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Four IDF soldiers killed in Rafah blast

Cadets from IDF's officers' training school killed on operation to clear terrorist hideouts when their Humvee struck an explosive device; one soldier critically hurt and two others wounded as army probes possible Hamas sniper fire

[Yoav Zitun](#)|11:06

Four Israeli soldiers were killed Monday when their Humvee struck a roadside bomb during a [military operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah](#), the army said.

The dead were identified as Maj. Omri Chai Ben Moshe, 26, of Tzafria; Lt. Ron Arieli, 20, of Hadera; Lt. Eitan Avner Ben Itzhak, 22, of Har Bracha; and Lt. Eran Shelem, 23, of Kibbutz Ramat Yochanan. Another soldier was critically wounded and two others were moderately injured.



Lt. Eran Shelem, Lt. Eitan Avner Ben Itzhak, Lt. Ron Arieli, Maj. Omri Chai Ben Moshe (Photo: IDF)

The army said the blast occurred around 9:15 a.m. in Rafah's Jneina neighborhood as troops cleared suspected militant hideouts. An armored D9 bulldozer was leading the way, followed by two Humvees, when one of the vehicles triggered the device.

Military officials said the unit had already engaged in three encounters with militants earlier in the morning.

They are investigating whether a Hamas sniper fired at the troops before the explosion.

The soldiers were members of the Dekel Battalion of the officers' training school, known as Bahad 1, which has been operating in Gaza for the past three weeks. Ben Moshe served as a company commander in the battalion and previously in the Paratroopers Brigade. Arieli, Ben Itzhak and Shelem were cadets who had served in the Golani Brigade, the Commando Brigade and the elite Sayeret Matkal reconnaissance unit.

Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin, the army spokesperson, said the 261st Brigade, which includes the officers' school, "has fought heroically throughout the war" and was struck during its mission in Rafah. He said Hamas still maintains tunnel networks in the area and that Israeli forces are continuing to dismantle them.

Relatives said Arieli was killed on his birthday, which he had planned to celebrate later with his family. Ben Itzhak, who married three months ago, was described by community leaders in Har Bracha as "a man of faith and a

frontline fighter.” Shelem, the grandson of a celebrated paratrooper commander, was mourned in his home community of Ramat Yochanan. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sjeyuitsxx>

Two Israelis killed by knifeman driving Gaza-bound aid truck at West Bank-Jordan crossing **Assailant shot dead at scene, but troops scan area for additional suspects; security sources says attack will temporarily interrupt Gaza aid deliveries from Jordan**

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Nurit Yohanan](#) Today, 6:19 pm



Israeli security forces at the scene where two Israelis were killed in an attack at Allenby Crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, September 18, 2025. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFPTV/AFP)

Two Israeli men were killed in a shooting and stabbing attack near Allenby Crossing between the West Bank and Jordan on Thursday. The assailant was a Jordanian who had been driving a humanitarian aid truck headed for the Gaza Strip.

The perpetrator arrived at Allenby Crossing from the Jordanian side at around 3 p.m., driving a truck transporting

humanitarian aid intended for the Gaza Strip. Upon his arrival, he opened fire at a number of Israelis at the crossing with a handgun, before the truck could be inspected, a preliminary military investigation found.

He then got out of the truck and, after his gun apparently jammed, stabbed the two victims repeatedly until security guards at the crossing opened fire at him, killing him.

The two victims, said by paramedics to be a man in his 60s and a man in his 20s, were pronounced dead at the scene.

The Israel Defense Forces confirmed that security forces had “neutralized the terrorist” at the scene of the attack, adding that troops were carrying out scans in the area for additional suspects and briefly encircled the nearby West Bank town of Jericho. The IDF lifted its partial closure on the city after an hour.

Israel’s Foreign Ministry confirmed that the attacker was a citizen of Jordan, and blamed the assault on Jordanian incitement.

“Israel facilitates humanitarian aid to Gaza, and the terrorists exploit it to murder Israelis,” wrote the Foreign Ministry.

“A Jordanian who was supposed to drive a humanitarian aid truck to Gaza, murdered two Israelis at the Allenby border crossing,” the ministry wrote on X, using uncharacteristically pugnacious language. “This is yet another result of the vile incitement in Jordan. This is the result of the echoing of Hamas’s campaign of lies.”

Across the border, Jordanian government spokesman Mohammad al-Momani said Jordan was monitoring reports of a security incident at the Allenby Crossing.



IDF troops operate at the scene of an attack at Allenby Crossing between Jordan and the West Bank, September 18, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

In a statement later on Thursday evening, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry announced that the country’s security services had launched an investigation into “the shooting incident” on the Israeli side of the border crossing.

The foreign ministry said Jordan “condemned and rejected” the attack “as a violation of international law, Jordan’s interests, and its ability to deliver humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

Sharing more details about the assailant, the statement named him as Abd al-Mutalib al-Qaisi, a 57-year-old who had started working as a truck driver distributing aid to Gaza just three months ago.

No terror group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, since the beginning of the war in Gaza in October 2023, nearly 10,000 trucks of aid, or over 144,000 tons, have been transferred to the Gaza Strip from Jordan using land crossings with Israel and the West Bank. The total represents some 7% of all aid deliveries.

An Israeli security source told Kan news that the deadly attack would likely interfere with Gaza aid delivery schedules, as the Israeli side of Allenby Crossing, as well as the route from the crossing to the Gaza border, would be closed for an unspecified period of time.

A source clarified to the Ynet news site, however, that aid would continue to enter Gaza via Egypt and other routes, saying it was essential that it do so, given the rapidly expanding Israeli offensive in Gaza City, which has left tens of thousands of Palestinians fleeing to the south of the Strip.

The Allenby Bridge Crossing is the West Bank's sole crossing with Jordan.

In **September 2024, three Israeli men, Yohanan Shchori, Yuri Birnbaum, and Adrian Marcelo Podzamczar, were killed in a terrorist shooting at the Allenby Crossing**, carried out by a Jordanian truck driver.

The following month, in October 2024, two Israelis were wounded in a shooting near the Dead Sea carried out by terror operatives who had infiltrated from Jordan. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/two-israelis-killed-by-knifeman-driving-gaza-bound-aid-truck-at-west-bank-jordan-crossing/>

Revealed: Tony Blair's US-backed proposal for ending the Gaza war and replacing Hamas

After receiving Trump's blessing, the former British PM has been rallying international stakeholders to form a transitional authority to govern the Strip before it gets handed over to the PA

By *Jacob Magid* Today, 9:48 am



A handout picture released by Bahrain's official news agency (BNA) shows White House adviser Jared Kushner and former British prime minister Tony Blair at the closing session of the US-sponsored Middle East economic conference "Peace to Prosperity," in Manama on June 26, 2019. (Bahrain News Agency)

US President Donald Trump has authorized Tony Blair to rally regional and international stakeholders around the former UK prime minister's proposal to establish a postwar transitional body to govern the Gaza Strip until it can be handed over to the Palestinian Authority, four sources familiar with the matter told The Times of Israel.

Blair began crafting the proposal in the early months of the war between Israel and the Hamas terror group, envisioning it as a plan for the so-called "day after." But in recent months, the proposal has also evolved into a plan for effectively ending the war, as the Trump administration has reached the conclusion that agreement from major stakeholders regarding the body that will replace Hamas in Gaza is essential for securing a permanent ceasefire and hostage release deal, a US official and a second source familiar with the matter said.

While **Blair's involvement in postwar Gaza planning has been previously revealed, along with his participation in an August 27 White House policy session on the matter, details of his proposal have not been publicized to date.**

Not a displacement plan

The **proposal — a developed draft of which was obtained and authenticated by The Times of Israel — envisions the establishment** of the Gaza International Transitional Authority (GITA) along with a series of subordinate structures.

Previous reporting has linked Blair to efforts aimed at displacing Palestinians from Gaza or at building a "Trump Riviera" in the Strip, but the former British premier's actual proposal makes no mention of those ideas and even envisions the establishment of a "Property Rights Preservation Unit," aimed at

ensuring that any voluntary departure of Gazans does not compromise their right to return to the enclave or retain property ownership.

“We do not have a plan to move the Gazan population out of Gaza. Gaza is for Gazans,” said a source involved in discussions on the Blair plan.



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)

the **“voluntary migration”** of Palestinians from Gaza.

But **Trump** — who first gave legitimacy to the concept of “voluntary migration” in February when he announced his plan to take over Gaza and permanently relocate the Strip’s entire population — **has since distanced himself from the idea, and** during the August 27 White House policy session made clear that he was going with Blair’s plan instead, the US official said.

The US official noted that Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich is apparently unaware of that decision, having **declared** on Wednesday that the Gaza Strip is a potential real estate “bonanza” and that he was in talks with Washington on how to carve up the coastal enclave after the war.

The Kushner connection

The **August 27 meeting was organized by the US president’s son-in-law Jared Kushner, who served as senior adviser during Trump’s first term and has remained engaged on Middle East issues** during his second term, regularly advising US special envoy Steve Witkoff.

Like Kushner in his time, Witkoff has been handed a variety of portfolios. The current special envoy has hired limited support staff, though, and Kushner has been helping with the Gaza day-after planning, as it is increasingly seen as critical for securing a war-ending hostage release deal.



White House special envoy Steve Witkoff, right, and Jared Kushner wait for the arrival of US President Donald Trump at Teterboro Airport in Teterboro, N.J. on July 13, 2025. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

This spring, Kushner commissioned the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) — which was already engaged on the issue thanks to the former UK prime minister’s ties with Israeli, PA and Arab leaders — to come up with a postwar plan, the US official said.

Blair began regular engagement with Trump officials, keeping them abreast of his progress as he met with leaders throughout the region and began ironing out details

of his plan, the source familiar with discussions said.

Not enough PA involvement for Ramallah, but too much for Jerusalem

The former UK premier met PA President Mahmoud Abbas in July, thanks to Gulf pressure on Ramallah to engage with the initiative, an Arab diplomat said.

While the **PA has expressed its desire to directly oversee the postwar governing body in Gaza and Blair’s plan falls short of that goal, the source familiar with the discussions said Ramallah has “engaged constructively.”**

Blair’s **proposal envisions the PA undergoing significant reforms and limits Ramallah’s involvement in GITA largely to matters of coordination.** Still, the PA is explicitly mentioned throughout the plan, which envisions “the eventual unifying of all the Palestinian territory under the PA.”



This handout picture released by the Palestinian Authority's press office (PPO) shows President Mahmoud Abbas (R) meeting with Britain's former prime minister Tony Blair in Amman, Jordan, on July 13, 2025. (Thaer GHANAIM / PPO / AFP)

Though that is a development Netanyahu has fought fiercely to prevent, the source familiar with discussions said that Israel has engaged constructively with Blair's effort.

The Arab diplomat expressed a little more skepticism, however, claiming that Netanyahu has a history of dispatching Dermer to engage on such sensitive matters, then thwarting

them before they can materialize in order to keep his coalition, including its far-right flank, intact.

Doha strike derails effort to get 'Johnny' on board

Still, Trump was impressed by Blair's initiative and told him to get "Johnny" on board, the US official said, recalling the moniker Trump used to refer to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during the August 27 White House meeting.

The US views Saudi Arabia as one of the most critical players when it comes to postwar reconstruction, with enough sway to get the rest of the region on board.

While Trump gave Blair his blessing, he also gave him a two-week window to secure regional support for the plan, the US official said.

That deadline has since expired, but the time period was one the president has announced somewhat regularly without sticking to it.



US President Donald Trump (right) arrives with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the group photo with Gulf Cooperation Council leaders during the GCC Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, May 14, 2025. (Alex Brandon/AP)

During that period, Blair was also hobbled by the US issuing visa bans against senior PA officials.

That decision led to delays in some of the British premier's meetings with Gulf officials who didn't want to be seen as endorsing the administration's decision by immediately meeting with an effective Trump envoy right afterward, the Arab diplomat said.

Still more damaging to Blair's effort was

Israel's September 9 strike against Hamas leaders in Doha, the source familiar with discussions said.

The former British premier had been engaging Egypt and Qatar about coaxing the terror group not to stand in the way of the plan, the source said, adding that while Blair's effort was temporarily derailed by the Israeli strike, engagement has since resumed.

'We don't have weeks. We have days'

The Doha strike also highlighted what may be one of the main obstacles Blair faces in trying to sell his plan to Israel.

While Netanyahu says the strike was aimed at sending a message to Hamas's leadership —

even those involved in hostage negotiations — conveying that Israel will settle scores with all of them, an apparent goal of Blair's plan is to neutralize the terror group through nonmilitary means.

Alongside establishing an alternative to Hamas through GITA, the plan also explicitly refers to the concept of "disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration" or DDR.

This grab from video footage released by Qatar TV shows men carrying the flag-draped bodies of six people killed in an Israeli strike on Hamas figures two days earlier, inside the Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque in Doha on September 11, 2025. (QATAR TV / AFP)



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio may have been referring to that very idea when he said during a press conference with Netanyahu in Jerusalem that “**Hamas can no longer continue to exist as an armed element,**” as opposed to asserting that the terror group should not exist at all, which has been the Israeli prime minister’s framing.

In the meantime, the **Arab diplomat said that Blair also faces an uphill battle getting Riyadh and other regional stakeholders on board, as they are conditioning their support on the plan containing the creation of an irreversible pathway to a future Palestinian state** — an idea long abhorred by Netanyahu and his far-right coalition partners.

The **aforementioned pathway is one of a list of principles that Arab stakeholders are demanding be folded into any plan they’re being asked to bankroll, the Arab diplomat said.**

Still, the source involved in discussions said that Blair has made inroads with regional stakeholders and is racing to advance his plan within a short time frame.

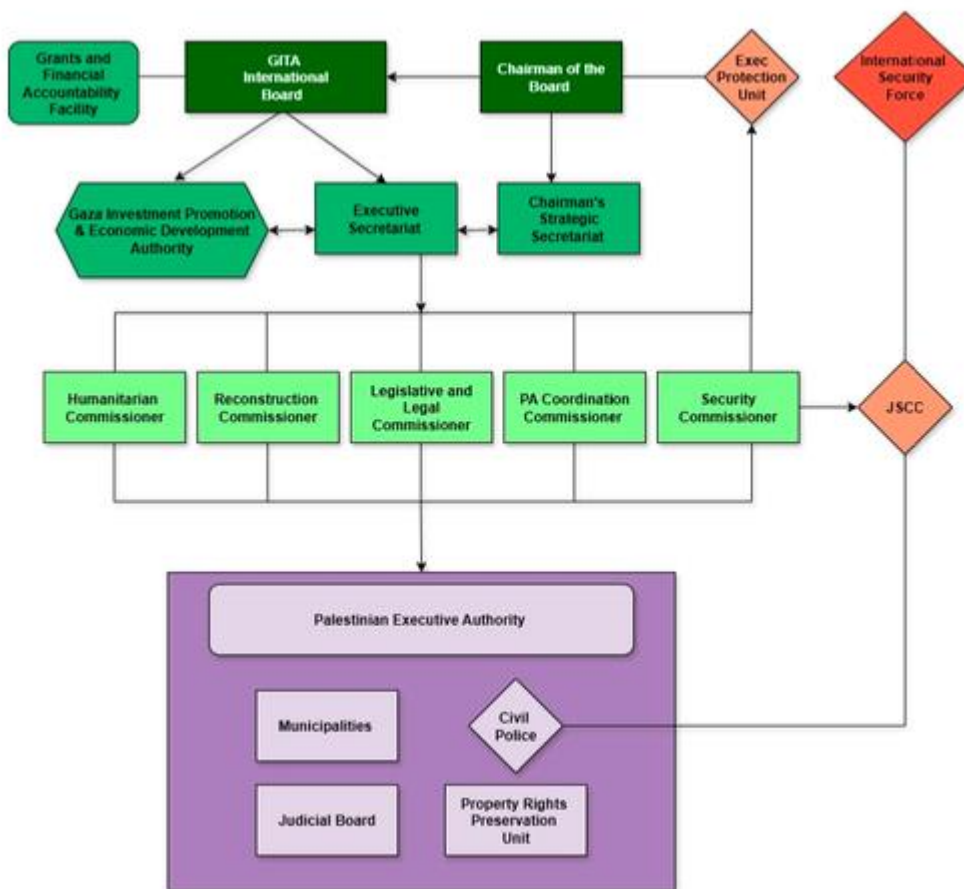
“We don’t have months or weeks. We have days,” the source said.

What’s in the plan

Blair’s **proposal envisions GITA being established by a UN Security Council resolution.**

GITA will serve as the “supreme political and legal authority for Gaza during the transitional period,” the developed draft of the plan obtained by The Times of Israel states.

GITA will have a board made up of seven to 10 members, which will include “at least one qualified Palestinian representative (potentially from the business or security sector),” a senior UN official, leading international figures with executive or financial experience, and a “strong representation of Muslim members” to boost regional legitimacy and cultural credibility.



An organizational chart featured in former UK prime minister Tony Blair’s plan to establish a Gaza International Transitional Authority that was obtained by The Times of Israel in September 2025.

1. The board will be tasked with “issu[ing] binding decisions, approv[ing] legislation and appointments and provid[ing] strategic direction,” while reporting back to the UN Security Council.

The chair of the board will be appointed by international consensus and receive the endorsement of the UN Security Council.

The chair will lead GITA’s external

engagement and diplomacy and set the political direction of the body while closely coordinating with the PA, the document says.

The GITA board chair will have a supporting staff of up to 25 people who will serve on the “strategic secretariat.”

The plan also envisions the creation of an Executive Protection Unit “staffed by elite personnel from Arab and international contributors” to protect the GITA leadership.

An “Executive Secretariat” will sit below GITA and serve as the latter’s administrative hub and implementation arm, while directly overseeing the Palestinian Executive Authority (PEA).

The latter body is what has often been referred to as the committee of independent Palestinian technocrats who will be responsible for administering Gaza after the war.



IDF troops operate in Gaza City, in a handout photo issued on September 17, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

PA coordination

Reporting to the Executive Secretariat will be a group of five commissioners who will supervise key areas of Gaza governance: humanitarian affairs, reconstruction, legislation and legal affairs, security, and PA coordination.

Notably, the plan states that the commissioner overseeing humanitarian affairs will be responsible for coordinating with humanitarian agencies, including the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which

some Arab stakeholders have been demanding be dismantled.

As for the PA coordination commissioner, the plan envisions the aim of their office being to “ensure that the decisions of GITA and those of the PA are, so far as possible, aligned and consistent with the eventual unifying of all the Palestinian territory under the PA.” [Insanity – What is the “PA” – it is an imaginary entity created by Arafat an Egyptian in the 1970’s. There never was an arab land called palestine. There was an ottoman territory the ruled the area. This is utter insanity. rdb

The commissioner will also “track PA reform efforts in coordination with international donors, financial institutions and Arab partners engaged in Palestinian institutional development.”

The source involved in the discussions stressed that the reforms that the Blair plan expects of the PA “are not cosmetic,” and that part of the reason there’s not a set timeline for GITA to hand over authority of Gaza to the PA is that the process is “performance-based.”



Demonstrators protest against Gaza City operation outside the Jerusalem Post conference in Jerusalem, call for the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip, September 16, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Still, the source clarified that the timeline will be several years, “not ten.”

The plan envisions the establishment of the Gaza Investment Promotion and Economic Development Authority to secure investments for GITA and Gaza’s reconstruction. It will be a “commercially driven authority, led by business professionals and tasked with generating investable

projects with real financial returns.”

A separate body will be established to secure and distribute government grants.

Also reporting to GITA and its Executive Secretariat will be the Palestinian Executive Authority, which will interface more directly with Palestinians by delivering services “through a nonpartisan, professional administration.”

The PEA will be headed by a CEO formally appointed by the GITA board and will be responsible for overseeing a series of technocratic ministries, including health, education, finance, infrastructure, judicial affairs and welfare.

Also reporting to the PEA will be Gaza municipalities, which will be responsible for delivering services at the local level; a Gaza civil police force of “nationally recruited, professionally vetted, and nonpartisan” officers tasked with maintaining public order and protecting civilians; a judicial board chaired by an Arab jurist who will supervise Gaza’s courts and public prosecution office; and the aforementioned “Property

Rights Preservation Unit.”

Preventing Hamas’s resurgence

Backing the civil police force will be the “International Stabilization Force (ISF) — an internationally mandated, multinational security force established to provide strategic stability and operational protection in Gaza during the transitional period.”

“It ensures border integrity, deters armed group resurgence, protects humanitarian and reconstruction operations, and supports local law enforcement through coordination — not substitution,” the plan states.



US President Donald Trump hosts families of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, at the White House on September 10, 2025. (Hostages Families Forum)

In an apparent reference to its task of combating remnants of Hamas, the plan says the ISF will “conduct targeted operations to prevent the resurgence of armed groups, disrupt weapons smuggling and neutralize asymmetric threats to public order and institutional functions.”

In an annex on GITA’s costs, the plan explains that the budget will expand each year as the new governing body gradually phases into operations throughout the entire Strip.

The first year’s budget is placed at \$90 million, the second year at \$135 million and the third year at \$164 million. The figures don’t include the costs of the ISF and humanitarian aid, though, and the source familiar with the discussions said the estimates were conservative.

How to end the war

While Blair’s isn’t the only plan for the postwar management of Gaza, it appears to be the lone proposal that has secured US backing. Still, the source involved in the discussions acknowledged that it can’t be considered a US plan until Trump publicly says so.

The document has also gone through a few rounds of edits since it was obtained by The Times of Israel, as Blair continues to receive feedback from stakeholders, the source said.



The Mhanna tower collapses amid heavy smoke, after an Israeli strike following an evacuation order in the Tal el-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City on September 14, 2025 (Omar AL-QATTAA / AFP)

“The way to end the war is to [get regional stakeholders to] agree on principles for how Gaza will be governed afterward in a manner that Hamas is not involved and not armed and unable to regain power,” the source said.

“This can only happen if there is a new governing structure in Gaza with a serious security force from the international community. This cannot be the PA in the beginning.

The PA will be a partner. They’ll be consulted and coordinated with, but they won’t be the ones managing Gaza on day one. This will happen later on after they reform,” the source added.

Blair’s office declined to comment on the record for this story. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/revealed-tony-blairs-us-backed-proposal-for-ending-the-gaza-war-and-replacing-hamas/> The problem will be fixed when the Messiah reigns in Jerusalem. All the rest is pipe dreams of the deluded. - rdb

UAE won’t cut Israel ties if West Bank annexed, despite ‘red line’ warning – sources

Though Abu Dhabi is not considering severing relations entirely, it could reportedly pull its ambassador; Israeli source says strained bond is reparable

By Reuters and Tol Staff Today, 3:13 pm



Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich gestures toward a map of the West Bank during a press conference at the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem, September 3, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

The United Arab Emirates may downgrade its diplomatic ties with Israel if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government annexes part or all of the West Bank, but it is not weighing the option of severing the relationship completely, according to three sources briefed on the Gulf Arab state's deliberations.

This is despite Emirati foreign ministry official Lana Nusseibeh telling *The Times of Israel* on September 3 that any annexation would be a "red line," jeopardize the Abraham Accords, and end the pursuit of regional integration.

UAE is one of just a few Arab states with diplomatic relations with Israel and downgrading ties would be a major setback for the Abraham Accords — a signature foreign policy achievement of US President Donald Trump and Netanyahu.

Israel's government has recently taken steps that could presage annexation of the West Bank, which was captured along with East Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War. The United Nations and most countries oppose such a move.

For Netanyahu, whose coalition relies on right-wing nationalist parties, annexation could be seen as a valuable vote-winner before an election expected next year.

Not all ties likely to be cut, source says

Abu Dhabi warned Netanyahu's right-wing coalition this month that any annexation of the West Bank would be a "red line" for the Gulf state, but did not say what measures could follow.

The UAE, which established ties with Israel in 2020 under the Abraham Accords, was considering withdrawing its ambassador in any response, the sources told Reuters.

The sources, who all spoke on condition of anonymity, said Abu Dhabi was not considering completely severing ties, although tensions have mounted during the almost two-year-old Gaza war that was triggered by the Palestinian terror group Hamas on October 7, 2023, when it led a devastating invasion of southern Israel.



From left, Bahrain Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, then-US president Donald Trump, and United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan, sit during the Abraham Accords signing ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House, in Washington, September 15, 2020. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

A source in Israel said the government believed it could repair its strained ties with the UAE, a major commercial center seen as the most significant of the Arab states to establish ties with Israel in 2020. The others were Bahrain and Morocco.

No other Arab state has since established formal ties with Israel, which also has diplomatic relations with Egypt and Jordan established previously, and direct contacts with Qatar though without full diplomatic recognition.

Israeli companies barred from UAE airshow

In a sign of growing tension with Israel, the Gulf state last week decided to bar Israeli defense companies from exhibiting at the Dubai Airshow in November, three of the sources said. Two other sources, an Israeli official and an Israeli defense industry executive, confirmed the decision.

Israel's **Defense Ministry said it had been made aware of the decision** but did not elaborate. A spokesperson for the Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi said discussions over Israel's participation in the weeklong trade show, the UAE's flagship aerospace and defense event, were continuing.

While the official statements said the decision was due to security considerations, senior officials in Israel claimed the reason behind the ban was the Israeli Air Force's strike in Qatar against the top leadership of Hamas,

the Ynet news outlet reported at the time. Gulf countries have since expressed their condemnation of the attack and solidarity with Qatar.



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

The UAE foreign ministry did not respond to questions on whether it was weighing downgrading diplomatic ties with Israel.

The spokesperson at the Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi said that Israel was committed to the Abraham Accords and that it would continue to work to strengthen ties with the UAE.

Nusseibeh, of the Emirati foreign ministry, had told The Times of Israel and Reuters on September 3 that any

annexation of the West Bank would jeopardize the Abraham Accords and end the pursuit of regional integration.

That warning preceded Israel's airstrike on Qatar last week, which targeted Hamas leaders, an attack that Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, condemned as treacherous.

At an emergency meeting of Muslim nations in Qatar convened in response to the strike, a communique was issued urging countries to review diplomatic and economic ties with Israel.

As part of the Abraham Accords, Netanyahu promised to hold off on annexing the West Bank for four years. But that deadline has passed, and some Israeli ministers are now pressing for action.



Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich gestures toward a map of the West Bank during a press conference at the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem, September 3, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich this month said that maps were being drawn up to annex most of the West Bank, urging Netanyahu to accept the plan. Itamar Ben-Gvir, the national security minister, also backs annexing the territory.

Ties with Israel deteriorated after 2023

After establishing ties, the UAE and Israel built a close relationship, focusing on economic, security, and intelligence cooperation. This followed years of discreet

contacts.

But differences began emerging after Netanyahu returned to power in 2023 at the head of what has been described as the most right-wing government in Israel's history. Abu Dhabi has condemned repeated efforts by Ben-Gvir to alter the status quo of Jerusalem's Temple Mount, also called the Al Aqsa compound, to allow Jews to be able to pray there. The site is sacred to Muslims and Jews, and at present, non-Muslims can visit but cannot pray.

The UAE has also criticized Israel's policies in the West Bank and its military operation in Gaza, which began in October 2023 after the Hamas-led massacre of 1,200 people, mostly civilians, during the terror group's invasion of southern Israel.

Abu Dhabi has said that an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel was necessary for regional stability. Netanyahu this month declared [there will never be](https://www.timesofisrael.com/uae-wont-cut-israel-ties-if-west-bank-annexed-despite-red-line-warning-sources/) a Palestinian state.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/uae-wont-cut-israel-ties-if-west-bank-annexed-despite-red-line-warning-sources/>

October 7 Massacre lawsuit filed for 140 people against terrorist groups and state sponsors

The filing sought judgment against multiple terrorist organizations for enabling and supporting the planning and execution of Hamas's October 7 massacre.

By [MICHAEL STARR](#) SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 19:30 Updated: SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 19:40



The destruction caused by Hamas terrorists in Kibbutz Kissufim on October 7, 2023, near the Israeli-Gaza border, in southern Israel, November 20, 2023. (photo credit: CHAIM GOLDBEG/FLASH90)

A lawsuit by over 140 family members and victims of the October 7 Massacre against the terrorist organization perpetrators and their state sponsors was filed by the Anti-Defamation League and Crowell & Moring LLP with the Columbia District Court on Thursday, in their second legal action on behalf of US citizens impacted by the 2023 Hamas-led pogrom.

The filing sought judgment against eight terrorist organizations for homicide, material support for terrorism, aiding and abetting terrorism, and conspiracy under the Anti-Terrorism Act, which allows US nationals to seek civil action in the US for terrorism conducted by Foreign Terrorist Organizations abroad.

ADL and Crowell & Moring named Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the Popular Resistance Committees, the Palestinian Resistance Committees, the Palestinian Mujahideen Movement, and Hezbollah as responsible for varying crimes against US citizens and their families. **Maybe they should add Qatar to that list. - rdb**

JPost Videos

The suit also targeted four state actors under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, which allows victims to sue countries which are US designated state sponsors of terrorism.

ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement that the lawsuit would hold states

responsible for providing funding, weapons, and training to the relevant terrorist organizations.

Einav Zangauker and Itzik Horn with hostage family members ahead of protests demanding for a hostage deal on September 13, 2025. (credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI/MAARIV)

"The victims of the October 7 massacre deserve justice, accountability and redress," said Greenblatt.

Iran and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Syria, and North Korea were accused of facilitating, supporting, or funding the activity of the terrorist organizations involved in the October 7 Massacre. The suit brought claims of punitive damages, direct liability, assault, civil conspiracy, aiding and abetting, emotional suffering,



and wrongful death.

Crowell & Moring partner and case lead counsel Aryeh Portony said in a statement that the team was determined to hold all those responsible for the mass terrorist attack before a court of law, including state actors.

"State sponsors of terrorism should not be able to avoid the consequences of their heinous acts by hiding behind the proxies they materially support," said Portony.

While Syria had undergone a regime change since the October 7 Massacre, the ADL told *The Jerusalem Post* that different political entities did not absolve past actions and legal liabilities for those actions. **The 140 plaintiffs deserve justice**

Among the 140 plaintiffs included [former hostages](#) and their family members, such as Edan Alexander and Sagui Dekel-Chen.

Plaintiffs David and Hazel Brief, whose son died of wounds sustained during the 2023 attack, said in a statement that "the world must never forget what happened on October 7."

"Our son's life was senselessly cut short," said the [bereaved parents](#). "We believe it is critical that those responsible for the horrific terror inflicted that day are held accountable in a court of law, to ensure the record is

clear as to who helped support, plan and carry out the violence that day. We are hopeful that this type of litigation will help prevent attacks like these in the future, so that no other families have to go through losing a loved one as a result of such violence.”

The Thursday lawsuit was the second filed by ADL and Crowell and Moring, having filed a lawsuit on behalf of 180 plaintiffs against Iran, Syria, and North Korea for their support of Hamas. The 2024 case is still ongoing.
<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-867999>

Starmer said planning to recognize Palestinian state after Trump’s UK visit

The Times reports that British PM is under massive pressure from Labour to grant Palestinian statehood recognition before UN General Assembly, when France and others plan to do so

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 12:51 am



British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and wife, Lady Victoria Starmer, arrive for the Beating Retreat military ceremony at Windsor Castle, England, on Wednesday Sept. 17, 2025, on day one of US President Donald Trump's second state visit to the UK. (Andrew Matthews/PA via AP, Pool)

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer plans to formally recognize a Palestinian state after US President Donald Trump completes his state visit to the United Kingdom, British media reported Wednesday.

The unsourced report by The Times said that Starmer plans to recognize Palestine even before several countries, led by France, will do so at the United Nations General Assembly summit in New York next week, amid concern over the ongoing war in Gaza.

The Times reported that Starmer is under massive pressure from within his Labour party to make the move, but will hold off on doing so until Trump leaves so that the issue doesn’t dominate a joint press conference planned for Thursday. **Pandering to the Satan won’t help solve his Islamic problems in the UK. People i.e. indigenous Brits are fed up with the Islamic domination and pandering of their government and may well face a huge backlash. - rdb**

Britain’s Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The US is deeply opposed to the move, saying it would be a reward for the Hamas terror group in the wake of the October 7, 2023, invasion of southern Israel that killed some 1,200 people and saw another 251 taken hostage.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has warned countries considering recognizing Palestinian statehood during the General Assembly that Israel could take “reciprocal” action in the form of annexing the West Bank.



Palestinian supporters gather during a protest against Israel outside Downing Street in London, September 9, 2025. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

Starmer announced in July that the UK would recognize a Palestinian state in September unless the Israeli government took substantive steps to end the war and humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, and committed to a viable peace process.

The decision was swiftly condemned by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who declared the move “rewards Hamas’s monstrous terrorism.” Meeting Starmer in London last week, President Isaac Herzog [said](#)

Britain’s “stated intention to recognize a Palestinian state at this time would in no way help bring the hostages

home, help the Palestinians, or help bring an end to the conflict” but only “embolden extremists across the Middle East and beyond.”

In June, the [UK sanctioned](#) far-right ministers Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich and [froze trade talks](#) with Israel. And last month, the British government announced a [ban](#) on Israeli defense firms attending a major London arms fair.

Earlier this week, the Royal College of Defence Studies, one of Britain’s most eminent military academies, [banned](#) Israelis from enrolling from next year, due to the ongoing war.

Israel has found itself increasingly isolated on the world stage, as the 23-month-old war sparked by the Hamas-led October 2023 attack grinds on in Gaza. Terror groups in the Strip still hold 48 hostages, of whom only about 20 are believed to be alive. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/starmer-said-planning-to-recognize-palestinian-state-after-trumps-uk-visit/>

Egypt's Sisi refers to Israel as 'enemy' for first time since before 1977 Sadat visit to Jerusalem

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi labeled Israel an “enemy” at the Arab-Islamic summit, saying its actions threaten Egypt’s security and future peace deals, including by causing Gazans to flee.

By [JAMES GENN](#) SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 12:58



President of Egypt Abdel Fattah al-Sisi attends the 34th Arab League summit, in Baghdad, Iraq, May 17, 2025; illustrative. (photo credit: HADI MIZBAN/POOL VIA REUTERS)

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi referred to Israel as an "enemy" during his closing speech at the Arab-Islamic summit in Doha earlier this week.

Head of the Egyptian State Information Service, Diaa Rashwan, commented in a Tuesday TV interview that "The last time the word ‘enemy’ was used by Egypt’s top official, or

by any state official, was before" then-president Anwar Sadat visited Israel and spoke at the Knesset in 1977.

Sadat's visit was a major step on the path towards the 1979 Camp David Accords, which formalized a normalization of relations and a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

Rashwan claimed that Sisi's referring to Israel as an enemy has "very significant implications," as "Egypt is under threat, and only an enemy threatens national security...a friend does not threaten your national security."

One of these threats to national security is the possible displacement of refugees from the Gaza Strip attempting to cross through the Rafah Border Crossing into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, Rashwan noted.



Trucks carrying humanitarian aid line up near the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Rafah, Egypt, August 13, 2025. (credit: Stringer/Reuters)

Sisi's closing speech at the conference included a stated belief that Egypt, and its Arab partners, must "change our stances regarding the enemy's perception of us, so that they see any Arab country, extending from the ocean to the Gulf, has an umbrella that extends to all Islamic countries."

Sisi also said on Monday that Israel's current actions hindered any chances of new peace treaties in the Middle East.

In remarks aimed at Israel, he told the [Arab-Islamic summit in Doha](#): "What is happening right now hinders the future of

peace, threatens your security and the security of the peoples in the region and adds obstacles to chances for any new peace agreements and even aborts existing ones."

Egypt seeking to form NATO-style force, reports claim

Egypt is seeking to revive a joint Arab military force modeled on NATO, according to multiple Arabic-language reports on Saturday that link the move to the Israel-Hamas war and to an Arab-Islamic summit expected in Doha on Monday.

The sources include Lebanon's pro-Hezbollah *Al-Akhbar* newspaper, which cited a government source in Cairo. London-based *Al-Quds Al-Arabi* reported that Sisi is working to rebuild Arab backing for a rapid-reaction force that could deploy to protect any Arab state under attack, and said the proposal has been floated in recent diplomatic contacts ahead of the summit. The outlet framed the idea as a defensive umbrella rather than an escalation with Israel.

Palestinian outlet *Ma'an* carried similar details and said Cairo is discussing contributing around 20,000 Egyptian troops and seeking to place an Egyptian four-star officer in command, with Saudi Arabia as a principal partner if the plan advances. *Ma'an* characterized the discussions as ongoing.

Discussions are focusing on how such a body would operate, with Cairo stressing that it must be shaped in line with the demographics and military capacities of participating Arab countries.

GCC denounces Israel's strikes on Qatar

Gulf leaders said on Monday that the [Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\)'s joint defense body](#) will meet in Doha following Israel's attack on Hamas leaders in the Qatari capital last week.

In a statement, the leaders called for measures to activate the bloc's "joint defense mechanism," adding that the GCC's Unified Military Command should "take the necessary executive measures to activate the mechanisms of joint defense and the Gulf deterrence capabilities."

The GCC also affirmed that Israel's strikes on Qatar violated the GCC's Joint Defense Agreement, which views aggression against one GCC member as aggression against all GCC members.

The GCC also warned that Israel's "aggression against the sisterly State of Qatar poses a direct threat to shared Gulf security, regional peace, and stability."

Jerusalem Post Staff, Reuters, and The Media Line contributed to this report. [https://www.jpost.com/middle-](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-867891)

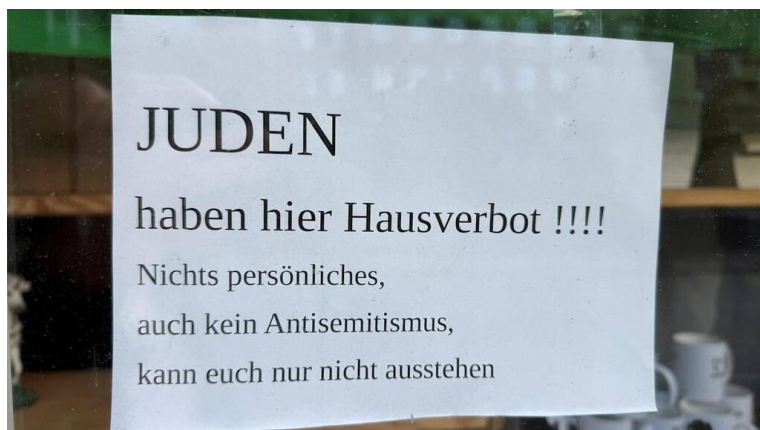
east/article-867891 **Perhaps it is time for another Sykes–Picot Agreement and just redraw all the boundaries of the Middle east countries into on big blob in the Sinai and call it ARAB and then the Biblically described area from the Euphrates to the Nile and all it Israels and move people to the appropriate place???? rdb**

'Jews not allowed, can't stand you': Antisemitic sign at German store sparks outrage

Shop owner in Flensburg under fire after posting sign banning Jews from his store; officials and residents condemn act as blatant antisemitism reminiscent of Nazi era; Israeli envoy urges authorities to act 'before words once again turn into actions'

A shopkeeper in the northern German city of Flensburg is facing public outcry and police complaints after refusing to remove a sign banning Jews from his store, in what officials and community leaders called a blatant display of antisemitism reminiscent of the Nazi era.

The sign, posted on the window of a store that sells mainly Gothic items and secondhand books, read: "Jews are not allowed to enter here. Nothing personal, nothing antisemitic — I just can't stand you."



(Photo: Sebastian Iwersen/ WELT)

Hans Felten-Reisch, 60, the shop's owner, told a local newspaper he stood by the notice and rejected claims it was antisemitic. "After all, there are Jews living in Israel, and I can't decide who is for or against the attacks," he said. "This is hypocrisy. They keep saying history must not repeat itself, but then they do it themselves."

Felix Klein, Germany's federal commissioner for combating antisemitism, condemned the sign as "antisemitism in its

purest and most explicit form." He drew direct comparisons to Nazi-era Germany, when Jews were barred from public spaces and signs banning them were common. "We cannot tolerate this under any circumstances," he said.

Flensburg, Germany's third-largest port city and its northernmost urban center, is not considered a far-right stronghold. In the last federal election, more than 38 percent of voters there backed the Green Party and other left-wing parties, while the far-right Alternative for Germany received just 13 percent, seven

points below its national average.

The sign triggered swift backlash from residents and politicians. Former mayor Simone Lange said she filed a police complaint, while a local history teacher also reported the shop owner for incitement to hatred.



Flensburg, Germany (Photo: Lukas Knaak/Shutterstock)

Israeli Ambassador to Germany Ron Prosor sharply

condemned the act: “In Flensburg, in 2025, signs saying ‘Jews not allowed’ are once again hanging in shop windows. Just like then, in the streets, cafés and stores of the 1930s. This is exactly how it began—step by step, sign by sign. It is the same old hatred, only in a different font. After the signs came shards of glass, fire and destruction. And today, people behave as if it were ‘nothing personal.’

“It was never about Zionism. It was always about Jewish life. And it has never ended harmlessly. Politicians cannot wait

until it is too late—they must act now, before words once again turn into actions. Jewish life must be safe and visible in Germany! I hope that no Christian, no Muslim, no atheist and no Jew will ever again enter the store whose owner hung this sign.”

Local police visited the store Wednesday evening, but the sign remained in place as of late that night.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/jewish-world/article/b16fa5tjex>

UK lawmaker calls for boycott of Maccabi Tel Aviv match

Birmingham MP Ayoub Khan urges UEFA and Aston Villa to cancel Europa League match against Aston Villa, citing public safety concerns and Gaza war tensions: 'Boycott Maccabi Tel Aviv'

Ynet 09:17

A British lawmaker called on Wednesday for UEFA and soccer club Aston Villa to cancel an upcoming Europa League match against Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv, warning that the game could inflame tensions amid the war in Gaza.

Ayoub Khan, who represents Birmingham, where the game is scheduled to be played on November 6, posted a video on X urging soccer authorities to intervene.



The lawmaker cited recent footage from Amsterdam showing Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters tearing down

Palestinian flags from balconies ahead of a game. “I’ve started a petition to boycott Maccabi Tel Aviv,” he said in a video uploaded to X. “There is no space for violence or any thugs to come into Aston, or indeed Birmingham.”

Maccabi Tel Aviv fans (Photo: Oz Moalem)

His comments come less than a year after assailants, some masked and carrying Palestinian flags, [attacked Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters in Amsterdam](#) after a Europa League match against Ajax, leaving about 10 injured and leading to some 60

arrests.

UEFA has not responded publicly to Khan’s remarks. The match against Aston Villa is scheduled to mark the start of Maccabi Tel Aviv’s Europa League campaign. <https://www.ynetnews.com/sport/article/sjuu5ptilx>

Antifa chapter seeks to use Israel to divide Right as Trump cracks down

This came following President Trump's decision to designate Antifa as a terrorist organization.

By **MICHAEL STARR** **SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 17:29**

An Oregon Antifa group proposed that aligned activists leverage diverse stances on Israel among right-wing factions in order to divide them in the wake of the assassination of Turning Point USA (TPUSA) founder Charlie Kirk.

Corvallis Antifascists published a Tuesday analysis of unity in the right manifesting at vigils for Kirk, noting that fault lines remained between TPUSA supporters and the far-right Groyper movement.



A member of the far-right group Proud Boys wears an anti-Antifa patch during a rally to protest the results of the election, in Washington, U.S., December 12, 2020. (photo credit: JIM URQUHART/REUTERS)

During the so-called Groyper Wars, Christian Nationalist Nick Fuentes and his followers attempted to disrupt TPUSA events by heckling and asking speakers provocative questions, including those about Israel. The Antifa cell believed that these divisions could be reunited.

JPost Videos

Corvallis Antifa identified that elements had set aside these ideological differences and participated

in memorials for Kirk. The far-left cell said that it was necessary to address "Neo-Nazi street movements" working "to enter the MAGA (Make America Great Again) fold."

"Antifascists must work to find more creative ways to counter this political moment. One option may be working to drive wedges between different segments of the right," wrote Corvallis Antifa. "One possibly useful wedge issue in this context is Israel."



A young man places flowers at a makeshift memorial as students return to classes at Utah Valley University following the killing on September 10 of U.S. right-wing activist and commentator Charlie Kirk, an ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, in Orem, Utah, U.S., September 17, 2025. (credit: JIM URQUHART/REUTERS)

Antifa points fingers

Jewish The Antifa group explained that after Kirk's murder, some far-right commentators had developed conspiracy theories in which the Mossad had assassinated the conservative activist because he had supposedly begun to reorient himself against Israel or people.

Journalist Andy Ngo, who first reported the Antifa analysis on Wednesday, said on X that the movement was attempting to change its strategy to "divide and conquer"

after protests against rallies in Kirk's memory had resulted in "unequivocal optical and tactical failures."

"They admit fearing the loss of their ability to mark conservatives for death with no pushback — especially as some apolitical institutions, groups, and businesses now feel safer expressing sympathy to Kirk's family and supporters," said Ngo.

Ngo has been covering Antifa for years and has himself been attacked and threatened with death by Antifa activists.

After slogans associated with Antifa were discovered engraved on bullet casings of cartridges used by Kirk's killer, and Vice President JD Vance and Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller indicated that they would crack down on far-left networks promoting violence, [President Donald Trump](#) said that he would designate Antifa as a terrorist organization.

"I am pleased to inform our many USA Patriots that I am designating Antifa, a sick, dangerous, radical left disaster, as a major terrorist organization," Trump said in a Wednesday Truth Social post. "I will also be strongly recommending that those funding Antifa be thoroughly investigated in accordance with the highest legal standards and practices." <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-867979>

EU to force Ukrainians to return home

Member states are facing financial strain providing benefits to millions escaping the conflict

18 Sep, 2025 17:13

The EU will gradually wind down its temporary protection program for millions who fled the ongoing Ukraine conflict in order to encourage their eventual return home, the European Council has

said.

Brussels invoked the Temporary Protection Directive in early 2022 after the Ukraine conflict escalated. First introduced in 2001, the directive provides benefits including residence permits, housing, jobs, education, healthcare, financial aid and social services.

Initially due to expire in March 2025, the scheme, which provides for over four million Ukrainians, has been extended until March 2027.

Discussions on exit strategies have been gaining momentum amid growing challenges for member states in managing the influx. This week, EU interior ministers agreed on a recommendation setting out a framework for Ukrainians' "return and reintegration into Ukraine, when conditions allow."

Member states are being urged to promote voluntary returns, support exploratory visits, and create time-limited return programs coordinated with Kiev and other EU states. The Council also recommended establishing 'Unity Hubs,' financed through EU programs, to assist with documents, jobs, and return planning.

UNHCR estimates that nearly seven million Ukrainians have fled abroad since 2022. Russia reports that 5.5 million people had crossed from Ukraine by the end of 2023.

The exodus has been driven not only by the conflict but also by aggressive mobilization tactics in Ukraine. Draft officers have clashed with men resisting conscription; many who fled risk criminal prosecution if they return.

EU governments are reassessing support programs amid rising costs. Germany, which hosts over 1.2 million Ukrainians, has started scaling back welfare benefits, citing sustainability concerns.

Poland, one of Kiev's main backers, has resisted taking in more Ukrainians. At least 2.5 million reside in the country, comprising nearly 7% of the population, according to official statistics.

Social tensions have grown, with some citizens reportedly viewing Ukrainian immigrants as freeloaders or criminals. Defense Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said many Poles were dismayed by "the sight of young men from Ukraine driving expensive cars and spending weekends in five-star hotels."

Some Ukrainian lawmakers argue that most of those who left are unlikely to return due to "chaos within state institutions" and continuing security concerns. <https://www.rt.com/news/624869-eu-ukrainians-return-home/>

America's allies may soon have to fend for themselves

Would the US sacrifice New York for Paris? From Europe to Asia, Washington's alliances are fraying

By Timofey Bordachev, Program Director of the Valdai Club

17 Sep, 2025 21:34



US President Donald Trump steps off Air Force One on September 7, 2025 at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. © Getty Images / Getty Images

Whether we like it or not, the history of international politics is a near-continuous chain of violence between states. Rarely has this violence been aimed at total conquest or permanent subjugation. More often it reflects a state's instinct for survival – the attempt to build a system where security does not depend solely on self-defense, but on recognition by others.

That logic is especially clear when outside protection begins to fade.

For decades, the United States has provided such protection, shaping a world in which some states survived not because of their own balance with neighbors, but because Washington made their survival a strategic interest. Today, however, America's reach is shrinking. Even its most privileged allies must consider unfamiliar ways of surviving in hostile regions. The results may be unpredictable, but the trend is inevitable – and it offers hope that regional balances will replace the distortions of the late 20th century.

The Middle East shows this most clearly. Israel, Washington's most intimate partner, demonstrates the limits of US protection. Despite having diplomatic relations with many neighbors, the Israeli government cannot resolve its core problems without recurring to force – strikes against Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Yemen, and even Qatar. Its intelligence apparatus, extensive as it is, functions more as an instrument of war than of diplomacy.

These operations may yield tactical gains and impress domestic audiences. But they do little to convince neighbors that coexistence is possible. Israel today appears more isolated than ever. That isolation drives it toward desperate measures: military actions along almost its entire frontier, in the hope that constant pressure will

eventually buy regional recognition.

Unlike Europe, Israel has long been shielded from existential risk. None of its neighbors possesses the nuclear arsenal that Russia holds over NATO, nor are they likely to do so soon. This is what has made the Middle East, from Washington's point of view, a relatively "easy" theater for projecting a global presence. Arab states and Iran, for all their hostility, have never achieved unity sufficient to threaten Israel's existence. The inability of the region to coalesce after the October 2023 terrorist attack, or following Israel's strike on Iran in June 2025, confirmed this peculiarity.

Europe presents the opposite case. Here, hostility toward Russia raises questions that cut to America's own survival. No serious strategist has ever believed the US would trade New York for Paris. NATO bases and deployments may reassure Western Europeans, but they do not alter this reality. In Asia, the problem is similar: Japan and South Korea remain heavily dependent on Washington, but the rise of China alters the balance. What was once a manageable Cold War front now risks a confrontation with a nuclear-armed peer. Small wonder Tokyo and Seoul openly debate nuclear options of their own.

Against that backdrop, Israel's uniqueness stands out. Its survival does not risk American destruction. For Washington, this makes it a safer bet than Europe or Asia. For Israel, it means dependence on US support is less precarious than for allies who could drag America into nuclear war.

Still, the cost is visible. Israel remains unable to achieve even the simplest foreign-policy goals without resorting to arms. Decades after the modern Middle East balance took shape, there is still no autonomous regional order. Arab states and Iran, despite occasional solidarity, prefer to maintain their own fragile equilibrium rather than unite against Israel. For them, war would be more destructive than enduring Israeli strikes.

For Israel, however, this creates a vicious circle. Unable to gain recognition by diplomacy, it turns again to force – not to conquer or destroy, but to compel others to accept it as an indispensable element in the regional balance. In practice, this makes Israel resemble less a conventional state than an armed organization dependent on external patronage.

This behavior is hardly unique. European history is filled with states that relied on violence to secure recognition in an anarchic order – Russia from the 16th to 18th centuries, Germany in the 19th. When law and institutions break down, military pressure becomes the only available language. Israel today is simply the latest example.

The United States thus faces an awkward truth. Its closest ally is locked in a cycle of permanent confrontation, unable to settle into a regional balance without the use of arms. Europe is more dangerous still, because any confrontation with Russia touches directly on America's own survival. Asia, with China's rise, is drifting toward the same category.

If Washington cannot impose order abroad, its allies must increasingly provide for themselves. That means more independent maneuvering, more local balancing, and – inevitably – more violence. For some, like Japan or South Korea, this may mean nuclear ambition. For Israel, it means the endless use of military pressure to compensate for diplomatic impotence.

The chain of violence in international politics will not end. But the distortions of the US-led order – where entire states survived only by grace of American interest – may. The Middle East, Europe, and Asia are all shifting toward harsher but more balanced systems.

For Israel, this means greater isolation, even as it clings tighter to US patronage. For Europe, it means the exposure of NATO's guarantees as paper-thin. For Asia, it means the emergence of nuclear independence among Washington's allies.

In every case, the choice for the United States grows more difficult. Its allies are no longer safe wards, but dangerous burdens. And as they adjust to survival on their own terms, the distorted picture of the past half-century may finally give way to a world of genuine balances – violent, unstable, but less dependent on illusions.

<https://www.rt.com/news/624842-americas-allies-fend-for-themselves/>

In a prison hellhole: Prosecutors unwittingly admit Tina Peters is innocent

By [Alicia Powe](#)

[September 18, 2025](#)



President Donald Trump and Tina Peters

In the shadow of a weaponized deep state that devours its own patriots like so many discarded ballot stubs, Tina Peters – grandmother, Gold Star mom and election watchdog – languishes in a Colorado prison hellhole, her iron bars a monument to the radical left's unquenchable thirst for vengeance.

Rather than justice, most see it as the result of a Stalinist show trial, scripted by election-denying Democrats who fear the sunlight she dared to shine on their rigged machines.

And now, from the bully pulpit of the White House, President Donald J. Trump has roared his defiance of the corrupt system, branding Peters a "brave and innocent Patriot" tortured by "Crooked Colorado politicians" and demanding her chains be shattered immediately.

Trump, the unbowed warrior who survived impeachments, indictments and an assassin's bullet, sees in Peters the mirror of his own crusade: a lone truth-teller crushed under the boot of a fraudulent regime that stole 2020 and now silences anyone who exposes the crime.

Thus it is that, in a chilling tale of justice gone awry, a small-town election official currently sits behind bars, her life upended by a system that seems determined to silence her.

Tina Peters, once the trusted Mesa County clerk, now faces a staggering nine-year prison sentence, convicted of crimes her own prosecutors essentially admit she didn't commit.

Her "crime"? Daring to protect election records in the wake of the contentious 2020 presidential election, a fight that has left her career and life in tatters, her freedom stolen and her name smeared by a corporate press eager to paint her as a villain.

Yet, buried within the prosecution's own words lies a stunning admission: Tina Peters may be innocent, a patriot punished simply for upholding the law.

As her appeal fights its way through a Colorado court, the real question is whether truth will prevail, or will a rigged system keep her caged?

Tina Peters' appeal challenges conviction, alleges prosecutorial contradictions

Peters is appealing her October 2024 conviction on seven charges, including three felonies for "attempting to influence a public servant," "conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation" and "first-degree official misconduct."

Her appeal, filed May 30 in the Colorado Court of Appeals, argues that the district court erred in denying her immunity under the Supremacy and Privileges or Immunities Clauses, claiming her actions were lawful efforts to preserve federal election records. Peters' attorneys assert the evidence was insufficient to support her convictions, that she was denied due process and that her nine-year sentence for alleged nonviolent crimes violates her First, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

The appeal highlights prosecutorial statements that appear to undermine their own case, suggesting Peters had the authority to act as she did and lacked the intent required for the criminal charges.

Prosecutors' statements undermine their case

Peters' appeal brief cites trial testimony that appears to exonerate her. David Underwood, a prosecution witness, testified that Peters, as the county's chief election official, had the sole authority to decide who could access the voting system for a software upgrade known as the "Trusted Build."

When asked if Peters made the decision to allow an observer, Underwood confirmed, "Yeah – she made the request. ... She made the decision, correct? Not you." (Trial Transcript, 8/5/24, 92:22-25).

Similarly, Danny Casias, another witness, could not identify any decision he was influenced to make due to alleged deceit by Peters (Trial Transcript, 8/5/24, 167:24-168:4).

Regarding Jessi Romero, a third witness, evidence showed Peters was not involved in communications that could have influenced Romero's decisions (Exhibit 18, R. p. 26).

These statements, Peters' attorneys argue, prove she acted within her authority and lacked the intent to deceive, a critical element of the felony charges.

Alleged voter fraud in Mesa County

Peters' actions stemmed from concerns about voter fraud in Mesa County following the 2020

election. Her appeal notes that forensic reports revealed "shocking vulnerabilities and defects" in the county's voting systems, raising major questions about their reliability.

These findings prompted Peters to preserve election data, as federal law (52 U.S.C. §20701) mandates retaining election records for 22 months, and Colorado law (C.R.S. §1-1-110(3)) extends this to 25 months.

Reports of irregularities, such as unexplained vote-count discrepancies and potential software manipulations, fueled her investigation.

Peters sent letters to the county board of commissioners, district attorney and county attorney, warning that the voting systems were "fundamentally flawed, illegal and inherently unreliable," placing her office in legal jeopardy if data was destroyed.

Tina Peters' path to prison

Elected as Mesa County clerk in 2018, Peters served as the county's chief election official, responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state election laws.



Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold

In April 2021, Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold ordered all counties to install a software update for voting machines, which Peters learned would delete 2020 election data – a violation of federal law.

Here is her indictment:

When Mesa County's IT department declined to oversee the update due to lack of expertise, Peters engaged Conan Hayes, an IT consultant with a federal security clearance, to observe the "Trusted Build" and create forensic images of the election management system (EMS) hard drive.

On May 23, 2021, under Peters' supervision, Hayes made these backups, preserving data that would otherwise have been lost. The prosecution alleged that Peters misrepresented Hayes as her employee, Gerald Wood, to gain access to the update process, accusing her of sneaking him into the facility.

However, the indictment itself acknowledges that county clerks were instructed to "back up any election projects on your voting system to removable media before our arrival" (Indictment, March 8, 2022, p. 10, ¶ 4).

Peters' actions aligned with this directive, performed after hours to avoid system interference.

Despite this, she was indicted on March 8, 2022, and convicted after a trial in August 2024.

On Oct. 3, 2024, Judge Matthew D. Barrett sentenced her to nine years in prison, a term her attorneys call disproportionate for alleged nonviolent offenses.

The corporate press vs. Tina Peters' defense

The corporate press and Wikipedia have portrayed Peters as a conspiracy theorist linked to figures like Mike Lindell, alleging that she orchestrated a security breach to undermine election integrity.

Wikipedia's entry on Peters claims she "allowed unauthorized access" to voting systems, a narrative echoed by outlets like CNN and the New York Times.

In contrast, her appeal brief argues that she acted lawfully to fulfill her duty under federal law. Her attorneys emphasize that Peters first sought qualified government experts, only turning to Hayes when they declined.

The brief also refutes claims of a security breach, noting that prosecutors admitted in court that Peters' actions caused no actual harm, and that the data preservation was consistent with legal requirements.

What Peters did – explained simply

Tina Peters, as Mesa County's election official, was responsible for keeping election records safe. Federal law says she had to keep 2020 election data for 22 months. Thus, when she learned a software update would erase this data, she hired Conan Hayes, an IT expert, to watch the update and make a backup of the data.

She let him into her office to do this, which as the official in charge she was allowed to do. The prosecution said she lied about Hayes being her employee, yet their own witnesses admitted Peters had the power to decide who could be there.

Peters didn't trick anyone, and her actions followed the law to protect election records.

Prosecutors' admissions of Peters' innocence

The prosecution's case hinges on Peters allegedly deceiving officials to allow Hayes access, but their own evidence contradicts this.

The appeal brief highlights that Underwood, Casias and Romero – the subjects of the felony counts – either confirmed Peters' authority or failed to show that she influenced their decisions through deceit.

The indictment's own acknowledgment that clerks were indeed advised to back up data further supports Peters' actions as lawful.

Her attorneys argue that the prosecution's failure to prove criminal intent, coupled with their own witnesses' testimony, amounts to an admission that Peters did not commit the crimes charged.

Trump's fiery stand for a fallen patriot

Enter President Trump, the indomitable force who has made liberating political prisoners like Peters a cornerstone of his second-term agenda, wielding the full might of the executive branch against the deep state's election-fraud enablers.

On Aug. 21, **Trump unleashed a blistering Truth Social missive that cut through the fog of leftist rhetoric like a red-hot branding iron: "FREE TINA PETERS, a brave and innocent Patriot who has been tortured by Crooked Colorado politicians, including the big Mail-In Ballot supporting the governor of the State. Let Tina Peters out of jail, RIGHT NOW. She did nothing wrong, except catching the Democrats cheat in the Election. She is an old woman, and very sick. If she is not released, I am going to take harsh measures!!!"**

This **wasn't mere rhetoric from the man who exposed the 2020 "steal" and reclaimed the White House. It's a battle cry, echoing his earlier May directive to the Department of Justice to "take all necessary action" to spring Peters from what he called a "Communist persecution" dungeon.**

Here are her appeals:

With **Peters having just turned 70 this month and her open letter to Trump pleading for deliverance as a Gold Star mom stripped of her dignity, the president's vow signals the storm to come: Federal habeas challenges, DOJ interventions and perhaps even the thunder of executive clemency if Colorado's corrupt overlords** – led by the sneering Jena Griswold – refuse to yield.

Trump, who knows the sting of lawfare all too well, isn't just amplifying Peters' cry; he's weaponizing it, turning her plight into a rallying fire for every American weary of the two-tiered justice system where election truthers rot while the real crooks walk free.

As the Colorado sun sets over Mesa County, Tina Peters sits in a cell, her fate hanging in the balance.

A woman who courageously stood for transparency – but branded a criminal by a corrupt system.

While prosecutors' own words betray their case, and Trump's unyielding voice shakes the prison gates, the question remains: Will the courts now see through the fog of accusations?

Or will Peters, like so many patriots before her, pay a terrible price for daring to challenge a broken system?

The appeal moves forward, but time is running out.

For Tina Peters, it's not just about her freedom. It's about the truth, and whether that still matters in America today.

<https://www.wnd.com/2025/09/prison-hellhole-prosecutors-unwittingly-admit-tina-peters-is/> **Once again the Demon-rats are at it. Hopefully she will be exonerated and the crooked state of Colorado people will have to pay big. rdb**

OP ED

UK Gets a Muslim Terrorist Counterterrorism Minister

Wed, 17 Sep 2025 7:11 AM PST by Daniel Greenfield



"For over two centuries, the Home Secretary has safeguarded the nation. Today, we begin a new chapter as we welcome Shabana Mahmood to the Home Office as the new Home Secretary," the British government announced.

It is indeed a new chapter for the Pakistani Muslim politician, who took her oath of office on a Koran and who has now become the highest ranking Muslim in the British government.

And a new chapter for Islamic colonialism as seeing the white flag, 1,000 Muslim invaders crossed the Channel and invaded England on

Mahmood's first day at work.

But it's also a new chapter for the people of England as a Pakistani Muslim woman who has made no secret of her hatred and contempt for them will now be empowered to persecute them using not only her control over immigration to displace them, but also her new arsenal of 'public safety', 'national security' and 'law enforcement' power to escalate her targeting of them.

What sort of chapter it is can be understood from Mahmood's past declaration [that](#) "the people you see holding the English flag most of the time down my neck of the woods will be the EDL and they are white and they are male and they're bad people."

The Home Secretary is responsible for law enforcement. These "white men" will be the ones she comes after. Mahmood had previously proposed banning offenders from 'pubs' instead of arresting them. This new twist on the Starmer regime's infamous two-tier policing would punish Englishmen while giving Muslims a pass. And implement Islamic Sharia law in the bargain.

Mahmood had urged adopting the definition of Islamophobia manufactured by the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims. That definition would ban anyone from mentioning that Mohammed, [the prophet of Islam](#), was a pedophile, referencing "Muslims spreading Islam by the sword or subjugating minority groups under their rule" and claimed that discussing the "issue of 'grooming gangs' which was a dangerous "trope" that increased the "vulnerability of Muslims to hate crimes".

After a [Muslim terrorist murdered](#) three little girls, Mahmood, in her role as 'Justice Secretary' cheered as 500 prison cells described as "inhumane" were prepared for protesters against Islamic colonization and terrorism. Criminals were released to make room for those who had spoken out against the horrifying Islamic atrocity against English children.

Mahmood then visited a mosque and bragged of sending protesters against the Muslim murder of children to prison for years "within a week" and of show trials "broadcast" live and of "working through day and night" to find prison cells for political opponents.

While Shabana Mahmood deemed English people terrorists, actual Muslim terrorists were another matter entirely.

Mahmood had previously taken part in a Muslim Council of Britain event against 'Islamophobia'. The Islamist organization had opposed a ban on Al Qaeda because it believed terrorism was a way for some people to "claim their rights", its founder had mused that "death is perhaps too easy" for Salman Rushdie and the MCB's secretary general had signed a declaration demanding that all Muslims provide money to Hamas and called for war against all countries supporting Israel.

Now that Shabana Mahmood will preside over counterterrorism, an ally of the organization that labored for Al Qaeda and Hamas, what happens to the national security of the UK?

And can the United States trust any counterterrorism that falls into her hands?

Mahmood is taking part in her first 'Five Eyes' meeting, making it abundantly clear that global counterterrorism has been hopelessly compromised and lives will likely be lost because of it. And counterterrorism in the UK will be further twisted to enable Islamic terrorism and punish all those who oppose it.

In her first remarks, Mahmood, a Pakistani Muslim, visited Mark Rowley: the head of London's Met Police which had [arrested a man](#) for criticizing Hamas, threatened a Jewish man near a terrorist rally that he would be arrested for being "visibly Jewish" (a policy Rowley subsequently defended) and arrested those correctly naming a Muslim terrorist as such while giving numerous Muslim terrorist supporters a pass.

"Supporting Palestine and supporting a proscribed terrorist group are not the same thing," Shabana Mahmood tweeted after her meeting, making the laundering of support for Hamas into the takeaway of her initial meeting with the police commissioner.

A decade ago, Mahmood had appeared at an anti-Israel rally at which one of the speakers had declared, "It is Israel that are the terrorists here, not Hamas. It's not a sin to fight for your freedom."

The Pakistani Muslim politician had a history of attending anti-Israel and pro-terrorist rallies including a rally outside a Sainsbury supermarket protesting its sale of Israeli products and could be seen holding a "Free Palestine" sign calling for the destruction of Israel.

Now she has secured one of the most powerful positions in the UK and Europe.

"Islam, my own religion, like a lot of practicing Muslims my faith is the most important thing in my life. It is the absolute driver of everything that I do," Shabana Mahmood once admitted.

Now Mahmood's religion is also the "absolute driver" of the British government.

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

Insanity is epidemic in the EU and UK. They have all lost their cookies. - rdb



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