

## Doctor on detained Gazans: 'We're complicit in breaking law'

Hagar Shezaf  
and Michael Hauser-Tov

In a letter sent to the defense and health ministers and the attorney general, a doctor at the field hospital set up at the Sde Teiman detention center to hold arrested Gazans describes conditions that he says can compromise the inmates' health and put the government at risk of violating the law.

"Just this week, two prisoners had their legs amputated due to handcuff injuries, which unfortunately is a routine event," the physician said in the letter. He said inmates are fed through straws, defecate in diapers and are held constant restraints, which violate medical ethics and the law.

The Sde Teiman facility was established immediately after the outbreak of the Gaza war to hold Hamas terrorists, including those who took part in the atrocities of October 7, until they could be moved to a regular prison.

At the time, the Knesset approved an amendment to

the law on holding detainees that specified the conditions in which they could be held. Since the start of the ground operation in the Gaza Strip, most of the Gazans who have been arrested have been sent to Sde Teiman to be investigated for involvement in terrorism. Those cleared of suspicion are then sent

back to Gaza.

"From the first days of the medical facility's operation until today, I have faced serious ethical dilemmas. More than that, I am writing [this letter] to warn you that the facilities' operations do not comply with a single section among those dealing with health in the

Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law," the doctor writes.

He stressed that all the patients at the hospital set up at Sde Teiman are handcuffed by all four limbs, regardless of how dangerous they are deemed. They are blindfolded and fed through a straw. "Under these conditions, in practice, even young and healthy patients lose weight after a week or two of hos-

pitalization," the physician said. He added that the hospital doesn't receive regular supplies of medical equipment or medicine.

The Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson's Unit said in response that detainees were given enough food for their health needs and had access to the toilet in accordance with their medical

See DOCTOR, Page 2

## Gantz calls for election in Sept.; PM: not until war goals met

Yael Friedson  
and Michael Hauser-Tov

Minister Benny Gantz proposed on Wednesday to set an agreed date for election in September. "An agreed election date will leave us time to continue the security efforts, let the public know we'll renew the trust between us soon, and it will prevent the rift in the nation," Gantz said.

"I hope that if we agree on this, all the responsible public leaders will enable and join a unity government. This will increase the unity in the nation and give us huge international backing that is so required," he said. Gantz said his move followed talks with political leaders in recent weeks.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blasted Gantz after his address, saying he "must stop dealing with small politics only because his party is falling apart."

Likud said in a statement "the government will continue until achieving all the war's goals" and that an election "will necessarily cause paralysis, division, harm the warfare in Rafah and deal a fatal blow to the chance to achieve a hostage deal."

In an appeal to the hostages' families, Gantz said he feels ashamed when he hears part of the public and the politicians' treatment of them. He said the prime minister "must speak out on this clearly, strengthen the families and make sure all the coalition members treat them appropriately."

"My colleagues and I won't sit in a government that doesn't act to bring back the hostages," he said. In addition to bringing back the hostages, Gantz said "the most important security need is to change the reality in the north of Israel," because "we'll be fighting Hamas for many more

See GANTZ, Page 4

# Israel on high alert amid fears Iran will seek revenge for Damascus killings

Amos Harel

According to all the signals and warnings emanating from Iran, Tehran is determined to respond to the killing attributed to Israel of senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps figures in Damascus, first and foremost Gen. Hassan Mahadawi. The Israeli defense establishment is on a high level of alert against the risk of a revenge attack.

This may include one or more of the following scenarios: a direct drone and cruise missile attack launched from Iran itself and aimed at Israeli infrastructure sites; more intense rocket attacks from Lebanon and Syria through proxies Hezbollah or Shi'ite militias operated by Iran; or an attempt to strike an Israeli embassy overseas.

Since the Damascus bombing Monday, the Iranians have focused on the site that was attacked, a building attached to their embassy in Syria. Iran has described the structure as part of its consulate in the city. Israel asserts that it is not a diplomatic facility, that Iran has no consulate in Damascus and that all those who were killed were from the IRGC, Hezbollah and Syrian militias, known terrorists and

no diplomats or ordinary civilians. Iran's assertion of the building's diplomatic status is aimed at laying the groundwork in the international arena for the Iranian case that the facility was under Iranian sovereignty, and tantamount to an attack on Iranian soil.

The headline in the English-language edition of the official Iranian government newspaper Kayhan declared that after Mahadawi's killing, all Israeli representative offices anywhere in the world were now legitimate targets for attack. The Iranians indeed have a long history of such operations. In the early 1990s, Iran and Hezbollah were involved in the attacks in Argentina on the Israeli embassy and the Jewish community building in Buenos Aires. In the last two decades, Iran and its proxies have been linked to additional attempts to harm Israeli diplomatic staff and their families, including the embassies in India and Azerbaijan.

Hezbollah expert Dr. Shimon Shapira found further reasoning for such an Iranian response in the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, See IRAN, Page 4



Families of hostages protesting inside the Knesset on Wednesday, calling on the government to take action to free their loved ones. See stories, pages 2 and 7.

Oren Ben Hagoon

## Will killing of int'l aid workers be the tipping point for Biden?

Ben Samuels

WASHINGTON - Over the nearly six months of the Israel-Hamas war, there have been a number of incidents that observers claimed could mark an inflection point. These would hypothetically impact U.S. public support for Israel's military tactics, produce a public display of anger from the White House that has been primarily limited to behind-the-scenes conversations, push the U.S. to reconsider being Israel's effective bodyguard among the international community, and more.

Ultimately, though, these moments have come and

gone. Tens of thousands of deaths and a looming famine in Gaza later, these incidents - fatal strikes on refugee camps, firefights in hospitals, dozens of members of single families wiped out by dumb bombs - have provoked significant domestic discomfort, forcing a rhetorical shift from the White House.

Yet the U.S. policy has remained largely unchanged, and the Biden administration has been resigned to offering its version of "thoughts and prayers" concerning the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

However, the IDF's killing of seven aid workers from World Central Kitchen on Monday night does feel different. The outrage throughout Washington - within the Biden administration and elsewhere - has been immediate and overwhelming, with a real possibility that the incident could have a genuine impact on policy.

Much of this can be linked to World Central Kitchen founder José Andrés' unparalleled standing in D.C.

"Everyone in foreign policy circles, at the White House and State Department have dined in José Andrés' restaurants," tweeted Dave

See AID, Page 4

## Antisemitism a key measure for U.S. Jews picking college - study

Judy Maltz

A significant share of Jewish parents in the United States say their children's college choices have been influenced by increasing antisemitism on campuses since October 7, according to a poll published on Tuesday.

The poll, commissioned by Hillel International, the Jewish campus life organization, found that nearly half of all Jewish college-bound students (49 percent) have written off a school they would have otherwise applied to because of the recent rise of

antisemitism there. Among the respondents, 15 percent said there were schools that their child has been accepted to but that they would not attend because of antisemitism on that particular campus and 20 percent said there were schools that their child has already applied to but would not attend if they were accepted for the same reason. But more than a third of the respondents (36 percent) said the recent rise in antisemitism would not affect their children's college choices.

The findings were based on a survey of 427 parents with either a junior or senior in high school and conducted by the Benenson Strategy Group between March 13 and March 18. According to Hillel, it is the first survey of its kind to gauge the impact of rising campus antisemitism on the college-bound Jewish teens since October 7.

The past six months have seen an unprecedented wave of anti-Israel protests sweep across college campuses in America. The protests have

See COLLEGE, Page 2

## HAARETZ Online now

Did El Al price gouge in war? Competition authority examines; airline's profits soar



Tomer Appelbaum

Criminal probe for MK? Police may investigate after MK lights fire at protest

haaretz.com

## 'People are constantly cursing Sinwar'

# Gazans opposing Hamas are sure they're the majority

Amira Hass

The donkey cart full of people and mattresses is one of the sights of the war on Gaza and the current siege. "More than once, I've heard a cart owner urging his donkey on and saying something like, 'Move it, Yahya Sinwar, move it,'" says Basel (a pseudonym, as I've used for everyone in this article).

Basel, 30, stayed in the northern Gaza Strip despite the Israeli army's order to evacuate, because his elderly parents couldn't move south. They live in a half-demolished house with plastic sheets - to cover the shattered windows - that don't protect them from the cold. Many of his relatives have been killed in the bombardment, including nieces he was close to. They were playing outside when a target nearby was hit.

Yes, Israel bombs and kills, Basel says, but he refuses to absolve Hamas from responsibility for the catastrophe that has befallen the Gazans. "People are constantly cursing Sinwar, but this isn't reflected in the journalists' reports," he says.

As he put it in a phone conversation, not our first, he said, "Early this week, an elderly man standing in the middle of the market cursed Ahmed Yassin for giving us Hamas" - Yassin was one of the Hamas lead-



Gazans waiting for food in Jabalya, northern Gaza, last month.

Mahmoud Issa / Reuters

ers assassinated by Israel in 2004. "I blew him a kiss for his courage. I'm not for cursing a dead man, but I love it when people rebel."

I didn't know Basel before we started our phone correspondence; he initiated the contact to express his fury at what he calls "Hamas' takeover of our narrative." He's angry that the Palestinians outside Gaza and their supporters expect Gazans to shut up and not criticize Hamas, because the criticism ostensibly helps the enemy. He rejects the assumption that doubting the decisions and

actions of this armed group - and to do so publicly - is an act of treason.

"I have the right that they should know what I think and feel, even if I'm in the minority - and I know that I'm not in the minority. And I know that I speak for a lot of people," Basel says. "I have the right to speak, if only because I'm one of the millions whose lives Hamas is gambling with for crazy slogans with no basis in reality, which have dwarfed the Palestinian cause and turned the struggle for high and existential goals into a struggle for a piece of bread

and cans of food."

After weeks of eating stew made of wild plants such as *anchusa* (leaves of tongue in Arabic), *khubeza* and sorrel, U.S. military rations from the airdrops began to appear, but gangsters stole them to sell them in markets. They go for 240 shekels (\$66) for a 12-ration box, says Basel, who adds that he isn't the kind to risk his life to chase food parachuted or trucked in. "I'm fine with the American food," he says.

Two friends and an old

See GAZANS, Page 7