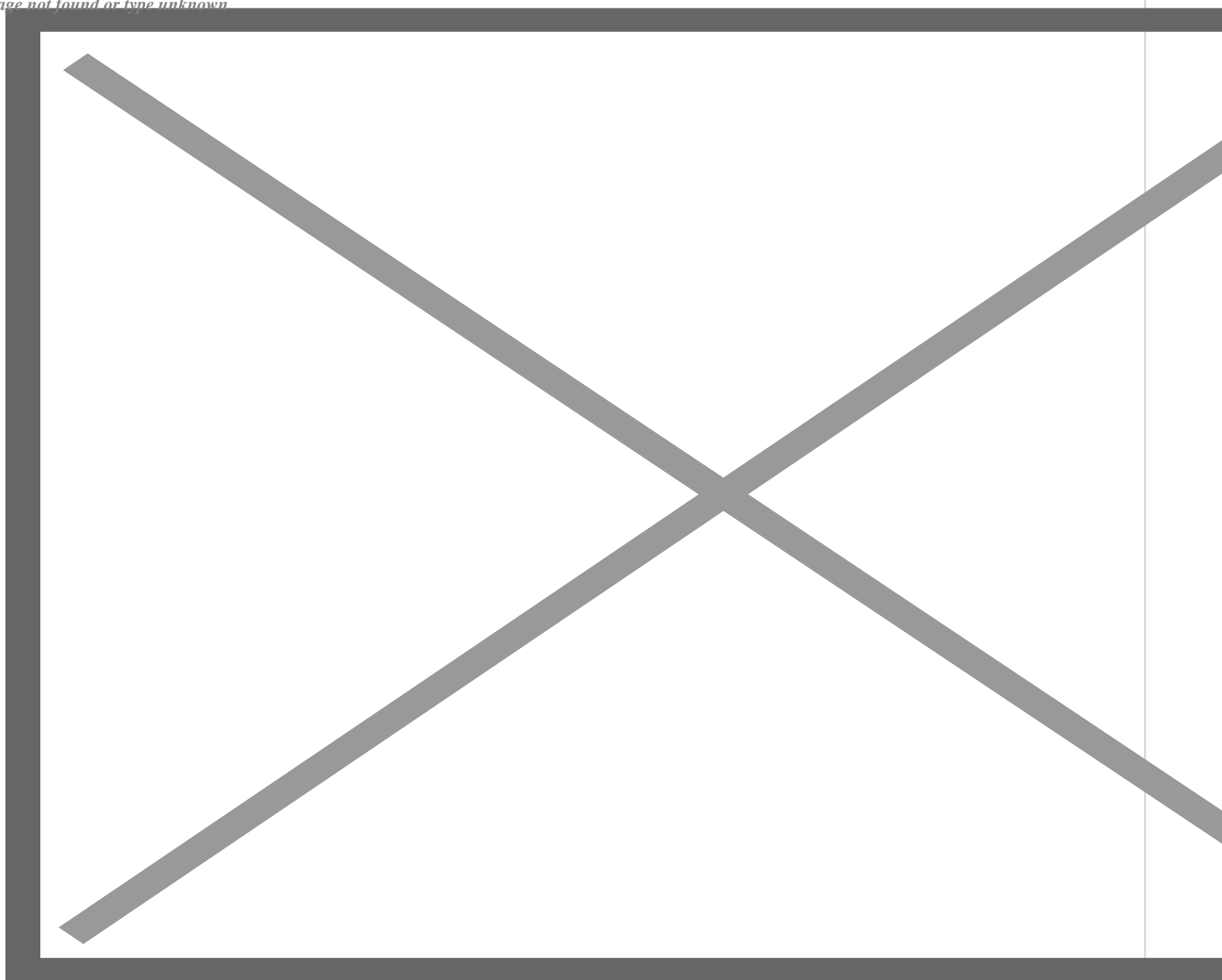


Israeli labor union calls for general strike against Netanyahu

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Demonstrators protest outside the home of Histadrut Chairman Arnon Bar-David, calling on him to announce on a general strike (File Photo: Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

Tel Aviv, September 1 (RHC)-- A national call by Israel's most important labor union for a total strike on Monday, advocates for a negotiation to free the hostages held in Gaza.

After the Israeli Army recovered the bodies of six kidnapped hostages, Israel's main labor union, Histadrut, today called for a general strike in support of a negotiation to free those held in the Gaza Strip and against the government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Starting tomorrow [Monday] at 6:00 a.m. (local time), the entire Israeli economy will be on hold," said Histadrut chairman Arnon bar David. Although the union has not specified the duration of the demonstration, one of the actions will take place at Ben Gurion International Airport. All flights will be cancelled there beginning at 8:00 a.m. (local time).

After the recovery of the six bodies of Israeli prisoners, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been the focus of criticism for obstructing negotiations with the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas. Earlier, the army recovered six other bodies in the city of Khan Yunis.

While relatives of those detained in Gaza demand that the politician agree to an exchange with Hamas, former Defense Minister Benny Gantz accuses him of trying to buy time for political reasons and calls on citizens to demonstrate against the government.

In the midst of these circumstances, the Israeli Ministry of Finance announced today an imminent economic catastrophe. Local media reported a meeting between economic leaders to force the largest union organization to declare a strike.

In order to pressure the government to reach a ceasefire agreement in Gaza, dozens of businesses and restaurants decided to close their doors this Sunday.

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