

Ohad Moskowitz, Avi Perets "Avinu Shebashamayim

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsBAe84dkfQ

Table with 3 columns containing the text of the prayer 'Avinu Shebashamayim'.

"Outside show is a poor substitute for inner worth."

-- Aesop (c. 550 B.C.) legendary Greek fabulist

Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

That is the only hope for this nation!

Please Remember These Folks In Prayer- Check often They Change!

Pray 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 DB family - passed away
Pray for EL - Had clot embolized to brain - successful 'clot buster' but long road to go.
Pray for BB - Severe West Nile Fever -still not mobile- improving!
Pray for RBH - cancer recurrence
Pray for DH family - Mother passed away
Pray for GB - bad reaction from Cancer drug
Pray for Ella - Child with serious problems

NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up. If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now- rdb]

Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. - Have YOU made any preparations?

Genesis 36:23 And these were the sons of Shobal: Alvan, and Manahath, and Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. 24 And these were the sons of Zibeon, even Aiah and Anah; he is the Anah who found the hot springs in the desert as he fed the asses for his father Zibeon. 25 And these were the sons of Anah: Dishon; and Oholibamah was the daughter of Anah. 26 And these were the sons of Dishan: Hemdan, and Eshban, and Ithran, and Cheran.

2 crewmen slain in strike on Israeli-operated ship; Jerusalem blames Iran



Suicide drone apparently targeted ship managed by Eyal Ofer's Zodiac Maritime near Oman; company says British, Romanian staff died; reports that one of those killed was the captain

By Emanuel Fabian, TOI staff and Agencies Today, 4:03 pm Updated at 7:39 pm

This Jan. 2, 2016 file photo shows the Liberian-flagged oil tanker Mercer Street off Cape Town, South Africa (Johan Victor via AP)

Two crewmen, a British and Romanian national, died in an attack on an oil tanker operated by an Israeli-owned company off the coast of Oman on Thursday night, the company said.

An Israeli security official who spoke on condition of anonymity told The Associated Press that Israel believes Iran was behind the attack on the ship, citing similar attacks in the past.

Analysts said the attack bore all the hallmarks of tit-for-tat exchanges in the “shadow war” between Israel and Iran, in which vessels linked to each nation have been targeted in waters around the Gulf.

“With profound sadness, we understand the incident onboard the M/T Mercer Street on 29 July, 2021 has resulted in the deaths of two crew members on board,” Zodiac Maritime said in a statement on Friday afternoon.

An unnamed US official told The Associated Press it appeared that a so-called “suicide drone” was used in the attack. Iran and Yemen’s Tehran-backed Houthi rebels have employed “suicide” drones in the past, unmanned aircraft loaded with explosives that detonate on impact with a target.

The assault **represented the worst-known maritime violence so far in regional attacks on shipping since 2019**. The US, Israel and others have blamed the attacks on Iran amid the unraveling of Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers.

An unnamed senior Israeli official cited by Channels 12 and 13 news said the Romanian fatality was apparently the captain, while the British man was a security guard.

“This is an Iranian terror attack that killed two innocent men, harming international shipping,” the official said.

Zodiac Maritime is a London-based company belonging to Israeli tycoon Eyal Ofer. Earlier this month, a UAE-bound vessel previously owned by Ofer’s company was struck in the northern Indian Ocean.

The company said that while it operates the Liberia-flagged “Mercer Street” oil tanker, the owner of the ship is Japanese.

It added on Friday it was not aware of any other injuries apart from the two crewmen who died.

“Our primary concern remains the safety and well-being of everyone on board and all those affected by the situation. Details of the incident are still being established and an investigation into the incident is currently underway,” the company added.

It later said the ship was “sailing under the control of her crew and under her own power... to a safe location with a US naval escort.”

A brief initial statement earlier from the British military’s United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations said an investigation was underway into the attack, which it described as happening late Thursday night just northeast of the Omani island of Masirah. The location is over 300 kilometers (185 miles) southeast of Oman’s capital, Muscat.

“We continue to work closely with the UKMTO and other relevant authorities,” Zodiac Maritime said.

Meir Javedanfar, an expert on Iranian diplomacy and security at Israel’s IDC Herzliya university, told AFP the attack was “most probably Iran.”

Javedanfar said Iranians “feel badly disadvantaged when it comes to responding to attacks inside Iran which have been associated to Israel,” including an April strike on the Natanz uranium enrichment site reportedly executed by Israel.

An attack on a maritime vessel “is one area where [Iranians] feel they can try to at least retaliate,” he added.

But he assessed the fundamental dynamics of the rivalry would change little. “Both sides will continue what they’re doing,” he said.

Israeli officials did not immediately acknowledge the incident, but it comes amid heightened tensions between Israel and Iran as negotiations remain stalled over Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers.

Other Israeli ships have been targeted in recent months, as have vessels tied to Iran, amid a shadow war between the two nations, with Israeli officials blaming the Islamic Republic for the assaults.

The UKMTO statement did not elaborate, other than to say that it suspected the attack did not involve piracy. Earlier on Thursday, the British military group had said it was investigating another unexplained incident in the same area, but it did not elaborate.

Oman did not immediately acknowledge an attack and officials there did not respond to requests for comment. The US Navy’s 5th Fleet, which patrols the Mideast, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In recent months, Israel and Iran have accused each other of attacking a number of merchant ships, damaging them with explosives. The vessels in each case were only lightly damaged and there were no injuries in the incidents. **MORE-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/two-crewmen-killed-in-attack-on-ship-operated-by-israeli-owned-firm/>

NSO said to block some government clients from using its spyware

'Almost everything we checked, we found no connection to Pegasus,' employee of Israel-based firm asserts to NPR amid misuse allegations

By [TOL staff](#) Today, 9:43 am

NSO Group has blocked some of its government clients abroad from using its spyware as it examines allegations of misuse, according to a US report Thursday.

“There is **an investigation into some clients. Some of those clients have been temporarily suspended,**” a NSO employee was [quoted saying by National Public Radio](#).

The source did not specify which countries or how many, saying NSO was barred under defense regulations from identifying its clients.

The Israel-based company has repeatedly been accused of selling its Pegasus spyware to repressive countries that use it to target journalists, activists and politicians.

The unnamed employee also would not comment on any possible misuse that the firm has uncovered in an internal probe.

“Almost everything we checked, we found no connection to Pegasus,” the source said.

NSO’s general counsel also commented on the company’s investigation.

“What we are doing is, what I think today is, the best standard that can be done,” Shmuel Sunray told NPR. “We’re on the one hand, I think, the world leaders in our human rights compliance, and the other hand we’re the poster child of human rights abuse.” **MORE-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/nso-said-to-block-some-government-clients-from-using-its-spyware/>

President leads way as Israel starts giving 3rd COVID vaccine dose to elderly

Isaac Herzog and his wife get booster shots; ex-PM Netanyahu says Israel wasted a month ‘but better late than never’

By [TOL staff](#) Today, 10:56 am Updated at 1:29 pm



President Isaac Herzog and his wife Michal receive their third COVID-19 vaccine shots at Sheba Medical Center, July 30, 2021. (Haim Zach/GPO)



Prime Minister Naftali Bennett speaks at Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, starting the campaign for the third dose booster of the Coronavirus vaccine. At right is President Isaac Herzog (Haim Zach / GPO)

Health maintenance organizations on Friday started administering a third COVID-19 vaccine shot to the elderly, making Israel the first country in the world to do so.

The Clalit and Meuhedet HMOs began to vaccinate those over 60 with a third dose on Friday morning, while the Maccabi health provider will begin doing so on Sunday.

Israel’s decision to begin administering third doses came amid a struggle to contain a recent wave of coronavirus infections that has seen case numbers rocket from just dozens a day a month ago, to an average daily caseload of over 2,000 this week. [Remember a ‘case’ is simply a positive test. It says nothing about how sick the person is. – rdb]

The **third dose is unlikely to halt the rise in cases**, but is expected to reduce the risk of serious COVID-19 illness among the elderly population. **[So then why give the 3rd shot. The brits just said Delta is more infective but no more deadly than the other forms of the disease. – rdb]**

The US Food and Drug Administration has yet to approve third doses.

President Isaac Herzog, 60, along with his wife Michal, were among the first to receive the third shot on Friday.

Before receiving his shot, Herzog hailed the booster shots as “an important step for social solidarity in the State of Israel,” citing the need to prevent the elderly from getting sick. He added: “I am proud we are the first country to vaccinate with a third dose.”

The step we are doing here is an important one for social solidarity in the State of Israel,” Herzog said in remarks before getting the shot, citing the need to prevent the elderly from getting sick.

Appearing alongside Herzog, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said “Israel is a pioneer in going ahead with the third dose for older people.” “The fight against the COVID pandemic is a global fight. The only way we can defeat COVID — is together. Together means sharing information, methods, technologies, and actionable steps,” he said. “Israel is open to sharing all the information we can gain from this bold move.”

The Prime Minister’s Office later said Bennett asked Knesset Speaker Mickey Levy, 70, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Esther Hayut, 67, to also get booster shots.

“The two agreed to the prime minister’s request and noted they will do so soon, out of the understanding of the importance of conveying the message to the public,” a statement from Bennett’s office said. Bennett said Thursday that he would be taking his mother as well to get the third dose, and encouraged others to do the same with their elderly family members.

“Call your parents and your grandparents now, and make sure they get the complementary vaccine, the third vaccine,” said Bennett, who is too young at this stage to receive the third dose. **[Push the Jab – just keep pushing until what? – rdb]**

Opposition **Leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who in recent weeks has been urging Israel’s new government to begin administrating the third vaccine dose, got his third shot Friday.**

“They wasted a month unnecessarily... but better late than never,” Netanyahu said.

According to a Wednesday report, Netanyahu, 71, had been pushing for the third dose after discovering his level of coronavirus [antibodies](#) had dropped significantly. While prime minister, he was the first person in Israel to be vaccinated.



Opposition Leader Benjamin Netanyahu receives a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine at Sheba Medical Center on July 30, 2021. (Emmanuel Dunand/AFP)

Meanwhile, with infections rising in many countries, the Knesset’s Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee on Thursday approved the addition of Britain, Turkey, Georgia, and Cyprus to the list of nations where travelers are believed to have the highest risk of contracting COVID-19.

As of Friday, those countries will join the list of destinations to which Israelis are barred from travel,

save for exceptional cases to be determined by a special committee. Israelis traveling to those destinations are subject to a NIS 5,000 (\$1,500) fine, as well as being required to fully quarantine upon return. **[So much for personal freedom. This is ludicrous. – rdb]**

Sharon Alroy-Preis, the head of the Health Ministry’s public health department, said Thursday that Belgium, Greece, and the United Arab Emirates are to join the list of banned countries next week.

Alroy-Preis’s comments came after dozens of anti-vaxxers staged a protest outside her home on Wednesday, with some participants heard calling her the “daughter of the devil” and a “Nazi murderer.” The protest came after an anonymous source bad-mouthed her to the press over what they claim is her extreme stance in favor of ramping up Israel’s vaccination drive among children.

Education Minister Yifat Shasha-Biton stirred controversy on Thursday by saying that vaccinating children against COVID-19 in schools is “a crime.”

Children currently receive a number of vaccines throughout their school years, with the permission of parents. Shasha-Biton tried to explain why she won’t do the same with COVID-19 vaccines by saying kids may face bullying if their parents are anti-vaccination.

“We are talking about children who have been at home for a year and a half and are in emotional distress. It is a very sensitive subject,” she said.

However, 25 local councils announced they were prepared to vaccinate school children anyway.

“We will make every effort, with the permission of children and parents, to take care of the children’s health and to attempt to increase the vaccination rate among youth, to reduce the rate of infection,” Haim Bibas, the head of the national mayors union told the Kan public broadcaster.

Just 26-percent of 12-year-olds eligible for the vaccine have taken the shot, according to Health Ministry data. Among 13-15 year-olds, the rate is slightly higher at 36%, and with 16-19-year-olds the rate jumps to 75%, according to the ministry.

Vaccination stations are to be placed by the entrance of schools, and possibly even inside them, Kan reported.

Health Ministry figures on Friday showed there were 2,140 new COVID-19 cases diagnosed the day before, the fourth day in a row that the number was above 2,000, a daily caseload not seen since March.

There were 167 patients in serious condition, an increase of 25 since midnight.

Of the over 91,202 tests performed Saturday, 2.37 percent came back positive — a rate similar to that in recent days.

There are 16,162 active virus cases in the country, Health Ministry data showed. Two months ago that figure was around 200.

The death toll stood at 6,466, with two new fatalities recorded Thursday, according to the ministry.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-begins-administering-3rd-covid-vaccine-dose-to-the-elderly/> **[You know if they ever woke up to the fact that HCQ and Ivermectin are cures if you begin early treatment perhaps they wouldn’t be having so much problem. It seems that the Israeli leadership simply wants to be the world’s guinea pig for this abomination. – rdb]**

FBI probe: chemicals in Beirut blast fraction of original shipment

The amount of ammonium nitrate that blew up at Beirut port last year was one fifth of the shipment unloaded there in 2013.

By REUTERS JULY 30, 2021 15:50

The amount of ammonium nitrate that blew up at Beirut port last year was one fifth of the shipment unloaded there in 2013, the FBI concluded after the blast, adding to suspicions that much of the cargo had gone missing.

As the first anniversary approaches on Aug. 4, major questions remain unanswered, including how a huge quantity of ammonium nitrate - which can be used to make fertilizer or bombs - was left unsafely stored in a capital city for years.

The blast was one of the largest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded, killing more than 200 people, wounding thousands, and devastating swathes of Beirut.

The FBI’s Oct. 7, 2020 report, which was seen by Reuters this week, estimates around 552 tonnes of ammonium nitrate exploded that day, much less than the 2,754 tonnes that arrived on a Russian-leased cargo ship in 2013.

The FBI report does not give any explanation as to how the discrepancy arose, or where the rest of the shipment may have gone.

In response to a detailed request for comment, an FBI spokesperson referred Reuters to the Lebanese authorities.

FBI investigators came to Beirut after the blast at Lebanon’s request. **[Answered that one. – rdb]**

A senior Lebanese official who was aware of the FBI report and its findings said the Lebanese authorities agreed with the Bureau on the quantity that exploded.

Many officials in Lebanon have previously said in private they believe a lot of the shipment was stolen.

The ammonium nitrate was going from Georgia to Mozambique on a Russian-leased cargo ship when the captain says he was instructed to make an unscheduled stop in Beirut and take on extra cargo.

The ship arrived in Beirut in November 2013 but never left, becoming tangled in a legal dispute over unpaid port fees and ship defects. No one ever came forward to claim the shipment.

The senior Lebanese official said there were no firm conclusions as to why the quantity that exploded was less than the original shipment. One theory was that part of it was stolen. A second theory was that only part of the shipment detonated, with the rest blown out to sea, the official said.

The FBI report said “an approximate amount reaching around 552 metric tonnes of ammonium nitrate exploded in warehouse 12.”

It noted the warehouse was large enough to house the 2,754 tonne shipment, which was stored in one-tonne bags, but added "it is not logical that all of them were present at the time of the explosion." <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/fbi-probe-chemicals-in-beirut-blast-fraction-of-original-shipment-675403>

Iran's water shortage protests point to future trouble

While experts agree that Tehran can easily quell demonstrations in southwestern Khuzestan province, they point to long list of grievances, including displacement, government-generated poverty and unemployment, and say the water issue was last straw for Ahwazi minority

Daniel Sonnenfeld/The Media Line | Published: 07.30.21, 08:59

Protests have been raging on the streets of Khuzestan, an Iranian province in the country's southwest, which is home to most of Iran's Arab Ahwaz minority and has seen many waves of demonstrations in the past.

The **protests erupted on July 15 in response to a severe water shortage** causing suffering for the province's residents. Since then, demonstrations have spread outside the region and, on Monday, people reportedly marched in the streets of the capital Tehran.



The dried-up Karkheh River in the Khuzestan province in southwest Iran (Photo: Courtesy of Hamid Mtasher)

Abdulrahman al-Heidari, spokesperson for the Patriotic Arab Democratic Movement in Ahwaz, an opposition party, is based in the United Kingdom but keeps in close and constant touch with people in Khuzestan province (whose name he corrects to the Arabic "al-Ahwaz").

People began to protest because they did not have enough water to drink, or to give to their livestock, he

says, but "water was just a trigger... Ahwazi people have been suffering from the Iranian policy for a long time, for longer than nine decades."

Heidari explains that decades of diverting water from Khuzestan has impacted its rivers and shrunk its marshlands, which fed thousands of people. This forced farmers to forsake their villages, where they could no longer sustain themselves, and migrate to the cities.

"At present, the al-Ahwaz region is completely dried up and there is not enough water for drinking even, not to mention the death of thousands of livestock animals, birds and fish, and the draining of the Karkheh River which led to the drying up of the [UNESCO world heritage site] Hawizeh marshes," says Hamid Mtasher, founder of the Al-Ahwaz Liberal Party.

"Today, our people depend on bottled water and many villages have become empty of residents due to drought and migration to the city."

Mtasher says his information is based on constant communication with sources inside the region and prefers that his location remain unpublished.



Dead fish in what is left of the Hawizeh Marshes in the Khuzestan province in southwest Iran (Photo: Courtesy of Hamid Mtasher)

Iranian authorities responded to the protests with a heavy hand. Live ammunition was used in efforts to quell the protests, Amnesty International confirmed last week.

"Iran's security forces have deployed unlawful force, including by firing live ammunition and birdshot, to crush mostly peaceful protests taking place across the southern province of Khuzestan," the organization's statement read. At the time,

Amnesty confirmed that at least eight demonstrators and bystanders had been killed.

Faisal Maramazi, executive director of the opposition Ahwazi Centre for Human Rights, based in the UK, says that **"so far we have more than 1,500 arrests, we have more than 150 injured and ... more than 14 people dead so far."**

Maramazi describes mass arrests of Ahwazi Arabs as government forces move “family by family, house by house.” These repressive actions, he says, have caused a relative slowing down of the protests.

“We are asking the international community to take action, to take urgent action to support the innocent people, they need to be supported. If we leave them there, ignored, they will be killed,” Heidari says.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet called on Tehran to solve the water crisis, instead of “using excessive force and widespread arrests to crush the protests about the situation.”

The Iranian Foreign Ministry hit back at her comments, calling them “totally invalid and tainted with false accusations and incorrect information.”

[Accepting any personal or governmental responsibility for a problem is definitely not in the Iranian character. It is always someone else’s fault. – rdb]

Iranians protest in Khuzestan over water shortages in the region, July 2021 (Photo: AFP)



The Islamic Republic’s state media claimed that only four people were killed in the protests, one a police officer, when it reported on the events in Khuzestan. However, the report blamed agitators for shooting into the crowd and at security

forces.

Both Maramazi and Heidari say that Ahwazi Arabs see the water crisis as a result of an intentional policy of Tehran intended to bring about the displacement of the Arab minority.

“Ahwazis believe that this water crisis in al-Ahwaz is intentional, to change the demographic in al-Ahwaz, to forcibly migrate [the] Ahwazi people from Khuzestan and other provinces in Iran to other Iranian central cities,” Maramazi says. A long list of grievances, which include displacement, government-generated poverty and unemployment, have led the Ahwazis to rise up, say the activists, and the dire water shortage was just the last straw.

Ultimately, says Maramazi, “Ahwazis, they don’t see themselves as Iranian, they want their self-determination, and they want their independence from Iran.”

This is echoed by Mtasher, who says that the protests are – among other goals – intended to send a message to Iran to “leave our lands and let us live in peace.”

However, Dr. Raz Zimmt, an Iran expert at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University, believes that ethnic divides are far from central to the protests.

“These protests have the water shortage very clearly as their background,” Zimmt says.

However, he adds, “Khuzestan is a province with a lot of issues apart from water, [problems] of poverty and economic deprivation, of unemployment and sandstorms, problems with the electrical supply, so it is clear that you can’t say that they took to the streets only because of the water shortage, even if that was the catalyst that drew them out.”

Zimmt says that Iran in its entirety is suffering from issues with the water supply, but that Khuzestan is a special case, for a few reasons. **MORE- <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/b1pxyryjk> [Iran is in a tremendous financial hole and the Ayatollah is physically not in the best of health and he is really the only power to rule. Their incessant quest for weapons and assault on Israel has given them so major problems. -rdb]**

Taliban fighters enter provincial capital, clash with Afghan forces

Afghan security forces and Taliban fighters have been locked in heavy clashes for the last two days after the insurgents entered the capital of the southern province of Helmand.

By REUTERS JULY 30, 2021 15:42



Former Mujahideen hold weapons to support Afghan forces in their fight against Taliban, on the outskirts of Herat province, Afghanistan July 10, 2021. (photo credit: JALIL AHMAD/REUTERS)

Afghan security forces and Taliban fighters have been locked in heavy clashes for the last two days after the insurgents entered the capital of the southern province of Helmand, officials said on Friday, as civilians rushed to evacuate the city.

With US-led foreign forces nearing a complete withdrawal of troops, the Taliban have made swift territorial gains over the last two months but have not yet captured any provincial capitals.

"Since Thursday morning the Taliban have launched attacks from several directions on Lashkargah city," a government official told Reuters on the condition of anonymity. Lashkargah is the capital of Helmand, a southern province that borders Pakistan.

The official added that Afghan security forces have thus far held back the Taliban's attempt to take the city with the help of the Afghan air force, but operations were hampered by the presence of civilians in the area.

"Hundreds of families have left the area and moved to other safer places," Hafiz Ahmad, a resident of one Lashkargah neighborhood where clashes are ongoing, told Reuters.

He said those unable to move had locked themselves in their homes, and the city wore a deserted look as gun and artillery fire reverberated through neighborhoods.

A United Nations report this week said civilian casualties had been surging in recent weeks in Afghanistan, with as many killed in May and June as in the previous four months. The report did not cover casualties in July, when fighting has intensified further.

Abdul Majid Akhundzada, a Helmand provincial council member, said the Taliban had captured several areas of Lashkargah, and fighting was intense in an area close to the city's airport.

He expressed fear that the city could soon fall to the Taliban.

The United States' top military commander in the region has said the US air force has increased air strikes to support Afghan forces reeling from Taliban advances - but declined to say whether this would continue after their military mission ends on Aug. 31.

Meanwhile, some 200 Afghans were set to begin new lives in the United States on Friday as an airlift got under way for translators and others who risk Taliban retaliation because they worked for the United States during its 20-year war in Afghanistan, US officials said. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/taliban-fighters-enter-provincial-capital-clash-with-afghan-forces-675402>

Biden to nominate Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt as US antisemitism envoy

Administration has been under pressure to fill vacant post amid surge in antisemitic attacks; noted scholar has been long-time favorite to get the role

By [Jacob Magid](#) and [JTA](#) Today, 5:09 am

Deborah Lipstadt, author of 'Antisemitism: Here and Now' (courtesy)



US President Joe Biden has picked renowned Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt to be his antisemitism envoy, officials said Thursday.

Sources familiar with the matter told the Times of Israel he plans to announce the nomination on Friday.

Lipstadt has been a long-time favorite to get the role and pressure has mounted on the Biden administration to fill the position amid a surge in antisemitic incidents in recent months. The pick was first reported [by the Forward](#).

Lipstadt, 74, is the Doro Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta.

Lipstadt is best known to the wider public from her appearance in a landmark British legal case in

which she fought a libel suit brought by Holocaust denier David Irving. That experience was portrayed by superstar actor Rachel Weisz in the Hollywood feature film ["Denial."](#)

Lipstadt is the author of several books, most recently ["Antisemitism: Here and Now,"](#) that focused on current trends in antisemitism including attacks on Jews in Europe; the "alt-right" in the US; the persistence of Holocaust revisionism and denial and whether and when criticism of Israel qualifies as antisemitism.

Rachel Weisz (left) with Deborah Lipstadt, whom she portrays in the film 'Denial' (Participant Media)



The Biden administration has faced pressure to name someone to the post, with added urgency after a swastika was found on Monday etched into an elevator in the US State Department building, near the office of the special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism.

“Let me be clear: Anti-Semitism has no place in the State Department, in my Administration, or anywhere in the world,” Biden tweeted. “It’s up to all of us to give hate no safe harbor and stand up to bigotry wherever we find it.”

The administration is also promising to soon name a Jewish liaison to the community. The Trump administration took two years to fill the envoy post before naming Elan Carr.

Although the nomination has not been publically confirmed, the move was already being hailed by politicians.

Florida Congressman Ted Deutch the founding co-chair of the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism, called her selection “an excellent choice.”

“She will bring to this role extensive experience and a deep understanding of historic and modern day antisemitism,” Deutch said in a statement. “Especially amid the years-long rise in global antisemitism, Deborah is the leader we need to push governments to take this deadly threat seriously.”

Lipstadt, has been for years a go-to expert for the media and for legislators on Holocaust issues, particularly on how the genocide’s meaning should be understood in the 21st century, and whether it had any cognates among anti-democratic forces in the current day.

Last year, during the election, she broke a longstanding taboo on comparing present-day American politicians to the Nazis and endorsed an ad by the Jewish Democratic Council of America likening the Trump administration to 1930s Germany. Lipstadt said Holocaust analogies were still off-limits, but she could see parallels to the rise of the Nazis.

“I would say in the attacks we’re seeing on the press, the courts, academic institutions, elected officials and even, and most chillingly, the electoral process, that this deserves comparison,” she said at the time, referring to the JDCA ad. “It’s again showing how the public’s hatred can be whipped up against Jews. Had the ad contained imagery of the Shoah, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Lipstadt will be the first nominee who will need to be confirmed by the Senate since Congress first created the position in 2004. Congress last year elevated the role to ambassador-level, granting the position more funding and easier access to the secretary of state and the president. If Lipstadt is confirmed, she will be the fifth person in the position.

The antisemitism monitor’s role is tracking and reporting on the phenomenon overseas, and lobbying governments to address anti-Jewish bigotry within their borders. The position does not have a domestic role, although Carr, Trump’s appointee, sometimes criticized domestic actors, including J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East policy group. His attack on J Street drew a rare rebuke from one of his predecessors, Hannah Rosenthal. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-to-nominate-deborah-lipstadt-as-antisemitism-envoy/>

7 GOP Senators push law to label settlement goods as ‘made in Israel’

Anti-BDS Labeling Act would enshrine as law one of Trump’s final orders and comes in wake of Ben & Jerry’s decision to end sales in ‘occupied Palestinian territories’

By [Ron Kampeas](#) Today, 1:20 am

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Seven Republican senators are backing a bill that would enshrine as law one of former president Donald Trump’s final orders — requiring products from the portion of the West Bank controlled entirely by Israel to be labeled as originating in Israel.

The Anti-BDS Labeling Act introduced this week by Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., refers to the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel.

It comes on the heels of the controversy surrounding ice cream maker Ben & Jerry’s recent decision to pull its products out of the West Bank. Republican lawmakers, however, have been talking about enacting the Trump order since Dec. 23, when the lame-duck president issued the measure less than a month before leaving office.

Biden has not rescinded the order, which applies to goods manufactured in Area C, which is under Israeli control.

Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu had contemplated annexing the area.

The bill has no chance of passage in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Area C is where Jewish settlements are concentrated, although it also includes a Palestinian population.

Also in the West Bank are the much smaller Area A, which is under total Palestinian Authority control, and Area B under joint Israel-PA control. Under Trump’s order, products from those areas are labeled as coming from the West Bank.

In addition to Cotton, the bill is being backed by Marco Rubio and Rick Scott of Florida; Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty of Tennessee; Ted Cruz of Texas; and John Boozman of Arkansas.

BDS generally refers to boycotts of all of Israel, not just of settlement goods. In announcing its new policy, Ben & Jerry’s said it did not adhere to the tenets of BDS. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/7-gop-senators-push-law-to-label-settlement-goods-as->

[made-in-israel/](#) [Fortunately there are some in DC who have pulled their heads out of the sand and actually think things through. – rdb]

**Do your care about YOUR life and that of your children?
Watch this PLEASE.**

This interview is with a lady who has studied the issues and information extensively. It must wake people up. (23 min)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/Kjmw06Dy5ipW/>

Watch the opening monologue on Tucker Carlson 7/30/2021 It is most revealing. See the first 15 minutes – amazing.

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/SXULvoEEJdwJ/>

Planning ahead? Firms land Covid passport contracts that could last until 2023, even as UK govt hints plan could be dropped

30 Jul, 2021 15:06

The **British government has awarded potentially years-long contracts to help develop a domestic vaccine passport, as Downing Street simultaneously hints that the whole idea could be abandoned if enough people get the jab.**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published information earlier this week on two new contracts with private tech firms hired to work on the country's "Covid-19 certification programme."

US-based Entrust will receive close to £840,000 (\$1.2 million) for the development of the NHS health pass. The deal will last until at least July next year but pricing for a two-year contract is already detailed in official documents, suggesting that the UK government may be eyeing a long-term arrangement.

While the **contract was made available to the public online, information about specific services that Entrust will be providing has been completely redacted**, with several pages of the document [blacked out](#).

The **US tech company was awarded £250,000 earlier this year as part of its ongoing work on the health pass program.** The contract raised eyebrows after it was revealed that Entrust had openly boasted about how Covid-19 vaccine passports could be retooled to create national IDs as part of the "infrastructure of the new normal."

The DHSC also signed a second vaccine passport contract this week worth up to £873,000 with Cambridge, Massachusetts IT firm Akamai Technologies. Like the agreement with Entrust, the one-year deal is designed so that it can be seamlessly extended for an additional 12 months. The US firm pocketed £50,000 in May as part of its involvement in the creation of the digital vaccine ID.

Akamai, which specializes in cybersecurity technologies, purchased online identity management company Janrain in 2019.

In total, the government has now spent nearly £23.6 million (\$32.9 million) on its Covid certification programme, iNews reported. [From those expenditures it should be obvious how desperate the Brits are to make sure they track everyone who is or is NOT JABBED. HUMMMM? France is also talking passports and it is causing riots. – rdb]

The new **contracts coincide with the introduction of new features on the NHS app that will allow it to serve as a digital vaccine certificate.**

In a controversial reversal of its position on domestic health IDs, the government revealed last week that, starting from **the end of September, proof of vaccination will be required in order to enter nightclubs and attend**

events involving large crowds.

With around **70% of adults in the country already vaccinated**, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab suggested on Thursday that the threat of the vaccine passport may be enough to “*cajole*” young people into getting the shot.

“*Once we’ve done that, the wider questions of vaccine certification become much less relevant and salient,*” Raab said, suggesting that the whole plan could be dropped if vaccine uptake increases over the next two months.

But the **newly inked contracts seem to be sending mixed messages about the government’s intentions** for the controversial health certificate. A spokesperson for the health department insisted back in June that the NHS app used to certify vaccination status would not be used as a national ID system, describing the scheme as a “*simple and secure means*” to allow for international travel. <https://www.rt.com/uk/530688-covid-domestic-passport-contracts-2023/> **[No Kidding? Concern about motivation for the government? They need concern if you carefully watch what is going on around the world. – rdb]**

‘Doesn’t change our GAME PLAN’: WHO says no evidence ‘faster & fitter’ Delta variant has higher mortality or vax resistance

30 Jul, 2021 17:03 / Updated 1 hour ago

Though the spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19 has triggered a reimposition of mask mandates in the US, the WHO still maintains that vaccines are effective against it, and that the variant isn’t any more deadly.

The Delta variant of the coronavirus may be more transmissible than previous variants, but the World Health Organisation (WHO) doesn’t know how or why, Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO’s Covid-19 technical lead, told a briefing on Friday. Van Kerkhove noted that “*a few countries*” were seeing a rise in hospitalizations, but that this rise, and the rise in cases, “*has not translated into increased mortality.*”

Van Kerkhove’s claim is borne out in real life. Daily new cases of Covid-19 have quadrupled in the US since June, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, daily deaths have halved since April. Likewise in the UK, over a million cases were recorded last month, nearly reaching the record 1.3 million reported in January, but only 1,400 deaths were recorded, less than a twentieth of January’s death toll, per [data](#) from Johns Hopkins University. **[You won’t hear that from the CDC who is still cooking the books on their statistics. People have to wake up to the fact that there is a huge problem going on and the CDC, FDA and US government (along with the AMA) are culpable for this sea of fraudulent information. – rdb]**

Van Kerkhove insisted that vaccines remain effective at preventing severe disease and death, and although the vaccinated can still become infected and transmit the virus, “*the likelihood of this is much reduced if you are vaccinated.*”

Nevertheless, the threat of infection and transmission even among the vaccinated prompted the CDC this week to reverse its earlier guidance and recommend that everyone, vaccinated or not, wear face masks indoors in areas with increased transmission. This recommendation was embraced by the administration of US President Joe Biden (which mandated masks on Thursday for all federal workers), by employers, and by local officials in Democrat-run cities and states.

The CDC’s guidance was [based](#) in **part on a study that found high viral loads in the airways of vaccinated people, drew a link between these loads and increased transmission**, and recommended continued restrictions even after mass vaccination. However, the [study](#) has not passed peer review and was conducted in India on a small number of subjects using a vaccine not authorized for use in America, and it being used to back up the new mask guidance has caused ructions in the US. Calling the preliminary Indian research flimsy, Republicans have [accused](#) the CDC of using it to “*control Americans.*” **Use ivermectin and it should drop the viral load. – rdb]**

WHO emergencies chief Mike Ryan told Friday’s briefing that research on “*the dynamics of how and why [the Delta variant] is more transmissible is still underway.*” However, Ryan struck a similar tone as the CDC, arguing that although the virus “*has gotten fitter [and] gotten faster...it doesn’t change our game plan.*”

That plan, he explained, is to continue to administer vaccines and continue with social distancing, masking, and restrictions on gatherings. <https://www.rt.com/news/530722-who-delta-variant-mortality/> **[Trust no one when it comes to this issue. Your life may depend upon it. – rdb]**

Critics cast doubt on alarming new Delta variant findings from CDC

By [Lee Brown](#) July 30, 2021 | 9:37am

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention altered its mask guidance after a report found the Delta COVID-19 variant spreads as easily as chickenpox, possibly even among the vaccinated — but critics have ripped it as misleading and based on weak data.

The widely ridiculed change in mask policy followed an internal CDC presentation, first obtained by the Washington Post, that claimed that it was time to “acknowledge the war has changed.”

The leaked report, compiled of several different studies, claimed that the variant causes more severe illness among the unvaccinated and is more transmissible than Ebola, the flu and even the common cold, regardless of vaccination status. The Delta strain is now the most dominant one in the US.

“Delta variant vaccine breakthrough cases may be as transmissible as unvaccinated cases,” the report claims.

The unidentified authors insisted that it was now time for experts to stop claiming that breakthrough infections were “rare” — even arguing that “universal masking is essential” given the spread amongst those vaccinated.

The presentation was based largely on unpublished research, The Washington Post noted — with warnings in large red type also noting that it was “preliminary data, subject to change.”

The CDC findings prompted the agency to change its recommendations on masks indoors. Anthony Behar/Sipa USA

It was quickly panned by critics, who noted the vague data used in raising the alarm.

“Democrats are basing their new mask mandate on a 100-person study from India,” [tweeted](#) Republican leader Kevin McCarthy.

“It didn’t pass peer-review and uses vaccines that aren’t approved in America. This is the ‘science’ they are using to try to control Americans!” he wrote.

The presentation did mention studies in India, although it also referenced research of a community spread in Massachusetts, as well as work in Los Angeles, Scotland, Singapore and Israel.

Texas Rep. Dan Crenshaw also insisted that “the CDC has presented no data showing vaccinated people are spreading COVID infections” — taking aim at the lack of transparency by the public federal agency in not releasing this report publicly.

“If you’re vaccinated, you have a better chance of getting hit by lightning than dying of COVID,” the former SEAL [tweeted](#).

“Our government, now considering lockdowns, has lost its effing mind,” he said.

Enlarge Image One of the CDC’s slides estimates there are 35,000 symptomatic infections per week among 162 million vaccinated Americans. PA Images via Getty Images

Fellow Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz on Friday also tweeted that “the CDC’s willingness to twist facts for political expediency is stunning.”

He shared a video of him asking if there has “ever been an institution in American public life that has more discredited itself more rapidly than the CDC.” “Today, the CDC has willingly allowed itself to be politicized, to behave as an arm of the DNC, and their credibility is in tatters. **It is a joke,” Cruz said.**

The Washington Post noted that the leaked presentation was informational, rather than official CDC policy. The agency did not respond to the paper’s requests for comment.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, ripped the way the latest mask advice was given without clear data and justification.

“You don’t, when you’re a public health official, want to be saying, ‘Trust us, we know, we can’t tell you how,’” Jamieson told the Washington Post. **“The scientific norm suggests that when you make a statement based on science, you show the science.”**

She also said the CDC made a “second mistake” in that “they do not appear to be candid about the extent to which breakthroughs are yielding hospitalizations.”

The report was primarily offering advice on how the CDC should handle “communication challenges” now that evidence suggests even those jabbed are getting infected and spreading the virus. It expressed concern about how the findings “may reduce public confidence in vaccines.”

It noted “concerns from local health departments,” and insisted it was time to stop describing breakthrough infections as a “small percentage of cases.”

Family members and volunteers carry the body of a COVID-19 victim for cremation in India, where the Delta variant first emerged. AP

However, it did stress that there is a “greater risk” of “hospitalization and death among unvaccinated vs. vaccinated

people.”

The CDC’s own data shows there’s only a minuscule risk of vaccinated Americans becoming seriously sick with breakthrough cases.

Out of 161 million US residents who were fully vaccinated as of July 19, just 5,601 caught a severe breakthrough infection and were hospitalized — an infinitesimal 0.0035 percent of the protected population, according to the latest CDC figures available on post-vaccination infections.

When it comes to deaths, the risk is even lower, with just 1,141 vaccinated people dying from a COVID-19 breakthrough infection — or 0.0007 percent of those fully jabbed.

The COVID-19 Delta variant appears to cause more severe illness and spread as easily as chickenpox. Sipa USA via AP

But **while the shots prevent around 90 percent of “severe disease,” the jabs “may be less effective at preventing infection or transmission,” the report stresses.**

The experts conceded that this latest warning will increase the difficulty in getting wider inoculation now the “public [is] convinced vaccines no longer work.”

Matthew Seeger, a risk communication expert at Wayne State University in Detroit, told The Washington Post that the CDC dug its own grave by “telling the public these are miracle vaccines.” “We have probably fallen a little into the trap of over-reassurance, which is one of the challenges of any crisis communication circumstance.

However, John Moore, a virologist at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, told the Times it just reaffirmed that “Delta is the troubling variant we already knew it was.” “But the sky isn’t falling and vaccination still protects strongly against the worse outcomes,” he insisted. <https://nypost.com/2021/07/30/delta-covid-variant-spreads-like-chickenpox-cdc-docs-reveal> **[Lies, More lies and damned lies is the usual from the CDC. They need to start with WHO funded the development and modification of the entity and who is making megabucks off the JAB(it isn’t just the vaccine companies since NIH has a patent on the Covid and has had for years). – rdb]**

Panic Mode: Internal Document Reveals CDC Pushing for More Forceful Messaging

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) appears to be in panic mode over its messaging, according to an internal document highlighting the federal agency’s desire to ramp up its vaccine and masking pushes while millions of Americans question the agency’s agenda and the science behind its latest guidance.

The internal document, which the Washington Post obtained, reportedly shows the health agency confessing a need to “revamp its public messaging” to coerce Americans to get vaccinated, touting it as the “best defense against a variant so contagious that it acts almost like a different novel virus.” **[As I recall ‘coercing’ people to get an experimental medication is a crime under the Nuremberg Code. Hang the buzzards. – RDB]**

According to the outlet, one of the slides featured in the internal presentation points to higher virus risk rates for older age groups than younger — a fact that has remained consistent throughout the pandemic — even among vaccinated individuals.

Per the memo, the CDC is concerned by the line it must walk, because **pushing mass vaccinations is the top priority of federal health officials. At the same time, however, it admits the vaccines are not foolproof and estimates roughly 35,000 symptomatic infections per week among vaccinated Americans:**

But it also states that the CDC must “improve communications around individual risk among [the] vaccinated” because that risk depends on a host of factors, including age and whether someone has a compromised immune system.

The document includes CDC data from studies showing that the vaccines are not as effective in immunocompromised patients and nursing home residents, raising the possibility that some at-risk individuals will need an additional vaccine dose.

The presentation includes a note that the findings and conclusions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the CDC’s official position.

The internal document also “contains some of the scientific information that influenced the CDC to change its mask guidance.” This is notable, as the CDC has come under fire for failing to release the specific data on which it based its revamped mask guidance.

Public skepticism, the federal agency continues, is an issue — particularly the narrative that “vaccines no longer work.” Part of the **CDC’s mission now, it appears, is moving the goalposts and ultimately, its definition of success.**

“We really need to shift toward a goal of preventing serious disease and disability and medical consequences, and not worry about every virus detected in somebody’s nose,” Kathleen Neuzil, a vaccine expert at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, said.

However, even prior to the vaccines being available to virtually everyone, the virus survival rate was over 99 percent for individuals 69 and younger:

The Biden administration has also struggled with messaging and has been utterly unable to explain how the CDC’s guidance, instructing vaccinated individuals to mask up, does not undermine their narrative that the vaccine is the answer to return to maskless, pre-pandemic life.

“The public health leaders in our administration have made the determination, based on data, that that is a way to make sure they’re protected,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Tuesday after Fox News’s Peter Doocy asked why vaccinated Americans need to mask up, given their narrative that vaccines work. **MORE-**
<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/07/30/panic-mode-internal-document-reveals-cdc-pushing-more-forceful-messaging>

First Autopsy of COVID Vaccinated Patient Found Viral RNA In Every Organ of Body

by Jamie White June 14th 2021, 12:02 pm

The first-ever postmortem study of a patient vaccinated against COVID-19 has revealed that viral RNA was found in every organ of the patient’s body, meaning that the vaccine is either ineffective or the coronavirus actually spreads faster in vaccinated individuals.

The scientific report out of Germany published by the International Journal of Infectious Diseases in June examined the autopsy of an 86-year-old man who had received a single dose of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine but died 4 weeks later after becoming infected with the virus by a nearby patient at a hospital.

From the “[First case of postmortem study in a patient vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2](#)”:

We report on an 86-year-old male resident of a retirement home who received vaccine against SARS-CoV-2. Past medical history included systemic arterial hypertension, chronic venous insufficiency, dementia and prostate carcinoma. On January 9, 2021, **the man received lipid nanoparticle-formulated, nucleoside-modified RNA vaccine BNT162b2 in a 30 µg dose.** On that day and in the following 2 weeks, he presented with no clinical symptoms.

On day 18, he was admitted to hospital for worsening diarrhea. Since he did not present with any clinical signs of COVID-19, isolation in a specific setting did not occur. Laboratory testing revealed hypochromic anemia and increased creatinine serum levels. **Antigen test and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for SARS-CoV-2 were negative.**

But the study notes that by day 25, that vaccinated patient had tested positive for COVID-19, presumably from a nearby COVID-infected patient in his hospital room, and died of kidney and respiratory failure the following day.

High viral RNA loads were present in nearly all the vaccinated patient’s organs.

“In summary, the results of our autopsy case study in a patient with mRNA vaccine confirm the view that by first dose of vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 immunogenicity can already be induced, while sterile immunity is not adequately developed,” the study concluded.

In other words, although the COVID-19 vaccine triggered an immune response within the body, it didn’t appear to stop the spread of the virus throughout the body.

This is just more bombshell scientific evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine likely does more harm than good, and may actually even accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. <https://www.infowars.com/posts/first-autopsy-of-covid-vaccinated-patient-found-spike-proteins-in-every-organ-of-body/>

Postal worker refused accommodation by employer to not work on Sabbath, fired

Appeal in court case now pending before 3rd Circuit

By [Bob Unruh](#) Published July 30, 2021 at 5:54pm

An appeal has been filed with the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by a former United States Postal Worker who lost his job when he resisted orders that would force him to work on his Sabbath, Sundays.

Officials with First Liberty Institute say the appeal was filed in the case involve Gerald E. Groff, who had held a USPS position in Pennsylvania for nearly a decade.

“It is unlawful for employers to discriminate against employees on the basis of religion,” said Hiram Sasser, of First Liberty. “The USPS should have recognized Gerald’s sincerely held belief that he must observe the Sunday

Sabbath and granted him a religious exemption. We must protect the rights of every American to practice their faith without fear of losing their job."

Other legal teams involved include Baker Botts LLP, the Church State Council, the Cornerstone Law Firm and the Independence Law Center.

Groff had started working at the Quarryville Post Office in Lancaster County in 2012, and was a Rural Carrier Associate. He asked for a religious accommodation to observe Sunday Sabbath and it was granted.

"But when a conflict later arose between Groff's duties as a mail carrier for USPS and his observance of the Sunday Sabbath, USPS offered only proposals that would still require Groff to work on Sundays and thereby violate his conscience," First Liberty explained.

Groff sued after he was dismissed, and the district court claimed it was not necessary for a "reasonable accommodation" to eliminate the conflict causing the problem.

But the appeal explains, "Title VII required USPS to provide Groff a reasonable accommodation for his observance of the Sunday Sabbath, unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on USPS. In holding that a reasonable accommodation need not eliminate the conflict between work and religion, the district court embraced the wrong side of a circuit split that this court has not yet considered. Properly understood, Title VII requires that an accommodation eliminate the conflict between work and religion. This conclusion flows from the plain meaning of the word 'accommodate,' which conveys the need for effectiveness. A proposed 'accommodation' that leaves the religious conflict festering is no accommodation at all."

The problem arose when the USPS, under a special agreement with Amazon, ordered its employees to start working on Sundays to make those deliveries.

The appeal notes that, "American law and culture have long respected the idea of taking a day of rest from work," and noted even the Constitution itself reflects that concept, giving the president "10 days (Sundays excepted)" to decide whether to veto a bill. **MORE-** <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/postal-worker-refused-accommodation-not-work-sabbath-fired/>

Arizona Rep. to Garland: Stay in your own lane!

AG had issued threat that he would review state's election audit processes and results

By [Bob Unruh](#) Published July 30, 2021 at 7:16pm

The list of suspicious circumstances that developed during the 2020 presidential election – especially the ballot counting – runs on just about forever.

That's why **Arizona has been auditing the ballots from its largest county, Maricopa, and that's why several other states are considering – or already are working toward – setting up similar audits.**

And **Democrats on the federal level apparently are fearful** of what may be found, since no less than Attorney General Merrick Garland has tried his hand at intimidating state officials, promising he's keeping a close watch on them and will take action if he thinks it's needed.

That threat, however, hasn't not gone down well in some quarters.

The [National File](#) is reporting Arizona Rep. Mark Finchem, now a candidate for Secretary of State of Arizona, said during an interview on Steve Bannon's War Room that **those Washington politicians should stay away.**

"I got news for Merrick Garland, there's this little thing called the Constitution," said Finchem. "Article I, section IV, the times places and manner of holding election for senators and representatives... it is the legislature that has responsibility for nominating and naming the electors for president."

At issue are dozens of instances of suspected election fraud that large percentages of Republicans – and even some Democrats – believe gave Joe Biden the victory fraudulently.

Multiple "fact-checkers," meanwhile, including those run by legacy media outlets that called the race for Biden early, have said the election was perfect, there was no fraud, and no reason to believe anything untoward happened.

What is not in dispute is that multiple state officials changed state procedures or laws to accommodate the 2020 ballot count even though the Constitution requires state lawmakers to do that, and also leftist Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook gave \$350 million to mostly leftist election center officials to help them "run" the 2020 ballot count.

Finchem suggested that Garland and the DOJ should stay away from Arizona's elections decisions, or he and his "team of thugs" could face resistance if they attempt interference.

"I would advise Merrick Garland and his team of thugs that now occupy the Department of Justice: Tread very lightly. Our attorney general, I spoke with their representative this morning, I'm not going to put him on the hook for anything, but you're going to walk into a very surprising reception if you try to do anything in this state that interferes with legislative authority in handling our elections. Hard stop."

Last month, Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich already criticized Garland's threat the Department of Justice would "scrutinize" the results of the Arizona audit.

The Arizona audit apparently has completed the counting and recounting processes, and now is in the time frame where the results are being analyzed.

National File suggested, "Many expect the audit will reveal voter fraud within the state that will prove or strongly suggest Joe Biden was not the true winner of the 2020 election within the state of Arizona."

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/arizona-rep-garland-stay-lane/> **[What is of interest is how many DC long standing elephant rinos are going to be caught with their pants down if AZ and some of the others audit the election results and it comes out as many suspect and Trump won! The McConnells and a host of the rinos are going to get their backsides in a huge sling. The big issue is what can be done if this is discovered. EVERY position needs to be audited not just the Pres because that could well turn the House and the Senate back to red. – rdb]**

Speaking of rinos.....

Polling shows nearly 8 of 10 Republican primary voters oppose Liz Cheney

Wyoming congresswoman repeatedly has attacked Trump

By [Bob Unruh](#) Published July 30, 2021 at 7:23pm



U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., in January 2021. (Video screenshot)

Nearly eight of 10 GOP primary voters responding to a poll said they would not support incumbent Wyoming Congresswoman Liz Cheney in her next election, in 2022, according to Paul Bedard's [Washington Secrets](#).

She voted to impeach President Trump last winter, repeatedly has attacked him, and most recently, this week, sided with a long list of Democrat talking points on a one-sided committee set up by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to "investigate" the January 6 violence at the Capitol.

"In polling data provided to Secrets, just 23% of regular primary Republicans plan to vote for her, 77% said they won't," Bedard reported. MORE- <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/polling-shows-nearly-8-10-republican-primary-voters-oppose-liz-cheney/> **[It looks like the Wyoming witch has about worn out her welcome some time ago. Perhaps they should just bury her/ - rdb]**

Commentary:

Is This Year One? Part 1

By [Steven Yates](#) July 30th, 2021

"We'll know our disinformation campaign is complete when everything the American public believes is false." — William Casey, former CIA director

Last year Iran across [this](#), by Europe-based author C.J. Hopkins, who began:

2020 was GloboCap Year Zero. The year when the global capitalist ruling class did away with the illusion of democracy and reminded everyone who is actually in charge, and exactly what happens when anyone challenges them.

The main difference between Hopkins and me is, I use the term *GloboCorp* for the network of extremely wealthy and powerful sociopaths scheming their way toward global domination.

Abundant evidence points to the 'novel coronavirus' being [a genetically engineered bioweapon](#), in development for years (Dr. David Martin [dug out the patent info](#)), a product of dangerous research [possibly funded by none other than one Dr. Tony Fauci](#) through the NIH. Fauci [adamantly denies](#) funding gain-of-function research in the Wuhan lab, i.e., research able to make the coronavirus more transmissible.

The cause of the [plandemic](#) appears to have been released in Wuhan right around the time of [Event 201](#), held October 18, 2019 at Johns Hopkins University sponsored by GloboCorp's Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Economic Forum. It appears designed to infect humans and spread rapidly, but is lethal mainly to certain populations of useless eaters — the elderly, and those with compromised respiratory and immune systems. [Otherwise it has a recovery rate of over 99 percent.](#) (But don't bioweapons kill? Not if massive profit was the intent.)

On March 11, 2020, the WHO (lavishly funded by the Gates Foundation) declared a global emergency. The U.S. economy, on track to ensure Donald Trump a second term, instantly tanked as "inessential" businesses were forcibly

shuttered. This was *not* exclusively about Trump, because the lockdowns were worldwide as governments coordinated with the WHO. We saw an unprecedented expansion of centralized power, and unprecedented levels of money printing to stave off a massive depression. Important distinctions such as dying *from* Covid versus dying *with* Covid-plus-comorbidities were blurred as part of a massive fear campaign. Also blurred was the distinction between *supposedly* having the virus in your system (a “positive” PCR test [now known to be unreliable](#)) and actually getting sick from Covid. [Seasonal flu simply vanished](#); we peasants weren’t supposed to notice. Censorship appeared everywhere. Preventions and cures for Covid such as hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin were demonized despite a long track record showing them to be safe, and a study purporting to show the uselessness of the former [had to be retracted](#). This didn’t reopen doors to its use. Doctors using such treatments successfully [were threatened with loss of their medical licenses](#). Arguments that [lockdowns caused more health problems than they prevented](#) were also censored. All roads led to vaccines (see (4) below); never mind that no vaccine that worked on coronaviruses had ever worked.

Late last May, violent protests erupted over the death of George Floyd, drug user and small time thug [with an extensive criminal record](#), while in police custody. City blocks were burned taking out more small businesses, many black-owned, many having first been looted. Millions of dollars in damage was done in Minneapolis, Seattle, Portland, Atlanta, and elsewhere. Accounts emerged of [white women trapped in their vehicles](#), terrorized by media-designated “peaceful protesters.” A few faced charges after they struck one or more “peaceful protesters” escaping. There were, of course, occasions when “protesters” actually *were* peaceful (or were no-shows): [when residents stood armed in front of stores or at neighborhood access points](#). [Floyd’s drug use was a non-issue](#), as was evidence from [video footage never shown to the public](#) suggesting that Derek Chauvin had his knee on Floyd’s shoulder blade, not his neck, and so actually might not have caused Floyd’s death. This didn’t matter. The [Cult of Woke](#) needed a human sacrifice, and he was it.

No one knew exactly what would happen November 3, but some of us were sure something ugly was afoot. *Under no circumstances was Trump to be allowed a second term*. His enemies in the Deep State (U.S. branch of GloboCorp) would steal the election if they had to, and [some who were on the scene the whole time concluded](#): *that’s exactly what happened*. We saw corporate mass media call the election for Biden *well before all state outcomes were known, and in the face of irregularities such as massive middle-of-the-night vote spikes for Biden that have since been scrubbed from the Internet*.

The damage done and efforts to reverse the theft floundering in the face of an Iron Wall of Denial, a few hundred Trump supporters ([possibly enabled by FBI informants and agent provocateurs](#)) out of tens of thousands who *actually were peaceful* (not a single building burned, police car torched, or store looted!) unwisely breached the Capitol on January 6: unwise, because all they accomplished was getting themselves labeled “insurrectionists” trying to instigate a “coup against democracy” and creating conditions for further attacks on Trump and on themselves. The Establishment had seized power (the *real* coup!) and would call it “fortifying democracy” (article in GloboCorp-owned [Time Magazine](#) that all but let the cat out of the bag; good commentary [here](#)).

The rollout of Big Pharma’s experimental mRNA jabs began right after the start of 2021, to deafening corporate media applause. Sadly, Trump had been pulled into this with Operation Warp Speed (apparently no one told him, *warp speed is science fiction!*). Governments cut deals so the jabs could be dispensed *for free!*

What I call ***The 5 Stages of Vaccine Compliance*** began to kick in.

At ***Stage 1***, which began in January, multitudes of gullible lined up to get jabbed voluntarily, convinced by 24/7 fear porn and “experts” such as Fauci that it was the fastest way back to “normal.” Downplayed by all reportage was that this was an *experiment*, that the FDA had *not* given official approval but “*emergency use authorization*.”

At ***Stage 2***: incentives were used on the mildly “hesitant”: *the carrot*: lotteries with cash giveaways, bonuses from employers, other free stuff, opportunities to virtue-signal. Some would get sick anyway and be labeled “breakthrough cases.” A few died or were severely injured. Families [discovered — surprise, surprise! — no decision-makers were interested](#).

At ***Stage 3***: when *the carrot* fails to entice, *the stick* comes out. At Stage 3, “vaccine hesitancy” comes with a price: job loss, refusal of university reenrollment, exclusion from public spaces, e.g., restaurants, planes, events such as concerts. *Vaccine passport* implementation thus begins amidst rolling lockdowns [despite mass protests in some parts of the world](#). In the U.S., community-organizer types start going door-to-door with the approved narrative with the full Bidenista backing. [The unvaccinated face fact-free accusations of spreading the virus](#). Corporate media and Big Tech label criticisms of mass vaccinations as “misinformation” and label critics and refuseniks “conspiracy theorists,” “extremists,” “Covidiot,” “anti-vaxx nuts,” or whatever epithet seemed fitting that day. We now have a [“pandemic of the unvaccinated.”](#) And [“if you’re choosing not to be vaccinated you’re part of the problem.”](#) The vaccinated are [getting angry with the unvaccinated](#), who are targeted not just by Democrats but [mainstream Republicans](#).

The problem, though, is mounting evidence that [the vaccine, not Covid, is what is making people sick and sometimes killing them](#).

Be this as it may, [we are presently in Stage 3, and should the FDA give the jab full authorization, Stage 4 will descend.](#)

At **Stage 4:** vaccine refusal is *de facto criminalized*. Door-to-door efforts turn openly coercive. At this stage, the unjabbed find it almost impossible to live in society. They are the *new untouchables* who must self-isolate, be forcibly isolated, and face *potential* incarceration. Violence against them (arguably fomented during Stage 3) is not impossible. Reporting on the [thousands of vaccine injuries and deaths](#) is not just censored but a thought crime. “*But that’s illegal and unconstitutional!*” Don’t be naïve. There are people who will lose it at this point, do something violent, and play right into GloboCorp’s (and the Democrats’) hands. *Don’t let that be you!*

At **Stage 5:** the unjabbed have been forced into hiding. The worst nightmare scenarios of [vaccine apocalypse](#) start coming to pass. People are now dying from vaccine-caused cardiovascular events or heart failure (caused by blood clots), or organ failure and immune system collapse (caused by the trillions of [spike proteins](#) the jab unleashes) in numbers that become impossible to hide. We start to see cascading supply line disruptions, rolling blackouts, and other infrastructural breakdown caused by rising numbers recently dead or too sick to work. Shortages of food and gas are leading to more urban riots and rising mass panic. GloboCorp’s denizens are trying to ride out the chaos of depopulation in heavily guarded gated communities. Should their locations become known, there is a potential for civil war, as by this time (*one would think!*) enough of the vaxxed are awake and out for blood, figuring they have nothing to lose. This is assuming their heads haven’t been completely short-circuited by cognitive dissonance. I am sure psychotic breaks will be as common as suicides.

I don’t know if we will get to **Stage 5**, and I pray to God we never have to find out!

We have seen countless examples of what governments and corporate media will do to maintain narrative control. Waves of [gaslighting](#) accompany each of the above. We’ve all been “fact-checked” more times than we can count. The “fact-checkers” *literally do not live in the same world we do*. In their world, *GloboCorp* is an “unhinged conspiracy theory” — even though [explicit defenses of world government](#) are readily available online in connection with the pandemic! (See [this](#))

What I can discern of *their* world: George Floyd is a hero, and statues are erected to him. No one may speak ill of the man, and every corporate media presstitute now virtue-signals by capitalizing *Black*. In *their* world, the world of Wokery where a white person can be unemployed, flat busted, and still have “white privilege,” you can be any gender you like. In *their* world, the stolen election is *The Big Lie*, even as clamors for forensic audits spread from Arizona to other states. In *their* world, it is *perhaps* kosher to speak of a *possible* “accidental leak” from the Wuhan lab, but bioweapons talk is a “conspiracy theory” (never mind that the lab leak was a “conspiracy theory” this time last year). Vaccine refuseniks are “killing people” as the delta variant spreads ([the idea that the mass jab has created a mutation-favoring environment is also off the table](#)—for in the world of the “fact-checkers” the jab is “tested, safe, and effective,” even though according to one poll, [60 percent of doctors polled had refused it](#) as of this writing.

Upshot of (1) through (5): we now live in more closely monitored and controlled societies—all over the world. A *global-scale narrative cold war is playing out in front of us*.

Meanwhile, we are only beginning to see [the psychological damage that has been done, especially to the generation that will come of age in the 2020s assuming it survives](#).

And while some countries are more “open” than others, it is clear from what we’ve seen that they can be closed on short notice if someone with *real* power gives the order through a national health department.

The 24/7 fear factory continues — via every corporate-controlled media outlet. We’re supposed to fear the delta variant, “white supremacists,” the unjabbed. We’re *not* supposed to fear governments, the global-corporate media machine, or *The Science* (i.e., GloboCorp minions such as Fauci — a career bureaucrat and technocrat, not a *real* doctor who sees patients and tries to heal — and GloboCorp ascendant Bill Gates, another technocrat with no formal medical degrees or public health credentials whatsoever!).

George Orwell couldn’t have written this script better!

Returning to C.J. Hopkins (“Year Zero” again):

The authorities have assumed control of the most intimate aspects of our daily lives. We are being managed like inmates in a prison, told when to eat, sleep, exercise, granted privileges for good behavior, punished for the slightest infractions of an ever-changing set of arbitrary rules, forced to wear identical, demeaning uniforms (albeit only on our faces), and otherwise relentlessly bullied, abused, and humiliated to keep us compliant.

Where I live, sheeple wear masks everywhere. They stand in lines, sometimes for hours, to get into stores or banks. All must comply with mandates restricting the number of people allowed inside. The place where my wife and I do our banking admits ten clients at any given time. Store entrances and exits are strictly controlled. You cannot get in without an enforcer-type standing guard while your hands get sprayed with nasty-feeling alcohol gel, then watching as you pass

through a machine that takes your temperature. Sometimes it scans your wrist, raising specters of how easily this could transition to a device able to read a wrist-embedded chip. Would anyone notice the difference?

Arrows on floors tell the sheeple where to walk, where to stand, how far apart. The diagrams appear *cemented* onto floors and walls. They have the appearance of something intended to be permanent. Bathrooms have every other urinal and every other sink blocked off for “social distancing.” Signs everywhere command face coverings and social distancing, sometimes conveying approved-narrative propaganda: *help us out, you’re saving lives!*

Every 15 minutes or so in the mall nearest to where we live, a robotic voice comes on over a loudspeaker with “social distancing” instructions, just like those dystopian sci-fi films we watched when we were kids.

Some restaurants have begun refusing admission to the unjabbed. That’s **Stage 3**. Every jab is recorded digitally, of course. Those who have had both jabs can have their info saved as a scannable QR code. One of the effects of the plandemic has been to force more transactions to go digital. The number of checkout lanes that only accept credit cards has increased significantly since this nightmare started, and a few places have simply refused my cash. One can even order food digitally via a smartphone. Anyone with access to those systems not only knows who’s been jabbed, but what they had for lunch that day. It occurs to me, governments here could easily send around plainclothes spies to monitor compliance and severely penalize or even forcibly close any establishment not following the rules. (See more on the situation in Chile [here](#). Although [there are worse places to be stuck in.](#))

National borders close and open around the world with ever-changing rules and conditions, making international travel difficult and inconvenient at best. People are kicked off flights for not masking up; in one case, a couple was ejected from a plane and stranded [because their two-year-old fought wearing a mask.](#)

[There are places where those in power apparently don’t care if you’ve figured it out, that this is about power, not public health.](#) Note the reference to “Britain’s vaccines minister.”

Hopkins continues:

[GloboCorp] know[s] exactly what they are doing ... which is teaching us a lesson, a lesson about power. A lesson about who has it and who doesn’t. For students of history it’s a familiar lesson, a standard in the repertoire of empires, not to mention the repertoire of penal institutions.

The name of the lesson is “Look What We Can Do to You Any Time We F***** Want.” The point of the lesson is self-explanatory. The USA taught the world this lesson when it nuked Hiroshima and Nagasaki. GloboCap (and the US military) taught it again when they invaded Iraq and destabilized the entire Greater Middle East. It is regularly taught in penitentiaries when the prisoners start to get a little too unruly and remember that they outnumber the guards. That’s where the *lockdown* concept originated. It isn’t medical terminology. It is penal institution terminology.

(To be Continued in Part 2.)

<https://newswithviews.com/is-this-year-one-part-1/>

Why Are Not Some People Quaking in Their Boots?

By [Edwin Vieira Jr.](#)/July 30th, 2021

One wonders whether a hearing before some Congressional committee is the appropriate venue for determining what relationship (if any) certain officials and agencies of the government of the United States may have had to the emergence in Communist China of what is called “Covid 19”, and the subsequent transmission of that “virus” throughout the world. In principle, it would seem that a simple criminal investigation of this matter would be more straightforward, as well as far more consequential. Such an investigation would focus on four questions:

Did any officials or employees of the government of the United States—whether individually or in concert with officials or employees of a State’s government, agency, or instrumentality; with private parties or organizations; or with any combination thereof—knowingly provide financial and/or technical assistance to an organization which is part or under the control of the government of Communist China, for the purpose of research and development aimed at increasing the transmissibility, infectivity, and lethality of some micro-organism, virus, or other infectious substance (whether this research and development happened to be labeled “gain of function” or was assigned some other designation)?

Did those officials, employees, or individuals know, should they have known, or were they willfully blind to or recklessly indifferent towards the fact, that such financial and/or technical assistance could (and likely would) aid at some stage and to some degree in the development of a biological agent suitable for use as a weapon by the government of Communist China or some organization which is part of or subject to its control?

Did those officials, employees, or individuals know, should they have known, or were they willfully blind to or recklessly indifferent towards the fact, that no controls, restrictions, safeguards, or other guarantees were in place to prevent such financial and/or technical assistance from being used to aid at some stage and to some degree in the

development of a biological agent suitable for use as a weapon by the government of Communist China or some organization under its control?

Did those officials, employees, or individuals know, should they have known, or were they willfully blind to or recklessly indifferent towards the fact, that from her inception Communist China has been, and remains today, an openly and even stridently avowed enemy of the United States?

If the answers to these questions are all “YES”, then any and every official, employee, or other individual involved in supplying such financial and/or technical assistance to Communist China through her officials, employees, agencies, instrumentalities, and so on under those circumstances is in deservedly serious peril, and should be quaking in his (or her) boots. Indeed, if the answers to only the first three questions are “YES” then that same result obtains. For “[w]hoever knowingly develops, produces, * * * acquires, retains, or possesses any biological agent * * * for use as a weapon, *or knowingly assists a foreign state or any organization to do so*, shall be fined * * * or imprisoned for life or any term of years, or both”. An Act To implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction, by prohibiting certain conduct relating to biological weapons, and for other purposes, Act of May 22, 1990, Public Law 101-298, § 3, 104 Stat. 201, 201, *now codified at* 18 U.S.C. § 175(a) (emphasis supplied). Surely, for liability to attach, one who “knowingly assists” at some important preliminary stage need not also be a party to the final “develop[ment]” or ultimate “produc[tion]” of an actual perfected “weapon” by an open enemy of the United States. Anyone and everyone who “knowingly assists” by providing the financial wherewithal and/or technical information supporting “develop[ment]” or “produc[tion]” of any “biological agent * * * for use as a weapon” by *any* “foreign state or any organization” (whether an enemy of the United States or not) in *any* way, to *any* degree, or at *any* stage in the process must be equally liable. For so the statute provides, without any exception.

In particular, too, by explicitly distinguishing between “develop[ment]” and “produc[tion]”. the statute recognizes that the former not only precedes the latter, but also can be carried on without the latter’s ever taking place. Therefore, an individual should be held liable if he (or she) “knowingly assists a foreign state or any organization” to “develop[]” “any biological agent * * * for use as a weapon” through laboratory research aimed at that goal, even if that “develop[ment]” never leaves the laboratory to result in actual “produc[tion]” of such a “biological agent” in some factory. This, of course, makes perfect sense, because by deterring “develop[ment]” the statute can render penalization of “produc[tion]” a moot point. Certainly, as well, the “mad scientist” whose evil genius “develops” the “biological agent” in the first place must be held far more culpable than the ignorant factory hand who merely “produces” it according to the specifications supplied to him.

Under this law, “the term ‘biological agent’ means any micro-organism, virus, or infectious substance, capable of causing * * * death, disease, or other biological malfunction in a human”. Act of May 22, 1990, § 3, 104 Stat. at 202-203, *now codified at* 18 U.S.C. § 178(1)(A). Obviously, “Covid 19” (at least as it has been presented by public-health officials throughout the world) is such a “biological agent”. And equally obvious is that at least one—if not the main—purpose, and certainly the effect, of the type of so-called “gain of function research” associated with the development of “Covid 19” is *to enhance the evil characteristics of the underlying micro-organism, virus, or other infectious substance so as to render it more useful as a weapon than it originally was, or to employ it as a step or stage in the development of a weapon*.

Thus it would appear beyond a reasonable doubt that:

(i) Any financial and/or technical assistance from the United States for “gain of function research” which might have contributed to the emergence of “Covid 19” would necessarily had to some degree to have “assist[ed]” Communist China in a long-term goal of developing “a biological agent * * * for use as a weapon”, because a leading (if not the primary) purpose of “gain of function research” is to enhance the particular attributes of “biological agent[s]” which make them of “use as * * * weapon[s]”.

(ii) Any citizen of the United States, public official or otherwise, who has “knowingly assist[ed]” the “foreign state [of Communist China] or any organization” in “develop[ing], produc[ing], * * * acquir[ing], retain[ing], or possess[ing] any biological agent * * * for use as a weapon” through the provision of financial and/or technical assistance at *any* point in the process of that “biological agent[’s]” “develop[ment]” “sh[ould] be fined * * * or imprisoned for life or any term of years, or both”. This should not depend upon the “biological agent[’s]” actually having been created, either. For every step in the process aimed at its creation—including every experiment performed in a laboratory, whether successful or not—is part and parcel of its “develop[ment]”. And

(iii) It would seem indisputably the better part of justice that, given the consequences of the release of “Covid 19” (whether accidental or otherwise) throughout the United States and the rest of the world, every such citizen, whatever his (or her) public or private station, should be “imprisoned for life” rather than penalized in some less severe fashion.

The practical problem which the foregoing analysis presents, though, is: *Who* will investigate, prosecute, and convict any such errant citizens, when the FBI, the DOJ, and every other agency of the government of the United States appear to be utterly unwilling to execute, or incapable of executing, this particular criminal law of the United States (or, for that matter, any and every other criminal law relevant to this situation)? And when the States' normal prosecutorial machines are powerless to enforce this or any other criminal statute of the United States? If crimes of such magnitude might be allowed to go unpunished, what is the usefulness of the government of the United States, the governments of the States, or even the federal system as a whole?

To be sure, one could point out (as has the present author on many occasions) that the Constitution of the United States explicitly and exclusively assigns the authority and responsibility "to execute the Laws of the Union" to certain establishments other than (and in the law-enforcement hierarchy of the federal system as a whole necessarily superior to) the FBI, the DOJ, or every other non-constitutional alphabet agency within the government of the United States. And one could point out that if these establishments had been functioning in the past in accordance with the obvious constitutional plan then the problem to which this commentary is directed—along with many other problems of serious magnitude—would never have arisen in the first place, or would already have been solved. Repetition of this tedious process of "public education", however, would be akin to "beating a dead horse" in a literal sense. For, if one cannot convince Americans to pay attention to the Constitution even when their own lives have been and are being put at risk—increasingly with each day's dawning—what purpose would be served by pointing out their predicament, or by specifying the most effective constitutional means for addressing it to which they have already proven themselves to be completely indifferent, if not overtly hostile?

Unfortunately, one must conclude (at least for now) that, although possible domestic malefactors in the development of "Covid 19" *should* be quaking in their boots, in actuality they are laughing up their sleeves at ordinary Americans—with good reason, and with a good prospect of never having to stop. <https://newswithviews.com/why-are-not-some-people-quaking-in-their-boots/>

How Putin Understand the Lapid-Bennett Government

07/31/2021 *Caroline Glick*

Thursday it was reported that the IDF is planning to change its tactics in Syria and will base its operations against Iranian targets in the area on long-range standoff munitions rather than air strikes. Obviously, the move will downgrade Israel's operational prowess. The report of Israel's new policy of restraint followed the big story of the week: Russia's announcement that it assisted the Syrians in intercepting four missiles shot by IAF F-16s at targets in Syria for the first time. Russia's statement came in tandem with its announcement that it is abrogating its 2015 agreement with Israel to coordinate and deconflict Israel's military operations in Syria from Russian forces in the country.

Russia's decision is a major strategic blow.

The agreement in question was initiated almost immediately after Russian military forces first deployed to Syria in September 2015. Immediately after the Russians began setting up shop in Israel's hostile neighbor to the north, then prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu flew to Russia to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The purpose of his sudden trip, and a series of follow-on meetings between the two leaders in the ensuing months, was to reach an accord that would enable the IDF to maintain its operational freedom against Iranian targets in Syria without getting into a military conflict with the Russian forces who deployed to Syria to assist the Assad regime and its Iranian and Hezbollah masters in their war of annihilation against Assad's opponents and much of the population of Syria.

Netanyahu's goal seemed like an impossible dream. And yet, stunningly, he achieved it. Moreover, the understandings Netanyahu reached with Putin were scrupulously respected by both sides with few exceptions until Russia abrogated it this week.

To get a sense of just how bad Russia's sudden about face is for Israel, it's important to remember what jolted Netanyahu into action six years ago.

When Russian forces landed in Syria, the various rebel armies fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces and partners in Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards were gaining the upper hand in large swathes of Syria. In desperation, Assad approached Putin with a deal. In exchange for Russia serving as his air force, Assad would give Russia a permanent base at the port of Latakia, control over several air bases, and control over the Conoco oil fields in Eastern Syria, (which were then and still today remain under U.S. military control).

In 2015, Israel was carrying out an undeclared campaign in Syria to block Iran from transporting precision-guided missiles and drones across Syria to Hezbollah in Lebanon. The threat such weapons in the hands of Hezbollah poses to Israel is potentially existential. Iran has transferred precision-guided drones and missiles to its proxy forces in Yemen and Iraq and both have used them to conduct strategic assaults on Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure. A Houthi drone strike in

2019 disabled half of Saudi Arabia's oil production capabilities. Placing such weapons in Hezbollah's hands would put targets on all of Israel's population centers, its military bases, key infrastructure and industrial hubs.

The threat the sudden appearance of Russian forces in Syria on the side of Iran, Hezbollah and Assad posed to Israel's security interests was obvious. If Russia decided to actively oppose Israel's military strikes in Syrian territory, Israel would be compelled to choose between two options. It could unilaterally stand down to avoid direct confrontation with the Russia. If it chose this option, it would end its air assaults against Iranian missile shipments to Hezbollah and find itself under a strategic threat from Hezbollah that it would be compelled to go to war to defeat. In such a war, Russia could be expected to actively assist Hezbollah's war effort.

In other words, if Israel stood down in Syria to avoid a confrontation with Russia, it would be compelled to confront Russia on much more dangerous battlefield in Lebanon.

The second scenario Israel was facing was also bad. In this one, Israel would continue to strike Iranian arms shipments in Syria, without coordinating those strikes with Russia and inevitably find itself in a direct conflict with the Russians, similar to the one it found itself in in the 1982 Lebanon War. In that war, Israel destroyed Russia's anti-aircraft systems and established its air superiority in the Middle East for a generation. In 2015, Israel might have repeated the achievement. Or it might have discovered that it was incapable of evading Russia's new anti-aircraft surface to air missile systems, and lost its air superiority. Either way, the price of discovering whose platforms worked better would be the destruction of Israel's bilateral relations with Russia.

When Netanyahu pondered this dire scenarios, he did so while operating under another strategic constraint: The Obama administration did not have Israel's back. In 2012, as Assad and his Iranian and Hezbollah partners embarked on a campaign of mass murder of Assad's domestic opponents replete with chemical attacks, Obama was just beginning his focused effort to realign the U.S. alliance system in the Middle East towards Iran and away from Israel and the Sunni Arab states. Since Assad was an Iranian client, or "equity," as Obama put it, Obama and his advisors were loath to respond when Assad massacred his people with barrel bombs and chemical weapons for fear of angering Tehran.

Under pressure to act in the face of Assad's atrocities, Obama announced that if Assad used chemical weapons – particularly against civilians – he would send in U.S. forces. When months later, Assad attacked more than a thousand people – many of whom were civilians – in Ghouta with sarin gas, the eyes of the world fell on Obama and waited for him to follow through. Instead, Putin sent him a lifeline. Russia suggested that Assad would transfer his chemical arsenal to an international organization and in exchange, Obama would not strike his forces. Obama seized the offer, despite that fact that it was both unenforceable and indeed, unenforced, and declared victory.

Putin took Obama's measure and bided his time. He understood that there would be no U.S. response to a sudden deployment of Russian forces to Syria. The moment Assad made him the offer he wanted, Putin deployed his forces to Syria for the first time in 33 years.

Obama's desire to win over Iran by empowering it in Syria extended to his position on Israel's military strikes in the country. Obama didn't openly oppose Israel's operations. He subverted them by leaking details of covert strikes to the New York Times. Moreover, by the time the Russians arrived, Obama had a personal vendetta against Netanyahu, who led the global opposition to the nuclear deal Obama concluded with the Iranians two months before and rejected Obama's anti-Israel parameters for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Russia's alliance with Syria, Iran and Hezbollah in Syria, its traditional antagonism towards Israel and its awareness that under Obama, Israel no longer enjoyed meaningful U.S. strategic or diplomatic support all rendered Netanyahu's chances of success in reaching a deconfliction deal with Putin almost nil. To succeed, Netanyahu had to persuade Putin that Russia's interest was served by maintaining Israeli airstrikes against Russia's ally and partner in Syria Iran. He also had to convince Putin that having good relations with Israel was a Russian national interest. Senior Russian government, intelligence and military officials disagreed completely with both of Netanyahu's contentions.

So what explains Netanyahu's success?

In part, Netanyahu succeeded in winning Putin over because despite the contrary views of Russia's top brass, his arguments were sound. Russia has no interest in giving Iran free rein in Syria. It has an interest in keeping Iran off balance and dependent on Russia for its protection. So too, Israel is a successful, powerful state and Russia has a great deal to gain from good relations with Israel.

While Netanyahu's claims were persuasive, Putin was only willing to hear him out because Netanyahu – and Israel – had earned his respect six months earlier.

When Netanyahu decided to accept the Republican Congressional leadership's invitation to address a joint session of Congress in March 2015 and set forth the reasons he opposed the nuclear deal Obama was then negotiating with the Iranian regime, Israel's security brass, the media and the political left led by then opposition lawmaker Yair Lapid all feverishly opposed the move which they insisted would destroy Israel's ties with the U.S.

But the speech was a strategic masterstroke. The day after Netanyahu's address the world looked at Israel differently. The day before Israel had been a spurned, isolated U.S. client state. The day after, Israel was a regional power. Far from isolating Israel in the U.S., Netanyahu rallied the American public to Israel's side and against the deal that gave Iran an open road to a nuclear arsenal and regional hegemony. Putin saw the speech and decided that Netanyahu was a serious player and Israel was a serious nation.

Although the Abraham Accords were only formally released four years later, to a large degree, they were born the moment Netanyahu stepped into the Congressional gallery. The Saudis, the Egyptians, the Emiratis – and the Iranians – became convinced that day that they could trust Israel to block Iran from becoming a nuclear armed regional hegemon.

This brings us to the present day.

Now that the Russians have abrogated the Putin-Netanyahu deal, the men who ousted Netanyahu from power face the same bleak scenarios Netanyahu confronted with the arrival of Russian forces in Syria. But unlike Netanyahu, neither Prime Naftali Bennett nor Foreign Minister Yair Lapid have the ability to fly to Russia and convince Putin to reinstate the deal. This isn't because of anything that Putin or Netanyahu did. It is because of something that Lapid and Bennett have done.

Shortly after Bennett and Lapid took office, Lapid spoke on the phone with Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and announced that he had committed Israel to a policy of "no surprises" vis-a-vis the Biden administration. This commitment devastated Israel's international standing. If Netanyahu's speech to Congress ended the international perception of Israel as a second-rate power and a U.S. client, and transformed Israel's standing to that of a regional power; Lapid's "no surprises" commitment downgraded Israel back to its previous status.

With the threats arrayed against it, a unilateral Israeli move that limits its operational freedom by committing it to provide the U.S. with prior notification of its operations makes no sense in the best of times. It is downright irrational when the Biden administration is feverishly trying to reinstate Obama's nuclear deal as a means to reinstate his strategy of abandoning U.S. support for Israel and the Sunni Arab states and realigning the U.S. towards Iran.

From Riyadh to Gaza, Abu Dhabi to Tehran, from Beijing to Brussels to Moscow world leaders understand what happened. The strategic blow Israel took from Russia this week will doubtlessly be followed from many more. Israel's allies and enemies will assess their options in light of the Lapid-Bennett government's embrace of dependence on a hostile administration in Washington. <https://carolineglick.com/how-putin-understand-the-lapid-bennett-government/>

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ARUTZ SHEVA

Gantz and Kochavi hold assessment following attack on Israeli-managed ship

Israeli official: Iran is sowing violence and destruction in every corner of the region. Our campaign against them will continue.

Elad Benari, Canada , Jul 30 , 2021 8:27 PM



Gantz and Kochavi Ariel Hermoni/Ministry of Defense Defense Minister Benny Gantz and IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi held a security consultation on Friday following [the attack on an Israeli-managed ship](#) in the Persian Gulf in which two people were killed.

An Israeli official commented on the attack on the ship and said, "Iran is sowing violence and destruction in every corner of the region. Out of eagerness to attack an Israeli target, they have complicated and incriminated themselves by killing foreign civilians. The masks are coming off and it is impossible to pretend that the nature of the Iranian regime is

unknown."

