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Trump claims 'peace in Middle East, tremendous progress made in Gaza' after meeting with Netanyahu

In a later statement, US President Donald Trump said that negotiations with Iran will continue • Earlier on Wednesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu officially joined Gazan Board of Peace

. By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) FEBRUARY 11, 2026 17:31 Updated: FEBRUARY 11, 2026 21:03

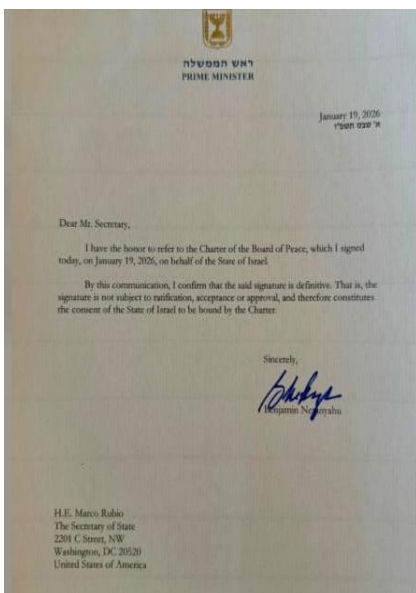
PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu officially joins US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace, February 11, 2026 (credit: Omer Miron/GPO) . [Go to website for video rdb](#)

US President Donald Trump claimed that there is peace in the Middle East in a Wednesday post to Truth Social following his meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding their respective countries' red lines on nuclear talks with Iran.

According to Israeli media, also present in the meeting are: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner, US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, Israel's ambassador to the US Yechiel Leiter, Military Secretary Maj.-Gen. Roman Gofman, acting director of the National Security Council Gil Reich, Michael Eisenberg, Ziv Agmon, and advisor Ofir Falk.

This came after Netanyahu officially joined Trump's Gaza Board of Peace during a meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the Blair House in Washington on Wednesday.

On January 19, Netanyahu signed a letter of agreement to "refer to the Charter of the Board of Peace... on behalf of the State of Israel."



"By this communication, I confirm that the said signature is definitive," the letter read, adding that it constitutes "the consent of the State of Israel to be bound by the Charter."

Letter signed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on January 19, agreeing to the charter of Gaza's Board of Peace, obtained on February 11, 2026. (credit: GPO/Courtesy via Amichai Stein)

Netanyahu to present Trump with 'principles' for Iran talks

"I will present Trump with principles for negotiations with Iran that are important not only to Israel but to everyone who wants peace and security," Netanyahu said while boarding Wing of Zion, Israel's state aircraft, on Tuesday.

"In my opinion, these are important principles for everyone who wants peace and security in the Middle East," Netanyahu said.

After landing in the US, Netanyahu [met with US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner](#) at Blair House, where the three discussed various regional issues.

During the meeting, Witkoff and Kushner also updated Netanyahu on the first round of talks held with Iran last Friday.

Amichai Stein contributed to this report. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/benjamin-netanyahu/article-886355>

IDF deploys forces against trucks seen along Egyptian border for second time in 24 hours - report

In an afternoon statement, the Eshkol Regional Council noted that several gatherings of this type along the Egyptian side of the border have been reported in recent days. By [MIRIAM SELA-EITAM](#) FEBRUARY 11, 2026 17:48 Updated: FEBRUARY 11, 2026 21:14



White pickup trucks spotted on the Egyptian side of the Israel-Egypt border, February 11, 2026. (photo credit: SCREENSHOT/X)

The IDF will not launch an offensive against the white pickup trucks spotted approximately 100 meters from the Israel-Egypt border, a report said on Wednesday.

This was the second incident of pickup trucks being spotted along that border in 24 hours. According to Ynet, IDF observers were monitoring the situation, and the Egyptian army was “at the scene and working to remove the residents in these trucks.”

The report came after public broadcaster KAN reported that the IDF would carry out “measured fire” against the trucks, further noting that it had deployed [tanks](#), an attack helicopter, and drones to the area.

IDF claims border is peaceful, gatherings 'do not pose security threat'

The Eshkol Regional Council said several gatherings of this type along the Egyptian side of the border have been reported in recent days and that it has been in continuous contact with the military.

The council added that the [IDF](#) said the border is “peaceful” and the gatherings do not pose a security threat.

Despite this, the council affirmed that it requested both military and government involvement to “move the gatherings away from the border and increase vigilance in the area.” <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-886354>

Qatar is a ‘problem-maker,’ not peace mediator, Doha opposition leader tells ‘Post’

Khalid Al-Hail told the ‘Post’ that Qatar’s National Democratic Party would see Doha join the Abraham

Accords. By [DANIELLE GREYMAN-KENNARD](#) FEBRUARY 11, 2026 13:38 Updated: FEBRUARY 11, 2026 17:54



US President Donald Trump is escorted by Qatar’s Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani towards Air Force One, as he departs Al Udeid Air Base, en-route to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in Doha, Qatar, May 15, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/BRIAN SNYDER)

“Qatar is not a peaceful mediator, Qatar is a problem maker,” the president of Qatar’s National Democratic Party, Khalid al-Hail, told The Jerusalem Post on Tuesday, adding that Doha has “created, supported, [and] helped the terrorist organizations” it now purports to arbitrate.

Hail, who currently resides in the United Kingdom, having been exiled from the Gulf state in 2015, warned that Qatar was a “threat” to Israel, even while its vast media empire “pushes the narrative of a good mediator.”

Speaking specifically about Ali al-Thawadi’s role on the US-backed Board of Peace, which has been tasked with overseeing the peacekeeping efforts in Gaza, Hail said he couldn’t understand how such a man could be trusted.

Claiming Thwadi had “proven that he has been dealing with hackers and criminals,” Hail made it clear that he didn’t think such a person was appropriate for the board, especially given The Sunday Times’ 2018 report that Thwadi was aware of the “poison” spread against other countries who were then bidding to host the 2022 World Cup.

“We all know what he’s been doing with Mohammed bin Hamad [al-Thani], the brother of Sheikh Tamim [bin Hamad al-Thani] – and all of the crimes they’ve committed before – to be a peacemaker. It’s a joke. It is not acceptable, and I don’t think the Trump administration should accept such people to be part of the peace council.”



US President Donald Trump and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani attend a world leaders' summit on ending the Gaza war, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, late last year. (credit: REUTERS/Suzanne Plunkett/Pool)

Hail said that Qatar should not be playing the role of peace mediator in any part of the region “because at the same time [that Qatar is] part of the Peace Council, they are pushing, sponsoring, and supporting Hamas on its own media.”

Antisemitism spread also Doha's guilt

Beyond spreading Hamas propaganda, much of the antisemitism crisis spreading through the United States and Europe was part of Doha's influence campaign, he warned.

“You’ve seen a lot of antisemitism now in the world, and a lot of organizations that are actually pushing that narrative are being sponsored and supported by Qatar,” Hail claimed.

With the influence of the Qatar National Democratic Party, Hail claimed that Doha would join the Abraham Accords, a move that would be widely accepted and celebrated among the country's citizens.

Hail said that the warm welcome that Shimon Peres received during his two-day visit to Qatar in 1996, when he was Israel's prime minister, was proof that “the people of Qatar, the founder families, will have absolutely no problem in having a normal relationship with Israel.” He added that he looked forward to Doha one day having its own Israeli embassy.

Turning his attention to internal politics and shaming the “one man show” in Doha's leadership style, Hail criticized the curated narrative that there was no opposition to Thani's reign.

The discretionary nature of Qatar's citizenship policies, which human rights organizations have repeatedly decried for its role in denying the rights of the Baha'i people and other religious minorities, has meant that Qatar can import supporters, Hail said. He added that the original Qatari people “are one day going to have a revolution against the government of Qatar.”

Citing the 2021 election, in which activists received life sentences – and the 2005 nationality law, which barred candidates from certain ethnic groups from running or voting – Hail said Qatar's control of the media allowed it to “put to bed” valid criticism.

“The Government of Qatar doesn't believe in its own people. They don't trust Qatari nationals,” Hail noted, saying that this was why many ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Baha'i, were barred from the military despite compulsory national service.

Hail was arrested in 2014, after he flew back to Doha at the “direct request” of the emir, for allegedly not following the regime's instructions, trying to change the regime in Qatar, and leaking recordings to the Saudis. He has claimed that he was held and tortured for 22 days before escaping to Saudi Arabia.

“He lied to me,” Hail recalled, adding that he had upset Thani by saying that 6,200 companies were going to go bankrupt in Qatar because of the allocation of projects in Doha.

He emphasized that the Qatari leadership “only put a few Qatari people around them, and the rest are all foreign nationals who have been paid to protect them. And if you trust your own people, you will let your own people protect you and be part of your military to help you. And that's what they fear for the future.”

Hail reported, “So now the Qatar National Democratic Party is preparing a government in exile, and we will be putting a lot of pressure on the Government of Qatar, and we are very serious this time [about] actually not only reforming the regime, but changing the regime of Qatar.”

He continued, “Thani has a saying: ‘Anyone open his mouth to criticize the Qatar regime, just bottle them.’ That's exactly what he's been saying. So he's trying to buy his influence and buy the silence of people. There are a lot of weak people, but there are a lot of good people as well. That's why the fight is going on.”

After joking about the millions Thani spent to have his photo placed around the country in an effort to farm “false love” from the people, Hail said that “Thani has proven that he is a puppet and he cannot do anything to the region.”

Insisting that the West must begin sanctioning Doha to bring about the fall of the regime, Hail said that the emir “put our country and our people at risk because they supported terrorist organizations like Hamas, like Muslim Brotherhood, like Taliban, like al-Qaeda, and they don't listen to our people.

“They want to show the world that all [of] Qatar is accepting what they are doing, which is wrong... People [must] understand and believe that the Qatari opposition has a strong presence in Qatar, and a lot of people are banned from traveling from Doha because they are part of the opposition in Qatar.”

"It's not like I want my country to be sanctioned..." Hail continued, speaking on the necessity of such a step.

"I would love to [be in] control [of] the money of my people, and I would love my people to understand that someone should protect their wealth.

"The absolute monarchy system means they [Thani] could wake up one morning and say, 'Okay, give \$500 million to Hamas,'" and no one would have the power to "object to such behavior."

Hail said he aspired to see the country as a "constitutional monarchy system run by the founder families of Qatar, not only the al-Thani regime, because we need to participate and to make people participate in the power."

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-886310>

UN's Guterres accused of congratulating Iran regime on anniversary of Islamic Revolution

According to Iran's state outlet, Guterres extended congratulations to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, describing the day as an opportunity to reflect on the country's path.



UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Antonio Guterres smiles while speaking with Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer inside 10 Downing Street in central London, Britain, January 16, 2026. (photo credit: HENRY NICHOLLS/Pool via REUTERS)ByTZVI JASPERFEBRUARY 11, 2026 18:44

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is alleged to have sent a letter of congratulations to the Iranian regime on the Wednesday anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, according to a report from Iran's IRNA.

According to the state outlet, Guterres extended congratulations to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian,

describing the day as an opportunity to reflect on the country's path, role, and contributions to the international community.

He also urged global cooperation to advance peace and security and uphold human rights.

UN Watch demanded that Guterres release the full text of his letter, stating that "the world deserves transparency on this matter."

"If the reports are authentic, we urge you to explain how congratulating a regime responsible for ongoing massacres serves the cause of peace and justice," a letter written by UN Watch to Guterres read.

Abbas Araghchi on list of invitees to speak at UN

The UN Watch also addressed the alleged scheduling of Iranian Foreign Minister [Abbas Araghchi](#) to speak before the UN Human Rights Council in two weeks.

Araghchi has been implicated in crimes against humanity, along with other members of the Iranian regime.

The letter called for Araghchi's invitation to address the UN be reversed, and threatened to urge Swiss authorities to arrest him if he did arrive in [Geneva](#).

"The UN must not provide a stage for those who perpetrate atrocities against their own people and threaten global peace," the letter concluded. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-886362>

Trump says he 'insisted' to Netanyahu that Iran talks go on, as PM stresses 'security needs'

Two leaders end highly anticipated DC meeting, held amid negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, with no major announcements or statements to the press; pair also discuss Gaza

By [Jacob Magid](#), [Lazar Berman](#)

and [Agencies](#) 11 February 2026, 11:47 pm



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) meets US President Donald Trump at the White House, February 11, 2026. (Avi Ohayon/ GPO)

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump met privately with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House on Wednesday, and later said he had insisted to the Israeli leader that American negotiations with Iran continue.

Netanyahu said following the meeting that he had stressed Israel's security needs. The meeting lasted three hours, but was

not followed by public statements or a press conference, with both Trump and Netanyahu preferring to put out brief statements.

The highly anticipated meeting, the leaders' seventh since Trump returned to office last year, came at a tense time in the Middle East, as the US president has threatened to attack Iran over its brutal repression of anti-regime protests last month. Iran has said it would strike Israel and US targets in response.

The US has built up forces in the Middle East, and is readying to send more, but it has also embarked on negotiations with Iran over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program. Those talks were expected to be the focus of the meeting.

But despite the charged lead-up, the event itself was relatively muted. Unlike other times they have met, the two leaders did not speak to press, take questions, or make any bombshell announcements. Netanyahu did not enter the White House via the West Wing entrance where reporters were waiting, but took the south entrance.

"It was a very good meeting, the tremendous relationship between our two Countries continues," Trump posted afterward on social media. "There was nothing definitive reached other than I insisted that negotiations with Iran continue to see whether or not a Deal can be consummated."

He added, "If it can, I let the Prime Minister know that will be a preference. If it cannot, we will just have to see what the outcome will be."

In his own short readout after the meeting, Netanyahu said the two sides "addressed negotiations with Iran, Gaza, and regional developments."

"The prime minister emphasized Israel's security needs in the context of the negotiations, and the two agreed to maintain close coordination and ongoing communication," said the Prime Minister's Office.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) meets US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington and joins the Board of Peace on February 11, 2025. (Avi Ohayon/GPO)

Netanyahu had originally planned to travel to Washington next week, but flew to Wednesday's flash meeting given the sky-high regional tensions. Trump has threatened to attack Iran over its protest crackdown, which rights groups estimate may have killed tens of thousands, and boasted of bringing a US "armada" to the region.

Against that backdrop, the US opened talks with Iran, with the first round taking place last weekend in Oman, and a second round planned soon. Trump has reportedly said that coming to an

agreement on Tehran's nuclear program is a "no-brainer," and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said earlier this week that negotiations would need to also address Iran's missiles, its proxy groups, and its treatment of its own population. Trump also said the talks should cover the missile program.

Despite Trump's insistence that he was prioritizing talks, the Wall Street Journal [reported on Wednesday](#) that the US Defense Department ordered a second carrier strike group to deploy to the Middle East.

Iran has said it is prepared to discuss curbs on its nuclear program in exchange for lifting sanctions, but it has ruled out linking the issue to missiles and it has insisted on the right to enrich uranium.

"The Islamic Republic's missile capabilities are non-negotiable," Ali Shamkhani, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, said on Wednesday.



In a handout image, an EA-18G Growler launches from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Indian Ocean on January 23, 2026. (Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Daniel Kimmelman/US Navy via AP)

In his social media post following the meeting with Netanyahu, Trump referred to negotiations held last year between the US and Iran, which ended shortly before the US bombed Iranian nuclear facilities at the end of the 12-day Israel-Iran war in June.

"Last time Iran decided that they were better off not making a deal, they were hit with Midnight Hammer — that did not work

well for them," he wrote. "Hopefully this time they will be more reasonable and responsible."

For his part, US Vice President JD Vance indicated that the US is not planning to overthrow the Iranian

regime, and is focused on preventing it from obtaining nuclear weapons.

Asked by reporters if he wanted to see regime change in Iran, Vance replied, “If the Iranian people want to overthrow the regime, that’s up to the Iranian people. What we’re focused on right now is the fact that Iran can’t have a nuclear weapon.”

The US had recently appeared to be open to the idea of regime change in Iran, with Trump calling on protesters to “take over” government institutions, given the mass protests there, and reportedly asking aides for a strike plan that could help spur the toppling of the government in Tehran.

Vance also alluded to military action.

“The president has told his entire senior team that we should be trying to cut a deal that ensures the



Iranians don’t have a nuclear weapon,” Vance said. “But if we can’t cut that deal, then there’s another option on the table. The president is going to continue to preserve his options.”

Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani in an interview, October 2025. (YouTube screenshot)

Ahead of Wednesday’s meeting, Netanyahu said he would present Israel’s “principles” on the US-Iran talks. Israel is wary of a narrow deal on Iran’s nuclear program that does not put an end to the regime’s uranium enrichment, require the moving overseas of its existing near-weapons-grade uranium, halt its ballistic missile development, and end its support for proxy terror groups, which have attacked Israel.

Netanyahu met with Rubio prior to the meeting, and also met with top White House advisers Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. According to Netanyahu’s office, Witkoff and Kushner provided “an update on the first round of talks they held with Iran last Friday.”

The meeting with Trump, according to a White House official, also included Rubio, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Witkoff, and Kushner.

According to a Channel 12 report aired as the meeting was taking place, it aimed to establish a joint course of action should Washington fail to reach an agreement with Iran.

The report, which cited US and Israeli officials, said Washington is skeptical that a deal with Iran can be reached — even one focused solely on Iran’s nuclear program, as opposed to one addressing missiles as well, a senior US official told the network. The official was said to add that if Israel and the US were to agree on a joint strike in the absence of a deal, it would be much more effective if done together.

The political and security establishments in Israel do not expect a deal to emerge, the report added, saying that Netanyahu seeks to preserve Israel’s freedom of action surrounding Tehran, regardless of whether a deal is reached.



A boy looks at tents sheltering Palestinians displaced by conflict pitched near destroyed and heavily damaged buildings in the Muqusi area of Gaza City on February 7, 2026. (Omar AL-QATTAA / AFP)

Trump hails progress in Gaza

Also on the agenda was Gaza, with Trump looking to push ahead with the ceasefire agreement he helped broker that took effect in October. Progress on his 20-point plan to end the war and rebuild the war-torn enclave has stalled, with major gaps over steps such as Hamas disarming as Israeli troops withdraw in phases.

“We discussed the tremendous progress being made in Gaza, and the Region in general,” Trump wrote after the

meeting.

Trump plans to hold the first meeting next week of his Board of Peace, which was initially framed to oversee future steps of the Gaza ceasefire plan but has taken shape with Trump’s ambitions of resolving other global crises. Netanyahu signed on to the body in his meeting with Rubio.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meets at Blair House in Washington with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and their delegations, February 11, 2026. (Avi Ohayon / GPO)

The day before the meeting, Trump [stressed to the Axios news site](#) that he opposes any Israeli move toward annexing the West Bank, declaring, "I am against annexation."

He had previously ruled out Israel annexing the West Bank, despite calls from some of Netanyahu's coalition partners to do so.

"We have enough things to think about now," Trump said. "We don't need to be dealing with the West Bank."

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-says-he-insisted-to-](https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-says-he-insisted-to-netanyahu-that-iran-talks-go-on-as-pm-stresses-security-needs/)

[netanyahu-that-iran-talks-go-on-as-pm-stresses-security-needs/](#)

Iran prepares for US talks, offers nuclear guarantees with conditions

According to Araghchi, Tehran last seach initiative is how Iran is preparing for the next round of talks with the US, even as it closely watches US moves.

By [SETH J. FRANTZMAN](#) FEBRUARY 11, 2026 14:29 Updated: FEBRUARY 11, 2026 17:45



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi gives a statement at the Ritz Hotel as he meets Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, on January 30, 2026 in Istanbul, Turkey. (photo credit: Burak Kara/Getty Images)

Tehran is looking for a "practical proposal to guarantee the absence of nuclear weapons while safeguarding its peaceful nuclear rights," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Russian channel RT.

This is how Iran is preparing for the next round of talks with the US, even as Tehran watches Washington's moves closely.

For instance, the Islamic Republic knows that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is in Washington for talks with US President Donald Trump. It also saw that US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner recently visited the US carrier strike force that is not far from the coast of Iran. In addition, reports say the US could send another carrier to the region.

Meanwhile, US Vice President JD Vance is in Azerbaijan, north of Iran, and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is expected to visit several European countries.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at a ceremonial Knesset plenum session to mark the establishment of Israel's parliament. February 2, 2026. (credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)

Iran seeks nuclear rights guarantees in US talks

Iran's IRNA reported that "speaking in an interview with RT on Tuesday, Araghchi said Iran is prepared to offer guarantees that it will not pursue nuclear weapons, and at the same time, the other side needs to guarantee Iran's right to peaceful nuclear technology for electricity generation, medicine production, agriculture, and other uses." He is acting flexible, saying a deal is doable and achievable.

"He said Iran is fully committed to a diplomatic settlement with the US while simultaneously bracing for the possibility of a renewed war."

Araghchi also said, "There is no solution but a diplomatic solution" to the nuclear issue, asserting that technology and progress cannot be destroyed through bombings and military threats. "We still do not have full trust in Americans," he said. "We were in the middle of negotiations last June when they decided to attack us. That was a very bad experience for us."

Meanwhile, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani met with Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha on Wednesday. This is another avenue Iran is pursuing. Larijani has acted as a kind of problem solver recently, going to several countries as Iran faces pressure.

"The meeting took place at the Amiri Diwan palace on Wednesday during the second leg of Larijani's regional tour, aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and expanding dialogue on regional and international developments," IRNA said. Qatar is a major non-NATO ally of the US. It also has amicable ties with Iran.

Iran's state media added, "The visit comes as part of a series of intensive diplomatic engagements by the Iranian official with regional leaders in recent days, focusing on enhancing cooperation and consultation on shared

issues. Larijani, who also serves as an adviser to the leader of the Islamic Revolution, had earlier visited Muscat, where he held talks with senior Omani officials, including Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and the country's foreign minister, Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi."

Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi has spoken about the talks he held with Larijani in Muscat. Al Busaidi wrote on X/Twitter about the "productive meeting with Iran's National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani. We discussed recent developments, especially the Iran-US talks. Regional peace and security is our priority, and we urge restraint and wise compromise."

Meanwhile, in Hungary, Iran's envoy gave a speech about the 47th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

During what Iran described as a grand ceremony held at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Budapest, Ambassador Morteza Moradian stated, "Today marks 47 years since the great revolution of the Iranian people – a revolution that was the manifestation of a nation's will relying on faith, historical identity, and the desire for independence. Through their participation in the millions, they brought about the change of a regime that prioritized foreign interests over the will of the people."

He also indicated Iran is committed to diplomacy. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is also heading to Slovakia and Hungary. This may be why Iran spotlighted the speech in Hungary, which is also in the midst of an election cycle. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-886314>

After shooting down Iranian ballistic missile in June, David's Sling carries out new drills

Both the Defense Ministry and David Sling manufacturer, Rafael, refused to discuss the exact scenarios due to information security considerations.



By YONAH JEREMY BOB FEBRUARY 11, 2026 12:53 Updated:
FEBRUARY 11, 2026 17:51

A David's Sling interceptor launching during the Israel-Hamas war; illustrative. (photo credit: Instagram/Israel Air Force)

In the aftermath of the David's Sling aerial defense system shooting down an Iranian ballistic missile in June 2025, the Defense Ministry announced new successful shoot-down drills on Wednesday.

Both the Defense Ministry and Rafael, the David's Sling manufacturer, refused to discuss the exact scenarios due to information security considerations.

But sources told The Jerusalem Post that the scenarios that David's Sling addressed during the drill were more diverse than past scenarios.

Part of what was remarkable about David's Sling shooting down an Iranian ballistic missile in June 2025 was that, traditionally, its range had been framed as focused on threats from 40 to 300 km. out, not threats from 1,500 km. out like Iranian ballistic missiles.



The drill took place in the shadow of a possible American attack on [Iran](#), which could lead to the Islamic Republic lashing out with its ballistic missiles at Israel.

David's Sling interceptor (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

According to [Rafael's](#) website, David's Sling combines "innovative steering control, multi-propulsion, and an advanced seeker; it defeats high-volume asymmetric threats, including tactical ballistic missiles and large-caliber rockets."

Using David's Sling to shoot down ballistic missiles takes some of the pressure and heavy cost off of the Arrow 3, which is produced by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) but is far more expensive.

A statement by the ministry on Wednesday said, "The test series was built on operational lessons learned from recent combat and included a wide range of challenging scenarios simulating existing and emerging threats. The success of these tests marks another significant technological and operational leap in the system's upgrade, following its proven track record of high operational performance during the war,

including successful interceptions that saved lives and prevented substantial damage.”

Israel and Iran learn aerial battle and defense tactics from each other

IDF officials have told the *Post* that both Israel and Iran learned new aerial battle and defense tactics from watching each other’s moves during two massive exchanges of fire in 2024 and the war in June 2025.

Originally developed as Israel’s mid-tier defense to shoot down cruise missiles that fly in a more line-drive fashion – as opposed to rockets, which fly in a predictable arch and are shot down by the Iron Dome – over time David’s Sling has evolved to shoot down any of the aerial threats that Israel faces, whether short, medium, or long range.

David’s Sling has now been in operational use for years and was used throughout the 2023-2025 Israel-Hamas War, including to defend against threats from Iran and [Hezbollah](#).

The multi-mission radar for David’s Sling is developed by Elta, a subsidiary of the IAI, and the command center is developed by Elbit Systems.

Defense Ministry Missile Defense Director Moshe Patel stated, “During the war, and particularly during Operation Rising Lion, IMDO [Israeli Missile Defense Organization] personnel implemented real-time modifications and adaptations that dramatically enhanced the capabilities of the IAF [Israel Air Force] air & missile defense systems, with David’s Sling in particular.

“As part of our planned development programs, we conducted an extensive test series to assess future capabilities and the ability to contend with multiple, diverse threats. The series concluded with complete success, enabling a significant upgrade to the State of Israel’s air and missile defense architecture,” he said.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-886307>

Iranian officials use Beirut airport to smuggle millions to Hezbollah - report

“The cash shipments come as Hezbollah faces acute financial strain,” Iran International said, adding that the terror group has reportedly been “struggling” to pay its operatives.

By MIRIAM SELA-EITAM FEBRUARY 11, 2026 16:59 Updated: FEBRUARY 11, 2026 19:26



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)

Six Iranian diplomats smuggled suitcases of cash on commercial flights to Lebanon, to help [Hezbollah](#) rebuild its financial and operational ability, Iran International reported on Wednesday, citing newly obtained information.

According to Iran International, the diplomats include: former Iranian ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian-Fard; former Iranian consul-general in

Pakistan Mohammad Reza Shirkhodaei; his brother, Hamidreza; Reza Nedaei; Abbas Asgari; and former employee of the Iranian embassy in Canada, Amir-Hamzeh Shiranirad.

Taherian-Fard, who accompanied Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on a flight to Beirut in January, allegedly brought a cash-filled suitcase with him, “relying on diplomatic immunity to avoid airport inspection.”

Iran International further reported that Ali Larijani, an adviser to Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had done a similar act in October, smuggling “hundreds of millions of dollars” through Beirut’s airport.

Due to Israeli military action targeting Hezbollah’s weapons and money-smuggling routes used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Syria, Beirut’s airport has become the main route for cash smuggling, according to Iran International.

Members of the Lebanese army walk near Beirut international airport, Lebanon, February 15, 2025 (credit: REUTERS/EMILIE MADI)

“The cash shipments come as Hezbollah faces acute financial strain,” the outlet said, adding that the terror group has



reportedly been “struggling” to pay its operatives and rebuild in southern Lebanon.

“Rebuilding costs have been estimated in the billions of dollars,” Iran International reported.

Bessent: Regime leaders moving millions out of Iran as they 'abandon ship'

In January 2026, US Treasury Secretary [Scott Bessent told Newsmax](#) that Iranian leaders are moving tens of millions of dollars out of the country as they begin “abandoning ship” amid the deadly protests in Iran.

We are now seeing the rats fleeing the ship, because we can see millions, tens of millions of dollars being wired out of the country, snuck out of the country by the Iranian leadership,” Bessent said. “So they are abandoning ship, and we are seeing it come into banks and financial institutions all over the world.

Following this, the US Department of the Treasury (UST) imposed [new sanctions](#) against “key Iranian leaders involved in the brutal crackdown against the Iranian people.”

Among those sanctioned is Larijani, who has advocated violence against peaceful demonstrators. Other targets include security officials from various Iranian provinces where protests have faced violent suppression.

Israel reportedly planned to strike Beirut airport if Iranian funds reached Hezbollah

State-owned Saudi news outlet *Al-Arabiya* claimed in January 2025 that [Israel had planned to bomb Beirut's airport](#) should funds transported from Tehran on an Iranian Mahan Air flight be transferred to Hezbollah.

The claim followed a report from the Lebanese newspaper *An-Nahar* of an Iranian delegation on board such a flight had landed at Beirut's airport and attempted to bar Lebanese security officials from searching the plane.

An-Nahar added that the Beirut airport had been in a state of alert following reports that the flight may be carrying funds for Hezbollah.

Sam Halpern, Shoshana Baker, and Jerusalem Post Staff contributed to this report.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-886347>

US firm that secured aid sites talking with administration about new role in Gaza

UG Solutions says it has ‘provided information and proposals to US-led Board of Peace,’ after it was revealed to be looking for Arabic-speaking contractors with combat experience

By [Reuters](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 1:58 am Updated at 2:28 am



Illustrative: Armed men stand guard at a checkpoint manned by US and Egyptian security at the Netzarim corridor as displaced Palestinians make their way from the south to the northern parts of the Gaza Strip, on Salah al-Din road in central Gaza, on January 29, 2025. (Omar al-Qattaa/AFP)

A US security firm that deployed armed veterans to guard Gaza aid sites is in talks with the Trump administration's Board of Peace about its next role in the enclave, the company said on Wednesday, after previously facing UN criticism over deadly scenes at its distribution points.

UG Solutions made the disclosure, which has not been previously reported, after Reuters reported it was recruiting Arabic-speaking contractors with combat experience for work in undisclosed locations. A source with direct knowledge of the board's planning confirmed talks were under way with the firm.

The North Carolina-based firm, which provided security for the US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation last year, was shut down following a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in October.

It had faced criticism from the United Nations over the deaths of Palestinians trying to reach the firm's aid sites in areas where Israeli troops were deployed and would open fire, with the UN saying that over 1,000 people were killed in those incidents. The Israel Defense Forces has stated that the death tolls have been inflated, that its troops only fired warning shots at those who posed a threat to troops, and that Hamas operatives and other gunmen were also opening fire at crowds of aid seekers.

A UG Solutions spokesperson said on Wednesday that it had “provided information and proposals to the US-led Board of Peace,” a body set up by President Donald Trump to help advance his plan to end the Gaza war, which was sparked by the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, onslaught in southern Israel.

“Our proposal was received positively, but until the Board of Peace clarifies what its priorities are for

security, UG Solutions is planning internally for a range of possible ways to support efforts in Gaza,” the spokesperson said.



Displaced Palestinians cross a checkpoint manned by US and Egyptian security at the Netzarim corridor as people make their way from the south to the northern parts of the Gaza Strip, on Salah al-Din road in central Gaza, on January 29, 2025. (Omar al-Qattaa/AFP)

The source with direct knowledge of the board’s planning said that talks with UG Solutions and several other groups have been under way for weeks but that nothing had been finalized.

Representatives for the board did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

‘Not welcome,’ Palestinian aid coordinator says

Palestinians could regard any return of UG Solutions to the enclave as troubling because of the violence that took place during GHF distributions last year.

“The GHF and those who stand behind it have Palestinian blood on their hands; they are not welcome to return to Gaza,” said Amjad al-Shawa, head of the Palestinian NGOs Network, which liaises with UN and international humanitarian agencies.

The GHF did not respond to a request for comment sent to its press email. It consistently defended its approach to security during the months it operated in Gaza.



Illustrative: Members of a private US security company contracted by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation direct displaced Palestinians as they gather to receive relief supplies at a distribution center in the central Gaza Strip, as smoke bombs are fired by Israeli troops, June 8, 2025. (Eyad BABA / AFP)

The UG Solutions spokesperson said its armed contractors only secured the aid sites and their immediate perimeter and had no control over actions by the Israeli military or Palestinian terrorist groups.

Humanitarian organizations and commercial entities “are seeking out UG solutions to assist in their operations” as they struggle with shipments being looted or otherwise diverted, the

spokesperson said, suggesting a potential role for the group beyond work with the Board of Peace.

Trump plan for Gaza would increase aid

Trump’s plan for Gaza calls for a surge in humanitarian aid, for Israel to withdraw after Hamas lays down its arms, and for the territory to be rebuilt under the supervision of a Board of Peace led by the US president. Hamas, however, has not committed to give up its weapons, with a senior member again saying Wednesday that the Palestinian terror group has not received a disarmament proposal from mediators.

Palestinians’ armed struggle “is a right as long as the occupation remains,” Osama Hamdan said. The word “occupation” is typically used by Hamas to denote Israel in its entirety.

Hamdan also repeated Hamas’s position that the International Stabilization Force, which is supposed to maintain security in Gaza under Trump’s Gaza peace plan, should deploy only on the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, to “prevent hostilities against our people, in accordance with Trump’s plan.”

(That is not what the plan states. The ISF is meant to “train and provide support to vetted Palestinian police forces in Gaza,” provide a “long-term internal security solution,” and “help secure border areas, along with newly trained Palestinian police forces.”)



Hamas official Osama Hamdan speaks during an interview with AFP in Istanbul, Turkey, on September 15, 2024. (Ozan Kose/ AFP/ File)

Hamdan said Hamas has conveyed that position to the government of Indonesia, the world’s most populous Muslim nation, which on Monday [announced](#) it would contribute thousands of troops to the ISF, and whose troops are expected to be the first ISF personnel to deploy in Gaza.

Hamdan accused Israel of preventing the entry into Gaza of the 12-member technocratic committee that is supposed to administer the Strip under the

ceasefire plan. An Arab diplomat has told The Times of Israel that the Palestinian committee will not enter Gaza until it is equipped to govern.

He also accused Israel of obstructing operations at the Rafah Border Crossing and of letting only very few people through since it reopened earlier this month, as part of the Gaza ceasefire.



Humanitarian aid trucks enter through the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing with the Gaza Strip on February 4, 2026, days after Israel permitted a limited reopening of the border post. (AFP)

Hamdan's comments come after a New York Times report on Tuesday said officials in the Board of Peace planned to let Hamas keep some small arms while requiring it to surrender most of its long-range weapons. The report said mediators planned on sharing the document with Hamas in the coming weeks. Israel has said Gaza can be rebuilt only once Hamas disarms.

The Board of Peace is holding a meeting in Washington next week, that is expected to serve in part as a fundraiser. Those funds would help pay for a plan envisaged by Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, to rebuild Gaza in stages, beginning in Rafah in a southern area under Israeli military control. Rafah is where the GHF stood up three of its four aid locations, the routes to which drew Palestinians desperate for food.

The United Nations called the operations inherently dangerous and a violation of humanitarian principles that require aid distribution to be conducted safely.

The IDF has acknowledged that some Palestinians were hurt without saying how many. It says its soldiers changed procedures following the incidents.

"Go-to security firm"

When the GHF shut down, UG Solutions said it remained "the go-to security firm to help those focused on rebuilding and delivering aid" as envisaged in Trump's plan.

The firm listed several jobs on its website, which Reuters reported on earlier on Wednesday. It disclosed its talks over Gaza in response to Reuters questions about the listings.

One of the jobs on the firm's website, an International Humanitarian Security Officer, would involve "securing key infrastructure, facilitating humanitarian efforts, and ensuring stability in a dynamic environment". Preferred credentials include proficiency with "small arms weapons."

Another, targeting only female candidates, is for a Cultural Support Officer who would ensure "safe, effective, and culturally appropriate aid distribution."

The spokesperson said those jobs were to prepare a team for potential contracts in Gaza and an expansion into Syria, where they are looking to provide services in the oil and gas sector. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-firm-which-secured-aid-sites-talking-with-administration-about-new-role-in-gaza/>

'Over my dead body': PM's office drops 'massacre' from Oct. 7 memorial bill, sparking outrage

Legal adviser in separate panel slams plans for politically appointed inquiry into attack, with critics saying both moves aim to rewrite the day's narrative and shift responsibility

By [Ariela Karmel](#)

11 February 2026, 6:31 pm Updated at 6:48 pm



The memorial site for the Nova music festival massacre in southern Israel, February 9, 2026. (David Cohen/Flash90)

The word "massacre" was removed, at the request of the Prime Minister's Office, from the title of a bill establishing an annual commemoration of the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack, outraging bereaved families who have accused the government of trying to "erase" history and evade accountability.

The stormy discussion was the latest argument in a long-running debate over how the attack will be investigated and remembered. Also on Wednesday, a

Knesset committee discussed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's controversial effort to create a politically appointed investigation of the October 7 attack, rather than setting up a state commission of inquiry, Israel's highest investigative authority.

Yoel Elbaz, a representative of Netanyahu's office, made the request to change the bill's name at a discussion of the legislation in the Knesset Education, Culture and Sports Committee.

And a draft of the bill distributed to committee members and guests at the start of the session bore the title "Memory and Commemoration of the events of Simhat Torah," with a previous title including the word "massacre" crossed out. (The attack occurred on the Jewish holiday of Simhat Torah.)

The bill, which combines two pieces of legislation, is meant to be a consensus measure in the normally fractious Knesset. It is supported by more than 80 of the 120 MKs, and proposes that a national memorial day be held for the October 7 attack, the worst in Israel's history, on the 24th of the Jewish month of Tishrei.

That Hebrew date was [chosen](#) in a March 2024 cabinet decision, which the bill would effectively enshrine.

On that date, according to the bill, a state memorial ceremony would be held. The bill would also create a commemorative body in southern Israel, where the attack took place, including a memorial site, museum, and archive.

But Elbaz sparked controversy during the committee discussion when he said that in describing the Hamas onslaught in which 1,200 people were killed and 251 kidnapped, the office preferred to use a Hebrew word that literally means "events," but has also been used in the past to refer to riots. The reason, he said, is that October 7 "was not only a massacre — there was also heroism."



MK Yosef Taieb leads a Knesset Education, Culture, and Sports Committee meeting, July 7, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

He added, "I don't know to what degree people will remember the name of the law — they will rather remember the activities carried out by the authorities, which will also preserve the memory of the massacre."

Initially, the acting committee chair, Shas MK Yosef Taieb, appeared to reject the idea, saying that "there will be no whitewashing of the issue."

"We all know today that there was a massacre. My concern is whether our children and grandchildren will know that," he said.

Still, the committee ended up deciding to accede to the request and remove the word "massacre," though Taieb said the issue will be revisited before a final vote.

Bereaved families at the committee hearing expressed outrage over the removal.

"This law will pass over my dead body," said Hila Abir, sister of Lotan Abir, who was murdered by Hamas terrorists at the Nova music festival. "Where is the death of our brothers and children? It was all erased!"

The October Council, representing families of those murdered during the October 7 attack, said in a statement that this is "the Prime Minister's Office's latest attempt to cover up the October 7 massacre."

The statement continued, "We are here to state clearly: there was a massacre. We paid the highest

possible price for it. We will ensure that everyone responsible is investigated by a state commission of inquiry and also pays the price."

"No politician's blood is redder than the blood of our children, our brothers, and our parents. Shame on you," it continued.

Bodies of slain Israeli civilians in the southern city of Sderot on October 7, 2023 following a massacre by Hamas terrorists. (Oren Ziv / AFP)

In response, the Prime Minister's Office issued a statement saying that "contrary to recent reports, the bill explicitly includes the word 'massacre,'" noting that the term appears in the text of the bill.

A PMO spokesperson later elaborated to The Times of



Israel that the request to change the title came not as an attempt to exclude the word “massacre,” but rather to maintain the original name of the government’s proposal, which never included that term.

The bill that was advanced by the committee is a combination of two pieces of legislation: a private member’s bill whose title included the word “massacre,” and a government bill titled “Memory and Commemoration of the Events of Simchat Torah.”

“The Prime Minister’s Office is committed to a comprehensive and truthful commemoration of all aspects of the events, without distortion or omission, and is working to advance the bill in this spirit,” the PMO statement said.

But Abir linked the name change to Netanyahu’s efforts to set up a politically appointed investigation of the attack rather than a state commission of inquiry. She said the Knesset committee was “changing the narrative” before a commission of inquiry had been set up to establish what went wrong surrounding the attack.



People watch on a screen the civilian October 7 memorial ceremony held at Hayarkon Park in Tel Aviv, during a gathering at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv, on October 7, 2025. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

Critics of Netanyahu’s alternative inquiry say that the government should not be in charge of investigating an attack that happened on its watch, a critique Abir echoed.

“It makes no sense for the Prime Minister’s Office to manage this event when it is the one preventing the investigation,” Abir said. “You’re leaving the cat to guard the cream?”

“We waited two and a half years, and we’ll wait a little longer until there is a worthy law that suits everyone, until

there is a worthy investigation,” Abir said.

Legal adviser slams politically appointed Oct. 7 commission of inquiry

As the discussion unfolded at the Education Committee, the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee was discussing the proposal for a politically appointed inquiry, in the wake of criticism from committee legal adviser Gur Bligh.

In a letter sent Tuesday night to the committee and published Wednesday by the Knesset Spokesperson’s Office, Bligh strongly criticized the bill’s proposal to give the government the power to set the commission’s mandate and afford the Knesset the authority to appoint the commission’s members.

“The party that determines the scope of the inquiry — what will be investigated and what will not be — can influence the course of the inquiry even before it begins. Granting this authority to the government may undermine the purpose that the bill sets for itself: to bring about a full and independent investigation, based on parity between the coalition and opposition, and thus broad public trust,” he said.

Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee Legal Adviser Gur Bligh, center, and committee chairman MK Simcha Rothman attend a committee meeting in Jerusalem, February 11, 2026. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)



Netanyahu has long opposed the formation of a [state commission of inquiry](#), claiming that because a state commission is appointed by the judiciary — whose powers his government has sought to curb — it would be biased against him.

The coalition is instead advancing Likud MK Ariel Kallner’s bill to set up a [politically appointed probe](#) instead. Most hostages’ families, and relatives of those murdered on October 7, oppose the legislation.

The committee’s legal adviser noted that historically in Israel, the government has not been given the power to define a commission’s mandate and that in the case of the US 9/11 Commission following the September 11, 2001, attacks, which the bill “frequently cited as a model,” the executive branch “had no role in defining [the mandate].”

Bligh also questioned whether the Knesset was the “appropriate body” to establish the committee and appoint its members, since the involvement of “political actors” could undermine public trust in the inquiry.

The bill proposed that the Knesset appoint the members of the committee leading the investigation by a vote of 80 members. If such a majority cannot be reached, half of the members will be appointed by the coalition

and half by the opposition. Barring that, members will be appointed by the Knesset speaker.

With opposition parties having pledged to boycott the commission, the bill would effectively give the



government exclusive power to appoint its members, with no input from the opposition.

People attend a protest demanding the establishment of a state commission of inquiry into the October 7, 2023, attacks, at Habima Square in Tel Aviv, February 7, 2026. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

Because the proposed process for selecting the members ultimately gives power to the Knesset speaker — a member of the coalition — this “contradicts the objective of parity” and is “inconsistent with the declared purpose of the bill,” Bligh said.

The legal adviser also questioned why the body establishing the commission was different from the one defining the mandate of the commission, noting it may be unclear to whom the commission would report.

Netanyahu has never acknowledged direct responsibility for the failures surrounding October 7 and relentlessly attempted to [place the blame](#) on others, including political rivals and security chiefs.

His latest step on that front was to release 55 pages of answers he provided to an inquiry into October 7 by the state comptroller, in which he quoted selectively from government meetings to depict himself as supportive of aggressive action against Hamas. Subsequent media reports, however, have highlighted numerous occasions on which the prime minister was warned of Hamas’s plans for an attack, or reportedly declined opportunities to pursue a more forceful course against the terror group. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/over-my-dead-body-pms-office-drops-massacre-from-oct-7-memorial-bill-sparking-outrage/>

Antisemitic incidents in UK, led by Manchester attack, remained near record highs in 2025 — report ***Community Security Trust says last year saw second-highest recorded number of incidents targeting Jews, following dip in 2024***

By [Zev Stub](#)

11 February 2026, 2:47 am



Armed police officers talk with members of the community near Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation synagogue in Crumpsall, north Manchester, on October 2, 2025 (Paul Currie / AFP)

Antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom reached their second-highest level on record in 2025, led by the deadly terror attack targeting a Manchester synagogue on Yom Kippur, according to a new report released Wednesday by the Community Security Trust.

The charity, which monitors antisemitism and provides security for British Jews, recorded 3,700 anti-Jewish hate incidents last year. That was 4% higher than the 3,556 incidents logged in 2024, but less than the record 4,298 incidents recorded in 2023 in the wake of the October 7 Hamas-led attack against Israel.

The figures include physical assaults, vandalism, threats and online abuse.

The most severe incident was the terror assault at [Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation](#) in Manchester during Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, CST noted. Two worshipers, Melvin Cravitz and Adrian Daulby, were killed, and three were seriously injured. It was the first fatal antisemitic terror attack recorded in the UK since the organization began tracking incidents in 1984, CST said.

That attack triggered an immediate surge in antisemitic incidents. CST said it logged 40 incidents on the day of the attack and another 40 the following day, more than half of which referenced or celebrated the killing. October was the worst month for antisemitic incidents in 2025 and fifth-worst on record overall, CST said.

After “two years of intense anti-Jewish hatred,” these follow-up incidents “showed the depths of extremism faced by Jews and all our British society,” CST chief executive Mark Gardner said. “This makes CST even more determined to keep protecting our community, giving it strength and dignity so it can lead the life of its choice.”



(L) Melvin Cravitz and (R) Adrian Daulby, killed October 2, 2025, during a terror attack on a synagogue in Manchester, England, in undated photos. (Greater Manchester Police)

Including the Manchester attack, CST recorded four incidents categorized as “extreme violence” in 2025, double the number recorded the previous year and more than the combined total of the prior three years.

Overall, CST recorded an average of 308 incidents a month, twice the monthly average seen before October 2023, it said. There was no month with fewer than 200 incidents.

There were also 170 antisemitic assaults, accounting for about 5% of all incidents, while cases of damage and desecration of Jewish property rose sharply by 38% to a record 217.

Abusive behavior, including verbal harassment, hate messages and graffiti, remained the most common category, making up 83% of all incidents. CST also recorded 1,541 online antisemitic incidents, the highest annual total on record and a 23% increase from 2024. Online cases accounted for 42% of all incidents, the largest proportion ever documented.

“This figure only represents a fraction of antisemitic content online, as CST does not proactively search social media and only records incidents reported by victims,” the report noted.

More than half of all antisemitic incidents referenced Israel, Palestine, Hamas or the ongoing war in the Middle East, according to the report. Nearly half showed explicitly anti-Zionist motivation alongside anti-Jewish language or targeting. Nazi and Holocaust-related imagery or rhetoric appeared in 27% of all incidents.



The Bob Vylan duo performs at the Glastonbury Festival, June 28, 2025. (Yui Mok/PA via AP)

After the punk-rap group Bob Vylan [chanted](#) “Death to the IDF” during a performance at the Glastonbury Festival in June, CST documented 32 incidents using the phrase in explicitly antisemitic contexts. No such incidents were recorded before that event, it noted.

In 2025, the number of antisemitic incidents in schools fell 23%, while those in university-related settings dropped 41% from the previous year. However, incidents affecting synagogues and their congregants rose slightly, from 222 cases

in 2024 to 227 in 2025.

There were 36 antisemitic incidents linked to professional soccer, compared to 25 in 2024. Fourteen of those were connected to West Midlands Police’s [decision](#) to ban Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters from attending a

match against Aston Villa, prompting a spike in anti-Jewish abuse.

Demonstrators raise anti-Israel signs ahead of a Maccabi Tel Aviv – Aston Villa soccer game in Birmingham, UK, set for November 6, 2025. (Screenshots via X, via Deen1fied on Instagram)



Geographically, Greater London and Greater Manchester accounted for 61% of all incidents, though CST said antisemitic activity was recorded in every mainland police region. Outside those two areas, the highest numbers were recorded in West Yorkshire, Hertfordshire, the West Midlands, Sussex and Merseyside.

In addition to the 3,700 confirmed antisemitic incidents, CST said it handled 3,000 additional reports that did not meet the threshold for being classified as

antisemitic. Many of these still required security or police engagement, it noted.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/antisemitic-incidents-in-uk-led-by-manchester-attack-remained-near-record-highs-in-2025-report/>

The First Amendment Isn't a Heckler's Veto

Tue, 10 Feb 2026 9:50 AM PST by Daniel Greenfield



When a radical mob that included former CNN anchor Don Lemon broke into Cities Church in St. Paul to protest ICE, were they upholding or violating the First Amendment?

According to everyone from Sen. Patty Murray to the International Press Institute, breaking into a church and interrupting a religious service is “First Amendment activity”. But if preventing other people from praying is “First Amendment activity” then what is the church service itself?

First Amendment activity entails expressing your opinion, your belief or your religious practice, but the moment your actions interfere with and prevent someone else from engaging in their expression or activity while they are within their space, it's an assault on their rights.

The Left has normalized attacking churches and synagogues, [like Adas Torah in Los Angeles](#), ‘occupying’ campuses and public buildings, even vandalizing them and assaulting employees and worshipers, while describing this vandalism and thuggery as “First Amendment activity”.

Democrat jurisdictions have created a heckler's veto by failing to immediately arrest rioters blocking buildings and streets, harassing students, professors and parishioners, and worse still, often telling the speakers and events being protested that they need to shut down instead.

This has frequently happened to conservative events on campus which are shut down when a large enough mob blocks the doors, takes over the room and shouts down the speakers. And when Jews counterprotested Marxist and Muslim mobs at Adas Torah, UCLA or in Brooklyn, they were the ones arrested and were more likely to be subjected to court cases and trials.

The name for this state of affairs isn't “First Amendment activity”: it's the ‘heckler's veto’.

The heckler's veto allows the most disruptive group to block the speech of others and when that group also enjoys the patronage of the authorities, as [it does in New York](#), Los Angeles and Minneapolis, then when it escalates, it also enjoys a monopoly on harassment and violence.

This isn't “First Amendment activity”: it's the suppression of First Amendment activity using illegal intimidation and worse still represents the government-backed harassment of dissenting views by factions and mobs that the Bill of Rights was meant to prevent. When elected officials endorse or protect mobs harassing religious worshipers, whether it's practiced by Hamas supporters in New York, New Jersey and Los Angeles, or ICE opponents at a Minnesota church, they are in violation of the First Amendment and everything that it stands for.

What began as ‘civil disobedience’ during the civil rights era, in which individuals deprived of equal rights violated the law to redress extreme wrongs, became the standard toolkit of every leftist cause. Over the past decade, every leftist cause from abortion to environmentalism to open borders to Hamas to generic opposition to Trump has been pursued with the same tactics of blocking streets, intimidating individuals, and shutting down public and private spaces.

When every cause is ‘civil disobedience’, then civil disobedience ceases to be an emergency tactic and becomes the standard form of political protest. Those who practiced civil disobedience during the initial stages of the civil rights movement took real risks while their modern counterparts walk away with desk appearance tickets. The old civil rights protesters had made a point of staying peaceful while today's radicals engage in violence and then cry about it.

Today's radicals want to be treated like Martin Luther King even as their martyrs are a woman who tried to run over an ICE officer, a gunman who attacked federal law enforcement, a disgraced former CNN anchorman who stormed a church to protest the day job of one of its clergy, and a wealthy kid who murdered the head of a health care company.

None of this is ‘First Amendment activity’, nor is it civil disobedience, it's political intimidation.

This reinvention of mobs engaging in political intimidation against individuals, churches, synagogues,

educational institutions and other non-government actors, often with the backing of local government authorities, is a war on civil rights. When KKK mobs engaged in this behavior, the federal government sent in the troops and treated it as an insurrection. Radical insurrections are far more widespread, far better financed and enjoy far more political support than the KKK.

And the most dangerous thing about them is that they operate under the color of civil rights.

The mob never changes, but its false flags do. The white radicals screeching and blowing whistles for illegal alien gang members were rioting for BLM five years ago and for Hamas last year. They borrow the costumes of supposedly 'oppressed groups' to allow them to pretend to be an oppressed minority and its 'allies' rising up against government authoritarianism.

These riots have virtually no impact on government officials, but a great deal of impact on the ordinary people who are intimidated by them. That is the opposite of First Amendment protests.

The First Amendment isn't threatened by the arrest of the 'independent journalists' who like the 'street medics' and 'legal observers' are just components of these radical movements, but it is threatened by the inability of worshipers to gather for services without being terrorized, by speakers who cannot come to campuses, professors who could not teach and students who could not attend class because of 'encampments', and by ordinary people who face violence if they counterprotest or express opposing views that of the mobs either online or in person.

Tyranny has come draped in slogans of liberation and fascism has come to America wrapped in a protest sign and a cause. Democrat politicians and the media claim that their radical mobs are protected by the First Amendment while the opposition's rallies are a "threat to democracy". Their speech is sacrosanct social justice while opposing speech is dangerous "misinformation".

The First Amendment wasn't needed to protect the speech already favored by elites. And yet, if liberals and leftists had their way, it's the only speech that it would protect. The former censors of Facebook and Twitter insist that rioting mobs burning communities are "mostly peaceful" but that speech they don't like is "violence". Now, in the face of violent riots, they claim that their violence is speech and that the First Amendment entitles them to shut down church services.

The First Amendment is not a heckler's veto. When your speech consists of silencing someone else, what you're doing isn't speech, it's censorship, intimidation and totalitarianism.

To restore the First Amendment, we must end the radical heckler's veto on the speech of others.

[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-zgpvh.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