

Netanyahu quietly leaves White House without announcement of breakthrough in Gaza talks

PM's second sit-down with Trump in as many days ends with no public component; Witkoff delays Doha trip in sign talks not yet ripe after expressing optimism deal can be reached this week

By [Jacob Magid](#) and [Lazar Berman](#) Today, 5:16 am Updated at 8:45 am



US President Donald Trump, left, meets Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the White House, July 8, 2025. (Avi Ohayon/GPO)

WASHINGTON — **Prime Minister Benjamin**

Netanyahu wrapped up his second White House meeting with US President Donald Trump in as many days without any public announcement of a breakthrough in the ongoing Gaza ceasefire and hostage release talks, which was the primary topic of the sit-down.

The possibility of such a declaration appeared to rise when the meeting was publicly added to Netanyahu's schedule just hours in advance, with

Trump saying they would discuss the Gaza Strip, while US special envoy Mideast Steve Witkoff expressed hope a deal could be reached this week.

But as Netanyahu and Trump met for over an hour in the Oval Office along with US Vice President JD Vance, two sources familiar with the matter told The Times of Israel that Witkoff decided to push back his flight to Doha, where he had been slated to join ongoing proximity talks between Israel and Hamas.

Witkoff initially was slated to fly to Qatar on Tuesday, the sources said, adding that a new departure date had yet to be scheduled.

The US envoy informed mediators that he still plans to travel to Doha in order to help bring the deal across the finish line, with his decision to push back the trip indicating that a significant amount of progress still needed to be made.

The Saudi Asharq News outlet cited unnamed "informed sources" who reported that the fifth round of

proximity talks in Qatar ended Tuesday night without significant progress.



Ex-captive Keith Siegel and families of hostages attend a Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting at the Knesset, July 8, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

A Palestinian official told the news site that talks were "at a standstill," charging that the Israeli negotiations team is "limiting itself to listening rather than negotiating" and consulting on "every issue" with Netanyahu and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, the lead Israeli negotiator who is accompanying the premier in Washington.

The Palestinian official claimed the Israeli team lacks the authority to make actual decisions, "a continuation of the stalling policy of Netanyahu to obstruct any potential agreement."

Shortly before Netanyahu met with Trump on Tuesday, a delegation of senior Qatari officials held talks with Witkoff for three hours at the White House to discuss the hostage negotiations, a source familiar with the matter said.

After the conclusion of his meeting with Trump, Netanyahu said the discussions "focused on efforts to free our hostages."

"We are not letting up for a moment, and this is possible because of the military pressure exerted by our

heroic soldiers,” he said in a video shot in the Blair House. “Unfortunately, this effort is exacting a painful price from us, in the loss of our best sons.”



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks in a video message in Washington on July 8, 2025 (Screenshot/GPO)

Netanyahu stressed that Israel is determined to achieve all of its goals in Gaza – “the release of all our hostages, both living and dead; the elimination of Hamas’s military and governing capabilities; and ensuring that Gaza no longer poses a threat to Israel.”

He said he also discussed with Trump and Vance “the implications and possibilities” of the operation Israel and the US carried out against Iran.

“Opportunities are opening up here for expanding the circle of peace, expanding the Abraham Accords,” he said. “We are working on this with full vigor.”

Sticking point(s)

Four sources familiar with the negotiations told The Times of Israel that the US is more optimistic than Egyptian and Qatari mediators about the chances that a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal can be reached this week.

Witkoff told reporters earlier Tuesday that he is hopeful a deal can be reached this week, and that three of the four sticking points were resolved during the past three days of proximity talks in Doha.

A source familiar with the matter said the three issues Witkoff suggested have been solved were Hamas’s demand for guarantees from the mediators that the ceasefire will remain in place even if talks on the terms of a permanent ceasefire have not wrapped up by the end of the 60-day truce under discussion; Hamas’s demand for aid to be surged into Gaza through UN-backed mechanisms; and terms of the hostage-prisoner swap.



Two women react after an Israeli strike in Gaza City, on July 8, 2025. (Photo by BASHAR TALEB / AFP)

The source noted that while **progress was made on the first two issues, the identities of Israelis and Palestinians to be released in the deal have not yet been discussed by the negotiators in Doha**, with Hamas insisting that other matters be resolved first.

However, the number and identities of those being released are not considered as thorny an issue as the others, the source said, speculating that this was why Witkoff grouped the hostage-prisoner swap component of the deal with the issues that have already been resolved.

Regarding the issue of aid, negotiators in Doha offered initial backing for clauses in the agreement that would prevent the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation from operating in areas from which the IDF has withdrawn, a source familiar with the negotiations told The Times of Israel.

Only the UN and international organizations that are not connected to either Israel or Hamas will be responsible for distributing aid in areas where the IDF is no longer located, the source said.

Katz’s call for ‘humanitarian city’ said to mar hostage talks

The remaining obstacle is the partial withdrawal of the IDF from Gaza during the period of the 60-day truce, a US official and the source familiar with the talks said. Israel is insisting that it remain in the Morag Corridor in southern Gaza, near where it says it plans to create a “humanitarian city” in which the Strip’s entire population will be herded and prevented from leaving once vetted.

Defense Minister Israel Katz briefed reporters on the idea earlier this week, sparking international uproar with talk of concentrating a population of 2 million people in such a small area, while barring them from leaving. Katz framed the plan as a mechanism for protecting the population, with humanitarian aid to be distributed in the area. However, international confidence in Israeli humanitarian initiatives is low after Gazans started coming under deadly IDF fire on a near-daily basis while trying to reach aid distribution hubs established by Israel and operated by the nascent Gaza Humanitarian Foundation since May.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (C) speaks to the press after meeting with US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, on July 8, 2025. (Jim Watson/AFP)

Katz's briefing marred the hostage talks in Doha, Palestinian sources told the Kan public broadcaster, saying that his remarks led Hamas to be less flexible regarding the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Due to disagreements over the parameters of the IDF's withdrawal from Gaza during the 60-day truce being negotiated in Doha, Israel was slated to submit a new set of maps on Wednesday showing its proposed

redeployment of troops after the previous version was rejected by Hamas, a source familiar with the negotiations told The Times of Israel.

A compromise on the issue will take more time to secure, the source said, declining to elaborate further.

Verbal assurances

the **chances of reaching a ceasefire this week, arguing that the gaps are wider than Witkoff indicated.**

While the US offered Hamas a verbal assurance on Tuesday through mediators that Trump will personally make sure the temporary truce remains in place even if an agreement is not reached on a permanent ceasefire by the end of the 60-day truce, one of the Arab diplomats said that will likely not suffice.

Hamas wants the text of the ceasefire to state that the truce will remain in place so long as negotiations on a permanent ceasefire continue, dropping the condition included in an earlier version that the talks be held "in good faith," the Arab diplomat and the source familiar said. Hamas feels Israel would use that clause to abandon the ceasefire, as it did in March.



US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff speaks during a cabinet meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White House on July 8, 2025, in Washington, DC. (Andrew Harnik/Getty Images/AFP)

Verbal assurances may also carry less weight for Hamas. A Palestinian official told The Times of Israel the terror group received such assurances before releasing Edan Alexander in May, with mediators insisting then that freeing the American-Israeli hostage would lead the US to pressure Israel to end the war, though that has yet to take place.

Israel's view on the current state of the talks, meanwhile, appears closer to that of the more hesitant Arab mediators than Witkoff.

A senior Israeli official told reporters on Monday that Hamas's July 4 response to the latest ceasefire proposal moved the sides backward and that more than a few days might be needed to reach an agreement.

Netanyahu's plan to end the war

In remarks to reporters earlier Tuesday on Capitol Hill, where he met with US House Speaker Mike Johnson, Netanyahu spoke defiantly about the need to continue fighting in Gaza until Hamas no longer exists.

"It requires some moves that are very painful [to Israel] and some that are very painful to Hamas," he continued.

He said Israel is seeking a hostage-ceasefire on its own terms, and had accepted the latest proposal put forward by the mediators. "We are also prepared to end the war — on the conditions that Hamas can no longer act, that it no longer has governance or military capacities and that Gaza cannot be a threat to Israel."



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, meets US Vice President JD Vance in the White House, July 8, 2025. (Avi Ohayon/GPO)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, meets US Vice President JD Vance in the White House, July 8, 2025. (Avi Ohayon/GPO)

“There’s a very clear plan for how to do this,” he said, without elaborating beyond insisting that “we see eye to eye on this with the United States.”

He expressed **hope for a deal on Israel’s terms “as soon as possible,”** noting that it would mean 10 living hostages would come home. (The outline of the deal, as it currently stands, would see about half of the living hostages and about half of the dead hostages held by terror groups in Gaza returned to Israel over 60 days, in five separate releases. Eight living hostages would be freed on the first day and two released on the 50th day, according to an Arab diplomat from one of the mediating countries. Five slain hostages would be returned on the seventh day, five more on the 30th day and eight more on the 60th day. That would leave 22 hostages still held in Gaza, 10 of them believed by Israeli authorities to be alive.)

Netanyahu made the comments hours after five IDF soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in northern Gaza, intensifying pushback against continued military operations in the Strip. Critics have argued that Hamas is sufficiently weakened for Israel to end the war, whereas continuing operations until the last Hamas fighter is killed will have the IDF bogged down in Gaza indefinitely.

Asked if Israel intends to control Gaza, he responded, “We intend for Hamas not to control there. We’ll do what’s needed for that to happen.” A day earlier, a senior Israeli official briefing reporters in Washington said Jerusalem does not oppose occupying Gaza for an interim period before handing over control of civil affairs to a different party that is not Hamas or the Palestinian Authority.

Netanyahu made a point of touting what he described as an unprecedented level of coordination between Israel and the US.



US President Donald Trump, left, meets US Vice President JD Vance, center, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the White House, July 8, 2025. (Avi Ohayon/GPO)

While neither side issued a detailed readout on Tuesday’s Oval Office meeting, the White House tweeted a photo of Netanyahu holding a red hat with the slogan, “Trump was right about everything.”

At his cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Trump said he and Netanyahu would be talking “almost exclusively Gaza.”

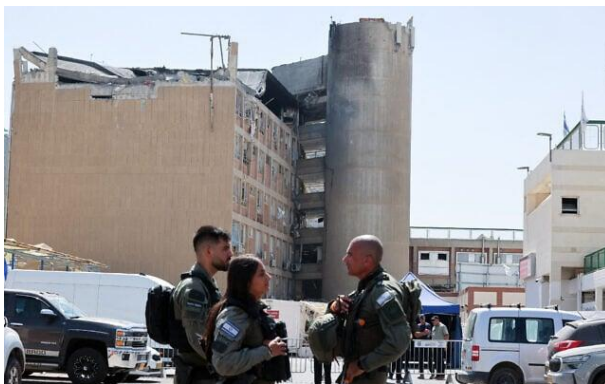
“We’ve got to get that solved. Gaza is a tragedy. And [Netanyahu] wants to get it solved, and I want to get it solved,

and I think the other side wants to get it solved,” he added before asking Witkoff to weigh in.

“We’re meeting at the president’s direction, with all the hostage families to let them know, and we think this will lead to a lasting peace in Gaza,” Witkoff said.

During their [meeting on Monday over dinner](#), Netanyahu and Trump lavished praise on each other, as they hailed the results of the US and Israeli strikes against Iran last month. The prime minister presented Trump with a copy of the letter that he sent nominating the US president for a Nobel Peace Prize, explaining that the US strikes against Iran have opened the door for peace in the region. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-quietly-leaves-white-house-without-announcement-of-breakthrough-in-gaza-talks/>

High defense spending set to threaten fiscal stability and welfare services – report



Taub Center paints worrying picture of healthcare system and welfare spending gaps, with funding for security needs soaring

By [Sharon Wrobel](#) Today, 10:03 am

Israeli troops stand outside Soroka Hospital in the southern city of Beersheba, after it was hit by a missile fired from Iran on June 19, 2025. (Marc Israel SELLEM / POOL / AFP)

The potential increase in defense expenditure to meet security needs over the next decade is poised to threaten Israel’s financial and fiscal stability, the Taub Center, a policy research institute in Jerusalem, warned

on Tuesday.

“At present, there are no identified budgetary sources for this increase and it is not clear where the funds will come from,” Prof. Avi Weiss, president of the Taub Center and professor of Economics at Bar-Ilan University, told The Times of Israel. “It is likely to be financed either through a higher deficit and a rising debt-to-GDP ratio — a path that risks undermining Israel’s fiscal stability,” or a cut to services, he said.

Weiss explained that a larger deficit may lead to higher taxes — such as value-added-tax (VAT), which affects the most vulnerable population — as the government will seek to increase revenue to cover increased debt levels. In addition, raising the deficit risks hurting the country’s credit rating, which in turn leads to higher interest rate costs.

As for reducing civilian services, he said, “we already are lacking in certain expenditures, whether it’s welfare, education, or public capital, improving the transportation system, and infrastructure.”

The prolonged war with Hamas, which broke out following the terror group’s onslaught on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, has doubled defense spending, according to the Taub Center’s Picture of the Nation 2025 report. Defense spending rose by about 1% of gross domestic product in 2023 and by 4% of GDP in 2024, a direct increase of about NIS 100 billion (\$29.8 billion) over these two years.

At the same time, adjusted civilian government spending was fairly steady in the years 2022, 2023, and 2024, and did not rise.



Prof. Avi Weiss, president of the Taub Center and Professor of Economics at Bar-Ilan University. (Courtesy)

The war against Iran ended with a ceasefire on June 24, but the tremendous costs of the fighting, immense direct damages, and compensation expenditure for affected individuals and businesses will continue to strain the budget, Weiss cautioned in the report.

The 12-day Iran war is estimated to have increased defense spending in June by NIS 10 billion to NIS 20 billion. Separately, monthly spending on compensation of terror victims rose significantly — from an average of NIS 51 million in the five years before the war to NIS 261 million in February 2025.

Starting in 2026, the Nagel Committee, tasked with examining the defense budget and IDF force design, recommended increasing the defense budget by NIS 9 billion to NIS 15 billion per year or a total of NIS 133 billion over the next decade.

As defense and civilian expenditures pile up, Israel continues to fall behind the developed world in spending on welfare and social services, the report found.

“When looking only at welfare services — that is, services provided by the government ministries responsible for social services (excluding the National Insurance Institute’s benefit system, the education system, and healthcare services) — a clear gap emerges between Israel’s welfare state and those of other countries,” Weiss said in the report.

In 2021, spending on welfare services in Israel stood at 2.9% of GDP, which is below the 3.4% average found among OECD countries. Israel’s spending rate on welfare services is relatively close to that of the United States, higher than in Italy, but significantly lower than in countries like Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

The Taub report also revealed a worrying picture of the healthcare system, which over the past 20 months has been dealing with a large number of wounded individuals from wars on multiple fronts — Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iran.

“In June 2025, during the war with Iran, the average daily number of hospitalized patients was the highest since October 2023,” Weiss said. “Israel’s healthcare system remains stretched to its limit, especially in the areas of mental health and rehabilitation.”

“Despite considerable investment in increasing the number of healthcare workers and expanding quotas for medical students and other health professions — including new roles such as physician associate — there is still a shortage of personnel, particularly in the periphery,” he noted, referring to the north and south of the country.



Medical workers wheel a patient to safety after a building at Soroka hospital was hit by an Iranian missile, in Beersheba, on June 19, 2025. (John Wessels/AFP)

Public spending on higher education in Israel is also low compared to the average in OECD countries.

In 2020, public expenditure per student in Israel stood at \$8,526, far lower than the OECD average of \$14,039. In the 2023 budget, public spending on higher education in Israel totaled about NIS 12 billion, or about 0.7% of GDP.

“Israel’s spending is not only lower than that of most comparable countries, including generous welfare states

such as Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, but also lower than in conservative welfare states like France and Germany,” Weiss said. “Even liberal welfare states such as the United States invest more per student than does Israel.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/high-defense-spending-set-to-threaten-fiscal-stability-and-welfare-services-report/>

IDF conducts targeted operations in Lebanon, strike over 100 terror targets in Gaza

The military said these targets included terrorists, booby-trapped structures, weapons storage facilities, anti-tank missile launch posts, tunnels, and other sites.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF JULY 9, 2025 11:10 Updated: JULY 9, 2025 13:10



IDF soldiers operating throughout the Gaza Strip, July 9, 2025. (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

The IDF conducted targeted operations in southern Lebanon to prevent Hezbollah from re-establishing itself in the area, the military confirmed on Wednesday.

This included killing terrorists and destroying Hezbollah infrastructure at different points in southern Lebanon.

Reservists identified a compound in the Jabal Blat ridge that contained weapons and served as a firing position, which was dismantled by the soldiers.

In **another operation, soldiers located weapons hidden in the Lavona area in southern Lebanon, including a multi-barrel launcher, machine guns, and explosives.** An underground facility used to store weapons was also identified and destroyed.

Additionally, the IDF said it killed Hussein Ali Muzhir, who directed Hezbollah rocket attacks against Israel as part of Hezbollah's Badr Unit.



IDF soldiers operating throughout the Gaza Strip, July 9, 2025. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

Muzhir facilitated numerous attacks targeting Israel, as well as efforts to rehabilitate Hezbollah's artillery in southern Lebanon.

His actions violated the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, the military added.

IDF soldiers continued to operate against Hamas and other [terror organizations in the Gaza Strip](#), specifically striking over 100 terror targets, the military stated.

Over 100 targets struck across Gaza in past day

Over the past day, the Israel Air Force struck over 100 terror targets across Gaza.

The military said this included terrorists, booby-trapped structures, weapons storage facilities, anti-tank

missile launch posts, tunnels, and other sites.

In northern Gaza, soldiers killed terrorists and located weapons. In the past day, they located and dismantled a cache of [explosive devices and landmines](#) hidden in a civilian structure, the IDF said.

Soldiers also killed members of a terrorist cell, dismantled military structures used for terrorist purposes, and struck a [Hamas weapons](#) facility site.

The IDF said that soldiers also identified and eliminated a terrorist cell in southern Gaza, as well as terror infrastructure in the Rafah area. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-860449>

'Freedom fighters don't rape': The making of the landmark report on Hamas' sexual crimes

Retired judge Nava Ben-Or, co-author of Project Dinah, details the systematic use of sexual violence by Hamas as a weapon of war, emphasizing devastating psychological impact and obligation to bring terrorists to trial

[Alexandra Lukash](#) | 04:54

"This violence targets beyond the individual victim—it strikes an entire community, turning a symbol of life into one of death," said retired district court judge Nava Ben-Or, a co-author of the [Dinah Project report](#) on the [severe sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas terrorists](#), during a Wednesday morning interview with Ynet.

Reflecting on her career handling grave cases, she described the report's compilation as uniquely challenging. "It's profoundly different because the phenomenon itself is distinct," she said. "Sexual violence in war zones fundamentally differs from 'ordinary' sexual violence. It's aimed not just at the victim but at their entire community."



Nova music festival after October 7 attack (Photo: Yuval Chen)

According to Ben-Or, this violence is not merely personal harm but a paralyzing message. "It says: we will attack what symbolizes life in human culture and destroy it by transforming it into a symbol of death," she explained.

Addressing this phenomenon within the affected community involves confronting a collective wound, not just individual suffering. "It's incredibly complex and difficult but it also counters the sense of helplessness by taking action," she added.

On [Hamas's use of sexual violence as a tactical weapon](#), Ben-Or emphasized it was clearly systematic from the outset. "As soon as reports, rumors and statements emerged, and evidence from the ground accumulated, it was evident," she said.

This was corroborated by a [UN under-secretary-general's report on sexual violence in war](#), which identified a recurring pattern across multiple sites, ruling out isolated incidents. "This wasn't a sporadic attack by an individual during the invasion of Israel," she noted.

Israel holds [Nukhba terrorists](#) involved in the [October 7 massacre](#) and rapes. Ben-Or explained that the comprehensive report serves two primary purposes: legal accountability and international awareness. Legally, it

aids in shaping frameworks for prosecuting perpetrators when identifying specific culprits among detained terrorists is challenging and evidence evaluation is complex.



Memorial for Nova festival victims (Photo: Shaul Golan)

Equally critical is the international dimension. "By showing these acts stem from genocidal indoctrination, blatant antisemitism and complete dehumanization of the attacked side, it becomes nearly impossible to portray Hamas terrorists as freedom fighters," she said. "Freedom fighters don't rape or

sexually assault victims. Exposing these acts ensures the true picture isn't distorted, so history records what happened."

The report aims to influence global public opinion beyond Israel's judicial system. "Wherever we speak, we're heard with great respect," Ben-Or said. "Even if you believe Israel is entirely responsible for the war, you cannot justify this type of terrorism. There's no 'but.' It's an unequivocal 'no.'"

"Sexual violence during an attack cannot be framed with political arguments." The project's message, she stressed, is not political. "Saying 'yes, but' implies there are cases where this horrific weapon is legitimate. Our clear stance, which we bring to the international stage, is heard.

"We speak not from a political perspective but from the most basic human one: this cannot be a weapon of war—not in Darfur, not in Congo, not against Yazidis, not in Ukraine and not in Israel."



Hamas's Nukhba terrorists arrested in Israel (Photo: Israel Prison Service)

Nearly two years after the October 7 massacre, the Dinah Project report was fully published on Tuesday, revealing a harrowing picture of Hamas's sexual violence during the attack and in captivity as a deliberate, pre-planned weapon.

Spanning 84 pages, it compiles evidence from a [Nova music festival](#) rape survivor, 15 former hostages, 17 eyewitnesses or earwitnesses to attacks, 27 rescue team

members and extensive visual documentation.

The report details sexual violence at six locations—Nova music festival, Route 232, Nahal Oz base and the kibbutzim of Re'im, Nir Oz and Kfar Aza—along with assaults during captivity.

The Dinah Project underscores the calculated brutality of Hamas's strategy, challenging narratives that downplay or justify such acts. Its dual focus on legal accountability and global awareness seeks to ensure justice for victims and clarity in the historical record, reinforcing that sexual violence as a tool of war is indefensible, regardless of context. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/ryot7hjxsg>

Jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan says armed struggle with Turkey over

The video marks a rare and pivotal moment in the long-running conflict, offering what could be Erdogan's most significant opportunity yet to seal a political settlement to the Kurdish issue.

ByREUTERSJULY 9, 2025 12:58Updated: JULY 9, 2025 16:43

Syrian Kurds hold flags as they gather after Turkey's jailed militant leader Abdullah Ocalan called on his Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to lay down its arms on Thursday, a move that could end its 40-year conflict with Ankara and have far-reaching political and security consequences for the region,(photo credit: REUTERS/Orhan Qereman)



rare online video on Wednesday to declare the group's armed struggle against Turkey over and call for a full transition to democratic politics.

In the recording, dated June and released by the PKK-affiliated Firat News Agency, Ocalan called on Turkey's parliament to set up a commission to oversee disarmament and manage a broader peace process.

"The phase of armed struggle has ended. This is not a loss, but a historic gain," he said.

"The armed struggle stage must now be voluntarily replaced by a phase of democratic politics and law."

The PKK, locked in a bloody insurgency for more than four decades and [designated a terrorist organization by Turkey](#) and its Western allies, decided in May to disband after an initial written appeal from Ocalan in February.

A demonstrator holds a picture of jailed Kurdish militant leader Abdullah Ocalan during a rally in Diyarbakir, Turkey, February 27,



2025. (credit: REUTERS/SERTAC KAYAR) Later on Wednesday, a spokesperson for **Turkey's pro-Kurdish DEM Party - the third biggest party in parliament which played a key role in facilitating the PKK's disarmament decision** - said a group of militants would begin handing over their weapons in the northern Iraqi city of Suleymaniyah on Friday.

Since the PKK launched its insurgency in 1984 – originally with the aim of creating an independent state in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast – the conflict has killed more than 40,000 people, imposed a heavy economic burden and caused deep social and political divisions.

Turkey will not allow any attempts to sabotage

disarmament process

President [Recep Tayyip Erdogan](#) said his government would not allow any attempts to sabotage the disarmament process, adding that Ankara would give people "historic good news."

"We are ridding Turkey of a half-century-old evil, totally ripping off and throwing away the bloody shackles that were put on our country's legs," he told members of his AK Party in parliament.

Erdogan and his government had long accused the People's Democratic Party (HDP) - DEM's predecessors - of having links to the PKK, arresting, detaining or removing from office several of its members. While DEM has denied any direct links to terrorism, the leftist party has played a facilitator role between Ocalan and Turkey's government in recent months.

Ocalan's video marks a rare and potentially pivotal moment in the long-running conflict, offering what could be Erdogan's most significant opportunity yet to seal a political settlement to the Kurdish issue, should his government choose to respond.

Seated in a beige polo shirt with a glass of water on the table in front of him, Ocalan appeared to read from a transcript in the seven-minute video – the first public footage or audio of him since his arrest in 1999. Six other jailed PKK members sat beside him, all looking directly at the camera.

He said the PKK, which has been based in northern Iraq's mountainous regions in recent years, had dropped its separatist agenda. "The main objective has been achieved – existence has been acknowledged. What remains would be excessive repetition and a dead end," he said.

Ocalan added that the DEM should work alongside other political parties to advance the peace process.

The PKK and DEM expect Ankara to address Kurdish political demands, potentially before weapons in Turkey are handed over.

DEM spokesperson Aysegul Dogan said the disarmament process must be made permanent through a series of legal assurances and with the formation of the necessary mechanism for the PKK to transition into democratic politics.

Erdogan later met Parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmus, who is also set to meet Turkey's intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin on Wednesday to coordinate the parliamentary side of the disarmament process.

Ocalan's message came a day after Kalin visited Baghdad for high-level meetings with Iraqi officials on strengthening border security and potential steps towards a "terror-free Turkey", the Turkish intelligence agency said.

The Iraqi government voiced full support for joint efforts to eliminate armed groups from northern Iraq, it added. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-860467>

Google co-Founder slams UN as 'antisemitic' in internal forum - report



Google's co-founder slams the United Nations, calling them "transparently antisemitic", says a report from the Washington Post this Wednesday.

By[JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#)**JULY 9, 2025 16:03**

Google co-founder Sergey Brin at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos in 2017. (photo credit: REUTERS/RUBEN SPRICH)

Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, accused the United Nations of being clearly antisemitic following a report that was published alleging technology firms profited off of the “genocide carried out by Israel” in Gaza for their technological connections to Israel, according to a Washington Post report published Wednesday.

Brin called the UN “transparently antisemitic” in an internal forum for employees, with the report citing screenshots obtained by the Washington Post. The UN report accused Google and its parent company, Alphabet, of profiting from the war by providing cloud and AI technologies to the Israeli government and military.

“With all due respect, throwing around the term genocide in relation to Gaza is deeply offensive to many Jewish people who have suffered actual genocides. I would also be careful citing transparently antisemitic organizations like the UN in relation to these issues,” Brin wrote in a forum for staff at Google DeepMind, the company’s AI division, where screenshots reportedly depicted workers debating the report.

JPost Videos

The UN report was authored by Francesca Albanese, the Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Albanese has been accused of antisemitism on numerous occasions, and the United States called her “unfit” for her role in recent months.

The US representative to the United Nations asked that she be removed from her role for demonstrated antisemitism and bias against Israel.



The subject of whether the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza can be defined as a genocide is hotly debated, with Israeli critics claiming it meets the definition of genocide, but with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejecting the claims, calling the war a defensive act from an attempted genocide by the terror organization Hamas.

“My comments came in response to an internal discussion that was citing a plainly biased and misleading report,”

according to a statement provided by Brin’s spokesperson.

Google has a longstanding history of fighting antisemitism

According to the Washington Post, the forum on which his comments were made was hosted on Google Chat and has nearly 2,500 members, who are largely AI researchers. Some employees were confused while others were upset, an employee said.

Google leadership struggled and previously clashed with workers who protested the company’s connection with Israel, particularly after the October 7th massacre, leaving 1,200 murdered and more than 250 people taken hostage, with 50 hostages still remaining in Gaza nearly two years later. The company chose to sell its artificial intelligence tools to the IDF after the attacks.

Brin immigrated to the United States as a child with his Russian Jewish parents, seeking to escape the antisemitism they faced in the Soviet Union. He left his daily role at his company in 2019 and continued to work on Google’s competitor to [OpenAI’s ChatGPT](#), which was launched in 2022.

In the UN report, corporations were named and shamed, with Albanese calling for the involved companies to be held accountable for any assistance given to Israel regarding military action in Gaza. The UN report alleges that Google and Amazon’s 2021 contract, entitled Project Nimbus, provided the necessary cloud and AI infrastructure the IDF needed in the wake of the Hamas surprise attack.



Despite Brin’s comment and Google’s connection to Israel, Google, as a company, has publicly avoided any connection to Israel’s security agencies. However, earlier reports claim that company staff directly assisted the Defense Ministry and IDF with access to AI technology after October 7th.

Google quietly dropped its commitment to not use AI technology for weaponry or surveillance from its ethical guidelines, which were initially put

in the broader guidelines first issued in 2018 after employee protests erupted against Google's military contracts.

Other companies have taken decisive action on employee activism and political disturbance following an outbreak of protests from employees at companies doing business with the Israeli government.

Google fired several workers who protested the company's cloud contract with Israel in 2024, with CEO Sundar Pichai stating that their workplaces are not meant to be the place to fight over divisive issues or debate politics.

In the forum, aptly named "GDM Hot Goss" referring to [Google DeepMind](#), Brin's comment responded to an AI research engineer's commentary on the reports findings on Google's AI investment to be focused on Gemini, its virtual assistant app, Gemini. "The only bright spot here is that we're spending all of our time and money on Gemini and not anything more useful for genocide," screenshots showed. <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-860496>

'Time to go': Orban demands von der Leyen's departure

The Hungarian PM mocked the EU chief ahead of Thursday's no confidence vote over her handling of vaccine deals

9 Jul, 2025 15:05



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. © Getty Images / Thierry Monasse

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has called for the resignation of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, posting a parody image ahead of a scheduled no confidence vote in the European Parliament. The motion, set for Thursday, targets her handling of COVID-19 vaccine procurement.

On Tuesday, Orban shared an image stylized as a Time magazine cover, depicting a red background and a retreating von der

Leyen under the caption "*time to go.*"

The image was a spoof on a Biden-themed cover of the magazine from 2024 which followed the then-US president's announcement that he would withdraw from the election campaign.

Orban has long been one of von der Leyen's harshest critics, accusing her of undermining EU institutions and interfering in the domestic affairs of member states. He has frequently clashed with Brussels over rule-of-law disputes and sanctions policy, and has claimed the bloc's leadership has tried to isolate Hungary politically.

Within the EU, von der Leyen has faced growing criticism, particularly over her conduct during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her refusal to release private texts exchanged with Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla during vaccine procurement talks has fueled ongoing controversy. A European court ruled earlier this year that her office had failed to provide a legitimate justification for withholding the messages.

Critics from both the political left and right, as well as Eurosceptic factions, have accused her of centralizing power, bypassing traditional Commission procedures and parliamentary oversight, as well as overriding national sovereignty in sensitive matters.

Thursday's no confidence vote was initiated by Romanian MEP Gheorghe Piperea, who cited a pattern of "*institutional overreach*" in von der Leyen's conduct. The motion needs a two-thirds majority and support from an absolute majority of the European Parliament's 720 members to pass—a threshold observers say is unlikely to be met.

In response, von der Leyen has lashed out at her opponents, labeling them "*conspiracy theorists*" and "*anti-vaxxers*" backed by Russia. Speaking at a plenary session this week, she claimed some of her critics were acting "*on behalf of their puppet masters in Russia.*"

Moscow has repeatedly accused von der Leyen of harboring Russophobic views. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov earlier this year referred to her as "*Führer Ursula*" and accused her of pushing militarization across the EU while deflecting attention from pandemic-era financial mismanagement.

Kremlin officials have also criticized her support for Ukraine and her role in expanding sanctions targeting Russia, calling her one of the key drivers of the EU's confrontation with Moscow.

<https://www.rt.com/news/621252-orban-demands-leyen-resignation/>

EU could hand another €100bn to Ukraine – Bloomberg

A special fund is being considered in the bloc's next seven-year budget, insiders have told the news outlet
9 Jul, 2025 11:31



Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and President of the European Council Antonio Costa in Aarhus, Denmark, July 3, 2025. © Martin Sylvest Andersen / Getty Images

European Union officials are weighing a proposal to provide Ukraine with another €100 billion (\$117 billion) in grants and low-interest loans, Bloomberg reported on Tuesday, citing sources familiar with the matter.

The plan involves establishing a dedicated fund within the bloc's upcoming seven-year budget framework, the unnamed insiders told the outlet. Disbursement would begin in 2028 if the proposal is approved.

The move would further shift the financial burden onto Western European taxpayers of what Moscow has condemned as a US-triggered NATO proxy war. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in April that officials in Brussels “view possible suspension of Ukraine assistance as confirmation of the EU's strategic inviability” and are pushing for continued funding to protect their reputation.

Ukraine's military and defense institutions have faced a string of corruption scandals during the conflict with Russia, including overpayments for rations and shady arms procurement contracts. This week, Ukrainian outlets reported that anti-corruption investigators searched a property belonging to former Defense Minister Aleksey Reznikov. Reznikov resigned in 2023 following allegations of financial misconduct in his department.

The proposed fund is reportedly one of several avenues under consideration, with a final decision expected by July 16 or possibly later, according to Bloomberg. The report added that last month, the European Commission briefed EU finance ministers on Kiev's intention to increase this year's defense spending by \$8.4 billion using domestic sources.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denis Shmigal said in June that defense expenditures had risen 34% year-on-year during the first five months of 2025. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Sergey Marchenko warned in May that Kiev's national debt is nearing \$171 billion, approximately equivalent to the country's gross domestic product.

Ukraine continues to rely heavily on external financial aid to sustain its national budget. Earlier this year, the government failed to restructure a portion of its sovereign debt issued in 2015 and declined to honor a \$665 million repayment to private investors in early June.

[READ MORE: NATO state issues warning over ramping up defense spending](#)

The country's economy is also feeling the strain of a labor shortage, as millions have fled to Western nations offering them protection and social benefits. Many men of military age who remain in Ukraine have evaded conscription, which usually means avoiding formal employment and by extension, income taxes.

<https://www.rt.com/news/621226-eu-fund-ukraine-bloomberg/>

French investigators raid HQ of biggest opposition party

The National Rally has denounced the action as “a new harassment campaign” by the government
9 Jul, 2025 14:27

French financial investigators raided the Paris headquarters of the right-wing National Rally (RN) party on Wednesday. Its leader accused the government of conducting a campaign of harassment.

The **early morning search targeted documents and communications related to the party's political campaigning, according to RN President Jordan Bardella. The party is closely associated with former presidential candidate Marine Le Pen,** who was previously barred from running in the 2027 race.

Bardella criticized the search as “**a new harassment campaign**” and a blow to democratic principles.

“This display of force has only one purpose: to provide a spectacle for news channels, to rummage through the private correspondence of the leading opposition party, to seize all our internal documents,” he wrote on X. “Nothing to do with justice, everything to do with politics.”

Wednesday's raid came roughly three months after a French court found senior RN figures, including Le Pen, guilty of embezzling European Union funds. The ruling imposed an immediate five-year

ban from seeking public office, [controversially](#) offering no delay for appeal.

The party has **condemned the verdict as an undemocratic attempt to sideline its co-founder and former leader from the 2027 presidential race**. Le Pen narrowly lost to French President Emmanuel Macron in the 2022 runoff election.

The Paris prosecutor's office said the search was part of an investigation into loans the RN received from private individuals. The party reportedly turned to private lending after being denied traditional bank financing, according to Le Parisien.

French campaign finance laws impose strict limits on party loans, including maximum values and repayment conditions. Investigators are reportedly searching for potential violations but have not filed any charges. Christian Charpy, head of the French campaign finance watchdog CNCCFP, previously suggested that some loans may have amounted to undeclared donations.

The RN has grown in prominence in recent years and now holds the largest single faction in France's parliament. During last year's snap elections, mainstream parties coordinated to block the anti-immigration, Euroskeptic party from securing enough seats to form a government. President Macron has had to contend with a more challenging domestic political environment since losing his legislative majority in 2022.

<https://www.rt.com/news/621239-national-rally-hq-raided/>

'We're not that [bleeping] stupid!' Epstein rape victim goes scorched earth on 'liar' Trump

By [Joe Kovacs](#)

[July 9, 2025](#)

Juliette Bryant then and now



A former model who says she was raped at least three times a day on Jeffrey Epstein's private island is now going scorched earth on President Donald Trump after his Justice Department this week reneged on its pledge to release files including names, flight logs and co-conspirators of the convicted pedophile.

In a video she posted Tuesday on X, Juliette Bryant of South Africa targeted Trump by name, the same day the president blasted a reporter for asking a question about "this creep" Epstein.

"Wow! Donald Trump! American government. Your government kidnapped me," Bryant began.

"You promised the Epstein list. Victims are being found dead. Hello! I mean the whole reason you gained presidency, Trump, was because of promising the Epstein list. Are you as much of a liar as them?"

"Thank goodness for Elon Musk for actually standing up for what's right. It's funny how only South Africans stand up, because where are the other 200 Epstein victims? Although maybe they're too frightened to speak up because of the American government.

"Well, I speak for all of them. I speak for all victims. How dare your government abuse, rape and murder?! We'll be coming for you, don't you worry, government.

"You can sit there and pretend that Epstein didn't exist and that none of this happened. But guess what. We're not that f***ing stupid!

"Don't make us any more angry, otherwise we will come and we will find you. How dare you?!"

I was kidnapped by Epstein

Trump promised the list

WTF is it!!!

How many more victims must die!!

I will never be silenced!!!! pic.twitter.com/8vn15FKAR5

— EPSTEIN SURVIVOR – JULIETTE ROSE BRYANT ♡🦋 (@JulietteBryant) [July 8, 2025](#)

In a separate interview with Don Keith, Bryant said: "If they release what they're really up to, it will break people's brains.

"People will suddenly be all anti-government. People won't want to go to work anymore. Religion will fall away, that's what will happen."

Epstein survivor, [@JulietteBryant](#), is angry that the list is not being released, says it would break our brains if we knew what was in Epstein Files. Catch the full interview by clicking on the link in the comments. pic.twitter.com/mrnElRMaAp

— Don Keith (@RealDonKeith) [July 9, 2025](#)

In 2022, Bryant was featured in a BBC documentary called "House of Maxwell," explaining how she became one of Epstein's trafficked sex slaves after being lured with promises of becoming a Victoria's Secret model.

In the program, Bryant [said](#) Epstein "fed off the terror ... there was something about the energy of a girl being scared that he liked."

"I was being ordered to his bedroom at least three times a day."

Bryant insisted she "saw at least 60 girls coming and going" while she was on Epstein's Caribbean island.

"It was just like a factory ... he was running a machine and Ghislaine Maxwell was the one operating it," referring to his convicted madam.

Bryant's new video Tuesday came amid fresh controversy when President Trump [snapped](#) at a reporter who asked if Epstein was a foreign agent.

President Trump snaps at reporter who asks him Epstein question.

Trump is massively misreading his base on this.

pic.twitter.com/yIsUa9wxw0

— Liz Wheeler (@Liz_Wheeler) [July 8, 2025](#)

Meanwhile, journalist Benny Johnson posted an in-depth explanation about why Americans care want details of the Epstein case, saying: "We care about Epstein because we care if our government is protecting an elite pedophile cult. That's it. That why we care.

"The government should be thrilled to prove they're NOT protecting predators by releasing all Epstein evidence and prosecuting."

We care about Epstein because we care if our government is protecting an elite pedophile cult. That's it. That why we care.

The government should be thrilled to prove they're NOT protecting predators by releasing all Epstein evidence and prosecuting...pic.twitter.com/KpkvNpbiBh

— Benny Johnson (@bennyjohnson) [July 9, 2025](#)

Author Mike Benz, a former cyber at the U.S. State Department, said Tuesday: "I think [Attorney General] Pam Bondi did not know what she was stepping into, and had assumed it was like most of MAGA world has said about the corruption of Bill Barr and the corruption of the Biden administration.

"I think Pam Bondi did not know what she stepped into, and had assumed the Epstein case was how most of MAGA described: corruption from Bill Barr and the Biden admin. She may thought she could do a normal investigation, and then the little birdies starting talking in her ear..."

<https://t.co/k4m8AWNThx> pic.twitter.com/xT46LeA9Le

— Mike Benz (@MikeBenzCyber) [July 9, 2025](#)

"And that they sort of jumped the horses out the gate thinking that they would be able to conduct a normal investigation. Birdies started talking in the ears of senior DOJ officials, I think of senior intelligence officials."

"It's a giant sinker and the idea that this is just gonna go away, it's just not gonna happen."

<https://www.wnd.com/2025/07/were-not-that-bleeping-stupid-epstein-rape-victim/>

Joe Biden's Doctor Just Pleaded the Fifth



[Jeff Charles](#) | July 09, 2025 12:15 PM

It appears former President Joe Biden's doctor desperately does not want to testify before Congress about his former boss' mental deterioration.

Dr. Kevin O'Connor, who served as Biden's physician while he was in office, has refused to testify in closed-door proceedings as House Republicans investigate how the former president's cognitive decline affected his presidency, according to Politico.

O'Connor asserted doctor-patient privilege and his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, according to a statement from his attorneys. He had repeatedly argued his duties as a doctor complicated his testimony and prevented him from sharing some sensitive information. But House Oversight Committee chair James Comer (R-Ky.), who is leading the investigation, has rejected those claims.

"On the advice of his legal counsel, Dr. O'Connor refused to answer questions that invaded the well-established legal privilege that protects confidential matters between physicians and their patients," the statement read. "His assertion of his right under the Fifth Amendment to decline to answer questions, also on the advice of his lawyers, was made necessary by the unique circumstances of this deposition.

The statement also cited President Donald Trump's own invocation of his Fifth Amendment right before his deposition with New York State Attorney General Letitia James, quoting Trump's suggestion that only "an absolute fool" would refuse to take the Fifth.

Biden White House doctor Kevin O'Connor's closed-door House Oversight Committee interview is over

"No comments to press," his lawyers said

Source familiar tells me O'Connor pled the 5th pic.twitter.com/LIJa6pY2BF

— Liz Elkind (@liz_elkind) [July 9, 2025](#)

O'Connor requested that Congress delay his appearance, citing concerns about sharing information protected by doctor/patient privilege. [The Associated Press](#) reported that he is seeking a delay to ensure that privileged information is not shared. He recently asked to delay his requested testimony because he hopes to hammer out an agreement that will protect doctor-patient confidentiality.

Recommended Dr. Kevin O'Connor, who served as Biden's physician at the White House, requested a delay until the end of July or early August "to reach an accommodation that will protect the very substantial privilege and confidentiality interests of Dr. O'Connor and former President Biden," according to a letter from his lawyer sent to Rep. James Comer of Kentucky on Saturday. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter.

A spokesperson for Oversight Republicans said the committee will follow the House's deposition guidelines, which allow for witnesses to assert privilege on a question-by-question basis, with the committee chair ruling on each claim. But O'Connor is not allowed, in the committee's view, to delay or decline a congressional subpoena due to concerns over questions about potentially privileged information.

The back-and-forth is part of a broader struggle over the scope of the House Republican inquiry into Biden's age and mental fitness, with serious implications for both politics and policy. Republicans have also claimed that some policies carried out by the White House "autopen" may be invalid if it is proven that Biden was mentally incapacitated for some part of his term.

Here's what's happening: House Republicans are trying to show that Biden's cognitive issues severely impacted his presidency to the point that his staffers essentially ran the country during his term. O'Connor and his legal team know this and are trying to prevent lawmakers from getting to the truth.

This probably won't work.

Even with O'Connor's invocation of the Fifth Amendment, it is likely that Congress might just find what they are looking for even without his help. It was abundantly clear that Biden's mental acuity was lacking all throughout his presidency. There have already been indications that he was not up to the job and that several executive orders were [signed with the autopen](#) without his knowledge.

With Republicans in charge of the White House and the legislature, there won't be enough roadblocks preventing them from ascertaining what was going on in the White House over the past four years. At some point, America will find out the truth — and it will probably be uglier than we think. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/jeff-charles/2025/07/09/joe-bidens-doctor-is-trying-to-duck-congress-n2660114>

Trump admin. to subpoena Harvard for info on antisemitism, harassment by foreign students

The administration escalated its feud with the Ivy League university on Wednesday, in a move that could result in the loss of Harvard's accreditation



ByREUTERSJULY 9, 2025 17:01Updated: JULY 9, 2025 17:14

Demonstrators rally on Cambridge Common in a protest organized by the City of Cambridge calling on Harvard leadership to resist interference at the university by the federal government in Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S. April 12, 2025. (photo credit: NICHOLAS PFOSI/REUTERS)

The Trump administration escalated its feud with Harvard University on Wednesday, saying the Department of Homeland Security planned to issue subpoenas for information about alleged misconduct by foreign students.

The Departments of Education and Health and Human Services also said in a statement they had notified the school's accreditor that it had violated federal law by not addressing alleged harassment of Jewish students.

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

That could result in the loss of Harvard's accreditation, making students ineligible for federal financial assistance.

JPost Videos

The Homeland Security Department's administrative subpoenas are in response to the university denying requests for information regarding its Student Visitor and Exchange Program certification.

"We tried to do things the easy way with Harvard.



Now, through their refusal to cooperate, we have to do things the hard way," Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in the statement.

People leave a protest against US President Donald Trump's administration and against student visas being revoked, at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, US, April 17, 2025. (credit: Ken McGagh/Reuters)

Harvard officials unavailable for comment

Harvard University officials were not immediately available for comment.

The administration has said it is trying to force change at Harvard and other top-level universities across the US, contending they have become bastions of leftist "woke" thought and antisemitism. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-860505>

Medical Update

RFK Jr. Hit With Lawsuit Over Changes to COVID Vaccine Policies for Kids, Pregnant Women

The 42-page lawsuit, filed Monday by six medical groups, alleges the changes to the COVID-19 vaccine recommendations are "baseless and uninformed" and place pregnant women and children at "grave and immediate risk." The lawsuit's lead plaintiff, the American Academy of Pediatrics, lists Merck, Sanofi and Moderna among its donors.

by [Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.](#) July 8, 2025

Six medical organizations are [suing Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.](#) and several other public health officials and agencies over recent changes to COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for children and pregnant women.

According to the 42-page [lawsuit](#), filed Monday in federal court in Boston, the [new recommendations](#) are "baseless and uninformed" and place pregnant women and children at "grave and immediate risk."

The lawsuit alleges the changes will lead to "decreased rates of vaccination, increased rates of transmission, long-lasting illness, and ultimately deaths among pregnant women, unborn children, and all

children.”

The complaint also claims Kennedy violated federal law when he issued [an internal directive](#) to change the recommendations instead of following the “longstanding process” for making changes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) immunization schedules.

Plaintiffs include the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Physicians (ACP), the American Public Health Association, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Massachusetts Public Health Association, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and a physician named in the complaint as “Jane Doe,” who is 20 weeks pregnant and allegedly faces “barriers to access to the vaccine.”

The plaintiffs seek an injunction against the directive, request the restoration of the [COVID-19 vaccines](#) to the list of recommended immunizations for pregnant women and healthy children and a court order compelling Kennedy to “announce on X that those immunizations are now reinstated to the [CDC immunization schedules](#).”

Other defendants named in the complaint include the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the CDC and its acting director Matthew Buzzelli, Director of the National Institutes of Health Jay Bhattacharya and Marty Makary, commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Pharma has ‘tremendous financial incentive’ to ‘preserve the status quo’

Attorney [Richard Hughes IV](#), a Georgetown University law professor who, according to [The New York Times](#), is “leading the effort” to challenge the directive, said Kennedy “aims to destroy vaccines.”

But according to Kim Mack Rosenberg, general counsel for [Children’s Health Defense](#) (CHD), “The medical cartel — [funded extensively by the pharmaceutical industry](#) — has a tremendous financial incentive to preserve the status quo.”

Karl Jablonowski, Ph.D., senior research scientist for CHD, noted that the lawsuit “fails to mention that several plaintiffs, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, received [millions of dollars from the CDC](#) to promote COVID-19 injections.”

“People who make a lot of money pushing COVID vaccines want to force a recommendation for more COVID vaccines,” Jablonowski said.

The AAP, for instance, lists [pharma giants Merck](#), Sanofi and COVID-19 [vaccine](#) manufacturer Moderna among its [donors](#). The organization also closely collaborates with corporations such as [Coca-Cola](#).

Last month, two of the plaintiffs — the AAP and the ACP — signed on to the “[Vaccine Integrity Project](#),” a new initiative seeking to bypass [public health](#) authorities through the creation of “a [nongovernmental vaccine system](#)” for vaccine recommendations and purchasing.

The group is funded by [iAlumbra](#), a nonprofit founded by Walmart heiress and billionaire philanthropist [Christy Walton](#), known for her anti-Trump advocacy.

[Dr. Jane Orient](#), executive director of the [Association of American Physicians and Surgeons](#), suggested that the organizations suing Kennedy may be concerned that evidence will come to light questioning the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

Orient said:

“These organizations evidently consider themselves to be the ultimate authorities on all vaccines and seem to feel threatened by the possibility that a government advisory committee might not agree with their position that all ‘approved’ or ‘recommended’ vaccines are ‘safe and effective’ — and necessary.”

Mack Rosenberg said the [liability shield](#) that [vaccine manufacturers](#) enjoy “allows them to exercise incredible hubris,” adding that “they desperately fear loss of this extraordinary protection.”

She added:

“The irony of the changes to COVID-19 jobs recommendations is that they actually empower physicians to do their jobs and provide individualized medical care to their patients. One has to ask why these entities fear that.”

Directive ‘arbitrary and capricious,’ lawsuit alleges

[The complaint](#) extensively references a May 27 [video Kennedy posted on X](#), in which Kennedy, Bhattacharya and Makary announced the removal of the COVID-19 vaccine recommendation for pregnant women and healthy children, citing insufficient data to show that these populations benefited from the vaccine.

The lawsuit calls the directive “arbitrary and capricious” and questions Bhattacharya and Makary’s past opposition to various COVID-19 pandemic-related measures.

The complaint notes that Bhattacharya co-authored the [Great Barrington Declaration](#), which advocated for herd immunity and targeted measures during the pandemic. The lawsuit characterized this as advocacy in favor of

“the uncontrolled spread of an infectious disease to control an epidemic.”

Makary “previously made headlines for his comments during the pandemic, including advocating in favor of natural immunity, questioning the requirement for booster shots in younger people, and opposing vaccine mandates,” the lawsuit claims.

But according to Orient, throughout history, epidemics were controlled by natural immunity and measures such as [vector control](#). “Locking down everybody was the unprecedented action,” she said.

The lawsuit also claims that the COVID-19 vaccines are FDA-approved and that a “wealth of data and peer-reviewed studies” demonstrate their safety and efficacy.

Pfizer’s Comirnaty vaccine and Moderna’s Spikevax vaccine are fully [approved for ages 12 and older](#). But for children under age 12, the vaccines are administered under [emergency use authorization](#).

[Novavax’s Nuvaxovid vaccine](#) is fully approved only for people 65 and older and those between 12 and 64 who have a health condition placing them at increased risk of COVID-19 infection.

Plaintiffs criticize new CDC vaccine advisory committee

Last month, [Kennedy dismissed the 17 members](#) of the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) — the CDC’s vaccine advisory committee. He subsequently named [eight new members](#) to the committee.

During the new members’ first meeting, some members questioned [CDC claims about the safety of COVID-19 shots](#) and the virus’s threat to children. The committee also said it plans to [examine the cumulative effect](#) of the [childhood vaccine schedule](#).

The lawsuit questions the qualifications of seven of ACIP’s new members, claiming they “do not possess the required scientific and medical expertise to serve on ACIP.”

The complaint also questions Kennedy’s claims that the 17 former members of ACIP had conflicts of interest. “None of these accusations are remotely true,” according to the complaint.

Orient disagreed. “It was the ACIP that Kennedy fired that was likely unlawful,” she said.

ACIP also voted last month to [no longer recommend flu vaccines](#) that contain [thimerosal](#), a mercury-based preservative linked to neurodevelopmental disorders. The lawsuit cites a statement by the [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#) that said the vote was “politically motivated” and “not based on science.”

The complaint differentiates thimerosal, “which breaks down into ethylmercury” from “harmful forms of mercury like methylmercury.” But according to Brian Hooker, Ph.D., chief scientific officer for CHD, this distinction is “absolutely preposterous.”

“This was shown to be wrong in a seminal study by Burbacher et al., which showed that thimerosal exposure resulted in higher amounts of mercury metal essentially locked into the brains of macaque monkeys. The researchers could not determine the half-life of that mercury in the brain because it was longer than the study itself.”

In March, the [AAP recommended annual flu shots](#) for all children ages 6 months and older for the next cold and flu season.

Lawsuit claims ‘wealth’ of studies show COVID shots are safe — but doesn’t cite any

The complaint claims there is a “wealth” of data and studies showing the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 shots for kids and pregnant women, but doesn’t cite any studies.

Several peer-reviewed studies link COVID-19 shots with risks for pregnant women. An animal study published in the journal [Molecular Therapy Nucleic Acids](#) in March found that mRNA injections [cross the placenta](#) and enter the fetus within one hour, where they develop into [spike protein](#) and remain in the body after birth.

Another animal study, published in the journal [Vaccines](#) in March, found that COVID-19 vaccines decreased the number of [primordial follicles](#) in female rats by up to 60%, which [may reduce women’s lifelong egg supply](#).

According to a [study of 1.3 million Czech women](#) published last month in the [International Journal of Risk & Safety in Medicine](#), the rate of successful conception — a pregnancy leading to live birth nine months later — for women who received the COVID-19 vaccine was “substantially lower” than for unvaccinated women.

According to “[The Pfizer Papers](#),” a set of 450,000 documents related to the [licensing of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#), 72% of recorded adverse events were in women. Babies had to be delivered early, women hemorrhaged during childbirth, and nursing babies of vaccinated women experienced adverse effects.

[Pregnant women](#) also experienced side effects. Pfizer lost the records of 234 pregnant women who participated in the clinical trials for the vaccine, but for the 36 pregnant women whose records survived, over 80% lost their babies.

Last month, some of the plaintiffs signed a [letter to insurers](#), urging them to continue covering COVID-19 shots for pregnant women despite the new recommendations.

Other recent studies have linked COVID-19 vaccines to health risks in children. According to a study published in the journal Pediatric Rheumatology in May, children and adolescents who received at least one COVID-19 vaccine had a 23% higher risk of developing autoimmune disease compared to unvaccinated children.

A preprint study published in May 2024 of 1.7 million children in England found cases of myocarditis or pericarditis only in those children who received the COVID-19 shots. No cases were identified in children who didn't receive the vaccine.

Citing rising maternal mortality and “the sickest generation of American children in history,” Laura Bono, vice-president emerita of CHD and mother of a vaccine-injured child, said the plaintiffs should use their resources to solve these public health issues instead of on this lawsuit.

“Rather than spending money on a lawsuit to preserve the status quo, these associations should support their missions by looking for answers to address the declining health of mothers and children,” Bono said.

Related articles in The Defender

- [Breaking: CDC Removes COVID Vaccine Recommendation for Healthy Kids, Healthy Pregnant Women](#)
- [CDC Vaccine Advisers Vote to Stop Recommending Flu Shots That Contain Thimerosal](#)
- [RFK Jr. Taps 8 New ACIP Members, Offit Concedes Most ‘Seem Reasonable’](#)
- [Breaking: RFK Jr. Removes All Members of CDC Vaccine Advisory Committee](#)
- [The Real Agenda Behind American Academy of Pediatrics: Weaponizing Children’s Mental Health and Vaccines for Profit](#)

https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/rfk-jr-lawsuit-covid-vaccine-policy-kids-pregnant-women/?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=defender&utm_id=20250708

[Folks the greedy medical cabal including the Pharm group operates only for big bucks\$\$\$\$, This lets you know that many of the “professional organizations” are simply there for the bucks and could care not one whit about the patient. Their comments about the Kennedy appointees to the vaccine approval committee are totally false. I have reviewed their bios which were provided by Dr, Malone and they are all qualified. Money grubbing has taken over the medical profession. Always think twice and do your research before you submit to any medical jab or procedure and be sure you have an advocate with you. 1 Timothy 6:10

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (KJV)

OP ED

Concertgoers Cheer Muslim Terrorists Killing Them

Sat, 5 Jul 2025 10:21 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



On Nov 13, 2015, Muslim terrorists attacked a concert at the Bataclan theater in Paris, opening fire on the crowd while shouting, “Allah Akbar.” The Muslim attackers took 20 hostages, killed 90 concertgoers and left hundreds wounded. A year later the theater reopened under new ownership with ‘Insallah’ or ‘[If Allah Wills](#)’ by Sting to support the Muslim migrants invading Europe. One of the members of the American band that had been playing during the attack was banned from attending the commemoration because he had been accused of ‘Islamophobia’.

A few years later, there was a Bataclan concert featuring a Muslim rappers supporting Jihad. After Oct 7, the Bataclan was filled with shouts of ‘Free Palestine’ [at](#)

[yet another](#) Islamic concert.

By then Muslim terrorists had racked up multiple concert massacres at the Open Festival suicide bombing in Germany in 2016, the Manchester Arena bombing at an Ariana Grande concert in 2017 which killed 22 people, some of them children, and wounded over 1,000, the Nova festival massacre which killed nearly 400 people and the Moscow concert hall attack in 2024 that killed 145 people and wounded over 500.

Last year, Muslim terrorists plotted an attack at a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna.

Add nightclubs to the toll, and you have the Dolphinarium discotheque bombing in Israel by Hamas in

2001, which killed 21 people, most of them teens, the Pulse nightclub massacre which killed 49 people in Orlando in 2016 and the Istanbul nightclub shootings in 2017 that killed 39 people.

With over 800 concertgoers killed in Muslim terrorist attacks since 9/11, you might think that concertgoers would have some sense of vulnerability and outrage, but just the opposite. Concerts of the 'trendier' kind have become venues for celebrating Islamic terrorism. Not only wasn't Bataclan going from a terrorist target to a terrorist rallying ground an exception, but Glastonbury with its terror flags and cries of support for Islamic terrorists is commonplace.

And while that sort of behavior is associated with expensive venues for trendy acts these days, a decade ago, New York's Metropolitan Opera put on a production of [The Death of Klinghoffer](#), justifying the Muslim terrorist killing of an elderly Jewish man in a wheelchair. Despite outrage and muted protests from the Jewish community, the show went on. The terrorist production is now due to open at Florence's Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Theatre next year.

No one sitting in their box seats in Florence or jumping up and down at \$500 a pop concert venues in Europe ever considers that at any point the sounds of "Allah Akbar" and gunfire could pierce their world. The whole point of terrorist propaganda from Kneecap, Bob Vylan or The Death of Klinghoffer is to believe that the victims of terrorism have it coming. And that they can enjoy the spectacle from the comfort of the concert without terror ever touching them.

The music scene values what's edgy and planting nails in the faces of children, as Muslim terrorists did in Manchester, people dangling from windows at the Bataclan or a bar full of bodies at Nova are certainly edgy. Enjoying the scenes of horror requires maintaining a sense of distance from the dead mediated by narratives that make them objects in a terrorist victory.

The purpose of terrorist propaganda is not just to demonize Israel, America, the UK or any other nation affected by Islamic terrorism, but to manufacture the illusion that the terrorists are members of the same 'tribe' as the half-naked white concertgoers bopping to their hate, that the 'victories' of Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis are their triumphs, and that their support for the cause somehow insulates them so that the bullets and bombs will never fly their way.

Indoctrination is also insulation. Even seeing people just like them bleed and die from Manchester to Nova to Bataclan, bodies falling from balconies, women being raped in the dirt, the wounded lying in the open and hoping the terrorists don't realize they are still alive, doesn't get through to them as they watch colorful flags with Arabic curlicues which translate into death wave overhead. At least not until the moment it happens to them. And maybe not even then.

The concertgoers who cheer for the Muslim terrorists murdering concertgoers somewhere else, in Israel, or at another place, like the Manchester Arena, or another time at the Bataclan, are a microcosm of members of a suicidal hipster left who dismantle public safety in the name of social justice, and won't believe until the last second that the monsters can come for them.

They walk the streets of New York City, San Francisco or London after unleashing criminals and terrorists while feeling invulnerable behind their virtue signaling shielding. Surely the murderers, terrorists and the rapists who were only victims of an unjust system won't harm them too.

Surely destroying America, Canada, Israel, England and all of Europe and turning their cities over to mobs, monsters and killers will make the world a better place and the cafes will stay open, the concerts will go on and the only ones who will die will be the bad people. Not them.

"Violence is a construct," Zohran Mamdani, New York City's Democrat Muslim mayoral nominee, said. Personal liberty, the nation state, bodily integrity and nearly everything else are constructs too. Through the fog of academic theories detached from daily realities, everything becomes an unreal theory, but when the shooting starts and the bombs go off, constructs have a way of becoming blindingly painful realities and life boils down to fight or flight imperatives.

"We are here to kill you," the Bataclan Muslim terrorists said to their victims. That was a truth that clears away all the talk of constructs, the academic lenses and the distancing of pop culture propaganda that makes concertgoers cheer for those who kill other concertgoers elsewhere.

The undergrown men and women cheering for Islamic terrorism at Glastonbury and at other concert venues might be the ones running for cover and slipping in their own blood on the next leg of the festival tour once they realize that Muslim terrorists really are here to kill them too.

Daniel Greenfield is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's [Front Page Magazine](#).

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BS"D

Short and to the point. **Your help is needed.**

You are receiving this email because we are friends and/or you are a friend/supporter of Lev U'Neshama (Heart and Soul). Lev U'Neshama is a registered non-profit charity organization in Israel. We are volunteers; no business expenses whatsoever. Every \$ or NIS goes into our programs to help our families. We have been helping struggling families in Tzfat for 25 years and presently assist 60 families on our list through our programs; Food, Holiday, Education, Emergency.

The Education Program is our stress point now. During the year it provides children within our Lev U'Neshama families with sport shoes, eye exams/eyeglasses, clothing, a Bar Mitzvah package and occasionally extra educational expenses. However, at the beginning of the school year, we provide a school supply coupon to be redeemed at a family-owned office supply store in Tzfat.

War-related circumstances have financially impacted families in Tzfat. The Education Fund is in **dire need of a financial boost** because school will resume, G-d willing, the end of August and our goal is to provide a school supply coupon to each of our 60 families at 200 NIS (\$60) each. Most of our families have many school-aged children. We made a tally: 350 children. Therefore, after the shopping trip, the parents divide the supplies among their children. It's the best we can do.

Amount Needed: (NIS) 200 NIS times 60 families = 12,000 NIS

Amount Needed: (\$) \$60 times 60 families = \$3,600

There are **four weeks** to have the necessary funds so we can prepare and mail the coupons and allow shopping time for the families. Funds remaining after the coupons are purchased will be used for sport shoes and eye exam/eyeglasses. On behalf of our families and their children, we will be grateful for donations in any amount.

Use the **Zelle** US to US bank transfer system (contact me at mortsmo@aol.com for bank information).

US Donors: Make checks payable to **Simcha Smolensky**, my son, a volunteer)

And send to: Rabbi Simcha Smolensky
6739 N Mozart St
Chicago IL 60645

Israel Donors: Leave cash or check donations at the Torah Gems Book Store with a note:

"For Education Fund" and your contact information so I can acknowledge receipt of the donation.

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Contact me to arrange for personal pickup of cash or checks. Eager to "hear" from you.

Yaffa Smolensky, Program Manager

Lev U'Neshama, Tzfat Israel

Email: mortsmo@aol.com