



6 soldiers killed in Lebanon; Islamic Jihad releases video of Gaza hostage

Bar Peleg and Yaniv Kubovich

Six Israeli soldiers were killed in combat in southern Lebanon, the IDF announced on Wednesday night. All six hailed from the Golani Brigade's 51st battalion.

The fallen soldiers were identified as Sergeant Shalev Itzhak Sagron, 21, from Sderot; Captain Itay Marcovich, 22, from Kochav Ya'ir; First Sergeant Sraya Elboim, 21, from Mehola; First Sergeant Dror Hen, 20, Gan Haim; First Sergeant Nir Gofer, 20, from Dimona; and Yoav Daniel, 19, from Nahariya.

The deadly incident took place after Israeli troops entered a building in southern Lebanon where four Hezbollah terrorists were likely staying. The soldiers were killed during an exchange of gunfire. Another soldier was wounded and taken to hospital for medical care.

According to data released by the IDF, 792 soldiers have been killed since October 7 of last year, including 373 since ground operations began.

Defense Minister Israel Katz said that Israel will not agree to any arrangement that does not include the disarmament of Hezbollah, its removal beyond the Litani River, and the return of northern Israeli residents to their homes. According to him, any potential arrangement with Lebanon must include "Israel's right to enforce and act independently against any terrorist activity and organization."

Also on Tuesday, Islamic



A screenshot of the video of hostage Alexander Troufanov, published Tuesday by Islamic Jihad.

Jihad published a video of Israeli hostage Alexander (Sasha) Troufanov in captivity in Gaza, the third such video of Troufanov since his abduction from Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7. He just celebrated his 29th birthday,

his second in captivity. It is unclear when the video was recorded, but Troufanov mentioned the Israeli ground operations in Lebanon, which began on October 1. In the previous video of him, Troufanov referenced

the government's decision to close the Al-Jazeera channel offices in Israel.

Lena, Troufanov's mother, expressed both relief and concern after seeing her son in a recently released video. She said: "I am happy to see

my son alive, but very worried about what he is describing. I urge all efforts to be made to secure his release and that of all other hostages immediately. They don't have time."

Troufanov emigrated

from Russia with his family as a toddler, graduated with honors in engineering studies, became an electrical engineer and was employed by Amazon. He was kidnapped

See WAR, Page 2

Court rejects PM's bid to delay corruption trial testimony

Chen Maanit

An Israeli court on Wednesday turned down Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request to postpone his court testimony in Case 1000 ("lavish gifts") by two and a half months.

In Case 1000, Netanyahu is accused of fraud and breach of trust over gifts he allegedly received from Hollywood mogul Arnon Milchan and billionaire James Packer. According to the indictment, Netanyahu received cigars and champagne from the two over the course of several years.

Judges Rivka Friedman-Feldman, Moshe Bar-Am and Oded Shaham of the Jerusalem District Court

wrote in their decision that they were not convinced that there was any "material change in circumstances" that justified delaying the defense phase of the trial.

They noted that in the decision to schedule Netanyahu's testimony for December 2, "all relevant considerations, including the state of the war," had already been taken into account.

"Although in the war different events have occurred, some of which are cited in the application before us, and some of which were known at the time the decision was made, we were not persuaded that there has been any essential change

See COURT, Page 2

Analysis **Gidi Weitz**

Judges aren't buying the PM's excuses

"In matters of war and peace, the unexpected is always to be expected for anyone living in Israel," wrote former Supreme Court President Moshe Landau in the 1970s. The conservative and right-wing justice, the darling of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and of Justice Minister Yariv Levin, wrote these words in a sentence dealing indirectly with the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

The three Jerusalem District Court Judges are apparently familiar with

this quote, knowing that war is no excuse to evade testifying. This is why they did not grant the main defendant in a series of trials regarding the scandalous celebrity discount requests, a deferral of two and a half months in his to take witness stand. The judges were apparently not impressed by the pompous arguments given by Netanyahu's lawyer Amit Hadad. "Don't we want a Prime Minister who is totally devoted to the war,"

See EXCUSES, Page 2



Mike Huckabee in the West Bank in 2018.

Oded Balilty/AP

U.S. envoy: Full Israeli control in W. Bank now possible

Rachel Fink and Ben Samuels

In his first interview with Israeli media since being named as President-elect Donald Trump's next U.S. ambassador to Israel, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee discussed American support for full Israeli control over the West Bank. "Of course," Huckabee said,

"There has never been an American president that has been more helpful in securing an understanding of the sovereignty of Israel... and I fully expect that will continue."

In an interview with Israel's Army Radio on Wednesday, Huckabee was asked about potential Israeli sovereignty over the entire West Bank, which is currently jointly controlled by Israel

and the Palestinian Authority.

Huckabee responded to the question by first mentioning all the times he himself visited "Judea and Samaria" before suggesting that sovereignty over the area was "necessary" for Israeli security. "I very much believe that the people of Israel deserve a safe and secure country," Huckabee responded. "And anything I can do that will help

accommodate that is going to be a great privilege for me."

When pressed for further clarification about whether he thinks Israel taking full control over the West Bank will be possible during Trump's second term, Huckabee answered, "Well of course." He then qualified his statement by saying, "You know, I won't make the policy, I will carry out the

policy of the president."

The previous day, far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich grabbed headlines when he announced that, given Trump's victory, the plan was just "a step away." "2025 is the year of sovereignty in Judea and Samaria," Smotrich declared during a Religious Zionist meeting. "The new Nazis need to pay a price through land that will

be permanently taken from them, both in Gaza and in Judea and Samaria," he added, referring to all Palestinians.

"But [Trump] has already demonstrated in his first term that there has never been an American president that has been more helpful in securing an understanding of the sovereignty of Israel," Huckabee

See ENVOY, Page 4

Trump is appointing Netanyahu's dream team **Ben Samuels Page 4** • Fox News host to be defense chief, ex-intel chief to lead CIA **Page 4**

Police chief promoting officers despite glaring red flags

Josh Breiner

Police Commissioner Danny Levy is working to promote senior officers despite opposition from the officials in the police's Information Security Division, which is tasked with preventing leaks of classified information.

Haaretz has learned that during the current round of promotions within the police's upper ranks, the police's Information Security Division head opposed the promotions of officers whose "failings" were

flagged during employment screenings. However, despite these objections, Levy decided to promote them to key positions.

In one case, during a promotion review last year, a senior officer was found to have been involved in a serious disciplinary incident that, according to the division, could have warranted suspicion of a criminal offense.

As a result, then-Commissioner Kobi Shabtai, in coordination with senior police officials and the division, decided to delay the

officer's promotion for five years.

Recently, Levy chose to promote the officer despite the division's strong opposition, citing a previous decision against such a promotion. According to sources, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir approved the appointment, though his office claims it has not yet been finalized.

In another case, an officer was promoted with Ben-Gvir's approval, even though he reportedly failed

See POLICE, Page 2

AG: Draft orders for 7,000 yeshiva students must be sent immediately

Chen Maanit

Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara said Tuesday that the 7,000 planned military draft orders for ultra-Orthodox men must be issued immediately "to comply with legal requirements and the state's obligations to the court."

In a discussion held with the Chief Military Prosecutor and other officials from the Israel Defense Forces, as well as representatives from

the Prime Minister's Office, the Justice Ministry, and the Defense Ministry, the attorney general emphasized that "delaying the issuance of draft orders or issuing them in insufficient numbers, which would hinder compliance with the commitment made to the Supreme Court in the current recruitment year, is unlawful."

In her summary of the discussion, the attorney general further wrote that

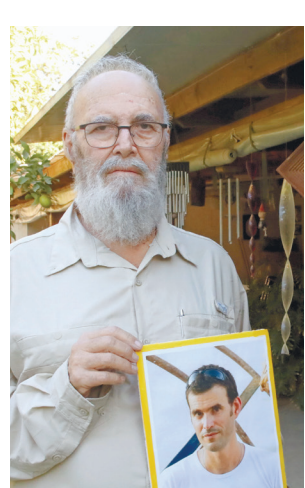
military officials had committed "to taking every possible action to ensure the enlistment of those summoned who failed to report, including using warrants, as is done with the general population."

She also stressed that at least half of the draft orders should be sent within the next two months, "to determine if the number of orders needs to be increased

See YESHIVA, Page 2

HAARETZ Online now

New Israeli medical school Reichman U. to run country's first private program



Elyahu Hershkovitz

Yuval Or's son's body is in Gaza 'We're second-class citizens in a fascist country'

haaretz.com

'No one ever objected':

Europe's largest university explores its Fascist-era antisemitism

Ariel David

ROME - Historians rarely achieve the celebrity status that leads to them being recognized in public. But that happened to Serena Di Nepi, a professor at Sapienza University of Rome, when she went to her gym one day in early 2023.

"I've heard about what you are doing," the receptionist told the historian after spotting her name on the membership card. "Can you help us find information about our uncle?"

The gym worker had read in the local Jewish press about a project that Di Nepi co-directs, which involves historians investigating the role of their university in the antisemitic persecutions sparked by the so-called Racial Laws approved by Benito Mussolini's Fascist regime in 1938.

The goal of the "1938 Sapienza" project is to reconstruct, through archive documents and testimonies, the experiences of dozens of scholars who were expelled from the university under the racist legislation - which banned Jews not just from academia but from most aspects of Italy's public life.



Sapienza University of Rome, 1937. Willem van de Poll/Nationaal Archief

The project was launched in 2018 to mark the 80th anniversary of the approval of the laws, says Umberto Gentiloni, a professor of contemporary history who came up with the scheme and was later joined by Di Nepi as a co-director.

"I was a bit fed up with traditional memorials: ceremonies, speeches, plaques," Gentiloni explains. "Those are

important too, but I thought it would be more interesting to get into the university's archives and try to concretely reconstruct this history."

Doing such work is especially important for Sapienza, given its complicity in supporting Fascism and the Racial Laws in particular, he says.

Founded in 1303, Sapi-

enza (which means "wisdom" or "knowledge" in Italian) is one of the oldest universities in the world and is today the largest in Europe. Back in the 1930s, it had just been given a new sprawling campus outside central Rome and most of its academic leadership was deeply supportive of the regime. Antisemitism was not an initial cornerstone of Mussolini's policies, but as Il Duce increased ties with Hitler, he also sought to introduce racist legislation that parroted Germany's Nuremberg Laws.

The ideological cover for this came in July 1938 with the publication of a "Racial Manifesto" that argued for the need to maintain the "purity" of the "Italian race" and keep it separate from the "Jewish race." The pseudo-scientific manifesto was signed by 10 leading Italian researchers from multiple fields, and seven of them were professors at Sapienza.

Between October and November 1938, the regime responded with a series of laws that banned Jews from public school, politics, the

See SAPIENZA, Page 7