

Please note special message from Lev U'Neshama at end

From WarNews 24/7: <https://warnews247-gr.translate.goog/o-v-poutin-prologizei-tin-kiryxi-neou-patriotikou-polemou-germanika-armata-machis-kai-fasismos-einai-kai-pali-sta-synoramas/? x tr sl=auto& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=en>

## B. Putin prefaces the declaration of a new "Patriotic War": "German tanks and fascism are again on our borders" (vid)

"We are threatened by the last descendants of Hitler"

02/02/2023 - 19:03 in Main Topics , Russia



The most serious indication that Russia is moving rapidly towards the declaration of a new "Great Patriotic War", with all that this entails, was given by B. Putin on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Stalingrad.

"We are threatened again by fascism and the German Leopard tanks," the Russian president characteristically said and added that "those who expect to win on the battlefield obviously do not understand that a modern war with Russia will be completely different for them ».

"But we have a way to respond and it won't just end with the use of armored vehicles. Everyone must understand this," added Vladimir Putin, in an "obvious" – as The Moscow Times newspaper points out – reference to Russia's massive nuclear arsenal.

The Russian president first laid flowers at the eternal flame at Mamayev Kurgan, a hillside where much of the fighting took place and which today houses the "Battle of Stalingrad" museum complex and the city's famous "Motherland Calls" statue.

Read also: [War preparations in Moscow: Russia to declare "New Patriotic War" against NATO - "Victory will be ours, like 1812 and 1945"](#)

## "Fascism and German tanks are again on our borders!"

"They should prepare themselves for the consequences," he said and meaningfully added:

"Now, unfortunately, we see that the ideology of Nazism, already in its modern form, in its modern manifestation, again creates direct threats to the security of our country.

Tanks and fascism are once again at our borders.

MORE -

**From WarNews 24/7** <https://warnews247-gr.translate.google/peste-sto-edafos-rixte-ta-opla-sas-sygklonistiko-vinteo-sta-charakomata-tis-oukranias-o-scott-ritter-den-pistevei-afto-pou-vepei/? x tr sl=auto& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=en>

## 'Get on the ground - Drop your weapons': Shocking video in the trenches of Ukraine - Scott Ritter can't believe what he sees

The Russians beg the Ukrainians to surrender

02/02/2023 - 23:51 in Main topics , Ukraine

**In The Duran's latest interview with Scott Ritter, the latter describes a scene that particularly surprised him from one of the many videos circulating from the front!**

He first describes how he learned how to clean trenches with the US Marines, noting that fortunately he never had to do it, and then refers to a video of the Russians.

It says first:

*"Any Marine unit will engage in a trench, there's not a single person alive. If we see something moving, we kill it. If there is cover, a shell goes in, we follow with fire, kill anything that moves or twitches. Especially if we ourselves are constantly under enemy fire or threatened with a possible counterattack.*

*There will be no prisoners. Not because we are war criminals, we just don't give you any chance to surrender. Because our lives are on the line, and I care more about my Marines than the people in the trenches.*

*So it's to kill them all and continue the attack! If there are wounded and we get them out later we treat them well, but the 'hands up, Surrender' idea - I'm sorry, you don't get a chance to raise your hands, because if you stand in front of me in the ditch, you die."*

**And then he refers to a video showing the Russians entering a trench and calling on the Ukrainians to surrender:**

*"And I keep seeing these Russians come in and beg the Ukrainians to surrender, beg them, give them every chance. They are exposed to things I could not even imagine.*

*There is a video where three guys (Russians) actually have five Ukrainians on the ground, they are attacked and they have to deal with the attack and keep an eye on the Ukrainian prisoners and they even leave the weapons near them... I thought no!*

**MORE –**

**So these are the war crimes Zelensky and those in the military industrial complex are screaming about the Russians????????? Hummm doesn't look like crimes to me. – rdb**

## Russia outlines response if Ukraine gets longer-range weapons

*The greater Kiev's capabilities become, the further its troops will be pushed back, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has asserted*

2 Feb, 2023 10:36

**Ukrainian forces will be pushed further back from Russian territories in response to the West's decision to provide Kiev with longer-range weapons, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has claimed.**

**Ukraine's foreign sponsors are getting more bogged down in the conflict with every step, he**

told the media on Thursday, and Russia will react accordingly.

**“Now our goal is to push the artillery of the Ukrainian Armed Forces back to a distance, where they would not create a threat to our territories. The longer range the weapons supplied to the Kiev regime have, the further the troops will need to be moved,” Lavrov stated.**

The Pentagon’s next package of military assistance to Ukraine will reportedly include Ground Launched Small Diameter Bombs (GLSDBs), munitions for rocket artillery, and munitions that have a range of 150km (94 miles).

Kiev has long been lobbying donors to provide weapons with greater capabilities, such as MGM-140 ATACMS ballistic missiles, which can strike targets up to 300km (190 miles) away.

**The approach described by the Russian foreign minister will apply to territories that Ukraine considers to be its own, including Crimea, the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics, as well as Kherson and Zaporozhye regions.**

Crimea and the city of Sevastopol joined Russia in 2014, while the four other provinces did the same last year. Kiev dismissed referendums in which people living in those territories voted for the move as a “sham.”

**The US has reportedly provided its military aid to Ukraine on condition that it is not used to strike targets in Russia. However, American officials have said this restriction does not apply to Crimea and the other new Russian territories.**

The West’s arming of Ukraine is “snowballing,” Lavrov said, having started with helmets and escalated to current proposals for the supply of fighter jets. He dismissed statements by some Western officials that Kiev won’t get Western-made warplanes, citing a lack of coherence in their policy. Kiev says it needs modern military aircraft for protection, but US President Joe Biden and the leaders of some EU countries, such as Germany, say it’s not on their agenda.

*“[German Chancellor Olaf Scholz] stated that NATO would never go to war against Russia. But his foreign minister, [Annalena] Baerbock, said ‘We already are at war with Russia all together,’”* Lavrov remarked, referring to remarks made by his German counterpart last week. <https://www.rt.com/russia/570849-lavrov-western-arms-ukraine/>  
**[The US government and current military is run by people who lack all discernment. – rdb]**

## Lavrov identifies root of US-Russia tensions

*The notion of American exceptionalism drives antagonism with Russia, Moscow’s top diplomat has said*



2 Feb, 2023 08:51

**The root cause of the conflict in Ukraine is linked to Washington’s belief that the US is exceptional and the contention that this supposedly justifies its dominance, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said.**

Speaking during an interview with Russian television on Thursday, the top diplomat **urged people to “dig deeper” in their analysis of the confrontation. American officials believe the US is “an exceptional nation, unlike any other in the world,” and that it has a duty to lead, because otherwise “there will**

**be chaos.”**

Lavrov **cited an opinion piece by Jake Sullivan**, national security adviser to President Joe Biden, which was published in The Atlantic magazine in 2019.

*“No vision of American exceptionalism can succeed if the United States does not defeat the emerging vision that emphasizes ethnic and cultural identity,”* he wrote at the time. The phrase referred to US domestic politics and how it affects the *“core purpose of American foreign policy.”*

**Lavrov called the remark “terrible” because it denies other peoples “the right to remember their history.” The US government applies this principle globally,** he suggested.

*“Just like they melted in a pot everyone who arrived in America, they now want to melt everyone else, so they essentially become Americans,”* the minister said.

**“This exceptionalism, this absolute conviction of their infallibility and superiority – I am certain that it is the main reason why we are now confronting the nations that wage a proxy war against us through the Kiev regime.”**

Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February last year, citing NATO’s creeping expansion into its neighbor and

Kiev's failure to implement an EU-mediated roadmap to peace.

The US claimed that the move was an act of *"unprovoked aggression"* and pledged to support Kiev with arms, money and other forms of assistance *"for as long as it takes"* to defeat Russia strategically. Lavrov called the conflict a proxy war waged against it by Washington and its allies to preserve Western dominance.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/570846-american-exceptionalism-ukraine-lavrov/> **[There is definitely a major concept of arrogance in the US government. = rdb]**

## Pentagon assess Ukrainian chances of retaking Crimea – Politico

*Defense Department officials reportedly believe that success cannot be guaranteed*

2 Feb, 2023 11:54

**Ukraine's plans to seize Crimea from Russia are unlikely to succeed in the near future, lawmakers in the US House Armed Services Committee were told at a classified meeting with the Defense Department,** according to Politico.

The outlet reports that it spoke to four people who disclosed details from the meeting but wished to remain anonymous. Although the sources did not explain what had led defense officials to their assessment, they stated that the **main assertion was that Ukraine does not have the capability to drive Russian forces out of the peninsula. Nor do they expect that situation to change anytime soon. If Kiev attempts such an operation, its success cannot** be guaranteed, one of the sources noted.

Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh declined to comment on the classified briefing or discuss *"hypotheticals or speculate on potential future operations."* **However, Singh claimed that Ukraine's "ability to fight and take back sovereign territory... speaks for itself." [It doesn't seem that Ukraine has done too well so far with their recapturing process. - rdb]**

The report from Politico comes several weeks after a similar assessment was voiced by the chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley. *"I still maintain that for this year, it would be very, very difficult to militarily eject the Russian forces from every inch of Russian-occupied Ukraine,"* Milley said, referring to the four former Ukrainian regions that voted to join Russia last year, as well as Crimea, which rejoined Russia in 2014 following a referendum.

Milley noted, however, that he does not believe that the regions cannot ultimately be captured by Ukraine, but stressed that it would be *"very, very difficult."*

**Ukrainian officials, including president Vladimir Zelensky, have repeatedly insisted that retaking all of Kiev's former territories was the government's top priority, with Crimea among them. They have argued that any negotiations with Moscow about ending hostilities would only take place after Russian troops have completely withdrawn from those lands.**

To that end, Kiev has stepped up its demands for more advanced and long-range weaponry from the West. That includes rocket artillery and guided munitions fired by fighter planes and drones, in order to strike Russian targets far behind the front lines.

The Kremlin, meanwhile, has warned that any threats to Russian territories, including Crimea and the four newly incorporated regions, will result in the use of *"more powerful weapons"* by Russia's armed forces.

Russian State Duma chairman Vyacheslav Volodin has cautioned of a possible *"global tragedy"* if Western nations continue to provide weapons that Kiev could use to strike civilian targets and attempt to seize Russian territories. <https://www.rt.com/news/570858-pentagon-ukraine-crimea-success/> **You read this and have to wonder who is the more delirious the Ukrainians or the US military leadership. Their likelihood of retaking Crimea would be after Putin had dropped a few nukes on the US rdb**

**From WarNews 24/7:** <https://warnews247-gr.translate.google/o-v-poutin-enonei-ta-kommatia-tou-rosikou-kosmou-stin-dini-polemou-i-moldavia-epektasi-tis-syraxis-ektos-oukranias-vid/? x tr sl=auto& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=en>

**B.Putin unites the pieces of the Russian world: Moldova is in the midst of war – It was declared the second target after Ukraine! (video)**

Cannon fire S. Lavrov against Chisinau - Watch video

02/02/2023 - 21:54 in Main Topics, Russia





A megaton bomb for expanding the war outside of Ukraine was dropped by the Russian Foreign Minister, S. Lavrov, who in an interview targeted Moldova, saying that it is the No. 2 target after Ukraine:

*"It has a president who is willing to join NATO, has Romanian citizenship and wants his country to unite with Romania"...* said S. Lavrov.

The question of the Russian journalist was very clear: *Which country can be the second target after Ukraine? S. Lavrov declared "Moldova..."*

The Moldovan front will open up sooner or later as WarNews247 has been pointing out for months:

- Transnistria has a central position in S.Surovikin's new strategy as the second axis of attack towards Odessa is expected to start from there (the other will be from Kherson-Nikolaev).

-At the same time the troops planning to descend from Belarus to Western Ukraine will be further reinforced and equipped via Transnistria.

- It is the last chance of B. Putin and Russia to unite the Russian world.

Read also: [The stakes have changed: B.Putin & Moscow's last chance to unite the Russian World – Martial Law & general mobilization targeting Kaliningrad and Transnistria](#)

## Expansion of the war in Moldavia

Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, in an interview on state television, said, among other things, earlier today that the West is trying to turn Moldova against Russia, and apparently this country will take the role of Ukraine, in the war that started there but, according to phenomena, will be extended to other European countries.

**MORE -**

**So long as former soviet nations want to join NATO and potentially put arms on Russia's border there will be problems – rdb]**

## North Korea threatens 'nuke for nuke'

*Pyongyang issued a harsh rebuke to the US defense secretary*

2 Feb, 2023 04:41

**North Korea has promised a tit-for-tat response to any security threats from Washington and Seoul, including using its "most overwhelming nuclear force."** US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visited South Korea this week with a promise to further expand joint military drills.

**"The military and political situation in the Korean peninsula and the region has reached an extreme red line due to the reckless military confrontational maneuvers and hostile acts of the US and its vassal forces,"** an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in a lengthy [statement](#) carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Thursday.

**Austin visited South Korea on Tuesday to reaffirm America's "ironclad" commitment to providing a 'nuclear umbrella' to its key ally.** In a editorial published by Yonhap, he revealed that the allies are "expanding the scope and scale of our combined exercises," including "increasingly complex scenario-based tabletop exercises focused on nuclear threats," in order to "increase our interoperability and readiness to 'Fight Tonight' if necessary."

**Pyongyang denounced Washington's offer of the so-called "extended deterrence" to the South as a smokescreen for a military buildup that is turning the Korean peninsula into a "huge war arsenal and a more critical war zone."**

**"The DPRK will take the toughest reaction to any military attempt of the US, on the principle of 'nuke for nuke and an all-out confrontation for an all-out confrontation!'"** the spokesperson said.

Last year, North Korea conducted a record number of missile launches, including multiple long

range ballistic tests, calling them a response to increasingly large-scale US-South Korea wargames, which the North views as a threat to its own security and as “rehearsals” for a potential invasion. The Pentagon chief claimed that Pyongyang’s military activities only further prove the need to “remain vigilant,” and [pledged](#) in a meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Lee Jong-Sup, to “continue to deploy US strategic assets in a timely and coordinated manner in the future.”

The **US maintains a force of around 28,500 soldiers in South Korea**, and according to Austin, it is only thanks to a massive US military presence on the peninsula that peace has been preserved there for seven decades.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry accused Washington of trying to force Pyongyang to “disarm itself unilaterally through sanctions and military pressure,” adding that it “is not interested in any contact or dialogue with the US” as long as such “hostile policy” persists. <https://www.rt.com/news/570839-north-korea-overwhelming-nuclear-force/>

## Israeli delegation returns from Khartoum after talks of normalization

*Sudanese sources says trip is a part of exchanged visits between Israel and Sudan, as it includes discussions on reaching and signing a military and security agreements; PM Netanyahu attends Chad embassy opening*  
Ynet | 09:58

**Foreign Minister Eli Cohen was in Sudan's capital Khartoum on Thursday to discuss the normalization of ties between the two countries, two Sudanese government sources said.**

The **trip was part of an exchange of visits between Sudan and Israel and involved discussions on reaching and signing a normalization deal as well as military and security issues**, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. **This is perhaps one of the most amazing reads I have seen in a long time. For those who have followed the history, in 1967 the Arab League held the Khartoum conference and the result was the 3 “NO’S” agreement. no formal peace treaty, but not a rejection of peace; no direct negotiations, but not a refusal to talk through third parties; and no de jure recognition of Israel, but acceptance of its existence as a state” (emphasis in original). This has been the operative agreement since then and the Arab league nations have until the time of Trump and the Abraham accord lived by this. The willingness to even negotiate in person is huge. – rdb]**

**Sudan agreed to take steps to normalize ties with Israel in a 2020 deal brokered by former U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, alongside normalization agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco as part of the “Abraham Accords”.**

In January 2021, Sudan said that its justice minister at the time, Nasredeen Abdulbari, had signed on to the Abraham Accords during a visit by U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Cohen's office said he would in the evening convene a news conference “upon his return from a historic state visit”. It did not elaborate.

As **intelligence minister in 2021, Cohen made a ground-breaking visit to Sudan.**

Sudan's military, which has been in charge of the country since an October 2021 coup but says it intends to hand over power to a civilian government, is seen as having led the move towards establishing relations with Israel.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attended the opening ceremony of the Chad embassy in Ramat Gan on Thursday.

“This is a **historical moment that continues years of contacts during which I also visited Chad,**” Netanyahu said. “We strengthen our friendship in the areas of security for peace and prosperity. The new embassy will further strengthen our relations.”

The President of Chad Mahamat Déby said: “Today I want to give a thought to my father, who was a very brave man, a man with a vision, we are here today to officially open the embassy with the help of God and thanks to the courage of my fathers and his vision, and also thanks to you, Mr. Prime Minister Netanyahu. You started the relationship with my father. Today I am here with you and I intend to continue what the two of you started in 2019.”

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1tr00sy2s>

## Lebanese man recruits Palestinians on TikTok to help with terrorism

*Abu Asan contacts Palestinians from the West Bank and east Jerusalem on TikTok, establishes a relationship with them and asks them for help with terrorism.*

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) Published: FEBRUARY 2, 2023 17:46

**A Lebanese citizen who was once a Hezbollah activist has been using TikTok to recruit Palestinians in the West Bank and east Jerusalem to help him carry out terror attacks, the Shin Bet revealed on Thursday.**

**The man, whose real name is Salah Sawati, is known as Abu Asan and the Shin Bet revealed three different TikTok accounts he was using to contact the people he targeted.**

As part of the investigation, the [Shin Bet](#) arrested two east Jerusalem residents who were in contact with Abu Asan. The two allegedly gathered intelligence and sent Abu Asan photos of places in Israel for him to target for his terror attacks.

**How did Abu Asan get his targets to help him?**

**The Shin Bet's investigation revealed that after making contact with his targets on TikTok, Abu Asan would get to know them and discuss topics such as Jerusalem and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.** Once he had established a relationship with them, he would move the conversations to Telegram where he would ask them to carry out tasks for him like sending him photos and videos of different locations in Israel.

In some cases, he posed these tasks as innocent requests, but once he felt the relationship was strong enough, he would actively ask the people to help carry out terror attacks. **MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-730422>**

## **With Europe seething at Iran, Netanyahu takes off for meeting with Macron**

**PM's first announced trip abroad since returning to power comes amid rising tensions with Palestinians, but Israel's focus will be on threat from Tehran**

By [Lazar Berman](#) Today, 1:47 pm Updated at 3:20 pm



*Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) and his wife, Sara, ahead of a flight from Tel Aviv to Paris on February 2, 2023. (Lazar Berman/Times of Israel)*

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took off Thursday morning for Paris, where he will meet President Emmanuel Macron at Élysée Palace in the evening.**

**The two are expected to focus on Iran during their meeting, according to the Prime Minister's Office, though Macron is also expected to talk about rising violence between Israel and Palestinians.**

**Before boarding his flight to Paris, Netanyahu said that the focus of his conversations with Macron would be “our joint efforts to stop Iran’s aggression and its drive toward a nuclear weapon.”**

**European powers’ talks with Iran over a return to the 2015 nuclear deal have been stalled for months, and a return to the negotiating table seems unlikely as Western anger at Tehran grows.**

**Iran has been sending Shahed-136 loitering munitions to Russia, which have been used in deadly attacks against Ukrainian civilians.** Military officials in Ukraine are also warning about the danger of Iranian ballistic missiles being used in the war, which has dominated the European agenda for the last 11 months.

Western governments have also been blasting the Islamic Republic for its deadly crackdown on protesters since nationwide demonstrations erupted in September.

**Israel is pushing the powers known at the P5+1 to declare the Vienna nuclear talks dead and implement a “snapback,” reimposing UN Security Council sanctions and effectively moving on from the framework of the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.**

France is relatively hawkish on Iran, and has at times taken positions toward Tehran’s nuclear program that are tougher than Washington’s. But Macron still supports a return to the JCPOA. **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/with-europe-seething-at-iran-netanyahu-takes-off-for-meeting-with-macron/>**

## **Attorney General: PM must not deal with judicial overhaul due to corruption trial**

**Coalition heads denounce Gali Baharav-Miara’s letter and say her position is ‘in total opposition to the unambiguous mandate the government received in the election’**

By [Jeremy Sharon](#) Today, 12:07 pm Updated at 3:29 pm

## Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara informed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on



Wednesday that he cannot be involved in his government's efforts to radically overhaul the legal and judicial system because he has a conflict of interests due to his ongoing corruption trial.

The pronouncement drew a sharp response from the heads of all coalition party leaders, who said in a joint statement that it flew in the face of the "unambiguous mandate" received by the government in the elections.

Baharav-Miara's warning followed [a petition filed](#) by the Movement for Quality Government in Israel to the High Court of Justice last month

demanding that the attorney general draw up an updated conflict of interests arrangement for Netanyahu after he took office as premier once again in January.

**Also Thursday, the Haaretz daily reported that the threat level for Baharav-Miara was raised to the highest possible level, with security agencies citing "real concern" she could be harmed.** The report said the security detail around the attorney-general will be expanded.

In her letter that was released publicly on Thursday, Baharav-Miara wrote to Netanyahu: "In your role as prime minister, you must refrain from initiatives involving the legal system within the framework known as 'the legal reform.'

**"This is due to the reasonable suspicion of a conflict of interests between issues pertaining to the legal proceedings against you, and the array of legislative initiatives and their substantive components"** that the government is advancing in its package of legal reforms, she continued.

"This includes any direct or indirect action or instruction through others, including the involvement of officials serving in your office as political appointees," the attorney general added.

*Chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee MK Simcha Rothman leads a committee hearing on his sweeping legal reform agenda alongside the legal adviser to the committee attorney Gur Bligh, February 1, 2023. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*

Included in the government's proposed legal overhaul is legislation that would give the government an automatic majority on the committee that selects judges for every court in the country, including the Supreme Court

**MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ag-netanyahu-barred-from-dealing-with-judicial-overhaul-due-to-corruption-trial/>

## Ben Gvir announces plan to streamline gun license applications after terror attacks

National security minister says licensing department to get double the personnel and work longer hours, and security officers will no longer need to be interviewed

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 1:27 pm

**National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir on Thursday announced plans for an overhaul of the ministry's firearm licensing department, aimed at streamlining the process for civilians looking to carry a gun following a series of terror attacks.**

Gun control in Israel is relatively strict, and weapons are generally only granted to those who can show a need for extra security in their line of work or daily life. Citizens in nearly all cases can only own one gun and only 50 bullets at a given time.

According to data **released by the National Security Ministry on Monday, there were 147,248 issued gun licenses, compared to a high of 185,399 in 2009.**

According to the ministry, **42,236 applications were submitted in 2022, an all-time record. Before 2021, gun ownership had been on the downswing, with an average of 13,000 applications a year between 2016 and 2020.**

The rise in applications has been attributed to the May 2021 Jewish-Arab race riots in many cities during a war with the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ben-gvir-announces-plan-to-streamline-gun-license-applications-after-terror-attacks/>

## Judea & Samaria Jewish population crosses half million mark

*The 2023 Judea and Samaria Jewish Population Stats Report shows an increase of over 15.5% in the last five years alone.*



Sharona Cohen Feb 2, 2023, 2:53 PM (GMT+2)



#### **A town in Samaria***Yitzhar Spokesperson*

Every year, for the past eleven years, former Member of Knesset Yaakov “Ketzaleh” Katz has published the [Judea and Samaria Jewish Population Statistics Report](#), based on the population registry of Israel’s Ministry of the Interior. The **report reveals tremendous population growth over the last decade, currently totaling over half a million Jewish residents in the region, and an increase of over 15.5% in the last five years alone.**

**What is officially titled the “West Bank Jewish Population Stats” report includes a complete population breakdown by town and regional bloc, as well as comparisons for each town from previous years.**

Earlier this morning, Bet El Institutions emailed the complete report for free in PDF format to all subscribers of their mailing list. New subscribers will also automatically receive the report, as well as a monthly email newsletter.

The **newsletter aggregates news stories, thought pieces, and statements by global leaders that support the conclusion that the Two-state Solution is no longer viable, in part due to the immense population growth of the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria.** Subscribe now at [WestBankJewishPopulationStats.com](http://WestBankJewishPopulationStats.com).

Click [here](#) to subscribe and receive the West Bank Jewish Population Stats Report and/or to subscribe to additional email lists offered by Bet El Institutions. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/366854>

## **US tourist arrested for vandalizing statue in Jerusalem Old City church**

***Sculpture of Scourged Savior toppled in Church of Flagellation on Via Dolorosa Street; security guard wrestles man to floor; police checking if he has mental health issues***

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 2:33 pm



*A US tourist, left, is led away by police on suspicion that he vandalized a statue in the Church of the Flagellation in the Old City of Jerusalem, February 2, 2023. (Israel Police)*

**An American tourist was arrested Thursday on suspicion of vandalizing a church statue in the Old City of Jerusalem, the Israel Police said.**

Police said they were notified of vandalism at the Church of the Flagellation on Via Dolorosa Street.

Social media reports said the damaged statue was of the Scourged

Savior.

**A video shared on social media showed a security guard grappling with the suspect and then pinning him to the floor inside the church** until police arrived.

The damaged statue was seen lying on its side.

The suspect, in his 40s, was taken away for questioning.

Police said they are checking if the suspect has mental health issues.

A group of Jewish extremists vandalized the Church of the Flagellation at Via Dolorosa Street in Jerusalem Old City. They were subdued by a group of Palestinians, and the suspects were apprehended by the ISF. [pic.twitter.com/gQ81RAm3mQ](https://pic.twitter.com/gQ81RAm3mQ)

— Local Focus – Security Alerts (@LocalFocus1) [February 2, 2023](#)

“We take a very serious view of damage to religious institutions and sites,” the police statement said. “The police will continue to act against acts of violence and vandalism in the holy places of all religions.”

**The Custody of the Holy Land, which represents the Vatican, identified the suspect as “an American religious Jew” and said the incident was a “hate crime” that “joins a series of attacks all directed against the Christian public in Israel that occurred in the last month.”**

*A toppled statue in the Church of the Flagellation, in the Old City of Jerusalem, February 2, 2023. (Custody of the Holy Land)*



In a statement, the custodian said it was the fifth incident of violence against the church in recent weeks, coming after a group of religious Jews attacked tourists in the Christian Quarter last week. Other incidents included vandalism at a Christian cemetery, the spraying of “Death to Christians” on a monastery wall, and vandalism at the Maronite Center in the northern town of Ma’alot, it said.

“We are following with concern this chain of serious events directed at the Christian community in Israel,” the custodian’s statement said. “It is no coincidence that the violent discourse in the Israeli public is also translated into such serious acts. We expect and demand that the Israeli government and law enforcement agencies act decisively to eradicate these serious incidents.”

Last month two Jewish Israeli teens were [arrested on suspicion of vandalism](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-tourist-arrested-on-suspicion-of-vandalizing-statue-in-jerusalem-old-city-church/) at a Christian cemetery in Jerusalem that resulted in damage to roughly 30 graves at the Mount Zion site. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-tourist-arrested-on-suspicion-of-vandalizing-statue-in-jerusalem-old-city-church/>

**This is most unfortunate. It should not happen and those with strong religious beliefs should at least respect those of others people. – rdb]**

**From WarNews 24/7:** <https://warnews247-gr.translate.google.com/oukrania-epiasan-ypourgo-tou-zelenski-me-ena-ekat-dolaria-se-metrira-ston-kanape-deite-vinteo/? x tr sl=auto& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=en>

## Ukraine: Minister of Zelensky was caught with a million dollars in cash on the couch – Watch video

New corruption scandal

02/03/2023 - 00:03 in Ukraine

0

Amid corruption scandals in Ukraine, a video of \$1 million in cash hidden by the country's former deputy defense minister, Oleksandr Myronyuk, has been released. In fact, he himself managed to be acquitted in court, which returned the money back to him.

In particular, Nexta published video, according to which Oleksandr Myronyuk had almost a million dollars in cash hidden in a sofa. The video was allegedly taken during the investigation last August.

Mironyuk reportedly presented the court with a "document" that said the money found on the sofa was not his, but was lent to him by an 86-year-old Kharkiv resident, Eleonora Duminsh. According to Pravda, the court returned the seized money back to Mironyuk.

It is recalled that Ukraine on Wednesday launched a wave of investigations targeting administrations, officials and personalities, while the authorities assure that the fight against corruption is a priority in the context of the war effort and Western aid.

In his daily video message, President Zelensky said that *"today (Wednesday) the Security Services of Ukraine, the State Investigation Bureau, the Economic Security Bureau and the Prosecutor's Office conducted dozens of investigations and other actions in different regions and against different persons in the context of criminal proceedings"*.

*"Justice will be served,"* he declared.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he would make whatever changes were needed in personnel to root out corruption and stressed the need for the defense ministry to be honest.

[#Ukrainian](#) media have published footage of the August searches in the house of former Deputy Defense Minister Oleksandr Mironyuk. He is involved in a case on

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