

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 12, 2024 (Elul 9, 5784)



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Israel-Hamas War, Day 342

Report: Israeli Forces Raided Iranian Missile Facility in Syria, Took Equipment

- ***IDF says two terrorists killed in Wednesday's Nuseirat attack were UNRWA employees***
 - ***Commander of elite 8200 intelligence unit retires following Oct. 7 failures***
 - ***Fire erupts in northern Israel following rocket fire from Lebanon***
 - ***Israeli forces arrest West Bank resident linked to Hebron car bomb explosion***
 - ***Turkey seeks international arrest warrants after IDF fire kills citizen in West Bank***
 - ***One person wounded by rocket fire at northern Israel;
IDF says around 30 rockets launched in latest barrage***
 - ***Biden, Harris call for 'full accountability' after death of U.S. citizen in West Bank***
 - ***One Israeli critically wounded in truck ramming near West Bank settlement***
 - ***IDF says 30 Hezbollah targets struck overnight in southern Lebanon***
- ***In first presidential debate, Harris says Gaza war must end as Trump accuses her of hating Israel***
 - ***Palestinian reports: Five killed in Israeli strike in West Bank***

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This Is Hamas' New Demand for a Ceasefire Deal; US officials have announced that they “indefinitely postpone” the presentation of the final “take it or leave it” ceasefire-prisoner swap deal, American media reported. According to the news outlet, the latest obstacle is Hamas’ “abrupt introduction” of its demand that Israel release high-profile terrorists even in exchange for humanitarian prisoners. The report quoted a senior administration official who said that last week, as negotiators from the US, Qatar, and Egypt worked through the final details of the “bridging proposal,” Hamas said that civilian hostages would only be released in exchange for terrorists serving life sentences and who have blood on their hands. Previously, the agreement had been that only IDF soldiers would be released in exchange for these terrorists. According to the American media outlet, US officials believe that several of the American hostages held in Gaza may be released in the first stage of such a deal, along with a “significant” number of the other living hostages. Meanwhile, Israeli officials said late on Saturday, September 7, that the US should have demanded more pressure be placed on Hamas from the mediators in Qatar and Egypt. They said Qatar should expel Hamas leaders living there and freeze the terror group’s bank accounts. (*INN/VFI News*)

Turkey’s Erdogan: Islamic Countries Should Form Alliance Against “Israel’s Growing Expansionism”; Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday, September 7, that Islamic countries should form an alliance against what he called “the growing threat of expansionism” from Israel. He made the comment after describing what Palestinian and Turkish officials said was the killing by Israeli troops of a Turkish-American woman taking part in a protest on Friday against settlement expansion in Judea and Samaria. “The only step that will stop Israeli arrogance, Israeli banditry, and Israeli state terrorism is the alliance of Islamic countries,” Erdogan said at an Islamic schools’ association event near Istanbul. He said recent steps that Turkey has taken to improve ties with Egypt and Syria are aimed at “forming a line of solidarity against the growing threat of expansionism,” which he said also threatened Lebanon and Syria. Erdogan hosted Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Ankara last week. They discussed the Gaza war and ways to further repair their long-frozen ties during the first such presidential visit in 12 years. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Six Murdered Hostages Could Not Stand up, Had Trouble Breathing, and Were Starved; In a heart-wrenching tale of endurance and tragedy, the families of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Eden Yerushalmi, Uri Danino, Almog Sarusi, Carmel Gat, and Alex Lobanov received a grim report from the IDF about their loved ones’ ordeal and ultimate murder in a tunnel in Rafah. According to the findings of the National Center of Forensic Medicine (Abu Kabir), these hostages were brutally murdered roughly 24 hours before

IDF reached the site. Their bodies bore gunshot wounds and clear signs of severe neglect. It was evident that they hadn't bathed for an extended period, and one victim had marks indicating they had been bound. Additionally, there were traces of earlier injuries sustained during their initial capture, which had been treated over time. The bodies of the six were not found lying side by side but scattered in clusters throughout the tunnel. It remains unclear whether any struggle occurred before the captors executed them. A report by an Israeli broadcasting network revealed the hostages were confined in an exceedingly narrow and cramped tunnel. Standing upright was a struggle and only two of them could lie down across its width at any given time. The tunnel lacked air vents, making breathing difficult. The captives had no access to toilets or showers, relying on water bottles for both drinking and rudimentary washing. (*Ynet / VFI News*)

PA Proposal to UN: End Israeli Presence in Judea and Samaria within Six Months; The Palestinian Mission to the UN submitted a draft resolution to be voted on next week at the UN General Assembly, demanding Israel implement recent decisions of the International Court of Justice under specific timelines and with the oversight of special monitoring mechanisms established especially for this purpose. The resolution calls, among other things, for the end of an Israeli presence in “the Palestinian territories” within six months, the IDF’s withdrawal from “the territories,” a halt to “settlements,” and the return of Palestinians to their land. It also calls on countries not to legally recognize Israel’s presence in “the Palestinian territories,” to enforce sanctions on Israeli officials, to cease the transfer of arms to Israel that could be used “in the Palestinian territories” and to avoid establishing diplomatic missions in Jerusalem. Israel’s Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, commented: “If this resolution passes in the General Assembly, especially on the first anniversary of the October 7th massacre — the deadliest attack against Jews since the Holocaust — it will be a reward for terrorism and a message to the world that the barbaric slaughter of children, the rape of women and the kidnapping of innocent civilians is a worthwhile tactic.” “I call on the UN General Assembly to reject this disgraceful resolution outright, and instead adopt a resolution condemning Hamas and calling for the immediate release of all hostages,” he added. (*INN / VFI News*)

1,307 Rockets Fired from Lebanon in August, More than Any Month Since War Started; More rockets were fired at Israel from Lebanon in August than in any previous month since war broke out almost a year ago, according to data published by the Shin Bet security agency on Thursday, September 5. The report said that 1,307 rockets were fired at Israel in August from the northern front, meaning Lebanon and Syria, amounting to just over 40 a day on average, with the vast majority coming from Lebanon. July saw 1,091 rockets, June saw 855, May saw 1,000, April saw 744, March saw 746, February saw 534, and January saw 334, according to the Shin Bet. Exact data was not immediately available for October, November, and December 2023, but the quantity was known to be smaller than in August. By contrast, only 116 rockets were fired at Israel from Gaza in the last month, the report said. The mayor of Kiryat Shmona lamented Thursday that his largely evacuated northern border town had been badly battered by rockets fired by terrorists from Lebanon, with many homes being destroyed. He also asked why the lives of northern residents were apparently of lower value than those who lived in the center of the country, apparently referring to the IDF’s preemptive strike last month as Hezbollah was preparing to launch an attack on the Tel Aviv area. (*TOI / VFI News*)

Israel in Worst-Ever Mental Health Crisis Amid Ongoing War, Says Minister; Eleven months after the start of the war, the country is in the midst of its worst-ever mental health crisis, Health Minister Uriel Buso said at the Enosh Mental Health 2024 Conference in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, September 4. Buso announced that because “our reality has changed,” ministry assistance to HMOs to treat mental health issues will double to about NIS 600 million (\$162 million) in 2025. “We are experiencing the largest mental health event the state has known since its establishment,” Buso said. “A crisis that requires us, as a state and a society, to change perceptions and upgrade the public mental health system.” He added that the ministry “has to focus on actions that create resilience.” Dr. Hilla Hadas, CEO of Enosh, organized

the one-day conference because of the national emergency situation. A broad swath of experts, including representatives from academia, government ministries, local authorities, the IDF, philanthropy, and mental health organizations, focused on the current state of mental health and well-being against the backdrop of the war, along with the urgent need to strengthen the mental health system in Israel.

“Today, mental health is the most important issue in the healthcare system,” said Moshe Bar Siman-Tov, Director-General of the Health Ministry. (TOI /VFI News)

BBC Accused of Breaching Its Editorial Guidelines 1,533 Times in Israel-Hamas Coverage; The BBC has been accused of breaching its editorial guidelines 1,533 times in its coverage of the Israel-Hamas war, with the UK outlet allegedly showing repeated bias against the Jewish state, according to a new report. Trevor Asserson, a British-born lawyer based in Israel, said a team of 20 lawyers and 20 data scientists analyzed 9 million words from the BBC using artificial intelligence to discover a “deeply worrying pattern of bias against Israel,” another British media outlet said. The research said the BBC associated Israel with genocide 14 times more than Hamas, with the publicly funded outlet allegedly downplaying the role of Hamas terrorism in the war. Along with accusing the BBC of showing bias against Israel in the war coverage, the AI-backed report also claimed that the Jewish state was ultimately presented as a “militaristic and aggressive nation” by the outlet. Meanwhile, the BBC allegedly failed to recognize Hamas as a terrorist organization 12,050 times during the initial four-month period when the war broke out. The BBC’s Arabic Channel was also singled out in the report as one of the “most biased” outlets covering the war in Gaza. The BBC said it would “carefully consider” Asserson’s report, but the outlet also questioned the researcher’s methodology and use of AI. (NYP / VFI News)

“From the River to the Sea”: Meta Ruling Sparks Criticism of Genocide Implications; Meta’s Oversight Board, which reviews the company’s content moderation policies, recently examined three cases involving the phrase “From the river to the sea.” Some pro-Palestinian supporters see it as a call for freedom, while others interpret it as a threat to Israel’s existence. A Meta spokesperson expressed the company’s openness to the review process, saying, “We welcome the board’s review. Our policies prioritize safety, but we recognize global challenges and regularly consult outside experts, including the Oversight Board.” On September 4, 2024, the Oversight Board ruled that the phrase “From the river to the sea” should not automatically result in content removal on Meta platforms like Facebook and Instagram. The Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) strongly opposed the board’s ruling, which determined that the phrase did not violate Meta’s policies on hate speech, violence, or incitement. The CEO of CAM, Sacha Roytman Dratwa, stated: “‘From the river to the sea’ is a slogan created with the sole vision of destroying the national homeland of the Jewish people. It is genocidal in intent and meaning.” (JPost / VFI News)

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