

**Please Note: Due to family circumstances and time constraints the news will be less detailed with fewer highlighted areas and comments and more referrals to the Article resource sites for your further perusal. RDB**

**Security cabinet okays 'dramatic' West Bank policy overhaul, deepening Israeli control**  
*Katz and Smotrich announce moves to expand Israeli oversight of areas A and B, let Israelis buy land in West Bank, and boost Israeli authority over Tomb of the Patriarchs compound*

By [Nava Freiberg](#)

and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:35 pm



*An Israeli family is seen at the outpost of Yahish Zion, near the settlement of Psagot, in the West Bank, on February 4, 2026. (Dor Pazuelo/Flash90)*

**Defense Minister Israel Katz and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich on Sunday announced a series of security cabinet decisions to “dramatically” change land registration and property acquisition procedures in the West Bank, easing Jewish settlement in the territory.**

**The decisions “are intended to remove decades-old barriers, repeal discriminatory Jordanian legislation, and enable accelerated development of settlement on**

**the ground,” the two ministers said in a joint statement.**

The approved plan ordered the publication of land registries in the West Bank, according to the statement, meaning that property lists will be open to the public, and potential buyers will be able to identify landowners and approach them for purchasing. Until now, land registration in the West Bank had been classified.

The cabinet action also repealed a legal provision that prevented non-Muslims from buying real estate in the area — a law left over from the period when Jordan controlled the territory. Until the cabinet’s approval, Jews could acquire land only through companies registered in the area rather than privately.

Alongside this, the requirement for a transaction license from the land-registration officer has been canceled, to be replaced by “professional threshold conditions only, removing a major obstacle in the local real estate market,” the statement added.

The new arrangement will “allow Jews to purchase land in Judea and Samaria just as they purchase [land] in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem,” it said, using biblical terminology for the regions that make up the West Bank.

**L: Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich at the Knesset in Jerusalem, May 12, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90); R: Defense Minister Israel Katz at the Knesset in Jerusalem, April 24, 2025. (Arie Leib Abrams/Flash90)**



It was also decided to expand oversight and enforcement activities into areas A and B with regard to water violations, damage to archaeological sites, and environmental hazards that pollute the entire territory, the statement said.

According to the Oslo II Accords, signed in 1995 by Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the West Bank is divided into three areas, A, B and C. While Area C is under full Israeli control, Area B is under

Palestinian civilian control and Israeli security control, and Area A is under full Palestinian control.

**Israel to expand control over Tomb of the Patriarchs**

Additionally, the plan approved Sunday would transfer authority over building permits for the Jewish settlement in Hebron — including at the highly contested Tomb of the Patriarchs site — from the Hebron municipality, which is subordinate to the Palestinian Authority, to Israel.

The site is believed to be the burial place of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the matriarchs Sarah, Rebecca and Leah.

Until now, in accordance with the 1997 Hebron Agreement, any construction changes in the Jewish community had to pass through both the municipality and the Civil Administration. With the cabinet's approval, such changes will now require authorization only from Israel's defense establishment.



*A view of the Tomb of the Patriarchs after Israeli officials hung Israeli flags on its fortification and put a seven-branched candelabrum, menorah, on it in Hebron, in the West Bank, on April 29, 2025. (Wisam Hashlamoun/FLASH90)*

The decisions Sunday will also affect the site of Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem by establishing "a dedicated municipal authority" responsible for cleaning and routine maintenance of the holy site.

The measures were not brought for approval by the full cabinet but rather to the security cabinet, whose members have broadly called for applying sovereignty in the West Bank. Reversal of these decisions would involve significant legal complexity.

#### **PA: Decisions are null and void, world must intervene**

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the decisions, declaring them illegal and invalid, and demanding US and UN intervention to stop their implementation, according to the [PA's official WAFA news agency](#).

WAFA said Abbas's office "warned of the dangers of any infringement upon Islamic and Christian holy sites, emphasizing that any violation of the Ibrahimi Mosque and the transfer of authority over it are unacceptable," using a Muslim term for the Hebron compound.



*Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas attends the Atreju political meeting organized by the young militants of Italian right-wing party Brothers of Italy (Fratelli d'Italia) on December 12, 2025, in Rome. (Alberto PIZZOLI / AFP)*

#### **Settlement group praises move as act of de facto annexation**

The Yesha Council umbrella organization, which represents settlement municipal authorities in the West Bank, called the decisions on Sunday among "the most significant decisions made by the State of Israel since its return to Judea and Samaria 58 years ago."

"The government of Israel announced today, in practice, that the Land of Israel belongs to the Nation of Israel," the council said, adding

that the decisions "rectified an injustice of many years and are entrenching Israeli sovereignty on the ground, de facto."



*A general view of the newly established Jewish settlement of Yatziv in the Gush Etzion area of the West Bank, January 19, 2026. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)*

The Peace Now organization, which advocates a two-state solution to Israel's conflict with the Palestinians, said in a statement: "Netanyahu promised to topple Hamas in Gaza, but in practice he chose to topple the Palestinian Authority, to annul the agreements Israel signed, and to force a de facto annexation on us, in total opposition to the will of the nation, Israel's interest, and the clear position of President Trump."

The Emek Shaveh NGO, which describes its mission as "protecting ancient sites as public assets that belong to

members of all communities, faiths, and peoples," also condemned the decisions, declaring it an end to the government's "pretense" of substantive concern over archaeological sites in the West Bank.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/security-cabinet-okays-dramatic-west-bank-policy-overhaul-deepening-israeli-control/>

## **Iran again rules out giving up uranium enrichment, suggests US not taking talks seriously**



## FM defiant in face of new US sanctions, says Tehran isn't afraid of US military deployment to the region, as threat of war continues to hover over negotiations

By [Agencies](#) Today, 2:22 pm



*Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks during the 17th edition of the Al-Jazeera Forum in Doha on February 7, 2026. (Karim Jaafar/AFP)*

**Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Sunday ruled out Tehran ever giving up uranium enrichment in its negotiations with Washington, insisting it will not be intimidated by the threat of war with the United States.**

**Araghchi told a forum in Tehran that Tehran had little trust in Washington, and even doubted that the US side was taking renewed negotiations seriously.**

**“Why do we insist so much on enrichment and refuse to give it up, even if a war is imposed on us? Because no one has the right to dictate our behavior,” Araghchi declared.**

“Their military deployment in the region does not scare us,” he added, referring to the buildup of US forces, including the arrival of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Arabian Sea.

The United States and Iran reopened negotiations on Friday in Oman, after the previous talks between the two countries were suspended due to Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June 2025, which ended with a US strike on several Iranian nuclear sites.

Iran is seeking to have US economic sanctions on the country lifted, in exchange for what Araghchi said at the forum could be “a series of confidence-building measures concerning the nuclear program.”

“They fear our atomic bomb, while we are not looking for one. Our atomic bomb is the power to say ‘no’ to the great powers,” Araghchi said.

Western countries suspect Iran is seeking to acquire a nuclear bomb. Iran has denied seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. However, it has enriched uranium to levels that have no peaceful application, obstructed international inspectors from checking its nuclear facilities, and expanded its ballistic missile capabilities. Prior to the June war, Israel said Iran had recently taken steps toward weaponization.



*Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian listens to explanations as he visits the country's nuclear achievements during his tour to the Atomic Energy Organization in Tehran, Iran, in a photo released on November 2, 2025. (Atomic Energy Organization of Iran via AP)*

**‘Peace through strength’**

Araghchi's comments came after US lead negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner visited the USS Abraham Lincoln on Saturday, signaling the persistent threat of US military action against Iran.

The US military's Central Command (CENTCOM) said the two top officials visited the nuclear-powered vessel.

In a social media post, Witkoff said the aircraft carrier and its strike group were “keeping us safe and upholding

President Trump's message of peace through strength.”



*The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, left, the air-defense destroyer HMS Defender and the guided-missile destroyer USS Farragut transit the Strait of Hormuz with the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf, November 19, 2019. (Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Zachary Pearson/U.S. Navy via AP, File)*

The threat of war continues to hover over the negotiations, even as Trump called the talks “very good” and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian posted on social media that they “constitute a step forward.”

Following Friday's first round in Oman, Trump signed an executive order calling for the “imposition of tariffs” on countries still doing business with Iran despite US sanctions.

The United States also announced new sanctions against

numerous shipping entities and vessels, aimed at curbing Iran's oil exports.

It remained unclear on Sunday when and where, or if, there will be a second round of talks. Trump, after the talks Friday, offered few details but said: “Iran looks like they want to make a deal very badly — as they should.”



*In this photo released by Oman's Foreign Ministry, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, left, shakes hands with his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi during their meeting prior to indirect US-Iran negotiations, in Muscat, Oman, February 6, 2026. (Oman Foreign Ministry via AP)*

Araghchi appeared to be taking the threat of an American military strike seriously. He said that after multiple rounds of talks last year, the US “attacked us in the midst of negotiations” when it joined Israel’s war.

The top Iranian diplomat called into question the United States’ commitment to negotiations.

“The continuation of certain sanctions and military actions raises doubts about the seriousness and readiness of the

other side to conduct genuine negotiations,” he said.

“We are monitoring the situation closely, assessing all the signals, and will decide on the continuation of the negotiations,” he said. “It is not clear up to where it will go.”

### Protests’ toll

Talks between the two archenemies came amid a major US military buildup in the region in the wake of Iran’s brutal crackdown on protests that began in late December, driven by economic grievances.

Authorities in Iran have acknowledged that 3,117 people were killed in the recent protests, publishing on Sunday a list of 2,986 names, most of whom they say were members of the security forces and innocent bystanders.

International organizations and media have put the toll far higher, possibly in the tens of thousands.

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), which has kept a running toll since the onset of the protests, says it has verified 6,961 deaths, mainly of protesters, and has another 11,630 cases under investigation. It has also counted more than 51,000 arrests. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-again-rules-out-giving-up-uranium-enrichment-suggests-us-not-taking-talks-seriously/>

## Trump admin. expects Araghchi to bring 'meaningful substance' to next meeting, sources tell 'Post'

The Trump administration has told Iran it expects meaningful concessions at the next round of talks, as Tehran rules out halting uranium enrichment, sources told The Jerusalem Post.

*Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses the Al Jazeera Forum in Doha, February 7, 2026;*



*illustrative. (photo credit: KARIM JAAFAR/AFP/VIA GETTY IMAGES) By AMICHAEL STEINFEBRUARY 8, 2026 20:12 Updated: FEBRUARY 8, 2026 21:08*

**The Trump administration conveyed to Iran that it expects the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi-led delegation to arrive at the next meeting “with meaningful substance,” according to two sources familiar with the matter who spoke to The Jerusalem Post on Sunday.**

**On Friday in Oman, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner met with US Central Command (CENTCOM) head Admiral Brad Cooper and Araghchi, along with other senior Iranian**

**officials.**

While the first meeting was described as a “good meeting,” focusing mainly on how the negotiations would be conducted rather than on the core issues themselves, the Americans expect the Iranians to come to the next meeting prepared to offer concessions on the nuclear issue and other matters, according to the two sources.

On Sunday, [Araghchi](#) made clear that a complete halt to uranium enrichment is absolutely unacceptable to Iran. “The discussions should focus on scenarios in which uranium enrichment continues, alongside assurances that the enrichment is solely for peaceful purposes,” he said.

He also clarified that the missile issue and the “regional arena” (Iran’s proxies) are off the agenda for the negotiations. “The subject of the negotiations is the nuclear issue, and that is how it will remain,” he stated.





*Tehran Times, an Iranian newspaper, with the cover photo of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US special envoy Steve Witkoff, February 7, 2026. (credit: MAJID ASGARIPPOUR/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY) VIA REUTERS)*

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will depart on Tuesday for a meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White House, scheduled to take place on Wednesday.

On Sunday, the Security Cabinet convened, with ministers informed that Israel's position is that any negotiations with Iran must include not only preventing the terrorist regime in Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons, but also restrictions on ballistic missiles and an end to Iran's support for the regional terror axis.

"Time and again, the Iranian regime has proven that its promises cannot be trusted. Should the Iranian regime, which has

for decades oppressed its own people who aspire to freedom and justice, attempt to harm our sovereignty or our citizens, the consequences will be extremely severe. Any such attempt will be met with force and decisive action," stated the official talking points distributed to ministers ahead of the meeting.

### **Sa'ar emphasizes risk of Iranian nuclear weapons in meeting with Paraguayan counterpart**

Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said at the start of his meeting with the foreign minister of Paraguay that the attempt by the world's most extreme regime, Iran, to obtain the world's most dangerous weapon, nuclear weapons, poses a clear threat to regional and global peace.

"The long-range ballistic missiles the Iranian regime seeks to produce in massive quantities endanger Israel, but not only Israel. The Iranian regime has already used missiles against other countries in the Middle East. European countries are also threatened by the range of these missiles," Sa'ar said.

Iranian Army chief Amir Hatami said on Sunday that Iran's military is closely monitoring the enemy and is prepared to respond decisively to any aggression.

Hatami added that the presence of US ships in the region is nothing new: "We have seen this many times over past decades." He expressed hope that the enemy would not make mistakes, noting that "our air forces are ready to respond." <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-886010>

## **Why Trump prefers a tougher Iran nuclear deal over conflict**

**Opinion: The first round of US-Iran talks ended with cautious optimism, as Donald Trump signals a preference for a strict, enforceable nuclear agreement while Israel weighs how to protect its interests without pushing Washington toward war**

*Dr. Haim Golovenzits | 11:32*

**The first round of negotiations between Iran and the United States ended with cautious optimism, as expected. Iran signaled some willingness to show flexibility on the nuclear issue while hardening its position on ballistic missiles. The United States may ultimately settle for a nuclear-only agreement, but such a deal would have to include new and significant components.**

**If an agreement of this kind does take shape, Israel should support the United States and not condition its backing on dismantling Iran's missile program or ending its support for regional proxies.**



*Donald Trump and Ali Khamenei (Photo: Anna Moneymaker/AFP, KHAMENEI.IR/AFP)*

The initial round of talks, which even included an unplanned handshake between representatives of the two countries, clarified the boundaries of the negotiations. From Iran's perspective, missiles are not up for discussion, as they are viewed as defensive. At the same time, Iran declared a willingness to show flexibility on the nuclear issue in a way that would reassure Washington, as [Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi](#) stated, but without agreeing to a

complete halt to enrichment or the removal of its 440 kilograms of uranium to a third country.

MAKE ynetGlobal MY TRUSTED SOURCE

Araghchi also said Iran is prepared to discuss a regional nuclear mechanism, an idea previously floated by

the United States and rejected by Iran in the past.

Israel's position on Iran has undergone a significant shift. For decades, the primary focus was on preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. Now, from Israel's perspective, the ballistic missile threat has become a parallel concern.

Trump and his representatives have also expressed relative optimism following the sides' agreement to continue negotiations in the coming days. They appear to be banking on Iranian flexibility, despite Tehran's public statements, possibly along the lines of a Qatari-Turkish-Egyptian proposal that would include a multi-year halt to enrichment, removal of uranium to a third country and a future commitment to lower enrichment levels, even below those set in the JCPOA.

Trump appears to prefer achieving a credible, strict nuclear agreement over launching a war with uncertain outcomes, as long as his core commitment that Iran will not obtain nuclear weapons is upheld. The firm positions of Arab allies, China's public support for Iran, fears of a global economic shock triggered by an oil crisis, potential damage to regional arrangements the United States is pursuing in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria, and American public opinion favoring an agreement over military action all weigh in favor of diplomacy over conflict.

At the same time, it is reasonable to expect that Trump will not accept an agreement similar to the JCPOA, from which he withdrew in 2018. That reality will soon force Iran to make consequential decisions that determine whether the path ahead leads to war or to a settlement.

The United States is likely to compromise on missiles and proxies, but it must insist on the core principles outlined above, and no less importantly, on the creation of effective and credible enforcement mechanisms that go beyond reliance on International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors alone. If Iran seeks to avoid an attack, it will have to accept additional oversight involving direct or indirect American participation.

Anything less would constitute failure and could push the United States toward a military confrontation it does not seek.



**Dr. Haim Golovenzits**

The Iranian missile issue is not new. It developed in parallel with Iran's nuclear ambitions, accelerating during the Iran-Iraq War and expanding in the 1990s through cooperation with Syria and Libya and large-scale purchases from North Korea, eventually leading to domestic production of the Shahab missiles. As early as 1996, Iranian officials warned that Tehran could strike any point in Israel with hundreds of missiles.

On the eve of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rushed trip to Washington over the negotiations, Israel should support any nuclear agreement that meets these principles and refrain from initiating military action against Iran's missile program at this stage. A strict, credible nuclear deal would represent a clear Israeli achievement after decades of struggle, especially if it includes a tangible American military commitment to preventing Iran's nuclearization.

The missile threat, contrary to some portrayals, is not new, and Iran did not make direct use of it against Israel until 2024. Iran's missile launches toward Israel occurred only after Israeli actions in Damascus and Tehran and the launch of a broader military operation in May 2025.

Israel's demand to limit Iran's missile range to 300 kilometers is unlikely to be accepted. If and when a nuclear agreement is successfully implemented, Israel can then address the missile threat through covert measures below the threshold of war, as it did for years on the nuclear front, or through overt military action if required, backed by credible public deterrence. <https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/bkebpbuy11g>

## **'Rain of missiles' threat: Iran unveils Tel Aviv map as it warns Israel amid nuclear standoff**

*After US envoys visited an American aircraft carrier, Iran displayed a billboard threatening Israel's central cities and said it would not abandon its nuclear program, even at the cost of war*

[Lior Ben Ari](#) | 12:33

**While President Donald Trump has said the Iranians "very much want a deal," the tone in Tehran is hardening ahead of the next round of talks. On Sunday, a new threatening billboard was unveiled in Tehran's Palestine Square, displaying a map of central Israel under the headline 'Rain of missiles.'**





**At the same time, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi declared that the Islamic Republic would not give up its nuclear program under any circumstances, even if it leads to war.**

*Tehran on Sunday with the map of central Israel*

raghchi, who met U.S. envoy [Steve Witkoff](#) and [Jared Kushner](#) during talks held Friday in Oman, reiterated Iran's long-standing position that it is prepared to accept certain limits on its nuclear program, but will not relinquish what it describes as its right to enrich uranium. According to assessments, enrichment is currently not taking place following strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities during the 12-day war last June.

"We insist on our right to a nuclear program, even if it leads to war," Araghchi told diplomats in Tehran. "We insist on uranium enrichment because no one has the right to dictate what we should do or demand that we reduce

enrichment to zero."

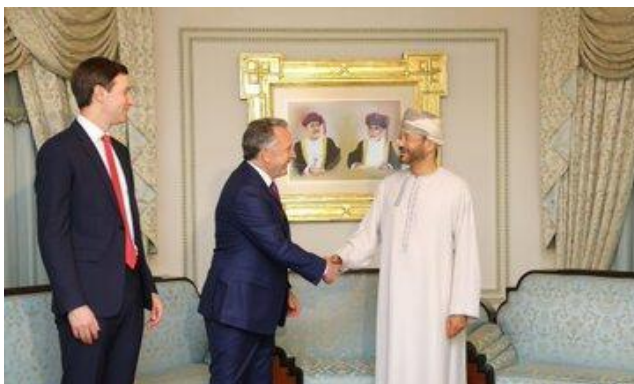


**Abbas Araghchi (Photo: Oman Foreign Ministry)**

He added that attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities had failed to achieve their goals. "The only option left to them is negotiations," he said. "We do not accept dictates or control from anyone and are prepared to answer any question."

Araghchi said Iran's strength lies in its ability to stand up to pressure. "They fear our atomic bomb, but we do not seek an atomic bomb," he said. "Our atomic bomb is the power to say 'no' to the great powers."

The talks are taking place against the backdrop of repeated warnings by Trump that the United States could strike Iran if it does not move quickly toward an agreement. According to reports, Washington's demands include a complete halt to uranium enrichment, restrictions on Iran's ballistic missile program and an end to its support for terrorist organizations across the region.



**Jared Kushner Steve Witkoff, they also shook hands with Araghchi, but the meeting was not documented (Photo: Oman Foreign Ministry)**

Trump himself has publicly focused on preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and has not explicitly called for a total end to enrichment. In Israel, officials fear Washington could soften its demands on missiles and Iran's regional proxies.

Against that backdrop, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Saturday that he was moving up his visit to the United States by a week. He is expected to meet Trump on Wednesday.

“Any negotiation must include limits on ballistic missiles and an end to support for Iran’s axis,” Netanyahu’s office said. A senior political source said the early trip was intended to influence US positions in the talks, with particular emphasis on missile restrictions.

The U.S. has continued to signal that a military option remains on the table. The message was reinforced when US Central Command chief Adm. [Brad Cooper joined Witkoff and Kushner in Oman and later accompanied them aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier, which was deployed to the region along with eight destroyers.](#)

Iran has warned that a US strike would ignite a regional war and that Israel would also be targeted. Sunday’s billboard in Tehran appeared to underscore that threat. The sign showed a map of Israel’s central region, listing Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Herzliya, Ramat Gan and Bnei Brak.

The Hebrew headline read, “In the face of a rain of missiles, this is a small area,” while the English text warned, “You start, we finish.” <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjournalw11e>

## **Netanyahu memo before October 7 stressed 'cooling the arenas,' Channel 12 says**

*In one section, Channel 12 reported that Netanyahu instructed officials to promote a civilian arrangement with Hamas and expand the use of humanitarian tools as leverage over Hamas policy.*

*By JERUSALEM POST STAFF FEBRUARY 8, 2026 20:59 Updated: FEBRUARY 8, 2026 22:17*



*Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends a Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee meeting at the Knesset, in Jerusalem, February 5, 2026(photo credit: YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90)*

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged a “balanced” approach aimed at “cooling the arenas” and preventing an escalation six days before the October 7 massacre, according to a classified summary from an October 1, 2023, security meeting.**

**The document dated October 1 was presented by journalist Yaron Avraham on Channel 12’s main evening broadcast on Sunday. It was described as**

### **Netanyahu’s written summary of a consultation with Israel’s top security leadership.**

Netanyahu did not include the full content of that meeting in his [response to the State Comptroller’s Office](#), Channel 12 reported.

According to the report, the meeting took place at the Prime Minister’s Office in Jerusalem. It was attended by Mossad Director David Barnea, Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) director Ronen Bar, IDF chief of staff Lt.-Gen. Herzi Halevi, national security adviser Tzachi Hanegbi, defense minister Yoav Gallant, strategic affairs minister Ron Dermer, and other senior officials, the report said.



Netanyahu reportedly defined the meeting’s overarching goals as advancing peace with Saudi Arabia, maintaining national and security calm, and neutralizing attempts to trigger an escalation that could endanger diplomatic prospects.

*Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Ministers and MK’s attend a Special Session in his Honor of Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama at the Knesset, the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem, January 26, 2026. (credit: YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90)*

In one section of the summary, Netanyahu instructed officials to promote a civilian arrangement with Hamas, expand the use of humanitarian tools as leverage over Hamas policy, and raise operational readiness for targeted killings that the security establishment had recommended, including against Hamas’s leadership, Channel 12 reported.

### **Netanyahu’s closing remarks stressed preventing escalation**

The report also highlighted Netanyahu’s closing remarks, as shown on air in excerpts from the document.



“The prime minister expressed great appreciation to all security bodies for their work in preserving quiet across all arenas, with emphasis on the holiday period, and stressed that we must act with balance and management for cooling the arenas and preventing escalation while preserving and strengthening Israeli deterrence,” the report said.

Alongside the excerpts, Channel 12 aired sharp criticism attributed to unnamed [senior security officials](#), who accused Netanyahu of causing “irreversible” long-term damage and of selectively extracting partial sentences from lengthy discussions while stripping them of context. They also said the October 1 summary was unusual in its clarity, adding that it had delineated a clear directive.

The disclosure arrived in the middle of an intensified public battle over pre-October 7, 2023, decision-making and the release of selected protocols.

In recent days, the Prime Minister’s Office published intelligence and meeting documents as part of Netanyahu’s response to the state comptroller’s probes into the October 7 massacre, a process that has been tied up in legal and political disputes.

In an interview with Channel 12, Gallant accused Netanyahu of attempting to “engineer the perception” of events by stitching together snippets from long meetings.

Separate reporting has also focused on decisions tied to Hamas’s leadership in the months before the attack. Channel 12 sources claimed Netanyahu had declined multiple opportunities to discuss or approve a targeted killing of then-[Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar](#) before October 7, an allegation the Prime Minister’s Office rejected, *The Jerusalem Post* reported in January.

Israeli investigations into the October 7 massacre have repeatedly returned to the “conception” that Hamas was deterred and could be managed.

In coverage of lessons learned, the *Post* has reported senior assessments, describing how deeply those assumptions had shaped readiness and decision-making in the period leading up to the attack, even as senior officials later acknowledged the failure to challenge that view. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-886015>

## Convoy en route to Jerusalem protesting violent crime in Arab sector

*Protest leaders intend to issue a message to Netanyahu before his DC flight • A press conference will be held in front of the Knesset in the afternoon*

By [KESHET NEEV](#), [MAYA ZANGER-NADIS](#) FEBRUARY 8, 2026 08:01 Updated: FEBRUARY 8, 2026 14:49



Members of the Arab community in Israel protest against the violence in their community, in Sakhnin, northern Israel, January 22, 2026. (photo credit: MICHAEL GILADI/FLASH90)

**A mass protest convoy demonstrating against the rise in violent crime in Israel's Arab sector journeyed to Jerusalem on Sunday, causing road blockage along central highways.**

**Demonstrators called to block traffic from the northern Coastal Highway to the Ayalon Highway and onto Route 1, the main road leading into Jerusalem's**

**entrance.**

**Members of the secular Arab party Hadash-Tal joined the protest, calling on all citizens to participate.**

MK Ofer Cassif (Hadash-Tal) said that the protest was “nothing short of historic,” speaking to *The Jerusalem Post* on Sunday.

“In the face of the government’s deliberate and violent policy aimed at terrorizing and dismantling Arab-Palestinian society in Israel, chiefly by empowering criminal organizations, the mass protest unfolding before our eyes is nothing short of historic,” he said.

“The wall of fear has fallen,” he added. “Tens of thousands of Arabs are rising up in a righteous and unprecedented struggle against violence, organized crime, and the government forces that enable them.”



**Members of the Arab community in Israel protest against the violence in their community, in Sakhnin, northern Israel, January 22, 2026. (credit: MICHAEL GILADI/FLASH90)**

"Thousands of Jews are standing alongside them, turning this struggle into a powerful, shared fight filled with determination and hope," Cassif told the *Post*.

### 'A state of emergency'

Hadash-Tal Party leader MK Ayman Odeh called violent crime in the Arab sector "a state of emergency" as he took part in the protest.

"We decided to disrupt traffic and our daily routine. Why are we doing this? Because we understand that if we do not fight crime now, the time will come when there will be a thousand people killed each year."

"Our demands are clear. We want to live in a society without weapons and without organized crime groups. We want to live," he said.

The convoy is expected to arrive in Jerusalem at around 3:00 p.m., after organizers said police attempted to disperse vehicles, creating delays

and traffic jams. A press conference is scheduled to be held outside the government buildings near the Knesset and Prime Minister's Office.

### Arab sector murder rate skyrockets in 2026

The death toll in Israel's Arab sector has risen to at least 36 since the start of 2026.

Several protests were held nationwide throughout January, calling for the Israeli government and security establishment to assert control over deadly organized crime.

The surge in violent crime is attributed to organized crime groups fighting turf battles and attempting to eliminate rivals. Arab criminal organizations have been involved in extortion, money laundering, and trafficking in weapons, drugs, and women.

Critics argue the crime wave has worsened since [Itamar Ben-Gvir](#), a far-right politician, became national security minister in 2022.

Ben-Gvir defended the police's work combating crime during a Sunday morning KAN Reshet Bet interview ahead of the protest.

"There is 20% less murder in the Jewish sector, let's put that on the table. 60% fewer murders of Jewish women, and 20% fewer car thefts," Ben-Gvir said.

When asked about the spike in crime in the Arab sector, he responded: "I don't work only for the Arabs."

"There's no doubt the phenomenon is serious, and there's no doubt we want to fight it, let there be no misunderstanding," Ben-Gvir continued.

He said that the Arab crime violence was "the product of 40 years of neglect. Weapons are everywhere, and an attorney general who doesn't care."

Ahead of the [protest](#), organizers said, "Enough abandonment, enough crime. If our lives are not normal, the life of the state will not be normal."

Tens of thousands of protesters marched in a mass demonstration against the rising crime in the Arab sector through the northern city of Sakhnin last month.

Former Knesset member and current chairman of the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel, Dr. Jamal Zahalka, is expected to meet with the mayor of [Sakhnin](#), Mazen Ghnaim, according to a Sunday *Walla* report.

The two will reportedly deliver a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the issue of Arab crime before he leaves for Washington this week.

*Pesach Benson/TPS contributed to this report.*

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/crime-in-israel/article-885898>



# Why Hezbollah's internal changes may signal deeper trouble - analysis

A report over the weekend indicated that Hezbollah may have accepted the "resignation" of one of its officials named Wafiq Safa.

By [SETH J. FRANTZMAN](#) FEBRUARY 8, 2026 13:13 Updated: FEBRUARY 8, 2026 16:52



Hezbollah supporters attend a ceremony held by Hezbollah to commemorate the first anniversary of their late leader Hassan Nasrallah's killing by Israel, on the outskirts of Beirut, Lebanon, September 27, 2025 (photo credit: REUTERS/MOHAMED AZAKIR)

**Hezbollah is facing increasing airstrikes as Israel continues to target its operatives in Lebanon. The terrorist group is also cut off from easy rearmament, because Syria is now controlled by a government that opposes it.**

**As such, Hezbollah may face a rocky road ahead. In its favor, however, is that the Lebanese government still**

**refuses to confront or disarm it.**

Hezbollah may have accepted the "resignation" of one of its officials, according to a report over the weekend.

"Lebanon's Hezbollah accepted the resignation of senior security official [Wafiq Safa](#) on Friday, the first time an official of his rank has stepped down," Reuters reported.

"Safa, who heads Hezbollah's liaison and coordination unit responsible for working with Lebanese security agencies, survived an Israeli assassination attempt in October 2024," the report said.

Hezbollah attributed the resignation to "internal restructuring," Reuters reported, adding that Hezbollah's "southern commander Hussein Abdullah was appointed to replace Safa."

The *Associated Press* reported similar details. Its report said Hezbollah "replaced a top security official who was in charge of coordination with Lebanon's security agencies after he told the group's leadership that he wants to step down, two officials with the group who were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter said Friday."



Hezbollah supporters hold images of late Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, and Palestinian and other flags at a ceremony held by Hezbollah to commemorate the first anniversary of Nasrallah's killing by Israel, on the outskirts of Beirut, Lebanon (credit: REUTERS/MOHAMED AZAKIR)

"Wafiq Safa had headed Hezbollah's Liaison and Coordination Unit for decades, and it was not immediately clear what his new job within the Iran-backed group is going to be," the report said, adding that Hezbollah said he was replaced by "Hussein Abdullah, who is not publicly known."

Overall, the reports portray Hezbollah as having undergone some internal changes. Some of these affect the liaison and coordination unit. Whether this matters is unclear.

It is also unclear what ramifications it may have. Is Hezbollah concerned that its liaison with the government is not going as planned?

Hezbollah has not been disarmed, which appears to be its main priority at the moment.

## Reconstruction in two southern Lebanese villages

The news from Hezbollah was released as Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam went to southern Lebanon and discussed reconstruction projects in two villages, Yarine and Tayr Harfa. The goal is to repair the destruction from the war.

The government is now trying to move forward with these efforts. Salam sees this as a "national cause."

Salam "outlined a recovery framework that includes cash assistance, free healthcare services, and guarantees for continued education for displaced students," China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. "The government will also focus on rebuilding public infrastructure and state-owned property for better conditions in the villages."

Salam's visit lasted two days. He began his trip in Tyre and then went to villages near the border, including Yarine. This village is across from the Israeli village of Arab al-Aramshe.

"Salam received a warm welcome in Yarin," English-language news site The New Arab reported. "Locals dressed him in an abaya, symbolizing high respect for a guest. 'I know the pain of Yarin as I know the pain of Zallutiyeh, Al-Bustan, Marwahin, and Al-Dhaira, and as I have seen the pain of your neighbor Tayr Harfa,' Salam said. 'These towns have suffered a real catastrophe, and some have endured years of neglect and marginalization... I also know that the attacks are ongoing and that many people live with daily worry, but I know something greater: I know the southerners, in all their diversity, and their attachment to their land. Your resilience is the priority, and the state will stand by you so you can remain and continue [to stay] on your land.'"

Salam said [Lebanon](#) still intends to continue with the disarmament of Hezbollah. Like most officials, however, he will not call out Hezbollah.

This has been a challenge with many Lebanese officials, who are willing to talk in general terms about "armed groups" but won't actually disarm Hezbollah.

Lebanon's army chief, for instance, was in Washington and Florida last week for key meetings with US Central Command and others. Nevertheless, he also appears to refuse to confront Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, Israel has increased attacks in Lebanon, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) recently reported.gtw

"Israel has carried out at least 50 airstrikes in Lebanon in January 2026 alone, double the number recorded in December, and the highest monthly figure since the ceasefire," the report said, adding that "the strikes not only create an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty for civilians but also represent a frequent violation of the ceasefire agreed between Israel and Lebanon in November 2024."

According to Maureen Philippon, NRC's country director in Lebanon, "We have seen a clear and dangerous surge in the sheer number of Israeli attacks on Lebanon in the first month of the year."

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-885959>

## **After uproar, UK prosecutors to seek retrial for Elbit attackers acquitted last week**

***Original verdict, which vindicated suspects for politically motivated burglary and violence, set a dangerous precedent, British lawmakers and Jewish organizations charge***

By [Zev Stub](#)

Today, 6:28 pm

After six British pro-Palestinian activists were [acquitted](#) last week of aggravated burglary over a 2024 raid on Israeli defense firm Elbit's factory, the Crown Prosecution Service said Saturday it will seek a retrial in the case, amid sharp criticism from lawmakers, police leaders and Jewish organizations. [Go to website for video rdb](#)

**The verdict cleared members of the now-banned group Palestine Action in an attack on Israeli defense company Elbit Systems' UK factory in Filton, near Bristol. Prosecutors said the raid caused roughly £1 million (\$1.4 million) in damage and left a police officer with a fractured spine after she was struck with a sledgehammer.**

**In announcing the move, the CPS said it was reviewing the legal basis for a retrial but did not specify which of the six defendants — known as the "Filton 6" — could face fresh proceedings.**

"Prosecutors are now considering the precise basis on which that retrial would proceed, including the form of the indictment, in accordance with CPS legal guidance," a CPS spokesperson said. The next hearing is scheduled for February 18.

The decision to seek a retrial followed a public backlash from British lawmakers and Jewish groups, charging that the verdict set a dangerous precedent.

After the jury gave its rulings last Wednesday, Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp wrote to Director of Public Prosecutions Stephen Parkinson urging him to seek a retrial, warning the verdict "risks giving the green light to mob violence in pursuit of a political objective."

Police leaders echoed those concerns. The Police Federation said it had "serious concerns" about officer safety, particularly after the jury failed to convict Samuel Corner of grievous bodily harm for allegedly striking a female officer with a sledgehammer as she knelt on the floor.

"UK policing is disappointed that the jury in this case could not reach verdicts in relation to an alleged serious assault against a police officer," said Chief Constable Gavin Stephens, chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council.



Jewish organizations also condemned the outcome. The Board of Deputies of British Jews [said](#) it was “concerned by the troubling verdicts acquitting members of Palestine Action,” warning against “perverse justifications being used as a shield for criminality.”

In an [op-ed](#) published in The Telegraph, former Jewish Chronicle editor Stephen Pollard charged that the acquittals “are telling British Jews they have no future here,” and said the decision may be “the single most significant case in the history of Anglo-Jewry since 1945.”



**Police officers monitor protesters holding a banner during a protest in support of the anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian group Palestine Action, in Trafalgar Square, central London, on June 23, 2025. (Henry Nicholls / AFP)**

At the trial, prosecutors said the six defendants were part of a larger group that used a white former prison van to ram the factory gates before smashing equipment inside. Prosecutor Deanna Heer told jurors the group intended “to cause serious property damage and to use or threaten unlawful violence against anyone who stood in their way, if necessary with the use of weapons.”

The defendants argued the attack was aimed at destroying weapons to halt what they described as Israel’s “genocide” in Gaza, following the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, massacre and Israel’s subsequent military campaign. They insisted they did not intend to harm people, despite [police bodycam footage](#) shown at trial depicting Corner striking an officer with a sledgehammer.



**Illustrative — Activists from the Extinction Rebellion North and Palestine Action groups protest at the gates of the Elbit Ferranti factory in Waterhead, Oldham, in north-west England on February 1, 2021. (Paul ELLIS / AFP)**

After more than 36 hours of deliberations, the jury was unable to reach a guilty verdict against any of the six defendants.

Charlotte Head, 29, Samuel Corner, 23, Leona Kamio, 30, Fatema Zainab Rajwani, 21, Zoe Rogers, 22, and Jordan Devlin, 31, were all acquitted of aggravated burglary.

Rajwani, Rogers and Devlin were found not guilty of violent disorder, while the jury did not reach a verdict on that charge against Head, Corner and Kamio.

The jury could also not reach a verdict on an additional charge of criminal damage.

Corner had denied causing grievous bodily harm with intent to hit a female police sergeant with a sledgehammer. He testified that he only swung the sledgehammer at the police officer to protect one of his friends. The jury was unable to agree on a verdict on that count.

Britain proscribed Palestine Action as a terrorist organization last July, almost a year after the Elbit incident took place, making it a crime to be a member. Judge Jeremy Johnson had told the jury the ban was irrelevant to the criminal trial and they must consider the case “on the evidence, not on the basis of what you or anyone else thinks about Palestine Action or the war in Gaza.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-uproar-uk-prosecutors-to-seek-retrial-for-elbit-attackers-acquitted-last-week/>

## Ukrainian press gang beats recruit to death – police

**Three enlistment officers were detained in the city of Dnepr after a civilian perished in their custody, local police have said**

8 Feb, 2026 18:57



**FILE PHOTO. © Getty Images / PA / Matthias Balk**

Three Ukrainian draft officers have been detained in the city of Dnepr for allegedly beating a 55-year-old civilian to death, local police have said.

The latest incident in the chaotic Ukrainian mobilization drive occurred early on Saturday, when the officers attempted to conscript their victim. The civilian sustained fatal head injuries after being violently detained, according to an initial police assessment.

The law enforcement said the suspects were placed into pre-trial custody over intentional grievous bodily harm, which caused the death of the victim. The police said they have seized the vehicle used by the enlistment officers, discovering traces of the victim's blood inside.

The compulsory conscription drive, aimed at replenishing Ukraine's military's ranks and compensate for combat losses, has grown increasingly chaotic and violent over the years. The campaign has become popularly known as 'busification,' a term describing the process of violently packing a recruit into minibuses, which are commonly used by conscription squads.

Draft officials have repeatedly been documented beating up recruits, illegally breaking into vehicles and homes, chasing their victims in the streets, and brawling with onlookers. Despite mounting evidence of the lawlessness of the process and numerous incriminating videos circulating online, the Ukrainian leadership has largely turned a blind eye to the abuse nature of the mobilization. Although Kiev had previously acknowledged certain "shortcomings" with the conscription drive, senior officials routinely dismiss such concerns as "Russian propaganda."

Late last year, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the Ukrainian authorities could launch a blanket mobilization in the coming months. She believes that Kiev seeks to draft a further 2 million people early this year. Such an extreme move, however, would "hardly help resolve the systemic issue of replenishing the Ukrainian army losses," she said at the time. Moscow estimates that the Ukrainian military lost nearly 500,000 servicemen last year alone.

## 'Rats are leaving the ship': Scott Bessent says U.S. Treasury has new goal as 'economic chaos' in Iran becomes 'crazy'

By [Joe Kovacs](#)

[February 8, 2026](#)



*U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent (Official White House photo by Daniel Torok)*

**As President Donald Trump is set to meet Wednesday with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss negotiations with Iran, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent says "the rats are leaving the ship" amid economic chaos in the Islamic Republic, and his office will focus on getting money back for the Iranian people that the regime has been wiring out "like crazy."**

**Appearing on "Sunday Morning Futures" with Maria Bartiromo on the Fox News Channel, Bessent slammed previous Democrat presidents for giving Iran large amounts of U.S. currency in recent years.**

"What doesn't work is handing the regime pallets of cash like we saw in Democratic administrations," Bessent said. "Last March, President Trump instructed me to use the authorities of Treasury to put maximum pressure on Iran."

"This is the sanctioning of oil sales, tracking down the money. And what we saw because of that, in December, one of the largest banks in Iran collapsed. The central bank had to bail them out and they ended up with massive inflation which has led to economic chaos.

"Their currency has collapsed. And I can tell you, Maria, what we are seeing, is the rats are leaving the ship. The Iranian regime is wiring out money like crazy. And what we are going to do at Treasury is we are going to get that money back for the Iranian people when there is a solution to this problem."

### **WATCH:**

Scott Bessent just called out the Democrats for handing the Iranian regime "pallets of cash."

He said President Trump authorized him to put MAXIMUM pressure on Iran — and because of that, banks are collapsing, their currency is in free fall, and the "rats are leaving the ship."... [pic.twitter.com/X3Ma54LBMf](https://pic.twitter.com/X3Ma54LBMf) — Overton (@overton\_news) [February 8, 2026](#)

Bessent also commented on the U.S. economy, saying, "Inflation is, in fact, coming down" at 2.1%, with "strong growth, stocks at a record high and the lowest crime rate in over 100 years."

"Democrats don't want to talk about that. They want to hoot and holler," Bessent said.

[@SecScottBessent](#): "Inflation down, strong growth, stocks at a record high, and the lowest [murder] rate in over 100 years — Democrats don't want to talk about that. They want to hoot and holler." [pic.twitter.com/sglSQScS5z](https://pic.twitter.com/sglSQScS5z)



— Rapid Response 47 (@RapidResponse47) [February 8, 2026](#)

Also appearing with Bartiromo was U.S. Sen. John Fetterman, D-Pa., a member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, who called the slaughter of Iranian citizens by the Islamic regime "heartbreaking."

"Their region just absolutely massacred thousands and thousands and thousands of their young people," Fetterman said. "I was the only Democrat that actually cheered and pushed to stroke their nuclear facilities last year and they were absolutely successful. And we can't ever allow Iran to acquire a nuclear bomb."

"Just a couple days ago on my socials, I put out I don't ... see any value in these kinds of negotiations, and Iran just declared saying, 'Hey absolutely. We're gonna continue to enrich uranium' and that's their goal. They want to go back and try to acquire a nuclear weapon. And that's why I would be a no on the Iranian Powers Act because the president should have the freedom to have another surgical strike to make sure they do not acquire those kinds of nuclear weapons."

U.S. Rep. Claudia Tenney, R-N.Y., who sits on the House Intelligence Committee, added she would like to see new oil sanctions on Iran.

"This is no time to offer lifelines to the regime," she told Bartiromo. "This is the time to enforce red lines."

<https://www.wnd.com/2026/02/rats-are-leaving-ship-scott-bessent-says-u/>

## OP ED

# The 'Doomsday Clock' is Running Out of Seconds

Sat, 7 Feb 2026 5:41 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



**"These scientists say the world is closer than ever to 'doomsday,'" blared the Washington Post. "Atomic scientists set 'Doomsday Clock' closer to midnight than ever," fussed Reuters. "Doomsday Clock hits record, nears midnight. What it means for Alabama," the Montgomery Advertiser advertised.**

**Every year, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists (who are not atomic scientists and don't have a bulletin) announce that the world is closer to destruction than ever as long as Trump is here.**

**After the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Bulletin (which back then at least had both a 'bulletin' and 'atomic scientists') set the 'Doomsday Clock' at 12 minutes to midnight. By 2020, the clock of doom had run out of**

**minutes and was down to seconds. Last year the fake clock ticked down to 89 seconds, and now it's down to 85. When it finally hits zero, Ed McMahon will return from the dead to tell us we've all won the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes award.**

That joke is not exactly a tangent because the official statement of doom was issued by the editor of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists [John Mecklin](#). Mecklin's branch of 'atomic science' is 'journalism' and he was the editor for such prestigious nuclear publications as Key West Magazine, High Country News where he authored such radioactive items as "Have Bee, Will Travel" and "Schooling, Fish."

At the top, the Bulletin cites Albert Einstein and Soviet spy J. Robert Oppenheimer as its founders, but it's being written by a guy whose contribution to deeply insightful scientific reporting was stuff like "in Hollywood science fiction, genetic modification leads to monsters with extensible jaws and rampaging epidemics that threaten mankind's existence."

Not exactly 'an Einstein'.

But as the publication admits, well down below in the fine print, "at our core, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists is a media organization." But the 'Bulletin of the Media Hacks' doesn't impress people as much as the 'Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' and so the doomsday show must go on. And the media helpfully doesn't report any of these minor details so as not to disillusion those members of the public who still believe in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Clock.

"Leaders of the United States, Russia, and China greatly vary in their autocratic leanings, but they all have approaches to international relations that favor grandiosity and competition over diplomacy and cooperation," the

former Key West Magazine/Atomic Scientist magazine editor complains.

China harvests organs from political prisoners, Russia invaded Ukraine and, according to the leading nuclear expert in Key West Magazine, “the Trump administration has essentially declared war on renewable energy and sensible climate policies, relentlessly gutting national efforts to combat climate change.” Who can tell the difference between gutting political prisoners and ‘gutting’ useless wind turbines to fight global warming.

The actual Doomsday Clock (or perhaps DOOMSDAY CLOCK to better emphasize its doomed qualities) is supposed to be set by the Bulletin’s ‘Science and Security Board’ whose executive chair is prominent nuclear scientist Gov. Jerry Brown. While the former governor, who inherited the job from his crooked dad, doesn’t have a background in nuclear science, he did more damage to California than any nuclear bomb could have. But if that’s the criteria for serving on the Science Board of the Atomic Scientists, Gov. Gavin Newsom should be the executive chair for having exceeded Brown in ‘nuking’ California’s communities in every respect.

Then there’s Alexandra Bell, the president and CEO of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and if you guessed that ‘Sandy’ is as much of a nuclear scientist as you and me (perhaps you’re a nuclear scientist, if you’re a nuclear scientist, please disregard this, if you’re not a nuclear scientist, please consider going to work for the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists), then you’re remarkably insightful or perhaps you just read the preceding nine paragraphs where that same point was made with the subtlety of a little boy meeting a Japanese city in the summer of ’45.

Alexandra Bell has a degree in ‘International Affairs’ from the New School which is an old leftist school, and passed through various leftist groups like the Center for American Progress and the Ploughshares Fund, a group lobbying for Iran to be able to get nukes, before being adopted by the Obama administration as an expert on nuclear weapons, and by the Biden administration during its brief tenure of senile appeasement, and then got a spot running the Bulletin.

According to her bio, Sandy has been “quoted or published in The Washington Post, The New York Times” as well as Vox, Politico, both the Raleigh News and Observer, as well as Time, and Bustle and the Huffington Post. (Bustle is a women’s magazine that offers “beauty tips”, “celebrity gossip” and politics.) So you know she knows a lot about nuclear doomsday.

“The Doomsday Clock’s message cannot be clearer. Catastrophic risks are on the rise, cooperation is on the decline, and we are running out of time,” Alexandra Bell warned while invoking the doomed clock. “Every time we’ve been able to turn back the hands of the clock, it’s been because we have scientists and experts working to find solutions.”

Or, you know, because it’s a fake clock and anyone with access to it can set its hands to anything they want. Alexandra Bell and John Mecklin are living proof of that. You don’t need scientists or experts. Give me 90 seconds with the clock and I can set it to 3 in the morning.

(Doomsday note: this would require flipping the clock as it’s broken and does not have a 3 A.M. or really any hours before 9 P.M. and really isn’t good for anything except press releases.)

But speaking of broken things, other members of the science board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists who were former Obama and Biden officials include Jon B. Wolfsthal, who worked as an arms control director for Obama, Jill Hruby, Biden’s Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security, and Steve Fetter, who had a few postings in the Obama White House.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has become the Bulletin of Disgruntled Obama Officials.

Still the Doomsday Clock has ticked as Jon Wolfsthal, who has a BA in political science and a position as the ‘director of global risk’ at the Federation of American Scientists (which is rapidly becoming as ‘scientific’ as the Bulletin), Steve Fetter, who at least has a PhD, and Asha George, a “public health security expert who spent four years a congressional staff member with the House Committee on Homeland Security”, revealed the current position of the clock.

They all wore somber expressions. Asha wore a whole lot of jewelry and Steve didn’t even bother putting on a tie. Perhaps Bustle should have been brought in to consult on fashion.

The good news though is that we’re 85 seconds to midnight depending on your time zone. Since the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists never once correctly predicted a major threat (it stopped even bothering to set the clock before 9/11, and set the clock well ahead just before the Gulf of Tonkin Incident), we can be confident that we’re safer the further the clock ticks.

But if the Bulletin ever sets back the clock to 9:30 PM, then it’s time to be very afraid.



***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](mailto: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