

Israel Newsdesk  
with BPF Secretary  
Steve Lloyd  
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I apologise for this Israel News Desk being late, this is due to a number of reasons. I also have to announce that our dear friend and brother in Christ, Brian Gemmell was promoted to glory on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and is now in the presence of His Saviour. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gilly and the family.

***“I will make a covenant of peace with them, it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever” Ezekiel 37:26-28***

Israel - “War” is not the right word for it. Even “Campaign” is too much for a 54-hour exchange of bombs, rockets and shells across a border, with one of the parties mercifully suffering zero fatalities. As for “Weekend”, it’s about right. Whoever left for vacation on Friday evening and tuned in only early Monday may have been surprised to find out that during that time the Israel Defence Forces and Palestinian Islamic Jihad fought each other in the worst flare-up over Gaza since May 2022.

In summing up Operation Breaking Dawn, Defence Minister Benny Gantz stated that “as necessary”, the IDF will again undertake “a preventive strike”. The terms are ambiguous. He may have meant a sortie to take out rocket squads as they were about to launch, or a raiding party inside a tunnel, but then again it can be interpreted as referring to a campaign initiated against the build-up of hostile forces, especially those armed with weapons of mass destruction or on their threshold.

Gantz specifically mentioned Tehran as one of the addresses for this declaration.

Military observers are sure to caution themselves and their audiences that what transpired over a couple of days in one small corner of the Middle East is too small a sample from which to jump to sweeping conclusions. Nevertheless, some points stand out:

Israeli intelligence of all sources and disciplines is unsurpassed.

Avoiding non-combatant/collateral damage is a priority strictly supervised and followed.

Fire dominates, manoeuvre waits. No armour or infantry is to be sent into terror traps as long as missiles, shells and bombs will do.

Hope for a short campaign, act as if it may linger. As soon as the Israel Air Force struck its first targets, thousands of reserve servicemen were issued emergency call-up orders. This was both a readiness measure and a signal of seriousness.

So, strategic prevention or tactical pre-emption? Perhaps the right term would be a mixture of both, “Pretaliation” – an act of retaliation for an imminent attack, but carried out beforehand.

Taken from a report by Amir Oren, TV7 Israel News.

Who were the two terrorist leaders that were killed by Israeli strikes at the weekend?

They were Khaled Mansour and Tayseer Jabari. Jabari was Islamic Jihad’s commander in Northern Gaza, and had been a member of IJ for decades. He was also in charge of the groups rocket arsenal and was its primary co-ordinator with Hamas.

Mansour was one of the most fanatical heads of Saraya al-Quds - the military arm of the IJ movement.

Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, announced at the end of June, that he would not run in the country’s forthcoming elections. He stated “I don’t intend to compete in the coming elections, but I will remain a loyal soldier in the service of this country”. He will remain as Prime Minister until the Knesset holds its formal vote to dissolve the government and end when a new coalition forms after the next elections in October or November.

USA - It is obvious to all that the Biden administration has created problems around the world. His actions have emboldened Russia and China and even Iran to ramp up their aggression against their neighbours, and America does nothing.

It can be said that the Biden administration has made the world an infinitely more dangerous place.

A recent speech by Nikki Haley, previously the American Ambassador to the UN, at the Colin Cramphorn Memorial Lecture at the Policy Exchange think-tank sounded like a leadership campaign speech.

It was the speech of a leader rousing not just her party and her nation, but also Western civilisation itself to battle for survival. She stated that the West's lethal mistake had been to assume that economic interdependence with these regimes would promote peace and avoid conflict. The opposite was the case. She stated that the West had its back against the wall, with Russia and China forming a closer alliance than that of Mao and Stalin, to bring down the West. What was so refreshing about Haley's speech was the clarity of the message and her refusal to soft-soap brutal realities.

If the West is to defend itself, she warned, it has to be prepared to take the pain and sacrifice involved in decoupling from China and Russia. It needs to show strength and the intention to win. "Only countries proud of their inheritance can defeat their enemies", "our self-loathing has to stop".

Perhaps Haley is just what the USA needs at this time, to stop it imploding on itself.

UK - Conservative Party leadership hopeful Liz Truss has said "There is no greater friend of the United Kingdom than Israel". Speaking at a conservative Friends of Israel hustings on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, she signalled a potential historic shift by saying that she will consider moving the British embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem if she becomes Prime minister. Ms Truss, who is favourite to beat Rishi Sunak in the leadership race next month also stated "I am proud to have visited Israel, I am proud to have spent time with prime minister Yair Lapid and to have talked and signed a new strategic agreement between the UK and Israel which strengthens our relationship in areas like security and economy as well as science and technology". She remained resolute in her stand for Israel and would continue to attack antisemitism here and around the world working with our allies.

Please keep praying for Israel and the IDF and IAF in their defence of the nation.

Maranatha

Steve