

**Please note:**

**I will have minimal internet access this next week and postings will be sporadic and very abbreviated. Very Busy with family issues rdb**

**Trump says US will meet with Iran next week, asserts nuke deal ‘no longer necessary’**  
‘We may sign an agreement, I don’t know,’ Trump tells NATO conference, claiming US and Israel destroyed Iran’s nuclear program and ‘I don’t care if I have an agreement or not’

By [Lazar Berman](#), [Nava Freiberg](#), [Jacob Magid](#), [AP](#) and [ToI Staff](#)  
Today, 10:10 pm



*US President Donald Trump addresses a press conference during a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Heads of State and Government summit in The Hague on June 25, 2025. (NICOLAS TUCAT / AFP)*

**US President Donald Trump asserted on Wednesday that US and Iranian officials will hold talks next week, giving rise to cautious hope for longer-term peace, a day after a fragile ceasefire appeared to hold, even as Tehran insisted it will not give up its nuclear program.**

**Trump, who negotiated the ceasefire that took hold Tuesday on the 12th day of fighting between Israel and**

**Iran, told reporters at the NATO summit in The Hague that he wasn’t particularly interested in restarting negotiations with Iran,** insisting that US strikes had destroyed its nuclear program.

“We **may sign an agreement, I don’t know. To me, I don’t think it’s that necessary,**” Trump said. “The way I look at it, they fought, the war is done.”

**However, Iran has insisted it will not give up its nuclear program,** and its parliament agreed to fast-track a proposal that would effectively stop the country’s cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

**Iran also has not acknowledged any talks taking place next week,** and an Iranian official questioned whether the United States could be trusted after its weekend attack on Iranian nuclear sites.

Earlier, Trump said the ceasefire was going “very well,” adding that Iran was “not going to have a bomb and they’re not going to enrich.” He said: “They had a war, they fought, and now they’re going back to their world. I don’t care if I have an agreement or not.”

“We destroyed the nuclear,” Trump declared. “It’s blown up, to Kingdom Come, so I don’t feel strongly about it...We’re gonna meet with them actually. We’re gonna meet with them.”

**“I could get a statement that they’re not going to go nuclear, we’re probably going to ask for that,” he continued. “But they’re not going to be doing it anyway.** They’ve had it.”

Trump added that he asked US Secretary of State Marco Rubio if he wanted to draft an agreement for Iran to sign.



*US Secretary of State Marco Rubio (R) listens as US President Donald Trump addresses a press conference during a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Heads of State and Government summit in The Hague on June 25, 2025. (NICOLAS TUCAT / AFP)*

**The US and Iran had engaged in several rounds of negotiations to reach an agreement on Tehran’s nuclear program, but the talks had stalled before Israel launched airstrikes on June 13,** targeting Iran’s top military leaders, nuclear scientists, uranium enrichment sites and ballistic missile program.

Israel said the campaign was necessary to prevent the Islamic Republic from realizing its

declared plan to destroy the Jewish state. On June 22, the US struck key Iranian nuclear facilities at Natanz, Fordo and Isfahan.

**While Trump claimed that the US and Iran would return to the negotiating table, it is unclear if the meetings would return to the earlier nuclear talks or if they would center on a “comprehensive peace deal,”** like White House envoy Steve Witkoff [suggested](#) earlier Wednesday.

The US “had a great victory” in Iran, Trump told the NATO conference, saying that he “dealt with” Iran and Israel by convincing the two sides to reach a ceasefire, because “they’re both tired and exhausted” from 12 days of intense fighting.

“They were both satisfied to go home and get out,” he claimed, but conceded that conflict could soon resume. “Can it start again? I guess someday, it can. It could maybe start soon.”

Iran “fought bravely,” said Trump, noting that Tehran “somewhat, not much, violated the ceasefire.”

**“I don’t see them getting back involved in the nuclear business anymore,” he said. [He doesn’t understand the Islamic mindset. rdb**



In addition to his claims of planned talks with Iran, Trump again insisted that he had spoken “to people who have seen” the Fordo nuclear site after US struck it earlier this week, saying that “the site is obliterated.”

*This graphic image*

*compares Iran’s Fordo nuclear facility before and after US bombed the site on June 20, 2025. (AP Graphic)*

“You can’t get into the tunnels [of the underground site],” he said. “There’s no way you can even get down. The whole thing is collapsed and a disaster. And I think all the nuclear stuff is down there because it’s very hard to remove.”

**He had earlier suggested that Israeli agents had visited the site, but Israeli officials told the Kan public broadcaster Wednesday that** they were unaware of any Israeli operation at the Fordo nuclear facility after the strike.

Shas chairman Aryeh Deri, a regular observer in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s security cabinet, also denied Trump’s claim, declaring that “no one has visited there.”

Trump also claimed that Iran was not able to move highly enriched uranium from key facilities before they were hit by American bombs on Sunday, despite reports that Tehran may have successfully moved the material before the strikes.

“We think we hit them so hard and so fast they didn’t get to move, and if you knew about that material, it’s very hard, and very dangerous to move,” he told the press. “Oh yeah, we think we got it. We think it’s covered with granite and steel.”

Trump added that he is not relying on Israeli intelligence for his assessment that Iran’s nuclear sites were “obliterated,” and said that the US will soon issue a report on the damage to the sites.





*US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speaks at a press conference during a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Heads of State and Government summit in The Hague on June 25, 2025. (Brendan SMIALOWSKI / AFP)*

**US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth also pushed back on reports that Fordo may not have been as damaged as US officials have claimed, angrily saying Wednesday that the evidence regarding what is left of Iran's nuclear facility at Fordo "is buried under a mountain, devastated and obliterated."**

"So if you want to make an assessment about what happened at Fordo, you'd better get a big shovel, and go really deep," he fumed.

"Those that dropped the bombs precisely in the right place know exactly what happened when that exploded," he argued.



*Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks in a video address on June 24, 2025. (Screen capture/GPO)*

**Also on Wednesday, Netanyahu denied that Israel pushed the United States into joining its campaign against Iran, dismissing a Tuesday report by the Washington Post that claimed otherwise as "nonsense."**

"The Washington Post story suggesting that Israel pushed President Trump into his bold decision to bomb Iranian nuclear sites is nonsense," the official account of the premier wrote on X, adding that Trump "acted in

**the best interest of the USA based on the same intel we had. We are grateful to President Trump for his decisive leadership** and for being a tremendous friend to Israel!"

Current and former Israeli officials told the Post that Netanyahu had issued a general order to prepare for the Iran strikes months before Trump announced that the US and Iran had agreed to hold negotiations on the latter's nuclear program.

As part of the ongoing preparation, which began in the last year of former US President Joe Biden's term in office, Israeli officials met with US counterparts in Washington to sway the US into joining the attack, believing this would make it a much more decisive operation, the report said.

Throughout the fall, Israelis met with Biden officials to discuss recent intelligence from both countries that showed nuclear scientists in Iran were meeting to resume theoretical research on weaponization.

However, US intelligence agencies during both the Biden and Trump administrations consistently assessed that Iran's leadership had not decided to pursue nuclear weapons, multiple sources say in the report.

After the US joined the offensive earlier this week, Channel 12 reported that Trump's decision came following appeals from Netanyahu and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, who urged the president to "take part in history" by annihilating the Iranian nuclear threat.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-says-us-will-meet-with-iran-next-week-asserts-nuke-deal-no-longer-necessary/>

## **Mossad hails Israel's 'historic' Iran offensive, thanks CIA in rare public message**

**Israel a 'safer, braver country,' says Barnea; IDF chief Zamir discloses commandos operated inside Iran during 12-day war, says Iranian nuclear efforts 'pushed back by years'**

By [Nava Freiberg](#) and [Emanuel Fabian](#) 26 June 2025, 1:04 am



*Mossad chief David Barnea in Tel Aviv, on February 25, 2025. (Tomer Neuberg/Flash90)*

**In a rare public message Wednesday, the Mossad hailed Israel's "historic" operation against Iran, declaring that the longstanding Iranian threat was significantly neutralized thanks to the 12-day aerial campaign.**

**"These are historic days for the people of Israel. The Iranian threat,**

which has endangered our security for decades, has been significantly neutralized,” the intelligence agency said in a statement, hailing its cooperation with the IDF and accompanying American support for the surprise offensive.

**“Israel, thanks to this entire security apparatus, today feels like a different country, a safer country, a braver country that is prepared for the future,”** said Mossad chief David Barnea in a video accompanying the written statement.

“Objectives that once seemed imaginary have now been achieved,” he continued, speaking from a Mossad operational command center. “We will continue to keep a watchful eye on all known Iranian projects — we are intimately familiar with them — and we will be there, just as we have been until now.”

He **also thanked the US Central Intelligence Agency, whose cooperation “helped make the operation possible.”**

The **CIA itself meanwhile issued a statement on Wednesday attributed to its director, John Ratcliffe, in which it confirmed “that a body of credible intelligence indicates Iran’s nuclear program has been severely damaged by the recent, targeted strikes.”**

“This includes new intelligence from a historically reliable and accurate source/method that several key Iranian nuclear facilities were destroyed and would have to be rebuilt over the course of years,” the CIA statement added.

The Mossad played a crucial role in Operation Rising Lion, and reportedly enlisted its agents to smuggle attack drones into Iran [via trucks, shipping containers and even suitcases.](#)

Mossad agents inside Iran then gathered the equipment and handed it out to teams who prepared the drones for use within the country. Once airstrikes began, the drones took out air defense systems [while also hitting surface-to-surface missile launchers aimed at Israel.](#)

In addition, vehicles carrying weapons systems were smuggled into Iran, giving Israeli planes air supremacy and freedom of action within the country’s airspace.



*Screenshot from footage released by the Mossad showing strikes carried out by commandos of the Israeli spy agency on Iranian air defenses in Iran, June 13, 2025. (Mossad screenshot)*

**In another statement made Wednesday, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir called the operation a definitive success, also divulging that Israeli commando forces operated within Iran during the war.**

“After 12 days of unprecedented fighting, I can say that the IDF operated at its best and fully achieved the aims and

objectives of the operation,” he said. “According to the assessment of senior officials in the IDF Intelligence Directorate, the damage to the nuclear program is not a localized blow, but a systemic one.”

He claimed that Tehran’s nuclear program “suffered severe, broad, and deep damage and was pushed back by years.”

“We will not allow Iran to produce weapons of mass destruction,” the IDF chief averred, adding that Israel caused significant damage to the Tehran’s missile-launching capabilities, managed to remove hundreds of launchers and significantly delayed Tehran’s force build-up plans.



*IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir speaks in a video statement issued on June 25, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)*

**“We managed to achieve intelligence, technological, and aerial superiority. We reached a level of operational freedom in the skies of Iran and in every location we chose to act in,” Zamir said.**

Indispensable to these achievements were the air and



ground commando forces that “operated covertly deep in enemy territory and carried out operations that granted us operational freedom of action,” he continued.

It is unclear if Zamir was referring to Mossad commandos who, at the start of the operation, carried out actions to neutralize Iranian air defenses and ballistic missiles, or whether he is revealing for the first time actions by IDF commandos.

The IDF declined to clarify when asked by The Times of Israel.

The surprise operation — which came to a close Tuesday as a US-brokered ceasefire took hold — began June 13, when Israel struck Iran overnight with the aim of thwarting its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Israeli forces targeted top military leaders, nuclear scientists, uranium enrichment sites and ballistic missile programs in the country in an effort to dismantle the “existential threat” posed by the Islamic Republic.

Iran responded by launching over 550 ballistic missiles and around 1,000 drones at Israel, killing 28 people and wounding thousands, according to health officials. The missiles hit apartment buildings, a university and a hospital, as well as critical infrastructure sites, causing heavy damage. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/mossad-hails-israels-historic-iran-offensive-thanks-cia-in-rare-public-message/>

## Iran says 700 arrested for wartime ties with Israel; 3 alleged Mossad agents hanged

**Islamic Republic executes men it says smuggled equipment into the country that was used for an assassination; carried out similar death sentences Sunday and Monday**

By [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 10:02 am



*Iranians wave national flags and chant slogans as they celebrate a ceasefire between Iran and Israel at Enghlab Square in the capital Tehran on June 24, 2025. (ATTA KENARE / AFP)*

**Iran has, over the last 12 days, arrested more than 700 people accused of ties with Israel, state-linked media reported Wednesday in the wake of a ceasefire between the two countries that cut short almost two weeks of war.**

“Since the beginning of Israel’s attack on Iran, the Zionist regime’s spy network has been highly active in the country,” said Fars News, reporting on the arrests.

Additionally, the **Islamic Republic on Wednesday morning executed three people it accused of collaborating with Israel, its judiciary’s Mizan news agency announced.**

The agency named those executed as Idris Ali, Azad Shojai and Rasoul Ahmad Rasoul, saying they smuggled equipment used in the assassination of one unnamed person.

**The men were “arrested and tried for... cooperation favoring the Zionist regime,”** Mizan said,

referring to Israel. “The sentence was carried out this morning... and they were hanged.”

**The executions took place in Urmia, a northwestern city near the border with Turkey,** Iran’s judiciary said, sharing photos of the three men in blue prison uniforms.



*Illustrative: Portraits are exhibited behind a noose as a placard reads: ‘Executions pro day,’ in front of the Brandenburg Gate during a demonstration by supporters of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in Berlin, Germany on February 10, 2024. (Stefanie Loos/AFP)*

**Tehran regularly announces the arrest and execution of agents suspected of working for**

foreign intelligence services, including Israel, a country it regularly vows to destroy.

**Iran is the world's second-most prolific executioner after China**, according to human rights groups, including Amnesty International.

It also carried out executions of men accused of being Mossad agents on both [Sunday](#) and Monday.

After Israel attacked Iran on June 13 in order to thwart what it deemed the existential threats of Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs, Tehran vowed swift trials for people arrested on suspicion of collaboration.

Over the course of the 12-day war, which appeared to end on Tuesday with a US-brokered ceasefire, Israel launched airstrikes targeting Iran's top military leaders, nuclear scientists, uranium enrichment sites and ballistic missile program. The US also struck key Iranian nuclear facilities at Natanz, Fordo, and Isfahan.

Iran retaliated to Israel's attacks by launching over 550 ballistic missiles and around 1,000 drones at Israel. Iran's missile attacks killed 28 people and wounded thousands in Israel, according to health officials. Missiles hit apartment buildings, a university, and a hospital, causing heavy damage. Iran also fired at a US base in Qatar after the American strikes. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-700-arrested-for-wartime-ties-with-israel-3-alleged-mossad-agents-hanged/>

## 'Identify and intercept': Inside the IDF's helicopter hunt for Iranian drones

*In 12 days of fighting, IDF pilots engaged and destroyed hundreds of drones; 'In war, there's no home—I sleep beside the helicopters,' says Maj. A., 'and this isn't a one-and-done situation, Iran launches more drones than all the other fronts combined'*

[Gal Ganot](#)|16:14

**Over 12 intense days of fighting during Operation Rising Lion, the drone threat from Iran became one of the most dangerous challenges Israel had faced.**

**Hundreds of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were launched toward Israel—often simultaneously with heavy missile barrages—but were largely intercepted, many of them outside Israel's borders. These interceptions were made possible through tight coordination between IDF combat helicopter squadrons, air defense systems and flight control personnel.**

Footage of IDF helicopters operating [Go to b site for video rdb](#) Maj. A., 29, a Tel Aviv native and Apache pilot in the IDF's Magic Touch squadron, said that the campaign's launch was relatively secretive. "It caught most of us by surprise, even though we had been preparing," he said. "We didn't know exactly when the order would come, but when it did, we reported immediately to the squadron. Since then, we've been here, managing the mission."

### A game of risk and precision

**The drone threat was not new to the squadron, but this time, it was on a different scale—more frequent, more intense and more complex.** "The system faces all kinds of operational challenges. We're learning as we go, defending the country's skies and doing what we were trained to do," A. explained.

Interceptions start with early detection by the IDF's surveillance units, who coordinate with air defense and, when necessary, dispatch attack helicopters. "We have systems that can detect drones and weapons systems that can bring them down," said A. The Apache was chosen for this mission because of its ability to fly low

and slow, and because it can stay airborne for extended periods, making it ideal for handling multiple targets in a single mission.

*An IDF AH-64 Apache attack helicopter  
(Photo: Gil Nechustan)*

**"This isn't a one-and-done situation," A. said. "Iran launches more drones than all the other fronts combined."**

He described close collaboration with air traffic controllers: "We don't find the drones on our own. Our excellent controllers locate and guide us to them. Once we're on target, the mission is ours to complete."

In some cases, [helicopters tailed drones for long](#)

[stretches before shooting them down](#), due to concerns about collateral damage. "People need to understand—it's not about our ability. It's about risk management," he said. "Sometimes we wait because we can't risk missing over





a populated area, a road or a place where civilians are present. We wait—deliberately and carefully. We have all the time in the world.”

**The combat helicopter squadrons had already been operating nonstop over threats from Gaza,** Lebanon and now Iran. “This is what we do,” A. said. “Since October 7, there has been a combat helicopter over Gaza almost constantly, supporting troops. Same in Lebanon. Usually more than one helicopter.”



(Photo: Gil Nechustan)

**On the criticism of the air force’s performance on October 7, A. said: “People asked where the air force was. It was in the air. There was a failure that day, no question—but from that moment on, there were many successes in Gaza, Lebanon and now in Iran.”**

Personally, A. has not left the base in weeks. “In wartime, there is no home. No family. No friends. I live here, and sleep

next to the helicopters. Sometimes I’m already airborne when the drone enters our airspace.”

Reflecting on the mission, A. added, “You only realize the scale of historic events in hindsight. In the moment, you’re just a person in a cockpit, flying missions, eating, sleeping. But we’re ready for whatever comes next. From our perspective—it’s just the beginning.”

#### **'We never compromise on maintenance. It's the pilot's life'**

Master Sgt. A., 43, a senior maintenance NCO—or “panchip”—from the Haifa Bay area, also shared his experience. “Since October 7, we’ve been operating nonstop—north, south, within and beyond our borders.

Especially this past week and a half, with the Iranian front opening up, we’ve been working around the clock.”



(Photo: Gil Nechustan)

A. ensures that the squadron’s helicopters are flight-ready. With the added flight hours and extended air time during this campaign, the workload has spiked dramatically. “But we’re responsible for getting the pilots back safely,” he said. “We don’t cut corners. Ever. No matter how complex the maintenance is, we get it done.”

While drone interception missions don’t require different prep than other operations, helicopters are armed specifically for

them. “When the call comes, the helicopters equipped for this are the ones we scramble. When they return without their ammo, that’s the best feeling in the world,” A. said.

In closing, he expressed pride in the Air Force’s unique capabilities: “There’s nothing like our attack helicopter squadrons anywhere else in the world. Where else do 18-year-olds, fresh out of training, check and prep a helicopter for flight? That’s what warms my heart every time—this young, incredible generation, doing things I’ve never seen before.” <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hkbgjqvge#autoplay>

## **Gov't instructs IDF to present plan preventing Hamas's aid looting**



***This follows recent reports of Hamas terrorists once again taking control of aid in the Gaza Strip and stealing it from civilians, the statement read.***

***By JERUSALEM POST STAFF, MAARIV JUNE 26, 2025 00:58 Updated: JUNE 26, 2025 01:01***

***Palestinians gather to collect what remains of relief supplies from the distribution center of the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, June 5, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/STRINGER)***

**The IDF must present a plan within 48 hours to prevent Hamas from taking control of**

humanitarian aid in Gaza, according to a joint statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz on Thursday.

This follows recent reports of Hamas terrorists once again taking control of aid in the Gaza Strip and stealing it from civilians, the statement read.

#### **Hamas taking control of food trucks**

Shortly before the announcement, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich issued an ultimatum to Netanyahu, saying he would resign from the government if aid to the Gaza Strip was not immediately halted, journalist Amit Segal reported.

Additionally, former prime minister Naftali Bennett shared a post on X/Twitter on Wednesday, featuring a video of Hamas terrorists taking control of food trucks that the Israeli government had allowed into Gaza.

Bennett explained: "Fighters in the field explained to me that these are the current orders: to allow trucks in without inspection. This is how Hamas continues to receive resources—money and power."

He concluded by criticizing the government's promise, stating: "Government ministers pledged that 'not a single grain will enter,' but as usual, reality is the opposite. Shameful."



*A woman crouches next to boxes of the U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, as Palestinians gather to collect what remains of relief supplies from the distribution center of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, June 5, 2025. (credit: STRINGER/REUTERS)*

#### **GHF urges UN for help in aid delivery**

On Tuesday, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) urged the United Nations to “publicly condemn the targeting of humanitarian workers in Gaza” and to partner with the group on a new system for getting food “straight to Palestinian families,” according to a letter delivered to UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

The letter also called on the UN to condemn attacks on aid workers and blockages imposed by “Hamas and other factions,” and to “engage directly” with GHF to facilitate increased deliveries based on a proven distribution model, *The Jerusalem Post* previously reported.

Thameen Al-Kheetan, a UN human rights spokesperson, told reporters in Geneva on Tuesday that hundreds have been killed by gunfire or shelling from the IDF while trying to access GHF distribution points.

In response to an inquiry from *The Post*, the IDF confirmed it was aware of the allegations and is investigating the claims.

The military added: “Hamas is a ruthless terrorist organization that starves its own people and puts them at risk to maintain its hold on power in Gaza,” *The Post* quoted.

[The IDF](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-859049) explained that its presence enables the GHF to operate independently, ensuring aid is distributed in an organized manner and that it does not end up in the hands of Hamas. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-859049>

## **The hard data: Thousands wounded, evacuated from their homes in Operation Rising Lion**

*The wounded, the homeless, the anxious, and the high alert – this is what the Israeli health system looked like after two weeks of fighting.*

*By DR. ITAY GAL* JUNE 25, 2025 18:33

Since the start of [Operation Rising Lion](#) on June 13 until the ceasefire declared on Tuesday, the Israeli [healthcare system](#) has operated in an emergency mode and has dealt with unprecedented numbers of wounded, evacuees, the homeless, and the mentally ill.

*The main emphasis has been on providing immediate treatment for emergencies, evacuating patients, reducing hospital capacity, and ensuring the continuity of basic treatments.*

***According to the Health Ministry, 3,345 wounded have arrived at hospitals. Of these, 23 are in***





**serious condition, 111 are in moderate condition, 3,043 are in mild condition, 144 are suffering from anxiety, and 22 others whose condition has not yet been determined. As of yesterday, at the end of the fighting, 98 wounded were still hospitalized. Another 28 were being treated in the emergency room. Three of the wounded died during hospitalization.**

**JPost Videos**

**Hadassah-University Medical Center  
Mount Scopus underground  
hospital. (photo credit: COURTESY  
BARBARA SOFER)**

**One of the most serious incidents occurred, as we recall, at Soroka Medical Center, which was directly hit by an Iranian missile.** The affected ward had been evacuated a few hours earlier, following strict evacuation orders. As a result of the evacuation, there were no casualties in the ward itself, but the incident required a large-scale evacuation of patients. Seventy-eight patients were transferred to other medical centers and hospitals, including Sheba, Ichilov, Hadassah, Barzilai, Assuta Beer Sheva, Assuta Ashdod, and Beilinson. Rehabilitation patients were transferred to Adi Negev. Medical teams continued to treat the remaining patients while transitioning to operations in protected spaces.

**During the fighting, 11,070 civilians were evacuated from their homes and housed in 97 reception sites across the country. 17 local authorities were forced to evacuate** their populations due to Direct impact on homes. The Health Ministry deployed approximately 80 medical staff to make daily visits to the absorption sites to identify health needs. Emotional support was provided by approximately 100 therapists from the National Resilience Center.



**Samson Assuta hospital, October 20, 2024. (credit: YOSSI ALONI/FLASH90)**

**The mental health sector also recorded an exceptional workload. The ER received 13,332 calls, the health insurance funds' helplines received 3,679 calls, and the resilience centers received an additional 1,850 calls. Operating hours were extended, and responses were provided around the clock.** An extensive information campaign was distributed in the media, with the participation of public figures, to encourage seeking mental health care.

**During the operation, 1,036 additional protected hospitalization beds were established, in addition to the 2,234 beds established after the start of Operation Iron**

**Swords** in October 2023. There are currently 10,156 beds in general hospitalization, of which 7,240 are protected. In psychiatric hospitalization, 593 protected beds were added out of a total of 2,356 active beds.

#### **A living healthcare system**

**The healthcare system operated in an emergency, canceling non-urgent outpatient activities, moving to remote control activities, and strengthening the provision of emergency services only.** Health funds operated under protection restrictions and transferred some of the services to a telephone and digital format.

**In order to enable the continuation of the activities of the medical teams, emergency dormitories were established for the children of healthcare workers. Approximately 3,000 children were placed in these frameworks, which continued to operate even during attacks.**

**During the fighting, 650 medical personnel were returned to Israel, out of 830 who were abroad. An additional 180 personnel returned yesterday on an organized flight.**

The ceasefire announced yesterday is not the end for thousands of citizens who continue to live in hotels and are not expected to return to their homes anytime soon. Health funds and resilience centers are preparing to continue providing support to the evacuated populations.

The Health Ministry announced that it would conduct a comprehensive investigation into the actions taken during the operation in order to better prepare for future events. The hospitals, led by Soroka, are expected to undergo significant rehabilitation in the near future. <https://www.jpost.com/health-and-wellness/article-859008>

## **Bar-Ilan University bans Muslim student wearing niqab from campus**

*The student calls the decision a religious persecution; the university says visible faces are required for pedagogical and security reasons*

Hassan Shaalan|11:20

**Bar-Ilan University has barred a student from northern Israel from entering its campus for wearing a niqab — a traditional Muslim face-covering veil — claiming it violates university policy. The decision has sparked controversy over religious freedom and discrimination.**

In a **letter sent to the student by the university's rector, Professor Amnon Albeck, he wrote: "I have received your request to wear the niqab during classes and around campus. I understand you are doing so now, despite being informed at the start of the academic year, in a conversation with Mr.**

**Rafea Swidan, academic advisor for Arab society, that this is not permitted on campus."**



*The student that was barred from campus*

Albeck continued: "We respect every person and their desire to practice their religion, and we did so with you as well, understanding that you would wear a hijab — but not a niqab. **A visible face is essential to maintaining teaching quality, classroom interaction, and hands-on learning, especially in fields such as optometry."**

**The student strongly condemned the decision.** "I am deeply shocked by this. I am a religious woman and wear the niqab as part of my faith. Everyone at the university has accepted me warmly, except for the administration, which is now targeting me for wearing the niqab. This harms me, my religion, and all Muslims. I have the right to choose my attire, and others must respect that."

**She added: "Wearing the niqab is not a stylistic choice for me — it's a profound religious obligation.** Removing it in the presence of unrelated men is a serious violation of my beliefs. I've studied almost an entire semester this way, attended classes, presented in front of students, and received applause and appreciation, including from Jewish students. The claim that the niqab hinders interaction is simply untrue."

The student argued that the university's decision violates core legal principles, primarily Israel's Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty, which guarantees personal freedom, dignity and religious expression. She cited a landmark

Supreme Court ruling - the Miller case, which affirmed freedom of religion as a fundamental right, as well as the Equal Opportunities in Education Law, which prohibits discrimination based on religion.

**Bar-Ilan University (Photo: Dana Kopel)**

She also referred to the Adalah ruling, which determined that one worldview should not be favored over another, and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Israel has signed and is obligated to





uphold, including protections for religious freedom in public and academic spaces.

**“I’m not willing to compromise my religious beliefs in order to access academic services,” she wrote. “I will not remove the niqab, even at personal cost.** If I don’t receive an equal and respectful response, I will consider legal action, appealing to human rights organizations, and turning to the media in Israel and abroad.”

In its response, Bar-Ilan University said that it “respects all individuals, including their right to practice their religion and customs, and this is how we treat every student. However, per university policy, a visible face is required of all students on campus — in classrooms, open spaces and academic settings.

“This requirement was clearly communicated to the student before her studies began and was accepted by her during the initial months. The visible-face policy is based on pedagogical, security and administrative considerations, intended to ensure proper learning processes that rely on open interaction, personal identification and student safety. Therefore, the university cannot allow participation in classes or presence on campus while the face is fully covered by a niqab.” <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rj9fkjsele> **how about changing schools and going to an Islamic college??? rdb**

## NATO summit is ‘grim sign’ for Kiev – NYT

***The US-led bloc is no longer prioritizing Ukraine, the American outlet has reported***

26 Jun, 2025 17:16



**FILE PHOTO: Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky © Global Look Press / i-Images / Martyn Wheatley**

**The recent NATO summit signaled a bleak outlook for Kiev’s hopes of sustained Western support as the US-led bloc turned its attention toward US President Donald Trump, The New York Times has reported, in a feature-style review of the gathering.**

**NATO chief Mark Rutte, a former Dutch prime minister, hosting the event at The Hague, pledged continued support**

**for what he described as Ukraine’s “irreversible path to membership.”**

**However Kiev’s aspirations were notably absent from the final summit communiqué,** which offered only a brief mention of the bloc’s “enduring sovereign commitments to provide support to Ukraine,” according to the newspaper.

Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky, who was invited to the two-day summit, was “*not feted as in years past*,” the newspaper noted. Nor was he “*the center of attention*” anymore, it added. A meeting between Trump and Zelensky on the sidelines of the event also failed to produce any “*specific promises*,” the outlet wrote.

After the meeting, which lasted roughly 50 minutes, Trump denied that the two had discussed a potential ceasefire between Kiev and Moscow, contradicting an earlier statement by Zelensky.

“Ukraine? What’s Ukraine?” Michael John Williams, a former NATO adviser, exclaimed to the NYT. “*The Europeans were saying how committed they are to Ukraine... But there was also really an attempt to keep controversial issues off the table. Ukraine wasn’t the front and center discussion it has been.*”

The summit was “*choreographed*” to address “*the security interests of NATO allies – and then comes Ukraine*,” Liana Fix, a Europe expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, told NYT on Wednesday, published in a separate piece.

“*There was no meaningful deliverable for Ukraine*,” added Torrey Taussig, a former Biden-era Europe director at the National Security Council.

This year’s meeting marked a sharp departure from last year’s summit, where Ukraine’s NATO membership was on the agenda. This time, NATO members committed only to increasing defense spending to 5% of GDP by 2035, in response to what they called a “*long-term threat posed by Russia to Euro-Atlantic security.*”

On Wednesday, Rutte told reporters simply that “*our aim is to keep Ukraine in the fight today.*”

<https://www.rt.com/news/620593-nato-summit-grim-sign-kiev/>

## Ukraine barely mentioned in NATO summit communique

## **The bloc's declaration pledged to keep supporting Kiev but mainly focused on commitments by member states to spend 5% of GDP on defense**

25 Jun, 2025 16:06



**FILE PHOTO. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte holds closing press conference on final day of bloc summit. © Getty Images / Omar Havana**

**NATO member states only mentioned Ukraine two times in their joint communique, which was released on Wednesday following the bloc's summit in the Hague. The document mainly focused on raising defense spending goals and increasing military cooperation between members.**

The Hague Summit Declaration only features five brief paragraphs, outlining what the member states had agreed upon during the two-day event. This includes a commitment by NATO states to spend 5% of their GDP annually on defense by 2035 in order to address the alleged “*long- term threat posed by Russia to Euro-Atlantic security.*”

Moscow has repeatedly stressed that it poses no threat and has no intention of attacking any foreign states, dismissing such claims as “*nonsense*” fearmongering among Western officials which is being used to justify increased military spending.

The joint communique made only two mentions of Ukraine, stating that NATO members had reaffirmed their commitment to provide support to Kiev and continue direct contributions towards its military industry.

The document made no other references to Ukraine, and did not provide any statements on the prospects of the country's membership in the bloc, which Kiev has been seeking for years.

Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky was also sidelined from the summit; he was only invited to attend an informal dinner ahead of the event. He was not allowed to actually participate in the summit in any official form, according to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who claimed that some NATO members, including the US, were also deliberately avoiding meeting with the Ukrainian leader.

Orban noted that this behavior marked a significant change compared to last year's summit, where Ukraine's NATO membership and direct confrontation with Russia were part of the event's agenda. In 2024, the joint NATO summit communique explicitly reaffirmed that Ukraine's accession was inevitable.

Since then, however, a number of NATO countries' leaders have objected to the idea, including US President Donald Trump, who has stated that Kiev “*can forget about*” joining the bloc, noting that its attempts to do so were “*probably the reason the whole thing started,*” referring to the Ukraine conflict.

Russia has repeatedly explained that Ukraine's attempts to join NATO were a red line and one of the root causes of the conflict. Moscow has demanded that Kiev legally commit to never joining any military alliances.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/620528-ukraine-nato-joint-communique/>

## **‘Ukraine can win’ – new NATO commander**

**Alexus Grynkeiwich has said Kiev is fighting with tenacity the US can barely imagine**

25 Jun, 2025 15:43



**FILE PHOTO: Alexis Grynkeiwich. © AP Photo / Jacquelyn Martin**

**Ukraine can still achieve a military victory over Russia, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe and head of the US European Command, Alexis Grynkeiwich, said during a US Senate hearing on Tuesday. He was confirmed in his new role with the US-led military bloc earlier this month.**

**“I believe Ukraine can win,” he responded when asked if Kiev could still prevail despite significant casualties**

**and waning financial support. Grynkeiwich also noted that Ukrainian forces are displaying a level of tenacity that is hard for outsiders to fully comprehend.**

He did not specify what form a Ukrainian victory might take, nor did he provide further detail regarding battlefield prospects.

Top NATO officials have long insisted that Ukraine should aim to defeat Russia militarily. The bloc continues



to supply arms and intelligence to Kiev, even as it loses territory to Russian forces.

Ukraine's 2023 counteroffensive failed to achieve any meaningful breakthroughs, and a more recent attempted incursion into Russia's Kursk Region was repelled. Meanwhile, Russian advances have continued along several sectors of the front line, including in the Donetsk and Kharkov regions.

Military analysts and Western officials have increasingly questioned the viability of a Ukrainian victory. Last month, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul claimed that the military defeat of nuclear-armed Russia had been impossible *"from the very beginning."*

US President Donald Trump has also repeatedly expressed doubt that Ukraine could secure a military victory over Russia, instead pushing for a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

He has insisted that *"Crimea will stay with Russia,"* referred to Ukraine as *"demolished,"* and cautioned that the country may not be able to survive the conflict, even with US support.

Moscow has also repeatedly insisted that its victory is inevitable and has criticized continued Western military aid to Ukraine, arguing that it only prolongs hostilities without affecting their outcome.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has stressed that the conflict will end only when its *"root causes"* are resolved and his country's security interests are taken into account. He has also accused Kiev's foreign backers of being uninterested in actually ending the conflict and using Ukraine to achieve their own goals.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/620525-nato-commander-ukraine-victory/>

## 95% of Hungarians oppose Ukraine joining EU – Orban

*Millions have voted almost unanimously against the move, in a "consultative" online referendum*

26 Jun, 2025 14:22



**FILE PHOTO: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. © Global Look Press / Philipp von Dittfurth**

**An overwhelming majority of Hungarians oppose Ukraine's accession to the EU, Prime Minister Viktor Orban has announced, citing the results of the Voks 2025 referendum.**

**The consultative vote, which asked a single question – *"Do you support Ukraine's European Union membership?"* – ran from mid-April to June 20.**

**According to Orban, 2,168,431 Hungarians, or 95% of those who voted, rejected Ukraine's EU aspirations.**

*"95% of the votes cast were 'no' and 5% answered 'yes'... I will say today, in the voice of more than two million Hungarians, that Hungary does not support Ukraine's accession to the EU. These are the bare facts,"* Orban told reporters ahead of the EU Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels on Thursday.

He emphasized that Hungary's position cannot be bypassed, as Ukraine's membership requires unanimous consent from all 27 EU member states.

*"A unanimous decision is needed even to launch negotiations on the matter. We don't have it, therefore they should not happen. Nothing can happen today that has a legal effect on the matter of Ukraine's EU membership... because Hungary does not support it,"* Orban stressed.

Ukraine made EU accession its national goal back in 2019 and officially applied to join the bloc in 2022, shortly after hostilities with Russia escalated. The EU granted Kiev candidate status in June 2022 and set a target date for 2030. Critics argue Ukraine's economy and institutions are unprepared, and that membership would place an unbearable financial strain on the bloc.

Even Poland, one of Kiev's key backers, has shown [declining](#) support for Ukraine's bid. A recent IBRiS poll commissioned by Defence24 outlet found only 35% of Poles support Ukraine joining the EU – down from 85% in 2022.

Hungary has consistently opposed Ukraine's integration into both the EU and NATO, warning that it could heighten tensions with Russia. Orban argued the move could lead to an *"endless war"* in Europe, forcing EU taxpayers to fund Ukraine's army. His adviser Balazs Orban previously estimated that Kiev's full integration would cost the bloc around €2.5 trillion (\$2.9 trillion), more than 12 times the EU's current budget.

Moscow has firmly opposed Ukraine's bid to join NATO but has taken a more neutral stance on its EU

ambitions. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov previously said Ukraine has the “sovereign right” to join the bloc if it remains focused on economic ties rather than military alignment.

[READ MORE: NATO members’ leaders snubbing Zelensky at key summit – Orban](#)

However, Russian officials have warned the EU’s civilian-military distinction has been fading. Peskov recently described the EU’s new military spending plans as “rabid militarization,” while Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the bloc “has degraded into an openly militarized entity.”  
<https://www.rt.com/news/620566-hungary-vote-ukraine-eu/>

## Kremlin reveals how Putin will take part in BRICS summit



***The Russian president will attend remotely, while Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will represent Russia in person***

25 Jun, 2025 21:14

*Russian President Vladimir Putin, Moscow, Russia, June 23, 2025. © Aleksandr Kazakov/RIA Novosti*

**Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the upcoming BRICS summit in Brazil via video link, according to his foreign policy aide Yury Ushakov.**

**This year’s event, which will be the trade and development group’s 17th annual summit, is set to take place in Rio de**

### **Janeiro in July.**

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will be representing the country at the summit, Ushakov told Vesti in an interview on Wednesday.

Putin will not travel to Brazil due to unresolved issues concerning an arrest warrant issued against him by the International Criminal Court (ICC), the presidential aide said.

*“The president will participate via video link. This is related to difficulties related to the requirements of the ICC,” Ushakov said. “The Brazilian government could not take a clear position that would allow our president to participate in this meeting.”*

In 2023, the Hague-based institution’s top prosecutor, Karim Khan, issued arrest warrants for Russia’s president, as well as Russian children’s rights commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova, on charges of unlawful deportation and transfer of minors during the Ukraine conflict. Moscow has dismissed the allegations as politically motivated, explaining that it evacuated the children out of the war zone for their own safety.

Moscow is in the process of compiling a list of children currently in Ukraine who need to be reunited with their families in Russia, Lvova-Belova said on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum last week.

The list will be passed on to Kiev’s negotiating team at the next round of direct talks, she said. Furthermore, five of the 339 children Kiev demanded be sent back to Ukraine during the last round of negotiations in Istanbul are being prepared for return, Lvova-Belova said.

Russia is not a signatory to the ICC’s founding treaty and does not recognize its jurisdiction. Other non-signatories include the US, China, and Israel.

US President Donald Trump imposed sanctions on the judicial body and its top prosecutor in February for issuing arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. Khan accused both of war crimes committed during the Gaza conflict, along with three Hamas leaders.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/620547-kremlin-putin-brics-summit/>

**Excellent lecture by an Arab Israeli**

**Israeli Arab Makes Entire Austrian Parliament SPEECHLESS  
After Saying The Truth About Palestinians**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fThvwFuKk4M>



## World's richest 1% could end poverty 22 times – Oxfam

*The world's wealthiest have seen their fortunes increase by \$33.9 trillion over the past decade, according to the anti-poverty charity*

26 Jun, 2025 15:58



*A protestor holds 'Tax the Rich' and 'Stop the Cuts' signs ahead of a demonstration against benefits cuts, London, the UK, June 7, 2025. © Alishia Abodunde / Getty Images*

**The richest 1% of the people on Earth have gained over \$33.9 trillion in real terms since 2015, according to a new report by UK-based anti-poverty group Oxfam.**

**The amount is enough to end extreme poverty 22 times over, based on the World Bank's highest income threshold of \$8.30 per person per day.**

Approximately 3,000 billionaires worldwide have collectively increased their wealth by \$6.5 trillion over the past decade, bringing their total net worth to 14.6% of global GDP, the report claims.

Oxfam argues that while personal wealth has skyrocketed, efforts to reduce poverty have significantly stalled.

According to the report, wealthy nations are making the steepest cuts to life-saving development assistance since 1960.

Oxfam projects that G7 countries, responsible for approximately 75% of all official aid, will reduce their contributions by 28% in 2026 compared to 2024. The UK alone is expected to decrease its spending on aid by 40% by 2027.

The report also highlights the growing gap between private and public wealth. From 1995 to 2023, global private wealth soared by \$342 trillion, while public wealth in the same period rose by only \$44 trillion.

Over half of the world's poorest countries are now on the brink of a debt crisis, the report warns. Many are being forced to spend more on servicing debt than on healthcare or education.

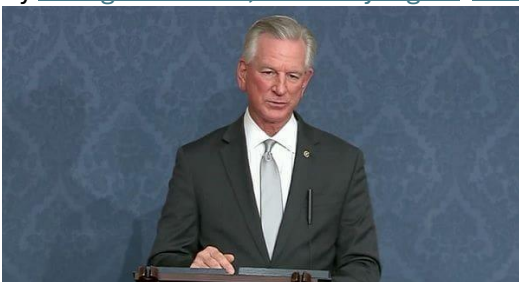
The report singles out private creditors, who hold over half of the external debt of low-income countries, for refusing to restructure loans and imposing punitive repayment terms.

According to a global public opinion survey cited by Oxfam, 90% of respondents support taxing the super-rich to fund public services and climate action.

<https://www.rt.com/news/620574-worlds-richest-decade-gains-oxfam/>

## Senator demands parliamentarian's firing over ruling on Medicaid for illegals

By [George Caldwell, The Daily Signal](#) June 26, 2025



**[Sen. Tommy Tuberville](#) called for the firing of the Senate parliamentarian Thursday over her ruling against a provision in the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act to prevent illegal aliens from accessing Medicaid.**

**"The WOKE Senate Parliamentarian, who was appointed by Harry Reid and advised Al Gore, just STRUCK DOWN a provision BANNING illegals from stealing [Medicaid](#) from American citizens," wrote Tuberville, R-Ala., on the social**

**media platform X.**

**The "big, beautiful bill," as President Donald Trump calls it, would fulfill a number of campaign promises, such as extending his 2017 first-term tax cuts and funding border security.**

**Tuberville thinks the parliamentarian, Elizabeth MacDonough—essentially the Senate's rules arbiter—is taking a hatchet to the 10-year fiscal package.**

**The WOKE Senate Parliamentarian, who was appointed by Harry Reid and advised Al Gore, just STRUCK DOWN a provision BANNING illegals from stealing Medicaid from American citizens.**

This is a perfect example of why Americans hate THE SWAMP.

Unelected bureaucrats think they know...

— Coach Tommy Tuberville (@SenTuberville) [June 26, 2025](#)

**"Unelected bureaucrats think they know better than U.S. congressmen who are elected BY THE PEOPLE. Her job is not to push a woke agenda. THE SENATE PARLIAMENTARIAN SHOULD BE FIRED ASAP."**

MacDonough has the authority to decide whether or not provisions in the budget reconciliation process follow Senate rules.

**In such cases, she is invoking the "Byrd Rule," which is generally intended to restrict the process to budgetary policy only. The rule is named for then-Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., who was the rule's main sponsor when it was adopted in 1985.**

Firing MacDonough would not be unprecedented.

**Then-Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., did so with then-parliamentarian Robert Dove in 2001 over his frequent overruling of Senate budgetary proposals.**

**Nor is Tuberville the first to recommend defying the parliamentarian, who technically serves at the pleasure of the Senate majority leader.**

In 2021, Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., urged then-Vice President Kamala Harris to overrule MacDonough [striking a \\$15 minimum wage provision](#) from the American Rescue Act, a reconciliation package during the Biden administration.

"I'm sorry—an unelected parliamentarian does not get to deprive 32 million Americans the raise they deserve," Khanna [said](#) at the time. "This is an advisory, not a ruling. VP Harris needs to disregard and rule a \$15 minimum wage in order." Harris ultimately did not do so.

[Rep. Ilhan Omar](#), D-Minn., also called for MacDonough's firing at the time.

"Abolish the filibuster. Replace the parliamentarian," she [said](#) on social media. "What's a Democratic majority if we can't pass our priority bills? This is unacceptable."

**Rep. Greg Steube, R-Fla., was quick to join in on Tuberville's criticism Thursday.**

**"It is time for our elected leaders to take back control. @JDVance should overrule the Parliamentarian and let the will of the people, not some staffer hiding behind Senate procedure, determine the future of this country," he wrote.**

**As presiding officer of the Senate, Vance does hold that power, although using it would break with precedent.**

**Another way to address the issue is to amend a provision and resubmit it in the hope that the parliamentarian will let it stand.**

[Rep. Eric Burlison](#), R-Mo., told The Daily Signal on Wednesday, "I've heard from people that are former Senate staffers that it all has to do with what the leader wants to accomplish."

He continued, "That if the leader wants something dead, they will write it in such a way that they know that it will die. But yet if they want something to pass, they'll figure out a way to write it to get it though Byrd."

Rep. Michael Cloud, R-Texas, expressed a similar skepticism Wednesday over the power of the parliamentarian to derail the Republican agenda.

"When we look back two, three generations from now and our kids wonder why [we failed] at doing the [fiscal reforms](#) and transformative reforms that need to happen, and the excuse was the Senate parliamentarian, I don't think that's a good excuse that would be good enough for our kids. So we've got to figure out what it's going to take to get the reforms that need to happen, the things that we all campaigned on."

The UN-ELECTED Senate Parliamentarian just ruled against throwing illegal aliens off of American taxpayer funded Medicare and Medicaid AND STOPPING MEDICAID AND CHIP FROM FUNDING SEX CHANGES ON CHILDREN!!!

We are trying to undo the America LAST insanity from the Democrats by...

— Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene?? (@RepMTG) [June 26, 2025](#)

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., viewed the parliamentarian's new ruling against Medicaid for non-citizens as a dire threat.

"The UN-ELECTED Deep State bureaucrats, radical far left activist judges, and America LAST Democrats are doing everything they can to destroy President Trump and THE PEOPLE'S agenda!!!" she wrote on X.

<https://www.wnd.com/2025/06/senator-demands-parliamentarians-firing-ruling-medicaid-illegals/>



# Towards Jihadist Pogroms in Europe?



by [Drieu Godefridi](#) June 26, 2025 at 5:00 am

Europol reports indicate that Europe is now home to tens of thousands of radicalized individuals. The attacks in Paris (2015) and Brussels (2016) demonstrate the feasibility of complex operations by small groups. Pictured: Rescue teams evacuate wounded people outside the Maalbeek metro station in Brussels on March 22, 2016, after jihadi terrorists exploded a bomb there.

(Photo by AFP via Getty Images)

Europe in 2025 has been facing rising tensions linked to Islamist [radicalization](#). These have been fueled by conflicts in the Middle East, jihadist [propaganda](#) on social networks and [gaps](#) in security coordination among countries.

Imagine a handful of individuals, mostly radicalized European Muslims, between the ages of 18 and 35, operating in major European cities such as Brussels, Paris or Berlin, and determined to avenge "the Palestinians". This network decides to strike Jewish Europeans, massacre as many as possible, spread terror among Jews and non-Muslims – all "kuffars", unbelievers in Allah -- and to pit one community against another. They gather in unmonitored mosques, on encrypted internet forums or through recruiters in the Middle East. Together, to maximize the psychological and media impact, they plan a coordinated attack, inspired by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel. Their target: a high-profile public event, such as a cultural festival, a march against antisemitism, a pro-Israel rally, or a so-called "republican march", as it is known in France. Their attack could be paired with a secondary target, such as a Jewish community center or synagogue, to remind the international community who the villain is supposed to be.

The group acquires edged weapons, smuggled firearms (pistols and assault rifles from the Balkans or local criminal networks) — which in Brussels, for example, are reportedly as [easy](#) to obtain as a packet of cigarettes — and homemade explosives, produced with available chemicals. Rental vans are available for vehicle-ramming attacks. These "vigilante terrorists", ostensibly supporting Palestine -- although it is still unclear how killing "infidels" makes the lives of Palestinian Arabs any better; there will still be the same atrocious governance and no economic future -- they communicate via encrypted apps, such as Signal, and prepare videos to be streamed live on TikTok. Their subsequent attacks end with the intervention of special forces. The Muslims among the assailants might prefer to die as "martyrs" rather than negotiate.

The death toll could rise to hundreds, depending on the effectiveness of the attack and the speed of the security response. Authorities would declare a state of emergency, tighten border controls and increase surveillance of communities deemed at risk. Demonstrations and counter-demonstrations would break out, deepening social tensions. A group affiliated with the Islamic State or Hamas would claim responsibility for the attacks via a video posted on X, and call for more such actions.

Unthinkable? Europol reports [indicate](#) that Europe is now home to tens of thousands of radicalized individuals. The attacks in Paris (2015) and Brussels (2016) demonstrate the feasibility of complex operations by small groups. Conflicts in the Middle East, combined with insufficient coordination among intelligence services and the easy availability of weapons on the black market, have increased vulnerabilities.

## In Europe, hatred of Jews is again the norm

What makes the resurgence of jihadist pogroms in Europe not just plausible, but perhaps even likely, is the silky normalization of antisemitic rhetoric. Already in 2018, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights published its second survey on antisemitism in the EU. The survey [stated](#) that "antisemitic harassment is so widespread, it has become normalized." In other words, a discourse of murderous hatred towards Jews is resurfacing on European streets at levels not seen since the 1930s and 1940s. In countries such as France, Belgium, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, those who publicly express hatred of Jews enjoy near-total impunity. In Belgium, the author Herman Brusselmans [expressed](#) that "I want to ram a pointed knife straight down the throat of every Jew I meet," and faced [no consequences](#). Adolf Hitler, in his public declarations, was often more restrained than that.

In recent years, the "left" and "far-left" who have attempted to cloak their antisemitism under term "anti-

Zionism," increasingly no longer bother with such pretenses. Why should they, when prosecutions for inciting hatred against Jews remain rare? Will people who criticize Islam be dragged through the courts by a desperate regime, while those who outspokenly fantasize about murdering Jews are granted a blank check?

Most European countries lack explicit blasphemy laws (the UK repealed theirs in 2008, as did Ireland in 2020), but hate speech, public order, and anti-discrimination laws are often applied to critique of Islam. The 2008 EU Framework [Decision](#) on combating racism and xenophobia requires member states to criminalize incitement to hatred based on religion, which includes criticism perceived as inflammatory. For instance, Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff, a lecturer, was [convicted](#) for comments made during a seminar on Islam in Austria, where she described the Islamic Prophet Muhammad's marriage to Aisha as having "pedophile tendencies" due to Aisha's age (married at six, with the marriage consummated when she was nine). This event is said to be historical [fact](#), related by the Hadith, the second most sacred source of Islamic law after the Qur'an. Is quoting Islamic law "inflammatory"? The answer is completely arbitrary. The European Court of Human Rights often upholds convictions if statements about Islam are deemed to disrupt "religious peace" or "target Muslims". This subjective determination reflects a legal trend in Europe to prioritize "social cohesion" over freedom of speech, unlike the U.S. First Amendment.

Organizations such as the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) [argue](#) that these laws create a chilling effect, where factual or historical criticism of Islam (such as discussing Muhammad's life) risks prosecution if deemed offensive. Yet these cautions, when it comes to protecting Islam, disappear completely when it comes to demonizing Jews. Then, it is suddenly an open bar. Everything, absolutely anything, can be said about the Jews, the more psychopathic, the better. It is quite obvious that Brusselmans' statements, in the context of anti-Jewish hatred in Europe, can only make simple minds more resolute to "make the Jews pay" for "Palestine". This is not free speech. It is a call to murder.

Can we not see the disturbing similarity between this rhetoric and that of National Socialism in the 1920s? Are we now supposed to distinguish between "bad Nazism" and "good Nazism" — that still calls to murder Jews, this time ostensibly "for the Palestinians"?

In addition, the European "left" and "far-left" — often indistinguishable — have adopted Hamas's false claim that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. Genocide presumably means the total eradication of the Palestinian people. Yet no available data, not even from Hamas, supports this claim. Nonetheless, "left-wing" and "far-left" parties in Europe have made "fighting the genocide of the Palestinian people" a key electoral argument.

Imagine, for a moment, being a young Muslim there — newly arrived or not, or a convert. This individual is saturated daily with messages, both on social media and in the mainstream press, declaring that Israel — "the Jews" — are committing one of the greatest massacres in modern history against Muslims. From birth, this young person has been told day-in and day-out that his primary identity is Muslim, that he belongs to the *ummah* (the Muslim nation) and to Allah — and that his ties to his family or nationality are secondary, irrelevant, or even meaningless. The Koran, the *sunnah* and [fiqh](#) -- Islamic laws "essential for every Muslim as it ensures correct worship, guides moral conduct, and provides practical solutions for personal and social challenges. By integrating faith into every aspect of life, *fiqh* helps Muslims live in harmony," teach that Muslims have both the right and the duty to take up arms and fight "in the path of Allah" against the enemies of Islam. "A jihadist," [wrote](#) David Patterson, "by sacred Islamic definition, must fight and kill in order to be righteous." Starting, of course, with the Jews — who are described as the sworn enemies of Muslims even [in the Qur'an](#):

*Say: "People of the Book, do you blame us for any other cause than that we believe in God, and what has been sent down to us, and what was sent down before, and that most of you are ungodly?..."*

*Whomsoever God has cursed, and with whom He is wroth, and made some of them apes and swine, and worshippers of idols — they are worse situated, and have gone further astray from the right way. (5:64-65)*

*And He brought down those of the People of the Book who supported them from their fortresses and cast terror in their hearts; some you slew, some you made captive. And He bequeathed upon you their lands, their habitations, and their possessions, and a land you never trod. God is powerful over everything. (33:26)*

In such a cultural context, in this atmosphere of hatred, can it not be considered legitimate or even desirable, from that perspective, to participate in collective action against Jews?

Let us never forget that the vast majority of Muslims in Europe are peaceful and take no part in terrorist activity. But even if only 0.01% of Europe's Muslims were to take up the cause and seek revenge for the supposed "genocide" committed by "the Jews", this would still represent thousands of potential "jihadists".

We owe our Jewish fellow citizens the highest level of protection — and solidarity. It is a moral and civilizational imperative.



***Drieu Godefridi is a jurist (University Saint-Louis, University of Louvain), philosopher (University Saint-Louis, University of Louvain) and PhD in legal theory (Paris IV-Sorbonne). He is an entrepreneur, CEO of a European private education group and director of PAN Medias Group. He is the author of [The Green Reich](#) (2020).***

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/21704/jihadist-pogroms-in-europe>