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Trump considering limited strikes to force Iran to make nuclear deal – report

WSJ: Attacks could expand, possibly to effect regime change, if Tehran keeps refusing to give up enrichment; Iran tells UN that all Mideast assets of 'hostile force' are fair game if US attacks

By [Tol Staff](#) and [Agencies Today](#), 1:19 pm



US President Donald Trump gestures at the end of his speech after touring the Coosa Steel Corporation factory in Rome, Georgia, February 19, 2025. (SAUL LOEB / AFP)

US President Donald Trump is considering launching limited strikes on Iran to force it to accept his demands for a nuclear agreement, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday, as Tehran said bases of "hostile force" in the region would become "legitimate targets" if Washington attacks.

Citing people familiar with the matter, the Journal said preliminary US strikes on Iran could begin within days, targeting some military or government sites but stopping short of a full-scale assault that could trigger a major Iranian response.

If Iran continues to reject Trump's demand that it give up its uranium enrichment program, the US will launch a wider assault on regime targets, with the possible aim of toppling the Islamic Republic, according to the newspaper. One source cited by the outlet said Trump could ramp up attacks until the Islamic Republic falls or takes apart its nuclear program.

Trump has not yet decided whether to attack Iran, officials told the Journal.

According to the newspaper, senior aides have repeatedly presented the limited-strike option to Trump, but officials said recent discussions have focused on larger-scale strikes. It was unclear how seriously Trump was considering the possibility of small-scale military action, the newspaper said.

The report came after US and Iranian negotiators held the [second round of indirect nuclear talks](#) in Geneva on Tuesday. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called the talks "constructive," even as US Vice President JD Vance said Iran had not accepted all of Trump's "red lines."



A handout photograph released by the US Navy on February 8, 2026, shows observers, including US lead negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, as they watch flight operations on the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in the Arabian Sea, on February 7, 2026. (Hannah Tross / US NAVY / AFP)

The WSJ report made no mention of Israel, which, according to Hebrew media, thinks the talks are likely doomed and is gearing up for a potential joint operation against Iran alongside the US. An opinion poll published Thursday [showed](#) 59 percent of Israelis support joining the US in attacking Iran.

Trump on Thursday [said](#) the indirect nuclear talks with Iran were going well, but that "bad things" could

happen to Iran if no agreement was reached. He later said his deadline for a deal was within ten to fifteen days.

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The US president has overseen a significant military buildup in the Middle East and repeatedly threatened to use it against Iran, first over its deadly crackdown on anti-regime protesters last month and more recently over its nuclear program. He wrote on social media on Wednesday that the US may need to use UK military bases, including one on an Indian Ocean island, "should Iran decide not to make a deal."



In this photo obtained by The Associated Press, Iranians attend an anti-government protest in Tehran, Iran, January 9, 2026. (UGC via AP)

Referring to the social media post, Iran's UN Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani said in a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the president of the UN Security Council on Thursday that the bases and assets of the "hostile force" would be "legitimate targets" if the Islamic Republic were attacked.

"Such a belligerent statement by the President of the United States... signals a real risk of military aggression, the consequences of which would be catastrophic for the region and would constitute a grave threat to international peace and security," the letter read.

If Iran faced military aggression, "all bases, facilities, and assets of the hostile force in the region would constitute legitimate targets in the context of Iran's defensive response," Iravani warned. Last year, Iran [targeted](#) the Al Udeid air base in Qatar in retaliation for American strikes on three of its nuclear sites.

Iravani called for the Security Council — the UN's top decision-making body, where Washington has veto power — to "ensure that the United States immediately ceases its unlawful threats of the use of force."

He also claimed Iran remains committed "to diplomatic solutions" and "on a reciprocal basis, addressing ambiguities regarding its peaceful nuclear program."



This handout photo from the US Air Force shows Lt. Col. Carlos Alford, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron commander, in front of the Modernized Enterprise Terminal at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, January 21, 2016. (Master Sgt. Joshua Strang/U.S. Air Force via AP)

While Iran, whose leaders are sworn to destroy Israel, denies it seeks nuclear weapons, it has enriched uranium to levels that have no peaceful application, obstructed international inspectors from checking its nuclear facilities, and expanded its ballistic missile capabilities.

A previous attempt at negotiations collapsed when Israel launched surprise strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, ballistic missile program and military leadership last June, beginning a 12-day war that Washington briefly joined to bomb Iranian nuclear sites.

In the current talks, the US has also demanded that the negotiations with Iran cover the Islamic Republic's ballistic missile program and support for terrorist proxies in the region. Iran has refused to expand the negotiations beyond the nuclear issue.

Amid the tensions, Norway's military said Friday that it was relocating about 60 soldiers in the Middle East to other countries in the region and Norway because of security concerns.

Meanwhile, in a phone call with Araghchi on Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov expressed support for the negotiation process and for "Iran's legitimate rights" under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Russian Foreign Ministry said via its channel on the Telegram messaging app.

The call came a day after Iran and Russia carried out a joint naval drill in the Gulf of Oman.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-considering-limited-strikes-to-force-iran-to-make-nuclear-deal-report/>

As Trump escalates threats, Pentagon prepares for prolonged Iran conflict

Trump continues to issue threats as reports say US forces are being evacuated from bases in Qatar and Bahrain; the Pentagon is preparing for a possible conflict, weighing options from targeted killings to regime change, while US officials warn Trump's ambiguity could provoke a harsh retaliation

Lior Ben Ari, Reuters|16:27

President Donald Trump issued another warning to Tehran on Friday, saying "Iran should make a deal." At a news conference, he described the situation as very sad and said the Iranian people are better than their leaders, adding that 32,000 protesters were killed in a short period of time.

Amid the threats, The New York Times reported that Washington is preparing for a range of scenarios, including a broader confrontation than last year's. Pentagon officials said hundreds of troops have been evacuated from Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, and personnel have also been moved from a cluster of US bases in Bahrain, home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet.



Trump and an aircraft carrier (Photo: Andrew Caballero-Reynolds / AFP, US Navy)by Taboola

Days after last year's US strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, all sides agreed to a ceasefire. But this time could be different, experts told The Times. In June, the United States joined a campaign launched by Israel, with Trump giving the military a defined objective: bomb nuclear facilities and delay Iran's ability to produce a nuclear weapon.

Twelve days after Operation Rising Lion began, Trump announced a ceasefire in the middle of the night after joining the campaign, without any American casualties. Now, however, the Pentagon is in the midst of its largest military buildup in the Middle East in two decades, and Trump is considering a much broader operation — this time led by US forces — without publicly declaring his objectives.

US officials and Middle East experts told The New York Times that ambiguity about Trump's goals could be particularly dangerous, as it may lead Iran's leadership to view an attack as an existential threat. As a result, Iran could escalate in ways different from last June or from its response after the killing of Qassem Soleimani in 2020.

Vali Nasr, an Iran expert at Johns Hopkins University, told the newspaper that Tehran may conclude its restrained responses to previous US military actions only led to further threats and that it must raise the cost of war for Washington.

In a letter sent Thursday to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations warned that if Iran is attacked, "all bases, facilities and assets of the hostile force in the region will be legitimate targets," and that the United States would bear full and direct responsibility for any unforeseen and uncontrollable consequences.



Iranians gave advance warning before launching missiles at Qatar

The New York Times noted that the threat endangers the 30,000 to 40,000 US troops stationed at 13 military bases across the Middle East. The Pentagon has deployed additional air defense systems to protect the bases.

Last June, Iran launched missiles at the US base in Qatar only after warning Washington and Doha in advance. But a senior Pentagon official acknowledged this week that it could be different this time, saying US forces may face greater risk if the United States — rather than Israel — initiates the strikes.

Iran's leadership also faces a dilemma. Karim Sadjadpour of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace told The Times that retaliation would be a "huge gamble for a regime whose overriding objective is survival," potentially prompting Trump and Israeli Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) to escalate beyond their original plans, even toward regime change.

Katherine Thompson of the Cato Institute, a former senior US Defense Department official, said the American "armada" sent to the Middle East is the clearest indication that the Pentagon believes the war could last longer than 12 days. "It looks like preparation for a much longer conflict," she said, adding that the Pentagon expects an Iranian response that could pose significant risks to US bases in the region.

At the same time, Thompson noted that interceptor stockpiles for defending US bases and Israel are limited, and a prolonged conflict could force difficult decisions. The ability of the United States to protect its forces and bases over time while also supporting Israel's defense is a major concern, she said.



Another US military official told The Times that US Central Command is keeping two aircraft carriers in the region at a considerable distance from Iran to avoid making them targets. Other officials noted that it is difficult to strike a fast-moving aircraft carrier with a ballistic missile, and that the carriers are escorted by destroyers capable of intercepting such threats.

Unprecedented preparations for conflict; US soldiers (Photo: AFP)

Publicly, Trump administration officials insist they remain committed to exploring a diplomatic solution that would

lead Iran to accept new restrictions on its nuclear program. In private, however, they say it is hard to see what Iran could offer in the near term that would deter Trump from another military campaign.

Iran International, a Persian-language channel based in London and associated with opponents of Iran's leadership, reported that Tehran's proposal in Geneva includes halting uranium enrichment for three years; limiting enrichment to 3.67% afterward; diluting enriched uranium under US supervision or transferring it to a third country, preferably Russia; retaining missiles for defensive purposes only; refraining from questioning Israel's right to exist; avoiding aggressive military promotion of a Palestinian state; and selling oil under an agreed quota through Swiss mediation, including a roughly 5% marketing commission for Americans.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported Friday, citing US officials, that US military plans against Iran are at a very advanced stage and include a range of options, from targeted strikes on specific individuals to efforts aimed at regime change.

Reuters reported last week that the US military was preparing for a multi-week operation. The latest reports indicate detailed and ambitious planning. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not provide details about potential targets or how the US military might seek to topple the regime without ground forces.

One official cited by Reuters pointed to Israel's success in targeted killings during the 12-day war, saying the Israeli strikes on individuals demonstrated the effectiveness of that approach.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hybr8l8dbx>

Saudis could have uranium enrichment with weapons potential under proposed deal with US, experts warn

Deal could be worth billions and give US nuclear industry an edge, congressional document says, but analysts fear Riyadh could use infrastructure for nuclear arms program
By [Jon Gambrell](#) Today, 3:58 pm



US President Donald Trump stands with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on his visit to the White House, November 18, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia could have some form of uranium enrichment within the kingdom under a proposed nuclear deal with the United States, congressional documents and an arms control group suggest, raising proliferation concerns as an atomic standoff between Iran and America continues.

US Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden both tried to reach a nuclear deal with the kingdom to share American technology. Nonproliferation experts warn that any spinning centrifuges within Saudi Arabia could open the door to a possible weapons program for the kingdom, something its assertive crown prince has suggested he could pursue if Tehran obtains a nuclear weapon.

Already, Saudi Arabia and nuclear-armed Pakistan signed a mutual defense pact last year after Israel launched an attack on Qatar targeting Hamas officials. Pakistan's defense minister then said his nation's nuclear program "will be made available" to Saudi Arabia if needed, something seen as a warning for Israel, long believed to be the Middle East's only nuclear-armed state.

"Nuclear cooperation can be a positive mechanism for upholding nonproliferation norms and increasing transparency, but the devil is in the details," wrote Kelsey Davenport, the director for nonproliferation policy at the Washington-based Arms Control Association.

The documents raise "concerns that the Trump administration has not carefully considered the proliferation risks posed by its proposed nuclear cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia or the precedent this agreement may set."



Saudi Arabia did not immediately respond to questions Friday from The Associated Press.

President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman speak during a meeting at the Royal Palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, May 13, 2025. (AP/Alex Brandon)

The Biden administration had sought to include a civil nuclear agreement with Saudi Arabia as part of a larger deal that would see the kingdom normalize relations with Israel.

However, the prospect of Israeli-Saudi normalization has appeared increasingly unlikely amid the war in

Gaza and Israel's rejection of Palestinian statehood.

Congressional report outlines possible deal

The congressional document, also seen by the AP, shows the Trump administration aims to reach 20 nuclear business deals with nations around the world, including Saudi Arabia. The deal with Saudi Arabia could be worth billions of dollars, it adds.

The document contends that reaching a deal with the kingdom “will advance the national security interests of the United States, breaking with the failed policies of inaction and indecision that our competitors have capitalized on to disadvantage American industry and diminish the United States standing globally in this critical sector.”

China, France, Russia and South Korea are among the leading nations that sell nuclear power plant technology abroad.



The Nine Mile Point nuclear power plant, foreground, and the James A. FitzPatrick nuclear power plant, background, are seen on the shore of Lake Ontario, in Scriba, New York, September 8, 2025. (AP Photo/Ted Shaffrey)

The draft deal would see America and Saudi Arabia enter safeguard deals with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog. That would include oversight of the “most proliferation-sensitive areas of potential nuclear cooperation,” it added. It listed enrichment, fuel fabrication and reprocessing as potential areas.

The IAEA, based in Vienna, did not immediately respond to questions. Saudi Arabia is a member state of the IAEA, which promotes peaceful nuclear work but also inspects nations to ensure they don't have clandestine atomic weapons programs.

“This suggests that once the bilateral safeguards agreement is in place, it will open the door for Saudi Arabia to acquire uranium enrichment technology or capabilities — possibly even from the United States,” Davenport wrote. “Even with restrictions and limits, it seems likely that Saudi Arabia will have a path to some type of uranium enrichment or access to knowledge about enrichment.”

Enrichment isn't an automatic path to a nuclear weapon — a nation also must master other steps, including the use of synchronized high explosives, for instance. But it does open the door to weaponization, which has fueled the concerns of the West over Iran's program.



A picture taken on September 8, 2025, in Vienna, Austria, shows the UN District's Vienna International Centre, home of the International Atomic Energy Agency. (Joe Klamar / AFP)

The United Arab Emirates, a neighbor to Saudi Arabia, signed what is referred to as a “123 agreement” with the US to build its Barakah nuclear power plant with South Korean assistance.

But the UAE did so without seeking enrichment, something nonproliferation experts have held up as the “gold standard” for nations wanting atomic power.

The push for a Saudi-US deal comes as Trump threatens military action against Iran if it doesn't reach a nuclear deal that would end Iran's uranium enrichment.

The Trump military push follows nationwide protests in Iran that saw its theocratic government launch a bloody crackdown on dissent that killed thousands and saw tens of thousands more reportedly detained.

While Iran, whose leaders are sworn to destroy Israel, denies seeking nuclear weapons, it has enriched uranium to levels that have no peaceful application, obstructed international inspectors from checking its nuclear facilities, and expanded its ballistic missile capabilities.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's day-to-day ruler, has said that if Iran obtains the bomb, “we will have to get one.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/saudi-arabia-could-have-uranium-enrichment-under-proposed-deal-with-us-experts-warn/>

A look at the US military's Mideast buildup, technically the region's largest since 2003

With USS Abraham Lincoln in Arabian Sea and the USS Ford heading to the region, dozens of fighter jets, support aircraft and destroyers are believed deployed or en route

By AP and Tol Staff Today, 11:40 am



This handout image from the US Navy shows Capt. Daniel Keeler, the commanding officer of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, flying an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter in the Indian Ocean on Jan. 23, 2026. (Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Daniel Kimmelman/US Navy via AP)

The Pentagon is sending the largest force of American warships and aircraft to the Middle East in decades, including two aircraft carrier strike groups, as US President Donald Trump warns of possible military action against Iran if talks over its nuclear program fall apart.

“It’s proven to be, over the years, not easy to make a meaningful deal with Iran, and we have to make a

meaningful deal,” Trump said Thursday. “Otherwise bad things happen.”

Trump likely will have a host of military options, which could include surgical attacks on Iran’s air defenses or strikes focused on Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, experts say.

But they warn that Iran could retaliate in ways it hadn’t following attacks last year by the US or Israel, potentially sparking a regional war.

“It will be very hard for the Trump administration to do a one-and-done kind of attack in Iran this time around,” said Ali Vaez, an Iran expert at the International Crisis Group.

“Because the Iranians would respond in a way that would make all-out conflict inevitable, he said.

An F/A-18E Super Hornet, attached to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 151, prepares to launch from the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in the Arabian Sea, Feb. 15, 2026 (US Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Daniel Kimmelman)



Trump has repeatedly threatened to use force to compel Iran to agree to constrain its nuclear program and

earlier over Tehran’s bloody crackdown on nationwide protests.

Trump also said last week that a change in power in Iran “would be the best thing that could happen.”

Aircraft carriers bolster US presence in the Middle East

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and three guided-missile destroyers have been in the Arabian Sea since the end of January after being redirected from the South China Sea.

The strike group, which brought roughly 5,700 additional service members to the region, bolstered the smaller force of a few destroyers and three littoral combat ships that were already in the region.



US sailors operate jet blast deflectors on the flight deck of the world’s largest aircraft carrier, Ford-class aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), while underway in the Caribbean Sea, Feb. 4, 2026 (US Navy photo)

Two weeks later, Trump ordered the world’s largest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, along with three destroyers and more than 5,000 service members, to head to the region.

This will bring the Navy’s presence in the region to 14 ships and it will dwarf the 11-ship fleet that was, until the Ford’s departure, stationed in the Caribbean Sea.

More aircraft have arrived

Numerous additional US fighter jets and support

aircraft have also touched down in the Middle East.

Dozens of fighter jets, including F-35s, F-22s, F-15s and F-16s, left bases in the US and Europe and were spotted heading to the Middle East by the Military Air Tracking Alliance, a team of about 30 open-source analysts that routinely analyzes military and government flight activity.

The team says it's also tracked more than 85 fuel tankers and over 170 cargo planes heading into the region in mid-February.



A US Air Force F-22 Raptor, assigned to the 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, takes off for a mission during Red Flag-Nellis 26-1 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Feb. 4, 2026 (US Air Force photo by William R. Lewis)

Steffan Watkins, a researcher based in Canada and a member of the MATA, said he has also tracked support aircraft, like six of the military's early-warning E-3 aircraft, head to a base in Saudi Arabia.

Those aircraft are key to coordinating operations with a large number of aircraft.

The massive wave was preceded weeks prior by the arrival of Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles. US Central Command said on social media that the fighter jet "enhances combat

readiness and promotes regional security and stability."

At the time, analysts of flight-tracking data also noticed dozens of US military cargo planes heading to the region.

The activity is similar to last year when the US moved in air defense hardware, like Patriot missile systems, in anticipation of an Iranian counterattack following the June bombing of three key nuclear sites.

In parallel, preparations are underway in Israel with the IDF on full alert.

Expectations of retaliation

Seth Jones, a defense expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said it's important to

note that the US is not deploying a major ground force.

The US deployed more than 500,000 troops during Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s and roughly 250,000 American forces in Iraq in 2003.

US Marines Field Hospital in the Saudi Arabian Desert, on Jan. 17, 1991. Shipment of supplies in foreground. Operation Desert Storm. (AP Photo/Mikami)

"So there are substantial limits to the force package," he said of the current military assets in the region.

The US military buildup is technically the region's largest since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, even though the resources moved for the war dwarfed current assets, said Michael

O'Hanlon, a defense and foreign policy analyst at the Brookings Institution.

O'Hanlon said the US could simply use long-range B-2 bombers, as it had in June, if it wanted only to strike what's left of Iran's nuclear program. The forces in place now are clearly designed for attacking targets in Iran and defending against retaliation.

Many likely expect Iran to "just keep firing drones and cruise missiles back at Israel and American bases in regard to almost anything we might do," O'Hanlon said.

But he said Iran could go bigger and broader, especially if its leadership feels targeted.

Iran retaliated to Israel's strikes last June by launching over 500 ballistic missiles and around 1,100 drones at Israel. The attacks killed 32 people and wounded over 3,000 in Israel, according to health officials and hospitals.



Israeli soldiers and rescue team work amid the rubble of residential buildings destroyed by an Iranian missile strike that killed several people, in Beersheba, Israel, June 24, 2025. (AP/Leo Correa)

Vaez, the Iran expert at the International Crisis Group, said Iran is unlikely to limit its response as it did after the US struck its nuclear facilities in June. Iran had signaled when and how it would retaliate with the attack on the military base in Qatar, allowing American and Qatari air defense to be ready and doing little damage.

“They have now come to the conclusion that the only way that they can stop this cycle is to draw blood and to inflict significant harm on the US and Israel, even if that comes at a very high price for themselves,” Vaez said. Behnam Ben Taleblu, an analyst at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said Iran is still believed to have ballistic missiles that can strike its enemies in the region.

“The Islamic Republic may think that would be a deterrent to Trump, whereas in reality, that might be an inducement to move the president from a limited operation to a larger one,” said Taleblu, whose think tank has long been critical of Iran and has been sanctioned by Tehran. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-look-at-the-us-militarys-mideast-buildup-technically-the-regions-largest-since-2003/>

At least 12 said killed as Israel targets Hamas, Hezbollah centers in Lebanon strikes Lebanese media say drone hit Palestinian refugee camp killing two, while 10 said killed in strike in Beqaa Valley, including senior Hezbollah official

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies](#) 20 February 2026, 9:42 pm Updated at 11:23 pm



A vehicle drives past the rubble of a building that was hit in January by an Israeli strike in the southern Lebanese village of Qannarit, on February 16, 2026. (Joseph EID / AFP)

At least 12 people were reported killed in a series of Israeli strikes targeting Hamas and Hezbollah centers in Lebanon on Friday, including a senior Hezbollah official.

Lebanon said an Israeli strike on the country's largest Palestinian refugee camp killed two, with the Israel Defense Forces saying it had targeted a Hamas command center.

The official National News Agency said “an Israeli drone” targeted a neighborhood of the Ain al-Helweh camp, which is located on the outskirts of the southern city of Sidon. Lebanon's health ministry said two people were killed in the raid.

An AFP correspondent saw smoke rising from a building in the densely populated camp as ambulances headed to the scene.

The IDF said it targeted a Hamas command center in the airstrike in the refugee camp, which it said was being used by the terror group to advance attacks on Israel.

“The command center that was struck had been used in recent months by Hamas terror operatives for preparations for terror activities against IDF troops in Lebanese territory, and included training intended to advance various terror attack plans against IDF troops and the State of Israel,” the military said in a statement, attaching footage of the strike.

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נגד כוחות צה"ל בשטח... pic.twitter.com/IT5xZbGOAL
— צבא ההגנה לישראל (@idfonline) February 20, 2026

The IDF said that the site was embedded “in the heart of a civilian population, cynically exploiting the village's residents to advance the organization's terror objectives and using them as human shields.”

According to the military, Hamas's activities at the command center constituted a violation of the November 2024 ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon.

Hamas condemned in a statement the Israeli strike on Ain al-Hilweh and rejected Israeli assertions about the target, saying the site belonged to the camp's Joint Security Force tasked with maintaining security.

Also on Friday, the IDF said it hit a Hezbollah command center in eastern Lebanon.

The IDF said the command center, near Baalbek in the Beqaa Valley, was used by Hezbollah to advance attacks against Israeli troops and Israel.

تحدثت معلومات أن من بين المستهدفين في غارة علي النهري مسؤول منطقة البقاع في الحزب حسين النمر، إضافة إلى محمد إبراهيم الموسوي وعلي زيد الموسوي، الذين كانوا مع القيادي حسين ياغي داخل شقة. #علي_النهري #لبنان #إسرائيل
pic.twitter.com/x2cjYgafyn

— Sawsan Mhanna | سوسن مهنا (@SawsanaMehanna) February 20, 2026

The military also accused Hezbollah of embedding its centers in civilian areas, saying that Hezbollah's activity at the site "constitutes a violation of the ceasefire understandings between Israel and Lebanon and a threat against the State of Israel."

Lebanese official media said at least 10 people were killed and another 30 were wounded in Israeli strikes in the Beqaa Valley.

The reports did not differentiate between terror operatives and civilians.

However, security sources told Reuters that a senior Hezbollah official was among the dead.

There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah. Israel has consistently targeted what it says are Hezbollah attempts to rebuild its force following the November 2024 ceasefire that ended a year of conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed terror group.

The US-brokered ceasefire came after two months of open conflict in Lebanon, including an IDF ground operation in the country's south in a bid to enable the safe return of some 60,000 residents of northern Israel displaced by the terror group's near-daily attacks. The rocket attacks began on October 8, 2023 — a day after fellow Iran-backed terror group Hamas invaded southern Israel, sparking the war in Gaza.



A funeral of those killed in an Israeli air strike in Lebanon's Ain al-Helweh Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon on November 20, 2025. (Mahmoud ZAYYAT / AFP)

Since the ceasefire, the IDF said it has killed over 400 Hezbollah operatives and members of allied terror groups in strikes, hit hundreds of Hezbollah sites, and conducted over 1,200 raids and other small operations in southern Lebanon.

Weakened by the war and still facing regular Israeli strikes, Hezbollah is under internal and international pressure to hand over its weapons, with the Lebanese army having drawn up a plan to disarm it.

The Lebanese army said last month that it had completed the disarmament mission south of the Litani River, in the area closest to Israel.

As part of the Lebanese government's disarmament push, some Palestinian factions in Lebanon handed over weapons in several refugee camps last year to the Lebanese authorities.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have not announced plans to disarm in Lebanon.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-says-it-targeted-hamas-command-center-in-lebanon-strike/>

Lebanon's collapse shows what happens when a nation of minorities cannot say 'we'

Lebanon's unraveling is a stark social experiment in what happens when rival communities cannot imagine a shared future, offering a pointed warning for Israel about trust, identity and the fragile power of a common "we"

Dan Ariely | 18:33

Not long ago, I was in Madrid and met two very pleasant Lebanese women. We spoke about Lebanon and, in particular, why they had left and moved to Madrid. One of them told me she had lived in Europe for a long time and had planned to return to Lebanon. She did return. But one day, the Lebanese government effectively seized the money people had in their bank accounts, not just hers but everyone's. In that moment, she realized she had no future in Lebanon and left for Europe.

From there, the conversation shifted to a broader question: How did Lebanon, long seen as a promising and prosperous country, become a sad, crumbling and failing state? Their answer was sharp and painful. In their view, Lebanon was a kind of social experiment, an attempt to test whether different minority groups could live together over time. Their conclusion was clear: The experiment failed.



Beirut (Photo: Berry Indig) [by Taboola](#)

When different groups cannot imagine a shared future, they do not cooperate. They compete with one another and ultimately undermine the state in which they live. Their story reminded me of a simple experiment I conducted several years ago. I divided people into groups based on the color of their shirts. Blues versus reds.

Within minutes, people who had never met began thinking in terms of “us” and “them.” The blues wanted the blues to win. The reds were convinced the blues were receiving preferential treatment. This is our tribal instinct, deep, automatic and alarmingly easy to trigger.

Now imagine an entire country built on that principle, not blues versus reds but Sunnis, Shiites, Druze, Greek Orthodox and others. Each carries a history of grievance, a collective memory of trauma, and leadership whose primary task is to protect its own community. That is Lebanon. It may be the most fascinating and painful social experiment unfolding in our world.

The Lebanese system sanctifies division instead of trying to blur sectarian identities. The president must be a Maronite Christian, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim, the speaker of parliament a Shiite Muslim. On the surface, this sounds fair. Everyone is represented. Everyone is included. In practice, however, it is as if the system tells people in every election and every public decision: Do not forget who you are. Do not forget who they are. This is not about right or wrong. It is about Maronite versus Sunni.

When you live in such a reality, something very basic breaks down. In research we conducted on cooperation, we found that people are willing to work together when they feel the rules are fair and the system serves the common good. But the moment they believe the system is rigged, that another group is getting more or taking advantage of them, cooperation collapses. Not out of malice, but out of clear psychological logic. Why cooperate in a game that is stacked against you?

Scientists have found that in countries with high levels of public trust, people pay taxes almost willingly. Not because they are naive, but because they feel the money comes back to them through health care, education and infrastructure. They share a common “we.”

Take taxes. Researchers have found that in countries with high public trust, people pay taxes almost willingly. Not because they are naive, but because they believe the money comes back to them through health care, education and infrastructure. They share a sense of “we.” In Lebanon, when a Maronite pays taxes, he may ask himself: Is this money reaching Maronites, or is it going to Shiites? When he does not know, or worse, when he suspects it is being “stolen” by the other side, he does not pay. That is not antisocial behavior. It is rational behavior under conditions of mistrust.

Corruption in Lebanon is not a bug. It is a feature. When there is no strong “we,” everyone works for their own group. If you are a Maronite minister, you take care of Maronites. If you are a Shiite leader, you take care of Shiites. And everyone understands the rules. In the laboratory, we can stop an experiment that spirals out of control. But Lebanon is an experiment without a stop button. The results speak for themselves: collapsing infrastructure, unreliable electricity, shuttered banks, recurring disasters, and no one truly assuming collective responsibility. Not because of a lack of talent or morality, but because the question “Who benefits?” overrides the question “Is this good?”

The problem is not minorities themselves. The problem is the absence of a civic identity strong enough to rise above them. When every group thinks only of itself, no one thinks about the state. And without someone thinking about the common good, the system collapses inward. Lebanon teaches a simple and cruel lesson: A country made up of minorities, each thinking only of itself, cannot endure. Not because its people are evil, but because they are human. Our psychology requires a sense of “we” in order to sacrifice, to cooperate and to plan for the future.

We, too, have our fears, and we, too, ask who is getting more. The question is whether we have enough of a shared “we” to hold it together.

At this point, it is worth pausing to think about Israel. We, too, are a country of minorities: Haredim, secular Jews, Arabs, national religious Jews, immigrants from the former Soviet Union and immigrants from Ethiopia. We, too, have fears. We, too, argue over who gets more. The question is whether we have enough of a shared “we” to hold it together.

Dan Ariely Photo: Jonathan Bloom

In my view, the answer is still yes, but the margin is narrowing. Every time we speak in terms of “them” instead of “us,” every time we assume the other side is cheating us, we take another step toward the Lebanese model. The effort to preserve a shared civic identity is not a

luxury. It is a matter of survival. The question Lebanon poses is psychological before anything else: How much “we”



does a country need in order to function? We need a great deal of it. And it seems clear that we need to start investing in becoming more of a “we.” <https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/r1hkldudwx>
THE US needs to take note of this and come to the understanding that you can't have isolated communities in a land that refuse to assimilate in a country. We are well on the path to destruction.
rdb

Crowning in Munich: 'Global Day of Rage' is Reza Pahlavi's unofficial coronation for Iranians

MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS: Munich alone saw 250,000 attendees, with one attendee stating, “We had all come for our beloved Prince Reza Pahlavi, and for the people inside Iran. By [ALEX WINSTON](#) FEBRUARY 20, 2026 21:07 Updated: FEBRUARY 20, 2026 21:45



‘A CROWNING moment’: Iran’s former crown prince and now key opposition figure Reza Pahlavi clenches his fist as he stands on stage next to his wife, Yasmine Pahlavi, during a demonstration of the Iranian opposition on February 14 in Munich, on the sidelines of the 62nd Munich Security Conference. (photo credit: Michaela Stache/AFP via Getty Images)

Through all the protest movements Iranians have witnessed over the five decades of the Islamic Republic, there has not been a scene quite like the one witnessed last weekend.

Iranian Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi called for a “Global Day of Action” on Saturday, February 14, and what followed was unprecedented in scale, coordination, and symbolism for the Iranian diaspora. Major marches took place across the world, with mass demonstrations in Munich, Toronto, and Los Angeles, alongside rallies in dozens of other cities worldwide.

Munich alone saw 250,000 attendees confirmed by police, with organizers estimating the number closer to 300,000. In Toronto, police estimates placed attendance at 350,000, while thousands more gathered in Los Angeles, where Pahlavi’s daughter, Princess Noor, addressed the crowd.



PARTICIPANTS HOLD up flags, among them the historic Iranian ‘Lion and Sun’ national flag, as well as posters depicting Iran’s Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi during the demonstration of the Iranian opposition on February 14 at the Theresienwiese fairgrounds in Munich. (credit: Michaela Stache/AFP via Getty Images)

“This is not just a protest,” she told the crowd in LA from the podium.

“This is a declaration of a nation reclaiming itself.”

In total, close to a million Iranians are believed to have taken part [worldwide](#).

But the numbers tell only part of the story.

The long journey to the protests

One attendee who traveled from Belgium to Munich, along with an estimated 30 busloads of Iranians, told *The Jerusalem Post* that the journey itself had become part of the protest.

“We took a bus to Munich from Brussels. Many Iranians offered to cover travel costs for students or anyone struggling financially,” he said. “There was an extraordinary wave of solidarity. Problems were solved collectively.”

The journey took 12 hours from Brussels. For others coming from different Belgian cities, it stretched to 16.

“At every rest stop along the way, it felt like Iran was everywhere,” he recalled. “Groups of Iranians gathered, talking, recognizing one another without introductions.”

When they arrived in Munich, the streets were already filled with Lion and Sun flags, the prerevolutionary national symbol that has reemerged as the banner of opposition to the Islamic Republic.

“Suddenly, someone shouted ‘Javid!’ from a window, and we all answered ‘Shah!’ From across the street another voice called out ‘Payandeh!’ and we responded ‘Iran!’” he told the *Post*. Payandeh Iran – long live Iran.

“It felt as if we had known each other for years.”

At the gathering site, the scale of the crowd was hard to ignore. Near the entrance, a small girl stood with her mother handing flowers to German police officers. Nearby, a man with a disability leaned heavily on a cane, determined to be there despite the rain and cold.

“We had all come for our beloved Prince [Reza Pahlavi](#),” the attendee said, “and for the people inside Iran.”

Their eyes and hopes were on us.”

The lead-up to Pahlavi's 'Global Day of Action'

In the days leading up to the rally, messages poured in from inside the Islamic Republic. A mother whose son had been killed during the protests asked that his photograph be carried in Munich. Others asked those attending to chant “Javid Shah” in their place.

A young woman from a village near Hamedan sent a message as the rain began to fall. When the cold set in, no one left.

“The most emotional moment was when the prince began his speech,” the attendee said. “With every passing minute, my pride in being Iranian grew stronger.”

He spoke of friends and compatriots who never made it to this moment.

“Their blood will not be trampled,” he said. “Their sacrifice will not be in vain.”

After the rally ended, soaked and freezing as rain and snow fell together, groups huddled in cafés to warm up before long journeys home. At one table sat two young women who had recently returned from Iran.

Their stories would make good cinema if it were not for the heartbreaking reality beneath them.

One said her father, a doctor, secretly treated injured protesters. Patients used coded language over the phone because calls were monitored.

“They would say, ‘I twisted my ankle,’ but he knew they had been shot or hit with pellets and were too afraid to go to a hospital,” she said.

The other spoke of her parents leaving water and food in their yard at night for demonstrators fleeing security forces.

“The three hours we waited for the bus passed in what felt like minutes,” the Belgian attendee said. “I fought back tears more than once.”

His conclusion was simple, and echoed across the world on Saturday.

“I have no doubt that we will bring our shah back to Iran. This generation is paying for the mistakes of the previous one, but we want our children to grow up in a free Iran. I have never felt this proud to be Iranian. We do not doubt that we will prevail. Light will overcome darkness.”

Reza Pahlavi's unofficial coronation

THE SCENES in Munich came just a day after Pahlavi addressed the Munich Security Conference, where he was confronted by a BBC Persian journalist who suggested he had failed to unite the Iranian opposition.

Pahlavi’s response was to the point.

“Whose name are people calling in the streets?” he asked.

From Tehran to Mashhad, Isfahan to Shiraz, protesters have for months shouted “Javid Shah” from rooftops after nightfall in a direct challenge to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the Islamic Republic’s claim to legitimacy.

Which other figure can bring hundreds of thousands to the streets in multiple global cities in a single day? Which other name echoes nightly from Iran’s rooftops, shouted loudly by a population living in constant fear of regime reprisals.

Saturday was the unofficial coronation of Reza Pahlavi.

And yet, throughout the weekend, Pahlavi rejected the idea that he is seeking the throne.

In an interview with CNN’s Christiane Amanpour on Friday in Munich, Pahlavi was asked directly about his ambitions.

“Do you want to be king? Do you want to be president? What is your role in this situation?”

His answer was consistent with what he has told the Post and others over recent months.

“From the first day I started, I considered my mission in life to bring the country to a point that we can have that final referendum and the people elect their first democratic government in the future,” he said. “That, to me, is the finish line and mission accomplished in life.

“I don’t have any personal ambition. I’m not seeking power. I don’t want to have a crown on my head or a title,” he continued. “They should look at me as a bridge to that destination and not the destination itself.”

Less than 24 hours later, that bridge stood before hundreds of thousands of Iranians chanting for the return of their monarchy.

Pahlavi took the stage in Munich alongside his wife, Crown Princess Yasmine, facing a sea of Lion and Sun flags and calls for the end of the Islamic Republic. Last month, he told the Post that preparations were under way for a return to Iran – a country he has not seen in nearly five decades.

In a statement released after the rallies, Pahlavi addressed both Iranians inside the country and those in the diaspora.

“Your resounding cries within Iran on the nights of February 14 and 15, and your remarkable presence in the rallies of the February 14 Global Day of Action were a clear manifestation of our national unity,” he wrote.

He saluted those inside Iran “who stand steadfast against the occupiers,” and those abroad who became, in his words, “the external echo of Iran’s national Lion and Sun Revolution.”

“You have awakened the conscience of the world and made it more difficult to appease this criminal regime,” he wrote.

Pahlavi emphasized the discipline and dignity of the protests, noting that Iranians had demonstrated respect for their host countries while projecting unity.

“You proved that Iranians, wherever they may be in the world, are one united nation with one flag, one unwavering will, and one clear goal,” he said.

“Our struggle to overthrow the Islamic Republic and establish a national and democratic government is irreversible.”

The toll of Iran's protest crackdown

He did not hide from the bloodshed the protests have witnessed, with official figures hovering around 7,000 deaths since the protests began on December 28, 2025, and conservative reports estimating 50,000 killed over the near two-month period (some say that number was killed by the regime during the days of January 8-9 alone).

The regime has reportedly targeted hospitals for wounded protesters, executing them in their beds, and also punished medical staff for attending to wounded demonstrators.

“Between us and this regime lies a sea of blood,” Pahlavi wrote, directly naming Khamenei as “the Zahhak of our time,” a reference to Persian mythology.

“The tens of thousands of precious lives taken have become the driving force of a great resurrection,” he said.

“I will remain by your side until our final victory.”

As talks between the United States and Iran this week continue to flounder over things the Islamic Republic has been unwilling to give up, such as its proxy network, ballistic missile capabilities, and a continuous and deliberate march toward nuclear weapons, the talk of war grows ever louder.

As the US continues to build up its military presence in the region, with the aircraft carrier fleet of the USS Abraham Lincoln already posted to the Middle East – and Iran carrying out naval exercises with China and Russia – it seems US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may finally seek to fulfill their promises to the Iranian protesters and send help.

If it comes to military action and the regime crumbles, as many expect, Pahlavi’s return will be made a lot easier. As for him, last week saw him unofficially crowned by the people, and the people demanded their king’s return.

For now, Reza Pahlavi insists he is only a bridge. But he is a bridge the Iranian people want to cross.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-887304>

Rafah fighting drew 100 times more media attention than Iran protests, study shows

JJPI President Prof. Stern said the research aimed primarily to demonstrate that when Israel conducts a “defensive war against armed terrorist organizations that attacked it, it is judged harshly.” By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) FEBRUARY 20, 2026 09:17



Iran and Israel flags on geopolitical map. (photo credit: SHUTTERSTOCK)

Media coverage and demonstrations related to the IDF’s entry into Rafah received approximately 100 times more attention than those addressing the Iranian protests, a Jewish People Policy Institute (JJPI) study released Thursday revealed.

The study examined the disparity between the global response to the scale of violence during the protests in Iran and the response to the Israel-Hamas war, particularly the

IDF’s entry into Rafah, and was conducted by the Glazer Information Center at JJPI, with Shlomi Berznick, Eli Kanai, and Yaakov Katz serving as the responsible researchers.

JPPI President Prof. Yedidia Stern said the research aimed primarily to demonstrate that when Israel conducts a “defensive war against armed terrorist organizations that attacked it, it is judged harshly.”

By contrast, Stern noted that when the [Islamic regime](#) “massacred its own citizens, who are defenseless,” the response from the international community was relatively modest.

Among its findings, the JPPI study highlighted significant gaps in both the volume of international media coverage and the number of protests held in the United States surrounding each issue.



A war between Israel and Iran (illustrative) (credit: INGIMAGE)

As part of the analysis, the number of protests in the United States related to Israel’s entry into Rafah was compared with protests addressing the suppression of demonstrations in Tehran. These figures were then cross-referenced with the volume of international media coverage in leading outlets focused on both events.

To ensure comparability, the researchers used two identical 22-day time windows. The analysis revealed substantially greater traction surrounding the Rafah case, a trend linked in part to the social media campaign “All Eyes on Rafah.” This

period also coincided with a wave of protests on US college campuses.

To analyze protest activity, the study relied on the Crowd Counting Consortium, the largest database documenting protests in the United States, including their locations, organizers, and central messages.

Only 25 protests held in US over Iran crackdown

The findings showed that only 25 protests were held in the United States during the period of the Iranian protest crackdown. In addition, not all of these demonstrations expressed solidarity with the Iranian protesters, with some instead calling for avoiding American involvement in the unfolding violence.

In contrast, during the Israel-Hamas war, 476 protests against Israel were held, along with 2,120 protests in the United States during the 22-day period examined around [the IDF’s](#) entry into Rafah.

The JPPI study also examined the involvement of human rights organizations and women’s groups in both contexts. The data showed that during the Iranian demonstrations, organizations that led protests against Israel were absent from expressions of solidarity with the Iranian protesters.

Among the organizations examined were Codepink, Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War, and Geneva Women’s Assembly.

To assess media coverage, JPPI used the Lexis-Nexis database to review reporting in major international outlets, including Al Jazeera (English), CNN, CBC, NPR, Sky News, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Axios*, *Politico*, the *Times of India*, the *Irish Times*, *Time*, and the *Daily Telegraph*.

The resulting data showed that, during the period of the IDF’s entry into Rafah, the coverage of the Palestinian issue was nearly twice as extensive as coverage of the Iranian protests during their violent suppression.

According to the authors of the JPPI study, conflicts involving Israel receive a particularly high level of attention, which may at times be disproportionate when compared with more severe events elsewhere. The researchers concluded that these findings point to a clear bias in the international discourse surrounding Israel.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-887327>

What Does Halal Mean?

Halal is an **Arabic term that means "permissible" or "lawful," and is applied to indicate what is acceptable to eat, according to Islamic teachings and dietary law.**

Halal food is prepared and consumed with specific conditions, including:

- The **animal must be slaughtered by a Muslim** who is of sound mind and has reached the age of maturity
- The **name of Allah (God) should be invoked at the time of slaughter**
- The animal should be healthy at the time of slaughter; it must be free from diseases or defects
- The blood must be drained from the carcass, as consuming blood is prohibited

The **term "halal" goes beyond its literal meaning; it defines broader ethical and moral principles in Islam.** Originating from the Quran, the holy book of Islam, the distinction between halal (permissible) and haram (forbidden) is outlined. **It is required under shariah law. rdb**

Zabihah, the Arabic word for "slaughter," is used when referring to halal meat from animals slaughtered under permissible guidelines.

For those who aren't part of the Muslim community, understanding what halal means is more than just figuring out what's allowed to be eaten. It's a glimpse into the cultural and religious values that shape the lives of many around the globe. When you start noting halal from haram, there can be a deeper understanding of the spiritual and ethical considerations within the Islamic faith.

Halal vs. Haram

Differentiating between halal and haram is a founding principle in Islamic dietary laws, and using the terms defines what is permissible (halal) and prohibited (haram) to eat as outlined in the Quran.

Defining food as halal or haram goes beyond the ingredients themselves, as you need to consider other elements of the halal definition – including the food preparation, the food storage and the cleanliness of the utensils and surfaces. Everything needs to be free from contamination with haram substances.

<https://www.usfoods.com/tools-tips-and-ideas/articles-and-publications/articles/halal-food-guide-for-foodservice-professionals>

Halal : Snacks

1. Target

<https://www.target.com/c/snacks-grocery/halal/-/N-5xxy9Z3a3nc>

Cadbury Eggs



This brand has been listed as a Boycott Brand by the Witness. You can read more information here: Mondelez | Israel Boycott Guide | by The Witness
This page relates to Cadbury's Chocolate Eggs, Last updated March 2024. Every effort has been made to assess each Cadbury's product individually.

Cadbury's continuously are adding and removing their products from their shelves, if you want us to ask about a specific product. Leave a message below.

The following are halal and also suitable for Vegetarians:

Halal Cadbury Eggs

- Creme egg Easter egg
- Creme eggs
- Crunchie Easter egg
- Easter egg hunt pack
- Mini creme eggs
- Mini eggs
- Mini eggs Easter egg
- Mini eggs plastic egg
- Dairy milk Buttons Easter egg
- Dairy milk Daim eggs minis
- Dairy milk Easter bunny popping candy
- Dairy milk Egg and spoon-Oreo – (Alcoholic Flavourings)
- Dairy milk Egg minis
- Dairy milk Giant Daim Easter egg
- Dairy milk Giant fruit&nut Easter egg
- Dairy milk Hollow bunny
- Dairy milk Mini hollow bunnies
- Dairy milk Mini Oreo egg
- Dairy milk Oreo Easter egg
- Freddo

Recipes may change so **always** check the ingredients on the pack.

<https://thehalallife.co.uk/products/cadbury-eggs/>

Do you want to stop sharia then don't buy Halal products. Only the pocketbook will wake up those who are helping to push the Islamic agenda. rdb

Dallas Falls: Buffalo Wild Wings Goes Halal – Texas' Latest Sharia Surrender – RAIR

<https://rairfoundation.com/dallas-falls-buffalo-wild-wings-goes-halal-texas/>



Breaking in Richardson, where the Muslim population is exploding and a Muslim mayor now runs the city:

The local Buffalo Wild Wings has fully surrendered. The chain now serves zabihah halal hand-cut wings—hand-slaughtered facing Mecca with prayers to Allah recited over every bird. The meat is HMS-certified (Halal Meat Standards, the Sharia-enforcement racket run by Islamic gatekeepers), prepped and fried in completely separate areas to prevent any cross-contamination with non-halal food. Customers can still order most sauces—except the few that remain non-halal.

This is the first Buffalo Wild Wings location in Texas to go halal. Corporate leaders and activists are hailing it as a “huge moment” for halal foodies.

We call it exactly what it is: a food jihad victory—a stealth weapon of Islamic supremacists shoving barbaric, inhumane rituals into America’s red-meat heartland.

The certification comes from networks repeatedly linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, Hezbollah, and their allies. Your casual wing order now funds the very groups advancing the cultural demise of the West.

Texas lawmakers once boasted about “banning” Sharia. That ban has proven meaningless. Halal mandates are already embedded in public schools, hospitals, prisons, and corporate cafeterias—often paid for by your tax dollars. Politicians talk tough while quietly subsidizing the takeover.

Dallas and Richardson are ground zero for the two-front war now raging across Texas:

Internal front: Self-contained Islamic enclaves—mosque-to-madrassa communities where Muslims can live from birth to grave without ever interacting with non-Muslims.

External front: Smiling, front-facing operators embedding Islamic rules into every American institution—one halal certification, one policy change, one corporate capitulation at a time.

Sharia conquers through supply chains, bureaucratic cowardice, and taxpayer-funded “diversity.”

Boycott Halal. Expose the funding.

<https://rairfoundation.com/dallas-falls-buffalo-wild-wings-goes-halal-texas/>

The Lord God Almighty needs to help us if we don’t wise up and straighten up. rdb

OPED

Japan Fights Back Against Muslim Migration

Thu, 19 Feb 2026 6:31 AM PST by Daniel Greenfield



A few months before his assassination, Charlie Kirk visited Japan and warned that mass migration was seeking to “replace and eradicate Japan by bringing in Indonesians, by bringing in Arabs, by bringing in Muslims”.

With over 100 mosques and over 400,000 Muslims already occupying Japan, even though 95% of Japanese voters oppose Muslim mass migration, a political explosion was bound to occur.

Now, Japanese voters have delivered a striking defeat to the forces of mass migration with a stunning win for Japan’s Prime Minister Sanae

Takaichi, whom the media has already taken to describing as a ‘Trumpian’ figure for opposing mass migration, her Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which won its largest victory to date, as did a number of other right-wing parties, including the one Kirk was addressing, demonstrating that voters were tired of mass migration.

In Kawaguchi City, where so many Turkish Muslims now live on welfare that a Turkish candidate announced a run for mayor last year on a platform of “multiculturalism”, another conservative candidate candidate, Yuriko Okamura won with record turnout on a platform of cracking down on foreigners after statistics showed Muslims were 1,000% more likely to commit crimes than the native Japanese population. The media however blamed ‘misinformation’ and claimed that Kawaguchi was the central point for the spread of anti-Muslim xenophobia across Japan.

By contrast, Reiwa Shinsengumi, a far-left party which welcomed mass migration, called for

multiculturalism and spent much of its energy campaigning against Israel and for Islamic terrorists, fell from 8 parliamentary seats to only 1 in a crushing defeat for its agenda.

95% of Japanese voters [oppose](#) Muslim mass migration, 60% describe Muslims as “radical”, “aggressive” or “backwards” and 62% view them as a “security risk”. The Japanese Left found itself on the wrong side of a debate about setting a cap on mass migration to the country and had no other response except to lecture the majority about its “xenophobia” and “intolerance”.

While Japan has traditionally been highly restrictionist when it came to immigration, its poor birth rate (the average birth rate is 1.15 babies per woman and there were less than 690,000 births in 2024) has forced it to rely more and more on foreign labor. And much of that foreign labor, as Charlie Kirk described, is coming out of Indonesia and other Islamic supremacist countries.

There were 100,000 Muslim occupants in Japan in 2005. By 2023, that shot up to 350,000 and by 2024 it was estimated as having reached 420,000 and is rapidly headed towards the crucial tipping point of half a million. This rapid hypergrowth of Muslim migrant populations is troublingly typical and it’s why so many first world countries across Europe have been so rapidly occupied.

The Japanese were slow to wake up to what was happening as mosques exploded in unexpected places and overflow Islamic ‘prayer’ services began occupying neighborhoods.

The Islamic call to ‘prayer’ and the damnation of infidels (according to Islamic law, most Japanese are ‘pagans’ and can be killed or raped out of hand) now echoes from ‘mega-mosques’ like the Tokyo Mosque with its massive towers and domes where over 5,000 Muslim migrants show up. And this was quickly followed by other demands, for fundamental changes to the Japanese diet, which is extremely ‘non-Halal’ and for Muslim burial plots inside Japan, as well as other ways in which Japan was expected to accommodate Islam.

To many Japanese people, the over 100 mosques occupying parts of their land (up from a dozen a generation ago), the Islamic schools for a growing population of Muslim youth and the expanding demands to change the nature of Japan signal that the Muslim workers are not coming to the country temporarily, but they mean to stay. Over 50,000 Muslims have already obtained permanent resident status and that number appears likely to increase dramatically.

Japan’s low birth rate and aging population at once leaves it in need of foreign labor but also vulnerable to foreign invasion. But Japanese voters pushed back against the occupation.

Prime Minister Takaichi ran on a promise to toughen residency laws and immigration controls. Even as [Somali fraud became a nationwide story](#) in America, welfare and visa fraud by migrants was becoming a growing controversy in Japan. As was the abuse of animals by foreigners.

While foreigners were initially not eligible to take part in Japan’s generous welfare state, the growing numbers of migrants in major cities have been able to get themselves and their families on the welfare rolls. And once on the welfare rolls, the invasion subsidizes itself.

Takaichi’s message countered the growing calls for mass migration by many Japanese politicians. For example, Tokyo’s Guidelines for the Promotion of Intercultural Cohesion [reads like](#) boilerplate DEI material from any western government, complete with buzzwords about “diversity”, being a “global city” and “a tradition of respect for people with diverse values”.

Last year the ‘Aomori Declaration’ was issued by Japan’s National Governors’ Association which called for the integration of foreign workers, condemned ‘xenophobic’ criticism of mass migration and urged creating an infrastructure to build a “multicultural coexistence”. The ultimate goal was to transform Japan into a “multicultural community” in which the Japanese would be slowly edged out by foreign migrants in the name of “integration” and “multiculturalism.”

The governor of Nara claimed that there were “baseless criticisms targeting foreign residents that are spreading online” and dismissed a “vague anxiety” by “Japanese people, mainly young generations.” While the governor of Miyagi had argued that a Muslim cemetery was necessary and “must happen in spite of the criticism” because “as the number of foreigners increases, so are people who get married and have kids. There are also Japanese people converting to Islam who want an Islamic burial.”

Japanese voters however rejected the proposals for mass migration and multicultural integration and signaled that they want their country to remain Japanese. That will however require more than minor adjustments. Muslim migrants have been able to marry women with citizenship And with the presence of over 100 mosques and nearly half a million Muslims, they will consider Japan to be another outpost of the growing imperial ‘ummah’ of Islam bestraddling the world.

The Muslim Brotherhood and other global Islamist networks have already established a presence in Japan through the mosques, schools and 'community centers' that have been set up. Jihadist figures now brag about spreading Islam in Japan. They are not about to give up.

Japanese voters took an important step by choosing their country over an illusory multiculturalism that would allow those who hate them to overrun their country and destroy its culture, its values and its people. But the leftist supporters of mass migration and the Islamic ideology that uses them as a springboard for its conquests will not give up easily.

Japan has a long way ahead of it. And the only way forward is to restore its culture, rebuild its birth rate and to stop being reliant on foreign labor. And if it must rely on foreign labor, fellow Asian nations are a much better choice than importing Indonesian, Pakistani and other laborers from the Muslim world who don't come to work, only invade plant the conquering flag of Islam.

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