

Great tribute for Charlie Kirk and great story of heart of Israelis, view from Yishai Fleisher. rdb

Charlie Kirk Just Started a Global BIBLICAL REVOLUTION!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzMx9DXVMu4>

Netanyahu Sits In Stunned SILENCE as Mike Huckabee Sends Biblical Message To The World!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqzBJRzQjQQ>

Great message

Netanyahu says he'll meet Trump again, issues dire warning to Hamas over hostages
PM attacks Qatar as supporter of Hamas, says intel on results of Doha strike 'not fully conclusive' and claims negative response from markets to his 'Sparta' remark a 'misunderstanding'

By [Lazar Berman](#) and [Nava Freiberg](#) Today, 2:44 am



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu holds a press conference at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem, September 16, 2025. (Marc Israel Sellem/POOL)

US President Donald Trump invited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to meet at the White House later this month, the Israeli leader said at a Tuesday press conference in Jerusalem, while warning Hamas against harming hostages as the military operates in Gaza City.

According to Netanyahu, the visit will take place on September 29, three days after the premier's scheduled address at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Netanyahu announced the meeting during a press conference focusing on the state of Israel's economy after he faced intense criticism for saying a day earlier that the country would need to become increasingly self-reliant.

Netanyahu said the invitation came during a phone call on Monday, adding that he has held several conversations with Trump since Israel's strike on Hamas leaders in Qatar, and all of them were "good."

This would be the fourth meeting between the leaders in the White House since Trump's second term began in January.

It **would come amid US backing for Israel's major offensive in Gaza City**, which kicked off early Tuesday as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio took off for Qatar.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio speaks to the press as he departs Tel Aviv for Qatar following an official visit, at Ben Gurion International Airport, near Lod, Israel, September 16, 2025. (Nathan Howard / POOL / AFP)

During the trip, Rubio showed firm support for Israel, saying that the "ideal outcome" is for Hamas to simply surrender, but "it may require ultimately a concise military operation to eliminate them."

He chose not to add to international criticism of Israel for its strike on Hamas leaders in Doha last week, [saying](#) on Monday, “We are focused on what happens next.”

The strike — which killed five non-leading members of Hamas and a Qatari security officer, but apparently none of its five key intended Hamas leadership targets — elicited fury from Arab governments, which convened for an emergency gathering Monday over the attack.



This handout picture provided by the Palestinian Authority's press office shows Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas (L) received by Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani upon arrival in Doha on September 14, 2025, ahead of an Arab-Islamic emergency summit. (Thaer GHANAIM / PPO / AFP)

Trump claims that he had not had knowledge of the attack in time to stop it. However, an Axios report indicated that Netanyahu told Trump 50 minutes before the strike.

Asked on Tuesday if he notified Trump ahead of the strike, Netanyahu repeated his statement that the White House version of events was “correct,” and that Israel was

solely responsible for the strike.

Asked by The Times of Israel about whether he still sees Qatar as a mediator in indirect talks with Hamas, Netanyahu said that “if Qatar wanted, it could easily apply much harder pressure,

which would help us free all of our hostages in the first months of the war.”



Families of hostages held in Gaza and their supporters protest outside the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem, calling for their release, September 16, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

“It is tied to Hamas,” he charged. “It strengthens Hamas. It hosts Hamas. It funds Hamas. It has much stronger levers, and it chose not to do that.”

As such, he insisted, the strike against Hamas leaders in Qatar “was entirely justified.”

“There was an attempt to use them in a partial manner” during the war, Netanyahu continued, without mentioning he had worked with Qatar to send millions of

dollars into Gaza every month in the years before the Hamas-led terror onslaught that started the war.

He **declined to give an update on whether any Hamas leaders were killed**: “We’re still checking it out. It’s not yet fully conclusive. We’re waiting to see it.”

Netanyahu also refused to answer shouted questions about his own advisers who are under investigation for allegedly receiving money from Qatar to push a public relations campaign casting the emirate in a positive light after the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks on Israel.

Markets spooked by ‘misunderstanding’

Netanyahu called the press conference as a damage-control measure after admitting Monday that Israel was facing increasing isolation and warned that it might be required to become a “super-Sparta.”

The premier said that **markets’ negative reaction to his remarks was a “misunderstanding.”**

“There was a misunderstanding that supposedly shook the stock market,” he said. “It didn’t shake us. And the reason it didn’t shake us is one thing: because essentially, the stock market—the markets—understand what I said, the strength of Israel’s economy, and the profitability of investing in Israel. And this is very important for ensuring our future.”

“My remarks were on the attempt to restrict the import of parts, components, weapons, or raw materials – and that indeed is something that does not operate according to market economics, but according to political economics —governments, leaders, politics,” he added, insisting the economy was sound.

Netanyahu, who frequently switched between English and Hebrew during the press conference, depending on who his message was targeted at, noted that while “Western European governments are generally friendly

toward Israel,” they are “pressured by Islamic minorities that have formed within them—some of whom are very extreme.”

Decades of organized anti-Israel propaganda, he added, have compounded the pressure, which “expresses itself as restrictions on parts of weapon systems or the systems themselves.”

Several EU countries have announced in recent days that they would move towards arms embargoes on Israel and stop buying Israeli weapons amid the Gaza war.



Demonstrators take part in an anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian rally titled “Stop the genocide in Gaza! No weapons in war zones! Peace instead of arms race!” on September 13, 2025, at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. (John MACDOUGALL / AFP)

The prime minister said Israel must “develop these ourselves, arm ourselves, and ensure we have the ability to defend ourselves,” even if that requires moving temporarily to “a centralized, closed economy, something I generally dislike — I prefer open markets.”

“But here, I want to take all the necessary steps to build a strong, independent defense industry. If there is one lesson from this war, this is

it,” he said.

Even though Netanyahu announced he would hold an economic press conference, Channel 12 reported that Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich refused to take part in the event, despite being invited.

During a meeting with Netanyahu Monday, Smotrich reportedly told Netanyahu: ‘You caused the damage, you fix it.’

A warning to Hamas

With the Israel Defense Forces carrying out massive strikes in Gaza City, and desperate Israeli families of hostages said they were “terrified” for their loved ones, questions at Netanyahu’s press conference also focused on the push into Gaza’s biggest city.



An IDF tank moves towards Gaza City at the start of an IDF operation to capture the city in a picture released on September 16, 2025 (Israel Defense Forces)

Netanyahu said he discussed the issue of the hostages with Trump in their latest phone call. Netanyahu said the two “discussed a possibility that came up, which is very, very important in my eyes — dealing with the issue of the hostages’ security.”

“As Hamas’s spokesperson said, they used our hostages as human shields — that is, placed them in locations that would endanger them. This is horrifying. It also horrified the president. He addressed it,” Netanyahu said, referring to remarks by Trump on Monday warning Hamas against using the hostages as human shields.



Displaced Palestinians move with their belongings southwards on a road in the Nuseirat refugee camp area in the central Gaza Strip following renewed Israeli evacuation orders for Gaza City on September 16, 2025. (Eyad BABA / AFP)

Netanyahu added his own warning to Hamas, saying: “If they harm a hair on the head of even one hostage, we will hunt them down with greater force until the end of their lives—and that end will come much faster than they think.”

“And this is what I say to Hamas’s leaders,” Netanyahu continued, “You will have no shelter anyway. But our effort to reach you will be redoubled sevenfold, and we will reach you much

faster than you think.”

Hostage families have expressed severe concern for their loved ones over reports that Hamas is keeping hostages in Gaza City to deter Israeli forces from attacking.

Addressing reports of fierce disagreement between him and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir over how to conduct the war in Gaza, Netanyahu said that “false” leaks and “biased” briefings are hurting the war effort.

“I think it is absolutely unacceptable that leaks that are often false, and briefings that are almost always biased and agenda-driven, are being released,” he said.



IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir speaks to officers in the West Bank, September 8, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

“These things make it harder to manage the war, they clearly delay the release of our hostages, and they endanger our soldiers — and they also lower their morale,” he continued, adding that “These are things that must not be done. That is why I do not comment on specific matters of this kind.”

At the press conference — — which saw journalists rushed to the basement of the Prime Minister’s Office shortly beforehand as sirens sounded in the wake of a Houthi missile being launched from Yemen — Netanyahu called for accelerated efforts to evacuate Palestinians from Gaza City, saying it would help ensure the war’s swift end.

“Right now, [Gazans] are leaving Gaza City, and **so far almost 400,000 have already left,**” Netanyahu **said**, adding that in a discussion at the IDF command bunker in Tel Aviv earlier in the day, “I instructed them to find ways to make it easier for them to leave.”



Smoke billows as Israeli airstrikes destroy the al-Ghafari tower in Gaza City on September 15, 2025. (Omar AL-QATTAA / AFP)

“They want to leave, they want to get out of the city, because they want to — they are responding to us, not to Hamas, which, by the way, occasionally even shoots at them to stop them from doing so,” he said.

Netanyahu said the effort to evacuate Gazans from the city ahead of the major offensive “is succeeding, but we need to intensify it — to help, to accelerate it — because we have an interest in ending the war quickly, and not ending it in defeat.”

“To those who say, ‘Come on, finish, just end it’ — ending it in defeat would be an enormous victory for the forces of evil, for Iran’s axis of evil, which would quickly recover from this, because everyone is watching who wins. If [Hamas] survives there, if they remain there, they will call that a victory — and of course, we want to achieve the opposite effect,” he continued.

Last **week, the IDF ordered Palestinians in all areas of Gaza City to evacuate immediately** ahead of the offensive. However, moving can be costly, and space is at a premium in the overcrowded south of the Strip. Many had said they would not leave, exhausted from repeated displacement over the course of the 23-month-old war.

IDF estimates from Tuesday morning indicated that more than 370,000 Palestinians had evacuated Gaza City. That contradicted a UN estimate issued earlier in the day that said around 220,000 Palestinians had fled northern Gaza over the past month.

Regarding voluntary departure from Gaza — a goal Netanyahu’s far-right coalition partners are eager to see achieved — the prime minister said, “This possibility certainly exists; it has not been taken off the table. But it is not an active campaign we are running. It’s not something we are pushing.”

He condemned international opposition to the idea. “Unlike in other war zones in the world, they say it is immoral to allow them to leave. I think what is immoral is not to allow them to leave,” he said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-hell-meet-trump-again-issues-dire-warning-to-hamas-over-hostages/>

Senior Hamas official appears for first time since Qatar bombing: 'We are not the only target; the entire nation is'

A second senior official has appeared on Al Jazeera: Ghazi Hamad claimed that the top brass of the terrorist organization that met in Doha heard the explosions and managed to escape; He attacked the US mediation as lacking credibility, and called on Arab countries to stand together against Israel

[Einav Halabi](#) | 13:06

Senior Hamas official Ghazi Hamad, who was a target for assassination in Qatar as part of Operation Summit of Fire in Doha, was interviewed Wednesday on the Qatari channel Al Jazeera — his first public appearance since the air strike, with his fate was unknown until now.

“We are not the only target; the entire nation is,” he said, and called on Arab states: “Israel has no red lines. Netanyahu talks about changing the face of the Middle East, and that requires an Arab response.”

Hamad also addressed negotiations over a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, which have stalled since the strike. **“Our experience with the American mediator was bitter, and there was no credibility on the American side because they withdrew from their proposals,”** he said.



Ghazi Hamad appears on Al Jazeera; his fate had been unknown before

He described the moments of the strike on building in Doha. “We were in a meeting with the negotiating delegation and with several advisors. Less than an hour after the discussion began about the American proposal we had received, we heard enormous explosions,” he said. “As residents of Gaza, we recognize those sounds. We tried to flee as quickly as possible. We survived despite the horrifying intensity of the barrage — about 12 missiles fell in less than a minute. By God’s grace we survived.”

Hamad claimed the American negotiators are not trustworthy. “Every time we deal with the Americans, in one way or another, it becomes clear that they do not honor their word and change the terms of their offers in communication with the Israeli occupation,” he said. “The Americans are partners in the ongoing genocide. They presented the proposal, and when Hamas discussed it, Trump gave them permission to bomb the Hamas delegation in Qatar. Trump speaks on behalf of the Israelis and supports the killing of Palestinians.”

Hamad, who was one of the mediators in the Gilad Shalit hostage deal, is the second senior Hamas official reportedly present at the top-level meeting who has since appeared publicly. He was preceded by [Tahir al-Nunu, who also gave an interview](#) to Qatar’s Al Jazeera network; al-Nunu was filmed alone and did not appear to be injured.

Also reportedly present at the Doha meeting were Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip and head of the negotiating team Khalil al-Hayya; Zahir Jabarin, who serves as a Hamas leader in the West Bank; Nizar Awadallah, one of Hamas’s senior figures in Gaza; Khaled Meshal, considered a Hamas leader abroad; Mousa Abu Marzouk, a Hamas founder and former head of the political bureau; Hossam Badran, a senior member released in the Shalit deal; and Izzat al-Rishq, a senior Hamas official abroad.



Displaced Palestinians flock to the southern Gaza Strip (Photo: Mahmoud Issa/Reuters)

Meanwhile, fighting in the Gaza Strip continues, and sources at Gaza hospitals claim that, since Wednesday morning, some 75 Palestinians have been killed by IDF fire, including 53 in Gaza City alone. Earlier, large numbers of displaced persons were documented leaving Gaza City in the shadow of the IDF ground operation in the area. As the fighting continues, IDF Arabic-language spokesman Lt. Col. Avichay Adraee announced earlier that an additional

“escape” route from the city to the south, via Salah al-Din Street, would open from until Friday at 12:00.

At the same time, more than 150 protesters, including families of hostages, gathered for a second time outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s home on Azza Street in Jerusalem, after also protesting there Tuesday — calling on the government to stop the war and secure the release of the 48 hostages still held by Hamas. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rj9n0duslg#autoplay>

Gazans really want to leave: 'Take us out—and then do whatever you want'

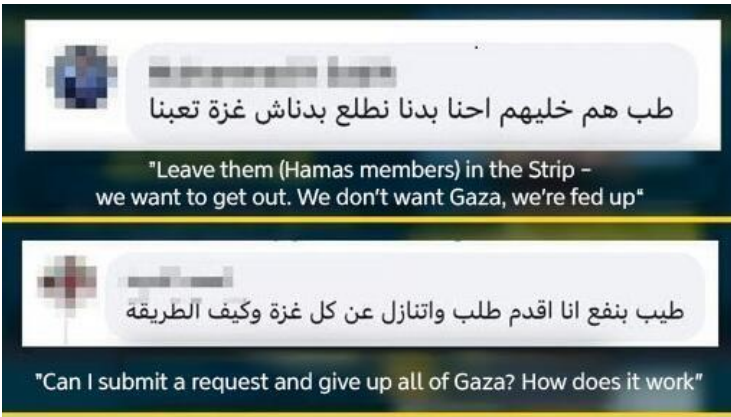
The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories shared comments from Gazans on Facebook who want to leave the Strip. 'Can I submit a request and give up all of Gaza? How does it work?' wrote one. Maj. Gen. Ghassan Alian addressed Gaza residents: 'We will continue to coordinate additional evacuations'
[Einav Halabi](#) 10:44

Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) released Wednesday afternoon a series of responses from Gazans reacting to reports that senior Hamas officials are trying to leave the Gaza Strip using the Israeli mechanism that enables departures to third countries.

"Take us out—and then do whatever you want," read one comment.

According to COGAT, many Gazans expressed frustration with life in the strip and a desire to leave. One wrote on COGAT's Arabic-language Facebook page Al-Munassek: "Leave them (Hamas members) in the Strip - we want to get out. We don't want Gaza, we're fed up." Another asked: "Can I submit a request and give up all of Gaza? How does it work?"

Messages from Gazans who want to leave Israel (Photo: COGAT)



COGAT data show that about 550 Gazans left the Strip Wednesday for destinations including the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Britain, Belgium, Romania and other EU states. Most were patients and their escorts. So far, more than 5,000 residents have left Gaza through the Allenby Bridge crossing or Ramon Airport.



COGAT chief Maj. Gen. Ghassan Alian addressed Gazans directly on the Al-Munassek Facebook page:

"We hear you and we know some of you want to leave the Gaza Strip. You write to us about this in comments and private messages. For example, after our post earlier this week about senior Hamas officials fleeing the Strip and once again using you as [human shields](#), many of you responded with your own desire to leave," Alian wrote.

Civilians evacuate Gaza City (Photo: Eyad Baba / AFP)

the world contact us on your behalf and request to receive you in their countries. We will continue coordinating additional evacuations at the embassies' request. Evacuation will take place subject to receiving a formal request from the host country's embassy," he added.

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

Armed Gaza clans turn on Hamas as IDF advances deeper into Gaza City

Local clans across Gaza are pushing back against Hamas control, forming understandings with the IDF and fighting in areas under pressure from Israel's military offensive.

By AMIR BOHBOT SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 20:40

Palestinians from clans hold guns and melee weapons to secure aid trucks in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, June 25, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/DAWOUD ABU ALKAS)

As the IDF intensifies its ground offensive in the Gaza Strip, armed clans across the territory have begun asserting local control and, in some cases,



directly challenging Hamas rule, sources in the Southern Command said Wednesday.

Military officials said several clans have deployed hundreds of armed operatives at key entry points to prevent Hamas security forces from regaining control.

Among the forces active on the ground is Hamas's "Arrow Unit," a violent internal enforcement squad responsible for arrests, attacks, and executions of suspected collaborators with Israel.

According to security assessments, these local groups have come to understand that Israel is determined to dismantle the Gaza City Brigade, led by Izz al-Din al-Haddad, and have identified the mass movement of civilians southward as a strategic vulnerability for Hamas.

Sources reported that **direct confrontations have occurred** between clan operatives and Hamas fighters in multiple locations.



People walk near destroyed buildings following an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City, September 16, 2025, after Israel launched a large-scale operation in the city. (credit: Ali Hassan/Flash90)

Some of the clans, including the Abu Shabab group, are said to have reached an informal arrangement with the IDF and the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency). Under the reported understanding, clan members have remained in place in Gaza City without evacuating south, while benefiting from a safe zone established in coordination with Israeli forces and utilizing a protected corridor for humanitarian assistance.

"In some places, there has been actual fighting between the armed groups and Hamas operatives," a

security official said. Intelligence officials believe that **clan leaders see an opportunity to solidify their power amid growing perceptions that Hamas may ultimately be defeated.**

Officials added that coordination between the Southern Command chief, Maj.-Gen. Yaron Finkelman and the Shin Bet have facilitated what they described as a "positive process" of cooperation with local forces.

Abu Shabab clan emerges as prominent example

The Abu Shabab clan has emerged as a prominent example. Active in the area between Rafah and Khan Yunis, the group has reportedly killed Hamas operatives in recent clashes. Another group, the Tarabin clan, operates primarily in southern Gaza. Exchanges of fire between Abu Shabab and Hamas have reportedly continued in recent weeks.

Other clans, including the Shawish, Baraka, and Abu Tir, have not yet taken a clear stance.

Some have begun offering shelter to civilians unwilling to relocate to designated humanitarian zones, contingent upon a pledge of loyalty to the host clan.

At the outset of the initiative, Israeli officials acknowledged internal debate over the risks of engaging with armed groups in Gaza, including the Abu Shabab clan. Despite this, some within the defense establishment now view the emerging clan dynamics as a potential turning point in Israel's efforts to weaken Hamas's hold on the Strip. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-867817>

Qatar 'conquered the West,' aims to restore Islamic empire, ex-Mossad division head claims

"Conquest does not necessarily mean taking over territory; conquest is also the ability to paralyze your enemy's decision-making processes," Dr. Udi Levy said.

By [PELED ARBEL](#) SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 17:38 Updated: SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 17:49



Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in Doha, Qatar, September 16, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/Nathan Howard/Pool)

Qatar has “conquered the West” and is building infrastructure to restore the Islamic empire, Dr. Udi Levy, former head of the Economic Warfare Division in the Mossad, claimed at the International Institute for Counterterrorism (ICT) Annual Conference at Reichman University on Wednesday.

His remarks were delivered as part of a speech at the annual international counterterrorism conference, led by the ICT at Reichman University. Levy spoke about Qatar’s involvement in influence networks and funding organizations, calling for a renewed Western strategy.

“The very fact that at such a distinguished conference, Qatar is not a central focus is actually the greatest badge of success for the Qataris. It is proof that their policy over the past decades has achieved a complete victory,” he said.

“Qatar has succeeded – and forgive me for using such a pompous term – in conquering the West, including the State of Israel,” he added. “Conquest does not necessarily mean taking over territory; conquest is also the ability to paralyze your enemy’s decision-making processes. And this is exactly what Qatar is succeeding in doing.” Perhaps the poohbahs of the west would do well to listen. There is more than one way to conquer a people. Anyone who studies understands that the goal of Islam is to establish the worldwide caliphate and control everyone. Convert or die. This is a huge expansive concept of the ottoman empire and every devout muslim leader would have that in mind. Qatar has bamboozled most of the leaders with their wealth and show and they are masters at PR and lies. -rdb

At the same time, Qatar has built, is building, and will continue to build every possible infrastructure to change the West culturally, socially, and economically, in order to fulfill the Muslim Brotherhood’s doctrine of restoring the Islamic empire.” Who is supporting all the ME studies programs in the USA colleges????? This isn’t rocket science. rdb

With “great ingenuity,” Levy said, and with “significant assistance from various Jewish and Israeli actors from different spheres, including campaigners, lobbyists, hi-tech, security, financial advisors, and those whispering into the ears of decision-makers,” Qatar has **“managed to take over strategic assets in the West, in Israel, in Africa, and in South America.”**



US President Donald Trump is escorted by Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani towards Air Force One, as he departs Al Udeid Air Base, en-route to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in Doha, Qatar, May 15, 2025. (credit: REUTERS/BRIAN SNYDER)

He **detailed that these assets include cultural and sports hubs, major corporations, banks, fashion chains, and other entities that can influence public opinion and decision-makers.** “They have penetrated universities and educational institutions, which are the most important sources of influence over the next generation, future leaders, and shapers of public opinion. They run a global propaganda network that has entered every home across the globe,” he said.

“They bribed every leader and every actor who could help advance their interests, and above all neutralized any possible action against them, effectively making themselves untouchable,” Levy continued.

“At the same time, they activated every possible arm for terrorist attacks, destabilizing regimes, and spreading radical Islam, which has one purpose – to harm the West. And we, like the blind, fell into this trap and became suicidal democracies – democracies walking with open eyes toward the loss of their independence.”

Levy also criticized Israel’s policy toward Qatar over the years. “Unfortunately, and in my humble opinion,

the State of Israel has been wrong all along in its policy toward Qatar – starting with agreeing to allow money into Gaza to strengthen Hamas, and by effectively turning Qatar into a central mediator. Documents found in Gaza – which, unfortunately, for some reason the state has not made public – show how Qatar deceived everyone for years.”

Qatar also deceiving Trump

He also said that Qatar was not just deceiving Israel, but the US as well.

“They **deceived President [Donald] Trump as well** – while he was striving to expand the Abraham Accords, they did everything possible to thwart them. Qatar penetrated the holy of holies of the State of Israel, including security officials and the highest levels of leadership, and significantly influenced dramatic decision-making in Israel. The only consolation, if it can be called that, is that they did not do this only in Israel – they did it in the West and in the United States as well,” he said.

Addressing Qatar’s role in the October 7 attacks, Levy said that the Gulf State must take accountability.

“Qatar, as mentioned, was responsible – one of the exclusive parties, along with the Iranians – for the October 7 massacre. If on October 8 the State of Israel had announced to the world that Qatar had 48 hours to secure the return of the hostages, with a clear threat to the stability of the kingdom, its leaders, and the Hamas leadership, it is likely that world public opinion would have responded differently than it does today.”

“In those days, the world gave Israel anything it asked for, in light of the horrific images of destruction, killing, and rape,” Levy said. “But Israel chose to embrace Hamas, to continue the policy it had pursued for many years, and by doing so may have sealed the fate of the Gaza campaign – not to mention the fate of the hostages.”

Levy concluded with a call for a clear, renewed strategy toward Qatar. “I am calling, especially in light of the attack in Qatar, to formulate a new strategy toward the Qataris – a strategy of choice. Choose between the open door of the West and your involvement in efforts to undermine all of the West’s values.”

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-867805>

Qatar says it is pursuing legal action against Israel at ICC

Qatari State Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi announced in a post on X on Wednesday that Qatar was pursuing legal avenues to "respond to the Israeli aggression against the State of Qat By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 22:10 Updated: SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 22:18



THE INTERNATIONAL Criminal Court building in The Hague: The ICC has no viable plan to bring to justice the Hamas leaders who conceived the mega-atrocity in Israel, or the terrorist organization's supporters who slaughtered 1,200 civilians and seized 251 people as hostages on October 7, 2023(photo credit: PIROSHKA VAN DE WOUW/REUTERS)

Qatar plans to pursue legal action against Israel in the International Criminal Court after the IDF struck senior Hamas officials in Doha, officials from the Gulf State said on Wednesday.

Qatari State Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi and other

Qatari representatives met with ICC deputy prosecutor Nazhat Khan.

Al-Khulaifi is leading the Qatari legal team to prosecute Israel for its "aggression against the State of Qatar."

"During the two meetings, I reaffirmed Qatar’s commitment to supporting the path of international justice and ensuring that those who committed crimes are held accountable and do not escape punishment under the framework of international criminal law," he wrote. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-867834> **[Qatar should be brought to the ICC for harboring and enabling a terrorist organization and facilitating the murder of well over 1200 by their prolongation of this war. Unfortunately the ICC is basically Upside down and backwards like most of the UN and EU people so nothing will happen, - rdb**

Laser-based ‘Iron Beam’ interception system declared operational

System set to be delivered to IDF by end of year after successful final tests; defense minister says Israel ‘first country to possess this capability’

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 8:03 pm

The 'Iron Beam' laser-based air defense system is seen intercepting targets during a test over southern Israel, in a video issued by the Defense Ministry on September 17, 2025. (Defense Ministry) **Go to website for video - rdb**

Israel's high-powered laser interception system, dubbed "Iron Beam," has been declared operational after completing development and final tests, and is set to be delivered to the military by the end of the year, the Defense Ministry and manufacturer Rafael said on Wednesday.

The Iron Beam has been in **development for over a decade**; it was first unveiled in [2014](#). During the current war, a lower-powered version of the system was used by the Israel Defense Forces to shoot down Hezbollah drones launched from Lebanon.

The ministry said its Directorate of Defense Research & Development (DDR&D), the Israeli Air Force, and the Rafael defense firm "successfully completed an advanced series of operational tests, which lasted several weeks, to demonstrate the capabilities of the high-power laser system."

It said the test involved the interception of rockets, mortars, and drones by the Iron Beam.

"The series of tests, conducted at a testing ground in southern Israel, concludes the development process and constitutes the final stage before delivering the system for operational use in the IDF," the ministry said.



In a symbolic move, the ministry renamed the system in Hebrew from Magen Or(light shield) to Or Eitan(Eitan's light), after [Cpt. Eitan Oster](#), 22, a commander in the Egoz Commando Unit, who was killed fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon in October 2024. Oster's father, who works for the DDR&D, was among the "initiators and developers" of the Iron Beam project, the ministry said.

Cpt. Eitan Itzhak Oster, whose death fighting in Lebanon was announced on October 2, 2024. (IDF)

The Iron Beam is not meant to replace the Iron Dome or Israel's other air defense systems, but to supplement and complement them, shooting down smaller projectiles and leaving larger ones for the more robust missile-based batteries such as the David's Sling and Arrow systems.

As long as there is a constant source of energy for the laser, there is no risk of it ever running out of ammunition. Officials have hailed it as a potential "game-changer" in the battle against projectile attacks.



The 'Iron Beam' laser-based air defense system is seen during a test in southern Israel, in a handout photo issued on September 17, 2025. (Defense Ministry)

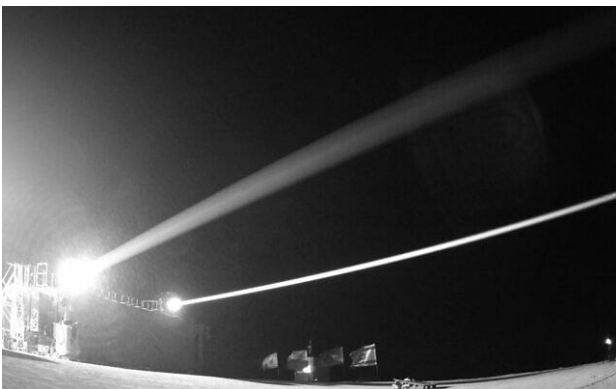
The main downside of a laser system is that it does not function well in low visibility, including heavy cloud cover or other inclement weather.

A lower-powered and shorter-range version of the laser interceptor system used by the IDF's newly revived [946th Air Defense Battalion](#), which operates anti-drone systems, shot down some [35 Hezbollah drones](#) over northern Israel last year.

With the Iron Beam being declared operational, "a significant leap in the operational

capabilities of the Air Defense Array is expected, through the long-range laser weapon system," the ministry added.

In June, Rafael [showcased](#) at the Paris Air Show its family of "high-energy laser weapon systems," including



the Iron Beam 450, an upgraded version of the Iron Beam; the Iron Beam M, a compact and mobile version of the laser interceptor, designed to be mounted on a truck and used by ground forces or to protect strategic sites; and the Lite Beam, a lightweight, compact, and lower-powered laser interceptor designed to be mounted on armored personnel carriers or other armored vehicles during ground operations.

The 'Iron Beam' laser-based air defense system is seen intercepting a target during a test over southern Israel, in a handout photo issued on September 17, 2025. (Defense Ministry)

Rafael also said it was developing a maritime version of the laser interceptor, which could be deployed on Navy boats to protect assets at sea.

Wednesday's announcement was hailed by officials, with Defense Minister Israel Katz saying the Iron Beam "places the State of Israel at the forefront of global military technology and makes the State of Israel the first country to possess this capability."

"This is not only a moment of national pride, but a historic milestone for our defense envelope: a fast, precise interception at marginal cost that joins the existing defensive tools and changes the threat equation," he said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/laser-based-iron-beam-interception-system-declared-operational/>

Israel presents Syria with security agreement proposal

Syria has reportedly yet to respond to the Israeli proposal, which was made several weeks ago.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 23:38 Updated: SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 00:56



IDF soldier operating on Israel's border with Syria, September 9, 2025. (photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)

Israel presented Syria with a proposal for a new security agreement, Axios reported on Tuesday.

Two sources familiar with the matter told Axios that part of the proposal included a map from Damascus southwest up to the border with Israel.

Sources told Axios that the agreement is based on the 1979 peace agreement with Egypt. The proposal would see areas southwest of Damascus get split into three

different zones.

Israel would extend the current buffer zone on the Syrian side by two kilometers. Under the proposal, the whole swath of land southwest of Damascus to the Israeli border would be a no-fly zone for any Syrian aircraft, Axios reported.

In exchange for these conditions, Israel would gradually withdraw from all of its positions in Syria except Mount Hermon. One official said that Israel plans on maintaining a presence there in all versions of a future agreement.



IDF soldiers on Israel's border with Syria, September 9, 2025. (credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)

Israel proposes new security agreement for Syria

Syria has reportedly yet to respond to the Israeli proposal, which was made several weeks ago.

Strategic Affairs Minister [Ron Dermer](#), US envoy to Syria Tom Barrack, and Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani will discuss the proposal in London on Wednesday. This would be the third such iteration of the talks.

Sources familiar with the matter said that the talks have been showing some progress, but no breakthroughs appear imminent.

The unidentified sources told Axios that a key part of the proposal is maintaining an aerial corridor to Iran through Syria, in the event that Israel would strike Iran again. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-867687>

EU's top body presents proposal to suspend free trade agreement with Israel

Israel's top trading partner accuses Jerusalem of violating human rights in Gaza and West Bank, calls for measures to pressure government into 'changing course' in Gaza



EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gives her annual State of the Union address during a plenary session at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France, on September 10, 2025. (SEBASTIEN BOZON / AFP)

The European Commission has formally presented its proposal for sanctions on far-right Israeli ministers and a partial suspension of the European Union's association agreement with Israel, the EU's executive body announced on Wednesday.

The sanctions, if approved, would strip Israeli imports of their preferential access to the EU. Israeli goods would have duties slapped on them at the same level as imports coming from countries with which the EU does not have a free trade agreement.

The Commission also called to suspend "bilateral support" to Israel, with the exceptions of civil society and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Center.

The move marks a dramatic escalation of the EU's response to Israel's war in Gaza, as IDF forces drive into the heart of Gaza City.

"Actions taken by the Israeli government represent a breach of essential elements relating to respect for human rights and democratic principles," a Commission review found. "This entitles the EU to suspend the Agreement unilaterally."

Specifically, this breach refers to the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza following the military intervention of Israel, the blockade of humanitarian aid, the intensifying of military operations and the decision of the Israeli authorities to advance the settlement plan in the so-called E1 area of the West Bank, which further undermines the two-state solution."



Displaced Palestinians flee Gaza City on foot and vehicles, carrying their belongings along the coastal road toward southern Gaza, Sept. 17, 2025. (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)

"The horrific events taking place in Gaza on a daily basis must stop. There needs to be an immediate ceasefire, unrestrained access for all humanitarian aid and the release of all hostages held by Hamas," said Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. **In other words Israel has to declare their defeat by Hamas. Who caused the War. Who Prolongs the War. Who manipulates the people to use them as shields. If they had a brain they would acknowledge that it is Hamas and**

they would declare that every ME nation hand over the leadership and block all funds and support that goes to Hamas outside of Israel and within Gaza. Unfortunately they have no brain. Also don't forget that it was the Gazan people who were celebrating joyfully the Oct 7 attack and the slaughter of Jews. - rdb

Trade between Israel and the EU, the Jewish state's largest trading partner, reached €42.6 billion (NIS 166 billion) in 2024, including €15.9 billion (NIS 62 billion) in Israeli imports. The EU accounted for nearly a third of Israel's total international trade in goods last year.

If adopted, the EU would also suspend its annual €6 million (NIS 23.5 million) in financial support to Israel and €14 million (NIS 55 million) in annual support for projects supporting Israel in the context of the Abraham Accords, the normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab countries.

Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar on Wednesday called the proposed EU measures against Israel "morally and politically distorted."

"Actions against Israel will harm the interests of Europe itself," he said on X.

Sa'ar promised that "Israel will continue to fight, with the help of its friends in Europe, against attempts to harm it while it is engaged in an existential war. Steps against Israel will be answered in kind, and we hope they will not be necessary."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu set off alarm bells in Israel on Monday when [he suggested](#) that Israel is "economically isolated" and might be required to become a self-reliant economy, which he termed a "super

Sparta.” A day later, he [held a press conference](#) aimed at damage control, saying that he was speaking specifically about the defense industry, and that the problem was largely with “Western European governments.”



Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar speaks during a press conference in Jerusalem, July 29, 2025. (Sivan Shachor/GPO)

The European Council, which includes the leaders of the EU member states, now has to approve the trade proposal with a qualified majority in favor in order for it to take effect.

A qualified majority is reached with the support of 15 out of 27 members representing 65% of the EU population, a difficult threshold to reach at a time when European capitals continue to have diverging views on how to approach Israel and Gaza.

The sanctions would take effect 30 days after the decision is adopted and the EU-Israel Association Council is notified.

The measures against Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, violent settlers and 10 Hamas political leaders need unanimous support to be enacted.



National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir speaks during a rally outside the Supreme Court in Jerusalem, June 5, 2025. (Arie Leib Abrams/Flash90)

Both far-right Israeli ministers have already been sanctioned by Australia, Canada, Britain, New Zealand and Norway. Slovenia and Spain, both EU members, have also said recently that they will ban the two.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas warned in June that Israel might be in violation of Article 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement, which governs Israel's trade arrangements with the EU.

Kallas said the measures are meant to “leverage the tools at our disposal to pressure the Israeli government into changing course.”



View of the Haifa port in the northern Israeli city of Haifa, November 17, 2024. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Germany's government has not yet decided on its stance toward the EU proposals to impose sanctions on Israel over its war in Gaza, a government spokesperson said on Wednesday. Berlin is one of Israel's closest allies in the bloc.

“We are aware of the plans for sanctions. The [European] Commission has been discussing them for several days. They will be presented today and the German government has not yet formed a final opinion on them,” government spokesperson Stefan Kornelius said when asked about the plans at a press conference.

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gives her annual State of the Union address during a plenary session at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France, on September 10, 2025. (SEBASTIEN BOZON / AFP)

The head of Israel's manufacturers association warned that the European Commission's proposal is a “serious and disproportionate step” toward Israeli industry, which is attempting to keep operating at strength even while suffering the effects of war.

“This is a political decision disguised as a moral one, which undermines the foundations of



economic cooperation between Israel and Europe,” said Israel Manufacturers Association president Ron Tomer. “Cooperation that has been built over decades based on values of innovation, freedom of trade and dialogue.”

Von der Leyen announced the impending measures last week in her State of the Union speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

“What is happening in Gaza has shaken the conscience of the world,” she said.

“People killed while begging for food. Mothers holding lifeless babies,” she said. “Man-made famine can never be a weapon of war. For the sake of the children, for the sake of humanity. This must stop.”



IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir (right) speaks with 98th Division commander Brig. Gen. Guy Levi and other officers in Gaza City, September 16, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

Israel has rejected claims of widespread starvation in Gaza, and has emphasized its efforts throughout most of the war to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid into the Strip.

Israel also denies targeting civilians, including those seeking food aid. It has acknowledged, however, that its forces, who often secure distribution sites run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, have fired warning shots amid chaotic scenes. The UN says more than 1,000 people

have been killed at aid sites, mostly from Israeli fire. Israel says the figures are exaggerated, but has not provided alternative numbers. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/eus-top-body-presents-proposal-to-suspend-free-trade-agreement-with-israel/>

IDF manpower chief: Arrests of Haredi draft dodgers ineffective, sanctions needed

Leader of anti-government protest group dragged out of discussion on ultra-Orthodox conscription after not being allowed to address defense panel

By [Sam Sokol](#) and [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 8:14 pm



Ultra-Orthodox Jews clash with police during a protest against the conscription of yeshiva students on Route 4 near Bnei Brak, September 11, 2025. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

Ultra-Orthodox draft evaders arrested by the military police are still managing to get out of enlisting thanks to significant loopholes, making efforts to detain them a waste of resources, the head of the IDF's Personnel Directorate told lawmakers on Wednesday.

Addressing the Knesset State Control Committee, Maj. Gen. Dado Bar Kalifa said that “these arrests bring people to detention centers, [but] they do not enlist because we have loopholes

the size of gates in a fence: There are psychiatrists and an army of lawyers who arrange what is called ‘the exemption.’”

He **added that arrests are expected to ramp up as more Haredi men attempt to fly to Uman, Ukraine, for an annual Rosh Hashanah pilgrimage to the grave of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. Dozens of suspected draft dodgers were reportedly arrested in recent days at Ben Gurion Airport while trying to make the journey.**

Some **80,000 ultra-Orthodox men between the ages of 18 and 24 are currently believed to be eligible for military service, but** have not enlisted. The IDF has repeatedly said it urgently needs 12,000 recruits, citing strain on standing and reserve forces from the ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza and other military challenges. Those evading conscription are prohibited from leaving the country.

Military Police units are being sent to handle arrests of draft dodgers instead of carrying out security-related tasks like blocking roads leading to the Gaza Strip, Bar Kalifa continued. He said, “You’ve invested all your resources but delivered nothing.”

The arrests of Haredi draft dodgers also create issues for the police who must deal with protests and attempts to block roads, he noted, adding: “We have no desire to have arrests. We want soldiers.”



Maj. Gen. Dado Bar Kalifa, the head of the IDF's Personnel Directorate, speaks at a conference for the army's ultra-Orthodox Netzach Yehuda battalion in Jerusalem, January 28, 2025. (Oren Ben Hakoon/Flash90)

“I need more soldiers, and at the same time, many career officers are currently asking to leave the IDF, and we should be very troubled by this reality,” he said.

Since the IDF began its recent crackdown on draft evaders, ultra-Orthodox leaders have declared war against conscription efforts and have held numerous protests, including outside the Beit Lid

military prison, where many evaders are being held.

Limited absorption capacity

According to Bar Kalifa, the IDF will make sure it is capable of integrating as many Haredi soldiers as determined by a bill regulating Haredi enlistment that is currently under debate in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, but does not have the capacity to absorb all 80,000 currently eligible for conscription were they to join up.

At the same time, steps are being taken to ensure that Haredi soldiers are provided with suitable conditions, with the establishment of “a variety of tracks” suitable for Haredim — such as units oriented toward Haredi observance like the Netzach Yehuda Battalion and the Hasmonean Brigade. The military “will open more in the future,” he said.

Despite this, “You don’t want us to invest massive resources in building bases and brigades for the Haredim when we don’t know how they will arrive,” he noted, adding that the military was “committed to creating a General Staff order and an advisor on Haredi affairs — and the chief of staff has already approved it.”



Soldiers from the Hasmonean Brigade take part in a ceremony at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City on August 6, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Such an order would address concerns expressed by some Haredi leaders, such as Rabbi Moshe Maya, a member of the Shas party's ruling Council of Torah Sages, who told Radio Kol Hai last month that any arrangements facilitating Haredi enlistment must be anchored in such an order or they would be “worthless.”

A call for sanctions

Addressing the State Control Committee, Bar Kalifa insisted that “enforcement alone is not

enough” and that a full toolbox is required, including “sanctions” against evaders.

“Why can a person who is legally defined as a criminal because he evades the draft represent lawbreakers and be a lawyer? Why can a draft dodger drive on the road?” he asked, echoing similar calls from officials from the Finance Ministry to the Attorney General's Office.

Bar Kalifa said that while the army is doing what it can, it needs better coordination from other public bodies, singling out the Education Ministry and demanding that it provide information, presumably on graduating students eligible for enlistment, “so we can accurately determine the numbers for each year.”

A kerfuffle with a reservist

While Bar Kalifa was speaking with lawmakers in the State Control Committee, things were growing heated at the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, whose members are currently debating a controversial government-backed bill to regulate Haredi enlistment and exemptions.

During the discussion, reservists slammed the bill, with one insisting that the committee's deliberations

were “a complete waste of time.”

Chairman Boaz Bismuth, a Likud lawmaker and ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, ordered reservist Omri Ronen, one of the leaders of the Brothers in Arms anti-government protest group, removed from the committee after he repeatedly interrupted the proceedings.

“Why shouldn’t I interrupt? You’re not letting me speak,” Ronen declared before being dragged out of the room by Knesset security.

“Whoever called for refusal and slandered the State of Israel will not be here, Brothers in Arms will not speak here,” Bismuth declared, referring to the group’s calls, prior to October 7, for reservists to halt their service to protest the government’s judicial overhaul agenda.

“The Jerusalem Faction gets the right to speak here but Brothers in Arms does not?” protested Yesh Atid MK Moshe Tur-Paz, referring to a hardline ultra-Orthodox group known for its staunch opposition to military service.

Bismuth and Brothers in Arms have clashed before, with the lawmaker refusing to meet with its leadership until it repudiated its previous rhetoric. In response, activists last month accused him of seeking to advance an “evasion law” and [protested](#) outside his Tel Aviv home.

Following Ronen’s ejection, the group tweeted that the incident represented “a new low” from a “government of refusers and draft dodgers.”

Edelstein’s appeal

In a Facebook post after the debate, former Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Yuli Edelstein (Likud) insisted that the reservists “who have been deployed time and time again have no time to waste.”



Likud MK Yuli Edelstein attends a meeting of the Knesset House Committee, August 4, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

“Once again, they talked about the sections of the draft law that I have already held discussions on, and I couldn’t stop thinking about the inquiries that I have been receiving from reservists and their families,” he said, noting that many would be absent from their families over the upcoming Rosh Hashanah holiday.

“We must expand the draft base for the IDF. There are ways to do it. We just need the will and the understanding that there

is simply no choice.”

Edelstein was pushed out of the committee chairmanship earlier this year after a conflict with Haredi leaders over the bill. After rolling back changes made to the legislation by Edelstein, lawmakers on the committee are currently debating a version of the bill first proposed in 2022 and [revived](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-manpower-chief-arrests-of-haredi-draft-dodgers-ineffective-sanctions-needed/) by the Knesset in 2024. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-manpower-chief-arrests-of-haredi-draft-dodgers-ineffective-sanctions-needed/> Perhaps stopping all funding or Haredi schools and educational programs might get the point across. - rdb

U of California students, staff sue White House after funding cuts over antisemitism **Campaign is part of several advocacy efforts to restore \$1.2 billion in funds withdrawn due to alleged violations amid Trump administration campus crackdown**



By [Olga R. Rodriguez](#) Today, 5:49 pm

Security officers stand outside a barricade as pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel protesters gather on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles, May 23, 2024. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AP) — The Trump administration is using civil rights laws to wage a campaign against the University of California in an attempt to curtail academic freedom and undermine free speech, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday by faculty, staff, student organizations, and every labor union representing UC workers.

The lawsuit comes weeks after the Trump administration fined the University of California, Los Angeles \$1.2 billion and froze research funding after accusing the school of allowing antisemitism on campus and other civil rights violations. It was the first public university to be targeted with a **widespread funding freeze**. The administration has frozen or paused federal funding over similar allegations against elite private colleges, including Harvard, Brown, and Columbia.

According to the lawsuit, the **Trump administration has made several demands in its proposed settlement offer to UCLA, including giving government access to faculty, student, and staff data, releasing admissions and hiring data, ending diversity scholarships, banning overnight demonstrations on university property, and cooperating with immigration enforcement.**

The US Department of Justice didn't immediately respond to a request for comment, nor did the office of the UC system's president.

Stett **Holbrook, a spokesman for the University of California system, said that while the university is not involved in the lawsuit, it is part of numerous legal and advocacy efforts to restore and maintain funding.**

"Federal cuts to research funding threaten lifesaving biomedical research, hamper US economic competitiveness and jeopardize the health of Americans who depend on the University's cutting-edge medical science and innovation," he said in a statement.



Children play outside Royce Hall at the University of California, Los Angeles, campus, August 15, 2024. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

The coalition that sued is led by the American Association of University Professors union, or AAUP, and represented by Democracy Forward, a legal group that has brought other lawsuits against the Trump administration over frozen federal funds. Who funds those groups? The same people that fund the rioters in the various city protests? Soros and his minion of Organizations? You can bet they are all liberal and hate the US. Stand firm Donald and return research to

the private sector. It is way past time for a purge of the college system. - rdb

"The blunt cudgel the Trump administration has repeatedly employed in this attack on the independence of institutions of higher education has been the abrupt, unilateral, and unlawful termination of federal research funding on which those institutions and the public interest rely," the lawsuit filed in federal court in San Francisco said. **Where does the constitution say the US government (that is You and Me) are supposed to fund research???? Let AHA and ACS and other private organizations that raise big buck use it for research instead of promoting bloated organizations. rdb**

The **US government alleges that universities allowed antisemitism during campus anti-Israel protests. Protesters have said the government is wrongly equating their criticism of Israel's actions in the Palestinian territories with antisemitism**, and their advocacy for Palestinian rights with support for extremism.

The US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has launched dozens of federal investigations also targeting K-12 school districts.

University of California president James Milliken said on Monday that the federal government has also launched investigations and other actions against all of the UC's 10 campuses, but he offered no details in a statement.

"This represents one of the gravest threats to the University of California in our 157-year history," he said, adding that the university system receives more than \$17 billion each year in federal support, including nearly \$10 billion in Medicare and Medicaid funding, and funding that goes toward research and student financial aid. The Trump administration has used its control of federal funding to push for reforms at elite colleges that the president decries as overrun by liberalism and antisemitism. The administration has also launched investigations into diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, saying they discriminate against white and Asian American students.



US President Donald Trump speaks to the press prior to boarding Marine One as he departs from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC, on September 16, 2025. Trump is heading to the UK for a State Visit. (Photo by SAUL LOEB / AFP)

This summer, Columbia University agreed to pay \$200 million as part of a settlement to resolve investigations into the government's allegations that the school violated federal antidiscrimination laws. The agreement also restored more than \$400 million in research grants.

The Trump administration is using its deal with Columbia as a template for other universities, with financial penalties that are now seen as an expectation. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/u-of-california-students-staff-sue-white-house-after-funding-cuts-over-antisemitism/>

Zelensky has no intention of ending conflict with Moscow – MP

The Ukrainian leader wants “to fight to the last but with others doing the fighting,” Georgy Mazurashu has said

17 Sep, 2025 14:37



Vladimir Zelensky. © Antonio Masiello/Getty Images

Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky has no intention of ending the hostilities with Russia, while ordinary people pay the price, Verkhovna Rada MP Georgy Mazurashu has said.

Mazurashu said Zelensky outlined his position at a meeting with members of his Servant of the People party on Tuesday, a stance the MP claimed is widely shared by the Ukrainian leader's inner circle.

“At yesterday's closed meeting... Zelensky, like other individuals exempt from military service, made it clear that he intends to fight to the last, but, of course, with others doing the fighting,” the deputy said in a video on his Telegram channel on Wednesday.

Ukraine's mobilization drive, launched to refill depleted ranks amid heavy losses and Russia's steady frontline advances, has become increasingly chaotic and violent, marred by abuse, injuries, and even deaths of conscripts. Mazurashu has previously called it a “shameful hunt for citizens.”

The MP said Zelensky estimated Ukraine would need another \$120 billion to fund the armed forces if the conflict drags into 2026, adding that the leader was “*still unclear where to get*” half of that sum. “*And he now wants to focus on finding these funds – abroad, of course,*” Mazurashu remarked.

Amid battlefield losses, Zelensky has pressed Western backers for more aid, tying it to the security guarantees he says Kiev needs before agreeing to any settlement. In a Sky News interview on Tuesday, he urged the West to put Ukraine's needs above its own, boost financial and military support, and impose sanctions that would “*really hurt*” Russia's economy.

Moscow has warned that foreign aid only prolongs the conflict. It says it does not oppose security guarantees for Kiev in principle, but insists they must follow a peace deal – one requiring Ukraine's neutrality, demilitarization, and recognition of new territorial realities – not precede it.

On Wednesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accused Kiev of sabotaging peace efforts, including mediation by US President Donald Trump. He said Washington understands the conflict cannot be resolved without addressing its root causes, while Kiev and its European backers refuse to do so.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/624819-zelensky-ukraine-conflict/> **Why stop war when he is making bucks off of it. rdb**

Zelensky ‘losing touch with reality’ – Foreign Policy analysis

The report points to increasing popular resentment towards decisions made by Kiev

17 Sep, 2025 07:29



Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky. © Getty Images

Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky and his closest advisers are “losing touch with reality,” as shown by a series of policy and legislative mistakes that have sparked public uproar, analysis published in Foreign Policy claims,

citing local sources and experts.

The Ukrainian government recently attempted to push through two major measures designed to buttress the armed forces, but sources in Kiev have told journalist Paul Hockenos that each spawned backlash and raised questions about whether the country's leadership is in tune with the concerns of ordinary Ukrainians.

A draft law imposing sentences for military insubordination, described as "draconian," proposed that desertion or absence without leave carry a prison term of up to 12 years, with no amnesty even for voluntary return. The bill triggered protests, with activists carrying placards reading "Army service is not slavery," prompting the authorities to withdraw the legislation.

The second move relaxed martial law travel restrictions by allowing men aged between 18 and 22 to leave Ukraine. Martial law had previously barred all men aged between 18 and 60 from travel outside the country. Instead of relief, the reform stirred concern that young men might leave in large numbers, undermining future recruitment and worsening Ukraine's long-standing demographic problems.

One of the most significant blunders of Zelensky's team was an attempt to crack down on anti-corruption bodies. This summer, Kiev attempted to strip the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) of independence, citing Russian influence, but the move resulted in mass protests, prompting the Ukrainian leadership to backpedal on the reform.

Defense analyst Dmitry K. told Hockenos that Zelensky's inner circle "exists in a vacuum ... They live in a bubble. Some advisers are very good, but they're obviously not getting a consistent flow of relevant information."

An August poll by the Kiev International Institute of Sociology suggested that public trust in Zelensky had slumped by 7% in a month, standing at 58%. In July, Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service reported that Western officials had secretly met with key Ukrainian powerbrokers to discuss ousting Zelensky and lining up a potential replacement. <https://www.rt.com/russia/624800-zelensky-losing-touch-reality/>

'No place' for EU in Ukraine talks – Lavrov

The bloc has embraced "revanchism" and is seeking to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, the foreign minister has said

17 Sep, 2025 09:31



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. © Sputnik/Staslav Krasilnikov

EU nations are trying to elbow their way into the Ukraine peace process despite their openly hostile stance toward Russia, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said, stressing that the bloc should be kept out of the talks for that reason.

Speaking at an embassy roundtable on the Ukraine crisis on Wednesday, Lavrov said that EU countries are "clearly trying, quite brazenly, to reclaim a place at the negotiating table." The minister, however, signaled that they have no business there.

The bloc, he argued, maintains a "position of revanchism, of inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia" while debating a potential troop deployment to Ukraine in case of a ceasefire. "There is, of course, no place for it at the negotiating table," he stressed.

Moscow has consistently opposed the deployment of any Western troops in the neighboring country under any pretext, saying that one of the key reasons for the conflict was NATO's expansion towards Russia's doorstep. It has also warned that any unauthorized foreign troops in Ukraine would be considered "a legitimate military target."

Lavrov also noted that both the EU and Kiev are seeking to convince US President Donald Trump to abandon his push to settle the conflict and relapse into a stand-off with Russia. [They want], essentially, to turn Biden's war into Trump's war," he said.

Since returning to office in January, Trump has been seeking to mediate an end to the Ukraine conflict, spearheading several rounds of talks with Russia. The effort culminated in a US-Russia summit in Alaska in mid-August — notably without EU or Ukrainian participation — which both sides described as highly productive.

Although no breakthrough was reached, Trump later said Ukraine could neither expect to join NATO nor reclaim Crimea, which voted to join Russia in a 2014 referendum held after a Western-backed coup in Kiev. He has also shifted focus from seeking a temporary ceasefire to pursuing a permanent peace settlement.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/624806-no-place-eu-ukraine-talks/>

U.S. Muslim mayor to Christian citizen: You are not welcome here. Move away

By [Bob Unruh](#)

[September 17, 2025](#)

A Muslim mayor of Dearborn, Michigan, has stunned with his vitriol against a Christian resident of his city who simply objected to promoting violence.

Mayor Abdullah H. Hammoud scolded resident Edward "Ted" Barham, a Christian, "Although you live here, you are not welcome here."

Barham had objected to renaming some intersections in Dearborn after Osama Siblani, Arab American News publisher who has promoted Hezbollah and Hamas, both Middle East organizations that have inflicted death, destruction and terror on Americans.



Mayor Abdullah H. Hammoud of Dearborn, Michigan

Hammoud issued a dangerous suggestion for Barham to not see the signs.

"The best suggestion I have for you is to not drive on Warren Avenue or close your eyes while you're doing it. His name is up there and I spoke at a ceremony celebrating it because he's done a lot for his community," Hammoud claimed.

He then turned to a personal attack on his city's resident, accusing Barham of being "a bigot, and you are racist, and you're an Islamophobe. Although you live here, I want you to know as mayor, you are not welcome here.

And the day you move out of the city will be the day that I launch a parade celebrating the fact that you moved out of this city."

Barham had explained Siblani is "a promoter of Hezbollah and Hamas. ... He talks about how the blood of the martyrs irrigates the land of Palestine ... whether we are in Michigan and whether we are in Yemen. Believe me, everyone should fight within his means. They will fight with stones, others will fight with guns, others fight with planes, drones, and rockets."

Fox News reported the signs actually were approved by the Wayne County commission, as the road is a county road, but the signs are inside Dearborn.

Barham compared the signs to naming a road "Hezbollah Street or Hamas Street," and said the "honor" for Siblani was "provocative."

He explained as a Christian, he promoted peace.

Dearborn Mayor Abdullah Hammoud to a resident: "You do not belong in this city, Islamophobe! Get out!"

The resident opposed naming a street, in Dearborn, after pro-jihad Osama Siblani

pic.twitter.com/hGTuTD4FFI

— End Wokeness (@EndWokeness) [September 16, 2025](#)

BREAKING: A Dearborn resident opposed naming a street after Hezbollah supporter Osama Siblani.

Mayor Abdullah Hammoud snapped back: "You do not belong in this city, Islamophobe! Get out, you are not welcome here."

pic.twitter.com/SMm8QVR9RB

— Eyal Yakoby (@EYakoby) [September 16, 2025](#)

Fox explained, "Dearborn, the city with America's highest-percentage Muslim population, has long navigated debate over cultural and political identity. For many average residents, the moment captured in City Hall begged the question of whether elected officials are willing to listen to all voices or only those they choose to celebrate."

WND reported only days ago that adjacent Dearborn Heights was forced into an embarrassing backtrack when officials announced a badge for police officers that said "Dearborn Heights Police" in Arabic.

This is how it starts.

Dearborn Heights Police Dept. now has the nation's first-ever uniform patch in Arabic.

The civilization takeover has begun. pic.twitter.com/9s7Dnpc7Nz

— Brigitte Gabriel (@ACTBrigitte) [September 4, 2025](#)

JUST IN: Dearborn Heights Police Department in Michigan has just revealed America's first police badge to feature Arabic writing, in order to "reflect and honor the diversity of our community." pic.twitter.com/AhdYfYWHjo

— Libs of TikTok (@libsoftiktok) [September 4, 2025](#)

The **scandal even caught the attention of the late Charlie Kirk, co-founder of Turning Point USA, who was assassinated a week ago at a free speech event in Utah.**

Thanks to chain migration, Muslims are now a majority in Michigan's Dearborn Heights (named after a Revolutionary War general). Now, local police have rolled out the country's first-ever police badge with Arabic script.

When you get conquered, you get a new language. <https://t.co/60Ca42R1OT>

— Charlie Kirk (@charliekirk11) [September 4, 2025](#)

After an interval of only two days, Dearborn Heights Mayor Bill Bazzi went to social media to backtrack.

"On Wednesday, September 3rd, information was disseminated from the Dearborn Heights Police Department regarding a digital mock-up of the DHPD patch bearing the department name translated in Arabic script," his Facebook post said. "The design mock-up idea showed the words 'Dearborn Heights Police' in Arabic and was said to be optional. The patch effort was an internal discussion among some within the police department which was not put forth for consensus or further review."

But, he said, "Should efforts like this be formally undertaken to make any changes to the Police uniform, it is our goal to include multiple PD stakeholders for a larger conversation, to ensure all are included in the discussion. As we are one PD, each individual's uniform represents the DHPD as a whole, and therefore merits the review and input of all. At this time, this patch addition remains an idea and should NOT have been presented as an official prototype."

Dearborn Heights has a population of around 39% Middle Eastern or North African as of the most recent census, but triggered Republican Congressman Randy Fine with its announcement. He called it an example of "Sharia Law" coming to Michigan. <https://www.wnd.com/2025/09/u-s-muslim-mayor-christian-citizen-you-are/> **It is way past time for a major change in US immigration law and an emphatic emphasis on assimilate into the US Constitutional culture or you don't get in. - rdb**

So how do these "organic" protests actually work?

Nate Friedman Uncovers Who's Paying Protesters | China In Focus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQxksaY-i-0>

OP ED

Treat Campuses Like Terrorist Training Camps

Tue, 16 Sep 2025 7:06 AM PST by Daniel Greenfield



A day before Charlie Kirk was assassinated, the 2026 Free Speech Rankings, a FIRE survey of 68,000 college students at 257 universities, was released and it revealed that 1 in 3 students believed that using violence to stop a speaker they disagreed with on campus was acceptable.

2% or 1,360 students believed that violence to stop speech they opposed was "always acceptable". 13% found it "sometimes acceptable" so that over 10,000 students find violence against campus speakers acceptable some of the time. When combined with the 19% who say violence is rarely, but sometimes, acceptable, that's over 23,000 college students who were willing to answer that using violence against speakers they disliked was a valid option.

Projecting and generalizing this large sample size to the much larger number of 18 million of college students across the country would translate into support for violently shutting down campus speakers by between 2.7 million and 6.1 million college students.

Another 54% or more than half, support blocking students from attending campus speeches they oppose, and 71% back shouting down speakers.

A majority of college students not only oppose free speech, but support intervening to stop it.

What kind of views do they support shutting down by any means necessary? 74% believe speakers who view transgenderism as a mental illness should 60% believe in blocking abortion opponents. 76% believe in banning anyone who says BLM is a hate group.

Charlie Kirk believed all of these things and was willing to come to campus and say it, challenging students to come and debate him, until the debate was ended finally and fatally.

He's dead because 1 in 3 students support using violence to silence opposing speakers.

His killing though was not some aberration. It was not, no matter how much the media will try to portray it, the equivalent of John Hinckley shooting Reagan. One killing anywhere can be an aberration but generations of violence incubated by professors and deans on campus, some of whom openly admire terrorists and urge students to imitate them, is not random chance.

It's a culture of terrorism that is now approaching its murderous apex.

A generation before Kirk's murder, conservative speakers were already learning to avoid campuses. When David Horowitz toured college campuses, he faced harassment, threats, and attacks, forcing him to invest in expensive security. By the time a new generation of speakers like Ben Shapiro were coming to campuses, security expenses had skyrocketed and colleges routinely used the threat of violence by their own students to shut down conservative events.

The media attacked Horowitz, Kirk and other campus speakers as 'provocateurs' as if they were the ones bringing the violence to campus, rather than exposing the readiness of all too many college students to turn to violence in order to stop them from being heard by other students.

Ignoring this state of affairs led to a wave of assaults against faculty, not only conservatives, but liberals who dissented in some way from political dogma. And deans stood by and said nothing as college campuses became not only a political monoculture, but a radicalized one where professors were prevented from teaching their classes if they were targeted by leftists.

The next stage of campus radicalization were the Hamas encampments after Oct 7.

Now the assassination of Charlie Kirk is the next stage as campuses have grimly followed the course that they began during the counterculture movement a few generations ago as organizing centers, staging grounds and finally front lines in the leftist war on America.

Some have said that President Trump has been too hard on campuses like Harvard, Columbia and UCLA after the Hamas encampments. The sad truth is that he hasn't been hard enough.

College campuses have become terrorist training camps and should be treated like them.

During the Civil Rights movement, certain parts of the country were treated as dangerous hateful places whose authorities were suspect and which required extensive monitoring. Unfortunately the parts of the country, college campuses, that needed that treatment, didn't get it, resulting in a wave of violence, extremism and domestic terrorism that has become a multigenerational legacy as that generation of radicals has taught generations more.

After Charlie Kirk's murder, it must end.

Colleges must be 'deradicalized' the way that Germany was 'denazified'. There can be no more room for faculty or students who preach violence. And the militant defenses of even foreign nationals who rallied for Islamic terrorists on college campuses by universities, by the media and by top Democrats show how terrorism goes from the top down through the movement.

American taxpayers remain the primary funders of the college system. Mostly involuntarily. They're funding a system that has failed, by every objective metric, at its stated goal of education, but succeeded brilliantly at its actual goal of radicalization and indoctrination.

The radicals who poisoned every soft science moved on to fatally taint any cultural field and have lately been rampaging through the sciences. The assaults on conservative speakers, beginning with David Horowitz, and climaxing in Charlie Kirk's murder, show that this is not just politics, it's terrorism and unless we deal with the campus, we will be dealing with a civil war.

The 2026 Free Speech Rankings show that it may already be too late for American academia.

But these may be the final years in which something may be salvaged from the cultural wreck before we really have to start treating Ivy League campuses like Jihadi camps in Afghanistan.

The radicals in control of college campuses have escalated from targeted harassment to terrorist encampments to murder. And worst of all, the majority of college students have been indoctrinated into supporting these crimes. If that is what the multi-trillion dollar edifice of higher education gets us, then as a country we may be better off without it.

In 1910, there were only 332,000 college students in the whole country. By 1931 there were a million, by the 1950s there were 2.5 million, by 1970 there were 8.5 million, by 1984 there were 12.5 million and we now approach 20 million. The question is are we better off for it?

The college boom was driven by the conviction that the bright shiny future required a top-ranked class of experts who could figure out everything for us. But instead college has become an elite overproduction factory churning out mediocre paper fillers even as the science and tech talent is increasingly coming from Asia.

Higher education is bad enough as a great ripoff that has saddled a generation of parents and children with endless debt, but worst of all, it's become a training ground for tomorrow's terrorists. Instead of treating colleges as the bright promise of tomorrow, treat them like the terrorist training camps they've become. End the violence and hold them accountable.

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

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



BS"D

STEP BY STEP

STEP BY 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.

We are grateful that the school supply part of our effort has been successful.

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 can get the things they need.

Every week we are providing new sport shoes and eye exams/eyeglasses to the children on our request list. However, previous donations are rapidly dwindling. I am reaching out now before the fund has been emptied and we will have to say "no" to additional requests.

We work with two local shoe merchants who give Lev U'Neshama a discount but they advised us the cost of the shoes has increased. Also, we work with an accredited optician in town who also gives us a discount but his cost is stable.

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

Shoes: \$45 per pair regular and \$60 for First Steps, baby shoes.

Eye Exam/Eyeglasses: \$60 per child.

Your support is urgently requested.

You can send donations to:

East Texas Biblical Prophecy Forum which is a 501-3C ministry and receive a tax credit statement

Or use the Zelle US to US bank transfer system (contact me at mortsmo@aol.com for bank information.

US Donors may also send checks made payable to Simcha Smolensky, my son, who is also a volunteer.

Send to:

Rabbi Simcha Smolensky, 6739 N Mozart St Chicago IL 60645

Your support will be appreciated.

Yaffa Smolensky, Volunteer Program Manager