



Mediators plan to 'compensate' Israel for deal

Trump says he'll be 'very firm' with PM in visit next week about ending Gaza war

Chaim Levinson, Liza Rozovsky, Ben Samuels and Jonathan Lis

The current deal being discussed to end the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip is expected to include "diplomatic compensation" for Israel, several sources in Israel, the U.S., and Gulf countries told Haaretz.

According to these sources, the diplomatic achievements are likely to include the resumption of talks between Israel and Saudi Arabia on establishing diplomat-

ic relations, a normalization agreement with Oman, and a historic declaration by Syria announcing "an end to hostilities between the countries."

Linking these regional moves to the deal with Hamas aims to soften the stance of far-right ministers in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, who are expected to pressure him not to agree to a deal that includes ending the war.

However, it is still unclear whether Hamas' leadership in Gaza will accept the new proposal, which is expected

to severely weaken the organization.

Netanyahu announced Tuesday that he will travel to Washington next week for a meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump. According to a source familiar with the details, the visit is expected to last about five days.

Speaking to reporters outside the White House on Tuesday, Trump said the two would discuss "the great success in Iran" and also Gaza. The president added, "We hope a cease-fire is going to happen, and we're looking for it to happen sometime next week. We want to get our hostages back."

When asked how firm we would be with Netanyahu, Trump answered, "Very firm ... He wants to end it too... I think we'll have a deal next week."

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum expressed support for Trump's remarks. "Even Trump understands that now is the time to bring the hostages home and end the war," the group said. "When Trump says he hopes to see a cease-fire announced this week, he is telling Israel's prime minister that the fighting must stop."

Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, Netanyahu's point man in Washington, is

Amos Harel

Laying groundwork for a cease-fire

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he would be "very firm" with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over ending the war in the Gaza Strip. "He wants it too," Trump added, speaking to journalists in advance of Netanyahu's trip to Washington early next week. And for the first time, Israeli government and defense officials confirmed Tuesday night that

some progress has been made in talks with Hamas over a deal to free the hostages and end the war.

Developments in Gaza should be viewed in light of the timing of Netanyahu's trip to Washington. Granted, the Israel Defense Forces announced that another section of the Reserves Division had been returned

See GROUND, Page 2

See DEAL, Page 2



A man being removed from the courtroom where the High Court hearing over the Shin Bet chief appointment process was taking place, Tuesday.

Olivier Fitoussi

PM, AG told to resolve Shin Bet chief pick

After halting hearing due to repeated outbursts, justices criticize both Netanyahu, Baharav-Miara

Chen Maanit

The High Court of Justice on Tuesday recommended that the attorney general and the prime minister reach an agreement on the appointment of the next director of the Shin Bet security service. A follow-up hearing on the matter was scheduled for Sunday.

The session was halted three times from outbursts by protesters and petition-

ers directed at the justices on the bench - High Court President Isaac Amit and Justices Alex Stein and Gila Canfy Steinitz. Among those disrupting the proceedings were Likud MK Tally Gotliv, Otzma Yehudit MK Limor Son Har-Melech and bereaved father Itzik Bonzel.

Bonzel - whose son, Staff Sgt. Amit Bonzel was killed in Gaza in December 2023 - shouted at Amit, "People here are being beaten and

dragged on the floor. This happened on your watch. There is a rift in the people on your watch."

Bonzel, a member of the Gvura Forum (Heroism Forum), which supports continued military operations in Gaza, added that Amit "allows bullying and beatings of bereaved parents. All moral and ethical lines have been crossed." Security guards ultimately removed several bereaved

parents from the courtroom.

Justice Amit halted the proceedings and announced that the hearing could not continue under such conditions. When the session resumed, it did so behind closed doors after the audience was asked to leave. MKs Gotliv and Son Har-Melech were also removed from the courtroom.

Amit said upon resuming the hearing that "we witnessed an attempt to thwart

a legal process and harm democracy."

Once the hearing resumed, Justices Stein and Canfy-Steinitz expressed criticism regarding Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara's stance that Prime Minister Netanyahu should place responsibility for appointing a Shin Bet head on another minister, and debated the legal matters between

See COURT, Page 2

IDF officers who act against settler violence pay price

Hagar Shezaf

Anyone following events in the West Bank couldn't help but feel a sense of déjà vu on Monday, watching the most recent settler attack on Israeli security forces, followed, as always, by delayed condemnations from politicians.

Shortly after I started covering the West Bank in 2019, I encountered my first instance of settler violence against Israeli forces. It happened at the Kumi Ori outpost near the West Bank settlement of Yitzhar, then one of the main hubs of vio-

lent extremist activity.

It began with threats against the battalion commander in the area. Days later, around 30 settlers threw stones and slashed the tires of military vehicles, lightly injuring a soldier. Later that week, settlers torched a Border Police tent that had been set up to enforce a closed military zone order.

Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu issued a condemnation and promised zero tolerance for lawbreakers. Then-IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi ordered those involved to be brought to justice. Bezalel Smotrich, then still only the transportation minister, condemned the "violent fringe." No indictments were filed. Kumi Ori remains in place to this day.

Those with longer memo-

ries may recall 2011, when right-wing activists stormed the neighboring Ephraim Brigade base. They vandalized military vehicles, set tires on fire and hurled stones that injured the deputy brigade commander. Netanyahu condemned that incident too, saying during a visit to the base: "We cannot accept attacks on IDF soldiers, Border Police offi-

cers, Israel Police officers, Arabs, Jews or mosques."

Then-Defense Minister Ehud Barak described the events as "homegrown terror." Five settlers were indicted - including on charges of collecting sensitive military intelligence to thwart future outpost evacuations. But the case ended

See PRICE, Page 4



A car torched in Kafr Malik last week.

Kafr Malik Village Council

Strain on Gaza hospitals means a minor injury can end in death



Bodies outside Shifa Hospital in Gaza City on Monday.

Jehad Alshrajfi/AP

Nir Hasson

In the Netzarim corridor area of central Gaza, the U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation operates a food distribution center, the only one serving the north and central parts of the Strip.

In recent weeks, thousands have gathered around it, many remaining for days, hoping to return home with food for their families. Some

have built makeshift shelters from scraps to shield themselves from the heat; others use the sacks meant to carry food as head coverings. They lie under the sun for days, hoping to reach the food in time, despite the clear danger posed by Israeli warning fire.

All experts and humanitarian organizations warned Israel that the plan to introduce the foundation would lead to disaster, as it violates

every humanitarian principle developed over decades of aid distribution to civilian populations in conflict zones.

The first principle is that food should reach the people, not the other way around. But Israel, the United States and the organizations that established the foundation ignored all warnings, and so far, hundreds have been killed around the aid centers.

After the prime minister and defense minister dismissed the Haaretz investigation into the killing of civilians near aid centers as a "blood libel" and denied any problem, the military yesterday acknowledged "tragic incidents," even placing new signs and fences along the routes to the aid facilities.

But for Abd al-Karim al-Kahlut, a 35-year-old father of two young daughters from Gaza City, it is already too late.

Al-Kahlut embodies the desperation and cruelty facing the residents of the Gaza Strip.

A metalworker by trade before the war, he had purchased equipment to open his own workshop. Even during the war, he continued to work.

"He built a business and it was going well, until the crossings were shut down and he couldn't continue," said his brother Safwat, who fled Gaza with his family.

During the war, Abd al-Karim's home was destroyed, and he moved in with his brother's family. Safwat said he sent money to his brother from abroad, but it wasn't enough. In order to

See GAZA, Page 4

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Missile fired from Yemen Rockets fired from Gaza; all intercepted



Jack Guez/AFP

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MKs Eisenkot, Kahana leave National Unity Party

Eisenkot wants to forge broader anti-Netanyahu bloc with Bennett

Ravit Hecht

On Monday, the National Unity Party announced that MK Gadi Eisenkot would leave the party and resign from the Knesset. Eisenkot recently told associates that the way the party's primaries are being conducted is harming democratic efforts he had tried to promote.

MK Matan Kahana informed party chairman Benny Gantz on Tuesday that he also intends to withdraw from the party.

The rifts between Eisen-

kot and Gantz had been in the air for awhile, until they could no longer be concealed. The two are good friends who have gone a long way together, admire each other and don't speak negatively about each other. But Eisenkot and Gantz haven't seen eye to eye for a long time. Gantz tried with all his might to grant Eisenkot a worthy place in his National Unity Party's leadership, but Eisenkot wasn't satisfied.

The official reason for Eisenkot's decision to leave the party is a disagreement over its strategy for the next election. And this isn't

a mere cosmetic excuse. Eisenkot wants to forge a large a joint ticket as possible from within the bloc that opposes Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Gantz - who has already been through several joint tickets that later disintegrated - is less enthusiastic over this idea.

Of course, there is also a disagreement over the party's leadership - or more precisely, over enabling change at the top. When Eisenkot decided to join the National Unity Party rather than

See EISENKOT, Page 3

Israeli couple arrested on suspicion of spying for Iran

Haaretz

Israel Police and the Shin Bet security service announced that a couple in their 30s from Ra'anana was arrested on suspicion of spying for Iran.

According to the statement, detectives searched their apartment on Monday. They seized phones,

computers and electronic devices, and discovered correspondence suspected to be between the couple and their operator.

A hearing took place Tuesday morning to address a request to extend their detention.

Over 20 Israelis have been arrested over the past few months on suspicion of

committing security offenses on behalf of Iran.

The State Prosecutor's Office announced Sunday that Dennis Lyakhov, 30, a resident of Rishon Letzion, was charged with offenses against national security, including having contact with an Iranian agent and providing intelligence to an enemy state.