

## 04252024 NEWS SPECIAL

**US, 17 other countries release joint statement demanding Hamas release the hostages**  
*Hamas leaders on the outside say all sorts of things, but the decision-makers are inside Gaza, living deep underground and holding the hostages*

By [HANNAH SARISOHN](#) APRIL 25, 2024 16:05 **Updated:** APRIL 25, 2024 20:17

**The US, along with leaders from 17 countries whose citizens are also held hostage in Gaza, released a joint statement on Thursday for the first time during the conflict, calling on Hamas to release the remaining hostages.**

**A senior administration official said the cohort of countries tried to initiate a joint statement earlier during the war but were unable to come to an agreement due to different views of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.**

**"We call for the immediate release of all hostages held by Hamas and Gaza now for over 200 days. They include our citizens," the statement said. "The fate of the hostages and the civilian population in Gaza who are protected under international law is of international concern."**

**The version of the joint statement released on Thursday had been in the works for the past two weeks, the official said.**

**Ceasefire to Gaza just for release of women, wounded, elderly, and sick**

**The deal on the table that would bring a ceasefire to Gaza simply with the release of women, wounded, elderly, and sick hostages is ready to go, a senior administration official said, and Hamas has rejected that.**



*Demonstrators protest calling for the release of Israeli hostages held in the Gaza Strip and against the current Israeli government outside Hakiryia Base in Tel Aviv, April 20, 2024. (credit: Itai Ron/Flash90)*

**The statement is signed by leaders from the United States, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Thailand and the United Kingdom.**

**According to the statement, the leaders said they emphasize the deal on the table which would bring an immediate and prolonged ceasefire, facilitate a surge of necessary humanitarian assistance and lead to a credible end of hostilities.**

**"Gazans would be able to return to their homes and their lands with preparations beforehand to ensure shelter and humanitarian provisions," according to the statement.**

**The official denied allegations that Israel is preventing the deal.**

**The US deal was a key topic in the last conversation President Biden had with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about a week ago, and the Israelis fully agreed to that proposal, the official said.**

**What came back from Hamas was not a constructive response at all, he added.**

**Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg-Polin, parents of Hersh Goldberg Polin, an American-Israeli citizen whose video was released by Hamas on Wednesday, reacted to the joint statement, saying that "We are hopeful and prayerful that this is the beginning of a galvanizing force of these countries who are going to continue going forward and shout in a loud unified way that they are not stopping until all of these hostages come home."**

**Hamas leaders on the outside say all sorts of things, but the decision-makers are inside Gaza, living deep underground and holding the hostages, the official said.**

**"The core truth, there's a deal on the table. It meets nearly all of the demands that Hamas has had, including in key elements, one of which I just spoke with," the official said. "And what they need to do is release the vulnerable category of hostages to get things moving."**

**The Hostages and Families Forum issued a response to the joint statement, saying: "We welcome the statement of the world leaders calling for the immediate release of all the hostages, and which puts their issue at the top of the world's priorities, and call on other leaders to join this call."**

"The **statement is the result of hard work carried out by the families of the abductees in recent months, in front of decision-makers from all over the world**, with the aim of bringing all of them home, those who are alive for rehabilitation and the murdered for burial.

"We call for the immediate release of all the abductees that have been held by Hamas in Gaza for over 200 days. They include our citizens. The fate of the abductees and the civilian population in Gaza, protected under international law, is of international concern.

"We will emphasize that the pending deal for the release of the hostages will lead to an immediate and prolonged ceasefire in Gaza, which will facilitate the introduction of necessary humanitarian aid to be provided throughout Gaza and lead to a reliable end to hostilities. The residents of Gaza will be able to return to their homes and lands with preliminary preparations that will ensure protection under humanitarian conditions."

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-798658>

## **Extended cabinet approves foreign observers' visits to Nukhba terrorists in prison**

**National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir opposed the move and demanded that the hostages receive visits by international delegations as well.**

By *JERUSALEM POST STAFF* APRIL 25, 2024 16:40 Updated: APRIL 25, 2024 20:11



*Hamas terrorists who were caught during the October 7 massacre and during the IDF operation in the Gaza Strip, seen at a courtyard in a prison in southern Israel, February 14, 2024 (photo credit: Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)*

**The extended cabinet approved that an Israeli judge accompanied by two foreign observers would visit Hamas Nukhba terrorists detained in Israeli prisons, according to Israeli media.**

**Ben-Gvir and Smotrich reportedly opposed the decision.**

**According to Walla, citing an Israeli official, such visits will be part of a try-out plan, with Israel approving the identity of the observers prior to the visits.**

**The official also added that Israel does not allow the Red Cross to visit the terrorists since the international**

**organization does not visit the hostages.**

**Earlier on Thursday, Israeli media reported the cabinet was set to discuss a British suggestion that British representatives should be allowed to visit Hamas Nukhba terrorists in prison so they can get an impression of the conditions in which the terrorists are detained.**



*Otzma Yehudit leader Itamar Ben-Gvir (credit: YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90)*

**National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir opposed the move and demanded that the hostages receive visits by international delegations as well.**

**Ben-Gvir: 'Visits harm deterrence'**

**Following the decision, Ben-Gvir stated, "Unfortunately, once again, the Prime Minister is leading a wrong policy that harms deterrence. The decision today in the cabinet to force upon me visits by foreign observers to the prisons to check the condition of terrorists is a serious mistake," on a post on X.**

לצערי שוב רה"מ מוביל מדיניות שגויה שפוגעת בהרתעה. במקום לכנס את הקבינט לאשר פעולה ברפיה ובצפון, מכנס את הקבינט כדי לאשר ביקורים של משקיפים בינלאומיים לרוצחי הנוחביה. ההחלטה היום בקבינט לכפות עלי ביקורי משקיפים זרים בבתי הכלא שיבדקו את מצבם של מחבלי הנוחביה, היא טעות חמורה....  
— איתמר בן גביר (@itamarbengvir) April 25, 2024

**"Our hostages in Gaza are abused, with no visits and no concerns for their rights. These visits harm deterrence and negotiations with Hamas, raise the morale of the terrorists, may lead to prison riots, and beyond that, it is a violation of Israeli sovereignty and an opening for international intervention in other issues in the future. No country that respects its sovereignty and security would allow this to happen," he added.**

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-798656>

**Between 150,000-200,000 Palestinians leave Rafah due to upcoming IDF invasion**



The IDF hopes that more civilians will follow this lead as new tent cities are set up for civilians to evacuate Rafah to Khan Yunis, al-Muwasi, and central Gaza.

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) APRIL 25, 2024 16:04 Updated: APRIL 25, 2024 21:01



*Children sit in a car trunk, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, April 24, 2024. (photo credit: REUTERS/MOHAMMED SALEM)*

**Around 150,000-200,000 Palestinian civilians have already left Rafah since April 7 and as the military gets ready for a long-discussed invasion, according to the IDF.**

**At one point, there were around 1.4 million Palestinian civilians in Rafah.**

**But after the IDF withdrew from Khan Yunis on April 7, a significant minority of civilians started to stream out of Rafah and back to Khan Yunis or to al-Muwasi on the southern Gaza coast.**

**The IDF hopes that more civilians will follow this lead as new tent cities are set up** for civilians to evacuate Rafah to Khan Yunis, al-Muwasi, and central Gaza.

**A more serious push for the IDF to invade Rafah**

**Further, the IDF's push to start the Rafah invasion has gotten more serious** with some increasing frustration with the war cabinet for not yet having approved the operation.



*A satellite image shows an overview of a tent camp settlement near Rafah, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in the southern Gaza Strip, April 23, 2024. (credit: Maxar Technologies/Handout via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS)*

**From the perspective of the IDF and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, moving forward with the operation is the only way to break the impasse with Hamas over hostage negotiations** as well as to eliminate the terror group's last relatively large contingent of four battalions (out of an original 24 battalions.)

**At the same time, the Nahal Brigade and remaining aspects of IDF Division 162 which have taken the lead in northern Gaza** for much of the war, are finally exiting the Strip.

**It is anticipated that they will return, possibly also to participate in operations in Rafah, but the IDF high command also believes these forces need a rest, so it was unclear exactly when they would return to combat.**

**In addition, IDF sources suggested that IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Herzl Halevi will appoint a new head of military intelligence to replace outgoing chief Maj.-Gen. Aharon Haliva** announced on Monday that he wished to step down to take responsibility for the failure to foresee and stop Hamas's October 7 invasion of the Israeli South.

**Initially, there were questions about whether Halevi would make this appointment or whether the next IDF chief would, given that Halevi is expected to resign in the coming weeks or months for his role in failing to stop October 7.**

One possibility is that Halevi will resign after the Rafah invasion.

Another is that he will resign after a large operation against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

**Before withdrawing, the Nahal Brigade over Wednesday and Thursday eliminated several terrorists and destroyed terrorist infrastructure** in the IDF corridor splitting off northern Gaza from the rest of the Gaza Strip, the IDF added.

**Over the last few months, the soldiers, in cooperation with the Yahalom Unit and combat engineers, located and destroyed over 20 km. of terror tunnels** in the corridor area.

In one of the attacks this week, the Nahal Brigade forces identified two terrorists attempting to launch

rockets toward Israeli territory, and the air force killed them.

The **IAF also destroyed the rocket launching platform and the ammunition warehouse in which one of the terrorists was based following the launch attempt.**

In **another incident, the IDF reported that IAF fighter jets pounded terrorist infrastructure in the northern Gaza area of Shati from which Hamas terrorists had fired rockets against IDF troops** over in central Gaza.

On **Wednesday, the air force also killed a Hamas sniper terrorist cell in the central Gaza** area of Nuseirat.

**Over the last 24 hours, the air force struck over 30 Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip, including weapons storage facilities, terrorist cells, military positions, and additional terrorist infrastructure.**

In the North, the IDF carried out multiple rounds of attacks against Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon, while the terror group fired at least seven times into different parts of northern Israel.

While **the attacks remained ongoing on both sides, they were slightly less aggressive than Wednesday's attacks, which led to direct hits by Hezbollah against Israeli houses in Avivim**, and dozens of reprisal attacks by Israel against the terror group. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-798657>

## **Thousands at Western Wall for priestly blessing, with prayers for hostages' return**

**Some 30,000 worshipers attend semi-annual ceremony as organizers add special text for the release of those in Hamas captivity**

By [Charlie Summers](#) Today, 4:54 pm



**Thousands of Jewish worshipers attend the priestly blessing ceremony at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City on April 25, 2024. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)**



**A group of Jewish worshipers recite the Passover priestly blessing at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem on April 25, 2024. (Menahem Kahana/AFP)**



**Father of Hamas-held hostage Eliya Cohen holds sign with his missing son's photo as he attends the Passover priestly blessing at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City on April 25, 2024. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)**



**Thousands of Jewish worshippers gather at the Western Wall for the Passover priestly blessing in Jerusalem's Old City on April 25, 2024. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)**

**Thousands of Jewish worshipers at the Western Wall recited a special prayer Thursday for the return of hostages held by Hamas, during the traditional priestly blessing ceremony held at the site on Passover.**



The parents of two hostages attended the event in Jerusalem.

The **priestly blessing, known in Hebrew as “Birkat Kohanim,” is held semi-annually on the intermediate days of Passover and Sukkot.**

Male descendants of the priestly class traditionally chant the benediction while raising their hands and wrapping themselves in their prayer shawls, in order to bless the congregants present.

**Sigalit Cohen, born to such a family, told Kan news that she came to the Western Wall to pray for the return of her son Eliya, who was taken captive by Hamas on October 7,** and is likely “unable to recite the priestly blessing [in Gaza].”

“Eliya planned to propose to his girlfriend on the balcony in front of the Western Wall,” she said. “I hope that this prayer will reach [the hostages] in Gaza, will strengthen them there, and God willing, they will return.”

The family of Segev Kalfon, who was abducted by Hamas from the Supernova rave, was also present and stood with Rabbi of the Western Wall Shmuel Rabinovitch and other prominent rabbis on the balcony overlooking the vast crowd.

**In addition to a special prayer for the hostages, Chief Rabbi of the Israel Police Rami Berachyahu** led worshippers in praying for the Israeli army, police and other security forces in the context of the ongoing war.

Near the entrance to the Western Wall, some elderly Orthodox Jews sat on the steps, shaking *tzedaka* (charity) boxes and requesting charity from passersby, while others sold flags depicting the ancient temple in Jerusalem.

**After the blessing ended, Chief Rabbis David Lau and Yitzhak Yosef led the crowd in a continuation of the daily morning prayer.**

The **top rabbis concluded the event by singing in unison “Acheinu,” a medieval Jewish prayer calling for the release of captives,** which has become a symbol of the hostages’ plight since October 7.

Over **30,000 people attended the ceremony, according** to the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, a subsidiary of the Prime Minister’s Office that organizes the event twice a year.



**In preparation for the massive influx of Jewish worshippers at the site, police deployed widely throughout the Old City.** Home to many holy sites imbued with religious significance, the Old City of Jerusalem is policed quite heavily on a regular basis, and often becomes a flashpoint of violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

*Israeli border police tightly patrol the street separating the Jewish and Muslim Quarters of Jerusalem’s Old City as thousands of Jewish worshippers convene at the Western Wall for the Passover priestly blessing. (Charlie Summers/Times of Israel)*

The Western Wall is revered in Jewish tradition due to its proximity to the location of the two ancient Jewish temples. The site is part of the Temple Mount complex, which also houses the

Al-Aqsa Mosque and is the holiest site in Judaism and the third holiest in Islam.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/thousands-at-western-wall-for-priestly-blessing-with-prayers-for-hostages-return/>

## **Dramatic moment ‘Ukraine hits Russian oil refinery’ sparking huge inferno as Putin’s train explodes in ‘sabotage attack’**

*The attack comes just a day after an enormous wall of fire raged at a fuel plant near the Ukrainian border*

*Tom Malley, Foreign News Reporter Published: 12:10, 25 Apr 2024 Updated: 15:34, 25 Apr 2024*

**THIS is the dramatic moment Ukraine hit a Russian oil refinery sparking a huge inferno that destroyed one of Vladimir Putin's trains, it has been claimed. The dictator's locomotive went up in flames during the sabotage attack close to Omsk Oil Refinery in southwest Russia on Thursday.**



The train engulfed in flames near the world famous Trans-Siberian railway lineCredit: East2West



Three wagons containing a combined 89 tonnes of oil were set ablazeCredit: East2West

Thick black smoke travelled high into the sky in the eastern city of OmskCredit: East2West

**Three wagons containing 17, 22 and 50 tonnes of oil were ablaze close to the world famous Trans-Siberian railway line.**

**Giant flames and pungent black smoke engulfed the scene, where emergency services continue to put out the blaze.**

**Ukrainian outlets initially suggested the attack may have been sabotage.**

**Oil facilities have been a key target of both drone and sabotage strikes by [Ukraine](#).**

**Russia has been forced to halt oil exports and even import from Belarus as a result of the attacks on its facilities.**

**The latest explosion comes after Ukrainian kamikaze drones blitzed more of Putin's valuable oil depots in a coordinated attack on three regions on Tuesday night.**

**Dramatic clips show an enormous wall of fire raging at a fuel plant in Smolensk, not far from the Ukrainian border.**

**Lipetsk Tractor Plant was also hit - a factory that produces key parts for military vehicles used in [Putin's illegal war](#).**

**Another blaze yesterday was in occupied Crimea, close to capital Simferopol.**

**Ukrainian Telegram channel Pravda Gerashchenko said: "In both cases, the authorities did not indicate the cause of the fires.**

**"Why would this be?"**

**Five explosions & massive inferno rip through Russian oil depot in Ukrainian drone attack in**

## latest blow to Putin

The fire at Kombinatskaya railway station covered some 10,750 square feet and required 58 fire fighters to tame.

Local sources claim a “short circuit” was to blame, a phrase sometimes used as a euphemism for sabotage.

**Last week, Ukrainian kamikaze drones also blitzed two further valuable Russian oil depots, sparking huge explosions.**

**Incredible footage shows the impressive 50-drone hit on a massive eight different regions** in yet another embarrassing blow for [Putin](#).

Both Russian oil companies that were hit were central to his economy and military fuel supplies.

Video shows the Lukoil and Neftika hubs in western Russia, near Belarus, burning after the Ukrainian ambush.

In **March, Ukraine committed five successful attacks on Russian oil refineries** across a four day period.

The fifth strike took place during the first day of voting during [Russia's sham presidential election](#).

Footage shows a huge explosion [as the oil refinery in the Kaluga region was hit by the first of three drones](#) in the strike.

The plant's equipment was damaged, according to sources cited by ASTRA independent online media.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/27533846/ukraine-hits-russian-oil-depot-putin-train>

## US secretly sends missiles to Ukraine able to hit deep inside Russia... & they've already been used to wipe out airbase

The 'game-changing' weapons can now blast targets 190miles away

[Iona Cleave](#), Foreign News Reporter Published: 7:20 ET, Apr 25 2024 Updated: 9:37 ET, Apr 25 2024



**THE US has secretly been sending long-range ballistic missiles to Ukraine that are able to strike targets deep inside Russia.**

For the first time last week, Ukraine used the £800,000 ATACMS in two blistering attacks on a military base in Crimea and on Russian forces in occupied Ukraine.



The bunker-busting ATACMS missiles can now deep into Russian-held Ukrainian territory and occupied Crimea to blast high-value targetsCredit: AFP or licensors



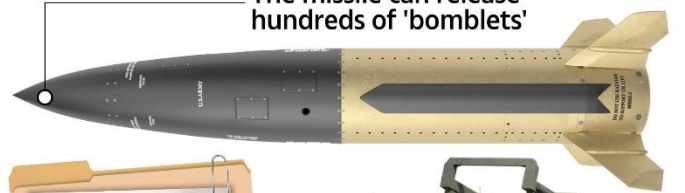
Last week, Kyiv hit a Russian military base used to launch attacks on Ukraine with ATACMS as well as a second attack on Moscow's forces

# SECRET WEAPONS

The US quietly handed over long-range ATACMS ballistic missiles to Ukraine



The missile can release hundreds of 'bomblets'



<b>MGM-140 ATACMS</b>	
SPEED:	(2,300MPH)
RANGE:	300KM
LENGTH:	13FT
TYPE:	SURFACE-TO-SURFACE
WARHEAD:	500LB
COST:	£800,000



Yesterday, it was announced that Washington had secretly shipped long-range ATACMS (Army Tactical Missile Systems) to Ukraine in recent weeks.

The tactical surface-to-surface ballistic missiles are fitted with a 500lb warhead and can reach targets 300km away in just five minutes, three times the speed of UK-supplied Storm Shadows.

The costly weapons can be used for precise strikes on targets behind enemy lines in record amounts of time.

Ukraine had long sought to get its hands on some ATACMS but the US had held off supplying them over fears they may be used to strike Russia.

The killer 2,300mph missiles give Ukraine nearly double the striking distance it had with the mid-range version of the weapon it received from the US last October.

And the ATACMS can be launched by a M-142 Himars artillery rocket system, which is already in use on the battlefield.

In the overnight ambush last week, Kyiv's forces used its new missiles to hit both a Russian military base in annexed Crimea and Russian forces in a occupied territory in Ukraine.

Dramatic footage showed blinding explosions as the high-tech weapons destroyed a valuable ammunition store at the airfield.

The Dzhankoi base is used by Putin's twisted forces

# DEEP STRIKE

Ukraine's new US-made ATACM missiles have a 190mile range





to launch strikes on Ukraine.

The airfield is home to valuable kit including Putin's Ka-52 Alligator attack helicopter, the Mi-8, Mi-28N, and the Mi-35M along with Russian S-300 and S-400 missile systems.

How an elite Ukrainian unit stole £1million Russian tank from under Putin's nose to unlock its secrets

Missile alerts were only sounded after the first strike, suggesting the Russians were taken by surprise at the ATACMS blitz.

State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said yesterday: "I can confirm that the United States provided Ukraine with long-range ATACMS at the president's direct direction."

But "we did not announce this at the onset in order to maintain operational security for Ukraine at their request," Patel said, adding that the "missiles arrived in Ukraine this month."



*The US-made missiles can be equipped with a 500lb warhead*

**Russia's use of North Korean ballistic missiles against Ukraine is said to have led to the US decision to supply ATACMS**  
Credit: AP

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said the United States plans to send more of the long-range missiles to Ukraine.

"They will make a difference. But as I've said before at this podium... there is no silver bullet," Sullivan said. **[Is this an admission of the truth of the statements of multiple generals**



**that there is no way Ukraine can possibly win their war with Russia???? Rdb]**

Russia's use of North Korean-supplied long-range ballistic missiles against Ukraine in December and January, despite US private warnings not to do so, led to a change in heart, a Pentagon official said.

Professor Anthony Glees, a defence expert from the University of Birmingham, called ATACMS "game-changing weapons".

**He told The Sun: "We need to know how many of them are being supplied, but they change the picture both in a battlefield sense and a strategic sense."**

He said he expects Russian soldiers on the ground to now be quaking in their boots.

"I think they'll be very frightened indeed... because they have so far felt safe as long as they're far enough away from the missiles that Ukraine has got."

Former US General Ben Hodges hailed ATACMS as playing a "critical role in neutralising Russia's only advantage - mass, [being] lots of soldiers".

Hodges, the former commander of the US Army in Europe, told The Sun they will have a "significant" effect on the battlefield.

"Now every square meter of Russian-occupied Ukraine is within range of ATACMS...which means that every HQ, logistics site, key weapon system and airfield in that area can be hit.

"Crimea can soon be untenable for the Russian navy and air force."

The confirmation of ATACMS being used by Ukraine came the same day that [President Joe Biden](#) signed the bill to provide [Ukraine with a £50billion war chest](#).

The announcement brought relief along [Ukraine's](#) 600-mile front after Kyiv had to painfully ration its weapons, leaving its forces vulnerable to deadly Russian attacks.

After six-months of stalling in Congress, Biden cleared the way for desperately needed artillery, missiles and air defense munitions to head for Kyiv.

**Sullivan revealed that more ATACMS missiles were part of this package. MORE -**

<https://www.the-sun.com/news/11185789/us-secret-missiles-ukraine-atacms-crimea> [ **I would remind you the Putin said the any NATO nation supplying arms to Ukraine is a target and when push gets to shove Putin and Russia have much more advanced weapons at their disposal than any NATO country and if Russia feels threatened it will use Nukes. "Bi-Dum" and his handlers have made a tragic error because Putin can target Paris, London, NY and DC with a supersonic multi-head missile that will wipe them all out at one blow leaving bits of nuclear ash. – rdb]**

**Biden signs aid package with \$17B for Israel, \$1B extra humanitarian aid for Gazans**

*This means 'Iran can never carry out the destruction it intended 10 days ago,' says president; vows to 'surge' aid 'to the innocent people of Gaza'; \$95B bill helps Ukraine, Taiwan*

By *Agencies and Tol Staff* 24 April 2024, 9:21 pm



*President Joe Biden speaks before signing a \$95 billion aid package that includes support for Israel, Ukraine, Taiwan, and other allies, in the State Dining Room of the White House, Wednesday, April 24, 2024, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)*

**United States President Joe Biden signed into law on Wednesday a \$95 billion war aid measure that includes assistance for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, and that also has a provision that would force social media site TikTok to be sold or be banned in the US.**

**Biden underscored that the bill also includes a surge of humanitarian relief for Palestinians in Gaza suffering as the Israel-Hamas war continues.**

**The legislation will send \$17 billion in wartime assistance to Israel and \$9 billion in humanitarian relief to citizens of Gaza and other war-torn regions — with Biden specifying at a White House event to announce the signing on Wednesday that the package “includes \$1 billion for additional humanitarian aid in Gaza.”**

**Another \$8 billion will go to counter Chinese threats in Taiwan** and the Indo-Pacific. US officials said about \$1 billion of the aid could be on its way shortly, with the bulk following in the coming weeks.

**Addressing the aid component for Israel, Biden noted that Iran launched an unprecedented direct missile and drone attack at Israel just days ago, but** thanks to Israel’s defenses, “and other allies across the world, including from the region, no serious damage occurred.”

“My commitment to Israel, I want to make clear again, is ironclad,” he stressed. “The security of Israel is critical. I will always make sure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself against Iran and terrorists it supports.”

The aid for Israel in the package, he said, “can help replenish Israel’s air defense and provide other critical defense so Iran can never carry out the destruction it intended with its attack 10 days ago.”

**Biden also said Israel must ensure the aid for Palestinians in the bill reaches Gaza “without delay.”**

**He noted that the package “significantly increases humanitarian assistance we’re sending to the innocent people of Gaza, who are suffering badly.** They’re suffering the consequences of this war that Hamas started. And we’ve been working intently for months to get as much aid to Gaza as possible.” [ **These are the critters that were cheering the terrorists as they were killing and raping Israeli’s and 80+ % believe the Hamas attack was fine and warranted. This is total garbage like most of the trash from the idiots in DC. rdb**



He said that the bill “includes \$1 billion for additional humanitarian aid in Gaza. We’re going to immediately secure that aid and surge it — surge it, including food, medical supplies, clean water. And Israel must make sure all this aid reaches the Palestinians in Gaza without delay.”

Biden noted that “everything we do is guided by the ultimate goal of bringing these hostages [held by Hamas in Gaza] home, securing a ceasefire, and setting the conditions for an enduring peace.”

The war in Gaza erupted on October 7 when the Palestinian terror group Hamas led a devastating cross-border attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians. Israel responded with a military campaign to destroy Hamas and free 253 hostages abducted during the attack. The fighting has led to a humanitarian crisis in Gaza as aid workers struggle to deliver supplies.

### **The signing of the war aid measure marks an end to a long, painful battle with Republicans in Congress over urgently needed assistance for Ukraine.**

“We rose to the moment, we came together, and we got it done,” Biden said. “Now we need to move fast, and we are.”

*A man rides a bicycle past the tombs of Ukrainian soldiers killed during the war, at Lisove cemetery in Kyiv, Ukraine, April 23, 2024. (Francisco Seco/AP)*

Tucked into the measure is a provision that gives TikTok’s Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance, nine months to sell it or face a nationwide prohibition in the United States. The president can grant a one-time extension of 90 days, bringing the timeline to sell to one year, if he certifies that there’s a path to divestiture and “significant

progress” toward executing it.

The administration and a bipartisan group of lawmakers have called the social media site a growing national security concern.

### **TikTok said it will wage a legal challenge against what it called an “unconstitutional” effort by Congress.**

“We believe the facts and the law are clearly on our side, and we will ultimately prevail,” the company said in a statement. “The fact is, we have invested billions of dollars to keep US data safe and our platform free from outside influence and manipulation. This ban would devastate seven million businesses and silence 170 million Americans.”



*Participants hold signs in support of TikTok outside the US Capitol Building, in Washington, DC, on March 13, 2024. (Anna MoneyMaker/Getty Images/AFP)*

**House Speaker Mike Johnson delayed a vote on the supplemental aid package for months as members of his party’s far right wing, including Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia and Thomas Massie of Kentucky, threatened to move to oust him if he allowed a vote to send more assistance to Ukraine.** Those threats persist.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell suggested his fellow Republicans’ holding up the funding could have a

lasting impact on Ukraine’s hopes of winning the war.

“Make no mistake: Delay in providing Ukraine the weapons to defend itself has strained the prospects of defeating Russian aggression,” McConnell said Tuesday. “Dithering and hesitation have compounded the challenges we face.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-signs-95-billion-war-aid-measure-with-relief-for-ukraine-israel-and-taiwan/>

**Michael Oren: FBI must investigate money trail behind campus antisemitic protests**  
*Columbia alumnus and ambassador Michael Oren reveals how substantial financial contributions from oil companies have manipulated universities to promote anti-Israel agendas.*

By NATHAN KLABIN/THE MEDIA LINE APRIL 25, 2024 12:16

Starting April 17, pro-Palestinian students at Columbia University established the [Gaza Solidarity Encampment](#), launching a campaign demanding that the university divest from Israel. The New York-based Ivy League school joins universities across the United States, such as Emerson, Vanderbilt, Yale, and the University of California, Berkeley that have seen similar protests, along with a rise in reported antisemitic incidents.

**The Media Line spoke to former Israeli Ambassador to the US and Columbia alumnus Michael Oren, who expressed deep concern over the situation. He described the current campus climate as "intolerable, unacceptable, and exceedingly dangerous," impacting not only Jews but also the broader Western society. Oren traced the origins of these sentiments back to the 1960s youth revolutions.**

**After their initial failure, he said, these movements embedded themselves in academia, subtly promoting anti-establishment ideologies over decades.** "They went back into the campus and spent 50 years instilling their ideas into students and professors to inspire government officials and corporate executives on this particular set of self-declared anti-establishment ideas as trojan horses for antisemitism."

**Anti-war protests of today are actually pro-war**

**Oren drew parallels between the 1968 anti-war riots and today's campus movements, which he views as pro-war due to their exclusion of Israel.**

**This shift has notably affected disciplines like American Studies, which have become distinctly anti-American, Oren continued. He also pointed out that even some Jewish academics have joined the anti-Israel chorus,** failing to recognize the potential negative consequences for themselves. "They fail to see that this path also ends badly for them."



*Demonstrators pray outside an entrance to the Columbia University campus as they protest in solidarity with Pro-Palestinian organizers, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in New York City, US, April 18, 2024. (credit: REUTERS/CAITLIN OCHS)*

**Reflecting on Passover, Oren cited the Haggadah's story of the Wicked Son, which he believes mirrors the stance of those who don't identify with their own people and criticize Israel's defenders. "It's the best image for these people who keep saying that if you defend Israel, you're a bad Jew. Eventually, they'll become one of the bad Jews themselves. This movement is a deep-seated cultural trend that has taken decades to evolve, and undoing it**

may also take decades," said Oren.

Oren **criticized university administrators for not taking a firmer stand earlier. "These demonstrations are orchestrated and funded from outside. These aren't spontaneous demonstrations,"** he said. He **called for an FBI investigation into the protests' origins,** emphasizing the threat they pose to campus safety. "Jewish students, professors, and staff [can't go on campus](#)."

Oren **stressed the limits of free speech, particularly when it incites violence or supports terrorism, "which, by the way, is illegal in America,"** he said.

**"These people need to be prosecuted, but in the end, this isn't a job for local police. This requires federal agencies to stop foreign agents from sewing chaos in America and its allies,"** concluded the former ambassador.

Ariel Beery, a 2005 Columbia graduate, echoed Oren's sentiments about the long-term origins of these antisemitic trends. Beery discussed the strategy of Israel's enemies, who, unable to defeat Israel militarily, have turned to soft power and funding guerrilla groups to challenge Israel. "These protests represent the soft-power strategy of Israel's enemies," he stated.

**"Anti-Western interests recognized that the leverage point was students and professors,"** he said. **"Many of these academics would shape many minds, so even if a small percentage of those students remain anti-Zionist years after flirting with the idea, the compounding effect becomes significant."**

**Anti-Western values are prolific**

**Beery also highlighted the influence of certain academic and financial practices at Columbia**



during his time there. **“As a student at Columbia from 2002 to 2005, I worked at the Middle East Institute as a research assistant. One of my regular duties was to type up and send thank you notes from the director to various donors, most of whom were oil companies or their proxy organizations and foundations.** Nearly none of these were reported by the university at the time,” he said.

**“Many donations,” he asserted, “are made just below the legal reporting requirement.”**

“As a research assistant at the Middle East Institute, I observed how donations just below the legal reporting requirement influenced the curriculum,” he revealed. According to Beery, these contributions supported courses in local high schools that presented a curriculum biased against Israel, perpetuating negative perceptions among young students.

**“One day, the new director, Rashid Khalidi, who sat on a newly donated Edward Said Chair, asked me to send a letter he wrote to Saudi Aramco,”** shared Ariel.

**“In the letter, he thanked them for their generous donation to enable professors from the institute to teach a course on Middle East studies in local high schools using a curriculum not friendly toward Israel. Courses such as that one have persisted for decades.** This is one reason hundreds of high school students in New York find the motivation to protest Israel and target their teachers. Such programs were regularly sponsored, a visible example of how Israel’s enemies worked first to capture academic departments and then to propagate messages throughout the next generation of politicians, business, and community leaders,” Ariel concluded. <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-798615>

## Report: Banks spied on Trump supporters for Biden

*Reported on customers who bought a Bible, used 'MAGA' or 'Trump'*

By [Bob Unruh](#) Published April 25, 2024 at 2:15pm

**A new report reveals that there are now at least 13 banking institutions that were recruited by the Biden administration to spy on customers, without warrants, in the aftermath of the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol.**

And **some of them did the bidding and turned over private customer** information to the feds.

It is the [Daily Mail](#) that said in addition to the alleged involvement of Bank of America, Chase, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo, Citi Bank and Truist in the illicit spying, seven others now have been implicated.

They are Charles Schwab, HSBC, MUFG, PayPal, Santander, Standard Chartered and Western Union.

Those all are being investigated by the U.S. House "for colluding with the federal government to spy on Americans" after the protest that turned into a riot, the report said.

It is the House Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, led by Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, that is investigating the alleged collusion.

The report explained the situation was that the Biden bureaucrats conspired with banks to look for indicators of "extremism," "like the purchase of a religious text, like a Bible, or searches including the terms 'MAGA' and 'TRUMP,'" the report confirmed.

The banking corporations apparently all were contacted by the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) or FBI about spying on Americans' private banking actions – without any charges or warrant involved.

Those institutions now have been contacted by Congress in letters that state, "The Committee and Select Subcommittee remain concerned about how and to what extent federal law enforcement and financial institutions continue to spy on Americans by weaponizing backdoor information sharing and casting sprawling classes of transactions, purchase behavior, and protected political or religious expression as potentially 'suspicious' or indicative of 'extremism.'"

Jordan also told Biden's Treasury pick, Janet Yellen, "This kind of warrantless financial surveillance raises serious concerns about the federal government's respect for Americans' privacy and fundamental civil liberties," the publication reported.

Records uncovered by investigators already show that FinCEN and the FBI got data on hundreds of individuals as a result of work with just one of the banks.

Yellen was warned, in the letter, "Given this coordination, the Committee and Select Subcommittee are concerned that the federal government, through the FBI and FinCEN, sent similar or identical thresholds to other financial institutions that manipulated the SAR filing process to elicit the information and transaction history of

individuals without any allegation of federal criminal conduct."

The FBI ended up dispatching agents to investigate some of those identified.

<https://www.wnd.com/2024/04/report-banks-spied-trump-supporters-biden/> **[Criminal charges should be made against all those in the government that are involved. – rdb]**

## OP ED

### Will Jewish Voters Stop Voting for the Democrats Who Want to Kill Them?



[Kurt Schlichter](#) | Apr 25, 2024

**Jewish Americans are going to have to make a decision – the famously Democrat-leaning minority has a big problem because many of its fellow Democrats want them dead. That's not an exaggeration** – the chant of the Democrat's left wing is not, "From the river to the sea, the Chosen People should be happy, safe, and free." Kind of the exact opposite. These scumbag commies are so promiscuous with lies about the Jewish people like "apartheid" and "genocide" they ought to hand out rhetorical condoms on the many college quads these loathsome heirs of the Nazis have infested. Yet Jews in America overwhelmingly vote Democrat. You know, this might be a good time to rethink their traditional leftist voting habits, but that conundrum represents a conflict in human nature – the conflict between self-preservation and self-identity. I don't know which one is going to win out, but I know what's going to happen if the Hamas-huggers win out.

I'm not in the business of telling any particular ethnic group how to vote, and I don't think any particular ethnic group should vote in any particular way. The whole idea of ethnic voting is stupid. But other people seem to have other opinions. Some groups vote as a bloc. Black Americans almost always vote Democrat – something like 90%, though this time Donald Trump seems to be earning a better percentage. Similarly, Jewish Americans are famously liberal voters, with the vast majority supporting Democrats in the past. But things have changed. The position of the Democratic Party is aligned with the far left, which pretty much wants to kill all the Jews. And Biden really, really wants to win the states with large number of Muslims like the despicable Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, whose daughter/niece was recently suspended from the University of College for her hate crimes. The Democrats are not show about excommunicated groups they find to be no longer useful to their goal of attaining power. They famously dumped the white working class in recent decades. Guess we know who's the next to get the boot.

Now the Democrats are siding with the people who not merely excuse but celebrate the murder of Jews, and who would not hesitate to bring October 7th here. I talk about that [in my new book](#) – these Gaza-loving geebos will be eager accomplices to the terrorist attack Biden's weakness is inviting. Does that assessment sound harsh? Maybe, but it's entirely true. They know it, we know it, and the only people who don't know it are the people who don't want to know it. You cannot look at these braying brown shirts with their stupid headgear and ubiquitous face masks and not see a pack of keffiyeh-clad Khmer Rouge wannabes unless you choose not to.



[Off Matt Vespa](#)

[Police at UT Austin Had the Perfect Response to a Pro-Hamas Activist Flipping Them](#)

Now, they always tell you that they don't really want to kill the Jews. They just want to kill the Zionists. Of course, all the Zionists happen to be Jews. They cheer for October 7th. They think it was great. They want more of these massacres. And they want to leverage other Democrats to stop Israel from stopping future murder sprees – sadly, Biden has capitulated to them and equally sadly, Israel refuses to tell the desiccated old pervert to pound sand and to glass over Rafah along with the Hamas rats hiding in its tunnels.

Jewish Democrat voters are going to need to make a choice, survival or the comfort of liberal illusions. For a long time, the reconcilable tension between the hard left and Jewish Democrats was suppressed – everyone knew it was there, but if they didn't want to see it and wanted to keep voting for people like Joe Biden, they didn't have to see it. Well, they are seeing it now. There's no escaping it. Whether you're stopped in traffic on a bridge or watching little snots rip hostage flyers off of streetlights or getting spat on and harassed on college campuses, if you're



Jewish, you're now a target.

It's painful for an America soldier to write that Jews are targeted in America. What a disgrace. This is not what we served for. I cannot believe my country, whose heroic soldiers liberated Dachau (I've been there twice – every American must go see it), tolerates this disgusting anti-Semitism on the grounds of our allegedly prestigious institutions. Shameful. And there is just one party that lets it happen wherever it is in control – go try this in red Florida, Palesimpians.

Advertisement

“Never again” has been replaced, among Democrats, by “Get over it.”

There's always a common denominator among the people the scumbags hate – no matter who else they hate, they always hate the Jews most. And, of course, Jews are fulfilling their traditional function as the cultural canary in the coal mine – they get attacked before the rest of us do. Besides the moral obligation to defend Jews from hate and violence – I'd be siding with the Jews even if they weren't God's Chosen People – there's the utilitarian interest in stopping these little bastards before the communists start turning on the rest of us. An attack on Jews is an attack on every civilized human being.

The Orthodox are already based, but is the rest of the Jewish community ready to abandon the people who have turned on them? Are the majority of liberal Jewish Americans going to wake up and stop voting for Democrats because Democrats allow this hate? Democrats control the blue cities where it happens. Democrats control the schools where it happens. Democrats control the regime media, where this stuff is tolerated and even celebrated. It's not those mega MAGA extremists. It's not Cletus out in Butthead County, Kentucky, doing the anti-Semitism. It's other Democrats. Try that nonsense in Florida and Ron DeSantis will feed you to the gators.

So, why aren't American Jews as a whole saying, “The hell with this, I'll take the mean tweets and the lack of pogroms?” You would think that would be a simple calculation, prioritizing personal survival, but there's another interest at play. A lot of Jewish Americans are very invested in being liberal. That's who they are. That's not just a political affiliation but an identity. Imagine you've spent 65 years of your life voting for Democrats, and suddenly this happens. Are you ready to make a 180° turn? That's hard. That's hard for anybody. It's human nature. Voting Dem is a habit mixed up with personal identity. That is tough to change, even then the face of indisputable and undeniable evidence like these sociopaths chanting “From the river to the sea.” So, my guess is we're going to see some Jewish voters swinging to the Republicans, but not most – at least not in 2024. It's hard to turn on a dime. But we are going to see some movement. It's a start. The GOP must welcome them. I just hope it's enough soon enough, because these communists really hate Jews, and they really hate the rest of us, too.

<https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/2024/04/25/will-jewish-voters-stop-voting-for-the-democrats-who-want-to-kill-them-n2638194>

## Read these words of Hillel Fuld on X

Dear European Jews in the 30s,

I owe you an apology. For the last 40 years, I've accused you of being blind, and quite frankly, stupid! I've said it thousands of times.

“Why didn't they get out? How did they not see the writing on the wall? Were they that comfortable and assimilated that they really believed it'd be ok? And even if they believed that, when Germany started legislating against Jews, how was THAT not enough of a sign to get out??”

For years, I thought you were weak. I thought you were led to the gas chambers like sheep to the slaughter.

For years, I thought that your mistakes could never be repeated again. I thought we, the Jewish nation, would surely see the writing on the wall.

I said Never Again and deep down, I thought it would never happen again, because WE, the Jewish people would never let it happen again.

“We are not as weak as they were”, I told myself.

And now I have to say, I'm sorry. I didn't understand you until about a month or two ago when I realized that I was wrong about you.

More precisely, I was wrong about us.

It could happen again. The Jewish people WOULD let it happen again. We ARE letting it happen again.

Antisemites in the United States congress? Yep.

Pop starts declaring their love for Hitler? Uh huh

Banning Jews from entering educational institutions? Sadly that happened too.

Jews being assaulted and beaten in the streets? Yep, so that's now a thing.

Mass antisemitic marches across America? We are there...

Jews women being raped and murdered just because they are a Jew? Can't believe I'm saying this but yea, that too.

So, my European ancestors, and I'm talking to you, Grandma, I'm sorry. You weren't weak and we aren't strong.

We are letting them do it to us again and we are again not reading the writing on the wall.

I always believed that if I, we experienced what you experienced, we'd get the hell out immediately.

I was wrong. My brothers and sisters are continuing to be sitting ducks waiting for the next attack, the next vandalism of a synagogue, the next hate crime, the next blood thirsty antisemitic march, the next murder.

It's 2024 and we haven't learned the lesson that Germany was not our home. Poland was not our home. Austria was not our home.

Today, America is not our home. South Africa is not our home. The UK is not our home. Australia is not our home.

We only have one home and that is Israel. Is everything perfect in Israel? 100% not. But in Israel, your people protect you and if God forbid bad things happen, and they happen, (you don't have to tell me, my brother was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist), your government, your army, your people will retaliate and ensure it never happens again.

No one is protecting you at Harvard. Or MIT. Or Columbia. You're on your own there and this isn't going to end well.

So, my European ancestors, I'm sorry I judged you. You weren't weak. You weren't blind. You weren't dumb.

You were Jews who refused to internalize that other nations don't behave like us and just because we'd never try to annihilate a nation doesn't mean they won't.

To my brothers and sisters in 2024, please, I beg of you, internalize the lesson of history. It's happening right before your eyes. Don't wait till it's too late.

Leave. Get out. Come home.

We are waiting for you with open hours. You worry about us in Israel? I get it. That's kind. But here, our fate is in our hands (And Hashem's) and we know what we need to do.

No one there has your back. We have your back here.

So come home. Help us help you.

Allow us to welcome you at Ben Gurion Airport with chants of Am Yisrael Chai instead of staying there to hear chants of Globalize the Intifada and From the River to the Sea.

This is your home and we want you here with us. We need you here with us.

If you won't come home for you, come home for us. We love you and want you here safe in our embrace.

Come home. It will be the best thing you ever did!

We are waiting. I am waiting! <https://t.me/beholdisraelchannel/31292>