

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 19, 2024 (Elul 16, 5784)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 349

Hezbollah Chief Nasrallah: Israel Crossed All Red Lines, This Is a Declaration of War

- *IDF chief approves northern front plans as Israel strikes Hezbollah targets in Lebanon*
 - *Several Israelis wounded in Hezbollah anti-tank, drone hits in country's north*
- *Jewish Israeli businessman charged with plotting assassinations of Netanyahu and key officials for Iran*
 - *Eight Israelis wounded by Hezbollah missile fire in country's north*
 - *NYT: Hezbollah's explosive pagers came from Israeli front company*
- *Over 10 rockets hit northern Israel as IDF general says army is in 'peak readiness' for Lebanon offensive*
 - *IDF sends additional forces north, recruits reserve personnel*
- *Israel Police say Hezbollah tried to assassinate ex-IDF, defense chief Ya'alon in 2023*
 - *IDF says it shot down a drone launched from Iraq toward northern Israel overnight*

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Yemen's Houthis Fire Missile at Central Israel, Missile Breaks up within Israeli Airspace;

Yemen's Houthis fired at least one ballistic missile, possibly more, on the Tel Aviv and central Israel areas, IDF sources said on Sunday, September 15. Nine people were lightly wounded while running to safe rooms following the sirens, Magen David Adom reported, adding that paramedics had evacuated the injured to the hospital. The IDF said that the Arrow air defense system shot the missile down. Still, pieces of shrapnel fell near Gezer and possibly in three other areas, including Paatei Modiin train station near Modiin and Rehovot. Platform four at the train station sustained damage as a result. IDF sources accepted that the Arrow 3 defense system may have missed the missile outside of Israeli airspace. After an attempt to intercept it using the Iron Dome system, the missile broke up on its own in Israeli airspace. Meanwhile, Yahya Saria, spokesman for the military wing of the Houthi rebels group, said that the missile was launched at Jaffa and has the capability of traveling 2048 kilometers in just 11 and a half minutes. He further claimed that "this is an action carried out as part of the fifth stage of the escalation of the Houthis against Israel" and vowed that more attacks would be carried out ahead of the anniversary of the Hamas massacre of October 7. (JPost / VFI News)

Israel Says Top Hamas Rafah Brigade 'Dismantled' on Philadelphi Corridor, 2,000 Terrorists Killed;

The IDF on Thursday, September 12, said its troops had "dismantled" Hamas' Rafah brigade on the Philadelphi Corridor as they look to eliminate cross-border tunnels into Egypt. In a press release the IDF said its troops in the 162nd Division had conducted "precise, intelligence-based, targeted operations in the Rafah area over the last few months" and "eliminated over 2,000 terrorists." Israeli forces destroyed a reported 8 miles of underground routes and have neutralized roughly 80% of all Hamas' tunnels on the strategic security corridor, which runs alongside the border with Egypt. The IDF said that during an operation in the Tel A-Sultan area, first launched a couple of weeks ago, Commander of the Tel al-Sultan Battalion Mahmoud Hamdan had been killed along with 250 other Hamas terrorists. Brig. Gen. Itzik Cohen, commander of the 162nd Division, also told Israeli media that his troops had located 203 separate but interconnected tunnels in the Philadelphi Corridor, nine of which crossed over the border with Egypt. Meanwhile, senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan told French media on Sunday that the terrorist group still has ample resources to continue fighting Israel despite the losses sustained during the war. He also stressed it was impossible to imagine a scenario in which Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar would leave the Gaza Strip. (FN / VFI News)

Hezbollah's Neighbors: Israeli Border Community under Constant Attack from Terror Group;

Six months after Yulia Bar-Dan and her family fled their home on a kibbutz in northern Israel fearing a possible Hezbollah assault following the horrendous Hamas attack of October 7, she returned to gather what she could from a lifetime of memories she'd left behind. When she arrived, Kibbutz Manara, once

home to approximately 300 people, looked like a war zone. Not long after she collected her belongings and left the kibbutz, a Hezbollah missile hit her house. The strike added her home to the staggering 75% of kibbutz structures in the north that have been damaged by Hezbollah's relentless bombardments. Since Hezbollah joined the war as a "support front" for Hamas on October 8, over 7,500 rockets have been fired from Lebanon into Israel, and more than 200 drones have crossed the border. The toll: 44 people have been killed, 271 wounded and 62,000 evacuated from dozens of communities in northern Israel. Those who have left have no idea when – or even if – they will ever return. The damage to agriculture and tourism has reached billions of dollars, and there is widespread fear that this conflict will escalate further. "We are right on the border and at high risk. We've known for at least 10 years that Hezbollah's Radwan forces have a plan. They've been training to invade the Galilee, seize multiple communities and do here, exactly what we saw happen in the south," said Yochai Wolfen, the community director of Kibbutz Manara. (FN/VFI News)

Situation in North Can't Continue, Netanyahu Says Ahead of Hochstein Visit; The cross-border violence between the IDF and Hezbollah in the north of the country "cannot continue," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said ahead of a meeting with US special envoy Amos Hochstein on Monday, September 16. What is needed, Netanyahu said at the weekly government meeting, is "a change in the balance of forces on our northern border." He also pledged to restore safety to that area so that the more than 60,000 residents of the border communities evacuated in October can return home. "I am attentive to the residents of the North. I speak with them and with the heads of local authorities in the North. I see their distress. I hear their anguish," he said. "I am committed to this. The government is committed to this and we will not suffice with less than this," he added. Hochstein, who is also expected to meet with Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, is pushing to find a diplomatic solution to the contained IDF-Hezbollah war to prevent it from breaking out into a more wide-scale conflict. Gallant has argued that Netanyahu has to prioritize the North over the South, making it the primary focal point of the IDF's efforts. (JPost / VFI News)

Following the Gaza War: Sharp Rise in Use of Psychiatric Medications and Painkillers; A new study conducted at the Meir Medical Center, of the Clalit Group, found a sharp increase in the consumption of psychiatric drugs and painkillers among the Israeli public, since the outbreak of the Swords of Iron War. The data, which were presented on Sunday, September 15, at the annual meeting of the Israeli Society for Quality in Medicine, showed a 50% increase in the purchase of anti-anxiety drugs and a 3-fold increase in the purchase of narcotic pain relievers among the general population, in the first six months since the outbreak of the war. The situation is even worse among residents of the Gaza Envelope communities, which showed a 200% increase in the purchase of anti-anxiety drugs and a 250% increase in the purchase of narcotic pain relievers. In addition, a 33% increase in antidepressants and a 25% increase in sleeping pills was observed in this area. The study was based on data from approximately 2.9 million insured persons over age 18. Dr. Tzipi Hornik-Lurie, Manager of the Data Research Department at the Research Authority, Meir Medical Center stated: "The risk factors for the consumption of all four families of drugs after October 7th are: older age (65+), living in the Gaza Envelope on October 7th, living in a peripheral area, and being female." (INN / VFI News)

Iran Expands Its Influence: A Major Deal with Armenia Raises Concerns in Israel; In recent days, Iran has announced a comprehensive economic cooperation plan with Armenia, which is causing concern in Israel and the West. "Iran has planned cooperation with Armenia amounting to approximately \$3 billion, and we are confident that we will move in that direction. We are determined to utilize all available potential," stated Iran's ambassador to Yerevan, Mehdi Sobhani. Armenia-Iran trade volume in 2023 was only \$693 million, and the sudden Tehran's readiness to increase it 4.5 times worries the experts. As the Israeli Alma Institute reported, Armenia is functioning as a transit point in Iran's air route to Syria and Lebanon. The report stated that Iran is using Armenia "not only to undermine Azerbaijan—an ally of

Israel—but also to assist in the transfer of military equipment to Syria and then to Lebanon.” Further, according to Iranian media, a secret arms deal worth half a billion dollars was recently signed between Iran and Armenia. Knesset member Simon Moshiasvili (Shas) warned the Israeli Foreign Ministry. In his letter, he noted that the arms deal “includes intelligence cooperation and the establishment of Iranian bases in Armenia, and according to experts, this may serve Iran not only as a response to the strategic ties between Azerbaijan and Israel but also for hostile activities.” (*INN / VFI News*)



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