



TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014 ■ 16 AV, 5774



Cold Turkey Diplomatic clash

Erdogan wins presidential election, Eric Mandel on what faces Israel, IHH threatens new flotilla US and the world community



Play must go on

Theater in the Rough brings summer Shakespeare to Jerusalem



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Political crisis roils Baghdad as Maliki refuses to cede power

By MICHAEL WILNER,
Jerusalem Post correspondent

WASHINGTON – In a political challenge to a country already under assault by an extremist Sunni army, Iraq's longtime prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, is refusing to cede control as his

term of office nears its end, suggesting over the weekend a willingness to use force to stay in power.

Iraq's President Fouad Masoum nominated Haider al-Abadi as Maliki's successor on Monday, after strong encouragement from the United

States to abide by the country's decade-old constitution.

The US hopes for the quick formation of a new unity government in Baghdad, with which it will then coordinate a military response to the rapid advance of the Islamic State.

Abadi is a Shi'ite and a member of Maliki's Dawa Party.

But Abadi's own party colleagues publicly rejected his appointment on Monday, charging that his nomination had "no legitimacy" and that Abadi "only represents himself."

In a demonstration of his anger, Maliki – still technically prime minister after eight years in power – ordered a show of force on the streets of Baghdad on Sunday leading up to the announcement, which was welcomed by the US, United Kingdom and

United Nations.

The US has noticed "no discernible change" in the security presence in Baghdad, State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters in Washington, adding that Maliki is still the country's

prime minister.

Abadi has 30 days to form and present a new government before Maliki officially steps down.

US Vice President Joe Biden called Masoum and Abadi on

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GETTING RESUPPLIED

Palestinians carry sacks of flour at a food distribution point in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, during the 72-hour cease-fire with Israel.
(Ibraheem Abu Mustafa/Reuters)

Angry locals near border: IDF left Gaza too early

'People still think the tunnels are there, and it's only a matter of time before someone pops up where he shouldn't'

By JEREMY SHARON

"Are you at your best at 3:45 in the morning? I'm not, but that's when we had to run to the bomb shelter again yesterday." So related on Monday Glen Eilon, 73, of Netiv Ha'asara, a moshav whose land abuts the separation barrier between Israel and Gaza.

Having been informed by the state late last week that it was safe to return to their homes, many residents of the southern communities bordering Gaza who traveled northward to escape the threat of rockets, mortars and terror tunnels returned to their dwellings over the weekend only to come under fire once again.

The next morning there was a polite message by the moshav's pool saying, "Due to our neighbors, the swimming pool will not be open today because of a technical problem," a wry reference to the fact that one of the incoming mortars had put it out of action for a while.

Netiv Ha'asara is the closest Israeli civilian community to Gaza, and the community has felt the harsh reality of the conflict with the Hamas regime there for many years, having



ITZIK SHIMLOVITZ, 69, stands in his greenhouse at Netiv Ha'asara yesterday. (Jeremy Sharon)

been the target of hundreds of rockets and mortar bombs.

During Operation Protective Edge, a farm laborer working in the moshav's hot-houses was killed by an incoming mortar shell, and an assault tunnel was discovered just 100 meters outside the community's perimeter fence.

"Usually we're very stoic, but this time people were angry and felt the IDF had left Gaza too quickly and that the situation hasn't changed too much, the rockets are still coming," Eilon said of the renewed rocket fire that took place over the weekend. "The feeling is that we can't trust anyone to keep their word. We come back and the situation just continued as it had done. Hamas wasn't sticking to the cease-fire, and we were naive enough to think that they would."

Despite the uncertainty, most residents of Netiv Ha'asara have now returned to the moshav.

According to Eilon, who was one of the founding families of the village, 80 percent of the residents left during Operation Protective Edge, including him-

self, his wife, his two sons and their young children.

Eventually, the combined threat of the rockets along with the new threat of the tunnels forced his sons to take their families away and strong-armed Eilon and his wife to join them up north at several different homes of friends and family.

He said people are still concerned about the tunnel threat in particular, despite the claims by the army that they have destroyed the attack tunnels that penetrated Israeli territory. "People still think they're there and it's only a matter of time before someone pops up where he shouldn't," Eilon said. "People are frightened, the first time I've ever seen a whole community frightened. This has been different than in the past."

He said he didn't believe the cease-fire would hold for too long and that the rocket and mortar fire the moshav has gotten used to over the past decade will start up again in short order. Itzik Shimlovitz, 69, another

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Hamas: We'll let the PA monitor Rafah crossing

Security cabinet to meet today to discuss cease-fire negotiations • Lapid presents demilitarization plan

By KHALED ABU TOAMEH
and HERB KEINON

For the first time since its men seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, Hamas announced on Monday it would not oppose the return of forces loyal to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to the Rafah border crossing.

The announcement came during the first day of a 72-hour cease-fire as Israel and Hamas launched indirect talks in Cairo in a bid to reach an agreement over a longer-term truce.

The announcement also came following unconfirmed reports that the Egyptians would agree to the deployment of some 1,000 PA policemen along the border between Gaza and Egypt.

Izzat al-Risheq, one of the Hamas officials at the Cairo talks, said his group was not opposed to the idea of placing the Rafah terminal under control of Abbas loyalists – but only on the basis of a "partnership" with the PA.

"We have notified President Abbas and the brothers in the Palestinian Authority that we are ready as of now – rather than today – to hand over the Rafah terminal to President Abbas," Risheq said. "Before that, we handed over [to the PA] ministries in order to remove obstacles to lifting the siege on our people."

The Hamas official said his



PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY chief negotiator Saeb Erekat (left) shares notes with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil el-Arabi during their meeting at the Arab League in Cairo yesterday.
(Asmaa Waguih/Reuters)

group also had no objections to Abbas and the PA overseeing the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip.

"We support the formation of a national body headed by a clean, transparent and professional personality, to be in charge of the reconstruction," he said. "Everyone is facing a crisis; Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. International and regional realities have changed and we must interact with these circumstances for the sake of our people and cause."

Azzam al-Ahmed, a senior Fatah official and head of the Palestinian delegation to the cease-fire talks, said the PA and all its institutions would be

responsible for the implementation of any agreement reached under the auspices of the Egyptians.

The PA would also be in charge of the reconstruction of Gaza, he said.

Meanwhile, the security cabinet is scheduled to meet at noon on Tuesday to discuss the developments.

Two members of the eight-member forum – Finance Minister Yair Lapid and Economy Minister Naftali Bennett – presented widely divergent views of the situation.

Lapid unveiled a plan he is promoting that involves the US, the EU, Russia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan toward the goal of demilitarizing Gaza, and

eventually transferring it to Palestinian Authority control.

Lapid said Operation Protective Edge cannot end – and will not end – without a diplomatic component, and that without such a process the sides would simply enter a countdown to the next round of violence.

Lapid's plan, which has been presented to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, includes the following elements: returning the PA to the border crossings; making the PA responsible for the rehabilitation of Gaza and the sole body responsible for the rehabilitation funds; conditioning progress in rehabilitation of Gaza to Israel's security; establishing principles to prevent the strengthening of terror organizations; ensuring the demilitarization of Gaza; and removing the threat of tunnels and rockets from Israel.

While Lapid's plan leaned heavily on the Palestinian Authority, Bennett said on Channel 2 that Abbas is "a partner for terror."

"I think that we are deluding ourselves with this whole line that Abu Mazen [Abbas] is Mother Theresa. He is the one who is talking about going to UN institutions to harm Israel – he has been turned here into some kind of hero."

Abbas, he said, is a partner in the Palestinian unity government with Hamas that has fired

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Police prepared for increased attacks in east Jerusalem

In special YASAM patrol ride-along, 'Post' observes squad quickly disperse two riots

By DANIEL K. EISENBUD

Amid a disquieting report that violence against Jews living in primarily Arab east Jerusalem neighborhoods nearly doubled last month compared to the same period last year, police have blanketed at-risk areas with hundreds of officers and an elite special patrol unit.

According to the report, released by police and the Housing Ministry on Monday, over 360 assaults against Jews were reported in July alone.

The surge in violence is largely due to the brutal revenge slaying of 16-year-old Shuafat resident Muhammad Abu Kheir and Operation Protective Edge in Gaza, which have conflated to spur ongoing rioting in numerous Arab communities where Jews reside, police said.

Moreover, the report stated

that a disproportionate number of incidents took place on the final night of Ramadan late last month, during which more than 70 attacks were reported.

The majority of the assaults – typically propagated by masked youths and young adults throwing powerful firecrackers, rocks and firebombs at the homes and cars of Jewish residents living among the Palestinian population – have not resulted in serious injuries, police said. However, last week tensions peaked when a terrorist commandeering an excavator killed a Jewish pedestrian in the Shmuel Hanavi neighborhood, and an IDF soldier was shot in the stomach at a bus stop in a separate incident hours later in nearby French Hill.

In response to the alarming rise of attacks, Israel Police

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3 Israelis killed in car-train accident in Switzerland

By HERB KEINON

Three Israelis were killed and another five seriously injured when the minivan they were traveling in during a vacation in Switzerland was hit by a train near the Swiss town of Wolfenschiessen, some 50 kilometers south of Zurich.

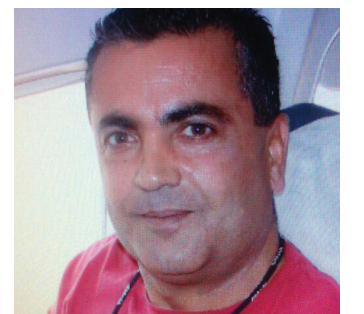
According to The Local, an English-language Swiss news site, the accident took place at about 8:40 a.m. at a train intersection that had no barrier, but – according to the Swiss public radio – did have a warning light.

The three men killed were identified as Ch.-Supt. Amal Halil, head of the investigations branch of the Northern District of the Israel Police, Atef Haj, a detective from the Northern District, and a friend of the two, Nassif Bader. All were from the Druse village of Maghar in the Galilee.

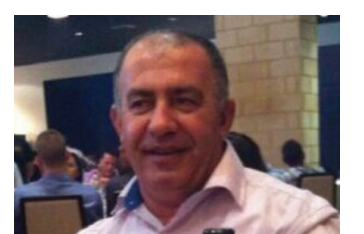
Another one of the injured is the brother of Azam Azam, who served eight years in an Egyptian jail on charges of



AMAL HALIL



ATEF HAJ



NASSIF BADER

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