

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 8, 2024 (Av 4, 5784)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 307

Report: 15 Killed in Strikes on Schools in Northern Gaza; IDF: Targets Were Used by Hamas

- **Israel revokes diplomatic status of Norway's envoys to Palestinian Authority as penalty for Palestinian recognition**
 - **Report: Hezbollah may attack Israel before Iran; Tehran 'rethinking' retaliation scope**
 - **Iranian FM says its response will come 'at the right time and in the appropriate shape'**
 - **Canada approves temporary relocation of diplomats' children, guardians out of Israel**
- **Senior Hamas member who orchestrated terror attacks in West Bank killed in Gaza, IDF says**
 - **Iranian FM says its response will come 'at the right time and in the appropriate shape'**
 - **White House: We're closer to a cease-fire deal than ever before**
 - **Turkey formally asks to join the genocide case against Israel at the UN court**
 - **Golan regional council: Residents of Israel's north must stay near shelters and minimize non-essential travel**

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‘We Strike in Beirut, Yemen, Wherever Necessary’ - Netanyahu Warns; Israel will stand firm against any threat by Iran and its proxies near and far, including in Beirut and Yemen, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said on Sunday, August 4, as the international community scrambled to prevent an all-out Iranian-Israeli war. “Iran and its minions are looking to surround us in a stranglehold of terrorism. We are determined to stand against them on every front and in every arena – near and far,” Netanyahu said at the state memorial ceremony for Ze’ev Jabotinsky. “Whoever seeks to harm us will pay a very heavy price,” Netanyahu said, echoing the words that Gallant had uttered hours earlier. “Our readiness in terms of defense is high, be it on the ground or in the air,” Gallant stated. “Our long hand strikes in the Gaza Strip, in Yemen, in Beirut, wherever necessary,” Netanyahu stressed. “This is our hand that will reach out, when the time comes for peace, to whoever wants to establish peaceful relations with us. I believe that it will be so – because peace is made with the strong, not with the weak,” he stated. Meanwhile, the United States moved a carrier ship to the region in light of the increased threat after the twin assassinations of Hezbollah Commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut and Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. Further, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III spoke with his counterpart in Israel on Sunday to reiterate the US support for the Jewish state. (JPost / VFI News)

Iran Said to Dismiss US, Arab Calls for Restraint, Claims Hezbollah Won’t Limit Itself to Military Targets; Iran has rejected attempts by the US and Arab nations to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East, as Israel braces for an attack from the Islamic Republic and the Lebanese Iran-supported Hezbollah, saying they would strike the Jewish state even if it means war, American media reported on Sunday, August 4. According to the American news outlet’s report, foreign ministers from Jordan and Lebanon traveled to Iran in an attempt to diffuse the situation, but Iran told the Arab diplomats that it was set on striking back against Israel and “it didn’t care if the response triggered a war.” Further, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations on Saturday told American media that the Hezbollah terror group will no longer limit itself to attacking military targets. “Until now, Hezbollah and the regime have, in an unwritten understanding, practically adhered to certain limits in their military operations, meaning that confining their actions to border areas and shallow zones, targeting primarily military objectives,” the representative told the news outlet. He added, however, that Israel’s “attack on Dahieh in Beirut and the targeting of a residential building marked a deviation from these boundaries.” “We anticipate that, in its response, Hezbollah will choose both broader and deeper targets, and will not restrict itself solely to military targets and means.” (TOI / VFI News)

Hamas Leaders Call for Revenge as Haniyeh’s Funeral Ceremony Held in Doha; Hundreds of people gathered at a mosque in Qatar on Friday, August 2, for the funeral of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh

after his killing in Tehran, an attack blamed on Israel. Mourners included Khaled Meshaal, who is tipped as a possible successor to be the new Hamas leader. Other senior Hamas officials and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani also attended. Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan were also among the officials due at the funeral. Haniyeh's coffin, draped in the Palestinian flag, was carried across the mosque past hundreds of people along with the coffin of his bodyguard, Wasim Abu Shaaban, who was killed in the same attack in Tehran on Wednesday. Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told British media by phone as he attended the funeral: "Our message to the occupation [Israel] today is that you are sinking deep in the mud and your end is getting closer than ever. The blood of Haniyeh will change all equations." Hamas official Khalil Al-Hayya, also a possible successor, told family members that Haniyeh was "no better or dearer" than the children killed in Gaza. "We are sure that his blood will bring out victory, dignity, and liberation," he said. (TOI / VFI News)

Turkey Declared Day of Mourning for Haniyeh, Lowers Flag to Half-Mast at Tel Aviv Embassy; Following Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's announcement of a day of mourning for the assassination of former Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, the flag outside of the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv on Friday, August 2, could be seen lowered to half-mast. In response to the lowered flag, Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz ordered Turkey's deputy ambassador to Israel to receive a "stern reprimand" and slammed the embassy representatives. In his post to X, formerly Twitter, on the matter, Katz also wrote that Israel "will not accept expressions of participation in mourning for a murderer like Ismail Haniyeh who was the head of the Hamas terrorist organization that committed acts of rape and murder on October 7." National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir also immediately slammed the embassy, writing on X that "representatives of the Turkish Embassy in Israel are invited to take down the flag completely and return home. Shameful." MK Avigdor Lieberman called the flag being lowered in Tel Aviv "one big disgrace." Other Turkish embassies around the world have also decided to lower the flag to half-mast as well. (JPost / VFI News)

'Hamas Truck' with Bloody Red Hands, Bullet Holes, and Fake 'Oh Gaza' Plates Terrorizes Jewish Neighborhood; Residents in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, are aghast over a souped-up Ford F-150 that rolled into the Jewish neighborhood and hipster haven a few months ago, delivering a menacing anti-Semitic message dripping in blood. The black pickup truck is draped in a sadistic pro-Palestine wrap job that includes images of splattered blood and bloodstained handprints – a symbol of the infamous Ramallah lynching of 2000, where two Israeli reservists were savagely killed by a murderous mob. It also boasts faux bullet holes and a giant portrait of late Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat on the front hood. Two Palestinian flags fly atop the truck. "Never in my life did I think I would feel scared to be Jewish in Brooklyn — especially Williamsburg," said a woman who's lived in the neighborhood for 15 years and wished to remain anonymous. "And while I recognize that the person who owns that truck must be in a lot of pain to decorate it that way, I can't help but feel targeted by it being parked at the epicenter of our neighborhood — across from our Chabad. It feels very intentional," she added. (NYP / VFI News)

BBC Chair Denies Plea from 200 Jewish Staffers Calling for Formal Probe into Antisemitism at the Newsroom; The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has reportedly denied an internal request to formally investigate allegations of "systemic problems of antisemitism and bias" at the company. A group of 200 Jewish employees, contributors, and suppliers requested the company launch a formal probe into persisting antisemitism in a letter sent to BBC Board members and Chairman Samir Shah on July 19, American media reported. The group detailed their "anguish and disbelief because we fear we have now exhausted the process of raising our very serious concerns about anti-Jewish racism with BBC Management," according to the report. The group provided the board with a list of "impartiality breaches in matters of public controversy relating to Israel and Gaza," broadcast errors that they say "suggest bias" and personal details "of the fear and mental health toll on Jewish BBC staff, their feelings of isolation and

alienation from their bosses and experiences of prejudice and racism at work,” according to the American news outlet. Shah turned down their request for a formal investigation on Thursday, August 1, stating that the board “holds the [BBC] Executive to account through the assurances we seek and the questions we ask of the decision-making process.” (FN / VFI News)

Irish Rabbi Jailed for Performing Circumcision; The Chairman of the European Jewish Association (EJA), Rabbi Menachem Margolin, is demanding the immediate release of a British rabbi who was arrested in Ireland for performing circumcision. Rabbi Margolin is calling on the President of Ireland, Michael Higgins, Prime Minister Simon Harris, and the Speaker of the Irish Parliament to intervene for the immediate release of the certified Mohel who was arrested on Thursday, August 1, in Dublin, Ireland, without bail, for performing circumcision. The certified mohel (professional circumciser), Rabbi Yonathan Avraham, 47 years old, father of 10 children, works legally in England. He has decades of experience, performs circumcisions all over Europe, and is recognized as a leading expert and practitioner of this important rite. In Ireland, though, he was arrested in a raid by the Dublin police on the house where the religious ceremony was performed. “Circumcision is not a crime but a commandment practiced by the Jewish religion for more than 3000 years,” said Rabbi Margolin. “The last time anybody was arrested for performing circumcision was under the Nazis, whose first laws in their blind and irrational hatred of the Jewish people targeted this practice,” he added. (INN / VFI News)

Historic Day at Olympics: Israel Wins Gold, 2 Silvers in Windsurfing and Gymnastics; Israel’s Tom Reuveny won a sensational Olympic gold in the men’s iQFoil windsurfing final in Marseille on Saturday, August 3, while Sharon Kantor took silver in the women’s. Further, artistic gymnast Artem Dolgopyat left behind a surprisingly subpar performance in the qualifying round to take second place in the finals, with his floor exercise scoring 14.966, just behind gold medalist Carlos Yulo of the Philippines at 15.000. The three athletes’ medals sealed a new record for Israel with its fourth, fifth, and sixth medals of the Paris Games in a single day, taking the country past its four medals at the Tokyo Games in 2021. It was also the first time Israel has ever won three medals in a single day at the Games. Meanwhile, two Jewish fencers from the United States squad are going home with gold medals. Jackie Dubrovich and Maia Weintraub made up half of this year’s women’s foil squad, which defeated Italy 45-39 on Thursday to win the top slot. (TOI / VFI News)



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