

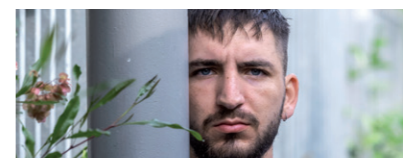
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## Sinwar, PM want hostage deal on their own terms

IDF: First we get the hostages, then we take overcrowded Rafah (maybe)

Analysis **Amos Harel**

As the wait drags on for the reply of the real decision-maker – Yahya Sinwar, Hamas' leader in the Gaza Strip – it's best not to develop inflated expectations this time either. As of Thursday evening, Sinwar, located somewhere in "Lower Gaza," was still silent. But top Hamas figures abroad, though it's unclear whether they speak in their leader's name, are sending contradictory messages in response to the latest Egyptian mediation offer, and are hinting that behind the proposal is an Israeli scheme. Only a surprising

move by Sinwar – a completely positive response, and not its rejection in whole or in part (via the "Yes, but" method) – can bring about a breakthrough at this time. Without it, the war will continue and the United States will not succeed in forcing a deal on him and on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who also appears not to be interested in a deal under the conditions being proposed.

The details of the Egyptian plan were published on Wednesday in Arab media outlets. It contains complicated formulations and sub-

formulations, with the goal of bringing about the phased return of all 133 hostages the terrorist organization is holding, both the living and the dead, in return for a gradual cease-fire followed by the full withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from the Gaza Strip. But the transition between the first phase, which is humanitarian in nature, in which some of the hostages (the elderly, women, the ill and the wounded) will be freed, and the second phase, when all the others will be released, is apparently not sufficient-ly guaranteed to suit Sinwar. As this column has reported,

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Protesters blocking the Ayalon Highway in Tel Aviv on Thursday while calling for a hostage deal.

## Diplomats: Cairo trying to sell Hamas on truce

Jonathan Lis, Jack Khoury, Ben Samuels and Bar Peleg

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reiterated his insistence on a ground invasion of Rafah, saying at a cabinet meeting that "we will do whatever it takes to vanquish our enemies, including in Rafah. There are some differences among us regarding operations, but I've taken a decision – we will operate there too."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken related to Netanyahu's previous statements indicating that Israel would invade Rafah with or without a hostage deal. Blinken said that the focus should be on the actions people take, not on the words they say.

In an interview with NBC, Blinken said the Biden administration's position on a possible operation in Rafah has not changed. "The U.S. cannot and will not support a major military operation" without "a clear, credible plan to protect civilians," he said. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said similar things in conversation with his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant Wednesday night.

Blinken called the release of the hostages his highest priority, adding that he believes Israel does so as well, and is prepared to make "big compromises." People demonstrating in support of releasing the hostages,

See **EGYPT**, Page 6

## Transcripts: Top cop appointee offered to 'bend police' for criminal

Gidi Weitz and Josh Breiner

In April 2015, Moshe Dadon called police Brig. Gen. Avshalom Peled. At the time, Dadon was the head of the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council, one of Israel's largest, and was considered powerful and well-connected. Peled was deputy commander of the Jerusalem District. In the subsequent nine years, Dadon served a sentence for bribery. Peled rose to the position of deputy police commissioner and today he is

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's choice for commissioner.

Back in 2015, each man needed the other's help. Peled lived, and still lives, in a spacious house with a spectacular mountain view in Moshav Zekharia, near Beit Shemesh. The moshav is in the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council. The house had building violations and encroached on Jewish National Fund land, which is supposed to be open to the public. The local planning and building committee opened an investigation

**Unfit to be commissioner**  
*Editorial, Page 11*

and Peled apparently feared that the affair would affect his promotion to police major general and frustrate his ambition to command the Border Police, where he served. Dadon, meanwhile, had a relative in the police force who wanted a different post – routine security coordinator in

a community in the regional council.

What the regional council head and the police officer didn't know was that they were not alone on the phone line, and that the national fraud investigations unit was listening to their every word. At that time, the unit was carrying out an undercover investigation against Dadon on suspicion of corruption and sexual offenses, and unit officers had wiretapped him.

See **PELED**, Page 6



Paul Auster, who died on Wednesday at 77.

Jeff Pachoud/AFP

## Paul Auster: 'I've thought about death every day since I was 14'

Gili Izkovitch

The last years of Paul Auster – who died on Wednesday at 77 – were not easy. His son and granddaughter died in terrible circumstances, and surely his already somewhat stooped back sunk a little further from the grief.

His writings teach us that from early youth, Auster was aware of death and its randomness, the chance of it hitting like the lightning that

struck and killed a boy who was standing next to him during summer camp. After he turned 66 – the age his father died – Auster walked the earth with the possibility of imminent death haunting him like a shadow.

This fear of death, however, didn't weaken him or make Auster listless and depressed. On the contrary: it led to a creative outburst that culminated in his longest, and probably most ambitious, literary

work – the novel "4321."

In this novel, Auster based the main character's life on his own terrifying experience of adolescence. As in many of his books, Auster sought to examine chance, arbitrariness, and fate. He wanted to ask, "what if?" What would have happened to him, his life, or someone else's life with a slight tweak to a detail or two?

See **AUSTER**, Page 3

## Israeli spyware and surveillance tech sold to Indonesia

Omer Benjakob

In the summer of 2020, a senior Israeli official was called to Singapore. Authorities there had discovered that Israeli firms under the oversight of Israel's Defense Ministry had sold advanced digital intelligence technologies to the neighboring country of Indonesia. Singapore could not understand why its ally Israel was arming the pro-Palestinian Muslim country with the same capabilities.

Amid reports that Indonesia has not ruled out establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, an international investigation published Thursday has revealed that at least four Israeli firms selling cyber offensive capabilities worked with the Southeast Asian country, home to the world's largest Muslim population.

Over the course of months of research, Amnesty International's Security Lab – the technology and human rights division of the organization – in collaboration with Haaretz, the Indonesian weekly Tempo, the Greek investigative

See **SPYWARE**, Page 4

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 Head of the Behavioral Sciences Program,  
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**Kitchen talks—introduction to culinary art therapy**  
**Dr. Ayelet Barak-Nahum**,  
 Head of Training for Therapeutic Cooking,  
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**Cook the Nation Anew – Food, Cuisine, and Nationalism in Times of War and Crisis**  
**Prof. Nimrod Luz**, Kinneret Academic College

**Interventions in the Therapeutic Kitchen in Emergency and Routine**  
**Bosmat Eliyahu**, art and culinary therapist, M.A.  
**Ephrat Peretz**, culinary therapist, M.S.W.  
**Michal Lev**, culinary therapist, M.S.W.  
**Mor Daniel**, culinary and art therapist, M.A.

**Summary Panel**

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