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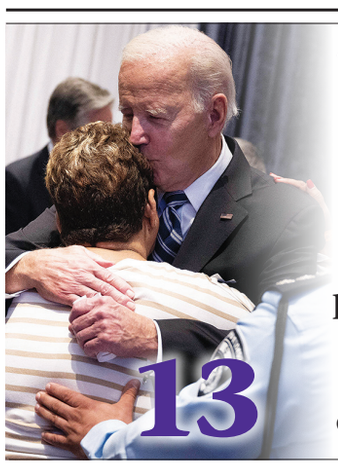
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MAGAZINE



Israelis at their best – stories of survival and humanity

IDF plans rescue of over 200 hostages in Gaza

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Israel's security forces are preparing for a major operation to rescue the some 200 hostages taken by Hamas terrorists into the Gaza Strip on October 7.

The critical intelligence collected by the IDF-run apparatus headed by Maj.-Gen. (res.) Nitzan Alon and Maj.-Gen. (res.) Lior Carmi is passeed to combat teams, the Shin Bet internal security service, and the Mossad, for potential rescue operations.

Accordingly, there are serious questions as to whether the IDF would exercise greater restraint for some of its operations against Gazan terrorist groups to avoid harming the hostages.

This was especially true after a senior Israeli diplomatic source on October 9 said that the IDF would strike Gaza without holding back too much, to avoid hitting the hostages. The source did not put much emphasis on negotiating for a return of the hostages now, with the clear focus being on winning the

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A HOPE AND A PRAYER

Family members of hostages taken to Gaza, whose fate is still unknown, stand in front of the Western Wall yesterday following a prayer service for the well-being of their relatives. (Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

Dozens of rockets fired into Israel from Lebanon

Gallant: The order to invade will come

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB and Jerusalem Post Staff

Around 30 rockets were fired at northern Israel from Lebanon on Thursday, covering the broadest attack on Israel's North since the war started on October 7. Credit was taken by both Hezbollah and Palestinian terrorist groups.

The series of barrages made the escalation appear to be taking its next step on the northern front, but the mix of credit works to distance Hezbollah from too much responsibility.

Two people were moderately wounded, a father and his daughter, in a barrage of rockets that landed in Kiryat Shmona, though most were shot down.

According to reports, 13 Hezbollah terrorists have been killed by Israel since the war started, as the overall goals of Hezbollah within this conflict remain murky. The IDF responded with artillery fire against the positions in Lebanon from which the rockets originated.

Over in the West Bank, eight Palestinians were killed in clashes with Israeli forces in the Nur Shams refugee

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UK's Sunak: Proud to stand with you at Israel's 'darkest hour'

• By TOVAH LAZAROFF

The United Kingdom supports Israel's right to defend itself within the bounds of international law, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said during a brief solidarity visit to Jerusalem on Thursday, the 13th day of the Gaza war.

"I'm proud to stand here with you in Israel's darkest hour as your friend," Sunak said during a joint press conference with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The "darkest hour" reference was coined by former British prime minister Winston Churchill during World War II, and repeated by Netanyahu in greeting Sunak.

He used this phrase amid a push by Israel to draw parallels between Hamas and the Nazi regime or ISIS, both of which were groups that were defeated by international coalitions.

"Hamas are the new Nazis, they're the new ISIS, and we have to fight them together just as the civilized world united to fight the Nazis," Netanyahu said.

The comparison is evocative because the Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel on October 7, killing more than 1,400 civilians and soldiers and taking more than 200 others hostage, burning to death hundreds of their victims, among

See PROUD, Page 10



UK PRIME MINISTER Rishi Sunak and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu address the media yesterday. (Amos Ben Gershom/GPO)

Hamas hasn't yet given up on 'unity of the battlefields'

ANALYSIS

• By KHALED ABU TOAMEH

Thursday's escalation along the border between Israel and Lebanon has revived Hamas's hope of fulfilling its vision of the "unity of the battlefields," which aims to trigger a multi-front confrontation with Israel.

Both Hamas and Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the firing of dozens of rockets at Israeli army bases and communities. Hamas is desperate to drag Hezbollah into the war.

Hezbollah, for its part, is seeking to send a message to Hamas that the Lebanon-based group has not abandoned its Palestinian allies and is ready to join the war.

According to the Hezbollah-affiliated *Al-Akhbar* newspaper, an operation room involving all members of the "axis of resistance," including Hamas and Hezbollah, has been set up to coordinate military activities in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

The increased tensions in northern Israel came less than 48 hours after Hamas leaders expressed concern over the failure of Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah,

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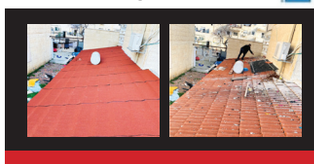
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