



Iran Hacked Benny Gantz's Phone, Israeli Authorities Believe

Israeli security services reportedly believe Iran hacked the smartphone of Benny Gantz, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's main rival in the April 9 election. The Israel Security Agency informed Gantz, a former chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, of the hack five weeks ago, Channel 12 reported Thursday.

Gantz's centrist Blue and White party, which is neck and neck in polls with Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud Party, played down any prospect of a national security breach and suggested the story had been deliberately leaked, Reuters reported.

"It should be emphasized that the incident in question happened some four years after Gantz finished his term as chief of staff and the current timing of its publication raises many questions," Blue and White said in a statement.



J Street Launches Birthright-Style Israel Trip That Will Include Palestinians

J Street, the liberal Israel policy group, will compete with Birthright by launching its own free trip to Israel for college students.

The trip will aim to introduce students firsthand to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the lives of Israelis and Palestinians. Organized by J Street U, the group's college arm, it will take 40 students to Israel and the West Bank for 10 days in July. Along with visiting sites in Israel, the group will meet Palestinian activists, Israeli social justice activists and Israeli settlers.

"American Jews want to visit Israel — and we want to develop a deeper understanding of what life is like there," said Zachary Spitz, a senior at the University of Chicago and a J Street U board member, in a press release Wednesday. "That means meeting with both Israelis and Palestinians — and learning what life is like for those living under occupation."



Israeli Spacecraft Conducts Final Major Maneuver On Way To Moon

The Israeli spacecraft Beresheet successfully conducted its final major maneuver as it continues on its journey to the moon.

The spacecraft burned its engine for 60 seconds as it moved to an elliptical orbit around the earth that will intersect the moon's orbit and be captured in it. The rendezvous is scheduled for April 4 at 251,655 miles from earth, Spacell said in a statement.



The lunar lander is expected to land on the moon's surface on April 11. The landing site has been identified as the northeastern part of Mare Serenitatis, or the Sea of Serenity, a flat area on the moon's surface.

The spacecraft continues to communicate with the Israel Aerospace Industries and Spacell control room in Yehud in central Israel.

Gantz Rules Out 'Political Discourse' With Arab Parties Over 'anti-Israel' Rhetoric

Kahol Lavan co-chairman Benny Gantz ruled out forming a coalition with Arab-majority parties after Israel's April 9 election in an interview with public broadcaster Kan on Tuesday evening.

In his first televised interview, the former army chief predicted his party would emerge from the election victorious, saying Kahol Lavan would get 40 out of 120 Knesset seats. Gantz, who is seen as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's main rival, gave interviews to three major Israeli networks, which were all aired on Tuesday evening.

Gantz told Kann he "can't have any political discourse" with Arab parties and that Israeli Arab politicians "speak against the State of Israel." Arab political leaders "have made a big mistake," he argued.



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The Congregational Shlichim Program is a partnership between
the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and local synagogues.*