

News

UPDATED October 07, 2024



By RFE/RL

Israel Marks Anniversary Of Hamas Attack As War Rages On In Lebanon, Gaza



Relatives and other mourners of Israeli victims attend a ceremony at the Nova memorial near Kibbutz Reim in southern Israel on the first anniversary of the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas.

Israel on October 7 marked the somber anniversary of the Hamas attack on the Jewish state that killed more than 1,200 people and took some 250 hostages as the Israeli military continued its massive air strikes on Beirut and its incursion in southern Lebanon that aims to destroy the Iran-allied Hezbollah militant group.

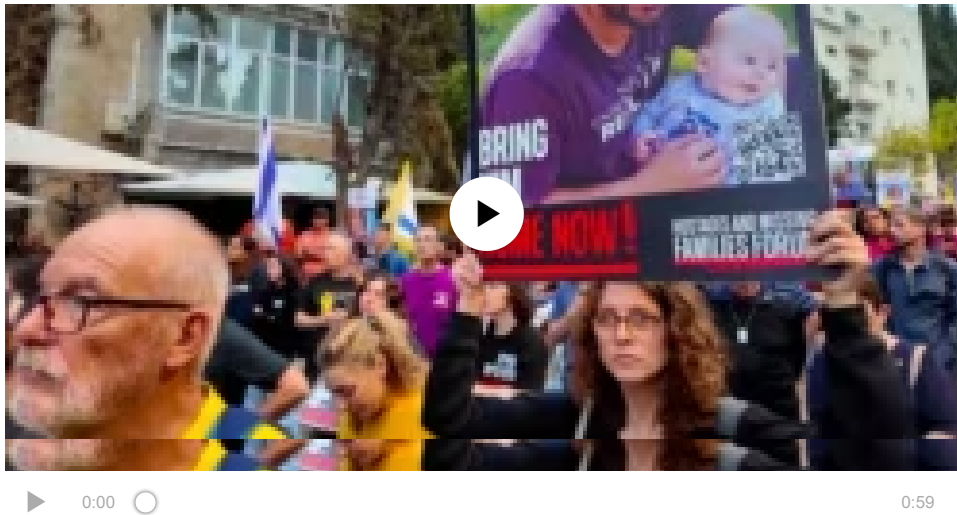
Israeli President Isaac Herzog led a national moment of silence at 6:29 a.m., the time the attack started, at Kibbutz Reim, the site of the Nova music festival where hundreds of mostly young revelers were killed by gunmen from Hamas, which has been designated a terrorist organization by both the United States and the European Union.

In Washington, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris condemned Hamas on the anniversary, while also stating again the U.S. administration's commitment to reaching cease-fire agreements to end fighting in both Gaza and Lebanon.

"On this solemn anniversary, let us bear witness to the unspeakable brutality of the October 7 attacks but also to the beauty of the lives that were stolen that day," Biden said in a statement.

The Israeli military said that during the ceremony led by Herzog, four projectiles were launched from Gaza toward the same Israeli communities targeted at the start of last year's attack. The military said the ceremony was not disrupted.

Israelis Commemorate Anniversary Of Hamas Attack </> EMBED </> SHARE



In Jerusalem, relatives of the some 100 hostages still in Hamas captivity, many of whom are believed dead, gathered outside the residence of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and stood in silence as a siren wailed in a gesture of protest against what relatives say is the failure of the government to secure their loved ones' release.

Following the October 7 attack, Israel launched a military assault on Gaza that has killed nearly 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which is run by Hamas.

The Israeli military said on October 7 that over the past year, it has bombed more than 40,000 targets in Gaza, found 4,700 tunnel shafts and destroyed 1,000 rocket launcher sites.

The conflict in Gaza is still raging while Israel is now fighting on a second front in southern Lebanon against Hezbollah.

Early on October 7, Hezbollah, designated a terrorist organization by the United States, fired rockets into the north Israeli cities of Haifa and Tiberias, causing damage and some minor injuries, Israeli police said.

The European Union has blacklisted Hezbollah's armed wing but not its political unit, which holds seats in the Lebanese parliament.

SEE ALSO:
How Much Has Hamas's October 7 Attack Damaged Iran And Its Anti-Israel Alliance?

Amid the military activity at the individual level, the private lives of civilians throughout the region have been disrupted.

In the ancient city of Beersheba in southern Israel, Irena Stein, who left Albania in 1991 to resettle in the country, told RFE/RL's Kosovo Service that life in recent times had been filled with "sadness and pain."

"We had several months of rockets. Then, the number of rockets decreased, and we continued with daily life, like someone who goes on with their life after the seven days of mourning with a great pain in the heart," said Stein, who is in her late 60s.

"There's this feeling like something might happen, that we should be cautious. But I believe you can't live with fear, so we've continued our lives, always praying to God that nothing happens to us."

She said that in Beersheba -- where human activity can be traced to the fourth millennium BC -- things have been calm since rockets were last heard on September 29. But she lamented that throughout Israel, "We suffer from this situation, and the Palestinian people suffer from it, too."

"The Lebanese people also suffer...everyone suffers. But as they say, peace must be decided at the highest level."

SEE ALSO:

Interview: Israel 'Very Polarized' One Year After October 7 Attack

Meanwhile, in a Lebanese mountain village southeast of Beirut, local resident Hadi Zahwe told reporters an Israeli strike on October 6 was "terrifying."

"There were children killed, there were children's body parts. This enemy is targeting civilian women and children," he said.

Netanyahu has insisted that Israeli forces are targeting terrorist strongholds and that civilian fatalities have been extremely low in the recent military actions.

Israel in recent weeks has been bombing Beirut's southern suburbs and has staged a ground incursion into south Lebanon in its drive to wipe out Hezbollah's capabilities and leadership.

The Israeli campaign on Hezbollah prompted the group's patron, Iran, to respond by attacking the Jewish state with a large wave of rockets that were largely shot down by Israeli air defenses without causing substantial damage, but the attack renewed fears of a larger regional conflict.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on October 6 threatened Iran that it might eventually find itself looking like Beirut or Gaza -- which has also been battered over the past year -- if Tehran attempts to further harm Israel.

"The Iranians did not touch the air force's capabilities. No aircraft were damaged, no squadron was taken out of order," Gallant said in reference to the Iranian missile strike, which caused few injuries and slight damage to two air force bases.

SEE ALSO:

Israel's Devastating War In Gaza In Numbers

"Whoever thinks that a mere attempt to harm us will deter us from taking action should take a look at [Israel's operations] in Gaza and Beirut."

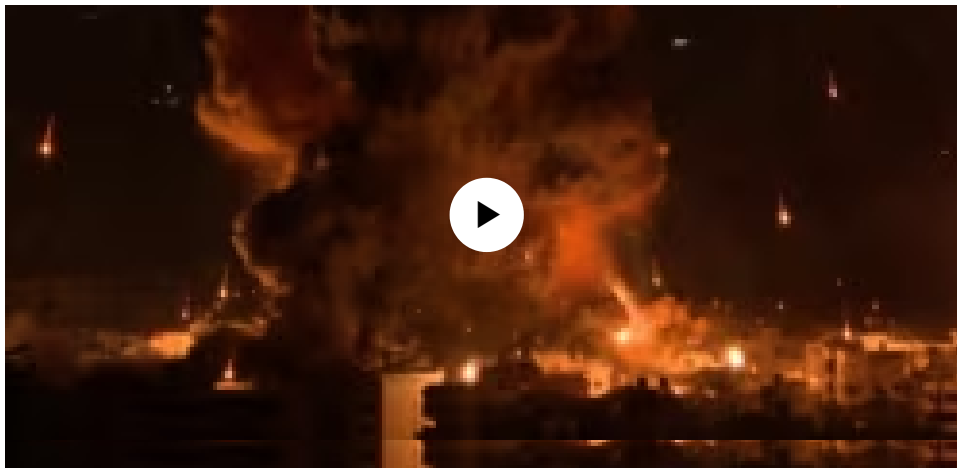
Israel earlier said it conducted a series of "targeted strikes" on "weapons storage facilities" and infrastructure sites that belong to Iran-backed Hezbollah.

Lebanon's official National News Agency said Hezbollah's stronghold in the area was hit by more than 30 strikes. A petrol station and a medical supplies warehouse were hit by the air raids.

Video footage showed huge flames and plumes of smoke billowing into the night sky as residents fled their homes in panic with explosions echoing in the background.

Many observers said the attacks were the strongest yet of Israel's recent air strikes.

Beirut's Skyline Lit Up Amid New Israeli A...



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Israel has bombed Beirut's suburbs for days, killing Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and possibly his potential successor, Hashem Safieddine.

Security sources have said Safieddine had been out of contact since October 4 after an Israeli air strike near Beirut's international airport that was reported to have targeted him. Hezbollah has not commented on Safieddine.

Israel says Nasrallah was killed in a strike on the group's central command headquarters in Beirut on September 27.

Two senior Iranian security officials told Reuters on October 6 that Ismail Qaani, commander of the Quds Force -- the overseas arm of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) -- also had not been heard from in recent days since traveling to Lebanon.

SEE ALSO:
Who Is Hashem Safieddine, The Senior Hezbollah Leader?

Statements on October 6 out of the United States -- Tel Aviv's most important ally -- indicated some frustrations with the scope of Israel's military action.

"Military pressure can at times enable diplomacy. Of course, military pressure can also lead to miscalculation. It can lead to unintended consequences," a U.S. State Department spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said Washington supported Israeli actions in going after extremist elements but added that U.S. leaders but did not approve of the targeting of civilian infrastructure.

Israel says the attacks on Hezbollah are aimed at enabling the safe return of tens of thousands of citizens to homes in northern Israel, bombarded by the group since last October.

With reporting by RFE/RL's Kosovo Service and AP



More News

October 07, 2024

By [RFE/RL](#)

Putin To Meet Iranian President As War Rages In Middle East

Russian President Vladimir Putin has no plans to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. (file photo)

Vladimir Putin plans to meet with his Iranian counterpart, Masud Pezeshkian, this week amid fears the crisis in the Middle East threatens to spin out of control.

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October 07, 2024

By [RFE/RL](#)

EU Summit Draft Strongly Backs Ukraine, Moldova, Chastizes Georgia

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (file photo)

The European Union will continue to strongly support Ukraine in its fight against Russia's unprovoked invasion and will keep offering all its backing to Moldova in its efforts to join the 27-member bloc, according to draft conclusions of a summit scheduled for next week.

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October 07, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Georgian Service](#)

Georgia's Ruling Party Reviving Bid To Impeach Pro-Western President

Georgian President Salome Zurbishvili's powers are limited under the constitution, but Georgian Dream sees her moves to unite opposition forces as an obstacle to its bid to dominate the vote.

Georgia's ruling party, which has raised the ire of the United States and European Union with moves seen as bringing the Caucasus nation closer to Russia, has revived its [bid to impeach](#) pro-West President Salome Zurbishvili weeks before a general election.

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October 07, 2024



By [RFE/RL](#)

Amid Rising Moscow-Washington Tensions, 2 Americans Handed Prison Terms In Russia

U.S. citizen Stephen Hubbard, accused of fighting as a mercenary for Ukraine, appears in a court in Moscow on October 7.

Two American citizens were sentenced to lengthy prison terms in Russia on October 7, fueling concerns over the political motivations behind their detentions amid heightened tensions between Moscow and Washington.

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UPDATED October 07, 2024



By [Current Time](#)

Once Russia's Best-Known Activist, Ildar Dadin Killed Fighting For Ukraine

Russian opposition activist Ildar Dadin (file photo)

Once one of Russia's most prominent rights activists and a vocal Kremlin critic, Ildar Dadin has been killed in action with Ukrainian forces during a battle in the northeastern Kharkiv region.

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UPDATED October 07, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Kazakh Service](#)

Amid Clampdown On Dissent, Kazakh Voters 'Support' Nuclear Power Plant

A Kazakh voter casts his ballot in Astana during the October 6 referendum.

Kazakhstan's Central Referendum Commission (OSK) said that almost three-quarters of voters cast ballots in support of the construction of a nuclear power plant amid a crackdown on activists opposed to the project.

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UPDATED October 07, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service](#) and [RFE/RL's Russian Service](#)

Hundreds Evacuated After Ukrainian Strike On Crimean Fuel Depot

Smoke is seen over Fedosia on October 7.

A Ukrainian drone strike on the largest fuel depot in occupied Crimea early on October 7 triggered a huge fire that prompted the evacuation of hundreds of people as Russia and Ukraine exchanged another series of drone attacks.

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October 07, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal](#)

2 Chinese Workers Killed In Karachi Blast Claimed By Baluch Separatists

Blast Kills 2 Chinese Near Pakistan's Karachi Airport </> EMBED < > SHARE

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Two Chinese citizens were killed in a large blast near the airport of Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, which the Chinese Embassy called a "terrorist attack." The blast was claimed by the separatist Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in a statement. The attack took place late on October 6 and it targeted a convoy of Chinese employees of the Port Qasim Electric Power Company Limited that was traveling from the airport, the embassy said. The Chinese citizens were working on the construction of two coal-fired power plants in Pakistan. Thousands of Chinese work in Pakistan, most on projects related to Beijing's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, a massive Chinese plan to build infrastructure projects to economic links with the rest of the world. *To see the original story by RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal, click [here](#).*

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October 06, 2024

By [AP](#) and [Reuters](#)

Massive Blast Outside Karachi Airport Kills At Least 1, Injures 10

A vehicle is engulfed by flames at the site of a deadly explosion outside Karachi airport on October 6.

A massive blast outside Karachi airport in Pakistan on October 6 killed at least one person and injured 10, officials said. Police and the provincial government said a tanker exploded outside the airport, which is Pakistan's biggest. But the provincial home minister, Zia Ul Hassan, told local TV station Geo that it was an attack targeting foreigners. A Home Ministry official told the Associated Press that it was an attack on Chinese nationals, one of whom was injured. He spoke on condition of anonymity. A statement purported to be by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the blast. The BLA has waged an insurgency for decades against the Pakistani state, carrying out mostly small-scale attacks against government forces and others.

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October 06, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Balkan Service](#)

International Crews Arrive As Bosnia Battles Devastation From Deadly Floods, Landslides

Two local woman react after floods and landslides hit the village of Trusina in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Rescue efforts intensified in Bosnia-Herzegovina on October 6 with the arrival of international rescue crews, as authorities postponed scheduled elections in the areas hit hardest by the [devastating flooding](#) that killed at least 19 people.

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October 06, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service](#)

Slovakia's Russia-Friendly PM To Meet Ukrainian Counterpart In Border City

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico (left) and Ukrainin premier Denys Shmyhal at a meeting in Uzhhorod in January.

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico is due to meet his Ukrainian counterpart, Denys Shmyhal, in the Ukrainian border city of Uzhhorod on October 7, with talks ostensibly focusing on issues linked to oil and gas disputes but with Kyiv's overall battle against Russia's full-scale invasion likely to dominate matters.

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October 06, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal](#)

Pakistan Bans Pashtun Civil Rights Movement As Threat To Security

PTM leader Manzoor Pashteen addresses a public gathering in South Waziristan (file photo)

Pakistani authorities have banned a popular civil rights movement that campaigns for the country's ethnic Pashtun minority. The Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) has been engaged in "certain activities" that are harmful to public order and security in the country, the Interior Ministry said in a statement on October 6 without providing details. The PTM had in recent days reported a series of police raids and arrests targeting its leaders and members ahead of a "curial jirga" or people's assembly on October 11 in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The PTM has campaigned since 2018 for the civil rights of the country's estimated 35 million ethnic Pashtuns. Many of Pakistan's ethnic Pashtuns live in areas close to the border with Afghanistan, where the military has conducted campaigns it says defeated the Pakistani Taliban. *To read the original story by RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal, click [here](#).*

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UPDATED October 06, 2024

By [RFE/RL](#)

Israel Intensifies Attacks Near Beirut As October 7 Anniversary Looms

Residents carry some belongings as they walk amid the aftermath of an Israeli strike that targeted the Sfeir neighborhood in Beirut's southern suburbs on October 6.

Israel stepped up its massive air strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs in its drive to wipe out Hezbollah's capabilities and leadership, even as the world awaits with trepidation the October 7 anniversary of the bloody attack on Israel by Hamas -- which, like Hezbollah, is a U.S.-designated terror group with ties to Iran.

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October 06, 2024

By [AP](#)

Russian Prosecutors Seek 7-Year Sentence For U.S. Man Accused Of Fighting For Ukraine

Russian prosecutors have asked for a seven-year sentence in the trial of a U.S. citizen accused of fighting as a mercenary in Ukraine against Russia, Russian news agencies reported on October 5. Prosecutors asked the court to take 72-year-old Stephen Hubbard's age into account and said he has admitted guilt, according to Interfax. They asked that Hubbard serve the sentence in a maximum-security penal colony. Prosecutors accuse Hubbard of signing a contract with the Ukrainian military after Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, for which he allegedly was to receive at least \$1,000.



October 06, 2024

By [Reuters](#)

Russia Has Decided 'At Highest Level' To Remove Taliban From Terrorist List, TASS Reports

Russia's presidential envoy to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov (file photo)

Russia's Foreign Ministry said a decision to remove the Taliban from a list of terrorist organizations had been "taken at the highest level," the TASS state news agency reported. The decision needs to be followed up with various legal procedures in order to make it a reality, President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, was quoted as saying on October 4. Putin said in July that Moscow considered Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism. Russia has been slowly building ties with the Taliban since the extremist group seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021.



UPDATED October 06, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service](#)

In Kharkiv, Dutch Defense Chief Says Drone Aid, More F-16s Coming

Dutch Defense Minister Brekermans speaks in Kyiv on October 6.

KYIV -- In a surprise visit to Kyiv and the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, Dutch Defense Minister Ruben Brekermans offered 400 million euros (\$439 million) to aid Ukraine's drone program and vowed that deliveries of additional Dutch F-16 fighter jets would arrive in the "coming months."

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UPDATED October 06, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Kazakh Service](#)

Kazakh Exit Polls Indicate 'Yes' Vote In Tightly Controlled Nuclear Referendum

Kazakh President Qasym-Zhomart Tokayev casts his vote in Astana on October 6 during a referendum on the construction of a nuclear power plant.

A least two exit polls indicated a large "yes" vote in a tightly controlled referendum to decide whether Kazakhstan should build its first nuclear power plant, which supporters say will help end its reliance on coal but which opponents argue is too expensive and will be an environmental hazard.

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October 05, 2024

By [RFE/RL](#)

Moscow's Ambassador To U.S. Concludes Term, Returning Home

Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov (file photo).

Russian state-run news agencies TASS and Interfax on October 5 reported that Anatoly Antonov "is concluding" his stint as Russia's ambassador to the United States and returning to his home country, citing the Foreign Ministry in Moscow. No mention was made of a successor, with the move coming at a time of high tensions between the two nations. In July, Russia's Kommersant newspaper reported that Antonov had at that time suggested his term was reaching its conclusion, quoting him as saying: "My assignment is coming to an end. I hope together we will continue to defend the interests of our Fatherland!" Antonov, 69, was appointed as the Kremlin's envoy in Washington by President Vladimir Putin in August 2017.



UPDATED October 06, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Hungarian Service](#)

Magyar-Led Protests Demand Media Freedom In Hungary, End To State 'Propaganda Factory'

Hungarian Opposition Rally Decries State-Controlled Media [EMBED](#) [SHARE](#)



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BUDAPEST -- Thousands of Hungarians gathered in Budapest on October 5 to protest against what they called the “propaganda factory” run by authoritarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban’s state television operation and to demand a free media in the Central European nation.

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October 05, 2024

By [Reuters](#)

India Rules Out Bilateral Talks At Regional Summit In Pakistan

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar will travel to Pakistan on October 15-16 (file photo).

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar will not discuss bilateral relations when he visits Pakistan this month, the first such visit in nearly a decade, for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit on October 15-16. "I expect there would be a lot of media interest because of the very nature of the relationship," Jaishankar said in response to a query at an event in New Delhi. "But I do want to say it will be for a multilateral event. I am not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations," he added. Relations between the two countries have gone through periods of thaw from time to time but have been largely frozen since they downgraded diplomatic ties in tit-for-tat moves in 2019.



October 05, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal](#)

Pakistani Police Lock Down Islamabad As Ex-PM's Supporters Gather For Protest

Containers block roads to Islamabad as Pakistani security forces attempt to impede protesters on October 5.

Islamabad appeared to be in lockdown mode on October 5 as supporters of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan sought to bypass police barricades and enter the Pakistani capital [to demand his release.](#)

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UPDATED October 05, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Balkan Service](#)

Rescue Teams Search For Missing After Deadly Floods In Bosnia-Herzegovina

Rescue workers and locals in the village of Glogosnica begin cleaning up on October 5, a day after deadly floods and landslides in southern Bosnia.

Rescue teams are searching for up to 40 people still missing following deadly flash-flooding in Bosnia-Herzegovina that has left some villages completely cut off and prompted officials to declare a state of disaster.

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UPDATED October 05, 2024



By [RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service](#)

Zelenskiy Prepares To Present 'Victory Plan' To Allies

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy presented his "victory plan" to U.S. President Joe Biden during a visit to Washington in September.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy will present Kyiv's "victory plan" during an upcoming meeting of Western allies in Germany.

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October 05, 2024

By [RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal](#)

6 Pakistani Soldiers Killed In Attack By Islamist Militants

Pakistani soldiers on patrol in North Waziristan (file photo)

Pakistan's military has said that six of its soldiers, including a high-ranking officer, were killed on the evening of October 4 when a military convoy was attacked by Islamist militants in the country's restive northwest.

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