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ISRAEL'S LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## War's rising death toll could force gov't hand

### October becomes Israel's bloodiest month in 2024 as six more reservists fall in combat

Analysis **Amos Harel**

This October, which hasn't yet ended, has been the worst month for Israeli losses since the year began. On Sunday, the army lifted a gag order on the news that five reservists were killed in combat in southern Lebanon Saturday afternoon. Another 14 were wounded, including five in serious condition. The dead and wounded came from the Northern Command's 228th Infantry Brigade (Alon),

which is based on veterans of the Nahal Brigade.

In the previous two days, 10 reservists were killed in two other incidents in southern Lebanon. And on Sunday, a civilian was killed in what appears to have been a car-ramping terror attack near the Gilot military bases; 10 other civilians and soldiers were injured.

The government is portraying the string of recent

military success in the Gaza Strip, Iran and Lebanon as proof that its strategy has been right and that the war must continue on every front. But in reality, it's impossible to ignore the price that continuing the war for much longer would entail.

The greatest danger lies in Lebanon, a theater where the IDF's operation is actually producing good results. Hezbollah is already recovering to some degree, having appointed new commanders to replace the many who have been killed in Israeli attacks.

This may well produce a steady drip of casualties that could change the public's view of the need to continue the war. In quite a few cases in the past – the first Lebanon War of 1982, Israel's presence in the security zone in southern Lebanon for the next 18 years and the unilateral pullout from Gaza in 2005 – a mounting death toll created pressure on governments and led them to change their policies, including by agreeing to withdrawals.

Iran and its proxies can wage a war of attrition against Israel that would also include ongoing harassment of the home front in the country's north and center. Although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has shored

## Satellite footage shows Israel hit Iranian missile sites

Haaretz and Reuters

An American researcher told Reuters that the Israeli airstrike in Iran on Saturday targeted a building associated with Tehran's defunct nuclear weapons development program. He and another researcher also reported that facilities for mixing solid fuel for missiles were hit.

The assessments were independently conducted by David Albright, a former UN weapons inspector, and

Decker Eveleth, an associate research analyst at the CNA think tank in Washington.

They revealed that Israel struck buildings in Parchin, a large military complex near Tehran, and also targeted Khojir, a significant missile production site in the area. Eveleth noted that the Israeli strikes could have "significantly hampered Iran's ability to mass-produce missiles."

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First responders and soldiers at the scene on Sunday.

Moti Milrod

## One killed, dozens injured when truck rams into crowd at bus stop in central Israel

Ran Shimoni, Josh Breiner and Ido Efrati

One person was killed and 32 were wounded, including six in serious condition and seven in moderate condition, when a truck rammed into a bus stop Sunday near an IDF intelligence training base in central Israel, emergency services reported.

The victim was identified as Bezalel Carmi, 72, from

Rishon Letzion.

Some victims were trapped under the truck and had to be rescued. All those wounded were taken for medical treatment. Four others suffered from shock.

The truck driver, Israeli citizen Rami Nasrallah Natour from the city of Kalandia, was shot dead at the scene. Police are investigating whether he sought to commit a terror attack and

whether anyone aided him in the act. His family denied that he would have committed a terror attack.

An initial police investigation revealed that the truck, which was transporting a heavy load, crashed into people standing at the bus stop.

Police spokesperson Aryeh Doron stated, "The police are treating the incident as a terror attack; it involved a truck speeding

toward a group of people."

However, Police Commissioner Danny Levy said at the scene, "The police is currently investigating the incident as a terror attack, but we are looking in all directions – and will make further announcements accordingly."

Magen David Adom emergency services Director Eli Bin noted that most of the injured were passengers exiting a bus, while others

were injured when the truck struck the bus stop itself.

MDA spokesperson Zaki Heller added that most of the injured were elderly civilians who were visiting a museum. They were taken to Ichilov, Meir, Laniado, and Beilinson hospitals.

Witnesses reported that the truck driver began driving toward the sidewalk with

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## Bill would curb election oversight, ease barring of Arab candidates

Noa Shpigel

The Ministerial Committee for Legislation is scheduled to discuss Monday morning legislation aiming to make it more difficult for Arab citizens to run for Knesset and to limit the Supreme Court's authority over the Central Elections Committee.

The bill, submitted by

coalition whip Likud MK Ofir Katz, would amend the Basic Law on the Knesset by adding to it an article called "Expansion of Grounds for Preventing Election Participation."

The bill's preamble states, "Common sense, basic morality, law and justice all point to one conclusion: Anyone who celebrates terrorist murderers and their

ilk has no place in the Knesset," adding: "A democracy that values its survival must protect itself from those who seek its harm."

Currently, the law prohibits candidates and parties that explicitly or implicitly support armed struggle by an enemy state

or terrorist organization against Israel.

Katz's proposal would expand this prohibition to include "lone attackers" and add the phrase "against Israeli civilians" alongside "against the State of Israel."

Additionally, the proposal states that a candidate's

or party's expressions of support need not be ongoing, and that Supreme Court approval would no longer be required to disqualify candidates. Instead, the court would serve only as an appeals body.

According to the proposal's explanatory notes, "the

Central Elections Committee currently cannot independently decide" which candidates are deemed unfit to run, as "its decisions regarding candidate disqualification for Knesset elections are contingent on external approval."

The proposal claims that "the significant power given to the Supreme Court effectively negates the

committee's authority, rendering its decisions lacking in real weight and value."

The proposal further asserts that the court's stance has been exploited by current Knesset members to make statements that "deliberately undermine the state and its institutions, crossing democratic boundaries."

The bill also criticizes

the Supreme Court, arguing that "the grounds allowing disqualification of a list or candidate due to support for armed struggle by an enemy state ... has been narrowly interpreted by the Supreme Court, enabling those who praise terrorists and spies who acted against Israel to sit in the Knesset despite their support."

Grounds for disqualifying Arabs **Editorial Page 5**

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She drew to keep hope alive

Gazan animator killed last week in IDF operation

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Haaretz conference in London

## Olmert: Mistake to use Oct. 7 as argument against Palestinian state

Allison Kaplan Sommer and Linda Dayan

Using October 7 as an argument against the creation of a Palestinian state is a "gross mistake," former Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Olmert said during the final panel of the Haaretz conference in London on Sunday, "Israel after October 7: Allied or Alone?"

The panel included Fatah Central Committee member Dr. Nasser al-Kidwa, participating in an Israeli conference for the first time, and was moderated by Haaretz Editor-in-Chief Aluf Benn. The conference took

place in London in cooperation with JW3 – Jewish Community Centre London, New Israel Fund U.K., Yachad, A Land for All, and Standing Together.

The two former politicians recently signed a proposal for a two-state solution based on a similar proposal Olmert presented to PA President Mahmoud Abbas in 2008 when he was prime minister. The proposal calls for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and a full withdrawal of Israeli troops, a release of all hostages being held by Hamas in exchange for a number of Palestinian prisoners released from Israel,

and a return to Israel's 1967 borders with the establishment of a corridor linking the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as part of a 4.4 percent land exchange that would be annexed to the State of Palestine.

"It's not often that an Israeli and Palestinian sit at a conference of an Israeli newspaper and call each other friends," Olmert quipped, calling al-Kidwa "my partner." He said that they began working together months ago, spurred by the war, which should have ended long ago.

When people say that Israel has a right to defend itself, Olmert said, "do they not understand that Hamas is embedded in the most densely populated and crowded areas in the world? They're hiding underground and above ground in public facilities" including hospitals and schools. "Did they not understand the ramifications?" he said. What happened to civilians in Gaza was "inevitable" and to Hamas, it was "understandable" and "acceptable."

However, he added, "For a long period of time, we have not done anything that has



Kidwa, Benn and Olmert at the conference.

Amber Pollack

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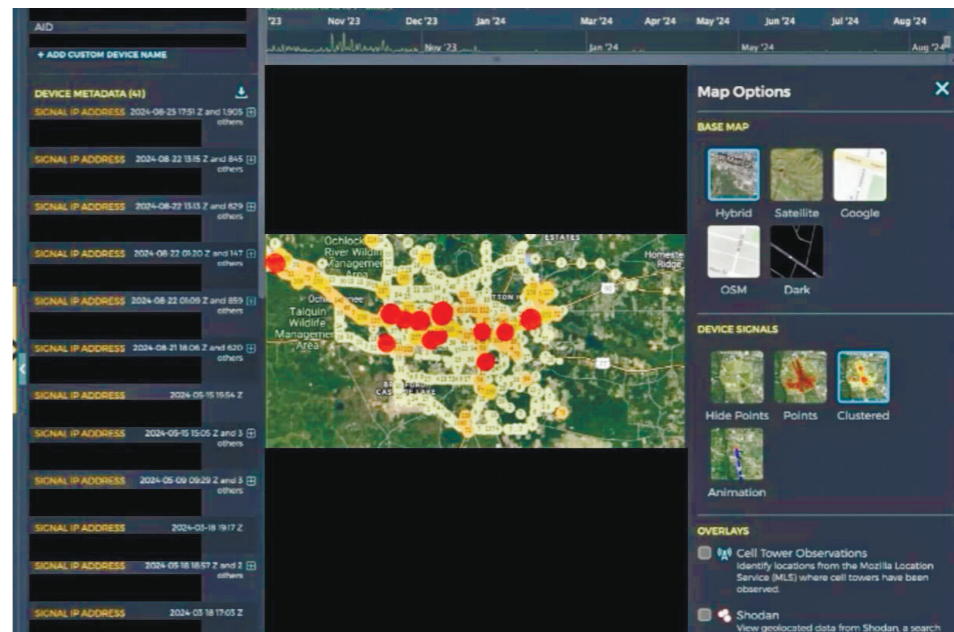
## In Israel, it's closely guarded tech. In U.S., anyone can use it to spy

Omer Benjakob

An American firm is selling technology that uses ad data to track the location of a person's cellphone, allowing ostensibly anonymous data to be turned into intelligence – even about an everyday citizen visiting an abortion clinic or synagogue in the United States.

An international investigation in which Haaretz took part reveals that the company, Babel Street, sells its technology not just to law enforcement agencies but also to private customers, whether companies or individuals, including private detectives. Babel Street, which did not respond to multiple requests for comment from the journalists in the investigation, also has clients in Israel.

Until recently these capabilities, known as advertisement intelligence, or ADINT, were considered a strictly regulated technology used almost exclusively by state intelligence and law enforcement agencies. But according to a joint investigation by 404 Media, NOTUS, Haaretz, Krebs on Security and The New York Times, working with Atlas Privacy, a data privacy cybersecurity startup, these



The movements of women who visited an abortion clinic in Florida, as traced by Locate X.

capabilities are now available on the open market.

ADINT firms use the information that fuels the massive online advertising economy to locate people based on data collected by their mobile devices. The geographic data, transmitted in real time from smartphones, is supposed to be anonymous and was intended for targeted advertising. Online ads compete in an automatic bidding pro-

cess done through so-called advertising exchanges that show ads to Apple and Google users.

But using various data techniques that allow for cross-referencing, it is possible to track the anonymous ad identifier that every mobile device is assigned by Apple and Google. In this way, the owner's identity can be revealed using data that is supposed to be anonymous.

As revealed in Haaretz

last year, this capability has already been weaponized by offensive cyberfirms that work exclusively with state intelligence agencies and whose technologies, designed to fight crime and terrorism, are strictly regulated. But the international investigation shows that the ability to locate, track and even identify specific targets is no longer restricted

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