

# 1,200 Israeli Reservists Call for Immediate End to War in Gaza

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – 1,200 Israeli reservist soldiers and officers have signed a letter addressed to the government and the Chief of Staff of the Zionist regime’s army, calling for an immediate end to the war in Gaza, according to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz.

The signatories said in their letter that continuing the war has become a political act that no longer serves the Zionist regime’s security goals and goes against the will of the vast majority of the public in the occupied territories.

They stressed the urgent need to bring back all Israeli captives from Gaza without delay, warning that the ongoing military operations may put their lives at



*Zionist troops near the Gaza Strip*

risk, as well as endanger the lives of soldiers and innocent civilians.

The letter also cautioned that

prolonging the conflict could lead to war crimes being committed. It stated that continuing the fighting is not in the Zionist

regime’s military interest.

In mid-April, Haaretz reported that over 100,000 Israelis had signed petitions within five days, demanding an end to the war and the return of the captives.

Figures show rising suicide rates have raised alarm in military ranks. Two recently recalled soldiers committed suicide, further intensifying scrutiny of the Israeli military’s handling of mental health issues.

An Israeli study recently found that around 12 percent of reservist forces, who participated in the war in Gaza, had reported severe symptoms of PTSD, which significantly affects their ability to carry out their duties, making them unfit for war.

## WSJ: ICC Prosecutor Prepares Arrest Warrants for Smotrich, Ben Gvir

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Karim Khan was preparing international arrest warrants for the Zionist regime’s finance minister Bezalel Smotrich and hardline minister Itamar Ben Gvir before he went on administrative leave from his position, due to an ongoing investigation concerning him, The Wall Street Journal reported.

According to the report, the arrest warrants relate to the two Israeli far-right ministers’ involvement in the expansion of Israeli

settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Citing current and former ICC officials, the paper also noted that the decision has reportedly been passed on to Khan’s deputies, although it remains unclear how they will proceed.

The ICC is reportedly investigating additional unnamed Israeli officials, along with Ben Gvir and Smotrich, over their involvement in settlement expansion.

According to the ICC’s founding treaty, the Rome Statute, the transfer by an occupying power of

its population into occupied territory is a war crime. The Geneva Conventions also prohibit such action.

The United Nations’ International Court of Justice, which is distinct from the non-UN ICC, also sees Israeli settlements as illegal.

The court did not comment to the newspaper regarding Smotrich and Ben Gvir, saying only that it has a mandate to investigate alleged crimes in the Palestinian territories committed since 2014, when the Palestinian Authority joined the ICC. Israel is not a

member of the ICC.

In 2021, the court ruled that it has jurisdiction over crimes in the West Bank, even though the Zionist regime is not a member.

Neither Smotrich nor Ben Gvir responded to a WSJ request for comment.

Unnamed Israeli officials told the Kan public broadcaster that after Khan went on leave, and in light of the “concerning facts being revealed about his behavior, it is expected that his deputies will act with caution and responsibility in dealing with the case.”

## Zionist Regime Strikes Southern Lebanon in Violation of Ceasefire

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s military has conducted an assault in the southern Lebanese province of Nabatieh, killing at least one individual, in the latest flagrant breach of a tenuous ceasefire agreement with Lebanon.

The Public Health Emergency Operations Center of Lebanon’s Ministry of Public Health said in a statement that an Israeli drone fired a guided missile at a motorcycle as it was traveling along a road at the village of Yater in Bint Jbeil district late on Tuesday.

A Lebanese security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, identified the victim as a member of the Hezbollah resistance movement, and named him as Nabil Balaghi.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Lebanese army announced that it had found

an Israeli espionage device and dismantled two earthen berms erected by the Israeli military in a border area in southern Lebanon.

“In the course of ongoing engineering survey operations in the southern regions, a specialized military unit discovered an Israeli enemy espionage device camouflaged and equipped with a camera on the outskirts of the village of Blida-Marjayoun in southeastern Lebanon. The unit dismantled the device,” the statement read.

It added, “The unit also removed two earthen berms that had been erected by the enemy in the villages of Blida and Mays al-Jabal - Marjayoun.”

The statement indicated that the Lebanese army is persistently watching the situation in collabora-

tion with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), in light of the continued Israeli infringements on Lebanon’s sovereignty and security, especially in the southern region.

This comes as Lebanon’s official National News Agency had reported that “an Israeli force, accompanied by two bulldozers” had infiltrated the “outskirts of Mays al-Jabal in the eastern sector of the border area, where it erected an earthen berm and encroached on dozens of meters of Lebanese land before withdrawing.”

Since the commencement of the ceasefire, Israeli occupation forces have been launching assaults on Lebanon, including airstrikes throughout the Arab nation, breaching the agreement.

On January 27, 2025, Lebanon announced its decision to extend the ceasefire with Israel until February 18.

Although the deadline of February 18 has passed, Israel continues to maintain its occupation of five significant regions in southern Lebanon, namely Labbounh, Mount Blat, Owayda Hill, Aaziyyeh, and Hammamis Hill, all situated near the border.

Lebanon has condemned the continued presence of Israeli military forces, viewing it as a violation of the ceasefire agreement and the established timeline for withdrawal. Senior officials in Beirut have expressed their commitment to take “all necessary measures” to remove the occupying troops from the nation.

## Iraq’s Jewish Community Working to Restore Shrine in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Workers in Baghdad are working to restore an ancient rabbi’s shrine as part of an initiative to preserve the dwindling cultural legacy of Iraq’s Jewish community.

Months ago, Rabbi Isaac Gaon’s tomb lay in ruins—cluttered with debris, its door rusted shut, windows broken, and walls darkened by years of abandonment.

Now, the once-small grave is covered with shiny marble tiles. In the middle, there’s a big tombstone with the rabbi’s name, a holy verse, and the year he died—688. Behind it, a silver menorah hangs on the wall.

“It was a garbage dump and we were not allowed to restore it,” said the head of

Iraq’s Jewish community, Khalida Elyahu.

In an effort to reclaim their heritage, the community is independently funding a \$150,000 restoration of the rabbi’s shrine.

Elyahu stated the initiative would spark “a revival for our community, both within and outside Iraq.” Supported by Iraqi authorities, she expressed ambitions to rehabilitate additional abandoned Jewish heritage sites.

The shrine held deep significance for locals as a sacred refuge. A local resident said that “people came here to pray for the sick, for babies, and even for prisoners’ release. Rabbi Isaac was a revered man.”

Rabbi Isaac Gaon was prominent during the Gaonic period, also known as the era of

Babylonian academies for rabbis.

The term “Gaon” is likely to refer to his position as the head of one such academy.

Iraq was formerly home to one of the most significant Jewish populations in West Asia, which has now diminished to merely a few dozen individuals

In Baghdad, the last remaining synagogue stands without rabbis, and neighborhoods once bustling with Jewish life now contain only crumbling, abandoned homes.

Years of turmoil—including Saddam Hussein’s dictatorship, the 2003 US invasion, and subsequent militancy —precipitated the community’s near-total disappearance.

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navigation” in response to “escalating genocide crimes in Gaza.”

On that same day, a ballistic missile launched from Yemen landed in Ben Gurion Airport close to Tel Aviv, prompting several international airlines to suspend flights to and from the Israeli occupied territories.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has been waging a campaign in Gaza described by many as a genocidal war, involving widespread killing, starvation, destruction, and forced displacement. These actions have continued despite international appeals and binding orders from the International Court of Justice to stop the offensive.

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The president said if Islamic countries join hands and expand their trans actions and exchanges, and consciously connect their markets and people in trade, investment, economy, and industry, they will not need anyone.

The enemies of Muslims “come to our region, take our oil, gas, and facilities, and in return give us weapons, bombs, and missiles. They make us afraid of each other, and through the conspiracies and mischief of our enemies, we become a danger to each other,” he said.

Pezeshkian said Islamic countries should live in peace, security, prosperity, and growth.

“By understanding this, we can create change. We are not a threat to each other, but rather an opportunity for each other, and therefore we must join hands and use this opportunity properly, and hand in hand, put an end to the current situation.”

Earlier Wednesday, Pezeshkian underscored the geopolitical potential of Iran and Oman to connect regional markets and build strategic links aimed at expanding transregional trade.

“We can jointly establish strategic connections with Africa, Russia, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, and Europe, and use the geopolitical capacity of both countries to expand transregional trade,” he told Omani business leaders.

Pezeshkian said if necessary infrastructure and frameworks are established, the volume of economic exchanges between Iran and Oman can reach \$10-20-billion.

Pezeshkian touched on 18 cooperation agreements signed between Iran and Oman Tuesday, saying the groundwork exists for expanding cooperation between the two countries across all areas, and “we must all seize this opportunity”.

The agreements, signed on the sidelines of the Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee, aim to deepen ties in multiple sectors, including legal, economic, political, cultural, educational, health, defense, media, technology, energy, and mining.

Pezeshkian highlighted the importance of infrastructure development to strengthen land, sea, and air connectivity between Iran and Oman.

The president emphasized the strategic value of opening up new channels of engagement, saying when paths of interaction in scientific, economic, and political fields are opened, peace and security will follow.

Trump...  
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French, one of Canada’s official languages.

The visit to Canada was Charles’ first as king and his 20th overall.

Canadians are largely indifferent to the monarchy, but Carney has been eager to show the differences between Canada and the United States.

After the United States gained independence from Britain, Canada remained a colony until 1867, and afterward continued as a constitutional monarchy with a British-style parliamentary system.

Carney won the job of prime minister by promising to confront the increased aggression shown by Trump and made his first official trip to London and Paris, the capital cities of Canada’s two founding nations.

Carney is eager to diversify trade, and the king said Canada can build new alliances. More than 75% of Canada’s exports go to the U.S., and Trump has threatened sweeping tariffs on Canadian products.

Just a few days ago the new U.S. ambassador to Canada, Pete Hoekstra, said that sending messages to the U.S. isn’t necessary. He said Canadians should move on from the 51st state talk, telling the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. that if there’s a message to be sent, there are easier ways — such as calling him or Trump.

The king also said Canada would look to the European Union to purchase military equipment by joining the “REARM Europe” plan — a major defense procurement project to ramp up arms production in Europe.

The speech made no mention of buying from the U.S.

Official ...  
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sustainable security architecture, Ahmadian criticized unilateralism in global politics, which he said has led to humanitarian crises, particularly in West Asia.

He pointed to the conflicts in Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq as evidence of systemic injustice driven by Western dominance.

He condemned the ongoing atrocities in Gaza, calling the suffering of women and children a result of deliberate policy. Ahmadian stressed that global security must be based on multilateralism and fairness, and called for a shift toward a multipolar world order.

The summit, attended by delegations from over 100 countries, opened with a video address from Russian President Vladimir Putin. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated support for Iran’s peaceful nuclear rights during his opening remarks.

Eslami ...  
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told a press conference here.

The two countries have clashed over the issue of uranium enrichment in Iran. Tehran maintains its nuclear program is exclusively for civilian purposes and views its enrichment industry as a red line.

“Enrichment is the foundation and pillar of the country’s nuclear industry. Suppose someone is allowed to have an electricity substation and network, but not allowed to establish a power plant,” Eslami said.