



PM sought IDF's Oct. 7 records by using soldiers

The military bureau recruited intelligence officers to find minutes of army meetings relating to the attack – bypassing the IDF

Michael Hauser Tov

Reservists from Israeli Military Intelligence were recruited during the war by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office to collect protocols from discussions on the October 7 massacre and the events leading up to it, according to information obtained by Haaretz.

The military bureau in the Prime Minister's Office recruited the soldiers in May and June 2024, following the appointment of Roman Gofman as Netanyahu's military aide. For many weeks, they worked on locating and sorting the protocols, at Gofman's request, acting on instructions from the prime minister.

Information obtained by Haaretz indicates that the reserve soldiers recruited for the task expressed puzzlement over its significance and purpose. In private conversations among themselves, those involved said the directive was unusual and questioned how it served the needs of the Israeli army. However, they did not share these concerns with their commanders.

On Thursday, Netanyahu published a 55-page document containing numerous excerpts that ostensibly

seek to pin responsibility for the massacre on senior Israeli defense officials, foremost among them former Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi and former Shin Bet head Ronen Bar.

Netanyahu published the documents, among other reasons, in an effort to deflect responsibility from himself and to advance the

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establishment of a government-appointed and government-backed commission of inquiry into October 7.

"This document includes transcripts of security discussions and numerous documents spanning 12 years, from Operation Protective Edge [in 2014] through the morning of October 7," Netanyahu said in a statement accompanying the release. "I must tell you, when I presented the material, there was astonishment among many, because they were exposed to countless de-

tails that were completely contrary to what they had heard in the media over the past two years."

Army Radio reported on Sunday that Gofman led the collection of security materials used in drafting the document presented by Netanyahu, but was not involved in writing it.

After the reservists transferred the protocols to Gofman, he screened them and passed the material on to Cabinet Secretary Yossi Fuchs, who in turn provided it to Netanyahu. According to the report, Gofman did not inform then-IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi of the matter.

Gofman was appointed by Netanyahu late last year to be the next head of the Mossad.

According to additional information obtained by Haaretz, neither the commander of Military Intelligence nor the IDF chief's office were aware that reservists had been recruited for the collection and sorting tasks.

In response, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said: "The soldiers were assigned to and carried out professional and operational tasks as part of the routine activities of the military bureau."



Ultra-Orthodox protesters blocking Geha junction Monday between Bnei Brak and Petak Tikva to protest against being drafted.

Itai Ron

PM is breaking down every wall between the political and military establishments

Analysis Amos Harel

When Hamas terrorists flooded the communities and IDF bases in the Gaza-border area on the morning of October 7, 2023 it took Benjamin Netanyahu a bit of time to regain his composure. But the prime minister very quickly identified what was at stake – the struggle for his personal

survival. To remain in office, Netanyahu needed to dictate the narrative in the hope it would be the one that took hold in public opinion.

This is why Netanyahu has been putting, almost from the start, enormous effort into crafting an alternative, and often distorted, version

of the events. This is a fight in which – as far as he is concerned – no holds are barred.

The latest news in this area was reported by Michael Hauser Tov (see story, this page): At the height of the war, intelligence officers were called up for reserve duty in the military bureau of the Prime Minister's Office, to gather cherry-picked quotes from classified documents to serve Netanyahu's

narrative in his attempt to shirk responsibility for the failures that made the massacre possible. The story followed a report by Doron Kadosh on Army Radio on Sunday that said Netanyahu's military aide, Maj. Gen. Roman Gofman – Netanyahu's nominee for the next head of the Mossad – coordinated the collection of the documents as part of the response to the questions from State Com-

troller Matanyahu Englman as part of his probe into the matter.

This is not an entirely new practice on Netanyahu's part. As has been written before here, in 2016 Netanyahu conducted a similar defensive battle against the state comptroller over the investigation into the threat of the attack tunnels from Gaza after the

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Court: Ben-Gvir must promote PM probe investigator

Josh Breiner

An Israeli court on Monday ordered National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir to promote a female police officer who led the investigation and testified in one of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's criminal cases.

The officer, Superintendent Rinat Saban, pe-

tioned after Ben-Gvir refused to promote her, in what appears to be a pattern by the minister affecting officers involved in the criminal proceedings against Netanyahu.

Senior law enforcement and Justice Ministry officials described the petition as critical, saying its outcome could significantly affect the minister's control

over Israel's police force.

The Jerusalem District Court judge on the case, David Gideon, said that Ben-Gvir's conduct "raises reasonable and real concerns, under the circumstances, about the existence of extraneous and irrelevant considerations that under-

lie the refusal to promote the petitioner."

He also ordered Ben-Gvir to cover the petitioner's legal costs and attorneys' fees, totaling 20,000 shekels (around \$6,500).

Ben-Gvir attacked the court's decision, saying that Gideon's assertion

that he "cannot consider the officer's involvement in illegal investigations by the Prime Minister's Office is itself an improper consideration, showing that the entire ruling is based on irrelevant factors."

"In a proper state, an officer involved in an il-

legal investigation should end her service in the police," he added, accusing Supreme Court President Isaac Amit and his associates of "protecting her."

According to the judge, Ben-Gvir's position on promoting Saban, which contradicts the opinions of the police commissioner and



Saban, right, attending a hearing last week.

Oren Ben Haim

Levy, stop being afraid of Ben-Gvir **Editorial Page 5**

'Herzog out!': Protests erupt across Australia over president's visit



Demonstrators gathering in Melbourne on Monday to denounce Herzog's visit.

Joel Carrent/AP

Noa Levin

MELBOURNE – Thousands of protesters gathered on Monday to oppose Israeli President Isaac Herzog's visit to Australia, with left-wing and pro-Palestinian groups planning additional demonstrations nationwide.

Protesters chanted slogans denouncing Herzog and Israel, including "Herzog is a terrorist," "Globalize the intifada" and "There

is only one solution: intifada revolution." Others called out, "Israel no more, Israel is a terror state," "Liberation, liberation, Palestine is our nation" and "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

Herzog arrived in Australia on Sunday to begin an official visit, following the deadly terror attack at a Hanukkah event on Sydney's Bondi Beach in December 2025. Authorities declared

his visit a major event and deployed thousands of police to manage the crowds.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, police pepper-sprayed dozens of protesters and journalists. Footage from Sydney shows police using tear gas to repel groups of protesters, and several were arrested after physical confrontations with police officers at the scene.

To cheers from the crowd, one organizer of the Mel-

bourne protest said, "We mourn the people of Bondi, and we mourn the people of Gaza. Our government does not. We are not the hypocrites, they are."

Senator Lidia Thorpe spoke at the protest, expressing solidarity both with the victims of the recent attack at Bondi Beach in Sydney and with Palestinians.

"I stand in solidarity with the victims in Bondi, but also with my Palestinian brothers and sisters, and that's not antisemitic," she said. "Why do our leaders stand with someone who signs bombs that kill innocent people?"

Shahar, a young Israeli attending the protest, told Haaretz that he took part in the rally "to show Herzog and the rest of the Zionists that the world, and particularly Australia, does not accept Herzog on our land and do not accept his ideology."

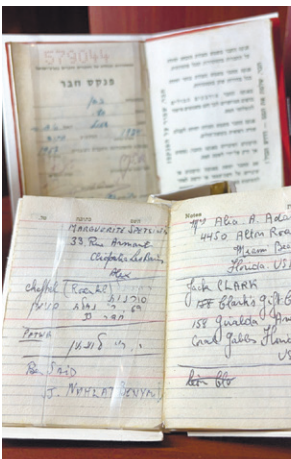
The protest in Melbourne is expected to continue throughout the day as part of a wider series of demonstrations across Australia coinciding with Herzog's four-day visit, which began Monday and includes stops in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra, as well as a visit

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A lagoon on the Gaza border
With the war over, the Shikma reservoir has reopened

Preserving Eli Cohen's legacy
A small museum in Herzliya, founded by his widow



Linda Dayan

haaretz.com

Trump-Netanyahu divide on Tehran

Sources: PM moves up D.C. flight to secure Israeli interests in Iran

Liza Rozovsky and Jonathan Lis

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to leave to Washington on Tuesday for a visit that, according to his office, is expected to focus on Iran.

According to a regional source, Netanyahu was the one who initiated moving up the meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump to Wednesday rather than in around a week, as originally planned. Another source familiar with the details said Netanyahu requested that the meeting take place now amid the start of talks between the U.S. and Iran. The source told Haaretz that Netanyahu is seeking to meet Trump "to ensure Israeli interests."

Another source familiar with the meeting believes the two leaders will not publicly air a confrontation over their differences.

According to the source, the central issue for Netanyahu is expected to be ensuring that Trump is "on the same page" regarding Israel's demands for the negotiations: not only significant restric-

tions on Iran's nuclear program that would prevent it from advancing toward a weapon and a demand that enriched uranium be removed from Iranian territory, but also the imposition of limits on Iran's ballistic missile arsenal and restrictions on the range of missiles it would be permitted to possess.

Netanyahu's announcement of the urgent trip came after the first meeting between Trump's envoys, Steven Witkoff and Jared Kushner, and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was held in Oman on Friday. According to Araghchi, and in line with Iranian briefings, the talks focused solely on the nuclear program. The U.S. did not deny this.

Netanyahu, by contrast, emphasized in his statement that he believes the talks must also address "restrictions on ballistic missiles and an end to support for the Iranian axis." At this stage, no date is known for a further round of talks between the U.S. and Iran.

A regional source suggested Netanyahu and Trump might discuss

details of a military operation regarding Iran. The source added that Israel's concerns over Iran's ballistic missile arsenal and its support for regional proxies are understandable, but said that in the view of other regional states, diplomacy should be given a chance, since the consequences of a military strike would be severe for everyone.

According to several sources who spoke with Haaretz, the talks between Trump and Netanyahu are also expected to address the Gaza Strip, specifically efforts to advance the U.S. president's 20-point plan, which officially moved to the second phase with the return of the body of the last hostage, Ran Gvili, and the opening of the Rafah crossing last week. Netanyahu met with Witkoff last week during the envoy's visit to Israel.

Following the meeting, the prime minister said he had "insisted on Hamas being disarmed before Gaza's reconstruction" and had "made it clear that the Palestinian Authority would

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