

Israeli soldier killed, three wounded during fighting in northern Gaza

Initial IDF probe finds Master Sgt. Asaf Cafri, 26, was hit by sniper fire close to military post in Israel-held buffer zone, while the other troops were targeted by anti-tank fire



By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Nurit Yohanan](#) Today, 3:40

amUpdated at 6:11 am

Master Sgt. Asaf Cafri (Israel Defense Forces)

An Israeli soldier was killed and three others were wounded during fighting in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday, the military announced.

The Israel Defense Forces later named the slain soldier as Master Sgt. Asaf Cafri, 26, a tank driver in the 14th Reserve Armored Brigade's 79th Battalion, from Beit Hashmonai. His family was notified.

In the same incident, a reservist in the 79th Battalion and an officer in the elite Yahalom combat engineering were seriously wounded. Another reservist, in the Gaza Division's Northern Brigade's 8239th Battalion, was moderately hurt.

According to an initial IDF probe, Cafri was hit by sniper fire in the Beit Hanoun area, close to one of the military's posts in the Israeli-held buffer zone.

The other troops were hit by anti-tank fire, according to the initial investigation.

The cell behind the attack apparently managed to flee.



Illustrative: IDF troops operate in the Gaza Strip, in a handout photo published on April 18, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

The deadly incident took place not far from an attack on Saturday, in which Hamas operatives opened fire on an unarmored army vehicle, seriously wounding three soldiers, before planting a bomb in the area, which killed a soldier and seriously injured another.



That soldier, Warrant Officer G'haleb Sliman Alnasasra, was the first soldier to be killed since the IDF resumed its offensive against Hamas in Gaza last month.

Warrant Officer G'haleb Sliman Alnasasra, who was killed in the northern Gaza Strip on April 19, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

Hours before announcing the death of the tank driver on Thursday, the IDF issued an evacuation warning to Palestinians residing in Beit Hanoun and the Sheikh Zayed neighborhood in the northern Gaza Strip.

In a post on X, the IDF's Arabic-language spokesman Col. Avichay Adraee published a map of the area that was to be evacuated, saying the warning came in light of sniper attacks on troops and other activity by terror groups in the area.

Palestinians were called upon to head for Gaza City.

Also Thursday, the IDF and Shin Bet said an airstrike in northern Gaza's Jabalia a short while ago targeted a group of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad operatives at a command center used by the terror groups.

Palestinian media reported that the strike targeted Jabalia's former police station, and that at least nine people were killed.

According to the IDF, the site was used by the terror operatives to plan and carry out attacks on Israeli

civilians and troops.



following an Israeli airstrike.

Osama Abu Rabee, a journalist in Gaza, published footage showing a wounded and bleeding child among the rubble of a building.

The body of a man can be seen behind the child, who is calling for help.

Abu Rabee also claimed that there were additional bodies of children on the scene of the strike.



The IDF said it took steps to mitigate civilian harm in the strike, including the use of a “precision munition, aerial surveillance, and additional intelligence.”

“The terror organizations systematically violate international law while taking over civilian infrastructure, and while brutally exploiting the civilian population as a human shield for its terror attacks,” the military added.

Smoke rises to the sky following an Israeli strike in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, April 24, 2025. (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)

Meanwhile, video from the center of Gaza City showed an injured child among rubble, reportedly

According to reports from Gaza, the building was hit by an Israeli airstrike.

The Saudi Al-Arabiya channel reported that seven people were killed in the strike.

The IDF said it was looking into the incident.

A child injured in a reported Israeli airstrike in Gaza on April 24, 2025. (Screen capture/X)

The war began with the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led invasion that killed over 1,200 people and saw the kidnapping of 251 hostages back to Gaza. Fifty-nine of the 251 taken as hostages remain in captivity, of whom 24 are believed to still be alive.

According to Gaza’s Hamas-run health ministry, more than 51,000 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 ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza and in military operations along the border with the Strip stands at 412. The toll includes a police officer killed in a hostage rescue mission and two Defense Ministry civilian contractors. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-soldier-killed-three-wounded-during-fighting-in-northern-gaza/>

Heavy fighting in Gaza: Reservist seriously injured by missile near Philadelphi Corridor

Defense Minister Katz states that while the achievements are significant, the costs are heavy; Hamas reports fighting in eastern Gaza and airstrikes in the city and southern areas; the reservist was injured during a clash near Tel al-Sultan and was evacuated for medical treatment

[Yoav Zitun, Einav Halabi](#) 11:30

The IDF announced Friday that a reservist from the 5250th Battalion in the "Iron Fist" Brigade (205) was seriously injured by an RPG missile during a clash near Tel al-Sultan, close to the Philadelphi Corridor. The soldier was evacuated for medical treatment, and his family has been notified.

Reports from Gaza indicate airstrikes in the southern part of the strip, and according to Palestinian sources, 18 people were killed in two airstrikes targeting two homes in Khan Younis. Meanwhile, Hamas’s Al-Aqsa Channel reported artillery fire on the Zaytoun and Sheja’iya

neighborhoods to the east of Gaza City, as well as an "intense battle" in the area, alongside an airstrike in Gaza City itself.



Footage from the strikes in Gaza

Defense Minister Israel Katz addressed the fighting in Gaza, stating: "Thousands of IDF soldiers, both regulars and reservists, are currently fighting heroically in Gaza for the release of hostages and the destruction of Hamas terrorists."

He emphasized that "the achievements are significant, but the dangers remain great, and the costs are heavy." Katz added, "The IDF is operating with strength, providing a comprehensive protective shield for maneuvering forces from the air, land, and sea, while supporting operations with heavy equipment to neutralize explosives and destroy threatening structures. All Israeli citizens must embrace and support the IDF commanders and soldiers and pray for their safety and success."



Strikes in Gaza

During a late-night Cabinet meeting, ministers called for an escalation of military action in Gaza. Transportation Minister Miri Regev told IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir, "We can't continue like this. We're stagnating in Gaza. Zamir responded, "I disagree with you on the stagnation. Thousands of troops are currently engaged in Gaza."



The Gaza Strip

On Friday, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit released new footage showing activities by the 401st Brigade in the Deir al-Balah area in northern Gaza. During one operation, a Hamas cell fired an anti-tank missile at IDF forces from a building where they were hiding. In a rapid response, an Israeli airstrike eliminated the cell. Additionally, the forces identified and destroyed missile launchers intended to target Israeli territory.

Footage of the 401st Brigade in the Deir al-Balah area in northern Gaza
(Video: IDF) <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/s1tdiekjxl#autoplay>

Israel said to fear US moving fast toward a 'bad deal' that won't block Iran from bomb
Netanyahu stresses to visiting American lawmakers need for joint Israel-US dialogue on dismantling Iranian nuclear program; Trump: We're well on our way to a deal with Tehran

By [Tol Staff](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 4:50 am



US President Donald Trump (right) meets with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington, February 4, 2025. (AP/Evan Vucci)

Israel is deeply concerned that the US is closing in on a "bad deal" with Iran that will not meet Jerusalem's stated essential conditions for ensuring the regime cannot attain nuclear weapons, a report said Thursday.

Channel 12 news reported that the Jewish believes the negotiations ordered by President Donald Trump with Iran, led by envoy Steve Witkoff, are "very, very advanced," and

that the US is not sharing enough information with Israel on key specific issues. This, despite an ostensibly deep ongoing dialogue between Witkoff and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, the report said.

The report, which quoted unnamed diplomatic, political and security sources, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Israel Katz and a senior IDF officer who cannot be named held an urgent consultation this week on the issue.

It said that during their telephone conversation on Tuesday, Netanyahu told Trump that he “does not rule out a diplomatic approach” but only on condition that the resulting deal would “leave no trace” of Iran’s nuclear program.

Trump confirmed that this is the American intention, the report said, and that the 60-day deadline he had set for a negotiated resolution remains in force, Channel 12 added.

While this exchange eased Israel’s concerns “a little,” the TV report said, the security establishment remains very concerned about where the negotiations are headed. On the one hand, the US leadership is publicly declaring that Iran will not get nuclear weapons, but in contrast, “real progress” is being made toward a nuclear deal in a way that is “deeply disturbing,” the report cited unnamed experts as saying.



US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff (left) in Paris, France, April 17, 2025. (Ludovic Marin, Pool Photo via AP); Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Moscow, Russia, April 18, 2025. (Tatyana Makeyeva/Pool Photo via AP)

The report came as Netanyahu’s office said that during a meeting Thursday with a bipartisan delegation of US Congress members, the premier discussed the importance of shared discussion on dismantling Iran’s nuclear program.

The third round of US-Iran talks, mediated by Oman, is set for Saturday. A technical, expert-level meeting, at which the sides are reportedly scheduled to begin drafting a

framework for an agreement, was initially set for Wednesday but later also moved to Saturday, Tehran announced on Tuesday.

US State Department policy planning director Michael Anton will be the lead representative for the Trump administration in those technical talks, his office confirmed Thursday.

Anton was a spokesman for the White House National Security Council during Trump’s first term and served in the same office during former US president George W. Bush’s administration, but he doesn’t have a background in nuclear science.



Michael Anton at the White House in Washington, February 16, 2017. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

US special envoy to the Mideast Steve Witkoff will also be present for the first round of technical talks in Oman on Saturday, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said during a press briefing.

Before that meeting, the International Atomic Energy Agency will be sending a team to Iran to prepare for those talks. The IAEA will likely be tasked with monitoring Iran’s nuclear program if a deal is reached.

Speaking to reporters Thursday in the Oval Office, Trump said the US was having “very serious meetings”

in the ongoing nuclear talks.

“There are only two options. One option is not a good option at all,” he said, referring to a potential military option that has been threatened if Iran pursues a nuclear weapon.

But Trump indicated that might not be necessary because “we’re doing very well on an agreement with Iran... that one is well in its way.”

“We could have a very, very good decision, and a lot of lives will be saved,” Trump added.

Trump reportedly sprung the news on Netanyahu that he was initiating the talks with Iran when

the prime minister was summoned to the White House on April 7. Netanyahu said in a Hebrew statement the **next day that he and Trump “agree that Iran will not have nuclear weapons.** This can be done by agreement, but only if the agreement is a Libya-style agreement,” whereby those responsible “go in, blow up the facilities, dismantle all the equipment, under American supervision with American execution. That is good.”

Witkoff indicated after the first round of talks that Washington would be satisfied with a cap on Iranian nuclear enrichment and would not require the dismantling of Iran’s nuclear facilities. A day later, he [backtracked](#) and said that any agreement would require the Islamic Republic to “stop and eliminate its nuclear enrichment and weaponization program.”

Wednesday, as satellite pictures emerged showing the regime fortifying buried nuclear facilities, US Secretary of State **Marco Rubio said Trump was determined to prevent Iran from attaining a nuclear weapon, and would prefer to do that by negotiations as opposed to military means.** However, Rubio said the US would be willing to see Tehran have a civilian nuclear program as long as it was not enriching uranium.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi however has declared that the Islamic Republic must be able to enrich uranium. “The core issue of enrichment itself is not negotiable,” he said.

Standard international agreements for civilian nuclear programs have the US and international community help governments develop nuclear power for energy and other peaceful uses in exchange for them swearing off making their own nuclear fuel, because of the threat that capacity could be used for weapons.

After **Trump exited the nuclear deal with world powers in 2018, Iran responded by curtailing monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency at nuclear sites.** It has pressed ahead on enriching and stockpiling uranium that is closer to weapons-grade levels, the agency says.

The IAEA’s director, Rafael Mariano Grossi, met Thursday with representatives from China, Russia and Iran to discuss Iran’s nuclear program, Chinese state news agency Xinhua said on Friday.

The joint meeting between the IAEA representatives and the nuclear agency’s director general came after Araghchi visited Beijing this week.

The meeting had in-depth communication on the IAEA’s role in the political and diplomatic settlement process of the Iranian nuclear program, with China expressing support for Iran’s dialogue with all parties including with the US, Xinhua said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-fear-us-moving-fast-toward-a-bad-deal-that-wont-block-iran-from-bomb/>

Iranian activist warns: Khamenei is stalling, not seeking peace

Mona Jafarian, the founder of Femme Azadi and a leading activist in France against the Islamic Republic: 'This regime didn't need a nuclear weapon to organize and finance October 7'

Emily Schrader, ILTV|04.22.25 | 21:19

Many Iranian people are looking at the Iran talks with “a lot of skepticism,” according to Mona Jafarian, the founder of Femme Azadi and a leading activist in France against the Islamic Republic.

She told ILTV News that for decades, the West has tried to negotiate with the Islamic Republic, but many in Iran believe these negotiators do not understand the DNA of the regime.

“When [Iranian Supreme Leader Ali] Khamenei and the Islamic Republic are chanting ‘death to America’ or ‘death to Israel,’ these are not just slogans,” Jafarian said. **“It’s really an ideology, and the regime is just trying to buy time for now. You know, they’re not seeking peace.”**

Jafarian added that too much focus is being placed on Iran’s nuclear capabilities rather than on uprooting the regime.

“This regime didn't need a nuclear weapon to organize and finance October 7,” Jafarian said. **“They didn't even need this nuclear weapon to organize all the terrorist attacks on the European soil, and they even tried to kill President Trump in September.”**

She concluded that Khamenei “needs Trump to save him, and we're just telling him, please don't do that.”

Watch the full interview: [go to web site for video](#)

NUCLEAR TALKS
(ILTV)

US struggling to contain Yemen as Houthis down MQ-9 drones - report

The US initially hoped to establish air superiority over Yemen within 30 days of launching the campaign, the report noted.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF APRIL 25, 2025 18:13



Protesters, mainly Houthi supporters, mark the annual al-Quds Day on the last Friday of Ramadan, in Sana'a, Yemen, March 28, 2025 (photo credit: REUTERS/KHALED ABDULLAH)

The US military's ongoing campaign against the Houthi rebel group in Yemen, launched on March 15, has encountered significant setbacks, primarily due to the loss of American drones, which have hindered key surveillance operations, CNN reported on Friday, citing US officials familiar with the situation.

US officials had initially hoped to establish air superiority over Yemen within 30 days of launching the campaign, setting the stage for a shift to "phase two," which would involve more aggressive surveillance and targeting of Houthi leadership, the report noted.

However, reports of repeated destruction of MQ-9 Reaper drones, used for gathering intelligence and conducting surveillance, have delayed those plans.

"We are aware of the Houthi reports that these MQ-9s have been shot down," a US defense official told CNN. "While hostile fire is likely a probable cause, the circumstances of each incident are still under investigation."

Without boots on the ground in Yemen, the US military heavily depends on drones for

surveillance, battlefield damage assessments, and tracking Houthi activities, officials said.

A drone view shows charred vehicles standing in the aftermath of what Al Masirah TV said was a U.S. strike on the Ras Isa fuel port, Al Jazirah, Yemen, in this screengrab from a handout video released on April 18, 2025. (credit: Al-Masirah TV/Handout via REUTERS)



These platforms are especially vital in the Red Sea region, which holds significant strategic importance for US interests. However, as US officials noted, the Houthis have demonstrated a growing ability to target and destroy these drones, complicating efforts to gather actionable intelligence and maintain operational momentum.

Since the campaign began on March 15, the US military has hit over 700 targets and carried out more than 300 airstrikes.

These operations have forced the Houthis to retreat underground, leaving them in a disorganized state. Still, the loss of drones has made it challenging to fully assess the impact on Houthi weapons stockpiles and their operational capacity.

"The loss of drones has complicated our ability to assess how much we have degraded their weapons capabilities," one official explained.

Despite the intensity of US airstrikes, the Houthis have continued to launch missile attacks. In the past six weeks, they have fired 77 one-way drones, 30 cruise missiles, 24 ballistic missiles, and 23 surface-to-air missiles, the report noted.

These attacks, aimed at US and commercial vessels in the Red Sea, as well as Israel, have largely continued unabated. US intelligence assessments indicate that the Houthis' missile and command-and-control structures remain largely intact, which further complicates efforts to neutralize the group, according to the report.

US campaign against the Houthis progressing despite setbacks

US Central Command (CENTCOM) spokesman Dave Eastburn shared additional details on the campaign's progress, noting that strikes have successfully destroyed multiple key Houthi facilities, including command centers and weapons storage sites.

“Credible open sources report over 650 Houthi casualties to date,” Eastburn said. He also pointed out that Houthi missile launches have decreased by 87%, and one-way drone attacks have dropped by 65% since the operation began.

The costs of the operation have also surged, with the campaign totaling nearly \$1 billion in its first three weeks. US officials noted that the operation has strained US resources, particularly as substantial amounts of long-range weaponry, vital for potential conflicts in the Pacific, have been used up. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-851532>

US says blast near Yemen UNESCO world heritage site caused by Houthi missile

The Houthi-run health ministry said a dozen people were killed in the US strike in a neighborhood of Sanaa.



By REUTERS APRIL 25, 2025 05:37

Dust rises from the site of strikes in Sanaa, Yemen March 15, 2025 (photo credit: REUTERS/KHALED ABDULLAH)

The US military said on Thursday a blast on Sunday near a UNESCO world heritage site in Yemen's capital city of Sanaa was caused by a Houthi missile and not an American airstrike.

The Houthi-run health ministry said a dozen people were killed in the US strike in a neighborhood of Sanaa. The Old City of Sanaa is a recognized UNESCO World Heritage Site.

President Donald Trump ordered the intensification of US strikes on Yemen last month, with his administration saying they will continue assaulting Iran-backed Houthi rebels until they stop attacking Red Sea shipping.

JPost Videos



Damage caused by a Houthi missile

A US Central Command spokesperson said the damage and casualties described by Yemen's Houthi officials "likely did occur" but they were not caused by a US attack. The closest US strike that night was more than three miles (5 km) away, the spokesperson said.

US strike on Houthi targets against backdrop of American flag (illustration). (credit: Photo by Handout/Houthi Media Center via Getty Images, pixelshot/canva)

The US military assessed that the damage was caused by a "Houthi air defense missile" based on a review of "local reporting," including videos documenting Arabic writing on the missile's fragments

at the market," the spokesperson said, adding the Houthis subsequently arrested Yemenis. He did not provide evidence.

A Houthi official was quoted by the New York Times as saying the American denial was an attempt to smear the Houthis.

Recent US strikes have killed dozens, including 74 at an oil terminal on Thursday in what was the deadliest strike in Yemen under Trump so far, according to the local health ministry.

The US military says the strikes aim to cut off the Houthi terrorist group's military and economic capabilities.

Rights advocates have raised concerns about civilian killings and three Democratic senators, including Senator Chris Van Hollen, wrote to Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth on Thursday demanding accounting for loss of civilian lives.

The Houthis have taken control of swathes of [Yemen](#) over the past decade.

Since November 2023, they have launched drone and missile attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, saying

they were targeting ships linked to Israel.

The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict was triggered in October 2023, when Hamas terrorists attacked Israel, killing 1,200 and taking about 250 hostages.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-851484>

Iranian father murders teenage daughter in Tehran revenge killing

The 18-year-old was reportedly killed after escaping domestic violence in her family home.

By [DANIELLE GREYMAN-KENNARD](#) APRIL 25, 2025 19:11

Fatemeh Soltani (photo credit: screenshot)

Fatemeh Soltani, 18, was stabbed to death on the streets of Tehran by her father on April 17, according to women's rights organizations and international media reports. Some reports indicate the father beheaded Soltani before repeatedly stabbing her.



The young woman was killed outside a nail salon where she worked while she was taking a phone call, according to the reports. She had reportedly moved out of her family home as a result of domestic violence, Iran International reported.

Why was Fatemeh Soltani murdered?

A close friend of the Soltani family told the media: "Fatemeh had been living separately from her father and the family for some time due to domestic violence and had achieved financial independence."

Soltani's 48-year-old father told police he murdered his daughter following a "family dispute," BBC News and women's groups reported. Mohammad Reza Alizadeh, the

police commander of Islamshahr city, reportedly told local media that the father was angry that Soltani had achieved independence.

On Thursday, April 17, 2025, an 18-year-old woman identified as Fatemeh Soltani was brutally murdered by her father in one of the neighborhoods of Eslamshahr. The victim was first beheaded by her father and then stabbed multiple times to death. After his arrest, the perpetrator...

pic.twitter.com/YgztxbUUdr

— StopFemicideIran (@FemicideIran) April 24, 2025

In contrast to the reports on his motive, the victim's brother told Khabar Online that their dad murdered his sister to cover up his infidelity.

An informed source told Iran International that he had gotten his daughter's phone number and work address from her Instagram business account. The account, now believed to be run by her brother, has since shared videos memorializing the murdered nail artist.

הצגת פוסט זה באינסטגרם

[@fatemehsoltani_salon](#) | مدرس ناخن | آموزش و خدمات تخصصی ناخن | اسلامشهر | فاطمه سلطانی | پست مشترک על ידי

Footage of the attack has circulated online and was shared by BBC News.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran's Women's committee said in response to Soltani's death that "The **root of the violence against women and the primary cause of these murders and social tragedies lies in the misogynistic clerical regime, which, in over 46 years, has not even passed the bill to prevent violence against women in its parliament.** In this regime, the abuse and even killing of women carries little consequence.

"The Women's Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran has called on the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran and the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women to investigate this painful situation and to expel representatives of this misogynistic regime from international bodies."

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-851535>

UNRWA not immune from lawsuits in US, DoJ says, arguing Oct. 7 victims' suit can go ahead

In shift from Biden era, court document shows administration now says UN agency accused of complicity in Hamas onslaught is not protected by UN's immunity

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 1:31 pm

Children gather outside the gate of the Kalandia Training Centre, run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, which was raided by Israeli forces earlier in the day on February 18, 2025. (Zain Jaafar / AFP)

In a reversal of a previous stance, the US Department of Justice has said that the contentious

UN agency for Palestinian refugees and their descendants, UNRWA, is not entitled to immunity from lawsuits in the United States, according to a document filed in a federal court in New York on Thursday.

The Department of Justice's opinion was submitted as part of an ongoing lawsuit in which the families of more than 100 victims of the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led terror assault are claiming \$1 billion in damages from UNRWA, asserting that the UN agency aided and abetted the terror group's attack.

The lawsuit was filed last June in the Southern District of New York.

It alleges that UNRWA, which coordinates nearly all aid to Gaza, let Hamas use its facilities for weapons storage, allowed tunnels and command centers to be built under its sites, and funneled cash into the terror group's coffers by insisting on paying employees in US dollars.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/unrwa-not-immune-from-lawsuits-in-us-doj-says-arguing-oct-7-victims-suit-can-go-ahead/>

Georgetown's BDS Referendum: A Threat to Jewish Students and Campus Integrity

Georgetown's student government's endorsement of BDS threatens Jewish students' safety, breaks procedural norms, and puts campus integrity at risk

By JACOB INTRATOR APRIL 22, 2025 22:02

Darius Wagner, student body vice president at Georgetown University, speaks as students from Washington, DC, universities protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's dismantling of and funding cuts to the Department of Education, in Washington, D.C., U.S., April 4, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/Allison Bailey)

This past week, as Jewish students around the world celebrated Passover with their families and retold the story of our people's journey from freedom from oppression — Georgetown University's student government is trying to silence us.



In a move that should alarm everyone in our community, the Georgetown University Student Association (GUSA) voted to advance a referendum targeting Israel through the discriminatory Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. But it's not just what they voted on; it's how they did it.

To push this BDS referendum through, GUSA broke procedural norms that exist to ensure fairness and transparency, namely voting without public attribution. While the vote was originally scheduled during Passover — one of the most significant holidays in the Jewish calendar — it was ultimately delayed until after the holiday due to significant backlash. But the initial scheduling of the vote wasn't

just a matter of poor planning; it was part of a broader and troubling pattern of marginalizing Jewish students on campus.

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Shortly after the October 7 massacre, Mohammed El-Kurd was invited to speak by the Georgetown Law Students for Justice in Palestine, where he dubbed Hamas as a “liberation movement” and called the massacre a “resistance tactic.” Earlier this year, the same group invited Ribhi Karajah — a convicted terrorist — to speak on campus. Despite significant opposition, the university didn’t cancel the event but merely postponed it. The message was clear: voices that promote or justify violence against Jews are tolerated.

This tolerance doesn’t exist in a vacuum — it creates an atmosphere where antisemitism can grow unchecked. That’s why Georgetown’s BDS referendum is not merely symbolic. Because when BDS ideology is embedded on campus, antisemitism typically spikes. A study titled “Faculty Academic Boycotters: Ground Zero for Campus Antisemitism” found that campuses with five or more BDS-supporting faculty members were 3.6 times more likely to experience actions that intentionally target Jewish and pro-Israel students. So, what happens when it’s not just some faculty members, but the student government endorsing BDS?



The implications are horrifying, not just for Georgetown, but beyond. Therefore, I am leading a letter campaign to the Georgetown administration requesting they halt the vote due to the student government engaging in procedural irregularities, the antisemitic nature of BDS, and the potential economic consequences to Georgetown from divesting. Five members of the U.S. Congress, including former House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, prominent figures such as Elisha Wiesel, and a diverse coalition of student organizations across the political and religious spectrum, signed my letter.

The purpose of my letter is not for my university to lose important, necessary funding. But I don’t blame the federal government for trying to curb antisemitism; I blame the university for enabling it to thrive.

Georgetown is at a crossroads. Will it allow a discriminatory referendum, passed through procedural manipulation, to go forward? Or will it stand up for the values of fairness, inclusion, and integrity it claims to uphold?

Universities across the country are facing a reckoning. The Trump administration’s latest push to hold universities accountable for allowing antisemitism to flourish is only the latest chapter in a broader story: Jewish students will not be silenced or intimidated. Not at Georgetown. Not anywhere.

Passover reminds us that even in moments of darkness, we persist. We speak out. We fight for freedom. We fight for justice. At Georgetown, this truth has never been clearer.

Jacob Intrator is the president of SSI (Students Supporting Israel) at Georgetown University.

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-850981>

THE JERUSALEM POST JP NEWSLETTER ISRAEL NEWS HEALTH & WELLNESS WORLD NEWS MIDDLE EAST



Authorities raid Michigan homes in probe of pro-Palestinian vandalism of Jewish homes, institutions

The raids — at homes in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Canton — were not tied to immigration issues or on-campus demonstrations against Israel that have taken place over the last year and a half.

By ANDREW LAPIN/JTA APRIL 25, 2025 02:44

A scene of pro-Palestinian vandalism, including broken windows, and graffiti at the home of Jewish University of Michigan Regent Jordan Acker in Huntington Woods, Michigan, December 9, 2024. (photo credit: GOVERNMENT PHOTO/VIA JTA)

Federal and state agents in Michigan raided at least three different home addresses connected to pro-Palestinian protesters Wednesday, part of what authorities said was an ongoing investigation into more than a year of the group targeting homes and businesses including prominent Jewish

locations.

The raids — at homes in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Canton — were not tied to immigration issues or on-campus demonstrations against Israel that have taken place over the last year and a half, according to a spokesman for Michigan Attorney-General Dana Nessel.

“These search warrants were not investigative of protest activity on the campus of the University of Michigan nor the Diag encampment,” the spokesman, Danny Wimmer, said in a statement, referring to the location of Michigan’s pro-Palestinian student encampment last year. “Today’s search warrants are in furtherance of our investigation into multijurisdictional acts of vandalism.”

JPost Videos

The raids — during which some people were detained but not arrested — follow acts of vandalism at the homes of members of the University of Michigan’s Board of Regents, whom pro-Palestinian activists want to cut university ties with Israel.

Late **Thursday, Nessel’s office provided a list of the vandalism incidents the raids were investigating.** The incidents included one in December, when a group of protesters threw rocks through the window of Jordan Acker, a Jewish regent, while he and his children were home in the heavily Jewish Detroit suburb of Huntington Woods, and left pro-Palestinian graffiti on his car. Another incident from June 2024 targeted Acker’s law office.

A scene of pro-Palestinian vandalism and graffiti at the headquarters of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, October 7, 2024. (credit: GOVERNMENT PHOTO/VIA JTA)

Another incident, on the one-year anniversary of the October 7 massacre, targeted the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit in Bloomfield Hills with graffiti reading “Intifada” and “F**k Israel.”

Non-Jewish regents at the university, and the university president, have also been targeted by protesters in their own homes.

Other graffiti, targeting a predominantly Jewish country club, made explicit references to Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, which had hosted an event at the space the day before. The oldest incidents dated back to February 2024; the most recent occurred in March of this year.

A viral video showed officers breaking down the door of a home. Nessel’s office, on Thursday, said officers broke down the door “following more than an hour of police efforts to negotiate entry to satisfy the court-authorized search warrant.”

Pro-Palestinian activists at the university have been engaged in extreme tactics in an effort to pressure its leadership to divest from Israel.

Acker declined to comment on the raids Wednesday. He previously called the targeting of his own home “terrorism” and “Klan-like.”

The **involvement of federal agents in investigating local vandalism is unusual. An attorney representing several University of Michigan protesters told the Detroit Free Press that she believed the raids showed that Nessel’s office was collaborating with the Trump administration,** which has cracked down on pro-Palestinian protesters and schools where they have been active and dispatched federal immigration authorities to arrest non-citizen student activists.

“Everyone who was raided has taken part in protest and has some relationship to the University of Michigan,” said the attorney, Liz Jacob of the Sugar Law Center in Detroit. “We are totally convinced that, but for their viewpoints, these students would not have been targeted.”

On Instagram, a pro-Palestinian collective at the university said they were being targeted by “zionist state AG Dana Nessel,” who they accused of working with Trump to “repress pro-Palestinian speech.” (Nessel is Jewish.) Online, other pro-Palestinian groups attempted to link the raids with the high-profile seizures of activists [Mahmoud Khalil](#) and [Rumeysa Ozturk](#) on other campuses.

University of Michigan's aggressive action

The University of Michigan, which has large Jewish and Arab American student populations, has taken more aggressive action against protesters since President Donald Trump’s reelection. In February, it suspended a leading pro-Palestinian student group for two years, in part over its demonstration at a regent’s home.

The school also announced last month, amid pressure from the Trump administration, that it would do away with its flagship Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program.

The school had previously fired a senior DEI staffer who allegedly made antisemitic comments at a conference.

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-851479>

'Antisemitism crisis': Number of antisemitic incidents in Netherlands reaches record high

A total of 421 antisemitic incidents were registered in 2024, an 11% increase compared to 2023.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) APRIL 24, 2025 20:49 Updated: APRIL 24, 2025 21:15

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Ben-



MACCABI Tel Aviv soccer fan is comforted upon returning to Gurion Airport on an El Al rescue flight from Amsterdam after Israelis were attacked following a match with Ajax in November. (photo credit: Jonathan Shaul/Flash90)

The number of antisemitic incidents in the Netherlands in 2024 reached a record high, according to the Center for Information and Documentation Israel (CIDI's) Antisemitic Incident Monitor, which was published on Thursday.

"We are now talking about an antisemitism crisis, which requires crisis measures," the report warned.

A total of 421 antisemitic incidents were registered in 2024, an 11% increase compared to 2023.

JPost Videos

This is **the highest number since CIDI started monitoring antisemitism 40 years ago**, showing that "antisemitism in the [Netherlands](#) is increasing at an alarming rate."

The **average number of antisemitic incidents in the decade between 2012 and 2022 was 138 per year**, meaning the last two years have marked an increase of 305%.

Demonstrators hold Palestinian and Israeli flags as they gather in front of the National Holocaust Museum on the day of its opening, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, March 10, 2024. (credit: REUTERS/PIROSKHA VAN DE WOUW)

CIDI **stressed that the number of reports it received throughout 2024 was significantly higher, numbering around 1700. However, only a quarter of these (the above-mentioned figure of 421) were judged to be irrefutably antisemitic.**

It is worth noting that CIDI did not include incidents on social media or criticism of Israel.

Sharp increase in physical incidents and vandalism

Public antisemitism increased by 45% in 2024. CIDI reported that individuals who are recognizably Jewish were more often confronted with insults, threats, and intimidation.

Vandalism against Jewish targets also went up by 44%. This included incidents such as mezuzahs being torn from doorposts and Jewish cemeteries and monuments being defaced.

According to the monitor, the **Israel-Hamas war was a catalyst for antisemitism in the Netherlands, with the lowest point considered to be on November 7, 2024**, when Israeli supporters of the Ajax-Maccabi Tel Aviv football match were **"hunted" down in Amsterdam.**

Dozens were wounded, and more than 50 arrests were made; the trials for which are still ongoing.



Call for strong government policy

CIDI called for a strong and consistent government policy to "put a stop to this worrying development."

It added that "too often we see that Holocaust education is presented in policy proposals as the solution to antisemitism," referring to this approach as "inadequate" and "risky."

"Antisemitism is a deep-rooted and persistent problem that requires a broad, coherent approach. This means investing in education, but also a strong and visible approach to antisemitism in schools and social media,

stopping subsidies for cultural institutions that exclude Jewish artists, banning terrorist and extremist groups that spread hatred, and applying a zero-tolerance policy in the criminal prosecution of antisemitic expressions and crimes."

Furthermore, the monitor stressed that the figures for the first quarter of 2025 indicate that the increase is not stopping, meaning that most likely the number of antisemitic incidents "will once again break a sad record in

2025."

Eddo Verdoner, National Coordinator for Combating Antisemitism (NCAB): "Unfortunately, the number of reports remains high. The figures clearly show the dividing line: since the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, the number of reports of antisemitism has increased enormously. That is the bitter reality. But we should never accept that as normal."

"Of the total number of discrimination offences registered by the Public Prosecution Service in 2024, 37% involved antisemitism," Verdoner added. "While only 0.3% of the [Dutch population is Jewish](#). Jewish Dutch people are therefore overrepresented as victims of discrimination." <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-851413>

Pro-Palestinian group protests outside Ecuador's Israeli embassy on Holocaust Remembrance Day

The protests targeted the embassy as the institute had the Israeli flag at half-mast in memory of the six million Jews murdered by Nazis.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) APRIL 25, 2025 18:00 Updated: APRIL 25, 2025 18:03



Demonstrators participate in a pro-Palestinian protest, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Quito, Ecuador June 8, 2024. (photo credit: REUTERS/Karen Toro)

Pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated outside Israel's embassy in Ecuador on Holocaust Remembrance Day, the consulate shared on X/Twitter.

The embassy stressed that while the Israeli flag was in half-mast, a symbol of mourning for the six million victims of the Nazi genocide, protesters gathered "with a clear message: hatred towards Israel and rejection of its existence."

[Antisemitism is at a record high. We're keeping our eyes on it >>](#)

"Today—as we commemorate the six million Jews murdered by Nazi antisemitism—a hate-filled event was chosen to organize is a painful and shameful demonstration that intolerance and antisemitism still persist, even disguised as activism," the embassy said in a statement.

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● Hoy, mientras en Israel conmemoramos el Día del Holocausto y nuestra bandera ondea a media asta en señal de duelo, varias organizaciones han convocado una manifestación frente a nuestra Embajada con un mensaje claro: odio hacia Israel y rechazo a su existencia. Que justo hoy... pic.twitter.com/dO6c7iOUeb

— Israel en Ecuador (@IsraelinEcuador) [April 25, 2025](#)

The memory of the Holocaust

The protest "not only dishonors the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, but also represents an attempt to normalize speeches that incite hatred, deny the right of the Jewish people to exist in peace and attack the basic principles of coexistence."

Despite the protest, the embassy said it would continue to "reaffirm our commitment to remembrance, to education, and to defending democratic values against those who today attempt to tarnish this date with hateful slogans.

"Never again is today. Never again is raising our voices. Never again is remembering and acting."

[The Hate Monitor is here to track antisemitism worldwide. Learn more >>](#)

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-851530>

Israeli study finds troubling link between ultra-processed food and Alzheimer's

A new study found that high consumption of ultra-processed food during midlife increases the risk of Alzheimer's later in life—even among healthy individuals; Each additional daily serving raised the risk by 13%, according to data from 1,375 US participants tracked for 13 years

[Eitan Gefen](#)|12:58

A high intake of ultra-processed food during midlife significantly increases the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease later on, according to a new study from the School of Public Health at the University of Haifa.

The researchers also found that consuming these foods may impair brain health and raise the risk of neurodegenerative disease, especially when such dietary patterns occur relatively early in life, long before any cognitive symptoms appear.

Hot dogs, an ultra processed food (Photo: Shutterstock)



Ultra-processed food refers to industrial products made with a mix of natural and synthetic ingredients, including preservatives, artificial sweeteners, food dyes, and other additives designed to enhance flavor, ease preparation, and extend shelf life. These products have become a staple of the modern diet: In the U.S., for example, they make up about 60% of daily calorie intake. Recent studies have linked their consumption to obesity, diabetes, and early death, but their impact on brain health remains less well understood.

In the new study, published in *The Journal of Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease*, Professor Galit Weinstein of the University of Haifa, along with a team of researchers from Boston University, sought to examine the connection between ultra-processed food intake and the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's.

"Nutrition, especially in midlife, is an important factor in supporting brain health," explains Prof. Weinstein, an epidemiologist who specializes in brain aging and Alzheimer's disease. "We already know from past research that a Mediterranean diet, for instance, can help delay brain aging. On the flip side, a diet heavy in ultra-processed food may have the opposite effect—accelerating cognitive decline."



Ultra-processed, ultra-risky

The research was based on data from the Framingham Heart Study, one of the world's largest and most respected epidemiological studies. **"This is data collected across three generations of residents in a small town near Boston,"** says Weinstein. **"They are healthy community members who undergo comprehensive medical follow-ups every few years."**

For this study, the researchers selected 1,375 cognitively healthy participants aged 60 and above who had not experienced dementia or stroke at the start of the study. They filled out detailed food questionnaires, from which researchers calculated their daily intake of ultra-processed food. The team also considered other health indicators such as body mass index, diabetes status, cholesterol levels, and overall diet quality according to the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) index.

Over an average follow-up period of 12.7 years, participants underwent cognitive tests, medical interviews, and professional evaluations to detect signs of dementia or Alzheimer's. The findings revealed that among participants younger than 68 at the start of the study, **each additional daily serving of ultra-processed food was linked to a 13% increased risk of developing Alzheimer's. Furthermore, participants who consumed 10 or more servings per day were 2.7 times more likely to develop the disease** compared to those who consumed less. These differences remained regardless of overall calorie intake or diet quality.

Prof. Weinstein emphasizes that dietary habits during midlife play a crucial role in disease development: "We're looking at a long-term process, so it's only natural to find a connection between poor diet in your 50s and 60s and a higher risk of Alzheimer's later in life."

Were you surprised by the results? "Not really," says Weinstein. "We already knew ultra-processed food is linked to numerous negative health effects, but these findings strengthen the case that brain health is also at risk—and that there's real potential for prevention through dietary changes."

Professor Galit Weinstein Photo: Adam Ifraimov

The researchers stress that reducing consumption of ultra-processed foods—even starting in one's 50s and 60s—could lower the risk of Alzheimer's and support a healthier, more active brain in later life.

"It's important to adopt healthy and balanced eating habits early on and reduce ultra-processed food intake as much as possible," concludes Weinstein. "This change doesn't just support overall health—it may be an effective strategy for preventing brain damage and maintaining cognitive function as we age."

https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/hkrzohtjel

FBI arrests Milwaukee judge accused of helping man evade immigration agents

FBI chief announces detention of Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan, says she 'intentionally misdirected' federal agents away from man they were trying to take into custody

Today, 8:40 pm



A sign is posted outside Judge Hannah Dugan courtroom at the Milwaukee County courthouse, on April 25, 2025 in Milwaukee. (Scott Bauer via AP)

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The FBI on Friday arrested a Milwaukee judge accused of helping a man evade immigration authorities, escalating a clash between the Trump administration and the judiciary over the Republican president's sweeping immigration crackdown. FBI Director Kash Patel announced on social media the arrest of Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan, who he said "intentionally misdirected" federal agents away from a man they

were trying to take into custody at her courthouse last week.

"Thankfully, our agents chased down the perp on foot and he's been in custody since, but the Judge's obstruction created increased danger to the public," Patel wrote.

Dugan was taken into custody by the FBI on Friday morning on the courthouse grounds, according to US Marshals Service spokesperson Brady McCarron. She appeared briefly in federal court in Milwaukee later Friday before being released from custody. Her next court appearance is May 15.

"Judge Dugan wholeheartedly regrets and protests her arrest. It was not made in the interest of public safety," her attorney, Craig Mastantuono, said during the hearing. **He declined to comment to an Associated Press reporter following her court appearance.**

Dugan is accused of escorting the man, Eduardo Flores-Ruiz, and his lawyer out of the courtroom through



the jury door on April 18 as a way to help avert his arrest, according to an FBI affidavit filed in court.

FBI director Kash Patel arrives on the South Lawn of the White House, April 21, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

The affidavit quotes the courtroom deputy as having heard Dugan say words to the effect of "Wait, come with me" before ushering them into a non-public area of the courthouse. The action was unusual, the affidavit says, because "only deputies, juries, court staff and in-custody defendants being escorted by deputies used the back jury door. Defense attorneys and defendants who were not in

custody never used the jury door."

During **US President Donald Trump's first administration, the Justice Department in 2019 charged a Massachusetts judge with obstruction of justice on allegations she helped a man who was living in the US illegally sneak out a back door of a courthouse** to evade a waiting immigration enforcement agent.

The prosecution of a sitting judge sparked outrage from many in the legal community, who slammed the case as politically motivated. **The case against Newton District Judge Shelley Joseph was dropped in 2022 under the Democratic Biden administration after she agreed to refer herself to a state agency that investigates allegations of misconduct by members of the bench.**

????NEW: The FBI has arrested Wisconsin Judge Hannah Dugan for allegedly interfering in immigration enforcement. No information has been provided since the arrest and Kash Patel deleted his statement announcing the arrest.

RETWEET to demand justice and due process for Judge Dugan! pic.twitter.com/y9uucRZV1c

— Protect Kamala Harris 🇺🇸 (@DisavowTrump20) [April 25, 2025](#)

Dugan's arrest comes amid a growing feud between the Trump administration and the judiciary over the White House's immigration enforcement policies. The US Justice Department had previously signaled that it was going to crack down on local officials who thwart federal immigration efforts.

Court documents detailing the case against Dugan were not immediately available, and the US Justice Department didn't immediately have a comment Friday.

A person answering the phone Friday at Dugan's office said he could not comment. The Associated Press left an email and a voicemail Friday morning seeking comment from Milwaukee County Courts Chief Judge Carl Ashley.

The Justice Department in January ordered prosecutors to investigate for potential criminal charges against state and local officials who obstruct or impede federal functions. As potential avenues for prosecution, a memo cited a conspiracy offense as well as a law prohibiting the harboring of people in the country illegally.

Dugan was elected in 2016 to the county court Branch 31. She also has served in the court's probate and civil divisions, according to her judicial candidate biography.

Before being elected to public office, Dugan practiced at Legal Action of Wisconsin and the Legal Aid Society. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1981 with a bachelor of arts degree and earned her Juris Doctorate in 1987 from the school. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/fbi-arrests-milwaukee-judge-accused-of-helping-man-evade-immigration-agents/> **There are a bunch of critters in the judiciary that need to see the inside of prison cells. - rdb**

Putin-Witkoff talks 'constructive' – Russian presidential aide

The meeting has brought the positions of Moscow and Washington "closer," Yuri Ushakov has said

25 Apr, 2025 15:12



FILE PHOTO: Russian Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov. © Sputnik / Sergey Bobylev

Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted US President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, in Moscow on Friday for discussions on the Ukraine conflict and other issues. The talks have proven to be "constructive" and brought the US and Russian positions "closer," Yuri Ushakov, an adviser to the Russian leader on international affairs, has said.

The discussion, which lasted for around three hours, was "very useful," and brought "the positions of Russia and the US closer not only on Ukraine, but also on a number of other international issues," Ushakov told reporters.

In particular, Putin and Witkoff discussed the "possibility of resuming direct negotiations between representatives of Russia and Ukraine," Ushakov said, without providing further details.

In recent months, Witkoff has held multiple rounds of talks with senior Russian officials, including at least three meetings with Putin. He is seen as one of the key figures behind the rapprochement between Moscow and Washington during Trump's second presidency. The US president has repeatedly pledged to resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict, calling it one of his top priorities.

Moscow has consistently expressed willingness to engage in negotiations, conveying its gratitude for Trump's peace initiatives. However, the Russian leadership has repeatedly stressed that it seeks a lasting solution to the crisis, saying a temporary halt in the hostilities would simply allow Ukraine's Western backers to rearm its military. Any peace deal must acknowledge the territorial reality and address the root causes of the conflict, including Ukraine's NATO aspirations, Russia has insisted. <https://www.rt.com/russia/616310-putin-witkoff-talks-ushakov/>

Kiev and its backers reject key aspects of Trump's peace plan – Reuters

The counteroffer is "on the table" of the American president, Vladimir Zelensky has stated

25 Apr, 2025 13:26



A Ukrainian delegation at a meeting with European officials in London, April 23, 2025. © X / @AndriyYermak

Kiev and its European backers have turned down President Donald Trump's reported peace plan for the Ukraine conflict in several significant respects, according to a report by Reuters, citing the full texts of the US proposal and the response.

Washington tabled a proposed deal to end hostilities between Kiev and Moscow during a meeting in Paris on Thursday last week. A follow-up meeting took place in London on Wednesday, at which Ukrainian officials and their NATO European counterparts drafted counterproposal.

The London talks were downgraded at the last minute after Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky publicly rejected key American suggestions. He declared on Thursday that the European-backed "strategy" was now "on President Trump's table."

Having examined the drafts "in full and explicit detail" on Friday, Reuters identified four critical areas of disagreement.

The US is proposing Washington's formal recognition of Russian sovereignty over Crimea — the former Ukrainian region that voted to join Russia following the 2014 Western-backed armed coup in Kiev — and a cessation of hostilities along the current frontline.

Kiev and its European backers are only willing to discuss territorial issues after a ceasefire has been established.

The US document offers a "robust security guarantee" for Ukraine from willing nations, according to Reuters. The Euro-proposal rival proposal insists that no restrictions be placed on Ukraine's military, including the deployment of foreign troops on its territory, and calls for the US to provide NATO-like protection to Ukraine.

Russia demands Ukraine remains neutral and insists that it will not accept any NATO troop presence, or troops from bloc members as part of a coalition, in the country.

Reuters reported that the US is advocating for the removal of restrictions imposed on Russia since 2014, while Kiev and the Europeans propose a "gradual easing of sanctions *after a sustainable peace is achieved*," paired with a threat of snapback measures for non-compliance.

The US framework includes mentions of financial compensation for Ukraine, but lacks specifics. The Kiev-backed counterproposal identifies frozen Russian assets in Western countries as a source for such payments, according to Reuters. Russia has labeled the seizure of its funds illegal and views any use of these assets to support Ukraine as "theft."

Members of the Trump administration have blasted Zelensky for attempting to negotiate a deal through the media rather than in confidential discussions. The US president has warned that he may withdraw from his mediation efforts altogether if either party stalls progress.

<https://www.rt.com/news/616288-reuters-trump-peace-plan/> **The EU countries have attempted to sabotage the negotiations from the onset. None of the EU folks have a significant relationship with Putin nor a door to him. It seems they are simply wanting the war to continue until they become bankrupt which they nearly are. - rdb**

Trump administration busts fraud ring using bogus marriages with illegal aliens

'These criminals are now behind bars'

By [Thomas Phippen, Daily Caller News Foundation](#)

[April 25, 2025](#)

The Trump administration dismantled a major marriage fraud operation that raked in millions of dollars attempting to give immigration benefits to illegal migrants.

Federal immigration authorities uncovered a "sophisticated network of individuals" who recruited, enticed and groomed American citizens into bogus marriages with foreign nationals in order for them to illegally obtain immigration benefits, according to a Friday press announcement by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The major bust marked the Trump administration's latest efforts to stop illegal migrants from taking advantage of the U.S. immigration system.

"Some marriages are made in heaven. Some are just made up," USCIS spokesperson Matthew Tragesser told the Daily Caller News Foundation.

"Our work with ICE in this investigation dismantled a major marriage fraud ring where U.S. citizens were paid to marry illegal aliens," Tragesser said to the DCNF. "These criminals are now behind bars, reaffirming President Trump and [Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's] commitment to restoring integrity in our immigration system."

Dubbed **"Operation Bargain Bride," federal law enforcement officials in March charged four individuals tied to the large-scale conspiracy in the Maryland area,** according to USCIS. The individuals allegedly charged non-citizen clients anywhere from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per marriage union, generating an estimated \$4 million in illicit proceeds.

"These arrests marked a critical milestone in our broader effort to dismantle a criminal network undermining our nation's immigration laws," Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Baltimore Special Agent in Charge Michael McCarthy said during the Friday press conference.

McCarthy added that investigators identified more than 100 cases in which immigration benefits were sought via allegedly fraudulent marriages. So far, [USCIS](#) has denied more than 100 petitions and applications filed by or on behalf of foreign nationals.

On Thursday, federal agents arrested 10 foreign nationals who allegedly "knowingly participated" in these marriage fraud schemes. <https://www.wnd.com/2025/04/trump-administration-busts-fraud-ring-using-bogus-marriages-with-illegal-aliens/>

China Helping the Houthis Attack U.S. Navy Vessels

by [Gordon G. Chang](#)

April 25, 2025 at 5:00 am

China, despite repeated warnings from Washington, is helping the Yemen-based Houthi militia try to kill American sailors.

Pictured: Houthi soldiers on a missile carrier during a military parade in Sanaa, on September 21, 2023. (Photo by Mohammed Huwais/AFP via Getty Images)

"We can confirm the reporting that Chang Guang Satellite Technology Co., Ltd. (CGSTL) is directly supporting Iran-backed Houthi terrorist attacks on U.S. interests," State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce [said](#) on April 17th at her regular press briefing

Specifically, CGSTL has been providing targeting data and probably raw satellite imagery to the Houthis for their attacks on U.S. Navy vessels in the Red Sea.

China did not issue a clear official denial of the State Department charge.



By now, one thing is clear: China's regime, despite repeated warnings from Washington, is helping the Yemen-based militia try to kill American sailors.

The Trump administration should designate the Chinese regime as an enemy and impose costs accordingly.

CGSTL is a commercial venture owned in part by the Jilin provincial government and the Jilin-based Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics, a part of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences is a state research institution.

CGSTL has, [it says](#), the mission of "serving 7 billion people on the globe with the remote sensing information product integrating sky, space,

and ground."

Its customers include the worst elements in the world. In December 2023, for instance, the U.S. Treasury Department [sanctioned](#) the company, along with Beijing Yunze Technology Co., for providing "high-resolution observation satellite imagery to U.S.-designated Private Military Company 'Wagner'" — the infamous paramilitary Wagner Group of Russia.

No state-controlled enterprise such as CGSTL, in China's near-total surveillance state, could provide such data or imagery without the knowledge and approval of China's Communist Party.

This means the Chinese regime was deliberately aiding attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, including U.S. Navy ships. "Beijing's support, by the way, of that company, the satellite company, even after we've engaged in discussions with them about this — the fact that they continue to do this is unacceptable, certainly contradicts their claims of being peace supporters," Bruce said.

The Houthis began attacking shipping in the Red Sea in October 2023 in support of Hamas's assault on Israel. The United States, Bill Gertz of the *Washington Times* [reports](#), "initially sought Chinese help in organizing an international coalition to protect shipping and counter the attacks."

Beijing refused the request and tried to come to terms with the militant group in a side agreement. Nonetheless, the Houthis attacked a Chinese ship last year. "Providing satellite data that is being used to identify U.S. and other ships in the Red Sea for missile strikes appears to be part of a deal between Beijing and the Houthis that would end attacks on Chinese shipping," reports Gertz.

The U.S. did not announce sanctions on CGSTL when Bruce made her comments, so imposing those measures is the first thing to be done.

Yet China has insulated its companies from Washington's measures. "It is time for attribution," Blaine Holt, a retired U.S. Air Force brigadier general, told Gatestone. "Look for Chang Guang's 'Center of Gravity.'"

"Where do they bank?" Holt, who has participated in numerous Sino-U.S. Track II dialogues and lectured in China at universities and think tanks, asked. "Where is the management team? Do they have kids studying in the U.S.? What other business lines do they have?"

"Continued Communist Party aggression must inform U.S. government policy about permitting American businesses to continue ties with China," he says. "We must show strength when they are so weak."

Sanctions, however, should hit more than CGSTL.

For one thing, the Communist Party of China, which should also be sanctioned, runs a unitary state and demands absolute obedience from all parties in society. Businesses and state research institutions may operate as separate entities and may have separate controlling institutions, but they are not separate. Washington must stop assuming that Chinese society is organized the same way as America's.

All Chinese entities should, therefore, be treated as one single organization. It is time for American officials to stop playing what has become sanctions whack-a-mole.

"The United States will not tolerate anyone providing support to foreign terrorist organizations, such as the Houthis," Bruce said on the 17th.

Unfortunately, the United States has in fact long tolerated Beijing's support to such groups, which means it is time to change course and now go after the Chinese regime hard. Among other things, President Donald Trump should invoke the Trading With the Enemy Act of 1917 and end trade and investment ties with China. China's regime, by its actions and its words, is America's enemy.

"We have to stop China before they sink an American ship," says Holt, reminding us of what is at stake. "The time to act is now."

Gordon G. Chang is the author of *Plan Red: China's Project to Destroy America*, a Gatestone Institute distinguished senior fellow, and a member of its Advisory Board.

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/21573/china-helping-houthis-attack-us>

