

Israel temporarily shuts Gaza pedestrian crossing following border rioting

Erez Crossing closed over Rosh Hashanah; Palestinian laborers won't be able to enter Israel for another 24 hours

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) 18 September 2023, 12:36 am [0](#)

Israel announced the temporary closure of its sole pedestrian crossing with the Gaza Strip on Sunday night, in response to renewed rioting by Palestinians on the border.

According to the military's liaison to the Palestinians, the Erez Crossing would not reopen for Palestinian workers on Monday morning after it had been shuttered since Friday morning due to the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, known by its acronym COGAT, said in a statement that it was announcing "the postponement of the opening of the Erez Crossing for the entry of Gazan laborers into Israel for an additional 24 hours."

COGAT said the decision was made following an assessment of the situation by security officials and instructions by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi.

The crossing — along with checkpoints in the West Bank — was already closed since Friday at 12:01 a.m., and was to remain closed until Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

COGAT said the crossing would open following a fresh assessment on Monday. Exceptions are made for humanitarian and other outstanding cases but they require COGAT's approval.

The closures affect more than 100,000 West Bank Palestinians and 17,000 Gazans who have permits to enter Israel for work.

On Sunday afternoon, hundreds of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip rioted on the border with Israel, for the second time in three days.



The Israel Defense Forces said the rioters set fire to tires and detonated explosive devices on the security barrier.

Palestinian rioters carry tires amid clash with Israeli soldiers on the Gaza border, east of Khan Yunis, September 17, 2023. (Yousef Mohammed/Flash90)

Troops responded with crowd dispersal means and live fire in some cases. The Hamas-run health ministry in the Gaza Strip said five Palestinians were wounded by Israeli fire.

The Hamas terror group, which rules the territory, appears to have resumed regular violent protests along the frontier, with an

increasing number of riots in recent weeks.

On Friday, the IDF carried out a [drone strike](#) against a Hamas observation post in the Gaza Strip in response to renewed rioting along the border.

The rioting on Friday and Sunday came as Israeli security forces were on high alert during the Rosh Hashanah holiday, amid a rise in warnings and intelligence tips about possible terror attacks. **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-temporarily-shutters-gaza-pedestrian-crossing-following-border-rioting/>

Palestinian said stabbed in brawl with settlers in Hebron



IDF soldier fires shot in the air to separate groups of Jewish and Arab youths; Palestinians say settlers were attacking homes

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 1:41 pm [23](#)

IDF soldiers try and separate brawling Israeli and Palestinian youths in the West Bank city of Hebron on September 16, 2023 (Screenshot/X)

A Palestinian was reportedly stabbed and wounded as groups of settler and Arab youths clashed in the West Bank city of Hebron overnight, media reports said Sunday.

The Israel Defense Forces said that soldiers arrived at the

scene of the “violent confrontation” and an officer fired a single shot in the air to disperse the groups.

The army said that its forces treated a wounded Palestinian at the scene, but did not give any details on the injury.

Palestinian media said he had a knife wound in the back and was in a moderate condition.

The IDF said that the Israel Police were now probing the incident.

Palestinian reports said that the group of Jewish settlers were roaming the mixed neighborhood of Tel Rumeideh after the Rosh Hashanah holiday meal and attacking Palestinian homes.

Video posted to social media shows the Jewish youths telling several Palestinians to get out of the way and stop filming them before the groups started pushing and hitting each other.

Colonial Israeli settlers harass #Palestinian civilians in the neighborhood of Tel Rumeida, in the southern West Bank city of Hebron, tonight. pic.twitter.com/s6DC3AjAsG

— Quds News Network (@QudsNen) [September 16, 2023](#)

Arab Israeli lawmaker Ahmed Tibi criticized the police for failing to take action.

“Part of the normal Rosh Hashanah activities in Hebron. A Palestinian was stabbed. No one was arrested. Because they are Jews,” he tweeted.

Hebron is a contested city that is home to the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a site considered holy to Muslims, Christians and Jews. Hundreds of hardline settlers live in fortified enclaves under military protection in the heart of a city of more than 200,000 Palestinians. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-said-stabbed-in-brawl-with-settlers-in-hebron/>

Netanyahu heads to US; protesters denounce him at airport

Demonstrators stage march in Tel Aviv while carrying Declaration of Independence; focus turns to America this week as activists plan to hound the PM wherever he goes

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 9:07 pm [12](#)



A photo distributed by protest organizers shows demonstrators marching on Tel Aviv's Rothschild Boulevard while rallying in the coastal city on September 17, 2023. (Eitan Slonim)



Anti-overhaul demonstrators protest at Ben Gurion Airport, September 17, 2023 (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

Thousands of Israelis rallied nationwide against the government's judicial overhaul, in a 37th week of protests that include a demonstration at the airport as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu departed for the United States.

Demonstrators in Tel Aviv began the evening by staging what they called “The Victory of Democracy March” from Independence Hall on Rothschild Boulevard, where the establishment of Israel was declared, to the main protest site at Kaplan Street. Many demonstrators were clad in white for the Rosh Hashanah holiday, and some carried a large banner that declared: “The dictatorship will collapse.”

Others carried a large copy of the Declaration of Independence.

“It's a duty to stand up against those who scorn the Declaration of Independence and are turning Israel into a dictatorship,” the Kaplan Force group said in a statement.

Along with the main rally in Tel Aviv, smaller protests were held at dozens of locations around the country, including in Jerusalem, Haifa, Rehovot, Eilat, Karkur, Kiryat Tevon and elsewhere.

Protesters later gathered at Ben Gurion Airport, where Netanyahu was departing for the US for

a week-long visit that will include a series of meetings with world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly, among them a much-anticipated sit-down with US President Joe Biden.

By 11 p.m. several hundred protesters were outside the airport's Terminal 3m any of them waving the national flag. Some chanted for Netanyahu to "Go and don't come back"; others highlighted that he has not been invited to the White House.

נתב"ג. מול אולם היוצאים, לקראת טיסת הנאשם לארה"ב.

@ ברק דור: [barakdor pic.twitter.com/2GWghHYBxv](https://pic.twitter.com/2GWghHYBxv)

— ??????????Sh????uLi (@Shaulirena) [September 17, 2023](https://twitter.com/Shaulirena/status/1503000000000000000)

Protesters have vowed to follow Netanyahu on his trip abroad, and are expected to hound him during his scheduled meetings in San Francisco and later in New York.

Expat activists have proved to be a persistent thorn in the side of government ministers and Knesset members during recent visits to New York and other cities in the US, using a network of sympathizers to pursue the lawmakers wherever they appear, ensuring that they find no safe haven abroad from the political discord at home.

Earlier this week, activists projected a giant message onto the UN Headquarters building in New York, saying: "Don't believe Crime Minister Netanyahu. Protect Israeli democracy." Activists said the message was projected onto the building for about 30 minutes.

"The slogan projected on the UN building wall is just a small taste of what is awaiting the indicted defendant Netanyahu on his visit to NYC," the New York protesters say in a statement.

"We will be waiting to greet him. In the air, on land and at sea. The whole world will know that Netanyahu is a liar. We will not allow him to disgrace Israel and deceive world leaders with his speeches." **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/rallies-held-nationwide-as-netanyahu-heads-to-us-protesters-to-await-him-at-airport/>

Knesset committee to approve bill legalizing police use of facial recognition cameras

Legislation co-sponsored by Yariv Levin and Itamar Ben Gvir will allow police to use monitoring systems to 'prevent, thwart or uncover serious crimes'

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 2:57 am [1](#)



An Israeli technician climbs up a pole to install a surveillance camera on a street in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Ras al-Amud on January 24, 2019. (AHMAD GHARABLI / AFP)

The Knesset's Ministerial Committee for Legislation is set to convene for a special session on Monday, during the Knesset recess, to give preliminary approval for a government-sponsored bill that will legalize police placement of facial recognition cameras in public places across Israel and use of the data to investigate criminal activity.

The bill, unveiled in February, is co-sponsored by Justice Minister Yariv Levin, the architect of the judicial overhaul push by the hardline

government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, head of the far-right Otzma Yehudit party who has long been [gunning](#) for expanded police powers and the use of advanced anti-terror tools deployed by the Shin Bet, primarily in the West Bank, against Israeli criminal suspects.

Hebrew media reported Sunday that the committee will convene Monday to prepare the legislation for Knesset passage.

According to the bill, police will be allowed to deploy the facial recognition technology to "prevent, thwart or uncover serious crime and those involved in planning or carrying it out." The proposed legislation, once passed, will also retroactively legalize the use of the [controversial, unregulated Hawk-Eye program](#), which can track and identify license plates and determine whether the vehicle was stolen or if its owner's driver's license is expired.

The program has no oversight mechanism. In 2020, a police source said that the force has been compiling information on the movements of Israelis not suspected of any crime in a secret

database. Police said at the time that the system's use was "validated by judicial means and used in an orderly fashion when needed." **Obviously 1984 has been going on in Israel for some time. – rdb]**

The bill is being advanced as part of a legislative effort to combat crime in the Arab community.

Ben Gvir has come under intense criticism for his handling of an alarming uptick in murders in Israel's Arab communities that have shattered records set over the past few years. According to the Abraham Initiatives anti-violence advocacy group, 174 members of the Arab community (among them 165 citizens of Israel) have been killed since the start of the year, mostly in shootings. During the same time frame last year, 77 were killed.

The **killings are part of a violent crime wave that has engulfed the Arab community in recent years.** Many community leaders blame the police, whom they say have failed to crack down on powerful criminal organizations and largely ignore the violence. They also point to decades of neglect and discrimination by government offices as the root cause of the problem.

A number of versions of the facial recognition bill have been floated over the years, including by members of the previous government of ex-premier Naftali Bennett, and as far back as when Tzipi Livni was justice minister in 2013-2014, according to Hebrew media reports on Sunday.

Facial recognition technology has come under greater scrutiny from civil rights activists and regulators worldwide, who say it is biased and infringes on privacy.

The technology, which uses visual images to help computers identify people, is in wide use, from unlocking phones to picking out a suspect's face at borders or mass gatherings.

According to the Levin-Ben Gvir draft bill, police will be able to deploy the facial recognition cameras at all access roads to and from a given locality with the approval of a senior police officer "provided that [they are] convinced, based on the factual basis presented to [them], that this is necessary for a specific operational purpose, due to a high probability of that serious crimes [can be committed] that endanger the life of a person...public safety or the security of the state." **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/knesset-committee-to-approve-bill-legalizing-police-use-of-facial-recognition-cameras/> This is really a problem. I know that I was tagged by facial recognition from a Photo taken of a huge group at a rally in Sderot for Gush Katif in about 2—5 because I got pulled at passport control for hours on my next entry into Israel for interrogation. – rdb]**

Israel denies report Saudis suspending normalization talks over Palestinian issue

Saudi-owned site says hardline Netanyahu government's refusal to make concessions to Palestinians at heart of decision to pull away; Israeli, US officials say it's untrue

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 11:11 am [94](#)

A Saudi-owned newspaper reported Sunday that the nation has told the Biden administration it is freezing US-brokered efforts to normalize relations with Israel because Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline government is unwilling to make any concessions to the Palestinians.

An Israeli and an American official both said the report was false.

According to the report in the Elaph newspaper, supposedly citing officials in Netanyahu's office, the US has informed Israel of the Saudi stance. It said that Israel was "confused" by the move, believing that the Saudis were prepared to move ahead with normalizing ties without linking it to the progress on the Palestinian issue.

The **report by the London-based paper's Israel correspondent singled out the insistence by far-right ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir that Israel not make any concessions to the Palestinians,** adding that without progress with Ramallah, there could be no progress with Riyadh.

Last month, Netanyahu indicated that he was open to gestures to Palestinians if a normalization deal with Saudi Arabia depended on it, and hinted that he would not let coalition members block an agreement.

"Do I think it's feasible to have that, and do I think that political questions will block it? I doubt it," Netanyahu told Bloomberg News. "If there's political will, there will be a political way to achieve normalization and a formal peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

"I think there's enough room to discuss possibilities," he added.

Netanyahu's comments were in line with what Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said the day before in an interview with Elaph, which is often seen as a conduit for public messaging between Jerusalem and Riyadh.

"The Palestinian issue will not be an obstacle to peace," Cohen said.

“We **also proved this in the Abraham Accords**. We all have an interest in improving life in the areas of the Palestinian Authority.”

But **Netanyahu’s far-right coalition partners have ruled out any compromise with the Palestinians**.

“We will not make any concessions to the Palestinians. It’s a fiction,” [Smotrich](#), who heads the far-right Religious Zionism party, told Army Radio last month.

Smotrich said that while Israel is interested in the US-brokered deal with Riyadh, “it has nothing to do with Judea and Samaria,” referring to the West Bank by its biblical names.

However, in **recent weeks the Saudis have stepped up their engagement with Palestinians**.

Saudi Arabia will be co-hosting an event on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly this week focused on revamping the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, three UN diplomats told The Times of Israel on Thursday.

The **event, titled “Peace Day Effort for Middle East Peace,” will take place on Monday and is being put on by Saudi Arabia along with the Arab League** and the European Union in cooperation with Egypt and Jordan, one of the diplomats said. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will be the keynote speaker.

Neither the Israeli nor the Palestinian missions were invited to the event, the UN diplomat said, explaining that it is focused on congregating important global stakeholders on the issue in order to “reinvigorate” the peace process.

The current Israeli government led by Netanyahu has refused to entertain the notion of peace talks with the Palestinian Authority, instead moving to radically expand Israel’s footprint in the West Bank. The PA supports a two-state solution, but its leadership is marred by charges of corruption and President Mahmoud Abbas was roundly criticized last week for a speech employing a range of antisemitic tropes.

Both Netanyahu and Abbas will be at the UN this week. **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-saudis-ask-to-suspend-normalization-talks-with-israel-over-palestinian-issue/> Most interesting and two different views in report. Who do you believe? No one. – rdb]**

UNESCO votes to list ruins near ancient Jericho as a World Heritage Site in Palestine

Israel slams Palestinians’ ‘cynical use of UNESCO’; Jerusalem quit the UN cultural body in 2019 for moves it said were designed to diminish the Jewish connection to the Holy Land

By [AP](#) and [Toi Staff](#) Today, 12:41 pm [60](#)



Tell es-Sultan in Jericho on September 29, 2011 (Diego Delso via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA)

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — A UN conference voted Sunday to list the ruins near the ancient West Bank city of Jericho as a “World Heritage Site in Palestine,” a decision that angered Israel, which controls the territory and does not recognize a Palestinian state.

Jericho is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities on earth, and is in a part of the West Bank that is administered by the Palestinian Authority. The listing refers to the Tel es-Sultan archaeological site nearby, which contains prehistoric ruins dating back to the ninth millennium BCE and is outside the ancient city itself.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the UN World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO.

The ancient city joins three other “UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Palestine”: the Church of the Nativity and the pilgrimage route in Bethlehem, the cultural landscape of southern Jerusalem and Battir, and the Old City in Hebron.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said it viewed the move as "another sign of Palestinians' cynical use of UNESCO and politicization of the organization" and promised to work "to change the distorted decisions that have been made."

Israel quit UNESCO in 2019, accusing it of being biased against it and of diminishing its connection to the Holy Land. Israel also objected to UNESCO's acceptance of Palestine as a member state in 2011. But Israel remains a party to the World Heritage Convention, and it sent a delegation to the meeting in Riyadh.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza and East Jerusalem, in the 1967 Six Day War. The Palestinians want all three territories for their future state. Israel views the West Bank as the biblical and cultural heartland of the Jewish people.

There have been no serious or substantive peace negotiations in over a decade, and Israel is currently led by the most nationalist and religious government in its history, making any move toward Palestinian statehood nearly unimaginable.

The modern city of Jericho is a major draw for tourism to the Palestinian territories, both because of its historical sites and proximity to the Dead Sea. In 2021, the Palestinian Authority unveiled major renovations to one of the largest mosaics in the Middle East, in a Jericho palace dating back to the 8th century.



Palestinians visit Hisham's Palace, where one of the largest mosaic panels in the world has been unveiled following a multi-year restoration project, in the West Bank city of Jericho on October 28, 2021. (Photo by ABBAS MOMANI / AFP)

Tell es-Sultan, an oval-shaped mound, contains evidence of one of humanity's first-known villages and an important Bronze-Age town dating back to 2600 BCE. It is around 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the remains of the first city of Jericho, which contains ruins of importance to Jewish history, including a synagogue dating back to the first century BCE.

UNESCO, which refers to the site as Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan, took pains to clarify that the two are distinct.

"The property proposed for nomination is the prehistoric archaeological site of Tell es-Sultan located outside the antique site of Jericho," Ernesto Ottone, UNESCO's assistant director general, said during the meeting to discuss the site.

"Later historical developments, which span over millennia and are demonstrated by material remains beyond the boundaries of Tell es-Sultan, constitute a rich cultural context, worthy of historical interest and preservation, covering among others, Jewish and Christian heritage. However, this is not the focus of the proposed nomination."

Historical heritage has long been among the many flashpoints in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with both sides using archaeology and conservation to demonstrate what they say is their own unique connection to the Holy Land.

MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/un-committee-votes-to-list-ancient-jericho-as-a-world-heritage-site-in-palestine/> [Once again UNESCO demonstrates its stupidity and bias toward the "PA". – rdb]

Ukraine's drone attacks on Crimea, Moscow thwarted – MoD

A dozen of Kiev's strikes have been foiled over the past 24 hours, the Russian defense ministry has said

17 Sep, 2023 22:01

Kiev's troops sought to launch about a dozen drone strikes targeting various Russian regions, the defense ministry said in a statement on Sunday, adding that all the attacks were successfully prevented by the nation's air defenses.

Crimea has emerged as the most targeted region in Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strike attempts over the past 24 hours, according to the ministry. In the early hours on Sunday, a total of four Ukrainian UAVs were intercepted over the peninsula, the statement said. On Sunday evening, Kiev's forces launched

three more drones in two attacks in about an hour, it said, adding that all of them were shot down.

Moscow also faced two Ukrainian drone attacks in the night on Sunday and in the early morning, the Russian military have said, adding that both UAVs were downed over the western and south-eastern parts of the Moscow region and failed to reach the Russian capital.

Russia's Belgorod and Voronezh region also saw one attempted Ukrainian drone attack each over the past 24 hours, the Defense Ministry stated. Each of these attacks involved just one Ukrainian UAV, it said, adding that the drones were successfully intercepted in both cases. The Belgorod Region borders Ukraine's Kharkov Region in the south and the Voronezh Region is located next to the Lugansk People's Republic that join Russia in autumn 2022 together with three other former Ukrainian territories following a series of referendums.

The **Ukrainian forces have repeatedly targeted various Russian regions, including its capital,** with its drone attacks over the past months. Moth UAVs ended up either being shot down or crashing due to signal-jamming.

The Sunday attacks came just a day after another series of attempted drone strikes by Kiev on Saturday. The attacks prompted a brief shutdown of Moscow's three main airports – Domodedovo, Sheremetyevo, and Vnukovo – although none of the Ukrainian drones reached the Russian capital at that time, according to the Defense Ministry.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/583115-ukraine-drone-attacks-moscow-crimea/>

Kiev demands West take measures to combat 'war fatigue'

"The peace formula is the weapons formula," a Ukrainian security chief has said

17 Sep, 2023 21:04



FILE PHOTO: Head of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council Aleksey Danilov
© Global Look Press / Ruslan Kaniuka

Ukraine faces the threat of its "carefully woven web of foreign assistance" being slowly unraveled due to waning optimism and growing disappointment among its Western backers, the head of the National Security and Defense Council, Aleksey Danilov, wrote in an opinion piece published on Saturday in the newspaper Ukrainskaya Pravda.

The **security chief accused "reputable and influential"**

Western media outlets of publishing materials suggesting Ukraine's much-hyped summer counteroffensive is failing, Kiev's troops are unable to take back territory from Russia, and Moscow's resources are "limitless." All such sentiments slow down the Western military assistance to Kiev and stand in the way of Ukraine's "peace formula," Danilov added. **It seems that most of the comments about failure of Ukraine are very true. The truth can be very painful. – rdb]**

He stated that the **only solution to the ongoing conflict between Moscow and Kiev, which has been ongoing for more than a year and a half, is a military one.** "The peace formula is the weapons formula," he said in the article.

Danilov **urged the West to combat its own growing skepticism about Ukraine's prospects in the conflict.** Western nations should create their own "agreed formula for ... the vision of Ukraine's victory" and also "enshrine military assistance to Ukraine in ... legislation," he said, adding that election cycles might affect "the stability of the partnership" between Ukraine and the West. **sounds like Professor Harold Hills "think system" from Music Man. If you think you are winning you are winning even if you aren't . – rdb]**

The US and its allies should also **"develop and implement a set of measures to neutralize so-called 'war fatigue',"** Danilov maintained. He also admitted that "a sprint" – i.e. a short conflict – had been "replaced by a long run."

His **words came more than three months into the Ukrainian counteroffensive, which has so far failed to bring about any meaningful changes to the front lines** but has seen Kiev's troops suffer heavy losses in attempts to penetrate Russian defenses.

Numerous **Western media outlets have reported on the growing skepticism among Western officials** about the prospects for the operation. The New York Times reported in August that US and UK officials were allegedly "perplexed" by Kiev's tactics, while the Wall Street Journal said that Washington was set to reduce military aid to Ukraine in 2024.

Moscow has repeatedly expressed its willingness to engage in peace talks as long as its interests are taken into account and the “reality on the ground” is respected.

However, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky has imposed a legal prohibition on all discussions with Russia. He also insisted on his own “*peace formula*” – the one Danilov was referring to – that includes the withdrawal of Russian troops from all territories claimed by Kiev, reparations from Moscow, and a criminal tribunal for the members of Russian government. <https://www.rt.com/russia/583114-kiev-west-combat-war-fatigue/>

Ukraine seeking to dislodge Russia from uranium market

Kiev must loosen Moscow’s grip on the nuclear energy market to pave the way for new Western sanctions, the energy minister has explained

17 Sep, 2023 15:03

Ukraine intends to ramp up domestic uranium production in a bid to elbow Russia out of the global nuclear fuel market, Energy Minister German Galushchenko has said. His comments come after several Western nations announced a coalition – described by Moscow as “*unstable*” – to achieve the same goal.

Galushchenko deplored that Russia still controls a significant part of the world uranium market and has many contracts with companies worldwide. He described this factor as a significant obstacle to the West being able to put new sanctions on Moscow.

“But we are working hard to push them out of this market, as well as to increase uranium production in Ukraine,” Galushchenko stated in a post by Ukraine’s Energy Ministry on Facebook published on Saturday.

The minister also noted that **Ukraine is cooperating with several companies** – Canada-based CAMECO in particular – to achieve this goal. Under a deal with the company, Kiev recently sent CAMECO the first batch of uranium extracted at the Eastern Mining and Processing Plant (EMPP) in Dnepropetrovsk Region, the country’s only facility specializing in mining and processing this type of material.

Galushchenko previously said that Kiev and CAMECO were cooperating to modernize Ukraine’s uranium industry and have plans for the latter to completely meet the needs of Energoatom, Ukraine’s nuclear agency, in uranium hexafluoride, a compound essential for the production of nuclear fuel. In exchange, Energoatom promised to sell all uranium mined by EMPP to Canada.

Ukraine first announced plans to phase out Russian nuclear fuel and replace it with supply from Western countries after the Maidan coup in Kiev in 2014. As part of this push, earlier this month Ukraine received the first batch of nuclear fuel from the Swedish affiliate of US-based atomic energy company Westinghouse.

In addition to this, in April, the US, UK, Canada, Japan, and France announced an alliance aimed at displacing Russia from the international nuclear energy market, as well as “*supporting the stable supply of fuels for the needs of today.*”

However, Rosatom, Russia’s nuclear energy agency, noted that none of the participating countries have the capacity to fully produce nuclear fuel on their own, adding that the supply chains between them are extremely fragile and inefficient. In light of this, Rosatom branded the agreement “*an attempt to assemble a ‘Frankenstein monster’ in the nuclear fuel segment.*” <https://www.rt.com/russia/583098-ukraine-uranium-threat-russia/>

US waging war against Russia – Lavrov

The Russian foreign minister weighed in on debates in Washington about sending long-range missiles to Kiev

17 Sep, 2023 09:24

Washington’s massive campaign to support Ukraine with arms amounts to a war against Russia, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said, adding that the US has long groomed Kiev for this very purpose.

In a comment to Russian reporter Pavel Zarubin released on **Sunday, Lavrov suggested that rumors about Washington possibly giving the green light to the delivery of Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS),** which have a range of up to 300km, were aimed at “*shaping public opinion.*”

According to the minister, these deliberations would not change the fact that “for many years Ukraine has been groomed to fight with its hands and bodies in order to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia.” Lavrov accused the US of controlling the hostilities between Kiev and Moscow.

They are sending weapons, ammunition, intelligence, and satellite data. They are waging war against us.

In **recent weeks, several Western media outlets have reported that the administration of US President Joe Biden is edging closer to approving deliveries of the ATACMS, which Kiev has been requesting for several months.** The US has been reluctant to approve sending these missile systems, arguing that potential Ukrainian strikes deep into Russia could trigger a major escalation in the conflict.

Ukraine **has already received long-range missiles from the UK and France,** which, according to local officials, have been used to attack civilian targets and infrastructure in Russia's Crimean Peninsula and Donbass.

While **the US has yet to grant Kiev's request** for ATACMS, it has committed more than \$43 billion in military aid to Ukraine since the conflict began, including air defense systems, armored personnel carriers, and M1 Abrams tanks.

Moscow has repeatedly warned the West against supplying Ukraine with arms, saying that doing so will only prolong the conflict but will not change its ultimate outcome. <https://www.rt.com/russia/583088-us-waging-war-against-russia-lavrov/>

US using NATO to 'absorb' countries – Moscow

Washington would not hesitate to use its allies as "cannon fodder" if it deems it necessary, Russia's security chief has said

17 Sep, 2023 15:25



Nikolay Patrushev © Sputnik / Sergey Guneev

The never-ending expansion of NATO has enabled the US to turn many nations into its puppets, helping Washington to cling to its hegemony, Nikolay Patrushev, the secretary of Russia's National Security Council, has said.

In an op-ed for the Razvedchik magazine issued by Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) and published on Friday, **Patrushev claimed that the West often resorts to military force, coercion, 'privatization' of elites, and color revolutions to**

achieve global domination.

The constant expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance basically provides the US with the opportunity to absorb states and deprive them of their independence in terms of defending their national interests.

The **official also blasted the US-led military bloc for what he called "duplicity," arguing that while NATO has always claimed to stand for peace, it has waged war or threatened military action against countries that oppose Washington's policies.**

"NATO's military power is used to maintain Western hegemony, economic enslavement, and political pressure on states that pose no military threat to the alliance," Patrushev stated, adding that members of the bloc have taken part in more than 200 conflicts across the world over the past seven decades.

Meanwhile, Patrushev continued, Washington regards the armies of allies as "colonial" troops and would eagerly use them as "cannon fodder" if necessary without putting its own "exceptional people" in harm's way.

The **West "perceives Russia as a constant threat" because it remembers that it was the Soviet Union that played a crucial role in dismantling the colonial system, according to Patrushev. As** a result, he said, the West is using the full range of tools at its disposal against Russia, including sanctions and its massive system of media resources that help it concoct *"information frenzy campaigns"* across the globe.

Moscow has repeatedly protested NATO expansion, seeing it as a major national security threat and arguing that the increased military build-up on its borders leads to heightened tensions in Europe. Russian President Vladimir Putin has named the risk of Kiev joining the military bloc as one of the key reasons behind the Ukraine conflict. <https://www.rt.com/russia/583099-us-nato-absorb-nations/>

China's 'CEO Whisperers': Chinese Communist Party Takes Over Canada

by [Robert Williams](#) September 17, 2023 at 5:00 am



Canadian Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault, and Chinese Ecology and Environment Minister, Huang Runqiu at a press conference at the UN Biodiversity Conference in Montreal, Canada on December 17, 2022. (Photo by Andrej Ivanov/AFP via Getty Images)

"When I look... at the subtle but intense influence of China on Canadian institutions — parliaments, provincial governments, local governments, universities, the intellectual community, the policy community — it makes me deadly worried," said Australian professor Clive Hamilton, author of *Hidden Hand: Exposing How the Chinese Communist Party is Reshaping the World* (co-authored by Mareike Ohlberg), [speaking](#) to Canada's *National Post* in 2019. "I've met some very well-informed Canadians who aren't sure

Canada will be able to extricate itself from this situation."

Hamilton, who "blew the whistle on Australia says Canada is in even worse trouble."

"I was **pretty dismayed at the extent of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) influence in the federal Parliament.** I should probably not say any more to stay on the right side of the libel laws... My response is to ask what are the authorities doing about this...? I think that's the real measure of China's influence."

Four years later and **Canadian authorities are doing little to nothing about China's interference in Canada.** Despite [leaked intelligence reports](#) about Chinese interference in Canada's last two federal elections in 2019 and 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [has refused](#) to hold a public probe into the matter.

Investigative journalist Sam Cooper [wrote](#) in August:

"China's election interference and political influence in Canada has been enabled by Beijing's covert 'takeover' of Chinese-language media, plus sophisticated, massively-funded schemes targeting mainstream outlets and seeking to control 'key media entities' according to intelligence documents.

"These **clandestine operations have involved threats against journalists,** the documents say, but also inducements, such as benefits offered by Vancouver's Chinese Consulate to cultivate 'key editors, producers and high-ranking managers.'"

[According](#) to Tasha Kheiriddin, a Canadian political columnist, the passivity of Trudeau's Liberal Party is "permitting China to colonize Canada."

"The erosion of our sovereignty by foreign powers, notably the Chinese communist government, contributes to many... problems. On housing: [Chinese money laundering inflated Canadian property values for decades](#) and helped push home ownership out of reach for today's buyers. On drug addiction: [China is the main source country of fentanyl found in Canada,](#) paving the way for thousands of overdose deaths. On the economy: China has targeted a host of Canadian industries for control, from [lobsters](#) to [lithium.](#)"

According to **Hamilton, the CCP has a hold on Canadian elites, which explains why China's interference is allowed to continue in Canada.**

"The **CCP's basic strategy of overseas influence and interference is to capture elites in politics, business, media, think tanks, universities, and cultural institutions. It deploys a range of techniques including flattery, financial inducement, exploitation of anti-racist and anti-American sentiment, bribery, and honey traps...** Key figures in the Liberal Party have long historical ties to the CCP, not least through business connections..."

David Mulroney, a former Canadian ambassador to China from 2009 to 2012, [said](#) that **Canadian elites only see an imaginary China.**

"They see the China of the very powerful rhetoric of the Communist Party. I've often said that Chinese leaders are what I call CEO whisperers, they're very, very skillful when meeting foreigners, particularly senior foreigners.

"China inspires a kind of excessive affection in people and an excessive sense of wonder and a desire not to apply the usual sort of critical thinking skills, and people are seduced by it."

China has reportedly openly been trying to influence Trudeau for the past 10 years, according to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). One unnamed CSIS source [said](#) that the CCP had its eyes on Trudeau well before he became prime minister.

[According](#) to columnist Tristin Hopper, writing in Canada's *National Post*:

"Trudeau's family has always had a weird relationship with the People's Republic of China. As

prime minister, Pierre Trudeau [Justin Trudeau's father], paid semi-regular visits to the country and often hauled his children along...

"So in **2016, it didn't take all that much for the People's Republic of China to utterly flatter Justin Trudeau during his first official visit to the** country. China's premier Li Keqiang made sure to offer praise of Trudeau's father within seconds of their initial meeting...

"Trudeau, meanwhile, framed the whole thing as a kind of family reunion — and made sure to note that he had brought his own kids along. 'The friendship and the openness towards China that my father taught me, I'm certainly hoping to pass on not only to my children but to generations of Canadians in the future,' he said."

In his book, Hamilton writes that Trudeau, during his first election campaign in 2016, visited the homes of "wealthy Chinese-Canadians for private fundraising events. Some of the hosts had close connections with the CCP and had been actively promoting Beijing's takeover of islands in the South China Sea."

The influence of the CCP is so pervasive that Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault, "is pulling double duty as an official adviser to the Chinese government" [according](#) to a report in the *Toronto Sun*.

In August, Guilbeault traveled to China to participate in a meeting at the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development ([CCICED](#)), which was established by China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment. [According](#) to the organization's own website:

"... chaired by China's Executive Vice-Premier, CCICED serves as a high-level advisory body with a mandate to conduct research and provide policy recommendations to the Chinese Government on environment and development."

Guilbeault, a cabinet minister in the Canadian government, is, unbelievably, an [Executive Vice Chairperson](#) of CCICED.

China, [according](#) to Rob Hueber, senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and associate professor of political science at the University of Calgary, is a real threat to Canada's sovereignty. "Recent Chinese actions and announcements are pointing to Beijing's determination to have a military capability in the region that will [exceed that of Canada](#)," Hueber [wrote](#) in August.

"Earlier this year, there was major news-media coverage of a series of Chinese high-altitude balloons (HABs) that [flew over North American airspace](#), as well as [Chinese monitoring buoys](#) that floated (or were deployed) into Canadian waters.

"What has not received as much attention is a [research paper](#), published in 2021, in which Chinese scientists explain their success in [developing Arctic-resilient underwater listening systems](#). The paper says the listening systems are for peaceful purposes, but the actual ramifications of the HABs, buoys and research systems are inescapable. China is refining its means of monitoring the Canadian North...

"China, will very soon enjoy a major advantage in monitoring Arctic waters, especially under the surface, and it will have confidence that Canada has little ability to see what is going on or do anything about it. Factor in the overwhelming evidence of Beijing's efforts to target and interfere in our political system – and our reluctance or inability to respond to these actions – and the larger threat to Canada's very sovereignty comes starkly into view."

Robert Williams is a researcher based in the United States. [https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/19961/canada-china-](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/19961/canada-china-communist-party)

*[communist-party](#) [**Does all this sound way to familiar and almost directly pointed at the situation in the US. Who helped with the last election debacle? How many of those in DC are deeply involved with those from the CCP – LOTS. Who is really our biggest threat????? -rdb]***

NYC Pays Al Qaeda Terror State \$200M to Rent Hotel Rooms to Illegal Aliens

[Daniel Greenfield September 15, 2023](#)

The Roosevelt Hotel claims that it's the place "where classic elegance meets contemporary luxury". Classic elegance and luxury at the midtown Manhattan hotel looks like busloads of migrant invaders arriving and camping outside the golden doors. The scene is no better inside where 41 migrants have been arrested for beating wives, girlfriends and significant others.

There have also been assaults on employees and an arrest for child endangerment.

While the Roosevelt Hotel may have an old name, Mayor Eric Adams and New York City actually leased it from Pakistan for \$220 million. That amounts to paying \$210 per room for each night that an illegal alien invader uses it to smoke meth or abuse their wives and daughters.

The Roosevelt Hotel was named after Teddy. You can imagine what he would have done if thousands of

foreigners had invaded a hotel and turned it into a drug den on his watch.

In a **city where a quarter of young children live in poverty, that \$220 million could probably be put to better use than paying the Islamic terror state linked to the September 11** attacks on New York City for the privilege of housing the hordes of invaders in “contemporary luxury”.

Mayor Adams has already jettisoned his promise of universal day care to care for the migrants.

Inside the Roosevelt from the gilt sign at the entrance to the art deco halls has been tarnished. Migrants squat under the massive crystal chandelier in the ballroom and sleep on the red carpet. Despite supposedly being poor and desperate, many are swiping and clicking through their smartphone apps while they wait for their next taxpayer-funded benefit to arrive.



Once the setting for movies like Wall Street and The French Connection, **the storied hotel is now home to another kind of corrupt crime story. The black marble pillars and spacious rooms have been fully occupied by an endless invading army that continues to stream across the border.** The smells and the level of filth are reflective of the three remaining working showers.

The **massive influx of migrants has made the area near Grand Central Station as unsafe** as it was in the 1970s. Despite the hotel being supposedly reserved for families, Central American and African male migrants in their twenties wearing blue surgical masks that cover most of their faces swarm the area and move in packs at night around nervous tourists and local businesses.

The **fame of the Roosevelt Hotel appears to have traveled along the migrant pipeline and male migrants have fought, sometimes violently, to stay there instead of being relocated to homeless shelters.** Local businesses, already battered by the pandemic, have been hit hard by the crisis.

The cost of housing the invaders is being paid to the Pakistani government. Even though

Pakistan International Airlines, under the control of the terror state’s government, was barred from [flying directly](#) to the United States after 9/11, it was allowed to take over the hotel and run it into the ground. The Biden administration has since allowed PIA to resume direct flights.

The Pakistani government harbored Osama bin Laden. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif [had initiated negotiations](#) with Al Qaeda and offered to “reestablish normal relations.” Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, nicknamed ‘Taliban Khan’, had called Bin Laden a “martyr”.



Now New Yorkers are stuck paying hundreds of millions of dollars to an Islamic terror state tied to the attacks that killed so many fellow residents and citizens to provide luxury housing for the latest wave of the invaders. Osama bin Laden would be proud of what is happening here.

Beyond Pakistan, other foreign business interests are also benefiting from the foreign invasion.

Chinese developer Jubao Xie, who put up the world’s tallest Holiday Inn in Manhattan, got \$190 a night, \$93,000 a day and \$2.8 million a month to house the invaders. The skyscraper hotel, a bafflingly ugly eyesore, was in trouble before the migrant bailout was approved by a bankruptcy judge. A number of other foreign owned hotels are also benefiting from the arrangement.

The use of high-end hotels to house the illegal invaders has not only wrecked classic storied hotels like the Roosevelt or the Paramount, but it has also ruined the surrounding areas that the Giuliani administration had struggled to drag away from the blight that had overtaken Midtown.

Where tourists are supposed to arrive by train, take in Broadway shows and go to a nice restaurant afterward, the streets swarm with migrant thieves, beggars and madmen.

Row Hotel, a classic Times Square hotel that promises “comfort and security while away from home” turned into

another migrant hellhole. That's where [Daniel Hernandez Martinez](#), a migrant who was arrested six times for five assaults in two months, attacked a man with a bike tire.

Martinez was responsible for a one-man crime wave in the Times Square area. The criminal migrant was apparently staying in a \$500 a night hotel which a former worker [described](#) as a 'free for all' of drugs, sex and violence where the rooms have been trashed and defiled.

Messages at the formerly stylish hotel described everything from a 10-year-old girl drunk alone in the room to an intruder carrying a machete. "Every day, we find about ten kids alone in their hotel rooms, either drinking or doing drugs. Weapons will be in the room," a worker described.

And while America's enemies are laughing and profiting, we are doing this to ourselves.



Open borders is only half the story. At a local level, the other half of the story is the 'right to shelter' regulations like those in New York City and other epicenters of the migrant invasion that guarantee everyone a room regardless of how illegal, violent or diseased they may be.

The homeless industrial complex claimed that the only reason junkies were wandering the streets was that an unfair capitalist system had deprived them of affordable housing. They invented a 'right to shelter' and radical leftist politicians who came to power implemented it.

A decade ago, I wrote [about the rise of](#) "homeless by choice" in which migrants, tourists and traveling junkies showed up in New York City to claim their "three meals a day, a microwave oven, TV, free laundry, free Internet, free health care and a prepaid cell phone with 300 minutes a month."

And I warned that it would end badly. Now instead of a few thousand junkies, there are tens of thousands of migrants. And they're just the beginning. Each of them also wants their free phones, health care, meals and everything else they think that they're entitled to.

Including a stay in a luxury hotel.

Back then, one in four homeless in New York listed addresses outside the city. Today it's probably the vast majority. There's no longer even the pretense of a homeless problem.

New York City's homeless problem just consists of people from other countries showing up in the city and demanding a room at the Roosevelt, the Row or the Paramount. Why be a sucker and pay \$300 bucks for a hotel when you can just arrive as a refugee and demand a free room.

The taxpayers will pay for it and hand over the cash to Pakistan to finance more terrorism.

[Daniel Greenfield](#) is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's *Front Page Magazine*. <http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2023/09/nyc-pays-al-qaeda-terror-state-200m-to.html> **[Just how insane has the world become??? Pretty much so. Absolutely out of their mind. From the top of DC down to the bottom of the Woke crowd. -rdb]**