A spontaneous demonstration by tens of thousands of participants, following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s decision to dismiss Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, who had expressed concern at the damage that judicial reform would cause to the IDF’s state of readiness.

Back cover photo by: Reuters/Toby Melville

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www.shomrim.news/english
Our Mission

Empowering Democracy, Exposing Truth, and Transforming Societal Narratives

Shomrim – The Center for Media and Democracy is Israel’s only independent, non-profit investigative news organization whose unique model works in cooperation with for profit media outlets in order to generate change. Established in December 2019, its mission is to strengthen Israeli democracy through investigative journalism that holds power accountable and dives deeply into stories that might otherwise go untold. In an era inundated with information, the imperative for unbiased, in-depth reporting, especially concerning issues of importance to underserved communities, has never been more critical. Shomrim stands as a beacon of journalistic integrity and commitment to the public’s right to know.
A Message to Our Stakeholders

No one could have foreseen the tumultuous events of 2023. The abhorrent October 7 attack by Hamas, which ignited the “Swords of Iron” conflict, has impacted every aspect of our personal and professional lives, and continues as we write this letter. This unprecedented reality has thrust us into the most intense period we’ve ever experienced.

We wish to commend our staff, who swiftly recognized their crucial duty to deliver reliable journalism to a public gripped by panic and chaos. Despite facing personal challenges, fears, and concerns on a daily basis, our entire team rallied together, supporting one another, and remained focused on delivering impactful stories. This was especially challenging considering the preceding ten months during which they had tirelessly dedicated themselves to safeguarding democracy amidst governmental decisions aimed at reshaping Israel’s judicial system.

The October 7th attack and the ensuing war compelled us to extend our concern beyond our own team to the journalists on the frontlines. Thanks to the unwavering commitment and support of our funders, under the leadership of Laura Lauder and Julie Sandorf, we established an Emergency Fund to provide emotional support grants to 172 journalists. This initiative was both unique and humbling, allowing us to offer life-changing assistance to those who often risked their lives as first responders to provide the public with vital news and testimonies from the frontlines. Many of these journalists continue to cover the war, more than five months after the initial attack.

Until the day of the attack, Shomrim was dedicated to delivering unique, diverse, fact-based stories. As evidenced in this report, Shomrim continued to be involved in international collaborations that were published in several for-profit media outlets and strengthened its partnerships with print, online, radio and TV outlets.
These are pivotal times for the State of Israel, with fundamental and existential questions permeating nearly every conversation, whether social or professional. The war continues, hostages remain captive, rehabilitation and healing efforts are insufficient, and the political landscape remains chaotic. In this reality, the importance of Shomrim's work cannot be overstated. There is a critical need for an in-depth, reliable journalism outlet. As highlighted in this report, our collaborations, both locally and internationally, are increasing, and our audience continues to grow, with more followers on social media and increased newsletter registrations. This demonstrates the public’s hunger for reliable information and their demand for accountability from leaders, a responsibility that Shomrim takes seriously.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our supporters. Your unwavering commitment empowers us to produce impactful journalism that significantly contributes to Israel’s democracy. We are honored by your trust in us and our work, and we hope you will continue to stand by us. In these challenging times, your support and friendship are invaluable. The kind words and interest you’ve shown us during these months inspire us to persevere in our mission.

Allow us to conclude this letter with a prayer for the safe return of the hostages. Not a day passes without us thinking of them and their families. We pray for the healing of the wounded and mourn the lives lost. Above all, we pray for an end to the war and hope for a future of peace.

Thank you,
Eyal Abrahami, Editor-in-Chief Algona Vinograd, CEO
Swords of Iron War

On October 7, Hamas launched a devastating attack on Israel, marking one of the most horrifying incidents in the country’s 75-year history. The ongoing Swords of Iron War, which has yet to conclude, is reshaping and will undoubtedly continue to reshape the State of Israel and Israeli society in ways yet unknown. In these critical times, unbiased and independent journalism plays a crucial role in keeping the citizenry well-informed. However, in light of the complex reality of the ongoing war, the overwhelming amount of information and the lack of clarity, Shomrim initially put more focus on explanatory journalism while continuing its investigative journalism. The goal was to educate, to examine complex stories, to spotlight issues that were not being covered in mainstream journalism and to present the multiple arguments and positions in order to distinguish between what is accurate and what is not, and report the findings accordingly.

Among the noteworthy stories published by Shomrim is Roni Singer’s article delving into the intricate and contentious issue of justice for the captured Hamas terrorists involved in the October 7 attack. The challenges stem from factors such as the number of terrorists apprehended, the nature of the crimes committed, the difficulty in gathering evidence amidst the horrific aftermath, and the complexity of the battles. A key question arises regarding the most appropriate system for prosecution – whether the military justice system, the criminal system, or an international tribunal. Published on the N12 news website, Shomrim's article garnered over 100,000 views, and subsequent similar stories were featured in major newspapers, including Calcalist and Haaretz.

Additionally, Milan Czerny, Shomrim’s newest team member and an expert in open-source intelligence (OSINT) journalism revealed a disinformation campaign traced to the Kremlin that was conducted during the war with the aim of increasing division...
and mistrust in Israeli society. The campaign was part of Russia’s ongoing efforts to sow instability in Western democracies and countries. This investigative story by Shomrim was based on OSINT analysis and advanced digital tools and was published on N12. It garnered over 50,000 views.

Other Shomrim articles examined how the war affected different populations in Israeli society. Fadi Amun wrote about Druze society in the shadow of the war and Ayelet Kreuzer covered the changes ultra-Orthodox streams are undergoing in relation to the State and to the IDF.

In light of the inadequate response of the State in dealing with the overwhelming number of evacuees in the north and the south, Shuki Sade spotlighted gaps in
rights and resilience among those evacuated as a community and displaced individuals, and the pressure-cooker environment of temporary lodgings. Following the publication of this story, a Knesset discussion was held on the rising violence at the evacuee hotels. Sade was interviewed during the discussion and the story received wide-ranging exposure and follow-up in the media.

Chen Shalita delved into the sensitive issue of interviewing the young hostages who were freed from Hamas captivity. Investigators faced the challenge of striking a delicate balance between extracting potentially life-saving information about hostages still in Gaza and the recognition that a poorly phrased question could reignite trauma, resulting in enduring emotional harm.

Shomrim published 49 stories and 31 data stories from the outbreak of the war on October 7 until the end of 2023, and continues its exclusive coverage and investigative stories in 2024.
Emergency Resilience Fund for Israel’s Frontline Journalists

“The soul of the country rests in abiding by democratic norms, which includes support for the very institutions that protect these norms – an independent press powered by journalists who have the strength and resiliency to inform their fellow citizens and the world at large.”

Julie Sandorf, President, the Charles H. Revson Foundation and Alona Vinograd, CEO, Shomrim, Times of Israel Op-Ed.

Two weeks after the horrific 10/7 Hamas massacre and the outbreak of the Swords of Iron War, Shomrim established the Emergency Resilience Fund for Israel’s Frontline Journalists. It heard from colleagues throughout the country about the terrible mental toll of the war coverage, from witnessing indescribable atrocities to risking their lives daily in combat zones.

The critical need to assist these journalists, photographers, videographers and sound people in the field was clear. The Fund set a modest goal of raising $200,000 (728,410 NIS) to provide grants of 8,000 NIS (some $2,197) to approximately 80 journalists, with the aim of providing direct financial assistance to meet immediate needs.

The response was overwhelming. Within a couple of weeks, 10 philanthropies, including the Gary and Laura Lauder, Charles H. Revson, Leon Levy, A.Z. and Ruth Fleishman and Knight Foundations, UJA – Federation of New York, JFNA and the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, among others, contributed over $400,000, enabling the distribution of funds to 172 journalists.

As one veteran journalist said, “I have covered many previous conflicts, including the Second Lebanon War and the Second Intifada. But nothing was like this. Nothing prepared me for what I saw. I am overwhelmed and am now able to reach out for much needed emotional support.” Another wrote, “I began therapy to help me acquire the tools to deal with the trauma that I, and many of my peers, were exposed to.”

Through assisting journalists, the Fund aligned with Shomrim’s mission to strengthen the flow of trustworthy, fact-based, and data-driven information to the public, and safeguard Israel’s democracy.

Shomrim thanks its many partners for their generous and immediate support.
Story Highlights and Impact 2023

“The most important measure of our work is whether it has an impact. We measure impact not in terms of audience size or honors but in real-world change.”

ProPublica

Following Shomrim’s 2022 strategic process, in which measuring and actively driving impact were major goals, Shomrim established an impact measurement team led by VP Doron Sela. Throughout 2023, the team worked on implementing an impact tracking system, systematizing tracing, screening potential stories by impact expectation, and establishing impact measures and KPIs. Impact is now measured on a sliding scale, ranging from raising significant public awareness about an issue, to having decision-makers address the issue, to effecting actual change in behavior, policies, practices, or legislation. The stories highlighted below are listed in order of highest impact, showcasing real-world change. All of these stories and many more can be found on Shomrim’s website.
An investigation by Shomrim, in collaboration with CNN and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), published on December 21, 2023, revealed that Hamas’ chief financier, a Sudanese national named Abdelbasit Hamza, maintained a series of business interests across Europe and a partnership in a gold mine with the Egyptian government. The investigation uncovered details of Hamza’s portfolio of businesses in Europe, part of a network of global assets previously estimated by Sudanese anti-corruption officials as worth over $2 billion. The article was posted on CNN’s global website, and received widespread exposure in Israel, including Ynet, Calcalist, Times of Israel, Mako and Ha’aretz.

**Impact:** The international impact of this story was staggering. One month after publication, the European Union imposed dedicated sanctions against Hamza and five other individuals suspected of having ties with Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. This is the first time that the European Union has taken such measures against people linked to these two terrorist organizations.

A few days after the sanctions, Hamza was arrested in Egypt.
Extremne Israeli Group Takes Root in US with Fundraising Bid

Uri Blau

Shomrim’s joint investigation with the Associated Press (AP) news agency revealed that the Israeli nonprofit organization “Shalom Esreich” that financially supports the murderer of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the murderer of a Palestinian family in 2015, the murderer of a girl at a Gay Pride Parade in Jerusalem in 2015, and other Jews convicted of nationalist crimes, is raising funds in the United States. The American donations are tax-deductible in the US, meaning that the American government indirectly subsidizes these contributions. The article, published in AP, was picked up by over 100 international media outlets. In Israel, it was published in leading media including: Calcalist, Ynet, Haaretz, Jerusalem Post and The Times of Israel.

Impact: Following the publication of the investigation, the World of Tzedeka organization, a registered 501(c)3 organization in the United States that serves as a pipeline for transferring donations to a number of nonprofits in Israel, and through which donations were transferred to Shalom Esreich, announced that it would stop transferring donations to the organization.

Amiram Ben-Uliel is brought for a verdict in the case of the 2015 arson attack, which killed a Palestinian toddler and his parents in the West Bank village of Duma. Photo by: Reuters
A n investigation by Shomrim dove into the neglect in the southern Tel Aviv neighborhood of Neve Sha’an an. It found more than 30 brothels operating illegally, drug dealers and illegal gambling in broad daylight in residential areas. Exclusive documentation revealed that the police made a conscious decision not to enforce the law in order to prevent this pocket of crime from spilling over into other neighborhoods. The result was the abandonment of the residents of the neighborhood, of illegal sex trafficking, prostitution and drugs, all without police intervention or enforcement. The story was also published by N12.

Impact: A group of neighborhood resident filed a case with the Supreme Court against the policy of the police and their lack of enforcement in the neighborhood. A few days after the publication of the article, the police raided 11 of the 31 brothels and closed them down. In May, the Court criticized the police for their lack of enforcement, citing Shomrim’s article.
Shomrim uncovered a concerning pattern surrounding the Ministry of National Security’s procurement during the Swords of Iron War. Despite objections from senior police officers, the Ministry proceeded with multi-million-dollar equipment purchases without issuing tenders. Notably, a $22 million acquisition of protective vests which failed standard police ballistics tests, leading the Israel Police to reject them. This instance reflects just a fraction of the Ministry’s unprecedented involvement in police procurement, as revealed by Shomrim. An earlier investigation by the organization exposed further irregularities, including the Ministry’s procurement of tens of thousands of rifles from a disqualified manufacturer, without consulting senior police officials. The findings and story were both published in Calcalist.

Impact: In a discussion that took place in the Knesset’s Internal Security Committee a day after the publication of the investigation, Knesset Member Gilad Kariv cited the investigation when he asked the senior adviser of the Minister for National Security about the purchase of the equipment. Also following the publication of the investigation, the Movement for Quality of Government in Israel appealed to the state auditor with a request to examine the conduct of the Ministry of National Security in the procurement of police equipment. A few days later, the State Comptroller’s Office announced that an investigation had been opened regarding the purchase of the equipment. A follow-up investigation by Shomrim exposed that the vests failed an additional ballistics test carried out by another independent lab.

Roni Singer

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir.
Photo by Reuters Ammar Awad, adapted by Noam Temari
In 2022, a series of collaborative investigative reports by Shomrim and Kan 11, Israel’s public broadcaster, uncovered alarming conditions within hostels for individuals with disabilities in Israel. Through hidden camera footage and personal interviews, the reports exposed instances of physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and mistreatment of society’s most vulnerable individuals. Additionally, they highlighted the apparent ineffectiveness of the Ministry of Welfare, tasked with overseeing these hostels but failing to act.

**Impact:** In 2022, the Ministry of Welfare established a special committee, chaired by Judge Shlomit Dotan, to examine the conduct of the institutions. During the committee’s deliberations, Shomrim’s findings were presented to the committee and mentioned by parties who appeared before it. Shomrim learned that this provoked an in-depth and lengthy discussion among the members of the committee. In 2023, the committee’s conclusions were published, which recommended the closure of the institutions within five years and a transition to a community integration model. The Minister of Welfare announced his acceptance of the committee’s conclusions and his willingness to work to implement them. However, following the outbreak of the war, the Ministry of Welfare announced that the implementation would be postponed. Shomrim continues to closely follow this story.
In late 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic and following the dissolution of the 23rd Knesset, the Ministry of the Interior, led by then-Minister Aryeh Deri (Shas), launched a $194 million project aimed at aiding disadvantaged families facing food insecurity. This initiative involved distributing funds through cards for purchasing food. However, the decision to entrust the project to the Ministry of the Interior instead of involving relevant professionals from the Ministry of Welfare and the National Council for Food Security sparked criticism, particularly from experts in food security. Concerns were raised about potential discrimination in the distribution criteria, with worries that the ultra-Orthodox community might receive preferential treatment over other needy populations.

By 2023, as part of coalition agreements within the 37th government, the food stamp program expanded to over $416 million. However, a freedom of information request initiated by Shomrim, with support from the Freedom of Information Movement, unveiled troubling findings about the pilot program. In-depth analysis revealed how the criteria for the food vouchers were designed so that the ultra-Orthodox community disproportionately benefited from the grants, while other marginalized groups, notably the Bedouin, were not receiving proportionate vouchers. The story was also published by Calcalist and later followed up by most major media outlets, including The Marker, Ha’Aretz, Kan 11 and Kan Radio.

**Impact:** After Shomrim’s investigative report, the Council for Food Security voiced opposition to the distribution criteria for vouchers, citing concerns about discrimination. Shortly before this, the government’s legal advisor highlighted legal challenges associated with the current distribution criteria in an opinion to ministers. Additionally, the Budget Division of the Ministry of Finance raised concerns about unequal distribution and favoritism towards the ultra-Orthodox population in their separate analysis of coalition funds.
Despite these professional opinions and opposition, the government persisted in promoting the voucher program based on the existing criteria. Subsequently, the Movement for Quality Government in Israel petitioned the High Court, challenging the voucher distribution criteria. The petition referenced data and quoted from Shomrim’s investigation. In response, the court suspended the program’s implementation pending the petition’s hearing. In September, after the state stated to the court that it would consider transferring the program to the Ministry of Welfare, the Supreme Court ruled that the program can continue, subject to changes in the distribution criteria.
For Arabs in Israel, Coming Out is a Matter of Life or Death

Fadi Amun

A sensitive investigation by Shomrim journalist Fadi Amun looked at the distressing situation faced by members of the LGBTQ community from the Arab community in Israel. The article included interviews with gay Arabs, some of whom were willing to be identified and others who asked to remain anonymous; they described the difficulties and problems that Arab members of the LGBTQ community typically face – including credible and tangible threats to their lives. The article was also published on the Mako website.

Tragically, the day after the article was published, 18-year-old Sarit Ahmed Shakour was murdered. Subsequently, an indictment was filed against her brother, who is suspected of having commissioned the murder due to Sarit’s sexual orientation. The case highlighted the importance of Fadi’s investigation and how vital it is to get the plight of gay Arabs in Israel onto the public agenda.

Impact: Fadi’s reporting was covered widely by the Israeli media and he was asked to give interviews to the Kan Culture radio station, as well as podcasts published by Channel 12 News, Kan 11 and Ynet.

The Knesset’s Special Committee on Young Israelis held an emergency session to discuss the LGBTQ community in Arab society. Fadi was asked to attend the discussion, to present the findings of his investigation, and to represent all those who could not attend in person due to fear for their personal safety and in order not to reveal their identities.
Following months of work, this unprecedented Shomrim investigation provided a comprehensive picture of how the city of Lod has become Israel’s murder capital. Using an interactive map, Shomrim journalist Daniel Dolev highlighted the city’s 70 homicides over the past decade – the majority of which remain unsolved.

In a first-of-its-kind collaboration with Yedioth Ahronoth – the most popular print newspaper in Israel – the article was also published in the paper’s “Seven Days” weekend supplement.

The Kohelet Forum, which is the ideological driving force behind the government’s judicial overhaul, has been at the epicenter of public awareness and discourse in Israel for many years, but its modus operandi in the public sphere has remained a mystery.

In a groundbreaking series of five articles, Uri Blau and Shuki Sadeh exposed the behind-the-scenes dealings of the organization. Their investigations exposed the trail of donations that keeps the Kohelet Forum running, its ties with Israeli decision-makers, and the network of organizations that operate in its orbit and with its support.

The investigations were also published in TheMarker and Calcalist, and were followed up by various radio stations and international media.
In a series of five articles, Shomrim journalist Shuki Sadeh uncovered the mechanisms that exist to perpetuate land distribution in Israel’s kibbutzim and moshavim, and how complex bureaucratic measures have been put in place to ensure that land remains in the hands of a few interested parties. In another three-part series, Sadeh revealed how acceptance committees in small communities are also being used not only to keep certain populations out but also to ensure that only a select group of people have the right to be accepted into the community. These investigations were also published in TheMarker and garnered much public interest.

The judicial overhaul and the subsequent public protest exposed the profound ideological differences that exist within Israeli society. To fully understand these differences, it is necessary to go back to the place where it all starts – the education system and the textbooks which shape the narrative.

Over the course of a three-part series, Chen Shalita took a deep dive into the textbooks used in schools operated by the ultra-Orthodox education system and in those run by the national ultra-Orthodox stream.

These investigations uncovered a situation in which students are presented with an alternative history, in which everything revolves around God and is designed to deepen students’ religious faith. Secularism and Zionism are portrayed as the root of all evil; the IDF was only victorious in war thanks to divine “miracles and wonders” and there is no mention whatsoever of those parts of the Declaration of Independence which talk about values like equality and freedom of religion.
Shomrim worked in cooperation with Haaretz for the first time to produce this investigation: two journalists and their editorial staff worked together from the very beginning of the project – from collecting data and testimonies and uncovering the documents to publishing the investigation in both media outlets. This is an important and significant model of operation that Shomrim intends to expand to include additional media outlets. The investigation exposed the modus operandi of Tel Aviv Municipality’s Mesila unit, in cases of foreign children placed in foster families. The testimonies by the foster families revealed that the authorities were brushing off the foster parents’ concerns and rushing to get the children back with their biological mothers even if nothing had changed regarding the mothers’ ability to raise their children. Along the way, the foster families claim, there were lies, dismissive attitudes, and a lack of concern for the children's welfare.

In 2023, Shomrim kept close tabs and published follow-up articles on issues such as:

- The misuse of the role of honorary consul.
- The mishandling of the opioid epidemic in Israel.
- The severe food insecurity suffered by students in Israeli schools.
- The growing phenomenon of postmortem insemination and the lack of regulation.
- The number of Israelis who have been officially recognized as missing.
- Follow-up articles on ministers’ conflict-of-interest declarations.

Other stories published by Shomrim in 2023 include:

- The growing number of Druze residents of the Golan Heights who are applying for Israeli citizenship.
- The expansion of the powers of the rabbinical courts, in the judicial overhaul that no one is talking about.
- The assault on the independence of the civil service.
- Gender violence in Arab society and the price of silence.
- Over 100 data stories.
International Collaborations

“Given the multiple crises we are living through, investigative journalism is all the more important.”

Arianna Huffington

In 2023, Shomrim took a significant leap forward in the international arena, with a number of high-profile and impactful collaborations. Shomrim continues to be the only Israeli media organization that is a member of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICI), Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and European Investigative Collaborations (EIC). This year, Shomrim’s stories were published, among others, in the Washington Post, AP, CNN, Der Spiegel (Germany), Le Sior (France), Reportes United (Greece), NRC (Netherlands) and Expresso (Portugal).
After the outbreak of war on October 7, Shomrim published two investigations in cooperation with CNN. The first revealed how Qatar transferred millions of dollars to the terrorist organization Hamas with the knowledge and consent of the Israeli government.

The second investigation exposed Hamas financier Abdelbasit Hamza. Following the terrorist attack on October 7, the United States announced Hamza’s inclusion on its sanctions list. Despite this, the joint investigation by Shomrim and CNN revealed that Hamza continued to own properties and companies in Europe and conduct business, including in Spain and Cyprus. Subsequently, the Cypriot government announced it would investigate the matter. Additionally, the United States government offered a monetary reward of $10 million for information on Hamza’s activities. In Israel, the investigation garnered widespread attention and was published in outlets such as Calcalist, Times of Israel, Mako, The Marker, Ynet, and Kan 11.
During a state visit to Israel in 2005, Putin encountered an elderly Jewish widow from Russia who had been one of his teachers in high school. After a brief reunion, the Russian leader allegedly arranged to purchase a $208,000 apartment for her. In a collaborative investigation involving Shomrim, the ICIJ, and the Washington Post, financial documents were revealed indicating that the funds for the apartment’s purchase were transferred from the bank account of a company owned by Roman Abramovich. Abramovich, a Russian oligarch with Israeli citizenship, has long denied any financial ties to the Kremlin and managed to evade sanctions and restrictions until the invasion of Ukraine. Now, it appears that a company under his ownership transferred approximately a quarter of a million dollars to a cause personally significant to Putin. The investigation uncovered both direct and indirect connections between Putin and various oligarchs.

In addition to the groundbreaking joint publication with the Washington Post, this story was covered by leading economic newspapers The Marker and Calcalist, as well as Ynet, Mako, and N12.
An international investigation, spearheaded by European Investigative Collaborations and involving Shomrim alongside 15 European media outlets, delved into the practices of the Intellexa group, which develops and markets spyware software. Drawing from hundreds of confidential documents, the investigation uncovered how the company’s cyber-surveillance tools were peddled to dictatoral regimes.

In a comprehensive series of over five investigations, Shomrim journalist Daniel Dolev uncovered the ties between former Prime Minister Olmert and the company, revealing his supposed role as its representative in a meeting with German intelligence agency officials. The investigations also exposed how the company’s spyware infiltrated the devices of regime opponents in Egypt. The sale of spyware to Vietnam was camouflaged within a contract allegedly signed between a Dubai-based company and one from Hong Kong. Targets of the surveillance campaign included senior European Union officials, members of the United States Congress, opposition activists, journalists, and academics. Intellexa has long been listed under US government sanctions.

In Israel, Shomrim’s findings were disseminated across major media outlets, including Kan 11, The Marker, Calcalist, Israel Hayom, Haaretz (both Hebrew and English editions), Walla, and N12.

**Impact:** In early March 2024, the US government announced that it is adding Tal Dilian, founder of Spyware company Intellexa, to it’s sanctions list, for the company’s role in developing and selling ‘commercial spyware technology used to target Americans’ including U.S. government officials, journalists, and researchers, as exposed in Shomrim’s investigation.
Israel’s Navy advised a German supplier on how to snag a Defense Ministry contract; leak suggests corruption in arms deal between Israel company and Uganda.

Daniel Dolev and Uri Blau

Following the leak of documents from German aerospace and arms component manufacturer Hensoldt, a joint investigation by European Investigative Collaborations (EIC), in which Shomrim was the Israeli representative, German newspaper Der Spiegel, and the Greek website Reporters United, revealed how the Israeli Navy tried to help the company win a Defense Ministry tender to upgrade equipment on the submarines that Israel bought from another German company, ThyssenKrupp. Those submarines hit the headlines in Israel in 2017, when police opened an investigation into the deal and the circumstances of their purchase. Eventually, indictments were filed against several of those involved.

Another investigation in the same series uncovered suspicions of corruption in an arms deal between an Israeli company called BIRD Aerosystems, which is partly owned by FIMI Opportunity Funds, and the government of Uganda.

Former President Rivlin in a visit to Kiel’s shipyard’s executives in Germany.
Photo: Amos Ben Gershon - GPO
Following a massive leak in Cyprus from six companies that provide financial services, an international investigation by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists – in which Shomrim was the Israeli representative – revealed how the Mediterranean island had become a haven for the fortunes of Russian oligarchs and billionaires and how European regulators have failed to enforce the law and to supervise activities there. The leaked documents date between the mid-1990s and April 2022 and reveal how Cypriot accountants, including some representing accounting giant PwC, helped in some cases to transfer the money and assets of Russian oligarchs who had been subjected to personal sanctions following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

International Journalism Festival - Perugia 2023

For the first time, Shomrim participated in the Perugia International Journalism Festival, Europe’s largest annual media event featuring over 188 sessions and 539 speakers across its five-day program. Shomrim’s Editor-in-Chief, Eyal Abrahami, was invited to join a panel discussion focused on collaborative investigations: exploring how cross-border collaborations deliver powerful impact. Abrahami showcased Shomrim’s initiatives and underscored the challenges and potential impact of international collaborations among diverse media organizations.
Shomrim in Numbers

Shomrim at a Glance

144
Published articles

53
English-translated articles

138
Publication collaborations

50
Hebrew newsletters

8
English newsletters

18,000
Hebrew newsletter subscriptions; an 120% increase from 2022
### Article Category Breakdown

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<td>Short-term investigative</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explanatory* (after October 7)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-ups</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Features</td>
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<tr>
<td>Features with investigative elements</td>
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<td>October 7 attack and the Israel-Gaza War</td>
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“It is also critical that we support a vibrant Israeli press already in the business of collecting the facts that rebut misinformation with accurate reporting informed by experience, expertise and understanding of historical context.”

Alona Vinograd, CEO, Shomrim
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Guy Zohar, Journalist and News Presenter, Host of current affairs show Me'hatsad Hasheni on KAN 11 channel

Audit Committee

Prof. Moshe Zviram, Coller School of Management at Tel Aviv University
Benjamin Zeliger, Lawyer

Legal Counseling

Attorney Ofer Doron, Cohen, Ben-Ner, Doron and Co. Law Firm
Media Partners

Shomrim’s media partners include:

**TV Channels**
- Kan 11 (Israeli Public Broadcast) News
- Channel 12 News
- Channel 13 News
- Channel 14 News
- Knesset Channel

**Online Outlets**
- Ynet
- N12 (channel 12 digital)
- Mako
- The Times of Israel
- Jerusalem Post
- Behadrei Haredim (Ultra-Orthodox)
- Walla
- Sruigm
- Arutz Sheva
- Relevant
- The Hottest Place in Hell
- Bokra (Arabic)

**Radio**
- Glz
- Kan (Israel Public Broadcast)
- Kol Ba’Rama (Ultra-Orthodox)

**International Outlets**
- CNN
- Washington Post
- AP
- ICIJ
- OCCRP
- Der Spiegel
- The Guardian
- ABC News
- LA Times
- Reporters United
- The Forward

**Newspapers**
- Calcalist
- The Marker
- Ha’Aretz
- Ha’Aretz (Arabic)
- Yediot Ahronot
- Yisrael Ha’yom
- Maariv
Philanthropic Partners

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead, anthropologist

Laura and Gary Lauder Family Venture Philanthropy Fund, Founders

Anonymous Foundation
Anonymous Foundation
Charles H. Revson Foundation
The Moriah Fund

Gerson Bakar Foundation
Libitzky Family Foundation
Feldman Foundation

Recanati Foundation
Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture
Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
The Meyer and Deanne Sharlin Foundation

Emergency Resilience Fund for Israel’s Frontline Journalists

Charles H. Revson Foundation; Laura and Gary Lauder Family Venture Philanthropy Fund; Jewish Federations of North America; Anonymous Foundation; Anonymous Foundation; UJA Federation of New York; Knight Foundation (committed); Fleishman Foundation; Anonymous Foundation; Leon Levy Foundation; The Stein Family Democracy Fund; The Feldman Foundation; Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco; The David Berg Foundation; Anonymous Foundation; Gil Perez; Marc and Lauren Shenfield; Marie C. Lippman
## Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laura and Gary Lauder Family Venture Philanthropy Fund</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Donations</td>
<td>595,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Reserves</td>
<td>165,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations designated for Strategic Process</td>
<td>42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 Previous Year Outstanding</td>
<td>242,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,044,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(USD 3.5)

* Figures as of January 2023, prior to financial audit and do not include Emergency Resilience Fund

## Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newsroom &amp; Special Projects</td>
<td>1,082,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operational Salaries</td>
<td>184,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent &amp; Offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal &amp; Reserves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023 Outstanding</td>
<td>234,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,044,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Figures as of January 2023, prior to financial audit and do not include Emergency Resilience Fund

**For the full report submitted to the Registrar of Associations, please visit Guidestar ([Hebrew](#))**