

## 4 injured in stabbing attack in central Tel Aviv, terrorist eliminated

*They were stabbed in the middle of a busy street in Tel Aviv and were evacuated to a nearby hospital; One of them was stabbed in the neck and was moderately to seriously injured; Attacker is identified as a permanent resident of the US originally from Morocco who arrived in Israel three days ago*

Lior Ohana|13:32

At least four people were injured Tuesday evening in a stabbing attack on Nahalat Binyamin Street in central Tel Aviv, two moderately and two lightly. According to Magen David Adom emergency service, two young men in their 20s were moderately injured and a man in his 50s was lightly injured. They were evacuated to Ichilov Hospital, which reported that the condition of one of the injured, who was injured in the neck, is moderate to serious.

The Tel Aviv police commissioner later arrived at the scene of the attack and announced that there was only one attacker and that the incident is over.

*Terror attack in central Tel Aviv  
(Video: Lior Ohana)*

The attacker has been identified as Kaddi Abdelaziz, a permanent resident of the U.S. originally from Morocco, who arrived in Israel three days ago.

Interior Minister Moshe Arbel noted that border control officers from the Population and Immigration Authority identified Abdelaziz as a threat in real time and sought to prevent him from entering Israel. He

was transferred to Shin Bet security officials for further questioning, who ultimately allowed him to enter Israel. "I commend and appreciate the border control officers of the Population and Immigration Authority

who identified in real time and sought to prevent the entry into Israel of the terrorist from the attack in Tel Aviv upon his arrival at Ben Gurion Airport on 18.1.25 and transferred him for questioning to security officials who unfortunately decided to allow his entry into Israel," Arbel said.

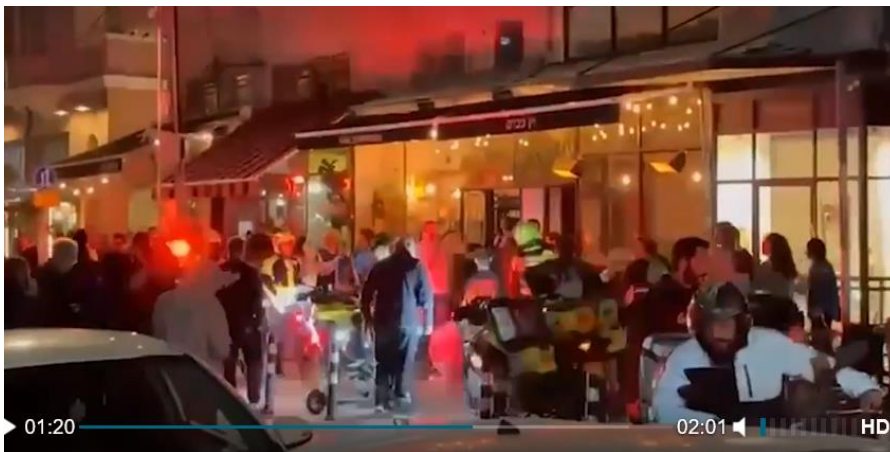
*Panic during the terror attack in central Tel Aviv*

The stabbings occurred while the street was bustling with life, as it is every evening. People who heard the gunshots fired at the stabber panicked, entered restaurants and hid under tables.

Passersby who witnessed the stabbings, who are IDF soldiers from an elite unit, neutralized the terrorist. "We came down from the house, and saw the terrorist knocking a civilian to the floor. We shouted at him to stop and shot him when he refused. We fired four bullets in total," they said. According to an eyewitness, "the terrorist got off the scooter and the driver continued driving."

*Scene of terror attack in central Tel Aviv*

Aviyah, who works at a bar near the scene of the attack, said: "We didn't hear anything outside, and then we saw a lot of people running and





**people with guns drawn.** We closed the bar with everyone inside and now we're waiting to figure out what's happening."

*Security services at scene of attack (Photo: Lior Ohana)*

**Another eyewitness, Dor, said: "He ran from the direction of Sofer Yehuda with a knife. He stabbed one person and immediately after a few moments they shot him."**

On Saturday, a 28-year-old man was seriously injured in a stabbing attack at the intersection of Levontin and Mikveh Yisrael streets in Tel Aviv. He was taken to Ichilov Hospital in the city, where he underwent surgery and his condition stabilized. The terrorist, an illegal resident from Tulkarm, was eliminated at the scene. Police received reports of a suspect who attempted to stab passersby. An armed citizen who was at the scene neutralized him. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rkno4utv1l#autoplay>

## Two critically injured in West Bank shooting

***Shooting near Ramat Gilad occurred close to Funduq, flashpoint of ongoing clashes between settlers and Palestinians following deadly attack earlier this month that killed 3 Israelis***

*Einav Halabi, Elisha Ben Kimon | 15:20*



***Two people in their 20s were injured, one severely and one critically, in a shooting near the settlement of Ramat Gilad, approximately two kilometers from the Palestinian village of Funduq, where masked Jewish youths rioted Monday night.***

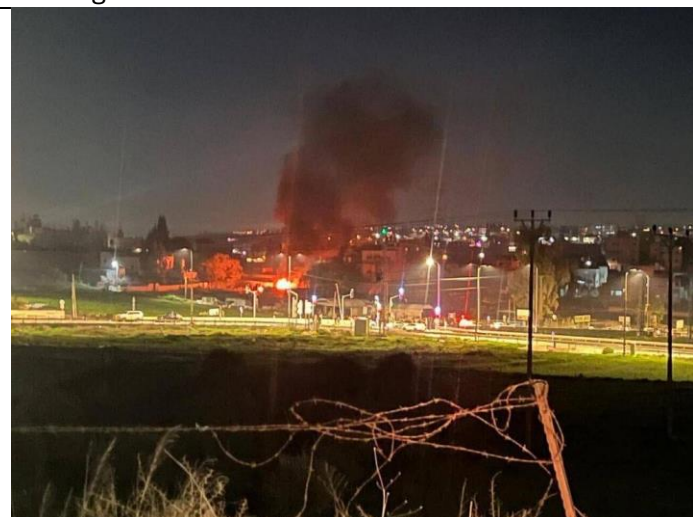
***The Magen David Adom ambulance service reported that one victim sustained life-threatening injuries and the other was in serious condition. Both were evacuated to hospitals in Petah Tikva and Kfar Saba. The identities of the injured and the connection, if any, between the shooting and the riots remain unclear.***

*Security forces at the scene of the shooting (Photo: Magen David Adom)*

Settlers and Palestinians clash in Funduq, West Bank

**Authorities are investigating the possibility that the two were accidentally struck by gunfire from a security guard.** According to initial reports, the guard had been pepper-sprayed and fired warning shots into the air, which may have unintentionally hit the victims.

**Officials have ruled out terrorism as the cause of the incident.** The circumstances surrounding the shooting are under review.



Settlers and Palestinians clash in Funduq, West Bank







The unrest in Funduq involved approximately 40 masked individuals who set fire to three buildings, several vehicles and reportedly shops in the village. The IDF dispatched forces to the area to disperse the rioters and establish roadblocks along Route 55. **“IDF and Border Police forces responded to reports of disturbances in Funduq and are currently working to restore order,”** the military said, adding that claims of arson are under investigation.

**Funduq has been a flashpoint** since a [shooting attack there earlier this month](#) that [killed three Israelis](#): police officer Elad Winkelstein, 35, and civilians Rachel Cohen, 70, and Aliza Reiss, 73.

(Photo: Fire and Rescue Services)

The **violence follows the death of Sgt. First Class (res.) Eviatar Ben Yehuda**, who was killed Sunday night when an improvised explosive device detonated under his vehicle during a military operation in Tammun, near the Jordan Valley. Four others, including the battalion commander, were wounded in the attack. The IDF said initial findings indicate the road was booby-trapped, though no intelligence had warned of explosives in the area.

The riots also coincide with Defense Minister Israel Katz’s controversial decision to release five settlers from administrative detention. Katz justified

the move, citing the release of Palestinian prisoners as part of a hostage deal, saying, “I decided to strengthen and encourage the settlements, which stand on the frontlines against Palestinian terrorism.” Critics, including the Shin Bet, warned of potential security risks tied to the decision.

**Meanwhile, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi stressed the need for heightened readiness in the West Bank.** **“Alongside reinforced defenses in Gaza**, we must be prepared for significant operations in Judea and Samaria in the coming days to intercept and apprehend terrorists before they reach our citizens,” Halevi said, directing further preparations for continued operations in Gaza and Lebanon.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/byma5enwkl#autoplay>

## Taking responsibility for Oct. 7 failures, IDF chief and head of Southern Command resign

**Chief of staff Halevi says he’ll quit on March 6, after first stage of ceasefire with Hamas; Maj. Gen. Yaron Finkelman doesn’t give exact date, says he’ll stay ‘as long as needed’**

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 5:24 pm

**IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi (left) is seen with the head of the Southern Command, Maj. Gen. Yaron Finkelman, in southern Gaza’s Rafah, June 23, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)**

**In bombshell announcements on Tuesday**, Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi and the head of the IDF Southern Command said they would both be resigning from the military over their roles in the failures that led to the Hamas terror group’s October 7, 2023, onslaught.

Halevi, in a letter to Defense Minister Israel Katz, said he would leave the IDF on March 6. IDF



**Southern Command head Maj. Gen. Yaron Finkelman, in a letter to Halevi, did not specify a date.**

The **announcements come 15 months into the war sparked by Hamas's attack and two days after a ceasefire and hostage release** deal with the terror group in the Gaza Strip went into effect. Halevi's departure would take place days after the end of the first stage of the ceasefire deal.

**Halevi has on several occasions since the start of the war said that he intends to take responsibility for the October 7 failures and resign.**

In a statement, **Halevi said he was leaving the military after "recognizing my responsibility for the failure of the IDF on October 7, and at a point in time in which the IDF has recorded significant achievements,** and is in the process of implementing an agreement to release hostages."

Halevi said **he would complete the IDF's investigations into the October 7 onslaught by his resignation date, and prepare the military for future challenges.**



*IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi (center) speaks to officers in southern Gaza's Rafah alongside Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Yaron Finkelman (left) and Gaza Division chief Brig. Gen. Barak Hiram (right), December 18, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)*

**"I will transfer command of the IDF in a high-quality and thorough manner to my replacement,"** he added in the statement.

**In his letter to Katz, Halevi said, "On the morning of October 7, under my command, the IDF failed in its mission to protect Israel's citizens. My responsibility for this terrible failure remains with me every day, every hour, and will remain with me for**

**the rest of my life."**

**"The IDF was able to rise from an extremely difficult starting point and wage an intense campaign for over a year and three months across seven different fronts. The military achievements of the IDF have altered the Middle East," he wrote. "These achievements, first and foremost, belong to the IDF's commanders and soldiers — my subordinates."**

**"In recognition of my responsibility for the IDF's failure on October 7, and at a time when the IDF has**

**recorded extraordinary achievements and restored Israel's deterrence and strength, I request to conclude my tenure on March 6, 2025,"** Halevi wrote.



*IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi visits Israel's border with Syria on December 7, 2024. (IDF)*

**"This decision was made long ago. Now, with the IDF holding the upper hand in all theaters of combat and with another hostage return agreement underway, the time has come,"** he added.

**It is the first time in 17 years that an IDF chief of staff has resigned before completing their three-year tenure. Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz quit in 2007 over the 2006 Second Lebanon War.**

**It was unclear who would be replacing Halevi.**

**An officer whose name has been brought up several times in media reports since the start of the war as a potential successor to Halevi is Maj. Gen. (res.) Eyal Zamir, the current director general of the Defense Ministry and a former deputy chief of staff. Zamir was twice passed over for the role of military chief in the past.**

*Eyal Zamir during a ceremony in Tel Aviv, July 11, 2021. (Flash90)*





Halevi's deputy, Maj. Gen. Amir Baram, earlier this month asked to end his role at the end of February as initially scheduled. Baram indicated in his letter that he seeks to replace Halevi.

Katz, who spoke with Halevi before the letter was published, said he thanked the chief of staff "for his contribution to the IDF throughout his years of service as a fighter and as a commander, and for his part in the great achievements of the IDF in the difficult war that was imposed on us."



*IDF Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Amir Baram, August 1, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)*

Shortly after Halevi's resignation announcement, Finkelman, the head of the IDF Southern Command, notified the chief of staff that he also intends to quit.

"On October 7, I failed in my duty to protect the Western Negev and its beloved, heroic residents. This failure is seared within me for life," Finkelman

said in a handwritten letter.

*IDF Southern Command chief, Maj. Gen. Yaron Finkelman (center), is seen in the Gaza Strip, October 30, 2023. (Israel Defense Forces)*

"I had the privilege of commanding, in this war, extraordinary commanders, warriors, and soldiers — the victory generation. Their fighting will be recorded as chapters of heroism and excellence in the history of the IDF and the State of Israel," he wrote.

"Commander, I thank you for your true partnership in times of ultimate trial, and for your steadfast and principled leadership. I will continue my mission for as long as I am needed," Finkelman added.



Halevi and Finkelman will join the former chief of the Military Intelligence Directorate, Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva, and former commander of the Gaza Division, Brig. Gen. Avi Rosenfeld, who also resigned over the October 7 onslaught. (Another top intelligence general who was planning to step down over the onslaught quit after being diagnosed with cancer.)



*IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi (left) meets with the chief of the Southern Command, Maj. Gen. Yaron Finkelman, in northern Gaza, February 6, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)*

Other top defense officials have said they bear responsibility for the deadly invasion carried out by Hamas on October 7, including the head of the Shin Bet security agency, though he has not yet resigned.

However, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and most members of his government repeatedly refused to take responsibility for their part in the series of strategic and operational failures that led to

the Hamas onslaught, insisting that the matter of their responsibility only be dealt with after the war.

Thousands of Hamas-led terrorists burst from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel on October 7, 2023, carrying out a murderous rampage of unprecedented intensity and breadth. The IDF struggled to mount a response, with bases closest to the border overrun and the chain of command seemingly broken amid the chaos.

The onslaught claimed the lives of some 1,200 people in Israel, with another 251 people kidnapped and much of the area devastated. Most of the victims were civilians. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/taking-responsibility-for-oct-7-failures-idf-chief-and-head-of-southern-command-resign/>

# 'I thought I'd die in Gaza': First testimonies from freed hostages released

**Former captives quoted saying they 'were scared to death' at Hamas transfer in Gaza City; some hardly saw daylight in 471 days; all of them knew what happened on October 7**

By [Tol Staff](#) and [Jessica Steinberg](#) Today, 12:24 am



*Doron Steinbrecher (in black) reunites with her family at Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, January 19, 2025. (Maayan Toaf/GPO)*

**After 471 days in captivity at the hands of Hamas terrorists in Gaza, three Israeli women who were released on the first day of a hostage release-ceasefire deal with the terror group have begun to share details of their ordeal, according to reports in Hebrew media on Monday.**

**Romi Gonen, 24, Emily Damari, 28, and Doron Steinbrecher, 31, were handed over to the Red Cross** by masked Hamas gunmen in Gaza City on Sunday afternoon, surrounded by what appeared to be a chaotic

crowd of mainly young men, many of them in Hamas uniforms and masked.

**"We were scared to death at the transfer point, from the combination of the armed terrorists and the Gazan crowd," one of the women was quoted as saying by Channel 12 news,** in comments approved for publication by the Israeli military censor.

**The former hostages said that they were only told they were set to be released from Gaza hours before they were handed over.**

**The three were the first hostages to be released** in the initial stage of the three-phase accord, which provides for a total of 33 captives to be freed over 42 days in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.

**Gonen was kidnapped from the Supernova rave near Kibbutz Re'im on October 7, 2023, when thousands of Hamas-led terrorists burst across the border into Israel, killing some 1,200 people and seizing 251**

hostages, mostly civilians. Damari and Steinbrecher were both kidnapped from their homes at nearby Kibbutz Kfar Aza, during the terror rampage.



*Hamas hands over hostages kidnapped during its October 7, 2023, massacre in southern Israel, to members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza City, January 19, 2025. (REUTERS/via Reuters TV)*

**Channel 12 reported that the women said they were not held alone during their time in captivity, and that they were moved to various places in Gaza, including the designated "humanitarian zone" in the south of the Strip.**

Some of the hostages **said that they hardly saw the light of day over the past 15 months, spending most of their time in captivity underground.**

**They said that from time to time, they were exposed to television and radio news, including protests calling for the government to secure the release of the hostages held in Gaza.**

**"We saw your struggle," the former hostages were quoted as saying. "We heard our families fighting for us."**

**Supporters and relatives of Israeli hostages held captive in the Gaza Strip since Hamas's October 7, 2023, onslaught demonstrate in Tel Aviv on January 19, 2025. (Menahem Kahana/AFP)**





They were also said to have pieced together the details of the brutal Hamas attack that sparked the war, and they knew that their families had survived, though many of their friends were killed during the assault.

"I didn't think I would come back. I thought I'd die in Gaza," one of the hostages was quoted by Channel 12 as saying.

The report added that while the women sometimes received medicines they required, one of them underwent a medical procedure without anesthesia during her captivity.

Both Damari and Gonen were shot during the terror attack in which they were kidnapped. Damari lost two fingers as a result of her injury.

Other former hostages who were released in a weeklong truce in November 2023 said they underwent surgery without anesthesia.



#### Grateful families

Also on Monday, parents and siblings of the three released hostages held a press conference at the Sheba Medical Center, where the women were airlifted on Sunday evening, and said that they were all doing well. They also extended their gratitude to the government, the negotiators, US President Donald Trump, and the Israeli people for their support and assistance in bringing their loved ones home.

*This handout photo shows family members of the three released hostages speaking at Sheba Medical Center, in Ramat Gan on January 20, 2025 (Paulina Patimer/*

#### Hostages Forum)

"Doron is smiling, she is here, and we are starting to deal with her recuperation. She is okay. She is strong and brave," said Yamit Ashkenazi, Steinbrecher's sister.

She added that her sister was surrounded by family, friends, and by all of Israel, and, in particular, thanked their Kfar Aza community for its ongoing support.

Ashkenazi herself survived the Hamas massacre along with her two small children, aged 3 and 6 at the time, hiding out in their sealed room for 21 hours, without food or water, until 1 a.m. the following day.

Ashkenazi also relayed a message from her sister, asking Israelis to keep rallying and calling for the return of all the hostages.

"The fact that I returned home doesn't mean the others don't have to come home," Ashkenazi quoted her sister as saying. "Go out into the streets. We have to complete all stages of the deal."



*Doron Steinbrecher (in black) reunites with her family at Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, January 19, 2025. (Maayan Toaf/GPO)*

Tom Damari, the brother of freed hostage Emily, thanked Israel Defense Forces soldiers and reservists who fought Hamas in Gaza, as well as those who fell in battle "so that we could hug Emily again."

He also thanked the government, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, government hostage envoy Gal Hirsch, Emily's friends and family, and God, ending his

comments by saying, "Am Yisrael Chai" (the nation of Israel lives).

His mother, Mandy Damari, a British citizen, reported that her daughter was in high spirits,

telling reporters in English that Emily is “an amazing, strong, and resilient young woman.”

She thanked former US president Joe Biden in addition to Trump and other leaders and negotiators around the world, as well as the British government for its ongoing support.

“To the thousands that have messaged our family the last 24 hours, all of you have played a role. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts,” she said.



*Relatives of released hostages speak to the press at Sheba Medical Center (from left): Yamit Ashkenazi, Simona Steinbrecher, Mandy Damari and Tom Damari, January 20, 2025. (Paulina Patimer/Hostages Forum)*

The final speaker was Meirav Leshem Gonen, a familiar face in the struggle for the hostages’ release in the past 15 months, who named and spoke about her daughter’s friends who were killed on October 7, 2023, at the Nova desert rave.

She thanked both Israeli and world leaders who helped put the ceasefire in place, and mentioned bereaved families, IDF soldiers, and their families, as well as those wounded in the ongoing

violence, saying she wants to support them all.

“We are the Israeli nation, a special nation that wants peace,” she said. “There are 94 more of our brothers and sisters in Gaza, we are brave and courageous and we will get them back. Let us hold hands and win.”

**Hamas confirmed in an official statement on Monday that the next hostage release under the nascent ceasefire deal will take place on Saturday, January 25, as initially scheduled, despite a previous claim from the terror group’s prisoners’ office.**

**Four hostages are set to be released this coming Saturday.** Over the following four weeks, three hostages are to be released each Saturday, until a final group of 14 on day 42 of the ceasefire.

*Meirav Leshem-Gonen, mother of Hamas hostage Romi Gonen, speaks about Hamas atrocities on October 7 to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on June 19, 2024. (Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva)*



**It is believed that 91 of the 251 hostages abducted by**

**Hamas on October 7 remain in Gaza, including the bodies of at least 34 confirmed dead by the IDF.**

Hamas has so far released three hostages during a ceasefire that began in January. The terror group released 105 civilians during a weeklong truce in late November 2023, and four hostages were released before that.

**Eight hostages have been rescued by troops alive, and the bodies of 40 hostages have also been recovered, including three mistakenly killed by the military as they tried to escape their captors.**

Hamas is also holding two Israeli civilians who entered the Strip in 2014 and 2015, as well as the body of an IDF soldier who was killed in 2014. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/i-thought-id-die-in-gaza-first-testimonies-from-freed-hostages-released/>

**'This sends a message': The chaos at Gaza's central square as hostages were released**

**In an attempt to reconstruct its power base in Gaza, Hamas stages spectacle at Saraya Square including hundreds of people and terrorists in a bid of power projection**

*Einav Halabi, Hagar Kochavi* | 03:29

Hamas exhibited an image of hoards of people and many armed fighters on the streets during the transfer of the three first hostages, released on Sunday, to the hands of the Red Cross. But drone footage shows that the area around the crowd that had gathered was mostly empty. Only hundreds of Palestinians were seen gathering around Red Cross vehicles in an otherwise empty area.



**Israel resisted finding an alternative government to Hamas in Gaza for months leaving Hamas to demonstrate their hold on power.**

Hamas footage of three hostages intended for release

**Hamas' propaganda was directed not only at Israel but also at Palestinians** and the broader Arab world to project a victory narrative and reinforce its military and civilian control. Only hundreds of Palestinians were seen gathering around Red Cross vehicles in an otherwise empty area.

**Images released by Hamas, which faced international criticism, depicted armed terrorists and civilians swarming the hostages' vehicle. The release took place in Saraya Square, a symbolic location connecting Gaza City's north and south, chosen by Hamas to enhance its propaganda.**

The **terror group sought to showcase its elite Nukhba Force and "Shadow Unit,"** responsible for hostage operations, to solidify its position.

**Al Jazeera journalist Tamer Almisshal, known for his ties to Hamas, said that the choice of Saraya Square had strategic and political significance, especially during the initial days of the cease-fire agreement. "This area, heavily targeted by Israeli operations, sends a message: You didn't break us — Hamas is still here."**

The **square, heavily damaged by IDF activity,** previously housed Hamas leadership tunnels. **Almisshal claimed the release's location symbolized Hamas' defiance and highlighted Israeli failures to dismantle its military infrastructure.**



**Saraya Square during the hostage handoff**



**(Photo: AP Photo/Abed Hajjar)**



**Destruction in Rafah (Photo: AP Photo/Jehad Alshrafi)**

**Before the war, Saraya Square was a bustling hub surrounded by banks, shopping centers and government buildings, including a central prison dating back to the British mandate,** later used by various Palestinian factions.

**According to Gaza residents, Hamas operatives frequently used hidden tunnels in the area during airstrikes. Red Cross officials described the scene of armed terrorists surrounding the vehicles as "complex and threatening," but the transfer proceeded.** The organization plans to address future security concerns with Hamas.

**Sunday also marked widespread Palestinian celebrations for the cease-fire, which Hamas framed as a dramatic victory over Israel.** However, as [refugees returned to their devastated homes](#), many expressed shock and frustration at the extensive destruction.

For **Hamas, the cease-fire provided an opportunity to re-emerge from hiding,** displaying its strength across Gaza. Armed terrorists roamed openly and Hamas police officers were spotted in blue uniforms in several areas. The peak of these displays coincided with the hostage release in central Gaza City.

Although the **IDF attacked Hamas vehicles in Khan Younis shortly before the cease-fire, the truce has since limited Israel's ability to counter Hamas' public displays of strength.** The terror group



aims to demonstrate that its military and governance capabilities remain intact despite suffering significant losses during the 15-month war.



Saraya Square during the hostage handoff (Photo: REUTERS/Mahmoud Al-Basos)



(Photo: REUTERS/Dawoud Abu Alkas)

The **issue of replacing Hamas as Gaza's governing body was a central point of contention between Israel and the U.S. throughout the war**. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu firmly rejected proposals involving the Palestinian Authority taking control of Gaza.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken repeatedly voiced frustration over the matter, calling for "political courage" to find an alternative to Hamas. He noted that the terror group had successfully rebuilt its forces and recruited new terrorists, nearly matching the number lost in battles with Israel.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rkhx5ahp1g#autoplay>

## IDF launches major counterterror raid in West Bank's Jenin, expected to last days

Operation Iron Wall begins with drone strikes on terror infrastructure; large numbers of troops enter city; 8 Palestinians said killed, 35 wounded

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 2:26 pm



Israeli troops and their vehicles in the center of Jenin in the West Bank on September 5, 2024. (Zain JAAFAR / AFP)

The Israel Defense Forces launched a major counterterrorism operation in the northern West Bank city of Jenin on Tuesday afternoon, which military sources said was expected to last several days.

The operation began with a series of drone strikes on infrastructure used by terror groups in Jenin, a military source said.

Palestinian media outlets reported several airstrikes and local health officials said at least eight

people were killed and 35 were wounded.

**Footage published by Palestinian media showed Israeli Air Force helicopters flying over Jenin.**

In a brief **joint statement**, the IDF and Shin Bet security agency confirmed the operation, dubbed **"Iron Wall,"** and said further details would be provided later.

IDF **sources said large numbers of troops**, including special forces, Shin Bet agents and Border Police officers, were operating in the city.

[#شاهد](#)

[#جنين](#) إطلاق نار من الطيران المروحي باتجاه المواطنين في مدينة [pic.twitter.com/rqyS4DhrzW](https://pic.twitter.com/rqyS4DhrzW)

— Newpress | نيو برس (@NewpressPs) January 21, 2025

The goals of the operation were to **"preserve the IDF's freedom of action" in the West Bank**, neutralize terror infrastructure and eliminate imminent threats, according to military sources.

The sources said the operation would last at least several days.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the operation was **"another step in achieving the goal we set, strengthening security in Judea and Samaria."**



Judea and Samaria is the biblical name for the West Bank.

**“We are operating in a systematic and decisive way against the Iranian axis wherever it sends its arms, in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Judea and Samaria,”** Netanyahu said in a statement released by his office.

من اقتحام الاحتلال الواسع لمدينة جنين ومخيمها. [pic.twitter.com/WShDKcgy0](https://pic.twitter.com/WShDKcgy0)

— شبكة قدس الإخبارية (@qudsn) January 21, 2025

**On Monday, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi said the military was preparing for “significant operations” in the West Bank,** amid a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

**“Along with the intense defense preparations in the Gaza Strip, we must be prepared for significant operations in Judea and Samaria** in the coming days in order to preempt and catch the terrorists before they reach our citizens,” he said during an assessment, in remarks released by the IDF.



*IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi speaks to troops in northern Gaza's Beit Hanoun, January 16, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)*

**On Sunday, military officials said the Central Command was readying to carry out offensive actions in the West Bank, to prevent Hamas from establishing a foothold in the West Bank in light of the release of members of the terror group** in the ceasefire deal.

**The offensive plans were being coordinated with the Palestinian Authority, which also fears its rival Hamas gaining power in the West Bank,** the officials said.

**Hundreds of Palestinian security prisoners are due to be released to the West Bank in the hostage deal and ceasefire with Hamas in the Gaza Strip,** including many convicted of deadly terror attacks.



**The Tuesday raid came a day after an Israeli reservist soldier was killed and four others were wounded, including a senior officer in serious condition,** when they were hit by a roadside bomb in the northern West Bank.

**It also followed a shaky truce agreement between the Palestinian Authority and terror groups** operating in Jenin that ended a six-week standoff in the northern West Bank city and adjacent refugee camp.

*Palestinian security forces gather at the site of a protest against clashes between Palestinian security forces and terror groups in the northern West Bank city of Jenin on December 21, 2024. (Jaafar Ashtiyeh/AFP)*

**The PA had been targeting the so-called Jenin Battalion, made up of operatives affiliated with terror groups such as Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad,** in a bid to show incoming US President Donald Trump that Ramallah can maintain order in the West Bank, amid its push to take the reins of Gaza from Hamas after the war there.



**The IDF, which also staged counterterrorism operations in the northern West Bank** in recent months, has [said](#) that it supported bolstering the PA forces to help them in the fight against the Jenin Battalion. The military paused its airstrikes on Jenin as PA forces operated there, but ended that policy last week with a pair of airstrikes on terror operatives that killed a dozen people, including civilians.

*A gunman fires shots in the air during the funeral of five Palestinians killed in an Israeli strike in Jenin in the West Bank on August 6, 2024. (JAAFAR ASHTIYEH / AFP)*

Palestinian media reported Tuesday that as Israeli troops entered Jenin, PA forces withdrew from the area.

The West Bank has seen a sharp rise in violence since the Gaza war was sparked on October 7, 2023, when thousands of Hamas-led terrorists stormed southern Israel to kill some 1,200 people and take 251 hostages.

Since then, IDF troops have arrested some 6,000 wanted Palestinians across the West Bank, including more than 2,350 affiliated with Hamas.

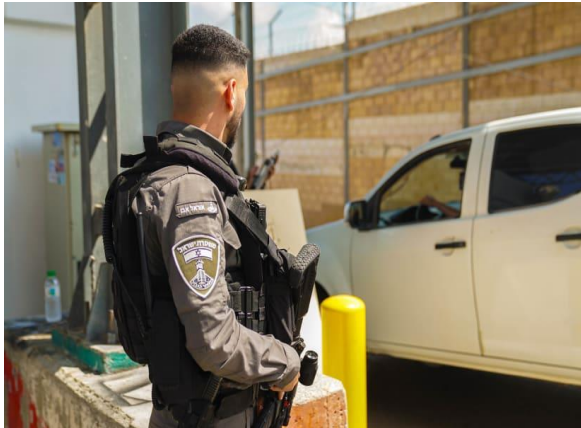
According to the Palestinian Authority health ministry, more than 858 West Bank Palestinians have been killed in that time. The IDF says the vast majority of them were gunmen killed in exchanges of fire, rioters who clashed with troops or terrorists carrying out attacks.

During the same period, 46 people, including Israeli security personnel, have been killed in terror attacks in Israel and the West Bank. Another seven members of the security forces were killed in clashes with terror operatives in the West Bank. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-launches-major-counterterror-raid-in-west-banks-jenin-expected-to-last-days/>

## Jerusalem man arrested after mother reports his threat to carry out terror attack

The man in his twenties was found in a shop in the Old City after massaging his sister that he would carry out an attack that would 'destroy them'.

By [OHAD MERLIN](#) JANUARY 21, 2025 16:40 Updated: JANUARY 21, 2025 17:48



Border police troops conduct large-scale operation to thwart illegal immigration to Israel. September 29, 2024. (photo credit: POLICE SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

Jerusalem District police said on Tuesday it had arrested a man in his twenties from the Old City after receiving a report from his mother about his threat to carry out a terrorist attack in the near future.

Following a swift investigation, the man was located in a store near the Lions' Gate, where he was finally arrested. During the investigation, it was revealed he had sent a message to his sister several days ago in which he said: "I am going to carry out an attack," and added, "I have repented now, and I am praying in al-Aqsa Mosque."

The Israel Police Arabic Facebook page uploaded a screenshot of the message, in which he accused his mother of mistreating him and kicking him out of his home.

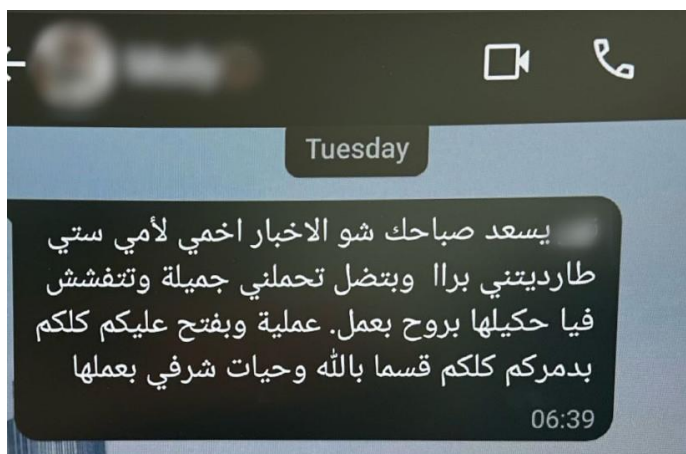
The message read: "Good morning, how are you? Tell my mother... that I am going to carry out an attack and hurt all of you; I swear to Allah that I will destroy all of you. By Allah, I will do it."

Screenshot from the Israel Police Arabic facebook page of a man threatening a terrorist attack. (credit: Israel Police Facebook (screenshot))

### Indictment filed

An Israeli court extended the man's detention, and an indictment was filed against him with a request to extend his detention until the end of the legal proceedings.

Dean Elsdunne, international spokesperson of the Israel Police, commented to The Jerusalem Post, "The arrest of this individual serves as a critical example of our proactive law enforcement and commitment to protecting the public."



"The Israel Police acted swiftly in response to the threat posed by the suspect and his disturbing messages, ensuring that potential harm to the public was averted.

"In this instance, the suspect's mother played a key role by reporting the threat, which enabled our officers to take immediate action. While the Israel Police are always actively monitoring and responding to potential threats, early intervention from the public, as seen here, can be crucial in preventing tragic events.



**"We encourage families and communities to stay vigilant and report any suspicious behavior or threats, as such cooperation strengthens our efforts to ensure the safety of all."**

The police Facebook page also added, "The police will continue to use all available means to confront any threat to the security of the citizens of Israel." <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-838598>

## Hezbollah commander shot dead outside his home

*Mohammed Hammadi, commander of Hezbollah's western al-Baqaa region, was shot by gunmen and died in hospital; It is currently unclear what the motive was and who was responsible for the shooting*

*Lior Ben Ari* | 14:51

The Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, affiliated with Hezbollah, reported Tuesday evening that the commander of Hezbollah's western al-Baqaa region, Mohammed Hammadi, was shot dead in front of his home. According to security sources who spoke to the Saudi Al-Hadath channel, gunmen who arrived in two vehicles shot Hammadi. He was taken from the scene to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. It is unclear what the motive for the shooting was, and who was responsible for it.

On Sunday, the 60 days of the first phase of the cease-fire in the north are set to end, after which the IDF must, according to the agreement between Israel and Lebanon, complete its withdrawal from southern Lebanon and deploy on the Israeli side of the border.

*Commander of Hezbollah's western al-Baqaa region, Mohammed Hammadi, was shot dead in front of his home*

"The deadline is not important in itself, but it is important to create a sense of dynamism and we hope that it can be maintained and that the IDF will continue to withdraw from the positions it holds," said a senior Western diplomat about the date by which the IDF must complete the withdrawal.

At the same time, the new Syrian government issued a statement about its willingness to maintain stability on its shared border with Lebanon. The Syrian government conveyed messages to the international community and Israel

that it intends to prevent Iran and Hezbollah from resuming the flow of weapons from Syria to Lebanon. This is very important news for both Lebanon and Israel. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bkjxyypvj1>

## Jewish childcare center torched in latest antisemitic attack in Australia

*Police say they are stepping up investigations after building was graffitied with anti-Jewish slogans and then burnt, causing massive damage but no injuries*

By *Agencies* Today, 10:43 am



*A daycare center is set on fire in Sydney, Australia with antisemitic graffiti next to it, early on January 21, 2025. (X; used in accordance with Clause 27a of the Copyright Law)*

A Jewish childcare center was torched near a Sydney synagogue on Tuesday, causing the Australian state of New South Wales to commit more police to investigate a spate of antisemitic crimes, officials said.

The childcare center, a block from a synagogue in a suburb of Maroubra, was also spray-painted with anti-Jewish graffiti before it was set alight early Tuesday, police said. The building was extensively damaged, but police

said **no one was hurt**.

The arson is the latest in a spate of targeted attacks in Australia's largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne, since the war between Israel and Hamas began on October 7, 2023. Sydney and Melbourne are home to 85 percent of Australia's Jewish population.

The fires and other attacks have targeted buildings and cars, and one person suffered burn injuries in the fire that was set at a Melbourne synagogue in December.

Acting New South Wales Police Commissioner Peter Thurtell said Strike Force Pearl, which was formed several months ago to investigate antisemitic crimes in Sydney, "will have its resources increased as of today."

"We already have significant resources, but incidents like this highlight the fact that we need to keep putting the resources in to ensure that these offenders are identified and arrested and put before the court," Thurtell told reporters.

**BREAKING: Terrorist firebombing attack on Jewish preschool in Sydney. The terrorists spray painted "FUCK THE JEWS" next to the burning building.**

I thought they just wanted a ceasefire???

We need mass arrests and deportations for Islamist extremists inciting the violence

[pic.twitter.com/PeUQjNPQ1M](https://pic.twitter.com/PeUQjNPQ1M)

— Drew Pavlou ?? (@DrewPavlou) [January 21, 2025](#)

**"These are criminals who are out to destroy our society and we, as the New South Wales Police Force, will do whatever we have to to ensure that these people are arrested," he added.**

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described the latest attack as "a vicious crime."

**Albanese is facing a national election due by May and antisemitism is shaping as a key issue**, with the opposition criticizing him as "weak" for not doing enough to prevent hate crimes against Jews.

*Messages and flowers are seen attached to the fence at the Adass Israel Synagogue in the Melbourne suburb of Ripponlea on December 9, 2024. (Martin KEEP / AFP)*



**Albanese convened a meeting of Australia's national cabinet to discuss the antisemitic attacks.**

**"What we saw overnight with this attack is the latest in a series of antisemitic hate crimes,"**

Albanese told reporters. "This is a place for children and families and it should never have been denigrated by this despicable and horrifying crime."



*This handout photo taken and released by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on December 10, 2024 shows Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (L) visiting the torched Adass Israel Synagogue with Rabbi Shlomo Kohn in Melbourne on December 10, 2024. (Handout / DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET / AFP)*

**"It will be an opportunity for us to discuss collectively the responses that are being made by state and territory governments," he said ahead of the discussions** of the high-level forum, which pulls together leaders from each state and territory.

New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said state and federal resources were being directed at solving antisemitic crime.

**"The rise in antisemitic attacks in New South Wales is a major concern for the state** — the primary concern for New South Wales," Minns told reporters.

**"I can't promise the end of this kind of violence. We are seeing a wave of antisemitic attacks in our community. It's deeply distressing,"** Minns added.

But Minns said perpetrators were being brought to justice. Nine suspects had been arrested and charged over three recent antisemitic attacks in Sydney. All suspects remained in custody.



**One of those suspects, Tammie Farrugia, 34, was arrested at her Sydney home on Monday** and appeared in court on Tuesday on a range of charges related to an attack on December 11 in the suburb of Woollahra, which is a center of Jewish life.



*Police stand near houses vandalized with anti-Israel slogans in the Sydney suburb of Woollahra, Australia, December 11, 2024. (AP Photo/Mark Baker)*

**Walls of homes and cars were graffitied with apparently misspelled messages, including: “Kill Israel” and “Death 2 Israel.”** One of the cars was torched.

The charges included participating in a criminal group with at least two other accomplices whom police have yet to arrest.

**Farrugia did not enter pleas to the charges or apply to be released from custody on bail.** She will return to court on February 5.

**New South Wales Police established Operation Shelter to improve community safety after the Israel-Hamas war triggered pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel protests in Sydney.**

Thurtell said more than 180 people had been arrested in Operation Shelter. Of those, 40 had been charged with specific antisemitic offenses, he said.

Almost 117,000 Jewish people live in Australia, according to the last census in 2021, or 0.46% of the 25.4 million residents. The government says only Israel is home to more Holocaust survivors than Australia on a per capita basis. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-childcare-center-torched-in-latest-antisemitic-attack-in-australia/>

## **Top Putin aide addresses reports of phone call with Trump**

***Moscow has not received any formal proposal from Washington for a chat between the two nations’ leaders, according to Yuri Ushakov***

21 Jan, 2025 17:20



*FILE PHOTO: Russian Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov. © Sputnik/Maksim Blinov*

**Russia has not been contacted by the White House on the issue of scheduling a phone call between the countries’ leaders, President Vladimir Putin’s foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov has revealed.**

**Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Ushakov addressed recent media reports suggesting that newly-inaugurated US President Donald Trump’s administration is exploring the**

**possibility of organizing a face-to-face meeting with Putin to end the Ukraine conflict.**

**“We’ve been following media reports that the US administration is preparing for dialogue, and that Trump allegedly instructed his team to contact Russia,” Ushakov told reporters.**

He **reiterated that Moscow is open to discussions** if Trump’s team demonstrates mutual interest.

**Ushakov’s remarks follow a CNN report on Sunday that Trump’s team was allegedly planning for a phone call with Moscow, which, the network’s sources claimed, could take place shortly after the inauguration.**

**The report claimed that officials within Trump’s national security team began planning the call several weeks ago, though** it was unclear whether a date for the conversation had been finalized. The network noted that the phone call would be a significant shift from the approach taken by his predecessor, Joe Biden, who has not spoken directly with Putin for nearly three years.

**Earlier this month, Trump confirmed his intention to speak with Putin,** stating that the Russian leader *“wants to meet, and we are setting it up.”*

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said later that **Putin is open to negotiations** with Trump without any preconditions.

The two leaders have met several times in the past, the last occasion being in 2019, at the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan.

**On Monday, Putin extended good wishes to Trump ahead of the inauguration and said that Moscow “welcomes” his statements about wanting to restore relations with Russia and prevent the**

**proxy conflict over Ukraine from developing into a world war.**

Trump has repeatedly promised to stop the fighting between Moscow and Kiev within 24 hours after he's back in office. Midway through his inauguration day on Monday, the US president was asked by journalists whether he would be able to keep the promise. Trump joked that *"it's only half a day"* and he has *"another half a day left,"* adding *"We will see."*

In the weeks leading up to his inauguration, Trump adjusted his timeline for resolving the conflict, expressing hope to negotiate peace within six months. His nominee for envoy on the Ukraine conflict, retired Lieutenant General Keith Kellogg, suggested that a deal could be **brokered** within 100 days of the inauguration.

In recent weeks, US media outlets have reported that Trump's team is mulling a peace plan for Ukraine which could include a ceasefire along the current front lines and the creation of an 800-mile (1,300-kilometer) demilitarized zone patrolled by European troops. <https://www.rt.com/news/611406-putin-trump-phone-call-reports/>

## **Moscow comments on Trump's 'two genders' diversity rollback**

***The US president has signed executive orders reversing protections for transgender rights and DEI programs***

21 Jan, 2025 14:51



**FILE PHOTO: Russian Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova**  
© Sputnik/Sergey Guneev

The **decades-long US promotion of the diversity and inclusion agenda should be investigated on an international level, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has said.**

Zakharova **made the remarks on Tuesday, a day after newly inaugurated US President Donald Trump ended protections for transgender rights and diversity, equity, and**

**inclusion** (DEI) within the federal government.

***"Can you imagine how many people's lives have been ruined over the years of promoting this nonsense?"*** Zakharova wrote on Telegram.

***"What should hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people do now, who have been forced to accept the ideology of amputating healthy genitals and replacing them with artificial ones?"*** she added.

**Zakharova stated that officials in Washington have been forcing other countries "to show solidarity with what they called anti-scientific narratives,"** which in essence was *"the very propaganda that kills both the body and the soul."*

This **"inhumane doctrine" was linked with aid, sanctions, and political and financial pressure, as well as the "humiliation of human dignity and bullying,"** Zakharova claimed.

On his first day back in office, Trump repealed 78 executive orders signed by his predecessor, Joe Biden, including at least a dozen measures supporting racial equity and combating discrimination against gay and transgender people.

Federal US agencies and departments have 60 days from the order's signing to end DEI-related practices.

The order followed a promise Trump made during his inaugural address earlier on Monday, when he vowed to end *"the government policy of trying to socially engineer race and gender into every aspect of public and private life"* in favor of a society that is *"colorblind and merit-based."*

Trump also said it will be official US policy that *"there are only two genders: male and female."*

The order is meant to create *"equal treatment"* and requests *"a plan to dismantle the DEI bureaucracy,"* a Trump aide told the New York Post. More actions on DEI are reportedly coming soon that would impact private business.

The rollback of DEI programs drew an immediate backlash from civil rights groups, who promised to *"fight back against these harmful provisions."*

Some corporations, including the largest US private employer, Walmart, had already started reversing DEI initiatives in the weeks following Trump's election in November. Meta recently dismantled its DEI department,



citing a shifting legal and policy landscape. McDonald's has scaled back diversity targets for senior leadership. Other companies such as Costco and Apple reportedly remain committed to diversity policies.

<https://www.rt.com/news/611397-us-diversity-programs-trump-zakharova/>

## Ukraine's chief military psychologist accused in \$1 million bribe sting

*The official, who has in the past reportedly called war veterans a threat, allegedly profited illegally amid mobilization efforts*

21 Jan, 2025 14:29



Photo purportedly showing cash found at the home of Ukraine's chief military psychologist. © SBU

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has accused a senior military psychologist of illegally amassing some \$1 million since the escalation of the conflict with Russia in 2022.

Controversial Ukrainian MP Aleksey Goncharenko, has named the official in question as psychologist Oleg Druz, who was fired in 2017 over remarks about Donbass

conflict veterans, deemed controversial in Kiev.

The SBU announced the allegations on Tuesday without naming the suspect, identifying him only as the chief psychiatrist of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and deputy chairman of the medical commission responsible for assessing recruits' fitness for service.

He stands accused of using family members and associates to conceal his illegal gains, according to the statement. Goncharenko subsequently published what he believes to be the identity of the suspect.

When the predominantly Russian-speaking Donbass region rejected the authorities who came to power in Ukraine following the 2014 Euromaidan coup, Kiev launched what it called an 'Anti-Terrorist Operation' in the region. While 'volunteer battalions' of hardcore nationalists were eager to fight, the government also resorted to several waves of conscription.

Druz argued at the time that many of the troops returned scarred by the experience of warfare, and required treatment for various mental health conditions. His comments sparked outrage among veterans' organizations and led to his reported dismissal by the Defense Ministry.

The Ukrainian media further accused Druz of taking bribes and highlighted his marriage to a Russian citizen. Reports in 2022, which referred to him as the chief military psychologist, noted that he had been embroiled in a court battle over property which officials alleged to have been criminally obtained.

Kiev is currently struggling to meet its military mobilization targets, as many fighting-age men are avoiding the draft, including by bribing medical officials to falsely certify them as unfit for duty.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/611402-sbu-chief-military-psychologist/>

## Top Russian lawmaker offers reset to US Congress

*Such steps are only possible if Washington shows a desire to cooperate, Leonid Slutsky has said*

21 Jan, 2025 15:21



Duma International Affairs Committee head Leonid Slutsky Leonid Slutsky. © Sputnik / Vladimir Fedorenko

The Russian State Duma is ready to reboot ties with the US Congress and establish a more effective framework for parliamentary diplomacy, senior MP Leonid Slutsky has said.

His comments came shortly after Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th president of the United States.

"In recent years, relations between the two largest nuclear powers, Russia and the US, have nearly sunk to zero, but today we see potential grounds for the situation to be revised," Slutsky, who heads the Duma Committee on International Affairs and

**leads the LDPR party**, said during a State Duma plenary session.

"We **are ready for a reset**," he added, while floating the possibility of re-launching the 'Duma-Congress' format or adopting a more effective framework.

The **lawmaker acknowledged, however, that such steps will only be possible with some positive moves from the US side.**

"We understand that there is **no magic switch** that would allow us to reset the global situation," Slutsky stressed.

Earlier this week, **Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow is open to contacts with Washington, and that the new US administration's policies will largely determine the world order.** The diplomat added that it remains unclear whether Trump's pledges will be fulfilled.

The new **US leader has repeatedly pledged to put an end to geo-political conflicts**, accusing his predecessor Joe Biden of pushing the world to the brink of World War III.

Speaking with journalists in the Oval Office shortly after his inauguration, Trump said he still had "*half a day*" to find a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine conflict. The quip came after he was reminded of his campaign promise to end the fighting within 24 hours of returning to the White House.

Trump has also pledged to meet with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin "*as quickly as possible*" to find a diplomatic settlement to the Ukraine crisis. The Russian president has welcomed Trump's intention to resume dialogue between Moscow and Washington, and congratulated him on his inauguration.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/611401-slutsky-reset-duma-us-congress/>

## Vladimir Putin goes on TV to deliver World War 3 message for Donald Trump

**Putin's comments show a sharp change in the Kremlin's stance back in November when they refused to congratulate Trump on his victory, stating the US being "unfriendly" to Russia as the reason.**



By [Christopher Bucktin](#), [Christopher Bucktin](#) 10:31 ET, Mon, Jan 20, 2025 | UPDATED: 16:57 ET, Mon, Jan 20, 2025

*Putin congratulated Trump on his presidency (Image: Getty)*

**Vladimir Putin appeared on Russian television to appeal to Donald Trump not to start World War III and congratulated him on his win, hours before Donald Trump's Inaugural address as the 47th President of the United States.**

**"We hear [Trump's] statements on the need to prevent World War III. We undoubtedly welcome such a disposition and congratulate the elected US president," Putin said** in a televised

session of [Russia's](#) Security Council.

He **emphasized the potential of rebuilding relations with the US following Trump and his team talking about re-establishing communication as Moscow continues to wage a war in Ukraine.**

Putin said that he has heard Trump and his team's "statements on their wish to restore direct contacts with [Russia](#), which the outgoing [Biden] administration had cut off through no fault of our own."

He said **that Moscow "never turned down this dialogue" and highlighted that US-Russia relations should be based on "equality and mutual respect."**

Putin has previously issued a chilling threat to the West after former President Joe Biden authorized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to use US-made ATACMS missiles to strike deeper into [Russia](#) to counter Moscow's relentless three-year-long war in [Ukraine](#).

**Putin's comments show a sharp change in the Kremlin's stance back in November when they refused to congratulate Trump on his victory, stating the US being "unfriendly" to Russia as the reason.**

On his presidential campaign trail, Trump vowed to end the war in [Ukraine](#).

Recently, **Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, too, emphasized Russia's interest in conversing with the US about the war in Ukraine.**

**"No special conditions are needed for this. What is required is the mutual intent and political will to have a dialogue," Peskov said.**

**Fear continues to mount in Ukraine with an increasing threat of Trump cutting off US aid to**



## Ukraine.

Trump, whose Inauguration theme is "strength, unity, and fairness," is the second US President in history to win a non-consecutive second term after Grover Cleveland in 1892.

Trump's inauguration will take place indoors due to the dangerously frigid temperatures in [Washington D.C.](#) It is projected to be the coldest Inauguration Day since 1985 when former President Ronald Reagan, too, was sworn in inside the Capitol Rotunda.

Trump's swearing-in ceremony, like Reagan's, will be televised.

Around 800 people are expected to be in the Capitol Rotunda for Trump's Inauguration, with 1,300 folks in Emancipation Hall and 500 more in the theater in the Capitol Visitor's Center, the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies said. <https://www.the-express.com/news/us-news/161034/vladimir-putin-donald-trump-russia-usa-ukraine>

## Federal 'shock and awe' campaign against Jan. 6ers suddenly rebounds

'It may only be beginning for the Justice Department and the FBI'

By [Bob Unruh](#) January 21, 2025

*Protesters confront police inside the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.*



The federal government's orchestrated "shock and awe" campaign against the Jan. 6 protesters is over, with President Trump's pardon or sentence commutations for some 1,500 or 1,600 people targeted by Washington.

But it may be rebounding against the FBI and other agencies that participated.

**"The shock may be gone for these defendants, but it may only be beginning for the Justice Department and the FBI," warned constitutional expert Jonathan Turley.**

**The federal government essentially had admitted it wanted to scare and intimidate Americans after those protesters gathered in Washington on that day and objected to what they viewed as a skewed president election.**

Evidence later confirmed their concerns, as the \$400 million plus that Mark Zuckerberg handed out to election officials who often used it to recruit Democrat voters was revealed as an undue influence.

Further was the undue influence of the FBI's decision to interfere with the results. That bureau claimed, falsely, that the Biden family scandals uncovered in the laptop computer Hunter Biden abandoned were Russian disinformation, when they all were true.

But while most of the protesters simply walked into the Capitol building and later left, some acted on their rage, vandalizing and even physically confronting police and security.

The government responded with a campaign to scare as many Americans as it could.

Turley explained, "Four years ago, the Justice Department set out to send a chilling message to the nation. In an interview with CBS News a year later, Justice Department official Michael Sherwin indicated that they wanted to send a message with the harsh treatment of defendants."

Sherwin had confirmed, "our office wanted to ensure that there was shock and awe ... it worked because we saw through media posts that people were afraid to come back to D.C. because they're, like, 'If we go there, we're gonna get charged.' ... **We wanted to take out those individuals that essentially were thumbing their noses at the public for what they did.**"

The DOJ did this by keeping people in prison for offenses like trespassing. Government lawyers insisted that defendants be kept behind bars, sometimes in gruesome circumstances, for years awaiting trial. Then they enhanced charges and demanded lengthy prison sentences.

Turley confirmed the widespread opinion that those who engaged in violence should have been arrested and punished.

**But he said the "excessive treatment of some of the January 6th defendants undermined the credibility of their prosecutions for many."**

"The Justice Department rounded up hundreds and, even though most were charged with relatively minor crimes of unlawful entry or trespass, the Justice Department opposed the release of many from jail and sought absurdly long sentences in some cases," he said.

He **cited the case against "so-called QAnon Shaman."**

Bare-chested, wearing an animal headdress, horns, and red-white-and-blue face paint, Jake Angeli Chansley became the iconic image of the riot. Seeking to make examples of these defendants, the Justice Department **took special measures in hammering Chansley. He was held in solitary confinement and denied bail. Chansley was treated more harshly because of his visibility. It was his costume, not his conduct,** that seemed to drive the sentencing.

In the hearing, Judge Royce Lamberth noted, "He made himself the image of the riot, didn't he? For good or bad, he made himself the very image of this whole event." **Lamberth hit Chansley with a heavy 41-month sentence for "obstructing a federal proceeding."**

However, **long withheld footage, showed recently that Chansley (like hundreds of people that day) simply walked into the Capitol past police officers and then being escorted by officers through the Capitol.**

At **one point, two officers not only appear to guide him to the floor but actually try to open locked doors for him. Chansley is shown walking unimpeded through a large number of armed officers with his four-foot flag-draped spear and horned Viking helmet** on his way to the Senate floor.

The **ultimate judgment in the cases came in the November election, Turley said.**

**"Trump ran on the promise to pardon these defendants and secured not just the White House but the popular vote."**

He **noted, too, that even the Supreme Court rejected the Democrats' argument that the events were an "insurrection," in its ruling that rejected claims of "obstruction" leveled by prosecutors, leaving behind mostly trespass and unlawful entry claims.**

He **noted the agenda of the DOJ, "When the campaign of Hillary Clinton secretly funded the infamous Steele Dossier to launch the Russian conspiracy investigation, it was the Justice Department that was not just the willing but eager partner. The 'insurance policy' described by former FBI official Peter Strzok was redeemed in investigations that derailed much of Trump's first term. Later, it was the Justice Department again that pursued a no-holds-barred effort to convict Trump before the election."**

But now **Trump has nominated Florida Attorney General Bondi** to lead the department, a veteran prosecutor who has no "past ties or identification with the department."

He said, "For the Justice Department, it must feel like the Visigoths arriving at the gates of Rome . . . only to be let in by the citizens. According to polling, the public ultimately found the 'barbarians' less threatening than those who have insisted that Rome would fall."

**Then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was caught on video admitting her own culpability for the protest-turned-riot because she rejected Trump's offer of more troops to be on hand that day, took to social media to call Trump's clemency "an outrageous insult to our justice system."**

Tonight, the President announced pardons and commutations of sentences for those who violently attacked the Capitol and law enforcement officers on January 6th.

The President's actions are an outrageous insult to our justice system and the heroes who suffered physical scars and...

— Nancy Pelosi (@SpeakerPelosi) [January 21, 2025](#)

**Her complaints did not generate sympathy:**

**"an outrageous insult to our justice system"...after Biden preemptively pardoned his family's influence peddling going back 10 years?!! Not to mention your family's stock trading... you haven't got any credibility.**

— David Asman (@DavidAsmanfox) [January 21, 2025](#)

And commenters reminded her of her own responsibility.

**"You said it yourself you had the opportunity, the ability, and the responsibility to accept Trump's offer for 10,000 National Guard troops on January 6th and declined. You know damn well those protesters were entrapped and provoked by circumstances that could have been avoided by decisions you should have made.** Those pardons are not an insult to the system. The political persecutions were," one said.

You said it yourself you had the opportunity, the ability, and the responsibility to accept Trump's offer for 10,000 National Guard troops on January 6th and declined.



You know damn well those protesters were entrapped and provoked by circumstances that could have been avoided...

— Shawn Farash (@Shawn\_Farash) [January 21, 2025](#)

**Others pointed out that perhaps Pelosi should "lawyer up" as she was not among the Biden family members, friends and supporters, or the thousands of convicted murderers and criminals, who got Joe Biden pardons as he was leaving the White House.** <https://www.wnd.com/2025/01/federal-shock-and-awe-campaign-against-jan-6ers-suddenly-rebounds/>

**11 minutes well worth watching.rdb**

**(41) 🇺🇸 The SHOCKING Thing That NO ONE is Telling You About the Hostage Deal - YouTube**

[https://youtu.be/55475FBzYp4?si=oWfCn\\_qQdMS1vGrh](https://youtu.be/55475FBzYp4?si=oWfCn_qQdMS1vGrh)

## OP ED

# When Katz's Met the DOJ

Sun, 19 Jan 2025 9:53 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



In 1888, Katz's Deli opened on New York City's Lower East Side. A century after it adopted its current name, the Obama administration began investigating it and other popular restaurants.

Most people know Katz's from a memorable scene in *When Harry Met Sally*, but earlier generations on the Lower East Side knew it for its 'Send a Salami to Your Boy in the Army' campaign during WWII when the owner's three sons were all serving on the front lines. Presidents, from FDR to JFK to Reagan, members of Congress and all sorts of politicians stopped by for a snack and to get a photo at an authentic Jewish deli for their campaigns.

But the Justice Department's targeting of Katz's Deli not only lasted longer than *When Harry Met Sally*, but it also lasted longer than WWI and WWII combined, and no amount of salami could get rid of the greedy government lawyers who made for a much less romantic couple than Bill Crystal and Meg Ryan, and offered a much less happy ending than the classic movie.

While China, Iran and Russia hacked us, cartel members crossed the border, and terrorists carried out attacks, the Justice Department single-mindedly dedicated itself to the much more vital task of conducting inspections of Katz's Deli bathrooms in 2011, 2018, 2020 and 2024.

Katz's Deli is only 18 years younger than the United States Justice Department, but its claim to fame is serving pastrami sandwiches while the federal government's skill is destroying all that it touches. The old school deli has hosted plenty of episodes of *Law and Order*, but under Obama, the law showed up not to have a sandwich in between takes, but to drag the deli into court.

And finally extracted its pound of fresh hand-cut meat from the neighborhood's last survivor.

After 13 years, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, which had also taken the lead in spurious investigations of Trump, celebrated New Year's Eve with a settlement and a \$20,000 penalty because the iconic deli, which has been around in one form or another for 136 years, had not sufficiently adapted itself to the 2010 version of ADA disability regulations.

No disabled people had actually complained about Katz's. While some eateries, especially on the other side of the country in California, have been plagued by serial ADA litigants, the only ones to object to Katz's entrance, tables and bathroom were Justice Department lawyers.

And being a government toilet lawyer is only a moral disability, not an actual physical disability.

Katz's real problem was that it had been listed as a recommended restaurant by the 2011 Zagat Guide, and some bright suit at the Southern District of New York decided to use it as a guide for finding restaurants for the government to sue. This grand project, announced as the Manhattan Restaurants ADA Compliance Initiative, had DOJ employees going to restaurants at taxpayer expense and then, instead of leaving a tip, suing the restaurant for non-compliance.

The targets were multicultural and iconic, including Carmine's Italian restaurants in the Theater District,

Rosa Mexicano, and Katz's. Rosa was shaken down by the DOJ's best for \$30,000, Carmine's for ten big ones and now Katz's for \$20,000. The DOJ's boastful press release notes that, "a handful of restaurants closed before the accessibility review could be completed."

That \$60,000 would have been a fraction of the cost of the destructive project to taxpayers. The price of 13 years of federal litigation would likely be in the hundreds of thousands or millions.

And you can buy a lot of turkey sandwiches and matzo ball soup for that kind of bread.

But, as a certain New York Times journalist opined about big government in the USSR, "you can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs." And you can't have big government in the U.S. without closing a bunch of restaurants and dragging the rest through endless litigation.

The Americans With Disabilities Act, one of the worst legacies of the first Bush administration, allows the DOJ to go after restaurants "even if no one has complained about or has been injured" which turned the ADA into the Evil Power-Hungry Lawyers With No Disabilities Act.

The restaurants first realized they were targeted when the government sent them a 17-page 'survey'. The DOJ "inspected" some locations in the style of old Mafia goons and crooked cops.

Those that did not go along were quickly sued by the Justice Department.

The Southern District of New York's project to destroy restaurants was associated with the era of Preet Bharara, one of the worst ambulance chasers and worst men to ever occupy a role as a federal prosecutor, whose accomplishments included setting off an international crisis with India by arresting one of its diplomats, investigating internet comments on a conservative site and indicting politicians for bragging rights in cases that would later be thrown out.

When Bharara was fired by the Trump administration, it cleaned some of the stench out of the SDNY office, and put an end to Bharara's ambitions to clamber to public office on a trail of bodies, but the evil that federal prosecutors do lives on after them, and even with Bharara consigned to podcasting and media appearances, the DOJ's war on a deli dragged on.

Katz's Deli had survived two world wars and the gentrification that eliminated most other old family businesses across that stretch of Houston Street leaving behind brick, glass and steel condos where studio apartments cost millions. Katz's also survived a surge in meat prices, the pandemic and the neighborhood deli has now endured a record 13-year federal investigation.

Not for mob ties or racketeering, but for the size of its old-fashioned doors, tables and toilets.

Katz's is one of the last survivors of generations of Jewish delis and Yiddish theaters at nearby Second Avenue. But those delis, like the more locally famous 2nd Ave Deli, had to battle crime, blight and an influx of housing projects in the sixties and seventies: Katz's had to fight the DOJ.

According to the DOJ, Katz's old school double doors are not an "accessible" entrance. In reality the double doors are wide, inside is a gentle slope leading upward past a golden rail to where the counters are, and it's hard to imagine anyone having trouble making it inside. Everything looks much the way that it would have in the 1950s and hasn't changed much since those days.

But according to the DOJ, the distance between sidewalk and the entrance is half an inch too much and that half an inch makes all the difference. Worse still, the opening width of the doors is 29.5 inches, which falls short of the 32 inch requirement by a whole two and a half inches.

The same year that the federal authorities found Katz's wanting by half an inch, the federal budget deficit exceeded \$1.3 trillion. If you are half an inch short of federal requirements, you have a major problem, but if the feds spend \$1.3 trillion in money they don't have, that's fine.

A half inch for us is a major crime, a trillion too much for the feds is a rounding error.

Speaking of money, the DOJ complains that "Katz's Delicatessen utilizes an uncommon method of payment at the restaurant; when patrons enter, they are handed a blank ticket, on which restaurant staff list the prices of the items ordered. Patrons pay for their meal as listed on the ticket, before exiting through a turnstile, which a patron must pass through to exit the building."

The method, like the deli, is uncommon today, and is part of the nostalgia of the eatery. The nostalgia comes from inhabiting a world in which the federal government's inspectors could not randomly show up anywhere on an unconstitutional authority dreamed up by a Kafka novel.

The Justice Department also took issue with the tables which supposedly have "insufficient dining surfaces for persons with disabilities". The tables, like everything else, look much the same that they did 80 years ago and at the delis of generations past. They can be pulled in and out. There are chairs next to them. And the lines of people



crowding outside like it that way.

During the pandemic, Katz's Deli had to introduce outdoor dining for the first time in 130 years, leaving the interior a strange ghostly assortment of empty tables with no one sitting at them.

The DOJ also poked around the bathrooms and complained that the hand dryers protrude 2 inches too far, the side grab bar is 1.5 inches too short, and, in a masterpiece of legal legerdemain, "the mirror in both toilet rooms is 45.5 inches above the floor, exceeding the maximum height requirement" in violation of the ADA's 2010 bathroom mirror measuring code standards as determined by the DOJ's top toilet measuring experts.

American cities, including New York City, may be overrun by criminals and illegal aliens who burn people alive on subway trains, but at least the bathroom mirrors will be at the right height.

Apart from the \$20,000 fine, Katz's will now be obligated to make all sorts of changes, including the old-fashioned ticket payment system that the DOJ's lawyers objected to, and that will irreversibly alter the look and feel of one of the last remaining Jewish delis in the area.

That will be one more accomplishment of Barack Obama and the Justice Department.

The consent decree also allows the Justice Department to return at any time to inspect the deli. So if you're ever at Katz's and see people in suits and tape measures crawling around on the floor and inspecting the toilets, you know that they're hard at work for the government.

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