



## Army orders Gaza City's residents to evacuate to area of 7 square km

Jack Khoury, Rawan Suleiman, Yaniv Kubovich, Nir Hasson, Ben Samuels and Reuters

The Israel Defense Forces' Arabic spokesman, Avichay Adraee, said on Wednesday that the evacuation of Gaza City is "inevitable," telling the city's residents to leave for the southern part of the Strip before the military starts its operation in the city.

Adraee said that Hamas is spreading "false rumors" that there is no more vacant land in the Strip, and attached a map meant to show the vacant areas in the central and southern part of the enclave, adding that each family that evacuates will receive the maximum aid possible.

"The IDF has already begun letting in tents, making preparations for aid distribution hubs, laying down a water pipeline and more," he said.

Locals reported online that they were confused by the maps, which showed "empty and additional areas" for evacuation but did not specify no-go zones. The "empty" areas totaled seven square kilometers (2.7 square miles) and include areas already housing displaced Palestinians.

On Wednesday, the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry said a total of 76 Palestinians were killed during the past day, including 18 who were trying to obtain humanitarian aid and 10 – including two children – who died from malnutrition.

According to the ministry, an additional 298 people were wounded in the past day. The total death toll in Gaza since October 7, 2023, now stands at 62,895, of whom 11,050 were killed



Palestinians in northern Gaza fleeing due to the intensified Israeli attacks on Gaza City on Wednesday.

Saeed M. M. T. Jaras/Anadolu via Getty Images

since Israel broke the ceasefire in March. Of those, 2,158 people were killed while seeking aid and 313 died of malnutrition, among them 119 children.

Gaza City is home to approximately 1.2 million people, and the IDF estimates that evacuating them will

take longer than two weeks. Palestinian officials told Gaza's SND News that the plan, based on the maps, was not feasible. Nizar Ayash, the mayor of Deir al-Balah, a city in central Gaza, said that no area exists that could accommodate more Palestinians. "The coast is

crowded, the east is a red zone under shelling, the infrastructure is collapsing, and the desalination plant is barely functioning," he said.

"There is not a single place in Deir al-Balah that is capable of accommodating new displaced persons' tents," Ayash said. "What is

happening in Deir al-Balah applies to all areas of the central district, and the situation here portends a humanitarian disaster."

Testimonies from Gaza obtained by Haaretz indicate that many families in Gaza City are facing significant challenges to survive,

both due to the high costs of leaving the city and the significant logistical difficulty of moving to another location.

Residents report particularly high prices for basic services required for evacuation. According to the testimonies, the cost of a basic tent ranges from 4,500

See GAZA, Page 4

## Israel's hostage families fear they've lost Trump to PM

The distance between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem is approximately 60 kilometers, but on Tuesday night, Israel's television news showed two events in those two cities that made them look like two different planets.

In Tel Aviv's Hostage Square, a huge crowd gathered to demonstrate in favor of a deal to end the war in Gaza and return all the hostages held by Hamas. Families of the hostages led the protest and attacked the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for wasting time and sabotaging negotiations with Hamas.

For more than a week now, the government has

refused to give an official response to the latest ceasefire proposal, which Hamas accepted last Monday after intense pressure from mediators Egypt and Qatar. Posters of the hostages filled the streets. On stage, Alon Kaminer, a young soldier who lost two hands, an eye and a leg fighting Hamas, called on the prime minister to put politics aside and make a deal, despite the political risks involved.

At the same time in Jerusalem, Netanyahu and senior ministers in his security cabinet were supposed to discuss the hostages and the

See HOSTAGE, Page 4

## Trump holds Gaza meeting with Tony Blair, Jared Kushner

Ben Samuels and Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump presided on Wednesday over a policy meeting on the Gaza war, joined by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Middle East envoy Jared Kushner, a senior White House official said.

The meeting was set to discuss all aspects of the Gaza issue, including escalating food aid deliveries, the hostage crisis, post-war plans, and more.

A White House official told Reuters the session is "simply a policy meeting," the type frequently held by Trump and his team.

Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and former top Mideast advisor, has been advising Trump's special envoy Steve

Witkoff for months, with Witkoff describing Kushner as his "rebbe." Blair's think tank has drawn controversy for reportedly helping plan Trump's so-called "Gaza Riviera" project.

Blair has also been involved in drafting Gaza-related plans in coordination with the United Arab Emirates, dating back to the Biden administration. Last month, he met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, highlighting his continued engagement in regional policy discussions.

"President Trump has been clear that he wants the war to end, and he wants peace and prosperity for everyone in the region.

See D.C., Page 4

Evangelical group is working with Gaza aid foundation **Page 3**

## Settlers attack Palestinians and Israeli activists, wounding seven

Hagar Shezaf

A group of Israeli settlers attacked Palestinians and Israeli activists with clubs in the West Bank's South Hebron Hills on Tuesday, wounding seven, four of whom were taken to the hospital.

One of the wounded women sustained a cracked shoulder and a broken hand.

According to the activists, Israeli settlers were grazing their sheep in privately owned Palestinian land near the community of Qawawis before the attack. Police were called in, but soon left without taking any action. About 20 minutes later, the activists said, the settlers began attacking them with pepper spray, stole a cellphone and camera, and smashed the solar panels and windows of

homes and vehicles nearby.

According to the police, forces returned to the scene after the attack, but the settlers had already managed to escape. An investigation was opened following the incident.



The altercation in the West Bank.

On Saturday, the Israel Police and Shin Bet security service reported that they had arrested five settlers on suspicion of "serious violent activity against the security forces." The statement said they were

being questioned, but cited a gag order on releasing further details.

"The Shin Bet and Israel Police regard these acts of terror as a serious threat to national security," it said.

Earlier in August, a shepherd community from the Ramallah area was expelled from their village of Ein Ayub. They had been subjected to harassment and threats from settlers for several weeks before being told by soldiers to evacuate due to an order declaring it a closed military area.

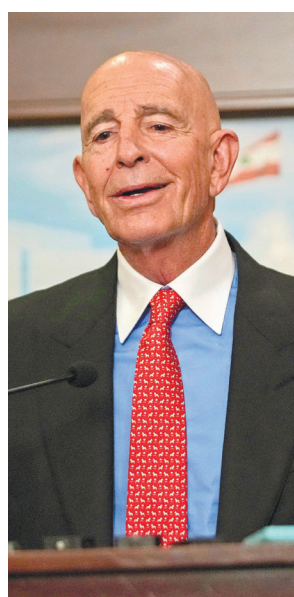
When Haaretz contacted the IDF, it said that the soldiers had been mistaken and that the order did not apply to the Bedouin residents. Despite this, the residents abandoned the village due to the actions of the settlers and soldiers.

### HAARETZ

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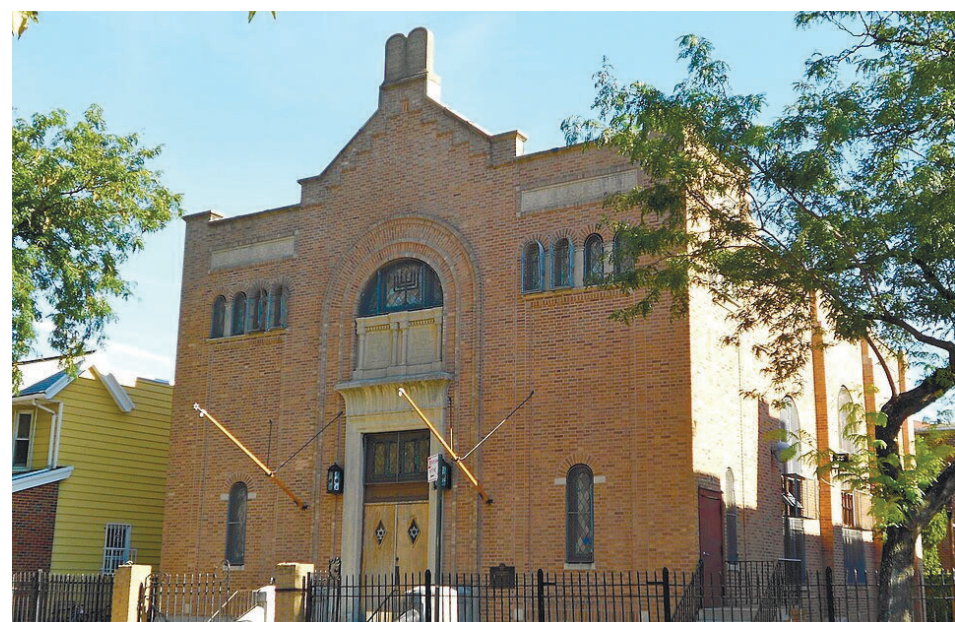
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haaretz.com



The Magen David Synagogue in Brooklyn, a congregation of mostly Syrian Jews.

Smallbones

## Study: One in 10 U.S. Jews has Sephardic or Mizrahi roots

Judy Maltz

Jews of Sephardic and Mizrahi origins account for 10 percent of the total Jewish population of the United States, their total number approaching 600,000, according to a new national study.

Commissioned by the California-based JIMENA (Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa) advocacy group, it found that Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews tend to be more politically conservative, more strongly connected to Israel and Judaism, and less likely to intermarry than Ashkenazi Jews with roots in Eastern Europe.

The research for this study, titled "Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews in the United States: Identities, Experiences and Communities," was directed by Dr. Mijal Bitton, a visiting scholar at New York University's Wagner School of Public Policy. Sephardim are defined as Jews who have descended

from Spain and Portugal, while Mizrahim are defined as Jews originating in the Middle East and North Africa, though often the two terms are used interchangeably. Jews of Iberian descent established some of the first colonial-era Sephardic communities in the Western Hemisphere, in cities like Savannah, Georgia and Newport, Rhode Island.

"Historically underrepresented – or worse, misrepresented – in Jewish communal studies and mainstream programs, Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewish Americans embody a rich tapestry of traditions, languages, and lived experiences that continue to shape Jewish identity," wrote JIMENA Executive Director Sarah Levin in the introduction to the report.

"Our Middle Eastern, North African and Mediterranean Jewish heritage, reflected in this report, is a testament to the resilience, family-oriented values, com-

munal commitments, and unwavering pride passed down through generations of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews. This heritage can and should become an integral component of every facet of Jewish life in America."

The quantitative findings were based on data analysis conducted at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, the 2020 survey of U.S. Jews undertaken by the Pew Research Center, surveys conducted by local Jewish federations in seven communities with sizable Sephardic and Mizrahi populations, and surveys of applicants to Taglit-Birthright – the program that brings young Jewish adults on free trips to Israel.

The report includes in-depth looks at four major Sephardic/Mizrahi centers in the United States: the Syrian community in Brooklyn,

See U.S. JEWS, Page 4

## Why PM's hypocritical attack on Macron is so dangerous for Israel – and French Jews

David Issacharoff

French President Emmanuel Macron gets it: Israel's decision to intensify a war in Gaza that kills dozens of Palestinians daily also endangers Jews in France and worldwide.

In a candid letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent on Tuesday, Macron reiterated his commitment to a friendship with Israel and his "responsibility" to protect France's Jewish community. He reminded Netanyahu that one of his first acts in office was to

adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, which, as he wrote, "condemns anti-Zionism as a form of antisemitism." He stressed that he still stands by that decision.

"However," he continued, "the definition of the IHRA cannot excuse Israel for the policies it is conducting in Gaza and in the Palestinian Territories."

What stands out is Macron's warning: Israel's ongoing actions "will only

make your country more isolated, embolden those who use them as a pretext for antisemitism, and endanger Jewish communities around the world."

**Macron is right again**

Editorial, Page 5

A reading of these words in Jerusalem could be dismissed as outrageous victim-blaming. Israel's Hasbara loyalists will surely say: how dare he blame Jews for

antisemitism?

But Netanyahu and his government deliberately operate on a distorted, paradoxical logic of antisemitism – an IHRA on steroids.

By labeling any criticism of Israel as antisemitic "blood libels," while continuing the war in Gaza despite the opposition of much of its own public, and openly speaking of ethnically cleansing Palestinians, Israel makes itself the subject of legitimate criticism for its own choices. And then the Netanyahu government conveniently conflates that

See MACRON, Page 2