

Remains of deceased hostages Asaf Hamami, Omer Neutra and Oz Daniel returned to Israel

All three soldiers were killed battling terrorists on Oct. 7, 2023; 8 bodies of hostages still held in Gaza; PM vows to 'eliminate' last Hamas fighters in IDF-controlled parts of Gaza

By [Emanuel Fabian](#), [Nurit Yohanan](#), [Lazar Berman](#),

[AP](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 12:48 am



(L-R) Col. Asaf Hamami, Staff Sgt. Oz Daniel, Cpt. Omer Neutra, who were killed fighting terrorists on October 7, 2023 and their bodies returned to Israel on November 2, 2025 (Courtesy)

The Hamas terror group returned to Israel the remains of three deceased hostages — Col. Asaf Hamami, Cpt. Omer Neutra and Staff Sgt. Oz Daniel — on Sunday evening, with Israeli authorities confirming their identities the following morning. All three were soldiers who were killed battling invading Hamas-led terrorists on October 7, 2023, and their bodies were abducted to Gaza.

Military representatives notified the families of the three soldiers that their bodies had been returned to Israel by Hamas, following the completion of identification efforts by forensic experts.

The remains of eight deceased hostages are still in Gaza. Hamas has previously transferred remains that did not belong to any of the deceased hostages being held in the Strip.

US President **Donald Trump** had said on Sunday night that one of the bodies was that of **American-Israeli soldier Neutra**. The New York native's parents confirmed the matter a short while later.

Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One **that he spoke to Neutra's parents following the news**. "They're thrilled in one sense, but in another sense, obviously, it's not too great," Trump said. "We're very happy to have done it."

Hours later, on Monday morning, it was confirmed that the other two bodies returned to Israel belonged to Hamami and Daniel.



IDF commanders, including Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Yaniv Asor (2nd from left), Gaza Division commander Brig. Gen. Barak Hiram (center), Givati Brigade commander Col. Netanel Shamaka (right), and 7th Armored Brigade Commander Col. Shaul Israeli, (right) salute over the caskets containing the bodies of Col. Asaf Hamami, Cpt. Omer Neutra, and Staff Sgt. Oz Daniel, during a short ceremony led by IDF Chief Rabbi Brig. Gen. Eyal Krim in the Gaza Strip, late November 2, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

Hamami, 40, the commander of the Gaza Division's Southern Brigade, was killed fighting Hamas terrorists in the Gaza border community of Kibbutz Nirim on the morning of October 7, 2023, and his body was abducted to Gaza.

Neutra, 21, a lone soldier from the US, was a platoon commander in the 7th Armored Brigade's 77th Battalion, and was also killed while battling Hamas terrorists on the border near Nirim during the onslaught, before his body was taken to the Strip.

Daniel, 19, served in the same tank as Neutra. He was also killed while battling the terrorists, and his body was abducted.



Security forces pay their respects as a convoy carrying the bodies of hostages returned from Gaza by Hamas arrives at the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute in Tel Aviv, November 2, 2025. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

“The **Government of Israel shares in the profound grief** of the Hamami, Neutra, and Daniel families, and of all the families of the fallen hostages,” said the Prime Minister’s Office in a statement.

It **said that Israel is “determined, committed and working tirelessly” to bring back all remaining eight deceased hostages for burial**, adding that Hamas is “required to fulfill its commitments to the mediators and return them as part of the implementation of

the agreement.”

Asaf Hamami, witty officer who loved his family

Hamami, 40, the commander of the Gaza Division’s Southern Brigade, from Kiryat Ono, was killed fighting Hamas terrorists in Kibbutz Nirim on the morning of October 7, and his body was taken captive.

When Hamas launched its assault, Hamami was spending Shabbat at the Gaza Division base near the border with his 5-year-old son, Alon. He handed his son to the other soldiers to take him to a safe place and set out to battle the terrorists.

He was considered a Hamas hostage for eight weeks, until the IDF confirmed his death, officially listing his status as a “fallen IDF soldier held captive by a terror group” and his date of death as October 7.

Hamami’s death was declared by the chief rabbi, based on findings obtained by the military in the Gaza Strip. The findings allowed Hamami to have a funeral according to *halacha*, or Jewish law, even while his body remained absent.

Col. Asaf Hamami. (IDF)

He is survived by his wife Saphir and their three children, and his parents, Clara and Ilan.

He was remembered by his family and friends as a funny and witty officer, who “always strove to be first.”

“The way you fought and fell defined who you were. Family was so important to you, every time you talked about them it was hard to miss the smile and the sparkle in your eyes,” the then-commander of the Gaza Division, Brig. Gen. Avi Rosenfeld said of him during his [December 2023 funeral](#), which took place without his body.



His wife, Saphir, eulogized him at the time as “the perfect, most suitable partner for me.”

“Not many know how funny you are, how witty you are. Thank you, my love, for 17 years of great love,” she said, adding that her heart was “broken and crushed, but also at peace with your decision, because what hurts me so much today is also what made me fall in love with you.”

Saphir Hamami (Channel 12 screenshot)

Omer Neutra, a natural leader

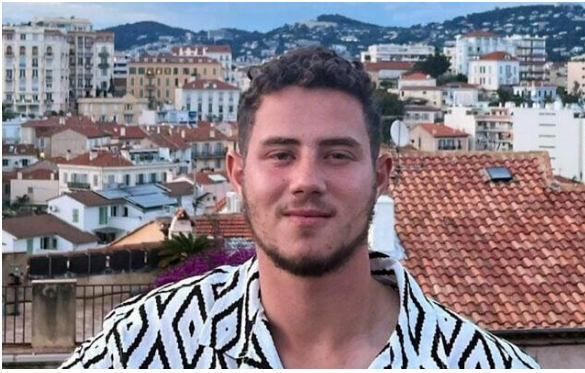
Neutra, 21, a tank platoon commander in the 7th Armored Brigade’s 77th Battalion, from New York, was killed on October 7 while battling the Hamas invasion of southern Israel, and his body was taken captive.

His tank was attacked by Hamas terrorists with RPG fire and explosive devices. Neutra and two others — Daniel and Sgt. Shaked Dahan — in the tank were killed in the attack, and their bodies taken to Gaza, while soldier Nimrod Cohen was abducted alive to the Strip. Cohen was released on



October 13, along with the other 19 living hostages. Dahan’s remains were recovered in August 2024.

Footage of Gazans [standing around](#) the burning tank and celebrating, and dragging Cohen out from inside, became some of the most haunting footage for Israelis in the wake of October 7.



American-born Omer Neutra was taken captive by Hamas on October 7, 2023. (Courtesy)

Omer's family did not know of his fate for more than a year, until in December 2024, Israeli authorities [confirmed that](#) he had been killed on October 7 and his body taken hostage. His family sat shiva, the seven-day mourning period, but did not hold a funeral.

He is survived by his parents, Orna and Ronen, and his younger siblings Daniel, Keren, Or and Leah.

Left, Ronen



Neutra, center, Naama Levy, right, Orna Neutra, at a hostages advocacy event in New York City, September 19, 2025. (Luke Tress/Times of Israel)

Ronen Neutra said upon confirmation of his son's return that he was "on Israeli soil."

In a statement, Neutra quoted from the Book of Jeremiah: "'There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall return to their own land.' 'Our Omer is on Israeli soil,' he said. 'Finally — so much pain and so much relief!'"

Neutra is remembered by his family and friends as a "warm, funny, and optimistic person," who loved "every person and the country with all his heart," the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said.

Oz Daniel, a talented guitarist

Daniel, 19, of the 7th Armored Brigade's 77th Battalion, from Kfar Saba, was killed on October 7 while battling the Hamas invasion of southern Israel, and his body was taken captive.

He was a member of the same tank squad as Neutra, Dahan and Cohen, and was stationed along with them at the IDF post between Kibbutz Nir Oz and Kibbutz Nirim.



(L-R) Omer Neutra, Oz Daniel, Nimrod Cohen and Tsipora Halfon, the volunteer chair of the Association for the Welfare of Israeli Soldiers, in footage taken at the so-called 'White House' IDF post next to Kibbutz Nirim days before the former three were attacked and taken hostage on October 7, 2023, with Neutra and Daniel killed. (Screenshot: Tsipora Halfon/courtesy)

His family said that after Hamas attacked the tank, Oz tried to grab a grenade from one

of the gunmen and was shot and killed.

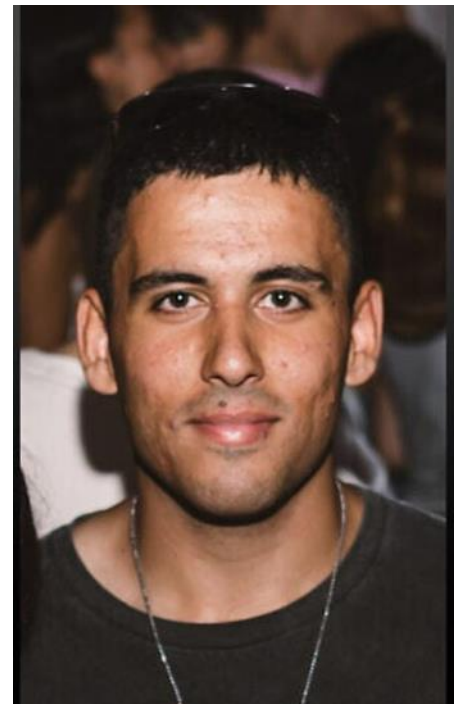
His family did not know his fate for several months, until in February 2024, the IDF declared his death based on new findings.

Sgt. Oz Daniel, 19 was killed on October 7, 2023 and his body was taken to Gaza (Israel Defense Forces)

They decided to hold a funeral for him in Kfar Saba on February 26, 2024 – burying a blood-soaked uniform and stretcher – and to sit shiva, the seven-day Jewish mourning period.

He is survived by his parents, Merav and Amir, and his twin sister, Hadar.

Daniel, who began learning guitar in third grade, sparking a lifelong love of music, "believed in the power of music to change the world," the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said in a statement upon confirmation of his body's return to Israel.



His loved ones remember him as a “funny, moral guy who loved life, who always wore a huge smile,” it said. “As his many friends attested, Oz was everyone’s best friend.”

Body transfer

According to a Hamas statement, the hostages’ bodies were recovered earlier Sunday from a tunnel. In the statement, the group published a picture showing a body bag with Hamami’s name on it, while the other two were not named.

The group transferred the caskets to representatives from the Red Cross in southern Gaza, who then escorted the remains to IDF forces inside Gaza. After arrival in Israel, the bodies were taken to the Abu Kabir forensic institute in Tel Aviv for identification.

Hamas last handed over the remains of two deceased hostages, [Amiram Cooper](#), 84, and [Sahar Baruch](#), 25, on Thursday. The two bodies were identified within hours of arrival in Israel, and were [buried](#) on Sunday. Israel has accused the terror group of dragging its feet on the requirement that it return all of the captives, as agreed in the ceasefire that came into place on October 10. The agreement required Hamas to return all 20 living hostages within 72 hours, and all 28 deceased hostages it could locate within that time frame as well — with Israel assessing that Hamas did not know the location of only a small number of bodies. While the group followed through in handing over all 20 living hostages, it only returned four of the 28 bodies still held in Gaza on the day the deadline expired. It has since slowly returned another 16 bodies.



Footage released on social media on November 2, 2025, showing the apparent retrieval of remains of a deceased hostage held in Gaza. (Screenshot/Al-Arabiya via X)

Israel releases 45 bodies of Palestinians

Israel on Monday handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians, health officials in Gaza said.

For each hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. Monday’s return brought the number of Palestinian bodies handed back since the ceasefire began to 270.

Zaher al-Wahidi, a spokesperson at the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry, **told The Associated Press that the 45 released bodies of Palestinians were received**

at the Nasser Hospital in Gaza around noon.

Only about 75 of all the returned bodies have so far been identified, the ministry said. Forensic work is complicated by a lack of DNA testing kits in Gaza, it added. The ministry posts photos of the remains online, in the hope that families will recognize them.

PM vows to ‘eliminate’ last Hamas men in IDF-held areas

Hours earlier, speaking at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that there were two remaining Hamas pockets in Israeli-controlled territory in Gaza, one in Rafah and one in Khan Younis.

“They will be eliminated,” he promised.

Hamas’s “attempts to deceive us, the US, and the world” are pathetic, he said. “They will not succeed, and we will gradually bring back all our hostages. This is our commitment.”

“My directive is unequivocal,” Netanyahu said, stressing that the protection of troops in Gaza was his priority. “If there is any attempt to harm our soldiers, we strike those who attack and their networks — in defense of our troops.”



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

“We report to our American friends, but we do not seek their permission,” he insisted, after growing claims that key decisions on Gaza are being made by the White House. “I hear statements that are simply untrue. We retain full security responsibility and will not relinquish it.”

Promising that Hamas will be disarmed and that Gaza will be demilitarized, Netanyahu asserted: “It is an understanding I share with President Trump, and we are acting according to a clear framework. If it cannot be achieved one way, it will be achieved another way — and everyone knows what that other way is, and who will carry it out.”

As Netanyahu spoke to his cabinet about the importance of combating Hamas in IDF-controlled areas of the Strip, the military announced that it had killed a terror operative in Gaza City earlier Sunday after he crossed the Yellow Line, which demarcates the area of the military's withdrawal.

The operative had approached troops "in a way that posed an immediate threat," the military said, adding that shortly after he was identified, the Israeli Air Force struck him "to remove the threat."



Armed Palestinian Hamas operatives pictured in Gaza City on November 2, 2025. (Omar AL-QATTAA / AFP)

Palestinian media also reported that one person was killed in the strike, which took place in Gaza City's eastern Shejaiya neighborhood.

As Hamas looks to regain control over the Strip's civilian affairs during the ceasefire, Telegram channels affiliated with the group reported that operatives shut down several shawarma restaurants Saturday along Salah al-Din Road, which runs down the length of the Strip, as part of efforts to regulate food prices.

Selling chicken at inflated prices, higher than what Hamas had permitted.

In recent days, lists of regulated food prices — apparently set by Hamas — have circulated on social media, outlining the rates that vendors must adhere to.



An armed man guards as humanitarian aid enters Gaza through the Israeli Kerem Shalom Crossing, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, November 2, 2025. (Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90)

Hamas denies looting aid trucks

Also on Sunday, Hamas issued a statement saying that US accusations that the terror group looted an aid convoy in Gaza were "false."

"The accusations by the US Central Command are false, lack field evidence, and are part of a systematic disinformation campaign," said a statement issued by the Hamas-run Gaza government media office.

The statement came a day after the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) published a

drone video showing what it said were suspected Hamas operatives looting an aid truck in the southern Strip on Friday.

In a statement, CENTCOM said the US-led Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC) — which is based in southern Israel's Kiryat Gat — "observed suspected Hamas operatives looting an aid truck traveling as part of a humanitarian convoy delivering needed assistance from international partners to Gazans in northern Khan Younis."

The CMCC, established under US leadership, is designed to coordinate humanitarian, logistical, and security assistance into Gaza while helping oversee the postwar stabilization phase. Roughly 200 American military personnel have been dispatched to set up the center, which currently hosts troops from several allied countries.

The CMCC was alerted to the incident through video surveillance from an American MQ-9 drone flying over Gaza as part of monitoring the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

Humanitarian aid entering Gaza through the Israeli Kerem Shalom Crossing, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, November 2, 2025. (Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90)

Israel has said that Hamas steals supplies from deliveries by the UN and international aid groups. The UN has reported a significant decline in the looting of humanitarian aid in Gaza since the ceasefire came into place.



Just five percent of collected supplies were reportedly intercepted between October 10 and October 28, compared to more than 80% that were intercepted between May 19 and October 9, UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said during a briefing on Friday.

The UN admitted in August that almost nine out of every 10 UN trucks that entered Gaza with humanitarian aid over the preceding several months were looted before reaching their destination, according to UN statistics — either by hungry Gazans or by armed groups. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-hands-over-purported-remains-of-3-hostages-identification-process-underway/>

With PM's support, MKs advance bill on death penalty for terrorists who kill Israelis
Hostage pointman revokes earlier opposition to proposed law, says Netanyahu now backs it; Ben Gvir wants all such convicts executed, with no say for courts or security officials

By [Lazar Berman](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 2:42 pm



The Knesset National Security Committee meets on a law allowing the death penalty for terrorists on November 3, 2025 (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

The Knesset National Security Committee advanced a bill Monday to introduce the death penalty for terrorists, after government hostage pointman Gal Hirsch told the panel that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu supports the measure.

The bill could have its first reading in the Knesset plenum as soon as Wednesday, Hebrew media reported.

The controversial legislation stipulates that courts will be able to impose the death penalty on those who have committed a nationally motivated murder of a citizen of Israel. It would not apply to an Israeli who killed a Palestinian.

Hirsch, who had initially voiced opposition to the bill during a National Security Committee meeting in September, reversed course on Monday, saying that both he and Netanyahu were in favor of the bill.

“The prime minister’s position, and I spoke with him before the debate, is for the bill,” Hirsch told the panel.

He said he was revoking his own opposition to the bill — which was due to fear of Hamas harming the living hostages it was holding — since the reason for it was no longer relevant.



Gal Hirsch, Coordinator for the Hostages and the Missing in the Prime Minister's Office, attends a National Security Committee meeting at the Knesset, November 3, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Hirsch had told the committee in September that the position of the security professionals working to bring the hostages back was that the discussions on the proposed legislation should be suspended.

But, he said on Monday, “we are in a different situation today,” given that the final 20 living hostages have now been returned to Israel. “Therefore, the resistance I expressed in the previous debate has become redundant.”

However, Hirsch said, the legislation should only be passed on the condition that Israel's security establishment, as well as the government's Coordinator for the Hostages and Missing — Hirsch's position — have the right to issue a confidential opinion on each individual case before the death penalty is handed down.

The bill was introduced by Otzma Yehudit lawmaker Limor Son Har-Melech, and has been championed by her party's leader, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir.

Ben Gvir warned on October 20, two weeks ago, that if the bill did not move forward to pass its first reading in the Knesset plenum within three weeks, his far-right party would no longer consider itself obligated to vote with the coalition.

He welcomed Netanyahu's support for the bill on Monday, but argued that neither the courts nor the security establishment should have discretion in the matter of sentencing terrorists to death.



National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir (left) with MK Zvika Fogel at a National Security Committee meeting at the Knesset, November 3, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

“I thank the prime minister for his support for Otzma Yehudit’s bill for the death penalty for terrorists, but the court must not have any discretion – every terrorist who goes out to murder must know that the death penalty will be imposed on him,” the ultranationalist minister wrote on X. “It’s time for justice!”

Ben Gvir has previously claimed that the legislation will “bring deterrence” by proving to Hamas that “there is a price tag for what they did” on October 7, 2023, when it led thousands of

terrorists into Israel, killing some 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and seizing 251 hostages.

He had, however, been trying to pass a death penalty for terrorists into law for some time prior to October 7.

In March 2023, lawmakers voted 55-9 in support of the bill, but it ultimately did not advance further despite having been part of the ruling Likud party’s coalition agreement with Otzma Yehudit, due to high-level opposition within the government and security services.

Son Har-Melech said on Monday that the legislation was also personal for her.

In 2003, the lawmaker’s husband, Shuli Har-Melech, was killed in a terror attack in the West Bank and she was severely wounded. One of her husband’s attackers, Khaled Najjar, was handed seven life sentences but was later released from prison in the 2011 Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange and was sent to Gaza, where he continued overseeing operations in Hamas’s West Bank division.

Najjar was killed in Rafah, in southern Gaza, in 2024.

He was killed, Son Har-Melech said, “when it was already too late.”

“A dead terrorist does not strike again,” she said. “He does not leave prison, he is not released in deals, and does not become a danger to our people again.”

The sole member of the National Security Committee to oppose advancing the legislation was MK Gilad Kariv, a member of the left-wing Labor Party.

The death penalty, he argued, “is a populist and extremist law that will not lead to the eradication of murderous terrorism but rather to its intensification.”

He accused Netanyahu of supporting the bill to “flatter” Ben Gvir due to the latter’s displeasure over the hostage release and ceasefire deal in Gaza, and warned that it was proof that “political considerations outweigh security considerations.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/with-pms-support-mks-advance-bill-on-death-penalty-for-terrorists-who-kill-israelis/>

PM rules out granting safe passage to 200 Hamas gunmen stuck in IDF-held Rafah

After a report that Israel would allow trapped Hamas operatives to retreat to the Yellow Line sparked criticism from all sides, official says PM ‘not allowing’ terrorists to flee

By [Lazar Berman](#) and [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 3:31 pm



A Hamas gunman stands in Gaza City on November 2, 2025. (Omar AL-QATTAA / AFP)

Following reports on Monday that Israel was considering granting terrorists hiding in tunnels safe passage from Israeli-controlled areas of the Gaza Strip to the Hamas-run zone, a statement attributed to an “Israeli official” — often a euphemism for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office — said the premier “is not allowing safe passage for 200 Hamas terrorists.”

According to Israeli estimates, some 200 Hamas gunmen are currently located in the tunnels underneath

the IDF-controlled parts of southern Gaza, especially in Rafah, and are unable to retreat to the Hamas-controlled areas without emerging from their tunnels and being spotted by Israeli troops.

Channel 12 news reported earlier on Monday that Israel would approve the fighters' safe passage if they agreed to give up their weapons.

According to the outlet, IDF sources confirmed that Israel was likely to grant passage, but said they would only be allowed to pass into Hamas-controlled territory if the terror group gave up more bodies of slain hostages.

After the Channel 12 **initial report was met with heavy criticism from both sides** of the political spectrum, the **"Israeli official" vehemently denied that Netanyahu would grant such passage** to Hamas operatives stuck in Rafah.

"The prime minister persists in his firm stance on the disarmament of Hamas and the demilitarization of the Strip while eliminating terrorist threats to our forces," said the official.



A yellow concrete block demarcating the Yellow Line, the line of ceasefire, east of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip, November 2, 2025 (Fathi Ibrahim/Flash90)

'Utter madness': Politicians from both sides of aisle decry report

"Mr. Prime Minister," wrote Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich on X about his opposition to the reported plan before the official's denial. "This is utter madness. Stop this."

Fellow party member Orit Strock, the settlement and national missions minister, also took to X, calling the reported plan a disgrace and saying it would be "turning our back on the fallen, the soldiers and

the war's objectives."

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir also railed against the report, saying he was "demanding that all 200 terrorists who are beyond the Yellow Line be killed or imprisoned."

The far-right minister called their presence in the IDF-controlled area "an opportunity to destroy or arrest" them, demanding that they not be released "under ridiculous conditions."



National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir (left) with MK Zvika Fogel at a National Security Committee meeting at the Knesset, November 3, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Criticism also came from the opposition, with Blue and White party leader Benny Gantz saying such a plan would mean "we've gone back to October 6," the day before Hamas's massive onslaught on Israel in 2023 — meaning, to the faulty strategic stance minimizing the threat posed by Hamas.

"The terrorists outside of Gaza City violated the ceasefire, and some of them have taken part in attacks

against our soldiers," Gantz wrote on X. "We mustn't let them out of the tunnels and reorganize — especially not when we still have hostages in Gaza."

Yisrael Beytenu party leader Avigdor Liberman said the plan was "total insanity from a weak and pressured government" and that it couldn't be allowed to happen.

"They're letting the terrorists who murdered us free passage and a governmental license to keep committing terrorism," he wrote on X.

Yisrael Beiteinu party chairman MK Avigdor Liberman leads a faction meeting at the Knesset, the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem, on October 27, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Former prime minister Naftali Bennett also weighed in, saying the report "is unprecedented even on a global level."



“IDF soldiers managed to trap dozens of terrorists in tunnels in the Rafah sector. Their choice is to surrender or die,” Bennett wrote on X.

“These are terrorists with blood on their hands. Some of them probably raided Israel on October 7, while others only recently murdered three of our precious sons,” he said, referring to recent deadly incidents in Rafah where Hamas operatives killed three IDF soldiers on the Israeli side of the Yellow Line.

‘Yellow Line’ troubles

Meanwhile, the IDF on Monday said it killed several terror operatives who crossed the Yellow Line and approached troops in the southern Gaza Strip earlier in the day.

The operatives had “posed an immediate threat” to the forces stationed in the area, the military said, adding that shortly after they were identified, the Israeli Air Force struck and killed them “to remove the threat.” The IDF said it remains deployed in Gaza “in accordance with the ceasefire agreement and will continue to operate to remove any immediate threat.”

The **Yellow Line marks the roughly 53 percent of the Strip controlled by the IDF after** its initial October 10 withdrawal as part of the ceasefire. While the IDF-held areas are largely empty, Israel believes that some “pockets” of Hamas operatives remain underground, especially in Rafah, and that they have been there since before the ceasefire.



A yellow concrete block demarcating the ceasefire line, east of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip, November 2, 2025 (Fathi Ibrahim/Flash90)

A source familiar with the matter told The Times of Israel that the demarcation had not been fully enforced to date and that it was not always clear to troops on the ground where the line ran in various parts of Gaza, given that it was only drawn up several weeks ago for the ceasefire deal.

On **Wednesday, Egyptian and Qatari mediators had notified Hamas that the group had 24 hours to evacuate its fighters or risk being exposed to IDF fire,** a US official told The Times of Israel. That deadline expired on Thursday evening, at which point Israel had the approval of the US, Egypt and Qatar to engage Hamas targets on the Israeli side of the Yellow Line, the US official said.

Israel had already publicly warned Hamas operatives holed up on the eastern side of the Yellow Line to withdraw last week. The military has assessed that there are Hamas operatives still in the terror group’s tunnels in areas under IDF control, and that they have been there since before the ceasefire.

Two deadly attacks on Israeli troops in Rafah during the ceasefire were carried out by terror operatives. Hamas denied responsibility, saying “communication has been cut off” with its operatives in zones under Israeli control. Israel accused Hamas in both cases of violating the ceasefire.

After the latest attack on Tuesday, the IDF launched a series of strikes that killed over 100 people, according to Hamas, before saying on Wednesday that it was resuming the ceasefire.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-rules-out-granting-safe-passage-to-200-hamas-gunmen-stuck-in-idf-held-rafah/>

Ex-IDF top lawyer Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi’s detention extended amid probe into leak, misconduct

A Tel Aviv court extended for three days the detention of outgoing Military Advocate General Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, suspected of fraud, obstruction of justice, and abuse of power; Judge cites ‘grave concerns of interference’; her phone remains missing

Liran Tamari, [Yoav Zitun](#) | 05:21

A Tel Aviv court on Monday extended the detention of outgoing IDF Military Advocate General Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi by three days, citing concerns that she may obstruct the ongoing police investigation into the alleged leak of footage from the Sde Teiman detention facility.

Tomer-Yerushalmi, who appeared in court without her uniform or handcuffs, is suspected of fraud and breach of trust, obstruction of justice, misuse of authority, and providing information by a

public official. The court session, presided over by Judge Shelly Kutin, was held with open doors, but photography of the defendant was prohibited.



Outgoing IDF Military Advocate General Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi (Photo: IDF, Meir Even Haim)

“The suspicions are serious, and there is a public interest in uncovering the truth,” said a police representative during the hearing, adding that there are **“grave concerns of interference** with the investigation.”

The judge extended her detention until November 5. Police confirmed that five people have been arrested so far, and seven more are expected to be questioned. Several phones, including those belonging to the suspects, were seized — among them group chats allegedly involving Tomer-Yerushalmi.

Tomer-Yerushalmi was arrested late Sunday night, just hours after she was reported missing. Her disappearance — during which her car was found abandoned on a Herzliya beach — prompted a massive search involving the navy and drone units. She was later found unharmed after contacting her husband from a phone that was not her own.



Security and emergency forces near her vehicle located at the beach (Photo: Reuters/Nir Elias)

Investigators suspect the disappearance was an intentional attempt to destroy evidence. Her personal phone, believed to contain key information, remains missing, with police exploring the possibility she threw it into the sea.

Police also detained former chief military prosecutor Col. Matan Solomesh, suspected of being part of a cover-up and of concealing the leak. Investigators say partial computer files

recovered contradict his version of events.

Following her arrest, Tomer-Yerushalmi was taken to the Neve Tirtza women’s prison, where she is being held in an isolated unit. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir ordered that surveillance cameras be installed in her cell “to prevent interference with the investigation and to ensure her safety.”



Attorneys Jacques Chen and Dori Klagsbald (Photo: Shaul Golan)

Police said the case is being handled by a special investigative team under the head of the Investigations and Intelligence Division, Maj. Gen. Boaz Balat.

The probe focuses on suspicions that Tomer-Yerushalmi instructed a subordinate officer to leak the Sde Teiman footage, allegedly specifying the type of material and the journalist to whom it should be delivered.

Her defense attorneys, Dori Klagsbald and Jacques Chen, requested that she be released to house arrest, but police objected, arguing that “the risk of obstruction remains high.”

Tomer-Yerushalmi’s arrest — coming amid public scrutiny over alleged misconduct within the Military Advocate General’s Office — has shaken the military legal establishment, with additional officers expected to be questioned in the coming days. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hj2mrzujwgv>

Netanyahu hails reservists, stresses Israel's new war policy of 'no more containment'



PM Benjamin Netanyahu spoke at the Senior IDF Reserve Commanders Conference, assuring that reservists are a core part of Israel's defense.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) NOVEMBER 3, 2025 15:28 Updated: NOVEMBER 3, 2025 15:36

PM Benjamin Netanyahu at the Senior IDF Reserve Commanders Conference. (photo credit: SCREENSHOT/X/VIA SECTION 27A OF THE COPYRIGHT ACT)

At Monday's Senior IDF Reserve Commanders Conference, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that reservists are an integral part of achieving Israel's military goals on all fronts. Alongside Defense Minister Israel Katz and IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Eyal Zamir at the Forum of Senior IDF Reserve Commanders, the prime minister addressed questions from reserve officers. Netanyahu explains how war changed Israel

In a statement, [Netanyahu](#) discussed shifts in the country and region as a whole. "We have not only changed the Middle East, we have changed ourselves. There is no more containment. There is initiative and constant activity," the prime minister stated. "And we are doing this because we know who you are, and we know what an amazing army we have."

He continued, "Not just the regular army, which everyone said was the 'TikTok generation,' and it's already clear that's not true, but our reserve army, which once again showed up, contrary to everything the enemy thought. They were wrong. They were wrong about us; they were wrong about you."

He then discussed the importance of the [IDF's](#) reserve system, calling it fundamental and a core component, and emphasized the need for a sizable, intelligent, and strong military.

"We will increase regular service, and we will greatly strengthen the reserve service, and we will also strengthen the families, because today the approach is very simple—there is no such thing as a reserve soldier or a reserve commander who is a separate unit and the family is on the side," he said, adding, "It is one unit."

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-872567>

IDF chief scraps Golan training base after outcry, saying it no longer fits the army's needs

Following a public campaign by environmental groups, IDF chief Eyal Zamir canceled plans for a huge training complex at Ein Fit in the Golan Heights, saying it no longer meets the army's operational needs

[Yoav Zitun](#)|09:54

After a months-long environmental campaign, the IDF will not build the massive Ein Fit training base in the Golan Heights. IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir has decided to cancel the project, which was planned for an ecologically and culturally rare site known for its natural springs and historic terraces.

According to the IDF, the decision followed an internal review conducted as part of the military's next multi-year plan, focused on assessing lessons learned and future training needs for ground forces. "As part of this process," the army said, "the chief of staff decided not to implement the construction permit granted to the Defense Ministry for building the security facility at Ein Fit."



Ein Fit (Photo: Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel)

The IDF explained that "canceling the project is based on an analysis of the expected activity of ground forces in the coming years — in both training and border defense — which is expected to change significantly as a result of the war. The

planned complex would not provide an optimal operational solution for the army's evolving needs, partly due to the geographic spread of training sites and the facility's limited flexibility."

As a result, the IDF said, the budget that had been earmarked for the Golan training complex will instead be redirected to building alternative training facilities that "better fit the IDF's current training framework." The military noted that the plan had advanced legally and with full coordination among all relevant authorities, through the Defense Installations Committee — a special planning body often criticized for its lack of transparency.



(Photo: Assaf Kamar)

A rare natural treasure

The Ein Fit spring and its surrounding valley are considered a unique ecological and cultural asset. The area serves as a vital ecological corridor and critical watering site for local wildlife, as well as home to the ruins of an ancient Syrian village and historic agricultural terraces.

The IDF had planned to build a sprawling urban combat training facility there, complete with dozens of concrete structures and heavy vehicle traffic — meant to simulate combat in dense, Lebanese-style terrain. The plan was advanced through the Defense Installations Committee (known by its Hebrew acronym, VLBM), a process that bypasses standard planning laws and public participation. Environmental groups denounced the

move as secretive and warned it would cause “ecological disaster” and irreversible damage.



(Photo: Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel)

Recently, representatives from organizations including the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) and Adam Teva V'Din appeared before the Knesset, demanding that the project be halted immediately and that alternative sites be considered. They argued that the sensitivity and uniqueness of the Ein Fit area warranted complete protection.

Environmentalists hail a victory

Following the chief of staff's decision, the SPNI praised the move, calling it “a victory for nature and the public.” In a statement, the organization said: “We welcome the army's decision to preserve the unique orchard valley of Ein Fit — one of the Golan's most ecologically sensitive areas and an important corridor for the region's wildlife and plant life. This success, following a long and determined public campaign, was made possible by the cooperation of the public struggle committee, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, the Golan Regional Council, the local council of Ein Qiniyye, Knesset Interior and Environment Committee Chairman MK Yitzhak Kroizer and its members, Adam Teva V'Din, amateur photographers, and nature lovers from across Israel who united around one goal: to protect nature, the landscape, and the public's right to enjoy open, green spaces.”

The SPNI added that “Ein Fit is much more than its springs and wild scenery — it's a symbol of the deep connection between people and nature, and a reminder of our duty to safeguard public assets and

heritage. This joint effort proves that when people work together with persistence and faith, real change is possible.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rkawhery11x>

Soroka to receive over \$300 million to rebuild after Iran missile strike in June
Sum includes \$100 million contribution from Israeli-Canadian businessman Sylvan Adams, in largest donation ever to southern Israel's premier medical center

By [Diana Bletter](#)

and [Tol Staff](#) 2 November 2025, 10:08 pm



Soroka Medical Center damaged by an Iranian ballistic missile attack on June 19, 2025. (Courtesy, Soroka Medical Center Spokesperson's Office)

After it was hit by an Iranian missile in June, Beersheba's Soroka University Medical Center will receive public and private funds totaling over NIS 1 billion (\$307,375,000) to help it rebuild, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday.

Speaking at the weekly cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said the cost would be borne roughly equally by the government; the Clalit group, one of Israel's four state-mandated medical insurers, which owns

Soroka; and Canadian-Israeli businessman Sylvan Adams, in Soroka's largest private donation since the hospital, southern Israel's main medical center, was established in 1959.

The funds will go toward the construction of a new, armored hospitalization building in Soroka, Netanyahu said at the cabinet meeting, which was also attended by Adams. During the meeting, the government approved its share of the funds, which the health and finance ministries announced would amount to NIS 360 million (\$111 million) over the next five years.

Addressing Adams to applause, Netanyahu said, "We have a great donor to the State of Israel."

"He does it with **great generosity, wholeheartedly and sometimes with non-trivial effort** — non-trivial aerobic effort, with the bikes," Netanyahu quipped, referring to the [Giro d'Italia](#) bike race that Adams brought to Israel in 2018, and his multi-year [sponsorship](#) of an Israeli professional team.

Speaking at the meeting, Adams said, "It's a great honor for me to give a \$100 million gift to reconstruct and build the Soroka Hospital into the best and most advanced hospital in the Middle East."



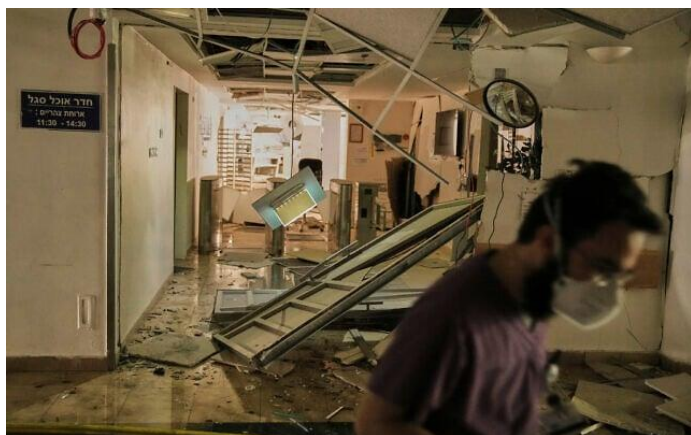
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) shakes hands with philanthropist Sylvan Adams at the cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on November 2, 2025. (Kobi Gideon/GPO)

"I'm a big believer in the State of Israel," Adams added. "I'm very proud to be Jewish and Israeli. My blood is colored blue and white."

In a separate statement issued on Sunday, Adams said, "Our answer to Iran is to build back bigger and better."

"On the very place where missiles fell, we will build in Beersheba, the capital of the Negev, a state-of-the-art hospital that will be one of the most advanced in the Middle East," he said.

Soroka director Prof. Shlomi Codish said that the hospital welcomes "the government's decision made today to allocate the necessary budget for the rehabilitation and protection of Soroka."



"I also thank Mr. Adams for his generous donation, which is expected to change the face of the medical center for many years to come," he said.

Soroka suffered a direct hit during the 12-day Israel-Iran war in June, sparked when Israel launched a surprise strike on the Islamic Republic's military leadership and missile and nuclear programs.

A medical staffer walks along a damaged area at the Soroka hospital complex after it was hit by a missile fired from Iran in Beersheba, June 19, 2025. (AP/Leo Correa)

Israel responded to Israel's strikes with drone launches and deadly ballistic missile attacks that

caused heavy damage in Israeli cities.

On June 19, an Iranian missile slammed into Soroka's surgical ward — just 100 yards from Codish's office — injuring more than 80 people and wrecking eight operating rooms along with six research laboratories.

About 60% of the building that was hit had been evacuated just a day earlier. Several hospital departments, including rehabilitation and intensive care, remained closed months after the missile attack.

In response to the attack, the Koum Family Foundation began a philanthropic campaign to help restore and rebuild Soroka. The foundation donated \$50 million (NIS 162 million). The Helmsley Foundation, a longtime partner of Soroka in a variety of projects, also contributed \$15 million (NIS 49 million).

However, Codish told The Times of Israel in an [interview](https://www.timesofisrael.com/soroka-to-receive-over-300-million-to-rebuild-after-iran-missile-strike-in-june/) last month that securing funds from the government was proving to be a challenge. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/soroka-to-receive-over-300-million-to-rebuild-after-iran-missile-strike-in-june/>

Israel and Cyprus move forward with new gas pipeline deal amid regional energy shifts

The company operating Israel's natural gas reservoirs — Karish, Tanin, and Katlan — has signed an MOU with Cyprus-based Cyfield Group to supply natural gas to Cyprus.; agreement and project are subject to approval by the governments of Cyprus and Israel.

Itamar Eichner, Gad Lior|Updated:21:35

Energean, which operates Israel's natural gas reservoirs Karish, Tanin, and Katlan, announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Cyfield Group — a leading company in the industrial and energy sectors — for the potential supply of natural gas to planned power generation facility in the Mari area of Larnaca. The agreement and project are subject to approval by the governments of Cyprus and Israel.

[Initial deal publication announced a year ago.](#)

Following the signing of the MoU, Energean proposed to the Cypriot and Israeli governments the export of natural gas from Israel to Cyprus via a new pipeline. According to the proposal, Energean will be responsible for the design, construction, and operation of a new undersea pipeline owned by the company, which would connect the Karish production platform—operating in Israel's exclusive economic waters—directly to Cyprus.

Shaul Tsemach, CEO of Energean Israel; Eli Cohen, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure (Photo: Asaf Magal Ltd.)

Once the project is completed, Cyprus will become the third country to which Israel exports natural gas—and the first in Europe. The move marks a significant



step in strengthening Israel's alliance with Cyprus and Greece, in contrast to Turkey.

Energy and Infrastructure Minister Eli Cohen said: “Selling gas to Cyprus will strengthen Israel's diplomatic standing in the region and among European countries, contribute to greater stability and prosperity in our area, and generate billions of shekels in revenue for the state. I intend to continue advancing the expansion of Israeli gas export targets.”

The route of the natural gas pipeline from the Karish and Tanin offshore platforms to Cyprus

Energean CEO Mathios Rigas stated: “Our proposal offers a practical and

efficient solution to reduce Cyprus's energy isolation by providing direct access to natural gas from a neighboring source, thereby enhancing regional energy cooperation and supporting the transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy."

Cyfield Group CEO George Chrysocous added: "The collaboration with Energean has the potential to change the future of Cyprus' energy. We look forward to working closely with the Cypriot and Israeli authorities to bring this important project to fruition, subject to all necessary approvals."

U.S. pressure mounts over Israel-Egypt gas export deal

Meanwhile, U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright canceled his planned visit to Israel next week, following Energy Minister Cohen's refusal to approve the gas export agreement to Egypt until Israel's interests are secured and a fair price is set for the Israeli market.

In recent days, the U.S. administration has exerted intense pressure on Israeli officials—including Minister Cohen and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—to approve the \$35 billion gas export agreement with Egypt.

Minister Cohen insisted that domestic prices remain attractive for the Israeli market. Since negotiations have not yet concluded, he declined to approve the exports until the issue is resolved. **At the same time, diplomatic efforts are underway to settle related political matters between Israel and Egypt.**

<https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/nnnzbjvfq>

Netanyahu's trial 'very unfair,' Trump says while promising Washington involvement

"We'll be involved in that to help him out a little bit because I think it's very unfair," Trump shared.

By **JERUSALEM POST STAFF** NOVEMBER 3, 2025 08:48 Updated: NOVEMBER 3, 2025 11:09



US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Knesset on the day of Trump's address, amid a US-brokered prisoner-hostage swap and ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas, in Jerusalem, October 13, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/EVELYN HOCKSTEIN)

US President Donald Trump shared that he planned for Washington to "be involved" in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's legal trial, claiming that his Israeli counterpart had been mistreated, during an interview with CBS's 60 Minutes.

"We'll be involved in that to help him out a little bit because I think it's very unfair," Trump shared.

Trump, during his last visit to Israel, urged President Isaac Herzog to pardon Netanyahu in front of the Knesset.

JPost Videos

The trial began in 2020 and is currently in the stage of cross-examination. Once the prosecution concludes, the judges will convene to author a verdict. This is expected to take at least a year to complete.

While the executive power to grant a pardon lies with the president, it is contingent on specific conditions, such as a verdict - it cannot be issued while a criminal process is ongoing - as well as a request from Netanyahu - none of which are met by the situation at hand.



US President Donald Trump speaks to members of the media as he departs for Asia from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, US, October 24, 2025. (credit: Reuters/Kylie Cooper)

Trump admits pushing Netanyahu to agree to ceasefire

Admitting he pushed Netanyahu to both apologize to Doha for the strikes in Qatar and to agree to a ceasefire after over two years of war, the president stressed he got along well with Netanyahu.

"I had to push him a little bit one way or the other. I did a great job in pushing," Trump shared, adding that Netanyahu is a "very talented guy" who has "never been pushed before." Asked about whether Trump could push forward the recognition of a Palestinian state, Trump dodged the question. **Speaking on Zohran Mamdani and the upcoming NYC mayoral race**

Trump repeatedly criticized New York mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani when asked about the upcoming elections, claiming that the candidate was a "communist, not a socialist" and not as good-looking as himself.

"I don't think he's wanted," Trump said of Mamdani, while adding it would be difficult for him to direct funds to New York with such a person in a position of power.

Mamdani, who has stood vocally against the Jewish state and accused Israel of genocide for its war against Hamas, was previously subject to criticism from the US president when he posted a photo beside Siraj Wahhaj last month.

The controversial Islamic figure is, according to the US Justice Department, thought to be one of the conspirators in the September 11 attacks in 2001.

"The Mamdani thing is – it's a disaster waiting to happen," Trump said at the time. "I think it's a shame that that particular man is endorsing him and very friendly with him. You can see there's a relationship. He blew up the World Trade Center, right?"

The pardoning of Binance founder Changpeng Zhao

Questioned on why he pardoned Binance founder Changpeng Zhao, a Chinese-Canadian citizen who US authorities said failed to report suspicious transactions with organizations including Hamas, al-Qaeda, and child abuse websites, Trump admitted, "I don't know who he is."

"I know he got a four month sentence or something like that... and I heard it was a Biden witch hunt," he added, while noting some of his children were involved with crypto trading.

Zhao quit in 2023 as Binance chief after the company pleaded guilty to failing to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program and paid a penalty of \$4.3 billion. <https://www.jpost.com/american-politics/article-872524>

Iran's Khamenei says conflict with US 'inherent', Israel support makes cooperation impossible

As long as Washington continues to support Israel and to maintain military bases and interfere in the Middle East region, Iran will not cooperate with the US, Khamenei said.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#), REUTERS NOVEMBER 3, 2025 13:18 Updated: NOVEMBER 3, 2025 18:14

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei stated that the Islamic Republic's conflict with the United States is "inherent" and that no cooperation between the two countries could be considered until the US ceases support for Israel, removes its regional military bases, and stops exerting its influence in the region.

The Iranian autocrat's comments came in a series of posts to X/Twitter on Monday.

"[The US](#) sometimes says it's willing to cooperate with Iran. If they stop supporting Zionist regime, remove military bases from the area & stop interfering in the region, these matters could potentially be reviewed. This isn't something foreseeable for now, nor for the near future," Khamenei wrote.

In a later post, the Ayatollah asserted that the basis of Iran's conflict with America was more fundamental than a "disagreement in tactics."

"It's an inherent conflict," Khamenei stated, "It's a clash of interests between two currents: the US and the [Islamic Republic](#)."



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting in Tehran, Iran, August 24, 2025. (credit: Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader/WANA (West Asia News Agency)/Handout via REUTERS)

Khamenei justifies US embassy seizure

In separate posts to X on Monday, Khamenei wrote about Iran's 1979 seizure of the American embassy in Tehran, accusing the Americans there of having been plotting to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

"Embassies gather information about the country where they're located," he wrote. "There's nothing wrong with that. But on Nov. 4, 1979, our youth seized the US embassy and found documents proving that it was a center for conspiring to overthrow the Islamic Revolution."

Trump's failed attempt to reach a deal with Iran

Trump said in October that the US is prepared to make a deal with [Iran](#) when Tehran is ready to do so, saying: "The hand of friendship and cooperation [with Iran] is open."

The two countries held five rounds of nuclear talks, prior to a 12-day war between Iran and Israel in June, which Washington joined by striking key Iranian nuclear sites.

Talks between the two sides have faced major stumbling blocks, such as the issue of uranium enrichment

on Iranian soil, which Western powers want to bring down to zero to minimize any risk of weaponisation, a plan that Tehran has rejected. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-872549>

Ukraine's IMF lifeline tied to Russian assets – Politico

Belgium earlier refused to back the EU's "reparations" plan meant to tap frozen funds for Ukraine's recovery, citing legal risks

3 Nov, 2025 15:38



© Getty Images / KeVeR

The EU could have to provide Russian sovereign funds frozen in Belgium as collateral to the IMF in order to secure continued funding for Ukraine, Politico reported on Monday citing sources in Brussels.

Ukraine, which relies heavily on Western aid in its conflict with Russia, has been struggling to secure a new IMF funding package as its \$15.5 billion program expires in 2027. Kiev requested an additional \$8 billion last month, but talks have reportedly stalled

over doubts about its economic viability.

The EU, Ukraine's main sponsor, last month failed to approve a €140 billion (\$160 billion) "reparations loan" backed by frozen Russian assets after Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever opposed it, calling it "sort-of-confiscation" and warning it exposes Belgium to major legal and financial risks without shared liability from other EU states.

Sources told Politico that the IMF may not grant further funding to Ukraine, vital for its war effort amid a deep budget shortfall, unless the EU approves the new loan.

They explained that the "reparations loan" would reassure the IMF of Ukraine's fiscal resilience – a key condition for any funding. Though relatively small, the IMF program's approval would in turn signal to investors that Ukraine remains solvent, they added.

Western nations froze about \$300 billion in Russian sovereign assets in 2022, including €200 billion (\$209 billion) held at the Belgium-based clearinghouse Euroclear. The G7 last year backed using interest from those funds to secure \$50 billion in loans for Ukraine.

This year, EU finance ministers proposed a similar "reparations loan," to be repaid if Kiev receives compensation from Moscow after the conflict ends. Following Belgium's refusal to support the plan – and amid wider concerns over legal and fiscal risks – reports claimed EU states could instead issue joint bonds to aid Kiev or cut funding for Ukraine entirely. A final decision is expected at the European Commission summit in December.

[READ MORE: Seizing Russia's assets necessary for NATO 'unity' – Economist](#)

Moscow has condemned Western plans to redirect its frozen funds as outright "theft," warning that the move would undermine trust in Western financial systems. It has also maintained that Western aid to Kiev only prolongs the conflict without affecting its outcome. <https://www.rt.com/news/627283-ukraine-imf-eu-russia-assets/>

Kiev has received more Patriot missile systems – Zelensky

The US-made air defense batteries have been delivered by Germany, the Ukrainian leader has said

3 Nov, 2025 01:05



File photo: Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky stands in front of a Patriot air defense system. © Pool / Getty Images

Kiev has received additional US-made Patriot air defense systems from Germany, Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky has said.

Ukraine has been pressing its Western backers for more long-range weapons, including Tomahawk cruise missiles and additional Patriot batteries. The New York Times reported in May that although the country possessed eight Patriot systems, only six were operational.

In a post on X on Sunday, Zelensky thanked German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. *“Our agreements have been fulfilled. More Patriots are now in Ukraine and being put into operation,”* he wrote.

“Of course, more systems are needed to protect key infrastructure sites and our cities across the entire territory of Ukraine, and we will continue working to obtain them – not only at the political level with states and leaders but also directly with manufacturers of all necessary air defense systems and missiles for them,” he added.

The Russian Defense Ministry claims it has destroyed around 40 Patriot launchers since 2023.

While US President Donald Trump has declined to supply Ukraine with Tomahawks, he has allowed NATO countries to purchase American weapons on Kiev’s behalf. Moscow has maintained that no amount of foreign aid will change the situation on the battlefield in Ukraine’s favor.

Last month, Zelensky said Ukraine and the US were preparing a contract for 25 Patriot systems. He added that deliveries could take years unless EU states demonstrate *“goodwill”* by prioritizing Kiev or transferring systems they already possess.

With each system costing about \$1 billion, Ukraine hopes to finance the purchases through an EU loan backed by frozen Russian assets. Russia has condemned any attempt to confiscate its assets as theft.

<https://www.rt.com/news/627273-ukraine-receives-new-patriot-systems/>

Nigeria rejects ‘unilateral’ US military intervention

The African state’s government has warned that any foreign troop deployment on its soil without consent would be “diplomatically inappropriate”

3 Nov, 2025 09:30



FILE PHOTO: Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. © Ton Molina / Getty Images

Nigeria has rejected any unilateral US military intervention in fighting Islamist insurgents, declaring that external help must come with full respect for the West African country’s sovereignty.

Daniel Bwala, the spokesperson for Nigeria’s president, made the remarks on Sunday after US President Donald Trump said he ordered the Pentagon to prepare for potential troop deployments

or airstrikes in Nigeria.

Trump on Saturday cited *“record numbers”* of Christians being killed in Nigeria and designated it a ‘Country of Particular Concern’. He threatened to cut all aid to the country unless the Nigerian government intervenes. *“If we attack, it will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the terrorist thugs attack our CHERISHED Christians!”* Trump wrote on social media.

In a [statement](#) on Sunday, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu’s spokesperson said it *“would not be diplomatically appropriate for the US to take unilateral action without engagement and consent”* from Abuja.

“Nigeria remains a sovereign nation, and while collaboration with international partners in addressing insecurity is welcome, any form of intervention must respect our sovereignty,” Bwala added. Africa’s most populous nation has grappled for years with insurgency linked to groups such as Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province.

Last month, US Congressman Riley Moore [wrote](#) to Secretary of State Marco Rubio calling for *“immediate action to address the systematic persecution and slaughter of Christians in Nigeria.”* He asked Washington to designate the African country a ‘Country of Particular Concern’, calling it *“the deadliest place in the world to be a Christian.”*

Moore claimed that more than 7,000 Christians have been killed in Nigeria this year alone, with hundreds more kidnapped, tortured, or displaced by extremist groups. Over 19,000 churches have been attacked and more than 50,000 people killed since 2009, he added.

Nigerian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa told RT that while the government understands Washington’s concern, *“those that are being killed are not only Christians.”*

“We are against the designation of Nigeria as a ‘Country of Particular Concern,’” he said, adding that Abuja is trying its *“best to curtail the killing, not only stopping the killing of Christians, but stopping the killing”* of Nigerians anywhere in the country.

OP ED

Andrew Jackson's Precedent for Trump's Strikes on Drug Traffickers

Sun, 2 Nov 2025 7:29 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



In 1831, President Andrew Jackson dispatched the USS Lexington to the Falkland Islands to respond to attacks on American fishing vessels in the area. The Lexington rescued the American vessels and American citizens, and took some of the locals, loosely aligned with British and other local authorities, prisoner as punishment for seizing the American ships.

Jackson did not pursue a declaration of war which, in any case, would have involved a fairly nebulous authority in Buenos Aires, or more dangerously, with London, although after having already dispatched the USS Lexington, he suggested to Congress that “they may clothe the

Executive with such authority and means as they may deem necessary for providing a force adequate to the complete protection of our fellow citizens fishing and trading in those seas.”

The Falklands Incident, as it was known, 194 years ago, was one of many interventions by American forces against, as Jackson put it, “bands” linked to governments, without being part of them that were attacking, looting, smuggling (including carrying slaves) or otherwise causing injury to our national interests. President Trump’s attacks on drug trafficker boats follows almost two centuries of military interventions against non-state forces beginning with President Thomas Jefferson’s war against the Barbary pirates who attacked American ships in the name of Islam.

Presidents sometimes sought congressional approval, sometimes did not or followed a loose middle ground, as Jackson did, or relied on general congressional authorizations for protecting national interests, combating piracy and smuggling, because while declarations of war against another state required congressional approval, actions taken against non-states did not.

There have been legitimate complaints about presidents in the past going to war against nation states without congressional approval, but, especially after 9/11, this was mixed up with illegitimate objections to attacks being carried out against terrorists, guerrillas, pirates, criminals and other non-state actors which require congressional funding, but not congressional approval.

From the Barbary Wars to the campaign against pirates in the 1820s, America’s first presidents routinely dispatched the US Navy to combat threats to U.S. shipping and trade, sometimes violating the ‘territorial sovereignty’ of foreign states in the process without the need for any ‘declaration of war’ since there was no actual war being fought with any actual nation state.

The idea that the United States could not engage in military operations on the high seas against threats without a congressional declaration of war would have been completely foreign to the men who built this country, founded it as a republic and oversaw its tumultuous early decades.

Jefferson relied on the ‘Act for the Protection of Commerce of the U.S. in the Mediterranean’, which was much like the Authorization for Use of Military Force employed by Congress after 9/11 against which lefties, libertarians and other anti-Americans ceaselessly rage against.

The closest counterpart to President Trump’s long range interceptions of drug traffickers in Latin America however was the African Slave Trade Patrol carried on by the US Navy, capturing slave ships and freeing slaves. (Despite the false smears of critical race theory and the 1619 Project, the United States had begun liberating slaves not very long after its constitutional birth.)

Much of the legal work of the African Slave Trade Patrol was carried out under the Piracy Suppression Act of 1819 which, among other things, made enslavement punishable by death.

After the Civil War, smuggling slaves was supplanted by a new evil: smuggling narcotics.

By the 1880s, the drug war was underway with the interception of ships smuggling opium from China, by 1922, the Narcotic Drugs Import and Export Act criminalized the possession of drugs in international waters and by the 1970s, drug vessels were being tracked by planes and satellites in international waters. The original American and European smugglers were replaced by Latin American Marxist terrorist organizations like the one now ruling over Venezuela.

Or the current leadership of Colombia.

Going back over 120 years, Congressional resolutions showed a clear understanding that the drug problem was being driven by nations cultivating drug crops. In the 1920s, blame was directed at China, Iran and the British who then ruled over India. Pressuring foreign countries to stop producing drug crops and intercepting drug smugglers was standard for a hundred years.

President Trump's strategy is a continuation of pre-existing understandings and measures while avoiding the tedious games that had characterized previous anti-drug smuggling operations at sea like the infamous search for the 'Night Train' or more recent efforts to intercept drug subs.

Industrialized drug smuggling operations like the one being targeted by President Trump are not just the work of individual criminals or organizations, but of state sponsored enterprises closely linked to terrorist groups and enemy nations, operating out of some of the same areas where past presidents had used military force to protect our interests for almost two centuries.

While air strikes on these drug smuggling crafts rub some liberals and libertarians the wrong way, interceptions of drug vessels had always been backed by the threat of deadly force in international waters. Trump simply cut through the pretense of cat and mouse chases with narcoterrorist organizations that had enabled drug trafficking to become a massive industry.

President Thomas Jefferson, President Andrew Jackson, President Teddy Roosevelt and some of the most hallowed presidents in our history had led the way in protecting American sailors, cargoes and interests in international waters. President Trump is following in their footsteps.

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

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



BS"D

STEP BY STEP

STEP BY STEP: Good news is that many friends and supporters of Lev U'Neshama (Heart and Soul) donated towards the Education Fund project to provide basic school supplies for actually 350 children within our Lev U'Neshama families.

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

According to the Israel Population and Statistics office, Tzfat's population is about 40,000, and one third live at the poverty level. We do what we can so at least the children within our struggling LUN families can get the things they need.

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

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

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

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

Eye Exam/Eyeglasses: \$60 per child.

Your support is urgently requested.

You can send donations to:

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

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

US Donors may also send checks made payable to

Simcha Smolensky, my son, who is also a volunteer. Send to:

Rabbi Simcha Smolensky, 6739 N Mozart St Chicago IL 60645

Your support will be appreciated.

Yaffa Smolensky