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Hamas claims to locate remains of three Gaza hostages, Israel readies to receive them - report

Israeli officials are currently preparing to receive the remains this evening. By [AMICHAEL STEIN, JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) NOVEMBER 2, 2025 13:52 Updated: NOVEMBER 2, 2025 14:13



Palestinians seen carrying out Hamas-controlled excavations in search for remains of slain hostages in the Gaza Strip, October 27, 2025 (photo credit: TPS-IL)

Hamas has located the remains of three deceased Gaza hostages, sources within the terrorist organization reportedly told Al Arabiya on Sunday.

Israeli officials are currently preparing to receive the remains this evening.

On Friday, Hamas returned the partial

remains of three people, though testing at the L. Greenberg Institute of Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir revealed that the remains did not belong to any of the remaining hostages in Gaza.

The Red Cross handed over the remains to IDF troops overnight, but Hamas had not specified whose remains it was handing over.



Hamas said in a statement on Saturday that it had initially offered three samples from unidentified bodies to Israeli authorities for testing.

Red Cross officials undertake excavations in search for remains of slain hostages in the Gaza Strip, October 27, 2025 (credit: TPS-IL)

Remains of two Gaza hostages returned on Thursday

On Thursday, the remains of [Amiram Cooper and Sahar Baruch](#) were returned after being held in Gaza for over two years.

"We are determined to return all of our fallen hostages... We will not rest until we bring them all home," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated on Thursday at an IDF combat

officer graduation ceremony. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-872438>

Remains of three Gaza hostages cross into Israeli territory, en route to forensic medicine center

Hamas said earlier it would return the remains of three Gaza hostages at 8 p.m. Sunday. The actual handover to the Red Cross happened around 9 p.m.

By [AMICHAEL STEIN, JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) NOVEMBER 2, 2025 13:52 Updated: NOVEMBER 2, 2025 21:41



An armed Hamas terrorist stands guard as a Red Cross vehicle arrives to receive from Hamas terrorists the remains of deceased hostages who had been held in Gaza since the deadly October 7, 2023 attack, in Gaza City, October 14, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/DAWOUD ABU ALKAS)

The remains of three slain hostages crossed into Israeli territory on Sunday evening at around 9:30 p.m.

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The remains are now en route to the L. Greenberg Institute of Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir for identification.

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IDF shoots drone smuggling weapons over western border, strikes terrorist crossing Gaza buffer zone

IDF observers noticed a foreign drone trying to cross one of Israel's western borders before shooting it down.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) NOVEMBER 2, 2025 14:52



The IDF shot down a drone smuggling eight handguns into Israel over a western border, November 2, 2025. (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

The IDF foiled a weapons smuggling attempt overnight "from the west," the military confirmed on Sunday morning.

IDF observers noticed a foreign drone trying to cross one of Israel's western borders before shooting it down. Later, it was discovered to have been carrying eight handguns.

Additionally, the IDF killed a terrorist who crossed the Yellow Line in the northern Gaza Strip on

Sunday, the military confirmed.

The terrorist was advancing towards soldiers stationed in the area when the IAF struck him.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-872426>

Hamas demands temporary immunity for terrorists in tunnels beyond Gaza's Yellow Line

Notably, this indicated that the IDF is aware that there are still terrorists in tunnels in certain parts of Gaza, which would be a violation of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas.

By [AMICHAEL STEIN](#), [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) NOVEMBER 2, 2025 16:53 Updated: NOVEMBER 2, 2025 20:23



Al-Quds Brigades fighter in Gaza's Beit Hanun, pre-Oct. 7. (photo credit: FLASH90)

Hamas has demanded, through mediators on Sunday, temporary immunity for terrorists stationed in underground

tunnels in Rafah to move to areas within the Yellow Line, a source familiar with the details told The Jerusalem Post.

Israel is operating in the Rafah area where Hamas terrorists are underground.

"For several months, the IDF has been surrounding and pursuing Hamas terrorists hiding in the 'enclave' in the Rafah area, terrorists who killed three of our brave soldiers just in the past few days," Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich said, arguing that if the military allows them to leave safely before it has a chance to kill them, it is "security and moral stupidity."

"These terrorists deserve death," he argued.

Notably, this indicated that the IDF is aware that there are still terrorists in tunnels in certain parts of Gaza, which would be a violation of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas.



The 188th Armored Brigade operates in Gaza's Khan Yunis.

(credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON UNIT)

Israeli media reported that Hamas is seeking immunity for around 200 terrorists. Israeli officials did not comment on the matter at the time of publication.

Army Radio reported that the group of three terrorists killed [IDF soldiers](#) in the past few weeks, and have also fired at IDF forces operating in Gaza.

Army Radio reached out to the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense Ministry for comment. At press time, neither has made a statement.

The Yellow Line is the line in Gaza that IDF troops have withdrawn to. Al Jazeera reported on Sunday that

Hamas and Israel are engaged in direct talks.

Mediators are considering carrying out operations in Gaza to take the terrorists beyond the Green Line, Al Jazeera added.

The report stated that the terrorists would be taken out of the tunnels beyond the Yellow Line with Red Cross vehicles. The plan is allegedly waiting for Israeli approval.

Last month, the IDF considered further encroaching into areas in the Gaza Strip it had previously withdrawn from and seizing further territory in response to Hamas's violations of the ceasefire.

IDF strikes terrorist beyond Yellow Line

This comes after a Palestinian terrorist crossed the Yellow Line in the Gaza Strip and threatened IDF troops in the area, the military stated on Sunday.

The Israel Air Force struck and killed the terrorist after the incursion, the IDF added.

This comes after the IDF began [marking the Yellow Line](#) with markers throughout the Gaza Strip.

The withdrawal to this boundary was done in accordance with the US-brokered Gaza ceasefire agreement.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-872462>

US looks to build 'new Gaza' on half of Strip under IDF control, but faces pushback

Plan to build half a dozen residential regions on eastern side of Yellow Line for up to 1 million people receives chilly reception from some potential donor countries in the Gulf



By [Jacob Magid](#)

Today, 2:52 am Updated at 6:02 pm

Palestinians watch machinery and some workers from Egypt searching for the bodies of hostages at Hamad City, in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip, October 26, 2025. (AP/Jehad Alshrafi)

One of the main proposals for rebuilding the Gaza Strip that US President Donald Trump's administration has presented to potential Gulf donor countries envisions the construction of roughly half a dozen residential regions on the eastern half of the Strip, which is currently under Israeli control, two Arab diplomats familiar with the

matter told The Times of Israel.

The **diplomats said that “new Gaza” is the term frequently used by US officials to describe the project that will take place on the eastern side of the Yellow Line — the newly created boundary to which the IDF withdrew on October 10 at the start of the Gaza ceasefire** agreement between Israel and Hamas.

The **partial withdrawal left Israel in control of roughly 53 percent of Gaza**, but Trump’s plan for ending the war envisions the IDF gradually withdrawing to the other side of the Gaza border and leaving the Strip altogether.

However, **that withdrawal is linked to the success of a still-to-be-established International Stabilization Force (ISF) tasked with securing postwar Gaza**, along with the disarmament of the Hamas terror group, which has shown no interest in giving up its weapons.

With **those two conditions for continued Israeli withdrawal so difficult to meet, the US is not waiting to begin the reconstruction process, and Trump’s top adviser Jared Kushner has indicated that Washington wants to start with the Israeli side of the Yellow Line** and with the southern city of [Rafah](#) in particular.

The **US proposal envisions as many as one million Palestinians — around half of Gaza’s population — moving to the residential areas on the Israel-held side of the Yellow Line**. These areas will be built within two years, even if IDF forces don’t withdraw by then, said the two diplomats briefed on the plan, adding that they found the benchmark highly unrealistic.



Israeli soldiers operating in Gaza in an undated handout photo issued on October 24, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

“Palestinians may not want to live under the rule of Hamas, but the idea that they’ll be willing to move to live under Israeli occupation and be under control of the party they also see as responsible for killing 70,000 of their brethren is fantastical,” one of the Arab diplomats said, apparently rounding up the death toll from the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry, which doesn’t differentiate between civilians and combatants.

While the White House did not respond to requests for comment, a US official rejected the notion that the Trump administration has decided on any particular plan for the postwar management of Gaza, insisting that the effort is still in its early stages and that lots of ideas are being discussed.



One of those ideas, which was crafted at the Kiryat Gat-based, US-led Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC), **envisioned the creation of a “humanitarian belt” along the Yellow Line in which roughly 16 distribution hubs would be established, similar to those run by the now-dormant Gaza Humanitarian Foundation**, according to two sources familiar with the matter

But the **plan faced pushback from humanitarian agencies and international organizations** working out of the CMCC and accordingly did not get off the ground, the two sources

said.

Which side of the Yellow Line are they on?

Meanwhile, the US wants the ISF to deploy in the near future on the other side of the Yellow Line — the area that is currently under de facto Hamas control — the diplomats said, noting that the idea has faced pushback from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which Washington hopes will be among the lead bankrollers of the project.

While **Trump claims that countries are itching to join the effort to disarm Hamas, both Arab diplomats insisted that that is far from the case. More Trump delusional thinking.** rdb

US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff speaks to the media as US Vice President JD Vance and Jared Kushner stand next to him, in Kiryat Gat, Oct. 21, 2025. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

Countries like Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Egypt may have offered to contribute troops to the ISF, but not without a clear UN mandate or some sort of agreement with Hamas through which

the terror group decommissions at least some of its weapons, the two Arab diplomats said.

The second Arab diplomat said that the US would have an easier time convincing countries to join the ISF if troops were deployed first on the eastern side of the Yellow Line, in place of the IDF, in parallel with a negotiated agreement for Hamas to disarm.

Both **diplomats said it was unclear whether Kushner and the other US officials in charge of the Gaza file are listening to the pushback that they've been receiving from some of their Gulf allies.**

The second diplomat added that Arab countries are also trying to straddle a fine line, as they try to push back on key elements of the US plan for postwar Gaza without upsetting Trump, whose support they want to maintain on a variety of issues.

The diplomat added that the US officials briefing them on Washington's Gaza rebuilding efforts had said Washington is hoping to put forward a UN Security Council resolution to establish the ISF later this month, possibly before Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's November 18 visit to the White House, which has been circled as a key date for the Gaza rebuilding effort.

Drafts of the US-sponsored resolution have already started cycling among the UN missions of various stakeholder countries in New York, one of the Arab diplomats said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-looks-to-build-new-gaza-on-half-of-strip-under-idf-control-but-faces-pushback/>

Jordan, Germany say Gaza's International Stabilization Force will need UN mandate **Safadi says it would be only way for force to be effective; Wadephul says would 'need a clear basis in international law'**

By [AFP](#) and [Tol Staff](#) 1 November 2025, 1:27 pm



Masked Hamas gunmen take positions in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, ahead of handing over Israeli hostages to the Red Cross, Oct. 13, 2025. (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)

Jordan and Germany said on Saturday that the International Stabilization Force expected to deploy in Gaza under US President Donald Trump's postwar governance plan should have a UN mandate.

Under the Trump administration's plan, a coalition of mainly Arab and Muslim nations is expected to deploy troops in the Palestinian territory, which has been devastated by the war that broke out on October 7, 2023,

with Hamas's brutal attack on Israel.

The International Stabilization Force is supposed to train and support vetted Palestinian police in the Strip, with backing from Egypt and Jordan, as well as to secure border areas and prevent weapons smuggling to terror groups. The force is described in Trump's plan as "the long-term internal security solution" for Gaza.



Photo/Markus Schreiber

"We all agree that in order for that stabilization force to be able to be effective in getting the job done, it has to have a Security Council mandate," Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said.

Jordan, however, will not be sending its own forces to the Strip.

"We're too close to the issue and we cannot deploy troops in Gaza," Safadi said, adding his country was nonetheless ready to cooperate with the international force.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi briefs the media in Berlin, April 16, 2024. (AP

It remains unclear where funding for the force will come from and which countries will send troops — so far only Indonesia and Turkey have said they would be willing, but Israel has said it will not allow Turkish forces in Gaza.

Safadi was speaking at the IISS Manama Dialogue conference in Bahrain alongside his German counterpart Johann Wadephul, who also supported a UN mandate for the force, saying it would "need a clear basis in international law."

"We understand that this is of utmost importance to those countries who might be willing to send troops to



Gaza and for the Palestinians. Germany would also want to see a clear mandate for this mission,” Wadephul said.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul holds a press conference in Berlin, Germany, on September 10, 2025. (Odd ANDERSEN / AFP)

The **idea of the stabilization force has drawn some criticism**, with UN experts last month warning it would “replace Israeli occupation with a US-led occupation, contrary to Palestinian self-determination.”

The UN has mandated international peacekeeping forces in the region for decades, including UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, which is currently working with the Lebanese army to enforce a November 2024 ceasefire between the Hezbollah terror group and Israel. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordan-germany-say-gazas-international-stabilization-force-will-need-un-mandate/>

PM: Palestinian prisoner abuse video leak ‘most serious PR attack’ against Israel to date AG Baharav-Miara rejects Levin’s ‘unlawful’ effort to bar her from investigating incident; indicted soldiers say leak of video footage means they cannot get a fair trial

By Jeremy Sharon, Lazar Berman and Tol Staff Today, 5:49 pm



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during a cabinet meeting on November 2, 2025. (Screenshot/GPO)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared on Sunday that the leak of a video allegedly showing the abuse of a Palestinian prisoner by IDF soldiers at the Sde Teiman detention facility was the “most serious public-relations attack” against Israel to date.

As the scandal continued to rock the IDF and Israel, Justice Minister Yariv Levin and Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara sparred Sunday over whether the latter has the authority to

investigate the incident, while several of the suspected soldiers asserted that their names should be cleared.

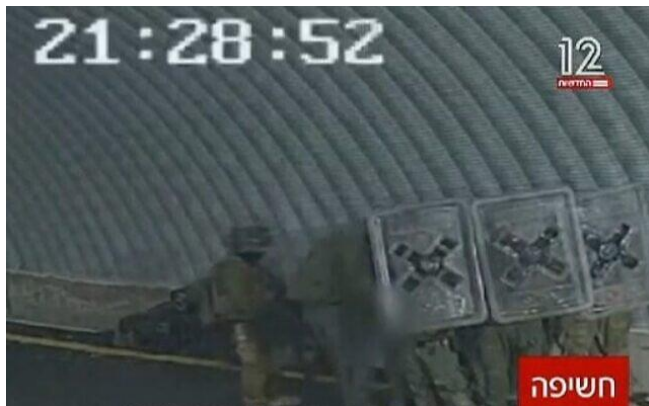
The August 2024 leak “caused enormous reputational damage to Israel, to the IDF, and to our soldiers,” the premier said at the start of the cabinet meeting, as he called for an “impartial inquiry.”

“It is perhaps the most serious public relations attack Israel has experienced since its founding — I cannot recall one so concentrated and intense,” Netanyahu said. “This requires an independent and impartial inquiry, and I expect that such an investigation will indeed take place.”

On Friday, military advocate general Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi admitted to approving the leak of the video and resigned from her position.

The leak followed the arrest of 10 IDF reservists suspected of involvement in the abuse, which triggered riots by right-wing activists and demonstrators — including serving coalition ministers and MKs — at the base and at the military court where the suspects were taken.

Five soldiers were indicted in February for abusing the Palestinian security prisoner after he was brought to the detention facility in July 2024. The assault left him with severe injuries, including broken ribs and a tear in his rectum.



This leaked video broadcast by Channel 12 news on August 6, 2024, purports to show troops abusing a Palestinian detainee at the Sde Teiman detention facility in southern Israel on July 5, 2024. (Screenshot: Channel 12)

Multiple right-wing ministers and MKs have claimed the leak of the footage from security cameras at the Sde Teiman base constituted a blood libel against falsely accused soldiers, despite the indictments.

AG, Levin clash on probe authority

Gali Baharav-Miara on Sunday rejected Justice Minister Yariv Levin’s declaration that she was legally barred from overseeing the investigation into the leak

by the IDF Military Advocate General’s office, in the latest clash between the two top legal officials.

In a statement, Baharav-Miara said the justice minister had no authority to make such a determination.



Justice Minister Yariv Levin (left) and Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, in a composite image. (Flash90)

Baharav-Miara further maintained that Levin was not authorized to appoint another official to oversee the investigation, which he said he would do, nor to block officials in the Attorney General's Office from handling the case.

His attempt to do so, she said, "lacks any basis, factual or legal" and his letter "constitutes an effort to unlawfully interfere with investigative and enforcement processes."

She said the investigation would continue under the leadership of the state's top law enforcement officials, including herself, State Attorney Amit Aisman, and the head of the Israel Police's Investigations and Intelligence Division.



Military Advocate General Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi at a farewell ceremony for retiring acting Supreme Court President Uzi Vogelman, at the Supreme Court in Jerusalem on October 1, 2024. (Oren Ben Hakoon/Pool)

Levin responded Sunday by saying that he "totally rejects" Baharav-Miara's claim that he has no authority to exclude her.

Writing to Deputy Attorney General Gil Limon, who authored the letter to Levin on behalf of the attorney general, the justice minister said the public "no longer accepts your custom of having one law for yourselves and another law for everyone else."

It appeared likely that government watchdog groups would file petitions to the High Court of Justice asking it to rule on whether Levin can sideline Baharav-Miara.

In a sharply worded letter to Baharav-Miara on Saturday night, Levin implicitly accused the attorney general and her staff of attempting to obstruct the investigation into the source of the leak. He argued that Baharav-Miara was therefore legally disqualified from involvement in the case under the 1959 Law for the Civil Service.

Levin further **accused the attorney general of acting in lockstep with Tomer-Yerushalmi and implied she had long known of the leak, though he provided no evidence for the claim.** The justice minister has refused to refer to Baharav-Miara as the attorney general since **the government formally fired her in August**, despite the High Court's order freezing her dismissal.



Far-right activists protest against the detention of Israeli reserve soldiers suspected of abusing a Hamas terror suspect, at the Sde Teiman military base near Beersheba, July 29, 2024. (Dudu Greenspan/Flash90)

Indicted soldiers demand fair trial

One of the five soldiers who was charged with abusing the Palestinian detainee in the video accused the military justice system on Sunday of carrying out an unfair "drumhead court martial" against himself and his fellow defendants, while speaking to journalists at a press conference outside the Supreme Court.

Also appearing at the press conference organized by the Honenu right-wing legal aid organization, attorney Moshe Polsky, who represents two of the defendants, claimed that the **suspects cannot have a fair trial due to the leak by Tomer-Yerushalmi, saying "the wheel cannot be turned back" and that the indictment process was tainted.**

Reserve soldiers indicted for abusing a Palestinian security detainee at the Sde Teiman military detention center speak to the media outside the Supreme Court in Jerusalem on November 2, 2025 (Jeremy Sharon/ Times of Israel)



Speaking to reporters, one of the defendants — all of whom appeared at the press conference wearing ski masks to avoid identification — said that “on October 7, we left unquestioningly our families, children, parents. **We knew we had to defend the country. Since that day, dozens of fighters are still fighting for justice not on the battlefield but in courtrooms.**”

The suspect added: “Dozens of fighters who need the backing of the country and the system, because they defended our home, and we are here only in their merit.”

Also appearing at the press conference, the wife of one of the defendants said that the country “spat in the face” of her husband by putting him on trial and “broke my heart,” saying her husband had “collapsed from the inside, not on the battlefield but because of the country.”

Though the legal aid group [asserted last week](https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-palestinian-prisoner-abuse-video-leak-most-serious-pr-attack-against-israel-to-date/) that all the charges against their clients should be dropped, Honenu has yet to file an official request for the indictments to be annulled.

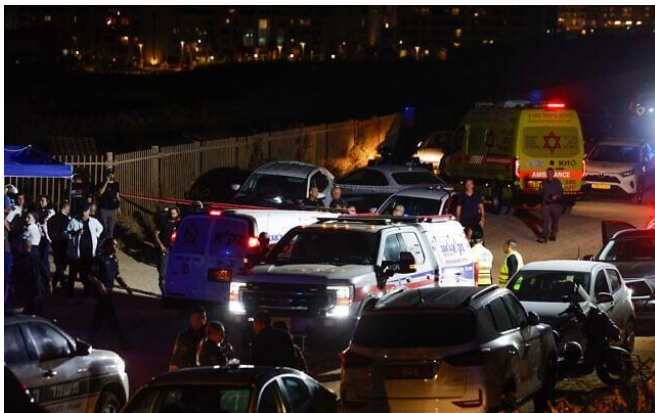
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-palestinian-prisoner-abuse-video-leak-most-serious-pr-attack-against-israel-to-date/>

Ex-IDF legal chief Tomer-Yerushalmi found alive after frantic beachside search

Former military advocate general, who resigned over Sde Teiman abuse video scandal, had been unreachable for hours and her car was found near beach, sparking concern

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Charlie Summers](#)

Today, 9:02 pm



Rescue and police forces search for ex-military advocate general Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi at Hof Hatzuk Beach in Tel Aviv, November 2, 2025. (Tal Gal/ Flash90)

Ex-military advocate general Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, who resigned from the Israel Defense Forces over a scandal, went missing on Sunday for several hours before being located alive and well, authorities said.

Hebrew media outlets in Israel ignited a firestorm that lasted less than an hour on Sunday evening, when they reported that authorities were diving into the sea and searching on land to find the

IDF's former top lawyer, after her family was said to have reported her missing.

A large search involving police, rescue forces, and the military was carried out after she was said to be unreachable for several hours, and her car was later found at Hatzuk Beach near Tel Aviv.

Hebrew media outlets also reported that she had left a letter at home, which they had characterized as a suicide note, without divulging its contents.

After some two hours of searches, Tomer-Yerushalmi made contact with her husband and was located alive and well along a beach in nearby Herzliya, according to the police.

Tel Aviv District police commander Haim Sargarof said the **ex-IDF official was taken for a health checkup and will then arrive at a police station in the city for questioning.**

Addressing press gathered on the beach, Sargarof said law enforcement sprang into action after receiving a report that she had gone missing. Police arrived at the Hatzuk Beach near Tel Aviv and began searches “with boosted forces,” said Sargarof. “Of course, we used all means at our disposal, including in the sea and on land, as well as technological means.”



Chief Military Advocate Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi at the Supreme Court in Jerusalem on October 1, 2024. (Oren Ben Hakoon/Flash 90)

In an appeal to the public for calm on Sunday evening, President Isaac Herzog implored people to “stop the accusations and mutual attacks!” in a Hebrew-language post on X.

“Alongside the sense of relief, the past hours compel us to draw immediate lessons,” he added. “As a society and as a nation, **we will still need to investigate and learn much about the past few days and this deeply troubling affair, with all the implications that follow.**”

The president said that “words that spiral out of control ignite a dangerous fire — and endanger lives. It is now essential to lower the flames, to show humanity and sensitivity.”

Tomer-Yerushalmi is set to be questioned under caution as part of a criminal investigation into the leak. She resigned on Friday after admitting that she had leaked a video to the media that purportedly showed soldiers severely abusing a Palestinian security detainee at the Sde Teiman military detention facility last year.

A protest by IDF reservists that had been scheduled outside her home for Sunday evening was subsequently canceled.

Tomer-Yerushalmi had been on leave from the IDF since a criminal investigation was launched by police last week into the leaking of the surveillance video. On Friday, she presented Zamir with a

[resignation letter](#), acknowledging that she had approved the leaking of the abuse video.

Rescue and police forces search for ex-military advocate general Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi at Hof Hatzuk Beach in Tel Aviv, November 2, 2025. (Tal Gal/Flash90)

The leaked footage showed soldiers at Sde Teiman taking aside one of the detainees, who had been lying face down on the floor, then surrounding him with riot shields to block visibility while they allegedly committed the abuse. The detainee was subsequently taken away for treatment for severe injuries.

Earlier this year, military prosecutors filed an [indictment](#) against five reserve soldiers for the abuse. According to the indictment, the five soldiers severely

beat and assaulted the prisoner after he was brought to the detention facility on July 5, 2024, leaving him with severe injuries, including broken ribs and an internal tear in his rectum.

The high-profile investigation into the abuse caused outrage among coalition politicians, government ministers, and right-wing activists. When the reservists were detained on July 29, 2024, dozens broke into the detention facility and another army base in an attempt to thwart the arrests.

Meanwhile, police were reportedly investigating prominent anti-government activist Shikma Bressler, after she made a post prematurely blaming police for Tomer-Yerushalmi's death — deleting it after she was located alive.



Protest leader Shikma Bressler speaks to reporters during a protest against the judicial overhaul in Tel Aviv on July 18, 2023. (Jack Gueez/AFP)

Israel Police chief Danny Levy instructed law enforcement to investigate Bressler on suspicion of incitement and obstruction of an investigation, according to Hebrew media outlets, after she tweeted that “those who incited against Rabin gained power over the police,” as authorities searched for Tomer-Yerushalmi.

Bressler accused law enforcement of failing to protect soldiers or the state prosecutor's office when “an incited mob from within the Knesset and without broke into Sde Teiman and

Beit Lid,” referring to two military bases that were stormed by a right-wing mob protesting the Military Police's arrest of several soldiers suspected of abusing the inmate.

It was “under this abhorrent pressure that the military advocate general made a mistake,” Bressler continued, referring to the leak. She added that “there should be no doubt; the same ideology that brought about Rabin's murder also pushed the military advocate general to her death.”

After Tomer-Yerushalmi was found, Bressler deleted the tweet.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Israel Katz met Sunday with Zamir to discuss appointing a new military advocate general. Zamir presented Katz with several candidates for the role.

The Kan public broadcaster cited Katz's “inner circle” as saying that the next military advocate general must come from “outside the system,” meaning someone who did not serve in the Military Advocate General's office.

But according to the Military Justice Law — the legal framework for military jurisdiction in Israel — the military advocate general must be “a military attorney with at least seven years of legal



experience,” which removes the possibility of a civilian legal expert, or even a senior IDF officer who is not an attorney, serving in the role.

Defense Minister Israel Katz (left) and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir are seen at the Knesset, October 13, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

The military opened a detention facility at a base located in Sde Teiman in southern Israel, due to an influx of Palestinian detainees as the war in Gaza proceeded, to hold Gazans suspected of terror activities.

Various reports have alleged widespread misconduct and abuse at the site, including extreme use of physical restraints, beatings, neglect of medical problems, arbitrary punishments,

and more. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-idf-legal-chief-tomer-yerushalmi-found-alive-after-frantic-beachside-search/>

Netanyahu: Lebanon must ‘uphold its commitments’ to disarm Hezbollah

PM says Lebanese terror group is ‘trying to rearm and recuperate,’ as hundreds gather in south Lebanon for funeral of five operatives slain by IDF in recent strikes

By [Lazar Berman](#), [Tol Staff](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 6:33 pm



Hezbollah supporters gather around the coffins of five operatives killed in recent Israeli strikes during their funeral in southern Lebanese city of Nabatieh, November 2, 2025. (MAHMOUD ZAYYAT / AFP)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said Hezbollah was looking to rearm and that Israel would do whatever is necessary to prevent that from happening.

“Hezbollah is constantly taking hits, but it’s also trying to rearm and recuperate,” said Netanyahu at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting,

“We expect the Lebanese government to

uphold its commitments, namely, to disarm Hezbollah. But it’s clear that we’ll exercise our right to self-defense as stipulated in the ceasefire terms,” he said. “We won’t let Lebanon become a renewed front against us, and we’ll do what’s necessary.”

The IDF confirmed Sunday morning that it had killed four members of Hezbollah’s elite Radwan Force in an airstrike in southern Lebanon on Saturday night. A fifth Hezbollah officer was killed Friday.

Under the November 27 ceasefire deal, which followed over a year of hostilities, Hezbollah was required to vacate southern Lebanon and be replaced by the Lebanese military. Israel, which invaded Lebanon late September last year, was also required to withdraw, but regularly strikes what it says are Hezbollah targets breaching the ceasefire, and maintains a troop presence in five strategic locations.

On Sunday, Egypt stated its support for Beirut’s position, with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly saying in a joint press conference in Beirut with his Lebanese counterpart Nawaf Salam that “we reject any Israeli presence on Lebanese territory, and we support you in taking the necessary steps to stabilize the current situation in Lebanon.”



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at a cabinet meeting on November 2, 2025. (Screenshot/GPO)

Netanyahu’s comments came after Defense Minister Israel Katz accused Lebanese President Joseph Aoun of “dragging his feet” on the matter.

However, Lebanese army sources told Reuters last week they had blown up so many Hezbollah arms caches that they had run out of explosives and they expect to complete their sweep of the country’s south by the end of the year.

‘Israel has been our enemy for decades’

Meanwhile, hundreds of people gathered in Nabatieh in southern Lebanon for the funeral of five recently slain Hezbollah members.

Four of the slain operatives, who were killed by the IDF on Saturday, were members of the elite Radwan unit, and the fifth, who was killed on Friday, was a Hezbollah logistics officer working to reestablish Hezbollah's infrastructure in south Lebanon, according to the IDF.

The men's coffins were draped in Hezbollah's flag while mourners threw petals and chanted "death to Israel, death to America." Hezbollah members in military garb were present, swearing loyalty to Hassan Nasrallah, the group's leader who was killed by Israel in September 2024, and to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Some held pictures of relatives killed by Israel, according to an AFP correspondent.

"This is a price the south is paying on a daily basis," Rana Hamed, the mother of one of the five men killed, told AFP. "We know that Israel has been our enemy for decades."



Hezbollah members carry the coffins of comrades killed in recent Israeli attacks during their funeral in the southern city of Nabatieh on November 2, 2025. (MAHMOUD ZAYYAT / AFP)

The recent conflict between Israel and Hezbollah was sparked when the terror group began near-daily attacks on northern Israel on October 8, 2023 — a day after fellow Iran-backed terror group Hamas invaded southern Israel, sparking the Gaza war.

Hezbollah's attacks displaced some 60,000 residents of northern Israel. In a bid to ensure their return home, Israel in September last year escalated operations in Lebanon, decimating Hezbollah's leadership.

Once the dominant political party in Lebanon, Hezbollah was severely weakened by the war with Israel. While it has publicly committed to the ceasefire, Hezbollah insists that its disarmament as mentioned in the text of the agreement applies only to south Lebanon. The terror group has also hinted conflict is possible if the state moves against it.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-lebanon-must-uphold-its-commitments-to-disarm-hezbollah/>

Gov't proposal to expand rabbinate powers sparks alarm over 'conditional Jewishness'

A new Bill has been proposed to give the rabbinate new powers to investigate the 'Jewish status' of any Israeli citizen.



Chief rabbis of Jerusalem, Rabbi Shlomo Amar and Rabbi Arye Stern (photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM) By SARAH BEN-NUN NOVEMBER 2, 2025 16:35 Updated: NOVEMBER 2, 2025 16:45

A new bill proposal could see a dramatic depositing of power in the hands of the Rabbinate on matters of Jewish identity, marriage, and aliyah. With the political and national turmoil smacking the country this week, this law could've easily flown under the radar.

The bill, submitted by the Religious Services Ministry and the Rabbinical Courts, is an official government initiative and is expected to soon reach the Knesset for discussion and a first reading vote.

The three-pronged proposal rests on severing a legal divide that has been set in place in the State of Israel since its founding: That between civil and religious authorities. The *Jerusalem Post* queried the Religious Services Ministry on the matter.

The proposal would grant the Chief Rabbinate and its courts authority to initiate investigations into the Jewish status of any Israeli citizen, even if that person has not requested such a review.

ITIM - The Jewish Life Advocacy Center, explained that this **could create a new category of “conditional Jews.”**



Rabbi Kalman Ber attends the second round in the elections of for the new Chief Ashkenazi rabbi, at the Chief Rabbinate headquarters in Jerusalem, October 31, 2024. (credit: Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Under current practice, only individuals who wish to marry through the Rabbinate, or who voluntarily seek to clarify their Jewish status (birur yahadut), open such proceedings. The new measure would reverse that principle: Rabbis authorized to register marriages - more than a hundred across the country - or Rabbinical Court officials could trigger an inquiry on their own initiative.

Supporters of the bill say it would help clarify cases of uncertainty and ensure the halachic integrity of Jewish personal-status issues. Ohad Weigler, the public policy center manager at ITIM, warned that it could easily become a tool of harassment or revenge, enabling individuals to damage reputations or disrupt life events such as weddings.

Reforms might not resolve uncertainty

Jewish-status investigations are often complex and emotionally fraught. Proof, according to the Rabbinate’s stringent evidentiary standards, can be extremely difficult to provide, especially for descendants of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, whose family documentation was often lost or incomplete. Although the vast majority of cases already end positively - with fewer than 5% rejected - the process itself can be traumatic. Rabbi Seth Farber, who heads ITIM, said, “It opens the door to an inquisition.”

“It’s deeply painful for people who have considered themselves Jews all their lives to suddenly be told they must ‘prove’ it again,” said Weigler, arguing that the reform would institutionalize suspicion rather than resolve uncertainty. Many, after facing rejection or bureaucratic hardship, ultimately abandon the process or turn to civil marriage abroad.

Farber explained further, “We’ve already demonstrated, beyond a shadow of doubt, that the Department of Jewishness Investigations [in the Rabbinate] is corrupt and certainly not professional in the way they handle things.”

He continued, “We’ve **had tens of cases that we’ve appealed to the higher courts, and they’ve reprimanded the lower rabbinical courts for not doing their jobs when it comes to Jewish investigations.**” The higher rabbinical courts discovered that the lower regional courts “were just rubber-stamping the decisions of the impressions made upon the investigators.”

“They are not acting in the interest of [halacha](#),” Farber said.

A second element of the bill would restore to rabbinical judges the authority to summon “third parties” - relatives of someone under review - for their own hearings on Jewish status.

Until a 2021 High Court of Justice ruling curtailed the practice, judges often listed family members’ names and ID numbers in Jewish-status files, effectively placing them under suspicion as well. The Court found no legal basis for such measures, and the practice largely disappeared, though, ITIM noted, not completely. The new proposal would re-empower rabbinical courts to do so, arguing that it is necessary to “clarify the truth” and prevent intermarriage mistakes.

The **danger, ITIM explained, is that this violates the basic democratic principle that the state must not impose religious inquiries upon its citizens. “In a democracy, the burden of proof lies with the individual, not with the regime,”** Weigler warned, calling the measure an attempt to reverse judicial oversight and formalize what the High Court already ruled illegal.

Farber explained, “They actually believe that they’re doing something good for the Jewish people. They see their role as to weed out people whose Jewishness is questionable.”

But, this “doesn’t only undermine the very ethos of the state of Israel, it also undermines the ethos of halacha, because halacha, when it comes to personal status, is based on status quo [chazaka in Hebrew], the presumption that unless we prove otherwise, there’s no reason to start opening up Pandora’s boxes.”

He added, “If you go back enough generations, to the one above Abraham, at that point, no one’s Jewish. But we don’t do that, because that’s not the way Judaism works.”

Beyond marriage, decisions by the Rabbinate on Jewish identity reverberate across multiple government registries. Israel today effectively operates two parallel systems: a civil registry, where Jewish identity is defined by

the standards of the Population and Immigration Authority; and a halachic registry, governed by the Rabbinat, which controls marriage and divorce.

The third aspect of the proposal states that only positive determinations by the Rabbinat - cases where a person is confirmed Jewish - would be shared with civil authorities. A negative finding, it claims, would remain internal. But legal experts and advocacy groups warn that once such a halachic standard exists in law, it will inevitably influence the civil system as well.

“Itim sees the danger line being crossed,” Weigler said. “Even if the government promises not to apply negative rulings beyond the Rabbinat, in practice it will blur the boundary between religious and civil identity - eventually narrowing who is recognized as Jewish for the purposes of marriage, immigration, and even the Law of Return.”

The groups this would mostly affect are those that might have a harder time meeting the Rabbinat’s standards of Jewish status, while the conditions for aliyah itself, based on the Right of Return, are less strict, like descendants of immigrants from states in the former Soviet Union.

ITIM argued that the bill represents a broader attempt by the Rabbinat to consolidate control over all aspects of Jewish identity, with far-reaching implications for Diaspora Jewry and immigration to Israel. “It’s against the ethos of the state of Israel as a refuge for all Jews, but it’s also against the ethos of halacha itself,” said Farber.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-872453>

Iraq approaches critical Nov. 11 elections, set to deploy nearly 200,000 security personnel

The elections are important because Iraq is undergoing a transitional phase. By [SETH J. FRANTZMAN](#) NOVEMBER 2, 2025 18:52 Updated: NOVEMBER 2, 2025 20:56



Supporters of candidates from the Badr Organization hold signs during an election campaign rally ahead of Iraq's parliamentary elections in the city of Hilla, Iraq, November 1, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/ALAA AL-MARJANI)

Iraq is preparing for elections on November 11. The elections are important because Iraq is still transitioning from an era when it had to confront extremism in the form of ISIS to dealing with the fallout of Iran’s declining role in the region.

Iranian-backed militias play an important role in Iraq, and Shi’ite political parties aligned with the militias will dominate the electoral landscape. A total of 329 seats in parliament are being elected. Iraq also knows all too well that assassinations and bombings can be a threat during periods of political infighting. For that reason, a huge security presence is expected. Iraq is also inviting people to monitor the elections.

According to Al-Ain media, “The spokesman for the Interior Ministry, Major-General Miqdad Miri, announced during a press conference that the ministry has allocated more than 185,000 security personnel to secure polling centers throughout the governorates, including about 10,000 officers.”

'Strict security measures' to be taken for elections

Al-Ain based its information on a document from Iraq revealing a package of “strict security measures taken by the High Security Committee for Elections.” The article notes that Iraq is working to prevent internal and external threats.

“The document stipulates that election day be declared an official holiday in all governorates (except for the Kurdistan Region), while health, service, and security departments will remain operational. All military and security forces from the Defense and Interior Ministries, the Intelligence and National Security Services, and the Popular Mobilization Forces will enter a state of maximum alert (C), and leave will be suspended starting from November 7 until further notice.”



Supporters of candidates from the Badr Organization hold signs during an election campaign rally ahead of Iraq's parliamentary elections in the city of Hilla, Iraq, November 1, 2025. (credit: REUTERS/ALAA AL-MARJANI)

The plan also bans the movement of any vehicle over five tons, as well as motorcycles and some other forms of transport. There is also a ban on the use of drones without the approval of the Joint Operations Command. "All forms of demonstrations and public gatherings are also prohibited from the sixth of this month until further notice."

In addition, polling stations will be secured against mobile phone use of cameras and also weapons. Miri "confirmed during a press conference that early voting for security forces will take place on November 9, with the

participation of more than 1.3 million voters from the security and military services.

He indicated that the ministry will secure 600 polling stations for special voting and 7,000 for general voting, noting that "the security situation is stable and no violations have been recorded that could disrupt the electoral process," the Al-Ain report noted.

There are 329 seats up for grabs in parliament, and 7,750 people are running for them. In the Kurdistan autonomous region, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader Bafel Talabani "promised to secure a lasting settlement between Erbil and [Baghdad](#) if his party gains greater influence in federal politics, speaking at a campaign rally in Erbil on Saturday," Rudaw, a Kurdish channel, said.

Meanwhile, "President Masoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), on Saturday met with religious figures in the Duhok province, campaigning for the upcoming federal election with a focus on long-standing grievances over the Kurdistan Region's relationship with Baghdad."

Al-Hassan Qabas, a member of the Independent High Electoral Commission's (IHEC) media team, told Rudaw that "invitations have been extended to 90 external Arab and foreign entities, including embassies, consulates, and organizations interested in electoral affairs, with the aim of participating in monitoring the upcoming electoral process." <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-872484>

PA diocese condemns Catholic school float with Auschwitz 'Arbeit Macht Frei' gate replica

Videos of the parade show St. Joseph Catholic School's float with the 'Arbeit Macht Frei' replica gate on it.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) NOVEMBER 2, 2025
18:28 Updated: NOVEMBER 2, 2025 19:55



A screenshot from social media showing the replica of the Auschwitz gate used by the St. Joseph Catholic School. (photo credit: SCREENSHOT/X)

Pennsylvania's diocese of Harrisburg has condemned a Catholic school for using a replica of the Auschwitz gate on its Halloween float on Friday night.

Videos of the parade show St. Joseph Catholic School's float with the 'Arbeit Macht Frei' replica gate on it. The school is in the Diocese of Harrisburg. The Most Reverend

Timothy C. Senior, Bishop of Harrisburg, said he was "shocked and appalled" by the scene.

JPost Videos

Inclusion of the image 'profoundly offensive and unacceptable'

"The inclusion of this image, one that represents the horrific suffering and murder of millions of innocent people, including six million Jews during the Holocaust, is profoundly offensive and

unacceptable,” he said. “While **the original, approved design for this float did not contain this imagery, it does not change the fact that this highly recognizable symbol of hate was included.**” He apologized to the Jewish community on behalf of the diocese, and said that Catholics stand “firmly against all forms of antisemitism, hatred, and prejudice, which are rampant in our society.” He also lauded the Church’s relationship

with the Jewish community as one of deep respect, friendship, and shared faith in God. *showing the replica of the Auschwitz gate used by the St. Joseph Catholic School.*
(credit: SCREENSHOT/X)

“We will work with the school community to ensure that this incident becomes an opportunity for education and reflection, and review approval processes so that such a grievous incident is never repeated.”

The Diocese said it would be working with the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition and the Anti-Defamation League to provide information to the local school community on the horrific suffering endured by the Jewish people during the Holocaust, as well as antisemitism.

A man named Galen Shelly identified himself

on social media as the person who designed the float. He said he was “saddened to see the conversation drifting with such certainty so far off the point I had intended to make.”

He claimed he could not find any new or “used” cemetery entrances available in time and began making his own. He added that he was inspired by a church group trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, which “deeply moved” him and felt including it was “a positive spiritual message” about not forgetting the past.

He also explained that the use of the slogan ‘Arbeit Macht Frei’ was meant to be a metaphor for the false belief that “works” alone can save us. Shelly apologized to the school as well as the Metcalf Family Cleaning company, which was pulling the float, but which he assured had nothing to do with the design. Metcalf Cleaning apologized for the incident, saying that while it volunteered to pull the float, it was not involved in the creation of its decorations or messaging. “Regrettably, the float contained a phrase in German that was later found to be derogatory,” it said. “At the time, we were unaware of its meaning and significance. We recognize that we should have taken a closer look at the float prior to the parade, and we are truly sorry for that oversight.”

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-872482>

Maryland kosher pizzeria to furloughed federal workers: You can pay us back later
Ben Yehuda Pizza in Silver Spring is letting federal workers defer payments during the shutdown, inspiring others to donate meals in support.

ByGRACE GILSON/JTANOVEMBER 2, 2025 05:59



Ben Yehuda Pizza in Silver Spring, Maryland.(photo credit: Courtesy Ben Yehuda Pizza via JTA)

Earlier this month, Josh Katz noticed a dip in sales at his kosher restaurant, Ben Yehuda Pizza in Silver Spring, Maryland.

He knew the culprit, and it wasn’t antisemitism or an anti-Israel boycott. The federal government’s shutdown had left hundreds of thousands of federal employees across the country furloughed, and his regular customers were tightening their belts.

“People are being a little bit more vocal about their financial insecurities at the moment,” said Katz. “They’re just not sure when they’re going to be getting a paycheck.”

JPost Videos

In **Silver Spring alone, the headquarters of the Food and Drug Administration draws over 10,000 federal employees. In the greater Washington area, roughly 280,000 workers are employed by the federal government.** With all of those workers going multiple weeks without paychecks, Katz said he'd heard from members of his community who were feeling the financial strain.

So last week, he posted an offer on Facebook: "Order now, and pay us down the road when the paychecks come in." Soon, the first requests started rolling in.

"We're not giving anything away for free here, but I realized by just allowing people to defer payments, that could really help with their sense of normalcy," Katz said.

The post did not take a stance on the shutdown, which has hinged on a stalemate between Democratic and Republican senators over competing spending bills and does not appear to be near resolution. "We try to avoid politics at Ben Yehuda," it said. "We support the Pizza Party, but that's about as far as we go."

Pizza in a community with sizable Jewish population

Ben Yehuda Pizza is located in Kemp Mill, a neighborhood of Silver Spring with a sizable Orthodox Jewish population and multiple synagogues and Jewish community centers. Katz said that while the deal was open to all federal workers, most of his regular customers are Jewish.

He said the timing of the shutdown, which began on October 1 and coincided with the beginning of Yom Kippur, had further compounded the strain on local Jewish families he serves.

"When it started during the holidays, all of a sudden we have massive food bills, because we have to pay for all these festive meals," said Katz. "When you're not sure when the next check is going to come, you tighten the belt, or maybe you're not as festive as you'd ideally like."

Jewish leaders and groups across the country have mobilized to support unpaid federal government workers affected by the shutdown, some of whom are working essential roles without being paid.

In San Diego, the local branch of the Jewish Family Service began distributing bags of groceries to affected federal workers just days into the shutdown. It has since provided over 5,700 meals to about 1,000 families.

And **multiple free loan societies have created special programs for federal workers**, echoing an initiative offered by the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Washington during the 2018 shutdown that lasted 35 days, setting a record that could soon be eclipsed. **The Hebrew Free Loan Society of New York, for example, is providing interest-free loans of up to \$7,500 for federal employees affected by the current shutdown.**

On Friday, Katz said two families had already signed up for Ben Yehuda's payment deferment deal. But far more community members, he said, had reached out asking how they could contribute a meal to a federal employee.

"That's really what inspires me, is seeing people who are willing to do that," he said. "That's really been the most beautiful thing that comes out of this." <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-872384>

Leading NYC Reform rabbi warns about Mamdani — and communal split stemming from election

Rabbi Angela Buchdahl says mayoral candidate has contributed to 'abhorrent antisemitism,' but adds that the 'true danger' is a 'fracture in our Jewish family'

By [Luke Tress](#)

Today, 3:46 am



Rabbi Angela Buchdahl speaks during a Hanukkah reception with US President Joe Biden in the East Room of the White House in Washington, December 11, 2023. (Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/Pool via AP)

NEW YORK — Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, a leading figure in the US Reform movement, warned Friday about threats posed by New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani, and about divisions in the local Jewish community wrought by the contentious election.

“Some fear that in the most Jewish city in the world, we are becoming strangers once again. I share many of those fears,” Buchdahl told her congregation, the Reform Central Synagogue in Manhattan.

She expressed fears about the normalization of anti-Zionism, the demonization of Israel, of children feeling ashamed to identify as Zionist or wear Jewish symbols, and how anti-Zionist rhetoric and antisemitism have caused deadly anti-Jewish violence.

“Mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani has contributed to a mainstreaming of some of the most abhorrent antisemitism,” Buchdahl said, pointing to Mamdani’s 2023 accusation that Israel was responsible for police violence in New York, which recently received media attention.

“This crosses the line clearly into antisemitism — not only demonizing Israelis but echoing the age-old antisemitic trope that Jews across the world are the root cause of our problems here,” she said, also denouncing Mamdani’s “false claims of genocide” in Gaza, his unwillingness to condemn the phrase “Globalize the intifada,” and his opposition to Israel as a Jewish state.

“It is hard not to fear that the environment we witnessed for our Jewish children on Columbia’s campus after October 7 [2023] could be a preview of the way that New York City could start feeling for all Jews,” she said.

Buchdahl said the “hateful ideas” were not limited to Mamdani, but were part of a broader trend to delegitimize Jewish peoplehood and Israel, driven by an oversimplified, binary view of the world between oppressors and the oppressed, and an ignorance of Jewish history.

She said she has also met with younger Jews who are sympathetic to Mamdani and feel alienated from the Jewish community.

In addition to the external threats, Buchdahl said she fears “what has happened within our Jewish community.”

“It endangers all of us. It’s the way we are trying to impose a litmus test on other Jews, essentially saying you’re either with us or you are against us,” she said. “Too many in our community are no longer willing to sit at the same table with people, even family members, who disagree with them.”

“The Jewish community faces real threats, and we need to confront them without turning on one another,” Buchdahl said. “This divides us and hurts us all. That would be the true danger — a fracture in our Jewish family.” “Like Abraham and Sarah, many of us feel we’ve entered uncertainty. We are walking through the wilderness again, but we have walked this path before — and we will find our way forward if we walk it together,” she said.



New York City Democratic mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani speaks at the Islamic Cultural Center of the Bronx mosque in New York on Friday, October 24, 2025. (AP Photo/Ted Shaffrey)

Mamdani is a far-left anti-Israel activist and the heavy favorite to win the election in the city, home to the world’s largest Jewish population outside of Israel. His leading opponent, former governor Andrew Cuomo, is a pro-Israel centrist. **Far-left Jewish groups have campaigned for Mamdani, while centrist and Orthodox Jews have largely lined up behind Cuomo.** The Republican Curtis Sliwa trails Mamdani and Cuomo.

A [poll released this past week](#) showed that Cuomo was far ahead among Jews, with 60% support compared to Mamdani’s 16%, although the poll had a relatively small Jewish sample size with a $\pm 9.2\%$ margin of error for Jewish respondents.

Other leading rabbis from the city and the US, including other Reform leaders, have issued warnings about Mamdani ahead of Tuesday’s election, including in a letter signed by more than 1,000 rabbis.

Buchdahl did not sign that letter, a choice she explained in a [message](#) to the synagogue, saying the clergy there have spoken against antisemitism and anti-Zionist rhetoric, but stressing the importance of “separation of church and state.”

“There are political organizations, including Jewish ones, where electoral politics is the core mission. Get involved,” she wrote. “Central Synagogue, however, is a Jewish spiritual home and we want to keep it that way. It remains our conviction that political endorsements of candidates are not in the best interest of our congregation, community, or country.”

The Shabbat sermon was a response to feedback she had heard from the community for that message. She had received both messages of support for refraining from signing the letter, and respectful disagreement, she said. She did not make any specific endorsements or issue voting recommendations during the sermon.

“We are a people who hold moral nuance, that holds love and critique together. To love Israel is not to deny its flaws, to criticize Israel is not to deny our people’s right to exist in safety and sovereignty,” she said in the Friday sermon. “Antisemitism flourishes when the world loses its capacity for that complexity — and we must not lose it ourselves.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/leading-nyc-reform-rabbi-warns-about-mamdani-and-communal-split-stemming-from-election/>

OP ED

The Real Split on the Right is Over America

Sat, 1 Nov 2025 7:30 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



There are two ‘rights’ in America. There’s the one we belong to, concerned with fighting the Left, resisting Islam and preserving America. And there’s another right that hates America.

These days that ‘right’ is easier to spot than ever because it has one fatal ‘tell’.

It spends little or no time fighting the Left, instead it spends all or most of its time fighting conservatives. Not only doesn’t it fight the Left, but it often makes common cause with leftists, inviting on not just liberals, but hard core socialists and even Marxists, to its podcasts, and eagerly citing them to attack conservatives and the legitimacy of the United States of America.

Watch for Jeffrey Sachs, Cenk Uygur, Glenn Greenwald and Max Blumenthal being interviewed and quoted to attack conservatives **and America and you’ll see the anti-American right.**

That’s because, **woke left or woke right, they’re all members of the anti-American club.** Like the Left, they don’t want to save America, they want to replace it with something totally different.

(That’s why the **anti-American right is also very friendly toward Islam.**)

The **pro-American right fights the Left. The anti-American right unites with leftists because it agrees with the two basic leftist premises: that America is evil and must be destroyed.**

Listen to them long enough and you’ll notice that they don’t attack the Left, they do attack conservatives and they attack America at every level, portraying it as completely rotten and corrupt, with nothing about it worth saving and no enemies worth standing against.

That’s why they have little to say about illegal aliens, they appease Islam and invite on leftists as experts, don’t talk about riots, voter fraud, or the Democrats, but would rather chat about UFOs, the supernatural, and secret organizations. They pursue topics that reek of paganism while claiming to be Christians and yet show no signs of actually living lives centered around God.

Members of the anti-American right used to mock conservatives. “What have they conserved?” The attack was also a confession. They don’t want to conserve anything because they don’t believe that there’s anything about America worth conserving. They’re not MAGA because they, for the most part, don’t believe America was ever great though they’ll sometimes wear the hat.

After infiltrating MAGA, they quickly took to claiming that it was a sellout movement, that Trump and everyone in his administration are traitors which should have surprised no one because the ‘entryists’ did the same thing to Republicans and the conservative movement before MAGA.

Copying Leninist tactics, they enter a conservative movement, claim to be its most loyal members, then turn on it, try to discredit it with conspiracy theories and break off as many followers as they can to build a ‘purer’ movement. They exploit the Tea Party, MAGA and any other movement that lets them in, after wearing its skin long enough, they do everything to destroy it because their mission isn’t to save America, but to destroy its last hope of survival.

And the way to do that is by convincing those who could save America that it’s hopeless.

Over time, what was a fringe movement has gathered strength by convincing growing numbers of conservatives that there’s no way to rebuild America. Each time an administration or a politician failed, the anti-American right gathered more recruits, feeding them the poisonous message that America was hopelessly corrupt

and the whole thing needed to be burned down.

MAGA was both an opportunity and a threat. The anti-American right was able to advance because of the fall of some of the old conservative establishment, but President Trump's promise of making America great again flew in the face of their entire worldview, that there was never a great America and that it could not be made great without completely tearing it down.

The anti-American right despises Trump even while some of its more prominent members play up to him for clout, but its influencers tear him down and promise a better movement. It needs to discredit him and replace the hope that he brought with a fresh wave of despair over America.

That is why it peddles Charlie Kirk assassination theories and joins the Left in aiming Epstein smears at Trump, rather than at the Clintons and the Democrats who shielded Epstein. Its goal is convincing enough MAGA people that their hope has failed and America is irredeemable.

Meanwhile they ally with the Left because they share common hates, not common ideologies.

The anti-American right aren't liberals or RINOs although they're willing to adopt socialism, cater to Islam, have a totalitarian central government. They've gone by various names such as alt-right, groypers or woke right, but the names are meaningless and not everyone who uses them is a member of the anti-American right. Some are Nazis, most aren't. Many more are sympathetic to fascist movements. They are universally opposed to the Constitution.

What they believe varies. Some claim to be libertarians while others want a return to feudalism (some want to do both at the same time.) They generally reject individual freedoms and want a totalitarian government that will force everyone to live the way an elite commands them to.

Like the anti-American Left, the anti-American Right collects crackpot theories, lunatic utopian schemes and totalitarian fantasies peddled by keyboard warriors who have no experience of implementing any of these things and have no plan for doing it except cracking up America.

Like the anti-American Left, the anti-American Right knows that the only way anyone will let it test out neo-feudalism, a new monarchy, theocracy, a fourth reich, legalized slavery, polygamy or any of the other lunatic ideas they peddle on their podcasts would be to convince Americans that their country is evil, corrupt and doomed, and that anything else would be better.

We've often spoken about the red-green alliance between the Left and Islam. A basic premise of the red-green alliance is that both leftists and Islamists want to topple the West. And then fight it out over who gets to build their new utopia on the ruins. But there is a color missing there. The color hasn't been a significant factor since the Hitler-Stalin pact and Hitler's Mufti, but it's slowly influencing conversations on social media where controversy matters more than numbers.

The red-green-black alliance is driving a lot of the controversy on social media. We see it all around us but we don't necessarily know what to call it. Members of the 'black' side of the alliance disguise themselves as other things, use hundreds of fake names to inflate their numbers, and instead of openly advocating for their views, attack, undermine and troll.

They claim that the splits on the right are over various things. Currently the Jews. But the real split on the right is over one thing and one thing alone. America. The anti-American Right hates this country. It hates anyone who loves it. That's why it attacks conservatives, not leftists.

The anti-American Right allies with leftists and Islamists to bring down America. That's why it's as much of an enemy as they are. The red and green parts of the alliance are open enemies. But the black part of the alliance is trying to tear us apart from within to doom any hope of saving America.

How do you spot the anti-American Right? They don't fight the Left and Islam. They ally with them against conservatives and America. When you see that, you see the enemy.

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

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



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