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U.S. ultimatum to Israel: More Gaza aid, or face arms embargo

American help comes with a price tag: Closer coordination – or the threat of sanctions

Analysis **Amos Harel**

At the beginning of the week, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris issued an exceptional statement of condemnation. The Democratic presidential candidate quoted a United Nations report stating that not a single food shipment has entered the Gaza Strip for almost two weeks. Harris said that Israel needs to act urgently to ensure civilian aid for those in need in the region and to respect international law. Following the American reprimand, representatives of the defense establishment met with U.S. and UN personnel to inform them that the Israel Defense Forces would enable aid trucks to enter the area, where a new offensive by the 162nd Division got underway last week.

Apparently the administration was not all that convinced. In the meantime, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced that if Israel didn't stop interfering with the transfer of American humanitarian aid into Gaza within 30 days, the administration would block weapons shipments to Israel. Since May, in the wake of Israel ignoring Washington's objections to the IDF's entry into Rafah, the U.S. has been delaying the shipment of one-ton bombs to the Israel Air Force. For the past few days the IDF has refrained



Families and supporters of hostages in the Gaza Strip at the Knesset, on Tuesday.

Olivier Fitoussi

from bombing the Dahiyeh neighborhood in Beirut, also due to U.S. opposition. With fear of a renewed escalation with Iran in the background, American defensive aid to Israel comes with a price

tag: a demand for closer coordination – and without it, the threat of sanctions. The military operation in the Strip, which is focused on the outskirts of the Jabalya refugee camp, is not

getting much attention at the moment because of the developments in Lebanon and the Iranian threat. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit issues communiqués every day about dozens of terrorists

who were killed in the fighting. Because these communiqués rely on reports from the forces on the ground, it's difficult to know for certain how many of those killed were actually armed mili-

tants and how many were Palestinian civilians who didn't manage to get out of the area where the army was operating.

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Police officer killed, four wounded in shooting attack

Assailant opens fire on cars on Route 4

Ran Shimoni

A police officer in his 30s was killed and four civilians were wounded in a shooting attack on Tuesday afternoon on a main highway near the Yavne interchange in southern Israel.

The assailant emerged on foot from the side of Route 4 and opened fire on passing vehicles using a handgun. A truck driver traveling south noticed the attack, exited his vehicle, and shot the assailant dead.

The officer, later identified as Sgt. Maj. Adir Kadosh, was initially rushed in critical condition to Assuta Medical Center in Ashdod, where he was pronounced dead. One civilian shot in the leg was taken to a hospital in Rehovot in moderate condition.

Two others, wounded by glass shards from shattered windows, were transported to Assuta suffering from mild and moderate wounds.

Additionally, a doctor who stopped to assist the wounded sustained minor injuries after being struck by a car.

The attack on Tuesday was the fourth terror attack in Israel so far in October.

Last week, one person was killed and six were wounded in a stabbing attack on across four different locations in the central city of Hadera. According to Israel Police, the assailant was a 36-year-old resident of the city of Umm al-Fahm.

Also last week, Border Police officer Shira Chaya



Adir Kadosh GPO

Shin Bet: Hamas in Turkey behind TA terror attack

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Suslik, 19, was killed in a shooting attack at the Be'er Sheva central bus station. Nine other people, all in their 20s, were wounded, two of them seriously. The assailant in Be'er Sheva, an Israeli citizen from an unrecognized Bedouin village near Hura, entered a McDonald's branch at the station and opened fire with a handgun before soldiers at the scene shot him dead.

On October 1, seven people were killed and 16 others were wounded in a shooting attack in Jaffa.

Police say that the two assailants, later identified as Muhammad Khalef Saher Rajab and Hassan Muhammad Hassan Tamimi, were both in their 20s from the city of Hebron in the West Bank.

Amount of aid going into Gaza has dropped by 50%

Ben Samuels and Jonathan Lis

Senior U.S. officials issued a highly irregular warning to their Israeli counterparts that failure to dramatically improve Gaza's humanitarian crisis within 30 days would have ramifications, possibly including the suspension of U.S. arms sales.

An Israeli diplomatic

source said that the U.S. informed Israel that it will stop supplying weapons if Israel continues to block American humanitarian aid from entering Gaza.

"Israel must, starting now and within 30 days, act on the following concrete measures," read a letter from U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to Israeli

ministers Yoav Gallant and Ron Dermer. "Failure to demonstrate a sustained commitment to implementing and maintaining these measures may have implications for U.S. policy under NSM-20 and relevant U.S. law."

The letter, sent Sunday, described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as "increasingly dire," adding that Blinken and Lloyd Austin

were "particularly concerned that recent actions by the Israeli government, including halting commercial imports, denying or impeding nearly 90 percent of humanitarian movements between northern and southern Gaza in September, continuing burdensome and excessive dual-use restrictions and instituting new vetting and onerous liability and customs requirements

for humanitarian staff and shipments – together with increased lawlessness and looting – are contributing to an accelerated deterioration in the conditions in Gaza."

They noted that the quantity of aid being brought into Gaza has dropped by more than 50 percent since Israel provided assurances in March and April that it would allow humanitarian aid in

accordance with U.S. law. According to the letter, the quantity of aid entering Gaza in September was the lowest of any month in the past year.

Blinken and Austin called for a minimum of 350 trucks per day to enter Gaza through both Erez crossings, Gate 96 and Kerem Shalom, as well as opening a fifth new crossing.

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Aid trucks in Rafah in September. Mohamed Abd El Ghany/Reuters

IDF police avoiding inquiry due to right-wing pressure

Soldiers attacked army police for arresting peers at Sde Teiman

Josh Breiner and Bar Peleg

Soldiers from Force 100, which guards Palestinian detainees at the Sde Teiman detention camp in Israel, attacked military police investigators in July when they came to arrest their colleagues on suspicion of abusing and sodomizing a Gazan detainee, according to investigative military policemen involved in the arrest. The soldiers seized the suspects from the investigators at gunpoint and barricaded themselves with the suspects in another building at the base.

Even though the military police has witness testimonies to the assault, it has not investigated, on the grounds that the assaulted soldiers are afraid to officially complain

even though in its aftermath, some of the investigators involved stopped fulfilling operational roles, and one stopped showing up for reserves duty.

According to sources and information obtained by Haaretz, shortly after the incident, the military detectives and investigators involved in arresting the suspects described a severe attack. Two testified that they were pepper sprayed and one told, in tears, how a rifle barrel was shoved against his torso to force him to release a suspect.

The military tribunal and media were told about a "violent incident" that included the use of pepper spray, but the other details were not released.

The soldiers' arrest led to a right-wing protest and some

of the participants, including Knesset members and a minister, broke into Sde Teiman. After the detainees were moved to Beit Lid, another base, protesters broke into that base too. There were no arrests.

"The assaulted soldiers are scared," says an army source. "They saw what happened when the names of the investigative military police were shared. They were threatened online. They saw the slander people participating in the arrests."

A senior source familiar with the affair said that the military police commanders have been refraining from investigating the affair due to public pressure by right-wing activists.

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'We won't stop until they're back': Building a sukkah for hostages in Gaza

Linda Dayan

At the entrance to Kibbutz Kfar Azza in southern Israel, a small group of men, all in their early 20s, were hard at work on Sunday evening.

Smoking hand-rolled cigarettes, they secured the beams of the small hut built to dine in for the upcoming Sukkot holiday. Instead of using traditional wooden or cloth panels to form the sukkah's walls, they were stretching long rolls of posters across the structure's metal skeleton.

"Doron, Keith, Gali, Ziv and Emily are still held captive in Gaza," read the rolls of plastic. "We're bringing them home NOW!" The faces of Keith Samuel Siegel, Doron Steinbrecher, Emily Damari and twin brothers Gali and Ziv Berman – some



Members of Kfar Azza building a sukkah for the return of the hostages.

Eliyahu Hersikovitc

smiling, some stern – were plastered to the sides. No one would sit and

eat in the sukkah. Not that there are enough people left in the kibbutz to do so,

save for the security squad – which many of the young men building the sukkah

are part of, and the odd couple.

Instead, empty chairs of bright yellow, the color symbolizing the fight to bring the hostages home, would be gathered around the table. They bear the pictures of the five kibbutz members who, 376 days on, have yet to return.

Before last year, Kibbutz Kfar Azza was home to about 800 members. But on October 7, 2023, Hamas-led terrorists breached the kibbutz from all directions and began a path of slaughter.

Sixty-four people were killed and 18 more kidnapped. Two of the captives – Yotam Haim and Alon Lulu Shamriz – were mistakenly killed by Israeli soldiers in Gaza last December. Eleven others,

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