



ISRAEL UPDATE

with Pastor Trey Graham



November 29, 2023

Military Intelligence Directorate head to resign due to Oct. 7 massacre, takes responsibility

The night after the attack, he was excluded from the conversation between the generals and the Chief of Staff, and was only updated afterwards.

By AMIR BOHBOT/WALLA!

NOVEMBER 29, 2023 00:27 **Updated:** NOVEMBER 29, 2023 10:02



IDF Military Intelligence commander Aharon Haliva in Tel Aviv, November 4, 2022

(photo credit: Gideon Markowicz/Flash90)

IDF Military Intelligence Directorate Chief Aharon Haliva believed that following the events of October 7, his tenure in office was on borrowed time. "Already that morning I understood that it was over," he told his associates: "After the war is over I will have to go." Now, all that remains for Haliva is to figure out when he intends to retire, whether it be after Israel officially announces the end of the war, or before there is any sort of permanent ceasefire and the army switches to a method of raid operations only. Either way, Haliva is already considered in the Intelligence Division as a "lame duck," and the succession battle for his position has already begun. On the night between Friday and Saturday, around 2:30 a.m., the Chief of Staff, Lt.-Gen. Herzi Halevi, held an encrypted telephone call on the IDF's "red line" with Operations Directorate head Maj.-Gen. Oded Basyuk and IDF Southern Command head Maj.-Gen. Yaron Finkelman to discuss intelligence gathered from various collection agencies in Military Intelligence and the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency). For an unclear reason, it was decided that Haliva wouldn't participate in the discussion, which also covered his area of responsibility. Simultaneously, updates were provided on the accumulated intelligence regarding the situation along the Gaza Strip border. The chief of staff's assistant, who organized the call, briefed Halevi, and later other assistants to the generals, including Maj.-Gen. Amit Saar, head of the Research Division, who updated Haliva. According to assessments based on the intelligence gathered prior to October 7 and indications of Hamas exercises near the border, the most severe scenario likely to occur was the infiltration of Hamas operatives for a lone attack on the border – yet this was defined as having a low probability. Military Intelligence estimated that most likely these were routine exercises by the terrorist organization's military wing, similar to the months preceding the attack.

The New York Times

Israel, Hamas Agree to Begin Cease-Fire Friday Morning

Prodded by the U.S., Israel agreed to the pause in hostilities and the release of 150 imprisoned Palestinians in exchange for 50 hostages held in Gaza.



The role that Qatar played in the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hamas

NOVEMBER 23, 2023 - 5:10 PM ET

HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

By Lauren Hodges, Tinbete Ermyas, Ari Shapiro

Israel, Hamas agree on temporary cease-fire in Gaza Strip, release of 50 hostages

Israel and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas have agreed on a temporary cease-fire in the Gaza Strip as part of a deal that includes the release of 50 hostages, including three Americans. President Biden said he is "extraordinarily gratified" that some of the captives "will be reunited with their families once this deal is fully implemented."

Who are the 13 Israeli hostages released by Hamas on Friday?

These are the identities of the 13 Israelis who were released from Hamas captivity Friday.

By GADI ZAIG

NOVEMBER 24, 2023 18:37 **Updated:** NOVEMBER 24, 2023 22:18



The thirteen hostages released from Gaza on Friday, November 24, 2023.
(photo credit: The Jerusalem Post)



**1st Group Released
on Friday**

JP



Ruth Munder, 78



Keren Munder, 54



Ohad Munder, 9

**1st Group
Released
on Friday**



Daniel Aloni, 45



Emilia Aloni, 5



Raz Katz, 4



Doron Katz, 34



Aviv Katz, 2



Adina Moshe , 72



Margalit Mozes, 78



Yaffa Adar, 85



Channa Perri, 79



Hanna Katzir, 77

HOSTAGES TRANSFERRED TO ISRAELI CUSTODY



13 Israelis, including 8 children, freed by Hamas after 50 days held hostage in Gaza

On 2nd day of 4-day truce deal, 8 children, 4 moms, 1 young woman handed over by Hamas following long, unnerving delay; 4 Thai nationals also released; 195 hostages still held

By TOI STAFF

26 November 2023, 12:19 am | 1

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL



Israeli hostages released on November 25, 2023: Top from L-R: Sharon Avigdor and her daughter Noam, siblings Alma and Noam Or; middle: Hila Rotem, Emily Hand, Shiri Weiss and her daughter Noga; bottom: Adi Shoham and children Yahel and Naveh, Maya Regev, and Shoshan Haran. (Photos: Courtesy; combination image: Times of Israel)

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/13-israelis-including-8-kids-freed-by-hamas-after-50-days-as-gaza-hostages/>

These are the 13 hostages released from Gaza on Saturday

Israel on Saturday confirmed the identities of 13 Gaza hostages released, bringing the total of hostages released as part of the truce deal to 26.

By YUVAL BARNEA

NOVEMBER 25, 2023 23:47

THE JERUSALEM POST



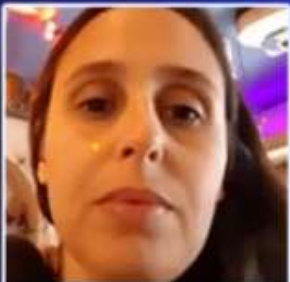
The thirteen hostages released from Gaza on Saturday, November 25, 2023
(photo credit: The Jerusalem Post)

**2nd Group
Released**

THIRD GROUP OF HOSTAGES RELEASED



**AVIGAIL
EDAN, 4**



**HAGAR
BRODUTCH, 40**



**OFRY
BRODUTCH, 10**



**YUVAL
BRODUTCH, 8**



**ORIA
BRODUTCH, 4**



**CHEN GOLDSTEIN
ALMOG, 49**



**AGAM GOLDSTEIN
ALMOG, 17**



**GAL GOLDSTEIN
ALMOG, 11**



**TAL GOLDSTEIN
ALMOG, 9**



**ALMA
AVRAHAM, 84**



**ADRIENNE
SIEGEL, 62**



**ELA
ELYAKIM, 8**



**DAFNA
ELYAKIM, 14**

Released on Sunday

The group includes nine children and two mothers.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

NOVEMBER 27, 2023 20:25 **Updated:** NOVEMBER 27, 2023 22:28



The eleven Israelis released from Hamas captivity in Gaza on Monday, November 27, 2023
(photo credit: The Jerusalem Post)

4th group
released

Released on
Monday

Fourth group of hostages released after intense negotiations - 11 more Israelis on their way home

9-month-old baby Kfir Bibas not be among those released

All Israel News Staff | Published: November 27, 2023 | Updated: November 27, 2023 10:11:32 pm



Israeli hostages released by Hamas on Nov. 27, 2023 (Photo: KAN 11)

Released on
Monday

Hamas and Israel agree on 2-day extension of truce and hostage releases, according to White House

Qatar and Hamas confirm the agreement

All Israel News Staff | Published: November 27, 2023



Israel-Hamas deal: These are the 10 hostages released on Tuesday

The 10 were released as part of a two-day extension to the Israel-Hamas ceasefire.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

NOVEMBER 28, 2023 20:37 **Updated:** NOVEMBER 29, 2023 13:15



10 hostages released by Hamas on Tuesday, November 28, 2023

5th group
released

Released on
Tuesday

ISRAELI HOSTAGES RELEASED TODAY



RIMON KIRSHT
36



GABRIELA LEIMBERG
59



MIA LEIMBERG
17



CLARA MERMAN
63



OFELIA ROITMAN
77



DITZA HEIMAN
84



TAMAR METZGER
78



NORALIN BABADILLA
60



ADA SAGI
75



MEIRAV TAL
53

**5th group
released
Released
on
Tuesday**

Israel-Hamas deal: These are the 12 hostages released on Wednesday

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF NOVEMBER 29, 2023 23:31

Released on
Wednesday

6th group released



The 12 Israeli hostages released from Hamas captivity on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. (photo credit: The Jerusalem Post)

An additional two Russian citizens were released by Hamas on Wednesday.



6th group released

These Are the Israeli Hostages Freed From Hamas Captivity on Wednesday

Twelve Israeli hostages, including several teenagers, were released as part of a cease-fire, prisoner swap deal with Hamas. Four Thai nationals were also released

**Released on
Wednesday**

73 Israeli hostages released so far, 149 still being held

IDF investigating 'cruel' Hamas claim that Bibas children, mother killed in Gaza

By EMANUEL FABIAN and TOI STAFF

Shiri Bibas, 4-year-old Ariel and 10-month-old Kfir believed to have been transferred by Hamas to smaller terror group in southern city of Khan Younis



The Israel Defense Forces said Wednesday it had notified the family of a mother and two young children kidnapped to Gaza that it was investigating a “cruel and inhumane” Hamas statement claiming the three had been killed. The statement by Hamas’s military wing asserted Shiri Bibas, 32, and her children, four-year-old Ariel and 10-month-old Kfir, were killed in an Israeli strike during the war in the Strip. It did not say when this had allegedly occurred (a pause in fighting has been in place since November 24). Gaza terror groups have made such claims regarding hostages in the past, seen as part of a psychological warfare campaign. “The Hamas terror organization continues to act in a cruel and inhumane manner,” the IDF said. The military stressed that Hamas bears responsibility for the safety of all the hostages held in the Gaza Strip, even those held by other factions. “Hamas is endangering the hostages, including nine children. Hamas is required to immediately return them to Israel,” the statement read. War cabinet minister Benny Gantz, who happened to be meeting with members of the Bibas family when Hamas issued its claim, said on Wednesday night that he did not know if it was true or psychological warfare. “There is no confirmation” of the claim, he said. “We will continue to seek intelligence and other indications” in order to determine its veracity. The three family members were kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7, along with Shiri’s husband and the father of the two boys, Yarden Bibas, 34, as Hamas terrorists rampaged through southern Israel, killing more than 1,200 people and taking some 240 hostages. The family believes that Yarden, who was seen bleeding from the head as he was taken hostage, is being held separately from his wife and children. The family has become one of the most recognizable groups of hostages and held up by many as proof of the extent of Hamas’s cruelty. A video that emerged of Shiri carrying her children as she was taken away by the terrorists quickly gained attention due to her visible distress, the children’s bright red hair (which has led the kids to be popularly nicknamed “the redheads”) and Kfir’s young age — being the youngest Israeli abducted by Hamas. On Tuesday, IDF Arabic-language spokesman Avichai Adraee confirmed via X, formerly Twitter, that the mother and her two children were transferred by Hamas to another terror group inside the Gaza Strip and that they were believed to be held in the southern city of Khan Younis. That group has been reported to be the small Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. “Children and babies under the age of one who have not seen the light of day for more than 50 days are being held captive by Hamas, [which] treats some of them as loot and in some cases has transferred them to other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip,” he wrote. Since the time the young family was taken hostage, their relatives have been campaigning both in Israel and abroad to raise awareness of their plight. Following Hamas’s claim regarding the death of Shiri and her two children, her cousin Jimmy Miller said the family holds Hamas responsible for their well-being, regardless of whether or not they were the ones holding them hostage. “Hamas abducted them alive. Hamas is solely responsible for their well-being. Hamas must return them to us alive,” Miller told Channel 12 news. “We’re not interested in whether they transferred them to somebody else or to some other group. Hamas is solely responsible for returning them to us alive, healthy and intact... Make no mistake.” He also said Hamas Gaza leader Yahya Sinwar was responsible for their well-being, and said that the family “are waiting for an official announcement” from the IDF as to whether the group’s claim is “true or not, or another kind of trick that Hamas is playing on us.” Another terror group, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, previously announced that hostage Channa Katzir had died, only for her to be freed in the first hostage release Friday. Miller stressed that the family has seen the video of Shiri and her two sons being abducted alive from Kibbutz Nir Oz, “and we have absolutely no doubt that they reached Gaza alive. And we want to see them back here alive, the sooner the better.” Miller also noted that father Yarden was abducted separately to Gaza, taken on a motorbike, and seen in video being beaten on the head with hammers en route. “We are not sure that they reached Gaza together; we think [the terrorists] separated them,” he added. He said the family gets up every morning hoping they will be returned in each day’s releases, and have been gravely disappointed that they have not been. In an interview with CNN on Wednesday morning, Eylon Keshet, a cousin of the family, spoke about the urgent need for their release. “We are really, really worried about him,” said Keshet, holding a photo of 10-month-old Kfir. “We are not sure if he can make it. Every day that he is staying there is a real, real danger to his life.”

Women held hostage by Hamas in Gaza kept in cages - report

Israeli hostages released by Hamas speak out about the state of their captivity in Gaza.

By JOANIE MARGULIES

NOVEMBER 28, 2023 10:04 Updated: NOVEMBER 29, 2023 14:52



Aviv Asher, 2.5 years old, her sister Raz Asher, 4.5 years old, and mother Doron arrive back in Israel after being held hostage by Hamas terrorists, 24 November 2023.

(photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON UNIT)

<https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/gaza-news/article-775480>

Women who were abducted from Israeli territory and held hostage by Hamas in Gaza were kept in cages, according to a report by Israeli media, citing a statement from a member of the Hostages and Missing Families Forum. This claim is not the first of its kind: In the days immediately following the October 7 attacks, videos from Hamas's Telegram channel showed child hostages being kept in cages for the majority of their time in captivity. Hamas distributed a letter on Monday allegedly written by Danielle Aloni, who was kidnapped alongside her 5-year-old daughter Emilia and held in captivity. In the letter, written in Hebrew and translated into Arabic, she reportedly thanked Hamas for the "extraordinary humanity" provided to her daughter, who "felt like a queen." The letter also read, "I will forever be a prisoner of love because [Emilia] did not leave here with psychological trauma forever." The Aloni family has not confirmed this letter nor the statements made in it, though it has been widely distributed on social media by the Hamas terror organization. This letter is one of many that hostages were forced to write, according to Israeli media reports.

Neglect at the hands of the Red Cross

After Elma Avraham, 84, was returned to Israeli custody, she was immediately airlifted for emergency medical care. Her family claimed that she was “medically neglected” by international medical organizations that failed to provide her with the immediate medical treatment she required at the time. “My mother did not deserve to be treated like this” stated Elma’s daughter, Tal Amano. According to Amano, her mother was the victim of a “double betrayal that began on October 7 when she was kidnapped by Hamas, [that] continued with the failure of international organizations that were supposed to help her in the condition that she was in at the time of her release.” Prior to her kidnapping on October 7, Elma was in relatively good health. However, she did have some underlying health issues that required medication. “No one from the international organizations bothered to create a list with the medications she required,” her daughter continued. “Clalit [an Israeli medical health fund] was the one who fought for us. It delivered the medication that Elma required to my brother in person. Yet, when my brother attempted to pass on the medication to a Red Cross representative at a meeting they held together, he was told no, they cannot do that.” Elma’s family returned to the Red Cross building a few days later and were once again rejected. “My mother should not have come back like this. What is the Red Cross there for? What is the UN Women organization for?” Tal demanded to know. Dr. Nadav Davidovitch, who is currently treating Elma, said “We were in meetings with the Red Cross and asked them to make every effort to bring the medications to her, because some hostages are just dying. From a medical and nursing standpoint, what we witnessed is unlawful neglect.”

IDF is following Hamas leaders around the world, spokesperson warns

Hagari's warning signals to the Hamas leadership in Qatar and around the world that the IDF will pursue them wherever they are.

By YUVAL BARNEA

NOVEMBER 24, 2023 20:40 Updated: NOVEMBER 25, 2023 01:08



IDF Spokesperson Daniel Hagari gives a statement to the media in Tel Aviv on October 16, 2023.
(photo credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI/FLASH90)

IDF spokesman R-Adm. Daniel Hagari on Friday night referred to senior Hamas officials, saying that "they are being followed around in Gaza and around the world." Hagari's warning signals to the Hamas leadership in Qatar and around the world that the IDF will pursue them wherever they are. This calls back to several famous Israeli operations to eliminate the masterminds of terror attacks against Israelis, such as those operations that took place in the wake of the Munich Massacre. During this era, Mossad would target Palestinians involved in planning attacks on Israelis, with most of them being in foreign countries. This type of operation, involving Mossad agents, slowly disappeared after the Oslo Accords, with most targeted killings following Oslo being a result of the Second Intifada and consequently took on another form. In this era, the operations were clearly distinct from the previous years. Where before operations involved long-term planning and infiltration in a variety of foreign countries, now they simply required locating the target in the West Bank or Gaza and sending Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) agents or IDF troops to carry out the killing. This era changed a little after the withdrawal from Gaza, with more killings occurring there after the withdrawal due to the increased presence of Hamas and increased Hamas operations from the Gaza Strip. Following the withdrawal and subsequent wars with Gaza, it remained the primary location of targeted killings but alleged Israeli eliminations of Iranian nuclear physicists increased, signaling a return of Mossad operations to the international arena. The first alleged targeted killing of a Hamas official outside of Gaza and the West Bank since the Oslo Accords, occurred in 2010, when Mossad was accused of killing Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai. Al-Mabhouh's killing sparked controversy as Mossad was accused of using Irish passports to carry out the killing. For the next 6 years, no killings were carried out, except in the Palestinian Territories and Iran. Mossad was accused of killing Hamas engineers in Tunisia and Malaysia, but this change was minor and no killings have been carried out outside of the Palestinian Territories, Iran, and Syria since then. If Hagari's announcement signals a new era in targeted killings abroad, this could mean that the senior Hamas members holed up in Qatar suddenly find that they are unable to go about their daily lives without looking over their shoulders.

First wave out of 7,000 foreign doctors wanting to help amid war have come to Israel

With many Israeli physicians called to military duty, organizations in Israel and abroad work with the government to identify the professionals needed most by hospitals and clinics

By RENEE GHERT-ZAND | Today, 12:17 pm | 9



Volunteer pediatric surgeon Dr. Avi Schlager from Florida (right) with Schneider Children's Medical Center chief of surgery Dr. Dragan Kravarsic, November 2023. (Courtesy of Schneider Children's Medical Center)

Twelve thousand doctors, nurses and paramedics from around the world have informed the Health Ministry that they are ready to hop on a plane to Israel and volunteer their services during the ongoing war with the Hamas terror group. Of the 12,000, some 7,000 are doctors of all specialties. Half are from the United States, and others are from other countries including Sweden, Canada, Belgium, Brazil, Switzerland and New Zealand. So far, more than 150 of them have come to help out. “I truly believe that we’re living through one of the inflection points in Jewish history... and we’re going to look back on this time and ask ourselves whether we did everything we could to help in this critical moment,” said Dr. Avi Schlager, a pediatric surgeon from Florida volunteering at Schneider Children’s Medical Center in Petah Tikva. “I am grateful I can contribute [to Israel] in the way that I’m most comfortable and that I feel I can be most helpful,” he said. The readiness of these physicians — most Jewish, but not all — to leave their busy practices abroad has been heartwarming for Israel’s medical community as it deals with the aftermath of the devastating October 7 onslaught on Israel by Hamas terrorists from Gaza, and the ensuing war aimed at vanquishing the terror group. The Health Ministry is working strategically to strengthen the hospitals in the north and south of the country — closest to the front lines. At the same time, it is preparing medical centers in the center of Israel to absorb patients that can be moved from frontline hospitals, or war casualties that require more advanced trauma care. Adam Cutler, who is overseeing the processing of the volunteers’ registrations at the Health Ministry, said this effort to create a “strategic depth of manpower” applies also to the health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and community clinics, which may need volunteers to fill in staffing gaps, especially in treating the estimated 200,000 Israelis displaced from their homes in the north and south. “We are making clear that we are not recruiting volunteer doctors from abroad to serve with the IDF or on the frontlines. We need them on the home front, filling in for Israeli doctors who have been called up for military service,” said Dr. Asher Salmon, head of the Health Ministry’s international relations division. According to Salmon, volunteer physicians who specialize in trauma and related fields are most needed at this stage. These include emergency medicine doctors, trauma surgeons, anesthesiologists, vascular surgeons, thoracic surgeons, intensive care specialists, burns specialists, plastic surgeons and rehabilitation specialists. Forensic medicine experts from outside Israel also arrived very soon after October 7 to help with the ongoing, laborious and painful work of identifying the victims of the Hamas massacres and the war.

Genesis 34-35

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the land [Canaanites]. When Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her [Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah], he took her and lay with her **by force**. Genesis 34:1-2

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Israel investigates an elusive, horrific enemy: Rape as a weapon of war



By [Shira Rubin](#)

Updated November 25, 2023 at 3:07 a.m. EST | Published November 25, 2023 at 1:00 a.m. EST

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/11/25/israel-hamas-rape-sexual-violence/>

Newsweek

The Silence From International Bodies Over Hamas' Mass Rapes Is a Betrayal of All Women | Opinion

Nov 22, 2023 at 6:00 AM EST

<https://www.newsweek.com/silence-international-bodies-over-hamas-mass-rapes-betrayal-all-women-opinion-1845783>



News for North Texas

Pro-Palestinian rallygoers in Dallas renew calls for ceasefire, end to Israeli occupation

KERA | By **Toluwani Osibamowo**

Published November 19, 2023 at 7:18 PM CST



Toluwani Osibamowo / KERA

Pro-Palestinian rally attendees stand in a crowd outside Dallas City Hall on Nov. 19, 2023.



FROM THE
RIVER
TO THE SEA
PALESTINE
WILL BE
FREE

Jewish Lawyers file to trademark “From the River to the Sea”

“They encircle me with words of hate; they attack me without cause.

PSALMS 109:3 (THE ISRAEL BIBLE)

ISRAEL365 NEWS



ADAM ELIAHU BERKOWITZ

ANTISEMITISM

NOVEMBER 24, 2023

3 MIN READ

In a classic case of passive aggression, several Jewish lawyers have filed to trademark the genocidal Jew-hatred phrase “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free”. Yirmi Knight, Esq., a US-based lawyer, filed an official request to trademark the phrase, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.” Knight told Israel365 News that his application is still pending and may take a year to process. “Our goal is to enforce our rights and prevent those individuals, companies, and organizations, including venues that allow its use, from benefitting or using our phrase of ‘From The River To The Sea Palestine Will Be Free’ for their profit, benefit, or otherwise,” Knight said. “This is especially important to me given that the use of that phrase is an attempt to utilize it as a call-to-action slogan to kill Jews. I will do everything in my legal capacity to prevent that. Am Yisroel Chai (the nation of Israel will live).” Knight has set up a GoFundMe crowd-sourcing page to help his effort. “We are looking to raise funds for staffing and litigation costs to enforce our trademark rights and prevent any and all Sellers or Seller Venues that use our phrase ‘From The River To The Sea Palestine Will Be Free.’ Please join our cause “ Others have also adopted the tactic. Oron Rosenkrantz appears to have a prior claim with his application being filed on November 8. Rosenkrantz’s filing looked to trademark “From the river to the sea” for T-shirts. As the trademarks are being filed in the US, they will not be applicable to the use of the phrase outside of the US. Trademarks initially provide 10 years of protection during which no other entity could use the slogan on specific or related goods. Then, the trademark owner can renew its validity for another 10 years of protection. Eventually, the mark can be protected and last a lifetime. The phrase is controversial, and Berlin announced that it is forbidden and the use of it will make one liable for prosecution. Austria announced that the phrase would be considered a murder threat and prosecuted as a criminal offense. Other cities and countries have considered also banning the slogan. Twitter banned the phrase, saying that it implies genocide and that such alleged “calls for extreme violence are against our terms of service and will result in suspension.”

He [Shechem] was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her. So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young girl for a wife." Now Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter; but his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob kept silent until they came in.

Genesis 34:3-5

UN and Women's Groups Ignore or Deny the Systematic Rape of Israeli Women by Hamas

| '#METOO UNLESS YOU'RE A JEW' |

Many feminists and humanitarian groups strangely see no evil—when the victims of mass sexual assault are Israeli Jews.



Marisa Fox

Updated Nov. 25, 2023 1:38PM EST / Published Nov. 24, 2023 11:36PM EST



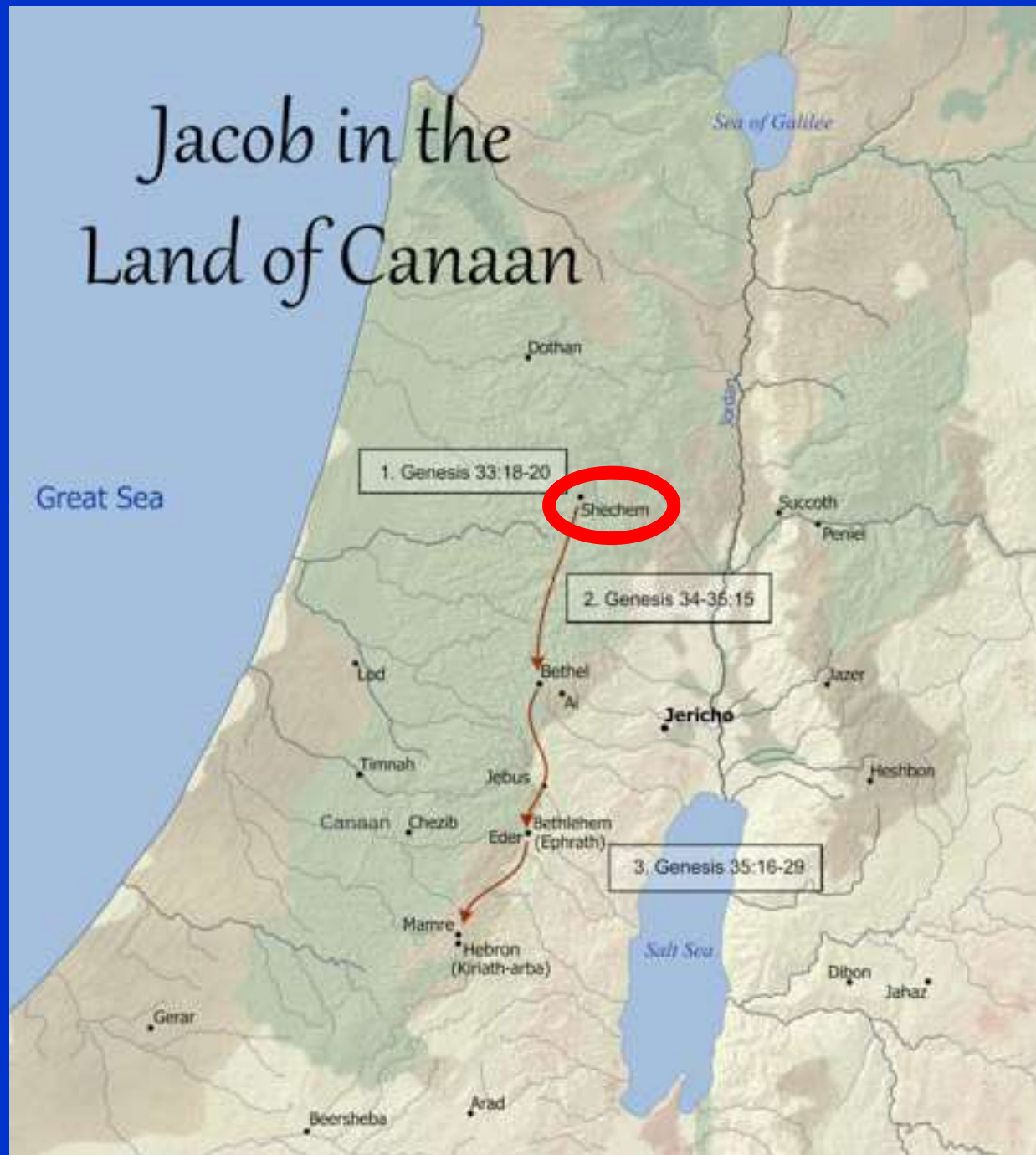
Shortly after Oct. 7, an independent organization of international human rights experts and women's rights groups in Israel formed the Civil Commission on Oct. 7 Crimes by Hamas against Women and Children. Concerned that no Israeli or international organization was documenting Hamas' sexual violence, it set about collecting evidence of Hamas' gender-based assaults and encouraging government bodies to further investigate these atrocities as war crimes and crimes against humanity. Even as the first women and children hostages are being released and Israel's Health Ministry has instructed the hospitals treating them to have women doctors and nurses on hand to conduct all physical exams, how to check for and document signs of rape and torture, and how to interview without retraumatizing them, the UN has shown little sign of caring whether Israeli women suffer violence, and hasn't rallied for Red Cross access to those still held captive by Hamas. UN Women executive director and under-Secretary General Sima Balhous, waited until Nov. 22 to first mention that she was "greatly alarmed by reports of sexual and gender-based violence," but failed to mention the culprit was Hamas and the victims Israeli and foreign nationals. Earlier this month, the hashtag #MeTooUnlessURAJew spread widely on social media as grassroots women's groups in Israel and abroad launched campaigns to express outrage at the silence of the international community regarding the growing evidence that Hamas engaged in systematic rape on Oct. 7.

Then Hamor the father of Shechem [the son] went out to Jacob to speak with him. Now the sons of Jacob came in from the field **when they heard it**; and the men were grieved, and **they were very angry** because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, **for such a thing ought not to be done**. Genesis 34:6-7

* Jacob's refusal to do what is right in regard to his family will encourage two of his sons to do something, something terrible in response. When God-appointed heads do not take appropriate leadership, it creates a void, which is often filled sinfully. - David Guzik

But Hamor [the father] spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage. Intermarry with us; give your daughters to us and take our daughters for yourselves. Thus you shall live with us, and the land shall be open before you; live and trade in it and acquire property in it.” Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, “If I find favor in your sight, then I will give whatever you say to me. Ask me ever so much bridal payment and gift, and I will give according as you say to me; but give me the girl in marriage.” Genesis 34:8-12

Jacob in the Land of Canaan



Genesis 32-37

But Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor **with deceit**, because he had defiled Dinah their sister. They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. Only on this condition will we consent to you: if you will become like us, in that every male of you be circumcised, then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters for ourselves, and we will live with you and become one people. But if you will not listen to us to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go."

Genesis 34:13-17

Now their words seemed reasonable to Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son. The young [Shechem] man did not delay to do the thing, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter. Now he was more respected than all the household of his father. So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, "These men are friendly with us; therefore let them live in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters in marriage, and give our daughters to them. Only on this condition will the men consent to us to live with us, to become one people: that every male among us be circumcised as they are circumcised. Will not their livestock and their property and all their animals be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will live with us." Genesis 34:18-23

* This was not only a brutal, deceptive act, but it also disgraced God's covenant of circumcision. Surely, with this clever act of violent deception, Simeon and Levi showed themselves to be the children of Jacob from a bitter, competitive home environment. - David Guzik

All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor [the father] and to his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city. Now it came about on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of Jacob's sons, **Simeon and Levi**, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came upon the city unawares, and **killed every male. They killed Hamor and his son Shechem** with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went forth. Genesis 34:24-26

*Simeon and Levi, Jacob's sons, wanted to avenge the rape of their sister by killing the attacker, his father, and all other men of the city.

Jacob's sons came upon the slain and looted the city, because they had defiled their sister. They took their flocks and their herds and their donkeys, and that which was in the city and that which was in the field; and they captured and looted all their wealth and all their little ones and their wives, even all that was in the houses.

Genesis 34:27-29

- What was the appropriate response to the evil inflicted upon Dinah?
- What about the “innocent civilians” and collateral damage?

Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “**You have brought trouble on me** by making me odious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and my men being few in number, they will gather together against me and attack me and I will be destroyed, I and my household.” But they said, “Should he treat our sister as a harlot?”

Genesis 34:30-31

* Jacob, the man known as Israel, worried about what other nations would think of the Jews because they exacted such overwhelming and violent revenge.

Then God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and live there, and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments; and let us arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem. Genesis 35:1-4

As they journeyed, there was a **great terror** upon the cities which were around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

Genesis 35:5

Israel's Ground War Against Hamas: What to Know

By Max Boot, CFR Expert | Last updated October 23, 2023 5:00 pm (EST)



A major ground campaign in the Gaza Strip will display Israel's overwhelming military force, but the country faces a steep challenge in its goal of eradicating Hamas, as well as in finding a workable post-combat plan for the territory.

What does Israel intend to achieve with a ground war in the Gaza Strip?

Israeli officials have repeatedly said their goal is to eliminate Hamas. By crushing the terrorist organization, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hopes to reassert Israeli deterrence and show Israel's enemies the high costs of attacking it. Israel has already launched a massive bombing campaign of the Gaza Strip and, more recently, raids on the ground, while signaling that it will soon launch a major ground offensive.

‘Humiliated and defeated’: Fear, shock grip Israel after Hamas assault

By Noga Tarnopolsky, [Shira Rubin](#) and [Miriam Berger](#)

October 7, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. EDT

Around dawn Saturday morning (October 7), as most of the country slept, thousands of rockets rained down on Israel, as far north as Tel Aviv and as far east as Jerusalem. Then came the infiltrators, who stormed unsuspecting towns in the south, killing civilians and taking hostages. The combined land, sea and air attack was spearheaded by Hamas, the Islamist militant group that rules the Gaza Strip, and supported by Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a smaller Gaza-based group that has fought with Israel in the past. Israelis are accustomed to conflict, but they had never experienced a day like this. Two hundred fifty are dead and more than 1,000 are wounded, the country's emergency services said. The attack caught Israel's vaunted military and intelligence services off guard, and sparked bitter recriminations after months of warnings from security officials about the country's deteriorating capacity for deterrence.

The Question THEN and NOW...

What is the righteous and effective response to evil?

- How much do you fight back?
- How can you resist being too passive and silent (like Jacob)?
- How can you resist being too violent and aggressive (like Simeon and Levi)?

Prime Minister Netanyahu prepares to restart war as the end of pause nears

The IDF said it believes some 159 hostages are still in Gaza.

By TOVAH LAZAROFF



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends a press conference at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv.

November 22, 2023

(photo credit: Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised the Gaza war would resume as the war cabinet discussed hostage releases, and Doha attempted to mediate a series of agreements that could extend the temporary ceasefire, whose deadline was set to expire on Thursday morning.

“In recent days I have heard a question: After completing this stage of the return of our hostages, will Israel go back to the fighting? My answer is an unequivocal yes,” said Netanyahu.

Biden, Netanyahu disagree regarding continuation of IDF activity in Gaza

By MAARIV ONLINE

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated to US President Joe Biden that there is a need to launch a military operation in southern Gaza, in order to destroy the terrorist organization Hamas, US media reported.

Biden then told the Israeli leader that it is not possible to operate in the southern Gaza Strip, in the same manner as the forces operated in the north, the report quoted him as saying.

Qatar seeks deal for all Israeli captives, as 12 more leave Gaza

The issue is highly pressurized because the existing deal is set to expire Thursday morning with the resumption of the war.

By TOVAH LAZAROFF

NOVEMBER 29, 2023 12:12 **Updated:** NOVEMBER 29, 2023 21:01



A convoy of Red Cross vehicles believed to be carrying hostages drives by in the southern Gaza Strip, November 26, 2023
(photo credit: REUTERS TV/via REUTERS)

Pray these scriptures over leaders

- So he [David] shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands.” Psalm 78:72
- “It is He [the Lord] who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding.” Daniel 2:21
- “Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, all who judge rightly. I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me.”
Proverbs 8:14-17

Let's pray Psalm 20 together

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high! May He send you help from the sanctuary and support you from Zion! May He remember all your meal offerings and find your burnt offering acceptable! May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your counsel! We will sing for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions. Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God. They have bowed down and fallen, but we have risen and stood upright. Save, O Lord; may the King answer us in the day we call.