

# **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 18, 2024 (Tamuz 12, 5784)**

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## **Israel-Hamas War, Day 286**

### **IDF Confirms It Killed Hamas Commander in Lebanon, Responsible for Rockets Fired**

- IDF, Shin Bet operation kills 20 Hamas Shati Battalion operatives in Gaza
  - Building in Metula hit by anti-tank missile
- Bereaved families announce 'Civilian Commission of Inquiry' into Oct.7
  - Ben-Gvir on Temple Mount: Praying against 'reckless' hostage deal
- Mossad chief urges Gaza deal, says Netanyahu's cease-fire terms could nix hostage release
  - With Gantz's backing, Knesset passes resolution opposing Palestinian statehood
  - Hezbollah chief threatens to attack deeper into Israel if strikes on civilians intensify
- IDF: Forces attacked in Gaza Strip's north as response to Tuesday's barrage toward Sderot
- IDF spokesman to Al Arabiya: Hamas leaders' obstinacy is preventing us from reaching an agreement

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**Netanyahu: I Won't Move a Millimeter from the Biden Prisoner Swap Plan;** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday night, July 13, held a press conference, following reports that Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif was eliminated in Khan Yunis. "Israel struck in order to eliminate Mohammed Deif and his deputy. We will reach everyone who was involved in the October 7 massacre," Netanyahu promised. The IDF and ISA (Shin Bet) have since confirmed that on Saturday the IAF, following ISA and IDF intelligence, struck and eliminated the Commander of Hamas' Khan Yunis Brigade, Rafa'a Salameh, in the area of Khan Yunis. Salameh was one of the closest associates of Mohammed Deif, the Commander of Hamas' Military Wing, and was one of the masterminds of the October 7 Massacre. Netanyahu added that Hamas attempted to insert dozens of changes into the ceasefire-prisoner swap agreement, but that he "will not move a millimeter from the plan which Biden praised." "I am not adding conditions, and I am not taking away conditions. Hamas asked to insert 29 changes into the plan, and I said, 'Not even one change.'" "One hundred and twenty of our own are still hostages in Gaza. We are constantly thinking of them, and I have pushed for as many living hostages as possible to be released in the first phase of any deal," he said. Furthermore, on Friday, Netanyahu had stated that Israel has no intention of withdrawing from the Gaza-Egypt border, known as the Philadelphi corridor, in a hostage deal, despite previous media reports to the contrary. Also on Friday, based on IDF and ISA intelligence, the IAF eliminated the Deputy Commander of Hamas' Shejaiya Battalion, the terrorist Ayman Showadeh. (*INN / VFI News*)

**Nahal Commander: Highest Number of Tunnel Shafts Found Along the Philadelphi Corridor;** Nahal Brigade Commander Colonel Yair Zuckerman spoke to Israeli media about the IDF's operations in Rafah and along the Philadelphi Corridor. "Whoever thinks we are stagnating is invited to see what's happening here," he told the newspaper. "Look at Rafah, does this look like stagnating? But we need to understand that this takes time. Hamas has turned the entire city [of Rafah] into one giant battlefield, booby-trapped and dangerous, and gone down into the underground, from which they operate." "The houses are booby-trapped and contain small reverse cameras, by means of which they follow the forces and try to harm them. We found such cameras in the buttons on sofas, on doorframes, in mosques, in clinics, and in schools," he said. Under the Philadelphi Corridor, he noted, "were the highest number of tunnel shafts that we found." "There is an attack underground which connects to the vast underground from Egypt. There is a real underground city here. Rafah is the first place where they made use of tunnels." Zuckerman stressed, "There isn't much enemy above ground here, it's mostly underground. Over 50% of Rafah is in our hands, but that doesn't mean we killed all of the terrorists and destroyed all of the infrastructure. I have freedom of activity, but does that mean that they won't fire antitanks at us? Yesterday they fired three missiles at me and detonated two explosives as I searched tunnel shafts. When

we reached the Philadelphi [Corridor], we found rockets which were ready to be launched towards central Israel.” (INN / VFI News)

***Republican Jewish Coalition Slams ‘Attempted Assassination’ of Trump;*** Former US president Donald Trump was hit in the ear at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, while the shooter and a bystander were killed and two spectators critically injured in the worst act of US political violence in decades. The gunman has been identified as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, about an hour’s drive from the rally site, according to an FBI statement early Sunday, July 14. The 78-year-old former president called on Americans on Sunday to stand united after he was injured in the assassination attempt on Saturday and said that “God alone” saved him. World leaders have condemned the attack, with the Kremlin on Sunday morning saying there was no place for violence in politics. The Republican Jewish Coalition also condemned the “attempted assassination of [US] President Donald Trump” as an “abomination.” “Violence has absolutely no place in our politics,” it says in a statement, thanking the Secret Service, law enforcement, and medical personnel for their “swift response.” “We pray for refu’ah shlema — a complete recovery and healing — for President Trump,” it says, adding that he’ll “return stronger and more determined.” (TOI / VFI News)

***IDF Computer Chief: 3 Billion Cyber Attacks Against Israel Since Beginning of War;*** The Israel Defense Forces’ cloud computing network has faced over three billion cyber-attacks since the war broke out between Israel and Hamas on October 7, the officer commanding the military’s computer unit said the previous week, but all of the attacks were intercepted and did not cause damage. The revelation was made by Col. Racheli Dembinsky, commander of the IDF’s Center of Computing and Information Systems (Mamram), at the “IT for IDF” conference in Rishon Lezion on Wednesday, July 10. Dembinsky said the targets of the attacks included operational cloud computing used by many systems serving troops on the ground during combat to share information and locations of forces. While Dembinsky did not say what kinds of attacks were perpetrated or how great a danger they posed, she stressed that all were blocked and no systems were at any point compromised. Mamram, the IDF’s central computing system unit, handles the infrastructure and defense of the military’s remote servers. It has also been reported that cyberattacks were carried out against Israel on October 7. Dembinsky confirmed this. Speaking of her experience on that day, Dembinsky said, “I received a phone call that morning and thought there was a malfunction in the alert system. I quickly understood there wasn’t a malfunction, but a broader attack. Also, we immediately understood this wasn’t fake... We began transitioning to emergency mode. We were required to focus on the continuous functioning of people and systems. The industry assisted us, and it, along with the reservists we recruited, acted as a force multiplier for us.” (TOI / VFI News)

***At Least 266 Prisoners Put to Death in Year's First Half in Iran;*** The Iranian regime has executed at least 266 prisoners across the country in the first half of 2024, the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights reported this week. Of the executed prisoners, 72 were Kurdish, 42 were Turkish, 32 were Baloch, 23 were from Afghanistan, 10 were women, and even one child defendant was executed by the Islamic Republic. According to the report, 10 prisoners were executed for charges of political and religious activities, including espionage for Israel. Of the 266 prisoners executed in Iran in the past six months, at least 24 were foreign nationals, 23 of whom were Afghans and one Iraqi. Of these 24 prisoners, 9 were sentenced to death on charges of homicide, and 15 were sentenced to death for drug-related charges. The report notes that out of the total 266 executions, only 21 cases, equivalent to 8% of all cases, have been officially announced in Iranian state media and media affiliated with the judiciary. Consequently, 92% of these cases have not been reported to the media. (INN / VFI News)

***Archaeologists Find More Evidence of Bible Story about Moses Leading His People to the Promised Land 3,200 Years Ago;*** Archaeologists have uncovered secrets of a Biblical city that sat

within the “Promised Land” where the Israelites settled after Moses led them out of Egypt. The Israeli Antiquities Authority recently shared their findings from Zanoah, which is mentioned in the Old Testament, revealing stone walls, pottery and other artifacts that date back more than 3,200 years. The Bible states that the Israelites reached the Promised Land, also known as Canaan, around 1406 to 1407 BC after wandering 40 years in the desert. The team also uncovered a broken jar handle that featured the name of a king described in the Bible, providing more evidence to the Biblical story of Moses. Researchers excavated the area in 2019 but released their findings in March. The team uncovered walls fashioned with rows of large, white rocks, which they believed were retaining walls for farming terraces used to create level areas for planting and to protect steeper soil from erosion. Preserved pottery was also pulled from the ground, with one featuring a stamp on the handle that read ‘of the King,’ which was to honor King Hezekiah’s reign in Judah in 701 BC. The life of Hezekiah is described in the Bible book of 2 Kings, chapters 18-20. In 2 Chronicles, the king is said to have reopened the Temple of Solomon, known as ‘the First Temple’ and built on the spot where God created Adam. Hezekiah also smashed the bronze snake statue God commanded Moses to make. Pottery fragments littered the landscape, with about 20 percent dating to the time the Israelites were said to have arrived after the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness - the rest were fashioned over the next 900 years. (DM / VFI News)



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