

ISRAEL REPORT

To provide greater exposure to primary Israeli news sources and opinions in order to become better informed on the issues, and to gain a better understanding of the wide range of perspectives that exist in Israeli society and politics.

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ISRAEL'S UN AMBASSADOR DANON SLAMS UN SETTLEMENTS 'BLACKLIST' (JPost 1/31/18)

Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon strongly condemned the UN on Wednesday after it published a partial "blacklist" of foreign and Israeli companies that operate in the settlements in the West bank and East Jerusalem. The document commissioned by the UN Human Rights Council was published just hours before the UN was set to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the international body's headquarters in Manhattan.

"On the day that the UN is marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the UNHRC has chosen to publicize this information about the number of companies operating in Israel," Danon said.

"This is a shameful act which will serve as a stain on the UNHRC forever. We will continue to act with our allies and use all the means at our disposal to stop the publication of this disgraceful blacklist," he added.

Earlier Wednesday, Hebrew media reported that Israel and the United States successfully postponed the UNHRC "blacklist" indefinitely following heavy pressure from both countries. The "blacklist" is a database compiled by the UN Human Rights Council and includes American companies such as Caterpillar, TripAdvisor, Priceline.com and Airbnb.

The initial list was approved by the UNHRC in March 2016.

The 16-page UNHRC report does not name any of the 206 companies on the database and says it will not make them public until each has been contacted.

"We're pleased that the UN did not published the names," a spokesperson for Danon's office told *The Jerusalem Post*, but added that Israel's Permanent Mission is still fighting to keep the "blacklist" from being published in full.

So far, a reported 64 companies have been contacted by the UNHRC.

NETANYAHU CORRECTS GERMAN FM ON 'TWO STATE' SUPPORT (Arutz-7 INN.com 1/31/18)

Prime Minister Netanyahu met with German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel in Jerusalem on Wednesday, publicly correcting him over Israel's stance on a "two-state solution."

Netanyahu had cancelled a meeting with Gabriel in April when the visiting diplomat declined to call off meetings with radical leftist groups.

In statements after Wednesday's meeting, the two were cordial, but Netanyahu interrupted Gabriel when he talked about a two-state solution to the conflict with the Palestinian Arabs.

Gabriel said he was "very thankful to hear that, of course, also the government of Israel wants to have two states" with secure Israeli borders.

Netanyahu interjected to reiterate his position that his country would have to maintain security control in Palestinian Arab areas under any peace arrangement. "No, that we will control security west of the Jordan (river)... that is I think the first condition," Netanyahu said.

"Whether or not it's defined as a state when we have the military control is another matter, but I'd rather not discuss labels, but substance."

Speaking later in Tel Aviv, Gabriel questioned Israel's approach to the conflict. "These, at best, mixed signals do not go unnoticed in Europe, where there is growing frustration with Israel's actions," Gabriel said in a speech at a conference of the Institute for National Security Studies think-tank.

"Also in Germany, and frankly inside my own party, young people, the young generation, feel increasingly less inclined to accept what they deem unfair treatment of the Palestinians.

"And it's increasingly difficult for people like me to explain to them the reasons why our support for Israel must persist. As a friend and close ally, we need to know if Israel is not supporting a negotiated solution to this conflict anymore."

RAISING REGIONAL TENSIONS, ISRAEL, LEBANON CLASH OVER OFFSHORE ENERGY (Israel Hayom 2/1/18)

Hezbollah pledged on Wednesday to confront any threats to the country's oil and gas rights after a top Israeli official urged international firms not to bid on a Lebanese offshore energy tender in disputed territory on the countries' maritime border, saying it was "very provocative."

Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said that "when they [Lebanon] issue a tender on a gas field, including Block 9, which by any standard is ours ... this is very, very challenging and provocative conduct here."

"Respectable firms" bidding on the tender "are, to my mind, making a grave error – because this is contrary to all of the rules and all protocol in cases like this," he told an international security conference hosted by Tel Aviv University on Wednesday.

Lebanon is on the Levant Basin in the Eastern Mediterranean where a number of big subsea gas fields have been discovered since 2009, including the Leviathan and Tamar fields located in Israeli waters near the disputed marine border with Lebanon.

The Iran-backed Shiite terrorist group blasted Lieberman's "aggression," saying, "We confirm again our firm and honest position to decisively confront any assault on our oil and gas rights, and protect [Lebanon's] wealth."

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri said the comments were one of several "threatening messages" from Israel in recent days.

Lebanon in December approved a bid by a consortium of France's Total,

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Italy's Eni and Russia's Novatek for two of the five blocks put up for tender in the country's much-delayed first oil and gas offshore licensing round.

One of the awarded blocks, Block 9, borders Israeli waters. Lebanon has a maritime border dispute with Israel over a triangular area of around 330 square miles of sea that extends along the edge of three of the blocks.

Israel has not issued its own tenders for Block 9, with officials saying they were focused on blocks that would not be disputed.

"Lieberman's words about Block 9 are a threat to Lebanon and its right to sovereignty over its territorial waters," Lebanese President Michel Aoun said on his official Twitter account.

Hariri said the country would take up the comments with the "relevant international bodies to affirm its right to act in its territorial waters." His office blasted Lieberman's remarks as a "blatant provocation."

Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil said he had sent a letter to the United Nations two weeks ago affirming Lebanon's right to defend itself and its economic interests.

The offshore exploration and production contracts are expected to be officially signed on Feb. 9, Energy Minister Cesar Abi Khalil said, allowing exploration to begin.

SCIENTISTS WORKING FOR ISRAEL REVEAL TOP SECRET INFORMATION, STUNNING DEFENSE OFFICIALS (Ha'aretz 2/1/18)

Israeli scientists in a state institution have published highly classified information on the internet that Israel has made a great effort to hide.

The incident sent shock waves across Israel's security establishment, which is trying to take down the information, and prompted a flurry of accusations.

The information is the result of scientific work conducted in a state-run organization. The researchers received permission years ago from Amir Kane, who was the Defense Ministry's director of security at the time. The scientists continued to publish material on the subject based on the original go-ahead without seeking further approval. The current director, Nir Ben Moshe, apparently was never asked to review the newer material.

When Haaretz asked members of the security establishment about the matter, officials blamed one another. Officials within the organization itself and the Defense Ministry's Security Authority are divided over the question who was supposed to give notice that the scientists were publishing classified information. Officials within the organization assert that all the necessary permits for publication had been received, and that if there were changes in the circumstances, then the Security Authority should have notified them.

Defense establishment officials are now trying to erase any trace of the secret information from the web, but they have run into difficulties because the information was copied and is found on a number of platforms.

The Defense Ministry commented that the publication received all the necessary permits after informing all relevant authorities within the ministry.

MEDICAL IMAGING DEVICES ARE VULNERABLE TO CYBER-ATTACKS, ISRAEL TEAM WARNS (Times of Israel 1/29/18)

Cybersecurity researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev say that medical imaging devices, such as CT scans, are vulnerable to cyber-threats, and manufacturers and healthcare providers must therefore be more diligent in protecting them. During the years it takes to get MID machines from development to market, cyber-threats can change significantly, leaving the devices exposed, the researchers said.

In their paper, "Know Your Enemy: Characteristics of Cyber-Attacks on Medical Imaging Devices," the researchers show how easy it is to exploit unprotected medical devices, such as computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines, many of which don't get ongoing security updates.

As MIDs become more connected to hospital networks, they also become more vulnerable to sophisticated cyber-attacks. Attackers can easily penetrate the computers that control CT devices, causing the CT to emit high

rates of radiation, which can harm the patient. Hackers can also block access to MIDs or disable them altogether as part of a ransom attack, something that has already happened worldwide, the researchers said.

The research was released ahead of the Cybertech Conference, which runs Monday through Wednesday in Tel Aviv. BGU is the academic partner of the event. The conference, said to be one of the biggest and most important cyber events in the world, draws thousands of guests including delegations from 80 countries.

The BGU cybersecurity experts predicted that attacks on MIDs will increase, as attackers develop more sophisticated skills directed at these devices, the mechanics and software of which are often installed on outdated PCs.

"CTs and MRI systems are not well-designed to thwart attacks," said lead author Dr Nir Nissim, the head of the Malware Lab at BGU's Cyber Security Research Center. "The MID development process, from concept to market, takes three to seven years. Cyber-threats can change significantly over that period, which leaves medical imaging devices highly vulnerable."

Researchers focused on a range of vulnerabilities and potential attacks aimed at MIDs, medical and imaging information systems and medical protocols and standards. While they discovered vulnerabilities in many of the systems, they found that CT devices face the greatest risk of cyber-attacks due to their key role in acute care imaging.

The simulated cyber-attacks conducted by the teams showed four dangerous outcomes: attackers were able to install malware that controls the entire CT operation and puts a patient at risk by manipulating the scan configuration files. They were also able to insert malware to infect the host computer, enabling them to attack the mechanical motors of the MIDs, including the bed, scanner and rotation motors, that get instructions from a control unit.

In addition, hackers could potentially disrupt the imaging results; because a CT sends scanned results connected to a patient's medical record via a host computer, an attack on that computer could disrupt the results, requiring a second exam. And a more sophisticated attack may also be able to alter results or mix up a transmission and connect images to the wrong patient.

Hackers could also use malware to encrypt a victim's files and demand a ransom to decrypt them. The WannaCry attack, which affected more than 200,000 devices in more than 150 nations in May 2017, directly infected tens of thousands of UK and US hospital devices, including MRIs.

BGU cyber researchers said they were working on new solutions to secure CT devices based on machine learning. Their approach assumes a host PC is already infected with malware. The machine learning algorithm developed by the team first looks at the profile of the patient who is being scanned, and then studies the outgoing commands before they reach the CT itself.

"The algorithms are able to ask the question: do these instructions match the requirements of the patient based on his profile; have I ever before seen such instructions given to this kind of patient?" Mahler said in a phone interview. If the instructions do not match previous such patient profiles that means they have been compromised, he explained.

"We haven't yet published a paper on this approach," Mahler said. "It is still a work in progress."

In future research, Nissim and his team are planning to hold nearly two dozen attacks to further uncover vulnerabilities and propose solutions to address them. They said they are keen to work with imaging manufacturers or hospital systems to evaluate issues on site.

The study was held in collaboration with Clalit Health Services, Israel's largest health service organization.

THREE ISRAELI STARTUPS VYING TO BE THE WAZE OF INDOOR SPACES (Israel21c 1/29/18)

The Israeli navigation app Waze will steer you to your destination along the fastest route. But it can't help you find your way inside a mall, museum, school, hospital, airport or other large building because GPS doesn't work indoors.

This problem has caught the attention of tech companies large and small, including Google and Apple, yet today's indoor maps haven't mastered live navigation functionality.

Three Israeli companies are meeting this challenge with sophisticated indoor orientation apps independent of beacons or any other hardware installations in the venue. Each approach is slightly different, as we explain below.

Orienteer, founded in February 2016 in Tel Aviv, is building a plug-in for app developers on a monthly licensing model. The technology pinpoints indoor position within three feet using information from the Earth's magnetic field and from sensors inside every smartphone.

Many malls, for example, already offer visitors free dedicated apps that enable them to do a store or product search. Adding Orienteer to that app will provide an accurate indoor positioning service to guide the shopper directly to the store and even the shelf. The same could be done in any large building.

"Retailers and facility managers expect the service to just work without installing or maintaining anything. It's low-cost and no hassle, and that's what drives us," CEO Mickey Balter tells ISRAEL21c.

Orienteer was incubated in the 8200 EISP accelerator in Tel Aviv from January to June last year, and then from June to September in Techstars/Metro Accelerator for Retail in Berlin, a new cooperation between a German retail chain and an American accelerator.

"Through that platform we gained significant customers in the European retail space and are working with them on deployment," says Balter.

"Next would be extension to the US and to non-retail verticals like smart buildings and robotics. We are seeing a lot of opportunities in the 'future of the workspace' as a lot of office buildings are introducing indoor positioning. We don't necessarily have to track smartphones; we can also track robots."

Orienteer has five employees and is hiring more, having received more than \$2 million in seed funding.

Navin took off nearly five years ago, guided by cofounders including Shai Ronen, a former F-16 combat navigator and Technion computer science graduate who worked in mapping and navigation technology at Elbit, Visionmap and Compugen.

Like Waze, the Navin app is powered by crowdsourcing. Its patented P2P Crowd Mapping technology turns smartphones into anonymous indoor mapping devices that passively capture millions of data movement points using aviation-grade stabilization, noise-canceling and drift-correction algorithms. The app generates maps from these data points.

"We have the novel ability to create detailed maps of any building anywhere in the world remotely on our servers, without us ever being in that building," Ronen tells ISRAEL21c.

Because a critical mass of data is needed to create each map — about 20 to 40 users using virtually any device at any time — Navin will recruit regional "ambassadors" to do the mapping prior to a beta launch early this year in one city at a time. Currently, Navin is being tested in large Israeli hospitals.

Navin was incubated in 8200 EISP and then in the Microsoft Ventures accelerator. Three years ago, serial entrepreneur Gidi Barak came aboard as founder and active chairman.

The Tel Aviv startup has 12 employees and has raised nearly \$2 million from investors and the Israel Innovation Authority. Recently, Navin opened an office in Hong Kong because "Asia is a great place to start and there is a lot of interest in Hong Kong and Singapore, which are gateways to other countries," says Ronen.

The revenue model probably will be based on in-app advertising from businesses in the buildings mapped, targeted to individual users' movement patterns.

Indoorgo Navigation Systems is developing an app that makes use of smartphone sensors and existing infrastructure in a building, such as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, as well as the fixed position of the building's overhead lights.

"This also allows us uniquely to give navigation in places such as parking

garages," says Larry Loev, CEO of Ariel Scientific Innovations, the technology commercialization arm of Ariel University.

The core technology was developed nearly five years ago in the university's Kinematics and Computational Geometry Laboratory by professors Boaz Ben-Moshe and Nir Shvalb. Ben-Moshe and Ariel Scientific Innovations are the primary shareholders of Indoorgo, which has been exclusively funded till now by Ariel University.

To add any building to the app's central database, it must be mapped once by one person — it could be an employee of the building, with no special training — in the course of about two hours. Data from subsequent Indoorgo users improves the positioning accuracy, explains Ben-Moshe. "Accuracy of up to 3 meters is achieved for the first visitor, gradually improving to less than 1 meter."

Loev says this resolution is significant. "Google Maps can throw you off by 10 to 15 meters, while ours will be a product you can reliably use."

Indoorgo is in the demo stage and has been tested in Israeli shopping malls. "The company is now ready for investment or sale," says Loev.

Targeted in-app advertising is the most likely revenue model.

TU B'SHEVAT PLANTINGS AIM TO SAVE HONEYBEES (YNet, 1/30/18)

Thousands of Israelis will be planting trees in forests and urban spaces nationwide Wednesday, in honor of Tu B'Shevat, which is a sort of New Year celebration for trees and plants.

This year, however, plantings will carry special significance: saving the honey and bee sector. In the past few years, roughly a third of the world's population of bees has gone extinct.

According to apiculture experts, the chief reason for bees' gradual disappearance is that their primary sources of food—flowers and trees from which they can produce nectar—are becoming scarcer.

Tu B'Shevat this year, then, is going to focus on thousands of nectar producing trees and shrubbery—known as "nectar source" in professional parlance. The special project was born of cooperation between Keren Kayemet LeYisrael (KKL), the Honey Production and Marketing Board, local authorities, the IDF and other bodies.

The trees at the heart of the effort to save the bees are carob trees, Judas trees, Syrian Ash trees, Christ's thorn jujubes, common almond trees, Ben trees and other species.

According to the Director of the Honey Production and Marketing Board, Ze'ev Meidan, "The honey bee is responsible for pollinating 80 percent of the world's agricultural crops. It's important for everyone to plant nectar sources in their private gardens as well as in the coming Tu B'Shevat plantings."

"Each nectar source plant will assist in creating food for honeybees, thereby contributing to both the agriculture and food production industries' survival."

In anticipation of Tu B'Shevat, the Central Bureau of Statistics published data tracing the origins of the holiday's customary dried fruits.

In 2017, the data showed, coconuts and cashews were imported mostly from Vietnam; pineapples, guavas, mangoes, figs and dates from the Dominican Republic and Turkey; dried grapes from South Africa; loquats, lychees, persimmons and kiwi from New Zealand; and melons from Paraguay.

THE HYPOCRISY OF WORLD HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY (Giulio Meotti, Arutz-7 INN.com 1/30/18)

In 2035, it is predicted that just 26,000 Holocaust survivors will live in Israel. But it is not only time to discuss the threats to Holocaust memory, it is also time to face the international festival of hatred. And Iran is at its head.

The most powerful state in the Middle East, which controls *de facto* four Arab capitals (Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad and Sanaa), has made Holocaust denial and the destruction of Israel, the "little Satan", a pillar of its foreign policy.

In the last week, the following Iranian authorities have attacked Israel: the supreme guide Khamenei, invoking Israel's "defeat"; the head of Parliament,

Ali Larijani ("the Zionist regime is evil"), and the UN ambassador, Eshaq al Habib, who spoke of the "Zionist regime" as the source of all problems.

Under the eyes of Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Iranian atomic program, Teheran continues to enrich uranium, to develop centrifuges and to test missiles. Iran is the only state today with technology capable of threatening the Jewish people.

But there is not only the direct threat.

There are also Iranian satellites. Hezbollah's missiles (from 13.000 in 2007 to 120.000 today) represent an unprecedented threat to Israel. Israeli Defense officials say that in the next confrontation with Hezbollah "from three to four thousand missiles may be launched on Israel". There will be hundreds or thousands of victims and significant damage to airports, ports, power stations, transportation nodes and the like.

Islamic extremism is a threat to memory in Europe: in France, in addition to the killing of 12 Jews in ten years, Islamism has pushed 40.000 Jews to leave the country and another 60.000 to move house. It is a quarter of the whole French Jewish community. In Germany, the former leader of the Jews, Charlotte Knobloch, has just said that a Jewish life today is possible "only under protection".

There is the very strong delegitimization that makes Israel the only state whose existence is contested (see the omission of the Balfour declaration) along with its borders (see UN resolutions), history (see the Unesco's assaults that erase the Jews from history) and capital (see the attacks after the American recognition of the capital Jerusalem).

The anti-Semitism practiced by the Palestinian leadership of Mahmoud Abbas, a partner of Western countries, is now blatant. In Egypt, Abbas just said that European Jews during the Shoah chose to suffer "massacres" rather than emigrate to Palestine (no official European declaration condemned him).

A few days ago, in Brussels, Yuli Edelstein, president of the Knesset, condemned the hypocrisy of those who honor the memory but accuse Israel of "war crimes", dialogue with Hamas and do not see the Jews who hide the star of David.

The leftist intelligentsia is the master of this clever anti-Semitism. In commemorating the Holocaust, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, a "friend" of Hamas and Hezbollah, "forgot" to mention the Jews.

It is the living memory that is threatened.

IS ISRAEL HEADED TOWARDS AN INITIATED WAR IN LEBANON? (Alex Fishman, YNet 1/31/18)

The series of public messages conveyed by Israel in the past few days, particularly to the Lebanese government, and Monday's meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, leave no room for doubt: Israel is moving quickly towards a "war by choice" or, in other words, an initiated war in Lebanon.

On Sunday, the IDF spokesperson published an op-ed in Lebanese opposition websites, threatening that if Lebanon allows Iran to build missile factories on its territory, "we will attack them accurately." On Monday, Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman made Israel's determination clear, and determination in such cases means use of force.

Meanwhile Monday, the Russians released an image showing Israel's Military Intelligence director, the prime minister's military secretary and the military attaché in Moscow briefing Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu before entering Putin's bureau.

None of this is coincidental. Everything is calculated. Israel is exerting intensive pressure in an effort to deter the Iranians from building precision-guided missile factories in Syria and in Lebanon. So the IDF spokesperson is turning to Lebanon's residents, Lieberman is preparing Israeli public opinion and Netanyahu is appealing to the Russians to use their influence.

In the previous round, it worked. Last year, Israel estimated that the Iranians had made a real effort to build a factory for assembling precision-guided

missiles in Lebanon. The goal was to bypass the Israeli ability to target missile shipments from Syria to Lebanon. According to foreign reports, the factory was dug underground, and Israel apparently located it.

The Israeli display of force and diplomatic messages likely led to the project's termination while it was still in its infancy, although it's reasonable to assume from Monday's reports that the Iranians didn't give it up and simply moved it somewhere else in Lebanon.

On September 7, according to foreign reports, the IDF attacked a precision-guided missile factory built by the Iranians in Masyaf, Syria, near the city of Hama. Israel was under the impression that Iran had taken the hint and lowered its profile in terms of the construction of underground factories, mainly in Lebanon. Well, apparently not.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Hezbollah are suffering from hubris, taking pride in what they see as a clear victory in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Not only have they defined the IDF spokesperson's threat as "nonsense," they have also produced a threat to Israel in light of the fortification work being conducted on the Lebanon border. Moreover, threats Israel is directing at Lebanon, Syria and Iran concerning the rocket factory issue belong to a very slippery field in the deterrence doctrine.

Israel is climbing up a high tree, knowing that it will either slip off with its tail between its legs without achieving a thing or will be compelled to use force. A strike in Lebanon will most likely lead to war, as the chance to deter the enemy is quite small. Classic deterrence is when you threaten an enemy not to target you on your own territory.

In this case, Israel is demanding that the enemy refrain from acting on its own territory or risk being targeted. In terms of international legitimization and from a historical perspective, the chance that such a threat will be accepted by the international community and make the enemy stop acting on its own territory is very small.

The defense minister is aware of this slippery slope. When asked on Monday why Israel wasn't striking in Lebanon and destroying the missile factories, he replied that there were other ways of acting apart from bombs, that there were other leverages. "The last thing I want is to enter a third Lebanon war," he said.

Lieberman has something to count on. Moscow is prepared to listen to Israel today. The Russians understand that Netanyahu is the last leader in the world who has a good relationship both with Putin and with US President Donald Trump. As far as they're concerned, he is a vital tool vis-à-vis the Americans.

Furthermore, his threats can be used to minimize Iranian influence in the region.

It all sounds good in theory. In practice, if the Iranians keep digging missile factories, Israel will get stuck on the tree it climbed and will be forced to make a decision: Are two or three missile factories in Lebanon a casus belli for an initiated war or not? This is the dilemma the government should present to the public: A war by choice or living under a growing threat of precision-guided missiles.

Dry Bones

