

Cyberattack cripples Iranian petrol stations

A group known as "Gonjeshke Darande," or "predatory sparrow" in Persian, which has been previously linked to Israel, took responsibility for a cyberattack that crippled around 70% of petrol stations in Iran.

The group claims to have disabled a significant portion of Iran's petrol pumps in what they describe as a response to aggression by Iran and its regional proxies.

"Khamenei, playing with fire has a price," the

group said in a statement released in Persian and English.

Iranian state media confirmed that several petrol stations in Tehran ceased operations, saying that a "software malfunction" forced them to shut.

Gonjeshke Darande has previously claimed responsibility for a cyberattack on Iran's major steel companies. During that attack, Israeli military correspondents, typically briefed off-the-record by senior Israeli officials, hinted at potential

Israeli involvement. A cyberattack on Iran's fuel distribution system in 2021 paralyzed petrol stations across the country, leading to long lines of angry motorists. The hacking group claimed responsibility for the attack on fuel pumps.

Interestingly, the cyberattack occurred almost at the same time as Israel's Cyber Directorate announced that Iran and Hezbollah were behind a cyberattack on the Ziv Medical Centre in Tzfat last month.

"In a joint effort by the cyber directorate, the IDF, the Shin Bet, and the Health Ministry and hospital teams, the attack was stopped before it could achieve its goal of disrupting the hospital's operations and harming the medical care of civilians," Israeli officials said.

"However," the officials added, "it was found that the group stole some sensitive information stored in the hospital's systems."
(YWN)

Chanukah in turbulent times



Menorahs burning brightly at the entrance to a building in Yerushalayim



Nearby an ambulance ready for use.

JERUSALEM REPORT AKIVA AARONSON

Naomi, Kupat Ha'ir, Va'ad HaRabbonim and so on – each with its own area of specialization. But today, they have all gone into overdrive. One might even say that two armies are operating here at the moment, the one in Gaza, and the other the home front, Israel's everyday citizens, surpassing all expectations.

Most moving of all is the dedication of ladies who cook Shabbos meals for those rendered widows and orphans due to the war, delivered together with toys for the young ones. Everything is ready for the deadline on Thursdays, those doing the deliveries leaving with vehicles packed to the brim.

Ashrechah Yisrael, mi chomochah!
The author is an avreich in Yerushalayim.

this year it's been different. Instead of all *talmidim* returning at the same time, the break was staggered, some yeshivas allowing their students home for Shabbos Vayeishev – Shabbos Chanukah proper – and others for Parshas Mikeitz, which this year fell immediately following Chanukah. The reason was so as to ensure that no days were left with a void in learning, which is what is really protecting us.

In Jerusalem, although not without tragedy, we have been largely free of missiles since the start of hostilities – perhaps six in total – although the most recent one fell last Friday night as Chanukah was drawing to a close, just before Maariv. These days one also has to be careful wherever one goes and be sure not to leave any parcels unattended. They're called a 'Chefetz Chashud' (Suspect Article) and are likely to be removed by security personnel, never to be seen again! Of course, in the south of the country and in the far north, too, the situation is very different.

Other signs of the times are the preparation of public shelters – they're called a *Miklat Tzibouri* – street signs indicating their location. Many Jerusalem hotels have also been taken over for the refugees from north and south, and passing by any one of them one sees a different type of clientele to those who usually stay there; clearly not visitors from abroad.

As everyone knows, *chessed* over here has taken on a new dimension since the start of the war. In usual times, various organizations do invaluable work year in, year out in assisting Israel's needy – *Yad Ezra v'Shulamit*, *Yad Eliezer*, *Chasdei*

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