

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 29, 2024 (Av 25, 5784)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 328

Israeli Army Joins Shin Bet Warning Over Jewish Terrorism in West Bank

- *EU's top diplomat consults on sanctioning Israeli ministers for advocating war crimes*
- *Israeli army reports killing five West Bank militants in Tulkarm amid ongoing large-scale operation*
 - *France's Macron, U.K.'s Starmer reiterate call for 'immediate cease-fire'*
 - *Hostages' families rally in at Gaza border for deal*
- *Arye Zalmanovich, 86, from Nir Oz, was killed while being held hostage in Gaza*
 - *U.S. sanctions security chief of West Bank settlement, settler organization*
 - *IDF says it killed senior Islamic Jihad member on Syrian-Lebanese border*
 - *Israeli soldier killed in central Gaza combat*
- *IDF probe says army 'didn't do enough' to stop settler riot in Jit*

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Hot Pursuit: Inside the Hunt for Yahya Sinwar; A recent American media report has revealed that the Israeli forces hunting Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, as well as American intelligence services, have deployed a special ground-penetrating radar in an attempt to map tunnels to understand the tunnel network better and thereby also try to locate Sinwar. The report also noted that Sinwar was seen on a video in February and that he used satellite phones to make himself more difficult to find. The intelligence forces were nevertheless able to intercept some of the calls. For the most part, though, Sinwar is reported to avoid electronic communications altogether, preferring instead to rely on a network of human couriers. How the network operates is still unclear. A similar courier, according to some reports, gave Israeli forces the location of senior Hamas figure Mohammed Deif, leading to his elimination. The intelligence forces have discovered that Sinwar consumes Israeli media, primarily around 8:00 PM, the time of most major news broadcasts. According to the report, one of the reasons Israel continues to allow fuel into Gaza is the hope that Sinwar will continue using electric and digital devices, eventually giving away his location in doing so. (*INN / VFI News*)

IDF Foils Hezbollah Attack on Strategic Israeli Sites, Hundreds of Rockets Fired in Retaliation; The IDF thwarted a Hezbollah plan to strike strategic facilities in northern and central Israel by destroying rocket launchers early Sunday morning, August 25, security officials told Israeli media. According to one official, Hezbollah intended to launch thousands of projectiles at hundreds of military and strategic targets. Instead, the terrorist organization fired drones and approximately 320 rockets at northern Israeli communities, including Acre, Ma'alot and Safed. A report from renowned American media confirmed that the IDF's preemptive strike shortly before 5:00 a.m. destroyed launchers aimed at central Israel. The IDF said that many of the launchers were targeting northern Israel, resulting in Hezbollah's barrage beginning at 5:30 a.m., though on a reduced scale. "The IDF neutralized thousands of launchers aimed at northern Israel in a coordinated strike involving around 100 Air Force jets," the IDF announced, noting that 40 launch sites were targeted. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant directed the preemptive strike from the IDF's command center in Tel Aviv, with the Security Cabinet convening later in the morning. Despite the preemptive strike, Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets at northern Israel, causing damage in several communities. In Acre, buildings, homes and a kindergarten were hit, and a woman was slightly injured by shrapnel. (*YNet / VFI News*)

Report: Hezbollah Planned Attack on Strategic Site in Tel Aviv Area; Hezbollah planned to strike a facility of strategic importance in the Tel Aviv area, possibly Ben Gurion Airport, before its attack was thwarted by a pre-emptive Israeli strike Sunday morning, August 25, an intelligence source told the media. "As part of the first phase of the retaliation to the Israeli attack on the Dahieh that resulted in the death of Fuad Shukr and others, including women and children, Hezbollah initiated an air strike using a large number of drones deep inside Israel, targeting a military site that will be disclosed later," the terrorist organization stated. "Rockets were fired at a number of Iron Dome outposts and batteries. The operations will take time. Later on, a detailed announcement will be issued about the move and the goals," Hezbollah said. Earlier, it was reported that Hezbollah planned to launch a number of precision-guided missiles at the

Gilot area where the Mossad headquarters and 8200 Intelligence Unit base are located. Hezbollah was reportedly preparing to launch about 6,000 rockets and drones at Israel, but it later published a statement in which it claimed that 320 rockets had been launched at “military targets” in Israeli territory. (*INN / VFI News*)

Hamas Again Rejects Hostage Deal Proposal; On Sunday evening, August 25, Hamas again rejected a proposal for a hostage deal that was presented to the organization. Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan said through its media that “Israel has set new conditions for accepting the agreement and reverted from what it had previously agreed to. Today the delegation informed the mediators of our position. We will not accept any withdrawals from what we agreed to on July 2 or any new demands.” He added that “the US administration is sowing false hopes by talking about an agreement that is close, while this is only for election purposes.” Further, a Qatari news outlet reported that an attempt was made by the mediators to reach a humanitarian ceasefire for four to seven days in Gaza. The goal, according to the mediators, is to meet the humanitarian needs in Gaza and deliver polio vaccines and hygienic products. In the meantime, the coordinator of government operations in the territories notified that over a million polio vaccines were delivered to Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing. (*INN / VFI News*)

White House Says Iran's Prepared for Attack Should it Decide to Follow through; The White House believes Iran is still prepared to “do something if they choose to” and is not taking for granted Iran’s decision to not yet launch an attack on Israel, National Security Council Communications Advisor John Kirby told reporters on a Friday morning call, August 23. The White House is also not taking the ability to protect Israel and US assets in the region for granted, Kirby added. Kirby wouldn’t specify the nature of Iran’s readiness or the intelligence behind it, only saying, “We got to be prepared, and we are.” “We have bolstered our military capabilities in the region, and we’re watching it every single day,” he said, noting additional forces in the region and improved deterrent posture. Kirby said the administration is “laser focused” on both ensuring it can defend itself and Israel while also trying to get the deal in place. Meanwhile, Iran’s new Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told his French and British counterparts in telephone conversations on Friday that it was his country’s right to retaliate against Israel for last month’s assassination of a Hamas official in Tehran, official Iranian media reported. (*JPost / VFI News*)

BBC Blasted for Describing Hamas Suicide Bomb Attacks that Killed 80 Civilians as 'Military Operations'; The BBC has come under fire for describing a series of Hamas suicide bomb attacks that killed Israeli civilians as “military operations.” A media monitoring group has criticized the news site after it reportedly referred to attacks organized by Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif, which claimed the lives of 93 people, including 80 civilians aged 13 to 83, as “military operations.” Deif was killed in an Israeli airstrike last month, but under his command Hamas carried out dozens of suicide bombings against Israelis on buses and at cafes since the 1990s. In a story following his death, BBC Arabic reportedly stated Deif “took part in several military operations against Israel starting from kidnapping soldiers and rocket attack” which culminated in the October 7 attack, according to British media. But the corporation has since defended its coverage and argued it has “made clear throughout” its reporting that Deif was listed as a terrorist by the US and the EU. (*DM / VFI News*)

UN Omits October 7 Victims from Universal Remembrance Exhibit for Fatalities of Terror; Israel’s former Ambassador to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan, posted a video on Tuesday, August 20, accusing the UN of failing to allocate a place of commemoration for the victims of October 7 on the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. “Tomorrow marks the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. Soon, it will be a year since October 7, the most horrific terror attack since the Holocaust. Yet, the disgraceful UN did not see fit to include even a single Israeli terror victim(!) in the exhibition it is presenting for this day of remembrance.”

“There are no words to describe how morally corrupt and twisted the UN is. It’s simply a disgrace.” Meanwhile, Israel’s Foreign Ministry also criticized UN Women last Monday for making only one-and-a-half posts on X, formerly Twitter, about Israeli female hostages since December 2023 while mentioning Palestinian women 69 times during the same period. “When photos of these (Israeli) women were published recently, bruised and weak in Hamas captivity, @UN_Women @unwomenchief did not say a word. It seems that Israeli women simply don’t matter to them,” the ministry charged. (JPost / VFI News)

Nanoparticles Restore Efficiency in Exhausted Immune Cells Killing Cancer; A novel study led by Prof. Mira Barda-Saad and her research team at the Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences at Bar-Ilan University has unveiled a novel method to rejuvenate natural killer (NK) cells in the fight against cancer. The study, which has already been published, addresses a critical challenge in cancer immunotherapy -- NK cell exhaustion. Natural killer cells, a key component of the immune system, are crucial for identifying and destroying cancerous and viral cells. In recent years, the landscape of cancer treatment has been transformed by the rise of immunotherapeutic strategies, such as the Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) approach. This method involves extracting patient cells, modifying them genetically in a laboratory to enhance their ability to combat cancer cells, and then reintroducing them into the body. Recently, however, it was discovered that the lymphocytes, either T cells or NK cells, including “engineered” NK cells, can become fatigued from continuously battling tumors and subsequently lose their function. To bypass this process, Prof. Barda-Saad’s research team identified the underlying causes of NK cell dysfunction and developed a novel solution using nanoparticles to restore the vitality of these cells directly within the patient. These nanoparticles, capable of targeting and silencing negative regulators, restore NK cell activity directly within the patient’s body, bypassing the need for cell extraction and genetic modification. (INN / VFI News)

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