

In case you missed it Israel is at war with the Syrian regime who has been slaughtering Druze people in the South of Syria

Israel says it's allowing Syrian forces to enter Sweida for 48 hours amid renewed clashes

Violence between Druze and Bedouin has renewed in the southern Syrian province despite Thursday's announced ceasefire; Israel sending humanitarian aid over the border

By [Lazar Berman](#), [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 3:29 pm



Fighters from Bedouin tribes gather near a burning building in al-Mazraa village, in Syria's southern Sweida governorate, as clashes with Druze gunmen continue on July 18, 2025 (OMAR HAJ KADOUR / AFP)

Israel said Friday it was allowing Syrian security forces to enter the Sweida Governorate for 48 hours, citing the ongoing unrest in southern Syria.

"In light of the ongoing instability in southwest Syria, Israel has agreed to allow limited entry of the [Syrian] internal security forces into Sweida district for the next 48 hours," an official who declined to be named told

reporters.

Deadly violence has plagued Sweida province since Sunday, as Druze fighters clashed with Sunni Bedouin tribes, who were later joined by government forces. The Syrian Network for Human Rights monitoring group said it had documented 254 dead in four days of fighting, among them medical personnel, women, and children.

Israel's own Druze community demanded that Jerusalem act to protect their brethren across the border, as reports [emerged](#) from Sweida of regime forces killing women and boys, looting homes, and shaving Druze clerics' mustaches. Videos also showed Druze fighters beating captured government forces and posing by their bodies.

Syrian troops withdrew from Sweida after a truce was announced on Wednesday, but clashes resumed late on Thursday between fighters from Bedouin tribes and the Druze, who are part of a religious minority in Syria that has followers in Lebanon and Israel. The clashes in parts of Sweida province continued into Friday, according to residents of Sweida and Ryan Marouf, the head of local news outlet Sweida24.

Jerusalem has said it would not allow regime military forces south of Damascus following the violence, which could be the reason the Prime Minister's Office referred to "internal" security in its statement.

Seemingly contradicting the PMO's comments, Syria's interior ministry spokesperson said government forces were not preparing to deploy to Sweida, the state news agency reported. Nouredin al-Baba denied an earlier Reuters report citing an interior ministry media officer as saying security forces were preparing to redeploy

there to quell the fresh fighting involving Bedouin tribes and the Druze, part of a religious minority in Syria that has followers in Lebanon and Israel.



This aerial photograph shows smoke rising above buildings in al-Mazraa village in Syria's southern Sweida governorate as clashes between fighters from Bedouin tribes and Druze gunmen continue on July 18, 2025 (OMAR HAJ KADOUR / AFP)

This week's clashes drew in Israel, which hit Syrian troops in Sweida and Syria's defense ministry in airstrikes, and struck close to the presidential palace in Damascus.

Syrian troops withdrew from Sweida after the truce was announced, but clashes resumed late on Thursday

between the tribal Bedouin fighters and the Druze.

Earlier on Friday, the Israeli army denied reports on the Syrian state news agency, SANA, that it had conducted additional strikes near Sweida on Thursday night.

Describing Syria's new rulers as barely disguised jihadists, Israel has vowed to shield the area's Druze community from attack, prodded by calls from Israel's own Druze minority.

Its deep distrust of Syria's new Islamist-led leadership appears to be at odds with the United States, which said it did not support recent Israeli strikes on Syria.

The US intervened to help secure the truce between government forces and Druze fighters.

Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa, who has worked to establish warmer ties with the US, accused Israel of trying to fracture Syria and promised to protect its Druze minority.

Israel said Friday it was sending humanitarian aid to Sweida province.

Fighters from Bedouin tribes ride motorcycles along a road in al-Mazraa village in Syria's southern Sweida governorate, as clashes with Druze gunmen continue on July 18, 2025 (OMAR



HAJ KADOUR / AFP)

"In light of the recent attacks targeting the Druze community in Sweida and the severe humanitarian situation in the area, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar has ordered the urgent transfer of humanitarian aid to the Druze population in the region," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The NIS 2 million (\$600,000) package includes food parcels and medical supplies, the ministry said, noting it had previously sent humanitarian aid to the Druze in Syria in March.

The head of the UN human rights office on Friday urged Syria's interim authorities to ensure accountability and justice for what it said were credible reports of widespread rights violations during the fighting, including summary executions and kidnappings, the office said in a statement.

At least 13 people were unlawfully killed in one recorded incident on July 15 when affiliates of the interim authorities opened fire at a family gathering, the OHCHR said. Six men were summarily executed near their homes the same day.

The UN refugee agency on Friday urged all sides to allow humanitarian access, which it said had been curtailed by the violence.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel will continue to use military means to enforce its two red lines in Syria — the demilitarization of the area south of Damascus, near Israel's border, and the protection of the country's Druze minority there.



Fighters from Bedouin tribes gather near camouflaged vehicles along a road in al-Mazraa village leading to the predominantly Druze city of Sweida in southern Syria on July 18, 2025 (Sam HARIRI / AFP)

Netanyahu said the Damascus regime, led by Sharaa, violated both those red lines in recent days.

"It sent an army south of Damascus, into the area that should be demilitarized, and it began to massacre the Druze. We could not accept this in any way," he said in a video statement.

The premier added that the ceasefire Sharaa announced in Sweida, which included the withdrawal of regime troops,

"was achieved through force. Not through requests, not through pleas — through force."

"We acted, and we will continue to act as necessary," Netanyahu promised.

Israel attacked military facilities and operatives of the Syrian regime on Wednesday, demanding that regime troops withdraw from Sweida, to which they had deployed during sectarian fighting between Druze and Bedouins, which are reported to have initially broken out after a Druze vegetable vendor was assaulted by Bedouin gunmen on Sunday.

In a press conference Thursday evening, Israel Defense Forces Spokesman Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin acknowledged that the IDF had been unprepared to handle the chaos on the Syrian border in recent days during the Sweida conflict.

Around [1,000 Druze crossed from Israel into Syria](#), and dozens of Syrian Druze entered Israel, at the time of the fighting — leading several Druze Israeli lawmakers to themselves enter Syria to call on Israeli Druze to return to Israel.

Defrin said the IDF “were not prepared for thousands of Israeli citizens who reached the border and tried to pass it,” adding, “We are learning lessons.”



Druze in Israel protest near the Israeli-Syrian border fence in solidarity with Druze in Syria, July 16, 2025. (Michael Giladi/Flash90)

Police said they arrested two Druze Israelis at the Syrian border on Thursday morning, as they tried to reenter Israeli territory with a Kalashnikov rifle. The two young men — ages 18 and 20, from the villages of Kisra and Beit Jann — crossed into Syria on Wednesday. Police said that they patched up breaches on the Israel-Syria border and are currently working with local Druze leaders to facilitate the return of Israelis who crossed into Syria, and vice versa. Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa’s

interim government has had troubled relations with ethnic and religious minority groups since it came to power in December.

March saw massacres of more than 1,700 mostly Alawite civilians in their hub on the Mediterranean coast, with government-affiliated groups blamed for most of the killings.

Government forces also battled Druze fighters in Sweida province and near Damascus in April and May, leaving more than 100 people dead.

Israel, which is home to around 150,000 Druze, many of whom serve in the IDF, has repeatedly stated its intention to defend Syria’s Druze community.

The IDF, which has taken control of the UN-monitored demilitarized zone on the Golan Heights and conducted hundreds of strikes on military targets in Syria, also says it will not allow any Syrian military presence in the south.

Despite having initiated contact with a first face-to-face meeting in Azerbaijan earlier this month, Israel remains extremely wary of Syria’s new rulers, including Sharaa, whose Hayat Tahrir al-Sham movement was once linked to al-Qaeda.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-says-its-allowing-syrian-forces-to-enter-sweida-for-48-hours-amid-renewed-clashes/>

Golan-born father, gynecologist brother and devoted wife: Inside Syrian President al-Sharaa’s family

New details emerge about the family of Syria's new ruler, revealing complex ties to the former regime and strong anti-Israel views among some relatives

[Lior Ben Ari](#)|Updated:12:41

More than six months after his rise to power in a coup against Bashar Assad, new details are emerging about the close relatives of Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, a figure who had long remained in the shadows as he led the jihadi rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham to power. Not all in his family share a favorable view of Israel.

Ahmad al-Sharaa’s father, Dr. Hussein al-Sharaa, is an economist, writer and petroleum scholar. He was born in the 1940s in the village of Fiq of the Golan Heights, then under Syrian control,

roughly 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Quneitra. His father, Ali, owned much of the village's land—reportedly about 85% of it.



Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa (Photo: AP Photo/Francisco Seco, File)

As a young man, Hussein joined protests against the Ba'ath Party coup in 1963. During one demonstration, an assassination attempt on him ended in the accidental killing of a young girl. He was jailed for four days and subsequently fled Syria, first to Jordan and then Iraq, where he earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Baghdad.

In the early 1970s, Hussein returned to Syria and began working in the Oil Ministry. When tensions escalated between the Ba'ath regimes in Syria and Iraq, he left for Saudi Arabia, where he worked in the oil sector and wrote extensively on the topic, publishing several books.

He returned to Syria in the late 1980s, was imprisoned again for a time, and later became an advisor in the Oil Ministry before eventually leaving the role. Reports say the family also ran a store in the upscale al-Mezzeh neighborhood of Damascus. After the Syrian civil war broke out, Hussein relocated to Egypt.

In March, Hussein was photographed at the presidential palace in Damascus during Eid al-Fitr prayers. When he extended his hand to his son Ahmad, the president bent down and kissed it—a moment that went viral on Syrian social media. Hussein frequently posts his opinions online.

In a June 16 Facebook post, amid the [war with Iran](#), he wrote: “This reckless [Benjamin] Netanyahu thinks Iran is just Hezbollah and Hamas. He doesn’t understand that Iran is a strong state with tremendous capabilities. Its response was thunderous. Yes, it was, and still is, powerful. For the first time, we’re seeing the scale of destruction in the occupied Palestinian cities.”



Hussein al-Sharaa

In another post in May, he harshly criticized Israel, writing: “The Zionist enemy state is attacking under the pretense of protecting Syrian [Druze](#), as if it cares more than the Syrian state or its people. This is done with the belief that the new Syrian state will remain silent, as it had in the past.

“Israel has been suppressing Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank for two years, demolishing and uprooting homes and everyone in the region watches

silently—but on Syria, we will not stay quiet. It will reach you from where you least expect it.”

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The president's wife, Latifa al-Droubi, originally from Syria's Homs province, holds a master's degree in Arabic language and literature. After years of rumors about her, she was publicly introduced in January during a meeting between President al-Sharaa and a group of Syrian women living in the U.S.

He confirmed that she is his only wife and said he loves her deeply. In February, she was seen with him for the first time during Umrah pilgrimage ceremonies in Mecca and has since become a public figure, appearing at several official events.

In a June speech before a delegation of women from across Syria, al-Sharaa praised al-Droubi for staying by his side as they moved through 49 different homes, some of them caves, often under attack.



Latifa al-Droubi

He said she refused to leave his side. During the same event, he also spoke about his mother, who, he said, always believed he was alive despite rumors to the contrary. Al-Droubi was later seen wiping away tears at the launch of a new “Syrian identity” initiative—footage that quickly spread online. The couple reportedly has three children.

Another figure recently revealed is the president’s brother, Dr. Maher al-Sharaa, a gynecologist who lived for years in Russia. He’s married to Tatyana Zakirova, whose family

reportedly holds extensive business ties in Russia, including lucrative government contracts.

In April, [Maher was appointed secretary-general of the presidency](#). His appointment sparked concerns that Syria might be heading toward the establishment of a new ruling dynasty rather than a democratic system. Before this, he briefly served as acting health minister from December 2024 to March 2025.

Ahmad al-Sharaa has other siblings as well. One brother, Hazem al-Sharaa, accompanied him on an official visit to Saudi Arabia in February. Hazem holds a Ph.D. in economics from the American University in Cairo and is believed to head the Syrian Investment Authority, though this has not been officially confirmed.



Al-Sharaa's reunion with relative reported to be his great-aunt

Another brother, Jamal al-Sharaa, was seen in April alongside Syria’s culture minister, Mohammad Saleh, at an event that drew controversy online as some participants were allegedly affiliated with the previous Assad regime. The president’s office later clarified that Jamal holds no official government position.

In June, Arab social media shared footage of a reunion in Daraa between President al-Sharaa and a woman introduced

as his aunt. SyriaTV reported she is his father's aunt. In a short interview, she said she hadn’t seen Ahmad in 30 years but had met his father.

Another emotional moment came in December 2024 when the president visited his old elementary school in Damascus’ al-Mezzeh neighborhood and met with the principal, Hifa Kweidar.

The president also has familial ties to the former regime. His father’s cousin is Farouk al-Sharaa, a longtime Syrian politician who served as vice president under Bashar Assad until being removed in 2014 along with other senior Ba’ath Party officials. Farouk also served as foreign minister and represented Syria at the U.S.-brokered Camp David peace talks with Israel more than two decades ago. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/s1s5ga4lle>

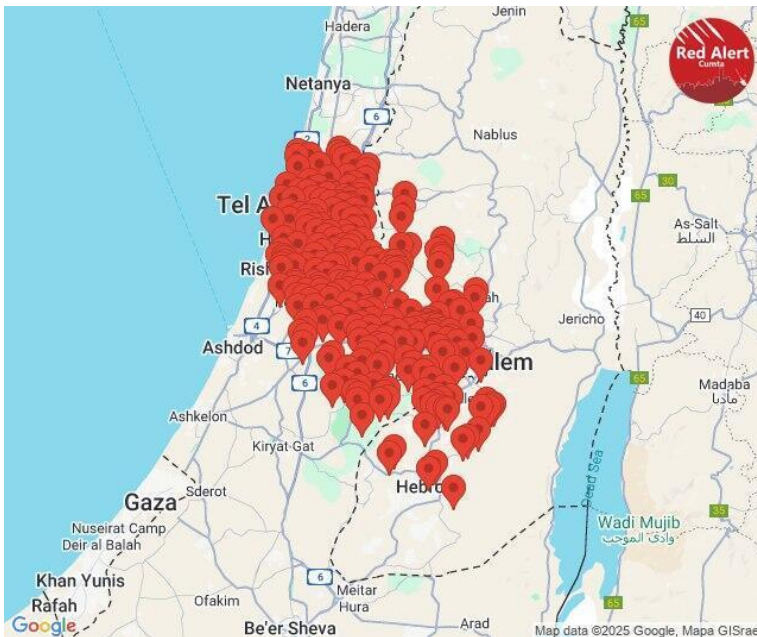
IDF intercepts missile fired from Yemen as sirens send millions to shelters

Missile launched from Yemen intercepted by Israeli forces, triggering sirens across central Israel and briefly disrupting air traffic at Ben Gurion Airport

[Yoav Zitun](#), [Iris Lifshitz-Klieger](#), [Lior Ben Ari](#) | 14:30

The Israeli Air Force intercepted a missile fired from Yemen Friday night, triggering sirens across central Israel, including the Tel Aviv metropolitan area, the Sharon region, the Shephelah lowlands and areas surrounding Jerusalem.

As a precaution, incoming flights to [Ben Gurion International Airport](#) were temporarily halted. A FlyDubai flight en route from Dubai was held in a holding pattern over Israeli airspace, while other aircraft were delayed over the Mediterranean Sea. A Royal Jordanian flight en route to Amman was also delayed in the air, as it had planned to transit Israeli skies.



(Photo: Cumta)

Senior Houthi official Hezam al-Asad, known for occasionally tweeting in Hebrew, posted in Arabic Friday night, writing: “The Yemeni people, with their brave Quranic leadership and forces, will not abandon Gaza.”

The last [such attack by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels occurred Wednesday night](#), when sirens were activated in communities near the Dead Sea. Almost a week earlier, on Thursday morning, a [Houthi-fired missile triggered widespread alerts at 5:19 a.m. across central Israel and the Jerusalem area](#), prompting millions to seek shelter. The IDF later confirmed that the missile was intercepted by the Arrow air defense system.

In recent months, the Houthis have intensified their attacks on maritime traffic along key

trade routes between Asia and Europe, resulting in the deaths of civilian crew members and disruptions to international shipping.

Just hours after [Israel launched Operation Black Flag](#) earlier this month — one of its largest operations against Houthi targets in Yemen since the outbreak of the Gaza war on Oct. 7 — [two additional missiles were fired at Israel](#). Those launches triggered nighttime sirens that woke hundreds of thousands across the country.

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Despite multiple military responses, Israel continues to struggle with deterring the threat posed by the Houthis, whose launch sites lie some 2,000 kilometers (about 1,240 miles) from Israeli territory and have repeatedly disrupted daily life for millions.

As is customary on Fridays, the Houthis held mass demonstrations in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa in support of Gaza. This week's protests were held under the slogan, “We will continue to support Gaza and confront the Zionists.”

In a speech on Thursday, Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi referenced the situation at Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat, which may face closure next week. “The sinking of two ships belonging to companies that violated the ban on sailing to Israel has once again shut down the port of Eilat after attempts to reopen it,” he declared. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bjb6jqouxl>

Israeli spy chief visits US amid bid to move Palestinians out of Gaza - Axios

Trump suggested in February that the US take over Gaza, temporarily moving its two million inhabitants, while the land is rebuilt.

By REUTERS, JERUSALEM POST STAFF JULY 18, 2025 22:12



Displaced Palestinians fill water at a tent camp, in Gaza City, May 20, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/Mahmoud Issa)

The head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, David Barnea, visited Washington this week as Israel seeks the Trump administration's help in moving Palestinians out of Gaza, Axios reported on Friday, citing two sources with knowledge of the matter.

Barnea told US envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, in a meeting earlier this week that Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Libya have expressed openness to receiving large numbers of Palestinians from Gaza, according to the two

sources.

The move is viewed as highly controversial; some Israeli and American legal experts have labeled it a war crime. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet have said that the “relocation” would be “voluntary” and nobody would be forced to leave.

Barnea pushed the US to offer incentives to those countries and support Israel in convincing them. It is unclear whether the US will provide its support, according to *Axios*.



Head of Mossad David Barnea attends a ceremony held at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem, as Israel marks the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day. April 23, 2025. (credit: Chaim Goldberg FLASH90)

Trump's plan for Gaza

US President Donald Trump suggested in February that the [US take over Gaza](#) and temporarily move its two million inhabitants while the land is rebuilt. Trump received pushback from both Arab and Western countries, while Netanyahu and his government supported the idea.

The Trump administration reportedly told Israeli officials that if Netanyahu wanted to pursue this idea, Israel would need to find [countries willing to take in](#)

[Palestinians](#), a task Netanyahu then gave the Mossad, according to *Axios*. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-861496>

Israel's battle-tested air defenses 'exceeded expectations' in Iran war, missile defense chief says

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Iron Dome, Arrow, and David's Sling got their 'combat proven' stamp during the war with Iran By DEAN SHMUEL ELMAS/GLOBES/TNS JULY 18, 2025 17:40

n. Now, the director of the Israel Missile Defense Organization explains what's next.



A fundamental key to the success of Israel's air defense lies in the multilayered defense system that many countries around the world are trying to copy. Here, rockets fired by Hezbollah are intercepted by the Iron Dome air defense system over the Upper Galilee last August. (photo credit: JALAA MAREY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)

Iron Dome, Arrow and [David's Sling](#) have become synonymous with national success. Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Israel Aerospace Industries and Elbit Systems have won great praise, but a fundamental key to the success of Israel's air defense lies in the

multilayered defense system, which many countries are trying to copy.

The program has been led by the Defense Ministry's Directorate of Defense Research & Development, which has been managing the development and production of Israel's air defense since 1991.

The director of the Israel Missile Defense Organization since 2016 has been Moshe Patel, one of the veteran professionals in the field, who leads critical national missions, including planning, development, and production of air defense capabilities, and ongoing coordination with the US. About 48% of all Israeli defense exports in 2024 (totaling about \$14.79 billion) were air defense systems.

“When there is war and operational events, IMDO is deployed on all fronts, in all defense industries, in the core of the air force. Every event, successful or not, we analyze in real time and learn for the future,” Patel said in a

special interview. “If something is good, we will pass it on to the other systems. If there is a need to improve, we find the solutions and pass on our operational recommendation. All of our systems have experienced changes, after we sat down with the industry to examine implementation.”

The results of Israeli air defense against the Iranians as part of the Iran operation were unprecedented by any criteria. About 86% of Iranian ballistic missiles were intercepted by Israeli and US systems (THAAD and AEGIS), and about 99% of drones.



The Iron Dome air defense missile systems is seen during operational trials conducted following the conclusion Operation Shield and Arrow on May 14, 2023 (credit: DEFENSE MINISTRY)

“As a matter of fact, our expectations were lower than the results,” admitted Patel. “There are achievements here that go beyond the basic demands. Regarding Arrow 3, we are implementing the lessons learned from the operational events and continuing to improve the system.”

Patel, 63, married, and father of four, is a computer engineering graduate from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology with an MBA from Tel Aviv University. He began his defense career in the air force’s software units, working on F-16 avionics

systems, later moving to command and control systems. In 1996 he first reached the defense directorate working on the Arrow system, was involved in developing the first Arrow system in 2000, and served in various ministry positions, including as a representative in Washington. After working at [Elbit Systems](#), he became head of IMDO in 2016.

“I’ve been in the field for nearly 30 years. When we first started working on the Arrow, I said to myself, ‘We’re building an excellent system that will make it clear to the enemy that we can defend against attacks.’ I thought we were building a good deterrent capability, but I wasn’t sure we would use it,” said Patel. “To see a system that I’ve been working on for 30 years – and my predecessors for even longer – come to fruition is wonderful. The system works as smoothly as planned.”

As has been evident since the start of the war and especially in the operation against Iran, Israel came prepared for the missile and rocket threats. However, the threats that Israel faces are not the most severe today. Various countries possess intercontinental ballistic missiles that challenge defense systems due to their high speed, long flight range, and means of deception. In addition, there is the hypersonic threat, which combines capabilities between a ballistic missile and a cruise missile, flying at extremely high speeds while taking unpredictable trajectories that make interception difficult.

“We always look a few steps ahead and try to be, as before, prepared and ready for the next threats,” said Patel regarding these threats. “Upgrades and improvements have already been made to the software and hardware in each of our systems. We have far-reaching plans that existed regardless of the war, and we continue to accelerate them.”

A company that has dedicated years to intercepting hypersonic missiles

The company that has been developing a dedicated interceptor for the hypersonic threat for several years is Rafael, with a single-shot system. However, it is at an early stage compared with other air defense systems being promoted by Israeli defense industries.

Among the future developments, the Arrow 4 and Arrow 5 systems stand out.

“Arrow 4 is a system that will replace Arrow 2,” Patel noted. “We are going to bring a modern, innovative interceptor missile, with lessons learned from Arrow 3 and Arrow 2. It will be much more robust, while paying great attention to mass-producing the missile effectively.”

Arrow 5 is not a replacement for Arrow 3, but complementary. “At this stage, the industry is offering ideas, and we are accompanying the process. It will definitely be a significant leap forward. Arrow 3 has a big future with its phenomenal success; there is no precedent for its success rate.”

Israel has achieved significant international sales success, including the Arrow 3 system sold to Germany for \$3.5b. and David’s Sling to Finland for about \$390 million. “The very fact that the industries are simultaneously managing not to neglect Israeli needs despite foreign needs is a badge of honor for each of the industries,” Patel

said.

The scale of these projects required IMDO to increase manpower by 20%. The work requires close contact with industries for executing contracts, monitoring and guidance, coordinating with the IDF, the ministry, the National Security Council, the government, and the US.

The fruitful cooperation between Israel and the US also entails a notable challenge. It is prohibited to sell a jointly produced system – for example, Arrow 3 and David's Sling – without US approval. In contrast, US approval was not required for the sale of [Rafael's Spyder system to Romania last week](#) (for about €2.2b.), as it is completely made in Israel.



David's Sling (credit: DEFENSE MINISTRY)

“Our air defense systems are particularly critical for the State of Israel. First of all, there is the Israeli process that includes the Defense Export Control Division, the ministry's security officials, and the IDF. Only then comes the US part,” Patel explained.

To what extent is the US integrated into [Arrow 3](#)? “It works hand in hand with us in Arrow 3. They receive a detailed overview of what happened in each operational event, and they also share with us about the functioning of their systems. We deal with questions such as what happened, and how to improve coordination between the systems. We built an incredible infrastructure that began as a crazy US demand for connectivity capabilities with

our systems. From the first day of Arrow, we created this, and the orchestra played well in previous events but especially during the Iran operation. They are very involved, producing 50% of the components.”

Patel defined the close cooperation with the US as a “long-term marriage.” “Right now we are continuing to investigate what happened with the Houthis, what they saw, what can be done next, what they need to learn and what they need to improve. It has become more than just a professional friendship. It is mutual care, influence, amazing relationships where not only do we benefit from the generous money but also from joint management, joint deliberations.

“The competition is great, but not many countries have the ‘Combat Proven’ stamp. Only a few do, and when you consider the number of our interceptions, it is significant. With Iron Dome and Arrow, it is crazy, and with David's Sling, too. It is a quality that not many have. We have undergone many trials, simulations, but the operational baptism of fire – bringing a system that has been tested in battle and proven itself – is a completely different world.”

Under the current memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the US, \$500m. a year are allocated for joint air defense projects, but this is only until 2028. The future of the next MoU and its content are still shrouded in mystery, all the more so in the wake of US President Donald Trump's ambition to increase US independence and his grandiose “Golden Dome” air defense program.

Patel explained that in addition to the \$5b. granted Israel over a decade, there were years during which the US additionally funded other projects. In 2019, for example, an Arrow 3 trial was conducted in Alaska, for which US funding reached \$700m. In 2021 during Operation Guardians of the Wall, a grant of \$1b. was received, and during the current war, \$5.2b. has been received for interceptor missiles and promoting the Iron Beam laser air defense system.

“Five hundred million dollars a year is significant. When I was first at IMDO and in my position in Washington, when we would receive a certain budget from the US administration, we would ask for additions. It's a problematic situation because you present the needs, and then Congress says to move from point A to point B. In such a situation, MDA [the US Missile Defense Agency] had to cut other programs. In a situation with \$500m. a year for a decade, you can plan long-term, and that is important.

“As for 2029, it is left to the dialogue between the countries. We will have to talk about it, at the decision-making level. First of all, the government and the National Security Council need to make a decision on what and

how, and start processes with the administration and Congress.” <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-861419>

Europe warns Iran of sanctions unless ‘verifiable and lasting’ nuclear deal reached

UK, France and Germany tell Tehran deadline for ‘concrete progress’ on new agreement is end of summer, otherwise it will face major ‘snapback’ of UN sanctions

By [Reuters](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 3:09 pm

Traffic flows in Tehran past a huge billboard bearing a painting of a missile falling on Israel with the slogan in Farsi, "The missile has fallen amidst the demons," on July 16, 2025 (ATTA KENARE / AFP)

PARIS — France, Britain and Germany told Iran on Thursday that they wanted Tehran to resume diplomacy immediately over its nuclear program and warned if there were no concrete steps by the end of the summer they would restore UN sanctions.

The foreign ministers of the so-called E3, along with the European Union’s foreign policy chief, held their

first call with Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi since Israel and the United States carried out air strikes in mid-June on Iran’s nuclear program.

Speaking after the call, a French diplomatic source said the ministers had called on Iran to resume diplomatic efforts immediately to reach a “verifiable and lasting” nuclear deal.

The three countries, along with China and Russia, are the remaining parties to a 2015 deal with Iran that lifted sanctions on the country in return for restrictions on its nuclear program. The US withdrew from the agreement in 2018.

A UN Security Council resolution that enshrines the deal expires on October 18, and under its terms, UN sanctions can be reimposed beforehand. The process would take about 30 days.

The Europeans have repeatedly warned that unless there is a new nuclear accord, they will launch the “snapback mechanism,” which would restore all previous UN sanctions on Iran if it is found to be in violation of the agreement’s terms.



This handout picture provided by the Iranian foreign ministry on July 15, 2025, shows Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (C) attending a meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the Chinese city of Tianjin. (Iranian Foreign Ministry / AFP)

“The ministers also reiterated their determination to use the so-called ‘snapback’ mechanism in the absence of concrete progress toward such an agreement by the end of the summer,” the diplomatic source said.

The source did not elaborate on what concrete progress would entail.

Since the air strikes, inspectors from the UN atomic watchdog, which monitored whether Iran was complying with limits on its nuclear program, have left the country. While Iran has suggested it is open to diplomacy, there are no indications a sixth round of nuclear talks between Washington and Tehran will resume imminently.

Diplomats say that even if they were to resume talks, reaching a comprehensive accord before the end of August seems unrealistic, especially without inspectors on the ground to assess Iran’s remaining nuclear program.

Two European diplomats said they hoped to coordinate strategy with the United States in the coming days with a view to possibly holding talks with Iran soon.



Motorists drive past a billboard depicting Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in the center of Tehran's Valiasr Square on July 13, 2025. (ATTA KENARE / AFP)

The US-Iran negotiations, which began in April, were halted as Israel launched surprise strikes on Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile facilities on June 13, starting a war that the United States later joined. Israeli and American officials indicated the sides were coordinated after Washington came to the conclusion that talks with Iran were going nowhere.

Israel said its assault was necessary to prevent the Islamic Republic from realizing its avowed plan to destroy Israel.

Iran has denied seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. However, it enriched uranium to levels that have no peaceful application, obstructed international inspectors from checking its nuclear facilities, and expanded its ballistic missile capabilities. Israel said Iran had recently taken significant steps toward nuclear weaponization. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/europe-warns-iran-of-sanctions-unless-verifiable-and-lasting-nuclear-deal-reached/>

After quitting government, Haredim launch scathing attacks on PM, national religious MKs

'The ones who are leading the war against Torah students are the religious Zionists,' says UTJ's Gafni, arguing it was a mistake to prioritize judicial overhaul over conscription bill

By [Sam Sokol](#)

Today, 4:14 am



Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu, right, with UTJ MK Moshe Gafni in the Knesset on December 28, 2022. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

Leading ultra-Orthodox political figures and rabbinical leaders launched a wave of harsh attacks on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his national religious political allies on Thursday, following the Haredi Shas and United Torah Judaism parties' exit from the government.

Speaking to the ultra-Orthodox Mishpacha weekly, Motti Babchik, a senior adviser to UTJ chairman and former housing minister Yitzhak Goldknopf, downplayed his

anger at Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Yuli Edelstein (Likud), whom Haredi parties had previously said was chiefly responsible for their decision to leave the government because he had walked back commitments made in negotiations on legislation granting widespread conscription exemption for ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students.

Instead, Babchik, who was chief of staff to Goldknopf at the Housing Ministry, said that blame for the government's failure to pass the legislation lay at the top of the command — with Netanyahu.

UTJ [quit the coalition](#) on Monday evening, and Goldknopf resigned as minister, after Edelstein allegedly went back on an agreement to soften some of the harsh sanctions included in his proposed Haredi draft legislation. UTJ was followed by Shas on Wednesday, which [bolted the government](#) while remaining part of the coalition.

The Haredi parties have long demanded legislation enshrining in law a decades-long broad exemption of Haredi young men from Israel's mandatory military conscription that was [rejected as lacking a legal basis](#) by the High Court of Justice last summer. The court ordered that the Haredim be drafted.

“I don’t want to defend Edelstein, but he hasn’t changed his position. He’s not to blame. The [prime minister] is to blame,” Babchik told the Haredi magazine. “Netanyahu continues to lie. He is an expert in divisiveness and causing conflict.”

He argued that if Netanyahu had simply approached Edelstein several months ago “demanding a draft of the conscription law, everything would have been behind us, but he simply didn’t want to.”



Motti Babchik seen in the Knesset on March 3, 2020 (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

With Netanyahu, there are always “excuses and explanations” and others to blame, but at the end of the day, the prime minister did “not stand by anything that had been signed,” Babchik added.

It was a mistake to trust Netanyahu and Justice Minister Yariv Levin, who told the Haredim that they should postpone pushing a proposed Basic Law on Torah study exempting yeshiva students from military service until after the passage of the coalition’s judicial overhaul agenda, the UTJ senior aide said.

They believed that this basic law would have prevented the High Court from striking down the legislation they were seeking, Babchik said. However, following the outbreak of mass demonstrations against the judicial overhaul in 2023, the Haredim were told that “the streets are burning” and “we have no possibility of passing a conscription law now,” he recalled.

After the publication of his remarks, newly appointed Housing Minister Haim Katz fired Babchik from his senior position in the ministry.

In response to his termination, Babchik blamed the prime minister for lying “to his loyal coalition partners who stood by Likud through thick and thin, only to receive ingratitude in return.”

Gafni: ‘War against Torah students’

Babchik’s rhetoric was echoed by Moshe Gafni, the chairman of UTJ’s Degel Hatorah faction.

In an interview with the ultra-Orthodox Kikar Hashabbat news site, the veteran Haredi politician launched a full-throated attack on Netanyahu as well as the national religious community and Bezael Smotrich’s Religious Zionism party, charging that they have been “leading the war against Torah students.”

He also questioned the partnership with that community’s political representatives, blasting them for insisting that it is possible to combine military service with Torah study.



Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich and MK Moshe Gafni attend a Knesset vote on the 2025 state budget, December 16, 2024. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

“The ones who are leading the war against Torah students are the religious Zionists,” he stated, adding that “those who are leading the incitement against us... they are worse than the biggest haters of Torah scholars.”

Gafni further stated that recent events constituted a “bill of divorce,” ruling out any partnership on any issue between UTJ and its erstwhile national religious coalition allies.

In response, Smotrich tweeted that Gafni should be ashamed of himself, recommending that he visit the military cemetery on Mount Herzl and “go visit the bereaved families,” as well as the national religious hesder yeshivas and pre-military academies, which combine Torah study with military service.

Gafni also denounced Netanyahu and Edelstein, the latter of whom is also a member of the national religious community.

UTJ’s big mistake on the enlistment issue, Gafni said, was that it “agreed that the judicial reform would come before the conscription law,” adding that Edelstein “simply lied.”



Likud MK Yuli Edelstein chairs a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, May 8, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

“He should have told us that he couldn’t pass this law. He misled us — that’s one issue. And the second is the prime minister. He bears responsibility because he is the head of the system. He did not lie to us about this matter, but he bears responsibility and he needs to fix it. He made an agreement with us in which the main issue was regulating the status of yeshiva students.”

‘Why are you lying?’

Representatives of Shas also harshly criticized Netanyahu and Edelstein, with party spiritual leader and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef declaring that the prime minister had lied that recruits could enter the army as Haredim and leave as Haredim.

“Why are you lying? How audacious of you to lie like that,” he said in a video broadcast by Channel 13.

Yosef referred to a famous quote by his late father, Shas founder and prominent ultra-Orthodox spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who once called Netanyahu a “blind goat.”



Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef delivers a lesson in Safed, on September 17, 2024. (David Cohen/Flash90)

“And I say [he’s] a blind fox and not a blind goat,” he continued, alleging that no ultra-Orthodox person can go through army service without “going astray.”

Yosef then turned to Edelstein, a Soviet-born Jew and former refusenik who served in labor camps and was eventually allowed to immigrate to Israel. The rabbi seized on the fact that Edelstein’s father ended up converting to Christianity and becoming a priest.

“There is one, whose father converted to Christianity and is a priest — this one grew up in a priest’s home and he’s doing all the trouble to the yeshiva students,” the rabbi said. “He’s with a kippa, and he’s making all the trouble... Your father is a priest! You will come and harm the Torah students?”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-quitting-government-haredim-launch-scathing-attacks-on-pm-national-religious-mks/>

Biden-era tax dollars funded anti-Netanyahu, judicial reform protest groups, US gov't report finds

The investigation also revealed that the administration may have funded groups with ties to US-designated terrorist organizations such as Hamas.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) JULY 18, 2025 13:02 Updated: JULY 18, 2025 13:25



(Illustrative) Former US President Joe Biden speaks during a visit to Vernon Electric Cooperative in Westby, Wisconsin, US, September 5, 2024. (photo credit: REUTERS/KEVIN LAMARQUE)

United States tax dollars may have been used to fund protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s judicial reform plan during the Biden-Harris administration, an investigation published by the US House of Representatives on Thursday revealed.

In March, The Jerusalem Post reported that six US and Israeli NGOs were being investigated by the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs committees to ascertain whether funding they allegedly received from the Biden administration was utilized for the judicial reform protests in 2023.

The Committee’s oversight also revealed that the Biden-Harris Administration provided grant funds to

groups that “contributed directly and indirectly to the judicial reform protests that sought to undermine the Israeli government,” the investigation stated.

Among the groups that received the largest amount of funding were Blue and White Future and the [Movement for the Quality of Government](#) in Israel.

“Under Israeli law, BWF’s direct involvement in the protests and plots against Prime Minister Netanyahu’s government “may constitute a violation of the law and the conditions of the Registrar of Associations in Israel” by “operating outside of its stated goals” as a nonprofit organization,” the investigation stated.



HAMAS TERRORISTS keep guard on the day Hamas handed over deceased hostages, in Khan Yunis, Feb. 20, 2025. (credit: REUTERS)

Funding groups with ties to terror groups

Additionally, the investigation suggested that the Biden-Harris administration “potentially funded groups with ties to US-designated terrorist organizations.”

Notably, the Gaza-based NGO Bayader Association for Environment and Development has received nearly one million dollars in US funding since 2016, despite “openly collaborat[ing] with Hamas officials, including holding joint events with Hamas leaders.”

The most recent grant issued by USAID to Bayader was on October 1, 2023, a week before the October 7

massacre.

“These ties are not new,” the investigation stated. “For instance, in 2021, Bayader’s annual report notes ‘coordination’ and ‘meetings’ with [Hamas’s](#) Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Social Affairs, and Ministry of Agriculture.”

In 2023, a Bayader staff member was seen embracing senior Hamas officials, including the son of former Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

The investigation is still ongoing, and will be expanded to include additional American and Israeli NGOs that may be involved in “funneling US government funds with the purpose of undermining the Israeli government or for the support or fiscal sponsorship of [terrorist](#) groups.” <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-861477>

Putin, Trump and Xi could meet in September – The Times

The Russian president is already set to meet his Chinese counterpart in Beijing for upcoming World War II commemorations

18 Jul, 2025 20:22



Russian President Vladimir Putin alongside his US, Vietnamese and Chinese counterparts Donald Trump, Tran Dai Quang and Xi Jinping in Da Nang, Vietnam, November 11, 2017. © Mikhail Klimentyev/RIA Novosti

US President Donald Trump could meet his Russian and Chinese counterparts, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, at an upcoming event marking the 80th anniversary of victory over imperial Japan in World War II, The Times has reported.

China has announced plans to honor the date with a military parade in Beijing in September, and Moscow has confirmed that

Putin will attend.

The Soviet Union, China and the US cooperated in the fight against Japan during World War II. Both analysts and ordinary Chinese have called on Xi to “seize the opportunity,” invite Trump and host a three-way summit during the upcoming victory celebration, The Times wrote on Friday.

“Why not align Trump’s visit with the September 3 commemoration?” Renmin University of China Professor and popular Chinese opinion leader Jin Canrong told the Guancha news outlet last month. “If the leaders of China, the US, and Russia were to stand together during the military parade, it would be a great positive signal to the world,” he suggested.

According to The Times, Beijing “tacitly encouraged speculation” on the subject by refusing to deny a report

by Japan's Kyodo News released last month, which claimed that the decision to invite Trump had already been made.

Relations between Washington, Beijing, and Moscow have soured in recent years over the Ukraine conflict, accusations of Chinese cyber warfare, and what the US describes as “*unfair*” market practices.

Since the start of his second term in January, Trump has moved to thaw diplomatic ties with Russia and pushed for a settlement in the Ukraine conflict. However, on Monday, he expressed exasperation with the pace of the talks and [threatened](#) 100% secondary tariffs on Russian trading partners if the hostilities aren't resolved within 50 days.

Trump has also reignited a trade war with Beijing, which earlier this year rattled global financial markets. The tit-for-tat tariff standoff peaked with 145% US duties on Chinese imports and 125% retaliatory levies from Beijing. Tensions appear to have eased following a trade deal last month under which China relaxed restrictions on key rare earth mineral exports. <https://www.rt.com/news/621668-putin-trump-xi-meeting-times/>

Putin aide gives verdict on new EU sanctions

Brussels is depriving the bloc of stable energy supplies from Russia, presidential investment envoy Kirill Dmitriev has said

18 Jul, 2025 21:02



Presidential investment envoy Kirill Dmitriev with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Moscow, Russia, May 17, 2025. © Grigory Sysoev/RIA Novosti

EU sanctions on Russia are far more damaging to the bloc's member states than they are to Moscow, presidential investment envoy Kirill Dmitriev said on Telegram on Friday.

Brussels announced the adoption of its 18th package of sanctions against Russia earlier in the day, targeting the country's hydrocarbon exports and banking sector.

One of the financial institutions sanctioned was the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), of which Dmitriev is the CEO.

According to the presidential envoy, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pushed for sanctions on the fund because the RDIF “*facilitates the settlement of the Ukrainian conflict, promotes dialogue between Russia and the United States, and invests in the growth of the Russian economy.*”

The EU elite is afraid of peace and continues to remain captive to hostile narratives, destroying the economy of the entire EU with its own hands.

The economic restrictions are destructive to bloc member states, depriving them of stable energy supplies and access to the Russian market, Dmitriev argued.

“*Last year, despite all the sanctions pressure, Russia's GDP grew by 4.3%, versus a 0.7% growth rate in the Eurozone,*” he said.

The RDIF calls for “*unwinding the sanctions spiral,*” Dmitriev said. He argued that, despite the imposition of more than 30,000 sanctions against Russia, the measures have failed to force Moscow into acting “*in opposition to Russian national interests.*”

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday that Moscow has developed “*a certain immunity*” to the Western sanctions.

According to Russian President Vladimir Putin, such unilateral economic restrictions harm the economies of the very states that turn to them. “*The more sanctions are imposed, the greater the damage to the imposers,*” at the Eurasian Economic Union summit in Minsk last month. <https://www.rt.com/russia/621669-putin-aide-verdict-sanctions/>

Ukrainian military recruit kills two instructors

The incident happened at a training range in the country's central Chernigov Region

18 Jul, 2025 12:43



FILE PHOTO: A magazine and rounds compatible with a Kalashnikov assault rifle. © Sergey Averin / Sputnik

A Ukrainian military recruit has fatally shot two instructors during a training exercise in the Chernigov region, police confirmed on Thursday, after details leaked about the case.

The authorities said the suspect opened fire with an automatic weapon on a group of military personnel the day before. He faces a potential life sentence for premeditated murder,

according to the statement.

The shootings took place at a training range and were initially reported by Artyom Dmitruk, a fugitive member of parliament and outspoken critic of Kiev's mobilization policies. Dmitruk alleged that incidents like this are frequently covered up by military officials.

In a post on social media, Dmitruk published what appeared to be an internal report naming the location, the suspect and the two deceased instructors. A third instructor was reportedly targeted but was not injured. All three were identified as sergeants participating in a live-ammunition drill, the document stated. The report was subsequently shared by other outlets before it was confirmed by law enforcement.

Kiev has relied on mandatory conscription to offset battlefield losses in its ongoing conflict with Russia. The mobilization effort, however, has been hampered by widespread draft evasion.

Earlier this month, Michael O'Flaherty, the Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights, raised concerns about "*allegations of torture and death during military recruitment*" in Ukraine. Videos purportedly showing aggressive conscription tactics have circulated widely for months and sparked domestic unrest.

The issue also escalated diplomatically this month after Hungary [demanded](#) an investigation into the death of one of its citizens who was allegedly beaten by Ukrainian recruitment officers.

In August 2023, Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky replaced the heads of all regional recruitment centers amid widespread allegations of corruption. Last year, Ukraine restructured its military conscription system, lowering the draft age and tightening enforcement.

Moscow has accused Zelensky of prosecuting a war "*to the last Ukrainian*," claiming he is willing to sacrifice his population to retain power. <https://www.rt.com/russia/621652-ukrainian-recruit-kills-instructors/>

OP ED

Who Really Backed Epstein?

Thu, 17 Jul 2025 5:22 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



The first time Jeffrey Epstein was locked up, it was in a private wing of the Palm Beach Stockade with unlocked doors and a 'work release program' (even though sex offenders were barred from participating in work release programs) that allowed him to keep an office outside the prison, then 'work' from his beachfront home, hire Sheriff's Deputies as his private security, have them refer to him as a "client" and all the records of his visitors, who reportedly included minors used for sex, were then destroyed as part of a "routine purge".

As an example of the justifications for his special treatment, a Palm Beach officer wrote that Epstein is "poorly versed in jail routine and society and his adjustment to incarceration will most likely be atypical. For the time being, I am authorizing that his cell door be left unlocked and he be given liberal access to the attorney room where a TV will be installed".

Both local and federal prosecutors threw the case against Epstein resulting in a light sentence. And while being a registered sex offender should have crippled his prospects when he got out, officials in three states colluded to keep him off their sex offender registries.

Florida prison officials refused to list him as a sex offender while he was in custody despite the clear evidence of his conviction. Officials in New Mexico, where Epstein owned a \$17 million 'Zorro' ranch, took him off the sex offender registry two days after he signed up.

In New York, the Manhattan DA's office colluded with Epstein to lower his sex offender status from Level 3 to Level 1 despite a specific recommendation from the State of New York Board of Examiners of Sex Offenders and objections from the judge who had never seen such a thing. The NYPD did not end up monitoring him because of yet another error in his registration.

Florida and New York officials claimed that they had made errors. New Mexico officials blamed a 'loophole' and yet another error. Future 'errors' in Manhattan's criminal justice system were less favorable to Epstein when they led to his death in the 'hole' of a high security prison even though he was supposed to be on suicide watch, but somehow had his fellow inmate removed and was not being properly monitored when he died and took his secrets to his grave.

Was any of this natural? Obviously not. Throughout Epstein's long criminal career, law enforcement and assorted local, state and federal officials used various excuses to justify his special treatment. And while some of that may be explained by bribery, all of it cannot. No one walks in and just bribes the Manhattan DA's office and Palm Beach is used to dealing with men wealthier than Epstein. And while law enforcement isn't immune to corruption, there are fewer cops and prosecutors who would take bribes to betray their duties for a rapist of underage girls.

It would take more than money. It would take allegiance. The question is to whom?

To the CIA? If the CIA had the ability to command that level of allegiance across the country, it would be a very different creature from the incompetent mess that it really is. The FBI? There is strong evidence that Epstein had acted as an FBI informant at one point, but it's highly doubtful that the Bureau would go to such lengths to enable his lifestyle or to put him down afterward.

Tucker Carlson and other agents of foreign influence from Muslim terrorist states like Qatar have mobilized to blame Israel, but if Epstein had been a Mossad operation, former Prime Minister Ehud Barak would not have been allowed to get close to him. And Epstein's flight logs would have been filled with Muslim names instead of Naomi Campbell, Chris Tucker and Kevin Spacey. These are not the kind of people an intelligence agency is interested in, but it is the kind of list that a pimp to the parties of the rich and powerful would have assembled.

And the most powerful man in Epstein's orbit was the former president of the United States.

The obsession with connecting Epstein to intelligence agencies foreign and domestic is a very 2025 response to a problem from the Clinton administration. And many people forgot a time when the entire political and media class expended its capital denying that President Bill Clinton was a career sexual predator and that his wife's political future depended on covering up for him. Those cover-ups involved the FBI, local law enforcement and officials in different states.

Clinton's sexual abuses were a kind of trial run for Epstein's. And the most disturbing thing about them was how lying about them and covering up became a litmus test for Democrats. In the brief window between Bill's exit and Hillary's rise, some Democrats publicly bemoaned their role in enabling the utter corruption of the Clintons, but then the Clinton Foundation, which Jeffrey Epstein claimed to have co-founded, rose and critics of the Clintons shut up again.

What could have convinced local officials in three different states to lie and protect a rapist?

Allegiance to the CIA? Your average local official doesn't care about the CIA. The Mossad? Still less likely. Even assuming some international Jewish conspiracy, many of the officials who colluded to give Epstein a pass were not Jewish. And the ones who were Jewish tended to be so liberal that their response to a request from the Mossad would have been "Free Palestine."

There was one thing that the three places that protected Epstein had in common. Dems.

When New Mexico took Epstein's name off the sex offender registry, Gov. Bill Richardson, a former Clinton official, ally and friend, was running the state into the ground. Richardson's extreme corruption later denied him the chance to join the Obama administration. In Palm Beach County and Manhattan, Epstein dealt with Democrats, many of them with ties to the Clintons, who not only protected him, but also aided other Clinton sexual misconduct pals.

Former DA Cyrus Vance Jr., the son of Jimmy Carter's secretary of state, had also protected Harvey Weinstein, [but targeted](#) Trump. Palm Beach prosecutor Barry Krischer [had gone after](#) Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter while giving Epstein a pass. The pattern is not hard to spot.

Democrats in different states didn't just collude to aid Epstein, but other Clinton and Democrat donors, and they also colluded to target conservatives including Trump. This was not an intelligence operation, but a partisan political campaign much like Russiagate.

9 years ago, [I assembled lists](#) of sexual predators [associated with the](#) Clintons and Democrats. Epstein was just one of the names on that list. Rather than being a unique phenomenon, Jeffrey Epstein was part of a pattern of sexual crimes surrounding the Clintons and the Democrats.

Conservatives used to know that, but social media grifters have overrun the movement, some of them in

the pay of foreign governments, and they obsessively push their agendas. Many are millennials who don't even remember the Clintons. And the Clintons are less exciting now that Bill is a doddering old fool who can barely finish a sentence and defeat reduced Hillary to a bitter powerless shrew. But the Democrats have not become any less corrupt for it all.

Could the Jeffrey Epstein case happen today? Of course. And we watched it happen.

During the Biden administration, we witnessed the spectacle of multiple law enforcement agencies, federal and local, as well officials from across the government, collude to cover up the crimes of Hunter Biden despite public photo and video evidence of drug use, prostitution and behavior that would have landed any normal person behind bars for a decade or two.

We saw the president head up a money laundering operation across members of his family in a conspiracy involving corrupt meetings with foreign billionaires from Russia to China, and payments in diamonds and through shell accounts, blood money, and threats of torture in a Middle East dictatorship aimed at witnesses who tried to speak out against the Bidens.

Jeffrey Epstein is not a phenomenon. He's just another day in the life of the Democrats.

It's not the Deep State, it's the Democrat State.

And whether it's the Clintons, Obama or Biden, Democrats have shown that they will conspire to cover up any crime, no matter how awful, not for their country or any country, but for the party.

The Epstein case matters because it shows how corrupt the Democrats are. And those trying to divert attention from the Democrats to undermine Trump with their own agendas are not only hurting the president, but are aiding Epstein's real backers so that their crimes will continue.

Jeffrey Epstein is dead, but as Hunter Biden showed us, there are plenty of 'Epsteins' out there.

[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://bkdvk-zgpvh.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser?od=3z2bfeefc6e25f26cf812b76a5b8ac0e30e27282f9efb6946a6fa34a9221491b79&rd=11289f96a6f9530e9&sd=11289f96a6f9516e9&n=11699e4c3147caf&mrd=11289f96a6f9516d5&m=1>



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.

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

Yaffa Smolensky, Program Manager
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