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PM Shin Bet pick: 'Judicial system is a dictatorship'

Haaretz exclusive: David Zini also privately attacked the very agency he aims to head

Gidi Weitz and Yaniv Kubovich

"The judicial system is a dictatorship that controls the entire country," Benjamin Netanyahu's candidate to head the Shin Bet security service, was quoted as telling former senior security and defense officials in closed conversations in recent weeks.

Maj. Gen. (res.) David Zini also criticized the agency that the prime minister wants him to lead, according to the former officials, claiming that the Shin Bet's leaders in recent years "are confused: They say they are subordinate first and foremost to the law, but that is not true. They need to obey the law, but they are first and foremost subordinate to the prime minister."

Zini also said, "The situation where he prime minister gives instructions to the Shin Bet and [the agency] does not carry them out cannot continue," without specifying what he meant. He also said in the conversations that Netanyahu promised him that he would fight for his appointment "to the end."

Ronen Bar, the former head of the Shin Bet, wrote in an affidavit he submitted to the High Court of Justice that Netanyahu made it clear to him that in the event of a constitutional crisis, he must obey the prime minister and not the court. Netanyahu tried to coerce Bar into providing a security opinion

High Court to hear Zini cases News, Page 3

precluding the prime minister from testifying in his ongoing corruption trial. As revealed by Haaretz, Bar was in fact required to sign a document drafted by the prime minister's aides. According to Bar, Netanyahu also demanded that he use the agency against citizens involved in the anti-govern-

ment protest movement. Netanyahu announced on May 22 that he planned to appoint Zini to head the Shin Bet, after interviewing him in his car during a visit to the Tze'elim military base. Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir, who was not informed of the appointment, then announced that Zini - who was serving as head of the Training Command and the commander of the General Staff Corps

- would resign from the IDF. Haaretz revealed that Zini was previously a candidate for the prime minister's military secretary, but was rejected by Netanyahu as "too messianic." Channel 12 News reported after the appointment was announced that during security discussions, Zini expressed firm opposition to hostage deals as a matter of principle.

On May 21, the High Court of Justice overturned Netanyahu's decision to remove Bar as Shin Bet head, citing the prime minister's conflict of interest in the agency's investigations of his aides in the so-called Qatargate case and in the case of documents leaked to the German newspaper Bild. The announcement of Zini's appointment

violated the directive of



Senior officers admit 'inaccurate' artillery fire on Gaza aid seekers

Yaniv Kubovich

Senior Israeli officers responded on Monday to soldiers' testimonies that appeared in Haaretz detailing deliberate fire at Palestinians near aid distribution sites in Gaza over the past month, saying that civilians had been killed due to "inaccurate and uncalculated" artillery fire.

the army's Southern Command, the shelling was aimed at maintaining order at food distribution sites, but the army has since shifted to "other methods."

The Israel Defense Forces confirmed that in the most serious incident involving shelling of civilians, between 30 and 40 people were targeted - some killed, oth-

According to officers of ers wounded to varying de-

A top IDF officer favored continuing the offensive in Gaza, named Operation Gideon's Chariots, contradicting Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir, who stated last week that the operation is nearing its objectives. They said the offensive in Gaza can lead to

"positive changes." However, the senior army official acknowledged the concerns associated with a slow maneuver, stating that the IDF must ensure it "does not get stuck like in Lebanon or Vietnam.'

Meanwhile, the IDF currently assesses that there is no famine in Gaza. According to Southern Command officials, the population is

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Knesset advances ousting of MK Odeh

Noa Shpigel and Adi Hashmonai

The Knesset House Committee voted Monday to advance the expulsion of Arab Israeli MK Ayman Odeh, advancing the motion to a full Knesset vote where a majority of 90 lawmakers is

required for approval. Likud MK Avihai Boaron filed the request over a January social media post by Odeh expressing joy over the release of both Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners in a deal between Israel and Hamas.

Fourteen lawmakers voted in favor and two opposed in the committee. If the expulsion is approved, Odeh would have the right to appeal the decision in court.

Following the vote, Odeh said, "The opposition crossed a red line today. Instead of fighting the Kahanist government, it collaborated with it in crushing the democratic space. Some of them hate us more than they love democracy. This is not an opposition – it's the coalition in disguise."

He added, "They want to subjugate the justice system, silence dissenting voices, and turn Israel into a messianic dictatorship. Today it's me - tomorrow it's you. Anyone who dares to resist will be next."

"I'm happy to see the hostages and prisoners released," Odeh wrote in the

See ODEH, Page 2

Dozens of Israelis attempt to break

'Terrible tragedy': Facing five coffins in Bat

Hagar Shezaf

Israelis vandalized and

the Binyamin Regional Bri-

mallah area, north of Jerusalem. According to the IDF, "Damage to the site poses a danger to the safety of civil-

of Israeli settlers rioted in front of the military base in protest of the shooting of

terrorist attacks and main- a 14-year-old. The incident the scene attacked the secutain security in the area of is under investigation by rity forces, sprayed pepper the military to determine whether the teenager was

shot by an Israeli soldier. According to a military source, several rioters attempted to break into the

"Dozens of Israeli civilians gathered at the entrance of the Binyamin Regional Brigade Headquarters. The gathering became violent, and some of the civilians at

spray at them, and vandalized military vehicles," the

IDF said in its statement. It added that it is aware of a report of one Israeli "who was injured" at the riot.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "No civilized country can tolerate violent and anarchistic acts such as the burning of

See BASE, Page 2

into IDF base, army source says

set fire to an Israel Defense Forces military site in the West Bank overnight into Monday, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit confirmed in a statement.

According to the military, "a number of Israeli civilians set fire and vandalized a security site containing systems that help thwart

gade.' The Binyamin Regional Brigade oversees the Ra-

The IDF said that dozens

Yam, Israelis and Ukrainians unite in grief

No relatives were able to attend the ceremony; They're in Ukraine, where Nastia's father serves in the military. On a small platform in front of the ruined building lay five coffins draped with Israeli flags. Behind them were the photos of those who were killed. Their ashes will soon be flown to Ukraine.

The rubble has not yet been cleared. Between the large stones one can still see dolls, a broken computer, various items - and a heavy stench, reminiscent of the smell in Gaza border communities after the October massacre. The smell of

Only a few people attended the ceremony: a few invited guests, some friends and acquaintances who knew the family. "They were an amazing family. They came here to save their little daughter, who had leukemia," said Alona Novgorodska, a family

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Reichman Raphael Recanati

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Bar Peleg

Two weeks after the dead-

ly missile impact in Bat Yam,

the scars are still etched in

If you want to affect change

The ceremony commemorating the Ukrainians killed in Bat Yam.

Dutch historian wants you to quit your job and get to work

Chilling maps show

ters and one building with

a collapsed façade stand as

monuments to the lives lost.

there. On Monday the Bat

Yam municipality held a cer-

emony to commemorate five

Nine people were killed

From Tamra to TA, Iran's missiles obliterated Israeil neighborhoods



Tomer Appelbaum

of them, all from one Ukrai-

nian family: Maria Pesh-

kuryova, 30; her daughter,

Anastasia (Nastia) Buryk, 7;

her mother, Olena Sokolova,

54; and relatives Ilya Pesh-

kuryov, 14, and Kostyantyn

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