

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025 ■ 7 ELUL, 5785



**Bring them home**  
Bar Abraham Kupershtein, 23,  
kidnapped from the Nova music festival

**Into the woods**

The Black Forest  
is full of wonder  
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**Iran's hope**

Exiled Crown Prince  
Reza Pahlavi has a plan  
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ILAN WEISS  
(Hostages and  
Missing Families Forum)

IDAN SHTIVI  
(Hostages and  
Missing Families Forum)

## IDF recovers bodies of two hostages

• By AARON REICH  
and SHIR PERETS

The IDF and the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) have recovered and identified the bodies of hostages Ilan Weiss and Idan Shtivi in the Gaza Strip, the military confirmed over the weekend.

Weiss, 56, was a resident of Kibbutz Be'eri in the Gaza border area and served on the kibbutz's emergency standby squad. He was killed during the October 7 massacre, with his body taken by Hamas back to Gaza, the kibbutz confirmed in January 2024.

Weiss's wife, Shiri, and daughter, Noga, were also taken hostage by Hamas on October 7, but were released in late November 2023 during a temporary ceasefire.

His other two daughters, Meytal and Maayan, were able to hide from Hamas during the massacre and were saved by IDF soldiers.

The family dog, Ketem, was also killed by Hamas terrorists when Shiri and Noga were abducted.

Shtivi's death was originally announced by the Hostages and Missing Families Forum in October 2024.

"Idan was a talented student of sustainability and government and a courageous man. On October 7, 2023, he attended the Nova music festival, and when the terrorist attack began, he acted to evacuate and save many of the participants," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated on Saturday night.

"In the course of his actions, he was murdered, and his body was kidnapped by the Hamas terrorist organization into Gaza."

On October 7, Shtivi arrived at the Nova festival site to take photos of his friends,

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# IDF carries out strike against top Hamas official in Gaza City

## Reservist killed, marking 900th fallen soldier since beginning of war

• Jerusalem Post Staff

The IDF has carried out a strike targeting a senior Hamas terrorist in Gaza City, the IDF and Shin Bet confirmed in a joint statement on Saturday.

Hamas military wing spokesperson Abu Obeida was the target of the strike. Although Israeli officials told *The Jerusalem Post* they are optimistic he was killed in the strike, his death has not been confirmed.

This comes as Israel is preparing for its planned takeover of Gaza City, which has been dubbed by the IDF as "Operation Gideon's Chariots II."

The strike against Abu Obeida targeted the first and second floors of a residential building.

One person was killed, and several others were wounded, Palestinian state media WAFA reported. Gaza reports said that seven were killed in the strike.

Abu Obeida declared on Friday that hostages are being held alongside its fighters in combat zones under the same perilous conditions, as Israel intensifies preparations for a full-scale invasion of Gaza City.

"We will preserve the lives of the captives to the extent that we can," the terror group said. "They will remain with our fighters in the places of confrontation, exposed to the same risks."

The IDF's expansion of operations will increase the



ARIEL LUBLINER  
(IDF)



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chances of capturing IDF soldiers, the Hamas spokesperson warned. He also threatened that Hamas terrorists are on high alert and will teach it a "harsh lesson."

Hamas added that for every hostage killed as a result of Israeli military action, it would publish the individual's name, photograph, and proof of death.

The IDF said that prior to

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PALESTINIANS GATHER at the site of an Israeli strike that targeted Hamas military wing spokesperson Abu Obeida in Gaza City on Saturday. (Reuters/Stringer)

## Hostage forum claims it has evidence gov't is thwarting deal

• Jerusalem Post Staff

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum received evidence that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government is torpedoing a deal for an end to the war, in opposition to the people's will, the organization said Saturday, citing a political source.

"Tonight the people of Israel received further proof that the Netanyahu government is choosing endless war over the hostages, completely opposing the will of the people, even though a real option exists to bring the hostages home," the families said.

The security cabinet is scheduled to meet on Sunday evening at the Prime Minister's Office to discuss its Gaza City incursion; however, it will not discuss the agreement on the table that would release the hostages.

The forum urged Israelis to demonstrate in Jerusalem at the time of the cabinet meeting to demand that it discuss the existing framework for a deal to bring all the hostages home and end the war.

Demonstrations on Saturday evening took

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PROTESTERS BRANDISH weapons and shout slogans while they demonstrate against Israel and in solidarity with Gaza on Friday in Sanaa, Yemen. (Mohammed Hamoud/Getty Images)

## Houthi PM killed in Israeli strike, terror group and IDF say

*Israeli sources say 8 other top officials killed in attack*

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB  
and Jerusalem Post Staff

Houthi Prime Minister Ghalib al-Rahawi and several other ministers were killed in the IAF strike in Sanaa on Thursday, the news agency run by the terror group said on Saturday, citing a statement by the head of the Houthi Supreme Political Council, Mahdi al-Mashat.

The Houthis further announced that several other ministers who were present were seriously or moderately injured in the strike and are receiving medical treatment. However, the announcement did not specify who else was killed in the attack.

According to Army Radio, citing Israeli security sources, eight others killed in the attack were the Houthis' political bureau director, the prime minister's chief of staff, the group's cabinet secretary, and its justice minister, economy and trade minister, foreign minister, agriculture

minister, and public relations minister.

Houthi Defense Minister Mohammad Nasser al-Athifi said that the terror group is ready to confront Israel's airstrike on Sanaa shortly after their deaths were announced, according to the news agency. Mashat's statement previously did not make clear whether he was among the casualties.

The IAF attacked a group of top Houthi military officials in Sanaa who were watching their leader give a nationally

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## US blocks PA officials from attending UN General Assembly by denying visas

*Israel praises decision, while Abbas, UN, and others say PA has right to be heard*

• By AMICHAI STEIN  
and Reuters

The US will not allow Palestinian officials and diplomats, including Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, to attend next month's United Nations General Assembly in New York.

A State Department official said Abbas and about 80 other Palestinians would be affected by the decision to deny and revoke visas from members of the PA and the umbrella Palestine Liberation Organization.

In a statement, the department reiterated longstanding US and Israeli allegations that the PA and PLO had failed to repudiate terrorism while pushing for "unilateral recognition" of a Palestinian state.

Palestinian officials reject such allegations and say that decades of US-mediated talks have failed to end Israeli occupation and secure an independent Palestinian state.

Several European foreign ministers arriving at a European Union meeting in Copenhagen on Saturday criticized the US decision.

A UN General Assembly "cannot be subject to any restrictions on access," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told reporters. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Harris said the EU should protest the decision "in the strongest



PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY President Mahmoud Abbas addresses the 79th United Nations General Assembly in New York last September. (Brendan McDermid/Reuters)

possible terms."

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said in a statement on Saturday that he had spoken with Abbas to express Madrid's support, and he called the visa decision "unjust."

"Palestine has the right to make its voice heard at the United Nations and in all international forums," he said on X/Twitter.

A Friday State Department release titled "Trump administration reaffirms commitment to not reward terrorism and revokes visas of Palestinian officials ahead of UNGA" said that the US is denying and revoking visas from members of the PLO and the PA ahead of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in September.

"The Trump administration has been clear: it is in our national security interests to hold the PLO and PA accountable for not complying with their commitments, and for undermining the prospects for peace," the release noted.

"Before the PLO and PA can be considered partners for peace, they must consistently repudiate terrorism – including the October 7 massacre – and end incitement to terrorism in education, as required by US law and as promised by the PLO," the release stated.

"The PA must also end its attempts to bypass negotiations through international lawfare campaigns, including appeals to the ICC and ICJ, and efforts to secure the unilateral recognition of a conjectural Palestinian state."

The release said that the US administration believed that both the PA and the PLO's actions "materially contributed to Hamas's refusal to release its hostages, and to the breakdown of the Gaza ceasefire talks."

Governments typically send large delegations to the assembly. The restrictions could lead to a depleted Palestinian presence at a summit where Britain, France, Australia, and Canada have pledged to formally recognize a state of Palestine.

The restrictions mean that Abbas would likely not be able to travel to New York to deliver an address to the annual gathering, as he typically does.

Abbas's office said it was astonished by the visa decision and argued it violated the UN's "headquarters agreement," under which the US is generally required to allow access for foreign diplomats to the UN in New York. His office did not say whether his visa was revoked or denied.

The office called on the US administration to reconsider and reverse its decision, "reaffirming Palestine's full commitment to international law, UN resolutions, and obligations toward peace," adding that the American decision "stands in clear contradiction

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