

IDF officer killed in apparent accidental explosion in southern Gaza

Cpt. Reei Biran, 21, served as a team commander in reconnaissance unit; he is remembered as 'a child of light, a brave fighter'; 2 troops injured by anti-tank fire in Strip's north

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Tel Staff](#) 11 July 2025, 12:05 pm Updated at 2:23 pm



Cpt. Reei Biran (Israel Defense Forces)

An IDF officer was killed in an apparent accident in the southern Gaza Strip on Thursday, the military announced Friday morning, bringing Israel's toll to 41 since it renewed its ground offensive against Hamas in March.

The military also said Friday that two soldiers were wounded, moderately and lightly, by anti-tank fire on a tank during operations in northern Gaza's Jabalia the previous night, adding that the pair were taken to a hospital and their families were notified.

The slain soldier was named as Cpt. Reei Biran, 21, **a team commander in the Golani Brigade's reconnaissance unit, from Shorashim.**

According to an IDF probe, the incident took place during an ongoing offensive in **Khan Younis.**

Troops were operating in buildings suspected to be used by Hamas for terror activity, rigging them up with mines in order to demolish them.

Around two hours after the buildings were mined, an explosion occurred, and Biran was hit, possibly by shrapnel or debris. He was declared dead a short while later.

The IDF said the incident was under further investigation.

"Reei, beyond being an IDF officer, was a figure of inspiration — devoted, principled, driven by a sense of mission and love for humanity," Biran's aunt, Orna, was quoted by Ynet as saying.

"A beloved nephew, a role model for both the younger and older cousins, who all wanted to be near him, to bask in his light, his smile, and the love he radiated in all directions. A tremendous pride in our hearts — and a longing that will never end."

His uncle, Eitan, wrote a post on Facebook saying Reei was "a child of light, a brave fighter, a beloved son and brother, and a one-of-a-kind nephew. The pain is immense. The loss is unfathomable."

Biran's girlfriend, Avia, wrote on Instagram: "You're the love of my life. Please come back to me."

Israel's total toll in the ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza and in military operations along the border with the Strip since October 2023 stands at 451. The toll includes two police officers and three Defense Ministry civilian contractors.

The campaign began after the Hamas onslaught on October 7, 2023, which saw Hamas terrorists invade Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping 251. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-officer-killed-in-apparent-accidental-explosion-in-southern-gaza/>

Negotiations stall over Israeli withdrawal map as ceasefire talks continue

Al Jazeera publishes Israeli redeployment map, claiming it paves way for displacement plan and annexes 40% of Gaza; withdrawal talks frozen until Witkoff arrives

[Lior Ben Ari](#), [Moran Azulay](#) | 18:25

[Rafah](#)

[Gaza Strip](#)

Hostage deal negotiations between Israel and Hamas remain stalled amid a dispute over Israel's proposed military redeployment map, which was revealed Friday by Al Jazeera.

According to the Qatari network, the map was presented by the Israeli delegation during ongoing talks in Doha and is seen by some sources as laying the groundwork for a long-term displacement plan in Gaza.



The Israeli withdrawal map presented by Al Jazeera

Al Jazeera reported that the map maintains full Israeli control over the city of Rafah and outlines a buffer zone extending up to three kilometers deep along the Gaza-Egypt border. The proposal, according to the network, would annex approximately 40% of the Gaza Strip, prevent around 700,000 displaced Palestinians from

returning to their homes and concentrate them instead in displacement centers in Rafah.

Meanwhile, Egypt's Al Ghad TV reported that negotiations over the Israeli withdrawal have been frozen until the arrival of U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff in Doha. The report said talks are currently focused on securing guarantees for a potential deal, the mechanics of a prisoner and hostage exchange and the delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Witkoff's upcoming visit to the Qatari capital is reportedly contingent on reaching preliminary understandings on these key issues. His presence is expected to address the deadlock surrounding the proposed Israeli map, which remains one of the most contentious points in the negotiation.

Modern-day concentration camp

Israel is insisting on keeping IDF forces stationed along the Morag Corridor, which separates Khan Younis from Rafah, as a way to maintain control over the Rafah area, where Israeli officials hope to establish a "humanitarian city" for displaced Palestinians.



IDF troops at Morag Corridor (Photo; IDF)

Israeli and Western officials told The New York Times they had been briefed on the concept, but so far, there are no signs of its implementation.

The report also noted that critics of Israel have likened the idea of a "humanitarian city" to a "modern-day concentration camp," where residents would be confined and barred from returning to northern Gaza.

In Doha, negotiators continue to await the arrival of Witkoff, who is expected to personally oversee the indirect proximity talks between Israel and Hamas, with Qatari mediators shuttling messages between the delegations. His

visit was reportedly delayed earlier this week—an indication of difficulties in the negotiations—and it remains unclear when he will travel to Qatar.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said during a visit to Malaysia that the sides are "closer" to a deal, though disagreements remain.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returned to Israel on Thursday after a four-day visit to the United

States, during which he held two meetings at the White House with President Donald Trump. The talks focused on a potential hostage deal and a Gaza ceasefire.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump (Photo: GPO)

While early in the visit, both U.S. and Israeli officials expressed cautious optimism that an agreement could be reached soon—possibly by the weekend—hopes have since cooled. One senior Israeli official told CBS News on Wednesday that a deal could still be as much as 20 days away.

Nevertheless, Netanyahu sounded more optimistic in an interview with Newsmax, published Thursday, saying he hoped a hostage deal could be completed within “days.”

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bkpkzy18lg>

Doha talks stuck on IDF withdrawal; Palestinian officials say discussions nearing collapse

Hamas rejects proposal showing continued Israeli control over parts of Gaza, including Rafah buffer zone, sources tell Tol; Palestinian official: Netanyahu ‘bought time’ with US trip

By Jacob Magid, Agencies and Tol Staff Today, 2:12 pm



Relatives of hostages held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip and their supporters call for an immediate hostage release deal during a protest in Tel Aviv, Israel, July 10, 2025. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

No significant progress has been made in the ongoing hostage negotiations in Doha since Wednesday, an Arab diplomat and a second source familiar with the negotiations told The Times of Israel on Friday, as Palestinian officials said the talks were on the verge of collapse.

While Israel agreed to ease some of its demands regarding the redeployment of its troops during the 60-day truce under discussion following US pressure, the new series of maps

depicting the partial withdrawal of IDF troops was not sufficient to satisfy Hamas, the two sources said.

The new maps still envision Israel maintaining control of roughly one-third of Gaza’s territory, including a three-kilometer (1.86-mile) buffer zone in Rafah to create a highly controversial “humanitarian city” to which Gaza’s entire population will be herded, checked for weapons and be barred from leaving as Israel will seek to encourage their emigration outside of the Strip.

Channel 12 reported that Hamas agreed to expand the buffer zone Israel wants to create along much of the Gaza perimeter from 700 meters to one kilometer. However, Israel is still demanding that it be expanded to as much as two kilometers.

Amid the apparent stalemate on the issue, the US is urging Hamas to move on to discuss other remaining issues — something the terror group has refused to do until disagreements regarding Israel’s partial withdrawal from Gaza are solved.

“The negotiations in Doha are facing a setback and complex difficulties due to Israel’s insistence, as of Friday, on presenting a map of withdrawal, which is actually a map of redeployment and repositioning of the Israeli army rather than a genuine withdrawal,” a Palestinian official told AFP on Saturday.



IDF forces operate in the Gaza Strip in a handout photo released July 3, 2025. (IDF)

“ Hamas’s delegation will not accept the Israeli maps... as they essentially legitimize the reoccupation of approximately half of the Gaza Strip and turn Gaza into isolated zones with no crossings or freedom of movement,” the source said.

Palestinian officials told the BBC and AFP that negotiations in Doha between Israel and Hamas are on the verge of collapse and are being held up by Israel’s proposals to keep troops in the Strip.

One Palestinian official told the BBC that Israel “bought time” with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to Washington to meet US President Donald Trump, and that the decision to send a team to Qatar without a strong mandate was an act to deliberately stall the discussions.

Israel’s delegation to Doha does not include the senior-most officials who have been involved in talks — Mossad chief David Barnea, acting Shin Bet head “Shin,” and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, Army Radio reported earlier this week.

A Palestinian official told AFP that Israel was “stalling and obstructing the agreement to continue the war of extermination.”

Another said mediators had asked both sides to postpone the talks until the arrival of Trump’s special envoy, Steve Witkoff, in Doha. It is unclear if or when that will happen.

The second Palestinian source told AFP that “some progress” had been made in the latest talks on plans for releasing Palestinian prisoners held by Israel and getting more aid to Gaza.

GHF: Israel should meet its commitment to let new aid sites open

Meanwhile, the controversial Israel- and US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation issued a statement Friday asking Israel to abide by its commitment to allow the opening of additional distribution sites.

“GHF also continues to press the Government of Israel to live up to its commitment to allow us to open additional sites, including in the north of Gaza,” GHF said.

The statement also welcomed reports of an agreement between Israel and the European Union to scale up humanitarian aid in Gaza, along with ongoing negotiations for a ceasefire in the Strip.



Palestinians carry sacks and boxes of food and humanitarian aid, unloaded from a World Food Program convoy heading to Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip, June 16, 2025. (AP Photo/Jehad Alshrafi)

Since late May, Israel has handed authority over aid distribution in Gaza to the GHF, in a stated effort to prevent aid supplies from reaching Hamas.

The GHF’s operations have been strongly criticized by the international community for failing to address the humanitarian needs in Gaza.

The UN [said](#) Friday that nearly 800 people have died trying to access aid in Gaza since late May, with most killed near the GHF distribution sites.

GHF, which denies that deadly incidents have occurred at its sites, said the UN figures were “false and

misleading.” The IDF repeated Friday that it had issued instructions to troops in the field “following lessons learned.”

Israel and the United States have publicly urged the UN to work through the GHF, but the UN has refused, questioning the group’s neutrality and accusing the distribution model of militarizing aid and forcing displacement. There have been multiple deadly incidents reported around the GHF sites in Gaza.

Palestinians inspect the destruction at a makeshift displacement camp following a reported incursion a day earlier by Israeli tanks in the area in Khan Younis in the northern Gaza Strip on July 11, 2025. (AFP)



According to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry, more than 57,000 people have been killed in the Strip since the war there began on October 7, 2023. The Hamas-provided death toll cannot be independently verified and does not distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Hamas-led terrorists massacred some 1,200 people and took 251 hostage after invading Israel on October 7, 2023.

Terror groups in the Gaza Strip are still holding 50 hostages, including 49 of the 251 abducted by Hamas-led terrorists on October 7, 2023. They include the bodies of at least 28 confirmed dead by the IDF. Twenty are believed to be alive, and there are grave concerns for the well-being of two others, Israeli officials have said. Hamas is also holding the body of an IDF soldier killed in Gaza in 2014.

Israel's toll in the ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza and in military operations along the border with the Strip stands at 45 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/doha-talks-stuck-on-idf-withdrawal-palestinian-officials-say-discussions-nearing-collapse/>

Matan Angrest's bag recovered by IDF from Gaza

His mother, Anat, posted on X/Twitter that "Matan's bag was returned to me this week in a black plastic bag. How and when will Matan return?"

By **JERUSALEM POST STAFF** JULY 12, 2025 01:17 Updated: JULY 12, 2025 01:59



Matan Angrest's bag which was recovered by the IDF in the Gaza Strip, which was then sent to the hostage's mother. (photo credit: SCREENSHOT/X, SECTION 27A COPYRIGHT ACT)

Items belonging to Matan Angrest, understood to be one of the 20 living [hostages](#) still held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, were recovered by the IDF on Friday, Angrest's family confirmed. His mother, Anat, posted on X/Twitter that "Matan's bag was returned to me this week in a black plastic bag. How and when will Matan return? Why do I have to keep receiving items that testify to his condition and not Matan himself?"

"They told me they found Matan's bag, and it would take two more days for it to reach me. I didn't understand what it was about. Then this bag arrived, with Matan's name in my handwriting," she told Ynet. The bag was Matan's since his childhood.

Matan Angrest's abduction to Gaza

"He was seriously injured in a tank on the morning of October 7, evacuated unconscious to Gaza after immense abuse," she added. "Since then, he has been undergoing interrogations, asthma attacks, severe burns, and his

wounds are becoming infected by the humidity of the tunnels.

"When Edan Alexander was released, we realized that we can talk about the soldiers. We must conduct tough negotiations and insist on Matan's release because of his condition."

A screenshot from the Hamas propaganda video showing Gaza hostage Matan Angrest, published on March 7, 2025 (credit: SCREENSHOT/X/VIA SECTION 27A OF THE COPYRIGHT ACT)

Anat also mentioned to Ynet that she hasn't cooked since her son was taken hostage. "When Matan returns, I will go back to cooking. Steaks, shakshuka, everything he loves. What I'm most looking forward to is sitting with him on Saturday morning, with the shakshuka, talking, hearing what

he went through."

Anat added that Matan wanted to be a soldier so much that he even "hid from the army that he had asthma."



Matan's father, Haggai, claimed on Radio 103FM on Tuesday that if the information about his son's condition had been relayed, he likely would have been released in the last exchange."

Early last month, the family released new footage of Matan's kidnapping to [Gaza](#), which was filmed by a terrorist and seized by the IDF, showing Matan being pulled out of the tank in which he was thrown into a crowd of dozens of terrorists who brutally lynched him.

In March, Hamas released a [propaganda video](#), giving a sign of life of Angrest, who has been held in captivity in Gaza since October 7. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-860749>

Several IDF troops hurt in Gaza fighting as Palestinians reported killed at aid site

Army reports the injured soldiers were moderately and lightly wounded in separate incidents; says unaware of any casualties near Gaza Humanitarian Foundation distribution hubs

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 5:33 pm Updated at 8:33 pm



Palestinians inspect the wreckage of a gas station destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, July 12, 2025. (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)

The military announced that two soldiers were moderately hurt on Saturday in separate incidents during fighting in Gaza, as fresh deaths were reported among Palestinians at an aid distribution site.

One of the soldiers was hurt in the northern part of the coastal enclave, while the other was hurt in the southern part. In the latter incident, two other soldiers were lightly injured.

All four were taken to hospitals, and their

families were notified.

The injuries came as the Israel Defense Forces said Saturday that over 250 terror targets in Gaza were hit in airstrikes since Thursday. A fresh wave of airstrikes Saturday evening hit over 35 targets in northern Gaza's Beit Hanoun, the military said.

The IDF said **the targets included operatives, booby-trapped buildings**, weapon depots, anti-tank launch posts, sniper posts, tunnels, and other terror infrastructure.

At least 143 Palestinians were killed in Gaza since Wednesday, according to statistics published by the Hamas-run health ministry on Friday night.



Heavily damaged ambulances lie outside the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, on July 11, 2025. (AFP)

The strikes came as five IDF divisions, made up of tens of thousands of troops, continued to operate across Gaza.

In a statement on the Beit Hanoun strikes, which could be seen from across the border in Israel, the military **said dozens of Israeli Air Force fighter jets hit some 35 Hamas targets in the area.**

The targets included Hamas tunnels in the area, the IDF said.

Earlier, the military said troops of the 98th Division located Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad observation posts and caches of explosive devices in Gaza City's Shejaiya and Zeitoun neighborhoods.

Numerous operatives were killed elsewhere by the troops, including by calling in airstrikes, the IDF added.

More deaths reported at aid sites

Palestinian reports, meanwhile, said that aid seekers were shot dead and injured Saturday around the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation facility in northwest Rafah, with the Associated Press

quoting hospital officials and witnesses as saying that at least 24 people were killed.

The IDF pushed back on the Palestinian reports, saying the military was unaware of any casualties from troops' gunfire near GHF distribution sites on Saturday.

A military official did say that several suspects were spotted approaching forces in Rafah on Saturday, hundreds of meters from the aid site, and that "troops acted to prevent the suspects from approaching and fired warning shots. No injuries from the gunfire are known."

The IDF, in its statement, said it "continues to operate in order to enable the distribution of humanitarian aid in the Strip, and to allow passage to the distribution areas via organized and secured routes."

The statement added that the IDF is continuing to investigate the claims of injuries on Saturday near the aid site.



Palestinians transport victims to a Red Cross clinic in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip after they were reportedly shot as they waited to receive food parcels at a distribution point run by the US and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, on July 12, 2025. (AFP)

GHF, an Israeli-backed US organization that seeks to circumvent Hamas in the distribution of aid, has faced harsh criticism from the UN and other aid organizations, which charge that it fails to meet the needs of Gaza's population. Gazans have reported near-daily incidents in which groups trying to reach GHF facilities are shot at by Israeli forces, leading to mass casualties.

Israel, which accuses Hamas of hoarding aid, has also accused the terror group of attacking Gazan aid seekers near GHF sites and falsifying death tolls. However, Israel has also acknowledged that "several" Palestinian civilians have been killed near GHF aid distribution sites.

GHF commenced operations in May as Israel lifted a nearly three-month aid blockade on Gaza, amid a renewed offensive there that seeks to take over 75% of the Strip.

On Friday, the United Nations said nearly 800 people [have died](#) trying to access aid in Gaza since late May, with most killed near the GHF's distribution sites.

GHF, which denies that deadly incidents have occurred at its sites, told Reuters the UN figures were "false and misleading."

The IDF said Friday that it had issued instructions to troops in the field "following lessons learned" after reports of deadly incidents at GHF distribution facilities.

Swimming restrictions

The IDF on Saturday also reiterated a restriction on Palestinians, in place since the beginning of the war, forbidding them from entering the sea along the entire coast of the Gaza Strip.

The IDF's Arabic-language spokesperson, Col. Avichay Adraee, reminded residents in a post on X that "security restrictions have been imposed in the maritime area adjacent to the Strip, and entry into the sea is prohibited."



He added, "The IDF will respond to any violation of these restrictions. We urge fishermen, swimmers, and divers to refrain from entering the sea. Entering the sea along the Strip exposes you to danger."

Nevertheless, the IDF has not enforced the restriction against Palestinians seeking to cool off in the waters on the beach, but only those heading out deeper into the sea.

Palestinians gather at the beach near a makeshift displacement camp in Gaza City to escape the heat and tents, as smoke billows in the distance amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas on June 8, 2025. (Omar Al-Qattaa/AFP)

The vast majority of the Palestinian population in Gaza is concentrated in areas on the coast, with tent camps set up on the beaches.

The war between Israel and Hamas broke out on October 7, 2023, when Hamas-led terrorists invaded Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping 251. Fifty hostages remain in Gaza, including 28 whose deaths the IDF has confirmed.

The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry says more than 53,000 people in the Strip have been killed or are presumed dead in the fighting so far, though the toll cannot be verified and does not differentiate between civilians and fighters. Israel says it has killed some 20,000 combatants in battle as of January and another 1,600 terrorists inside Israel during the October 7 onslaught.

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

Israel's toll in the ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza and in military operations along the border with the Strip stands at 451. The toll includes two police officers and three Defense Ministry civilian contractors.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/several-idf-troops-hurt-in-gaza-fighting-as-palestinians-reported-killed-at-aid-site/>

Heavy IDF bombing in northern Gaza as Israel, Hamas blame each other for stalled talks

Officials say terror group clinging to demands that prevent mediators from moving the process forward; 'Had Hamas accepted Qatari proposal, we could have reached an agreement'

Moran Azulay, Einav Halabi, Roni Green Shaulov | Updated: 11:32

An Israeli official said Saturday that Hamas has rejected a Qatari ceasefire and hostage release proposal and continues to hold firm to demands that are stalling negotiations, despite Israeli flexibility in the talks.

"Hamas rejected the Qatari proposal, refuses to compromise and remains obstinate, while Israel has shown willingness to be flexible in the negotiations," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing diplomatic efforts.



(Photo: AFP)

Palestinian sources familiar with the negotiations said the talks between Israel and Hamas have not collapsed, but remain stalled. The sources, who are close to Hamas, said Israel is insisting on maintaining control over 40% of the Gaza Strip during a proposed ceasefire period — a key sticking point in the discussions.

According to the Israeli official, Hamas is clinging to demands that prevent mediators from moving the process forward. "Had Hamas accepted the Qatari proposal, we could have reached an agreement and entered 60 days of negotiations to end the war in line

with Israel's objectives," the official said.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces carried out heavy airstrikes in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun on Friday evening, in what Palestinian sources described as a "fire belt" bombardment.

According to Al Jazeera, more than 40 strikes hit the area, which lies just across the border from the Israeli community of Nir Am. The explosions were visible from the nearby Israeli city of Sderot.

(Photo: Ben Ben Nursery)

The Israel Defense Forces informed residents in the surrounding area that "explosions are being heard and will continue to be heard in the northern Gaza envelope," referring to ongoing military operations in the Gaza Strip.

Despite the deadlock, Israeli and Hamas delegations remain in Qatar. A source close to Hamas said progress hinges on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to move forward with a deal based on prior understandings. Netanyahu is expected to convene a meeting Sunday evening to decide whether to present Hamas with a new proposal regarding the positioning of Israeli forces inside Gaza.

Negotiators say Hamas is refusing to abandon its demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Morag Corridor and strongly opposes any plans to expand Israel's buffer zone in Gaza or to isolate Rafah from the rest of the coastal territory. Israel has proposed creating a "humanitarian city" in Rafah where displaced Palestinians would receive services. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1bw6lelex#autoplay>

Family of American-Palestinian man allegedly beaten to death by settlers urges US probe

Saif al-Din Musalat was 'protecting his family's land from settlers,' according to his relatives, who accuse Israeli assailants of blocking ambulance ferrying him to the hospital

By [AFP](#), [ToI Staff](#) and [Jacob Magid](#) Today, 4:20 pm

The family of a US-Palestinian man allegedly killed in an Israeli settler attack in the West Bank has demanded that the US State Department launch a probe into his death.

Saif al-Din Kamil Abdul Karim Musalat was beaten to death on Friday in Sinjil, a village north of Ramallah, the Palestinian Authority health ministry said. His name was also reported as Sayafollah Musallet.

Musalat, born and based in Florida, traveled to the West Bank last month to spend time with relatives, his family said in a statement issued by lawyer Diana Halum following the deadly attack.

The PA health ministry said a second man, Mohammed Rizq Hussein al-Shalabi, 23, died after being shot during the attack and "left to bleed for hours."

The IDF said violence flared after Palestinians threw rocks at a group of Israelis, lightly injuring two civilians, the latest in a spate of clashes involving settlers in the West Bank.

The ensuing "violent confrontation... included vandalism of Palestinian property, arson, physical clashes and rock hurling," the IDF said.



Saif al-Din Kamil Abdul Karim Musalat, a Palestinian-American who was allegedly beaten to death by settlers in the West Bank on July 11, 2025. (X, used in accordance with clause 27a of the copyright law)

Upon receiving reports of violence, the IDF said, troops and police officers were dispatched to the scene to "disperse the clash," during which forces used riot dispersal means. There have been no arrests yet.

Musalat's family said they were "devastated" at his death, describing the 20-year-old as a "kind, hard-working and deeply respected" man who was deeply connected to his Palestinian heritage.

They said he was "protecting his family's land from settlers

who were attempting to steal it."

According to Palestinian accounts, settlers were the ones who instigated the clash when Palestinians tried to protest the establishment of a new illegal outpost adjacent to Sinjil, one of dozens that have mushroomed across the West Bank with little to no enforcement by Israeli authorities.

According to the family's statement, settlers blocked an ambulance and paramedics from reaching Musalat as he lay injured, and he died before making it to the hospital.

His death was "an unimaginable nightmare and injustice that no family should ever have to face," they added.

"We demand the US State Department lead an immediate investigation and hold the Israeli settlers who killed Saif accountable for their crimes. We demand justice."

Asked for comment, the US State Department said it was "aware of reports of the death of a US citizen in the West Bank."

"We won't comment further out of respect for the privacy of the family and loved ones," said a State Department spokesperson.



Settlers hurl stones, reportedly during clashes with Palestinians in the West Bank town of Sinjil on July 11, 2025. (Screen capture: Al-Jarraq News)

Rights groups have denounced a rise in violence committed by settlers in the West Bank, which Israel has controlled since capturing the area from Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War.

The United Nations has said that such attacks against Palestinians are taking place in a climate of “impunity.”

Last week, AFP journalists witnessed [clashes](#) between dozens of Israeli settlers and Palestinians in Sinjil, where Palestinians set fire to makeshift settler

structures and were gearing up to march against settler attacks on nearby farmland.

Israel recently erected a high fence cutting off parts of Sinjil from Road 60, which runs through the West Bank from north to south, and which both Israelis and Palestinians use.

Violence in the West Bank has surged since the Hamas onslaught of October 7, 2023, which sparked the war in Gaza.

Since then, Israeli forces have arrested some 6,000 wanted Palestinians across the territory, including more than 2,350 affiliated with Hamas.

According to the Palestinian Authority health ministry, more than 950 West Bank Palestinians have been killed in that time. The IDF says the vast majority of them were gunmen killed in exchanges of fire, rioters who clashed with troops, or terrorists carrying out attacks.

During the same period, 52 people, including Israeli security personnel, have been killed in terror attacks in Israel and the West Bank. Another eight members of the security forces were killed in clashes with terror operatives in the West Bank. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/family-of-us-palestinian-man-allegedly-killed-by-settlers-urges-state-department-probe/>

What's the truth about 'settler violence'?

Regavim’s Naomi Kahn told the ILTV News Podcast that most of the international data on “settler violence” is unreliable.

[Maayan Hoffman](#), ILTV|Updated:07.06.25 | 05:09

organization is challenging how violence in the region is reported, framed, and understood.

Regavim’s Naomi Kahn told the [ILTV News Podcast](#) that most of the international data on “settler violence” is unreliable. She said her team found traffic accidents, peaceful Temple Mount visits, even a dog bite listed as violent settler attacks.

“Only 2% of the 8,332 cases we reviewed involved actual violence by Israeli civilians,” according to Kahn.

Kahn claimed many reports are filed by activists from Tel Aviv-based NGOs rather than eyewitnesses, and that the UN database includes incidents where Palestinians were injured while attacking Israelis or during unrelated IDF operations.

“It’s curated evidence, paid actors, and very anti-Israel forces constructing a narrative,” she warned.

Yet, the violence is not imaginary either. A fringe group of residents from Judea and Samaria even attacked IDF troops over the weekend. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz condemned these acts as lawless, but also as unrepresentative of most settlers, who “serve proudly in the IDF.”

In Kahn’s words: “We’ve never claimed there is no violence among Jews—just that it’s vastly over-reported, while Arab violence is under-enforced.”

What’s needed now, said Kahn, is “a unified, transparent system” to track and address all violence—fairly, accurately, and without political agenda. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bk6xhmbblg#autoplay>

Writing the pages of history: IDF drone cmdr. recounts tense moments of striking Iranian missiles

Lt.-Col. G. discusses the tense moments of firing on Iranian missiles moments away from launch, and the pressure of knowing what would happen if he failed.

By [AMIR BOHBOT](#) JULY 12, 2025 19:14 Updated: JULY 12, 2025 19:24



(Illustrative) The Elbit-made Hermes 900 drone. (photo credit: ELBIT)

There were many moments of professional [pressure](#) inside the control trailer of the drone operators in the IAF's "Headbutting Ram" Squadron. At times, the tension was so high that the operators sweated profusely despite the air conditioning.

One of the recurring challenges involved flying over Tehran, some 1,500 kilometers from Israel, with a limited weapons load. In such situations, every missile launch required exceptional judgment. What if intelligence uncovered a more critical target just

moments later—one that demanded immediate destruction? A target capable of endangering Israel's home front with casualties and widespread devastation. The ability to rearm the drone was far away—too far.

Lt.-Col. G. (39), married to an electrical engineer and father of two, began his IDF service in humble fashion: as a detention NCO at the army's induction base, distributing chocolate milk and buns to detainees. Later, he worked as a clerk in the IAF commander's office. But his ambition had always been to become a pilot or join the elite Sayeret Matkal commando unit. Just before boot camp, however, a medical issue disqualified him from pilot training.

During Operation Rising Lion, Lt.-Col. G. led "the Headbutting Ram" Squadron in drone operations targeting Iran. "I believed from the first moment that we would succeed," he said. "Why? Because we have good and committed people, and defense industries that understand the scale of the challenge."

On the eve of the operation, he presented a briefing in the squadron's operations room. One prominent slide read: "No stopping."



People walk next to a mural with a picture of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on a street, early hours of ceasefire, in Tehran, Iran, June 24, 2025. (credit: MAJID ASGARIPPOUR/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY) VIA REUTERS)

To underscore the mission's urgency, he described a scenario: "You're a drone operator on your way to the base, and a Red Alert siren goes off. Do you stop or keep driving? You arrive, enter the control trailer—and again, Red Alert. Do you run to the shelter or stay on mission? While there's no direct comparison between drone operators and paratroopers, the mentality is the same. I had a team that didn't stop—even during Red Alerts—while executing missions in Iran."

Not the drone that fell, but the launcher it missed

One might assume that losing an Israeli drone over Iran would be the worst-case scenario. Lt.-Col. G. sees it differently.

"Taking enemy fire is the easy part—that's what we call a 'downing,'" he explained. "It hurt to see our drone shot down. But what pained me more was the launcher that wasn't struck. The media focused on [the drone crash](#), but Elbit will build another. What I think about is the missile that might fall on Israel because its launcher was left intact. That kind of damage is far worse than rockets from Gaza or Lebanon. This is a different war altogether."

Fighting over Iran required a completely different mindset than operations in Gaza or Lebanon, he added. "During the fighting, we received new recruits from the training school. I placed special emphasis on mental

resilience and team cohesion. Every operator has a family. We're more than 640 days into combat. Reservists aren't getting promoted at work; families are under strain. That takes immense psychological endurance."

He described a typical moment of psychological stress. "What happens when a commander, in the middle of an attack, suddenly sees a barrage of missiles on screen—possibly aimed at his own home? Where is his head at that moment?"

"And yet, he continues the mission. He doesn't stop. I always knew we'd go on the offensive. This is the mission of my life—eliminating an existential threat to Israel."

The dilemma: Fire now, or wait?

A core dilemma facing the drone teams was whether to strike immediately or hold fire for a potentially higher-value target.

"Should we launch now or wait? Maybe a more valuable target will be discovered in a moment? The disturbing thought that recurs in every operation is the possibility that immediately after launching the weapons, intelligence will arrive on an even more critical and complex target, and then we will be left unable to act."

"Every launcher we hit means one less missile that could land in Beersheba, Bat Yam, Holon, or Tel Aviv," said Lt.-Col. G. "So yes—it hurts less to lose a drone than to miss a launcher or missile we didn't strike."

The squadron quickly learned how to assess the "strategic weight of each strike," even when forced to return due to fuel constraints rather than a lack of targets.

"In the background, there's a mission commander who knows we need to return for fuel. I receive policy from the IAF command. I provide input—but ultimately, I follow direction."

The IAF, he said, "quickly broke through" the IDF's traditional operational limits—a breakthrough noticed by Western militaries, including the United States.

"I admit—I was positively surprised by how effectively we disrupted Iranian launches. Sometimes, just hearing the drone's buzz was enough to deter a launch. That's when you realize our presence alone has real strategic value."

"These missions carry enormous responsibility for protecting Israel's home front. The IAF commander simply told me: 'This is the mission—take down the surface-to-surface missiles. Now, tell me how you plan to do it. I trust you.' That kind of trust is powerful," he added.

Writing the pages of history

Reflecting on what it meant to fly drones over Tehran, Lt.-Col. G. said, "From above, a building in Tehran looks the same as one in Beirut or Gaza. But emotionally, it's different. You cross into enemy territory, and suddenly you're over Tehran. It becomes a mental event. You turn a 1,500-kilometer range into something that feels like something next door. All for one goal: removing an existential threat."

He then described the emotional complexity of actually conducting strikes on targets. "When a missile misses the target, you must immediately fire again and hit. Then move on. There's no time to dwell. The complexity is far beyond anything we've done before. This isn't chasing a terrorist through a Lebanese alley. When you see a missile launch on your drone's screen, it's not like Gaza, where you tell yourself Iron Dome will intercept it. With Iran, it makes you want to scream. You want better intelligence. You want to be faster. And even if you hit one launcher, but two missiles were already fired at Israel—that's a heavy burden."

A slide in his team presentation read: "You wrote the pages of history." "The fact that we got a drone over Tehran—that's historic," he said. "It's an old squadron that once flew manned aircraft. I'm a combat heritage geek. During the operation, the widow of Aryeh Ben-Or, who commanded Squadron 147 during the Six-Day War, wrote to me: 'I can't stop thinking about you and your squadron. Please pass on my pride.' It moved me deeply."

The biggest missile and the moment of silence

Among the most emotional moments was the successful strike on the Khorramshahr-4—also known as the "Haider"—one of Iran's most dangerous missiles. "It's their biggest missile. Range of over 1,500 km. A 1,500-kg warhead—three times more than those fired at us—and it can carry a nuclear payload," he said. "We smashed it. Then we saw all the Iranians fleeing—and there was no site left."

That same day, his five-year-old daughter said: "Today there was no Red Alert."

Between science fiction and October 7

Lt.-Col. G. acknowledged the contrast between the technological achievement in Iran and the traumatic failure of October 7. "Yes, October 7 was a failure. But since then—Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Judea and Samaria, and Iran—we've corrected course. We failed. We recovered. We went to war."

He added: "It did something to the country, too. It created a feeling of unity. When egos are set aside, and

everyone in the security establishment works together, it works. There's still a bitter taste, but we are trying to change, to do things differently—to bring a new message. To the soldier. The citizen. The fighter. To ourselves.”

And as for the future? “As a commander, I must look ahead. There may be something even greater than the Iranian threat. I don't know what it is yet. But I remember what former IAF commander Eliezer Shkedi once said: ‘He who leans on his past has a brilliant past ahead of him.’ That line stays with me. I must aim for the next thing. That's what I'm projecting to my people—and to the future of the force,” he concluded.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-860777>

Syrian and Israeli officials expected to meet in Azerbaijan during Sharaa's visit

Diplomatic source says Syrian leader won't attend meeting in Baku, which will focus on 'the recent Israeli military presence in Syria'

By [AFP](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:15 pm



Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, right, and Syria's interim president, Ahmad al-Sharaa, second left, stand on the balcony during their meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, July 12, 2025. (Azerbaijani Presidential Press Office via AP)

DAMASCUS, Syria — A Syrian official and an Israeli official are expected to meet in Baku later Saturday on the sidelines of President Ahmed al-Sharaa's visit to Azerbaijan, a diplomatic source in Damascus with knowledge of the issue said.

“There will be a meeting between a Syrian official and an Israeli official on the sidelines of the visit being conducted by Sharaa in Baku,” the source said, who requests anonymity due

to the sensitivity of the issue.

The source stressed that Sharaa himself would not attend the meeting, which would focus on “the recent Israeli military presence in Syria” since the overthrow of President Bashar al-Assad in December.

Israel is a major arms supplier to Azerbaijan and has a significant diplomatic presence in the Caucasus nation, which neighbors its arch foe Iran.

The Syrian president arrived in Baku earlier Saturday for talks with his counterpart, Ilham Aliyev.

Azerbaijan announced it would begin exporting gas to Syria via Turkey, according to a statement from the Azerbaijani presidency.



Left to right: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to staff at a Shin Bet facility, June 29, 2025. (Maayan Toaf/GPO); Syria's interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa attends the signing of an agreement for a regional energy project, in Damascus, Syria, May 29, 2025. (AP Photo/Ghaith Alsayed)

After the overthrow of longtime ruler Assad in December, Israel carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Syria to prevent key military assets from falling into the hands of the Islamist-led interim administration headed by Sharaa.

It also sent troops into the UN-patrolled buffer zone that used to separate the opposing forces on the strategic Golan Heights, from which it has conducted forays deeper into southern Syria.

Sharaa has said repeatedly that Syria does [not seek conflict](#) with its neighbors, and has instead asked the international community to put pressure on Israel to halt its attacks.

IDF troops operate in southern Syria in a photo released on July 2, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)



His government recently confirmed that it had held indirect contacts with Israel seeking a return to the 1974 disengagement agreement, which created the buffer zone.

Israel says the accord fell apart since one of the sides was no longer in a position to implement it, and that the military action in Syria was a defensive move to protect the country from potential hostile forces that could have exploited the power vacuum. Israeli officials have referred to Sharaa as a terrorist due to his past affiliation with al-Qaeda.

But late last month, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said Israel was interested in striking a peace and normalization agreement with Syria.

A Syrian government source quoted by state media responded that such talk was “premature.”



Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa (R) receives US special envoy for Syria Thomas Barrack in Damascus, Syria, May 29, 2025. (SANA / AFP)

But during a visit to Lebanon this week, US special envoy to Syria Tom Barrack said: “The dialogue has started between Syria and Israel.”

After meeting Sharaa in Riyadh in May, US President Donald Trump told reporters he had expressed hope that Syria would join other Arab states which normalized their relations with Israel.

“[Sharaa] said yes. But they have a lot of work to do,” Trump said.

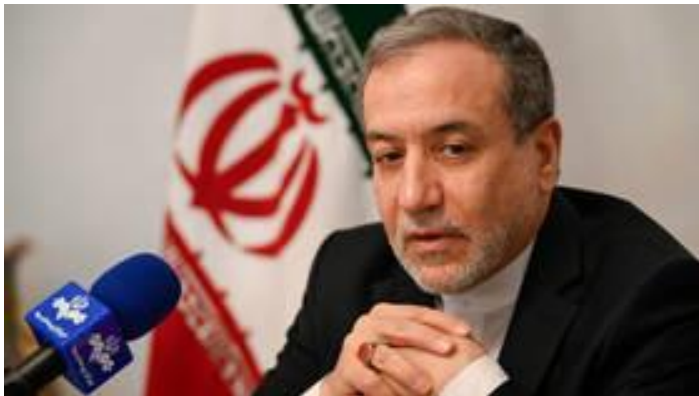
Syria and Israel have technically been in a state of war since 1948, the year Israel was established.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/syrian-and-israeli-officials-expected-to-meet-in-azerbaijan-during-sharaas-visit/>

Iran sets terms for resuming nuclear talks

A return to diplomacy requires US guarantees after strikes on the country's nuclear sites, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said

11 Jul, 2025 21:04



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. © Getty Images / Horacio Villalobos / Contributor

Iran has signaled that it is open to resuming dialogue with the US but only under strict conditions, following Israeli and American strikes on its nuclear facilities, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said.

The sixth round of indirect talks, scheduled for June 15 in Oman, was canceled two days earlier after Israel launched airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites and senior military figures – an escalation Tehran called a declaration of war.

The dialogue, revived earlier this year by US President Donald Trump, collapsed in the wake of the attacks. Washington joined in on June 22, deploying heavy bombers against key nuclear facilities. Trump later said the sites were “*completely obliterated*,” a claim which was disputed in a number of media reports.

In a written interview with *Le Monde* published on Thursday, Araghchi condemned the attacks as a violation of international law and said it was the US that broke off negotiations and turned to military action. He added that Tehran remains committed to diplomacy but stressed that any renewed engagement must be based on accountability, mutual respect, and “*guarantees against any attack*.”

Araghchi stated that despite the tensions, diplomatic exchanges are still underway via mediators.

The US State Department said this week that the Trump administration is committed to peace with Iran. “Our commitment has been steadfast through all of these conflicts and now is a time for Iran to take advantage of that,” spokesperson Tammy Bruce told reporters.

Asked about Trump’s statements, Iranian foreign minister replied: “*To claim that a program has been annihilated... is a miscalculation*,” adding that Tehran is “*assessing the damage*” and may seek compensation.

Washington has long demanded that Tehran halt all uranium enrichment – a position Iran considers a deal-

breaker. Araghchi reaffirmed that the country's nuclear program remains peaceful, lawful, and under constant IAEA supervision.

Iran currently enriches uranium to 60% purity, well above the 3.67% cap set under the now-defunct 2015 nuclear deal, which was rendered null and void after Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from it during his first term.

"The level of enrichment is determined by Iran's needs," Araghchi said, adding that the current level is meant *"to demonstrate that threat and pressure are not solutions."*

He also ruled out any discussion of Iran's ballistic missile program, calling it *"purely defensive and deterrent,"* and said it is *"unreasonable to expect Iran to abandon its defensive capabilities"* under the current conditions

<https://www.rt.com/news/621365-iran-us-nuclear-talks/>

US Treasury reports surprise surplus

The gains are largely driven by President Donald Trump's tariff hikes, which pushed customs duty collections to record highs

12 Jul, 2025 15:35

The **US government posted a surprise budget surplus in June, driven by a sharp increase in customs duties amid President Donald Trump's tariff hikes, the Treasury said in a monthly report on Friday.**

The report shows a surplus of just over \$27 billion last month, following a deficit of over \$300 billion in May. Much of **the increase stems from Trump's import tariffs introduced since April. Customs duties totaled around \$27 billion, up from just \$7 billion a year ago – a 301% rise.** Since the fiscal year began in October 2024, total tariff collections have exceeded \$113 billion, nearly doubling from 2024.

Commenting on the report, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the country is *"reaping the rewards"* of Trump's tariff campaign.

"As President Trump works hard to take back our nation's economic sovereignty, today's Monthly Treasury Statement is demonstrating record customs duties – and with no inflation!" Bessent wrote on X. Earlier this week, he claimed that customs duty collections could hit \$300 billion by the end of the year.

Trump's first round of tariffs on April 2 – which he called Liberation Day – included 10% tariffs on nearly all US trade partners and steeper rates on China, Mexico, Canada, and the EU. Some measures were delayed for trade talks, but since then, Trump has added tariffs on steel, copper, aluminum, and other key imports. He recently imposed a 25% tariff on goods from Japan and South Korea, with more reportedly planned if no deals are reached.

US trade partners have pushed back against Trump's tariffs. India, which has been hit with a 50% tariff, has proposed retaliatory tariffs under WTO rules. China, which faces triple-digit tariffs, has called Trump's moves unlawful, but has paused retaliatory measures amid ongoing talks. Both countries are members of BRICS, which Trump has accused of conducting *"anti-American policies"* and which he threatened with additional 10% tariffs earlier this month.

The EU has warned of lasting damage due to the tariffs. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said this week that the bloc's relationship with the US *"may never go back to what it used to be."*

Russia has not been hit with the tariffs due to the sweeping sanctions on the country that already exist, but Trump said this week he may support a bill that would impose 500% tariffs on countries that buy its goods and energy. The measure, proposed by Senator Lindsey Graham, aims to pressure Moscow to end the Ukraine conflict. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov dismissed the threat, saying the country will adapt and won't be swayed from its *"sovereign path."* Moscow has said it is ready to negotiate with Kiev, but insists that any peace settlement must reflect the battlefield realities and guarantee Ukrainian neutrality, demilitarization, and denazification.

<https://www.rt.com/business/621381-us-budget-surplus-tariffs/>

ICC fails to agree on prosecution of world leaders

The International Criminal Court is in a deadlock over expanding its powers after three days of talks

12 Jul, 2025 12:04



Assembly of States Parties holding a special session on the review of amendments of the crime of aggression. © X / International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has not been able to pass an amendment that would expand its powers regarding investigations of world leaders over crimes of aggression.

A crime of aggression is considered the most serious offense under the Rome Statute, which established the court. Currently, the ICC can prosecute heads of state over war crimes and

genocide, but in order for it to launch proceedings over the crime of aggression, the Kampala amendments of 2010, which define the body's jurisdiction in the area, must be ratified by all sides of a conflict. So far, they have been backed by just 41 of the 125 members of the court.

The ICC held a special session at the UN headquarters in New York from Monday to Wednesday to decide on the harmonization amendment, which was proposed by Germany, Costa Rica, Slovenia, Sierra Leone, and Vanuatu. It calls for the court to be allowed to initiate crime of aggression investigations if at least one of the warring parties has backed the Kampala amendments.

However, members of the court have not been able to find common ground on the issue, with the UK, Canada, France, Japan, and New Zealand insisting that the final decision should be made after at least two-thirds of ICC participants have ratified the Kampala changes.

A French representative argued during the session that the harmonization amendment raises potential contradictions with the UN Charter, while his Nigerian counterpart warned that it could create a system in which ratifying states might *"paradoxically be more exposed to legal risks."*

As a result of the meeting, it was decided that the ICC members will hold another special session on the matter in 2029.

"When we talk of the crime of aggression, we are looking at a steeplechase, where we have to run and where the obstacles only increase, and the victims of the crime of aggression are asked to wait in the meantime," a Palestinian representative told the gathering on the final day.

In 2024, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over war crimes allegedly committed by his country during the military operation in Gaza, including using starvation as a method of warfare. Israel, which is not a signatory to the Rome Statute, responded by accusing the court of being *"a political tool serving Israel's enemies."*

Earlier this year, the US sanctioned the ICC's top prosecutor, Karim Khan, and several judges for what it called *"illegitimate and baseless actions"* against the US and Israel.

[READ MORE: Iran sets terms for resuming nuclear talks](#)

Russian President Vladimir Putin is also wanted by the court on accusations of unlawfully deporting children from the war zone in the Ukraine conflict. Moscow rejected the charges as *"null and void,"* insisting that the children were evacuated for their safety until they were able to be returned to their families. Russia, which is not a member of the ICC, maintains that the body has no jurisdiction over it. <https://www.rt.com/news/621378-icc-crime-aggression-amendment/>

OP ED

D.C. Resettled Refugees Everywhere Else Except In It

Thu, 10 Jul 2025 9:24 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



From 2018 and 2024, the politicians and bureaucrats in Washington D.C. arranged for the 'resettlement' of 6,299 'refugees' in Maryland. Nearly 1 in 5 of them came from the Islamic terror state of Afghanistan and 1 in 10 came from the equally violent and dangerous terrorist state of Syria. Nearly 70% spoke no English. The second most common language was Arabic.

However in Washington D.C., once part of the state and likely to be part of it again if retrocession reform advocates get

their way, only 73 ‘refugees’ were resettled in 6 years.

The Immigration Research Initiative listed an even smaller number in D.C. of [66 in ten years](#).

There is [no information](#) on those lucky 73 or 66.

D.C. is small, but Vermont, which has an even smaller population, had 1,260 ‘refugees’ inflicted on it. 1 in 10 were from Afghanistan. 77% don’t speak English. North Dakota was plagued with over 1,000 ‘refugees’ including the usual assortment of Afghans, Somalis, and Venezuelans.

Even Alaska was saddled with resettling over 400 refugees (the Afghans and Somalis couldn’t make it, only the Ukrainians could apparently handle the bitter Alaskan winter.)

Why doesn’t the capital of refugee resettlement want to take in refugees?

Washington D.C. has been the hub for resettling migrants, some pretending to be ‘refugees’ around the country, yet of the 288,709 ‘refugees’ forced on Americans in big cities and rural towns alike, only 73 were consigned to D.C. Some people might argue that housing in D.C. is too expensive for everyone except a small elite, but no one was proposing to resettle Afghans and Somalis in Georgetown mansions (not that there wouldn’t be a certain amount of justice to it). Despite being a nexus of wealth for government contractors, lobbyists and the well-connected, 1 in 7 people in D.C. live under the poverty line. And nearly [50,000 people in D.C.](#) already live in subsidized housing. There is no reason that the ‘refugees’ couldn’t have been placed in D.C. low-income housing the way that they have been all over the country (occupying space meant for America’s poor.)

Nor is D.C. unready to take in the ‘wretched refuse’ yearning to bomb marathons.

Indeed, the D.C. government maintains the usual ‘refugee office’ contracted out, as usual, to Catholic Charities and offers cash assistance and social services. Lutheran Social Services runs an operation there. The Office of Refugee Resettlement [claims to have](#) dealt with only 261 ‘refugees’ in D.C. in the last financial year and there’s little sign that they actually stayed.

When you go to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, every state listing links to a collection of local resources. The D.C. directory page mysteriously [links](#) only to “Page Not Found.”

Or maybe not so mysteriously after all.

D.C. is the hub for refugee resettlement. This is where the various federal agencies, the refugee organizations, the resettlers, the lobbyists and politicians collude to flood America. But they don’t want that sort of thing where they live and work. It’s fine for a small town in Georgia or Ohio to suddenly have to absorb a few hundred invaders with virulent diseases and agendas, to find interpreters and keep their daughters locked up, but it’s a different matter in D.C.

When [3,000 illegal aliens](#) were dumped in Lockland, Ohio, a village of 3,400, the locals were told to welcome them and keep quiet or be accused of racism. All the while D.C., at 200 times Lockland’s size, was fulfilling its obligation by taking in not thousands or hundreds, but dozens.

The minimal refugee resettlement in D.C. reveals that the people behind the program know that it’s destructive and they don’t want to deal with it in their own homes, cities and communities.

The very people responsible for the retreat from Afghanistan and then bringing in over 100,000 Afghans to this country did not actually want to live next door to them. And considering the track record of crimes, including murders and stabbings, committed by the Afghans, who can blame them. The trouble is that they want us to live next door to them. And we don’t get a ‘say’ in it.

Refugee resettlement has been a lucrative business and a means of shifting political demographics. That’s why red states in particular were targeted for ‘resettlement’. But like the men who build toxic waste dumps and lunatic asylums somewhere else, they know that the business they’re in is dirty, ugly and dangerous, and they don’t want it close to home.

D.C. and the Vatican both proclaim how important refugee resettlement is, but they don’t actually want to house the refugees. What they do is lecture everyone else about their supreme moral duty of opening their doors to those who want to kill them. Like the celebrity environmentalists who fly jet planes to warn about the terrible environmental impact of traveling by jet, their hypocrisy reveals that they don’t really believe any of what they preach to us.

The D.C. politicians who made a point of visiting murderers, rapists and gang members in ICE detention facilities didn’t actually volunteer to bring any of the ‘poor dears’ home with them. AOC may have cried over an ICE parking lot, but she’s not inviting cartel thugs into her apartment. And the rest of D.C. isn’t interested in sharing the fate of Lockland, Ohio.

Refugee resettlement, like police defunding and cutting back on heating in the winter, is for other people. That’s

why Washington D.C. resettled 'refugees' in every other possible place.

Even in Alaska. Just not in D.C.

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

<https://bkdyk-zgpyh.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser>



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.

Make Israeli checks payable to:

טרבלסי – נייר של חן בעיים

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