



Shin Bet: Police refuse to allocate forces for fighting Jewish terror in West Bank

Josh Breiner

Senior Shin Bet security service officials have recently accused the police of not allocating forces for operations against far-right activists and Jewish terrorism in the West Bank, Haaretz has learned.

In private discussions, whose contents were obtained by Haaretz, the officials said the police had previously pledged to deploy special units to tackle nationalist crime, but are now repeatedly refusing to allocate forces for opera-

tional activity, even after multiple requests from the Shin Bet.

According to several sources, an emergency discussion was convened at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office in November amid a rise in incidents of Jewish terrorism, including arson attacks and assaults on Palestinians in the West Bank.

Following the meeting, it was agreed that the police would allocate operational

forces to support the Shin Bet's Jewish Division, including Unit 33, considered an elite unit within Lahav 433, the police's major crimes division. The sources say that the promise has not been implemented.

As incidents of Jewish terrorism in the West Bank have spiked, senior Shin Bet officials have been forced to raise the issue with senior police figures and law enforcement officials.

"The Shin Bet is being

ignored by the police when it comes to cooperation on nationalist crime," a senior law enforcement official told Haaretz. "Everyone understands why the police are dragging their feet," the official added, hinting that the force is avoiding action out of fear of far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

Relations between the Shin Bet's Jewish Division and the police, particularly the Judea and Samaria Dis-

trict, have been strained since Ben-Gvir took office. Tensions intensified after a criminal investigation was opened against Avishai Mualem, then the commander of the district's major crimes unit. Mualem is accused of ignoring Shin Bet intelligence on far-right activists and Jewish terrorism as well as avoiding to make arrests, allegedly to please the minister and secure a promotion.

In July, Haaretz revealed

that Shin Bet officials had complained about the conduct of Mualem and the Judea and Samaria District, and that mistrust had developed between the agencies after the Shin Bet refused to grant the police access to its sources.

The same month, Haaretz reported on a heated argument between Judea and Samaria District chief Moshe Pinchi and a senior Shin Bet official during a discussion that mainly focused on Palestinian terrorism, with part of the meeting devoted to Jewish terrorism. Pinchi

demanding formalized relations between the agencies and greater police access to intelligence on far-right activists.

In October, Haaretz reported that relations had further deteriorated to the point of a complete breakdown. This was compounded by the investigation into Mualem, which revealed, among other things, that he had secretly recorded his Shin Bet counterparts. Some of those recordings led to the removal of the

See REFUSE, Page 4

Annexation, now a legal reality

The security cabinet, an inner club within the government, approved a series of measures on Sunday regarding the West Bank that an uninitiated observer would find head-spinning.

The new measures cancel Jordanian land acquisition regulations in the West Bank (yawn); they cancel the requirement for a transaction permit for Israeli land purchase (huh?). The cabinet decided to expand Israeli authority in Areas A and B (what's that again?) and transfer planning and building authorities around the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, and at Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, from the Hebron municipality to Israel's Civil Administration (does it matter who picks up the trash around a holy site?)

Are these decisions really so important in light of massive regional developments – U.S.-Iran talks alongside the ongoing specter of a fresh war, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington, the desperate situation in Gaza, or the 5-year-old Palestinian cancer patient barred from treatment in Israel? And even if we do focus on the West Bank, isn't the spike in settler attacks – firebombing, vandalism, destruction of water lines, livestock or whole Palestinian villages – more urgent?

These issues are all urgent. But to understand Israel's big-picture policy regarding Palestinians, the administrative bureaucracy matters more than the big headlines about violent settlers. The full implications are spelled out at length in a detailed analysis by Peace Now. As for the political impact, Prof. Yael Berda, a Hebrew University sociologist who researches the bureaucratic mechanisms of occupation, says the security cabinet changes are no less than "tectonic." Why?

First, analysts (including Berda and me), activist

See REALITY, Page 4

Two Haredi parties plan to support draft bill, vote for budget

Aharon Rabinowitz

Two of the three ultra-Orthodox parties have decided that a law exempting most of their community from conscription must pass at any price, and therefore, plan to support the state budget, according to several sources involved in the issue.

Let the boys die in front of us

Editorial, Page 5

The ultra-Orthodox leadership considers the current situation so desperate, these sources added, that it is even willing to accept a law that won't exempt the tens of thousands of yeshiva students who have been officially declared draft dodgers since the previous exemption law expired two years ago.

"We still haven't given up, and we're still fighting over this and also over other provisions," a source in the

Degel Hatorah party said. "But it's clear to us that we won't blow up the law over this article."

He added that the order he has received from leading rabbis is clear – an exemption law at any price.

"We understand that we won't be left with any choice, and will have to move forward because of the timetable," another Degel Hatorah source said. "Right now, we're working on two levels simultaneously – passing the budget on one hand and passing the conscription law on the other."

Agudat Yisrael is expected to oppose both the law and the budget, but since it has only three Knesset members, support from Degel Hatorah and Shas will be enough to give the governing coalition a Knesset majority.

Though some progress has been made on some of the points under dispute between ultra-Orthodox MKs and the Knesset's legal advisers, for example, whether

See HAREDI, Page 2



People protesting in Jaffa against the lack of effort to fight violence in the Arab community, Tuesday. See story, Page 2.

Moti Milrod

Rehab dept. has one therapist for every 850 combat vets with PTSD

Ido Efrati

The Defense Ministry's Rehabilitation Department employs one therapist for every 850 combat veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, the ministry's representative said on Monday at a session of the Knesset Health Committee.

Ronit Sandrovich, head of the ministry's Social Services Responses Divi-

mately 17,000 requests for recognition of physical or mental disability were submitted to the Defense Ministry in 2024 as well as in 2025, with more than 60 percent of them related to psychological injury.

According to Defense Ministry data, about half of the Rehabilitation Department's budget is allocated to mental health treatment. The ministry estimates that

situation facing combat veterans suffering from PTSD, pointing to limited and partial assistance and inadequate rehabilitation processes.

In her remarks to the committee, Stav Suissa, a Home Front Command soldier who assists combat veterans with PTSD, described a "difficult journey to rehabilitation." She stressed the need for support for the veterans' children and their schools, noting that trauma is experienced daily.

Suissa also called for the establishment of transitional housing for veterans with PTSD, expanded occupational rehabilitation and guidance, stronger enforcement of rights, financial assistance, accessible hotline services, recognition of PTSD among those who didn't serve in combat roles and an increase in the number of therapists employed by the Rehabilitation Department.

She cautioned against the automatic discharge of service members from military or police service due to psychological injury and urged a commitment to their rehabilitation. "I accompany 300 women combat veterans with PTSD and have to drag them here," she said. "You don't know what they are experiencing. When a senior commander says that 'the Israel Defense Forces is not a rehabilitation center,' it renders all of our efforts meaningless. If you sent us

See PTSD, Page 4

HAARETZ

Online now

\$32 billion deal with Google

Cybersecurity firm Wiz's acquisition approved by EU

India's unknown 'Lost Tribe'

The Chief Rabbinate won't recognize the Bnei Ephraim



Sayan Lodhi

haaretz.com

Technology used to accelerate combat in Gaza war

Elbit wins \$100m deals to develop next-gen Digital Ground Army

Yoram Gabison

Elbit Systems, led by Bezhaleh Machlis, has won contracts totaling \$100 million from the Defense Ministry to develop the next generation of a so-called Digital Ground Army.

As part of the contracts granted by the ministry's Directorate of Defense Research and Development, the company will develop the fifth generation of the Digital Ground Army. The company will also provide advanced command and control capabilities for headquarters at all levels and for maneuvering and attacking forces, as well as ensuring full connectivity between all branches of the Israel Defense Forces – in the air, land and sea.

The first generation of the Digital Ground Army was developed in 2004.

The latest generation, which was fully developed and implemented in the war in Gaza, allowed the Israel Defense Forces to accelerate the pace of combat.

This included shortening combat procedures, facilitating force movement, expediting extraction of forces and the wounded and employing artillery fire from outside the Gaza Strip to extract a maneuvering force inside Gaza.

In addition, it involved establishing rapid sensor-to-shooter loops between



A Digital Ground Army system.

ground forces and the Israel Air Force for air support to the maneuvering force, using narrower safety margins for employing air and artillery fire in support of fighting forces and significantly shortening the time from a soldier's injury until they reach the operating table.

It also includes providing a better mapping of the combat picture, while reducing reliance on reports from maneuvering forces.

The new generation of Digital Ground Army will use artificial intelligence

Haaretz in Gaza with the IDF

News, Page 3

Elbit Systems will also develop the next generation of the multi-sensor border defense system used by female spotters on the border with Gaza.

The new generation will incorporate lessons learned from the war.

It will include advanced artificial intelligence-based capabilities for high-volume target identification and classification, rapid integration of various sensors and effectors, broad multi-task management and connectivity with all IDF branches.



An IDF soldier (photo for illustrative purposes). Jack Guez/AFP

sion, said there is a growing shortage of personnel in the department. Over the past two years, the number of mental health patients recognized by the Rehabilitation Department has surged from 11,000 to 31,000. Mental health patients now account for 38 percent of all soldiers and security personnel treated by the department, whose total caseload exceeds 82,000.

In addition, many individuals have yet to complete the process of getting their injury recognized. Approxi-

by 2028, the number of patients suffering from mental health issues will reach 50,000 – roughly half of the department's caseload.

The war in Gaza, which exacted a heavy toll and produced a large number of casualties, has required the Rehabilitation Department to expand its operations, strengthen support and treatment frameworks, and develop mechanisms to reduce bureaucratic delays.

However, a session of the Knesset Health Committee highlighted the difficult