

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 25, 2024 (Tamuz 19, 5784)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 293

Trump, Ahead of Netanyahu Meeting, Says Israel Must End Gaza War 'Fast,' Return Hostages

- *U.K. reportedly set to withdraw objections to ICC arrest request for Netanyahu, Gallant*
 - *IDF: Three soldiers wounded in West Bank shooting*
 - *IDF recovers bodies of five Israelis killed on October 7 and taken to Gaza*
 - *Netanyahu to meet Biden, Harris amid mounting U.S. pressure to end Gaza war*
- *Israel delays Qatar talks; departure awaits Biden-Netanyahu discussion on Gaza deal, official says*
 - *IDF recovers bodies of three Israelis killed on October 7 and taken to Gaza*
 - *No mention of 'deal' or 'cease-fire' in Netanyahu address to Congress*
- *Israel delays Qatar talks; departure awaits Biden-Netanyahu discussion on Gaza deal, official says*
 - *Netanyahu lobbies White House, Congress to deliver U.S.-withheld heavy bombs for Israel*
 - *Hezbollah broadcasts drone video it says shows IDF airbase deep in Israel*
 - *IDF says it intercepted two drones launched at Israel from east*
 - *IDF soldier seriously wounded in north, two seriously wounded in Gaza combat*

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Israeli Jets Strike Back at Houthis in Yemen After Deadly Tel Aviv Drone Attack as All Signs Indicate Deif is Dead; Israeli fighter jets for the first time attacked Yemen Saturday, July 20, retaliating on the Houthi stronghold days after the Iran-backed group attacked the former US Embassy in Tel Aviv, in a drone strike that killed one person. Saturday's military operation targeted the western Yemen city of al-Hudaydah, Israeli media reported. The bombs destroyed fuel repositories and oil refineries. Earlier reports suggested that the US and UK had also sent jets as part of the mission, but the Israeli news outlet reported that Israeli jets alone carried out the strikes. The IDF confirmed the retributive strikes, saying it was a response to the hundreds of attacks the Houthis have aimed at Israel in recent months. The group has joined Iran in efforts to punish Israel for its war in Gaza. Meanwhile, Israeli military officials said there is "increasing" evidence that last weekend's major airstrike on Gaza did in fact kill Mohammed Deif, the Hamas leader thought to have masterminded the Oct. 7 terror attacks. IDF Spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said Hamas is concealing what happened to Deif on July 13, when IDF forces dropped five 2,000-pound bombs in the al-Mawasi area, taking out Hamas commander Rafa'a Salameh. Hagari claims Salameh and Deif "were next to each other at the time" of the bombings, and confirmed Salameh was "definitely eliminated" in the attack. Word of Deif's likely demise came on the heels of IDF's strikes Saturday on a building linked to a company that allegedly funds the terrorist group's atrocities. In other developments, Israeli bombings on Saturday reportedly claimed the lives of nearly 30 Palestinians while peace talks continue at a sluggish pace. However, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he believes a cease-fire agreement is imminent. (NYP / VFI News)

IDF Reveals Full Story of How Houthi Drone Struck Tel Aviv; The IDF on Sunday, July 21, revealed the full story of how the Houthis's Samad 3 drone traveled 2,600 kilometers and penetrated Israel's multi-tiered air defense system, killing one person and wounding around a dozen in Tel Aviv on Friday. According to the IDF, the drone left Yemen, flying west toward Sudan. It then turned north, flying through Sudan for an extended period until reaching southern Egypt. From southern Egypt, it continued to fly north, all the way until it reached the Sinai, and then cut east into the Mediterranean Sea. From the Mediterranean Sea, the Houthi drone continued to travel east, cutting slightly south to strike Tel Aviv when it got closer to the Israeli coastline. Although Yemen is nominally 1,800 kilometers from Israel, the deceptive path that the Houthis selected for the drone led it to travel much farther, at 2,600 kilometers for around 16 hours. The IDF said that Iran and the Houthis replaced the original standard engine of the Samad 3 to allow it to travel the extra distance and better deceive Israel with its trajectory. When it was relatively far out over the Mediterranean from Tel Aviv, a portion of Israel's radar defenses picked it up as a blip on the air defense screen. However, the soldier observing that monitor either missed the blip entirely

or dismissed it as a mere blip, given the numerous false blips over the past nine months. In addition, the IDF said that a drone attacking from Israel's opposite eastern border appeared on the same radar screen around the same time, suggesting that the Houthis might have set the radar operator up with a simultaneous distraction. Although the IDF did not provide an exact explanation for the radar operator's failure, it made it clear that it was not considered a significantly unprofessional miss, but rather a low-grade error that, given the circumstances, could have happened to almost any operator. Moving forward, the IDF did say that it was doubling the number of radar operators. (*JPost / VFI News*)

150 Terrorists Eliminated: IDF Battles Terrorists, Finds Weapons in Heart of Gaza City; The combat teams of the 3rd Brigade, the 8th Brigade, the Commando Brigade, and the Multidimensional Unit operated under the command of the 99th Division in the heart of Gaza City, the IDF stated Saturday, July 20. IDF soldiers raided Hamas infrastructure used for building up terror operations located inside UNRWA headquarters and also carried out additional searches in the area, the IDF noted. During operations, with intelligence support, IDF soldiers raided buildings where Hamas terrorists were staying, including a building in a civilian neighborhood where Hamas terrorists were entrenched and a high-rise building in Gaza City. In these buildings, IDF soldiers found weapons, cartridges, equipment of the Hamas naval commando, tactical vests, intelligence materials, and various weapons and firearms. According to IDF reports, over the last weeks, IDF soldiers have eliminated more than 150 terrorists, including Hamas military intelligence officer Adel Hamdiya, destroyed over 100 terrorist infrastructures, and uncovered an underground terrorist workshop. American media reported that 13 people were killed in strikes in the area of the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, citing hospital officials. Residents in the area told the news outlet that a residential block south of Nuseirat was struck and the outlet quoted the IDF as stating, "Overnight, the IDF struck terror targets throughout the Gaza Strip, including terrorists and terror infrastructure sites in the area of Nuseirat." The Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry stated in response to IDF operations on Saturday that 37 Palestinians had been killed and 54 injured who arrived at hospitals in the past day. The number has not been independently verified, and the ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its toll. (*JPost / VFI News*)

China Trying to Bring Reconciliation Between Fatah and Hamas; This weekend, reconciliation talks between Fatah and Hamas representatives were reported to take place in Beijing under the auspices of the Chinese regime in an attempt to end the division between the Palestinian factions. A London-based Qatari newspaper reported, based on Palestinian sources, that the Chinese authorities pressured the Palestinian leadership to hold the meeting now, despite Fatah requesting to postpone it by a month. Husam Badran, a member of Hamas's political bureau, said Hamas is ready and approaches positively and with national responsibility any invitation to dialogue that will promote the end of the split in the Palestinian people, especially in light of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation - the Palestinian name for the October 7 attack. Faiz Abu Shamala, considered close to Hamas leadership in the Gaza Strip, called on Palestinian organizations to reach national reconciliation in talks in China to unite ranks against the Israeli enemy, which he says aims to expel the Palestinian people from their land. In an article in Hamas's official newspaper, Abu Shamala wrote that "the Israeli enemy views these meetings from a different perspective, knowing that achieving national reconciliation would be like mountains of fire standing between it and the realization of its goals." (*INN / VFI News*)

Hamas, Islamic Jihad Call on PLO to Withdraw Recognition of Israel; Palestinian terror groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad call on the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization to withdraw its recognition of Israel in retaliation for a resolution approved by the Knesset rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state. The two groups made the announcement late on Thursday night, July 18, following a meeting in the Gulf nation of Qatar between Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and Islamic Jihad chief Ziad Nakhleh and his deputy Mohammed al-Hindi, according to a Hamas statement. The two groups say the

Palestinian people have the right to set up their own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. *(TOI / VFI News)*

Report: US Privately Warned Iran Over Suspicious Nuclear Activities; The United States sent a private warning to Iran last month expressing serious concerns about Iranian research and development activities that could be used for the production of a nuclear weapon, American media reported on Wednesday, July 17. Both Israel and the US have detected suspicious nuclear activities by Iranian scientists in recent months and fear that Tehran could be using the period in the run-up to the US elections for a covert push to nuclear weaponization, according to the American news outlet, which cited three unnamed US and Israeli officials. Several months ago, US and Israeli intelligence services obtained information that showed Iranian scientists engaging in computer modeling and metallurgical research that could be used for the development of nuclear weapons, the news outlet said. The report added that the US used both direct and third-party channels to send their concerns to Iran. The Iranians responded by clarifying their activities and telling the Americans there had been no change in Iran's official policy. The American media outlet reported that the Iranian response "somewhat eased anxieties" among Israeli and US officials over the Iranian research and development activities. "We do not see indications that Iran is currently undertaking the key activities that would be necessary to produce a testable nuclear device," a US official said. *(TOI / VFI News)*

Up to 60,000 Israeli Businesses May Close in 2024 as War Takes Toll on Economy; Israeli business will be contending with the fallout of the months-long war with the Hamas terror group through at least the end of the year, which is expected to see as many as 60,000 businesses shut down in 2024, according to business information company CofaceBDI. The bleak prediction comes as in the nine months since the outbreak of the war with Hamas following the brutal October 7 onslaught by the terror group, a total of 46,000 businesses had to already close as they struggled to stay afloat, with many hurt by a high interest rate environment, more expensive financing costs, a shortage of manpower, a sharp decline in turnover and operations, logistic and supply disruptions, and insufficient government assistance. In comparison, a record 76,000 enterprises were forced to close during the pandemic in 2020, while in a regular, routine year, about 40,000 businesses a year are shutting down. "There is effectively no sector in the economy that is immune to the repercussions of the ongoing war," CofaceBDI CEO Yoel Amir told Israeli media. "Businesses are coping with a very complex reality: fear about an escalation of the war coupled with uncertainty about when the fighting will end alongside continued challenges such as staff shortage, low demand, growing financing needs, an increase in procurement costs, and logistical issues, and most recently the export ban by Turkey are all making it increasingly difficult for Israeli businesses to survive this period." *(TOI / VFI News)*

Google Close to Acquiring Israeli Cybersecurity Start-up Wiz for \$23 Billion — Report; Google is in advanced talks to acquire Israeli cybersecurity start-up Wiz for \$23 billion, according to an American media report on Sunday, July 14. The report noted that the deal would be made with Google's parent company, Alphabet, and would be the largest acquisition in its history. It also noted that the deal could materialize soon should the negotiations remain intact. The American news outlet noted that the acquisition would propel Alphabet as a leader in cloud computing, which it has apparently lagged behind competitors in recent years. Wiz is a cloud security start-up founded in 2020 by Israelis Assaf Rappaport, Yinon Costica, Roy Reznik, and Ami Luttwak. Its headquarters are in New York City, though it has offices in the US and Israel. The company's valuation has sharply risen since its founding, and the American news outlet stated that it raised \$1 billion earlier in 2024 at a valuation of \$12 billion. The report also listed some of the venture capitalist firms funding Wiz, including Sequoia Capital, Andreessen Horowitz, Index Ventures, and Lightspeed Venture Partners. *(JPost / VFI News)*

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