

02182026 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

IDF soldier killed in 'friendly fire' incident in southern Gaza

Initial military probe finds Staff Sgt. Ofri Yafe was killed near Yellow Line in Khan Younis area around 2 a.m. after being mistakenly identified as part of enemy forces

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 1:09 pm



Staff Sgt. Ofri Yafe (Israel Defense Forces)

An Israel Defense Forces soldier was killed in an incident of "friendly fire" in the southern Gaza Strip overnight, the military announced on Wednesday.

The soldier was named as Staff Sgt. Ofri Yafe, 21, of the Paratroopers Brigade's Reconnaissance Unit, from HaYogev, a moshav in the Jezreel Valley.

According to a preliminary IDF probe, the incident occurred as two forces from the Paratroopers Brigade set out for routine mop-up operations near the Yellow Line in the Khan Younis area, aimed at clearing Hamas infrastructure.

At around 2 a.m., one of the forces mistakenly identified the second group of soldiers as an enemy and opened fire.

Yafe was critically injured by the gunfire, and a helicopter was dispatched to evacuate him to a hospital. He succumbed to his wounds during the evacuation attempt, the military said.

The military said the circumstances are under further investigation.

Illustrative: IDF troops operate on the eastern side of the Yellow Line in southern Gaza's Khan Younis, in a handout photo issued on November 9, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

Yafe is survived by his parents, Hadas and Iftach, and his siblings Noy, Tzuf and Itamar. According to his family,

Yafe loved surfing, hiking and spending time with his friends and family.

The Jezreel Valley Regional Council said Yafe "set out to defend the State of Israel and all of us, and fell in battle."

He was described by the council's head, Shlomit Shihor Reichman, as "a brave youth, full of life and values, who chose to serve and give back to his country out of a sense of mission and love of the land."

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Of the 472 Israeli soldiers killed in the Gaza Strip during Israel's ground operations against Hamas, 80 were killed by friendly fire and in other accidents, according to IDF data.

Another 1,932 soldiers have been wounded in incidents of friendly fire and accidents in the Gaza Strip, according to the data.

The IDF has assessed that myriad reasons have led to the deadly accidents, including communication issues between forces, and soldiers being exhausted and not paying attention to regulations.

Yafe is the fifth IDF soldier to be killed in Gaza since a ceasefire went into effect in October 2025. On October 19, Maj. Yaniv Kula and Staff Sgt. Itay Yavetz [were killed](#) in an attack by Palestinian terror operatives in

Rafah. The attack also wounded Sgt. Maj. (res.) Asael Babad, who [succumbed to his wounds](#) last month. Then on October 28, Master Sgt. (res.) Yona Efraim Feldbaum [was killed](#) in an attack on troops in Rafah. *Times of Israel staff contributed to this report. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-soldier-killed-in-friendly-fire-incident-in-southern-gaza/>*

US-Iran war could be imminent and take weeks, sources warn after latest nuclear talks

Ex-IDF Military Intelligence chief says we're 'much closer than before' to conflict, as US energy secretary warns Washington will stop Tehran getting nukes 'one way or the other'

By [Tol Staff](#), [Lazar Berman](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 3:11 pm



Vehicles drive along a highway under a banner with Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's threat against US warships, in Tehran on February 18, 2026. (ATTA KENARE / AFP)

A military confrontation between the US and Iran could begin in the coming days and be an intensive, multi-week campaign, sources said Wednesday, despite ongoing diplomatic talks between Washington and Tehran.

Former IDF Military Intelligence chief Amos Yadlin suggested Wednesday that such a confrontation could be imminent.

"Last week I allowed myself to fly to the Munich Security Conference. I would think twice about

flying [abroad from Israel] this weekend," Yadlin told Channel 12 news on Wednesday, a day after a second round of nuclear talks was held in Geneva.

"We are much closer than we were before, but I remind you — a superpower does not go to war in a matter of days. There is a diplomatic path that must be exhausted," said Yadlin, who now heads a national security consultancy.

Yadlin added that "many oppose the attack. The Pentagon is not clear what they want it to achieve. The president is very determined. The statement that all options are on the table is based on a credible military threat, which comes alongside the preparations off the coast of Iran and in the skies."

Sources [told the Axios news site](#) on Wednesday that a potential US-Iran war would be a long, multi-week campaign, with a White House official putting the chances of a strike in the coming weeks at 90 percent.

Security and rescue forces at the scene of an Iranian ballistic missile strike in Holon, June 19, 2025. (Oren Ben Hakoon/Flash90)

It would likely be a joint US-Israeli operation, said the source, even larger than the 12-day Israeli-led bombing campaign last June. According to the sources, the war could come earlier than most people expect, and could be far larger than many anticipate. Iranian missiles in June killed 32 people and wounded over 3,000 in Israel.

US President Donald Trump "is getting fed up," said a Trump adviser. "Some people around him warn him against going to war with Iran, but I think there is 90% chance we see kinetic action in the next few weeks."



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Two Israeli officials told the outlet that Israel is preparing for a war to break out "within days," adding that Israel is pushing an operation aimed at toppling the regime.

Likud MK Boaz Bismuth, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said Wednesday that Israel is facing "challenging days," following a hearing with the IDF Home Front Command chief.

"There is no citizen of Israel who doesn't ask himself several times a day 'when will the Iran conflict happen?'" said Bismuth. "The public is prepared and the authorities are prepared. We in the Knesset are also

ensuring that the home front is prepared for every scenario.”

Iran said following the talks on Tuesday in Geneva [that the sides had agreed](#) on “guiding principles” for a deal to avoid conflict. US Vice President JD Vance, however, [said Tehran](#) had not yet acknowledged all of Washington’s red lines.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi looks on after he delivered a speech during a session of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, on the sideline of a second round of US-Iranian talks with Washington in Geneva, on February 17, 2026. (Valentin Flauraud / AFP)

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright warned Wednesday that the United States was determined to deter Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

“They’ve been very clear about what they would do with nuclear weapons. It’s entirely unacceptable,” Wright told reporters in Paris on the sidelines of meetings of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“So one way or the other, we are going to end, deter Iran’s march towards a nuclear weapon,” Wright said. On Tuesday, open-source flight tracking data showed that the US military had moved dozens of fighter jets toward the Middle East in a day. The aircraft included F-22, F-35, and F-16 jets. Several refuelers were also spotted on the move, according to social media accounts dedicated to tracking military flights.



In this handout photograph released by the US Navy on February 5, 2026, US sailors direct an EA-18G Growler, attached to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 133, on the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Arabian Sea on February 3, 2026. (Zoe Simpson/US Navy/AFP)

Meanwhile, Iranian media reported Wednesday that Iran and Russia will conduct naval maneuvers in the Sea of Oman on Thursday.

“The joint naval exercise of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia will take place tomorrow in the Sea of Oman and in the northern Indian Ocean,” the ISNA agency reported, citing drill spokesman, Rear Admiral Hassan Maghsoudloo. “The aim is to strengthen maritime security and to deepen relations between the navies of the two countries,” he said, without specifying the duration of the drill.

On Monday, the Revolutionary Guards, the ideological arm of Iran’s military, also launched exercises in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a challenge to US naval forces deployed in the region. Iran announced Tuesday that it would partially close the key strait for a few hours for “security” reasons during its drills.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-iran-war-could-be-imminent-and-take-weeks-sources-warn-after-latest-nuclear-talks/>

Trump warns Britain of possible Iran attack, signals need for ‘bomber island’

A White House spokeswoman said there are 'many reasons' to strike Iran, as Trump warned the British prime minister that Tehran could target the UK and other allies; Rafael Chairman Yuval Steinitz said Iran may respond with missile fire at European capitals

Ron Crissy|14:37

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday addressed his dispute with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer over what he called the “bomber island,” saying in a post on his Truth Social platform that “Should Iran decide not to make a Deal, it may be necessary for the United States to use Diego Garcia, and the Airfield located in Fairford, in order to eradicate a potential attack by a highly unstable and dangerous Regime.”

Trump added, “an attack that would potentially be made on the United Kingdom, as well as other friendly Countries.”



(Photo: Mandel Ngan/ AFP, Christopher Furlong/ Getty Images) [by Taboola](#)

In a direct appeal to Starmer, Trump wrote that “leases are no good when it comes to Countries, and that he is making a big mistake by entering a 100 Year Lease with whoever it is that is ‘claiming’ Right, Title, and Interest to Diego Garcia, strategically located in the Indian Ocean.” He described US-UK relations as “strong and powerful” but accused Starmer of “losing control of this important Island.”

“This land should not be taken away from the U.K. and, if it is allowed to be, it will be a blight on our Great Ally. DO NOT GIVE AWAY DIEGO GARCIA!” Trump wrote.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Wednesday that there are many reasons a strike on Iran could take place. She added that Trump has consistently maintained diplomacy is the preferred option, that he has treated Iran with respect and that it would be wise for Tehran to reach an agreement with him.

According to Leavitt, Trump views the issue seriously and will act in what he sees as the best interests of the United States, its military and the American people, saying that is how he approaches decisions on any form of military action.

Asked about coordination with Israel, she said she had no details to share about conversations between Trump and Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#). She added that the US government remains in close contact with Israel, beginning with Trump and Netanyahu themselves.

At a defense-tech conference hosted this week by ynet and Yedioth Ahronoth, Rafael Chairman Yuval Steinitz warned that Iran could still surprise its adversaries.

“They know they cannot defeat the United States, but they can hurt it and its allies, like us,” Steinitz said. “I wouldn’t be surprised if they try to strike beyond the Middle East — they may try to hit European countries, Berlin, Budapest, Vienna.”



The US base on Diego Garcia (Photo: Handout / © 2025 PLANET LABS PBC / AFP)

The dispute over the “bomber island” stems from Britain’s plan to transfer sovereignty over the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean — including the US air base on Diego Garcia — to Mauritius. As a result, the island’s future remains uncertain. Last year, about one-third of the US B-2 bomber fleet was deployed there.

“Shockingly, our ‘brilliant’ NATO Ally, the United Kingdom, is currently planning to give away the Island of Diego Garcia, the site of a vital U.S. Military Base, to

Mauritius, and to do so FOR NO REASON WHATSOEVER,” Trump wrote last month on Truth Social. “There is no doubt that China and Russia have noticed this act of total weakness ... The UK giving away extremely important land is an act of GREAT STUPIDITY, and is another in a very long line of National Security reasons why Greenland has to be acquired,” he added.

Diego Garcia is a small island — about 30 square kilometers (12 square miles) — but it is the largest of roughly 60 islands that make up the Chagos Archipelago in the central Indian Ocean. Since the 1970s, it has hosted a strategic air base leased by the United States from Britain under an agreement currently set to run through at least 2036.

About 2,500 personnel live at the base, most of them American and a minority British, and it holds strategic importance for US operations in the region. It played a key role in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and it has previously been reported that the CIA operated “black sites” there — secret detention facilities outside the United States where terrorism suspects were subjected to torture.

In April last year, Trump deployed roughly one-third of the US B-2 stealth bomber fleet to the island — aircraft capable of carrying massive bunker-busting munitions — in what was widely seen as a clear warning to Iran. Ultimately, the United States struck Iranian nuclear sites before the end of Operation Rising Lion, but with bombers launched from the United States. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sj1noqm00ze#autoplay>

Exercise or escalation? Iran closes airspace ahead of 'extensive missile launches'

Iran warned pilots to avoid broad areas of its airspace following weeks of military exercises amid rising tensions, as the US imposed sanctions over the violent suppression of protests and Tehran reported its foreign minister spoke with his Saudi counterpart about developments

Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari, Reuters|15:52

Iran has issued a formal notice to pilots warning of planned missile launches across broad areas of the country's south on Thursday, according to an official notification to air missions, or NOTAM.

Data from the US Federal Aviation Administration shows that airspace in the designated launch zones will be closed to traffic between 5:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Israel time (10:30 p.m. Wednesday to 8:30 a.m. Thursday EST).

Iran's exercise in the Strait of Hormuz



Numerous Iranian military exercises in recent weeks

The notice is intended to ensure the safety of civilian aircraft passing through the Persian Gulf region and to compel international airlines to reroute flights during the scheduled activity.

The reports are being closely monitored in Israel and in Western countries after Iran conducted numerous military exercises in recent weeks. Those drills on Wednesday also led to the [closure of the Strait of Hormuz](#), a critical maritime chokepoint

for global energy supplies.

Separately, the United States on Wednesday announced sanctions against 18 senior officials in Iran's government and communications sector, accusing them of involvement in serious human rights abuses and the suppression of freedom of expression and assembly.

In a statement, State Department deputy spokesperson Thomas Pigott said the move was carried out under the US Immigration and Nationality Act at the initiative of Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The visa restrictions will also apply to the officials' immediate family members.



(Photo: Anonymous/Getty Images)

According to the statement, during a wave of protests in Iran the government used violence and repression against tens of thousands of peaceful demonstrators. It also said authorities nearly completely shut down internet access nationwide, a measure described as unprecedented in its scope and duration, preventing independent documentation of human rights abuses and cutting off Iranians from the outside world.

Washington stressed that the Iranian government continues to restrict its citizens' ability to exercise basic freedoms. "The United States stands with the Iranian people," the statement said, referencing past remarks by President Donald Trump that Washington supports the right of Iranians to freedom of expression.

The State Department said that 58 individuals have so far been subjected to restrictions under the policy and that the United States will continue to use available tools to expose human rights abuses and promote accountability among officials in Iran and others involved in repression.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bjzclsqz1#autoplay>

US approves formal communication channel between PA and Board of Peace — officials Coordination committee falls short of membership on board overseeing Gaza rebuild, but formalizes initiative's ties to Ramallah amid Israeli objections

By [Jacob Magid](#)

Today, 8:51 pm



Palestinian Authority Vice President Hussein al-Sheikh (second from right) meets with Board of Peace High Representative Nickolay Mladenov (third from left) in Ramallah on January 9, 2026. (Hussein al-Sheikh/X)

WASHINGTON — The US has approved the establishment of a coordination committee between the Palestinian Authority and the US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace, a US official and a Palestinian official told The Times of Israel on Wednesday.

The committee will formalize ties between the PA and the Board of Peace, which is overseeing the postwar reconstruction of Gaza. PA Prime Minister Mohammed Mustafa is representing Ramallah on the panel and Gaza High Representative Nickolay Mladenov is representing the Board of Peace, the two officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The creation of the panel is something of a compromise for the PA, which has been seeking to gain membership on the Board of Peace, particularly in light of Israel's representation on the body made up of world leaders and headed by Trump.

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Ramallah is hoping the new committee will be officially announced before the Board of Peace's inaugural meeting on Thursday in Washington, the Palestinian official said, adding that the PA will still continue to seek representation on the Board of Peace or its advisory Gaza Executive Board.

The Palestinian official credited lobbying from Arab countries on the Board of Peace for Washington's acquiescence to the establishment of the coordination committee.

The PA has already been in contact with Mladenov and other members of the Board of Peace's Gaza Executive Board, so the practical significance of the new committee is minimal. However, the PA is seeking to gain influence over decision-making regarding Gaza's reconstruction, given that Ramallah's assistance will be needed in order for it to succeed.



Palestinians walk along a street surrounded by buildings destroyed in Israeli air and ground operations during a dust storm in Gaza City, February 14, 2026. (AP Photo/Jehad Alshrafi)

While a separate committee of Palestinian technocrats has been tasked with replacing Hamas in governing Gaza, that panel will likely have to rely on civil servants and police forces who are currently on the PA payroll.

Moreover, the PA has access to land registration documents in Gaza, which will be needed in order to compensate property owners if their land is used for reconstruction projects being advanced by the Board of Peace.

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The Palestinian official clarified that the PA is eager to assist the Board of Peace as well as the technocratic committee dubbed the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG). However, Ramallah wants to have a formal role in the process to ensure that the initiative leads to the eventual reunification of Gaza and the West Bank under one political entity and believes official ties to the Board of Peace will advance that aim.

Israel and the US, which controls the Board of Peace, have opposed a more high-profile role for the PA in Gaza, arguing that Ramallah first needs to undergo significant reforms.

Israel lashed out last month after the NCAG updated its logo to one nearly identical to the PA.

The PA insists it is engaged in comprehensive reforms, including scheduling elections and scrapping its welfare program, which critics have dubbed "pay-to-slay" because it awarded stipends to security prisoners based



on the length of their sentence.

Ali Shaath, the top official of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, signs the committee's mission statement in a photo posted to his X account on January 17, 2026. (Ali Shaath/X)

But Ramallah says its efforts to improve efficiency are significantly hampered by Israel's withholding of over \$4 billion in Palestinian tax revenues, in violation of the Oslo Accords.

The withholding of those funds, which make up the majority of the PA's revenue, has left Ramallah unable to pay the full salaries of public sector employees for the past year, further moving the PA to the brink of collapse.

While PA President Mahmoud Abbas was not invited to Thursday's Board of Peace inaugural meeting, NCAG chief commissioner Ali Shaath is slated to attend, the US official said.

Asked for comment, the US State Department did not deny that Washington had given a green light for the new communication channel between the PA and the Board of Peace.

"The Board of Peace is pursuing all 20 points of President Trump's plan, which speaks for itself. We're not going to comment on diplomatic conversations," said a statement to The Times of Israel attributed to a Trump administration official. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-approves-formal-communication-channel-between-pa-and-board-of-peace-officials/>

UN Security Council to discuss Gaza, West Bank moves ahead of Board of Peace meeting

UN brings forward debate to avoid clash with inaugural meeting of Trump's new board; Palestinian envoy calls for countries to halt Israel's extension of control over West Bank

By AP and Tol Staff Today, 8:30 pm



General view of a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Iran at the United Nations headquarters in New York on January 15, 2026. (ANGELA WEISS / AFP)

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council is set to hold a high-level meeting on Wednesday on the Gaza ceasefire deal and Israel's efforts to expand control in the West Bank before world leaders head to Washington to discuss the future of the Palestinian territories at the first gathering of US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace.

for Thursday but was moved up after Trump announced the board's meeting for that same date, and it became clear that it would complicate travel plans for diplomats planning to attend both. It is a sign of the potential for overlapping and conflicting agendas between the United Nations' most powerful body and Trump's new initiative, whose broader ambitions to broker global conflicts have raised concerns in some countries that it may attempt to rival the UN Security Council.

Asked what he hopes to see from the back-to-back meetings this week, Palestinian UN Ambassador Riyad Mansour told reporters: "We expect from the international community to stop Israel and end their illegal effort against annexation, whether in Washington or in New York."

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The foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Indonesia, among others, are expected to attend the monthly Mideast meeting of the 15-member council after many Arab and Islamic countries requested last week that it discuss Gaza and Israel's contentious West Bank settlement project before some of them head to Washington.

The board, to be chaired by Trump, was originally envisioned as a small group of world leaders overseeing his 20-point plan for Gaza's future. But the Republican president's ambitious new vision for the board to be a mediator of worldwide conflicts has led to skepticism from major allies.

While more than 20 countries have so far accepted an invitation to join the board, close US partners, including France, Germany and others, have opted not to join yet and renewed support for the UN, which is also in the throes of major reforms and funding cuts.

US President Donald Trump speaks at a Board of Peace charter announcement during the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, January 22, 2026. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)



Mike Waltz, the US ambassador to the UN, dismissed concerns about the composition of the Board of Peace, telling conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt in an interview Monday that the most relevant countries, including Qatar and Egypt, which are in touch with Hamas's leadership, have accepted the invitation.

"All of those countries are on the Board of Peace, singing the same tune as the United States," he said.

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The Security Council will be meeting a day after nearly all of its 15 members — minus the United States — and dozens of other diplomats joined Palestinian ambassador Mansour as he read a statement on behalf of 80 countries and several organizations condemning Israel's latest actions in the West Bank, demanding an immediate reversal and underlining "strong opposition to any form of annexation."

Israel, whose UN mission did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Wednesday's meeting, is launching a contentious land regulation process that will deepen its control in the West Bank. Energy Minister Eli Cohen [said](#) it amounts to "de facto sovereignty" that will block the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Outraged Palestinians, Arab countries and human rights groups have [called](#) the moves an acceleration of attempts to illegally annex the territory, home to roughly 3.4 million Palestinians who seek it for a future state.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long objected to Palestinian statehood and once pledged to annex parts of the West Bank, though he has not followed through. Trump said he wouldn't allow Israel to annex the West Bank, and his 20-point plan acknowledged Palestinian aspirations for statehood, though it did not lay out a pathway to that end.



A building under construction is pictured in the West Bank settlement of Givat Ze'ev on October 24, 2025. (Ahmad GHARABLI / AFP)

The UN meeting is also expected to delve into the ceasefire deal that took effect on October 10 after more than two years of war between Israel and Hamas, which began after the terror group launched its October 7, 2023, massacre in southern Israel.

The UK, which currently holds the presidency of the council, said the meeting will include briefings by UN political chief Rosemary DiCarlo and by Israeli and Palestinian civil society representatives for the first time since the October 7 onslaught.

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Aspects of the ceasefire deal have moved forward, including Hamas releasing all the hostages it was holding and increased amounts of humanitarian aid getting into Gaza, though the UN says the level is insufficient. A new technocratic committee has been appointed to administer Gaza's daily affairs.

But the most challenging steps lie ahead, including the deployment of an international security force, disarming Hamas, and rebuilding Gaza.

Trump said this week that the Board of Peace members have pledged \$5 billion toward Gaza reconstruction and will commit thousands of personnel to international stabilization and police forces for the territory. He didn't provide details. Indonesia's military [says](#) up to 8,000 of its troops are expected to be ready by the end of June for a potential deployment to Gaza as part of a humanitarian and peace mission.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/un-security-council-to-discuss-gaza-west-bank-moves-ahead-of-board-of-peace-meeting/>

Iran urges Hezbollah to enter potential war, Israel sends clear message

Unlike during the 12-day war, Tehran now wants the Shiite terrorist group to take part in any future confrontation with Israel, and Israeli officials have warned Hezbollah that if it intervenes the blow will be very painful, while also preparing for possible involvement by the Houthis and other Iranian proxies

[Yossi Yehoshua](#) | 14:28

Iran may not want a war with Israel at this time, but it is exerting heavy pressure on Hezbollah to join if fighting ultimately breaks out. Israel, for its part, is closely monitoring developments and has delivered very clear warnings to Hezbollah that if it chooses to intervene, the blow this time will be extremely painful.

At the same time, Iran is taking additional steps to increase pressure on Hezbollah, some of them under the radar. Among other moves, and within what can be reported publicly, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited Lebanon last month. The visit was intended to ensure that in the next war, Hezbollah terrorists will not sit on the sidelines.



Hezbollah Terrorists (Photo: Aziz Taher/Reuters)

[by Taboola](#)

The IDF have already prepared a plan for a significant strike against Hezbollah, following the group's rehabilitation efforts over the past year. At the same time, Israeli defense capabilities against Hezbollah's missiles and rockets are considered strong, with proven and improved interception rates. In a future confrontation, Israel's laser defense system is expected to be fully operational, further reducing Hezbollah's incentive to enter

another round of fighting.

Israel is not taking any chances. It has formulated an offensive plan against the group and continues to regularly strike targets in Lebanon. However, Hezbollah's rate of recovery appears to be outpacing the IDF's ongoing efforts to degrade its capabilities.

According to assessments, the scope of Iranian aid to Hezbollah has reached a peak, surpassing \$1 billion over the past year. Despite Iran's economic crisis, this marks a record year in terms of assistance to the organization, which is seeking additional support. The funds are transferred mainly in cash and gold through money changers and shell companies in order to circumvent international sanctions.

For decades, Iran has invested in building up the terrorist organization along Israel's northern border with one clear objective: to serve as a deterrent in routine times and, in wartime, to act as Iran's second-strike capability if its nuclear facilities are attacked, responding with tens of thousands of rockets. Iranian officials were deeply disappointed that Hezbollah remained largely on the sidelines during the 12-day war, and they now appear intent on ensuring that does not happen again.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (Photo: Sedat Suna/Getty Images)

Iran provides Hezbollah with knowledge, training, technology and weapons, including rocket systems and missiles. Regional coordination is carried out through the Quds Force as part of the so-called "Axis of Resistance," which includes Iran, Hezbollah, militias in Iraq, the Houthis in Yemen and other allied groups. Especially during periods of tension with Israel, senior Iranian officials conduct visits such as Araghchi's trip to Lebanon to coordinate among the various arenas. As a result, Israel is also preparing for the possibility that additional Iranian proxies could join the fighting if it erupts.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rjapkc7dbg>

Arrow 4 anti-missile defense system to possibly be deployed in coming months, IAI CEO Levy says

Israel Aerospace Industries CEO Boaz Levy said that the Arrow 4, which will replace the Arrow 2, "will elevate the success of Israeli shoot-down capabilities."

[By YONAH JEREMY BOB, ANNA AHRONHEIM](#) FEBRUARY 17, 2026 16:43 Updated: FEBRUARY 17, 2026 21:17

Israel Aerospace Industries CEO Boaz Levy on Tuesday signaled new progress with the Arrow 4 anti-missile defense system and possibly deploying it within the coming months.

In some of his most extensive remarks about the next-generation anti-missile defense system, he said, “When we plan for a new [military] campaign, we look at the solutions for the threats of tomorrow, and not only the already existing threats. The way we achieve the capability to advance our response to the varying threats, and this is how the Arrow 4, which will replace the Arrow 2, will operate.”

“The Arrow 3 and 4 systems will bring new and advanced shoot-down capabilities against aerial targets. With the help of the Arrow 4, we will elevate the success of Israeli shoot-down capabilities,” said the IAI chief.

“We have to be ready for the next war,” Levy said. “A lot of lessons were learned, and many changes were made in the systems... We always look two steps ahead to future threats.”

While the IDF used dozens of interceptor missiles during the 12-day war with Iran, according to Levy, “We are delivering the amount of interceptors required by the IDF, as well as to the German Air Force.”

In December, German Air Defense Commander Col. Dennis Kruger told *The Jerusalem Post* in an exclusive interview that Berlin will definitely [purchase the Arrow 4 and 5 systems](#), which are currently under development.

“I can give you a clear yes to that,” Kruger quickly shot back when asked about purchasing the new systems shortly after showing off the purchase and deployment of the Arrow 3 from Israel and IAI.



Israel Aerospace Industries CEO Boaz Levy. (credit: ISRAEL AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES)

In December, Defense Ministry Director-General Amir Baram also noted progress regarding the Arrow 4.

Moreover, as far back as in June 2025, Levy discussed the future replacement of the Arrow 2 missile defense system with the [Arrow 4 system](#).

No estimate delivery date for Arrow 4 system

Although the development of the Arrow 4 was first announced in 2021, there has not been an estimated delivery date, and such new systems can take a decade or more from initial development.

But Levy’s disclosure on Tuesday came after a flurry of public discussion about it, and the three ballistic missile attacks from Iran on Israel in 2024-2025 had increased expectations that the system might be ready sooner than originally expected.

The Arrow 2 and 4 systems shoot down ballistic missiles within Earth’s atmosphere, while the Arrow 3 shoots them down outside of the atmosphere.

In addition, the Arrow 4 may be able to shoot down certain hypersonic missile threats, a new more maneuverable missile threat that Russia and China have been working hard to produce and other countries, like Iran, may eventually get closer to producing. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-886977>

Tucker Carlson visits Israel for sit-down with Huckabee: ‘He wouldn’t leave the airport’



The interview came after a public back-and-forth between Carlson and Ambassador Huckabee and was conducted inside the Ben-Gurion Airport complex, sources told *The Jerusalem Post*

. By JERUSALEM POST STAFF FEBRUARY 18, 2026

15:36 Updated: FEBRUARY 18, 2026 18:46

Tucker Carlson during a visit to Israel.(photo credit: X/@TuckerCarlson)

Conservative media personality Tucker Carlson visited Israel briefly on Wednesday for a filmed sit-down with US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, focused on claims about the treatment

of Christians in Israel and the wider region, sources told The Jerusalem Post.

According to the sources, Carlson conducted the conversation inside Ben Gurion Airport and did not travel beyond the airport complex. He departed Israel at around 3 p.m., ending a trip that lasted only a few hours.

The unusual in-and-out visit followed a public back-and-forth between the two former Fox News hosts after Carlson published an episode in early February, filmed at the Jordan River baptism site and titled "Christian Persecution."

In the episode, Carlson interviewed Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem Hosam Naoum and a Jordanian Christian businessman, presenting a case that Israel mistreats its Christian population and that American Christians are unknowingly funding that mistreatment through US aid.

Huckabee responded on X on February 5, writing: "Hey @TuckerCarlson instead of talking ABOUT me, why don't you come talk TO me?" Carlson publicly agreed to a face-to-face conversation.

Tense moment in American conservative politics

The sit-down comes at a tense moment in American conservative politics, where support for Israel has become a sharper internal argument than in past years.

Carlson has increasingly positioned himself as a leading critic of US policy toward Israel and of "[Christian Zionism](#)," language that has drawn pushback from mainstream Republicans and pro-Israel conservatives.

In the episode, Carlson claimed that Christians in Israel are "far fewer in absolute numbers" than when the state was founded in 1948.

Data from Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, most [recently published on Christmas Eve 2025](#), shows the opposite. The Christian population in Israel has grown from approximately 34,000 in 1949 to around 185,000 today, representing one of the few growing Christian communities in the Middle East.

Christians as a share of Israel's total population have declined from roughly 10% to under 2%, but that proportional drop reflects faster growth among Jewish and Muslim populations rather than a shrinking Christian one.

Carlson also described the United States as funding "the cultural and religious life of the region," a framing that conflates US military assistance to Israel with a broader claim about religious life that he did not substantiate.

Huckabee, a longtime evangelical leader and a close political ally of President Donald Trump, has taken the opposite approach. He was confirmed by the US Senate as ambassador to Israel in 2025 and presented his credentials to President Isaac Herzog shortly afterward.

The episode's portrayal of Huckabee went further than the claims made by Carlson's own interview subject.

After the Archbishop described difficulties accessing an Anglican hospital in Gaza, Carlson told viewers that "what Ambassador Huckabee is doing is shameful and he's going to have to answer for it." The Archbishop responded: "I don't want to blame Huckabee for this."

Naoum also described incidents of Jewish extremists spitting at Christian clergy in Jerusalem as the work of "fringe groups" and "radicals," a characterization that sat at odds with the episode's broader framing.

The original episode did not include any Israeli government response.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-887105>

Russia, China and Iran hold joint naval drills

The maneuvers are meant to ensure maritime security and counter Western hegemony at sea, Russian presidential aide Nikolay Patrushev has said

18 Feb, 2026 15:58



FILE PHOTO. © Getty Images / Keystone Press Agency

Russia, China and Iran will conduct joint naval exercises as part of growing military cooperation aimed at reshaping the global balance of power at sea, Russian presidential aide Nikolay Patrushev has said.

~Warships from the three countries have been dispatched for maneuvers in the waters off Iran, Patrushev told the Russian news outlet Argumenty i Fakty on Tuesday. The drills are part of a joint effort to build "a multipolar world

order on the oceans" in response to what he called long-standing Western hegemony.

Known as Maritime Security Belt, the wargames are scheduled to take place this month in the Gulf of Oman and the northern Indian Ocean and will involve vessels and aircraft from all three countries. Originally an Iranian initiative, the drills have been conducted trilaterally since 2019, except in 2021, when China did not participate.

Patrushev said the seas are once again becoming a platform for "military aggression" and a revival of "gunboat diplomacy," citing recent tensions around Venezuela and Iran. "The West dominated the seas for a long time, right up to the beginning of this century, but now their hegemony is in many ways in the past," he said.

Separately, Iranian media reported, citing Naval Commander Hassan Maghsoodloo, that Russia and the Islamic Republic will hold combined naval drills this week.

The latest maneuvers come following the second round of Oman-mediated US-Iran indirect talks in Geneva on Tuesday over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) during his first term and reimposed sweeping sanctions on Iran, and The US is seeking to pressure Tehran into accepting a new nuclear deal.

The Islamic Republic insists its nuclear activities are peaceful and has repeatedly said it will not accept Washington's demand for zero uranium enrichment.

Tensions have remained high since Israel and the US carried out coordinated airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities last June, an operation Tehran condemned as an unprovoked violation of its sovereignty. Washington has since strengthened its military posture in the region, deploying additional naval and air assets, including a second aircraft carrier.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on Tuesday staged drills in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for global oil shipments, and warned it could close the waterway in the event of an attack. Around 100 merchant vessels are estimated to transit the strait each day, making any disruption potentially significant for global energy markets. <https://www.rt.com/news/632731-russia-iran-china-naval-drills/>

'You're kidding, right?' Karoline Leavitt flabbergasted when reporter asks for examples of Trump being called racist

By [Nicole Silverio, Daily Caller News Foundation](#)

[February 18, 2026](#)

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt



White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt appeared to be in disbelief on Wednesday when CBS News White House correspondent Ed O'Keefe asked for examples of when President Donald Trump had been wrongly accused of racism.

O'Keefe cited Trump's response to the death of civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, in which Trump said he had been "falsely and consistently called a racist." Leavitt said that her office was

prepared to provide a "plethora of examples" of Democrats and the left-wing media accusing Trump of racism.

"Yesterday, in his statement about Jesse Jackson, the president said, 'despite the fact that I'm falsely and consistently called a racist by the scoundrels and lunatics on the radical left, Democrats all, it was always my pleasure to help Jesse along the way.' Where or when does the president believe he's been falsely called racist?" O'Keefe asked.

"You're kidding, right?" Leavitt replied. " I will pull you a plethora of examples. I'm going to get my team in that room to start going through the internet of radical Democrats throughout the years and who have accused this president falsely of being a racist.

"And I'm sure there's many people in this room and on network television across the country who have accused him of the same. In fact, I know that because I've seen it with my own eyes."

When Trump launched his first presidential campaign in 2015, the legacy media and Democrats accused him of launching [racist](#) attacks toward Mexicans for saying that some illegal immigrants were rapists. His opponent at the time, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, [said](#) in August 2016 that Trump was "peddling bigotry and prejudice and paranoia."

[Democrats claimed](#) that Trump encouraged neo-Nazism and white supremacy through his response to the

riot in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017. Trump [stated](#) during a press conference that while some people at the rally were "very fine people," those who were neo-Nazis and white nationalists should be "condemned totally."

During the 2020 presidential primary, candidates like Democratic Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Democratic Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke outwardly [called](#) Trump a "white supremacist."

Members of the liberal media constantly called Trump "racist," including in 2018 when Trump labeled African nations "shithole countries" and in [response](#) to an artificial intelligence video depicting former President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama as apes. The video also depicted several other Democrats as jungle animals, while Trump was a lion.

In August 2024, MS NOW host Lawrence O'Donnell [asserted](#) that Trump is the "most racist" occupant of the White House who did not own slaves.

Former Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign, liberal media figures and prominent Democrats compared Trump's rally at Madison Square Garden in New York City in October 2024 to the 1939 Nazi [rally](#) that took place at the stadium.

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<https://www wnd com/2026/02/youre-kidding-right-karoline-leavitt-flabbergasted-when-reporter/>

'Losing their graft': Obama so distraught by first Trump win, he 'literally broke down and cried in front of White House staff'

By [Bob Unruh](#)

February 18, 2026



Barack Obama

Citing evidence from hours of audio and video compiled by Columbia University about the presidential administration of Barack Obama, an investigative reporter has revealed the Democrat who trashed Hillary Clinton for his party's nomination, then won the White House twice, broke down and cried when President Donald Trump won his first election.

Joe Biden victory in 2020, but returned to the Oval Office following his second presidential race victory in 2024.

It is investigative reporter Paul Sperry who wrote about it on social media.

Sperry is a senior reporter for Real Clear Investigations, a New York Post columnist and Hoover Institution media fellow.

He said, "BREAKING: President Obama and his National Security Adviser Susan Rice were so distraught after Trump won in 2016 they literally broke down and cried in front of White House staff, according to 1,100 hours of new audio and video compiled by Columbia University in cooperation with the Obama Foundation. After all they'd built, they feared their accomplishments were 'at risk' of being torn down by a 'con man' and a 'clown.' Ergo, Trump had to be stopped?"

BREAKING: President Obama and his National Security Adviser Susan Rice were so distraught after Trump won in 2016 they literally broke down and cried in front of White House staff, according to 1,100 hours of new audio and video compiled by Columbia University in cooperation with...

— Paul Sperry (@paulsperry_) [February 18, 2026](#)

By now evidence from many sources has revealed that Obama and his compatriots in arms were integral to the false claims made about Trump during the 2016 presidential race, connecting him to Russia with lies about him.

That failing to prevent his election, they continued to pursue the lies during Trump's first administration, stretching the "investigation" into his actions for years, ultimately failing again.

Social media commented: "Video needs to be made public. The meme potential is unquantifiable."

And, "So did the mocking bird media. I will never forget the looks on their faces."

And, "They knew how much money they were going to lose. That's all they were upset about – losing their

grift."

And, "The story warms my heart."

A [report](#) at Revolver News said, "The image of Barry Obama and Susan Rice sitting in the White House, stunned and reportedly crying after Trump won in 2016, is so incredibly delicious. You can just see it, right? The total disbelief, panic, and the 'this can't be happening' energy. This should warm the cockles of any patriot's heart."

And it warned about "Spygate."

"It's real. The tears are on the surface; they're the start of this whole mess. Sure, this over-the-top emotional reaction is the big headline. But the real story, the one that still hangs over American politics like unfinished business, is what was already happening before Trump ever took the oath of office," the report said.

"There is documented evidence that from November 2015 through April 2016, elements inside the Obama administration, working through the FBI under James Comey and Andrew McCabe, were conducting surveillance that targeted Trump. An NSA compliance officer discovered irregular querying activity. That discovery was reported to NSA Director Admiral Mike Rogers. Rogers then restricted FBI access and notified the FISA Court. These audit trails exist. The court responded in a heavily redacted opinion in April 2017 outlining improper searches and systemic abuse."

Further, the report said, "This is totally separate from the Russia Hoax that dominated headlines for four absurd years. One was an unproven, fake allegation of collusion. But SpyGate was the Obama admin using intelligence tools against political opposition."

A series of reports from The Last Refuge explained how Democrats under Obama were spying on "all Republican presidential primary candidates," to be used as opposition research on behalf of failed Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton.

"The issue was the spying operation. FISA and using the NSA database to conduct the electronic surveillance, was simply the tool to exploit the electronic communication (metadata) of the targets. The Obama administration was spying on their political opposition and telling the Clinton team the results of their surveillance," the report said.

The intent was "to control the outcome of the 2016 U.S. presidential election," it said.

5/ President Obama conducting political spying operations, through a politically weaponized FBI, against the Republican opposition elements is colloquially called "Spygate."

Hillary Clinton manufacturing a political dirty trick against Donald Trump accusing him of a...

pic.twitter.com/BLocCaEkpY

— TheLastRefuge (@TheLastRefuge2) [September 30, 2025](#)

The investigation said, "On one hand, you have an emotional breakdown over Trump's victory. On the other, you've got documented intelligence database abuse that predated his inauguration and was serious enough to trigger internal alarms and court findings. Nobody has to spin wild theories to see the pattern forming here."

It continued, "When powerful people believe something 'unthinkable' has happened, and the country is about to fall into the hands of someone they deem illegitimate, that emotional belief can justify a lot of weird power moves in their own minds."

It defined Obama's "political spying operations" as "Spygate" and Clinton's "political dirty trick against Donald Trump" as "Russiagate." <https://www wnd com/2026/02/losing-their-grift-obama-so-distraught-first-trump/>

Dems' DHS shutdown killed the ICE oversight they wanted

By [Bob Unruh](#)

February 18, 2026



(DHS photo)

Democrats have, through their impossible-to-meet demands of Republicans in Congress to subject federal law enforcement to the whims of local judges through warrants for illegal aliens, have succeeded in shutting down audits and inspections that had been intended to review actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

That, of course, is what the Democrats say they have been wanting.

It is an internal watchdog for the Department of Homeland Security that "has been forced to pause a significant chunk of its oversight of immigration enforcement" as Democrats have refused to cooperate with majority Republicans who have proposed funding the DHS.

Those government services now are at a standstill because of the Democrats' refusal to vote for any funding.

A [report](#) at Fox News explains that means audits and inspections that had been planned, including those dealing with ICE, are paused.

"Most of OIG's audits, inspections, and similar reviews... are paused during the lapse in appropriations. A small number of OIG audits related to disaster relief continue because they are supported by an extant appropriation," a government official confirmed to Fox.

"OIG's Criminal Investigators are excepted from furlough and are continuing their work during the lapse. OIG does not publicly confirm or deny the existence of any particular criminal investigation."

Investigations that the Democrats now have subverted include those "whether ICE investigates allegations of use of excessive force and holds personnel accountable" as well as those reviewing "unannounced inspections to assess compliance with ICE detention standards and ensure safe, secure, and humane conditions of confinement."

Democrats have demanded action against ICE, up to and including the closure of the entire agency, because of President Donald Trump's surge in law enforcement to make sure people follow the nation's border and immigration laws.

It came to a head in recent weeks in Minnesota where thousands were arrested for violations. That conflict saw two anti-ICE agitators shot and killed by law enforcement after they allegedly interfered with officers and their duties.

The situation was aggravated because much of the enforcement was among that state's Somali-immigrant community, which also was being investigated on charges there were billions of dollars in fraud among social service programs serving that community.

The report confirmed "at least seven" investigations into ICE conduct have been suspended.

"An investigation into whether Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents are conducting domestic U.S. operations in accordance with DHS policies and federal law has also been halted," the report said.

The U.S. House passed a DHS funding bill but in the Senate, Democrats had a long list of new demands, including training requirements, a mandate for body cameras, and that demand for local judges to provide warrants for arrests.

Democrats also demanded that federal agents, who have been subjected to brutal assaults, online attacks, threats against their families and more, be denied the opportunity for anonymity by wearing masks.

<https://www wnd com/2026/02/dems-dhs-shutdown-killed-ice-oversight-they-wanted/>

OP ED

Environmental Protection Agency Finds Breathing Doesn't Threaten the Planet

Tue, 17 Feb 2026 7:31 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



In good news for breathing aficionados everywhere, the Trump administration is preparing for what Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin is calling "the largest act of deregulation in the history of the United States" by finding that when you exhale, you're not endangering the planet.

For sixteen years it was settled law in the United States of America that not only was the earth endangered, all evidence to the contrary, but that exhaling carbon dioxide and emitting methane as well as nitrous oxide and water vapor were urgent threats to be regulated by the government.

The Obama administration spent its first months in office fanatically rushing through a 'scientific review' by the EPA that declared that carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and others were part of an ominous group known as "greenhouse gases" that had to be fought with every regulation necessary. The Obama EPA did thankfully exclude H2O or water vapor, probably the leading 'greenhouse gas' which 'scientists' blamed for about half the

‘greenhouse effect’.

Even the EPA understood that no one would take it seriously if it promised to get the water out of the air to save the planet. Not even if they renamed it something scary like Dihydrogen Monoxide.

The theoretical legal basis for having the government go to war against carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide (with water vapor waiting somewhere in the wings) was the Clean Air Act. The CAA had been created in the sixties to keep pollutants from factories out of the air. The Obama administration rebooted it to keep carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide out of the air which would only be possible with the extermination of all life on earth. Hope and Change.

What started with tracking smokestacks and acid rain had escalated into total genocide based on a myth about ‘greenhouse gases’ that had originally been [derived from Percival Lowell](#), a 19th century New England dilettante who looked at Mars through a defective telescope and decided it had canals, and further decided that the canals had been built by Martians to conserve water because their planet had suffered an environmental crisis.

Despite being wrong about literally everything (much like the EPA and environmentalists), Lowell began writing extensive speculation about what life was like on Mars and Venus. Many took to speculating that Mars had lost its water and grew cold because it lost its atmosphere and that Venus became too hot because the planet trapped gases due to a “greenhouse effect”.

The term “greenhouse effect” [was coined](#) in response to Lowell’s planetary speculations.

Lowell was wrong about Mars and Venus, Obama was wrong about Earth. Lowell had a better excuse for confusing the lines on his telescope with canals than Obama, the EPA and liberal environmentalists do for being wrong about everything happening on the planet around them.

There’s no greenhouse effect, the icebergs aren’t melting, the climate isn’t being fundamentally transformed, the earth isn’t being endangered and human beings and farming aren’t to blame.

The EPA’s finding that exhaling and cow flatulence, as well fertilizer, endangered the planet was always wrong, it also, like so much that Barack Obama did, happened to be completely illegal.

Carbon dioxide, methane and other basic gases of life are not ‘pollutants’ that lower air quality. The EPA shoehorned an entirely different theory about the planet into the Clean Air Act that, despite a wrongful Supreme Court finding, the legislation from the 1960s was never meant for.

Furthermore the EPA’s Inspector General found that the agency had violated its own regulations, failed to run it by peer review and outsourced the whole thing to the UN’s IPCC organization (which the Trump administration recently pulled out of) that was at the time run by a railway engineer.

Rajendra Pachauri, the Indian railway engineer in question, was forced to resign from serving as chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2015 after winning the Nobel Peace Prize and multiple accusations of sexual harassment. He was also forced to admit that the IPCC’s prediction that the Himalayan glaciers would melt by 2035 were only based on a report from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) which based it on a claim made by Syed Iqbal Hasnain, a Muslim ‘glaciologist’ in India in an interview to a reporter back in 1999, but had never written it down because it was “speculative”. If you stop by the Himalayas, the glaciers are there. And they’re probably not going to disappear in the next ten years either.

The Obama EPA claimed that it had to ban carbon dioxide because an Indian Muslim glaciologist made a “speculative” statement to a reporter in 1999 that never happened.

Percival Lowell confusing lines on his telescope for canals and inventing an entire Martian civilization (and in the process an entire genre of Science Fiction) was more scientifically rigorous than the EPA, the UN, the WWF and the entire environmentalist movement.

Removing the ‘endangerment’ finding is long overdue. It will mean lower energy costs, including gas prices (outside California, which requires a special seasonal fuel blend that comes from one refinery in Alaska and is taxed sixty different ways in order to save the planet) which will mean a healthier economy, more jobs and less worries that breathing will destroy the planet.

(Outside California.)

That’s a good thing for everyone except the tens of thousands of people employed in the environmental industry whose mission is to shut down, tax and take a piece of every actual productive industry in the country and on the planet. California, Massachusetts and other failed states will respond by unilaterally regulating the carbon dioxide, methane and other terrifying ‘greenhouse gases’ which will naturally skew the market across half the country for the worse.

You may be sure however that Gov. Gavin Newsom will sneak off to take a few breaths, mask off, at the

French Laundry, no matter how much he regulates everyone else's CO2 levels.

But the good news for the rest of us is that the earth isn't endangered. So breathe freely.

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://bkdkvk-zgpvh.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser>



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 mortsмо@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