ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

ACCOUNT #: 101523 CAMPAIGN #: 39936 COST: $585

STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Lisi Misa
being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that she is a representative of the Anchorage Daily News, a daily newspaper. That said newspaper has been approved by the Third Judicial Court, Anchorage, Alaska, and it now and has been published in the English language continually as a daily newspaper in Anchorage, Alaska, and it is now and during all said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper. That the annexed is a copy of an advertisement as it was published in regular issues (and not in supplemental form) of said newspaper on

Oct. 8, 15, 22/2023

and that such newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period. That the full amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is not in excess of the rate charged private individuals.

Signed Lisi Misa

Subscribed and sworn to before

me this 23rd day of October

2023 Jada L. Nowling

Notary Public in and for
The State of Alaska.
Third Division
Anchorage, Alaska
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
7/14/2024

Jada L. Nowling
ELECTRONIC NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF ALASKA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 07/14/2024

AMCO Received 11.21.23

Photo for The Washington Post by KATHLEEN FLYNN

Kelli Marinovich fills her dog's bowl with boxed water at her Buras, La., home.

FROM PAGE A15

SALTWATER

Terence Riley washes a spoon in bottled water before giving his son medication with it at their home in Buras, La.

pumps installed along the way to move fresh water back to New Orleans.

Smaller water treatment plants in the area could rely on reverse osmosis systems to remove salt or also mix in fresh water from Army Corps barges to lower salinity - options not feasible for the larger facilities in Jefferson and Orleans.

Those projects were part of a massive, regionwide effort to mobilize for the unusual threat of a massive blob of salt water moving toward a major American city. School districts, hospitals and businesses announced detailed plans in recent days to keep clean water flowing - or at worst, to have enough bottled water on hand to keep their doors open.

Even before news came that the area would have more time to prepare, and that the salt water might not reach New Orleans at all if the current drought eases, officials had urged calm.

"Not thinking about closing down the city, none of that," New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell told reporters this week. "Time is on our side, and we are using it wisely."

And for the most part, calm prevailed.

In and around New Orleans this week, bottled water was abundant at corner bodegas and massive retailers alike. Tourists strolled the narrow streets of the French Quarter, where music poured from bars and the wrought iron balconies were already decorated for Halloween. Beignets flowed at the Café du Monde. Streetcars clanged down St. Charles Avenue.

Psychics sat at their tables in Jackson Square, promising to foretell all that lay ahead.

'It's going to happen again'

Plaquemines Parish President Keith Hinkley is well aware of the complaints from residents in the southern part of the parish. He sympathizes with how long the water problems have dragged on.

But it is not, he insists, because elected officials don't care.

"That's so far from the truth," Hinkley said on a recent evening in Belle Chasse, where the salt water is still predicted to arrive as soon as Friday.

He noted that the parish had also struggled this summer with frequent pipe breaks and falling water pressure caused by drought and heat. But now, he said, the Army Corps had begun barging in fresh water, contractors were working to hook up reverse osmosis units and chloride levels have been falling.

"It just doesn't happen overnight," Hinkley said, noting that units at a small water plant in Boothville alone will cost roughly a half-million dollars a month. "It's a lot of prep work before you process that first gallon of water."

Soon, he said, the parish should be able to lift remaining drinking water advisories.

Until that happens, assurances ring hollow for people such as Monique Plaisance, who lives in Buras with her husband and two children, and is pregnant. In particular, she worries about a rash on her 6-year-old daughter's neck that flared up in recent months. Twice they have seen doctors, but the problem persists.

"They've taken so long to do something about it," Plaisance, 36 and a lifelong resident, said of the water issues. "All I want is for it to go away."

Like others here, she believes that only when the salt water began to threaten more populated areas upriver did the struggles in Plaquemines attract wider attention.

"A storm comes through, blows over everything, and we clean up and move on," said Bobbie Turner, 49, during her shift at the Lighthouse Lodge & Villas in Venice. "This is something we can't clean up and move on … We need a permanent fix."

On that much, Hinkley agrees. After the immediate crisis fades, he said, he will push to fund a permanent reverse osmosis system in the lower part of the parish. Because the next drought will come.

"It's going to happen again," he said.

Preparing for the worst

Up and down the river, there is a sense that the threat of recent weeks will resurface sooner than later.

Collin Arnold, New Orleans's homeland security chief, said the Army Corps' updated projections Thursday were "clearly a relief," but hardly reason to cease planning for a problem that can pose risks to agriculture, wreak havoc on industrial machinery, and threaten the health of people with high blood pressure or kidney disease and infants or those who are pregnant.

"Our job in emergency management is to prepare for the worst," Arnold said. "I think we all believe we will face this again at some point."

Two years in a row now, crippling drought has severely weakened the flow of the Mississippi, which in more normal times is strong enough to prevent salt water from intruding very far upstream.

It isn't unprecedented. Salt water has intruded far up the river in 1936 and 1988, when the river's flow dwindled to 120,000 cubic feet per second, the lowest on record. The saltwater that year stretched as far as Kenner, La., but soon retreated.

Four times in the past - 1988, 1999, 2012 and 2022 — the Army Corps has constructed an underwater levee, or sill, to try to slow the salt water from moving along the river bottom. This year, the Corps undertook a similar effort in July, only to have to expand it as the drought wore on.

The bottom of the river, which has been heavily engineered and dredged over the years, also lies lower than sea level until around Natchez, Miss. — a topography that makes it easier for salt water to flow.

The weakening of the Mississippi's flow has multiple causes, including shifting precipitation patterns, depletion of soil moisture during heat waves, land use changes upriver and below-average snowfall farther north. But researchers also say the influence of rising seas and a warming atmosphere can't be overlooked.

"Droughts and heat waves are not new in the Mississippi Basin, but climate change is expected to make the extremes we've seen this year more likely in the future," Joshua Lewis, research director at Tulane University's ByWater Institute, said in an email.

"This underscores the importance of staying vigilant and identifying early indicators that may help us anticipate similar situations moving forward."

'It has taken a toll'

Plaquemines Parish has weathered more than its share of disasters. This is where Hurricane Katrina leveled nearly everything in its path, where the 2010 BP oil spill caused lasting devastation and where a litany of other storms has forced residents to bounce back again and again.

The saltwater intrusion is a different kind of trial — less dramatic, perhaps, but seemingly endless.

"You have to realize, we've been dealing with this for five or six months now," said Pastor Gaynel Baham, of Trinity Christian Community Church in Buras. "It has taken its toll."

While the frustration with elected leaders, ongoing health concerns and daily hassles of not having reliable water have made some residents ponder leaving, others plan to do what they always have done: persist.

Justine A. DeMolle, 62, owner of Changes Restaurant in Venice, wishes lower Plaquemines had received help sooner - "You have not a lot of people here, but we are people" — but it is hardly enough to drive her from her home of more than a half century.

"They will have to pull me out of here," she said.

Baham understands. In better times, it is peaceful here where the Mississippi meets the Gulf, a short drive but a world away from the bustle of New Orleans.

"People will say, 'why don't you just leave?' " she said. "But it's home, too."

Haute Quarter Grill, Inc. dba Haute Quarter Grill Is located at 525 West 4th Avenue is applying for a Beverage Dispensary License AS 04.11.090 Liquor License to. 525 W. 4th Inc. DBA Haute Quarter Grill Interested persons should submit written comments to their local governing body, the applicant, and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol licensing@alaska.gov.

Good LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license. license #36998, doing business as GOOD Cannabis, located at Area B, Lot 7 of Harbor View Subdivision, Whittier, AK, 99693, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and application information will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq at jana@jdwcounsel.com or 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

FORECLOSURE SALE
10/11/23 at 10:00 A.M.
Where: 101 Lacey Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Property Address:
1648 COTTONWOOD ST • FAIRBANKS Alaska 99709:
Lot 13, BLOCK 8, JOHNSTON SUBDIVISION AND ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT FILED OCTOBER 14, 1959 AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 193.737; RECORDS OF THE FAIRBANKS RECORDING DISTRICT, FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF ALASKA,
1 Bdrm, 1 Ba, 866 Sq. Ft.
This property is not available for viewing prior to sale
ASSESSED Value: $128,902.00
Opening Bid Amount: $77,024.60
Cash or Certified Funds Only
Property is sold "as is, where is", no warranties expressed or implied
For more information:
Global Credit Union (907)786-2122, servicing agent for AHFC
Sale date and bid amount are subject to change

Volunteers needed!
Get involved with your cooperative

Chugach Electric Association is looking for members interested in serving on its 2024 Bylaws, Election, Nominating committees and Member Advisory Council (MAC).

These committees are important to a succesful annual meeting and election process. The committees provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about your electric cooperative.

The **Bylaws Committee** reviews Chugach's bylaws and considers any recommendations for revisions. The **Nominating Committee** seeks and screens potential nominess to run for the Chugach Board of Directors. The **Election Committee** is responsible for ensuring a fair and impartial annual election. The **MAC** advises the board as an ad hoc committee on issues impacting the member-owned cooperative.

Members interested in applying for an appointment should submit an application. Applications must be recieved by **5 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2023**.

For more information visit **ChugachElectric.com** or call **(907) 762-4489**.

CHUGACH

AMCO Received 11.21.23

Anchorage Daily News - 10/15/2023

WORLD

In first call with Palestinian president Abbas, Biden discusses support for humanitarian aid to Gaza

Matthew Lee and Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — President Joe Biden on Saturday spoke with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, urging the leaders to allow humanitarian aid to the region and affirmed his support for efforts to protect civilians.

The weekend calls in Washington came ahead of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's announcement that the U.S. was moving up a second carrier strike group in support of Israel. Secretary of State Antony Blinken intensified diplomatic outreach across the Middle East and beyond to rally an international response to prevent the Israel-Hamas war from expanding.

The broad U.S. efforts reflect the international concern about the number of civilians at risk and the potential ramifications of a prolonged war as Israel told Gaza residents to move south and Hamas urged people to remain in their homes. The Biden administration has not publicly urged Israel to restrain its response after the Hamas attack a week ago, but has emphasized the country's commitment to following the rules of war.

Addressing a Human Rights Campaign dinner Saturday in Washington, Biden linked the humanitarian crisis in Gaza to different versions of hate that he said must be stopped.

"A week ago we saw hate manifest another way in the worst massacre of the Jewish people since the Holocaust," Biden said, citing the 1,300 lives lost in Israel as well as "children, grandparents alike kidnapped, held hostage by Hamas."

"The humanitarian crisis in Gaza — innocent Palestinian families and the vast majority that have nothing to do with Hamas — they're being used as human shields," he said. "We have to reject hate in every form."

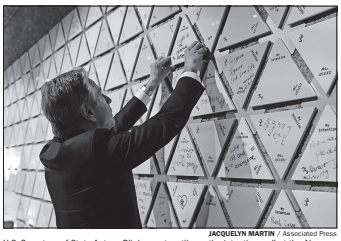
Blinken met with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan in Riyadh before stopping in the United Arab Emirates as he sought ways to help civilians trapped in between the fighting and to address the growing humanitarian crisis.

He also called his Chinese counterpart as Palestinians struggled to flee from areas of Gaza targeted by the Israeli military before an expected land offensive.

Austin as well on Saturday spoke with Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant, stressing the importance of safeguarding civilians. Austin offered updates on U.S. efforts to boost air defense capabilities and munitions for Israeli forces that he noted were aimed at stemming escalation of war, according to a readout of the call.

Austin said the Biden administration was sending the additional carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean. The Eisenhower will join the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group, which is already sailing near Israel, to bolster U.S. presence there with a host of destroyers, fighter aircraft and cruisers.

In a statement announcing the deployment, Austin said sending the second carrier was "part of our effort to deter hostile actions against Israel or any efforts toward widening this war following Hamas's attack on Israel."



JACQUELYN MARTIN / Associated Press

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken puts a tile on the intention wall at the Abrahamic Family House, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Saturday. Blinken wrote "Light in the darkness" on the tile before placing it on the wall.

While Biden has spoken to Netanyahu multiple times since the Hamas attack, Saturday's call was his first to Abbas, who runs the Palestinian Authority which controls the West Bank. According to a readout of the call, Abbas briefed the president on efforts to bring aid to Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza.

Biden reiterated to Abbas that "Hamas does not stand for the Palestinian people's right to dignity and self-determination," according to the readout.

Biden spoke with Netanyahu to "reiterate unwavering U.S. support for Israel," according to the readout. He briefed the Israeli leader on regional efforts to ensure civilian access to food, water and medical care.

The number of U.S. citizens killed rose to 29, U.S. officials said Satutday, and 15 were unaccounted for, as well as one lawful permanent resident.

Blinken, in his visits with Saudi and UAE leaders, also cited the need for humanitarian assistance and safe passage from those who wish to leave Gaza as he spoke to Arab audiences from their home turf, where his hosts put that issue at the top of their concerns.

An Israeli ground assault would worsen the plight of civilians in Gaza who are without power, fresh water or access to aid. Egyptian officials said the southern Rafah crossing would open later Saturday for the first time in days to allow foreigners out. Israel has advised all Palestinian civilians to flee south to avoid Israel's continued offensive against Hamas militants in Gaza City.

Blinken also called Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to seek his country's help in preventing the war from spreading, asking Beijing to use whatever influence it has in the Mideast. Blinken's spokesman declined to characterize Wang's response but said the U.S. believes it and China have a shared interest in the region's stability.

In Riyadh, Blinken and Prince Faisal stressed the importance of minimizing the harm to civilians as Israel prepared for an anticipated incursion against Hamas a week after the militant group's unprecedented attack against Israel.

"As Israel pursues its legitimate right, to defending its people and to trying to ensure that this never happens again, it is vitally important that all of us look out for civilians, and we're working together to do exactly that," Blinken said.

"None of us want to see suffering by civilians on any side, whether it's in Israel, whether it's in Gaza, whether it's anywhere else," Blinken said.

The Saudi minister said the kingdom was committed to the protection of civilians.

"It's a disturbing situation," he said. "It's a very difficult situation. And, as you know, the primary sufferer of this situation are civilians, and civilian populations on both sides are being affected and it's important, I think, that we all condemn the targeting of civilians in any form at any time by anyone."

A U.S official said Saturday that Washington did not ask Israel to slow or hold off on the evacuation plan. The official said the discussions with Israeli leaders did stress the importance of taking into account the safety of civilians as Israel's military moved to enforce the evacuation demand.

The official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the private discussions and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Israeli leaders acknowledged the guidance and took it under advisement.

The U.S. worked out an agreement involving to allow Americans and other foreigners in Gaza to cross the Rafah border into Egypt, but the crossing remained blocked Saturday, with no sign that those gathered would be allowed through. There are an estimated 500 Americans living in Gaza, but that number is imprecise, officials have said.

The U.S. State Department on Saturday authorized the departure of nonemergency U.S. government personnel and their family members from the American Embassy in Jerusalem and an office in Tel Aviv.

Prince Faisal said it was imperative for the violence between Israel and Hamas to end.

"We need to work together to find a way out of this cycle of violence," he said. "Without a concerted effort to end this constant return to violence, it will always be the civilians that suffer first, it will always be civilians on both sides that end up paying the price."

While in Abu Dhabi, Blinken visited the Abrahamic Family House, a complex consisting of a church, a mosque and a synagogue representing the three Abrahamic faiths. He signed a tile with the words "Light in the Darkness."

Blinken returned to Saudi Arabia ahead of an expected stop in Egypt on Sunday. He has already visited Israel, Jordan, Qatar and Bahrain.

WORLD

While the world is watching Gaza, violence fuels growing tensions in the occupied West Bank

Julia Frankel and Joseph Krauss
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — While the world is focused on the war in Gaza, tensions have risen in the occupied West Bank, where 55 Palestinians were killed over the past week in clashes with Israeli troops, arrest raids and attacks by Jewish settlers. U.N. monitors said it was the deadliest week for Palestinians in the territory since at least 2005.

Since Hamas' deadly mass incursion into southern Israel, in which militants killed over 1,300 people and captured around 150, Israeli forces have held the West Bank under a tight grip, closing crossings into the territory and checkpoints between cities, measures they say are aimed at preventing attacks.

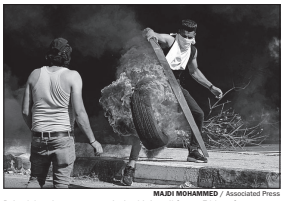
Friday was a particularly deadly day, with 16 Palestinians killed in different incidents in the West Bank.

The military says it has arrested 220 people in raids across the West Bank, including 130 Hamas operatives, since last weekend's attack. Hamas militants are present in the West Bank, but largely operate underground because of Israel's tight grip on the territory.

The renewed crackdown comes as Israel is concerned about the conflict escalating into a multi-front war, particularly the possibility of Lebanon's Hezbollah militia also joining the battle.

But Palestinians say the latest Israeli measures in the West Bank have only further blurred the line between security forces and radical, violent settlers. Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, a far-right settler with a long history of anti-Arab incitement, responded to the Hamas attack by distributing more weapons to the already well-armed settler population and tasking settlers with security.

In a statement earlier this week, he said his office is distributing 10,000 firearms, as well as combat gear, protective vests and helmets, to Israeli civilians — with a particular focus on residents of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.



MAJDI MOHAMMED / Associated Press

Palestinian demonstrators clash with Israeli forces Friday after a demonstration in support of the Gaza Strip in the West Bank city of Nablus.

"We will change the world so that the settlements will be protected," he said. "I have ordered the massive arming of the civilian standby units in order to protect the settlements and the cities."

On Friday, a video showed a settler with an assault rifle walking into the village of Al-Tuwani in the southern West Bank and shooting a Palestinian point blank.

Two days earlier, settlers shot dead three Palestinians in the village of Qusra, near the northern West Bank city of Nablus. On Thursday, settlers attacked their funeral, killing another two men, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Video footage showed the settlers swerving their cars into the funeral procession before stopping and opening fire.

On Thursday, settlers arrived at Wadi Seeq, a small Bedouin village home to around 200 people in the central West Bank, as Palestinians there packed up their belongings. They had already moved all of the women, children and livestock to a safer area in recent days because of rising threats, a resident of the village said. Witnesses said that the settlers opened fire, wounding three Palestinians and driving the rest out of the village.

Abdelrahman Kaabni, the head of the Wadi Seeq village council, said that soldiers and police had taken part in the attack, beating and arresting residents. As the villagers of Wadi Seeq fled settler violence, they left behind cisterns, livestock, solar panels and two vehicles. "The settlers took everything, and now they're squatting in our homes," Kaabni said.

Wadi Seeq is the sixth Bedouin village to have pulled up stakes in the last year in response to an uptick in settler attacks. Many more are in danger of being completely displaced, according to the West Bank Protection Consortium, a coalition of aid groups and donor countries, including the European Union, that support Palestinian communities.

Neither COGAT, the Israeli defense body responsible for civilian affairs, nor the Israeli military responded to requests for comment. In the past, authorities have said troops only open fire in response to threats or to disperse violent protests and that soldiers protect Palestinians from settler attacks.

The U.N. said last month that 1,100 Palestinians had been displaced by settler violence in the last year, an unprecedented figure. Over just the last few days, around 200 to 300 Palestinians have been displaced in Wadi Seeq and other areas, the consortium said — often by settlers who are armed.

"They're leaving now because they feel completely unprotected. They're so scared of those settlers who have come in and threatened them," said Allegra Pacheco, who heads the consortium.

Most of the attacks come from settler outposts established without government authorization but protected by the Israeli army. Over 500,000 Jewish settlers live in nearly 150 settlements across the West Bank, which is home to some 2.5 million Palestinians. The international community overwhelmingly views settlements as illegal and a major obstacle to peace. Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 war. The Palestinians want the territories for their future state.

On Saturday, Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari appeared to be calling on settlers to stand down, saying: "The responsibility for security in the settlements and on the roads lies with the army alone."

But messages continued to circulate on WhatsApp groups that Jewish settlers have created since the start of the war to coordinate operations in the West Bank. A description of one chat group with over 800 participants told residents to prepare for "the possibility of mobilizing for a joint activity with the security forces for the immediate demolition of terrorist houses."

The message urged residents to "eliminate" any Palestinian approaching a settlement.

"From the stories flowing in from the Gaza Strip, it is clear that we cannot rely on the army alone to be able to protect us in a time of chaos," it read. "Are you ready for war?"

ADN.com

Good LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license. license #36998, doing business as GOOD Cannabis, located at Area B, Lot 7 of Harbor View Subdivision, Whittier, AK, 99693, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and application information will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq at jana@jdwcounsel.com or 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Haute Quarter Grill, Inc. dba Haute Quarter Grill Is located at 525 West 4th Avenue is applying for a Beverage Dispensary License AS 04.11.090 Liquor License to. 525 W. 4th Inc. DBA Haute Quarter Grill Interested persons should submit written comments to their local governing body, the applicant, and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol licensing@alaska.gov.

FORECLOSURE SALE

October 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Property Address: 6265 East Dearborn Drive, Palmer, AK 99645

LOT 1, BLOCK 7, WELLINGFIELD EAST SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF FILED UNDER PLAT NO. 83-49, IN THE RECORDS OF THE PALMER RECORDING DISTRICT, THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF ALASKA.

2 beds, 1 bath 1,071 sq. ft.

This property is not available for viewing prior to sale

$354,900.00 Appraised Value

OPENING BID WILL BEGIN AT $171,716.17

Cash or Certified Funds Only

Sale Location: Inside the Main Entrance of the Boney Courthouse at 303 K Street, Anchorage, AK 99501

Properties are sold "as is, where is", no warranties expressed or implied
For current information concerning the date, time and place of sale only, contact The Sayer Law Group, P.C. (319) 234 – 2530

**Property information is included at the request of the owner of the loan. The Sayer Law Group, P.C. does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy of the information, Value based on Appraised Value. Anyone using this information in deciding whether to bid or how much to bid at the foreclosure sale must conduct their own investigation as to the value of the property to inform their decision.

AMCO Received 11.21.23

November 7, 2023 2:04 pm (GMT -9:00)

Powered by TECNAVIA

Anchorage Daily News - 10/22/2023

WORLD

AP visual analysis: Rocket from Gaza appeared to go astray, likely caused deadly hospital explosion

Michael Biesecker
Associated Press

An Associated Press analysis of more than a dozen videos found that the deadly explosion at a Gaza hospital Tuesday was likely caused by a rocket fired from inside Palestinian territory that veered off course and broke up in the air before crashing back to the ground. A lack of forensic evidence and the difficulty of gathering that on the ground in the middle of a war means there is no definitive proof the break-up of the rocket and the explosion at the al-Ahli Arab Hospital are linked. However, AP's assessment is supported by a range of experts with specialties in open-source intelligence, geolocation and rocketry.

Shortly before 7 p.m. Tuesday, a volley of rockets lit up the darkened sky over Gaza. Videos analyzed by The Associated Press show one veering off course, breaking up in the air before crashing to the ground.

Seconds later, the videos show a large explosion in the same area — the site of Gaza's al-Ahli Arab Hospital.

Who is to blame for the fiery explosion has set off intense debate and finger pointing between the Israeli government and Palestinian militants, further escalating tensions in their two week-long war.

The AP analyzed more than a dozen videos from the moments before, during and after the hospital explosion, as well as satellite imagery and photos. AP's analysis shows that the rocket that broke up in the air was fired from within Palestinian territory, and that the hospital explosion was most likely caused when part of that rocket crashed to the ground.

A lack of forensic evidence and the difficulty of gathering that material on the ground in the middle of a war means there is no definitive proof the break-up of the rocket and the explosion at the hospital are linked. However, AP's assessment is supported by a range of experts with specialties in open-source intelligence, geolocation and rocketry.

"In the absence of additional evidence, the most likely scenario would be that it was a rocket launched from Gaza that failed mid-flight and that it mistakenly hit the hospital," said Henry Schlottman, a former U.S. Army intelligence analyst and open-source intelligence expert.

What AP found

The AP reached its conclusion by reviewing more than a dozen videos from news broadcasts, security cameras and social media posts, and matching the locations to satellite imagery and photos from before the explosion.

A key video in the analysis came shortly before 7 p.m. local time, when the Arabic-language news channel Al Jazeera was airing live coverage of the Gaza City skyline. As a correspondent speaks, the camera pans to zoom in on a volley of rockets being fired from the ground nearby.

One of the rockets appears to veer from the others, away from the distant lights of Israel and back toward a darkened Gaza City, where electricity has largely been cut. The camera follows the light from the rocket's tail as it arches in the sky upwards and toward the left. Suddenly, the rocket seems to fragment, and a piece appears to break off and fall. Another fragment shoots sharply up and to the right, blazing before it explodes in a fireworks-like flash, leaving a brief trail of sparks.

A small explosion is then seen on the ground in the distance, followed two seconds later by a much larger blast closer to the camera. The corner of the scroll at the bottom of the live broadcast reads 6:59 p.m. Gaza time.

Using maps and satellite imagery, the AP was able to match the view of the explosion from Al Jazeera's live camera feed to an upper floor of the building that houses Al Jazeera's Gaza bureau, which is less than a mile from the al-Ahli Arab Hospital. Using other buildings visible in the frame, the AP was able to confirm that the larger explosion seen at 6:59 p.m. was in the precise direction of the hospital.

A second video, taken from a camera inside Israel at the exact time as the Al Jazeera footage and obtained by the AP, shows a barrage of at least 17 rockets being launched from inside Gaza before a large explosion lights up the horizon on the Palestinian side of the border. The camera is on a building in Netiv Ha'asara, an Israeli community footsteps from the border wall, and faces southwest, confirming that the rocket launches and explosion were in the direction of Gaza City.

A third video by Israeli news station Channel 12 — taken from a camera on the upper floor of its building in Netivot, a town about 10 miles southeast of the hospital in Gaza City — also captured the barrage of rockets fired at 6:59 p.m.

Seen together, the three videos show multiple rockets were launched from inside Gaza before one appears to have come apart in midair about three seconds before the explosion at the al-Ahli Arab Hospital.

At 7 p.m., one minute after the explosion, Hamas' military wing al-Qassam Brigades said in a post to its Telegram channel that it "fired at occupied Ashdod with a barrage of rockets." Ashdod is an Israeli coastal city about 30 miles north of Gaza.

Minutes later, Islamic Jihad, a militant group that works with Hamas, also posted on Telegram that it had launched a rocket strike on Tel Aviv in response "to massacre against civilians." Over the next hour, there were five more posts from the militant groups announcing rocket attacks against Israel.

Israel's military has repeatedly said it did not strike the hospital and blamed an errant rocket fired from within Gaza by the Islamic Jihad. Israel's assessment, backed by U.S. intelligence and President Joe Biden, also cited the lack of both a large crater and extensive structural damage that would be consistent with a bomb dropped by Israeli aircraft.

Hamas calls Israel's narrative "fabricated" and accuses it of punishing the hospital for ignoring a warning to evacuate two days earlier, though it has not released any evidence to support its claims.

Hamas spokesperson Ghazi Hamad told the AP the group would welcome a United Nations investigation into the cause of the blast.

"Look at the stupid position that was taken by the President of the United States of America who said, 'I agree with Israel's version' without any investigation," Hamad said. "Unfortunately, the Western world is full of hypocrisy."

What the experts say

AP ran its visual analysis by a half-dozen experts who all agreed the most likely scenario was a rocket from within Gaza that veered off and came apart seconds before the explosion.

Andrea Richardson, an expert in analyzing open-source intelligence who is a consultant with the Human Rights Center at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, said specific landmarks visible in the videos show where the rockets were launched.

"From the video evidence that I have seen, it's very clear that the rockets came from within Gaza," said Richardson, a human rights lawyer and experienced war crimes investigator who has worked in the Middle East. She added that the timing of the rocket launches, the explosion and the first reports that the hospital had been hit also seemed to confirm the sequence of events.

While still potentially lethal, the explosive warheads carried by the homemade rockets used by militants in Gaza can be relatively small when compared with the munitions used by large militaries like those of the U.S. and Russia. With Gaza's borders and ports blockaded for the past decade, militants often build rockets and launch tubes inside Gaza using whatever parts and materials they can scavenge, including underground water pipes.

Justin Crump, a former British Army officer and intelligence consultant, said the failure rate of such homemade rockets is high.

"You can see obviously it fails in flight, it spins out and disintegrates, and the impacts on the ground follow that," said Crump, CEO of Sibylline, a London-based strategic advisory firm. "The most likely explanation is this was a tragic accident."

Such a scenario unfolded last year, when Islamic Jihad-fired rockets malfunctioned and killed at least a dozen Gaza residents. The AP reported at the time that live TV footage showed the militant rockets falling short in densely packed residential neighborhoods.

Three-second gap

Some of the questions about who is to blame focus on the three-second gap between the rocket's explosive breakup in the sky and the explosion on the ground at the al-Ahli Arab Hospital, and whether those two events are linked, especially because the videos analyzed by AP don't appear to show a trace of light that follows the rocket to the ground.

Outside experts said it's not possible to rule out with absolute certainty that the rocket launches occurring near the hospital and the timing of the explosion seconds later are just a coincidence. However, they also noted there is no evidence to support that scenario.

Richardson said the timestamps on videos showing the rocket launches from within Gaza, the midair malfunction and the large explosion striking the hospital below within seconds of each other provided a logical chain of events.

"An incredibly small timeframe," she said.

Intelligence analyst Schlottman said the most likely scenario remains that it was a militant rocket that somehow had some kind of malfunction mid-flight and then landed on the hospital.

"We have video of when the explosion happened and the only rocket visible in that video was the one that kind of had that diverging trajectory," he said. "We cannot possibly exclude other scenarios. … Just what we have right now points to that."

Evidence on the ground

About 10 minutes after the multiple rocket launches from Gaza were captured on video Tuesday night, posts began to appear on social media. The AP verified a video taken from a balcony near the hospital that shows the moment of impact, with the loud whizzing sound followed by a huge fireball and the clap of a massive explosion. AP could find no visual evidence to support speculation that the blast was triggered by a car bomb or other such device.

"Oh God! Oh God!" a man's voice exclaims in Arabic. "The hospital!" says a second male voice.

Other videos and photos reviewed by AP appear to show the explosion in the hospital's central parking lot and courtyard, where civilians had taken refuge after orders to evacuate the city. Some footage shows burning cars and more than a dozen dead bodies, including those of children.

AP photos taken the morning after Tuesday's explosion showed no evidence of a large crater at the impact site that would be consistent with a bomb like those dropped by Israeli aircraft in other recent strikes. The hospital buildings surrounding the outdoor area at the center of the explosion were still standing and did not appear to suffer significant structural damage.

A small crater photographed in the hospital's parking lot appeared to be about a meter across, suggesting a device with a much smaller explosive payload than a bomb. While Israel's extensive arsenal includes smaller missiles that can be fired from helicopters and drones, there has been no public evidence of such missile strikes in the area around the al-Ahli Arab Hospital on Tuesday night.

David Shank, a retired U.S. Army colonel and expert on military rockets and missiles, said the large fireball captured on video at the hospital could potentially be explained by the fact the malfunctioning militant rocket impacted prematurely and was still full of propellant. That highly volatile fuel then ignited when it hit the ground, setting off a large explosion but leaving a relatively small crater.

After Hamas' Oct. 7 surprise attack on southern Israel that killed 1,400, with another 200 people taken hostage, Israel's military said it dropped more than 6,000 bombs on Gaza in the first week of the war alone, and Gaza officials say that campaign has so far resulted in more than 4,100 deaths.

Hamas spokesman Hamad said that Israeli officials had threatened al-Ahli Arab hospital and other medical facilities, and ordered their evacuation before the deadly blast. He argued that the missiles belonging to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad would not have been capable of inflicting such damage.

Al-Ahli Arab Hospital's operators posted on its website that the facility's cancer center was struck by Israel three days before the deadly blast, leaving a hole in an exterior wall and an unexploded artillery shell next to an ultrasound machine.

Iron Dome theory

Speculation has circulated on social media in the days since the explosion that the breakup of the rocket and the explosion on the ground was caused by Israel's Iron Dome defense system, which is designed to shoot such rockets out of the sky.

Israel has said it does not use its Iron Dome system within Gaza, but to intercept and destroy rockets coming into Israeli airspace.

Experts also noted multiple videos from around the time of the hospital explosion showed no visible evidence of Iron Dome missiles being fired from Israel into the airspace over Gaza.

John Erath, the senior policy director at the Center for Arms Control and an expert on missile defense, said that while it might be technically possible for Iron Dome to intercept a missile over Gaza, it would be unlikely in this case because the projectile was very early in its flight path — still on the way up — and the system is designed to only intercept projectiles it determines are on a flight path to a populated part of Israel.

"I'm not saying that it's impossible," Erath said. "But based on my understanding of how the system works, it is unlikely."

Added missile expert Shank: "They don't engage a target unless it's going to impact a critical asset such as a population area, maybe a power grid, maybe a military base."

"It's technically designed to take the best shot that gives it the highest probability of kill," he said. "And for Iron Dome … that is not over Gaza."

ABED KHALED / Associated Press

Palestinian men look over the site of a deadly explosion at al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City on Wednesday.

Timothy Brady of Anchorage, a longtime community leader, public servant, and business executive in Alaska, passed away at home after a long illness on October 14, 2023. Tim was born in Anchorage, Territory of Alaska on April 12, 1958.

His spirit defines what we think and know about Alaska and its people. He embraced the Alaskan lifestyle from a young age and travelled its wildlands in pursuit of fish and game. Tim expanded his adventures through flight and flew for 45 years in his floatplane throughout Alaska, taking family and friends to the Deshka River, Judd Lake, and wherever the fish were running. "Family first" wasn't just a phrase to Tim it was a deep seated belief which he lived by every day. He was an avid traveler and enjoyed taking his family with him as he ventured throughout the world. Tim also took the opportunity to hunt and fish in exotic places with friends and family. Wherever his travels took him, he always appreciated returning to his home in Alaska.

Tim's commitment to family, community, public service, and his State will be remembered and long-lasting. As President of Ken Brady Construction Company, a company his father started, Tim and his brother, Mike, left their footprint throughout the State. His construction industry colleagues recognized his accomplishments when they honored him with the prestigious "Hard Hat Award" for his significant contributions to the Alaskan construction industry in 1992. In 1995, they elected him as President of the Alaska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, where he was nationally recognized as Chapter President of the year. He continued his commitment to the organization as a Life Board Member.

Tim's service to his fellow Alaskans reaches well beyond the business world. Tim served admirably on the Board of Regents for the University of Alaska from 2005 through 2015. Additionally, his service to the Great Alaska Council of the Boy Scouts of America has been widely recognized. Due to the efforts of Tim and his colleagues, multiple Boy Scout properties throughout Alaska were dramatically improved, enabling thousands of young Alaskans to enjoy an enhanced outdoor experience. Tim was ultimately honored with the Silver Beaver Award for his service to the organization.

Tim's endeavors were all aimed at benefitting the community through service to the public. However, his ultimate passion was providing advice and support for young athletes. He was happiest when coaching his "football boys" or advising his daughter from the sidelines of her flag football games. He was influential in building sports facilities in Anchorage, including The Dome, the first all-weather lighted football field and sports facility in Alaska, as well as the development of the University of Alaska Sports Center (Alaska Airlines Center), a multi-purpose arena on the UAA campus.

On the national level, Tim was a Member of the Boone & Crockett Club for several decades. He rose through the ranks and became the Club's President and was recently recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Boone & Crockett Club was organized by Theodore Roosevelt over 125 years ago, with the mission to promote and sustain conservation and management of wildlife and maintain the highest ethical standards of fair chase and sportsmanship in North America. The organization benefitted from Tim's dedication to the outdoors, leadership, and business experience in the administration of the organization by building its financial stability. Under Tim's leadership, the Club achieved significant policy accomplishments at the national level while advocating in Washington D.C.

Tim is survived by his loving family, which includes his wife Betty of more than thirty years, son Ryan and his wife Tatyana, daughter Rachel and her fiancé, Will Booth, his mother Dorothy, his siblings Pat, Casey, Kelly, and Kevin. He was preceded in death by his father Ken, brother Mike and sister Kathy. The Brady family appreciates your thoughts and look forward to a remembrance in the summer of 2024.

Volunteers needed!
Get involved with your cooperative

Chugach Electric Association is looking for members interested in serving on its 2024 Bylaws, Election, Nominating committees and Member Advisory Council (MAC).

These committees are important to a succesful annual meeting and election process. The committees provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about your electric cooperative.

The **Bylaws Committee** reviews Chugach's bylaws and considers any recommendations for revisions. The **Nominating Committee** seeks and screens potential nominess to run for the Chugach Board of Directors. The **Election Committee** is responsible for ensuring a fair and impartial annual election. The **MAC** advises the board as an ad hoc committee on issues impacting the member-owned cooperative.

Members interested in applying for an appointment should submit an application. Applications must be recieved by **5 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2023**.

For more information visit **ChugachElectric.com** or call **(907) 762-4489**.

CHUGACH

Haute Quarter Grill, Inc. dba Haute Quarter Grill Is located at 525 West 4th Avenue is applying for a Beverage Dispensary License AS 04.11.090 Liquor License to. 525 W. 4th Inc. DBA Haute Quarter Grill Interested persons should submit written comments to their local governing body, the applicant, and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol licensing@alaska.gov.

Good LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license, license #36998, doing business as GOOD Cannabis, located at Area B, Lot 7 of Harbor View Subdivision, Whittier, AK 99693, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and application information will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq at jana@jdwcounsel.com or 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

AMCO Received 11.21.23

Powered by TECNAVIA