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Iran's army says it is ready for war, if that's what 'the enemy chooses'

Military spokesman warns that a conflict would encompass 'the entire geography of the region'; Turkey says it's working to prevent regional conflict, backs direct talks

By [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 4:33 pm



Screen capture from video of Iran's military spokesperson Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia, January 2026. (YouTube; used in accordance with Clause 27a of the Copyright Law)

Iran's army spokesperson said Thursday that the military is ready for a conflict, if that is what the US wants, the official Student News Network reported, as the two countries prepare to hold talks aimed at staving off a clash.

US President Donald Trump has warned that "bad things" would probably happen if a deal could not be reached, ratcheting up pressure on the Islamic Republic

in a standoff that has led to mutual threats of airstrikes and stirred fears of a wider war.

Commenting on the addition of 1,000 drones to the Iranian military, Iranian Brig. Gen. Mohammad Akraminia said Thursday: "We have always announced that we are ready to confront any option and any scenario that the enemy considers, and if the enemy chooses the option of war, we are ready for any option in war conditions."

Trump "must choose between compromise or war," he added, warning that if a war breaks out, "its scope will encompass the entire geography of the region and all US bases — from the occupied territories to the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, where the US has bases. Our access to US bases is easy, and this has increased their vulnerability."

Meanwhile, in a move that could further strain tensions, Iran's Revolutionary Guards seized two oil tankers with their foreign crews in Gulf waters for "smuggling fuel," the Tasnim news agency reported Thursday.

It was not immediately clear what flags the tankers were carrying, nor the nationalities of the crews.

Amid the saber-rattling, Israeli Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Tomer Bar said Thursday that the military continues to "strengthen preparedness and capabilities in both defense and offense."



IAF chief Maj. Gen. Tomer Bar speaks to reservists at an Iron Dome battery in northern Israel, February 5, 2026. (Israel Defense Forces)

"The Air Force, and you in particular, are required to continue maintaining a high level of readiness," Bar said while visiting a reserve Iron Dome air defense battery in northern Israel, according to remarks published by the military. "Every day, we continue to strengthen preparedness and capabilities in both defense and offense."

Tehran, which says it has replenished its stockpile of ballistic missiles since coming under attack from Israel last year, has warned that it will unleash its missiles to defend the Islamic Republic if its security is under threat. It has threatened to hit

Israel as well as US bases in the region.

Iranian and US officials are [set to sit down in Oman](#) on Friday for mediated talks.

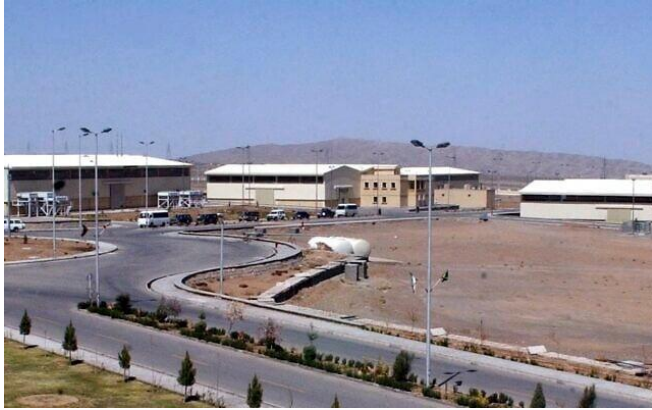
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Thursday that Turkey is doing its utmost to prevent US-Iran tensions from dragging the region into new conflict and chaos, and urged American and Iranian leaders to move ahead with talks.

Speaking to reporters on a return flight from a visit to Egypt, Erdogan praised diplomatic efforts by the sides

and said leader-level talks would be helpful after lower-level negotiations, according to a transcript of his comments shared by his office.

While the talks were originally set for Turkey, Iran wanted the meeting to take place in Oman as a continuation of previous talks held in the Gulf Arab country that had focused strictly on Tehran's nuclear program, a regional official said.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday said that despite Washington's readiness to negotiate, a deal must cover Iran's missile and nuclear programs, its support for terror groups in the region, and its treatment of its population.



The Natanz Uranium Enrichment Facility buildings, 200 miles south of the capital Tehran, seen on March 30, 2005. (AP/Vahid Salemi)

Iran has only shown willingness to discuss its nuclear program, albeit not on the terms demanded by the US — for the Islamic Republic to agree not to enrich uranium on its own territory and export all of its already enriched stockpiles out of the country.

In June, the United States struck Iranian nuclear targets, joining in at the tail end of a 12-day war with Israel. Israel said it launched strikes against the existential threat it faced from Iran's nuclear program.

Though Iran, which vows to destroy Israel, insists its program is peaceful, it has enriched uranium to levels that have no civilian use and are a short technical step from weapons-grade.

More recently, the US built up forces in the region following Iran's violent crackdown against anti-government demonstrations last month, the deadliest since Iran's 1979 revolution.



In this handout photo released by the US Navy on January 31, 2026, an F/A-18E Super Hornet attached to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 151 launches from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) as it conducts routine flight operations in the Arabian Sea on January 28, 2026 (Zoe SIMPSON / US NAVY / AFP)

The US has sent thousands of troops to the Middle East, as well as an aircraft carrier, other warships, fighter jets, spy planes and air refueling tankers. Trump, who stopped short of carrying out threats to intervene, has since demanded nuclear concessions from Iran.

Iran's leadership is increasingly worried a US strike could break its grip on power by driving an already enraged public back onto the streets, according to six current and former Iranian officials. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/irans-army-says-it-is-ready-for-war-if-thats-what-the-enemy-chooses/>

**Ahead of US-Iran talks, Netanyahu said to tout 'buildup of conditions' for regime's collapse
PM convenes security cabinet in Jerusalem, as Israel reportedly believes talks will fail; Witkoff, Kushner to meet Araghchi in Oman as 6 Muslim nations push for non-aggression pact**

By [Stav Levaton](#),

[Jacob Magid](#),

[Lazar Berman](#)

and [Agencies](#) Today, 11:31 pm



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (center), his military secretary Brig. Gen. Roman Gofman (left) and Likud MK Boaz Bismuth attend a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in Jerusalem, February 5, 2026. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset Spokesman's Office)

With US-Iran tensions ratcheting up a day ahead of scheduled talks in Oman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened a meeting of the security cabinet in Jerusalem on Thursday evening.

The high-level meeting had originally been set to take place on Sunday, but Netanyahu decided on Wednesday to move the gathering up to Thursday. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and senior US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner are set to meet for nuclear talks in Muscat on Friday, with both Tehran and Washington continuing their saber-rattling in recent days.

Netanyahu's office did not issue any statement or comments on the meeting. Channel 12 news reported that it did not focus primarily on Iran, instead including briefings on other issues such as the financial status of the Palestinian Authority.

According to the network, Netanyahu reiterated messages he delivered earlier in the day to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, where he reportedly said that "there is a buildup of conditions toward a critical mass that could bring about the downfall of the Iranian regime," though he reportedly cautioned that he was unsure whether it would be sufficient to cause that outcome.

Speaking to the closed-door meeting of the committee Thursday afternoon, Netanyahu said that if Iran attacks Israel, "it will face a powerful response," according to the Knesset Spokesman's Office.

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The outlet said Netanyahu told lawmakers that coordination with the United States is "as high and as close as possible," while acknowledging uncertainty over what decisions US President Donald Trump will ultimately make.



US President

Donald Trump speaks during the National Prayer Breakfast, Feb. 5, 2026, in Washington. (AP/Evan Vucci)

Speaking Thursday at a National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, Trump said that Iran was currently negotiating with the US because “they don’t want us to hit them.”

“We have a big fleet going over to Iran,” he reiterated, after making similar comments repeatedly throughout this week.

The US and Iran have agreed to hold talks in Oman on Friday, officials for both sides said, even as they remain at odds over Washington’s insistence that negotiations must include Tehran’s missile arsenal and Iran’s vow to discuss only its nuclear program.

Iran will engage in the talks “with authority and with the aim of reaching a fair, mutually acceptable and dignified understanding on the nuclear issue,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Thursday.

“We hope the American side will also participate in this process with responsibility, realism and seriousness,” Baghaei added, noting that Araghchi was on his way to Oman.



Iran's Foreign

Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks during a joint press conference with his Turkish counterpart following their meeting in Istanbul, January 30, 2026. (Handout/Turkish Foreign Ministry/AFP)

The Kan public broadcaster reported, citing an unnamed source with knowledge of the matter, that Israel believes Friday's round of talks is doomed to failure, as the negotiation is merely a feeler regarding the gaps between the sides, which Jerusalem assesses are substantial.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters Thursday that the US is waiting to "see what comes of those" talks. "The president is standing by for an update from Witkoff and Kushner," she added.

"Zero nuclear capability is something [Trump] been very explicit about, and he wants to see if a deal can be struck," Leavitt said. "While these negotiations are taking place, I would remind the Iranian regime that the president has many options at his disposal — aside from diplomacy — as the commander in chief of the most powerful military in the history of the world."

Meanwhile, two Middle Eastern diplomats told The Times of Israel on Thursday that several Muslim countries are pushing for the US and Iran to sign a non-aggression pact when they meet in Oman.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan were slated to take part in the talks, which the US had originally planned to hold in Turkey. As part of their preparations for those talks, the six countries put together a framework for a potential agreement, which would include a non-aggression pact under which the two sides would agree not to target one another, the two diplomats said.

The pact would also cover allies and proxies of the US and Iran, one of the diplomats said, while acknowledging that binding Israel to such an agreement would be difficult. The framework proposed by the Muslim countries would also cover the nuclear, ballistic missile and proxy groups, the two diplomats said.

But Iran on Wednesday pushed back on holding the talks in Turkey with other countries besides the US, and



Washington agreed to move the negotiations to Oman, where only representatives from the two main countries will attend. As a result, it was unclear whether the US and Iran were set to discuss the framework proposed by the six Muslim countries. However, the two diplomats said they were still pushing for their proposal to be discussed and were in touch with both countries about the framework.

US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff delivers a speech as Jared Kushner looks on upon the signing of the declaration on deploying post-ceasefire force in Ukraine, at the Elysee Palace in Paris, January 6, 2026. (Ludovic Marin, Pool photo via AP)

Kushner and Witkoff were in Doha Thursday evening discussing the talks with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Thani, ahead of their meeting Friday with Araghchi.

Citing a senior American official involved in preparations, Channel 12 reported that the discussions in Oman on Friday were expected to focus primarily on Iran's nuclear program, including Tehran's stockpile of enriched uranium and the future of uranium enrichment.

Washington is demanding that Iran hand over its enriched uranium – particularly material enriched to 60 percent, just short of the 90% level needed for a nuclear weapon – and signal readiness to halt further enrichment, the report said.

Kushner was not present in previous rounds of talks, and the network said his participation is seen as a signal of the White House's seriousness and of Washington's intention to have senior decision-makers at the table.

Iran was said to be entering the talks in a weakened position following June's 12-day war and amid a continued American military buildup in the region, but Channel 12 said that gaps between the sides remained wide, and expectations for a breakthrough were low.

The report added that more sensitive deliberations on Iran have been taking place in smaller security forums, and that Israeli officials remain concerned Washington could ultimately drop demands to address Iran's ballistic missile program during negotiations.

A man rides his motorcycle past a deactivated Kheibar Shekan ballistic missile in front of a picture of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran's Bahrestan Square on September 27, 2025. (ATTA KENARE / AFP)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday that discussions with Iran need to cover its missile and nuclear programs, its support for terror groups in the region and its treatment of its population.

Iran has only shown willingness to discuss its nuclear program, albeit not on the terms demanded by the US, which wants the Islamic Republic to agree not to enrich uranium on its own territory and export all of its already enriched stockpiles out of the country, leading many to believe that the chance of success in the talks is low.

"At the end of the day, the United States is prepared to engage, and has always been prepared to engage with Iran," Rubio said. "For talks to actually lead to something meaningful, they will have to include certain things, and that includes the range of their ballistic missiles."

"That includes their sponsorship of terrorist organizations across the region. That includes the nuclear program. And that includes the treatment of their own people," he added. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ahead-of-us-iran-talks-netanyahu-said-to-tout-buildup-of-conditions-for-regimes-collapse/>

Missile limits and nuclear focus: the compromise that rescued US-Iran negotiations

Tehran insists talks with Washington will focus on the nuclear program, but officials told The New York Times the compromise also includes missiles and militias; Reuters says the US seeks a 500-km missile cap; Israel convenes its cabinet, Trump says Iran is negotiating to avoid a strike

[Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari](#) | 11:03

On the eve of the start of U.S.-Iran negotiations tomorrow (Friday) in Muscat, the capital of Oman, and after a crisis last night stemming from Iran's insistence that the talks focus on its nuclear program and no other issues, Israel's security cabinet convened this evening for an accelerated meeting that had originally been scheduled for Sunday.

The discussion took place against the backdrop of Israeli concerns that in the talks President Donald Trump could make concessions and reach a limited agreement that would leave the ayatollahs' regime intact and focus only on restrictions on Iran's nuclear program, not on its ballistic missile program or on the support and funding it provides to proxies and militias across the Middle East.

The new footage from the US aircraft carrier Lincoln

(Video: CENTCOM) [Go to website for video rdb](#)

Trump: Iran is negotiating



(Video: Reuters) [Go to website for video rdb](#)

The negotiations will be led on the American side by special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, and on the Iranian side by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. According to reports, the talks will be held face to face and, according to Araghchi, will begin tomorrow at 10 a.m. local time (8 a.m. in Israel).

Although Iran claims the talks will deal only with the nuclear issue, The New York Times reported in the afternoon that in practice they will also address the missile program and Iran's support for its proxies but will "focus" on the nuclear file. Three senior Iranian officials told the Times that this was the compromise that saved the talks, after it was reported last night that they had been canceled due to Iran's refusal. Shortly afterward, both sides said the talks would proceed as planned. At the same time, Reuters quoted other Iranian officials as saying the American demand is to limit the range of Iran's missiles to 500 kilometers. Such a range would not allow them to reach Israel, whose closest point to Iran is about 1,000 kilometers away.

The Iranian officials who spoke to the Times, along with another senior official from an Arab country, presented the compromise as one in which both sides, including the Americans, gave something up, against the backdrop of Washington's insistence, encouraged by Israel, that the talks also address the missile program and Iranian support for militias in the Middle East. And although the report said the focus of the talks would be the nuclear program, if accurate, Iran's very willingness to discuss its missiles, which it views as an insurance policy preserving its deterrence, would be a significant concession. According to the Times, the sides also agreed that the

goal of the talks would be to formulate a "framework" for an agreement.



Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi and US envoy Witkoff, who are set to meet tomorrow in Oman

(Photo: REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein/Pool)

Tehran quickly denied the Times report. Iran's state broadcaster said: "The New York Times claimed that Iran agreed to discuss the missile program and armed groups in addition to the nuclear program, in exchange for moving the talks to Oman and excluding representatives of regional states. This claim is an absolute lie. The talks are about the nuclear issue, and the outcome will be

clear after the talks are held, not before they begin."

Publicly, both in negotiations with the United States that preceded the 12-day war and the bombing of Iranian nuclear facilities and in current statements by senior officials in Tehran, Iran has adamantly refused to discuss its missile program. "Let's not talk about impossible things," Araghchi said this week in an interview with CNN when asked about the missile program, which Israel badly damaged in the 12-day war but which has since reportedly undergone significant rehabilitation and again poses a major threat to Israel and to U.S. forces in the region. Araghchi called on the United States "not to miss the opportunity to achieve a fair and just agreement that ensures there will be no nuclear weapons." He added: "This is something that can be achieved even within a short period of time."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said last night that if Iran wants the talks to lead to something meaningful, they must also address the range of Tehran's ballistic missiles, the funding of terrorist organizations in the region and its "treatment" of the Iranian people. By "treatment," Rubio was referring to the brutal suppression of mass protests in Iran last month, in which thousands of demonstrators were killed. The crisis that threatened the talks and raised the possibility that Trump would carry out threats to strike Iran began after Tehran backed away this week from initial understandings to hold the talks in Istanbul, with representatives from Arab states including Turkey, Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia invited. Iran later reversed course and on Tuesday asked that the talks be held in Oman, as in previous rounds last year, and that only U.S. and Iranian representatives take part, without Arab participation.

According to the Iranian officials who spoke to the Times, Tehran's leadership feared that a summit with regional representation would allow Trump to present the negotiations as a kind of "show" and push Iran into a situation in which it was effectively negotiating with the entire region rather than only with Washington. That concern was heightened by the fact that regional states are also worried about Iran's missile program and its support for militias and terrorist groups and could have demanded that the talks address those issues.



(Photo: Iranian Leader's Press Office - Handout/Getty Images)

The United States agreed to change the location of the talks, but according to Iranian officials, the negotiations nearly collapsed yesterday after Araghchi told his Arab counterparts that if Washington insisted on expanding the talks beyond the nuclear issue, they would be canceled. Reports that the talks had already been canceled led to another plunge in the Iranian rial, already at a record low against the dollar. At that point, Arab states and Turkey reportedly intervened to save the talks. Ultimately, the compromise described by the

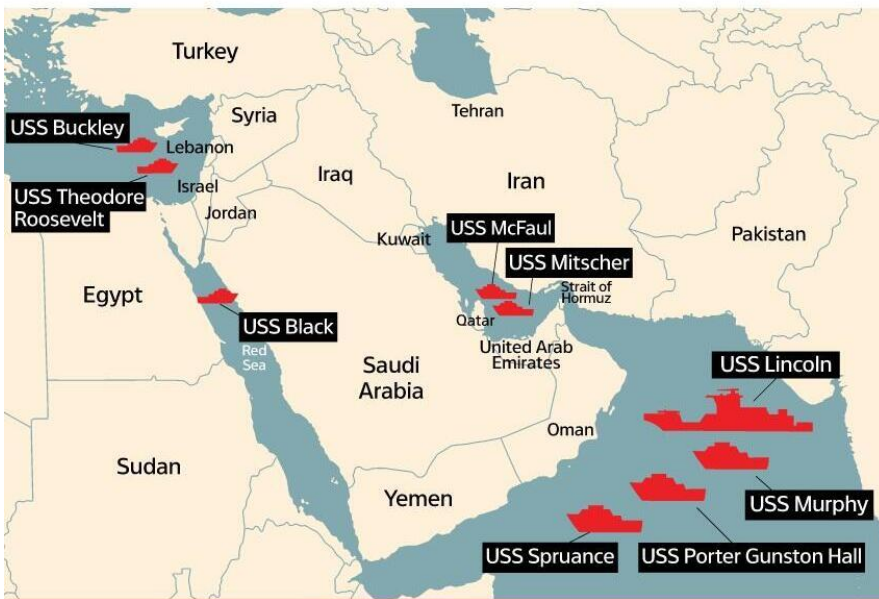
Times was reached, under which the talks will focus on the nuclear program but also include the missile issue and support for militias.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military on Thursday afternoon released the first footage from the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln since it shot down an Iranian drone two days ago that had approached “aggressively” while the carrier was about 800 kilometers from Iran in the Arabian Sea. The footage, shown in time lapse, depicts aircraft landing on and taking off from the carrier, which the United States has sent to the region along with eight destroyers as part of what Trump has described as a “big, beautiful armada.” In a post on X accompanying the video, U.S. Central Command said sailors aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln are trained to work as a team to launch and recover aircraft safely and on schedule. Trump, speaking at a Christian religious event in Washington, said Iran is negotiating with the United States because it does not want to be harmed.

Trump's armada



Trump's armada



The US aircraft carrier Lincoln (Photo: US Navy)



Danny Citrinowicz, a research fellow in the Iran Program at the Institute for National Security Studies and a former head of the Iran desk in Israeli military intelligence, told ynet that the United States will “do everything” to prevent the talks from collapsing. He said Washington

* The exact locations of the vessels are not known

fears a confrontation with Iran that would lead to a “no-win campaign.” He outlined three scenarios: “The first: tomorrow is the first and last meeting. The second: tomorrow is the first meeting and the sides agree to meet again. The third: tomorrow a statement is issued that the sides agreed to calm the situation and move toward an agreement. I cautiously assess that because everyone fears an explosion, at least option two will be achieved.”

“If there is an agreement, it will be on Iran’s terms. The Iranians will give something, they will give the 440 kilograms of enriched uranium and the return of inspectors and perhaps they will also agree to a regional consortium for enrichment, but the significant concession will be by the Americans,” he said, referring to Iran’s stockpile of enriched uranium prior to last year’s bombing of its nuclear facilities and to a compromise proposed in talks last year to establish a regional consortium including Iran and Gulf states to enrich uranium for energy production outside Iran.

“Either they will give in or they will have to strike, and that is an event I am increasingly convinced the

Americans do not want, certainly not now, because they understand what a complex situation they would be entering. This time there is also no surprise, and there is involvement by mediators.”

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

Missile barrages and cyber operations: Iran outlines multi-front war plan against US - report

The concept echoes recent years of proxy warfare across Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and the Red Sea, where Houthi maritime attacks disrupted shipping and drew international responses.

By **SHIR PERETS** FEBRUARY 5, 2026 20:46



Soldiers march during a military parade to mark the Iran's annual Army Day in Tehran on April 18, 2025. (photo credit: Atta Kenare/AFP via Getty Images)

Iran has published a detailed concept for war with the United States, describing missile barrages, proxy escalation, cyber operations, and threats to global oil flows, according to the IRGC-linked Tasnim news agency.

The war scenario published by Tasnim begins with US strikes on nuclear and military sites in densely populated areas, followed by a rapid Iranian counter-barrage aimed at US regional bases.

The document touts hardened underground infrastructure and redundant command networks designed to survive an initial blow and enable sustained retaliation.

It portrays a saturation strategy where large salvos of ballistic missiles and drones are intended to tax Patriot and THAAD defenses, while Tehran's "axis of resistance" ignites parallel fronts.

Under the plan, Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthis, and [Iran](#)-aligned Iraqi militias would expand attacks, complicating any US focus on Iran itself.



The concept echoes recent years of proxy warfare across [Lebanon](#), Iraq, Syria, and the Red Sea, where Houthi maritime attacks disrupted shipping and drew international responses.

Additionally, according to Tasnim, Tehran's cyber component would target transport, energy, finance, and military communications to disrupt US deployments and pressure host governments.

Strategic use of Strait of Hormuz

The plan also leans on geography, throttling the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly a fifth of global oil and gas shipments pass, to jolt markets and fracture support for sustained US action.

The strategy was framed as asymmetric endurance: not defeating the US outright, but making a prolonged war prohibitively costly.

The calculation assumes [Iran's](#) proxies can coordinate under fire and host states will tolerate escalation on their soil, while also betting Washington will prioritize de-escalation over a grinding regional conflict.

The plan surfaced this week as US-Iran talks were set for Friday in Muscat, Oman, and after Donald Trump said Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei should be "very worried," raising fears of renewed escalation.

On Sunday, Iran's chief of staff, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, announced that the country had revised its military doctrine toward an offensive approach after the Israel-Iran war.

"Americans should know that if they start a war this time, it would be a regional war," Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei stated. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-885780>

Iranian Khorramshahr 4 missile deployed in IRGC 'missile city'

The Khorramshahr 4 has a range of 2,000 km (1240 miles) and is capable of carrying a 1,500 kg warhead, Iran's state-run Press TV said.

By [REUTERS](#), [GOLDIE KATZ](#) **FEBRUARY 5, 2026 22:18** **Updated: FEBRUARY 5, 2026 23:13**



Iranian missiles are displayed in a park in Tehran, Iran, January 31, 2026(photo credit: MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY) VIA REUTERS)

Iran's state-run Press TV announced that Iran has deployed its “most advanced long-range ballistic missile,” the Khorramshahr 4, in one of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’s (IRGC) underground “missile cities” on Thursday.

The deployment of the missile comes as the IRGC shifts from a defensive position to an offensive position, Press TV said, adding that the pivot “carries a clear message to regional and extra-regional adversaries.”

According to Press TV, the Khorramshahr 4 has a range of 2,000 km (1,240 miles) and is capable of carrying a 1,500 kg [warhead](#).



According to IRGC-aligned Fars News Agency, the Khorramshahr 4 has an accuracy of around 30 meters and is “one of the main pillars of Iran’s active deterrence.”

Iranian parliament members chant in support of the IRGC while wearing military uniforms in Tehran, Iran, February 1, 2026. (credit: Hamed Malekpour/Islamic consultative assembly news agency/WANA (West Asia News Agency)/Handout via)

Khorramshahr 4 speed intended to evade enemy defense systems

Fars additionally claimed that the speed, which ranges from Mach 16 when outside of Earth’s atmosphere to Mach 8 inside the atmosphere, is intended to minimize “the reaction time of enemy defense systems.”

The Khorramshahr 4 is also equipped with “intermediate guidance, reduced radar cross-section, and high resistance to electronic warfare” in order to “significantly increase its penetration ability.”

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-885796>

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards seize 2 oil tankers in Gulf

IRGC-linked agency claims tankers were ‘smuggling’ over a million liters of fuel, says ‘15 foreign crew members were referred to the judiciary’; unclear what flag ships were flying

By [AFP](#) and [Tol Staff](#) **Today, 4:00 pm**



Illustrative: This picture taken on October 31, 2022, shows an oil tanker seized by Iranian naval forces at the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas in southern Iran. (IRNA / AFP)

TEHRAN — Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Thursday seized two oil tankers with their foreign crews in Gulf waters for “smuggling fuel,” the Tasnim news agency reported.

It was not immediately clear what flags the tankers were carrying, nor the nationalities of the crews.

The seizures took place amid heightened tension, as Washington dispatched a naval group to the region after Tehran's deadly response to anti-government protests and US President Donald Trump's [warning](#) that Tehran must accept a nuclear deal.

"More than one million liters of smuggled fuel were found on board of the two vessels," Tasnim reported, and a total of "15 foreign crew members were referred to the judiciary."

The Guards captured the vessels near Iran's Farsi island in the Gulf, the IRGC-linked agency said.

The tankers have been "engaged in smuggling operations for several months and were identified and intercepted following surveillance, interception and intelligence operations" by naval forces of the IRGC, it added.

Iranian forces regularly target tankers that Tehran accuses of being part of the illicit trade in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, a key chokepoint for global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments.

The seizure is the latest in a series of similar incidents in recent months.

In another incident on Tuesday, this one in the Strait of Hormuz, the US Central Command said IRGC forces had approached a US-flagged tanker at speed and threatened to board and seize it.

Maritime risk management group Vanguard said the Iranian boats ordered the tanker to stop its engine and prepare to be boarded. Instead, the tanker sped up and continued its voyage.

Retail fuel prices in Iran are among the lowest in the world, making smuggling fuel to other countries particularly profitable. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/irans-revolutionary-guards-seize-2-oil-tankers-in-gulf/>

Netanyahu said to tell MKs there was 'no treason' on Oct. 7, countering his son's conspiracy theory

Premier reportedly tells closed-door meeting there were 'intelligence failures,' but he didn't ignore pre-onslaught warnings; opposition accuses him of 'once again fleeing the truth'

By [Sam Sokol](#)

and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 9:06 pm



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu takes part in a Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem on February 5, 2026. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Addressing a closed meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Thursday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly sought to once again distance himself from the failures surrounding Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack, averring that the intelligence presented to him did not indicate such an invasion and that his previous efforts to deter Hamas

were thwarted by defense officials.

According to leaks to Hebrew media outlets from the meeting, the prime minister also told committee members that while "there was a serious intelligence failure" ahead of the October 7 attack, "there was no treason."

When asked about the claims of treason by a committee member, presumably including those propagated without foundation by the premier's son, Yair, Netanyahu said he wanted to remove the "cloud of treason" from October 7.

Netanyahu also reportedly claimed during the discussion that former Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar falsified the protocol of a meeting held early in morning of October 7, just prior to the Hamas attack, which launched two years of war in Gaza.

According to Channel 12 news, Netanyahu asserted that nobody had thought Hamas would attack ahead of that day.

The prime minister cited multiple discussions with senior officials, including Bar, former defense minister Benny Gantz and former prime minister Naftali Bennett, which he said show that they also believed Hamas was deterred. It was unclear from the reports when these apparent conversations took place.

Netanyahu also claimed that he had wanted to assassinate Hamas leaders in 2014 but was opposed by the security establishment. Last week, however, Channel 12 [reported that](#) the premier turned down 11 chances to kill Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas leader in Gaza, in the months leading up to October 7.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (center), his military secretary Brig. Gen. Roman Gofman (left) and Likud MK Boaz Bismuth attend a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in Jerusalem, February 5, 2026. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset Spokesman's Office)

Netanyahu also reportedly claimed Thursday to lawmakers on the committee that Bar falsified a document from early on the morning of October 7, adding a clause that stated that he had given orders to update the premier. Bar stepped down from his position last year after Netanyahu moved to fire him from the role in a bitter dispute that ended up in the High Court of Justice.

Netanyahu, according to Channel 12, claimed that Bar retroactively changed a clause in the protocols of a Shin Bet meeting held early on the morning of October 7, before Hamas invaded. Bar, according to the prime minister, added wording to the effect that he ordered that Netanyahu be updated on that morning's ongoing developments. In fact, Channel 12 said, the meeting protocols were entered into Shin Bet computers at 6:06 that morning, including the instruction to update the prime minister, and Netanyahu's military secretary was indeed updated by the Shin Bet chief's bureau chief at 6:13 — some 16 minutes before Hamas-led terrorists burst through the border.

The official minutes of Thursday's meeting released by the Knesset Spokesman's Office said that Netanyahu presented lawmakers with materials he had previously submitted to the State Comptroller from the years preceding October 7.

In December, the High Court of Justice [ordered the comptroller](#) to freeze his October 7 inquiry, amid petitions claiming that the probe is severely flawed, would taint evidence and the investigative process, and that only a state commission of inquiry could properly investigate the disaster.

Netanyahu attended the five-hour closed-door meeting and "responded at length to committee members' questions," the Knesset spokesman said, with discussions focused around the comptroller's now-thwarted investigation.

The prime minister presented lawmakers with "materials relating to the question of when Hamas decided to turn the idea of an attack into an operational plan, and whether internal divisions within Israel were connected to that decision," the Knesset spokesman said.

Netanyahu described the decision by the High Court to halt the comptroller's October 7 investigation six days after his own testimony as having "unusual timing," according to the Knesset spokesman.



State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman attends a meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem on May 12, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

"After two years in which the media has been rewriting history in real time, the prime minister came to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and set the historical record," claimed committee chairman Likud MK Boaz Bismuth, a close Netanyahu ally.

"Sometimes the truth is also an option. The question that should concern every household in Israel is why the High Court of Justice halted the state comptroller's review process."

Lawmakers from the opposition Yesh Atid party walked out of the meeting in protest, with the party tweeting that it would "not participate in this media circus, which is intended to evade responsibility and turn the committee into an empty PR show."

"Netanyahu arrived with pre-prepared messages from his office in a desperate attempt to engineer public perception and rewrite history, but no spin will blur the failure:

2,000 Israelis murdered, communities conquered, children burned, and citizens kidnapped on his watch," the party tweeted. "The faction members will continue to fight against his failed government so that such a debacle never happens again."

Committee member MK Moshe Tur-Paz from Yesh Atid noted on X that Netanyahu had told the committee two months before October 7 that "Hamas is deterred."

MK Moshe Tur-Paz speaks at a conference in the Knesset in Jerusalem on January 19, 2026. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)



Opposition figures Gantz, Avigdor Liberman and Gadi Eisenkot all slammed Netanyahu on Thursday for his reported comments, accusing him of seeking to absolve himself of any blame for the biggest Israeli intelligence and strategic failure in decades.

Gantz — a former IDF chief and former defense minister — wrote on X that in 2014, “when I presented the option of conquering Gaza,” Netanyahu leaked the plan to the media “to frighten the public.”

“When I proposed taking control of the Netzarim Corridor — you were afraid,” Gantz added, referring to a strip of land bisecting the Gaza Strip. “When I spoke about replacing Hamas, you preferred separation and leaving ‘Hamas deterred and weakened.’”

Eisenkot accused Netanyahu of having a “selective memory” of the events before and after October 7.

“In October 2023, we voted together on the decision to destroy Hamas’s rule,” Eisenkot wrote Thursday. “I left the cabinet in June 2024 because you refused to advance its destruction. You are still failing at this task. You are running away.”

Liberman said Thursday that while Netanyahu purportedly claimed that nobody saw October 7 coming, “as defense minister, in December 2016, I personally handed him a severe warning document that described exactly the scenario that ultimately occurred.”

“He received it, he knew — and he chose to ignore it,” said Liberman. “Unfortunately, Netanyahu is once again fleeing from the truth.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-said-to-tell-mks-there-was-no-treason-on-oct-7-countering-claims-by-pms-son/>

Map shows UAE-planned compound for Palestinians in Israeli-held south Gaza

Diplomat tells Tol that Abu Dhabi hasn’t made final decision on funding complex near Rafah; IDF clears large area in Gaza for temporary housing projects, says source

By [Reuters](#), [Jacob Magid](#)

and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:45 pm



IDF soldiers stand amid rubble in the Rafah area of the southern Gaza Strip, December 8, 2025. (Emanuel Fabian/Times of Israel)

The United Arab Emirates has drafted plans to build a compound to house thousands of displaced Palestinians in a part of south Gaza under Israeli military control, according to a map seen by Reuters and people briefed on the plans.

The planning map shows where the “UAE Temporary Emirates Housing Complex” would be constructed near Rafah, once a city of a quarter million people but now almost completely destroyed and depopulated by Israeli forces.

An Arab diplomat told The Times of Israel that the UAE has not made a final decision on whether to fund the pilot housing project in Rafah.

Rafah, near the Egypt border, is where reconstruction of Gaza is expected to start under US President Donald Trump’s plan for a durable peace in the densely populated coastal enclave after two years of devastating war. Donors have been reluctant to commit funds to the plan, worried that disagreements over disarming the Hamas terror group could lead the parties back to full-scale conflict.



However, there are doubts about the political viability of the Emirati project, as most Palestinians could balk at being housed in an Israeli-controlled zone while the vast majority of civilians live in Hamas-run areas of Gaza, diplomats said.

Trump’s plan saw the establishment of a US-led, multinational mission for Gaza based in southern Israel, where Emirati officials have shared details of their plans to build temporary housing and provide basic services in Rafah, four diplomats briefed on the initiative said.

Illustrative: Tents at a camp for displaced Palestinians in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on April 30, 2024. (AFP)

The map shows that the UAE housing would sit near the “Yellow Line” agreed under an October ceasefire to demarcate Israeli- and Hamas-controlled areas.

In response to questions for this story, an Emirati official said the Gulf country “remains committed to scaling up its humanitarian efforts to support Palestinians in Gaza,” without confirming or denying plans to build the temporary housing site.

One of the diplomats said the Israeli military had cleared a large area leading from the Mediterranean coast toward Rafah for temporary housing projects like the one the UAE was planning.

The diplomats said the Emirati initiative resembled a US proposal to build temporary housing for Palestinians in areas of Gaza that are still controlled by Israel. US officials initially described their plan as “Alternative Safe Communities” and more recently as “Planned Communities,” the diplomats said.

A US official said the UAE was coordinating on its housing initiative with Washington, with the Board of Peace, a new global body established by Trump to resolve conflicts, and with a US-backed Palestinian committee that is to administer Gaza.

“We continue to be impressed with the UAE’s efforts for bringing a better life for Gazans in Gaza,” the official said.

American officials had hoped that building housing in the Israeli-controlled areas could generate momentum toward Hamas’s disarmament, encouraging Gazans to leave Hamas-controlled zones and depriving the terror group of a civilian population.

Kenneth Katzman, a Middle East expert at The Soufan Center, a US-based, security-focused think tank, said the “Alternative Safe Communities” were designed as a way of gradually “choking Hamas off,” but for it to be effective, it would have to be built at scale, housing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

“Only a couple of housing projects is not going to defeat Hamas. You need to do a lot... to have an effect,” he said.



Hamas police forces deploy in Gaza City on October 11, 2025. (Ali Hassan/ Flash90)

The UAE, which established diplomatic relations with Israel in 2020 under a Trump-brokered accord, sees Hamas and other political Islamist groups as threats to Middle East stability.

The four diplomats doubted whether Palestinians would move in large numbers to areas under Israeli control and questioned whether the proposals risked a permanent division of Gaza.

But unlike the US initiative, the Emiratis had identified a site where no homes previously existed, the diplomats

said.

The Israeli military controls about 53 percent of Gaza, including its southernmost area that encompasses the ruined city of Rafah. Hamas controls the rest of the territory, where nearly all of Gaza’s two million Palestinians are living in crowded tent camps and amid the rubble of destroyed neighborhoods.

Foreign diplomats and aid workers say that humanitarian aid and shelter should be directed to areas where there are many people. About 20,000 Palestinians are thought to be inhabiting areas of Gaza under Israeli military control, diplomats say. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/map-shows-uae-planned-compound-for-palestinians-in-israeli-held-south-gaza/>

Activists behind the Gaza-bound Sumud flotilla, including Mandela’s grandson, announced a new March sailing from Italy, Spain and Tunisia, twice the size, with '1,000 medical workers and war crimes investigators,' plus an overland convoy

[*News Agencies*](#)|13:12

The war ended long ago, and trucks carrying humanitarian aid, some of which also reaches Hamas, are entering Gaza in large numbers. But the anti-Israel activists who organized last year’s massive flotilla to “break the blockade” of Gaza are not standing down. On Thursday evening, they announced a new flotilla set to depart next month that they say will be twice the size of the previous one.

As with the earlier flotilla, which the Israeli Navy intercepted in October last year at the height of Yom Kippur, the new effort is being organized by the protest group the Global Sumud Flotilla. The October flotilla, which was preceded by two smaller sailings in June and July, involved 40 boats and ships. Israel detained 450 participants, including Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. They were later deported to their home countries.



(Photo: REUTERS/Nacho Doce, AP Photo/Jerome Delay) Announcement of a New Flotilla to Gaza
(Video: Reuters)

The activists now say they intend for the new flotilla to include thousands of participants who will attempt to reach Gaza aboard about 100 different vessels. According to the organizers, the flotilla will include about 1,000 medical professionals, as well as engineers and what they describe as “war crimes investigators.” The ships are expected to sail from Spain, Tunisia and Italy.

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No precise launch date has been announced. Activists say the flotilla will also be accompanied by an overland convoy. They expressed hope that the convoy would attract thousands more participants in countries such as Tunisia and Egypt, though it is considered highly likely that authorities in Cairo would prevent them from reaching the Gaza border in the Sinai Peninsula. Sumud said the initiative is intended not only to break the blockade and deliver what it described as life-saving humanitarian aid, but also to establish a sustained civilian presence in Gaza. According to the group, teams including medical personnel, teachers, engineers and unarmed civilian volunteers would work alongside Palestinians to help them cope with what it calls ongoing Israeli attacks and to begin rebuilding the health care system and basic infrastructure damaged over the past two years.



Mandela's grandson embraces an activist wearing a keffiyeh at the news conference
(Photo: REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko)



(Photo: REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko)

Since the end of the war in October last year, under an agreement reached several days after the takeover of the previous flotilla, the volume of humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza has expanded dramatically. The IDF said last month that about 4,200 trucks carrying food and fuel enter Gaza each week, a quantity Israel says far exceeds the needs of Gaza's population. The aid flow has been accompanied by concerns that significant amounts reach Hamas and are used by the militant group to rebuild and reestablish itself. Anti-Israel activists, for their part, argue that the aid is insufficient. They also point to the fact that most of Gaza's population is still living in refugee tents and that reconstruction following the widespread destruction of the war has yet to begin.

But the activists also acknowledge in their statements that their true aim is the overthrow of the State of Israel. The announcement of the new flotilla was made by the grandson of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first president after the fall of apartheid. The grandson, Mandla Mandela, who took part in the previous flotilla and was detained by Israel, said the goal of the new effort is to isolate Israel, which he described as an apartheid state. “We have come together in the Global Sumud Fleet because we recognize that, as a global collective, we can isolate the apartheid state of Israel, cause it to collapse and bring it to its knees — just as we did in [South Africa](#),” Mandela said. He called on activists worldwide to sign up for the new flotilla, declaring, “Registration for Mission 2026 is now open.”

“This time we expect hundreds and thousands to register and mobilize to enter via Egypt, via Lebanon, via

Jordan and via any other border possible for us to enter occupied Palestine and the Gaza Strip,” Mandela added. “We want to mobilize the entire international community to unite forces with us.”



Greta Thunberg after being detained by the Israeli Navy during the previous flotilla in October
(Photo: X)



(Photo: Lluís GENE / AFP)

The news conference was held at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg. During the event, activists acknowledged that their chances of actually reaching Gaza are slim this time as well. “We may not reach Gaza physically, but we will reach the people of Gaza,” activist Susan Abdallah said. “They know that we care, that we will not stop until we actually break the blockade.”

For now, it remains unclear which activists will take part in the new flotilla, if it goes ahead as planned. Thunberg has not yet said whether she will join it. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1tbnufwzg#autoplay>

Trump comments on extending New START treaty

US nuclear experts should work on a new and “modernized” deal instead, the president has said



FILE PHOTO: US President Donald Trump. © Global Look Press / RS / MPI / Capital Pictures

US President Donald **Trump has dismissed the New START nuclear reduction treaty between Moscow and Washington as a “badly negotiated deal,” calling instead for US nuclear experts to begin work on a completely new agreement.**

The strategic arms control agreement officially expired on February 5, sparking concerns in Moscow and at the UN. Axios reported the same day that US and Russian officials agreed to work on “updating” the agreement on the sidelines of the Ukraine peace talks in Abu Dhabi.

“Rather than extend ‘NEW START’ ... we should have our Nuclear Experts work on a new, improved, and modernized Treaty that can last long into the future,” Trump wrote on Truth Social on Thursday, claiming the agreement was being “grossly violated.”

Shortly after Trump’s post, White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told journalists that the US plans to discuss a new treaty with Russia. She also denied that Moscow and Washington had reached any temporary agreements on abiding by the provisions of the expired treaty.

Signed in 2010, the treaty capped the number of strategic nuclear warheads and launchers that could be deployed and established monitoring mechanisms for both Russian and American arsenals. It was initially set to expire in 2021 but was extended for five years at the time.

Moscow suspended the verification mechanisms of the treaty in 2023, citing Ukrainian strikes on elements of Russia’s nuclear deterrence and accusing the West of actively being involved. Yet, there have been no reports on any side violating the limitations set in the treaty.

Earlier on Thursday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow had suggested adhering to the treaty’s provisions for another year but that the initiative had “remained unanswered.” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on Russia and the US to negotiate a successor framework, warning about the “highest” risk of a nuclear conflict in decades.

Trump previously stated that he wanted a “better” agreement that includes China. On Thursday, Peskov

said that China considers joining the talks on a new treaty “pointless” since its nuclear arsenal is incompatible with that of Russia and the US. “We respect this position,” he added. <https://www.rt.com/news/632077-trump-extending-new-start-treaty/>

'Deadly consequences': ICE nabs illegal-alien trucker let in by Biden after crash killing 4 Amish

By [Jason Hopkins, Daily Caller News Foundation](#)

[February 5, 2026](#)



Federal immigration authorities detained an illegal migrant truck driver Thursday over a highway accident in Indiana that left four Amish members dead.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents took custody of 30-year-old Bekzhan Beishekeev, a staffer with the Jay County Sheriff's Office confirmed to the Daily Caller News Foundation. Beishekeev, a commercial truck driver, allegedly

swerved lanes along an Indiana highway on Tuesday and smashed head-on into another vehicle, killing four members of the Amish community.

Beishekeev was driving a 2022 Freightliner truck eastbound along State Road 67 when another semi-tractor trailer in front of him slowed down for traffic, according to Indiana State Police. Instead of slowing down himself, Beishekeev allegedly swerved onto a westbound lane and collided with a van that was carrying several passengers.

"The Jay County Coroner's Office has identified Henry Eicher (50) of Bryant, Menno Eicher (25) of Bryant, Paul Eicher (19) of Bryant, and Simon Girod (23) of Bryant as the four people who were killed in the crash," according to an Indiana State Police press statement. "The Indiana State Police Critical Incident Reconstruction Team is working with the Indiana State Police Commercial Vehicle Division, Jay County Sheriff's Department, and Jay County Coroner's Office to complete this investigation."

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has since confirmed that Beishekeev is an illegal migrant from Kyrgyzstan. He arrived in the country via the Biden-era CBP One app and then was given a commercial license in Pennsylvania.

"Not only was Bekzhan Beishekeev released into our country by the Biden administration using the CBP One app, but he was also given a commercial driver's license by Governor Shapiro's Pennsylvania," DHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement provided to the DCNF. "These decisions have had deadly consequences and led to the death of four innocent people in Indiana on Tuesday."

"It is incredibly dangerous for illegal aliens, who often don't know our traffic laws or even English, to be operating semi-trucks on America's roads," McLaughlin continued. "These sanctuary governors must stop giving illegal aliens commercial driver's licenses before another American gets killed."

The crash marks the latest fatal highway accident involving illegal migrants who managed to obtain commercial driver's licenses (CDLs).

Since August 2025, the trucking industry [has been rocked](#) with a string of fatal crashes allegedly caused by illegal migrant truck drivers, with a majority of them having obtained their CDLs in states notorious for refusing to work ICE, such as California. The Department of Transportation responded to the crashes in September by handing down sweeping [emergency rules](#) that restricted foreign nationals from obtaining these commercial licenses.

Unlike California — where the DOT [recently announced](#) the revocation of millions in DOT funding due to the state's alleged failures to rein in unlawful commercial licenses — Indiana largely cooperates with federal immigration authorities. Republican Indiana Gov. Mike Braun issued [an executive order](#) in January that encouraged cooperation with local law enforcement and ICE.

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licensing@dailycallernewsfoundation.org. <https://www.wnd.com/2026/02/deadly-consequences-ice-nabs-illegal-alien-trucker-let/>

UN Official Who Financed Murder of Teenage Girl on Gaza Board

Wed, 4 Feb 2026 5:35 AM PST by Daniel Greenfield



“The entire population of Gaza is facing the risk of famine,” Sigrid Kaag, the UN’s coordinator for Gaza, falsely claimed, echoing Hamas propaganda. “Israel must halt its devastating strikes.”

Kaag (Pictured above, left), a leftist Dutch politician and UN official, had been picked for the role in Gaza by the Biden administration. And she had all the right credentials including the UN’s World Health Organization (WHO), the World Economic Forum and leftist politics. She had cheered the [BLM race riots](#) and claimed that America was systematically racist because New Yorkers had mistaken her husband, who worked for a Muslim terrorist group, for a janitor.

Now she’s been picked for a seat on the Gaza ‘Executive Board’ by the Witkoff team.

Sigrid Kaag had been ousted from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1994 after she [secretly married](#) a top member of the PLO, Anas Al-Qaq. The same behavior that made her untrustworthy however qualified her for a job at the UN. There she worked for the IOM, the UN’s mass migration group, and UNRWA, the UN’s ‘Palestinian’ agency: known as a front for Hamas.

Kaag’s hostility to Israel was public with the leftist Dutch politicians blasting a significant proportion of Israel’s Jewish population as “illegal colonists on confiscated land” and complaining that someone had supposedly called her a “whore of the Arabs.”

Back then she also complained that “Netanyahu’s way is of soundbites with racist, demagogic overtones about the Palestinian peace partner.” The ‘peace partners’ in question were the terrorists whom her husband was working for who were busy murdering Israelis.

As a member of the radical leftist D66 party, Kaag had her eye on political office while complaining that the Netherlands was racist and biased against her PLO husband and children. “Sometimes, because of my marriage and career, I am treated as a foreigner in my own country. And then I wonder: who decides that? Who is the Dutch foreign national, and who is not?”

After working as a UN official in Syria and Lebanon, and despite having been previously ousted from the Ministry for her marriage to a PLO official, she became the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands. The Netherlands was struggling with Muslim mass migration and appeasement of Muslim terrorists and Kaag had the expertise to make both of those problems worse.

In 2018, Kaag, who had previously discussed her relationship with Hezbollah, visited Iran and met with its leaders while wearing a ‘headscarf’. Geert Wilders, the popular Dutch leader who had rallied the public to defy Islamization, [blasted Kaag](#) for “submissively” bowing “for the fascist ayatollahs of Iran” at a time when Iranian women were risking their lives to appear in public without a hijab.

“While women are beaten there on the street for taking off their headscarves, you put on a headscarf and bowed to the ayatollahs. With that you’ve squandered women’s rights and betrayed those women,” Wilders declared during the country’s election debates.

In 2019, Rina (Pictured above, right), a 17-year-old girl, was hiking with her family in Israel when she was killed by a Muslim terrorist attack. “I wanted to believe it was just a dream,” Rabbi Shnerb, her father, said [from his hospital bed](#). “I immediately called to Rina, shouting ‘Rina, Rina.’”

Kaag was [forced to admit](#) that her ministry had helped pay the salaries of Rina’s killers through a ‘nonprofit’ acting as a front group for a terrorist organization. Kaag [had allowed \\$12 million](#) in funding to the ‘nonprofit’ despite being repeatedly warned that the money was going to terrorists.

Around this time, the Dutch government [was accused of directing](#) money to a Muslim Brotherhood front group. Hamas is one of the Muslim Brotherhood’s organizations.

“She was photographed with terrorist Arafat and financed Palestinian terrorists,” Wilders noted.

In 2021, Kaag was [forced to resign](#) once again, this time over the Afghanistan withdrawal. The former UN official whose entire claim to fame was her expertise in the Muslim world claimed that she had been caught by surprise. The Dutch evacuation under Kaag was so last minute that they failed to leave until they received a message in the middle of the night from American forces warning that their embassy would soon be overrun by the Taliban.

She [ran for office](#) on a platform of fighting racism, bringing more Muslim refugees to the Netherlands and implementing the Paris climate accords to wipe out Dutch agriculture.

“You are deliberately pursuing discriminatory policies. We need to talk about racism and exclusion, and you’re participating in that wholeheartedly,” Kaag ranted at Wilders.

Two years later, the Biden administration selected her as the UN humanitarian envoy for Gaza. During this time, Kaag refused to cooperate with the Trump administration, spread lies about a fake famine and was part of a UN ‘aid’ system that specifically sabotaged aid deliveries in order to try and fake a famine to bail out Hamas. As a former UNRWA official, a UN organization whose ranks were heavily infiltrated by Hamas, Kaag was the worst possible person for the job.

That’s why the UN appointed her its special envoy for the Middle East.

By 2024, Sigrid Kaag had been caught [meeting at the sidelines](#) of the UN with Iran.

Now, the White House announced that Kaag had been appointed to the ‘Gaza Executive Board’ alongside Steven Witkoff, former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, Turkey Minister Hakan Fidan, who had praised Hamas, Ali Al-Thawadi, a Qatari official allegedly linked to the corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez, and allegedly linked to [espionage against](#) America and other nations.

In the past, Sigrid Kaag had made little secret of her preference for the Biden administration, which had handpicked her, complaining after Trump’s victory that, “I find it very hard to keep projecting that there’s still hope. There used to be some alignment with Washington—a willingness to think about international law and the civilian population in Gaza. That’s just gone.”

“Last year around this time, there was still an American administration that was engaged with international law and concerned about the civilian population in Gaza,” she whined.

However Kaag developed ties with Witkoff, whose disastrous tenure included adopting the Biden administration’s policies on Gaza. And Kaag and Witkoff apparently bonded.

“I had WhatsApp contact with Steve Witkoff,” Kaag told an interviewer.

Unfortunately the Trump administration’s foreign policy has been hijacked by the same swamp and foreign policy blob that threw billions of dollars and decades of prestige into creating a ‘Palestinian terror state’. That’s the cause that Saag is still dedicated to. Now with our backing.

Saag’s appointment is yet more evidence that the architects of this disastrous policy are hostile to Trump, to America, and to the free world. Giving Saag, a globalist UN official, a role in Gaza will prime her for a political comeback in the Netherlands at the expense of Geert Wilders. The move undermines American national interests, the interests of Dutch patriots and of Israel.

Whose interests are being served by elevating a Dutch leftist UN globalist who hates Trump?

[Daniel Greenfield](#) is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's [Front Page Magazine](#).

<https://bkdvk-zgpyh.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser>



BS”D

STEP BY STEP

STEP BY STEP: Good news is that many friends and supporters of Lev U'Neshama (Heart and Soul) donated towards the Education Fund project to provide basic school supplies for actually 350 children within our Lev U'Neshama families.

We are grateful that the school supply part of our effort has been successful.

According to the Israel Population and Statistics office, Tzfat's population is about 40,000, and one third live at the poverty level. We do what we can so at least the children within our struggling LUN families can get the things they need.

Every week we are providing new sport shoes and eye exams/eyeglasses to the children on our request list. However, previous donations are rapidly dwindling. I am reaching out now before the fund has been emptied and we will have to say "no" to additional requests.

We work with two local shoe merchants who give Lev U'Neshama a discount but they advised us the cost of the shoes has increased. Also, we work with an accredited optician in town who also gives us a discount

but his cost is stable.

Lev U'Neshama is an Israeli registered non-profit charity organization, volunteer run, no business expenses whatsoever and every \$ goes into our programs.

Shoes: \$45 per pair regular and \$60 for First Steps, baby shoes.

Eye Exam/Eyeglasses: \$60 per child.

Your support is urgently requested.

Or use the Zelle US to US bank transfer system (contact me at mortsmo@aol.com for bank information.

US Donors may also send checks made payable to

Simcha Smolensky, my son, who is also a volunteer. Send to:

Rabbi Simcha Smolensky, 6739 N Mozart St Chicago IL 60645

Your support will be appreciated.

Yaffa Smolensky