The Iraqi organizations attack the Zionist entity almost daily, in various ways, since we support Palestine in its war and Hezbollah in its war. If the government of the usurping Zionist entity does something crazy with Hezbollah in Lebanon, there will be a big cemetery for this entity, and everyone will partake in burying it." The Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada', which works directly with Iran's IRGC, has thousands of fighters. Meanwhile, thousands of fighters from other Iran-backed groups in the Middle East are ready to come to Lebanon to join the militant Hezbollah group in its battle with Israel if the simmering conflict escalates into a full-blown war, officials with Iran-backed factions and analysts say. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said in a speech on Wednesday that militant leaders from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and other countries have previously offered to send tens of thousands of fighters to help Hezbollah, but he said the group already has more than 100,000 fighters. "We told them, thank you, but we are overwhelmed by the numbers we have," Nasrallah said. (INN / VFI News)

***Report: Hezbollah Is Storing a Large Amount of Weapons at Beirut's Main Airport;*** Hezbollah is storing Iranian weapons inside the Rafic Hariri International Airport in Beirut, British media reported on Sunday, June 23. According to the report, there are "huge quantities" of weapons, including unguided rockets, short-range missiles, mobile ballistic missiles, Cornet missiles, and other weapons. The report, which according to the news outlet is based on information coming from corruption whistleblowers in Lebanon, increases the fear that the airport will become a legitimate military target. An airport employee told the newspaper: "This is very serious. Large and mysterious boxes that are arriving on direct flights from Iran are a sign that the situation is getting worse. When they started coming through the airport, my friends and I started to get scared because we realized that something strange was happening," added the employee, who wished to remain anonymous. In addition, the employee recalled in an interview with a newspaper following the explosion in the port of Beirut in 2020: "Beirut will be cut off from the world, in addition to the number of casualties and damage," he said and expressed concern that the explosion could also happen for reasons unrelated to the war, as happened in 2020. In the past, it was reported that Hezbollah was storing weapons inside the Beirut airport, but according to reports from Lebanon, it seems that the storage of weapons has increased significantly since October 7. (INN / VFI News)

***Disallowing Phones: The Directives Indicating Hezbollah Is Panicking – Report;*** Hezbollah has prevented its members from using cell phones when passing between the terror organization’s positions on the border between Syria and Lebanon due to the Israeli strikes on Hezbollah terrorists in Syrian territory, according to a Saudi newspaper. The report also claims instructions were given not to sleep in headquarters, and those sleeping in cars or temporary living quarters were asked to change places frequently. The Syrian Observatory For Human Rights reported that following the repeated Israeli strikes on Hezbollah targets, the terror organization abandoned the Syrian-Lebanese border area. Two local officials said that a state of anxiety dominates the citizens in the areas where Hezbollah is in Syria and that the terror organization’s cars cross their agricultural lands at great speed for fear of attacks. However, the sources also noted that while some residents offered to rent out their homes or land to Hezbollah terrorists, hoping to receive large amounts of money, residents are now avoiding them out of fear. (JPost / VFI News)

***Report: Canada Preparing to Evacuate 45,000 Citizens from Lebanon As War Fears Grow;*** Canada is preparing to evacuate 45,000 of its citizens from Lebanon should a full-scale war break out between Israel and Hezbollah, Hebrew media reported on Friday, June 21. The report quoted what it said was a tense conversation held earlier in the day between Foreign Minister Israel Katz and his Canadian counterpart Mélanie Joly. The latter was said to have told Katz that Ottawa had already sent military forces to the region in preparation for “the largest evacuation we have ever undertaken,” amid fears of an escalation in violence between Israel and Hezbollah along the border with Lebanon. It was unclear if similar plans were being made for the roughly 35,000 Canadian citizens living in Israel. Katz reportedly urged Joly to put pressure on Hezbollah’s Iranian backers to reign in the terror group. “The window of opportunity is closing,” Katz was quoted as saying. “Israel will not put up with... the situation where residents of the north can’t return to their homes.” Israel evacuated communities along its northern border following Hamas’ October 7 terror onslaught, fearing Hezbollah would carry out a similar attack amid daily rocket fire. Some 60,000 residents of northern Israel remain displaced. Kuwait’s foreign ministry also recently called on its citizens in Lebanon to leave the country as soon as possible, amid concerns of a full-scale war. (TOI / VFI News)

***Hundreds Rally in France to Protest Anti-Semitic Gang Rape of 12-Year-Old;*** Hundreds of people rallied outside the town hall in the Paris suburb of Courbevoie on Friday, June 21, to protest the antisemitic youth gang-rape of a 12-year-old girl and rising levels of antisemitism in France. The rally, organized by the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France (CRIF) and Courbevoie Mayor Jacques Kossowski, came two days after thousands more protested at the Paris City Hall on Wednesday at a rally organized by Collectif Nous Vivrons. CRIF President Yonathan Arfi on Friday expressed solidarity with the victim, who, according to authorities, had last weekend been beaten and gang-raped by boys aged 12-14. According to a French media report, she was assaulted because she had concealed her religion from her ex-boyfriend, one of the suspects. Kossowski praised the victim, whom he said in a statement had the courage to speak up “despite blackmail and death threats made against her.” “The mayor of Courbevoie calls on the justice system to show exemplary severity so that this type of behavior does not flourish,” Kossowski said in his statement. He called for calm and restraint from citizens, noting that the victim, having suffered, should not endure the pressure of the entire city or country. The European Jewish Congress praised the hundreds who gathered on Friday, but noted that the “heinous act underscores the troubling trend of both perpetrators and victims becoming younger.” (JPost / VFI News)

***Over 15 Russian Police Officers, Civilians Killed in Attacks on Synagogues, Churches in Dagestan;*** Gunmen on Sunday, June 23, attacked synagogues, churches, and a police checkpoint in Russia’s Dagestan, killing over 15 police officers and several civilians in the North Caucasus region’s

national guard, according to the governor. The seemingly coordinated attacks were carried out at two synagogues and two churches in Derbent and Makhachkala in Dagestan, a largely Muslim region of Russia neighboring Chechnya. Derbent is home to an ancient Jewish community and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Among the slain civilians was an archpriest the Russian Orthodox Church said identified as Nikolai Kotelnikov, who was “brutally killed” in Derbent, where Russia’s National Guard said one of its officers was killed and several others wounded. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were declared days of mourning in the region. The Anti-Terrorist Committee said five gunmen were “eliminated” after local authorities declared a counter-terror operation. Governor Sergei Melikov said six “bandits” had been “liquidated.” The conflicting numbers couldn’t be immediately reconciled and it wasn’t clear how many assailants were involved in the attacks. Israel’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday evening that shots were fired at a synagogue in Derbent and a synagogue in Makhachkala. The rabbi of Makhachkala, Rami Davidov, said that no one was killed or injured there. The Russian Jewish Congress said on its website the Derbent synagogue was attacked about 40 minutes before evening prayers. (TOI / VFI News)

***Israelis Who Lost Loved Ones on October 7 Sue UNRWA;*** Approximately 100 Israelis whose loved ones were injured or murdered in the October 7 massacre will file a federal lawsuit in New York against the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Israeli media reported. The suit alleges that UNRWA allowed Hamas to carry out the massacre and commit crimes against humanity. Among other things, the suit notes that over the course of years, UNRWA operated a money laundering system which caused some of the aid funds transferred to Gaza to be used by the Hamas terror group instead of by the Gazan civilians for whom they were intended. The suit also notes that UNRWA allowed Hamas to dig terror tunnels and set up command centers beneath UNRWA facilities and that UNRWA employees took part in the October 7 massacre. The suit will be filed in New York, where UNRWA’s central offices and top staff are located. (INN / VFI News)

***Heathrow Staff Wearing pro-Palestine Badges 'Harassed' Israeli Passengers;*** Heathrow staff wearing pro-Palestine badges “harassed” Israeli passengers and subjected them to “degrading treatment.” Passengers complained that they were targeted after staff noticed the Israeli flag on their luggage and were “shunted” into a separate room. When passengers asked why they were being treated differently, staff reportedly told them that as customs officials they could do whatever they wanted. The complaints have prompted a Home Office investigation by their professional standards unit. This comes after two Israeli survivors of the Nova Music Festival attacks were “detained for two hours” at Manchester Airport earlier this year. The passengers arrived at Heathrow on an El Al flight from Ben Gurion airport and were passing through the airport at 10.30 pm when a customs official noticed the Israeli flags on their bags. The officers ushered the whole group into a separate room for checks and the travelers said their luggage was scanned. The Home Office is now investigating the incident as staff wearing political badges is in contravention of both the airport’s uniform policy and the Equality Act 2010. (DM / VFI News)



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