

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 23, 2024 (Elul 20, 5784)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 353

Massive Rocket Barrage at Central, Northern Israel; 274 Killed in Israeli Strikes in Lebanon

- **Israel launches extensive strikes on Lebanon, says it identified Hezbollah plan for large-scale rocket attack, hit 800 Hezbollah targets**
 - **The IDF urged residents in south Lebanon to distance themselves from weapon storage sites**
 - **Palestinians report mother, four children killed in airstrike in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza**
 - **IDF says it attacked Hamas command center located inside school in central Gaza**
- **John Kirby: U.S. doing 'everything it can' to prevent all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah; no progress in Hamas-Israel talks**
- **Hezbollah deputy leader says confrontation with Israel is now 'open-ended battle of reckoning'**
 - **Gaza sources: Over 7 killed in strike on northern Gaza school compound**
 - **Lebanese Health Ministry: Death toll from Friday Beirut strike rises to 50**
 - **Seven Israelis wounded in overnight rocket barrage in north Israel**

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Please contact Jeffery @ Yachad Ministries

Phone 770-641-3000 ext. 6

E-mail yachad@mindspring.com



Thousands of Pager Explosions in Lebanon and Syria; 19 IRGC Members Reportedly Dead; 19 Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) members were killed after their pagers exploded in Deir ez-Zur in eastern Syria, Saudi media reported on Wednesday afternoon, September 18. An additional 150 IRGC members were also wounded in the explosions according to the same Saudi news source. The report came a day after around 4,000 Hezbollah members also had their pagers exploded in an attack reportedly attributed to Israel. Foreign reports attribute the attack to the Mossad and IDF. A series of explosions were reported in the Dahieh area of Beirut on Tuesday afternoon, leaving at least nine dead and over 3,000 injured. Dahieh is known as a Hezbollah stronghold. A source in Hezbollah said that some of the terrorists felt that their device was getting hot and they threw it away before it exploded. It was also reported that some devices received a message before exploding. British media reported that Hezbollah only began using the beeper devices within the last few months. Saudi media reported similarly and noted that among the injured are senior Hezbollah commanders and their aides. Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani was also wounded in the attack, Iranian state media reported, and according to American media, he has lost an eye. (*JPost / VFI News*)

20 Killed, 450 Wounded as Lebanon Hit by 2nd Wave of Hezbollah Device Explosions; A fresh wave of explosions ripped across Lebanon on Wednesday afternoon, September 18, appearing to mainly target handheld radios used by Hezbollah members, a day after thousands were wounded when their pagers spontaneously exploded. At least 20 people were killed and 450 were wounded in Wednesday's second wave of blasts, according to Lebanese officials. An Israeli report said Jerusalem believes the death toll to be higher than reported, with Hezbollah's elite Radwan unit hit hard by the two days of attacks. Explosions were reported Wednesday in phones, solar energy systems and fingerprint reading devices used by the group. At least one of the blasts took place at a funeral organized by Hezbollah for some of the 12 people killed in the pager explosion attack on Tuesday. Israeli security officials on Wednesday said that "The strategic purpose was deterrence. Never, and in any country, have so many terrorists been hit in one minute. This is about 4,000 targeted assassinations. If we wanted to kill them, we could, but deterrence is stronger." (*TOI/ VFI News*)

'Use It or Lose It': Israel Reportedly Set off Pagers Amid Fears Plot Was Exposed; Israel reportedly caused thousands of Hezbollah terror group pagers to explode on Tuesday, September 18, killing at least nine people and wounding nearly 3,000, amid fears that Hezbollah was about to uncover that the devices had been tampered with, according to Wednesday reports. Israeli intelligence services originally wanted to detonate the pagers as an opening blow in an all-out war against Hezbollah, Israeli media reported, citing American and Israeli officials. They chose to act early, however, when a Hezbollah member became suspicious of the devices and planned to alert his superiors, American-based media

reported. Just days earlier, a different Hezbollah member had come to suspect the devices had been tampered with, and then he was killed, the same news outlet said. Upon learning of the suspicions, Israeli leaders reportedly considered launching an immediate full-scale war in order to retain the pager attack as an opening blow. They also considered leaving things as they were, even at the risk of the operation being compromised, according to the report. “The Mossad injected a board inside of the device that has explosive material that receives a code. It’s very hard to detect it through any means. Even with any device or scanner,” a senior Lebanese security source told British media. The source said 3,000 of the pagers exploded when a coded message was sent to them, simultaneously activating the explosives. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Taiwan, Hungary Deny Making Hezbollah Pagers, Deepening Mystery of Their Origin; Taiwan and Hungary on Wednesday, September 18, denied making pagers that exploded the previous day while being used by Hezbollah members in Lebanon. Renowned American media, citing American and other anonymous officials, reported that Israel had inserted explosive material into a shipment of pagers from Taiwan’s Gold Apollo, though it was not clear where and when the tampering took place. Taiwanese prosecutors launched an investigation. Gold Apollo denied producing the devices and instead pointed the finger at its Budapest-based partner BAC Consulting KFT. But Hungarian government spokesman Zoltan Kovacs said the company “is a trading intermediary, with no manufacturing or operational site in Hungary.” “The referenced devices have never been in Hungary,” Kovacs stated on X, formerly Twitter. Earlier on Wednesday, Gold Apollo head Hsu Ching-kuang said the pagers were “100 percent not” made in Taiwan. “They are not our products from beginning to end. How can we produce products that are not ours?” Hsu told reporters in Taipei. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Over 1000 Ready-to-Launch Rockets in South Lebanon Destroyed in IDF Strike; IDF fighter jets struck hundreds of rockets that were ready for immediate launch into Israeli territory, the IDF announced on Thursday night, September 19. Starting on Thursday afternoon, a total of about 100 rocket launchers and other military infrastructure were attacked, including about 1,000 rockets that were ready for immediate launch, the IDF said. Additionally, the IDF targeted a weapons storage facility and struck in the area of Naqoura. Three Lebanese security officials told British media that these were “the heaviest aerial strikes since the conflict began in October.” According to reports in Lebanese media, cited in Israeli media, the number of attacks ranged from about fifty to seventy throughout Lebanon in only about twenty minutes. Hezbollah threatened to respond, with leader Hassan Nasrallah live streaming a speech on Thursday in which he goaded Israel, daring it to attack. “We are waiting for you to enter Lebanese territory. We are waiting for your tanks and will see this as a historic opportunity.” The IDF announced that over the weekend it will carry out activities in all training areas in the north. It added: “The entry into the training areas is prohibited, is dangerous, and harms the forces’ operations. In addition, sounds of gunshots and explosions may be heard in the nearby communities.” (*JPost/VFI News*)

UN General Assembly Demands Israeli Pullout from Palestinian Areas within 12 Months; The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on Wednesday, September 18, demanding that Israel entirely pull out of Palestinian areas within a year, and called for an embargo on arms that Israel might use in those areas. The Foreign Ministry panned the decision as “cynical international politics” that would encourage terrorism and harm the chances for peace. The resolution called for Israel to “end without delay its unlawful presence” in “Occupied Palestinian Territory” within 12 months, including all soldiers and civilians. The resolution welcomed a July ruling by the International Court of Justice that said Israel’s control of Palestinian territories and settlements is illegal and should be withdrawn. The UN also called on states to “take steps towards ceasing the importation of any products originating in the Israeli settlements, as well as the provision or transfer of arms, munitions and related equipment to Israel... where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that they may be used in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.” The resolution was sponsored by the “State of Palestine” and 29 other countries, mostly Muslim nations. Some 124

countries supported the measure, 14 opposed it, and 43 abstained. Israel, the US, Czechia, and Argentina were the largest countries opposing, along with Pacific island nations. Paraguay and Malawi also opposed the measure. (TOI / VFI News)

US and Germany Continue to Withhold Weapons from Israel; US Vice President Kamala Harris said Tuesday, September 17, that she supports President Joe Biden’s decision in May to withhold a shipment of 2,000-pound bombs from Israel over concerns the IDF would use them in densely populated areas of Gaza. “One of the things that we have done that I’m entirely supportive of is the pause that we’ve put on the 2,000-pound bombs,” Harris said in an onstage interview at a National Association of Black Journalists event, during which she was repeatedly pressed on why the US isn’t using more leverage against Israel to end the war in Gaza. A delivery of 1,700 500-pound bombs — part of the shipment of the 2,000-pound bombs — was also withheld until July, with Biden threatening to freeze additional offensive weaponry if Israel launched a major military offensive in Gaza’s southernmost city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians were sheltering at the time. Further, although German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has reaffirmed his military support for Israel repeatedly, the German Federal Security Council, chaired by Scholz, has not approved arms exports to Israel for months, according to a media report. According to the report, no approvals for arms exports to Israel have been granted since March. However, Scholz made public declarations of his solidarity with Israel and promised continued military aid at the end of July. (TOI / VFI News)

Fetterman Reams out NY Times for Platforming Terrorist Propaganda After Interview with Senior Hamas Official; Sen. John Fetterman, D-Penn., accused the New York Times of spreading Hamas propaganda after the paper quoted Khaled Meshal, one of the terror group’s most senior officials, in a new report Tuesday, September 17. The Times story, headlined “ Hamas is surviving war in Israel. Now it hopes to thrive in Gaza again,” centers around an interview with Meshal, who insisted Hamas “is winning the war and will play a decisive role in Gaza’s future” despite Israel’s commitment to eradicate the terror group responsible for killing 1,200 people on October 7. The Times interviewed Meshal for two-hours in his living room in Doha, Qatar, where he “offered rare insights into the thinking of Hamas officials,” the report reads. “In the interview, Mr. Meshal made clear that Hamas officials are not in a rush to conclude a cease-fire with Israel at any price, and will not give up on their main demands for an end to the war and an Israeli withdrawal,” the Times wrote. Fetterman posted a screenshot of the story’s headline on X, rebuking the outlet for giving one of Hamas’ most senior leaders a platform to promote the group’s message. “No idea why NYT would platform this propaganda from a terrorist. Undoubtedly, Israel will hold him accountable,” the lawmaker wrote. “ Hamas is no different than WWII Nazis and I fully support Israel’s commitment to neutralize them,” he added. (FN / VFI News)

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Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: <https://www.yachad.com>

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

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