



Israel considers Lebanon cease-fire proposal

Israel pushing for conditions allowing IDF to operate against threats along the border

Jonathan Lis

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been examining options over the past few weeks for an outline for a cease-fire in Lebanon, which, among other things, would give Israel freedom of military action against threats on the northern border.

Additionally, Israel is considering whether to condition the end of its ground operations in Lebanon on the appointment of a new, moderate president in Beirut. According to sources, the international community is also considering placing an international force along the border with a broader mandate than that of UNIFIL.

The outline examined by the government was described by sources as the "1701 Plus Agreement," named after the UN Security Council resolution that brought about a cease-fire in the Second Lebanon War in 2006. According to sources, Resolution 1701 restricted Israel's ability to operate in Lebanon's airspace or against armed militias that established themselves along the border, terms which Israel would find difficult to accept under current circumstances.

Sources said that Israel believes that the appointment of a new and moderate president

in Lebanon will help distance Hezbollah from the heart of the country's political echelon, while also increasing the government's ability to enforce decisions against Hezbollah. However, Israel is concerned that the appointment of a moderate president alone would be insufficient to position him as a dominant leader who could prevent Hezbollah from strengthening again. Sources also said that Israel has warned that Iran

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will provide Hezbollah's new leadership with large sums of money as part of an attempt to restore the organization's power, which would allow it to influence key figures in the new government and thus preserve its status and influence.

A foreign source expressed concern that Israel would try to establish a security strip along the border inside Lebanon, and prohibit movement along it.

The source said that such a move could be interpreted around the world as "active occupation" of sovereign Lebanese territory, even if

the Israel Defense Forces doesn't maintain a daily presence and withdraws to Israeli territory.

According to the source, the international community is examining the option of creating, along the Lebanese border, a new international force under an upgraded and expanded mandate that would include forces with greater authority than UNIFIL, currently positioned in the area. This, according to the source, is because UNIFIL forces "did not deliver the goods" and failed in its mission to prevent Hezbollah from establishing itself along the border with Israel.

The IDF targeted Hezbollah-affiliated financial institutions across Beirut and southern Lebanon overnight into Monday. Sahel Hospital in Beirut's southern suburbs was evacuated after Israel claimed a Hezbollah cash bunker sits below it.

The military announced that 150 projectiles launched at Israel from Lebanon at the Golan Heights region fell in open areas, according to the army. Five drones were intercepted over the Mediterranean Sea, briefly halting international flights from Israel.

With reporting from *Adi Hashmonai*.



Shirel Golan's funeral on Monday at the Tel Mond cemetery.

Hadas Parush

Hundreds attend funeral for Shirel Golan, Nova survivor, who died on 22nd birthday

Ido Efrati

Hundreds of people on Monday attended the funeral of Shirel Golan in the Tel Mond cemetery, a survivor of the October 7 Nova music festival massacre who was found dead in her home Sunday, on her 22nd birthday.

Affixed to the wall of the funeral hall was a large sign with her face above the mes-

sage: "Shirel was murdered on October 7 and yet remained alive to this day" - a muted testimony to the suffering and difficulties that she faced over the past year, and more broadly to the challenges that many other survivors of the music festivals have been dealing with since the massacre.

Alongside family, friends and acquaintances who filled the hall were quite a

few young people; Nova survivors. The struggles that they contend with can be seen on their faces. Alongside the great pain over Shirel Golan's untimely passing, there was also a heavy sense of missed opportunity and neglect on the part of the state toward the hundreds of people who physically survived, but not emotionally.

"I cannot contain it. I

miss her so much," Yael Tobol, 28, a Nova survivor who was very close to Shirel, said through her tears. "We used to take her to Lev Hasharon [Mental Health Center] day after day," she says.

Tubol expresses the sense of abandonment that she and many like her feel. "I have been erased since October 7. I haven't seen my parents for six months, I am erased as far as they're concerned.

I live in an apartment, barely surviving. No one knows what I go through at night. All we want is for them to help us. They abandoned us," she says.

Her friends and family say that Shirel, who before October 7 was a happy, assertive young woman with a lust for life became a shadow of her former self after the

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7 Israelis suspected of gathering sensitive intelligence on behalf of Iran

Josh Breiner and Chen Manait

Seven Israelis are suspected of aiding the enemy in wartime, after gathering sensitive intelligence in the service of Iran, Israeli police announced Monday.

The men are believed to have carried out between 600 and 700 intelligence-gathering missions under

the direction of two Iranian intelligence officers, who identified themselves as Alhan and Orhan.

Their missions included tracking the commander of the Nevatim Air Force Base and his son, with plans to assassinate them.

Police said the suspects were arrested once it became clear that their activities endangered lives.

The suspects are accused of collecting intelligence on senior Israeli officials and sensitive military installations and strategic infrastructure, including the Nevatim and Ramat David Air Force bases, the IDF's headquarters in Tel Aviv (Kiryat), and Iron Dome batteries.

According to police, they are also suspected of having received maps of sensitive

sites, including the Golan Brigade training base, and of gathering intelligence on IDF bases that were attacked by Iran in April, allegedly to assess the extent of the damage caused.

The police revealed that the initial contact was made through an individual from Azerbaijan, who approached one of the suspects and requested that he

carry out missions.

This individual later connected the group with a Turkish middleman named Alksan, who recruited the seven men to work for Iran.

The suspects - identified as Azis Nisanov, Alexander Sadykov, Yigal Nissan, Vyacheslav Gushchin, Yevgeny Yoffe, and two minors whose names remain confidential - allegedly received hundreds

of thousands of dollars in exchange for their activities.

Payment was delivered either physically by Russian tourists or through digital currency transfers. In their investigation, one of the suspects said they had "become addicted to the money."

Three of the suspects were arrested while photographing sensitive sites in southern Israel. Police

seized dozens of documents from the group, detailing the sites they had been assigned to document. The suspects allegedly carried out as many as four missions per day.

"This is one of the most serious cases we have ever investigated," said a senior police official, adding that the suspects took on the assignments because they

were "thirsty for money."

He added that the severity and complexity of the missions the group received increased with time.

The Shin Bet security service uncovered the network's activities several weeks ago and brought the case to the police.

The State Prosecutor's

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Under Israeli intelligence's nose

Iran smuggled hundreds of millions of dollars to Gaza

Yossi Melman

It's one of the greatest surprises of the October 7 war: the Iranians' transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars to Hamas in Gaza. The magnitude of the haul is evident in documents seized by Israeli forces in Gaza that are now being examined by a special Military Intelligence unit assisted by the agency's Research Division.

Every Israeli involved in the story has little reason to speak out for fear that another aspect of the country's massive failure will become public knowledge.

Even before the war, and

especially during, there has been a great deal of talk about Qatar's hefty money transfers to Gaza. At first, these funds were famously brought over by a special Qatari envoy in cash-filled suitcases, a monthly allotment of \$3 million.

These transfers went on for years with the encouragement of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his governments, which believed they were buying quiet.

Later, after Naftali Bennett became prime minister in June 2021, the suitcase method was halted and the money arrived with improved oversight via bank

transfers, mainly from Egyptian banks to their counterparts in Gaza. But Hamas still managed to skim off a hefty percentage, which was used mainly to buy weapons abroad, to manufacture arms locally, and to build the group's extraordinary tunnel network covering about 550 kilometers (340 miles).

Another important source of income, maybe the largest, was explained to me at the time by the then-coordinator of government activities in the territories, Maj. Gen. (res.) Yoav Mordechai. This was tax receipts from Israel, which came from the sale of Israeli goods or foreign goods that passed through Ashdod Port, and from the sale of Israeli fuel to Gaza. This money was transferred via the West Bank.

But the third segment of Hamas' budget was covert: money transfers from Iran in cryptocurrency and circular transactions among banks.

After the war broke out on October 7, 2023, the Israel Defense Forces reestablished a Military Intelligence unit known by the acronym Amshat. The unit

At Gaza settlement confab, wishful thinking gives way to concrete plans

Rachel Fink

Hundreds of people gathered on Israel's southern border for a two-day celebratory conference titled "Preparing to Resettle Gaza." Throughout the event, participants heard from far-right politicians and leaders of the settlement movement, all of whom proclaimed their shared vision for the future: re-establishing a Jewish presence in the Gaza Strip - "every sliver of it," as one speaker declared.

The event kicked off on Sunday with the building of dozens of temporary huts, just a stone's throw away from the Gaza border. The huts, which several families spent the night in, were constructed in honor of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, but their symbolic significance to a movement dedicated to the re-establishing of settlements in Gaza did not go unnoticed. "Today we sit in our temporary housing on this side of the border," declared Rabbi Dovid Fendel of Sderot. "But tomorrow, we will build our permanent housing on the other side of the border."

On Monday morning, the sukkah dwellers were joined by hundreds of participants for the conference's main



Daniella Weiss presenting the plan to renew settlements in Gaza.

Tomer Appelbaum

events. There were activities for children, including an allegorical retelling of Israel's 2005 "disengagement" from Gaza with puppets, bubble-making and a petting zoo. Volunteers doled out popcorn and cotton candy to the hoards of young children who ran from sukkah to sukkah while vendors sold t-shirts and phone covers that read "Gaza is part of Israel." For the adults, options included small group

planning sessions, an information fair, and lots of singing and dancing.

The air was festive despite looming security threats. "I know most of our men here are armed," came an announcement over the PA system. "In the event of a terrorist infiltration, we ask you please not to fire your weapon. Let the security handle it. This is for everyone's safety." Indeed, almost every man in atten-

dance was either sporting a large M16 strapped across his chest or a smaller pistol peeking out of his back pocket. Each time an explosion was heard from the direction of Gaza, someone would call out "God bless our brave soldiers."

By late morning, dozens of participants crammed themselves into one of the larger sukkot to hear from

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Haniyeh and Raisi in Tehran in November. Iranian Presidency Office/AP

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