

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Passover first Seder will be Saturday Evening and Israel normally has much reduced news reporting and activity during the week of Passover. Our news postings will be markedly reduced for the next few days as our family is visiting. Thank you RDB**

**Trump: ‘We’re getting close to getting’ the hostages back, Hamas ‘is a nasty group’**  
*US president cites progress in talks; Netanyahu holds meeting on captives with negotiators and security chiefs, speaks with families of hostages Elkana Bohbot and Rom Braslavski*

By [Reuters](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 4:16 am



*US President Donald Trump, alongside Secretary of State Marco Rubio (L) and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth (R), during a cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House on April 10, 2025, in Washington. (Brendan SMIALOWSKI / AFP)*

US President Donald Trump on Thursday said progress was being made regarding the return of the hostages being held in Gaza and that he was dealing with both Israel and Hamas, but he gave no other details about the talks.

“We’re getting close to getting them back,” Trump told reporters at a cabinet meeting,

“A lot came back. A lot of people are very grateful. Some came back in pretty bad shape. They’re okay. I think they’re going to be scarred mentally for a long time because if you sit down and talk to them, as I have, what they went through is incredible,” he said

“But we’re making progress,” he added. “We’re dealing with Israel, we’re dealing with Hamas, and it’s a nasty group.”

The comments came as the Ynet news site reported that Trump’s envoy Witkoff relayed a similar message to the families of hostages.

“A real serious deal is on the table and it’s a matter of a few days,” he was quoted as saying.



*Steve Witkoff, White House special envoy for the Middle East, accompanied by White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, speaks with reporters at the White House, March 6, 2025, in Washington. (AP/Alex Brandon)*

In Israel meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a situation assessment on the hostages with his negotiators and security chiefs, The Times of Israel learned.

He also met in Jerusalem with the families of hostages Elkana Bohbot and Rom Braslavski, Netanyahu’s office said.

**Elkana Bohbot (Courtesy)**

According to the Prime Minister’s Office, Netanyahu updated the families on ongoing talks to get the hostages released.

Netanyahu “reiterates his commitment to achieving all the goals of the war: returning all our hostages, eliminating Hamas and ensuring that Gaza will no longer pose a threat to Israel,” said his office.





*Rom Braslavski (Courtesy)*

There are believed to be 24 living hostages still in Gaza, as well as 35 confirmed by Israel to be dead.

The hostages were taken on October 7, 2023, when Hamas led thousands of terrorists in an invasion of southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251 as hostages to the Gaza Strip.

A week-long ceasefire in November 2023 saw the release of over 100 hostages, mostly women and children.

In January 2025, another ceasefire was agreed, and during the ensuing weeks, dozens of

hostages, alive and dead, were returned in small batches in return for boosted humanitarian aid to Gaza and the release of over 1,000 Palestinian security prisoners held in Israeli prisons.

The sides had agreed to hold talks on a second and third phase that would include the return of all hostages, end the war, and ensure a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. However, the truce collapsed after the first stage when Israel refused to enter negotiations on the terms of the subsequent phases, and Hamas refused to extend the first phase, leading Jerusalem to resume military operations in Gaza.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-were-getting-close-to-getting-the-hostages-back-hamas-is-a-nasty-group/>

## Witkoff tells hostage families: 'A serious deal is taking shape'

Trump envoy says major hostage deal nearing, as US pushes for an end to Gaza war and broader regional agreement; 'We're getting close to getting them back,' Trump says during cabinet meeting

[Itamar Eichner](#) | 16:45

**An American-brokered hostage deal may be imminent, according to messages relayed to the families of Israeli hostages. Steve Witkoff, President Donald Trump's envoy to the Middle East, told families he met Thursday that "a very serious deal is taking shape—it's a matter of days."**

**Sources believe that Trump has given Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu just a few more weeks to continue the war before he pushes for a comprehensive ceasefire deal.**



*Steve Witkoff, President Donald Trump's envoy to the Middle East (Photo: Reuters/Evelyn Hockstein/Pool)*

Trump echoed that message Thursday evening, telling his cabinet, "We're getting close to getting them back," he told reporters during a cabinet meeting at the White House. "We're making progress, we're dealing with Israel, we're dealing with [Hamas](#), and it's a nasty group."

Trump did not provide specific details about the negotiations or a timeline for a potential agreement.

Later, Netanyahu's office said he had held a security consultation on the hostage issue with Israel's negotiation team and top defense officials.

At Wednesday night's Security Cabinet meeting—held without senior defense chiefs—ministers were briefed on Netanyahu's visit to Washington and discussed intensifying military pressure on Hamas. Transportation Minister Miri Regev argued current pressure was not enough, and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir called for seizing Gaza and promoting emigration "according to Trump's plan." Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich urged a large-scale ground maneuver if Hamas doesn't release all the hostages.

U.S. officials reportedly told hostage families that the issue was a top priority at Trump's White House meeting with Netanyahu. They said Washington is pushing for a broad regional deal that includes ending the Gaza war and moving toward normalization with [Saudi Arabia](#). Nuclear talks with Iran are also part of this broader strategy.

Sources say Trump will tolerate only a few more weeks of fighting—possibly two to three—before

demanding an end to the war. “There’s no end to this war without resolving the hostage issue,” an Israeli source said.

Meanwhile, recently released hostage Karina Arayev, who spent 477 days in Hamas captivity, appealed to the public ahead of Passover: “Until they return, none of us are truly free.”

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sjivfor01e>

## **Top Iranian officials told Khamenei to allow US nuke talks or risk fall of regime – NYT** *In rare coordinated effort, officials said to have warned Iran’s supreme leader that military threats from US and Israel are real, and country faces massive unrest if it goes to war*

By [Tol Staff](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 5:46 pm



*A handout picture provided by the Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei’s office on March 21, 2025, shows him addressing the crowd during his annual Nowruz speech, in Tehran, Iran. (KHAMENEI.IR / AFP)*

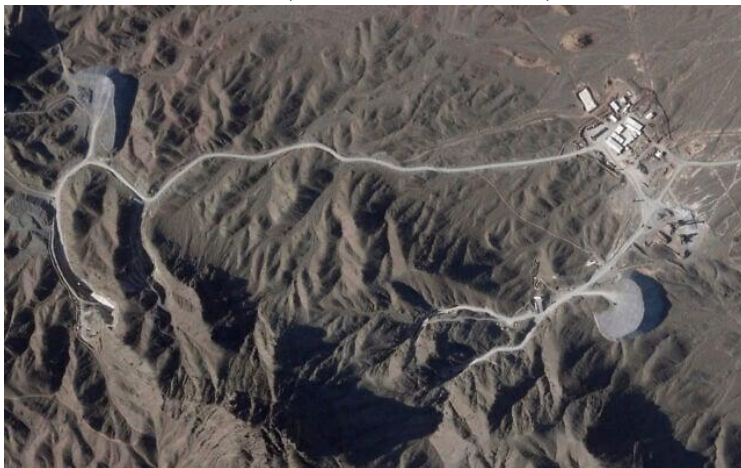
**In a rare intervention, Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was urged by his top officials to allow negotiations with the United States on the regime’s nuclear program or risk the fall of the Islamic Republic,** [The New York Times](#) reported Friday.

The US and Iran are set to meet in Oman on Saturday for talks over Tehran’s rogue nuclear program.

According to The New York Times report, which cited two senior Iranian officials who are familiar with the details, Khamenei held a meeting last month attended by heads of the judiciary and parliament. Those officials, in what the sources described as an unusual, coordinated effort, pressured Khamenei into accepting talks with Washington, even direct ones.

They told Khamenei that the threat of military action by the US and Israel against its nuclear sites was serious.

“If Iran refused talks or if the negotiations failed, the officials told Mr. Khamenei, military strikes on Iran’s two main nuclear sites, Natanz and Fordow, would be inevitable,” the sources said, as reported by the Times.



*This satellite photo from Planet Labs PBC shows construction on a new underground facility at Iran’s Natanz nuclear site, on April 14, 2023. (Planet Labs PBC via AP)*

**The country, already in economic shambles,** would be forced to respond, but then would also likely be plunged into domestic unrest if it were to go to war, they said.

The combination of such events would amount to an existential threat to the Islamic Republic, the officials reportedly told Khamenei.

The sources said that Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, an ex-Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps chief and current conservative head of Parliament, told

Khamenei that a war combined with a domestic economic implosion could quickly get out of control.

They also quoted President Masoud Pezeshkian as telling Khamenei that managing the country through its current crises was not tenable. The report points to power cuts that threaten to shutter factories and water shortages in the central city of Yazd, which saw schools and government offices closed this week.

Iran previously rejected talks but has since relented amid US President Donald Trump’s threats.

Hossein Mousavian, a former diplomat who served on Iran’s nuclear negotiating team on a 2015 deal and is now a visiting fellow at Princeton University, told The New York Times that the change illustrated that preserving the regime was Khamenei’s main priority.

“Mr. Khamenei’s turnaround demonstrates his long-held core principle that ‘preserving the regime is the most necessary of the necessities,’” Mousavian said.



**Iranian demonstrators carry Iranian, Palestinian and Hezbollah terror group flags at an anti-Israeli rally after Friday prayer in Tehran, Iran on April 11, 2025. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)**

While Khamenei relented and agreed to talks, he also imposed his own conditions, the report said.

Citing three Iranian officials, the NYT said that Khamenei agreed to discuss strict monitoring for the nuclear program and a significant reduction of the enrichment of uranium. However, he has said that Iran's missile program is off limits, regarding it as being part of Iran's defenses. The sources said that was a "deal breaker."

However, the report also said that Iran was "open to discussing its regional policies" and support for its terror proxies like Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis in Yemen.

Hamas and Hezbollah have been severely weakened by Israel in the conflicts since Hamas's Oct. 7 2023 assault on southern Israel, and the US is currently carrying out massive strikes on the Houthis.

The US has vowed not to allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon, and Trump has repeatedly threatened "bombing" and a "very bad day for Iran" if no agreement is reached to prevent it.

Iran, which is sworn to Israel's destruction, denies seeking a nuclear weapon, but it has ramped up its enrichment of uranium to 60 percent purity, which has no application beyond nuclear weapons, and has obstructed international inspectors from checking its nuclear facilities.

Iranian officials said Friday that the Islamic Republic is giving the talks "a genuine chance," and that, if there are not further "threats and intimidation from the American side, there is a good possibility of reaching an accord."

The talks on Saturday will be led by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US special envoy Steve Witkoff, with Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi as intermediary, according to Iranian state media.



**Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, left, pictured in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025; Steve Witkoff, right, White House special envoy, pictured in Washington, Wednesday, March 19, 2025. (AP Photos Stringer, Mark Schiefelbein)**

Trump has characterized the talks as "direct," while Iranian officials have insisted they will be "indirect."

Khamenei adviser Ali Shamkhani said in a [post to X](#) on Friday that Araghchi was heading to Oman "with full authority for indirect negotiations with America."

"Tehran seeks a real, just deal—away from media show and rhetoric. Key proposals are ready. If Washington shows determination for a deal, the path to agreement will be clear," he wrote, in a message posted separately in Farsi, English, Arabic, Russian, and Hebrew.

The Iranian foreign ministry said on Friday the US should value the Islamic Republic's decision to engage in talks despite what it called Washington's "prevailing confrontational hoopla."

The ministry's spokesman, Esmail Baqaei, said Iran was "giving diplomacy a genuine chance in good faith and full vigilance," adding, "America should appreciate this decision, which was made despite their hostile rhetoric."

In the lead-up to the talks, Trump reiterated his warning that military action was "absolutely" possible if talks failed.

During his first term, Trump withdrew from a 2015 deal between Iran and six world powers — the US, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — and also imposed stiff sanctions. Iran responded by dropping some of its commitments to the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Hardline media in Iran voiced skepticism on the talks.

For example, the Kayhan newspaper ran editorials warning that new sanctions imposed this week showed the United States was "an enemy of Iran and its people" and dismissed negotiations to lift sanctions as a "failed strategy."

Reformist media outlets struck a more optimistic tone, emphasizing the potential economic and

investment opportunities talks could create.

Witkoff, expected to lead the American negotiation effort, visited Russia on Friday for talks on Ukraine with Russian President Vladimir Putin, an ally of Iran.

Expert-level consultations between Russia, China and Iran on nuclear issues took place in Moscow on Tuesday, according to the Russian foreign ministry.

Iran has in recent months also been talking with the three European signatories of the 2015 nuclear deal, namely France, Germany and Britain.

On Friday, Germany urged the two sides to reach a “diplomatic solution,” adding that it is a “positive development that there is a channel for dialogue between Iran and the United States.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/top-iranian-officials-warned-khamenei-regime-in-danger-without-nuclear-talks-nyt/>

## **Soldier wounded, Hamas commander killed as troops push forward in southern Gaza IDF advances in Morag Corridor between Rafah and Khan Younis, find Hamas tunnel under Rafah kindergarten; army issues evacuation orders for several Gaza City neighborhoods**

By [Emanuel Fabian](#), [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:03 pm



*IDF troops operate in the Gaza Strip, in a handout photo issued on April 11, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)*

**An Israeli soldier was seriously wounded in the southern Gaza Strip on Friday, the military said, the first badly hurt troop since the military resumed its offensive in the Strip last month.**

**However, the Israel Defense Forces said the soldier with the Golani Brigade's 12th Battalion was apparently injured in an accident and not by enemy fire.** The army said he was hit by an accidental discharge of a bullet, without giving further details.

The soldier was evacuated for medical treatment,

and his family were notified, the IDF said.

The IDF also **said Friday that a Hamas sniper commander in southern Gaza's Rafah was killed** in a recent strike, as forces continued to operate in the area and advanced in the corridor between the city and nearby Khan Younis.

Ahmad Iyad Muhammad Farhat, the commander of the Hamas terror group's sniper forces in the terror group's Tel Sultan Battalion in Rafah, was responsible for advancing and carrying out numerous attacks on Israeli troops in Gaza and against Israel, the IDF said Friday, announcing he had been killed.

The military said that over the previous 24-hour period, Israeli Air Force fighter jets, drones, and helicopters struck some 40 targets across Gaza, including cells of operatives, buildings used by terror groups, weapons, and other infrastructure.

The IDF's Gaza Division has been operating in Rafah's Tel Sultan and Shaboura neighborhoods since last

month. In the past day, the military said troops killed several operatives and destroyed booby-trapped buildings.

Also in Rafah, the IDF said Friday that troops of the Golani Brigade located a Hamas tunnel built under a kindergarten.

One of the tunnel's entrances was located in the yard of the daycare, footage released by the military showed. According to the IDF, a school was located 100 meters away.

**Footage released by the IDF on April 11, 2025, shows a Hamas tunnel under a daycare in southern Gaza's Rafah. (Israel Defense Forces)**



Troops of the elite Yahalom combat engineering unit scanned the tunnel, which was found to be several dozen meters long and booby-trapped with explosives. The tunnel led to a “key” Hamas underground passageway, the IDF said.

The tunnel was later demolished.

The IDF said the 36th Division advanced in the so-called Morag Corridor, between Rafah and Khan Younis, during which troops killed operatives and destroyed above-ground and underground infrastructure used by Hamas.

In northern Gaza, the 252nd Division located and destroyed additional Hamas infrastructure, and a tank shelled a group of armed operatives, killing them, the IDF said.

### **New evacuation orders for Gaza City**

The IDF also issued an evacuation warning for Palestinians residing in some areas of eastern Gaza City.

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In a post on X, the IDF’s Arabic-language spokesman, Col. Avichay Adraee, published a map of the area to be evacuated, which includes the neighborhoods of Shejaiya, Zeitoun, and Tuffah.

He said that the military would soon operate “with great force” there to “destroy terror infrastructure.”

Civilians were called to head for shelters in western Gaza City.

[#عاجل !!](#) انذار عاجل وتحذير خطير الى جميع سكان قطاع غزة المتواجدين في منطقة الشجاعية وأحياء اجديدة، التركمان، توسعة نفوذ، الزيتون الشرقي، النور والتفاح

🕒 جيش الدفاع يعمل بقوة شديدة في مناطقكم لتدمير البنى التحتية الإرهابية.

... من أجل سلامتكم عليكم اخلاء هذه المناطق فوراً... [pic.twitter.com/mcO5XThOOV](https://pic.twitter.com/mcO5XThOOV)

— افياخي ادراعي (@AvichayAdraee) April 11, 2025

Hamas-affiliated Gaza health authorities claimed Friday that a pre-dawn Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis killed 10 members of the same family, seven of whom were children.

The IDF said it was looking into the reports.

Hamas-run civil authorities’ reports of casualties are not independently verified, and they do not distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Israel has said it seeks to minimize civilian fatalities and stresses that Hamas uses Gaza’s civilians as human shields, fighting from civilian areas, including homes, hospitals, schools, and mosques.



**IDF troops operate in the Gaza Strip, in a handout photo issued on April 11, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)**

### **Water pipeline damaged, municipality says**

Hundreds of thousands of Gaza City residents have lost their only source of clean water in the past week after supplies from Israel’s water utility were cut amid fighting, municipal authorities in the Hamas-governed territory said.

Many now have to walk, sometimes for miles, to get a small water fill after fighting in Gaza City’s Shejaiya neighborhood damaged the pipeline operated by Israel’s state-owned Mekorot.

Israel’s military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Mekorot’s pipeline had been supplying 70% of Gaza City’s water since the destruction of most of its wells during the war, municipal authorities said.

“The situation is very difficult, and things are getting more complicated, especially when it comes to people’s daily lives and their daily water needs, whether for cleaning, disinfecting, and even cooking and drinking,” said Husni Mhana, the municipality’s spokesperson.

**Palestinians walk to obtain clean drinking water amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas, in the city of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. (Abed Rahim Khatib)**

The war in Gaza began on October 7, 2023, when some 5,000 Hamas-led terrorists invaded southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages amid acts of brutality and sexual assault.

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Terror groups in the Gaza Strip are still holding 59 hostages — 24 of whom are believed to be alive, and 35 of whom have been confirmed dead — including 58 of those abducted on October 7.

According to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry, more than 50,000 people in the Strip have been killed or are presumed dead in the fighting so far. The toll cannot be verified and does not differentiate between civilians and fighters.

Israel assesses it has killed about 20,000 combatants in Gaza as of January, as well as some 1,600 terrorists inside Israel during the Hamas onslaught.

Israel's toll in the Gaza ground offensive and in military operations along the border stands at 410.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/soldier-wounded-hamas-commander-killed-as-troops-push-forward-in-southern-gaza/>

## Israel holds 'positive' first talks with Turkey on Syria, still in early stages

*Azerbaijani officials said that they were ready to facilitate positive relations between the two countries.*

By [AMICHAEL STEIN](#) APRIL 10, 2025 21:09 **Updated:** APRIL 10, 2025 21:44



*Syrian troops sit atop a tank as they head towards the Syrian-Lebanese border following clashes with Lebanese soldiers and armed groups, in Qusayr, Syria, March 17, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS)*

Israel and Turkey have officially begun talks aimed at reducing tensions between the two countries by establishing a mechanism to [prevent friction in Syria](#).

An Israeli delegation, led by National Security Council head Tzachi Hanegbi and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's military secretary Roman Gofman traveled to the Azeri capital on Wednesday, where they met with senior Turkish officials.

An Israeli official told *The Jerusalem Post* that the first round of talks in Baku were held in a positive atmosphere, while stressing that the

process is still at its very beginning.

Israel made it unequivocally clear to the Turks that any change in the deployment of [foreign forces in Syria](#), particularly the establishment of Turkish bases in the Palmyra region, crosses a red line and would be considered a serious breach, a diplomatic source told *The Post*.

Turkey had set its sights on the T-4 Airbase in the area, and is interested in turning it into a drone base. Israel has attacked this base multiple times in recent months and stressed that "any action that endangers Israel will also endanger the Assad regime."



*Operation Heavy Roads, involving IDF special op. against Iranian missile production facility in Syria (credit: IDF)*

Israel, it seems, is willing to accept Turkish influence in [Syria](#), but not at the expense of its own freedom of action in Syrian airspace, which, according to foreign reports, is crucial for any operations against Iran.

The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement saying that during the talks, each side presented its regional interests, and it was agreed to continue the dialogue channel to maintain regional security stability.

**Azeri envoy to 'Post': We are ready to support positive Israel-Turkey ties**

In a speech on Wednesday, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said his country was helping to calm

tensions between the two nations. Azerbaijan's ambassador to Israel, Mukhtar Mammadov, told the *Post* that "[Azerbaijan](#) is very close to Turkey and a friend of Israel. We want to see relations between you develop positively, and we are ready to support that."

President Trump also said this week that he hopes the tension between the two countries will be resolved, referring to Erdoğan as "his friend." Prime Minister Netanyahu reportedly told cabinet ministers on Wednesday that he would ask Trump to mediate if needed, given his close ties with Erdoğan.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-849760>

## **EU frustrated by Turkish warnings over Greece-Cyprus-Israel power cable, Cyprus says**

***EU irked over Turkish threats to block Greece-Cyprus-Israel power cable; Cyprus vows to defend project under international law***

Associated Press|14:51

**The [European Union](#) is "strongly displeased" with Turkish government warnings that it would obstruct the laying of an electricity cable linking the power grids of [Greece](#) and [Cyprus](#), the Cypriot president said Friday.**

**President Nikos Christodoulides told reporters that the EU's ire was made clear in his conversations with top officials, including European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Commissioner of the Mediterranean Dubravka Suica.**



**President Nikos Christodoulides (Photo: Sean Gallup/Getty Images)**

The EU has pumped around 800 million euros (\$908 million) into the 1.94 billion Great Seas Interconnector, or GSI, that will link up with Israel's power grid at a later phase. The cable's overall length from Greece to Israel would be 1,208 kilometers (750 miles).

Media have quoted unnamed Turkish Defense Ministry officials as saying that the cable cannot proceed without Turkey's consent because it would pass through waters that it claims are under its jurisdiction.

The Turkish officials called the project "provocative" because it disregards the rights of Turkey and the breakaway Turkish Cypriots in ethnically divided Cyprus, warning that Turkish authorities would respond to any work as they had done in the past.

They didn't elaborate what that response would be, but Turkish warships have reportedly impeded the work of vessels surveying the route that the cable would take in waters near the Greek islands of Kasos and Karpathos.

Greek officials have pledged that work to complete the GSI would continue. Greece says international law is on its side under a maritime border agreement it signed with Egypt, while considering a similar agreement Turkey signed with Libya as legally invalid.

Turkey has in the past also dispatched warships off Cyprus' southern coastline to impede exploration and drilling for natural gas in waters it also claims as its own.

Christodoulides played down any concerns of escalating tensions with Turkey, saying that Cyprus would take no action that would lead to any clash.

But he said the Cypriot government would defend its rights under international law with the legal tools at its disposal. GSI is considered a strategic project, particularly for Cyprus and Israel as it would end their energy isolation and reduce energy costs for consumers.

Greece's Independent Power Transmission Operator, which is heading the project, told The Associated Press that although 160 kilometers (100 miles) of electric cables have been manufactured so far, cable laying operations haven't yet started because marine surveys to determine the cable's final route between the Greek island of Crete and Cyprus are still in progress.

The company added the Cyprus-Israel section of the cable link "is advancing on both technical and regulatory fronts" with more details about progress to be made available after the summer.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sjxkwxva1l>



## Erdogan calls Israel a 'terror state' despite de-escalation talks

Despite recent talks in Azerbaijan to ease tensions, Erdogan renews fierce criticism of Israel over Gaza and Syria, warning of consequences and accusing it of destabilizing the region and targeting civilians

[Lior Ben Ari](#) | 12:15

Two days after Israeli and Turkish officials held direct talks in Azerbaijan aimed at easing tensions between the countries—particularly amid a growing power struggle in Syria—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan continued to level sharp accusations and threats against Israel.

In a speech Friday afternoon at a diplomatic conference in Antalya, Erdogan again labeled Israel a “terror state,” accusing it of trying to “sabotage the revolution” that overthrew the Assad regime in Syria and of sowing sectarian division there. He warned: “Anyone who seeks to bring pain again to the Syrian people must be ready to pay the price.”



*Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (Photo: Sean Gallup/Getty Images)*

Erdogan also claimed that “Israel has become a problematic state that poses a direct threat to regional stability, especially through its attacks on Lebanon and Syria.” He declared, “We will not allow anyone to undermine Syria’s security and stability. Syria’s security is our security.”

Erdogan also condemned Israel’s actions in Gaza. Referring to reports of an Israeli strike that killed civilians in Khan Younis earlier in the day, he said: “Just this

morning, ten people, including seven children from the same family, became martyrs in Khan Younis. If this isn’t barbarism, what is?”

Despite the diplomatic dialogue, tensions between Turkey and Israel remain high. Erdogan’s speech underscored the lack of progress in easing hostilities. “Israel is a terror state—there is no other definition,” he said. “It is attempting to incite sectarian conflict in Syria to undermine the achievements of the revolution. Anyone trying to hurt the Syrian people again must be prepared to pay the price.”



*The damage caused by the Israeli attacks in Syria last week. Message to the Turks (Photo: Abdulaziz Ketaz/ AFP)*

He added that Ankara shares Washington’s and Moscow’s commitment to Syria’s territorial integrity, but argued that Israel’s strikes there are undermining efforts to combat ISIS.

Last week, Israeli airstrikes targeted several military sites in Syria, including the T4 airbase near Palmyra. Reports indicated those strikes came shortly after Turkish

officials visited the bases as Ankara considered deploying forces there.

Amid peak tensions, Israeli and Turkish representatives met Wednesday in Azerbaijan—an ally of both countries—for what were described as “technical” talks. The discussions reportedly focused on establishing a de-escalation mechanism to prevent misunderstandings in Syria, akin to a “red phone” hotline.

Following the talks, an Israeli official said: “Israel made it unequivocally clear that any change to the deployment of foreign forces in Syria—particularly the establishment of Turkish bases in the Palmyra area—crosses a red line and would be seen as a serious escalation.” <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sy7r6alrje>

## Five killed in 48 hours amid rampant Arab sector crime wave

*Houses set aflame in Bedouin village after police fatally shoot resident; 61-year-old man murdered in Shfaram, just two years after his son was killed in similar incident*

By [Charlie Summers](#) Today, 5:40 pm



**Israel Police chief Daniel Levy (left) in the southern Bedouin town of Ararat an-Naqab the morning after a violent clash between rival local clans, April 10, 2025. (Israel Police)**

Five Arab Israelis were killed within 48 hours amid an unrelenting violent crime wave that continues to beset Arab communities across the country.

The recent spate of killings claimed the lives of two brothers, a 61-year-old man and two men in their 20s from a southern Bedouin village, one of whom was killed in a shootout with police.

Frequent police raids have failed to curb the spiraling murder rate in Arab society. In several cases, the raids have sparked clashes, as in the incidents that occurred

Wednesday night, when residents of the Bedouin town Ararat an-Naqab, also known as Arara Banegev, rioted after a resident was shot dead by officers.

An officer responding to a shootout between rival clans shot and killed Wahib Abdelqader Abu Arar. Residents then torched houses and a school, causing widespread panic in the Negev village.

Later, at around midnight on Wednesday, another man was shot dead in the town by unknown assailants as he tried to extinguish fires engulfing a house. The 27-year-old victim, named Imad Suleiman Abu Arar, was taken to Soroka Hospital but died of his wounds. The shooting lightly injured one other person.

Police said in a statement that they approached Abu Arar after he was critically wounded by their gunfire and seized an M16 and pistol from him before paramedics took him to a nearby medical clinic.

The next day, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir praised the policeman who had fatally shot Abu Arar and called for his promotion.

“I salute the heroic officer who acted with determination and professionalism,” tweeted the far-right minister. “As befits a hero, I requested to review the officer’s promotion. Such an officer deserves to progress and serve as an example and inspiration to his subordinates.”

إحراق منازل خلال الشجار العنيف الذي اندلع في عرعة النقب.  
— الجرمق الإخباري (@aljarmaqnet) [pic.twitter.com/eNgasoyAqn](https://twitter.com/eNgasoyAqn) [April 9, 2025](https://twitter.com/eNgasoyAqn)

Israel Police chief Daniel Levy visited the town Thursday morning and also threw his support behind the police officers who he said, “acted decisively” last night and asserted that “this is how police officers are expected to act.”

On Tuesday night, preceding the chaos, police conducted a similar operation in Ararat an-Naqab, where they arrested four people suspected of shooting at officers earlier that day.



**Police during raid on the southern Bedouin village of Ararat an-Naqab, leading to four arrests, on April 8, 2025. (Israel Police)**

On Thursday, brothers Matin and Jamal al-Shmali were killed in a shooting incident near an elementary school in the Jawarish neighborhood of Ramle, a city in central Israel.

The siblings were found Thursday morning wounded in a car by paramedics, who shuttled them to Shamir Hospital. They were later pronounced dead by medical staff.

The victims reportedly had two other brothers who were killed in previous shootings in 2019 and 2020. All three incidents are thought to be related to a bloody conflict between their family and the powerful Jarushi crime clan.

After opening an investigation into the double homicide, police arrested three Ramle residents suspected of involvement in the crime.

On Friday morning, 61-year-old Khaled Sawaed was fatally shot in his car while setting out for work in the

northern city of Shfaram.

According to local Arab media, the victim's 27-year-old son, Raslan Sawaed, had been killed in a similar incident two years prior.

The vast majority of Arab sector murder cases are left unsolved by law enforcement, with many community leaders criticizing police for not doing enough to deter violent crime in Arab locales.

Since the start of the year, 69 Arab Israelis have been killed in violent criminal incidents, indicating that the sharp spike in the Arab homicide rate seen under Ben Gvir has far from subsided.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/five-killed-in-48-hours-amid-rampant-arab-sector-crime-wave/>

## Netanyahu slams Canadian PM's claims of Israel's 'genocide in Gaza'

*Carney later backtracked on his statements when questioned about them on Wednesday, insisting he didn't hear the heckler say 'genocide.'*

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) APRIL 11, 2025 07:49 **Updated:** APRIL 11, 2025 08:06



*Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney speaks during a campaign rally in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada on April 10, 2025. (photo credit: Mert Alper Dervis/Anadolu via Getty Images)*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned his Canadian counterpart's "irresponsible" claim of Israel's "genocide in Gaza" in a post on X on Thursday night.

During a rally on Tuesday evening, Liberal leader [Mark Carney](#) was interrupted by a pro-Palestinian protester who shouted, "there's a genocide happening in Gaza."

Carney responded "I'm aware, that's why we have an arms embargo."

### JPost Videos

Netanyahu shared the video on his official X account, writing "[Canada](#) has always sided with civilization. So should Mr. Carney."

"But instead of supporting Israel, a democracy that is fighting a just war with just means against the barbarians of Hamas, [he attacks the one and only Jewish state.](#)"

Canada has always sided with civilization. So should Mr. Carney. But instead of supporting Israel, a democracy that is fighting a just war with just means against the barbarians of Hamas, he attacks the one and only Jewish state. Mr. Carney, backtrack your irresponsible... <https://t.co/27ZcXjew85> — Benjamin Netanyahu - בנימין נתניהו (@netanyahu) [April 10, 2025](#)

"Mr. Carney, backtrack your irresponsible statement!," he asked.

### Backtracking on words

Carney later backtracked on his statements when questioned about them on Wednesday, insisting he didn't hear the heckler say 'genocide.'

"You were there, I guess — It was noisy, you get... if you're up there, you hear snippets of what people say," he said in a Wednesday afternoon press conference.

"I heard 'Gaza' and that, my point was that I'm aware of the situation in Gaza."

A senior Israeli government official told the *Toronto Sun* that Carney's comments were "unfortunate" and "contradict Canada's position on this issue."

The official also disputed Carney's claims that there is an embargo, saying "There is no embargo, just a suspension of a limited number of permits, and, of course, I don't think Canada believes that there's any sort of genocide."

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-849820>

## [Measles Returns: A Texas Death and the Debate Over Medical Response](#)



An investigative journalism report by Trial Site News

[Robert W Malone MD, MS](#)

Apr 10



## Measles Returns: A Texas Death and the Debate Over Medical Response

Initially Published by [Trial Site News](#). Republished by permission.

Apr. 9, 2025, 8:30 p.m.

In an episode of Good Morning CHD, a **critical care doctor and known celebrity of the medical freedom movement Dr. Pierre Kory, and Brian Hooker, Chief Scientific Officer at Children's Health Defense (CHD), discussed the death of an unvaccinated 8-year-old child, named Daisy Hildebrand, who tragically passed away following a measles infection according to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Kory pointed out that this incident occurred at the same hospital where another child had died previously from measles complications. In a bombshell revelation he emphasized that the hospital's handling of the case may have contributed to both deaths.** This recent event concerned the argument that the death was not due to the measles virus itself, despite what Texas authorities have implied in carefully worded press releases, but due to systemic medical care errors. This episode raises wider questions regarding vaccine safety, perceived measles vaccination risk, and public health policy roles in averting such fatalities, not to mention the quality of care in at least one major hospital in Texas. If the Texas Health and Human Services press release proves to be inaccurate, could this also represent an attempted manipulation of the public? Could this point to a deliberate cover-up?

The stakes don't get bigger in the world of health. With a measles outbreak flaring up in Texas, **vaccine skepticism is on the rise since government overreach during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Study after study shows that the MMR vaccine protects the population. Even when so-called breakthrough infections occur, they tend to be far more mild as one recent investigation demonstrates.

**But certainly, vaccine skepticism may worsen if public health agencies are caught manipulating messaging to heighten fear.** In the CHD event, Dr. Kory goes on the record, essentially declaring **that not only the hospital involved, but that the State's health agency appears to be spinning the news to imply measles was the prime culprit.**

Dr. Robert Malone covered this topic, also prodding TrialSite to investigate this affair deeper.

In its April 6, 2025, news release, the Texas DSHS announced the death of a school-aged, unvaccinated child who had tested positive for measles and was hospitalized in Lubbock. The state reports the child had no known underlying health conditions and **died of what doctors described as "measles pulmonary failure," marking it as the second death in Texas's current measles outbreak,** which has tallied 481 confirmed cases as of April 4.

**While DSHS does not explicitly state that measles was the sole cause of death, the language strongly implies it** played a direct and primary role. The release also reiterates that measles can lead to severe complications including pneumonia and death, particularly in unvaccinated individuals.

Accessing the death certificate would be key, and to date, this is not available.

### Analysis of the Second Measles Death

**In the case of Texas's second reported measles-related child death, Dr. Pierre Kory argues the tragedy was not directly caused by the virus itself but rather by systemic medical mismanagement. After reviewing the medical records, Kory asserts the child's death was preventable and resulted from serious failures in care, not the measles infection per se.** He raises concerns that the child's unvaccinated status may have influenced the quality and urgency of treatment, pointing to potential bias within the healthcare system.

**Kory contends that while measles is often portrayed as inherently dangerous and potentially fatal, in this case, delayed or improper treatment played a larger role in the outcome.** This challenges the conventional narrative that attributes such deaths as linked to measles and raises difficult questions about how unvaccinated patients are treated during outbreaks. The case underscores the ethical and clinical complexities surrounding measles management, vaccine choice, and equitable care standards.

### Arguments Against Measles Vaccination

**In the entire video, Kory and CHD lead scientist Brian Hooker present a doubtful view of the global emphasis on measles vaccination, questioning its necessity and effectiveness in preventing deaths from the disease. He argues that measles, while certainly a serious disease, has throughout history been**

**overblown in its natural danger.** Dr. Kory suggests that the **vaccine, although widely considered a key tool in controlling the disease, might not be as crucial as it is often portrayed,** particularly when it comes to the effectiveness of medical treatments for those who do contract the virus. A large body of evidence contradicts these statements, and in fact, even Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has gone on the record during the measles outbreak of the importance of vaccination.

**Kory states that he was able to access the medical records of Daisy Hildebrand, who had previously been healthy until about a month before the initial hospitalization.** According to Kory, she **initially developed mononucleosis, followed by strep throat and then pneumonia.** Her condition seemingly did not improve, and **she remained ill with recurring fevers that would not subside.** Upon her **first hospital admission, she was diagnosed with secondary bacterial pneumonia. During this visit, thrush was observed in her, indicating immunosuppression likely due to high-dose steroids that she had been administered for her prior illnesses.**

**For the pneumonia, she received antibiotics (ceftriaxone and vancomycin) which deviated from the standard treatment for pneumonia. While this antibiotic regimen was not ideal, it yielded some improvement, and she showed signs of recovery.** She was **discharged after a few days, but the following day, her condition worsened, leading to a second hospitalization.** Upon admission for the second time, she was in a **much worse state, with both lungs affected and requiring significantly more oxygen.** While it is not 100% clear when she was first diagnosed with Measles, Kory states that she had a positive Measles test during her first hospital stay, but at the time of her discharge, the rash was clearing up and her overall condition had improved.

**According to Kory, the healthcare team's approach to her condition became particularly problematic during the second hospitalization. The hospital doctors assumed the pneumonia was a measles-related pneumonia and thus delayed proper treatment further.** Dr. Kory criticizes this approach, pointing out that **hospital-acquired pneumonia (HAP) should have been considered, especially given her recent ICU stay and immunosuppressive state. Instead, the doctors did not fully extend their coverage of antibiotics, which led to a slow decline. It was not until after days that a sputum culture was dispatched, showing an E. coli infection resistant to most antibiotics. Unfortunately, by that point, it was** too late.

What follows is a timeline of the events according to Kory's interpretation as presented to CHD: **MUCH More—Again the media and vaccine industry are playing with facts like they often do. rdb**

## **The Sahel: Emerging Center of Global Islamism The West Is Nowhere to Be Seen**



*by Nils A. Haug April 11, 2025 at 5:00 am*

*Pictured: Soldiers inspect a damaged armored personnel carrier captured from Boko Haram jihadists on display in Goniri, Yobe State, in Nigeria's northeast on July 3, 2019. (Photo by Audu Marte/AFP via Getty Images)*

The center of world terrorist activity and violent death is no longer the Middle East. The "Sahel region of Africa is now the 'epicentre of global terrorism,'" responsible for "over half of all terrorism-related deaths" worldwide, [according](#) to the respected Global Terrorism Index.

The sub-Saharan Sahel is largely unknown to much of the world. It can be [described](#) as the large, mostly flat, strip, nearly 600 miles wide, located between the savannahs of Sudan to the south and the Sahara desert to the north.

During the last ten years or so, according to the Royal United Services Institute, the world's oldest defense and security think tank, headquartered in London, the Sahel has [undergone](#) a "significant surge in jihadist violence. Armed actors take advantage of porous borders, fragile states, and local grievances to extend their operational reach,"

[Global Terrorism Index 2025](#), published by the Institute for Economics & Peace, reveals that the primary instigator of global terrorism during 2024 was the Islamic State (ISIS) and associated groups -- such as al Qaeda, Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, and al- Shabaab -- together responsible for

more than 7,500 deaths.

Although the West is experiencing escalating terrorism in countries such as Sweden, Australia, Finland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, the Sahel region evidently remains the "global epicentre of terrorism, accounting for over half of all terrorism-related deaths in 2024." Here, conflict deaths exceeded 25,000 for the first time, of which nearly 4,000 were directly connected to terrorism.

A perturbing factor is that in Europe, "one in five persons arrested for terrorism is legally classified as a child." This is understandable, as children in Islamist-jihadist communities are [exposed](#) to Jew-hatred and the desire for an Islamist caliphate from a very tender age. The same statistics would apply to terrorist actors in the Sahel, as the ideology of martyrdom and sacrifice is ubiquitous to jihadism.

Susceptible countries in the region [include](#) Senegal, Sudan, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali. Unsurprisingly, the region's rich mineral resources – with Niger the world's seventh-biggest producer of uranium -- also attract attention. China and Russia are increasingly represented, while Western nations withdraw from Africa due to growing anti-Western attitudes. Specifically, the [US base in Niger](#) in August 2024 and [France's base in Chad](#) closed in December 2024.

The consequence is, of course, that with the West's retreat, ISIS has free rein to action their visions of global influence. They are present in 22 countries at present and, as the report points out: "Despite counterterrorism efforts, the group's ability to coordinate, inspire, and execute attacks highlights its resilience and evolving operational strategies." In the remoteness of the Sahel, ISIS finds an accommodating environment to consolidate and establish a central base.

Russia's Wagner mercenary militia, although rebranded as an "Expeditionary Corps," continues its predatory activities in the area, [offering](#) "governments in Africa a 'regime survival package' in exchange for access to strategically important natural resources."

Covertly obtained Russian documents [reveal](#) how the group strives to "change mining laws in West Africa, with the ambition of dislodging Western companies from an area of strategic importance." The upshot is accelerating anti-Western sentiment, resulting in the local states seeking to expel hitherto entrenched foreign interests.

A February 20, 2024, [report](#) by Jack Watling, Fellow for Land Warfare at the Royal United Services Institute, explains that there "was a meeting in the Kremlin in which it was decided that Wagner's Africa operations would fall directly under the control of Russian military intelligence, the GRU."

Watling concludes, "This is the Russian state coming out of the shadows in its Africa policy." Russia's patent objective is therefore to "seize control of critical resources," and "aggressively pursue the expansion of its partnerships in Africa, with the explicit intent to supplant Western partnerships."

Unlike the West, Russia is not particularly interested in countering terror groups such as ISIS but, instead, focuses on its core objectives [concerning](#) "critical resources" and replacing "Western partnership" in the Sahel. With the retreat of Western anti-terror forces, ISIS and associates have freedom to expand their activities, while Russia focuses on eliminating Western influence. The result is a vacuum of experienced Western counter-terror forces, a situation in which jihadist groups thrive.

Fortunately, North African nations, such as Morocco and Algeria, realize the dangers of unchecked jihadism in the Sahel, which reaches towards their southern borders. To give effect to its objectives, Rabat implemented the [Morocco Atlantic Initiative](#), which,

"aims to provide landlocked Sahel countries with access to vital maritime trade routes via Morocco's Atlantic port infrastructure. The plan aims to foster economic regional integration to reduce dependence on unstable transit routes, while fostering Morocco's ties with its southern neighbours to counter instability, terrorism and illicit trafficking in the region in the long term."

Similarly, Algeria, with its [common](#) "borders and historical ties to Mali, has always played a pivotal role in the region."

In addition, some Sahel states are taking it upon themselves to counter jihadists in their domain. Recently, an [alliance](#) of three prominent Sahel states -- Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger -- "unveiled plans for a unified military force of 5,000 soldiers."

"Each of the three AES armies are expected to contribute troops, tasked with conducting joint operations in areas of intense jihadist activity. In their view, establishing a self-sufficient military partnership is the most dependable way to safeguard sovereignty."

This local move came about as a lack of available Western forces to quell jihadism - an absence [brought](#)

[about](#) by the Sahel nations "severing long-standing military and diplomatic ties with regional allies, France, and other Western powers." In 2024, the three Sahel nations [agreed](#) "to tackle security threats jointly."

Although a joint force of 5,000 soldiers is a fair starting point, it is to be noted that the region under discussion covers over 2 million square miles – a vast area. It is anticipated that Russia, China and Turkey, who already [provide](#) "bilateral military assistance and equipment" might partner, to some degree, with the Sahel forces to counter terrorism.

Meanwhile, ISIS and al-Qaeda, with associates, [extend](#) "greater influence over trans-Saharan networks which will expand their external reach and increase the threat of external plots in North Africa and potentially Europe."

In the result, the Sahel predominantly remains the locale of non-Western actors and local states, acting together for mutual benefit, including the possible control of terrorism. Whether or not efforts by these parties, with some North African countries, will have much impact on jihadism activity in the region remains to be seen. Currently, the significant strategic, political, and economic benefits in the region are reaped by Russia, China and Turkey. The West is nowhere to be seen.

*Nils A. Haug is an author and columnist. A Lawyer by profession, he is member of the International Bar Association, the National Association of Scholars, the Academy of Philosophy and Letters. Dr. Haug holds a Ph.D. in Apologetical Theology and is author of 'Politics, Law, and Disorder in the Garden of Eden – the Quest for Identity'; and 'Enemies of the Innocent – Life, Truth, and Meaning in a Dark Age.' His work has been published by First Things Journal, The American Mind, Quadrant, Minding the Campus, Gatestone Institute, National Association of Scholars, Jewish Journal, James Wilson Institute (Anchoring Truths), Jewish News Syndicate, Document Danmark, and others.*

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/21522/sahel-islamism>