

## Far-right pressure on PM grows as MKs threaten elections if no 'decisive' Gaza victory

Religious Zionism MK Zvi Suktot says party will meet in coming days to decide on path forward, day after chair Bezael Smotrich said he's 'lost faith' in Netanyahu

By [Sam Sokol](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 3:13 pm



*Religious Zionism MK Zvi Suktot speaks at the 'Israel's Return to the Temple Mount' conference at the Knesset in Jerusalem, July 24, 2024. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*

**Several far-right lawmakers threatened on Sunday to bolt Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition, a day after Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich said he'd "lost faith" in the premier's war strategy.**

**Zvi Suktot of Smotrich's Religious Zionism party and Yitzhak Kroizer of Otzma Yehudit both said on Sunday that they were worried that the plan to conquer Gaza City, approved by the security cabinet last week, is a ploy to pressure**

**Hamas back to the negotiating table**, resulting in a partial ceasefire and hostage release deal rather than a "decisive" victory over the terror group.

They were **joined by Religious Zionism MK Simcha Rothman, who said that the cabinet's decision had brought the nationalist party closer to leaving the government.**

Suktot told Ynet that his party would meet in the coming days to decide on its path forward. The departure of any lawmaker from the coalition would leave Netanyahu with a minority in the Knesset.

**"If we return to October 6, 2023, and decide to abandon the war's objectives, it is an existential danger to the State of Israel," Suktot posted on X on Sunday,** referring to the day before the Hamas-led invasion of Israel that launched the war, when the terror group controlled Gaza. "If this is the situation, in my humble opinion, we need to go to elections."

**Members of the two parties have consistently advocated for Israel to occupy and annex Gaza, for the Gazan population to be pressed to depart,** and for Israeli settlements to be rebuilt in the enclave.



*Otzma Yehudit MK Yitzhak Kroizer attends a Knesset committee, July 12, 2023. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*

*Kroizer echoed Suktot's comments in a radio interview.*

**"If we see that this plan isn't.... where we're going for a decisive victory over the terror groups in the Gaza Strip, and again we come to a round and a maneuver that ends in a partial deal, [leaving the government] is something we'll definitely consider,"** Kroizer said.

**"We might get to a point where we need to return the mandate to the citizens of the State of Israel" — meaning, new elections.**

**Rothman sounded a similar note in an interview with the Knesset Channel.**

Asked why party leader Smotrich has not already quit if he had no faith in Netanyahu, Rothman replied that "it's definitely on the table. It's something that's been said many times... that the moment we are convinced that they have dropped the goals of the war... we will no longer be a part of the government."

Last week's cabinet meeting brought Religious Zionism very close to such an eventuality, Rothman added, although nothing is certain yet.

"I suppose the coming hours and days will tell," he said, demanding that the cabinet cancel its decision and "go all the way to the end to defeat Hamas."

**Initially, Netanyahu faced heavy blowback over the Gaza City plan from the opposition, with lawmakers warning it would endanger Israeli hostages** and soldiers and sink the army into a quagmire. The

plan has also faced widespread opposition internationally from leaders who say Israel must not occupy Gaza, that the war must end, and the dire humanitarian conditions in the Strip must be addressed.

**But the threats from within his government indicate that his partners on the right are also skeptical that the push into Gaza City will serve their goals.**

On Saturday night, Smotrich [posted a video on X](#) saying that in light of the Gaza City plan, he has “lost faith that the prime minister is able and wants to lead the IDF to a decisive victory.”

**Smotrich said he had “worked intensively” with Netanyahu in recent weeks to formulate a new plan for “victory in Gaza,” which would consist of a combination of military and political actions intended to destroy Hamas’s military and civil capabilities and force it to free the hostages.** But Smotrich said the **premier “made a U-turn” and “succumbed to weakness**, let emotion win over reason and decided to do more of the same again,” launching a military maneuver aimed not at complete victory, but only at pressuring Hamas to agree to a “partial hostage deal.”



*Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich in the Knesset, February 7, 2024. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*

**According to Kan news, Smotrich also threatened to bring down the government and force a new election during Thursday’s cabinet meeting.**

**“We will meet in the coming days and make a decision as a faction,” Sukkot told Ynet regarding the threat to leave. He added that “this is a good government,” but said if the country returns to a pre-October 7 reality, “I won’t be able to sleep at night. We’ll need to go to elections.”**

**Seizing on the internal turmoil, Opposition Leader Yair Lapid called on Smotrich on Sunday to help advance a bill to dissolve the Knesset** and hold new elections.



*Religious Zionism MK Simcha Rothman chairs a meeting of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, May 5, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*

**“In your own words, you admitted that the prime minister’s policy is not leading to a decisive outcome in Gaza, is not returning our hostages, and is not winning the war,”** Lapid said in a statement. “You also added that you can no longer stand behind the prime minister and back him up.”

The **Knesset is currently in recess. In June, the opposition held a vote on dissolution of the parliament amid a fight over military enlistment between Netanyahu and his Haredi coalition partners**, but that bill failed to advance, with Haredi leaders [reportedly balking](#) in part because they learned Israel was about to attack Iran’s nuclear program.



Knesset **rules dictate that the bill cannot come to the floor again for six months.** But in July, Lapid announced that he had begun the process of collecting 61 signatures in order to **submit a so-called “change of circumstances” letter** to Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana of Netanyahu’s Likud Party, requesting permission to hold a new vote on dissolving the Knesset.

*Opposition Leader Yesh Atid party chief MK Yair Lapid leads a faction meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem, on July 21, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*

**According to the Knesset bylaws, a defeated bill can be submitted again for reconsideration**



**before six months have passed if circumstances have changed significantly.** Such a change can be shown by collecting 61 lawmakers' signatures, constituting a majority of the body.  
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/far-right-pressure-on-pm-grows-as-2-mks-threaten-elections-if-no-decisive-gaza-victory/>

## Netanyahu tells foreign media: We don't want to stay in Gaza

*In the shadow of the political tsunami, Netanyahu answers questions in English from the foreign press - before a news conference later in the evening in Hebrew; He presented photo of emaciated hostage Eviatar David and 'fake photos of starving children'; According to Netanyahu: 'Our goal is not to occupy Gaza, but to liberate it'*

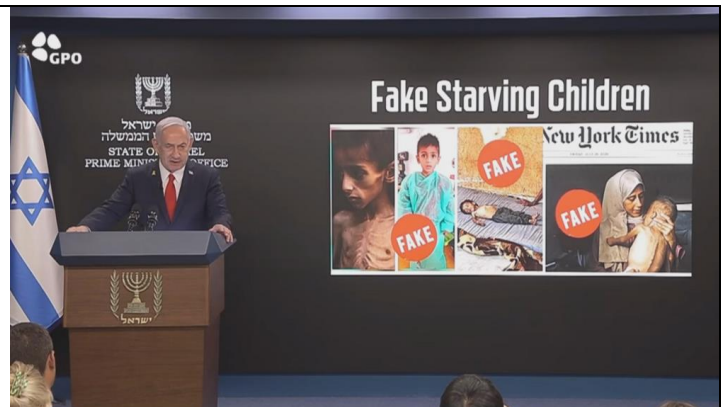
*Ynetnews*|Updated:09:16

**Against the backdrop of the unprecedented political drift against the State of Israel, and after several Western countries announced that they would recognize a Palestinian state in September, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is holding a press conference for foreign media Sunday at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. At 8:00 p.m., Netanyahu will hold a press conference for the Israeli media.**

**Netanyahu said in his opening remarks that, in light of the cabinet's decision to take over the Strip, "the truth is that Hamas has thousands of armed terrorists in Gaza, and the organization wants to repeat the atrocities of October 7 and do so again and again. Hamas enslaves Gazans, steals food and shoots at those who try to cross to safe areas. The Gazans are begging us and the world - release us and liberate Gaza from Hamas. No government would allow a genocidal government in Gaza, and our goal is not to occupy Gaza, but to liberate it from Hamas terrorists."**



**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talks to the foreign press(***Photo: GPO***)**



**(***Photo: GPO***)**

Netanyahu added that **the war "could end tomorrow if Hamas lays down its arms and releases all the hostages."** He presented **his five principles for ending the war:** "Gaza will be demilitarized, Israel will have responsibility for security, and security zones will be established on the borders to prevent invasions. A civilian government will be appointed in Gaza that will strive to live in peace with Israel. The civilian government will not educate its children in terrorism, will not pay for terrorism, and will not launch terrorist attacks against Israel. It will not be run by Hamas or the Palestinian Authority."

"In light of Hamas' refusal to lay down its weapons, Israel has no choice but to finish the job and complete the defeat of the organization. **We have 75% of Gaza under Israeli military control,** but there are **two more strong outposts: Gaza City and the central camps and the al-Mawasi area,**" the prime minister said. "The cabinet has instructed the IDF to neutralize the two Hamas outposts in Gaza and the central camps. Contrary to claims, this is the best way to end the war quickly. We will do this by allowing the civilian population to leave the combat zones for security zones - where they will receive food and medicine. Contrary to false claims, the policy throughout the war was to prevent a humanitarian disaster, while Hamas' policy was to create such a disaster."

**Netanyahu told the reporters that Israel has brought 2 million tons of aid into Gaza. "I don't know of another army that allowed such an amount of aid into a war zone.** If we had a starvation policy, no one would survive after two years. Our policy is the opposite. Hamas looted the food, deliberately created a shortage, and the UN refused until recently to distribute the thousands of trucks that we allowed to enter Gaza through Kerem Shalom. There were tons of food that was not collected and rotted because the UN refused to let it in."

He said that **Israel will create "safe corridors" for the distribution of aid and increase the activity of distribution centers by** the GHF and airdrops made by the Air Force, "and we invite others to join."

"The idea is a [flood of humanitarian aid](#). Hundreds of trucks have entered Gaza, but that does not prevent the **global campaign of lies that** we have seen. In Gaza, despite Hamas' obstacles, 2 million people have access to aid. But I will tell you who is not receiving aid - the only ones who are deliberately starving in Gaza are our hostages," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu presented a [harsh picture of the kidnapped Eviatar David](#). "Look at his arms, the [monsters of Hamas starved him on purpose](#)," he said, and pointed to the [fleshy arm of his Hamas captor](#): "He eats well."

According to Netanyahu, **the purpose of the press conference is "to expose the lies and spread the truth. But lies are widespread in the world - just as Jews were vilified in the Middle Ages** - back then it was said that Jews spread germs, poisoned wells and slaughtered Christian children for blood. That lies were spread in the world and were followed by terrible pogroms, the greatest of which was the Holocaust. Today, the Jewish state is being vilified in a similar way."

**Netanyahu also presented pictures of "fake photos spread by Hamas,"** showing emaciated Gazan children in poor health. "The first picture is of Osama al-Yaakoub. This is how he looks today, it's a [genetic disease that's causing him to lose weight](#). [Israel helped him get the appropriate assistance](#) and flew him to Italy. In the second picture is a child with a genetic problem that's causing him to lose weight. The third picture is the [main picture of the New York Times](#), and it's Mohammed al-Mutawaq. His mother is not starving and his brother looks healthy. I hope you open your eyes to simple facts - Hamas lies."

In **response to a question directed at him regarding the political future of the Gaza Strip, Netanyahu said, "We do not want to stay in Gaza.** That is not my goal, nor that of those who disagree with me. The goal is to ensure that Hamas will not be there and that whoever is there will not pay for terrorism, will not be educated in terrorism. There are candidates - I do not want to spoil the chances of success because I believe they are real."

He was asked about [Germany's decision to stop the transfer of weapons](#) that could be used by Israel in the war in Gaza, and replied: "**I respect Friedrich Merz. He was a good friend of Israel, but he succumbed under the pressure of false media reports. Maybe some forget October 7, we do not forget** and we will do what is necessary to protect our country, our citizens and its future. We will win the war with or without the support of others."

The **prime minister said he plans to speak with U.S. President Donald Trump "soon," adding: "I think we didn't win the battle of consciousness, there were strong forces working against us. The social media algorithms are against us.** People tell me that 60% of the responses are blunt, especially in America, who want to attack the support Israel has from the Republican side. This is a big deal, we have to deal with it and tell the truth - if **you want to win the war and end it quickly - expose the lies and end it quickly. That's how you will win the propaganda war,** and the time has come to do that."

Netanyahu's **last press conference for foreign media was in September 2024**, when many countries around the world were also pressuring Israel to advance a ceasefire with Hamas in the Gaza Strip and a hostage deal. That press conference was held two days after Netanyahu made a statement that dealt at length with the Philadelphi Axis in the southern Gaza Strip, during which the prime minister was asked to explain what he meant when he said in April 2024 that Israel was "one step away from victory."

Against the backdrop of the harsh images in the Gaza Strip and allegations of "starvation," and following domestic pressure, French President Emmanuel Macron announced last month that his country would recognize a Palestinian state in September. Macron's statement sparked a wave of similar announcements from leading Western countries, some of them significant allies of Israel, which declared that they too would recognize a state for the Palestinians.

Late last month, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that the United Kingdom would join the wave of recognition if Israel did not "change course in the Gaza Strip," and conditioned recognition on reforms in the Palestinian Authority. Germany later called for "the recognition process to begin," and only yesterday German Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced that Berlin would not transfer weapons to Israel that could be used in the Gaza Strip. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hj1trfidll>

**Civil administration to replace Hamas rule in post-war Gaza, Netanyahu says**

**The prime minister said that discussions are underway to develop "creative ways" to free the remaining hostages in Gaza while the military closes in on Hamas.**

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) AUGUST 10, 2025 16:39 Updated: AUGUST 10, 2025 18:36

**The day-after plan for the Gaza Strip will include Israel maintaining overriding security responsibility, and the establishment of a civilian administration, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in the first of two press conferences on Sunday.**

**He did not elaborate on the role of the civilian administration or what Israel's security responsibilities would entail.**

These press conferences come amid Israeli and international criticism of the Security Cabinet's decision to approve a widened operation in Gaza City.

**Gaza will be demilitarized and a security zone will be established on Israel's border,** the prime minister also said.

**Netanyahu and his war cabinet have received criticism for not providing a [day-after plan in Gaza](#) for after the war.**



*Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to international media on the Gaza war, in Jerusalem, August 10, 2025 (credit: CHAIM TZACH/GPO)*

The prime minister said that **discussions are underway to develop "creative ways" to free the remaining hostages in Gaza while the military closes in on Hamas.**

Netanyahu also stressed the importance of **implementing a new education system in the Strip that does not radicalize its citizens to seek the destruction of Israel.**

The civilian administration would be one "that **doesn't educate its children for terror**, doesn't pay terrorists, and doesn't launch terror attacks against Israel."

**Hamas still has thousands of armed terrorists in Gaza**

Netanyahu **justified the new IDF operation in Gaza City, citing Hamas's refusal to lay down its arms. "Israel has no choice but to complete the job and defeat Hamas," Netanyahu said.**

The truth is that Hamas still has thousands of armed terrorists in Gaza and has vowed to repeat October 7, Netanyahu said.

**Hamas has subjugated its citizens, and as a result, its residents have, according to the prime minister, begged Israel and the world to free them from Hamas's rule.**

The new Gaza offensive aims to tackle two remaining Hamas strongholds, Netanyahu said, including Gaza City. He added that he expects the offensive to conclude "fairly quickly."

Netanyahu stressed that the government, contrary to "false claims" in the media, is working to prevent the [humanitarian crisis](#) in the war zone. "Israel has allowed in over 200 million tons of aid."

Israel has had the exact opposite of a starvation policy in Gaza, he emphasized. He blamed the UN's unwillingness to deliver humanitarian aid that is sitting on the Gaza side of the border for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

**Netanyahu slammed international media, blaming them for maligning the Jewish people and the Jewish state, similar to how the Jewish people were vilified in the Middle Ages and during the Holocaust.**

He showed reporters a collection of photos of [alleged starving children in Gaza](#), who he said all had pre-existing conditions that made it difficult for them to digest nutrients.

He highlighted a photo of captive Evyatar David, who, he said, was being deliberately starved by Hamas.

It is disappointing that the global media and a large portion of the world have [bought Hamas's lies](#) that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians, Netanyahu concluded. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-863802>



# Gaza hostage families declare nationwide shutdown next Sunday over 'dangerous' occupation plans

*Yaniv Levi, a representative from the Histadrut, Israel's national trade union, told KAN that the union plans to meet the hostages' families on Monday to consider future actions. By*[\*JERUSALEM POST STAFF\*](#)*AUGUST 10, 2025 11:21Updated: AUGUST 10, 2025 12:45*



*People protest calling for the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip, near the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem, August 9, 2025. (photo credit: YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90)*

**Families of Gaza hostages and victims of the October 7 massacre announced on Sunday that they would initiate a nationwide shutdown the following Sunday to protest the Security Cabinet's decision to occupy Gaza City.**

**At a press conference in front of the Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv, families represented by the October Council said that Sunday, August 17, would mark a nationwide**

**shutdown in protest of the Security Cabinet's decision to occupy Gaza City,** which they say endangers the lives of the hostages and soldiers.

The families said the shutdown is expected to include private companies, organizations, and labor unions.

## **Will the Histadrut join the strikes?**

**Yaniv Levi, a representative from the Histadrut, Israel's national trade union, told KAN that the union plans to meet the hostages' families on Monday to continue future actions.**

"This issue is in our hearts and our blood. Tomorrow we will come with other players in the economy.

Wherever we can help, we will help."



*Demonstrators holding signs featuring photos of remaining hostages in Gaza at a demonstration for a hostage deal in Tel Aviv, August 9, 2025. (credit: Paulina Patimer)*

**"I call on everyone to see how they can assist the families.** We have the right - and the duty - to listen to every word. If, God forbid, I were in their place, I don't know how I would act. They have simply been abandoned," Levi told KAN.

In July of last year, Histadrut head [Arnon Bar-David](#) threw his support behind a march planned by family members of hostages and called on the Israeli public to join them. Bar-David also said he would supply the march with resources, and appointed a senior team to accompany marchers and organizers.

## **Security Cabinet approves Gaza plan**

Last Friday, the Security Cabinet approved Netanyahu's plan to occupy Gaza City and adopted five principles for ending the war.

These include disarming Hamas, returning all hostages, both living and murdered, demilitarizing the Gaza Strip, Israel maintaining security control over the Gaza Strip, and the existence of a civilian government that is not controlled by either Hamas or the Palestinian Authority.

Hostage families and Israeli opposition figures criticized the plan, calling it "a disaster" that would endanger the remaining hostages in terror captivity.

*This is a developing story. Eve Young and Yael Halfon contributed to this report.*

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-863769>

## **Geert Wilders tells Netanyahu 'millions of people in Europe support him' during phone call**

*The support from "millions" of Europeans comes despite "criticism from weak politicians and biased media," right-wing Dutch politician Geert Wilders told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday.*

*By*[\*JERUSALEM POST STAFF\*](#)*AUGUST 10, 2025 14:25Updated: AUGUST 10, 2025 16:59*



Geert Wilders in The Hague, Netherlands, June 3, 2025; illustrative. (photo credit: REUTERS/PIROSKHA VAN DE WOUW)

**Dutch politician Geert Wilders spoke with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, telling him that “there are millions and millions of people in Europe supporting him and his brave actions to free both Israel and Gaza from the terrorists of Hamas,” which he confirmed on his personal X/Twitter on Sunday.**

**This support comes despite “criticism from weak politicians and biased media,” Wilders claimed.**

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**Netanyahu’s “fight is our fight since we cherish life and freedom while they love death and destruction,” he added, concluding by writing Am Israel Chai.**

**Previous statements by Wilders**

**Last Sunday, the right-wing Dutch politician posted his support for the hostages held by**



**Hamas and other terror groups in the Gaza Strip, saying that “victims don’t hold hostages. Savages do.”**

**“Heroes support the hostages. Traitors support Hamas and call for sanctions. What side are you on?”**

**Geert Wilders in The Hague, Netherlands, June 3, 2025; illustrative. (credit: REUTERS/PIROSKHA VAN DE WOUW)**

**Wilders also criticized and mocked France’s decision to recognize a Palestinian state in a post on X on July 25.**

**In the post, Wilders highlighted the southeastern coastline of the country’s Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region in red and wrote: “Here will be the new Palestinian state. Big parts of France are already Islamic anyway.”**

**“Good luck, [French President] Emmanuel Macron and France! Happy suicide!” he addressed the French leader.**

**Wilders also called Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei a d\*\*\*head in an X post following the 12-day war between Israel and Iran in June.**

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-863792>

## Inside meeting on Israel's Gaza plan: Nat'l Security Adv. opposes Netanyahu in rare move - N12

**N12 noted that Hanegbi's opposition to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is exceedingly rare.**

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) AUGUST 8, 2025 21:33 Updated: AUGUST 10, 2025 00:29



(L-R): National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (illustrative) (photo credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI/FLASH90, Canva, SHUTTERSTOCK)

**National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi slammed Israel's incoming occupation of Gaza City in the cabinet on Friday.**

**"I'm not willing to give up on saving the hostages," he said in the cabinet, as reported by N12 on Friday. "I don't understand how someone who has watched the videos of Evyatar and Rom, and all those released before them, can support the statement 'all or nothing.' That means giving up the chance to rescue at least 10 hostages immediately,**

**because Hamas won't respond to that demand."**

**"A ceasefire would allow us to try to reach an agreement on the remaining 10. I fully agree with the chief of staff that taking control of Gaza City jeopardizes the lives of the hostages, which is why I oppose the prime minister's proposal," he said.**

**The interim Mossad chief also expressed reservations about the occupation of Gaza City and called for a return to the negotiating table.**





*An IDF soldier operates in Beit Hanun, Gaza Strip, August 7, 2025.  
(credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)*

**N12 noted that Hanegbi's opposition to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is exceedingly rare.**

**Ultimately, the cabinet decided that it would only return to the negotiating table if Hamas showed signs of a breakthrough, Channel 12 reported.**

**What happened in the cabinet meeting?**

The **security officials and Knesset representatives heavily debated the choice to occupy Gaza.**

Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir disputed any deal that

would result in a temporary occupation of the Gaza Strip.

**"We must not stop halfway. If we go for a temporary deal, it's a defeat," said Smotrich,** as reported by N12.

**"Where are the days of Entebbe, where giving in to terror was out of the question?"** Ben-Gvir asked.

In response, **MK Arye Deri slammed his decision as a political choice, adding that "in Entebbe, they didn't risk the lives of 300 kidnapped people,"** according to the report. Deri reportedly said that it is **immoral not to release the hostages.**

Smotrich responded, "Is it moral for a hundred soldiers to be killed and then we retreat for ten kidnapped people?"

**IDF Chief of Staff Lt. -Gen. Eyal Zamir stated that the operation would risk the hostages' lives as well as IDF soldiers.**

"If we go with what you're proposing, the hostages' lives will be in danger. I suggest you remove the return of hostages from the war objectives," Zamir said, as reported by N12.

"We're not going to take full control of Gaza at all costs just to exert pressure on Hamas. There's not enough civilian infrastructure and humanitarian resources to move a million-person population. We need to build hospitals for them," he said.

**In the discussion, Netanyahu notably refrained from calling the operation a full occupation of Gaza.**

**"Where did you get 'occupation' from? We want to take control of the land just as we've done so far in all the places,"** he told the government's legal advisor, Gali Baharav-Miara.

During a break in the meeting, Settlements and National Missions Minister MK Orit Strock (Religious Zionist Party) **reportedly yelled at hostage coordinator Gal Hirsch, who told senior IDF officials that he had requested that the goal to free the hostages appear in the IDF's mission.**

**"What the hell, that's not the mission - the mission is to eliminate Hamas,"** she reportedly told him.

Strock said that the effort to return the captives is why soldiers are killed. Hirsch responded, according to the report, "Our soldiers fight to save civilians and return hostages. It's always been that way. I did it myself. That's how we are." <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-863682>

## **Police uncover Jerusalem terror cell planning to bomb central Israel club, kill Air Force pilot**

**Suspects, father and son from Kafr Aqab, arrested with bomb-making labs found at their home in what authorities say could have been a major disaster with multiple casualties**

*Liran Tamari* 06:43

**Israeli security forces have uncovered a terror cell that planned to bomb a nightclub in central Israel and assassinate a pilot, preventing what authorities described as a potentially catastrophic attack.**



**Shin Bet and the Jerusalem District Police arrested a father and son from East Jerusalem last month on suspicion of plotting multiple terror attacks against security forces and civilians.** During the investigation, bomb-making labs were discovered along with dozens of explosive devices.



(Photo: Israel Prison Service Spokesperson's Office)

**The suspects, residents of Kafr Aqab, reportedly planned to plant bombs at a checkpoint in northern Jerusalem to target soldiers and police.** They acquired various firearms, explosives, and bomb components, which they assembled after studying online tutorials.

The father also maintained contact with a terror organization seeking funding for the attacks, but this link was cut following his arrest. Months before the ongoing war in Gaza, the father reportedly fired shots near the West Bank separation barrier and trained his son in handling weapons on their rooftop. The son is reportedly a Jew who converted to Islam after he was

barred from enlisting as a combat soldier in the IDF.

In addition to the father and son, a third suspect in his 20s was arrested for allegedly preparing explosives and intending to carry out attacks against security personnel.

Authorities said the father sold explosive devices to a police informant known as “Matrix,” who has recently helped convict numerous illegal arms dealers.

During coordinated raids, security forces seized chemical materials, electric and SIM card-triggered detonators, dozens of ready-made pipe bombs, and various types of ammunition.

The investigation uncovered plans for a shooting attack at a nightclub in central Israel, which the son reportedly intended to carry out but did not execute.

The three suspects remain in custody as the Jerusalem District Prosecutor’s Office prepares formal indictments.

**Shin Bet and police stressed their commitment to preventing terror attacks** and protecting civilians and security forces. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bkvnxb8ugg>

## Is Russia leaving Iran behind? Rift emerges over Moscow's Shahed-136 drone production – CNN

*Western officials say that Tehran feels abandoned by its ally after Moscow began improving the drone model and producing it for cheaper.*

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF AUGUST 9, 2025 10:01 Updated: AUGUST 9, 2025 20:52



*Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attend a documents signing ceremony in Moscow, Russia January 17, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/Evgenia Novozhenina/Pool)*

**Russia and Iran signed a \$1.75 billion deal in 2023 so that Russia could domestically produce Iran's Shahed-136 drones, but two years later, Western security officials say Tehran feels abandoned after Moscow began improving the model and producing it for cheaper, CNN reported on Friday.**

**Russia has heavily relied on the Shahed-136 drones in its war on Ukraine, and now has**

**localized nearly 90% of production, much to Iran’s surprise.**

Sources who spoke to CNN said that they believe that this has made Iran feel like it has had little return on the deal after it supported war, leading to a rift between Tehran and Moscow.

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“This evolution marks a gradual loss of control for Iran over the final product, which is now largely manufactured locally and independently,” a Western intelligence **source told CNN.**



The source explained that Moscow's goal was to "fully master the production cycle and free itself from future negotiations with Tehran."

A Shahed-136 drone on display at the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Aerospace Force achievements exhibition in Qom, Iran, 2023; illustrative. (credit: Wikimedia Commons)

**Take Russia's Alabuga factory, where production efforts for the drones have grown exponentially.**

"This is a complete facility," CEO of Alabuga, Timur Shagivaleev, says in a Russian documentary on the Shahed's production.

He goes on to explain that most of the components

for the drone are produced within Russia.

"Aluminium bars come in, engines are made from them; microelectronics are made from electric chips; fuselages are made from carbon fiber and fiberglass – this is a complete location."

**Russia can export an improved, battle-tested version of Shahed-136 drones back to Iran**

**The factory is also expanding rapidly with more dormitories and production facilities. CNN reported that this could mean that Russia would be able to export an improved, battle-tested version of the Shahed-136 drone back to Tehran.**

The **discontent between the two allies came to a head during June's 12-day war between Israel and Iran. Many expected Russia to provide its ally with more support than the basic condemnation statements it provided.**

**"Iran may have expected Russia to do more or take more steps without being required to do so,"** said analyst Ali Akbar Dareini from the Iranian Center for Strategic Studies, which acts as the research arm of the Iranian President's office.

He told CNN that Iran may not have expected Russia to intervene militarily, but Moscow could have beefed up "operative support, in terms of weapons shipments, technological support, intelligence sharing, or things like that."

But **the Western analyst who spoke with CNN said that this proved the "purely transactional and utilitarian nature" of Moscow and Iran's partnership.**

"This explicit disengagement demonstrates that Russia never intervenes beyond its immediate interests, even when a partner – here an [essential supplier of drones](#) – is attacked."

**In the initial 2023 contract, the two countries aimed to produce 6,000 drones by September 2025. Those were completed a year ahead of schedule, CNN reported, citing Ukrainian Defense Intelligence. The Alabuga factory now produces some 5,550 drones a month in a more cost-efficient way.**

**"In 2022, Russia paid an average of \$200,000 for one such drone," a Ukrainian Defense Intelligence source told CNN. "In 2025, that number came down to approximately \$70,000."**

Ukrainian military officials believe that Russia modernized the drone as well. **Now, the Russian-produced Shahed-136 drones boast better communication modes, longer-lasting batteries, and larger warhead capacity.**

Dareini said that this behavior isn't surprising from the Kremlin, characterizing the relationship between his country and Russia as "both cooperation and competition."

"It's obvious that Russians want more, to get more and give less, and this applies to Iran as well," he told CNN. "Iran has provided Russia with drones and technology and the factory, and it has not been for free."

In addition to these frustrations, Iranian officials say that they have not been paid by Russia.

The Western official told CNN that this adds to Iran's "frustration with the blockages hindering the transfer of Russian aeronautical technologies to Iran, which were promised by Moscow in exchange for its support."

Former UN weapons inspector and chief of the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), David Albright, said that the expansion would allow Moscow to better support Iran in any future conflicts, which he said was "very dangerous."

**"Some of [Iran's] drone production facilities were bombed, and they fired a lot of [drones], so as a way to build back stock, they may do that," Albright told CNN. "And then Iran could reverse**



**engineer or receive** the technology to make a better quality Shahed.”

CNN reported that other military equipment was now headed to Iran from Russia in the wake of the war. Iranian media reported that a Russian S-400 air defense system was recently delivered to the country.

However, Iranian officials like Dareini believe that while there is tension between the two countries now, ultimately Iran will benefit from the cooperation.

“Iran has got, and very likely will get, the things it needs for its own security,” he told CNN. “Whether it’s military hardware, whether it’s in terms of economic cooperation, technology, and whatever it needs.”

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-863703>

## South Korea's military shrinks amid massive drop in population

*The dramatic decline in the pool of available males for military service is also causing a shortfall in the number of officers and could result in operational difficulty if it continues.*

By REUTERS AUGUST 10, 2025 14:54



South Korean army K1E1 tanks cross a pontoon bridge during a US-South Korea joint river-crossing exercise which is a part of the annual Freedom Shield joint military training, near the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas in Yeoncheon, South Korea, March 20, 2025 (photo credit: REUTERS/KIM HONG-JI)

**South Korea's military shrank by 20% in the past six years to 450,000 troops, largely due to a sharp drop in the population of males of enlistment age for mandatory service in the country with the world's lowest birthrate, a report said on Sunday.**

**males for military service is also causing a shortfall in the number of officers and could result in operational difficulty** if it continues, the defense ministry said in the report.

The report was made to the ruling Democratic Party member of parliament Choo Mi-ae, whose office released it.

### JPost Videos

**North Korea's close to three times larger than Seoul's**

**South Korea's military has steadily declined since the early 2000s when it had about 690,000 soldiers.** The pace accelerated during the late 2010s and there were about 563,000 active-duty soldiers and officers in 2019.

**North Korea is believed to have an active-duty military of about 1.2 million**, according to the latest estimate by the defense ministry in 2022.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is cheered by military pilots during a visit to an airfield in this photo released by the Korean Central News Agency, May 16, 2025 (credit: KCNA VIA REUTERS)

**In the period between 2019 and 2025, the population of 20-year-old males declined by 30% to 230,000, according to government data, the age when most men who pass a physical exam enlist for military service, which is now 18 months long.**

**The military has cited improved capabilities as a key reason for shortening service periods,** made possible by a military alliance with the United States and the development of a defense industry that has become a major exporter of arms.

**Able-bodied men served 36 months in 1953** when [the Korean War](#) ended in an armistice.

**South Korea's defense budget, at more than 61 trillion won (\$43.9 billion) in 2025, is larger than the estimated size of North Korea's economy.**



Still, the military is 50,000 troops short of the number of troops adequate for maintaining defense readiness, the ministry said. About 21,000 of the shortfall is in the non-commissioned officer ranks, it said.

South Korea is one of the world's fastest aging societies **and has the lowest fertility rate in the world at 0.75** in 2024, which signifies the average number of babies a woman is expected to have during her reproductive life.

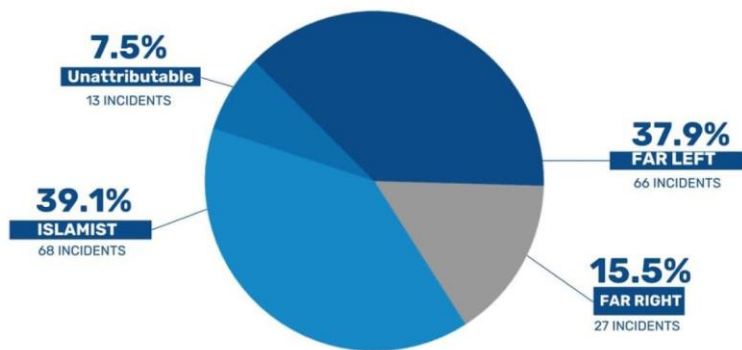
Its population, which hit a peak of 51.8 million in 2020, is expected to shrink to 36.2 million by 2072, according to a government projection. <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-863796> [This is a huge problem and a similar problem is happening in the EU nations. Birthrates are not sufficient to sustain the population levels which means the military force and work force will shrink and be unsustainable. - rdb

## CAM Weekly Antisemitism Report – FBI Declares Antisemitism At All Time High

The data documented 1,938 antisemitic hate crimes in 2024, representing 69% of all religion-based hate crimes, despite Jews making up just 2% of the American population.

ByCOMBAT ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENTAUGUST 10, 2025 14:53

**Breakdown of Incidents by Ideological Motivation**  
174 ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS MONITORED BY CAM THIS WEEK



Data on Antisemitic Incidents(photo credit: COMBAT ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENT)

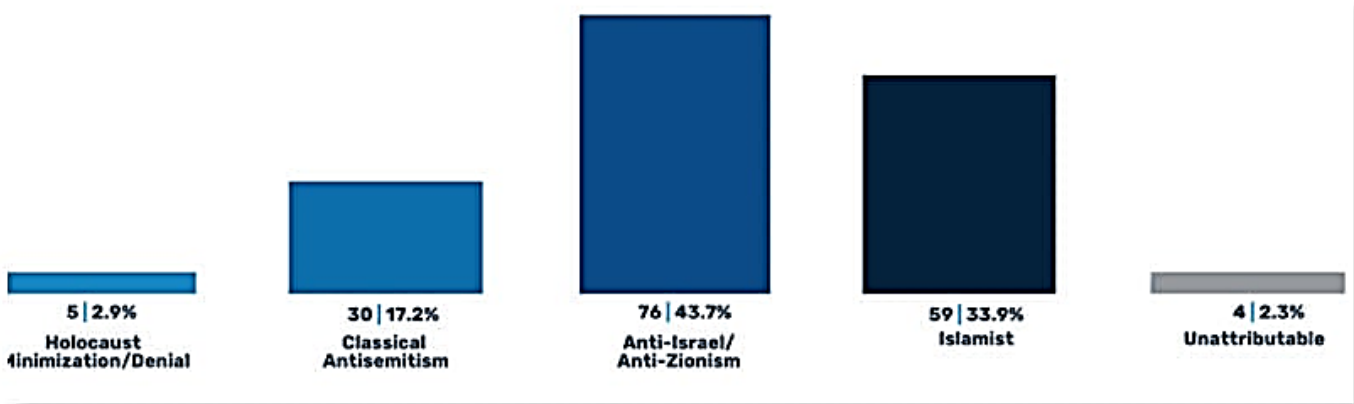
Data on Antisemitic Incidents:

This week's Global Antisemitism Report highlights 174 new incidents of antisemitism monitored worldwide by the Antisemitism Research Center (ARC) by CAM during the past week.

Categorized by ideological motivation, 39.1% were Islamist (68 incidents), 37.9% Far-Left (66 incidents), 15.5% Far-Right (27 incidents), and 7.5% Unattributable (13 incidents).

JPost Videos

Broken down by type, 43.7% were Anti-Israel/Anti-Zionism (76 incidents), 33.9% Islamist (59 incidents), 17.2% Classical Antisemitism (30 incidents), 2.9% Holocaust Minimization/Denial (5 incidents), and 2.3% Unattributable (4 incidents).



Summary of Events Over the Last Week (credit: COMBAT ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENT)

Summary of Events Over the Last Week:

Antisemitic hate crimes in the U.S. reached an all-time high in 2024, according to the FBI's annual Hate Crime Report published this week.

The data documented 1,938 antisemitic hate crimes last year, representing 69% of all religion-based hate crimes, despite Jews making up just 2% of the American population.

This troubling upward trend shows no signs of abating in 2025, with incidents monitored by the ARC just in the past week including:

- **Australia:** Tens of thousands of anti-Israel protesters **marched** across Sydney's Harbour Bridge, shouting "Long live the Intifada," "Death to the IDF," and "Free Palestine."
- **United States:** Three vehicles were **set ablaze** and graffiti reading "Death to the IDF" was discovered outside the Clayton, Missouri home of a U.S. man who is an Israeli military veteran.
- **Argentina:** A Jewish passenger flying from Buenos Aires to Madrid on Iberia Airlines **found** the phrase "Free Palestine" handwritten on the packaging of his kosher meal.
- **Netherlands:** A nurse in Dutch town of Driebergen-Rijsenburg is under criminal investigation for allegedly **posting** death threats against Israeli patients on social media.
- **France:** The Paris office of Israel's national flag carrier, El Al, was **vandalized** with red paint, including the words "Genocide Airline."

### Capital Jewish Museum Shooter Indicted on Murder and Hate Crime Charges

Elias Rodriguez was **indicted** by a federal grand jury on Wednesday for the brutal slaying of Israeli Embassy staffers Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim outside the Capital Jewish Museum in May.

Elias, who told police "I did it for Palestine, I did it for Gaza," faces charges for murder of a foreign official, hate crimes, firearms offenses, first-degree murder, and assault with intent to kill.

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-863795>

## Why Trump wants Putin in Alaska – and not anywhere else

*The choice of America's northern frontier is as much about politics as it is about geography*



*By Alexander Bobrov, PhD in History and head of diplomatic studies at the Institute for Strategic Research and Forecasts at RUDN University, author of the book "The Grand Strategy of Russia." Follow his Telegram channel "Diplomacy and the World."*

10 Aug, 2025 14:29

FILE PHOTO. © Getty Images/tibu



**The choice of Alaska as the venue for the August 15, 2025, bilateral summit between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin carries a rare blend of symbolism. It reaches deep into the past, reflects the current geopolitical balance, and hints at the contours of future US–Russia relations.**

From the standpoint of historical memory, **there is hardly another place in the United States that so clearly embodies the spirit of neighborliness and mutually beneficial cooperation** lost during the Cold War. From 1737 until 1867, this vast, sparsely populated land was known as Russian America – a semi-exclave of the Russian Empire, separated from its Eurasian heartland yet sharing a border with another state.

**Tsar Alexander II's decision to sell Alaska to the United States for \$7.2 million was one of the most debated diplomatic transactions of the 19th century. In St. Petersburg, it was clear: if left unattended, Alaska would likely fall into the hands of Russia's main rival at the time – the British Empire. Handing it over to Washington was not an act of weakness, but a calculated investment in future relations with a nation whose Pacific ambitions did not yet collide with Russia's.**

In the 20th century, this symbolic connection gained new meaning. During **World War II, the city of Fairbanks – with a population of just thirty thousand – became a major hub in the Lend-Lease program, a massive US military aid effort that supplied the Soviet Union with aircraft, equipment, and materials. Alaska's airfields served as a key route for delivering American planes to the Eastern Front.**

Even today, **Alaska remains the "most Russian" of US states:** home to Old Believers – descendants of 19th-century settlers seeking religious freedom – with functioning Orthodox churches and place names like Nikolaevsk, Voznesensk, and Upper and Lower Russian Lakes, linked by the Russian River.

But the choice of Alaska is more than a nod to history; it is also a political calculation. Trump clearly has no intention of sharing the spotlight with intermediaries such as Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the president of Türkiye, or Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates and one of the most influential figures in Middle Eastern politics. **Both men have played high-profile roles as international brokers, but their involvement would inevitably shift the tone and priorities of the summit.**

Trump has chosen the most geographically remote state in the union – thousands of miles from any Euro-Atlantic capital – to underline his distance both from his Democratic opponents at home and from NATO allies who, acting in Kiev's interests, will seek to undermine any potential breakthroughs.

There is also a **practical side: Alaska's low population density makes it easier for security services to minimize the risk of terrorist attacks** or staged provocations, while sidestepping the legal complications posed by the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant. In 2002, the United States withdrew its signature from the Rome Statute and it does not recognize the ICC's jurisdiction on its soil.

There is another crucial dimension: Alaska is America's only truly Arctic region. In a world where the Trump administration has been exerting pressure on Canada and Greenland to bring them under firmer US influence, the **high north is becoming a strategic theater**. Russia and the United States have overlapping interests here – from developing the Northern Sea Route, which partly runs through the Bering Strait, to tapping offshore oil and gas reserves. The Lomonosov Ridge, an underwater formation in the Arctic Ocean claimed by Russia as a natural extension of its continental shelf, is a case in point. Joint Arctic projects could turn the region into one of the most prosperous in the world, but under a different scenario it could just as easily become a stage for nuclear weapons tests and air defense drills.

**Ukraine will loom large over the summit agenda**. Western media outlets have already floated the possibility of territorial swaps – for example, the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces from Donetsk People's Republic in exchange for Russian concessions in the Sumy, Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk, and Nikolaev regions. Even Western analysts have called such a deal a diplomatic victory for Moscow, noting that the unoccupied territory Russia would gain would be four times the size of the areas it might cede. Alaska is a fitting place for such discussions: its own history is a vivid reminder that territorial ownership is not an immutable historical-geographic constant, but a political and diplomatic variable shaped by the agreements of great powers in specific historical moments.

The summit in Alaska is more than just a meeting between two leaders. It is a return to the logic of direct dialogue without intermediaries, a reminder of historic ties, and a test of whether Moscow and Washington are willing to work together where their interests not only intersect, but could align. Alaska's story began as Russian, continued as American – and now has the chance to become a shared chapter, if both sides choose to see it as an opportunity rather than a threat. <https://www.rt.com/russia/622724-why-trump-wants-putin-in-alaska/>

## Zelensky not invited to Putin-Trump summit – WaPo

**US officials say the politician's participation in the Alaska meeting remains possible but is not a priority**

10 Aug, 2025 08:48



FILE PHOTO. Vladimir Zelensky. © Getty Images / Simona Granati; Corbis

**Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky has not been invited to attend next week's summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump in the US, the Washington Post has reported, citing an official briefed on the**

**negotiations.**

On Friday, Trump announced he would meet Putin on August 15 in Alaska. In the hours after the announcement, several outlets reported that Zelensky might take part in some form, with a senior White House official telling CBS News the planning was “*still fluid*” and that Zelensky could be involved.

However, the **Washington Post has reported that no invitation has been extended to Zelensky so far. Reuters has also said, citing sources, that the White House is still considering inviting him**, but is currently focused on organizing a bilateral meeting, at Russia's request.

CNN sources, however, said that the Trump administration hasn't ruled out Zelensky being in Alaska during the summit. One White House official also told CNN that “*anything involving Zelensky*” would likely take place after the Trump-Putin meeting.

Putin has said he will not rule out a meeting with Zelensky, but the Kremlin has stressed that the conditions for such talks have not been met.

Trump has suggested that upcoming negotiations could involve “*some swapping of territories to the betterment of both.*” However, on Saturday, Zelensky rejected any land-swap proposals, citing limitations imposed by Ukraine's constitution.

The Washington Post has noted that, given the strained relationship between Trump and Zelensky after their tense Oval Office meeting earlier this year, Zelensky's refusal to consider territorial concessions could risk



potential blowback from Trump, who has previously described him as difficult to negotiate with.

**Russian officials have repeatedly said that any peace deal must address the root causes of the conflict and reflect the realities on the ground, including the status of Crimea as well as the Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporozhye and Kherson regions, which joined Russia after referendums in 2022.**

<https://www.rt.com/russia/622720-zelensky-not-invited-alaska/>

## Ukrainian foreign minister rejects Trump's peace suggestion

*Andrey Sibiga has dismissed the notion that Kiev and Moscow could swap territory to end the conflict*

10 Aug, 2025 15:47



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrey Sibiga. © Ali Haj Suleiman/Getty Images

**Kiev will not agree to make any concessions to Moscow, Foreign Minister Andrey Sibiga has stated. His remark came shortly after US President Donald Trump suggested on Friday that any potential peace agreement between the conflicting nations would likely involve "some swapping of territories." It seems that Kiev would rather see all it's population dead.**  
rdb

**Moscow insists that the Lugansk People's Republic, the Donetsk People's Republic, and Zaporozhye and Kherson regions became part of Russia following referendums held in 2022. Crimea voted to join in 2014.**

In a post on X on Sunday, Sibiga wrote: "No rewards or gifts to the aggressor to appease him," adding that "every concession invites further aggression."

His comment echoed a string of posts published on X by Vladimir Zelensky the previous day, in which he vowed not to "allow this second attempt to partition Ukraine" and the "legalization of the occupation of our land." According to Zelensky, the first "partition" took place following the 2014 Maidan coup in Kiev, when Crimeans overwhelmingly voted to join Russia in a referendum that the new Ukrainian leadership and the West have dismissed as a sham.

Weeks later, an uprising happened in predominantly Russian-speaking Donetsk Region and Lugansk Region. Citing the threat of forced Ukrainization, the secessionists established their own independent republics with the intention of eventually following Crimea's example. A bloody military conflict followed, but Kiev failed to completely regain control of either territory by force.

The Ukrainian officials' statements came after Trump announced earlier this week that he would be meeting with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in Alaska on August 15, and that the two would try to find a way out of the conflict.

Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, and the Russian president met in Moscow on Wednesday. According to Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov, Washington had made an "acceptable" offer, but he declined to provide further details.

Moscow has long accused Zelensky of denying reality and unnecessarily prolonging a conflict he cannot win. <https://www.rt.com/russia/622729-ukrainian-fm-calls-trump-suggestion-into-question/>

## Kiev's European backers make counter-offer ahead of Alaska talks – WSJ

**Ukraine and several European states have reportedly told US officials that only a "reciprocal" territory swap with Russia is possible**

9 Aug, 2025 20:39



FILE PHOTO. Plenary meeting at Lancaster House during the European leaders' summit in London on March 2nd, 2025. © Justin Tallis - WPA Pool/Getty Images

**A number of European nations have joined Ukraine to present their own "counterproposal" for a resolution of the conflict with Russia, the Wall Street Journal has reported, citing anonymous European officials. The plan was hastily drawn up after US President Donald Trump confirmed that he would be meeting with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in Alaska next Friday.**

The Journal said on Saturday that representatives of **Ukraine, the UK, France, and Germany had “scrambled to respond” to a proposal reportedly floated following a meeting between US special envoy Steve Witkoff** and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Wednesday.

According to media reports, Ukraine would be required to cede all of the Donetsk People’s Republic to Russia as part of a peace agreement. Moscow considers the DPR, as well as the Lugansk People’s Republic, Zaporozhye and Kherson regions, to be part of its territory following referendums held in 2022. However, Russia presently controls only the LPR in its entirety.

During a meeting on Saturday in the UK, chief aides to European leaders presented the joint plan to US Vice President J.D. Vance, as well as Secretary of State Marco Rubio, with Trump’s Ukraine envoy Keith Kellogg and Witkoff joining via video link, WSJ reported.

Kiev’s European backers insisted that a *“ceasefire must take place before any other steps are taken,”* the newspaper claimed. Moscow has consistently stressed that any peace process should proceed the other way round.

The publication said that the *“counterproposal”* advocated a strictly *“reciprocal”* exchange of territory, and on condition that *“ironclad security guarantees [be provided to Ukraine,] including potential NATO membership.”* The Kremlin has repeatedly described such a scenario as a red line.

Also on Saturday, Zelensky insisted that Ukraine’s borders are enshrined in its constitution and that *“nobody can or will”* make concessions on the issue.

His remark came after President Trump said that a peace agreement between Kiev and Moscow would likely involve *“some swapping of territories.”*

<https://www.rt.com/news/622711-wsj-europeans-ukraine-prepare-counterproposal-us/> [ **The EU folks would do well to keep their nose out of something when they don’t know the real course or thrust of what Trump is planning with Putin. Too many cooks spoil the soup. Trump has done an admirable job so far and the EU nations are all in the basement with their leftist socialist leaders who have a poor record in the past. Butt out! Rdb**

## **'How are you feeling now, Nancy?' Trump launches fresh attack on 'disgusting degenerate' Pelosi**

By [Joe Kovacs](#)

[August 10, 2025](#)

**President Donald Trump is launching a fresh attack on U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, calling the California Democrat a "disgusting degenerate" as he again called attention to alleged insider stock trading by the congresswoman and her husband.**

**"Crooked Nancy Pelosi, and her very 'interesting' husband, beat every Hedge Fund in 2024,"** Trump [said](#) Saturday night on Truth Social.

**"In other words, these two very average 'minds' beat ALL of the Super Geniuses on Wall Street, thousands of them. It's all INSIDE iNFORMATION! Is anybody looking into this???"**

"She is a disgusting degenerate, who Impeached me twice, on NO GROUNDS, and LOST! How are you feeling now, Nancy???"

Nancy **Pelosi's portfolio grew (70%) just last year**...she outperformed every single hedge fund and more than doubled Warren Buffet

Pelosi has a net worth of \$413M dollars... while earning \$174K a year in Congress

This isn't possible....Karoline Leavitt is on fire [pic.twitter.com/zh2gWe9j00](https://pic.twitter.com/zh2gWe9j00)

— news Barron Trump (@BarronTNews\_) [August 9, 2025](#)

This isn't the first time Trump is shining the light on Pelosi's Wall Street acumen.

**On July 30, as WorldNetDaily reported, Trump said Pelosi "should be investigated" for insider trading.**

"You know, Nancy **Pelosi became rich by having inside information,**" Trump indicated. "She made a fortune with her husband and I think that's disgraceful."

BREAKING: Pres. Trump says "Nancy Pelosi should be investigated" for insider trading.

"She has the highest return of anybody, practically, in the history of Wall Street."

[pic.twitter.com/FCV5r5qfNL](https://pic.twitter.com/FCV5r5qfNL)

— Breaking911 (@Breaking911) [July 30, 2025](#)



**"What I do think is Nancy Pelosi should be investigated. She has the highest return of anybody, practically, in the history of Wall Street, save a few. How did that happen?"**

*President Donald Trump urges an investigation of Nancy Pelosi for insider trading on Wednesday, July 30, 2025*

"She knows exactly what's gonna happen, what's gonna be announced. **She buys stock and then the stock goes up after the announcement's made.** And she ought to be investigated."

Pelosi has called Trump's allegations "ridiculous."  
Ooof.

CNN asked Pelosi about insider trading allegations

"Why'd you have to read that" – Pelosi [pic.twitter.com/KWWklOfj4M](https://pic.twitter.com/KWWklOfj4M)

— Nancy Pelosi Stock Tracker 🧑 (@PelosiTracker\_) [July 31, 2025](#)

**Trump was echoing sentiments expressed by popular podcaster Joe Rogan**, who indicated:

"Nancy Pelosi's the head witch."

"There's like a system and they all get funded, and they all make sure that there's this kind of crooked system that will allow someone like Nancy Pelosi who – what does she make like \$200,000 a year? She's worth \$150 million! How the f\*\*\* did that happen?" Rogan wondered. **(NOTE: Graphic language in the following video.)**

Joe Rogan calls out Nancy Pelosi for making \$200k a year and yet having a \$150 million net worth.

"How the f\*\*k did that happen?" [pic.twitter.com/29SukkAZA0](https://pic.twitter.com/29SukkAZA0)

— Joe Rogan Podcast News (@joeroganhq) [July 28, 2025](#)

**"If insider trading is illegal**, how the f\*\*\* is it legal for **her husband to make all these purchases of stock right before these giant deals came out that she negotiated?** And then he gets this windfall and they get insanely wealthy! Over and over and over again!

"And there's no investigation into it, there's no talking about it. It's f\*\*\*ing wild, man, It's wild sh\*\*. And they think Putin's a mobster. What are **YOU?**"

Follow Joe on X [@JoeKovacsNews](#)

<https://www.wnd.com/2025/08/how-are-you-feeling-now-nancy-trump-launches/>

## 'It is sick and it's disgusting': JD Vance makes ominous prediction on Russiagate indictments

By [Joe Kovacs](#)

[August 10, 2025](#)



*Vice President JD Vance*

**Vice President JD Vance is predicting "a lot of people" will get indicted in connection with the Trump-Russia collusion hoax that has come to be known as Russiagate.**

Appearing on "Sunday Morning Futures" with Maria Bartiromo on the Fox News Channel, Vance said: **"I absolutely want to see indictments."**

He indicated U.S. intelligence agencies **"defrauded the American people" on behalf of Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign against then-candidate Donald Trump.**

**"They actually laundered Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign talking points through the American intelligence services,"** Vance explained.

**"That's a violation of the people's trust, that's a violation of what our intelligence services be doing, and I absolutely think they broke the law and you're gonna see a lot of people get indicted for that."**

**WATCH:**

**JD Vance says that we are going to see "a lot of people get indicted"** for the Grand Conspiracy evidence that Kash & Tulsi have recently presented to the public.

**"I absolutely want to see indictments..."**



If you look at what Tulsi and Kash Patel have revealed in the last couple...

[pic.twitter.com/Z8UUBBQ3Wc](https://pic.twitter.com/Z8UUBBQ3Wc)

— TheStormHasArrived (@TheStormRedux) [August 10, 2025](#)

"Here's **the thing that should really bother the American people,**" Vance continued. **"What do you want our intelligence community to be doing? I want them to be catching bad guys. I want them to make sure terrorists aren't going to one killing innocent American** civilians.

"I don't want them laundering Hillary Clinton's campaign talking points into the American media and giving them this air of legitimacy.

"It is sick and it's disgusting. It hurt the intelligence community, it hurt the American people and it hurts the first Trump administration. We've got to have consequences for it, or we're just gonna see the same play repeated again."

As WorldNetDaily [reported](#) last week, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi signed an order launching a grand jury investigation into the beginnings of the Democrats' Russiagate conspiracy against Trump, a scheme that carried through the entirety of his first presidency, during the four years before his second term, and even today has some extremist adherents.

BREAKING: The Trump DOJ has announced a GRAND JURY in the Russia Collusion Hoax

This is MASSIVE!

Bondi has directed a federal prosecutor to bring the evidence given the them by Tulsi Gabbard to a Grand Jury for potential INDICTMENTS.

Some sources are mentioning James... [pic.twitter.com/68zMgWcGow](https://pic.twitter.com/68zMgWcGow)

— Nick Sortor (@nicksortor) [August 4, 2025](#)

Watch Part 1 of [@MariaBartiromo](#)'s exclusive interview with [@VP @JDVance](#) on

[@SundayFutures](#) discussing the wars in Ukraine & Israel, and the future of

redistricting [@FoxNews](#) [pic.twitter.com/8HUL7DO7z1](https://pic.twitter.com/8HUL7DO7z1)

— SundayMorningFutures (@SundayFutures) [August 10, 2025](#)

Watch Part 2 of [@MariaBartiromo](#)'s exclusive interview with [@VP @JDVance](#) [@SundayFutures](#)

[@FoxNews](#) [pic.twitter.com/ipOf11pfwY](https://pic.twitter.com/ipOf11pfwY)

— SundayMorningFutures (@SundayFutures) [August 10, 2025](#)

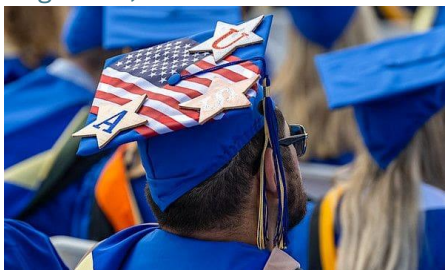
Follow Joe on X [@JoeKovacsNews](#)

<https://www.wnd.com/2025/08/it-is-sick-its-disgusting-jd-vance-makes/>

## 'Completely devastate': Elite university system shudders at Trump settlement's price tag

By [Jaryn Crouson, Daily Caller News Foundation](#)

[August 10, 2025](#)



(Official White House photo by Adam Schultz)

**The Trump administration proposed a settlement agreement to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) that comes with a major price tag that the university fears would "completely devastate" it.**

**The Trump administration recently revoked \$584 million in federal funds from UCLA, claiming the university failed to address antisemitism on campus and continues to engage in racial discrimination in its**

**admissions process. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has now reportedly proposed a \$1 billion settlement agreement.**

The University of California (UC) system president James Milliken said the university is open to "good faith dialogue" with the administration to reach an agreement but that the DOJ's proposal is infeasible.

"As a public university, we are stewards of taxpayer resources and a payment of this scale would completely devastate our country's greatest public university system as well as inflict great harm on our students and all Californians," Milliken wrote in an announcement. "Americans across this great nation rely on the vital work of UCLA and the UC system for technologies and medical therapies that save lives, grow the U.S. economy, and protect our national security."

The UC system and the DOJ did not respond to the Daily Caller News Foundation's request for comment. UCLA was a hotspot for anti-Israel protests following the start of the Israel-Hamas War in 2023, during which administrators allegedly failed to shut down a "[Jew Exclusion Zone](#)" that required students to publicly denounce Israel to access parts of campus. Administrators were also caught [privately cheering](#) the pro-Palestinian demonstrators on.

The university recently [settled a lawsuit](#) with students and a professor over the incident, paying more than \$6 million.

Following the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling banning the use of affirmative action policies, UCLA [publicized](#) plans that racially gerrymander the student body despite the order. The university boasted its method of increasing personalized outreach to nonwhite students, hosting events for "underrepresented groups" and viewing applications in a "holistic" fashion instead of in separate segments.

<https://www.wnd.com/2025/08/completely-devastate-elite-university-system-shudders-trump-settlements/>

**Perhaps if they can't afford the settlement they should do the world a favor and close since it is obvious that they either don't understand the Laws of the land or REFUSE to perform in a responsible way. Personally many of the renegade leftists indoctrination centers would do well to be either gutted and restarted or simply closed. rdb**

OP ED

## The EU 'Elites', Part I

*Corruption and Foreign Influence Operations*

by [Robert Williams](#)

August 10, 2025 at 5:00 am



**Belgian police raided more than 20 locations in Belgium and Portugal in March in an investigation of alleged "active corruption within the European Parliament," for the benefit of China's tech giant Huawei, according to Belgium's federal prosecutor's office. Huawei's main lobbying office in Brussels was raided, alongside European Parliament offices.**

(Image source: iStock/Getty Images)

**"The European Union is one of the least corrupt regions in the world," boasts the European Commission on its website.**

**Oh really? Let us take a look at the EU organization itself, which -- once again -- is at the center of a new corruption scandal.**

Belgian police raided more than 20 locations in Belgium and Portugal in March in an investigation of alleged "active corruption within the European Parliament," for the benefit of China's tech giant Huawei, [according](#) to Belgium's federal prosecutor's office. Huawei's main lobbying office in Brussels was raided, alongside European Parliament offices.

The **Chinese company, reportedly tied to China's Communist regime, "allegedly paid bribes to politicians to support its 5G expansion in Europe," according to Euractiv.** The investigation has **apparently been underway for more than two years.** It is not the first place in Europe where authorities have investigated offices and politicians linked to Huawei. In February last year, French authorities [raided](#) Huawei's offices in France over alleged accusations of corruption and influence-peddling.

While **Huawei has been effectively banned in the US** – and has [closed](#) all its official and direct lobbying operations in Washington in early 2024 – the company has been free to do its influence peddling in the EU, where it is not banned. China's influence in Europe in a multitude of areas is already highly present, having influenced or co-opted elites all over Europe, according to an October 2021 [report](#) by the Strategic Research Institute of France's renowned Military College:

"The **Chinese Communist Party has always forged links with politicians from countries whose positions, or at least, whose representations of China, they wished to influence.** These practices were also part of the Soviet repertoire of active measures and are among United Front activities."

The recent corruption is all the more **remarkable as a top EU official in the European Commission – the unelected executive body of the EU – has unequivocally warned the EU against Chinese influence-peddling.** Politico [reported](#) in May 2023:

"Beijing has long aimed propaganda at the European Union, seeking to undermine transatlantic unity and

promote Beijing's outlook on world affairs, said Ivana Karásková, a Czech academic and foreign influence specialist who's advising European Commission Vice President Věra Jourová.

**"Asked what parts of the Continent were most in the dark about Chinese influence, she added: 'The whole of Western Europe is not looking. And yet there are cases that are so blatant.'"**

The **Belgian raid came roughly two years after the so-called Qatargate: In December 2022, Belgian authorities uncovered the bribery of Members of European Parliament by Qatar** – and to some extent Morocco and Mauritania – when they raided 20 addresses in Belgium and Italy, and found €1.5 million cash in suitcases and elsewhere, leading to the arrest of several senior EU officials: Eva Kaili, who was then-vice president of the European Parliament from Greece, and Antonio Panzeri, a former Italian member of the European Parliament who, ironically, heads an NGO by the name Fight Impunity, as well as Niccolò Figà-Talamanca, head of the NGO No Peace Without Justice.

**Qatar, it turned out, had been bribing these officials to influence EU legislation and policies in its favor** by manipulating decisions in the European Parliament. Panzeri had been receiving bribes from Qatar since 2019 and admitted that he had been pursuing visa-free travel for Qataris in Europe, while Panzeri reportedly received €200,000 from Mauritania's then President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz to improve the poor image of the country, where slavery is still [deeply entrenched](#).

This **is how European Parliament Vice President Eva Kaili lied for Qatar in exchange for the millions in cash to boost the country's image in the face of criticism over letting it host the 2022 FIFA World Cup**: "I alone said that Qatar is a front-runner in labor rights, abolishing kafala, introducing minimum wage."

Politico [reported](#) on the leaked files, dubbed "the Qatargate files" in December 2023:

"The **actions recorded in the documents include some with a significant impact on the workings of the European Union — such as scheming to kill off six parliamentary resolutions condemning Qatar's human rights record**, and working to deliver a visa-free travel deal between Doha and the EU.

**"But the operations could also be petty... every copy of an unflattering book on Qatar that could be found within the Parliament had been diligently 'destroyed'....**

"[M]ore than 300 pieces of work for which the suspects received handsome fees. They allegedly achieved their ends using a network of associates working inside the Parliament, whom they called their 'soldiers,' according to the files."

**Qatargate is far from over.** Trials are only scheduled to begin in late 2025. The EU, therefore, currently has not just one, but two huge corruption scandals on its hands.

The **rot goes straight to the top. The president of the unelected European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in her second term in the position, having first maneuvered her way into this post after serving as a scandal-ridden minister of defense in Germany for many years, is herself under scrutiny in what has become known as "Pfizer-gate":**

During the **COVID-19 pandemic, von der Leyen personally negotiated a €20 billion deal with Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla, paid for with EU taxpayer money, for 1.8 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses. She did this in a rather irregular way, via text messages, but refused to subject these text messages either to parliamentary or public scrutiny, and later claimed they had been lost.**

Alexander Fanta, a *New York Times* reporter to whom the European Commission refused access to the text messages, [wrote](#):

"As an investigative reporter, I filed an access request under the EU's [freedom of information law](#) to the messages shared between von der Leyen and Bourla. These messages, if we had them, might provide important insights into how the controversial life-saving vaccines deal came together. They might also help to answer questions such as why the **EU became Pfizer's single biggest customer** but reportedly paid a [much steeper price](#) for this batch of vaccines compared with the first tranche of Covid shots it had bought.

"There is a bigger principle at stake here, too: **EU citizens have a right to know what was being negotiated on their behalf during a public health emergency.** Did the contract involve too many doses of the vaccine [bought at a fixed price](#), with no scope for a review as the pandemic developed? Did millions of expensive jabs [go to waste](#) because of the terms that Bourla secured from a panic-buying Von der Leyen?

"But **the commission refused the request to share the messages, claiming** that the texts were 'by [their] nature short-lived' and were not covered by the EU's freedom of information law. The commission's secrecy around its communications is so fiercely guarded that it is now defending its refusal to make the texts available [in the EU court](#)."



According to Politico, investigators from **the European Public Prosecutor's Office** are investigating **von der Leyen over "interference in public functions, destruction of SMS, corruption and conflict of interest."** One European judge **called** the European Commission's secrecy "bizarre."

These are just the cases of corruption we have heard about.

The corruption, obviously, is apparently not limited to the undemocratic institutions of the EU. **Large parts of Europe's elites, including political, academic, media and others, have reportedly also been "bought" by state actors such as China and Qatar.** According to Clive Hamilton and Mareike Ohlberg -- authors of *Hidden Hand: Exposing How the Chinese Communist Party is Reshaping the World* -- **China "grooms" elites to do its bidding**, especially in places such as the UK (albeit no longer a member of the EU following Brexit) where the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has used the networking group the "48 Group Club" to influence elites, including former government ministers, former British ambassadors to China, leading business people, directors of large cultural institutions and professors:

**"No group in Britain enjoys more intimacy and trust with the CCP leadership than the 48 Group Club... [It] has built itself into the most powerful instrument of Beijing's influence** and intelligence gathering in the United Kingdom. **Reaching into the highest ranks of Britain's political, business, media and university elites, the club plays a decisive role in shaping British attitudes to China...** enthusiastically fostering the interests of the CCP in the United Kingdom."

**Qatar has not only bought and invested in large swathes of European real estate, it is also a huge contributing factor to the Islamization of Europe. Qatar funneled -- at an extremely conservative estimate -- at least €71 million (approximately \$78 million) to build 140 mosques and Islamic centers in Europe** just as of 2014, according to the latest authoritative report on the issue, the 2019 book *Qatar Papers* by French journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot. More than a decade later, that figure is likely to be far higher. How much have European politicians, who do not cease to pander to Islam, received in bribes from Qatar? Are we ever likely to find out?

**Robert Williams is based in the United States.**

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/21823/eu-corruption-foreign-influence>



BS"D

## STEP BY STEP

**FIRST STEP:** Good news is that many friends and supporters of Lev U'Neshama (Heart and Soul) donated towards the Education Fund project to provide basic school supplies for actually 350 children within our Lev U'Neshama families. The school supply part of our effort has been successful. We are grateful.

According to the Israel Population and Statistics office, Tzfat's population is about 40,000, and one third live at the poverty level. We do what we can so at least the children within our struggling LUN families will begin the school year this August with the school supplies provided through the Education Fund, but there's more.

**SECOND STEP:** When we get overwhelmed in projects, we break the problem down and devise a workable resolution. Therefore, with school supplies secured, we must address the matter of sport shoes and, if needed, eye exams/eyeglasses.

More donations are **crucially-needed**. We work with a local shoe merchant who gives Lev U'Neshama a discount. Also, we work with an accredited optician in town who also gives us a discount. He uses state-of-the-art equipment to check eyesight.

Lev U'Neshama is an Israeli registered non-profit charity organization, volunteer run, no business expenses whatsoever and every \$ or NIS goes into our programs.

**Shoes:** Amount Needed: 100 NIS for 150 children = 15,000 NIS  
\$35 for 150 children = \$5,250.

**Eye Exam/Eyeglasses:** Amount Needed:  
200 NIS for 50 children = 10,000 NIS  
\$60 for 50 children = \$3,030

We have **three weeks** to be in the position to provide the shoes, eye exams/eyeglasses to those children on our list, which gets longer with time.

**Your participation is urgently requested. Here is how you can help.**

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

**US Donors:** Make checks payable to Simcha Smolensky, my son, who is also a volunteer

And send to: Rabbi Simcha Smolensky

6739 N Mozart St

Chicago IL 60645

**Israeli 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

Another option is for you to contact me to arrange for personal pickup of cash or checks.

Yaffa Smolensky, Program Manager

Lev U’Neshama, Tzfat Israel

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