

02122026 NEWS SPECIAL Don't miss Lev U'Neshama NOTE at end!

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

With 5 Arab Israelis shot dead in 12 hours, police chief warns of 'national emergency'
Druze sheikh, former mayor's son among victims; man shot point-blank outside corner store, another killed in broad daylight on main street

By [Charlie Summers](#)

Today, 3:24 pm



Mukhtar Abu Mdeighim, 20 (top left); Hussein Abu Raqiq, 65 (top center); Mohammad Qassem, 40 (top right); Najib Abu Rish, 42 (bottom left); and Farid Abu Mubarak, 20 (bottom right), five Arab men killed in separate shootings overnight February 11-12, 2026. (Courtesy)

Five men were killed within 12 hours from Wednesday night through early Thursday, including a Druze sheikh and the son of a former mayor, as violent crime rages unabated in Arab locales.

Amid the latest spate of killings, Police Commissioner Danny Levy warned that Israel was in a "state of national emergency."

In a situational assessment with senior officers on Thursday morning, Levy said police were underequipped to deal with the issue. Law enforcement cannot do its job when "our hands are tied, our ears are muffled, and our eyes are blindfolded," he said.

Levy said police were doing everything they could to rein in violent crime but claimed officers lacked the technological tools they needed. Furthermore the courts, he said, must be harsher in their sentencing and allow police to use administrative measures against suspects, such as allowing police to restrict certain suspects' freedom of movement and expression on the basis of confidential evidence. He also urged state prosecutors to expedite the filing of indictments.

Additionally, Levy called on local politicians and religious figures in Arab society to unequivocally denounce the violence, stressing that many of the victims are innocent bystanders caught in the crossfire of disputes between gangs and warring families.

"To win this fight, we need a united front, a synchronized national effort from everyone," Levy said.



File: Police chief Danny Levy at the Jerusalem Pride Parade, June 6, 2025 (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

The blood-soaked night began Wednesday after sundown, when 48-year-old Mohammad Qassem was shot point-blank outside a corner store in bustling area in Fureidis, a town south of Haifa, by a masked man who then fled on an electric scooter.

Passersby rushed to the victim as he bled out on the sidewalk. According to Qassem's brother, Ali, he had left the house to buy a pack of cigarettes.

Police arrived at the crime scene to find residents protesting. Footage in the wake of the shooting showed residents clashing with cops, as officers beat some of them with batons.

In Rahat at around 2 a.m., 22-year-old Mukhtar Abu Mdeighem, the son of the Bedouin city's former mayor Atta Abu Mdeighem, was shot dead in his car.

At his son's funeral, the former mayor confessed his complete lack of faith in law enforcement's handling of violent crime. While he urged the state to "wake up," he added that "we in Arab society must also deal with crime. We need a solution, not to wait around for the government.

"The government will act when it wants to, because if they want someone from Iran, they go and get him. But criminals here? Efforts are required," he said, according to the Walla news site.

Eulogizing his slain son, the mourning father said the young man "was dear, he ran a kiosk, he had plans. He wanted to study and get married. But the boy is gone."

Speaking to the Ynet news site, he noted that assailants had targeted his son previously.

"The first time they shot at him it was around four months ago... he escaped by a miracle and God granted him life. There wasn't so much as a scratch on him, but the business was destroyed. This time they shot at him when he was driving in the city in his car, not far from his home," the ex-mayor said.

On Thursday morning police arrested three suspects in the killing and planned to bring them to the Beersheba Magistrate's Court to hold them in custody. They were the only suspects apprehended in connection to any of the five shootings as of Thursday afternoon.

In the Druze town of Yarka, Sheikh Najib Abu Rish was killed while heading to work at around 4 a.m. Thursday. He left behind a wife and four children.

After sunrise, Farid Abu Mubarak, 20, was shot on the main thoroughfare of Segev Shalom, a Bedouin town in southern Israel.

In footage of the lethal shooting, a man was seen crouching behind a black car as rapid gunfire was heard. A silver hatchback sped away soon after the gunfire died down.

In Lod, 65-year-old Hussein Abu Raqiq, a professional cleaner, was shot and killed as he headed to work.

The man's son, Alaa, told Ynet that his father was a straitlaced man who always came home right after finishing work for the day. The mourning son also spoke harshly of law enforcement.

"This area is full of police, where are they? Their only job making noise, sitting in their cars and fiddling with their phones. When there are shootings, you can never find them," he said.



Police arrived at the scene of the crime in Lod and launched an investigation, but have not yet arrested any suspects.

Security forces inspect the scene where a man was shot dead in Lod on February 12, 2026. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)

This year has now seen 46 Arab citizens killed violently within 42 days. Last year was the worst on record for violent crime in Arab society, with 252 homicide deaths. But 2026 stands to be even deadlier if killings continue at their current pace.

Local politicians and religious figures have denounced the crime sweeping their communities, but most place blame on law enforcement, accusing police of neglecting to solve homicides when the victims are Arab.

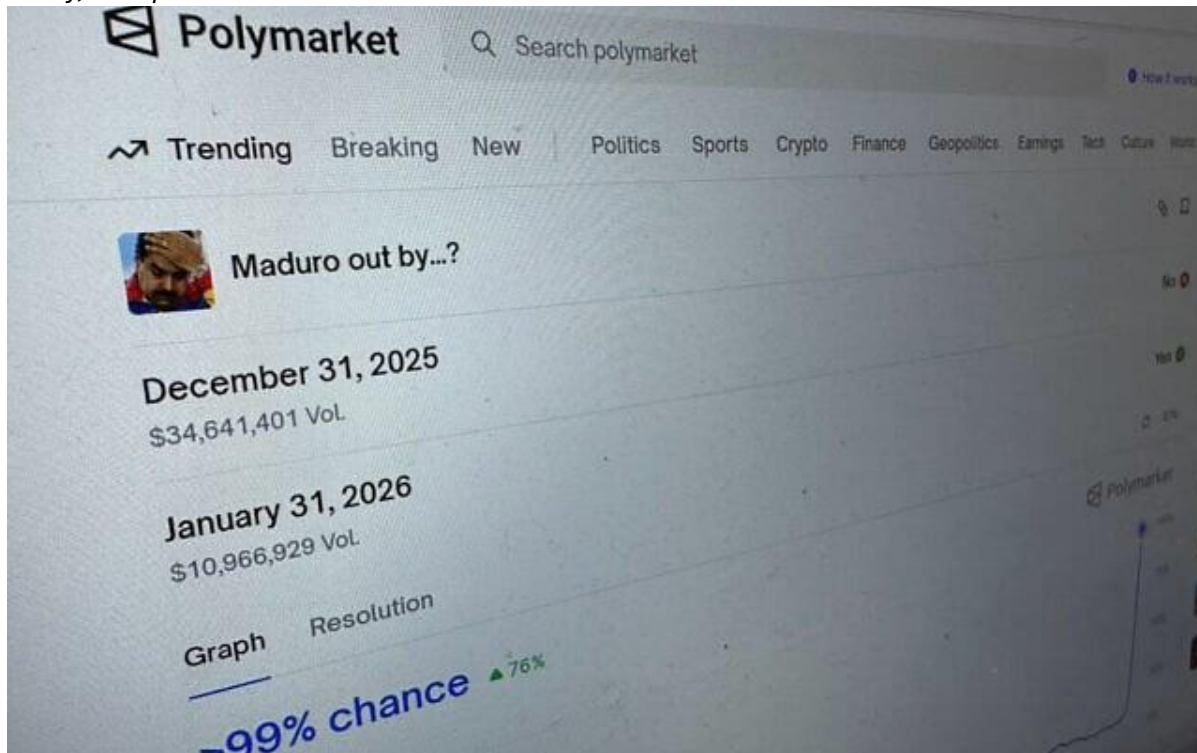
Violent killings have run rampant in Arab cities and towns over the past decade, but the issue worsened considerably in 2023 when the number of murders jumped to 244, doubling the previous year's figure of 116. The tally dipped slightly in 2024 before reaching new heights last year. The previous record high, set in 2022, was 126 murders. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/with-5-arab-israelis-shot-dead-in-12-hours-police-chief-decries-national-emergency/>

Two indicted for using classified info to place online bets on military operations

Reservist and civilian charged with 'severe offenses' for actions on Polymarket; Kan had reported major bets were made on Israeli strike on Iran just before June 2025 war

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 2:55 pm



The Polymarket prediction market website is seen on a computer screen, January 11, 2026, in New York. (AP/Wyatte Grantham-Philips)

An Israeli military reservist and a civilian were indicted this week for using classified information to place bets regarding military operations on the popular Polymarket prediction market, authorities announced on Thursday.

The investigation, conducted jointly by the Director of Security of the Defense Establishment, the Shin Bet domestic security agency and the Israel Police, led to the arrest of several suspects — including reservists — who allegedly placed bets on Polymarket “based on classified information to which the reservists were exposed by virtue of their military roles,” a joint statement said.

The reveal comes weeks after Kan news reported that security agencies were investigating suspicions that individuals within the defense establishment had used classified information to place bets on Polymarket, including on the timing of Israel's opening strike on Iran in June 2025's 12-day war.

Authorities did not release any information on Thursday on the nature of the bets.

They said indictments had been filed on Monday against one reservist and one civilian for “severe security offenses,” as well as bribery and obstruction of justice. Prosecutors have requested that the suspects be kept in detention until the end of the legal proceedings.

Further details surrounding the case remained barred from publication under a court-issued gag order.

“The defense establishment emphasizes that placing such bets, based on secret and classified information, poses a real security risk to IDF operations and to the security of the state,” the joint statement said,

adding that authorities view “the acts attributed to the defendants with utmost severity and will act decisively to thwart and bring to justice anyone involved in the unlawful use of classified information.”



Israeli Air Force F-15 fighter jets fly over Israel en route to carry out strikes in Iran, in a handout photo published on June 25, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

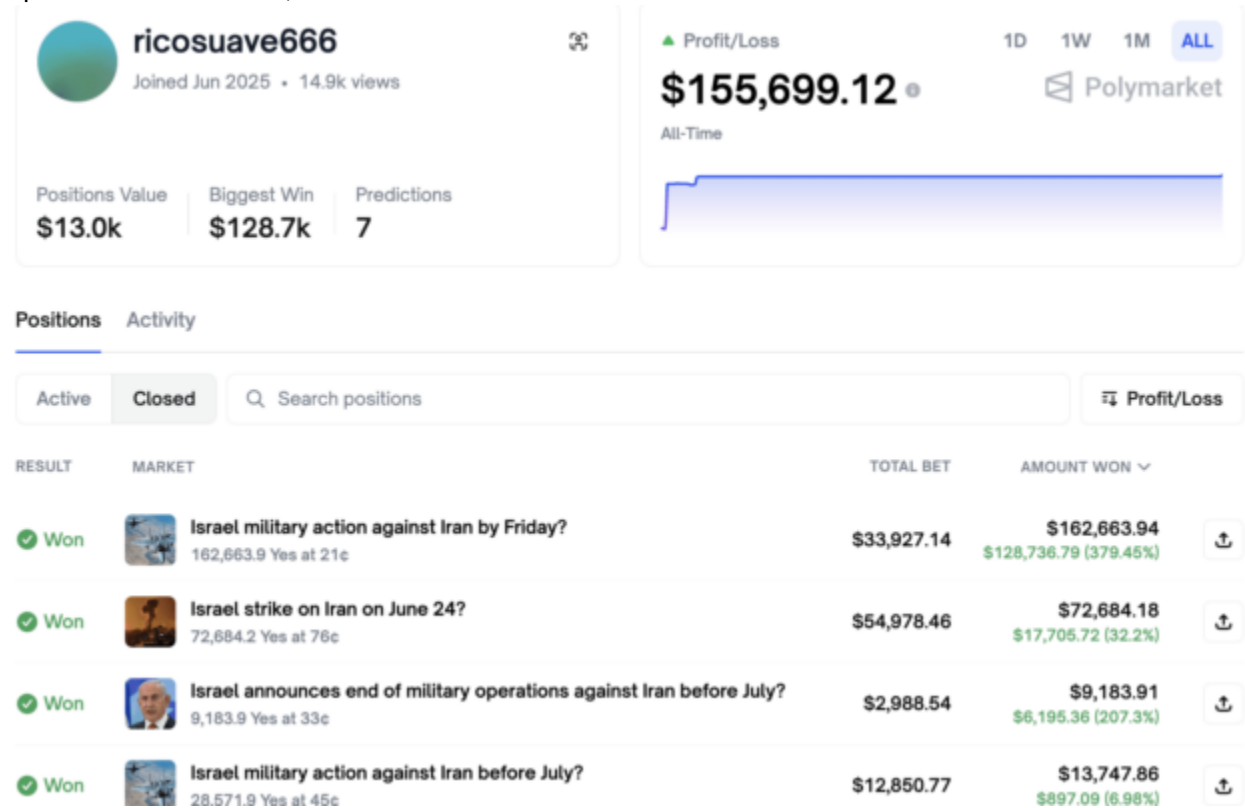
The IDF said it viewed the case “gravely,” but stressed that “no operational harm was caused.”

“This constitutes a severe ethical failure and a clear crossing of a red line,” the military said in a statement, adding that the alleged actions “are not in line with IDF values and what is expected of servicemembers.”

It said it “steps have been taken and procedures will be sharpened across all IDF units, with the aim of preventing the recurrence of similar

cases.”

Last month, Kan said a user who went by the name ricosuave666 placed several bets in June 2025 with suspicious accuracy regarding Israeli military operations in Iran, wagering tens of thousands of dollars and making a profit of around \$150,000.



on the Polymarket site by user ricosuave666. (Screenshot: Polymarket)

Polymarket is one of the largest prediction markets in the world, where users can place bets using cryptocurrency, debit or credit cards, and bank transfers.

The commercial use of prediction markets has skyrocketed in recent years, opening the door for people to wager their money on the likelihood of a growing list of future events. But despite some eye-catching windfalls, many traders still lose money every day. There have been accusations of manipulation and insider trading by users of the platform.

Last month, the bulk of one trader’s bids were made mere hours before US President Donald Trump announced the surprise nighttime raid that led to former Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro’s capture, fueling online suspicions of potential insider trading because of the timing of the wagers and the trader’s narrow activity on the platform.

Tens of millions of dollars have also been bet on the timeline for a possible US fresh strike on Iran.

Users have lost and won tens of millions of dollars on the platform over the past few months as dates they wagered for strikes came and passed. Odds are highest for an American airstrike on Iran by June 30 this year at 53 percent, under 1% if it happens this Thursday, and 1% on Friday.

Further millions have been placed on the possibility of the ousting of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/two-indicted-for-using-classified-info-to-place-online-bets-on-military-operations/>

Gaza's new power struggle: Militias, contractors, and peacekeepers under US-backed plan - analysis

As Gaza's power dynamics shift, US-backed peace plans face challenges with private contractors, militias, and potential peacekeepers. Indonesia may lead the peacekeeping mission

By **SETH J. FRANTZMAN** FEBRUARY 12, 2026 15:52 Updated: FEBRUARY 12, 2026 18:00



A patch with Indonesia and an Indonesian flag on the arm of an Indonesian soldier during the preparation of the annual Bastille Day military parade on the Champs Elysees avenue in Paris France on July 14, 2025. (photo credit: BASTIEN OHIER/Hans Lucas/AFP via Getty Images)

A report at Reuters on February 11 said that private contractors from a security firm that was previously involved in securing the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation sites could be used in Gaza as the new phase of the US-backed ceasefire continues.

This report comes as other reports indicate that Indonesia may be the first country to deploy peacekeepers to the International Stabilization Force, which is part of the US-backed Board of Peace plan. At the same time, it appears that Gaza-based militias are also vying for control.

The numerous armed groups that may be involved in Gaza soon present a challenge. It means that there will be overlapping areas of control, and this could lead to chaos. At the same time, there are discussions about disarming Hamas. While Hamas officials continue to say they will not disarm, other reports indicate that the first phase of disarming Hamas could involve dismantling weapons that threaten Israel, such as rockets. Hamas might keep some of its small arms, such as AK-47s, for a while. Sorry folks but the Trump plan is a loser except for Trump and his riviera on the Mediterranean which will not be affordable for Gazan and rake in millions for the US investors. rdb

Here is what recent reports are saying. A *Reuters* report noted that the US security firm "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 underway with the firm." It is not clear what role the group would play, but the report quoted a UG Solutions spokesperson as saying that it had "provided information and proposals to the US-led Board of Peace."

Meanwhile, the US-backed peace plan is expected to continue with its second phase after an upcoming meeting in mid-February. In mid-January, the White House noted, "to establish security, preserve peace, and establish a durable terror-free environment, Major General Jasper Jeffers has been appointed Commander of the International Stabilization Force (ISF), where he will lead security operations, support comprehensive demilitarization, and enable the safe delivery of humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials."

This week, reports said Indonesia could be the first country to supply forces to the ISF. "Indonesia has said it is preparing to send up to 8,000 troops to Gaza to be part of a peacekeeping force under Donald Trump's Middle East plan," *the Guardian* noted. "The announcement by the army chief of staff, Gen Maruli Simanjuntak, makes

Indonesia the first country to deliver a specific commitment to the international stabilisation force (ISF) envisaged as part of the second phase of the Trump plan."



Rafah crossing

At the same time, **new reports have emerged from Gaza of militias interrogating and even detaining Gazans who are crossing back and forth to Egypt via Rafah.**

The crossing was opened as part of the US-backed ceasefire. In January, Israel's *Ynet* media noted that a report indicates "Israel cooperates with Gaza militias against Hamas during ceasefire. Israel

has provided select Gaza-based militias that oppose Hamas with intelligence, supplies and operational support, allowing them to operate in areas beyond the reach of IDF forces under the ceasefire while remaining under close Israeli oversight.”

A subsequent report also at *Ynet* noted “returning Gaza residents say local militias cooperating with Israel have taken control at Rafah, interrogating arrivals and threatening Hamas-linked families as a power vacuum deepens.” The militias apparently operate in parts of the Gaza Strip that the IDF controls. Hamas controls the other half.

The role of the militias appears to contradict the Trump-backed plan for Gaza, which envisions a technocratic National Committee for the Administration running Gaza. This is supposed to provide the Gazans with peace and security. Instead, Gazans are left to the whims of militias or Hamas, reports say. On January 2, the Chief Commissioner of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, Dr. Ali Sha’ath, said, “I want to start by thanking [President Donald J. Trump](#) and his Administration for his intensive efforts to advance peace in the whole region... These efforts created the opportunity for a new future in Gaza, but what will really matter is what comes next.”

International Stabilization Force

Meanwhile, the US continues to fundraise for Gaza as calls to disarm Hamas continue. The plan appears complex, with various phases of disarmament underway as the ISF fills in areas where Hamas has been disarmed. How will the ISF work with the militias, the IDF, and the contractors?

The current state of affairs appears in flux, with many questions about all the armed groups that may be deployed to Gaza. It won’t be the first time that contractors, soldiers, and militias served alongside one another against terrorists.

In Iraq, the US worked with Sunni Arab tribes, called the “Awakening,” to fight insurgents for several years. Private Military Contractors also played a role in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places.

However, in the end, the tribes mostly faded away, and so did the contractors, as Iraq defeated the insurgency. In Afghanistan, the country returned to Taliban rule. Gaza may face a similar choice, either Hamas rule or a transition to something better. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-886490>

PA drafts constitution, omits Jewish ties to Jerusalem, calls for Sharia legal system

The draft constitution also called for the "right of return" for refugees, caring for families of "martyrs, prisoners, and exiles," and reaffirming the PLO's position as representing Palestinians.

By **JAMES GENN** FEBRUARY 13, 2026 02:47 Updated: FEBRUARY 13, 2026 02:49

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas addresses the general Conference of Fatah Youth in Ramallah, with a backdrop including a portrait of Abbas and Yasser Arafat, November 27, 2025; illustrative. (photo credit: REUTERS/ISMAEL KHADER)



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas ordered the publication of the draft constitution for a Palestinian state earlier this week, the PA's official news agency WAFA announced.

The full draft of the constitution, read by The Jerusalem Post, omitted Jewish ties to Jerusalem in Article III, claiming it as the "capital of the State of Palestine, and its political, spiritual, cultural, and educational center, as well as its national symbol," and committed to "preserving its religious character and protecting its Islamic and

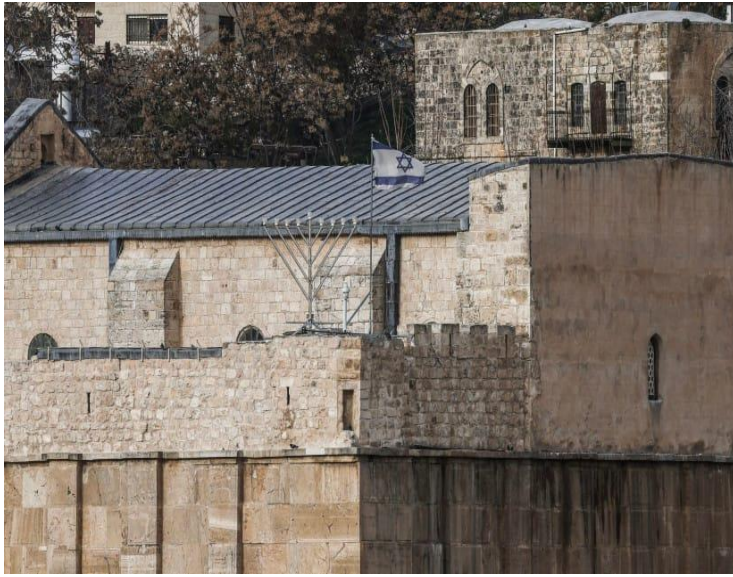
Christian sanctuaries."

The same article called on the state to commit to protecting Jerusalem's "legal, political, and historical status," and affirmed that "any measures to change its character or historical identity are considered null and void according to international law."

Additionally, Article IV designated the official religion of a Palestinian state as Islam, with Islamic Sharia principles to be the "primary source for legislation," while also protecting Christianity as having a special status,

with designated rights.

The president must also "swear by God Almighty" when entering office, per Article LXXVI, and Article CXXXII called for Sharia **disputes to be handled by Sharia and religious courts.**



An Israel flag and Hannukiah atop of the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a holy site to both Judaism and Islam, in Hebron, West Bank, February 9, 2026; illustrative. (credit: Hazem Bader/AFP via Getty Images)

While Article XXVII called for equality without discrimination based on personal aspects, including religion, and Article XXXVII affirmed "freedom of belief and to practice religious rites, establishing places of worship for followers of monotheistic religions," there is no mention of Judaism or Jewish people in any article of the constitution.

Palestine remains part of Arab nation

Further, Article I affirmed Palestine as "part of the Arab homeland," and notes that the "Palestinian people are part of the Arab nation."

Meanwhile, Article XI reaffirmed the Palestine Liberation Organization as the "sole legitimate

representative of the Palestinian people" - a status it has claimed since its founding by Yasser Arafat.

Continued 'pay-for-slay' care for terrorist 'martyrs'

Article XXIV described how the state would "work to provide protection and care for the families of martyrs, wounded, and prisoners, and those released from the occupation prisons and the victims of genocide."

This article is drafted into the constitution, appearing to formalize the continuation of the PA's controversial "[pay-for-slay](#)" policy, which provides financial stipends to families of convicted terrorists and terror suspects. The article also calls to "pursue the perpetrators of these crimes before the judiciary."

Article XLIV furthered this by calling for the "provision of comprehensive care for the families of the martyrs, wounded, and prisoners, and those released [from prison], in preservation of their national dignity and their humanitarian and living needs."

Parameters for 'security forces,' banning of non-government sanctioned militias

The constitution's ninth chapter set out the nature of the claimed state's "security forces."

In Article CLIII, the "security forces" are designated as "regular forces whose duties are restricted to defending the homeland, serving the people, protecting society, and working to maintain security and public order."

Further, the "security agencies" are to be "subject to civil authority and democratic oversight, operating exclusively within the scope of the Constitution and law," the article set out.

The state will be responsible "for the security of the homeland and the citizen at home and abroad," with "security forces entrusted with maintaining the independence and defending territorial unity and sovereignty," Article CLIV stated.

The security forces will be "committed to political neutrality," and it will "not be permissible" for members to belong to any political organization or engage in "party activity" during their service, the article expanded.

There will also be a prohibition on the "establishment of any military or security formations or organizations or military or semi-military groups outside the scope of the security forces, whether they are individuals or units," per Article CLIV.

Parameters for presidential terms, election, candidacy

Article XVII called for "free and fair periodic [elections](#) and transparency as a constitutional right and the basis of democratic representation and free power," while Article LXXIV intends to limit a president to a maximum of two terms, with each term to be five years in length.

The candidate must also be born to two Palestinian parents and not hold any other nationalities, Article LXXV declared, also specifying that they must be over 40 years of age, and not convicted of "any felony or misdemeanor involving breach of honor or trust, even if he has been rehabilitated."

The article also clarified that if a candidate holds another nationality, they must submit a written pledge to

renounce it upon election, opening the door to those who claim Palestinian citizenship but live abroad.

The drafted constitution also called for the establishment of a Palestinian Monetary Authority, which would enjoy "legal responsibility and financial and administrative independence," per Article CXLVII.

Constitution's preamble rejects 'colonial settlement occupation,' 'ethnic cleansing,' 'settlement expansion,' 'continued genocide in Gaza, West Bank'

The constitution is "an extension of the liberation journey from occupation and guardianship, and an expression of the freedom of a people who love life as it deserves to be lived; a people who reject the colonial settlement occupation and any alternative to their homeland, seeking a path of dignity and sovereignty," per the preamble.

The committee presented it as "a light for the liberation movements and a bridge between a besieged present and a future open to freedom and change, ensuring the transition of the State of Palestine from a temporary authority seeking to get rid of the occupation to a democratic state based on the rule of law and human dignity, adopting a path of democratic struggle and peaceful rotation of power through the ballot box."

"This constitution comes as a tribute to the continuous Palestinian struggle that has never ceased and to the diplomatic and political efforts exerted over decades to recover international recognition," the preamble continued.

"It arrives at a delicate stage where our people in the homeland face policies of displacement and ethnic cleansing, and where settlement expansion and genocide continue in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, while the dream of return remains alive in the hearts of Palestinians everywhere, generation after generation," it claimed.

Hamas official Bassem Naim denounces constitution as 'violation of rights'

Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim denounced the draft constitution as a "violation of the noble rights of our Palestinian people, who need better leadership," according to a report by Israel's public broadcaster KAN News.

The constitution is a "failed attempt by the PA to save itself from the developments of history," he continued, while mocking Abbas for not being permitted to enter the US for a speech to the UN General Assembly in September, per the Israeli outlet.

"Perhaps the recent decisions of the fascist entity [Israel]'s government regarding settlement and annexation indicate what we are heading towards," he stated.

"We must reject this constitution, because the people under occupation do not write constitutions according to the standards of the occupier. We do not write tables for arranging life in prison, but must write in blood and unity the document of our complete freedom and our return," he affirmed.

The Constitution Drafting Committee was chaired by Mohammad al-Haj Qassem and consisted of 16 members, as mandated by a presidential decree.

Abbas's decree provided for an invitation to "citizens, civil society institutions (CSOs), political factions, experts, and academics to submit their comments and proposals on the draft within sixty days as from the date of publication of the decree," WAFA reported.

Macron previously offered help to draft constitution

In November, French President Emmanuel Macron stated that [Paris would help Abbas](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-886547) in drafting the constitution for a future state, following talks between the two officials. The drafted constitution and media statements recently published by the PA do not make any reference to French assistance in the process.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-886547>

IDF to Iranians: 'Contact us for cooperation' as Trump bolsters US forces

The US president shared a Wall Street Journal report on an additional aircraft carrier heading to the Middle East amid Iran talks, as the IDF's Persian account made a rare appeal to 'patriotic citizens of Iran' to follow its official channels and consider cooperation

[Elisha Ben Kimon, Lior Ben Ari](#) | 08:29

In an unusual move, the IDF official Persian-language account issued a message Thursday addressing the Iranian people, against the backdrop of ongoing negotiations between Tehran and Washington. "We ask patriotic citizens of Iran to follow us only through our official communication channels and to contact us for any type of cooperation," the statement said.

The message was posted on social media as regional tensions remain at a peak, the United States continues to amass forces and mutual threats have persisted for a second consecutive month.



*A protest calling for the overthrow of the ayatollah regime
(Photo: AP Photo/Andreea Alexandru)*

U.S. President Donald Trump shared on his social media page a Wall Street Journal report stating that the Pentagon is preparing to send an additional aircraft carrier to the Middle East.

Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Thursday for talks that lasted longer than expected.

Trump said the meeting was good but that nothing was agreed upon beyond his insistence

that negotiations with Iran continue to determine whether a deal can be reached. He added that he made clear to the prime minister that continuing the negotiations is the priority and that otherwise the outcome would have to be seen.



(Photo: Avi Ohayon)

Referring to Iran, Trump said that the last time it chose not to reach a deal it “took a hit” in Operation Midnight Hammer, which he said did not work out well for the country, and expressed hope that this time it would act more sensibly and responsibly. Deal with the Devil and you will loose. Iran is the Satan personified. rdb

The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday evening, nearly in parallel with the end of the meeting, that the Pentagon had ordered an additional aircraft carrier to prepare to deploy to the Middle East as part of the tensions with Iran.

According to one of the sources cited by the newspaper, the order could be issued within hours, but Trump has not yet given final approval and plans could change.

According to assessments, the additional carrier could arrive within two weeks and may be the USS George H.W. Bush. Trump said Thursday that he is considering sending additional aircraft carriers to the region in case the talks fail. U.S. officials have also mentioned the USS George Washington and the USS Gerald R. Ford as potential candidates to deploy to the Middle East.



(Photo: ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS / AFP, US Navy)

The meeting between Trump and Netanyahu lasted about two and a half hours. It was held in the Cabinet Room at the White House rather than in the Oval Office, reflecting the closeness between the two leaders and the substantive nature of their discussions, which focused in depth on the Iranian issue.

Trump and Netanyahu discussed the negotiations with the Islamic Republic, with the prime minister seeking to set out his red lines — primarily regarding ballistic missiles and Iran’s regional proxies, as well as key nuclear issues. Netanyahu stressed to Trump that Iran does not need intercontinental missiles to strike targets in Israel and Europe.

The prime minister also presented information indicating that Iran continues to execute its own citizens despite pledging to the United States not to carry out executions of protesters.

Various scenarios were also discussed in the event the negotiations collapse and in the event Iran attacks Israel. Netanyahu is seeking to ensure Israel’s freedom of action, while officials in Jerusalem are concerned about being constrained, as they say happened following the Obama administration’s nuclear agreement a decade ago.

The two also discussed potential strike scenarios against Iran, including whether the United States would carry out a strike alone or under a different framework.

Following the meeting, the Prime Minister’s Office said in a statement: “The meeting addressed the negotiations with Iran, Gaza and regional developments. The prime minister outlined Israel’s security needs in the context of the negotiations, and the two agreed to continue close coordination and contact.”

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1vygwodzx>

Iran rushes to protect Natanz, its most crucial nuclear site, from potential US strike
Tehran may have used the delay in the US's potential strike to make the beneath-mountain facility nearly untouchable.

By **YONAH JEREMY BOB** FEBRUARY 12, 2026 12:42 Updated: FEBRUARY 12, 2026 16:00



A satellite image shows airstrike craters covered with dirt at the Natanz Enrichment Facility, following US airstrikes, in Natanz County, Iran, June 24, 2025(photo credit: MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS)

High-resolution satellite imagery of Iran's largest and most crucial remaining nuclear facility shows a recent rush to protect it from potential American or Israeli aerial attack, according to the Institute for Science & International Security (ISIS).

Satellite imagery from February 10 appears to show that Tehran has taken advantage of delays in any such attack since the December 28 protests started to better defend the facility.

The facility in question is a large tunnel complex at Kolang-Gaz La Mountain, aka Pickaxe Mountain, a mountain near the series of Natanz nuclear facilities, which were the center of the Islamic Republic's nuclear program until the Israel-Iran War of June 2025.

Most of the other Natanz facilities, including the existing centrifuges at the time, were destroyed in June 2025, but for reasons that have not been fully explained to date, this facility was not struck.



Construction started at the site by 2021, and the [ISIS](#) think tank and *The Jerusalem Post* revealed its existence to the public in early 2022.

People wave flags next to an Iranian missile on display during the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Tehran, Iran, February 10, 2025. (credit: MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY) VIA REUTERS)

According to the think tank, the relatively new enormous underground facility is still not thought to be operational, one of the reasons it may not have been struck previously, but there are concerns that it could be used to enrich uranium or even for some kind of clandestine rush to a small nuclear weapon at some point if not dealt with.

Tehran continues to invest in its most important undamaged nuclear facility

Certainly, since June 2025, it has received extra attention and emphasis from Iran as its singularly most important undamaged facility for potential

nuclear program use.

From the start, Iran had been digging and building this new facility near the Natanz area to go so deep under the mountain there, far larger than the mountain atop the Fordow facility, which the US bombed with bunker busters in June 2025, so that it would be even more impregnable.

The main mountain harboring the new Natanz tunnel complex is at a height of 1608 meters above sea level, he said.

In comparison, the mountain that harbored the Fordow centrifuge enrichment plant, called Kūh-e Dāgh Ghū'ī, was about 960 meters tall.

The think tank said this makes the Natanz mountain about 650 meters tall, or well over 50% taller, potentially providing even greater protection to any facility built beneath it.

All this was true, even before June 2025.

Heavy construction suggests facility is not yet ready for operations

In a previous report, the think tank's president David Albright wrote, "Fordow is already viewed as so deeply buried that it would be difficult to destroy via aerial attack. The new Natanz site may be even harder to destroy."

The latest think tank report revealed that there are "ongoing efforts to harden and defensively strengthen two of the tunnel entrances into the facility. Imagery shows ongoing activity throughout the complex related to this effort, involving the movement of numerous vehicles, including dump trucks, cement mixers, and other heavy equipment like backhoes and truck-mounted cranes."

"As of February 10, concrete is being poured on top of the Western tunnel entrance extension. At one of the Eastern tunnel entrances, rock and soil can be seen pushed back and leveled on top of the tunnel portal. Additionally, over the last month, a concrete-reinforced headworks for the tunnel entrance extension was added. This allows for additional overburden in the form of additional rock, soil, or concrete," said the report.

Further, the report stated that, "These efforts strengthen the tunnel portals and provide additional protection against an airstrike. Nearby the eastern tunnel portals, piles of construction materials can be seen on the ground."

Next, the report explained that, "The ongoing presence of heavy construction machinery and materials around the site indicate that the facility is likely not yet ready for operations, however, over the last two months, smaller vehicles and closed-roof vehicles have also been observed near the entrances, indicating that Iran may be in the process of outfitting the interior of the tunnel complex."

Moreover, the report noted, "In the past, Iran has tied the construction to rebuilding an advanced centrifuge assembly plant, but the size of the facility, as well as the protection provided by the tall mountain, raised immediate concern about whether additional sensitive activities are planned, such as uranium enrichment. Whether the current levels of visible utility support in the form of one probable ventilation shaft with above-and below-ground power lines are sufficient to support such operations inside the tunnel seems doubtful."

Accordingly, Israel can hope that the facility may not be capable of all of the nuclear activities Iran lost when its main facilities at Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan were heavily damaged in June 2025.

But if Tehran is planning to expand the facility's capabilities, the last two months of work on its potential vulnerabilities have only made an already extremely difficult target even more difficult to hit.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-886464>

Fateful slip of the tongue on Iranian television: Reporter says 'Death to Khamenei' instead of 'America'

In a moment of lack of concentration, he actually blurted out a call for assassination of the Supreme Leader; His manager has been fired, other employees will be summoned for questioning. Reporter: 'I got confused, and the enemies of the revolution are taking advantage of this'

ynet, [News Agencies](#)|07:25

Iran's state television network has confirmed that it fired a local channel manager after a reporter mistakenly said "Death to Khamenei" during a live broadcast — a slogan associated with opponents of the ayatollah regime and frequently chanted against the Islamic Republic's supreme leader. The reporter himself claimed it was a "slip of the tongue."

Iranian reporter's dangerous 'slip of the tongue': 'Death to Khamenei' instead of 'Death to America'

The unusual incident occurred Wednesday during celebrations marking the 47th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that brought the ayatollah regime to power — events that featured displays

of strength organized by the regime and its supporters, alongside chants by government opponents from their balconies directed at Iran's leadership, headed by Khamenei. **Truth not tolerated in Iran.** rdb

During a live broadcast from regime celebrations in Sistan-Baluchestan province in southeastern Iran, reporter Musab Rasoulizad described pro-regime participants and said the slogans they were chanting included "Allahu Akbar" and "Death to Khamenei." He apparently misspoke, intending to say "Death to America" or "Death to Israel," slogans typically heard at such rallies and also voiced there Wednesday.



*Events marking the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran
(Photo: Vahid Salemi/AP)*



(Photos: Vahid Salemi/AP, Majid Asgaripour/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via Reuters)

In a video released afterward, Rasoulizad apologized for the remark, saying it was a slip of the tongue. He also criticized opponents of the regime and the "revolution" for exploiting the incident.

Following the broadcast, Iran's state media authority announced that the programming director of the affiliated local channel was dismissed immediately. It said other staff members found responsible for the mistake would be referred to a disciplinary committee. According to the authority, the decision was intended "to preserve professional discipline and the reputation of the media."



Reporter Musab Rasoulizad said the slogans they were chanting included 'Allahu Akbar' and 'Death to Khamenei'



*Events marking the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran
(Photo: Ahmed Mohammed / AFP)*

The reporter's gaffe came at a particularly sensitive moment, as "Death to Khamenei" was one of the most common chants heard during last month's protests against the regime. Iranian security forces brutally suppressed the demonstrations, in a crackdown that left thousands dead.

The [regime in Tehran has so far acknowledged that more than 3,000 people were killed](#), but human rights organizations say they have [verified the deaths of more than 7,000 individuals, with many others still missing and feared dead](#). Some estimates claim that in just a few days, the Iranian regime killed tens of thousands <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hy8dguswzx#autoplay>

Israel Navy commandos, submarines train to protect Eilat from invasion

Many of the scenarios the IDF trained to defend against were based on special intelligence the IDF obtained from a highly placed Hezbollah secret naval commander.

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) FEBRUARY 12, 2026 17:04 Updated: FEBRUARY 12, 2026 17:52



SOLDIERS WATCH as a US destroyer conducts an operation with the Israeli Navy. (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

The IDF announced on Thursday that it held a multi-day drill to defend from a potential sea invasion into Eilat.

Three major portions of the Israel Navy – the elite Shayetet 13 naval commandos, submarines, and missile boats – were all involved in the drill along with the Israel Air Force, the Operations Directorate command, and the Logistics Directorate.

Many of the scenarios that the IDF trained to defend against were prepared based on special intelligence that

the IDF gained from a high-ranking Hezbollah secret naval commander it captured around 16 months ago.

At the time, Shayetet 13 raided a coastal area in Batroun, south of Tripoli, around 140 km. north of Israel's maritime border with Lebanon, and captured Imad Amhaz.

The military stated that Amhaz was a central operative in Hezbollah's highly classified maritime program and more specifically in Unit 7900, its land-to-sea missile unit.



During interrogation, Amhaz confirmed his senior role in the clandestine Hezbollah naval activities and provided intelligence on the unit's structure and objectives, such as building covert operations under the guise of civilian cover to target Israeli and international interests.

Israel Navy does drills to practice defending offshore assets

Part of the drill also related to defending [Israel's sea-based natural gas rigs](#), which have strategic value to its energy stability.

To defend against invasion scenarios, the navy cooperates with other arms of the IDF to throw a massive intelligence collection envelope over all nearby maritime areas, using intelligence elements

from above, from sea level, and underground.

There have been concerns throughout 2023 to 2026 that Israel has been spread thin in terms of collecting intelligence on certain less-prominent threat fronts.

The [Shayetet 13](#) commandos also practiced a variety of drills, such as boarding and challenging hostile attackers' modes of transportation in complex circumstances. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-886503>

In first, free bus line will run between Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion Airport on Shabbat

Existing 711 line, part of an initiative to provide weekend transportation in center of country, will now stop at Terminal 1

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 4:35 pm



View of the departure hall in Terminal 1, at the Ben Gurion Airport, near Tel Aviv on December 1, 2020. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)

Tel Aviv Municipality announced Thursday that a bus line will be set up to connect the city with Ben Gurion Airport on weekends, when regular bus and train services do not operate.

While most Israelis back limited public transportation on Shabbat, governments have refused to support buses on Friday night and Saturday, the Jewish day of rest, with ultra-Orthodox politicians demanding Israel hew closely to traditional arrangements on matters of religion

and state.

The free service is part of the Na'im Besofash initiative, which already runs dozens of bus lines in the Gush Dan area.

The existing line 711 between Tel Aviv and the nearby town of Shoham will now go via the airport to the low-cost Terminal 1, the departure point for most flights on Saturdays. The airport has its own internal transport system for those who need to reach the main Terminal 3.

"Connecting the metropolis to the entryway of Israel is a welcome step and significant milestone for civilian freedom of movement," said Tel Aviv Deputy Mayor Meital Lehavi, who holds the transportation portfolio, in a post to Facebook.

She noted that it was "a solution for a basic, social and egalitarian need, and we will continue to expand the freedom of movement on the country's roads for the benefit of all citizens.

Na'im Besofash, a punny Hebrew portmanteau that roughly translates to "weekend travel," is a network that has been operating since late 2019, when it introduced lines in Tel Aviv, Givatayim, and Ramat Hasharon.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-first-free-bus-line-will-run-between-tel-aviv-and-ben-gurion-airport-on-shabbat/>

Herzog: Antisemitism in Australia 'frightening'; graffiti at Melbourne U. urges his death

President tells local news 'silent majority' want good relations with Jewish community; graffiti calling for his death scrawled at university ahead of visit

By [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:46 am



President Isaac Herzog reacts during a Jewish community event in Melbourne on February 12, 2026. (WILLIAM WEST / AFP)

President Isaac Herzog said Thursday that antisemitism in Australia is "frightening" but that most people want good relations with the Jewish community. He was speaking on the final day of a visit that was met with multiple protests, and as graffiti calling for his death was scrawled at a university.

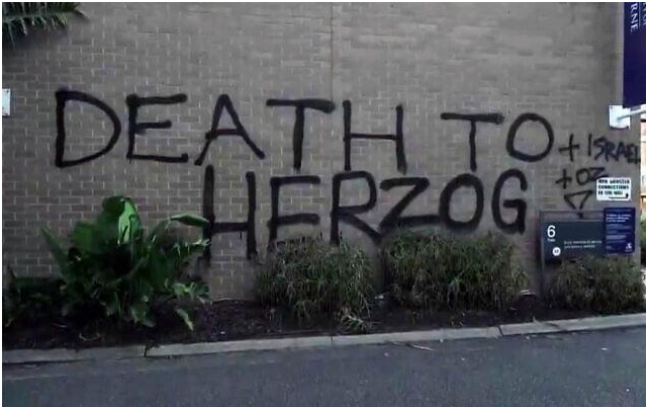
Herzog's tightly policed four-day visit to Australia this week was meant to offer consolation to the country's Jewish community following December's mass shooting

targeting a Hanukkah event at Bondi Beach in which terrorists killed 15 people.

But it faced anti-Israel demonstrations in major cities, including in Sydney, where police used pepper spray on protesters and members of the media during scuffles in the city's central business district.

Ahead of a visit on Thursday to Melbourne, Herzog told Channel Seven's Sunrise a "wave" of anti-Jewish hatred in Australia had culminated in the December 14 Bondi killings.

“It is frightening and worrying,” he said. “But there’s also a silent majority of Australians who seek peace, who respect the Jewish community, and of course, want a dialogue with Israel.”



The head of state said he had brought a “message of goodwill to the people of Australia.”

“I hope there will be a change. I hope things will relax,” he said.

Death to Herzog graffiti scrawled at Melbourne University ahead of President IUsaac Herzog’s visit, February 12, 2026. (RT News screenshot, via X)

Protesters against Herzog’s visit began turning out in force in Melbourne around 5 p.m. local time.

Ahead of the president’s arrival, graffiti calling for Herzog’s death was found on a building at Melbourne

University, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Protesters interrupt traffic as they block an intersection during the visit President Isaac Herzog in Melbourne on February 12, 2026.

(MARTIN KEEP / AFP)



The graffiti on the side of a building read “Death to Herzog + Israel + Oz,” the latter a nickname for Australia, and included an inverted triangle, which has become a pro-Hamas symbol following its use to mark targets in the terror group’s propaganda videos. The graffiti was later removed.

“Racism, hatred and violence have no place in our society or our nation,” a spokesperson for the university said, according to the ABC report. “We became aware of the offensive graffiti on the edge of our Parkville campus this morning and immediately sent cleaners who swiftly removed it.”

The Australasian Union of Jewish students said it was “deeply disturbed” by the graffiti.

“Calls for violence against any individual or nation are not ‘legitimate criticism’ of government policy,” the group said in a statement. “They cross a clear moral and legal line and have no place on a university campus.”

AUJS urged the university to probe the incident and find the culprits.

“At a time when Jewish students already feel unsafe on campus, incidents like this only contribute to a hostile and intimidating environment,” it said.



Protesters react towards police officers as they cordon off a venue during the visit of President Isaac Herzog in Melbourne on February 12, 2026. (MARTIN KEEP / AFP)

Protesters cite a United Nations Commission of Inquiry that last year claimed that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza and that top Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Herzog, incited these acts — accusations that Israel called scandalous.

“Our message to all Australians is simple: the time to march is now. For all the Palestinians who have been killed, for all those still alive but starving,” said Jasmine Duff of Students for Palestine, a group that planned to protest

outside one of Melbourne’s main railway stations on Thursday evening.

Israel denies accusations of genocide and war crimes, saying its military actions in Gaza, sparked by the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led massacre in the south of the country, are targeted at terror groups, which it accuses of using the civilian population as human shields.

Many Jewish Australians have welcomed Herzog’s trip.

“His visit will lift the spirits of a pained community,” said Alex Ryvchin, co-chief executive of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the community’s peak body.

Some in the community disagreed, with the Jewish Council of Australia, a fringe anti-Zionist Australian Jewish group, saying he was not welcome because of his alleged role in the “ongoing destruction of Gaza.”

Herzog was visiting Australia this week following an invitation from Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in the aftermath of the December 14 Bondi Beach killings.



Police officers cordon off a venue as protesters gather during the visit of President Isaac Herzog in Melbourne on February 12, 2026. Hebrew slogan reads 'You are a war criminal with blood on your hands.' (Martin KEEP / AFP)

The president met Albanese in the capital Canberra on Wednesday, where the prime minister [pressed him for criminal charges](#) to be filed over the killing of an Australian aid worker in a 2024 IDF airstrike in the Gaza Strip.

The UN's Independent International Commission of Inquiry found last year that Herzog was liable for prosecution for inciting genocide after he said all Palestinians — “an entire nation” — were responsible for the Hamas attack on Israel.

Herzog has said his remarks were [taken out of context](#), that he also stressed the need to prevent innocent civilians from being killed in Gaza, and that his comments were being used in a form of “blood libel.”

Israel has “categorically” rejected the inquiry’s report, describing it as “distorted and false” and calling for the body’s abolition. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/herzog-antisemitism-in-australia-is-frightening-but-most-people-respect-jews/>

Qatar largest foreign source of gifts and contracts to US universities in 2025, over \$1.1 billion

Qatar's \$1.1B investment in US universities in 2025 has made it the largest foreign donor. What does this mean for academic research and national security?

By[**MATHILDA HELLER**](#)***FEBRUARY 12, 2026 17:33Updated: FEBRUARY 12, 2026 17:55***



Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani attends a press conference, in Doha, Qatar, October 24, 2024. (photo credit: REUTERS/Nathan Howard/Pool)

Qatar was the largest foreign source of gifts and contracts to American universities in 2025, amounting to over \$1.1 billion.

This was revealed on Wednesday by the US Department of Education, which released the newest data compiled from foreign funding disclosures submitted by American colleges and universities for 2025. Universities receiving federal financial

assistance are obligated to disclose foreign source gifts and contracts with a value of \$250,000 or more annually.

In total, there were more than 8,300 transactions worth more than \$5.2 billion in reportable foreign gifts and contracts.

The largest foreign sources of reportable gifts and contracts to American universities were Qatar (over \$1.1 billion), the United Kingdom (over \$633 million), China (over \$528 million), Switzerland (over \$451 million), Japan (over \$374 million), Germany (over \$292 million), and Saudi Arabia (over \$285 million).

The top university recipients of those foreign funds were Carnegie Mellon University (almost \$1 billion), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (almost \$1 billion), Stanford University (over \$775 million), and Harvard University (over \$324 million).



Harvard University - \$610 million

Covering the period from 1986 through December 16, 2025, [Harvard University](#) disclosed that it received more money from counterparties located in countries of concern than any other institution of higher education, totaling over \$610 million.

Israel funded the University of California, San Francisco (\$13.7 million), Northwestern (\$13.6 million), and the University of Minnesota Twin Cities (\$12.7 million).

The Education Department said that the “state of Palestine” provided \$7,043,000 to US schools, most of which went to Indiana University of Pennsylvania (\$6.4 million) and Brown University (\$643,000).

“Thanks to the Trump Administration's new accountability portal, the American people have unprecedented visibility into the foreign dollars flowing into our colleges and universities - including funding from countries and entities that are involved in activities that threaten America’s national security,” US Secretary of Education Linda McMahon said. “This marks a new era of transparency for the American people and streamlined compliance for colleges and universities, making it easier than ever for institutions to meet their legal obligations.

“Under President Trump’s leadership, we remain firmly committed to ensuring that universities uphold their legal and ethical obligations to disclose the true origins of their foreign relationships. This transparency is essential not only to preserving the integrity of academic research but also to ensure the security and resilience of our nation.”

New measures to improve transparency

The Trump Administration has implemented new measures to improve transparency in foreign funding disclosures, as required by law. This includes a new portal that allows American citizens, Congress, and the media to inspect and analyze disclosed foreign funding, including gifts and contracts received from parties designated as entities of concern by the US Department of State, among other federal agencies.

This comes after multiple reports, including by ISGAP in 2019, claimed that US universities were not reporting their financial partnership transactions with Qatar and other foreign parties.

For example, ISGAP research found that Yale University had only declared one grant from Qatar since 2012, in the amount of just \$284,668, but that it estimated that the school received approximately \$15,925,711 during this time.

The Middle East Forum (MEF) then reported recently that Qatar has gained sizable control over Georgetown University. Over the past 20 years, Qatar has given \$1 billion to Georgetown’s Doha and Washington campuses. The money has sustained both campuses and funded faculty, research initiatives, and endowed chairs on the Washington campus, MEF reported.

Georgetown’s courses and research also indicate a growing ideological drift toward post-colonial scholarship, anti-Western critiques, and anti-Israel advocacy, with some faculty engaged in political activism related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or anti-Western interventionism, MEF reported.

This is particularly relevant given Qatar’s relative hostility to Western countries and its support for terrorist organizations such as Hamas, MEF added. <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-886508>

OP ED

China’s Democrat Minority Leader in Texas Calls for Race War

Wed, 11 Feb 2026 7:08 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



“I always tell people the day Latinos, African-American, Asian and other communities realize that they share the same oppressor is the day we start winning. Because we are the majority in this country. We have the ability to take over this country,” State Rep. ‘Gene’ Yonzhi Wu, who serves as the Texas Democrat House Minority Leader, recently declared.

Who is oppressing Wu? The Chinese immigrant came here from Guangzhou, graduated from law school and became one of the top officials in the state. Good luck to any American who wants to move to China, become a lawyer and run for public office. And if a non-Chinese immigrant were to suggest that minorities in China should ally together against their Chinese oppressors and take over, his organs would be for sale on Temu in 15 minutes or less.

Rep. Wu represents a Houston district where a majority of the neighborhoods like Gulfton and Sharpstown are Hispanic and only a minority of residents are Chinese. Three out of four core neighborhoods have more black people than Hispanics so it’s understandable that Wu wants to point them at overthrowing their white ‘oppressors’ rather than electing a black or Hispanic man.

(Of course many of the ‘Hispanics’ in Wu’s district are illegal aliens. Wu admitted in an interview that at

least [a third](#) are illegals, suggesting the real number may be much higher, and that his district is illegitimate. It also explains why Wu fights so hard to protect illegal aliens in Texas.)

But Rep. Gene Wu's call for a race war isn't representing Asian Americans either. Instead it hews suspiciously close to the Chinese Communist party's agenda for tearing apart America.

Houston was the site of one of the most blatant Chinese influence and intimidation operations leading to the [forced closure of its consulate](#) in 2020 followed by the fire department showing up when its staffers began burning papers. Wu, who had attended multiple events at the spy consulate, [angrily protested](#) the forced closure, warning that "this is how WW3 starts" and ranting that it's "madness" and claiming that "this is Trump trying to start an actual war."

Rep. Gene Wu claimed that the closure of the spy consulate was racist and endangering Asian Americans. "It's not just Chinese Americans that are in danger. But it's all Asian Americans, because as we've seen with COVID-19 issues that there has been a dramatic spike in anti-Asian American attacks both physical and verbal."

"Everyone spies," Wu's wife, who works as a reporter, [argued](#) after conducting an interview with the Chinese Communist consul general..

"We try very hard to make sure to bridge the gap between Texas and China," Rep. Wu told China Daily, a paper controlled by the Central Propaganda Department of the Chinese Communist Party, and described lobbying members of Congress to support exporting natural gas to China. "Every time I go to DC I make it my business to visit senators and representatives to tell them why this bill is a good idea. If this gets passed and signed by the President, it will be huge for Texas and China... This is the perfect area for Chinese companies to do business."

Rep. Wu led the fight against Texas Senate Bill 17 barring Chinese, Russian, Iranian and North Korean takeovers of American land after foreign nationals belonging to enemy nations, especially to China, began buying up property near air bases.

"It is anti-Asian, anti-immigrant, and specifically against Chinese-Americans," Rep. Wu falsely claimed. "It is plainly racist, and our community will not stand for it". He argued that "this is our new form of yellow peril, where people are scared of whatever issues they have with China."

The representative from China seemed unaware of what issues anyone might have with the PRC. "There's you know, other administrations, people caught Chinese spies, they caught U.S. spies, whatever it is," he said dismissively.

Even as Rep. Wu claimed to be fighting for civil rights while criticizing America in the harshest possible language, he's had little to say about human rights abuses in Communist China. Instead, Wu has met with top Communist officials, celebrated them and promoted China's interests inside the United States even while seeking to pit Americans against each other.

Shortly after taking office, Wu spoke at a Chinese Communist front group event welcoming Vice Premier Liu Yandong, who had served in China's 'United Front Work Department' global propaganda and influence front, to Texas. The same politician who claimed that democracy would be "gone" if Americans voted for Trump had no such concerns about China's tyrants.

Rep. Wu has claimed that "our family has been the victims of communism for a very long time, and we fled to this country as fast as we possibly could." But he certainly doesn't act like it. It's entirely plausible that members of his family were purged during the Cultural Revolution. That's true of many Chinese Communists and while it's now common to deplore those abuses, much as Stalin's abuses were later deplored by the USSR, that's a long way from rejecting China.

I could not find a single mention of the Tiananmen Square massacre by Rep. Wu, but he did falsely accuse Gov. Abbott and President Trump of "sending armed soldiers to suppress peaceful protests" and claimed that "the Texas we love was built on freedom from tyranny, not submission to it." No word from Wu on what China is built on.

Genuine refugees from Communist China and Cuba don't pal around with officials from the countries that their families fled, lobby for their interests or denounce America in favor of them, instead they call attention to the abuses and crimes of those regimes and continue to denounce them and their ideological system.

But when given a chance to denounce Communism, Wu defended it instead.

Last year, Texas Senate Bill 24 was introduced incorporating teaching about the dangers of Communism in schools. Wu predictably came out against the bill, claiming that it would lead to discrimination against people from Communist countries and suggesting that some American Communists were heroes.

When Rep. Gene Wu calls for minorities to unite to take over America, he sounds like them.

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