

01/20/2021 NEWS AM

Leviim Choir | The Four Gates | "4 Babot"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KE51dfWuFPA>

Pray Unceasingly

"'Balanced' is a code for 'denied':

a right to free speech that must be 'balanced' against so exhaustive a list of other supposed values means a right that can be exercised only when those in power judge that the speech in question is innocuous to them."

-- Ronald Dworkin (1931- 2013) Jewish-American] philosopher, professor, scholar of United States constitutional law and jurisprudence

Read the Prophets & **PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

That is the only hope of this nation! Plead for Grace and Mercy

Please remember these folks in prayer- Check often – they change

Prayer Requests

That the world would - WAKE UP.

Time for a worldwide repentance!

ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world, Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.

Pray for WS – Passed away – pray for family

Pray for ZH – having trouble with PTSD

Pray for DN and his mother. Doing much better.

Pray for RP – Had surgery and doing fairly well.

Pray for LAC – recurrent cancer getting treatment

Pray for Ella – emotionally disturbed abused child and brother with ? heart problem

Pray for JN – Neuro disease

Pray for MS – Job issues and change

Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!

Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence

Pray for Felicia – post op problems – continuing

Pray for SH and family – lady's husband passed away and she is in Nursing home. Not doing well.

Pray for MP – Very complex problems

Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. –

Have YOU made any preparations?

Genesis 14:²¹ And the king of Sodom saith unto Abram, 'Give to me the persons, and the substance take to thyself,' ²² and Abram saith unto the king of Sodom, 'I have lifted up my hand unto Jehovah, God Most High, possessing heaven and earth--²³ from a thread even unto a shoe-latchet I take not of anything which thou hast, that thou say not, I--I have made Abram rich; ²⁴ save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who have gone with me--Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre--they take their portion.'

ETBPF has a new venue called Discord. It is a private web site where we are posting news and the daily news posting and you can respond with posts if you want. This 'app' can be used almost like facebook and twitter but without the intervention. We are just starting it and a bit slow to learn how to use it but it helps keep us off the Big Guys. It is a freebee and private. We have set levels of access to make sure only real responsible people are able to access. You can look at and join by going to: <https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN>

DF says rocket fired from Gaza Strip at Israel; no injuries

Projectile, the third to target south in 2 days, believed to land in open field

By [TOL staff](#) Today, 9:34 pm

Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip fired a rocket at Israel Tuesday night, the military said in a statement after rocket sirens were sounded in the south of the country. The IDF did not specify

where the projectile landed, but Hebrew media reports indicated it struck an open field near Kibbutz Nahal Oz on the Gaza border.

There were no injuries or damage reported.

The incident came a day after two rockets were fired from the Strip toward the southern Israeli city of Ashdod, both landing in the sea just off the coast of the city. In response, IDF jets bombed sites where the Hamas terror group was digging underground tunnels in southern Gaza, the IDF said. **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-says-rocket-fired-from-gaza-strip-at-israel-no-injuries/>**

Gantz blocks Netanyahu's 'irresponsible' push to legalize West Bank outposts

PM reportedly tried to add recognition of 6 illegal settlements to cabinet's agenda a day before Biden inauguration

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 4:09 pm

After the government approved almost 800 new housing units in West Bank settlements this week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday tried to also legalize six unrecognized outposts, but was thwarted by Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

The proposal came a day before the inauguration of US President-elect Joe Biden, potentially further complicating the start of Jerusalem's relations with the new administration. The approval of the settler homes has received widespread international attention and been condemned by the Palestinians, the European Union and the UN, among others.

Tuesday's cabinet meeting had been scheduled to only discuss the coronavirus crisis and the extension of a nationwide lockdown, but on Tuesday morning Netanyahu tried to put on the agenda a proposal that would include the recognition of the communities of Avigayil, Asael, Kedem Arava, Metzoke Deragot, Ovnat (currently considered a neighborhood of Mitzpeh Shalem) and Tel Tzion, which are deemed illegal under current Israeli law, according to ministers in Gantz's Blue and White party.

Gantz swiftly moved to strike the item from the agenda, saying in a statement that "in the cabinet meeting, no diplomatically irresponsible proposal will be raised at such a sensitive time."

Last month, the Knesset advanced a controversial bill that, if passed into law, would legalize dozens of unrecognized outposts. It would also formally allow them to be connected to electricity and water supplies.

The so-called "Outposts Law," initiated by hard-right Yamina MK Bezalel Smotrich, passed 59-39 in its preliminary reading in the main chamber of the Knesset and was sent to a committee before its return to the plenum for approval in three more votes.

While the international community considers all settlement activity illegal, Israel differentiates between legal settlement homes built and permitted by the Defense Ministry on land owned by the state, and illegal outposts built without necessary permits, sometimes on private Palestinian land.

Some 120 outposts exist throughout the West Bank. Most of the small communities were established by national religious settlers intent on expanding Israeli presence in the West Bank while preventing the establishment of a future Palestinian state.

Smotrich's bill dictates that 65 illegal communities will finish the legalization process over the next two years; if it becomes law, it would immediately formalize their connection to the water and electricity grids. Under Smotrich's plan, some of the outposts would be identified as "neighborhoods" of existing settlements, while others would be registered as new ones.

Gantz also rejected that plan when it was proposed in government deliberations before the vote. But three senior members of his Blue and White faction voted in favor of Smotrich's bill — MKs Omer Yankelevitch, Pnina Tamano-Shata, and Hila Shai-Vazan.

The majority of settlements and outposts are located on land defined by the 1995 Oslo II Accord as Area C, meaning Israel is responsible for both civil and security issues in the zone. Area C constitutes around 60% of the West Bank.

Between 200,000-300,000 Palestinians are estimated to live in Area C, although a definitive census has not been conducted. While some Palestinian communities in Area C are recognized by the state, most are not, as the Israeli military government rarely approves plans for them or issues construction permits.

Amid sky-high infections, Netanyahu pushes ministers to extend lockdown

Blue and White said prepared to back move, but only up to 10 days and only if enforcement is upped where closure is being violated; 30%-40% of cases blamed on British variant

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 5:53 pm

Government ministers convened Tuesday to discuss extending the national lockdown ordered to curb the coronavirus spread, a day after Israel recorded over 10,000 daily infections, the highest level



since the start of the pandemic.

Police at a temporary roadblock in Jerusalem during a 3rd nationwide lockdown, in an effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, on January 19, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged continuing the lockdown beyond its planned end date on Thursday. Cabinet members from the Blue and White party reportedly conditioned their support for such a measure on increased enforcement of closure orders and limiting the extension to no more than 10 days, as well as other terms.

Criticism has intensified over alleged discrimination in the enforcement of the current

lockdown restrictions, with authorities handing out significantly fewer fines in ultra-Orthodox areas, where the outbreak has been disproportionately intense and where there are increasing reports of widespread flouting of the measures.

In addition to debating an extension of the closure, ministers were also expected to approve a fine of NIS 2,500 (\$772) for anyone who arrives in the country without a recent negative virus test.

Netanyahu opened the meeting with remarks he also released in a statement before it started, calling for the lockdown to be extended but without specifying for how long. Channel 12 said the prime minister was lobbying for the lockdown to continue until January 31.

The tightened rules have been in effect for 12 days.

“This might not be popular nor convenient during elections, but this is what we need to decide today,” Netanyahu told ministers over videoconference. **“It’s a lot easier to ignore the incredible jump in morbidity and just open everything, but this will cost many lives.”**

He added that **“this is a difficult decision for many Israeli citizens but a last effort is needed here, a joint effort by all of us to get out of the coronavirus [pandemic] and save lives.”**

Netanyahu referred to a mass wedding in the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak Monday night that violated lockdown rules, describing it as a “bloodletting.”

While Health Minister Yuli Edelstein, backed by health officials, wants to lengthen the lockdown by another two weeks, Blue and White ministers are said to be insisting on capping the extension at no more than 10 days, according to leaks from the meeting reported by Hebrew media.

Gantz demanded there be significant enforcement in areas where the lockdown is being violated. He laid down further conditions for agreeing to extend the lockdown which included limiting entry and exit to the country and that school children aged 16-18 be vaccinated, to ensure the bagrut matriculation exams are held as planned. The current lockdown shuttered all non-essential businesses as well as the education system.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz, who leads Blue and White, said that if there is **“enforcement and [public] discipline”** the lockdown can end in another week to nine days, Channel 12 reported.

Coronavirus czar Nachman Ash recommended extending the lockdown by two weeks until February 4, the station said. He reported that the basic reproduction number, a key indicator of the virus transmission, was dropping but said it would take another few days for the full effect of the lockdown to be felt.

The head of the National Security Council, Meir Ben Shabbat, whose organization is advising the government on the virus outbreak, backed up Ash’s assessment that the impact of the lockdown on the virus outbreak is still not evident. He also warned that despite Israel’s world-leading vaccination campaign, there are 300,000 Israelis over the age of 60 yet to be inoculated.

Ash further told ministers that health officials estimate the British coronavirus variant is behind 30-40 percent of current infections and will become the dominant strain in Israel within weeks. The mutated strain of the virus is more infectious, though not considered more deadly.

The head of public health at the ministry, Sharon Alroy-Preis, said there is no indication so far that the strain is resistant to the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine that Israel is using in its rapid mass vaccination drive, which has so far given the first of the two-dose inoculation to over a quarter of the country’s population, Channel 12 reported.

The mutated strain of the virus from Britain and another detected in South Africa are behind the move for new regulations requiring arrivals in the country to present a negative virus test, taken in the country of departure within the previous 72 hours.

Anyone who turns up without such a test, including Israelis or those who lose the document on their way back to country, will be fined NIS 2,500. Air crew who are scheduled to spend more than 72 hours in Israel will be denied entry if they do not have a valid negative test.

The Health Ministry said Tuesday morning that a record 10,021 infections were confirmed the previous day, bringing the country's total caseload since the start of the pandemic to 562,167, including 81,059 active cases. The rate of positive tests passed the 10 percent mark for the first time in over three months, with 10.2% of the nearly 100,000 tests coming back positive.

Lockdown enforcement

Gantz's demand for an increased crackdown on lockdown violators came after data published by the Kan public broadcaster on Monday showed enforcement was far more lax in ultra-Orthodox areas, which have seen the highest per capita infection rates in the country.

The most fines are handed out in Arab localities, where infections are significantly lower than in ultra-Orthodox areas, though still higher than among the rest of the population, the station found.

תיעוד שברחנו טגניה מביא עכשיו מבני ברק: חתונת נכדי האדמו"רים מדאראג וקרעטשניף. המוזיקה בקולי קולות, כל מי שעובר ברחוב מבין מה קורה בפנים. אנחנו הספקנו לקבל את הכתובת ולשלוח

pic.twitter.com/s1J805X9ON צוות צילום. והמטרה? "בדרך"

— יאיר שרקי (@yaircherki) January 18, 2021

MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-sky-high-infections-netanyahu-pushes-ministers-to-extend-lockdown/>

Israeli pensioners party after COVID-19 booster shots

At assisted-living facility in Netanya, residents hold a dance party to celebrate receiving their second and final vaccine shots; 'I am as happy as a free bird today,' says one resident

Reuters | Published: 01.19.21, 17:51

The rapid roll-out of coronavirus vaccines amongst older people in Israel has lifted the spirits of an age group that has endured confinement and isolation during the crisis.

At the Lev Ganim assisted-living facility in the city of Netanya, residents, still in protective masks, held a dance party to celebrate receiving their second and final injections.



A man receives a vaccination against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at a temporary healthcare maintenance organisation (HMO) (Photo: Reuters)

"I am as happy as a free bird today, thank goodness everything will come to an end," said Pnina Dembinsky, 70, a retired teacher who has been living at the home for seven years.

"We are going to be free, to get out, to meet our families, friends, enjoy life the way we know how to do it, the way we were used to about a year ago. We will get back to normal life."

But the pensioners should perhaps have a care. It's not known if vaccines prevent transmission, so people who have been inoculated might still spread the virus.

Even as it boasts having vaccinated 28% of its population of 9 million, Israel has imposed an open-ended third national lockdown in a bid to rein in surging infections.

On Thursday, for the first time since the start of the pandemic, Israel recorded over 10,000 new daily coronavirus cases, the Health Ministry confirmed. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/Sk3XAOVku>

Israel's embassies in UK, Poland honor Holocaust survivor by handing out falafel

To raise awareness of Holocaust Remembrance Day, missions in Warsaw and London launch 'Operation Dugo', in honor of 90-year-old David 'Dugo' Leitner who each year eats falafel to mark the day of evacuation from Auschwitz

Itamar Eichner | Published: 01.19.21, 21:36

Israeli embassies in Poland and United Kingdom have decided to honor a Holocaust survivor who has an unusual years-long tradition by handing out falafel to locals in an effort to raise awareness about Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The diplomatic missions to Warsaw and London launched so-called "Operation: Dugo" in honor of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day next Wednesday.



Falafel (Photo: Kobi Rubin)

The campaign drew inspiration from 90-year-old Holocaust survivor David "Dugo" Leitner, who eats a falafel every year on January 18, the day on which SS units began evacuating prisoners from the Auschwitz death, marching them on foot, as Soviet soldiers were approaching.

Leitner, who was just a boy back then, recalled how he fantasized about eating bilkelach - mini challah rolls that his mother Golda said were in abundance in Israel - to cheer himself up and help weather through the march.

After surviving the Holocaust, Leitner migrated to Israel. There, he visited the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem where he tried falafel for the first time.



David 'Dugo' Leitner
(Photo: Erez Kaganovich)



Bags of falafel the Israeli Embassy in London distributed to a local homeless shelter as part of 'Operation: Dugo' The mission in London, meanwhile, donated one hundred falafel portions to a homeless shelter.

Since then, Leitner has made it a personal tradition to eat falafel, which reminded him of the bilkelach his mother told him about, each year on January 18 to celebrate his survival.

This year, some of the Israeli embassies decided to embrace Dugo's tradition and use it to raise awareness of the remembrance of the Holocaust.

As part of the campaign to spread David Leitner's story in Poland, the embassy in Warsaw handed out falafel to passersby in the city center.

"Operation Dugo" has reached leading media outlets both in Poland and the UK and was accompanied by an information campaign on social media. Several famous Polish figures also took part in the campaign and called on the Polish public to join in as well. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/HkL11C9E1u>

Jerusalem deputy mayor dreams of int'l 'embassy district' close to US legation



Unveiling details of new US embassy compound planned for city's Hebron Road, Fleur Hassan-Nahoum says plenty of empty space nearby for other countries to put down diplomatic roots

By [Sue Surkes](#) Today, 5:09 pm

The Jerusalem site formerly known as the Allenby Barracks, a planned location for a second campus of the US Embassy (Raphael Ahren/Times of Israel)

A deputy mayor of Jerusalem revealed Tuesday that she is pushing for the creation of an embassy district in the south of the city, anchored by the US Embassy, whose plans for two campuses were approved by the

municipality's planning and building committee last week.

"I've been talking to the mayor for two years about building an embassy district," she told a Zoom press conference. "Its anchor would be the US Embassy on Hebron Road. This same area has a lot of space for building behind Hebron Road and for hotels that are already in the planning stages opposite the Jerusalem Promenade. It's my intention to work toward an embassy district like any other capital city of the world [has]."

Breaking with decades of US policy, the outgoing Trump administration recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 2017 and moved its embassy there from Tel Aviv in 2018. It was one of a string of diplomatic gifts delivered by US President Donald Trump to Israel.

US President-elect Joe Biden is expected to take a more balanced approach toward Israel and the Palestinians, but he has said he does not plan on moving the embassy back to Tel Aviv.

Several countries, among them Honduras, Malawi, the Dominican Republic, Serbia and Kosovo, have stated their intention to open embassies in Jerusalem, but so far only two have — the US and Guatemala.

Last week, city planners greenlighted plans for a new, permanent US Embassy on the so-called Allenby compound bordered by Hebron Road in southern Jerusalem, as well as an extension to the existing 12,800 square meter (138,000 foot) temporary embassy on David Flusser Street in the Arnona neighborhood, a 20-minute walk away. Some Arnona residents are opposing the extension.

Hassan-Nahoum, who is in charge of foreign relations, international economic development and tourism for the city, said that she did not know which of the two US complexes would be the principal one, but that she and Mayor Moshe Lion preferred the Allenby compound, because it was more central, had better transportation connections and was further from residential buildings.

One of the campuses will serve as the embassy, with the other one containing housing for staff, recreational facilities, and possibly a new official residence for the US ambassador. Hassan-Nahoum said she understood that the State Department was still looking at other possible arrangements.

At present, the ambassador is living at the former US Consulate in a historic building on Jerusalem's downtown Agron Street, but this is said to be too small for the purpose. Hassan-Nahoum said this site would likely be retained for embassy events and conferences.



This photo from March 4, 2019, shows United States consulate building in Jerusalem. The United States has officially shuttered its consulate in Jerusalem, downgrading the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by folding it into the US Embassy to Israel. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

Addressing the residents of the nearby neighborhoods of Talpiot, Arnona, Armon Hanatziv, Abu Tor and Baka, she said, "We greatly believe in the embassy effect. When the most important country in the world opens an embassy in an area of your city, the embassy effect means that everything around it will start to gain

momentum. There will be more restaurants, shops, dry cleaners. Property prices will go up as embassy staff look for housing. Maybe there'll be another private school. A big embassy and a new light rail line will have an incredibly positive effect. [The surrounding neighborhoods] will only see an economic upturn."



Part of Hebron Road, looking south (Jessica Steinberg/Times of



The US Consulate in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood, Israel,

The total cost of construction for both campuses is estimated at \$600 million and the architects are the US firm Krueck Sexton and the Israeli company Studio Yigal Levy. The planning process is expected to take at least two years.

Between 400 and 700 construction workers will be needed, Hassan-Nahoum said, and once the complexes are operating, they will need a total of 630 clerical workers and 450 non-office workers, of which 400 and 380 respectively will be locals, she added.

Asked whether Jerusalemites could expect to see high walls and floodlights surrounding the Hebron Road complex, Hassan-Nahoum would only say, "If [the security issues] hadn't been solved, then the plan would not have been deposited. All security concerns have been dealt with and it will be a beautifully planned building."

Pushed on the details of discussions about security, in which she participated, she said they had revolved around issues such as the height envisaged for future buildings nearby to ensure that nobody could look down on the new embassy, and the location of the new light rail stop so that it did not cause security concerns at the embassy entrance.

While the Arnona campus is largely underground, the 60,618 square meter (652,000 square foot) Hebron Road plot, with 31,073 meters of built space, will feature a ten-story office building (shown in grey), a four-story residential building (in beige), several floors of parking (pink) and support facilities. The site is

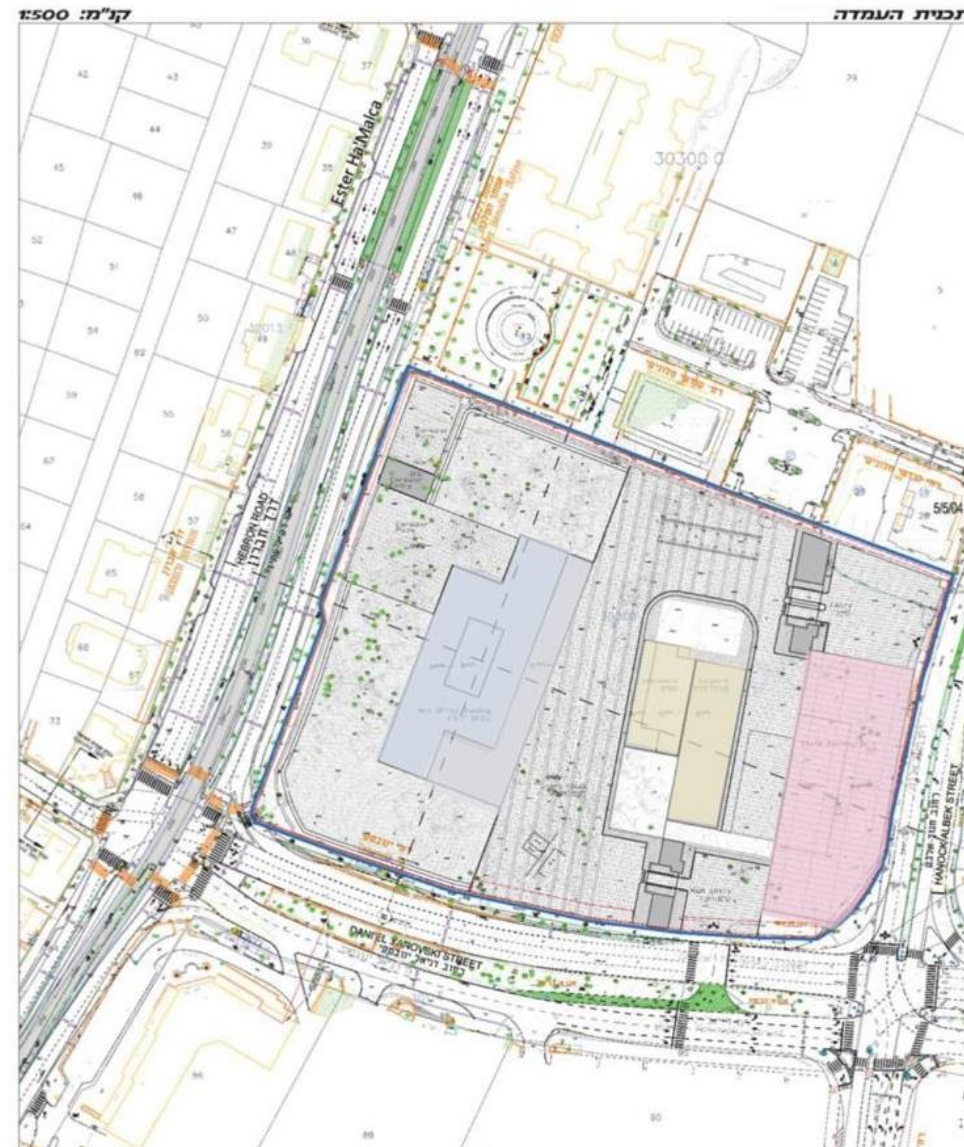
bordered on its southern side by David Yanovsky Street, from where access to the campus will be provided.

Plans for a new US Embassy campus on the Hebron Road in Jerusalem. (Jerusalem Municipality)

Hassan-Nahoum said it was doubtful that the incoming US Biden administration would seek to change the plans, predicting that they might be tweaked only in response to local objections.

The plans approved by the local planning committee will now move to the Jerusalem District Planning Committee, where deposition is expected in the coming weeks. Once that is done, fuller plans will be released and the public will have 60 days to object.

Hebron Road is the inner city section of Route 60, which connects the northern and southern parts of the West Bank. The planned site is near the line that divides West and East Jerusalem, the part of the city captured by Israel from Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War which the Palestinians claim for a future capital.



Currently in an abandoned state, the plot has a rich history. During the British Mandate period, it housed the so-called Allenby Barracks, named after the UK's General Edmund Allenby, who operated an army base there.

Later, the State of Israel maintained a border police station there. Since the 1980s, Palestinian activists have claimed that the plot belongs at least partially to them and that it would be “unbecoming” for the US to establish an embassy “on land that is stolen property.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jerusalem-deputy-mayor-dreams-of-diplomatic-quarter-close-to-us-embassy/>

Five rescued from floods as winter makes Israeli comeback

Firefighters extract the stranded, including a pregnant woman, at a gas station in Nesher; flood warnings issued for Western Galilee; heavy snow fall reported at the Hermon site on Golan Heights as temperatures drop to -1°C
Ahiya Raved, Danny Roup | Published: 01.19.21 , 14:56

Five people were rescued from flooding in northern Israel on Tuesday as the wintry weather returned across the country in the form of rain and snow.

The five, including a pregnant woman, were rescued from two separate vehicles by firefighters at a gas station in the city of Nesher near Haifa. No one was hurt in the incident.



Flooding at a gas station in Nesher (Photo: Israel Fire and Rescue Services)



A tree is blown down by the wind in the central city of Rishon Lezion (Photo: Gal Guetta)

The flooding occurred in an area of Nesher that floods almost every year, but the situation has worsened in recent years due to the local roadworks.

The fire service said that firefighters would remain at the scene in case additional rescues were necessary.



The local police urged drivers to follow the latest advice and plan their routes accordingly.

Heavy snow had also been falling since the morning hours at the Hermon site on the Golan Heights. The site said that about 20cm of snow had accumulated on its lower level, where temperatures plunged to -1°C, and about 40 cm on the upper level. Flooding was also reported Tuesday morning on the road between Kibbutz Sasa and Matat near the Lebanese border.

Police closed the road as water covered it and and diverted the drivers to alternative routes.

Cars trapped in floods in the northern city of Nesher (Photo: United Hatzalah, Carmel region)

The Western Galilee Drainage and Streams Authority issued flood warnings for Tuesday and Wednesday, including areas under Palestinian Authority control. Rain also resumed across the center of the country Tuesday as temperatures dropped there too and strong winds were felt. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/H1RMTTrNJO>

Officials from 17 European nations met with Israel over settlements

Biden is not expected to immediately prioritize jump-starting Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which have been frozen for six years.

By [TOVAH LAZAROFF](#) JANUARY 19, 2021 19:17

In an unusual move, representatives of 17 European nations met with Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General for Europe Anna Azari on Tuesday to discuss their concerns about the settlements. According to a tweet from the EU Embassy in Tel Aviv, the officials "reiterated **their grave concern about announcements by regarding new settlement units in the occupied West Bank** [and] called to permanently halt the tendering procedure for Givat Hamatos." **[OK words mean something. So who is actually occupying the so called West Bank with is the area of Israel that has been called Judea and Samaria for centuries????? One hundred twenty years ago that territory was simply part of the Ottoman Empire territory and then 95 years ago it became the "British Mandate of Palestine" NOT the land of Palestine. Israel agreed to the partition but that was in actuality not really valid because the arab states didn't accept it so it was, after three wars simply Israel and that specific area became known as the west bank OF ISRAEL. There was no real entity that even laid claim to the area until the time of Yasar Arafat (the rat) when the world decided that it his entity should be the representative of the arab populations. The area prior to all that has always been Israel and the OCCUPIERS are the arabs. – rdb]**

In a meeting with the Israeli MFA DDG for Europe, Repr. of reiterated their grave concern about announcements by regarding new settlement units in the occupied West Bank, & called to permanently halt the tendering procedure for Givat HaMatos
— EU in Israel (@EUinIsrael) [January 19, 2021](#)

The move followed Israel's advancement Sunday of a plan for 792 settler homes. The international community is concerned that settlement building would harm any possible attempts by US-President elect Joe Biden to restart Israeli-Palestinian negotiations after he takes office on Wednesday. **[I don't recall any of the EU nations (with the exception of the previous EU nation of the UK) actually ever having any title to any of that land. Perhaps it is time for the Eu to keep their nose out of another countries business when they can't even successfully take care of themselves. – rdb]**

A number of countries and entities have condemned the advancement of settlement plans.

"The expansion of settlements in the [West Bank](#) violates international law and risks irreparably undermining the viability of a just, sustainable two-state solution," Italy's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. **[There is a law that supersedes international law and that is called God's law. If those in the EU weren't so bloody pagan they might even recognize that there is a God who already holds title to that land and it is recorded in a strange book called the Bible and the Torah of Moses. He Alone decides who holds a land which he created and if they had any brains they would recognize that an acknowledge that before it is too late and they all end up with Fire and Brimstone falling on their heads – which is probably going to happen soon anyway. – rdb]**

"We therefore urge Israel to refrain from any unilateral action that" would undermine "ongoing efforts to restore confidence between the parties and jeopardize the resumption of direct negotiations," it stated.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that, "Settlement expansion increases the risk of confrontation, further undermines the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and further erodes the possibility of ending the occupation and establishing a contiguous and viable sovereign Palestinian state, based on the pre-1967 lines." **[Had the Sykes Picot accord actually been done with any intelligence this situation would not even exist. Remember it was France and the UK that totally screwed up the division of the Ottoman empire from the onset. – rdb]**

He urged Israel "to halt and reverse such decisions, which are a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution, and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace." **MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/un-italy-germany-west-bank-settlement-activity-harms-2-state-solution-655970>**

Revving up electric car industry, Israeli firm develops 5-minute-charge battery

Herzliya-based startup StoreDot unveils solution for main obstacle to widespread use of electric vehicles, but it requires major upgrades to charging stations

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 3:03 pm

Israeli company StoreDot announced Tuesday that in a landmark achievement in the electric vehicle industry, it had managed to develop the world's first car battery that can be fully charged in just five minutes.

However, the invention will take time to become commercially feasible since the ultra-fast charge would require much higher-power chargers than are currently available, The Guardian [reported](#).

Electric cars, which are a major part of global attempts to tackle the climate crisis, have faced the challenge of batteries taking hours to fully charge, giving rise to "range anxiety" — the fear of a battery running out mid-journey and the driver getting stranded at a charging station. **[What climate crisis???? This is simply one more cycle**

of the Creator's normal cycling and in reality we are getting ready to enter a major cold cycle. We will be wishing for something to increase our temperatures in a few years should the Lord tarry and delay the Moshiach's return. – rdb]

But now, provided that charging stations undergo a major upgrade, which could take years, charging an electric car could become as quick as stopping to refuel a gas-run vehicle.

In June last year, the startup said it achieved a "[world first](#)" when it fully charged a two-wheeled electric vehicle in just five minutes, together with BP Ventures, the venture arm of the British multinational oil and gas firm BP plc, which has invested [\\$20 million](#) into the startup.

It has also demonstrated ultra-fast charging times for phones, [drones](#) and scooters.

StoreDot has raised \$130 million to date from investors including BP Ventures; Samsung Venture Investment, Daimler AG, the maker of the Mercedes Benz cars; and electrical and electronics maker TDK Corporation.

Some 1,000 of the batteries developed by StoreDot have already been manufactured in China by German firm Eve Systems, and are meant for showcasing the technology to carmakers and other companies, according to The Guardian.

Doron Myersdorf, the co-founder and CEO of StoreDot (Courtesy)



"We are proud to make these samples available, but today's milestone is just the beginning," StoreDot CEO Doron Myersdorf said in a [statement](#). "We're on the cusp of achieving a revolution in the electric vehicle charging experience that will remove the critical barrier to mass adoption of electric vehicles."

"A five-minute charging lithium-ion battery was considered to be impossible," Myersdorf added in an interview with The Guardian. "But we are not releasing a lab prototype, we are releasing engineering samples from a mass production line. This demonstrates it is feasible and it's commercially ready."

"The bottleneck to extra-fast charging is no longer the battery," he said, adding that StoreDot is working with BP on upgrading charging stations and grids that supply them.

Prof. Chao-Yang Wang of the Battery and Energy Storage Technology Center at Pennsylvania State University in the US told The Guardian: "I think such fast-charging batteries will be available to the mass market in three years. They will not be more expensive; in fact, they allow automakers to downsize the onboard battery while still eliminating range anxiety, thereby dramatically cutting down the vehicle battery cost."

Founded in 2012, Herzliya-based StoreDot has developed lithium ion-based battery technology, using nanomaterials and organic and inorganic compounds, which enables ultra-fast charging for various markets.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/revving-up-electric-car-industry-israeli-firm-develops-5-minute-charge-battery/>

Palestinians expect first COVID vaccine from Russia by weekend

Ramallah orders Sputnik V vaccine, hoping to inoculate some 50,000 of its residents by March; first shipment of 5,000 doses, intended for medical staff, has been held-up at Jordan border

Reuters | Published: 01.19.21, 16:20

Palestinians expect to receive the first batch of COVID-19 vaccine by the weekend, officials said on Tuesday - at a time when more than a quarter of their Israeli neighbors have already been inoculated. The Palestinian Authority (PA) has ordered Russia's Sputnik V vaccine and hopes to administer it to 50,000 residents by March, after last week granting the drug emergency approval.

The PA governs in the West Bank in coordination with Israel, whose vaccination campaign has been the world's fastest. By Tuesday morning, 28% of its 9 million citizens had received at least one dose.

Israel has not extended the program, which uses vaccines by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Inc., to the 3.1 million Palestinians in the West Bank or the 2.1 million in the Gaza Strip, which is run by the PA's Islamist rivals Hamas.



Under the terms of the Oslo Accords, however, the Palestinian Authority is responsible for the healthcare of its own population and has repeatedly said it is obtaining its own vaccines via a UN scheme.

Abdel Hafiz Nofal, Palestinian ambassador to Russia (Photo: Gettyimages)

Abdel Hafiz Nofal, Palestinian ambassador to Russia, said it would send 5,000 vaccine doses to the West Bank "by the end of the week" and would not charge for this initial consignment.

"We are working to seal an agreement with the Russian government to buy 100,000 doses, which are enough to vaccinate 50,000 people," Nofal told Reuters.

Nofal envisaged the deal taking place in February, and said 100,000 was the most Moscow could sell the PA that month. The Health Ministry said it had approved the import.

An Israeli official said earlier that the first batch of Sputnik V doses could arrive on Tuesday, through the West Bank's border with Jordan, but later said there had been a hold-up.

Russia's standard export price for the two-dose Sputnik V is \$18 but the cash-strapped PA was trying to negotiate a discount, Nofal said.

Palestinian health officials said the first in line for the vaccines would be medical personnel, the elderly and those with chronic diseases - in Gaza as well as in the West Bank. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/S1EnfLEk00>

Trump officials: Mauritania, Indonesia were next to normalize, but time ran out

US peace team was 'weeks' away from inking deal with northwest African country to re-establish ties with Israel, outgoing officials say, adding that Jakarta was not far behind

By [Jacob Magid](#) Today, 10:59 pm

The Trump administration was closing in on agreements with Mauritania and Indonesia to be the next Muslim countries to normalize relations with Israel, but ran out of time before the Republican president's term ended, two US officials told The Times of Israel this week.

An agreement with Mauritania was the closest to being reached, with US officials believing they had been mere weeks away from finalizing a deal. The northwest African country was identified by the Trump peace team led by senior White House adviser Jared Kushner and special envoy Avi Berkowitz as a likely candidate to follow the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco in normalizing with the Jewish state, given that it once had relations with Israel.

Mauritania became just the third member of the Arab League to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel in 1999, but severed ties 10 years later against the backdrop of the 2008-2009 Gaza war.

After the UAE agreed to normalize ties with Israel in August, Mauritania's Foreign Ministry issued a [statement](#) offering tepid support for the deal, saying it trusted Abu Dhabi's "wisdom and good judgment" in signing the accord.

MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/mauritania-indonesia-were-next-in-line-to-normalize-but-trump-ran-out-of-time/>

Morocco 2nd Arab country to promote combating anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism

Rabat inks agreement with US envoy to fight Jew-hatred, following signing of normalization deal with Israel

By [Ron Kampeas](#) Today, 2:11 am

JTA — A Moroccan institution has, with official government backing, signed an agreement with the US State Department to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, the second such agreement in the Arab Middle East.

The agreement signed Friday by El Mehdi Boudra, the president of Association Mimouna, and Elan Carr, the State Department's envoy to combat anti-Semitism, signals the far-reaching ambition of the Trump Administration's Abraham Accords, to normalize among Arabs the acceptance of not just Israel, but of Zionism.

The memorandum of understanding says the sides "intend to work together to share and promote best practices for combating all forms of anti-Semitism, including anti-Zionism and the delegitimization of the State of Israel" and "for combating other kinds of intolerance and hatred, including Islamophobia."

The agreement is similar to [one signed in October between Carr and a Bahrain institution](#). In both cases, the signing organizations are not government bodies but have the blessing of the royal family. The Association Mimouna was founded in 2007 by Muslims who sought to preserve the country's Jewish heritage.

So proud to sign this MoU with the [@USEAntiSemitism](#)

Thank you Elan S.Carr and [@elliecohanim](#) Cohanim for your support to [#Morocco](#). [@USEmbMorocco](#)
[@TheIHRA](#) [pic.twitter.com/MJcaiTCrQQ](#)

— Elmehti Boudra (@ElBoudra) [January 17, 2021](#)

The Abraham Accords, brokered by President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and his top Middle East envoy, Avi Berkowitz, have encompassed four countries. In addition to Bahrain and Morocco, the United Arab Emirates and Sudan have agreed to normalization with Israel **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/morocco-2nd-arab-country-to-promote-combating-anti-semitism-anti-zionism/>

California pauses large batch of COVID vaccines after multiple allergic reactions

By [Erin Coates, The Western Journal](#) Published January 19, 2021 at 2:48pm

California state health officials have recommended pausing the use of a batch of Moderna COVID-19 vaccines after a San Diego vaccination site observed a few suspected allergic reactions to the jab.

Fewer than 10 people sought medical care after getting vaccines from Moderna Lot 041L20A at Petco Park in San Diego last week, the California Department of Public Health told [KSWB-TV](#).

"Our goal is to provide the COVID vaccine safely, swiftly and equitably," Dr. Erica Pan, California's state epidemiologist, said in a [statement](#) recommending providers pause the administration of the batch of vaccines.

"A higher-than-usual number of possible allergic reactions were reported with a specific lot of Moderna vaccine administered at one community vaccination clinic."

Those affected appeared to [experience](#) a "possible severe allergic reaction during the standard observation period," according to the news release.

"Out of an extreme abundance of caution and also recognizing the extremely limited supply of vaccine, we are recommending that providers use other available vaccine inventory and pause the administration of vaccines from Moderna Lot 041L20A until the investigation by the CDC, FDA, Moderna and the state is complete," Pan said.

Over 330,000 doses from the lot have been distributed across the state to 287 providers.

Moderna said in a statement to KSWB that it "is unaware of comparable adverse events from other vaccination centers which may have administered vaccines from the same lot."

The [vaccination](#) site at Petco Park opened on Jan. 11 and health care workers in the Phase 1A tier of California's priority list were able to receive the jab.

The entire lot of doses is under investigation.

A few vaccine trial participants who had cosmetic facial fillers experienced side effects from the Moderna vaccine, the FDA previously reported.

This is not the first instance of people being hospitalized after receiving the vaccine.

An Alaskan health care worker was [hospitalized](#) with a serious allergic reaction after receiving Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine in December.

The Florida Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are also investigating the death of a doctor who died about two weeks after receiving a dosage of Pfizer's vaccine.

Dr. Gregory Michael developed a severe case of [thrombocytopenia](#) -- a rare disorder that [The New York Times](#) reported can decrease the blood platelet count and reduce the body's ability to clot blood and stop internal bleeding -- 16 days after receiving the vaccine, according to [The Associated Press](#).

The 56-year-old obstetrician, who had a private practice at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, died on Jan. 3.

Darren Caprara, the director of operations for the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department, told the AP that the "cause of death is pending the completion of studies" by the medical examiner and the CDC.

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/01/california-pauses-large-batch-covid-vaccines-multiple-allergic-reactions/>

"If you think of yourselves as helpless and ineffectual, it is certain that you will create a despotic government to be your master. The wise despot, therefore, maintains among his subjects a popular sense that they are helpless and ineffectual. "

-- Frank Herbert (1920-1986) American science fiction writer

Trump Gives Farewell Speech: 'The Movement We Started Is Only Just Beginning'

By [Jack Phillips](#) January 19, 2021 Updated: January 19, 2021

President Donald Trump released his farewell speech on Tuesday afternoon, saying he will pray for the success of the forthcoming administration.

"We are—and must always be—a land of hope, of light, and of glory to all the world. This week we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous," [Trump said](#). "We did what we came here to do—and so much more. Above all, we have reasserted the sacred idea that in America, the government answers to the people."

“We restored the idea that in America, no one is forgotten—because everyone matters and everyone has a voice. I took on the tough battles, the hardest fights, the most difficult choices—because that’s what you elected me to do. Our agenda was not about right or left, it wasn’t about Republican or Democrat, but about the good of a nation, and that means the whole nation.”

Trump added that on Wednesday, the United States will “inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous.”

The commander-in-chief also trumpeted what he saw as his top achievements in office, including efforts to normalize relations in the Middle East as well as his administration’s efforts to take on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). He also touted the fact that he started no new wars—noting he was the first president to do so in decades.

“We revitalized our alliances and rallied the nations of the world to stand up to China like never before,” he said. “As a result of our bold diplomacy and principled realism, we achieved a series of historic peace deals in the Middle East. It is the dawn of a new Middle East and we are bringing our soldiers home. I am especially proud to be the first president in decades who has started no new wars.”

Offering his remarks about the breaching of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. for the first time in weeks, Trump disavowed the violence on Jan. 6 during the Joint Session of Congress.

Trump also thanked First Lady Melania Trump, family members, various staffers, and the U.S. Secret Service. The president also struck an optimistic tone, saying he built a potent political movement.

“Now, as I prepare to hand power over to a new administration at noon on Wednesday, I want you to know that the movement we started is only just beginning,” Trump said.

White House officials said on Tuesday that the speech was recorded on Monday.

Trump, meanwhile, will reportedly skip the ceremonial swearing-in of Biden on Wednesday and will depart the White House on Wednesday morning. Before his account was suspended by Twitter earlier in January, Trump said he would not attend the event.

President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday promised that even as he departs for D.C., to be sworn in, “I’ll always be a proud son of the state of Delaware.” Biden added: “It’s deeply personal that our next journey to Washington starts here—the place that defines the very best of who we are as Americans.” https://www.theepochtimes.com/trump-gives-farewell-speech-the-movement-we-started-is-only-just-beginning_3663134.html

Dumped: Sidney Powell releases her 'Kraken' suit

Drops legal action less than 24 hours before Biden's inauguration

By [Joe Kovacs](#) Published January 19, 2021 at 5:19pm

Sidney Powell, the high-profile attorney who vowed to "release the Kraken" in a lawsuit alleging widespread fraud in Georgia resulting in a presidential victory for Joe Biden, has voluntarily dropped her legal action less than 24 hours before Biden's inauguration.

In a motion filed at the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, Powell and other attorneys agreed with defendants including Gov. Brian Kemp and Sec. of State Brad Raffensperger to have the case dismissed.

"This civil action brings to light a massive election fraud," her original lawsuit had indicated.

"I feel very optimistic the truth will get out," Powell had said in November concerning her actions trying to prove fraud helped steal the election away from President Trump. "Of course, everybody on the face of the earth now is trying to suppress it, including people in our own government.

"But I won't quit until it's out and (we) release the Kraken," she said, invoking a [line from the mythological monster fantasy film "Clash of the Titans."](#)

Powell was a guest on numerous TV and radio programs, alleging Dominion Voting Systems, the company supplying voting machines for Georgia and other states, was rigging the election in favor of Biden.

11 Alive reported: "Powell's requests – that millions of absentee ballots be invalidated and that a judge unilaterally declare President Trump the winner in Georgia among them – were described as 'the most extraordinary relief ever sought in a court in an election' by Judge Timothy Batten, the Northern Georgia district judge who dismissed the suit in December."

Powell explained court rulings against her would mean something if the judges had actually reviewed the facts.

"For them to dismiss our cases on any basis is absolutely ridiculous. We have just an extraordinary volume of evidence that you wouldn't even put in the complaint stage of a normal case."

She said the election outcome came because of ["a masterful Machiavellian scheme."](#)

As [WND reported](#), Dominion sued Powell for defamation, seeking \$1.3 billion in damages.

Dominion CEO John Poulos charged that "lies" that were told about government election officials, election workers and Dominion Voting Systems" "have consequences."

"They have served to diminish the credibility of U.S. elections. They have subjected officials and Dominion employees to harassment and death threats," he said. "They have severely damaged the reputation of our company.

Today is just the first step to restore our good name, and faith in elections by holding those responsible to account."

Powell, along with Trump's former national security adviser Lt. Gen Michael Flynn, had her [Twitter account permanently suspended](#) this month, with the social-media giant citing "behavior that has the potential to lead to offline harm."

Despite Powell appearing with President Trump's campaign lawyers at news conferences in November, the Trump campaign [suddenly distanced itself](#) from the attorney who vowed to file lawsuits of "biblical" proportions.

In a statement from Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani and Trump legal adviser Jenna Ellis, the team said: "Sidney Powell is practicing law on her own. She is not a member of the Trump Legal Team. She is also not a lawyer for the President in his personal capacity."

pic.twitter.com/3QDNLjBrmf

— Jenna Ellis (@JennaEllisEsq) [November 22, 2020](#)

Ironically, President Trump himself had tweeted as recently as Nov. 14 that Powell was a member of his legal team.

"I look forward to Mayor Giuliani spearheading the legal effort to defend OUR RIGHT to FREE and FAIR ELECTIONS! Rudy Giuliani, Joseph diGenova, Victoria Toensing, Sidney Powell, and Jenna Ellis, a truly great team, added to our other wonderful lawyers and representatives!" Trump said before Twitter deleted his account. <https://rumble.com/vd039d-exclusive-lin-wood-live-on-special-broadcast-patriotically-correct-radio.html>

Nearly 3/4 of voters think America is on wrong track

First time ever a clear majority reject direction the country is headed in

By [WND News Services](#) Published January 19, 2021 at 1:49pm By [Bradley Stein](#) Daily Caller News Foundation

A majority of Americans say they feel the country is headed in the wrong direction ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, a new poll shows.

The NBC News poll showed that 73% of respondents indicated the country is on the wrong track, while only a mere 21% of Americans approve of the country's direction.

7 in 10 voters in the US think the next four years will remain politically divided, and a majority say they are mainly worried and pessimistic about the nation's future, the latest national NBC News poll finds. <https://t.co/6VH4Cdo7uj> pic.twitter.com/uRJyzz0fLt

— NBC News (@NBCNews) [January 19, 2021](#)

Majorities of Republicans, Democrats and Independents expressed doubt in America's future and predicted [division in the years to come](#), the poll shows. This is the first time since pollsters began asking voters whether they believed America was on the right track in 1988 that a clear majority of Americans rejected the direction the country is headed in according to [The Hill](#).

An earlier [Suffolk University Poll](#) released on Sunday showed that 65% of Americans disapprove of the direction America is heading in.

The NBC poll showed that 55% of Americans believe Biden's rhetorical style as president will be more presidential than outgoing [President Donald Trump's](#) and that 43% approve of his personal qualities. However, only 37% of voters said they were confident Biden's policy agenda will be successful.

The poll also indicated 60% of respondents approve of [Biden's transition](#) thus far, compared to 32% who disapprove of the team's efforts. Roughly 44% of respondents appeared to approve of Trump's handling of the transition.

The poll has a 3.1% margin of error and 1,000 registered voters took part.

President-elect Joe Biden is set to take office at noon on Wednesday. **MORE** - <https://www.wnd.com/2021/01/nearly-3-4-voters-think-america-wrong-track/>

Nolte: Donald Trump Leaves Office with 51% Approval Rating

[John Nolte](#) 19 Jan 2021 5,287

On his last full day in office, President Donald Trump enjoys a 51 percent approval rating, according to Rasmussen Reports, one of only about three polling firms that have a proven track record for legitimacy and accuracy. Most of the other polls are crap. Rigged. Fake. Not worthy of anyone's time.

Trump's disapproval rating sits at just 48 percent.

There are a lot of media polls that show Trump's approval rating in the low forties, and even in the thirties. But, over the course of the last few election cycles, we have learned that these are almost all fake polls, rigged polls, polls

that in no way reflect reality. And we know this because when the ultimate poll is taken on Election Day, the media polls are all wrong. The whole point of media polls is to mislead, demoralize, and deceive the American people into believing Trump is less popular than he really is.

Time and again, Rasmussen has proven to be reliable and accurate, which tells us the insanity of the Capitol Hill riot and the corporate media's determination to blame the president for it — even though he expressly called on that crowd to be respectful and peaceful, even though he almost immediately called for the anarchy to stop once it began (which is more than any Democrat has ever done) — is not penetrating into the electorate at large.

People don't trust the media and are not listening to the media, and why should they? The media have lied about everything for nearly a decade now.

So basically, all this unfounded left-wing hysteria is affecting absolutely nothing outside the corporate media bubble, even though the hysteria has gone so far that we now have to look at the kabuki theater of the military shutting down Washington, D.C., which includes fences covered in razor wire. This is all being done in an effort to fool people into believing Trump supporters are some sort of danger to His Fraudulency Joe Biden's inauguration. Oh, and did you know there is [no evidence](#) of any threats against His Fraudulency? That's right, none.

What's more, in this particular poll, Trump's job approval rating has actually INCREASED since the Capitol Hill riot. What had been a 47 percent approval rating on January 7 is now a 51 percent approval rating, a bump of four points in approval. **MORE** - <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/01/19/nolte-donald-trump-leaves-office-51-approval-rating/>

Trump Orders Declassification of Some Crossfire Hurricane Documents

By [Mimi Nguyen Ly](#) January 19, 2021 Updated: January 19, 2021

President Donald Trump has ordered the declassification of previously confidential documents related to "Crossfire Hurricane," the FBI's investigation of his 2016 campaign.

The move comes on his last night in office.

The materials were not immediately made known to the public.

The Department of Justice provided the White House on Dec. 30, 2020, with a binder of materials related to the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane investigation, portions of which were classified and not released to Congress or the public, Trump said in a memorandum for the attorney general, the director of National Intelligence, and the director of the CIA.

"I requested the documents so that a declassification review could be performed and so I could determine to what extent materials in the binder should be released in unclassified form," Trump said in the memo. "I determined that the materials in that binder should be declassified to the maximum extent possible."

Trump said that the FBI, in a response letter on Jan. 17, "noted its continuing objection to any further declassification of the materials in the binder and also, on the basis of a review that included Intelligence Community equities, identified the passages that it believed it was most crucial to keep from public disclosure."

"I have determined to accept the redactions proposed for continued classification by the FBI in that January 17 submission," Trump said. "I hereby declassify the remaining materials in the binder. This is my final determination under the declassification review and I have directed the Attorney General to implement the redactions proposed in the FBI's January 17 submission and return to the White House an appropriately redacted copy."

The president added, "My decision to declassify materials within the binder is subject to the limits identified above and does not extend to materials that must be protected from disclosure pursuant to orders of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and does not require the disclosure of certain personally identifiable information or any other materials that must be protected from disclosure under applicable law. Accordingly, at my direction, the Attorney General has conducted an appropriate review to ensure that materials provided in the binder may be disclosed by the White House in accordance with applicable law."

The FBI's Crossfire Hurricane counterintelligence investigation into the 2016 Trump campaign was launched in July 2016 to investigate allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections, including possible links between Russia and any political campaigns.

https://www.theepochtimes.com/trump-orders-declassification-of-some-crossfire-hurricane-documents_3663451.html

What is Civilization Jihad?

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/174076001>

The most notable names on Trump's pardon list

In a since-deleted tweet in November, rapper Kodak Black promised to spend \$1 million on charity if the president released him, the hip-hop magazine XXL reported.

By REUTERS JANUARY 20, 2021 09:01

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump issued a flurry of presidential pardons and commutations for 143 people on Wednesday, his last day in office, including his former campaign adviser Steve Bannon.

The people he granted clemency to ranged from rappers to financiers and lobbyists. The list includes:

AVIEM SELLA - Sella, 75, is an Israeli citizen who was indicted in 1986 for espionage in relation to the [Jonathan Pollard case](#). Mr. Sella's request for clemency was supported by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer, the US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, and Miriam Adelson.

STEVE BANNON - [Bannon](#), 67, was a key adviser in Trump's 2016 presidential run. He was charged last year with swindling Trump supporters over an effort to raise private funds to build the president's wall on the US-Mexico border. He has pleaded not guilty. **MORE** -<https://www.jpost.com/american-politics/the-most-notable-names-on-trumps-pardon-list-656049>

Commentaries:

More Big Tech Manipulations: Twitter Appears to Be Shielding The Lincoln Project Amid Member Scandal

[Brad Slager](#) Posted: Jan 18, 2021 11:30 AM

Just at the time when the titans of Silicon Valley are under scrutiny for the targeted practice of silencing those voices with whom they take issue, Twitter comes out with more proof of a clear cut bias in its standards and practices. This time, instead of the work of taking down opinions from the right, what we see is something of a protection racket towards trouble seen on the opposite side of the spectrum.

That this latest move involves protecting some pretty disturbing behavior only underscores the level of partisan standards in these companies.

This past week a swirling scandal developed around co-founder of The Lincoln Project, John Weaver, concerning [his history of grooming young men](#) for sexual purposes. Weaver allegedly would use social media to lure his targets and frequently he would use promises of professional favors in exchange for those favors of a sexual nature. It becomes a very revealing detail about The Lincoln Project, and the character of its membership.

The amusement arrives in that this is an outfit that loudly rails against others they deem to be lacking in character and morals. Vocal member Steve Schmidt [frequently lashes out](#) at opponents in this fashion. He recently targeted the booking company Vrbo when they did not properly cower to demands leveled by The Lincoln Project. *"Smarten up. Act ethically. Act in the interest of the public good."*

These are the lectures from the same group that overlooked Weaver's behavior at the same time. This was much like last year when it was revealed the same man had filed to work as a lobbyist for the Russians as TLP waged a lengthy campaign demonizing Trump's supposed ties to the same country. After initial individuals stepped forward about Weaver, a growing tide of claims led to Weaver [releasing a statement](#) admitting to his actions.

"To the men I made uncomfortable through my messages that I viewed as consensual mutual conversations at the time: I am truly sorry. They were inappropriate and it was because of my failings that this discomfort was brought on you. The truth is that I'm gay. And that I have a wife and two kids who I love. My inability to reconcile those two truths has led to this agonizing place."

When the story became more valid The Lincoln Project [removed any references to Weaver](#) from their site without announcement, a sign that [ties were getting severed](#) behind the scenes. But in the following days something interesting followed the media curiosity. Twitter appears to be running interference on behalf of the anti-Trump/Pro-Biden "Republican" PAC.

Those curious to see if the outfit has made any announcements about the move, or to delve back into past tweets to see if there are any incriminating posts that had been made are running into roadblocks. Basic searches involving The Lincoln Project account [were not delivering any returns](#). Even simply searching the account by its handle -- @ProjectLincoln -- would not deliver the site as a return.

At a time when the major tech companies are undertaking a clearly coordinated effort to stifle conservative interests and coddle those on the left, this becomes a vastly more revealing decision by Twitter. That the site is showing a preference towards an anti-Trump account becomes rather obvious. That they are doing so to protect them and hide details involving troubling behavior makes this move by Twitter all the more disturbing.

When they had been pressed on the issue Twitter was not exactly forthcoming. The explanation [from the company via a spokesman](#) was that this curious inability to seek out account details was "a bug that has been fixed." This detail

fails to come off as satisfactory, considering the glitch was extremely site specific, and extremely coincidental to when that site was enduring some severely negative press. Additionally, a search on the site *Shadowban.eu*, a tool used to find out if any type of controls may be placed on an account, shows there is in fact [a site search ban in place](#).

By Sunday afternoon this curious non-functionality was changed, but there was not much in the way of a sensible explanation from Twitter. This was not an issue with the search engine function of the platform; it was a clear move to do what they could to keep the interests of a favorable outlet protected from information getting out.

Big Tech is clearly maintaining its position of controlling messaging as it sees fit with targeted standards. This involves both silencing those on the right, as well as protecting those on the left, or those they see as allies. Taking a moral stance is not such a priority. <https://townhall.com/columnists/bradslager/2021/01/18/more-big-tech-manipulations-twitter-appears-to-be-shielding-the-lincoln-project-amid-member-scandal-n2583296>

And then....

Why the Left Has To Suppress Free Speech

Dennis Prager Posted: Jan 19, 2021 12:01 AM

Let us begin with this fact: The left always suppresses speech. Since Vladimir Lenin and the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917, there has been no example of the left in control and not crushing dissent.

That is one of the important differences between liberal and left: Liberalism and liberals believe in free speech. (The present leftist threat to freedom in America, the greatest threat to freedom in American history, is made possible because liberals think they have more to fear from conservatives than from the left. Liberals do not understand that the left regards liberals as their useful idiots.)

The left controls universities. There is little or no dissent allowed at universities.

The left controls nearly every "news" medium. There is little or no dissent in the mainstream media -- not in the "news" sections and not in the opinion sections.

The left controls Hollywood. No dissent is allowed in Hollywood.

That is why we have "cancel culture" -- the silencing and firing of anyone who publicly dissents from the left, and even "publicly" is no longer necessary. The National Association of Realtors has just announced that if you express dissenting views (on race, especially) in private, you may be fined and lose your membership in the organization -- which effectively ends your career as a realtor.

So, we return to the opening question: Why does the left need to crush all dissent? This is a question made all the more stark because there is no parallel on the right: Conservatives do not shut down dissent or debate.

The answer, though the left will not acknowledge it, is the left fears dissent. And they do so for good reason. Leftism is essentially a giant balloon filled with nothing but hot air. Therefore, no matter how big the balloon -- the Democratic Party, The New York Times, Yale University -- all it takes is a mere pin to burst it.

Leftism is venerated by intellectuals. But there is little intellectual substance to leftism. It is a combination of doctrine and emotion. The proof? Those with intellectual depth do not stifle dissent; they welcome it.

That is why universities are so opposed to conservatives coming to speak on campus. One articulate conservative can undo years of left-wing indoctrination in a one-hour talk or Q and A. I know this from personal experience on campuses. You can, too. Watch the speeches given by any conservatives allowed to speak on a campus -- many of these talks are still on YouTube -- and you will see large halls filled with students yearning to hear something other than left-wing pablum. Look at their faces, filled with rapt attention to ideas they never heard that are clearly having an impact. Universities are entirely right to fear our coming to speak. We come with the pin that bursts their \$50,000-a-year balloon.

That is also why it is so hard to get any of them to debate any of us. In 35 years of radio, I have never mistreated or bullied a guest. I was unfailingly polite to an icon of the left, Howard Zinn, the America-hating author of the America-hating "A People's History of the United States." I even invited a UCLA political science professor and violinist, one of seven members of the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra who refused to play when I conducted the orchestra in a Joseph Haydn symphony in the Disney Concert Hall -- solely because I'm a conservative. Despite his public letter, in which he accused me of holding "horribly bigoted positions" and wrote, "Please urge your friends to not attend this concert, which helps normalize bigotry in our community," I nevertheless invited him on my national radio show. He agreed. I had him in studio for an entire hour and treated him and his wife (who accompanied him) with great respect, despite my contempt for his false accusations and his advocacy of the cancel culture. Every American should hear that hour.

Unfortunately for the emotional and intellectual health of our society, he, Zinn and a few others were anomalies. Of the 100 or so left-wing authors, professors and columnists invited to appear on my show, almost none has responded in the affirmative. They prefer NPR, where they are never challenged.

The opposite, however, is not true: Every conservative intellectual I know says yes to every one of the (very few) left-wing invitations we receive. Of course, we are almost never invited. We regularly invite leftists. Leftists almost

never invite us. They claim it's because we are not up to their intellectual level and they have no desire to waste their time. One would think that the opportunity to publicly show how vapid we conservatives really are would be too good to pass up.

Leftists do not debate us or appear as guests on our shows and prevent us from speaking whenever possible, because they (correctly) fear conservatives. Race-baiters such as Ibram X. Kendi or Ta-Nehisi Coates or "White Fragility" author Robin DiAngelo would never debate Larry Elder, for example. Why won't they? Because they would be shown to be the intellectually shallow purveyors of hate they are. Deep down, they know it. Larry Elder is one of many conservative black intellectuals who left-wing blacks (and whites) refuse to debate.

Now you know why the left suppresses free speech: because they have to. If there is free speech, there is dissent. And if there is dissent, there is no more left. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/2021/01/19/why-the-left-has-to-suppress-free-speech-n2583317>

And then....

Nuclear Extortion: Mullahs Want More Concessions from Biden

by [Majid Rafizadeh](#) January 19, 2021 at 5:00 am

The Iranian regime received a [dangerous](#) and unprecedented level of concessions from the Obama administration for Iran's 2015 "nuclear deal," known as the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) -- which, by the way, Tehran [never signed](#). The major concession was that the deal [paved](#) the way for Iran legally to become a full-blown nuclear state.

The [sunset clauses](#), which enshrined that commitment, had set a firm expiration date for restricting Iran's nuclear program. The Obama administration also [helped](#) swiftly lift all four rounds of UN sanctions against Iran -- sanctions it had taken decades to put in place. Furthermore, Iran's military sites were [exempt](#) from inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and other inspections were only to be at the times and places of Iran's choosing -- if ever. Iran then rejoined the global financial system with full legitimacy -- plus billions of dollars flowing into the treasury of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its expanding militias across the Middle East.

You would think, then, that the regime would be delighted to return to the same nuclear deal, right? Wrong. The mullahs want an even sweeter deal. Why? Partially because Joe Biden already showed his cards by stating that he wants the deal. "I will offer Tehran a credible path back to diplomacy," Biden [stated](#) in a CNN op-ed.

"If Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the United States would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations. With our allies, we will work to strengthen and extend the nuclear deal's provisions, while also addressing other issues of concern."

The regime now knows that Biden seems desperate for a deal, and doubtless sees this as a delectable weakness.

Just as enticing to the mullahs, Biden has [appointed](#) Wendy Sherman -- a key negotiator in the talks which led to the nuclear deal in 2015 during the Obama administration -- to be Deputy Secretary of State. Biden actually [pointed](#) to this professed accomplishment:

"She [Sherman] has successfully rallied the world to strengthen democracy and confront some of the biggest national security challenges of our time, including leading the U.S. negotiating team for the Iran Deal".

That sent a further strong message to Iran that the Biden administration was desperate to return to the nuclear deal.

Meanwhile, the Iranian regime can only feel emboldened by the position of the European Union. The EU is lobbying for returning to the JCPOA and lifting sanctions on Iran -- in spite of the fact, as France's Foreign Minister Jean Yves Le Drian recently [acknowledged](#), that Tehran is rapidly acquiring nuclear weapons capacity. The EU [announced](#) last week its "strong commitment" to the Iranian nuclear deal and urged Biden swiftly to rejoin it:

"The EU reiterates its strong commitment to and continued support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The JCPOA is a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture and an achievement of multilateral diplomacy, endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council through resolution 2231."

Iran's ruling mullahs also most likely assume that they can extort even more concessions from a Democrat administration, particularly Biden's, because they successfully did so in the past, with the Obama administration, when Biden served as Vice President.

Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, nevertheless, [told](#) a forum organized by New York's Council on Foreign Relations that he wants a *new* deal. "A sign of good faith is not to try to renegotiate what has already been negotiated," he said, [adding](#) in the same speech that the US must "Compensate us for our losses." Iran's top judicial body had already [demanded](#) that the US pay \$130 billion in "damages."

Iran's regime, in addition, is playing another dangerous game, as it did with the Obama administration, to program to extort greater concessions from the Biden administration: It is ratcheting up nuclear threats.

Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the civilian Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, [stated](#) on January 1, 2021 that Tehran will enrich uranium at a higher level, a short technical step away from weapons-grade level. The IAEA [confirmed](#) the plan:

"Iran has informed the agency that in order to comply with a legal act recently passed by the country's parliament, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran intends to produce low-enriched uranium (LEU) up to 20 percent at the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant. Iran's letter to the agency, dated [Dec. 31, 2020] did not say when this enrichment activity would take place."

Now, at an underground facility, Iran's theocratic establishment is [enriching](#) uranium at 20 percent.

Furthermore, on January 4, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), [seized](#) in the Gulf a South Korean-flagged ship carrying thousands of tons of ethanol, according to Fars News. The move alarmed the US State Department. A spokesperson [noted](#):

"The (Iranian) regime continues to threaten navigational rights and freedoms in the Persian Gulf as part of a clear attempt to extort the international community into relieving the pressure of sanctions. We join the Republic of Korea's call for Iran to immediately release the tanker,"

Meanwhile, General Hossein Salami, commander-in-chief of the IRGC, recently [threatened](#) the U.S. and the United Kingdom. "If you cross our red line," he announced, "we will destroy you. We will not leave any move unanswered. The enemy will not have security anywhere." He [added](#) that the regime's "patience has a limit."

The Iranian parliament also recently [passed](#) another law, requiring the government to expel the nuclear inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

All these measures -- using threats and nuclear violations -- are just aimed at getting a still sweeter deal from the Biden administration.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh is a business strategist and advisor, Harvard-educated scholar, political scientist, board member of Harvard International Review, and president of the International American Council on the Middle East. He has [authored](#) several books on Islam and US foreign policy. He can be reached at Dr.Rafizadeh@Post.Harvard.Edu <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/16975/iran-nuclear-extortion>

Prayer for the IDF - Mi Sheberach, Yaakov Shwekey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJEpLklULs0>

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ARUTZ SHEVA

Trump Administration declares China Uighur policy 'genocide'

Pompeo: 'PRC has committed genocide against the predominantly Muslim Uighurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang.'

Arutz Sheva Staff, Jan 19, 2021 7:54 PM

Reuters reports the Trump administration has determined that China has committed "genocide and crimes against humanity" in its repression of Uighur Muslims in its Xinjiang region, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday, calling it "an embarrassing blow to Beijing" a day before Joe Biden is to take office.

U.S. officials said "an exhaustive documentation of (China's) own policies, practices, and abuse in Xinjiang" led Pompeo to make the determination that such acts had been committed since at least March 2017.

"After careful examination of the available facts, I have determined that the PRC, under the direction and control of the CCP, has committed genocide against the predominantly Muslim Uighurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang," Pompeo said in a statement.

"I believe this genocide is ongoing, and that we are witnessing the systematic attempt to destroy Uighurs by the Chinese party-state," he added.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/295209>

A farewell salute to America's Greatest President

We salute you, President Donald J. Trump, for renewing belief throughout the entire world that there are still heroes. Opinion

Mordechai Sones, Jan 19, 2021 3:13 PM

"Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look."

- U.S. President Ronald Reagan, January 20, 1981

President Donald John Trump will forever be remembered by the people of the State of Israel. The years of plenty have come and gone, and the President who exemplified the Jewish value of

unwaveringly standing with the truth in the face of derision, slander, and violence will now stand aside as something else inherits the levers of power in Washington D.C.

President Trump, you became the envy of the people of Israel when you proved yourself to be a national leader who keeps his campaign promises. We now see that if there is a will, it is indeed possible. **MORE -** <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/295192>

A lawyer from California has published a call for Iran to wipe out the Jews

California bar association refuses to take action over attorney's praise for Hitler and call for genocide of Jews.
Shlomo Witty, Jan 20, 2021 2:11 PM

California lawyer Farhad Khorasani had been cleared of wrongdoing by the California Bar Association's disciplinary panel, despite social media posts deriding the Holocaust, praising Adolf Hitler, and calling on Iran to carry out a genocide against Jews.

Although the posts in question have already been removed or blocked from the sites on which they were posted, screenshots of the posts by a legal associate were submitted to the bar along with a complaint to have him disciplined or disbarred. The bar concluded an investigation with the verdict "no actionable conduct."

One such post accuses worldwide Jewry of using the historical spectacle of the Holocaust as a 'tool to be manipulated', while others blame the Israeli Mossad for assassinating an Iranian nuclear scientist. Khorasani calls this an 'act of war' and calls on Iran to lead the way in wiping out the Jews.

Further comments celebrate the recent death of notable Jewish figures such as Sheldon Adelson, a philanthropist who dedicated considerable time and resources to the State of Israel.

Screenshots of Khorasani's posts carried by the blog *Israellycool* showed the attorney had praised Adolf Hitler, and called for a "new Hitler" to emerge.

"The Jew anywhere is an existential threat to Aryans, muslims, and Iranians everywhere," Khorasani wrote. "Hitler has proved that he knew these terrorist semites very well. Hitler was right, we need a new Hitler." **Legal colleagues wrote to Viva Mena to say that they are shocked to see this kind of content from Khorasani, and that he never expressed such sentiments** in law school.
<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/295264>

Tunisian president blames country's problems on 'thieving Jews'

As deteriorating economic situation sparks renewed social protests, Tunisia's president says 'thieving Jews' are to blame for crisis.

Arutz Sheva Staff, Jan 20, 2021 12:36 PM

Tunisia's president is under fire Wednesday, after he blamed 'thieving Jews' for rising social tensions in his country. President Kais Saied met with residents of the low-income Al-Tadamon neighborhood (also known as Ettadhamen-Mnihla) of Greater Tunis recently, discussing the ongoing economic challenges facing the country which have sparked a renewed protest movement.

During the encounter, President Saied blamed Tunisia's woes on "thieving Jews".

A recording of the visit to Al-Tadamon, including the president's comments, were uploaded to his Facebook account Tuesday.

Saied's comments drew condemnation from the Conference of European Rabbis, which warned that Tunisian Jews could be targeted as a result of Saied's verbal attacks.

"The Conference of European Rabbis wishes to express its deep concern following the serious and public remarks made by Tunisian President Kais Saied this morning, accusing Jews of being responsible for the instability in the country."

"The CER urges the Tunisian President to withdraw these remarks, which constitute an immediate threat to the physical and moral integrity of Tunisian Jewish citizens."

Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the CER, said Wednesday: "We consider that the Tunisian government is the guarantor of the security of Tunisian Jews. Such allegations threaten the integrity of one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/295260>

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