

# Israel Chemical Chronology

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Last update: May 2010

**As of May 2010, this chronology is no longer being updated.  
For current developments, please see the Israel Chemical Overview.**

*This annotated chronology is based on the data sources that follow each entry. Public sources often provide conflicting information on classified military programs. In some cases we are unable to resolve these discrepancies, in others we have deliberately refrained from doing so to highlight the potential influence of false or misleading information as it appeared over time. In many cases, we are unable to independently verify claims. Hence in reviewing this chronology, readers should take into account the credibility of the sources employed here.*

*Inclusion in this chronology does not necessarily indicate that a particular development is of direct or indirect proliferation significance. Some entries provide international or domestic context for technological development and national policymaking. Moreover, some entries may refer to developments with positive consequences for nonproliferation.*

## 2008-2004

### 16 July 2008

Two prominent members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, chairman MK Tzahi Hanegbi (Kadima) and MK Yuval Steinitz (Likud) chairman of the Subcommittee for Readiness hold a press conference during which they call on the government to begin immediate distribution of gas masks to the public. Steinitz noted that "between four million and five million gas mask sets are currently sitting in warehouses awaiting distribution." He further noted that although the government had pledged to begin distribution in Northern Israel before the end of 2007 nothing had as yet been done.

—Rebecca Anna Stoil Yaakov Lappin "FADC: Hand out gas masks immediately," Jerusalem Post, 16 July 2008, p. 5.

### 29 June 2008

Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilna'i announces that Israeli reservists and civilians will begin to receive refurbished gas mask kits in January 2009. Vilna'i also states that Home Front command will no longer be responsible for the distribution unless war should break out before the end of the year. Instead he announces a tender for private sector companies to take charge of the redistribution.

—Yaakov Lappin "New gas masks to be issued in January," Jerusalem Post, 30 June 2008, p. 1.

### 7-18 April 2008

An Israeli delegation attends the 2nd CWC Review Conference in The Hague. As Israel has not ratified its signature of the CWC, its delegation can only participate as observers.

—Report of the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the

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Chemical Weapons Convention (Second Review Conference), 7 – 18 April 2008, RC-2/4, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 18 April 2008, p. 1, [www.opcw.org](http://www.opcw.org).

#### **6-10 April 2008**

The Israeli government "Rahel" (National Emergency Authority) in cooperation with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Home Front Command, local authorities, different governmental offices, security and rescue teams and the educational system conducts a comprehensive national training exercise. The purpose of the exercise is to prepare for various emergency situations, primarily of a war-related nature including scenarios involving attacks against Israel employing chemical weapons. The exercise, which includes a test of the national alert system, is described as the largest such exercise in Israel's history.

—"National Home Front Training Exercise for Israeli Security and Rescue Forces," Israel Defense Forces website, accessed 14 April 2008, <http://dover.idf.il>.

#### **24 March 2008**

According to Ynet News a secret report recently distributed to Israeli government ministries and local municipalities details a variety of scenarios that may be expected in the next Israeli war. The report draws on lessons from the 2006 war between Israel and Hizbullah and anticipates missile attacks from Iran, Lebanon and Syria. The base scenario's envisage 100-230 civilian deaths, and 1,900-3,200 injuries. However, the report goes on to claim that "should Israel be attacked with chemical weapons, the number of killed and wounded Israelis would skyrocket to 16,000."

—Itamar Eichner "Report: Iranian, Syrian missiles to pound Israel in next war," Ynet News, 24 March 2008, [www.ynetnews.com](http://www.ynetnews.com).

#### **5-9 November 2007**

An Israeli delegation attends the 12th Session of the Conference of the States Party (CSP) to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in the Hague as an observer.

[Note: As a state that has neither signed nor acceded to the CWC the Israeli delegates can only attend the open sessions of the CSP].

—C-12/INF.3/Rev.1: List of Participants to the Twelfth Session of the Conference of the States Parties: 5 – 9 November 2007, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 9 November 2007, [www.opcw.org](http://www.opcw.org).

#### **11 September 2007**

Israeli Defense Ministry officials announce that despite rising tensions with Syria the Ministry will not begin distributing gas masks to the civilian population. Defense officials explain that there is concern "that if gas masks were distributed the move would be interpreted as Israeli preparations for war and that Syria would as a result decide to attack."

—Yaakov Katz, "Ministry holds off on gas mask distribution. Fears move could be interpreted as preparation for war," Jerusalem Post, 11 September 2007, p. 2.

#### **15 August 2007**

The Israeli Defense Minister has suspended the planned [re]distribution of gas masks to the Israeli public because

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of fears the move could be taken by Syria as preparation for imminent war and trigger a pre-emptive attack by Damascus. The Israeli previously collected all previously (c. 1991) distributed gas masks for refurbishing and subsequent redistribution.

—Abraham Rabinovich "Israeli gas mask handout on hold," *The Australian*, 15 August 2007, p. 12.

#### **16 July 2007**

The Israeli Knesset's Subcommittee on the Home Front's Preparedness releases a report criticizing the Israeli government's capacity to protect population from chemical or biological weapons attack. The committee report particularly notes that in 2003 "Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz swore to work out a system by which emergency kits would reach citizens in the North in a matter of hours, and citizens in the rest of Israel within two to three days." The current situation appears to be that defense kits would only reach citizens in the north of Israel 4 to 7 days after a decision was made while the rest of the country might have to wait several weeks. The committee report also notes that the existing protective kits are in poor condition and goes on to urge the immediate spending of NIS 1 to ensure that residents in the North are provided with kits.

—Sheera Claire Frenkel , "Knesset report: Home front not prepared for war. It would take 4-7 days for gas masks to reach North, weeks for the rest of the country," *Jerusalem Post*, 17 July 2007, p. 3.

#### **9 July 2007**

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Home Front Command is reported to only have enough gas masks for 1.5 million adults and half-a-million children, less than half the Israeli population. The Home Front Command is reportedly considering proposals, if the need arises, to make emergency purchases of gas masks from Israeli and American companies.

—Yaakov Katz, "Less than half of Israelis to have working gas masks by end of year. 'Non -conventional attack would result in major crisis'," *Jerusalem Post*, 9 July 2007, p. 3.

#### **20 March 2007**

As part of a nationwide exercise to test the capacity of Israeli agencies to respond in the event of an Iranian attack against its territory Israel conducts a training and preparedness exercise simulating a chemical terrorism attack in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan.

—Laurie Copans, "Israel practices for missile, chemical attacks Nationwide drill tests police, army," *Associated Press*, 21 March 2007, [www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com).

#### **5-8 December 2006**

An Israeli representative attends the 11th Session of the Conference of the States Party (CSP) to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in the Hague as an observer.

[Note: As a state that has neither signed nor acceded to the CWC the Israeli delegate can only attend the open sessions of the CSP].

—C-11/DEC.1: Decision: Attendance by Non-Signatory States at the Eleventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 5 December 2006, [www.opcw.org](http://www.opcw.org).

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#### **25-27 October 2006**

A government representative from Israel attends the Third OPCW Workshop to Promote the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention among States in the Mediterranean Basin, the Middle East, and neighboring regions held in Rome, Italy.

—"Rome Workshop on Chemical Weapons Ban in the Middle East," *Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (December 2006), p. 17-18.

#### **20 October 2006**

The Director General of the OPCW, H.E. Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, delivers a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in which he criticizes a number of countries for refusing to ratify or accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Amongst those singled out for criticism is Israel. Ambassador Pfirter observed that in the cases of Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Syria "their reticence [to join] is often explained away as an unavoidable consequence of regional tensions or conflicts. Ambassador Pfirter went on to say that "In the end, there is, and can be, no moral or strategic justification for keeping the chemical weapons option open."

—"OPCW Director-General's Statement to the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly," *Chemical Disarmament Quarterly*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (December 2006), p. 10-14.

#### **25 June 2006**

The Al-Aqsa Matyr's Brigade releases a statement in which they claim that they "have managed to produce more than 20 kinds of chemical and biological weapons following a three-year effort."

—The CBW Conventions Bulletin, No. 72+73 (September 2006), p. 37.

#### **December 2005**

The Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) releases a report describing its understanding, based on open-sources, of Israeli WMD capabilities. The authors conclude that although Israel does not maintain a CW agent stockpile it retains a breakout capability that would draw on Israel's advanced technological and scientific knowledge combined with a CW knowledgebase built up in the 1950s and 1960s.

—Normark Magnus, et. al., *Israel and WMD : Incentives and Capabilities*, Stockholm, 2005), [www2.foi.se](http://www2.foi.se).

#### **7-11 November 2005**

The OPCW hosts the Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Israel attends and participates as an observer.

—The Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties Concludes, Press Release #71, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 11 November 2005, [www.opcw.org](http://www.opcw.org).

#### **13-15 June 2005**

An Israeli representative attends a workshop on the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in Nicosia, Cyprus. The workshop is jointly organized by the OPCW and the European Union (EU). The EU provides support for the OPCW's activities in the framework of implementing the European Union Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The workshop in Cyprus is intended to help increase awareness of

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the Convention among States in the Mediterranean Basin, the Middle East, and neighboring regions.

—Chemical Disarmament Quarterly, Vol. 3 No. 2 (June 2005), p. 12.

### **3 June 2005**

Israeli security sources claim that Syrian missile tests on 27 May 2005, one of a Scud B with a range of about 300 kilometers and two of the newer Scud D type with a range of some 700 kilometers, involved missiles adapted with the cooperation of North Korea to deliver air-burst chemical weapons. All the missiles were launched from northern Syria, near Minakh, north of Aleppo, the Israeli officials said. One was sent about 250 miles to southernmost Syria, near the Jordanian border. Another missile was fired southwest toward the Mediterranean, over the Turkish province of Hatay, the ancient Antioch, and broke up in flight shedding debris over two villages there. Turkish officials indicate that there were no injuries or damage.

—Steven Erlanger and Douglas Jehl, "Syria Test-Fires 3 Scud Missiles, Israelis Say," New York Times, 3 June 2005, p. A12.

### **25 April 2005**

In an editorial column published on the website of the Damascus based newspaper Al-Thawrah Muhammad Khayr al-Jamali accuses Israel of possessing "an innumerable number of biological and chemical weapons."

—"Syrian writer criticizes Israeli "lies" over Syrian-Russian missile deal," BBC Worldwide Monitoring, 25 April 2005, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

### **8 March 2005**

In the Hague, a delegation from the Israeli Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense meets with the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter. The Israel delegation consists of the Deputy Director General for Strategic Affairs, H.E. Mr Jeremy Issacharoff; the Director of the Arms Control Department, H.E. Mr Alon Bar; the Ambassador of Israel to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E. Mr Eitan Margalit; and Mr Shmuel Limone, a Senior Consultant in the Ministry of Defence of Israel. In the course of their discussions Ambassador Pfirter outlines progress in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention and stresses the importance of achieving universality, including in the Middle-East. The Israeli delegation discusses the security situation in the region and expresses interest in developments related to the CWC in the Middle East and other regions.

—Delegation of Israel Visits the OPCW, Press release #3, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 9 March 2005, [www.opcw.org](http://www.opcw.org).

### **12 January 2005**

Israel's Home Front Command has decided to equip Israeli police officers with special "TA" syringes filled with chemical weapons antidotes. The intention is to limit distribution of the syringes to hundreds of police officers on special patrol duties. Although details of the plan's implementation are being discussed senior police officials have not yet agreed to the Home Front command proposal. The decision is the result of new intelligence pointing to an increased possibility of attacks involving the dispersal of chemical or biological agents "to achieve mass casualties in population centers."

—Amir Rapaport, "Syringes against non-conventional weapons to be distributed to policemen," Tel Aviv Ma'ariv (in

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Hebrew), 12 January 2005, p. 8, translation provided by Open Source Center as Israel: Policemen To Be Equipped With Antidotes Against Chemical Weapons, 12 January 2005, Open Source Center document GMP20050112000217, [www.opensource.gov](http://www.opensource.gov).

#### **9-11 January 2005**

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and civilian first responders conduct a joint exercise in Israel's south that simulates a terrorist attack using chemical or biological agents to create mass casualties.

—Amir Rapaport, "Syringes against non-conventional weapons to be distributed to policemen," Tel Aviv Ma'ariv (in Hebrew), 12 January 2005, p. 8, translation provided by Open Source Center as Israel: Policemen To Be Equipped With Antidotes Against Chemical Weapons, 12 January 2005, Open Source Center document GMP20050112000217, [www.opensource.gov](http://www.opensource.gov).

#### **29 November - 2 December 2004**

The OPCW hosts the Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Israel attends and participates as an observer.

—The CBW Conventions Bulletin, No. 66 (December 2004), p. 14.

#### **11 October 2004**

At the 59th session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, Israel issues a statement citing concern over WMD proliferation and the limited effectiveness of traditional mechanisms to ensure compliance and verification, particularly in the Middle East. Israel supports international nonproliferation efforts and supports UN Security Council Resolution 1540, but also emphasizes that individual states must strengthen international decisions with corresponding domestic actions. Israel has done so by adopting a new Export and Import Control Order, in March 2004, which will strengthen regulation controls over chemical, biological and nuclear materials.

—Statement of the Delegation of Israel to the First Committee – UNGA – 59th session, 11 October 2004, [www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org).

#### **11 September 2004**

In Riyadh, a training program of the Saudi CWC National Authority takes place. Responding to questions from journalists after officially opening the exercise, Saudi Assistant Under-Secretary for Political Affairs Prince Turki Bin Muhammad Bin Sa'ud al-Kabir says that Saudi Arabia is free from WMD and calls on the international community to pressure Israel to respect obligations set out under the CWC.

—The CBW Conventions Bulletin, No. 66 (December 2004), p. 42.

#### **5-7 May 2004**

Israeli representatives attend a workshop in Malta jointly organized by the Maltese government and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) aimed at promoting universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Israel has not yet ratified the CWC which it signed in 1993.

—Chemical Disarmament Quarterly, Vol. 2, No. 2 (June 2004), p. 24.

#### **May 2004**

The Director-General of the OPCW, H.E. Mr. Rogelio Pflirter, has "bilateral contacts with representatives of...Israel

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based in The Hague." These meetings are conducted as part of efforts to expand the membership of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

—Note By The Director-General: Information On The Implementation Of The Action Plan For The Universality Of The Chemical Weapons Convention S/431/2004, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 24 June 2004, p. 2, [www.opcw.org](http://www.opcw.org).

#### **22 April 2004**

An anti-terrorism technology center is established by the Yissum Research Development Company of the Hebrew University, which envisions that the center will become a world leader in developing anti-terrorism warfare technology, especially relating to chemical and biological anti-terrorism. Hebrew University has received around \$10 million annually from US government agencies in grants for infrastructure and applied research.

—Batya Feldman, "Hebrew U. company sets up anti-terror technology unit," *Globes*, 22 April 2004, <http://globes.co.il>.

#### **31 January 2004**

Mr. David Kay, the former head of the Iraq Survey Group (ISG), says that Iraqi chemical protection suits were intended to protect Iraqi soldiers against Israeli chemical attacks, rather than Iraqi chemical attacks.

—"Whodunnit?" *Economist*, 31 January 2004.

#### **2 January 2004**

Ha'aretz reports that following Libya's repudiation of WMD the Israeli government is considering ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention. A major factor driving the Israeli discussion is concern that Israel will come under direct pressure to ratify the CWC. Ratifying the CWC before being obliged to is seen as serving Israel's diplomatic interests. There is also ongoing concern on the part of Israeli manufacturers and importers that increasingly tight restrictions on trade in chemicals will begin to have a negative effect on the economy. Ratification of the CWC is seen as the means of avoiding any such problems. It is claimed that Israel has no interest in chemical weapons and probably does not have an active offensive chemical weapons program.

—Aluf Benn, "Israel readies to join regional WMD clean-up after Libyan, Iranian moves," *Ha'aretz*, 2 January 2004, [www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com).

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## **2003-1943**

#### **20 December 2003**

Ahmad Abu-Zayd, Chairman of Egypt's People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee, urges Israel and all Mideast countries to follow Libya's example and dismantle their WMD programs.

—"Egyptian official urges Israel to dismantle nuclear, chemical Weapons," *BBC Monitoring*, 20 December 2003.

#### **20- 24 October 2003**

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) holds the Eighth Session of the Conference of

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the States Parties. Israel attends and participates as an observer.

—Report of the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, 20 - 24 October 2003, C-8/7, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 24 October 2003, p. 1, [www.opcw.org](http://www.opcw.org).

### **18-19 September 2003**

At the Moscow International Proliferation Conference, Iran's Deputy Director General of International Political Affairs Ali Asghar Soltanieh states that Israel has developed chemical and biological weapons and the means to deliver them.

—"The Proliferation Problem According to Iran," *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 7 October 2003, [www.ceip.org](http://www.ceip.org), October 11, 2003.

### **3 August 2003**

The U.S. company Sundstran agrees to pay a \$171,500 civil penalty because it sold centrifugal pumps to Israel. The pumps can be used to help create chemical weapons.

—"US Company Fined for Exporting Chemical Weapon Components to Israel and Saudi Arabia," *MENA Business Reports*, 3 August 2003.

### **28 June 2003**

The British Broadcasting Company (BBC) broadcasts a documentary entitled "Israel's Secret Weapons." The documentary states that Israel has used chemical weapons in the territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

—"Quote Unquote," *The Jerusalem Report*, 28 July 2003.

### **22 May 2003**

Egyptian biologist, Dr. Wajdi Abd-al-Fattah Sawahil, claims that Israel uses chemical drugs to torture and elicit information from Palestinian detainees and is using gases on Palestinians that lead to infertility.

—Jamal al-Majaydah, "Egyptian Scientist: Israel produces viruses that attack Palestinians only," FBIS GMP20030522000144, 22 May 2003.

### **17 May 2003**

Iran accuses Israel of possessing the largest arsenal of chemical weapons in the Middle East.

—"Tehran Times Accuses Israel, USA of Violating Chemical Weapons Convention," *BBC Monitoring International Reports*, 17 May 2003.

### **16 March 2003**

A documentary produced by the BBC accuses Israel of hiding nuclear bomb factories and developing chemical weapons.

—"Israel Protest," *Daily Mail*, 15 March 2003.

### **14 April 2003**

The Press Secretary for the Syrian Foreign Ministry states that Syria does not possess chemical weapons and that Israel is the only country in the region which does.

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—"Syrian Foreign Ministry Press Secretary Denies Having Chemical Weapons," *Asahi Shimbun*, 15 April 2003, [www.asahi.com](http://www.asahi.com), April 15, 2003.

#### **December 2002**

The Israel Defense Forces conduct live-condition exercises that test protection equipment in the event of a chemical weapons attack.

—"Israeli Army Successfully Tests Chemical Warfare Equipment-TV," *BBC Monitoring International Reports*, 22 December 2002.

#### **6 December 2002**

German Defense Minister Peter Struck decides not to deliver six Fuch vehicles to Israel for fear that the vehicles could be used for offensive purposes. The Fuch is a vehicle designed to survey areas hit by a nuclear, chemical, or biological explosion and determines whether or not it is safe for humans.

—"Israeli President: We Won't Accept Condition on Fuch Vehicles," *Deutsche Presse-Agentur*, 7 December 2002.

#### **25 October 2002**

Arab Justice Ministers release the Beirut Declaration in which they denounce the threat of using force against an Arab country, especially when Israel possesses nuclear and chemical weapons.

—"Arab Justice Ministers Condemn 'All' Terrorism, Use of Force Against Countries," *BBC Monitoring International Reports*, 25 October 2002.

#### **7- 11 October 2002**

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) holds the Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Israel attends and participates as an observer.

—*Report of the Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties, 7 - 11 October 2003, C-7/5*, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 11 October 2002, [www.opcw.org](http://www.opcw.org).

#### **10 September 2002**

An Israeli man who gave his name only as Avi states that he got cancer from working at a secret chemical warfare laboratory. According to the man, he worked at the lab as a technician during the 1980's and worked on such things as developing methods for decontamination, detecting poison gas, and testing the effectiveness of protective equipment. Avi also states that when working at the lab, workers were not given protective clothing and this exposed them to many harmful chemicals. The Israeli military censor does not permit the publishing of the chemicals used at the laboratory.

—Katzenall, Jack "Israeli Blames his Service in Army Chemical Warfare Research Unit for his Cancer," *Associated Press*, 10 September 2002, *International News*.

#### **9 June 2002**

A report in the English newspaper *The Herald* accuses the British government of selling chemical weapon technology to Israel.

—"Meanwhile the UK Quietly Continues to Profit from War," *The Sunday Herald*, 9 June 2002, p. 10.

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### **16 May 2001**

In a speech at the sixth conference for the Chemical Weapons Convention in the Hague, the head of the Saudi delegation, Dr. Sulman Bin Hammad Al-Khuweiter calls on Israel and other countries who possess chemical weapons to place these weapons under the auspice of the international treaty. Saudi Arabia also wants other countries to exert their influence to insure that these countries comply.

—"Kingdom Concerned at Stockpiling of Chemical Arms by Some Nations; Israel, Other Urged to Allow Scrutiny of Banned Weapons," *Middle East Newsfile*, 16 May 2001.

### **28 November 2001**

According to the Egyptian state-run MENA news agency, President Hosni Mubarak in answering allegations that Egypt signed an arms deal with North Korea, states that Israel is the only Middle Eastern country to possess both nuclear and chemical weapons.

—"Mubarak Rejects Israel Reports on Egypt's Arms Deal with North Korea," *Xinhua*, 28 November 2001.

### **15 February 2001**

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat accuses Israel of using poison gas against Palestinians. His accusation is based on reports that approximately 80 Palestinians, suffering from poison gas effects, were recently admitted to a Gaza hospital. The Israelis deny using poison gas; however, the Palestinians intend to send a sample of the gas to an international lab for independent analysis.

—"Arafat accuses Israel of using poison gas," *CNN*, 15 February 2001, <http://edition.cnn.com>.

### **September 2000**

Israeli call for a review of the 1997 government decision not to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention.

—Avner Cohen "Israel and Chemical/Biological Weapons: History, Deterrence, and Arms Control," *The Nonproliferation Review*, Fall-Winter 2001, Vol. 8, No. 3, p. 47.

### **2 February 2000**

During a Knesset debate about Israel's nuclear weapons program, Arab legislator Issam Makhul states that Israel's "stockpile of atomic, chemical, and biological weapons jeopardize the country's security."

—"Debate about Israel's Nuclear Weapons," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 4 February 2000, [www.thebulletin.org](http://www.thebulletin.org), October 11, 2003.

### **27 April 1999**

The Dutch government confirms that it sent 20 milligrams of soman nerve agent to the IIBR in 1996. According to shipping documents, the gas was intended for medical research within Israel.

—"Holland Confirms It Gave Israel Nerve Gas Samples," *Jerusalem Post*, 28 April 1999. News p. 9.

### **6 April 1999**

Ali Kazak, the head of The General Palestinian Delegation to Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific, writes an Op-ed article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. In the article he asserts that Israel "possesses nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and the means to deliver them not only to every city and village in the entire Arab world

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but as far as Central Asia and to every city in Europe."

—"There is Only One Peaceful Option," *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 April 1999.

#### **2 April 1999**

The United Kingdom partially lifts a ban that did not allow Israeli nuclear scientists and those associated with the development of chemical and biological weapons to enter the U.K. for professional conferences or to visit research institutes.

—"Britain Suspends Ban on Israeli Nuclear Scientists," *Xinhua News Agency*, 2 April 1999.

#### **13 March 1999**

At a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, Palestine National Council member Abdullah Abdullah accused Israel of manufacturing chemical weapons at the IIBR.

—"PNC Member Accuses Israel of Making Non-conventional Arms," *Jerusalem Post*, 14 March 1999, p. 3.

#### **6 October 1998**

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak states that the Israelis are "in the process of arming themselves with nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons."

—"Egypt Concerned by Israeli Arsenal, Wants Balance of Forces," *Agence France Presse*, 6 October 1998.

#### **4 October 1998**

A report published in the *Sunday Times* of London states that Israeli F-16's have the capability to perform missions with chemical and biological weapons that were produced at the IIBR. According to the report, crews have been trained to load such munitions onto the planes within a matter of minutes. The article cites "military sources" as the sources for the report.

—Cordesman, Anthony H., "Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East," *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 15 April 2003; Mahnaimi, Uzi, "Israeli Jets Equipped for Chemical Warfare," *Sunday Times*, 4 October 1998.

#### **1 October 1998**

Israel confirms that an El Al Boeing 747 cargo aircraft which crashed near Amsterdam in 1992 was carrying a shipment of 190 liters of DMMP, a chemical that can be used in the production sarin. Israeli authorities however, contend that the shipment was for legitimate purposes and that the chemicals were approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce and were to be used to test filters. They also order an investigation into allegations that the DMMP was for its chemical weapons program. The shipment was destined for the IIBR.

—"Crashed Jet Held Nerve-Gas Chemical Dutch in Uproar Over Israeli Cargo." *The Toronto Star*, 2 October 1998, P A12; "El Al Confirms Crashed Plane Carried Substance for Nerve Gas," *Deutsche Presse-Agentur*, 1 October 1998.

#### **27 September 1998**

In an interview with reporters at the United Nations, Iranian president Mohammad Khatami states that Iran has in that past expressed concern that "Israel has become an arsenal of nuclear atomic weapons, chemical weapons, and weapons of mass destruction."

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—"Iran: Khatami Addresses News Conference During Visit to the UN," *BBC Worldwide Monitoring*, 27 September 1998.

#### **24 September 1998**

The Israeli Supreme Court accepts a complaint filed by the mayor of Ness Ziona, Yossi Shvo, calling for a halt in the expansion of the Israel Institute of Biological Research based on environmental concerns.

—"Crashed jet Held Nerve-gas Chemical Dutch in Uproar Over Israeli Cargo." *The Toronto Star*, 2 October 1998, P A12; Walker, Christopher "Israeli Court Blow to Germ War Plant," *The Times*, 25 September 1998.

#### **23 September 1998**

Israeli citizens living near the Israel Institute of Biological Research file an appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court to prevent the expansion of the institute.

—"Israelis File to Suit to Block Chemical Weapons Plant Expansion," Agence France Presse, 23 September 1998.

#### **19 August 1998**

The British magazine *Foreign Report* reports four workers have been killed and 25 injured at the IIBR in recent years due to separate accidents. It also reports the authorities also ordered the evacuation of the surrounding area following one of the accidents.

—Davis, Douglas "Report: 4 Killed, 25 Hurt, at Secret Institute," *Jerusalem Post*, 20 August 1998, p. 2.

#### **August 1998**

The Israeli newspaper *Yediot Ahronot*, publishes a long expose in which it calls the Israeli Institute of Biological Research (IIBR) "metropolitan Tel Aviv's most severe environmental hazard" and also raises questions regarding the secrecy surrounding institute's activities.

—Avner Cohen "Israel and Chemical/Biological Weapons: History, Deterrence, and Arms Control," *The Nonproliferation Review*, Fall-Winter 2001, Vol. 8, No. 3, p. 36.

#### **7 July 1998**

In a visit to Pakistan, the speaker of the Iranian Majlis, Ali-Akbar Nateq-Nuri states that "Israel serves as a nuclear and chemical weapons depot and poses a big threat to Muslims."

—"Iranian Speaker Warns Visiting Pakistani's of Plot to Fan Muslim Rivalries," *BBC Worldwide Monitoring*, 9 July 1998.

#### **14 May 1998**

A report by the Libyan news agency JANA criticizes U.S. sanctions against Pakistan for its nuclear program because the U.S. does not sanction Israel which according to the report maintains "vast quantities of biological and chemical weapons."

—"India: Libyan Agency Criticizes U.S. Sanctions," *BBC Worldwide Monitoring*, 14 May 1998.

#### **10-15 May 1998**

The Israeli company Kinetics Ltd. participates in the 6th international conference for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The conference talks about ways of detecting chemical agents and ways

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of protecting medical personnel in the events that such an agent is used. Companies involved in the conference display their new equipment that addresses these issues.

—"NBC Proliferation-6th International Symposium," *Intelligence Newsletter*, 5 March 1998, No. 330.

#### **May 1998**

A statement released by the official JANA news agency in Libya states that Libya is "'surprised by the United States' rush to impose sanctions on Pakistan when (Washington) won't even lift the smallest finger against the nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons which Israel has."

—Rechnagel, Charles "Middle East Ponders Consequences of First 'Islamic Bomb,'" *Agence France Presse*, 29 May 1998.

#### **17 May 1998**

Jose Mauricio Bustani, head of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) states that Israel is likely to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) sooner rather than later.

—"OPCW Inspects Sites in 30 Nations under Chemical Weapons Treaty," *Jiji Press Ticker Service*, 18 March 1998.

#### **1998**

The IIBR drops plans to expand its facilities in Ness Ziona due to local pressure exerted by the major and concerned citizens over the environmental and safety hazards associated with the suspected biological activities of the complex.

—Lavie, Mark, "Rumors Abound About Israeli Center," *Associated Press*, 24 October 1998; Walker, Christopher "Israeli Court Blow to Germ War Plant," *The Times*, 25 September 1998.

#### **6 October 1997**

Two Israeli Mossad agents are released after being captured for the attempted assassination of Hamas operative Khaled Meshaal.

—Blanche, Ed, "Israeli Intelligence Agencies Under Fire," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1 January 1998, p. 18.

#### **27 September 1997**

Hamas operative Khaled Meshaal is administered an antidote given to Jordanian officials by Israel. Israel gives the antidote as part of an agreement in which two Mossad agents who attempted to assassinate Meshaal, are released into Israeli custody.

—Blanche, Ed, "Israeli Intelligence Agencies Under Fire," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1 January 1998, p. 18.

#### **25 September 1997**

Two Israeli Mossad agents attempt to poison Hamas operative Khaled Meshaal with a "high tech" chemical weapon in Amman, Jordan. Meshaal is targeted because of his alleged involvement in two suicide attacks in Jerusalem on 30 July 1998 and 4 September 1998. It is believed that the chemical used in the attack is synthetic opiate called Fentanyl. The chemical can be absorbed through the skin and can kill a person in 48 hours. The chemical was reportedly manufactured at the Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR). Israeli officials also

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claim that Meshaal arranged for the shipping of the explosives used to bomb the Israeli Embassy in Argentina. They claim he also hired the operatives to carry out the operation. Two Mossad agents are captured in the operation by Jordanian officials.

—King, Peter "A Year After Mossad Attack, Jordan Wants to Forget, HAMAS to Fight on," *Agence France Presse*, 24 September 1998; Blanche, Ed, "Israeli Intelligence Agencies Under Fire," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1 January 1998, p. 18; Mahnaimi, Uzi, "Israeli Jets Equipped for Chemical Warfare," *Sunday Times*, 4 October 1998.

#### **4 September 1997**

Israel Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur tells the Conference on Disarmament that Israel will not ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention. Bentsur states that Israel cannot ratify the convention because no Arab state has signed it.

—"Israel Won't Ratify Chemical Weapons Pact," *Jerusalem Post*, 5 September 1997, p. 24.

#### **Early September 1997**

Agents from Israel's intelligence agency, the Mossad, practice using a fake chemical weapon against unknowing civilians. The exercise is used as a trial run for an operation in which Mossad agents plan to assassinate a Hamas operative named Khaled Meshaal.

—Blanche, Ed, "Israeli Intelligence Agencies Under Fire," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Vol. 10, No.1, 1 January 1998, p. 18.

#### **3 September 1997**

Israel Army Radio reports that Israel is to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention.

—"News at a Glance 1600 GMT," *Deutsche Presse Agentur*, 3 September 1997.

#### **1 August 1997**

Israeli officials approve a plan to assassinate Hamas operative Khamel Meshaal using a chemical weapon.

—Blanche, Ed, "Israeli Intelligence Agencies Under Fire," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1 January 1998, p. 18.

#### **1997**

Israel's position on the Chemical Weapons Convention is reviewed by a committee headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The committee decides not to submit the convention for ratification to the Israeli parliament.

—Avner Cohen "Israel and Chemical/Biological Weapons: History, Deterrence, and Arms Control," *The Nonproliferation Review*, Fall-Winter 2001, Vol. 8., No. 3, pp. 46-47.

#### **14 November 1996**

Deputy Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Dr. Hassan Rohani, states during his visit to Ireland that Israel and not Iran possesses nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

—MacConnell, Sean "Iranian Outlines Difficulties with Beef Trade," *The Irish Times*, 15 November 1996, p. 8.

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### **30 October 1996**

The Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), a rebel group located on the Papua New Guinea Island of Bougainville, accuses Israel of providing the Papua New Guinea Defense Forces (PNGDF) with "chemical bombs." According to a statement released by the group, the PNGDF is dropping the bombs by helicopters and the bombs are causing skin irritation and burning. The Israeli Embassy in Wellington denies the allegations.

—"Israel Denies Supplying 'Chemical Bombs' for Use on Bougainville," *BBC Summary of World Broadcasts*, 1 November 1996.

### **13 August 1996**

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi sends a telegraph to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat calling for Arabs to take measures to confront Israel's possession of chemical and biological weapons. The telegraph states that international institutions must disarm Israel of such weapons.

—"Gaddafi Calls for Measure to Face Up to Israel's Chemical Weapons," *Xinhua News Agency*, 13 August 1996.

### **9 August 1996**

The Libyan news agency JANA reports that Libya has called for an urgent meeting of the Arab League in the midst of allegations that Israel was developing chemical and biological weapons. According to the report, Libya has conducted extensive consultations with Arab League members "following information that the Israeli enemy possesses chemical and bacteriological weapons, including toxic gases, developed in a factory in the Negev desert." Libya reportedly has called the meeting because of the danger these developments pose.

—"Libya Calls Arab League Talks over Israel's Weapons Arsenal," *Agence France Presse*, 9 August 1996.

### **6 June 1996**

Egypt's state run press issues an article in which it states that "if the United States is really concerned about the issue of armament in the region, then it will have to start first with the nuclear and chemical weapons of Israel."

—"Egypt's State-run Press Accuses US of Interfering in Internal Affairs," *Xinhua News Agency*, 29 June 1996.

### **17 April 1996**

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in a speech states that Libya has the right to possess chemical weapons because Israel possesses nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. He also states that the U.S. should attack Israel because it possesses these weapons.

—"Libya is Entitled to Have Chemical Weapons, Gaddafi," *Deutsche Presse Agentur*, 17 April 1996; "Libya Again Denies US Allegation on Nuclear Weapon Plant," *Xinhua News Agency*, 17 April 1996.

### **28 January 1994**

According to the book *Critical Mass*, authored by Williams Burrows and Robert Windrem, Israel maintains a chemical weapons factory five floors below ground at Dimona.

—George, Alan "Israel Has Arsenal of 200 N-bombs," *Evening Standard*, 28 January 1994, p. 7.

### **8 November 1993**

An article in the U.S. magazine *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, states that Russia believes that Israel possesses chemical weapons. According to the article, a Russian intelligence report states that it believes that

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Israel possesses indigenous chemical weapons.

—"Israeli Missile Base Hidden Near Jerusalem, Report," Agence France Presse, 8 November 1993.

#### **8 March 1993**

The Arab League again rejects the Chemical Weapons Convention because it states that it cannot accept such a treaty as long as Israel still possesses chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.

—"Arab League Reiterates Rejection of Chemical Arms Ban Treaty," *The Xinhua General Overseas News Service*, 8 March 1993.

#### **20 February 1993**

The Libyan Foreign Ministry releases a statement in which it criticizes the West because "Israel's development of chemical and biological weapons is overlooked."

—"Libya Accuses West of 'Psychological Terrorism,'" *The Xinhua General Overseas News Service*, 20 February 1993.

#### **13 January 1993**

Israel signs the Chemical Weapons Convention.

#### **November 1992**

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres states that Israel will sign the Chemical Weapons Convention.

—"Lebanon Refuses to Sign Chemical Weapons Treaty in Paris," Agence France Presse, 15 December 1992.

#### **4 October 1992**

A Boeing 747 cargo plane operated by the Israeli airline El Al crashes into the Bijlmer neighborhood in Amsterdam, Holland. It is later learned that the plane was carrying a shipment of dimethylmethylphosphonate (DMMP), a chemical used to make sarin, to Israel.

—Christopher Walker "Dutch Link Poor Health to Jet Crash," *The Times*, 23 April 1999; Janet McBride "El Al Crash Report Said to be Critical of Dutch PM," *The Jerusalem Post*, 22 April 1999, News p. 3.

#### **July 1990**

Israeli Minister of Science, Yuval Ne'eman states that if Iraq uses chemical weapons Israel will retaliate "with the same merchandise." Ne'eman also proposes to the Israeli Cabinet that Israel should issue a credible chemical weapon threat in the face of the threat from Iraq's chemical weapons.

—"Israelis See Chemical Option Against Iraq," *New York Times*, 28 July 1990.

#### **1990**

A report by the United States Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) entitled "Offensive Chemical Warfare Programs in the Middle East," states that Israel maintains a chemical testing facility possibly in the Negev desert.

—"Chemical and Biological Weapons in the Middle East," *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 16 April 2002; Hogendoorn, E.J., "A Chemical Weapons Atlas," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, September/October 1997, [www.thebulletin.org](http://www.thebulletin.org), October 11, 2003.

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**6 February 1989**

The League of Arab States' Committee of Seven releases a statement that criticizes Israel's repressive actions against the Palestinian uprising. It condemns among other things, Israel's use of chemical weapons against the local Palestinian population.

—"Arab League's Committee of Seven-Statement," *TASS*, 7 February 1989.

**January-February 1989**

Under increasing public pressure to respond to regional chemical weapons proliferation, Israeli officials including Binyamin Netanyahu partially admit possession of a chemical weapons program.

—Mortimer, E., "Israel Hints It Keeps Chemical Weapons as Defensive Measure," *Financial Times*, 10 January 1989; *Arms Control Reporter*, February 1989, p. 704.

**22 December 1988**

The Arab League issues a statement that Israel was the first country to introduce chemical weapons to the Middle East.

—"Libya Denies U.S. Accusation of Chemical Arms Production," *The Xinhua General Overseas News Service*, 22 December 1988.

**4 December 1988**

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) accuses the Israeli Army of using a new chemical weapon against Palestinians living in the occupied territories. According to a statement released by the group, the new chemical weapon is causing various wounds and "organic complications." The PFLP cites evidence presented by Arab doctors who have treated victims in the villages of Tobay and Tamoun, as proof the Israel is using such weapons and calls on UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and international organizations that defend human rights, to investigate.

—"Israeli use of Chemical Weapons against Palestinians Denounced," *The Xinhua General Overseas News Service*, 4 December 1988.

**15 September 1988**

The Korean Committee for Asian-African Cooperation in Pyongyang denounces Israel for allegedly using chemical weapons and "germ warfare" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, killing many residents in the area.

—"Pyongyang Denounces Israel for Massacre of Palestinians," *The Xinhua General Overseas News Service*, 15 September 1988.

**30 August 1983**

A commentary written by Viktor Vinogradov for the Soviet Defense Ministry daily 'Krasnaya Zvezda' states that Israel and South Africa are working together on chemical weapons at a research institute operated by the South African Air Force.

—"RSA-Israeli Research on Racially Selective Mass Destruction Weapons," *BBC Summary of World Broadcasts*, 1 September 1983.

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### **5 July 1982**

The Soviet Union accuses the United States of providing Israel with 'barbarous' weapons. It states that these weapons, which include napalm, chemical weapons, and cluster and pellet bombs, are used in the Israel invasion of Lebanon.

—"Moscow Scores U.S. Role in Mideast," *United Press International*, 5 July 1982.

### **1 July 1982**

A commentary by the Soviet newswire TASS, states that reports from Beirut have stated that Israel is using chemical weapons including BZ nerve gas [sic.] in its invasion of Lebanon.

—"Alleged use of Nerve Gas in Lebanon," *BBC Summary of World Broadcasts*, 3 July 1982.

### **1974**

U.S. Lieutenant General E.H. Almquist tells the Senate Armed Forces Committee that Israel's chemical weapons program is operational.

—E.J. Hogendoorn, "A Chemical Weapons Atlas," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, September/October 1997, [www.thebulletin.org](http://www.thebulletin.org), October 11, 2003.

### **1970's**

Production of indigenous mustard and nerve agents begins.

—"China and Israel," *Economist Foreign Report*, 12 July 1984.

### **20 February 1969**

Israel accedes to the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which bans the use of chemical weapons in war.

### **Mid 1960's**

Israel upgrades its offensive chemical weapons capability in suspecting Egyptian chemical weapons advancements.

—Seymour Hersh, *The Samson Option*, (Random House, 1991), p. 63.

### **1960**

Israel collaborates with France on upgrading its chemical weapons. Israeli scientists make visits to the French chemical weapons testing site located at Beni Ounif, which is located in the Algerian Sahara.

—Seymour Hersh, *The Samson Option*, (NY: Random House, 1991), p. 64.

### **Mid 1950's**

Israel initiates its chemical weapons program.

—Avner Cohen, "Israel and Chemical/Biological Weapons: History, Deterrence, and Arms Control," *The Nonproliferation Review*, Fall-Winter 2001, Vol. 8, No. 3, p. 38.

### **1955**

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion launches a project to develop a "cheap non-conventional capability." Ben-Gurion orders that this capability be operational as soon as possible and before a war with Egypt.

—Aluf Benn, "The project that Preceded the Nuclear Option," *Ha'aretz*, 2 March 1995.

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### **1952**

The Science Corps (HEMED) becomes part of a group of Ministry of Defense (MOD) sponsored civilian research centers that are known as "Machons." Through this, Professor Ernst David Bergmann, a member of a group of scientists who pressured Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to establish a chemical and biological weapons program, establishes both the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) and the Israeli Institute of Biological Research (IIBR).

—Avner Cohen, "Israel and Chemical/Biological Weapons: History, Deterrence, and Arms Control," *The Nonproliferation Review*, Fall-Winter 2001, Vol. 8, No. 3, p. 33.

### **April 1948**

David Ben-Gurion writes a letter to Ehud Avriel, a Jewish Agency operative in Europe, telling him to seek out and recruit East European Jewish scientists who can "either increase the capacity to kill masses or to cure masses."

—Avner Cohen, "Israel and Chemical/Biological Weapons: History, Deterrence, and Arms Control," *The Nonproliferation Review*, Fall-Winter 2001, Vol. 8, No. 3, p. 27.

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