

9/23/24 Monday

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Israel Continues War on Journalists, Children With Al Jazeera Raid in West Bank

The Israeli government outraged press freedom advocates Sunday when it occupied and forcibly shuttered news broadcaster Al Jazeera's headquarters in the West Bank, representing the latest escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian territory that has often gone overlooked amid the country's deadly campaign in Gaza.

"Israel said it carried out Saturday's raid on Al Jazeera's bureau in the West Bank after concluding that the news network's offices there were 'being used to incite terror,'" [reported](#) Bloomberg. "An 'up-to-date intelligence assessment' determined that 'the channel's broadcasts endanger the security and public order,' the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement." Staffers at the Ramallah bureau [broadcast](#) the initial moments live of the tense confrontation with heavily armed Israeli forces, who [ejected](#) workers, confiscated cameras and other equipment and declared the office closed for 45 days. Security officials also [reportedly](#) tore down a banner celebrating the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, a prominent Palestinian-American reporter who was shot and killed by the IDF in 2022.

The move comes after the Israeli Knesset voted to close Al Jazeera's offices in Israel proper four months ago, raiding the news outlet's bureaus in Nazareth and East Jerusalem. Legislation passed in May provided Israeli authorities with significant latitude to shut down news outlets accused of threatening Israeli national security.

Al Jazeera has devoted significant resources to documenting Israel's military operation in the besieged Gaza Strip, which has killed over 41,400 according to the latest official [figures](#), as well as escalating settler violence in the West Bank.

Al Jazeera denounced the closure of the Ramallah bureau in a statement online, [noting](#) that it lies within territory under the sovereign control of Palestinian authorities under international law. Israel has illegally occupied Gaza and the West Bank since 1967, also seizing control of Syria's Golan Heights and annexing Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and portions of southern Lebanon until forced to surrender the territory after international pressure. Israel's control of the Syrian and Palestinian territories represents the longest military occupation in modern world history.

"Al Jazeera rejects the draconian actions and the unfounded allegations presented by Israeli authorities to justify these illegal raids," said Al Jazeera in a statement posted to the X platform. "Al Jazeera reaffirms its unwavering commitment to continue reporting on the war on Gaza and the ongoing occupation of the Palestinian territories and the regional escalation."

"The raid on the office and seizure of our equipment is not only an attack on Al Jazeera but an affront to press freedom and the very principles of journalism. These oppressive measures are clearly intended to prevent the world from witnessing the reality of the situation in the occupied territories and the ongoing war on Gaza and the devastating impact on innocent civilians... Al Jazeera will not be intimidated or deterred by efforts to silence its coverage.

The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists also slammed the move, saying it was “deeply alarmed” by the forced closure of the Ramallah office.

“Israel’s efforts to censor Al Jazeera severely undermine the public’s right to information on a war that has upended so many lives in the region,” read a statement by the organization’s program director Carlos Martínez de la Serna.

Violence by Israeli settlers and security forces has been on the increase in the West Bank, although the situation there often fails to make headlines as the country’s aggression in Gaza and Lebanon stokes fears of a regional war. In October video [emerged](#) of controversial Israeli Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir distributing rifles to so-called “civilian security teams” in the occupied territory.

In March, Ben-Gvir [celebrated](#) distributing his 100,000th gun license since October 7.

According to [analysis](#) recently released by the group Defense for Children International Palestine (DCIP), one child has been killed every two days in the West Bank over the last 11 months. UNICEF [noted](#) that the figure represents “a spike of nearly 250 per cent compared to the preceding nine months.”

An average of five children are killed or injured daily in the West Bank, [according](#) to the organization Save the Children.

“More than 440 Palestinian children have been injured with live ammunition,” UNICEF has reported. “The increasing tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are also impacting the physical and mental well-being of thousands of children and families, who are now living in daily fear for their lives. Children report being scared to walk around their neighbourhoods, or to travel to school.”

“We are seeing frequent allegations of Palestinian children being detained on their way home from school, or shot while walking on the streets,” said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. “The violence needs to stop now.”

Some 116 journalists and media workers have been killed since the beginning of Israel’s latest military operation against Hamas [said](#) the Committee to Protect Journalists, calling it “the deadliest period for journalists since CPJ began gathering data.” Casualties in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict have received disproportionate coverage in Western media, but the group [noted](#) that more than twice as many journalists had been killed by Israel in just one month of fighting as had died in 18 months of conflict in the Donbass.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UK Defunds Confucius Institutes in Latest Example of Western Anti-China Freakout

The UK government has announced it is pulling funding from Chinese-backed Confucius Institutes across the country in the latest manifestation of anti-China anxiety across the Western world.

“Like any international body operating in the UK, Confucius Institutes need to operate transparently and within the law, and with a full commitment to our values,” read a statement from a spokesperson for Keir Starmer’s Labour government that asserted “challenges” posed by Beijing.

Confucius Institutes are Chinese government-backed institutions on international college campuses that dedicate themselves to promoting Chinese culture and supporting the teaching of the Chinese language. The program originated in 2004 with the goal of [promoting](#) cultural exchange efforts, but it has drawn scrutiny in recent years as Western governments respond to China's dramatic economic and diplomatic rise.

A report from the UK Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee last year alleged that Confucius Institutes are "Trojan horses" for Chinese soft power and propaganda. Beijing [likens](#) the program to similar Western government-backed organizations dedicated to promoting culture and language abroad, such as the UK's British Council, Germany's Goethe-Institut and France's Alliance Française.

The intelligence committee "found that the [Chinese] organisations are used by the Chinese Government to steer universities from engaging in debates over contentious issues like Tibet and Taiwan," [according](#) to the British Daily Mail tabloid news outlet. The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has [worked](#) for decades to undermine Chinese governance of Tibet by grooming the Dalai Lama as an pro-Western asset, while the United States has backed separatist forces in Taiwan [despite a number of memorandums issued in the 1970s and 80s](#) affirming that Beijing maintains sovereignty over the territory.

A similar controversy over Confucius Institutes has simmered in the United States over the last several years. The US government [alleged](#) in 2019 the organizations exercised "undue influence;" the number of Confucius Institutes on US college and university campuses subsequently [plummeted](#) from 100 to just five.

The attacks on the program have contributed to a [shortage](#) of Chinese language teachers in the United States, threatening cultural ties between the two countries and putting the future of diplomacy between Washington and Beijing in doubt. The United States' Chinese language interpreter was roundly [mocked](#) online after making several major mistakes during a tense US-China summit in Alaska in 2021.

"The United States is running critically low on China expertise," read a piece in the Washington Post earlier this year. "By most metrics, China studies in the United States is in decline, with fewer American students studying Chinese than before the pandemic and fewer still spending meaningful time in the country. Enrollments in college Mandarin courses peaked around 2016, then fell by more than 20 percent by 2020, according to data from the Modern Language Association."

"In 2011-2012, 14,887 American college students went abroad to China. By 2018-2019, that number had declined to 11,639, and by 2020-2021, to just 382. Although some colleges have begun to rebuild their programs in China, the pace is cautious and uncertain."

China is the world's largest economy as measured by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) since 2017. Western countries have increasingly responded with hostility to the country's meteoric rise, with US Congress recently passing a raft of [anti-China legislation](#).

"Many of the measures passed with bipartisan support at a time when viewing [China] primarily as a geopolitical rival is one of the few issues both Republicans and Democrats can agree on," [reported](#) NBC News.

The US military is currently [in the midst of a major restructuring](#) amid plummeting recruitment rates, with the goal of preparing for an anticipated war with China in the Pacific region.

"The loss of these intellectual fountains of Chinese thought in the US is invisible but tangible. It not only damages the image of US universities but it also weakens the teaching strength of the US education system. However, the growing number of Confucius Institutes globally is undoubtedly seen as a dangerous signal by McCarthyist politicians in the US - any disturbances in China-US relations might put Confucius Institutes under extraordinary risks for their existence," [said Yuan Zheng](#), the director and senior fellow of Division of American Diplomacy Studies, Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy, in 2020.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Crisis' In Navy Submarine Program Latest Sign of Decline of US Military Power

The production of submarines, which the United States manufactures for its own military as well as allied forces in the UK and Australia, is thought to be essential for an anticipated war with China in the Pacific region.

Amid a spate of bad press for the US Navy, a major [crisis](#) of cost overruns for the force's submarine building program is the latest sign of the decline of the United States as a military power.

"In a word, these programs are in crisis," said Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) Thursday in response to news that the Navy's submarine program is some \$17 billion over budget, with construction facing delays of up to three years.

"Without exception they are falling behind," he continued. "Increasingly they are over budget. Absent today's intervention I have zero confidence that Navy shipbuilding will get back on track." Calvert excoriated Navy leadership, alleging it had "withheld information on costs and delays" and claiming its "plans to address" the shipbuilding crisis "are primarily aspirational." The lawmaker noted the service is committed to producing two so-called Virginia-class submarines per year but has struggled to build an average of 1.3 yearly.

The Navy has blamed the lingering effects of Covid-19 and its pursuant disruption of US manufacturing for the crisis, with officials claiming the impacts of the pandemic left companies "reticent to invest." The US military industrial complex has been highly privatized in recent decades, with observers [blaming](#) profit-seeking contractors for massive cost overruns and a chronic shortage of equipment. Earlier this year it was [revealed](#) that Russia is producing three times more artillery shells than the US and Europe combined amid the Western-backed Ukraine proxy war.

Calvert claimed Navy officials had worked to hide its crisis from lawmakers and the American public.

"It's clear that the Navy and shipbuilders have known about this shortfall for at least 18 months," [said](#) the lawmaker. "Assurances of how long these discussions have been going on do not reassure me, when Congress was notified just two weeks ago."

"Today, we will have a frank conversation about the Navy's program management failures, flawed use of metrics, and lack of transparency. For too long, this committee has been put in a position of asking what the Navy is hiding behind the curtain — it's time to pull down the curtain altogether... The lack of transparency from the Navy, the failure of shipbuilders to urgently

resolve issues, and the resulting inability of Congress to conduct informed analysis is a toxic cycle that we must break.”

The production of submarines, which the United States manufactures for its own military as well as allied forces in the UK and Australia, is thought to be essential for an anticipated war with China in the Pacific region.

As China's naval fleet expands, the United States is facing new setbacks in the construction of submarines and warships, a European media outlet reported earlier this year.

The US Defense Department consistently [fails](#) attempted audits conducted by Congress, with trillions of dollars in assets [unaccounted](#)for. The failure of Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia, even as it enjoys the assistance of Western military planners and is pumped full of NATO's most technologically-advanced weaponry, has proven to be a major embarrassment, calling the United States' presumed military superiority into question.

Israel continues crack down on journalists with Al Jazeera raid in West Bank

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

The Israeli government outraged press freedom advocates when it occupied and forcibly shuttered news broadcaster Al Jazeera's headquarters in the West Bank, representing the latest escalation of violence in the occupied territory that has often gone overlooked amid the country's campaign in Gaza.

“Israel said it carried out Saturday's raid on Al Jazeera's bureau in the West Bank after concluding that the news network's offices there were ‘being used to incite terror,’” reported Bloomberg. “An ‘up-to-date intelligence assessment’ determined that ‘the channel's broadcasts endanger the security and public order,’ the Israel Defense Forces said.”

Staffers at the Ramallah bureau broadcast the initial moments live of the tense confrontation with heavily armed Israeli forces, who ejected workers, confiscated cameras and other equipment and declared the office closed for 45 days.

“Al Jazeera rejects the draconian actions and the unfounded allegations presented by Israeli authorities to justify these illegal raids,” said Al Jazeera in a statement posted to X.

The move comes after the Israeli Knesset voted to close Al Jazeera's offices in Israel four months ago, raiding the news outlet's bureaus in Nazareth and East Jerusalem. Legislation passed in May provided Israeli authorities with significant latitude to shut down news outlets accused of threatening Israeli national security.

The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists also slammed the move, saying it was “deeply alarmed” by the forced closure of the Ramallah office.

Al Jazeera denounced the closure of the Ramallah bureau, noting that it lies within territory under the sovereign control of Palestinian authorities under international law. Israel has illegally

occupied Gaza and the West Bank since 1967, also seizing control of Syria's Golan Heights and annexing Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and portions of southern Lebanon until forced to surrender the territory after international pressure.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UK defunds Confucius Institutes in latest example of Western anti-China freakout

The UK government has announced it is pulling funding from Chinese-backed Confucius Institutes across the country in the latest manifestation of anti-China anxiety across the Western world.

"Like any international body operating in the UK, Confucius Institutes need to operate transparently and within the law, and with a full commitment to our values," read a statement from a spokesperson for Keir Starmer's Labour government that asserted "challenges" posed by Beijing.

Confucius Institutes are Chinese government-backed institutions on international college campuses that dedicate themselves to promoting Chinese culture and supporting the teaching of the Chinese language.

A report from the UK Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee last year alleged that Confucius Institutes are "Trojan horses" for Chinese soft power and propaganda. Beijing likens the program to similar Western government-backed organizations dedicated to promoting culture and language abroad, such as the UK's British Council, Germany's Goethe-Institut and France's Alliance Française.

A similar controversy over Confucius Institutes has simmered in the United States over the last several years. The US government alleged in 2019 the organizations exercised "undue influence;" the number of Confucius Institutes on US college and university campuses subsequently plummeted from 100 to just five.

The attacks on the program have contributed to a shortage of Chinese language teachers in the United States, threatening cultural ties between the two countries and putting the future of diplomacy between Washington and Beijing in doubt. The United States' Chinese language interpreter was roundly mocked online after making several major mistakes during a tense US-China summit in Alaska in 2021.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Crisis' in Navy submarine program latest sign of decline of US military power

Amid a spate of bad press for the US Navy, a major crisis of cost overruns for the force's submarine building program is the latest sign of the decline of the United States as a military power.

"In a word, these programs are in crisis," said Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) in response to news that the Navy's submarine program is some \$17 billion over budget, with construction facing delays of up to three years.

"Without exception they are falling behind," he continued. "Increasingly they are over budget. Absent today's intervention I have zero confidence that Navy shipbuilding will get back on track."

Calvert excoriated Navy leadership, alleging it had "withheld information on costs and delays" and claiming its "plans to address" the shipbuilding crisis "are primarily aspirational." The lawmaker noted the service is committed to producing two so-called Virginia-class submarines per year but has struggled to build an average of 1.3 yearly.

As China's naval fleet expands, the United States is facing new setbacks in the construction of submarines and warships, a European media outlet reported earlier this year.

The US Defense Department consistently fails attempted audits conducted by Congress, with trillions of dollars in assets unaccounted for. The failure of Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia, even as it enjoys the assistance of Western military planners and NATO's weaponry, has proven to be a major embarrassment, calling the United States' presumed military superiority into question. Earlier this year, it was revealed Russia is producing three times more artillery shells than the US and Europe combined amid the Western-backed Ukraine proxy war.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Israel Dying From One Thousand Cuts': Hostilities with Hezbollah Snowballing

The IDF said that about 150 rockets, missiles and other projectiles were fired onto its territory overnight on Saturday and early Sunday. Thousands of Israelis took cover in bomb shelters as a result, as homes near Haifa were destroyed.

Israel and Hezbollah have now entered a stage in their nearly year-long conflict that reports say is verging on a full-out war. Citing Israel's military, [The Wall Street Journal](#) reported on Sunday that "dozens of warplanes" struck southern Lebanon on Saturday night into Sunday morning. In response to attacks on Lebanon's communication devices, Hezbollah targeted Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems which is one of the developers of its Iron Dome air-defense system over the weekend. Hezbollah also said that they targeted Israel's Ramat David Airbase near Haifa.

Michael Maloof, a former senior security policy analyst with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, joined Sputnik's [The Final Countdown](#) on Monday to discuss the increasing hostility between Israel and Hezbollah.

"[Displacing people is a] major problem for the Israeli government. That's why they've now decided to put Gaza aside and start extending northward because they need to try to reopen that northern part. Because you got increasingly disgruntled population of Israelis, many of whom are saying they're never going to return. Now, the Israeli government's got to find room for them and new placement," Maloof explained. "They have to pay for it and it's draining the Israeli economy."

A week ago, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet made the decision to initiate the return of residents to the north of Israel an "official war goal", [BBC](#) reported. About 60,000 people were evacuated from the area due to the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel as the conflict in the Gaza Strip nears its one-year anniversary.

During a military parade in Tehran on Saturday which commemorated the Iran-Iraq War of 1980-1988, Iran revealed a new solid-fueled ballistic missile dubbed the Jihad (Holy War). The missile has a reported range of up to 1,000 km and was designed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' aerospace division, Sputnik reported on Saturday.

"[Iran is] going to have to respond sooner than later because Hezbollah is, I should say Lebanon, not just Hezbollah, but Lebanon is now being attacked with missiles, soon to be with ground forces. That's from reports that I'm getting there. There are troops coming up from Gaza as well as tanks being rolled into the northern parts to enter southern Lebanon," the analyst explained.

"So, this is getting [riskier] by the day. It isn't just, as I said, a tit-for-tat. Now it's escalating on a daily basis, and that portends something very serious," the expert said.

"...this [conflict] could extend because I also see we're going to have the Iraqi Shia and the, potentially, the Iranians and the Yemenis coming in on this," he added. "Now what the Hezbollah are sending in are just rockets. They haven't really put into effect their high precision missiles that they have yet. And, they may be doing some around the Haifa area. I understand that Haifa has been hit pretty much, but all news about that has been blacked out."

A mysterious string of attacks on Hezbollah members' communication devices left thousands of people injured across Lebanon and Syria on Tuesday. The attacks killed 37 people according to Lebanon's Health Ministry, and are suspected to be the responsibility of the Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova called the events in Lebanon a monstrous act of terrorism and an attempt to ignite a major conflict.

"I think what's going to happen here is that Hezbollah is going to ratchet up on a daily basis now. Their missiles are deep, deep in silos, like 90 feet," Maloof explained. "And the fact is that they have not implemented them yet. Plus, Hezbollah has a history of deception. They are good at, and they've seen this from their experiences in the 2006 war."

"They will set up dummy launchers and what have you, and give the impression in areas that people are moving around. And I would add that the pagers that were blowing up, these are, the people that were affected were not the Hezbollah military. These were civilians who did the trafficking," the analyst added. "But this is separate from the military comms. They have separate military comms and they don't use pagers," the expert said.

"[Israel is] dying from a thousand cuts, and that is actually the strategy by the Iranians and Hezbollah is to drag it out because Israel is not accustomed to long-term battles like this. And they see the economy as going h*** in a handbasket. And you've got very disgruntled Israelis internally and you've got feuding going on within the government. At some point, things are just going to collapse as long as they can prolong this thing," Maloof explained.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Earning More Enemies': Israel Continues to Fuel Conflicts With Neighbors

Hezbollah has been striking against the Israeli Defense Forces since October 8 in solidarity with the Palestinians who are experiencing unprecedented humanitarian crises as a result of the IDF's violent assaults.

Rami Mortada, Lebanon's ambassador to the UK, warned that the Lebanese army would not "stand idly" by and watch if Israel launches a ground invasion or "heavy aerial attack" on Lebanon, [The Cradle](#) reported on Friday. The diplomat reportedly said that an Israeli ground invasion into southern Lebanon would be a "doomsday" scenario and would lead to an all-out regional conflict and the radicalization of Muslims in Europe.

Israel announced that it would try and create a "buffer zone" in south Lebanon by pushing Hezbollah's forces behind the Litani River. A week ago, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet made the decision to initiate the return of residents to the north of Israel an "official war goal", BBC reported. About 60,000 people were evacuated from the area due to the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel as the conflict in the Gaza Strip nears its on-year anniversary.

Dimitri Lascaris, a lawyer and journalist based in Montreal, Canada, and Kalamata, Greece, joined Sputnik's [The Critical Hour](#) on Monday to discuss the ongoing hostilities in the Middle East.

"Hezbollah is a much more formidable force than the Lebanese army in terms of its weaponry and in terms of its combat capability. The idea that the Israelis can drive Hezbollah from the area south of the Litani River is pure fantasy. It's an absolute fantasy," said Lascaris. "I, at this point, am not convinced they're actually going to invade Lebanon."

"I think they may simply do what they do well, do best of all, which is bomb civilians from the sky until they have inflicted untold suffering on the civilian population. I think there are serious concerns on the Israeli side. Some retired generals, in fact, Yitzhak Brik, have been saying that a ground invasion into south Lebanon would be a disaster and it would be for Israel," he added. "So they may just try to obliterate as many civilians as possible in Lebanon, but as we've seen in Gaza, that is not an effective strategy for defeating resistance. They've been doing that in the most horrific manner for 12 months. And even the Israeli military has admitted that they're not capable of destroying Hamas. So all of this is going to lead to a lot of bloodshed on both sides, not just on the Lebanese side, but it isn't going to ever result in Hezbollah retreating to the north of the Litani River."

In response to attacks on Lebanon's communication devices, [Hezbollah](#) targeted Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems which is one of the developers of its Iron Dome air-defense

system. Hezbollah also said that they targeted Israel's Ramat David Airbase near Haifa. The IDF did not confirm the target of the militant group's strikes, but said they had "struck deeper than usual into Israeli territory".

The IDF said that about 150 rockets, missiles and other projectiles were fired onto its territory overnight on Saturday and early Sunday, [BBC](#) reported. The report added that thousands of Israelis took cover in bomb shelters as a result, which resulted in damaging homes near Haifa. "...the military arm of Hezbollah struck deeper into Israel than it has at any point in the last 11 months. It struck north of Haifa. It aimed at the major military base, the Ramat David Airbase, which it hasn't struck before. It aimed at the Rafael factories, a very important military contractor in Israel. And there are reports that some missiles fell outside of Tel Aviv," the analyst explained. "So they're seeing the situation getting worse. The wait and see approach is, I think, strengthening the conviction in a lot of Israelis who departed the country on a provisional basis that they don't want to return to this mess. And a number of them have already given up and that number is growing."

The US is sending a "small number of additional troops" to the Middle East in response to the increase in fighting between Hezbollah and Israel, [AP News](#) reported citing the Pentagon. Currently, the US has about 40,000 troops in the region. And on Monday, the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman, two Navy destroyers and a cruiser were deployed to the Sixth Fleet area in Europe as part of a regularly scheduled deployment. However, it opens up the possibility for the US to keep both the Truman and the USS Abraham Lincoln in the region in preparation for further conflicts.

"...even if they succeed in dragging the US military into this conflict, it still isn't going to result in Hezbollah being driven north of the Litani River. If they send 10 or 20,000 Marines - I don't believe the US would go that far, but let's say in an extreme case, they lose their minds [...] I still think that the result will be that Hezbollah will prevail," the analyst explained. "It won't be defeated. It will take heavy losses, for sure. But it is not going to be driven by either the US or the Israelis or both of them acting together from south of Lebanon."

"This is very, very difficult terrain. I've been there five times in the last year and right up to the Israeli border on each occasion. It is very mountainous terrain. It is known intimately well by Hezbollah. They have been preparing for years for this conflict. They have elaborate networks of tunnels. They have combat experience from the brutal Syrian civil war and they have a much better missile arsenal than they ever possessed," Lascaris said. "So you'd have to be delusional to believe that even with the assistance of American ground forces, you're going to evict Hezbollah from its stronghold."

A mysterious string of attacks on Hezbollah members' communication devices left thousands of people injured across Lebanon and Syria on [Tuesday](#). The attacks killed 37 people including children, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. The attacks are suspected to be the responsibility of the Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova called the events in Lebanon a monstrous act of terrorism and an attempt to ignite a major conflict.

"When analyzing the pager detonations from a legal standpoint, it becomes clear that Israel's killing spree in Lebanon this week lies somewhere between a war crime and an act of terrorism," wrote Mohamad Hasan Sweidan, a researcher and writer for [The Cradle](#). "Israel's pager bombing has also sparked global concerns about the security of international supply chains."

"If Israel has indeed begun weaponizing civilian devices through third parties in other countries, this raises the terrifying prospect that supply chains once thought to be safe could be compromised at any time."

"...even though the media is sticking to the party line and there are even depraved lunatics inside the Democratic Party who are saying they support this terrorist attack - I think that this is perhaps a bridge too far, not because of the humanitarian inclinations of the capitalist class in the US. But because of the fact that this is going to do some serious damage to their business model, potentially," Lascaris explained. "So, we'll see, but it may well be that Israel just earned itself a lot of enemies who were formerly on its side."

"People there are waking up to the reality that the Israeli military cannot defend them from the hostile forces that have accumulated all around this tiny little country. And they've accumulated not because they are antisemitic, they've accumulated because they're fed up with being abused by the US and its proxies in the region," said the analyst.

"...unfortunately, it happens to be true, I wish it weren't, that a majority of Israeli Jews have been brainwashed into thinking that the Palestinian people are savages and they've been dehumanized and they can't coexist with them peacefully," he added. "So, if they're confronted with the choice of having to either live with them as equals or leave, they'll leave."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Israel is dying from a thousand cuts': hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel accelerate

Israel and Hezbollah have now entered a stage in their nearly year-long conflict that reports say is verging on a full-out war. The IDF said that about 150 rockets, missiles and other projectiles were fired onto its territory overnight on Saturday and early Sunday. Thousands of Israelis took cover in bomb shelters as a result, as homes near Haifa were destroyed. "[Israel is] dying from a thousand cuts, and that is actually the strategy by the Iranians and Hezbollah is to drag it out because Israel is not accustomed to long-term battles like this. And they see the economy as going h*** in a handbasket. And you've got very disgruntled Israelis internally and you've got feuding going on within the government. At some point, things are just going to collapse as long as they can prolong this thing," Michael Maloof, a former senior security policy analyst with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, told Sputnik's The Final Countdown. A mysterious string of attacks on Hezbollah members' communication devices left thousands of people injured across Lebanon and Syria on Tuesday. The attacks also killed 37 people according to Lebanon's Health Ministry, and are suspected to be the responsibility of the Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency. "I think what's going to happen here is that Hezbollah is going to ratchet up on a daily basis now. Their missiles are deep, deep in silos, like 90 feet," Maloof explained. "And the fact is that they have not implemented them yet. Plus, Hezbollah has a history of deception. They are good at, and they've seen this from their experiences in the 2006 war."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Guterres Says Scale of Killing in Gaza Unlike Anything in His Years as Secretary General

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) – Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday that the speed and scale of killing and destruction in Gaza are unlike anything he has seen in his years in the position of the United Nations Secretary-General.

"The speed and scale of the killing and destruction in Gaza are unlike anything in my years as Secretary-General," Guterres said before the start of the General Debate week as part of the 79th session of the General Assembly.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Guterres Says Lebanon 'at Brink,' World Cannot Afford Another Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) – UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday that Lebanon is "at the brink" amid an escalation between Israel and Hezbollah and warned against the country becoming "another Gaza."

"We should all be alarmed by the escalation. Lebanon is at the brink. The people of Lebanon, the people of Israel, and the people of the world cannot afford Lebanon to become another Gaza," Guterres said in his address to the UN General Assembly.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Guterres in UNGA Address Says State of World Unsustainable, Cannot Go on Like This

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) – UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday that the state of the world is unsustainable, and it should not continue like this.

"The state of our world is unsustainable. We can't go on like this," Guterres said in his address to the UN General Assembly.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

guterres says speed and scale of killing and destruction in gaza unlike anything in his years as un secretary-general

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canadian House of Commons to Debate No-Confidence Motion Against Trudeau

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) – The Canadian House of Commons (HoC) will debate on Tuesday a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, introduced by Leader of the Opposition Pierre Poilievre.

On September 11, Poilievre said the Tories would table a no-confidence motion against the Trudeau government, seeking to force general election this fall. Last week, the Liberals informed the Conservatives they will get to table the matter on Tuesday, followed by a vote on Wednesday.

The debate, which will mark the first attempt to topple the Trudeau government, will be held during the parliament's daily "question period" and will see the participation of Liberal, Conservative, New Democrat, and Bloquiste lawmakers, among others.

Trudeau is expected to survive the first test his government is facing following the termination of the "confidence-and-supply agreement" that bound the New Democrats to the Liberals and ensured the survival of their minority government since March 2022.

The Bloc Quebecois said last week that it would not be supporting the conservative motion despite being urged by Quebec Prime Minister Francois Legault to vote in favor due to Ottawa's long inaction on immigration matters involving the French-speaking province.

In addition, New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh said his faction would not be supporting the motion, stressing that the New Democrats would not play by "Poilievre's games."

The next Canadian federal elections are scheduled to take place on or before October 20, 2025.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

guterres in address to general assembly says we should all be alarmed by escalation in middle east, lebanon is at the brink

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US, Canada Form Task Force to Negotiate Maritime Boundary in Beaufort Sea - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - The United States and Canada have formed a joint task force to undertake negotiations on their maritime borders in the Arctic's Beaufort Sea, according to a joint statement released by the State Department on Tuesday.

"To further our cooperation in the Arctic, Canada and the United States are announcing the creation of a joint U.S. - Canada task force to undertake negotiations on the maritime boundary in the Beaufort Sea including resolving the overlap in the continental shelf in the Central Arctic Ocean. The area at issue is situated north of Alaska, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories," the statement said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

guterres says state of our world is unsustainable, we cannot go on like this

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

White House Urges Americans to Leave Lebanon While Commercial Travel Still Available

(Adds details from US embassy in Beirut in paras 4-7)

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - Americans should depart Lebanon while commercial travel options are still available amid an escalation of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Tuesday.

"We want to make sure that there are still commercial options available for Americans to leave, and they should be leaving now while these options are still available but I won't get ahead of operations," Kirby told ABC in an interview, when asked if the US expects Israel could bomb airports in Lebanon like it did in 2006.

The US does not believe it is in Israel's interest for the conflict to escalate, for there to be an all-out war in the north, Kirby added.

Separately, the US embassy in Beirut warned in a notice that most air carriers have suspended or canceled flights, but limited commercial transportation options still remain available.

"We urge those who wish to depart Lebanon to book any ticket available to them, even if that flight does not depart immediately or does not follow their first-choice route," the notice said.

The embassy also offered financial assistance to purchase tickets via repatriation loans for those people who lack funds to return to the United States.

The mission called on those Americans who choose to stay in the country to "prepare contingency plans for emergency situations and be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period of time."

Last week, Israel announced a new phase of the Israeli war effort in the region, with the focus shifting to the northern front.

From September 17-18, pagers and walkie-talkies exploded in various parts of Lebanon, killing over 40 people and injuring nearly 3,500 others. It is still unknown what caused thousands of devices to explode simultaneously. Hezbollah and the Lebanese authorities blame Israel for the blasts. Israeli President Isaac Herzog denied the country's involvement in the incidents. In response, Hezbollah struck the Israeli military industrial complex Rafael north of the city of Haifa on Sunday.

On Monday, Israel launched hundreds of airstrikes in southern Lebanon. The death toll from the bombardments has climbed to 558, Lebanese Health Minister Firass Abiad said.

On Tuesday, the Israel Defense Forces announced a new wave of attacks on targets of Shia movement Hezbollah in Lebanon.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Sullivan Calls Rallying World Against Russia Amid Ukraine Conflict Biden's 'Great Legacy'

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday that mobilizing the world against Russia amid the Ukraine conflict will become a "great historical legacy" for outgoing President Joe Biden.

"President Biden rallying the world to push back against Russia's aggression will be a great historical legacy for him," Sullivan told MSNBC.

This accomplishment is not the only one, Sullivan added.

Among other achievements, he listed the broader revitalization of alliances, Biden's investment in the "core sources of America's strength" and "his bringing to a close an era of war that the United States has fought in for two decades."

According to Sullivan, Biden will be able to "hand off to his successor a United States whose fundamentals are sound and strong when it comes to our national security even as we have to continue to contend with these crises, which we will do day in and day out including here in New York."

Russia believes that arms supplies to Ukraine hinder any peace settlement and directly involve NATO countries in the conflict. Moscow also sees the Ukraine conflict as a hybrid war led by the United States.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

White House Urges Americans to Leave Lebanon While Commercial Travel Still Available

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - Americans should depart Lebanon while commercial travel options are still available amid an escalation of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Tuesday.

"We want to make sure that there are still commercial options available for Americans to leave, and they should be leaving now while these options are still available but I won't get ahead of operations," Kirby told ABC in an interview, when asked if the US expects Israel could bomb airports in Lebanon like it did in 2006.

The US does not believe it is in Israel's interest for the conflict to escalate, for there to be an all-out war in the north, Kirby added.

Last week, Israel announced a new phase of the Israeli war effort in the region, with the focus shifting to the northern front.

From September 17-18, pagers and walkie-talkies exploded in various parts of Lebanon, killing over 40 people and injuring nearly 3,500 others. It is still unknown what caused thousands of devices to explode simultaneously. Hezbollah and the Lebanese authorities blame Israel for the blasts. Israeli President Isaac Herzog denied the country's involvement in the incidents. In response, Hezbollah struck the Israeli military industrial complex Rafael north of the city of Haifa on Sunday.

On Monday, Israel launched hundreds of airstrikes in southern Lebanon. The death toll from the bombardments has climbed to 558, Lebanese Health Minister Firass Abiad said.

On Tuesday, the Israel Defense Forces announced a new wave of attacks on targets of Shia movement Hezbollah in Lebanon.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

World Leaders to Participate in Ukraine Reconstruction Meeting Wednesday - US Official

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden and several of his counterparts from partner nations will convene on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday for a meeting focused on Ukraine reconstruction efforts, a senior US administration official told reporters.

"The President will also attend that afternoon a meeting focused on Ukraine reconstruction with other world leaders," the official said regarding Biden's schedule Wednesday at the United Nations.

Moreover, Biden is expected to highlight some of the key moments of his presidency when he delivers his last speech before the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, according to the official.

The official noted that Biden will also spend part of his speech discussing the need to end the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

The US official also said Biden has meetings scheduled with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the president of Vietnam this week.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA Chief Says Working on Visit to Iran Within Next Month

(Adds background in para 5)

UNITED NATIONS, September (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that the agency was working on a visit to Iran within the next month.

"We are working on a visit to Tehran within the next month or so," Grossi said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Grossi shared that today he was going to see Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Asked about the program in Iran, Grossi said, "I don't know, we have to work on that."

In 2015, Tehran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program, also known as the Iran nuclear deal, with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with the participation of the European Union. Under the deal, Iran agreed to scale back its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. The United States withdrew from the deal in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump, leading to the collapse of the deal. In 2021, Tehran voluntarily allowed the IAEA to replace cameras at the nuclear facility in the Iranian city of Karaj, but said it would not provide data from the cameras' footage until the US

lifted its sanctions.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA Says ZNPP to Restart 'One Way or The Other,' But Part of Wider Discussion

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that he believes that the relaunch of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant will happen one way or another, but it will be part of the broader discussion.

"Of course, in the current circumstances it would not be prudent because it's in a combat zone... so it's not advisable to operate a nuclear power plant in a combat zone," Grossi said. "My impression is that one way or the other there will be a restart, but this will be part of a wider discussion. It will be too much of a speculation at this point."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Middle East, Gaza to Stay at Core of UNGA General Debate - Russian Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik), Lenka White - The situation in Gaza will remain as the main topic of the UN General Assembly Week despite many attempts by certain countries to put Ukraine in the forefront, Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik in an interview.

"I'm absolutely sure that, of course, the questions of the Middle East and Gaza will be at the core of most statements during the general debate, no matter how the others would try to shift the focus on Ukraine and maybe some other issues," Polyanskiy said when asked whether there might be a lot of action in the UN week on Gaza.

The 79th session of the UN General Assembly opened in New York on September 10. The key event of the General Assembly sessions is traditionally the high-level week – an event where heads of state and ministers gather annually and speak out on pressing issues. The annual debates will take place from September 24 to 28, as well as on September 30. The Russian delegation is led by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who is expected to speak on September 28.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pager Explosions in Lebanon Require Analysis, Recommendations - Russian Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Moscow believes that pager detonations in Lebanon still need to be analyzed as the world's conflicts entered a new stage given this unprecedented attack, Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Dmitry

Polyanskiy told Sputnik in an interview.

"It already has some [implications on the current conflict in the Middle East] and you know that Israel has started its military operation in the south of Lebanon, if we judge from the latest news reports. But it opens a lot of questions which are still need to be analyzed, not only in the context of Middle East settlement, but also in the context of information security. So we are in a new world after this kind of attack, and I think that the consequences should be very carefully analyzed and some recommendations should be made," Polyanskiy said when asked what implications last week's pager detonations across Lebanon would have.

From September 17-18, pagers and walkie-talkies exploded in various parts of Lebanon, killing 45 people and injuring more than 3,000 others. Israeli authorities have neither confirmed nor denied their involvement in the attack.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Middle East, Gaza to Stay at Core of UNGA General Debate - Russian Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik), Lenka White - The situation in Gaza will remain as the main topic of the UN General Assembly Week despite many attempts by certain countries to put Ukraine in the forefront, Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik in an interview.

"I'm absolutely sure that, of course, the questions of the Middle East and Gaza will be at the core of most statements during the general debate, no matter how the others would try to shift the focus on Ukraine and maybe some other issues," Polyanskiy said when asked whether there might be a lot of action in the UN week on Gaza.

The 79th session of the UN General Assembly opened in New York on September 10. The key event of the General Assembly sessions is traditionally the high-level week – an event where heads of state and ministers gather annually and speak out on pressing issues. The annual debates will take place from September 24 to 28, as well as on September 30. The Russian delegation is led by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who is expected to speak on September 28.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Claims Russia Made Most AI Content to Allegedly Influence Election - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - The US intelligence community accuses Russia of allegedly producing the most artificial intelligence (AI) content to influence the US presidential election, Reuters reported citing a US intelligence official.

The report said on Monday that an official with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence alleges that Russia has generated more AI content to influence the US presidential election than any other foreign country.

According to the report, Russia's alleged effort aims to help Republican presidential nominee

Donald Trump.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence did not respond to Sputnik's request for comment on this matter.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said that it is not Russia's job to interfere in US elections and that the winners will be chosen by the American people.

In July, Peskov called accusations of Russian interference in US elections "absurd" and rejected them.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

China Willing to Work on Any Meaningful Global Effort to Resolve Ukraine Crisis - Embassy

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - China is willing to cooperate with any international partners who are seeking to make a meaningful effort to facilitate a negotiated peace deal in Ukraine, the Chinese Embassy in Washington told Sputnik.

Earlier in the day, Punchbowl News reported, citing a congressional source, that Ukraine lobbied members of the US Congress over the weekend to reject a Ukraine conflict peace plan proposal authored by China.

"China remains committed to promoting peace and dialogue and welcomes and supports all efforts conducive to a peaceful resolution of the crisis," Chinese Embassy spokesperson Liu Pengyu said on Monday in response to the US media report. "China is willing to work with the international community to create conditions for a political solution to the Ukraine crisis through dialogue and negotiation."

The Embassy noted that China has conducted four rounds of shuttle diplomacy regarding the Ukraine crisis.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will pitch his peace plan to President Joe Biden during a meeting at the White House on Thursday.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Monday that the United States has not been fully briefed on Zelenskyy's peace plan at present.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

John Deere in Light of Trump Tariff Threat Says Has Operated in Mexico Since 1950s

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - John Deere, the largest US-based tractor company in the world, said in a statement to Sputnik that it has been operating in Mexico since the 1950s and is considering manufacturing certain products in Mexico in order to make space to produce a more modern tractor in the United States.

Earlier in the day, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said that he would impose a 200% tariff on everything John Deere plans to manufacture in Mexico and sell in the United States.

A company spokesperson told Sputnik on Monday that John Deere is transitioning cab

production to its factory in Mexico in order to make space at its largest manufacturing complex in Waterloo, Iowa, to build a new and more modern tractor, the 9RX.

Moreover, the company spokesperson said John Deere has had a presence in Mexico since 1952.

According to a company fact sheet, the US tractor company has invested more than \$2 billion in its US factories since 2019.

Moreover, Trump would need approval from Congress to impose a 200% tariff on John Deere products manufactured in Mexico.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russian Deputy Ambassador to UN Polyanskiy Calls UK 'Main Opponent of Peace' in Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik), Lenka White - London is the biggest advocate against any peace efforts between Moscow and Kiev, Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik in an interview.

"Of course, the UK's role there is very prominent. It's now the main opponent of peace," Polyanskiy said, adding that London is behind most of the actions undermining all peace efforts. The ambassador also recalled the last peace efforts in Istanbul which were undermined by the former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The 79th session of the UN General Assembly opened in New York on September 10. The key event of the General Assembly sessions is traditionally the high-level week – an event where heads of state and ministers gather annually and speak out on pressing issues. The annual debates will take place from September 24 to 28, as well as on September 30. The Russian delegation is led by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who is expected to speak on September 28.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA Chief Says Working on Visit to Iran Within Next Month

UNITED NATIONS, September (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that they are working on a visit to Iran within the next month.

"We are working on a visit to Tehran within the next month or so," Grossi said on sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York,

He shared that today he is going to see the Iranian foreign minister. Asked about the program in Iran, Grossi said, "I don't know. we have to work on that."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA working on visit to Tehran within the next month or so - Grossi to Sputnik

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA Chief Says Expects Another Round of Visits to Russia, Ukraine in Next Weeks, Months

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that he expects to undertake another round of trips to Russia and Ukraine in the upcoming weeks and months.

When asked whether he has any plans to visit Russia and Ukraine, Grossi said, "Yes, all the time." Grossi also said he had just returned from his visit to Kiev and Kaliningrad.

"So I suppose that in the next few weeks and months I will be having another round," Grossi added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Grossi tells sputnik he will be having another round of visits to Russia and Ukraine in next few weeks and months

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Tanzania Open for Dialogue With Russia, Ready to Welcome Lavrov Visit - Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - Tanzania is always open for dialogue with Moscow and is prepared to receive Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov if he visits, the country's envoy to the UN, Hussein Kattanga, told Sputnik.

"Definitely yes. Tanzania is always open," Kattanga said when asked about meeting with Russian authorities this year on food security, energy or investments.

The envoy said if Lavrov is coming down to Tanzania he would have no problem meeting with him.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA Says ZNPP to Restart 'One Way or The Other,' But Part of Wider Discussion

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that he believes that the relaunch of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant will happen one way or another, but it will be part of the broader discussion.

"Of course, in the current circumstances it would not be prudent because it's in a combat

zone... so it's not advisable to operate a nuclear power plant in a combat zone," Grossi said. "My impression is that one way or the other there will be a restart, but this will be part of a wider discussion. It will be too much of a speculation at this point."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Grossi tells sputnik ZNPP restart will happen 'one way or the other' but too early to speculate

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US House of Representatives Passes \$25.2Bln Funding Bill for NASA

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - The US House of Representatives passed legislation to provide \$25.2 billion in fiscal year 2025 funding for NASA, ahead of a federal government funding deadline at the end of the month.

House lawmakers passed the bill on Monday in a vote of 366 in favor, 21 opposed and one present.

The legislation provides approximately \$25.225 billion in funding for NASA, including some \$7.61 billion for the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate, \$7.33 billion for the Science Mission Directorate and \$4.47 billion for the Space Operations Mission Directorate.

The US Congress must pass appropriations bills or temporary funding legislation before the end of the month to prevent a government shutdown.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA Chief Grossi Says Situation at ZNPP Continues to Be 'Tense'

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that the situation at Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant remains tense.

"The situation continues to be tense. My experts continue to report about military action close to the plant," Grossi said on sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. "We are evaluating the effects of the fire on a cooling tower of the nuclear power plant back in August. So a lot of work."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Tanzania open for dialogue with Russia, ready to welcome Lavrov visit - envoy to UN to sputnik

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA 'On Alert' for Military Action Around Kursk NPP, but Hopes It Is Not Repeated -Grossi

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) -International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that he saw some heat traces when he visited Russia's Kursk nuclear power plant (NPP) which indicates that there was some military action there, so the agency is on alert and is hopeful that this will not happen again.

"When I visited, I saw some traces of heat impacts on the plant, which means that there was some military action there. So I hope this is not going to be repeated, but we are on alert," Grossi said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Grossi Says Situation Around Kursk NPP 'Serious' Amid Kiev's Military Incursion

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that the situation at the Kursk nuclear power plant (NPP) is serious amid the Ukrainian military's incursion in Russia's border region.

"It's serious in the sense that there was, and there still is a military incursion, and this military incursion has reached a point which is not so far from the nuclear power plant, which means that there is a latent situation there," Grossi said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA 'on alert' for more military action around Kursk NPP, but hopes it is not repeated - grossi to sputnik

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Grossi Says Hopes IAEA Won't Have to Return to Kursk NPP

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik he is hopeful the agency will not have to return to Russia's Kursk NPP.

"I hope we don't need to go back... I had an opportunity to go there to assess the situation. We hope that we are in a better place now," Grossi said on sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

grossi tells sputnik hopes IAEA does not need to return to Kursk NPP, hopes they are in a better place now

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

IAEA Not Planning at Present to Have Permanent Presence at Kursk Nuclear Plant - Grossi

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that the agency does not see that need at present to have a permanent presence at the Kursk nuclear power plant (NPP).

"The situation is completely different in the sense that here we are dealing with a plant in Russia, belonging to Russia, normally operated," Grossi said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York when asked whether there was a need for a permanent agency presence in Kursk, similar to the situation in Zaporizhzhia.

Grossi said it is important not to forget that the plant is operating, producing energy, which is a completely different situation from the plant in Zaporizhzhia.

"So for the moment, we are not planning to have a permanent presence or something like that. We don't see a need to do that. We hope that there will not be any new event that would require the IAEA to assess the situation. If that is the case, well, I will let you know," Grossi said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

grossi tells sputnik IAEA at the moment is not planning a permanent presence at Kursk NPP

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Grossi Says IAEA to Send Mission to Kursk NPP to Assess Situation 'If Something Happens'

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that the agency will deploy its experts at the Kursk nuclear power plant (NPP) to assess the situation if something happens there,

"And, if something happens, we will deploy people there to assess the situation," Grossi said on sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York,

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Dialogue With Russian Federation Indispensable, Will Continue - Grossi

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that the agency's dialogue with Russia is indispensable and will continue.

"So, the dialogue for me with the Russian Federation is indispensable and it will continue," Grossi said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

grossi tells sputnik dialogue with Russia 'indispensable' and will continue

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Grossi Says IAEA Engages in Ongoing Dialogue With Russia on ZNPP, Kursk Nuclear Plant

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that the agency has a very important process of constant dialogue and data exchange with Russia regarding the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP) as well as the one in Kursk.

"Of course, in terms of the conflict there [Ukraine] we have a very, I would say, important process of constant dialogue, exchange of information as to the situation in Zaporizhia, of course, and also in Kursk lately, where you remember the events last August," Grossi said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

California Sues ExxonMobil for Alleged Contribution to Plastic Pollution - Filing

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - Oil and gas company ExxonMobil allegedly contributed to the plastic waste and pollution crises by spreading deceptive messaging about plastic recycling, according to a lawsuit filed in the Superior Court of California on Monday.

"ExxonMobil, the largest producer of plastic polymers used to manufacture single-use plastics, caused or substantially contributed to the deluge of plastic pollution that has harmed and continues to harm California's environment, wildlife, natural resources, and people," the filing said.

ExxonMobil produces the largest amount of plastic that becomes plastic waste in California, the filing said. The company has also deceived Californians by promising that recycling would solve the plastic waste crisis, the filing said.

ExxonMobil knew that the amount of plastic waste would continue to increase and pollute the environment, the filing said.

Californians are "paying the price" for cleanup and environmental costs of plastic production, the filing added.

The lawsuit requests a jury trial to decide whether ExxonMobil should pay civil penalties, change its messaging and contribute to an abatement fund.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Grossi Says IAEA's Agenda Includes Nuclear Cooperation With Russia Beyond Ukraine Conflict

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that the agency's current work with Russia concerns not only the Ukrainian conflict given that Russia is a big player in the nuclear field.

When asked about potential discussions with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, Grossi indicated that there were several topics to address, not all of which were related to the conflict in Ukraine.

"As you know, Russia is a big actor in the nuclear field so we have a number of things that we are dealing with them," he stated. "But of course, in terms of the conflict there, we have a very, I would say, important process of constant dialogue, exchange of information as to the situation in Zaporizhzhia, of course, and also in Kursk lately, where you remember the events last August."

"So the dialogue for me with the Russian Federation is indispensable and it will continue," Grossi added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Grossi Says Meeting With Lavrov at UNGA 'Not in the Cards' But Not Impossible

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) - International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik that although no meeting is currently scheduled with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during the UN General Assembly in New York, it is still possible that one could take place.

When asked whether he has a meeting planned with Lavrov during the UN General Assembly in New York, Grossi said, "Well, it's not in the cards."

"I am in contact with them. I met the Russian delegation in Kaliningrad just a few days ago," Grossi said. "So we will see. We are in contact. It's not impossible, but we will see."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Trump Media Stock Hits New Low Despite His Decision Not To Sell

NEW YORK, September 24 (Sputnik) - The media stock associated with former US president Donald Trump hit a new record low on Monday as investors continued to dump its shares

despite his assurance that he won't dilute his stake there.

Trump Media & Technology Group Corp, which trades under the DJT symbol that takes after the former president's initials, closed at \$12.15, down \$1.40, or about 10% on the day. It hit an all-time bottom of \$12.12 earlier in the session.

Since hitting a record high of \$79.38 in March following its flotation, DJT has fallen some 85%. While its official branding is that of a media stock, analysts say DJT's value, in reality, mimics the political fortunes of Republican Trump, who's trying to recapture the White House this November in an election battle with incumbent Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. Polls over the past month have steadily shown Trump trailing Harris or, at best, neck-to-neck with her in key states that could decide the election.

Given such a scenario, DJT could fall further, say analysts. John Rekenthaler, vice president of research said in comments carried by Quartz that he expected the stock "to go to zero or something close to it, if [Trump] were to lose the election."

Trump said last week he created DJT to get his voice out after he was banned from Twitter and Facebook (Meta banned in Russia) in January 2021, following the storming of the US Capitol building by supporters upset with his 2020 election loss.

Twitter, rebranded X, allowed Trump back on the platform in August after its new billionaire owner Elon Musk voiced support for the former president's election campaign. While Trump acknowledged that he was unlikely to experience another booting from X, he said he still wanted his own media brand.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

RPT- Oil Prices Dip as Europe, China Worries Offset Israel Strikes Against Hezbollah in Lebanon

NEW YORK, September 23 (Sputnik) - Crude prices fell Monday as disappointing eurozone business activity and stubbornly weak Chinese economic data offset fighting in the oil-rich Middle East, where Israel launched a massive air bombardment against the Lebanese movement Hezbollah.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) settled New York trading down 63 cents, or 0.9%, at \$70.37 per barrel.

UK North Sea Brent crude finished the US trading session down 59 cents, or 0.8%, at \$73.90. Eurozone business activity fell sharply and unexpectedly in September as its services industry flatlined and a slowdown in manufacturing worsened.

In China, the world's biggest oil importing country, deflationary pressures continued as growth struggled despite initiatives to boost domestic spending.

Israeli strikes in Lebanon killed more than 356 people and injured more than 1,200 others in what appeared to be the deadliest day of attacks since 2006 when the two countries were directly at war.

Hezbollah launched a barrage of rockets at Israel but most of the missiles appeared to be intercepted by the Israel's air defense system, with no immediate deaths or serious casualties reported.

September has been a volatile month for crude, with prices continuing their downtrend since the end of June.

"I would generally call it a mixed bag," Scott Shelton, energy futures broker at ICAP in Durham, North Carolina, said in an outlook for crude prices issued Monday.

WTI is down almost 4% for this month, extending the 5.6% and 4.5% loss seen in August and July, respectively. Year-to-date, the US crude benchmark is down 1.4%, after rallying more than 20% earlier in the year.

Brent is off almost 7% this month, extending the 2.5% and 6.5% slide seen in August and July, respectively. Year-to-date, the global crude benchmark is down nearly 5%, after rallying more than 20% earlier in the year.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Idaho Man Indicted for Making Calls Threatening to Kill Trump in July - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) - An Idaho man called Donald Trump's Mar-A-Lago residence in Florida nine times, threatening to kill him just two weeks after the first failed assassination attempt on the former US president in July, Forbes reported, citing a criminal complaint and search warrant.

On July 31, Idaho resident Warren Jones Crazybull made nine calls to Trump's resort with threatening messages, the report said on Monday.

"Find Trump... I am coming down to Bedminster tomorrow. I am going to down him personally and kill him," the report quoted one of Crazybull's messages as saying.

The defendant also left threats against Trump on his Facebook (banned in Russia) page with references to Jeffrey Epstein, John F. Kennedy and a "shadow government," according to the report.

"I start driving to the home of this multi person rapist PIG TRUMP to take him down single combat," the report quoted one of Crazybull's posts on Facebook (outlawed in Russia as extremist organization) as saying.

After US prosecutors had detained Crazybull on August 1, he said in an interview that he was not going to kill Trump, but also that he was not going to let him win the election. He was indicted on August 20 with one count of making threats against a former president and has pleaded not guilty, the report said.

He faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison, according to the report.

On Friday, the US House of Representatives passed legislation to bolster US Secret Service protection for major presidential and vice-presidential candidates, following two apparent assassination attempts against Trump.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Oil Prices Dip as Europe, China Worries Offset Israel Strikes Against Hezbollah in Lebanon

NEW YORK, September 23 (Sputnik) - Crude prices fell Monday as disappointing eurozone business activity and stubbornly weak Chinese economic data offset fighting in the oil-rich Middle East, where Israel launched a massive air bombardment against the Lebanese movement Hezbollah.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) settled New York trading down 63 cents, or 0.9%, at \$70.37 per barrel.

UK North Sea Brent crude finished the US trading session down 59 cents, or 0.8%, at \$73.90.

Eurozone business activity fell sharply and unexpectedly in September as its services industry flatlined and a slowdown in manufacturing worsened.

In China, the world's biggest oil importing country, deflationary pressures continued as growth struggled despite initiatives to boost domestic spending.

Israeli strikes in Lebanon killed more than 356 people and injured more than 1,200 others in what appeared to be the deadliest day of attacks since 2006 when the two countries were directly at war.

Hezbollah launched a barrage of rockets at Israel but most of the missiles appeared to be intercepted by the Israel's air defense system, with no immediate deaths or serious casualties reported.

September has been a volatile month for crude, with prices continuing their downtrend since the end of June.

"I would generally call it a mixed bag," Scott Shelton, energy futures broker at ICAP in Durham, North Carolina, said in an outlook for crude prices issued Monday.

WTI is down almost 4% for this month, extending the 5.6% and 4.5% loss seen in August and July, respectively. Year-to-date, the US crude benchmark is down 1.4%, after rallying more than 20% earlier in the year.

Brent is off almost 7% this month, extending the 2.5% and 6.5% slide seen in August and July, respectively. Year-to-date, the global crude benchmark is down nearly 5%, after rallying more than 20% earlier in the year.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden, UAE President Reaffirm Commitment to Two-State Solution - White House

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) — US President Joe Biden and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said that they are committed to a two-state solution as the only way to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"The leaders expressed their commitment to the two-state solution, wherein a sovereign and contiguous Palestinian state lives side-by-side in peace and security with Israel, as the only way to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with the internationally-recognized parameters and the Arab Peace Initiative," the US-UAE Joint Leaders' statement read on Monday.

The statement added that Biden and Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan emphasized the

importance of avoiding unilateral actions that harm the two-state solution, preserving the historical status of Jerusalem's holy sites, and recognizing Jordan's significant role.

On October 7, 2023, Israel was subjected to an unprecedented rocket attack from the Gaza Strip. In addition, Hamas fighters infiltrated the border areas, opened fire on the military and civilians, and took hostages. Israeli authorities say that about 1,200 people were killed during the raid.

The Israel Defense Forces launched Operation Iron Swords in the Gaza Strip and announced a complete blockade of the enclave. The enclave's health ministry said that the death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since October 7 had exceeded 41,000.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, September 24 (Sputnik) -

ISRAEL-LEBANON CONFLICT

* The civilian death toll as a result of Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon has increased to 356, with 1024 others injured, the Emergency Situations Center of the Lebanese Ministry of Health said on Monday.

* The Lebanese movement Hezbollah said its senior commander Ali Karaki was alive and safe, following media reports of alleged Israeli attempts to eliminate him.

* The Israeli government is imposing a special state of civil defense throughout the country due to the long-range rocket shelling from Lebanon, Israeli state broadcaster Kan reported.

* The risk of escalation of violence in the Middle East is very possible amid the latest increase of tensions between Israel and Hezbollah, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

OTHER MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

* The Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon represents a violation of international law and the UN Charter, Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations Qusay al-Dahhak said on Monday.

* The United Nations has expressed concern over the recent closure of the Qatari news network in Ramallah by the Israeli government, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said.

* The United States has decided to send a "small number" of military personnel to the Middle East to boost its regional force posture amid risks of a full-fledged war between Israel and Lebanon, Defense Department spokesperson Pat Ryder said.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* Russia has added an association that includes former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and his son to the list of terrorists and extremists, the Federal Financial Monitoring Service (Rosfinmonitoring) said on Monday.

* Moscow is cautious about media reports on Kiev's intentions to present a new "peace plan" to

the United States and there is still a lot of contradictory information on the matter, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

* US President Joe Biden looks forward to hearing the details of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's strategic planning for the months ahead, White House spokesperson Karine Jean Pierre said.

UNITED NATIONS

* Russia believes that the United Nations should play a central role in a multipolar world and serve to align the positions of various players, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin said on Monday.

* The major countries should lead by example and break up geopolitical circles, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

SITUATION IN RUSSIA'S BORDER REGIONS

* The Russian military has eliminated up to 16,400 Ukrainian soldiers and 127 tanks during military operations in the border areas of the Kursk region, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Monday.

* Three people, including a child, were killed as Ukraine shelled the village of Arkhangelskoe in Russia's Belgorod region, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

* More than 770 reports on missing persons have been received in Russia's Kursk region since August, Governor Alexei Smirnov said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

PREVIEW - Ukraine, Middle East to Be Focus of World Leaders' Discussions During 79th UNGA Week

UNITED NATIONS, September 24 (Sputnik) – The high-level General Debate week will kick off on Tuesday as part of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York City which continues to be the most important event of the year, where hundreds of high-ranking officials and leaders will gather to discuss the most pressing problems in the world.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and General Assembly President Philemon Yang are scheduled to address the participants before the start of the General Debate.

According to established tradition, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and US President Joe Biden will open the high-level debate week which is set to take place on September 24-28, and 30.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is scheduled to speak on September 25 while Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is expected to speak on September 28.

According to Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, Russia's top diplomat is going to have a "colossal program of meetings" during the visit to New York with no contacts with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on his schedule.

A host of key discussions will take place during UN Security Council meetings this week, including a meeting on "maintaining peace and security in Ukraine" on Tuesday and an open debate on maintaining international peace and security on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the UN Security Council will also discuss the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines at Russia's request. Friday will be a day of debate on the Middle East crisis and the most recent escalation between Israel and Lebanon.

The discussion of Ukraine will take place amid ongoing escalation by the West, which, according to media reports, is ready to go so far as to allow Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory with its weapons.

In an interview for Sputnik, Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy said that it is worth waiting until the end of the high-level week before making any conclusions about whether the West has taken into account Russia's warnings against allowing Kiev to strike Russia.

Another central topic of this week's discussions will be the crisis in the Middle East, where Israel continues its military operation in Gaza and is also preparing to expand the front into Lebanon against Hezbollah. To date, the United Nations has failed to make Israel cease hostilities in Gaza and the West Bank despite resolutions calling on the country to do that.

The Russian mission to the UN has repeatedly said the Security Council has been taken hostage by the United States, which is blocking any actions aimed at reaching a ceasefire. The most recent explosions of pagers and other devices in Lebanon and Iran's promises to respond to Israel for the murder of former Hamas Politburo chief Haniyeh may also be included in the discussions.

It remains to be seen whether the General Assembly session, with more than a hundred leaders attending it, will go in terms of security incidents following two assassination attempts on former US President Donald Trump. Meanwhile, security has been increased at the UN headquarters and in the streets nearby.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Trump Says Will Impose 200% Tariff on John Deere Products if Company Moves to Mexico

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - Former US President and 2024 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Monday that if John Deere, the largest US-based tractor company in the world, decides to move its manufacturing to Mexico he will impose a 200% tariff on everything the company plans to sell in the United States.

"I'm just notifying John Deere right now: if you do that [move to Mexico], we are putting a 200% tariff on everything that you want to sell into the United States," Trump said during a campaign event in Smithton, Pennsylvania.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Judge Postpones Sentencing of Former Senator Menendez to January 2025 – Order

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) – US District Judge Sidney Stein ordered to postpone the sentencing of former senator Robert Menendez and his two co-defendants to January 2025,

according to a court filing published on Monday.

“Order as to Robert Menendez, Nadine Menendez, Wael Hana, Fred Daibes, it is hereby ordered that: [...] The sentencing of Fred Daibes is adjourned to January 29, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., the sentencing of Wael Hana is adjourned to January 29, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., and the sentencing of Robert Menendez is adjourned to January 29, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.,” the filing reads.

In July, a jury found Menendez alongside Hana and Daibes guilty on all 16 counts, including committing bribery, wire fraud, acting as a foreign agent, and obstruction of justice. Menendez pleaded not guilty to the charges against him.

Prosecutors said that Menendez received bribes in exchange for using his authority to assist the Qatari government and benefit Egypt. Prosecutors also accused Menendez’s wife Nadine of engaging in a scheme to return the alleged bribe money under the guise of loan repayment.

Menendez stepped down on August 20 after submitting his resignation letter on July 23.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Trump Says Will Impose 200% Tariff on John Deere Products if It Moves Manufacturing Business to Mexico

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Trump Campaign Says New Data Shows Crime ‘Way Up’ Under Biden-Harris Administration

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - Criminal activity in the United States is increasing under the Biden administration, former US President Donald Trump’s 2024 campaign said on Monday.

Earlier on Monday, the FBI said that violent crime in the US decreased by some 3% in 2023 in comparison to 2022 rates.

However, the US Justice Department’s (DOJ) National Crime Victimization Survey results show that violent crime is up 37% from 2020 to 2023, the Trump campaign said in a statement.

“A much more accurate picture emerges using data from the DOJ National Criminal Victimization Survey, which shows crime rates remain WAY UP under [US Vice President Kamala Harris] – throwing a dagger straight through the heart of claims to the contrary by Democrats and their Fake News allies,” the statement said.

The FBI changed how it collects crime data under the Biden administration, the statement said. Rape is up 42%, robbery 63% and motor vehicle theft 42%, according to the data cited in the statement.

Trump would end the “lawlessness” if elected president in November, the statement said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Iranian President Proposes Showing UNGA Report on Consequences of Unilateral Sanctions

UNITED NATIONS, September 23 (Sputnik) – Countries currently affected by unilateral sanctions should collaborate in preparing a comprehensive report to be presented at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on their consequences, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday.

"I propose to the UN Secretary-General [Antonio Guterres], in collaboration with countries affected by unilateral sanctions, present a comprehensive report on this matter to the General Assembly," Pezeshkian told the UNGA.

The Iranian president further noted that unilateral sanctions have hindered progress toward sustainable development goals and must be addressed in any document formulated about the future.

Tehran believes in the urgency of reforming governance structures and international financial institutions to ensure the participation of developing countries in the decision-making processes, Pezeshkian said.

The 79th session of the UNGA opened on September 10. The annual debate will take place from September 24-28 and September 30.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US, UAE Agree to Explore Potential Investment in Advanced Defense Systems - White House

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - The United States and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) agreed to explore potential investment in advanced defense systems, the White House said on Monday.

President Joe Biden met with the president of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, at the White House on Monday to discuss matters related to trade, and regional security, among other topics. The meeting was the first visit by an Emirati president to the United States since the Emirates was founded in 1971.

"They further decided to explore potential investment in our most advanced defense systems and to maintain regular exchanges to deepen partnership in research and development," the White House said in a press release.

Moreover, the White House said the United States is officially designating the UAE as a Major Defense Partner, which will allow for joint training, exercises, and military-to-military collaboration.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Looks Forward to Hearing About Zelenskyy's Strategic Plan – White House

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) – US President Joe Biden looks forward to hearing the details of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's strategic planning for the months ahead, White House press

secretary Karine Jean Pierre said on Monday.

"The president is also looking forward to hearing from President Zelenskyy about the strategic planning for the months ahead," Jean-Pierre said during a press briefing.

As regards the long-rumored plan to reach peace in Ukraine, Jean-Pierre noted that the White House has not yet been briefed on the details of the plan and that Zelenskyy intends to share them with the Biden administration soon.

Biden is set to host Zelenskyy for a bilateral meeting on Thursday at the White House.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

us, uae agree to explore potential investment in most advanced defense systems, maintain regular exchanges to deepen partnership - white house

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

White House Says Risk of Escalation of Violence in Mideast 'Real'

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - The risk of escalation of violence in the Middle East is very possible amid the latest increase of tensions between Israel and Hezbollah, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Monday.

"The risk of escalation is real and so we continue to believe a diplomatic resolution is both achievable and urgent," Jean-Pierre told reporters. "Our commitment to Israel's security is iron clad and unwavering against all Iran-backed threats."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Boeing Counteroffers Union With 30% Pay Hike to End Workers' Strike

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - Boeing is offering its striking workers a 30% pay hike along with a bonus, better retirement package and other incentives to end a debilitating work stoppage at the airplane maker, the company said in a letter to its employees union.

"We request that you submit this offer to your membership for a vote as soon as possible to bring an end [to] the current strike," Boeing's Vice President for Labor Relations Mike Fitzsimmons said, writing to Jon Holden and Brandon Bryant, who head the two divisions of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) at the company.

Calling it "the best and final offer" to end the strike, Fitzsimmons said the union had to ratify the deal in its entirety and end the strike before midnight, September 27. A copy of the counteroffer was viewed by Sputnik.

More than 30,000 Boeing employees belonging to the IAM have been on strike since September 13 after the jetmaker resisted the 40% pay hike they demanded.

Under the new terms, Boeing's machinists would get a 30% pay hike over a four-year period,

with 12% of that kicking in within the first year, and 6% in each of the subsequent three years. The machinists would also get a \$6,000 bonus and upgraded retirement plans.

"This offer recognizes the contributions our employees make to the company's success and future," Fitzsimmons said.

In an interview with The Washington Post, Boeing's head of labor noted that it was "the largest offer we've ever offered this union or any other union."

The Post report said that Boeing's machinists will miss their first full paycheck and lose company health care coverage if the strike continues beyond September.

Boeing has orders for more than 5,500 planes but production is below expectation due to manufacturing issues and labor shortages. There are just about 70 aircraft in the company's inventory now and it has a target of producing up to 38 aircraft per month.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Israeli Occupation of Arab Lands Represents Violation of UN Charter – Syrian Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, September 23 (Sputnik) – The Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon represents a violation of international law and the UN Charter, Syrian envoy to the UN Qusay al-Dahhak said on Monday.

"The ongoing Israeli occupation of the Arab Territories in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon, and the persistence of the occupation powers to commit crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and the ongoing acts of aggression against Palestine and Lebanon, and against my country, Syria, represents an unacceptable great violation of international law, of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and of all human values," al-Dahhak said during the Summit of the Future at the UN.

He highlighted that Israeli actions create obstacles to building a prosperous future.

Al-Dahhak also called on the international community to unite and intensify its efforts to confront this aggression.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

white house says risk of escalation in middle east is real

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Burkina Faso Calls to Act Against States Financing Terrorism in Sahel - Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, September 23 (Sputnik) - Burkina Faso calls on states to fight in solidarity against terrorism and act against governments financing such groups throughout the Sahel, Burkinabe Foreign Minister Karamoko Jean-Marie Traore said on Monday.

"We must fight in solidarity against this scourge [terrorism] and take measures against certain

states which support, and finance terrorists as is the case in the Sahel," Traore said as he addressed the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.

The minister said the whole world's collective conscience is currently being challenged by the "very worrying problem" of terrorism, which also threatens the very foundations of societies.

Traore's appeal comes a month after Burkina Faso, in a joint action with Niger and Mali, called on the UN Security Council to take measures against Ukraine for its alleged support of terrorism in the Sahel.

The request came after media reported in late-July that Bamako and Nouakchott were investigating the involvement of Ukrainian military instructors in the year-long conflict in Mali on the side of the rebels.

In addition, nine Senegalese public organizations said in a statement issued in early August that a video published by Ukrainian defense intelligence spokesman Andriy Yusov, confirming Kiev's involvement in the attack on the Russian private military company Wagner Group in Mali, was another confirmation of Kiev's support for armed groups. They also condemned Ukraine for training militants in Africa and called on the international community to hold Kiev accountable.

In response to the reports, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the fact that Ukraine was cooperating with terrorists from the Sahel region was not surprising, and that Moscow actively drew the attention of the international community to such actions by Kiev.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Trump Says 'Difficult to Trust' US Justice Department to Probe Assassination Attempts

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - Former US President Donald Trump said on Monday that it is difficult for him to trust the US Justice Department (DOJ) to investigate the two apparent assassination attempts against him.

"The DOJ and FBI have a Conflict of Interest since they have been obsessed with 'Getting Trump' for so long. It's very difficult to trust the Biden/Harris DOJ/FBI to investigate the assassination attempts, due to Election Interference and the FAKE CASES brought against me," Trump said in a statement.

In July, 20-year-old gunman Thomas Crooks attempted to assassinate Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, shooting the former president in the ear, killing one audience member and wounding two others.

Last week, US Secret Service agents opened fire on 58-year-old Ryan Routh after they found him allegedly waiting in a sniper's nest near where Trump was playing golf at the time. Routh is currently in detention pending trial on two firearm-related charges.

The DOJ and FBI are downplaying the second apparent assassination attempt, Trump said. The two firearm-related charges are a "slap on the wrist," according to Trump.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who announced that the state will conduct its own probe into the incident, will take the lead on the investigation and prosecution if federal law enforcement officials cannot do their job honestly and without bias, Trump said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US State Dept. to Partner With Major Tech Firms to Expand Access to AI - Blinken

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - The US Department of State will partner with several major US tech firms such as OpenAI, Google, Meta (banned in Russia as an extremist organization) and Microsoft to expand global access to artificial intelligence (AI) technology, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday.

"The State Department will partner with Amazon, with Anthropic, with Google, with IBM, with Meta, with Microsoft, with Nvidia, with OpenAI to expand access to AI," Blinken said during an AI event in New York City.

The Department of State and USAID will provide \$33 million in US foreign assistance on AI development, with \$10 million specifically focused on expanding access, Blinken added.

The expansion of access will include work to enhance computing and capacity capabilities.

In total, the US government and its private sector partners are pledging over \$100 million on this effort, according to Blinken.

Moreover, Blinken said the Biden administration will seek to work with Congress to develop safe, reliable, trustworthy AI governance frameworks.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Should Play Central Role in Multipolar World, Align Various Positions - Vershinin

UNITED NATIONS, September 23 (Sputnik) - Russia believes that the United Nations should play a central role in a multipolar world and serve to align the positions of various players, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin said on Monday.

"We believe that the UN should play a central coordination role in a multipolar world, aligning member states' positions," Vershinin said at the Summit of the Future held at the United Nations.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Judge Orders Trump Assassination Attempt Suspect Held Without Bail - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - A federal judge in the United States ordered the man suspected of attempting to assassinate former US President Donald Trump held without bail ahead of a trial, CNBC reported on Monday.

The suspect, 58-year-old Ryan Routh, will remain detained on charges of possessing a firearm as a convicted felon and possessing a firearm with an obliterated serial number, the report said.

Earlier this month, US Secret Service agents opened fire on Routh near a golf course where Trump was playing at the time, after spotting Routh allegedly waiting in a sniper's nest.

Earlier on Monday, a court filing revealed that Routh allegedly described his actions in a handwritten letter as an "assassination attempt" against Trump. However, prosecutors have yet to charge Routh with such a crime.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

White House Opposes Proposed US Law That Would Require Sanctions on Chinese Leaders

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration opposes a proposed measure in Congress that would require mandatory sanctions on a broad number of Chinese government leaders, the White House Office of Management and Budget said on Monday.

"The Administration opposes HR 3334, the 'STOP CCP Act,' which would impose mandatory sanctions and visa restrictions on members of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party determined to have played a significant role in certain People's Republic of China (PRC) policies regarding Hong Kong, Taiwan, and minority groups in China, among others," the White House said in a press release.

The White House underscored that the United States already has multiple authorities to impose sanctions on Chinese officials, but this bill would make the imposition of sanctions and visa restrictions mandatory against an entire tier of Chinese government leadership.

The proposed bill threatens to undermine ongoing efforts to mend relations between the United States and China, which could potentially lead to a cutoff of any communication between the two governments while making no progress on addressing the issues of concern in this legislation, according to the White House.

The US House of Representatives is expected to consider this legislation on Wednesday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Congressman Gaetz Says 1 of 5 Known Assassination Teams Targeting Trump 'Ukrainian'

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Matt Gaetz said on Monday that one of the five known teams aiming to kill former President Donald Trump before the July assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania, was Ukrainian.

"One of the five known teams hunting President Trump before the Butler, PA attempt was Ukrainian," Gaetz said via the social media platform X.

Last week, Gaetz released a statement that he was informed by a senior Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official of at least five known assassination teams operating in the United States, three of which are foreign.

The authorities should prevent extended surveillance near Trump's properties after learning that the second shooter in the September 15 assassination attempt, Ryan Wesley Routh, was previously encountered at the border after returning from Ukraine. Routh was also serving as a recruiter in the United States of mercenaries to join the Ukrainian conflict on the side of the Kiev regime.

In July, Thomas Matthew Crooks attempted to assassinate Trump at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. The gunman shot Trump in the ear, killing one audience member and wounding two others. A Secret Service sniper killed Crooks.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

ANALYSIS - Pentagon Strategy Report Calls for Buildup Against Threats US Created

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - A new US defense strategy report recommending increased military spending is calling on the Pentagon to boost readiness against threats primarily of Washington's own making, experts told Sputnik.

The National Defense Strategy Commission report, mandated by Congress, calls for increases in US military spending to proportions last seen during the Cold War, when defense expenditures ran from nearly 5% to 17% of GDP, versus 3% today.

The heads of the commission told a US House panel on September 18 the larger defense budget, required to counter great power rivals, could be paid for with higher taxes and reduced social spending.

Retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel and political consultant Earl Rasmussen found the commission report skewed towards the desire to maintain US global supremacy and did little to discuss the reasons why Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea were seen as threats in the first place.

"Yes, we are facing potential threats in three or more theaters, which we are ill-prepared to meet. However, those threats are a result of our own making," Rasmussen said. "It is as if they want a multi-front war against multiple major nuclear powers."

Rasmussen said Washington's rivals are not threatening US national security but seeking to protect their own sovereignty and security from US and Western "aggression."

The US would lessen the so-called threats by seeking diplomacy to diffuse tensions and cooperating with other leading powers for peace in Ukraine and elsewhere, Rasmussen said.

"What a novel approach that would be but unfortunately one that such a commission will likely not entertain," Rasmussen added.

Former senior CIA analyst Philip Giraldi said the root of the problem is the US interfering globally, not the actions of Washington's rivals. The reality is the United States has either provoked wars, as in the cases of Russia and potentially China, or enabled wars as in the case of Israel-Gaza, Giraldi added.

"If Washington would leave the world alone and abandon its ridiculous 'rules based international order' conceit no one would be interested in going to war with it," Giraldi said.

FLAWED ASSUMPTIONS

Pentagon analyst and retired US Air Force Lt. Colonel Karen Kwiatkowski said the report was based on three decades of false security assumptions including that Washington should be prepared for the immediate outbreak of war with multiple rivals at the same time.

"Alarming is the uncritical and ill-informed acceptance of the Commission that the United States can or should engage and plan for a three-front war among enemies that have been named by a set of neocon ideologues who have been outdated and wrong for half a century," Kwiatkowski

said.

The report was correct in stating that all military spending in the United States would require new methods of political justification to the American taxpayer, and it was also correct in recognizing that the rest of the world was innovating, militarily and otherwise, faster than the Pentagon, Kwiatkowski said.

"The solutions put forward are not 'clear-eyed' but direct from the Cold War and its subsequent US hegemonic era paid for in debt, and trillions of dollars in multiple stalemated and failed military excursions, and the nurturing of weak and inappropriate allies," Kwiatkowski said.

The commission demands for more unitary government and freer and faster security spending was a recipe for disaster, Kwiatkowski suggested.

"The false concepts that drive the thinking of the people in Congress and inside the bureaucracy are killing America and laying waste to the world's economy in ways that are only beginning to be seen here at home," Kwiatkowski said.

Kwiatkowski warned that, at a minimum, US Congress needed a far superior assessment of the strategic challenges ahead and should not act on a single one of the report's flawed and "propagandistic" ideas.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

FBI Says Violent Crime in US Decreased by 3% in 2023 Compared to 2022

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - Violent crime in the United States decreased by some 3% percent in 2023 when compared to statistics in 2022, the FBI said on Monday.

"The FBI's crime statistics estimates, based on reported data for 2023, show that national violent crime decreased an estimated 3.0% in 2023 compared to 2022 estimates," the FBI said in a press release.

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter recorded a 2023 estimated nationwide decrease of 11.6% compared to the previous year, according to the release.

President Joe Biden in a separate statement said this progress in the reduction of crime is continuing in 2024.

Biden credited the passing of the American Rescue Plan Act, which helped provide over \$15 billion in public safety funding that enabled more than 1,000 state, city, and county governments to avoid cuts to police budgets and invest in other programs to make US communities safer.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Concerned Over Closures of Al-Jazeera Media Network in West Bank - Spokesman

UNITED NATIONS, September 23 (Sputnik) - The United Nations has expressed concern over the recent closure of the Qatari news network in Ramallah by the Israeli government, UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Monday,

"We are extremely concerned about what we see. This is not the first time that the Israeli

authorities have shut down Al-Jazeera, in Jerusalem as well," Dujarric told journalists in the UN press briefing. "I think this plays to a bigger picture of limiting media coverage of what is going on in the region, including in Gaza, where we see that no international journalists are allowed in unless they come in with the IDF from the North."

On Sunday, the Qatari news network Al Jazeera vowed to continue covering events in the West Bank after the Israeli military raided its office in Ramallah and ordered it to close.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Major Countries Should Lead by Example to 'Break Up Geopolitical Circles' - Wang

UNITED NATIONS, September 23 (Sputnik) - The major countries should lead by example and break up geopolitical circles, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday.

"The major countries, in particular, should lead by example. They should break up geopolitical circles," Wang said during the Summit of the Future held at the United Nations.

Wang also said that the major global countries should serve as propellers for world solidarity and anchors for international peace.

"Greater solidarity and cooperation of the international community is not a choice, but a must. Countries should uphold positions of common, comprehensive cooperative and sustainable security, and settle disputes through dialogue, resolve differences through consultations and enhance security through cooperation," Wang said.

No country can remain unaffected by new risks and it is necessary to cooperate in order to build peace and tranquility, Wang added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russia Winning Ukraine Conflict Despite 'Best' US, NATO Weapons - Former US Congressman

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - Russia's special military operation in Ukraine is succeeding despite the regime in Kiev receiving billions of dollars in weapons from the United States and other NATO allies, former US Congressman Ron Paul said on Monday.

"The fact is that Russia is winning the war despite hundreds of billions of dollars and the best weapons systems from the US and NATO countries. Each new shipment of increasingly sophisticated weapons does not produce battlefield victories for Ukraine. It only produces more dead Ukrainian soldiers and more profits for the weapons manufacturers," Paul said in a column for the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity.

The world narrowly avoided nuclear destruction last week due to the Biden administration reportedly denying Ukraine's request to strike deep inside Russian territory, Paul said. However, previous requests by Ukraine have been initially denied then granted later, Paul added.

The US government's "obsession" with Ukraine is going to "get us all killed," Paul said. US arms manufacturers are the driving force behind the country's interventionist foreign policy, Paul said.

It is "madness" to risk the future of the US for wars that have nothing to do with the country and serve no national interest, Paul said. The statement applies to both the conflict in Ukraine and conflicts in the Middle East, according to Paul.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US, G7+ Say Rebuilding Ukraine's Energy System Will Boost Global Energy Security

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - The US and the G7+ nations' governments said on Monday that rebuilding Ukraine's energy system in the short and long term will enhance global energy security and sustainability, according to a release.

"We are convinced that rebuilding Ukraine's energy system in the short and long term is in the interest of enhancing global energy security and sustainability," the release said following the G7+ Ministerial Group meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

They said the meeting was intended to reaffirm their unwavering support for Ukraine, particularly in light of Russia's attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

They emphasized their commitment to support Ukraine's social and economic recovery in the short, medium, and long terms through public and private sector initiatives.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Sending 'Small Number' of Troops to Middle East to Augment Force Posture - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - The United States has decided to send a "small number" of military personnel to the Middle East to boost its regional force posture amid risks of a full-fledged war between Israel and Lebanon, Defense Department spokesperson Pat Ryder said on Monday.

"In light of the increased tensions in the Middle East, and out of an abundance of caution, we are sending a small number of additional US military personnel forward to augment our forces that are already in the region," CNN quoted Ryder as saying during a press briefing.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Sending 'Small Number' of Additional Troops to Middle East in Light of Increased Tension - CNN, Citing Pentagon

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Federal Reserve Officials Signal More Interest Rate Cuts in 2024 But Jobs Will Decide Size

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - More US interest rate reductions seem likely in 2024 after September's slash of 50-basis points, but the size of the cuts will be decided by the job market, two senior Federal Reserve officials said on Monday.

"Any further evidence of material weakening in the labor market over the next month or so will definitely change my view on how aggressive policy adjustment needs to be," Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Raphael Bostic said.

Bostic's colleague - Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari - agreed.

"Right now, we still have a strong, healthy labor market," Kashkari said in an appearance on the CNBC network. "But I want to keep it a strong, healthy labor market."

The Fed's Summary of Economic Projections, updated after the September rate cut, showed the forecast for unemployment among Americans had been raised to 4.4% this year, from a previous 4%.

That heightened worries about the labor market, especially after the United States added just 142,000 non-farm payrolls in August, some 23,000 jobs below Wall Street estimates. In comparison, non-farm payrolls grew by 315,000 in April.

After September's cut took rates down to a peak of 5%, the Fed has officially projected that the peak in US interest rates will drop to 4.4% by the end of this year.

That technically means a 60-basis point cut is possible between the two Fed rate decisions due on November 7 and December 18. But since the central bank typically does 25-basis point moves at a time, the real cut could be another 50 or 100 basis before the year concludes.

Bostic said he was watching the softening US labor market for a sign of what the central bank should do near-term. Unemployment was "not flashing red" yet but that could change, he added.

Fed Chairman Powell said last week that his attention was also on the labor market after inflation, measured by US consumer prices, crumbled to an annual growth of 2.5% in August from a four-decade high of 9.1% in mid-2022. The Fed's target for inflation is 2% per year.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Blinken Says Upcoming Winter Will Be Challenging for Ukraine

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) – The upcoming winter will be challenging for Ukraine in terms of energy issues, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday.

"We know the upcoming winter will be challenging," Blinken said during the G7+ Ministerial Meeting on Ukraine Energy Sector Support in New York City.

He accused Russia of using energy as a weapon against Ukraine.

"We have once again not just the prospect but the reality of Putin weaponizing winter, weaponizing weather to use energy as a weapon in his efforts to subjugate Ukraine," Blinken said.

The secretary of state urged all countries to work together to ensure that Ukraine has

everything it needs to get through the winter. He also called on governments to mobilize private companies to do their part in supporting Kiev.

Russia launched its special military operation in Ukraine in February 2022. The Russian armed forces started striking Ukrainian infrastructure on October 10, 2022, two days after a bombing attack against the Crimean Bridge, which was claimed by Ukraine's domestic intelligence agency. The strikes target energy, defense, military administration and communications facilities across the country.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

FBI Agents Found Notebook With Names Pertaining to Ukraine at Routh's Car - Court Filing

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) - FBI agents discovered a notebook at Donald Trump's failed assassin Ryan Routh's car containing dozens of pages filled with names and phone numbers of people linked to Ukraine as well as remarks on how to join combat on behalf of Kiev against Russia, according to a court filing published on Monday.

Prosecutors sent the letter to the court ahead of a pretrial detention hearing in support of the US' request for keeping Routh in custody until his trial.

During a search of Routh's car after his arrest near the scene of the assassination attempt in West Palm Beach, Florida, FBI agents seized a number of pieces of evidence, including a notebook with notes related to Ukraine.

"A notebook with dozens of pages filled with names and phone numbers pertaining to Ukraine, discussions about how to join combat on behalf of Ukraine, and notes criticizing the governments of China and Russia," the filing said listing items found at Routh's car.

US prosecutors also found at Routh's Nissan Xterra a handwritten list of dates in August, September, and October 2024 and venues where Trump had appeared or was expected to be present, the filing said.

In addition, FBI agents discovered in the suspect's car two additional license plates, six cellphones, including one containing a Google search of how to get from Palm Beach, Florida to Mexico, 12 pairs of gloves, a Hawaii state driver's license and a passport in Routh's name, according to the filing.

The document also says that a witness reportedly found a box at Routh's residence that had allegedly been delivered to his home several months earlier. In addition to the metal pipe, building materials, tools, four phones, it contained a letter allegedly handwritten by Routh.

"This was an assassination attempt on Donald Trump but I failed you," a letter attached to the filing read. "I will offer \$150,000 to whomever can complete the job."

The filing does not clearly state that the found letter was handwritten by Routh though.

On September 15, a shooting occurred at Trump's golf club in Florida. According to law enforcement officials, Secret Service agents opened fire on a gunman hiding in the bushes. The assailant escaped the scene and attempted to flee in a vehicle, but was apprehended. US media reported that the man arrested in the case of the alleged second attempt on the ex-president is 58-year-old Ryan Wesley Routh.

In July, 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks attempted to assassinate Trump at a campaign

rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. The gunman shot Trump in the ear, killing one audience member and wounding two others. A Secret Service sniper killed Crooks.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Ukraine Lobbying US Congress to Reject China's Peace Plan – Reports

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) – Ukraine is lobbying members of the US Congress to reject a peace plan authored by China, Punchbowl News reported on Monday, citing an unnamed senator.

Ukrainian officials circulated materials opposing the plan to congressional representatives over the weekend, ahead of the annual UN General Assembly in New York where world leaders, including Volodymyr Zelenskyy, are expected to gather.

Chinese officials are also expected to put forth their proposal, which calls for Western countries to stop supporting Ukrainian strikes into Russian territory. At the same time, Congress has been pushing the Biden administration to lift restrictions on Ukraine from striking deep into Russia.

Ukraine reportedly described China's plan as self-serving, accusing Beijing of seeking to strengthen its ties with Moscow.

China will continue to engage with all parties to pave the way for peace talks on Ukraine, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong said earlier this month.

Beijing advocates for a diplomatic resolution to the conflict in Ukraine and opposes actions of those countries that favor one of the sides, Lt. Gen. of the People's Liberation Army and former vice president of the Academy of Military Sciences, He Lei, told Sputnik.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UPDATE - Biden Admin. to Ban Sale or Import of Connected Vehicles From China, Russia – White House

(Updates with additional details in paras 3-4, provides background in paras 6-8)

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) – The Biden administration proposed a rule to ban the sale or import of connected vehicles and related components from China and Russia over alleged national security risks, the White House said in a press release on Monday.

"The Department of Commerce is issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that would, if finalized as proposed, prohibit the sale or import of connected vehicles that incorporate certain technology and the import of particular components themselves from countries of concern, specifically the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Russia," the release said.

The proposed rule would affect hardware and software integrated into the Vehicle Connectivity System (VCS) and software integrated into the Automated Driving System (ADS) originating from Russia or China, the release added.

The VCS includes systems that allow a connected vehicle to communicate externally, including telematics control units, Bluetooth, cellular, satellite and Wi-Fi modules. The release explained

that the ADS includes those components that allow an autonomous vehicle to operate without a driver behind the wheel.

The restrictions on software from China and Russia would take effect in 2027 and the prohibitions on hardware are scheduled to take effect in 2030, according to the release.

Earlier in September, the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) said that the United States would impose 100% tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, 50% on solar cells and semiconductors, and 25% on steel, aluminum, electric vehicle batteries, and key minerals.

Following the USTR announcement, China's Foreign Ministry said that US discriminatory practices against Chinese electric vehicles and other items violate World Trade Organization rules, undermine the stability of global production and supply chains, and will ultimately harm the interests of the United States itself, as China will take action to protect its legitimate rights and interests.

The International Monetary Fund said in a report on September 12 that imposing tariffs and using non-tariff barriers in international trade creates risks of retaliation and undermines the multilateral trade system.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canada's Joly to Discuss Ukraine, Haiti, Media Freedom at UNGA High-Level Week - Ministry

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) – Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly will attend the UN General Assembly high-level week for discussions focusing on media freedom, Haiti and Ukraine, the country's foreign ministry said on Monday.

"The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today announced that she will join Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as part of Canada's delegation to the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Week in New York City, New York," Global Affairs Canada said in a news release. "Rob [Robert] Oliphant, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, will also travel to New York as part of Canada's delegation."

At the high-level week, Joly will co-host a high-level panel discussion on media freedom, the release said. The minister will also present the 2024 Canada-United Kingdom Media Freedom Award to highlight Ottawa's "commitment to support free and independent journalism," it added.

Joly will further join the UN leader-level meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti co-hosted by Trudeau and Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille to discuss urgent needs in response to the multiple crises affecting the country, according to the release.

The top diplomat will also deliver Canada's national statement to the UNGA where she is expected to emphasize Ottawa's commitment to the promotion of multilateral cooperation, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the release said.

The foreign minister is set to co-host a high-level event with representatives of Ukraine and Estonia to address what they view as the "urgent need" to restore the rights of children worldwide, including in light of the alleged deportation and forced transfer of Ukrainian children to Russia, the release said.

In March 2023, the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Children's Rights Commissioner Maria

Lvova-Belova over the alleged "unlawful deportation" of Ukrainian children to Russia. Russia has said it rescued those children from Ukrainian shelling by evacuating them from the conflict zone to safety. Moscow does not recognize the ICC's jurisdiction.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Almost Two-Thirds of Americans Frustrated Over Secret Service's Job Performance - Poll

WASHINGTON, September 23 (Sputnik) – Almost two-thirds of Americans express dissatisfaction with the Secret Service's job performance, a new Gallup poll revealed on Monday.

"About one in three U.S. adults now rate the Secret Service's performance as 'excellent' (8%) or 'good' (24%), while 25% say it is 'only fair' and 36% 'poor,' the poll found.

The survey was completed almost entirely before the second apparent assassination attempt of former US President Donald Trump on September 15.

"Americans' rating of the Secret Service's job performance has deteriorated sharply to a new low in Gallup's 10-year trend," Gallup said.

Only 20% of Republicans rated Secret Service work as excellent or good. At the same time, 47% of Democrats expressed the same opinion, the poll revealed.

The poll was conducted on September 3-15 among 1,007 adults living in all 50 US states and the District of Columbia.